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Baptism's meanings, methods spark debate among some Baptists. *Page 9.***Study finds most volunteers serve through religious organizations**

Washington (RNS)—Americans volunteer their time primarily through religious organizations, according to a recent survey conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Based on data obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and a "volunteering" supplement in the Current Population Survey, the report found that 34.8 percent of U.S. volunteers serve at religious organizations—outpacing educational and community organizations.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, founded in 1993, is best known as the sponsor of the AmeriCorps program.

Using Independent Sector's estimate of the value of a volunteer's time, religious volunteerism in America was worth about \$51.4 billion, the report said. Overall, 65.4 million (28.8 percent) of American adults volunteered a total of 8.2 billion hours in 2005, equating to a value of \$147.6 billion.

The population survey was administered to approximately 60,000 households nationwide, including participants age 16 or older.

The number of volunteers has increased by nearly 6 million since 2002.

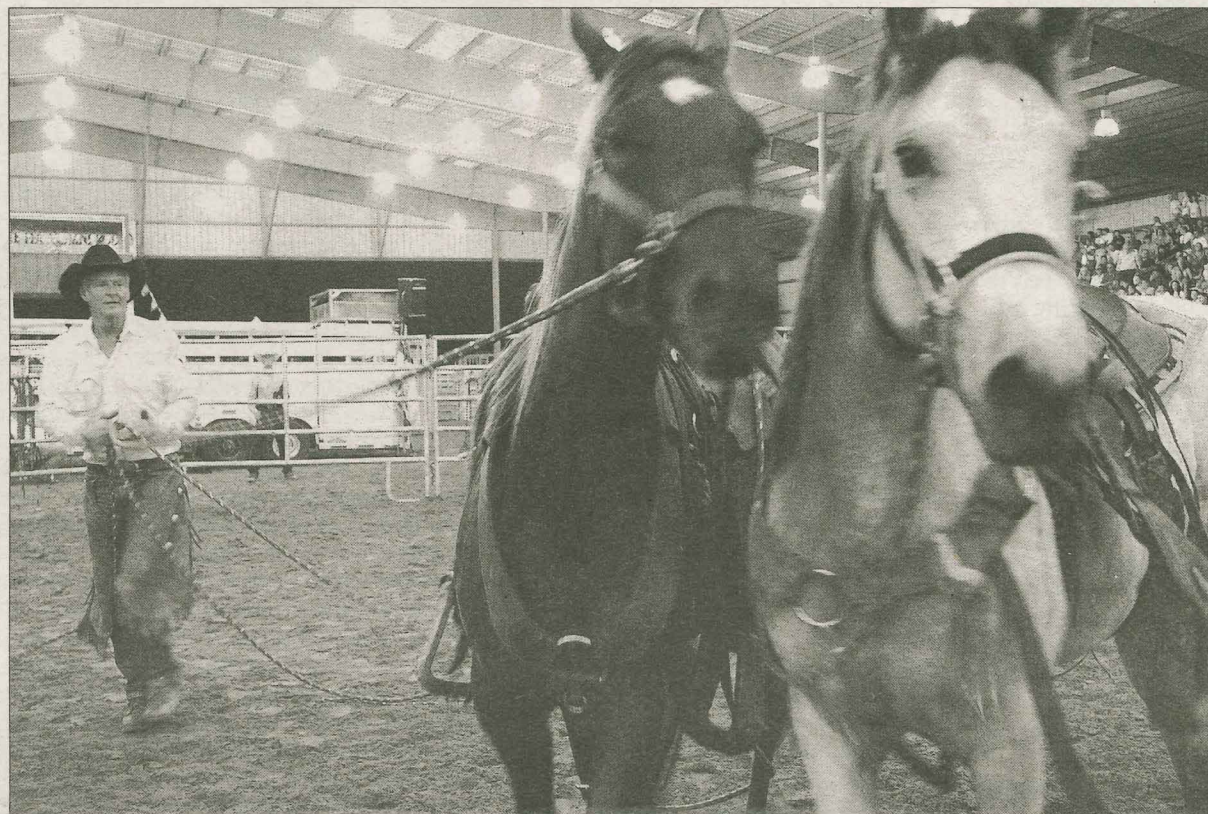
Overall, the influence of religion had a positive influence on volunteer rates. But Bible Belt states had a lower volunteer rate than most Midwest and Western states.

Educational or youth service (26.2 percent) and social or community service (13.4 percent) are other leading areas where Americans volunteer.

"Volunteers are the life-blood of our nation," said David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "From schools and shelters to hospitals and hotlines, volunteers are vital to America's social and economic well-being."

The Bush administration has made a commitment to increase volunteering by 10 million Americans by 2010.

"The study ... will help every state create stronger volunteer networks by showing what's working, what's not, and highlight the best opportunities to engage citizens in the future," Eisner said.

**Horse whisperer**

**HORSE SENSE** Horse whisperer Paul Daily tames two wild horses while sharing his testimony during a recent event in Florida. He is scheduled to make several appearances in Kentucky in October. (Photos by Grace Thornton)

**Trainer combines skill with Christian witness**

By Grace Thornton  
Alabama Baptist

Pensacola, Fla.—More than 7,000 people were exposed to the gospel message recently as Paul Daily—better known as the Horse Whisperer—tamed two wild horses while sharing his testimony.

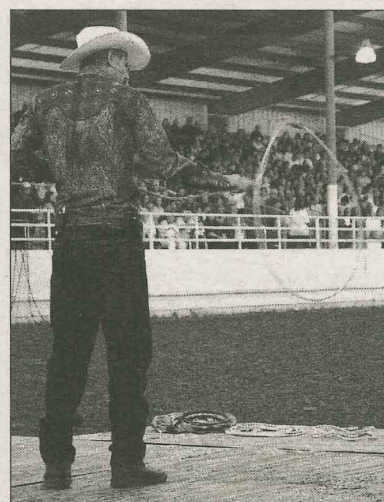
"She has to face up to reality—I can't get away from this dude anywhere," Daily said as he calmly followed a filly around and around a circular pen in the Escambia County Equestrian Center in Pensacola, Fla. "I want her to be the most miserable horse in the world as long as she runs. But when she stops, I'm ready to reach out to her with all the love and compassion I can."

Daily, who founded Wild Horse Ministries in 1997, also performed recently at the Kentucky Baptist directors of missions leadership conference.

Highlighting the motto, "As for me and my horse, we will ride for the Lord," he is scheduled to make several more stops in Kentucky in late October.

In a little more than an hour's time at the demonstration in the Florida panhandle, Daily and his daughter, Lenora, gentled the filly and another colt to carry a saddle and a rider. During the entire demonstration, Daily drew parallels between his relationship with the filly and God's relationship with people.

"He doesn't force us to serve Him; He waits for us to trust Him," Daily told the crowd, then turned and asked the filly, "Young lady, will you



**ROPING FOR JESUS** "Cowboy Steve" Shertzer uses rope tricks as illustrations to share the gospel.

carry this saddle pad for me?"

The filly scooted away, and Daily narrated. "Whoa, no, you've got the wrong horse," she says. "That thing's scaring me."

He turned back to the crowd. "God's not going to load you up with something you can't carry. This is the first day of the rest of your life. If you're not right with the Lord, friends, something's wrong. You need to make some adjustments."

The event—coordinated by Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola in cooperation with Pensacola Bay and Santa Rosa Baptist associations—included trick roping by "Cowboy Steve" Shertzer and a mini-concert by Chris McDaniel of Confederate Railroad.

Marketing strategically to non-Christians and even more specifically to those in the horse community, area Baptists posted fliers at local barns, tack shops and arenas.

And only Pepsi, the Pensacola News Journal and Tom White the Printer were publicized as event sponsors—no churches or Baptist associations were listed on any promotional material. Baptists hoped this move would help draw from a broader base of area residents, explained Eric Sheaffer, associate director of missions for Pensacola Bay Association.

"From the very beginning, I told (church members) that I don't want a bunch of saved people coming—that's a waste of our time," Sheaffer said. "I don't want folks coming who are saved unless they bring a lost person. Don't come by yourself—don't take up space."

Troy Bush, minister of evangelism and missions at Olive Baptist Church, said their communications strategy was not only to cover the area through the media but also to blitz workplaces and neighborhoods through personal invitations.

"We specifically created pieces church members could take and put in the hands of others," Bush said. "We want to be intentional about targeting segments of the population that are largely devoid of the gospel, but we also want to get a lot of people there who are already connected relationally with followers of Jesus Christ."

□ See Horse whisperer ... *Page 6*

## BWA ushers in second century of ministry

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Mexico City—Ushering in Baptist World Alliance's second century of ministry, BWA leaders unveiled plans to strengthen the international organization's impact in such areas as worship, missions, evangelism and human rights.

As part of the effort, BWA's annual General Council meeting was renamed the BWA Annual Gathering, signaling a desire to expand participation beyond BWA's leadership circle.

Approximately 420 people from 50 countries attended the July 3-7 gathering in Mexico City. By contrast, the group's Baptist World Congress, held once every five years, attracts several thousand participants from around the globe.

Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, said the annual meeting is an opportunity "to show the essential unity of Baptists in Jesus Christ—that's what Baptist World Alliance is all about."

That unity was severely tested two years ago when the Southern Baptist Convention, the BWA's largest member body, withdrew. SBC leaders cited doctrinal concerns—charges BWA leaders insisted were unfounded.

Since that time, BWA has continued to attract new member bodies, including the moderate Baptist General Convention of Missouri which was voted into BWA membership last week.

The Missouri convention joins the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Baptist General Association of Virginia as state Baptist conventions that have joined BWA since the SBC's departure. Participants also approved membership for conventions in Ethiopia and India.

Format changes at the Annual Gathering included adding a dozen forum sessions on such topics as AIDS, pastoral leadership and under-



**WELCOME** Folk dancers perform traditional Mexican dances during the opening banquet for last week's Baptist World Alliance Annual Gathering in Mexico City.

standing youth culture.

Wanda Lee, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union, is co-chairing the implementation task force seeking to flesh out BWA's ministry strategy for the 21st century.

"There's a new generation coming along in BWA," she said. "We want to help a younger generation learn what the BWA is all about. As Christians, we share a common desire to make a difference in the world."

She said BWA will seek to focus on several major "clusters of commitment" including worship and fellowship, missions and evangelism, human rights and religious freedom, and theological reflection and education.

During a Friday business session, participants adopted resolutions addressing concerns about violence against women and children, the international HIV/AIDS crisis and human rights abuses in Myanmar and Sudan.

BWA President David Coffey, who will retire next week as general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, cited "big questions" and "big mysteries" Baptists around the world face.

## Baptist churches challenged to 'act Christianly'

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Mexico City—Acknowledging that Christians "will always have conflict," Paul Msiza of South Africa addressed the issue of conflict resolution during one of 12 forums at last week's Baptist World Alliance Annual Gathering in Mexico City.

Other forum sessions highlighted such diverse topics as the prosperity gospel, Christian presence and witness among Muslims, and violence against women and children.

Msiza, general secretary of the Baptist Convention of South Africa, recounted how his convention broke away from the Baptist Union of South Africa two decades ago.

Amid escalating tensions between the two Baptist organizations, "we ended us as Baptists hating each other's guts," he admitted.

Repeated efforts to reconcile failed as Baptist leaders "kept on blaming one another," he recalled.

But during a dialogue session in 2000, participants were invited to write down all the hurts they had experienced and affix them to a wall.

"The wall was full of all these bad things Christians were doing to one

another," Msiza said.

The leaders then agreed to have communion together the next day, but "they began to realize they couldn't have communion without confession."

"It was kind of like a breakthrough," he told forum participants. "We put this under the blood of Jesus. We started to be able to talk to one another."

Msiza said lessons learned during the process include:

- Leaders are a key to resolving conflict.

- Leaders must realize the need to resolve conflict.

- Leaders must be willing to extend a hand of reconciliation to one another.

- Leaders must be prepared to pay the price for reconciliation. "The big price you pay is to swallow your pride," he pointed out.

- The church has the spiritual means available to bring about reconciliation.

- Avoid the temptation to celebrate reconciliation too early.

During reconciliation efforts in South Africa, "we could have made more progress," Msiza said. "We em-

brace but sometimes we don't go to the root of what makes us fight."

Urging Baptists to have "big ears" in order to hear God's "big answers," Coffey added, "Dare to believe God has more light and truth to bring forth from His Word. ... There are so many big answers in Scripture."

Coffey also challenged Baptists to "listen to the voice of God through the voices of each other," noting that "we're going to be pulled forward by the vision God gives us."

Victor Rembeth, former general secretary of the Union of Indonesian Baptist Churches, reported about widespread Baptist ministry efforts in the aftermath of the region's devastating tsunami and other recent natural disasters.

Ongoing relief efforts mean "we can really show our love to the people, the majority of whom are Muslim," Rembeth said.

Sally Smith, partnerships advisor for the United Nations' AIDS initiative, told meeting participants, "The death toll of AIDS is equal to a tsunami every six weeks."

Urging Baptists to "provide a loving and warm welcome for people living with HIV," Smith added, "Make every church a safe place. ... A resolution isn't enough. We need to have an action plan."

## Romanian Baptist leader: Conference not BWA substitute

Oradea, Romania (BP)—An international conference on evangelism and church planting in Romania attracted 250 Baptists from 11 countries.

The two-day event was held June 23-24 at Emanuel University in Oradea.

Paul Negrut, president of Emanuel University, served as co-chairman of the conference. Negrut, who supported the Southern Baptist Convention's withdrawal from Baptist World Alliance in 2004, said the meeting held one week before BWA's annual meeting in Mexico City "is not a (BWA) replacement assembly and, in fact, no negative word was offered toward anyone, including the BWA."

"Rather, this gathering is about conservative, Bible-believing, like-minded Baptists whose hearts are knit together in compassion for an unregenerate world," Negrut said. "We believe that this conference on theology, partnership evangelism, church planting, missions and great preaching will grow every year as it moves to various points around the globe."

The recent event grew from an initial meeting SBC leaders convened a year ago with 12 European Baptists in Warsaw, Poland.

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman said at the time that the gathering "may prove in time to have been the inaugural meeting of a network that shall extend to every corner of the earth, creating a close fellowship among like-minded conservative Christians."

Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; O.S. Hawkins, president of Guide-Stone Financial Resources; and Richard Harris, vice president for church planting at the North American Mission Board, were among SBC leaders who participated in the Romania conference.

"This is a new day for Baptists who wish to recover and emphasize what God blessed in the formative years of our movement," Hawkins said. He applauded what he described as a harmonious spirit and unity of purpose.

Negrut said common commitments among participants included the Lordship of Christ, the inerrancy of Scripture, the responsibility for evangelism and church planting, and a call for returning to the historic faith of Baptist forefathers. Religious liberty also is a unifying concern, he added.

In addition to the U.S. and Romania, participants came from Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

## Cumberlands granted request to intervene in funding lawsuit

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands officials have petitioned to intervene in a lawsuit challenging state funding for the Kentucky Baptist school's proposed pharmacy school.

The Franklin County Circuit Court granted the school's request for intervention June 27, according to Cumberlands President James Taylor.

The suit filed by the Kentucky Fairness Alliance seeks to prohibit Gov. Ernie Fletcher from distributing \$11 million approved by the Kentucky General Assembly for the project. The grant would provide \$10 million for constructing a pharmacy school facility and \$1 million for scholarships.

Fletcher announced in April he would not disburse the grant to the Kentucky Baptist Convention-related school until questions about the issue's constitutionality are settled.

Acknowledging the plaintiff's argument that the university's religious values make the institution and its students somehow ineligible to receive this financial assistance as the university undertakes to perform a public service, Taylor countered that "the legislature establishes public policy and the university's values are consistent with the commonwealth's public policy."

Establishing a pharmacy school in the region "will serve a needed and important public purpose," he added.

Noting that "the cost to create the school will far exceed the \$10 million being contributed by the commonwealth," Taylor said, "The university will use its own private resources to cover the remaining costs of this undertaking."

The University of the Cumberlands "will not change its values," Taylor insisted. "It welcomes the commonwealth's help as it begins a new phase of service to the public in a much-needed health care field."

The Kentucky Fairness Alliance, a homosexual rights group, filed the suit in April after university officials expelled an openly gay student. The Jefferson County Teachers Association has joined the alliance as a plaintiff in the suit.

State Senate President David Williams said Kentucky Fairness Alliance officials "are interested in creating a protected class beyond sexual preference or sexual orientation," according to the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Williams said the suit won't directly affect aid to students attending private schools, but could set a precedent for a future legal challenge.

## Fauls plays key role in NAMB transition

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Owensboro—It has been almost three months since Robert Reccord, former president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, resigned amid escalating concerns about his administrative leadership.

Since then, NAMB trustees have tapped Roy Fish, longtime evangelism professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, as interim president.

Fish told reporters his primary aim is to "see that NAMB stays on track relative to the basic objectives (of evangelism and church planting) for which it was initially called into existence."

Trustees also named a nine-member search committee, including Kentucky Baptist pastor Greg Fauls, to seek the next person to lead the Southern Baptist Convention's domestic missions enterprise.

Fauls, 38, is pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro. He has served as a NAMB trustee since 2003. He also recently was named chairman of the board's strategic initiatives committee, a responsibility that includes membership on NAMB's trustee executive committee.

### "A sense of calm, patience"

During a recent interview with the Western Recorder about his role as a member of NAMB's presidential search committee, Fauls said, "It has been obvious that the hand of God has been on this process. From an internal perspective, there's an overwhelming sense that God is orchestrating everything."

"There is a sense of calm and patience," he added. "There's a sense that we're being led well from the trustee perspective and the staff perspective."

Noting that "I'm excited Kentucky is represented" on the search committee, the Owensboro pastor said, "I'm very pleased with the people that are on the committee. We have good diversity of men and women, young and old."

"The committee was really put together not to be a political committee," he emphasized. "There re-

ally is no political agenda. There's not a group of people here trying to get someone elected."

As the same time, Fauls noted, the committee "is determined not to waste time, but to take as much time as needed. ... There's currently no front runner. We are literally just waiting for resumes to come in."

"We have talked about what we hear, but most of our time is spent creating a profile for the kind of president we need," he explained. "Serious conversations about dealing with candidates and resumés really won't happen until after Sept. 1, the deadline we have set for turning in resumés."

Fauls said Southern Baptists can submit confidential recommendations and resumés to the search committee by e-mail at [SearchTeam@namb.net](mailto:SearchTeam@namb.net) or by mail at Presidential Search Team, North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022.

NAMB's Web site ([namb.net](http://namb.net)) includes a detailed presidential job description. Among key provisions of the document are that the new president:

- Ensures "that the mission, vision and core values of NAMB are communicated, understood and embraced by the staff and the trustees of NAMB."

- Exercises "the highest degree of biblical stewardship related to the use of missions resources."

- Establishes and maintains "the key relationships within the convention and greater Christian community needed to facilitate NAMB's mission and contribute to the fulfillment of the Great Commission."

- "Demonstrates servant-leadership."

It also specifies that the NAMB president be someone who "willingly supports" the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement and is an "ardent supporter of the Cooperative Program."

The search process is both "exciting and anxiety-producing," Fauls acknowledged.

"There is a sense of trembling as we search out there, knowing it is going to take somebody with incred-

ible competencies and an incredible spirit."

Fauls said search committee members also are seeking a candidate "who is very good at relationships and communications" as well as someone "who is deeply spiritual and accountable and is willing to operate in an environment of healthy accountability."

As the search process and NAMB's ministry efforts continue, "I feel like we're in a stable position right now," Fauls affirmed. "We're not in a nosedive. We're preserving and we're stable."

In addition to Fish's role as interim president, Carlos Ferrer, NAMB's vice president of finance, is serving as interim chief operating officer.

Having such leadership in place "gives us time to choose a good president," Fauls said.

### "An honest process"

Emphasizing that the search committee "is just a healthy group that's really seeking the will of God," he added, "I think Southern Baptists can feel very confident when we get done with this process that it was an honest process. I'm excited about that."

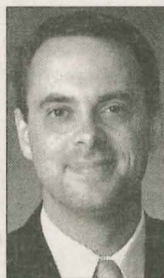
In addition to the search committee's work, NAMB officials are holding listening sessions with state convention executive directors and other Baptist leaders in an effort to strengthen ministry partnerships across the denomination.

Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, took part in a recent NAMB listening session in Indianapolis.

"I'm grateful they are giving state executive directors and others the opportunity to give input into their process," he said, adding that the involvement of NAMB administrators and trustees indicates "they are taking these sessions very seriously."

"I think the trustees and leadership at NAMB feel that they must strengthen their partnerships" at the associational and state convention levels "to carry out their mission of reaching North America for Christ," Mackey noted.

Citing the need to engage Baptists at every level in sharing the gospel of Christ, he added, "Until every church field is reached, North America is not reached."



Greg Fauls

## KBC's Garland proposed as Crestwood pastor

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church development and evangelism team, will preach July 23 in view of a call as pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County.

Garland, who was interim pastor of Crestwood Church in 1999-2000, has served on the KBC staff since 1999. Crestwood's pastor search team presented his name to the congregation July 2.

Noting that he has "been blessed ... to serve Kentucky Baptists for the past seven and a half years," Garland added that he has "always had the

heart of a pastor, and feel at this time that this is an opportunity that God has presented."

Garland "has made a significant contribution to the lives of Kentucky Baptists ... during his service as a creative and innovative team leader," said KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. "We trusted God's sovereign leadership in Dan's coming to the KBC, and we will trust God's leadership as this process unfolds."

Describing Garland as "a valued fellow minister and friend," Mackey added, "I look forward to partnering in ministry with him either at KBC or as pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church."



Dan Garland

*"There really is no political agenda. ... We are literally just waiting for resumés to come in."*

Owensboro pastor Greg Fauls, member of NAMB presidential search committee

## WESTERN RECORDER

Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253  
(USPS 679-380)

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*Earnestly contend for  
the faith which was once  
for all delivered to the  
saints.—Jude 3*

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 489-3535. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

**To subscribe:** Send \$12.50 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

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## The secret of a loving church

By Rick Warren

Lake Forest, Calif. (BP)—One of the reasons for Saddleback Church's growth is that we've maintained a harmonious atmosphere.

When a church loves, it attracts people like a magnet. When a church really offers love to each other and those who are welcomed into it, you'll have to lock the doors to keep people out.

In the second half of Romans 14, Paul says building each other up is the secret to building a loving church. He says it's not enough to just accept—or tolerate—the people you don't get along with in the church. Instead, he says we need to actively build each other up.

Romans 14:19 says, "So then, we must pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another." Paul says you should concentrate on two things: that which makes for harmony and that which helps the church grow. So we always must aim at those things that bring peace and health, that strengthen one another.

According to Paul, three issues were causing conflict in the Roman church: diet, days and drink. But the principle Paul establishes in Romans 14 transcends those three examples. Paul gives five ways we are to build others up:

**By committing ourselves to building each other up.** We all should learn from Paul's instructions in Romans 14. The strong believer needs to grow in love, and the weak believer needs to grow in knowledge.

When Paul talks about a weak believer, he's talking about a legalistic Christian who, rather than seeing the relationship with Christ as the key element, sees the rules, regulations and rituals as the key to a Christian life. Legalistic Christians should grow in knowledge of God's grace.

On the other hand, Christians who say, "I'm not hung up on rules and regulations" need to grow in their love, possibly limiting some of the things they do for the benefit of

those who might be offended.

Paul instructs us to make "building up" of others our goal. Life is tough, and there are enough discouraging people in the world. We need a whole band—an army—of encouragers.

**By recognizing the value of every person.** "Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died" (Romans 14:15b).

When you start to get upset with someone in your area of ministry or in the church, just remember: Christ died for that person. They might be obnoxious; they might be immature; they might be disagreeable, but Christ died for them. That shows how valuable and important they are to God. What right do I have to hurt people for whom Christ died?

**By keeping our focus on what's really important.** "For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and is approved of men" (Romans 14:17-18).

Paul is saying that food and drink are not the burning issues of life. By focusing on the things that are eternally important, we can then put up with a lot of quirks, faults and faux pas. Paul is making the plea: Don't be sidetracked over minor issues.

When the world looks at a Christian, they should be able to see righteousness, peace and joy flowing from the Holy Spirit out of that Christian. As the great preacher Vance Havner once said, "You can be straight as a gun barrel doctrinally, but be empty spiritually." You can avoid that by focusing on what's really important.

**By limiting our liberty out of love for each other.** "Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It's better not to eat meat, drink wine or do anything else that will cause your brother to fall" (Romans 14:20-21).

When my liberty limits the work

## COMMENTARY

## Grace Union Church celebrates 100 years

Grace Union Baptist Church in Burkesville celebrated 100 years of ministry June 25. The church moved into its current facilities (its third building) in 2004.

Pastor Todd Bryant has served the church for seven years and has baptized more than 100 people in that time. When Todd was called as pastor, weekly attendance was 15. Attendance now exceeds 100, with people driving in from the surrounding areas to participate.

Todd has not always been a Baptist, but he was impressed with the Bible doctrine of Baptists. Pastor Mark Shelton of Burkesville Baptist Church provided great encouragement and opportunities for him to serve and preach and was instrumental in recommending Todd to Grace Union Baptist Church.

It is obvious that God is at work through the church. The church has made a special effort to reach the

youth by using contemporary Christian music, and the congregation has accepted this as an important bridge to younger generations.

Todd's wife, Criss, presented the children's sermon on the day I worshipped with the church. She did an outstanding job of engaging the children in learning the truth of the gospel.

The church has a number of talented musicians. It was gratifying to observe the variety of music used to meet the worship needs of the various generations.

Todd does an excellent job of casting vision for what they are seeking to do in meeting needs of new generations. The new songs of praise and worship are used, but the pastor reminds the church that it is all about worship of God and not individual preferences.

It is obvious that Todd loves every person in the church and that

of God, then I've got a problem. I have to be sensitive to how my liberty potentially causes a weaker brother to stumble.

When God called me into the ministry, I had really long hair. But then I was asked to go to Bakersfield—a rather conservative area of California—to do a citywide crusade. When I sent them a picture, the steering committee wanted to cancel the crusade. They were concerned that my hair would encourage the young people to grow their own hair long, in direct contradiction to what the adults had been teaching.

What did I do? It didn't take me but a moment to decide. I cut my hair. Even though I had every right to wear my hair any length, I limited my liberty in order to minister to others. I wasn't limiting myself out of legalism. I limited myself because I wanted to minister to people who might not be mature enough to accept a different form of dress. Other people's souls are far more important than my liberty.

**By not forcing my opinion on others.** As long as I am the senior pastor of Saddleback, we will not make disputable issues a test of fellowship. We will not say, regarding disputable matters, "Believe as I believe, think as I think, do as I do—be like me! Only then can I fellowship with you."

Romans 14:22 says: "So whatever you believe about these things, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves." Paul says, on these disputable matters, keep them between you and the Lord. You can practice your freedom without parading it.

The result of building each other up is a spirit of unity that glorifies God: "So with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." God is glorified because unity brings glory to God. When Christians are divided, it's a bad testimony to the world. When Christians are united, it's a beautiful testimony.

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., is the author of "The Purpose-Driven Life"

he has great passion to reach the unchurched and dechurched. As a bivocational pastor, he is working with people in the harvest every day. I pray that God will bless all of us with greater passion to reach people for Christ.

George Washington Anderson, the charter member of Grace Union Church, had a passion to reach people for Christ and so did his son, Albert, who was the pastor for many years. Albert's grandson told me the story of his grandfather riding on horseback for 35 miles to preach a two-week church revival. His honorarium was a dozen eggs, but on the way home a farmer gave him a milk cow.

It is difficult for us to identify with the challenges of ministry during the frontier days. We are so blessed that it is easy for us to take our freedom and resources for granted. We should always remember that God blesses us in order for us to be more effective in Kingdom growth and not to honor ourselves.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## STEWARDSHIP

## Avoid debt trap to gain long-term financial freedom

By Don Spencer

Debt is a major financial problem for many people today. You never can have financial freedom as long as you are a slave to debt.



Accumulating debt is easy. You can get a five-year car loan and have a

period of time when you owe more than the car is worth. Home equity loans make for easy debt. Pre-approved credit cards are far too easy to obtain.

Too many young couples add debt as long as they feel they can handle the monthly payments. Have you added a debt based on the monthly payment without looking at how that debt affects your total financial picture? If so, you are a slave to those debts.

In today's world, you easily can get over your head in uncontrolled debt. If you cannot control the debt, then it will control you. The idea of buying now and paying later is appealing and it allows us to enjoy things we cannot buy with cash today.

Remember that borrowing money carries with it many potential financial dangers. Here are a few of those:

■ Borrowing (or buying on credit) increases the cost of the items we purchase.

■ Borrowing (or buying on credit) assumes one's future ability to repay the debt.

■ Borrowing (or buying on credit) often creates a bonded relationship to the lender—a relationship that never is to the advantage of the person borrowing.

■ Repaying debt can seriously lower your future lifestyle.

■ As debt takes increasing control, it creates more stress. This stress can cause health problems and sometimes can affect your ability to earn. This, in turn, decreases your ability to repay the debt, which then adds more stress. Get the idea? It's an endless cycle.

■ Excessive debt can damage your credit rating. This can restrict your ability to borrow in the future.

■ Loans with a variable rate can create substantially higher future payments—often more than planned on.

Use extreme caution in taking on debt. Be aware of the added costs of repaying the debt. Avoid the debt trap and avoid being another statistic. Remember, you never can have financial freedom as long as you are a slave to debt.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department

## Are today's teens & children too wired for their own good?

**Q: It seems like my kids always are connected to their iPods, video games or MySpace pages. Are today's kids too wired for their own good?**

That question graced the cover of the March 27, 2006, issue of Time magazine. The accompanying article described "Generation M"—a generation of children, teenagers and young adults who live in a world of iPods, iMacs, iTunes, video games, movies, e-mail, instant messaging, MySpace, Google—in short, a world of constant audible and visual stimulation.

Without question, today's children are technically savvy, but they might be losing the ability to relate on an interpersonal level as well as the ability to think and complete tasks.

Elinor Ochs, director of UCLA's Center on Everyday Lives of Families, says the impact of multi-tasking gadgets can be "pretty consequential for the structure of family relationships." Everyone lives in their own little world, making communication and meaningful relationships difficult. Parents often find it especially hard to penetrate their child's universe.

Edward Hallowell, author of "CrazyBusy," says the real problems emerge when the electronic moments become too large. "It's not so much that video games are going to rot your brain," he notes. "It's what you are not doing that's going to rot your life."

As the future unfolds, parents should limit the amount of time children engage with electronic media. (A 2005 Kaiser Family Foundation survey showed that kids ages 8-18 averaged 6.5 hours a day.)

Parents must set an example by turning off their own computers and cell phones for a little down time. In short, families need to work to build more time for the best communication of all: Face-to-face, eye-to-eye together time built around meals and other activities that are truly shared.—David Garrard

**Q: It seems that the more I punish my kids, the worse they behave. Any suggestions?**

The discipleship curriculum "Parenting by Grace" by Diana Garland and others points out that "discipline" means to teach, which is a parenting goal, while "punishment" is retribution, which is not very effective parenting methodology.

Richard and Linda Eyre, in their book "Three Steps to a Strong Family," write about a legal system, a financial system and family traditions. The family legal system involves a short list of rules that the family agrees everyone will observe. The family financial system is tied to chores and an effective way of tracking them. Family traditions involve making memories at Christmas, birthdays and other significant times.

The Eyres point out that when God wanted to make a list of rules, He stopped at 10, so keep your list short and manageable too. The integrity of rules is that children generally will observe them when they see adults setting a positive example.

The bottom line is that reward is much more effective than punishment. Children will do whatever it takes to get your attention. If your attention is the reward of their good behavior, they will act well to get more of it. If your attention is only the result of their bad behavior, that is how they will respond.

Garland points out the wisdom of the biblical instruction to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." The key words are "train" and "he" (or she). Parents have a short time in which to train by example and reward. Treat each of your children as individuals, and you (eventually) will see the results you reward.—James Stillwell

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## Strategy seeks to keep CP viable, valuable

Before we conclude our discussion of the recent Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, there's still more to be said about this year's grassroots emphasis on the Cooperative Program.

In the midst of such developments, it's sometimes easy to focus on the negative at the expense of positive accomplishments.

SBC leaders' decision to water down a call for convention officers to come from churches that give at least 10 percent of undesignated receipts through CP and the almost non-existent CP support among the churches of several candidates for denominational office were among the negatives repeatedly pointed out in news articles, editorials, blogs and convention hallway conversations.

What about the positives? The most obvious impact was Frank Page's first-ballot election as SBC president. Page's congregation, First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., contributes more than 12 percent of undesignated receipts through CP—certainly a worthy example for other churches to follow.

Another action with the potential for long-term impact was the adoption of a nine-point proposal initially drafted by an ad hoc committee of state convention executive directors. Among key provisions are:

■ Encouraging "every segment of the SBC life ... to reaffirm our commitment to biblical stewardship and to our cooperation in the Great Commission/Acts 1:8 mission."

■ Strongly encouraging "each believer to tithe of his financial resources to his local church" as well as encouraging "each church to give an increasing percentage of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program for five successive years beginning in 2007." This proposal, amended by the SBC Executive Committee, also initially called for churches to "contribute at least 10 percent of their undesignated receipts" through CP.

The original wording approved by the state convention executive directors is especially significant on the state level since churches that designate funds directly

to the SBC bypass funding state convention ministry efforts. Of course, if churches take seriously the call to increase CP giving percentages for five years in a row, both state and national ministries will benefit.

■ Calling on each state convention to "have a plan for forwarding an increasing percentage of receipts to the SBC mission causes through the Cooperative Program." Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders already have addressed that issue by approving an increased percentage for SBC causes from funds formerly allocated to Georgetown College and by proposing additional increases to the SBC if Kentucky Baptist churches meet increased CP giving goals.

■ Requesting that the SBC Executive Committee, "in consultation with state convention executive directors, develop a definition

of what is meant by Cooperative Program monies which would be adopted by the SBC in annual session." Clearly defining what qualifies as CP giving could be the most crucial element in the action adopted by SBC messengers.

Hopefully, SBC and state convention leaders will reaffirm CP as a unified giving plan that has allowed local congregations to support simultaneously state, national and international ministry efforts since CP's inception in 1925.

Permitting designated giving on either the state or national level to qualify as CP giving would be a step away from cooperative giving and a move toward societal giving. That could lead to the unfortunate situation of ministries that do the most effective job of communicating their needs receiving the most financial support rather than the historic CP strategy of sharing financial resources equitably for the benefit of all state, national and international Baptist ministries.

As Southern Baptist leaders continue seeking to make the Cooperative Program both viable and valuable for current and future generations, pray that the positives will far outweigh the negatives in the days and years ahead.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Youth ministry: Lessons from the trail

Perhaps a line from my favorite movie, "The Lord of the Rings," best describes the experience I had in June.

In the movie, Bilbo pulls out his manuscript titled "There and back again, a hobbit's tale" by Bilbo Baggins. And then he says to Frodo, "I meant to go back, wander the paths of the Mirkwood, visit Laketown, see the Lonely Mountain again, but age, it seems, has finally caught up with me."

I spent 10 days in June at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M. It was a trip I first made 29 years ago as a teenager. It was a lot different than I remember. So here are a few lessons from the trail:

**Memories.** What was amazing was that what I had stored in my memory as reality was not so.

As much as it pains me to say this (and hopefully I won't lose my youth ministry license for quoting her), maybe Barbra Streisand had it right in the theme from the movie "The Way We Were" when she sang, "Mem'ries may be beautiful and yet what's too painful to remember, we simply choose to forget." Because I don't remember the trip being this tough or Baldy Mountain being this hard to scale.

This isn't the first time my memory and reality have not lined up. It is amazing how much bigger

the woods around my grandparents' house was when I was a young boy, and how small that 25 acres is now.

As I look back on my days as part of the youth ministry at Little Flock Baptist Church when we took 70-plus youth to camp every year, I have to be careful not to pattern my youth ministry on that model. It was successful because teens came to know Christ, several were called into ministry and many still are active in local churches. But it cannot be the only model I use for ministry.

When we get caught in the past, we do a disservice to the current crop of students. Times change, methods change, technology improves. Each generation of students deserves its own relevant encounter with Christ.

**Teens are teens.** Our 10-man crew included skaters, a marching band student, jocks and technos, as well as Catholics, a Jew, some marginal church attendees and a couple of students active in Kentucky Baptist churches. They had a lot more in common with each other than you might imagine. They all were searching for meaningful relationships in their lives and desperately wanted to be accepted by their peers. We need to strive for community.

**Storytelling.** The surprising thing to me is how even in this technologi-

cal age of instant information that the stories around the campfire still engaged the young men. As the stories of how Philmont came to be and as the wranglers led the campfire at Clark's Fork, laughter poured from these teens. There was no Power-Point, no computer, no cell phones; just people telling stories. The power of the story still will engage teens.

**Family still matters.** For me, the greatest part of this trip was that I got to experience it with Jordan, our 15-year-old son. After three nights on the trail, Jordan and I shared a tent together until we arrived back at base camp. Those were precious times. We were hiking and conquering mountains together during the day and playing cards and talking together in the tent at night. Parents still play a vital role in the life of teens. Good youth ministry must involve parents.

Kenny Chesney sings, "So I go back to a pew, a preacher, and a choir singin' 'bout God, brimstone and fire, And the smell of Sunday chicken after church." The memories from the experiences our students have today in youth ministry will be with them for a long time even though the details of those memories might change with time. But today's youth leaders must not let the memories of how it used to be when we were teens deter us from making youth ministry relevant to this generation of teens.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

### YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER



Joe Ball

## Cooperation: It's the cowboy way in evangelistic roundup

By Grace Thornton  
Alabama Baptist

Pensacola, Fla.—“Get your blue jeans and your cowboy boots on and come enjoy it.”

That was the simple invitation extended to David Burton, Florida Baptist director of evangelism, for the Horse Whisperer event held recently at the Escambia County Equestrian Center in Pensacola, Fla.

But despite the call's simplicity, he said, when he arrived he found something very profound—a newly formed network committed to winning the horse enthusiasts of the Florida panhandle to Christ.

“It was not just a party or a get-together, it was a presentation of the gospel with intentional soul-winning going on,” Burton said. The soul-winning efforts, prayerfully arranged around the centerpiece of taming two wild horses, came together through the volunteer efforts of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, and two area Baptist associations, he explained.

“We're excited on two fronts—it's hopefully an extremely positive

community outreach move, and it's been a phenomenal fellowship builder,” said Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist, as he watched from the fence just before the night's program began. “If that partnership is the only thing that came out of tonight, it would already be a success.”

It was a numerical success as well, Burton said afterward. The 7,000 spectators who showed up made history in the county and arena for the event's size, Christian emphasis and widespread draw.

And the large crowd gave volunteers plenty of work to do. Traylor's church and other churches in Pensacola Bay and Santa Rosa Baptist associations provided volunteers to cook and hand out hot dogs, help in the arena, distribute fliers, park cars and counsel those who responded to the invitation.

Carrying the cooperative efforts a step further, Baptist leaders recruited Sammy Gilbreath, director of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist State Convention, to come and train the volunteers on how to work a Horse Whisperer event, since Alabama Baptists have hosted more than 40 of horse trainer Paul Daily's crusades. From counselors to security guards, those present for the training prayerwalked the equestrian center together.

Volunteers already are following up with those who made decisions, dividing the cards among churches in the associations.

“It's been a real shot in the arm for us,” Burton said, “and I'm hoping it's something we will be able to do more here in the state.”

## Horse whisperer combines skill, testimony to help spread gospel

Continued from page 1

Thanks to the efforts of area Baptists, they came—and broke an arena attendance record, according to Equestrian Center officials. Area residents came in droves, showing up in cowboy duds and packing the seats, standing around the fences and sitting in the dirt on the fringes of the arena.

And many responded to the gospel message, falling on their knees in the arena dirt and praying with volunteer counselors. Approximately 150 public decisions were recorded, including 33 professions of faith in Christ.

“This type of event reaches a group of people that are unreached in many ways,” said David Burton, director of evangelism for the Florida Baptist Convention. “We have things inside the church all the time, but I love to see pastors have the boldness and insight in trusting the Lord to do more events outside the church.”

“I think some ground can be covered with this idea,” Burton said, noting that motorcycle ministries and monster truck rallies have targeted other niche markets.

“This might be something that could become another one of those icon ministries all over the state,” he said. “Maybe people might say, ‘Wow, we can do those horse things here too.’”

Larry Martin, a consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention missions growth team, is confident such ministries can make a spiritual impact in the Bluegrass State as well.

Martin, who coordinates the KBC's equestrian ministries, said Daily was invited to the directors of missions conference to help spread the word about his unique ministry.

“The training of a horse ... so clearly demonstrates the gospel,” Martin noted.

Describing Daily as “such a humble guy,” he added, “He speaks in a language that especially anybody who likes horses is going to understand. It's a totally unchurched language and it's a non-threatening language.”

Daily “continually gives credit to God for all he is doing,” Martin emphasized.

“We've got a number of requests now” for Daily to perform, Martin said, adding that “we're going to be bringing him back numerous times” in addition to the October events.

For more information about Daily's ministry, visit [www.wildhorseministries.com](http://www.wildhorseministries.com).

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SADDLE UP Paul Daily prepares to saddle a horse after taming the animal during a recent demonstration. (Photo by Grace Thornton)



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## NATIONAL NOTES

**Billy Graham delivers Baltimore sermon.** A little more than a year after his last crusade, evangelist Billy Graham delivered the ending sermon Sunday at a festival led by his son Franklin in Baltimore. Graham, 87, preached twice in New Orleans in March and is willing to continue speaking as long as he is able, spokesman Larry Ross said. "While his Greater New York Crusade ... last summer was his last city-wide evangelistic campaign at the invitation of local churches, it was not Mr. Graham's last opportunity to preach, which he has continually said he plans to do as long as the Lord gives him strength," Ross added.

**Adventist wins workplace accommodation case.** A former Seventh-day Adventist UPS deliveryman has been awarded more than \$300,000 in a court decision affirming his right to religious accommodation to observe the Sabbath. Todd Sturgill, 41, of Springdale, Ark., was employed by United Parcel Service when a dispute about workplace accommodation arose. On June 30, a U.S. federal district court in Fayetteville, Ark., awarded him \$311,166.75 in lost wages and punitive damages. A UPS spokeswoman said the company might appeal the ruling.

**Fewer Americans think government should promote values.** The number of Americans who believe the federal government should promote "moral values" has dropped significantly in the last 10 years, according to a recent Gallup poll. In 1996, 60 percent of Americans thought the government should promote moral values, but that number fell to 48 percent in 2006.

**Black clergy holding Katrina hearings.** Upset that the federal government has not established a commission to investigate the response to Hurricane Katrina, black church leaders from all over the nation have convened one of their own. Leaders of the Katrina National Justice Commission say the congressional committee hearings held earlier this year were not enough, and have held hearings at a church on Capitol Hill and in New Orleans. Another is planned for July 27 in Houston. The commission gives black church affiliates, evacuees, charitable organizations and government officials a channel to share response stories from areas that are still recovering from last year's devastating storm.

## Amid missile crisis, Rick Warren invited to preach in North Korea

Lake Forest, Calif. (ABP)—Amid heightened tensions about North Korea's missile program, officials of that communist country have invited best-selling author and Southern Baptist pastor Rick Warren to preach to at least 15,000 people there sometime this week.

The exact itinerary for Warren's trip was still undetermined.

A country infamous for its religious persecution, North Korea fired a seventh medium-range missile July 5, but it malfunctioned soon after launch. The action prompted an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

Warren acknowledged his trip could be used by the Korean government for propaganda, but he said it is worth the risks.

Warren first announced his Korea trip June 25 to worshipers at his Southern California church. He told the congregation the Korean visit will be part of a nearly 40-day international tour, during which he will meet with government leaders and pastors in Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Rwanda and South Korea.

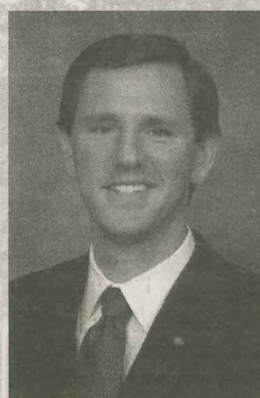
North Korean leaders will allow Warren to preach in a stadium that seats 15,000 people. He might preach in a larger venue if he can fill the seats, he said.

Warren acknowledged North Korean leaders might exploit his trip. "I know they're going to use me, so I'm going to use them," Warren told reporters.

With additional reporting by Religion News Service

## Campbellsville University's School of Theology

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### Dr. Paul Chitwood

Dr. Paul Chitwood is pastor of First Baptist Church, Mt. Washington, Kentucky. He has pastored First Baptist Somerset, First Baptist Owenton, and South Fork Baptist Church, (Owenton, KY). He also currently serves as Adjunct Professor of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has served as adjunct professor of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth, Boyce College of the Bible. He has served extensively in denominational work since 1994.

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## A middle school principal

### Oneida offers a variety of short-term or full-time mission service opportunities

By Michael Spencer  
Assistant to the President

Almost every year I have been at Oneida Baptist Institute, I've taught summer school. When many people think of education as a career, they think of summers off. Here at Oneida, we have several weeks off in the summer, but in the midst of those are six weeks of summer school.

I've taught Bible and geography, but for the last three years I've taught English III, a class our students take as juniors. Most of my students are making up parts of the class they missed or failed. Some are international students working hard on their English skills.

Like most Oneida classes, my summer school class is small. I have 12 students at the most, so I can assist them, answer their questions and dialogue with them about the course. The point of summer school is to improve the grades and skills of the regular school year, so I look at each day of summer school as a day of improvement.

Of course, many of our students would prefer not to be in summer school. That's normal, and it is important that OBI's summer school teachers have extra patience with students who might be struggling with being in class while their peers are not, or who are discouraged in a subject they already have failed. Our ministry of encouragement is important. These are days to think and act like Jesus toward the special students God sends us.

A seven-hour school day is long when you are in one class. We spend three hours in the

morning, then a 30-minute chapel and the same amount of time for lunch, followed by three more hours of class. These extended class times are hard for high schoolers, who stay in the same class all day. Teachers have to cover a quarter's worth of material in seven class days. It demands a lot of dedication, creativity and work, both in and out of class.

My students start the day with a test, then do grammar, then read and discuss literature. After lunch we do vocabulary, view part of a movie dealing with some aspect of our curriculum, have a writing lesson and spend the last hour of the day actually writing in the computer lab.

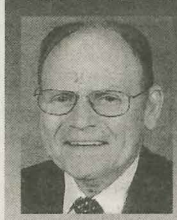
The days go by and we all become friends, then like family. We stop to discuss the things on students' minds: their problems, questions and struggles. A teacher at Oneida is called to be a friend and mentor, not just a dispenser of information.

At times, we pray for the concerns of the students. Spiritual issues come up after chapel, and most teachers have time to share the good news of Jesus with students sometime in a typical week. Often, summer is a time when a student will give more serious thought and consideration than before to the claims of Christ.

In a few days, summer school will be over. I will have made new friends. My students will have discovered that American literature, grammar and writing were passable, even enjoyable, after all. I'll be amazed at all that God has given to these students, and I'll rejoice that we had this experience together.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; www.oneidaschool.org; e-mail: president@oneidaschool.org

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## A free man

### Campbellsville student's life and family put back together

Campbellsville resident Ray Judd begins his third year this fall. Last semester he commuted 150 miles each way for Tuesday and Wednesday classes, staying on campus overnight. The commuter schedule usually kept him in classes until 8 p.m. Tuesday night. "After being out of school 30 years, I did have some adjustment," Ray said.

Ray grew up in Green County and has farmed with his family. At one time, they worked 1,000 acres, involved with corn, hay, cattle and horses. "It takes a lot of faith to be a farmer, but most of those years I did it with little regard for God," Ray said. "I had become an alcoholic and smoked a lot. My wife had filed for divorce. We grew apart, thinking money was what we needed. She worked nights; I worked days."

He was invited to a tent revival at his brother's church. The black preacher spoke about Mephibosheth invited to King David's table (2 Samuel 9) and asked, "What keeps you from coming to the table of King Jesus?" Ray's brother had talked with him before, but that night

the change came. "I haven't had the desire to drink and smoke since then; I'm a free man," Ray said. "My wife was saved a year later. God put my family back together; my wife is now my prayer partner and best encourager. Our daughter was saved and baptized."

At Bradfordsville Baptist Church, near Lebanon, Ray teaches the 55-plus Bible class, and serves as a trustee. "It is a great church," he declared. "I preach when the pastor can't, and usually preach about 25-30 times a year in other churches and some at the nursing homes." The growing congregation recently had 150 people in attendance.

During the school term Ray also works at Toyota in Elizabethtown. He and Theresa farm 40 acres and put up 700 acres of hay.

The Sermon on the Mount class, taught by Roy Lucas, is a treasured experience for Ray. "I like Old Testament with Dr. John Ditty. Dr. (Bill) Helton is my favorite teacher; he's a great guy," Ray said. "I enjoy Clear Creek; it is a great place to be. You know God is here."

Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, KY 40977; (606) 337-3196

CLEAR CREEK  
CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# Baptists & baptism

## Ordinance's meanings and methods spark debate among some Baptists

By Ken Camp  
Texas Baptist Standard

Dallas (ABP)—Disputes about baptism are troubling the waters among some Baptists.

From a controversial guideline of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, which narrows the definition of an acceptable baptism of a new missionary, to churches that wrestle with the perennial question of how to accept new members from other denominations, questions swirl around an issue most Baptists considered settled more than 350 years ago—believer's baptism by immersion.

"Believer's baptism has long been a distinctive mark of Baptists," Baylor University religion professor Bill Brackney wrote in a paper published by the Baptist History and Heritage Society and the Whitsitt Baptist Heritage Society. "All Baptists, to one degree or another, recognize the importance of a believers' church and the signal rite or ordinance of baptism."

The earliest English Baptists believed only adults who professed faith in Christ should be baptized, but they initially practiced sprinkling or pouring. However, by the mid-1600s, immersion became the standard mode for Baptists, Brackney noted.

### Security of the believer

The IMB's baptism guideline, adopted last November, states that future missionary candidates must have been baptized in a church that practices believer's baptism by immersion alone; does not view baptism as sacramental or regenerative; and embraces the doctrine of the security of the believer.

In an interview after that guideline was adopted, IMB trustee Paul Chitwood told the Western Recorder, "Because we have several applicants who have been baptized in other denominations and some denominations that have major doctrinal differences from Southern Baptists, that was the reason for this policy."

"In a very diverse world, there's a reason why we call ourselves Southern Baptists," added Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington. "We have convictions about Scripture and doctrine. ... We really want to send those candidates who represent Southern Baptists."

Critics of the guideline warn that the denomination is becoming increasingly exclusive and narrow. A motion at last month's SBC concerning the baptism guideline and other IMB-related issues was referred to IMB trustees for further study.

There also are concerns among some Baptists about maintaining the practice of baptism as a local church ordinance.

The recent SBC annual meeting marked the second year in a row that recent converts were baptized at the convention meeting. A printed explanation in the convention program emphasized, "Because baptism is an ordinance of the church,

all baptisms will be conducted with full approval and support of a sponsoring home church, with members of each present to witness."

Meanwhile, some observers believe Baptists' distinctive mark of believer's baptism is being diluted by factors such as post-denominationalism, postmodernism and pragmatism.

A variety of reasons might cause some modern Baptists to downplay believer's baptism by immersion, said Bill Pinson, director of the Texas Baptist Heritage Center and executive director emeritus of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Possibilities include the influence of "ecumenical evangelicalism" that stresses commonly held beliefs over denominational differences; the influence of Calvinism in some Baptist circles; a desire to be nonjudgmental and tolerant; a post-modern worldview that questions exclusive claims of truth or "right" methods; and a lack of understanding about distinctive Baptist beliefs, Pinson noted.

Baptists who champion immersion as the proper method of baptism have appealed both to the original Greek meaning of the term and to the symbol of being "buried in the likeness of Christ's death and raised to walk in the newness of life"—a phrase commonly used by Baptist ministers as they immerse a new believer.

New Testament baptism requires a proper subject (a believer who comes to faith in Christ voluntarily), the proper mode (immersion) and the proper meaning (a symbol of death, burial and resurrection), according to Oklahoma pastor-theologian and 20th-century Baptist statesman Herschel Hobbs in a study guide to the Baptist Faith and Message.

"Change the mode and the meaning is lost. Change the meaning and the mode loses its New Testament significance," Hobbs wrote.

### "Prerequisite to membership"

Traditionally, most—but not all—Baptists have understood believer's baptism by immersion as an ordinance that is "prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper"—language common to both the 1963 and 2000 versions of the Baptist Faith and Message.

"This is the oldest and most divisive theological question in Baptist history," said Bill Leonard, dean and professor of church history at Wake Forest University Divinity School. "Early Baptist churches divided over closed and open membership regarding baptism."

Landmark Baptists—an ultra-conservative group that seeks to trace Baptists' origins directly to New Testament times and believes Baptists are the only true church—draw the circle narrowly. They grant membership only to Baptists who have been baptized in likeminded Landmark Baptist churches and limit participa-



**TESTIMONY** Hoa Duc Vo, senior pastor of Vietnamese Baptist Church in Greensboro, N.C., baptizes Bailey Le, 11, during last month's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Greensboro. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

tion in a church's observance of the Lord's Supper only to members of that local church.

But as far back as John Bunyan in the 1600s, some Baptists have argued for open membership—granting membership to sincere Christians whose baptism was by sprinkling or pouring.

"However, Bunyan held that believer's baptism was the ideal and pleaded for baptism by immersion, but he asked for 'a bearing with our brother that cannot do it for want of light,'" Pinson said. "Such an approach to baptism and church membership was in Bunyan's day, and has been since, criticized by most Baptists for various reasons, including weakening or undermining other basic biblical beliefs precious to Baptists."

Leonard contends most Christian communions have "broken baptism" in some sense in that they do not literally follow the New Testament norm of "adult believers' immersion—in cold running water." For instance, the practice in some Baptist churches of baptizing children—some as young as age 4 or 5—deviates from the biblical standard, he insisted.

"When Baptists started baptizing children, especially preschool children, they departed from the New Testament norm, so they can claim to have believers' baptism, but not adult believers' baptism, which is the only kind practiced in the New Testament church," Leonard said.

### Churches explore alternatives

Some Baptist churches have found various ways to include in their membership Christians who have not been immersed. Lake

Pointe Church in Rockwall, Texas, has carved out a special niche—"alternative baptism"—for Christians who are baptized as believers but not by immersion.

"As long as a person's baptism comes after salvation and is done for the right reasons but by a different mode, we accept it," said Pastor Steve Stroope. "We have not changed our theological position on baptism by immersion, but we are not making it a test of fellowship."

Some churches provide a special category for people who want to be part of the church but are not ready for membership—watch-care.

In part, watch-care provides a way for college students who temporarily live in the area to become part of a local fellowship without moving their church membership. But it also provides a transitional step for people who have questions or concerns about baptism or some church doctrine.

"Watch-care is for those who are not yet ready to become a Baptist," the Web site of Williams Trace Baptist Church in Sugar Land, Texas, notes. People who seek to enter under the watch-care of the church are not entitled to full voting membership, but it allows them a way to be included in the life and fellowship of the church, said Pastor Phil Lineberger.

Watch-care offers churches an avenue for evangelism, Lineberger noted—including people within the circle of fellowship who haven't been immersed as believers—without watering down distinctive Baptist beliefs.

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson

## Outdoor baptisms: From local lake to Disney World

Orlando, Fla. (BP)—Some Southern Baptist churches are rediscovering the practice of public baptisms in local lakes amid the denomination's renewed emphasis on baptism.

First Baptist Church of Orlando and Lake Talquin Baptist Church in Tallahassee, Fla., are among congregations that have taken the ordinance out of its usual stained-glass surroundings.

More than 500 people attended First Baptist's recent baptismal service at the Disney Contemporary Resort north beach.

The manmade lake, adjacent to Disney's Magic Kingdom, was the site of 95 baptisms of converts ranging in age from 7 to 88.

An Orlando Sentinel article described the baptism service at Disney World as "the latest act of reconciliation between the entertainment giant and evangelical Christians."

The Southern Baptist Convention voted last year to end its eight-year boycott of Disney.

Lake Talquin Baptist Church recently held its first lake baptism in what Pastor Milton Harrington said could become an annual event.

Most boaters and fishermen stopped their activities while Harrington baptized nine people in Lake Talquin as church members and visitors watched from the shore.

Harrington wore an "Everyone Can" T-shirt that highlighted the SBC's effort to baptize 1 million people in a year.

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Chad Burdette

During our recent 4th of July observance, we joyfully celebrated the freedom we enjoy as American citizens.

Yet, as Christians, we have the ultimate freedom, a freedom wrapped up in grace.

Does this freedom give us a sense of excitement that cannot be contained within us? If we allow the Holy Spirit to control our lives, talking about freedom in Jesus is as natural as breathing. The following plan of salvation offers a guide to the biblical meaning of repentance and salvation:

**Recognize.** Realize that you have a need for a Savior. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

**Request.** Anyone can call on the Lord wherever they are, regardless of their circumstances. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

**Repent.** This word comes from a military term that means about-face. This involves personal confession of sin. "Repent of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee" (Acts 8:22).

**Receive.** When you believe in faith, you can receive the greatest gift of all mankind—Christ's ultimate sacrifice on your behalf, unspeakable and full of glory. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

**Redeemed.** You can walk redeemed with the assurance of your salvation. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Chad Burdette is pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Mount Vernon

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BENTON**—New Bethel Church recently called **Gary Frizzell** as interim pastor.

■ **DAYTON**—**Normand Burgess**, associate pastor of East Dayton Church, died June 5 at age 80. Burgess, who was pastor of East Dayton Church from 1967-1986, was called as associate pastor after he retired. Burgess, a World War II Army veteran, was a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is survived by his wife, Iris Dean Burgess.

■ **FORDSVILLE**—Fordsville Church recently called **Kevin Clark** as pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Immanuel Temple recently called **Michael Eldridge** as pastor.

Watson Lane Church recently called **Brad Harrison** as interim pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Carlisle Avenue Church recently called **Jason Allen** as interim pastor.

Green Acres Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary July 22-23. Saturday activities at 2 p.m. will include a pig roast, games and gospel music. A Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. will feature **Don Randolph** as guest preacher. Food and fellowship will follow the morning service. For more information, call (502) 964-8165. **Daniel Powell** is pastor.

Parkland Church will host the **Blackwood Brothers** in concert July 23, 6:30 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

New Salem Church recently called **Ed Stuckey** as pastor.

**Bill Young**, a longtime member of St. Matthews Church, died June 29 at age 72. Young retired in January after 50 years in the agricultural chemical business. His wife, Ella

### Spotlight on ...

#### Campbellville



Saloma Church will host the **Crossroads Quartet** in concert July 30, 6 p.m. A potluck meal and fellowship hour will precede the concert. For more information, call (270) 789-0082.

Mae, is a retired employee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board. In addition to his wife, Young is survived by three children and three grandchildren.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Hall Street Church recently called **Mike Blankenship** as pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—First Church recently called **Nathan Hicks** as minister to students. **Kevin McCallon** is pastor.

■ **PROSPECT**—First Church recently called **Brian Bridges** as minister of students. **Jon Cyrus** is pastor.

■ **PURYEAR**—Oak Grove Church will host a drug awareness youth rally July 16 featuring **David Parnell**, a former drug user. For more information, call (270) 492-8983.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church recently called **Ed Talley** as pastor.

#### What's going on?

Mail your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. E-mail: wesrec@earthlink.net.

## KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

### July

21-22 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Severns Valley Baptist Association Office, Elizabethtown.

21-22 World Missions Unlimited, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

31-Aug. 2 Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida Baptist Institute.

### August

5 Crafters on Mission Day, Grace Baptist Church, Lexington.

19 Super Saturday, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

26 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, and First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.

### September

9 Super Saturday, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, and Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

15-16 Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.

16 Super Saturday, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

18-21 FAITH Clinic, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.

18-19 Kentucky Baptist Ministers Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf Course, Georgetown.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

## Campbellville to host annual pastors & leaders conference

**Campbellville**—Kevin Cosby, president of Simmons College of Kentucky in Louisville, will be the featured preacher at Campbellville University's fifth annual Pastors and Church Leaders Conference Sept. 28-29.

The two-day conference will highlight the university's centennial theme, "Transforming a New Generation—A Journey of Faith."

Cosby also is pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville and author of three books, including "Get Off Your But! Messages, Musings & Ministries to Empower the African-American Church."

Other featured speakers include Paul Chitwood, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and

pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington; Frieda Gebert, associate dean of Campbellville University's School of Music; John Hurtgen, dean of Campbellville's School of Theology; and Joseph Owens, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Lexington and president of the Baptist Unified Christian Leadership Conference.

In addition to plenary sessions, breakout sessions will feature workshops on creative youth ministry, worship arts, bivocational ministry, and the challenges and opportunities of 21st century transformation.

For more information, contact the school's office of church and external relations at (270) 789-5520 or [sddouglas@campbellville.edu](mailto:sddouglas@campbellville.edu).

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**BOOKS:** We buy quality used Christian books. Christian Book Nook, 2116 South Preston St., Louisville, Ky. (502) 637-8881.

**FOR SALE:** Christian, Spanish and patriotic neckties; retail value: \$12-\$15; your cost: \$6; great fundraiser. Humor book: "500 Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine" \$8. (606) 285-3051.

**FOR SALE:** 1985 32-passenger church bus; new tires, runs and drives good. \$2,900. Call (606) 523-0043.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for contemporary, purpose-driven church. Please forward resumé and DVD to: Worship Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 106 East Walnut St., Leitchfield, KY 42754.

**SEEKING:** Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Tenn., is accepting resúmes for the position of worship minister. To be considered, applicant must be well-grounded in doctrine, love the Word of God more than music, have a passion for expository preaching and teaching of the whole counsel of God, and be willing to fill out a lengthy questionnaire and undergo thorough questioning, credit and background checks. If interested, e-mail [Jonosmbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:Jonosmbc@bellsouth.net), or write to 900 Union St., Shelbyville, TN 37160, Attn: Jonathan Sims.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth pastor for Rose Hill Baptist Church. Resúmes may be submitted to the church at 1001 Winslow Road, Ashland, KY 41102.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Elizabethtown Baptist Church. Submit resumé/application to Personnel Committee, EBC, 1525 N Miles St., Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister (grades 6-12) for Mexico Baptist Church in rural western Kentucky. Average Sunday school attendance: 135. Send resumé to MBC Youth Council, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064, Attn: Brent Highfil, or call (270) 965-2149. [brent.highfil@gmail.com](mailto:brent.highfil@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students. Northside Baptist Church (Elizabethtown, Ky.), a steadily-growing, evangelistic church, is seeking an energetic, spiritually mature individual for a full-time ministry opportunity. Must have: (1) long-term, career-oriented passion for students; (2) bachelor's degree (minimum); and (3) at least one year of experience working with youth and/or children. Salary plus health benefits available. For a detailed position overview, please contact Northside Baptist Church at (270) 765-6424. Resúmes will be accepted until position is filled.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister (20 hours per week). First Baptist Church (predominant affiliation: CBF). Mail resumé to church: 254 South Buckman St., Shepherdsville, KY 40165, Attn: David Wells; or call the church office, (502) 955-7372, for more information.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister—blended services and full worship department (dance, drama, choir, praise band/instruments). Contact office: (502) 933-2761.

**SEEKING:** Full-time ministry assistant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention New Work and Associational Ministries Department. Position requires three to five years related experience. Excellent organizational and computer application skills required. Attractive compensation and benefit package. Contact: Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, (502) 489-3320.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Eminence Baptist Church (affiliated with Kentucky and Co-operative Baptist Fellowship and Kentucky Baptist Convention) to work with choir and provide overall music leadership. Prefer applicants with accompaniment skills. Submit resumé and make inquiry to Michael Duncan, Eminence Baptist Church, PO Box 134, Eminence, KY 40019.

**SEEKING:** Pianist for Kings Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Eddie Baker, Kings Baptist Church, PO Box 380, Mount Washington, KY 40047.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister. Mail resumé to: LaVetta Mahan, Piney Grove Baptist Church, 3009 Mountain View Lane, Corbin, KY 40701.

**SEEKING:** Organist. Paid position—Sunday mornings only. 17-rank Schantz pipe organ. More information, contact Greg Harry, FBC Hodgenville. (270) 358-3193.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students for Rineyville Baptist Church. Duties include leading the youth and children's ministries. Salary package plus a parsonage is included. Please send resumé to: Rineyville Baptist Church, 5629 Rineyville Road, Rineyville, KY 40162, Attn: pastor; or e-mail resumé to [rbcash@Alltel.net](mailto:rbcash@Alltel.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth director for First Baptist Church, Hazard, Ky. Visit our Web site at [hazardfbc.org](http://hazardfbc.org) for salary information and job description. Applicants should send resumé to: Dr. Ricky Ray, First Baptist Church, 560 Main St., Hazard, KY 41701.

**SERVICES:** Christian long distance: 3.9 interstate; 4.9 in state; no monthly service charge. Call: (866) 587-8346 or [www.lowermyphonebill.com/harold/](http://www.lowermyphonebill.com/harold/).

# Outer space faith

*Exploring the heavens, astronauts buoyed by prayers from below*

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

Houston (RNS)—When the Space Shuttle Discovery finally lifted off last week, some of its astronauts already had been lifted in prayer by their congregations.

In fact, one Houston-area church has two members in space simultaneously.

"It's unreal," said Pastor John Kieschnick of his Lutheran church that includes a Discovery flight crew member and an astronaut on the International Space Station. "We were just taken aback by that."

Meanwhile, an African Methodist Episcopal Church recently recruited local ministers for a special service to pray for its astronaut member, praying for specific space travel-related issues, from foam to favorable weather.

As astronauts reach for the stars, their ministers report they continue to exercise their faith. The space travelers are sent off with special ceremonies from the worshippers they leave behind. And while their churchgoing activities are limited during training and time in orbit, they sometimes can keep in touch using e-mail and even cell phones.

## Long-distance phone call

Kieschnick, pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Nassau Bay, Texas, received a recent call just before a wedding ceremony from Jeff Williams, who currently is on a six-month mission at the space station with a Russian cosmonaut.

"It was five minutes before the service began, and Jeff called me on my cell phone," Kieschnick said. "He sent prayers from the International Space Station for the couple."

Kieschnick also has kept in touch with his traveling church



**SHUTTLE CREW** Space Shuttle Discovery crew members head to the crew van on their way to the launch pad to prepare for the shuttle's recent launch at Kennedy Space Center. (RNS/Reuters photo by Jim Bourg)

member via e-mail, and the church sent Communion elements to Williams aboard a Russian resupply spacecraft.

Practicing one's faith in space is nothing new, but sometimes requires special planning.

Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli on a shuttle mission, carried a small Torah scroll and ate kosher foods onboard Space Shuttle Columbia. He died with the rest of the crew in 2003 when Columbia disintegrated during its return to Earth.

The Chronicle of Higher Education reported in May that a National University of Malaysia professor has developed a program that would help a Muslim astronaut determine what times to pray and which direction to face during the traditional five daily times of prayer.

NASA public affairs officer Doug

Peterson said astronauts who spend a long time in space often will "practice their religion in space just as they would on Earth."

In mid-June, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church held a commissioning ceremony to mark the departure of member Mike Fossum on Discovery.

"We like to send them with the prayers, and godspeed, blessing of the congregation," Kieschnick noted.

## "Outstanding" laymen

He described Williams and Fossum as "outstanding Christian men" in a congregation where at least one-fifth of the 3,200 members either work for NASA or one of its subcontractors. NASA's Johnson Space Center is located in nearby Houston.

Both men have been members of the church for more than a dozen years. Williams is a lay minister in the church and Fossum is a small group leader.

In his preflight interview on NASA's Web site, Fossum described his reaction when he learned in 2003 that he would have his first opportunity to fly in space.

"I hang up the phone ... and fell to my knees," he recalled. "I said, 'Thank you, God; I can't believe it's really going to happen!'"

## "A dream come true"

Stephanie Wilson, a member of the Reedy Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Galveston, Texas, also is taking flight for the first time. Her pastor, Brenda Payne, said Wilson sings in the church choir and serves as a trustee and in the church's outreach to the needy.

"She is very much aware of the risk, but this is something that she believes that she has to do in terms of furthering space endeavors and the possibilities that it has for, really, not only her nation but the world," Payne said. "This is a dream come true for her and we're so happy for her."

On June 11, the AME congregation hosted an ecumenical service in Wilson's honor, calling on clergy from a range of denominations to pray for specific areas of concern including "foam issues." Columbia's fatal accident was caused in part by foam that fell from its external fuel tank and punched a hole in the orbiter's wing. This is only the second shuttle flight since the 2003 Columbia disaster.

"Of course, we started off by praying for the entire crew," Payne said. "The very last prayer centered on a ... safe entry and safe landing."

**"Thank you, God; I can't believe it's really going to happen!"**

Space shuttle astronaut Mike Fossum

# Secret Service seizes gospel tracts that resemble U.S. currency

Denton, Texas (RNS)—When does an evangelistic tract become contraband?

A Denton, Texas-based evangelistic ministry and the U.S. Secret Service are locked in a legal dispute over that question after agents seized dozens of packs of tracts resembling \$1 million bills.

In the past three years, the Great News Network has distributed tens of thousands of the tracts, which feature "1,000,000," a picture of President Grover Cleveland and, in small type, the words "This Note Is Not Legal Tender" and "Department of Eternal Affairs."

On the back, wording around the edge of the tract begins: "The million-dollar question: Will you go to heaven?" The tracts are the same size as a standard dollar bill.

On June 20, U.S. District Judge Jorge Solis of Dallas denied the network's request for a preliminary injunction that would have said the "Million Dollar" tracts do not violate U.S. counterfeiting laws.

The tracts came to the Secret Service's attention after a North Carolina resident tried to deposit one in a personal bank account.

Agents confiscated the tracts from the ministry June 2.

"Overall, the bill appears very similar to actual currency," Solis concluded. "In essence, the bill could be characterized as a modified reproduction of actual currency."

The lawyer representing the ministry said he was "very disappointed" with the judge's ruling.

"I guess I couldn't disagree more," said Brian Fahling, the senior trial attorney with the American Family Association Center for Law & Policy. "It's like the reasonable American is an idiot. What about the 5 or 6 million who haven't gone running to their banks?"

Fahling, who plans to appeal the judge's decision, estimated that millions of the tracts have been distributed by Great News Network and others who have ordered them from Living Waters Publications, based in Bellflower, Calif.

Network officials argued in court documents that the organization's freedoms of speech, press and religious exercise were violated by the Secret Service agents.

In an interview, Fahling said the tracts have a number of "disqualify-



ing marks" and Cleveland does not appear on U.S. bills that currently are in use.

"There's never been a \$1 million bill and I trust there never will be," he added.

The Secret Service, which oversees anti-counterfeiting operations, explained its stance in a legal brief responding to the suit from Great News Network.

"The First Amendment values must be balanced against societal interests," reads the response from U.S. attorneys representing Home-

land Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Secret Service agents who were named in the complaint.

They suggested that the ministry could have altered the bills to reduce the chance of confusion.

"Plaintiffs cannot avoid the issue of similitude between the appearance of their \$1,000,000 bill and that of United States currency by merely calling the bills by another name, i.e. a religious tract," their response concluded. "The \$1,000,000 bills are what they appear to be—money."

## FUNNY MONEY?

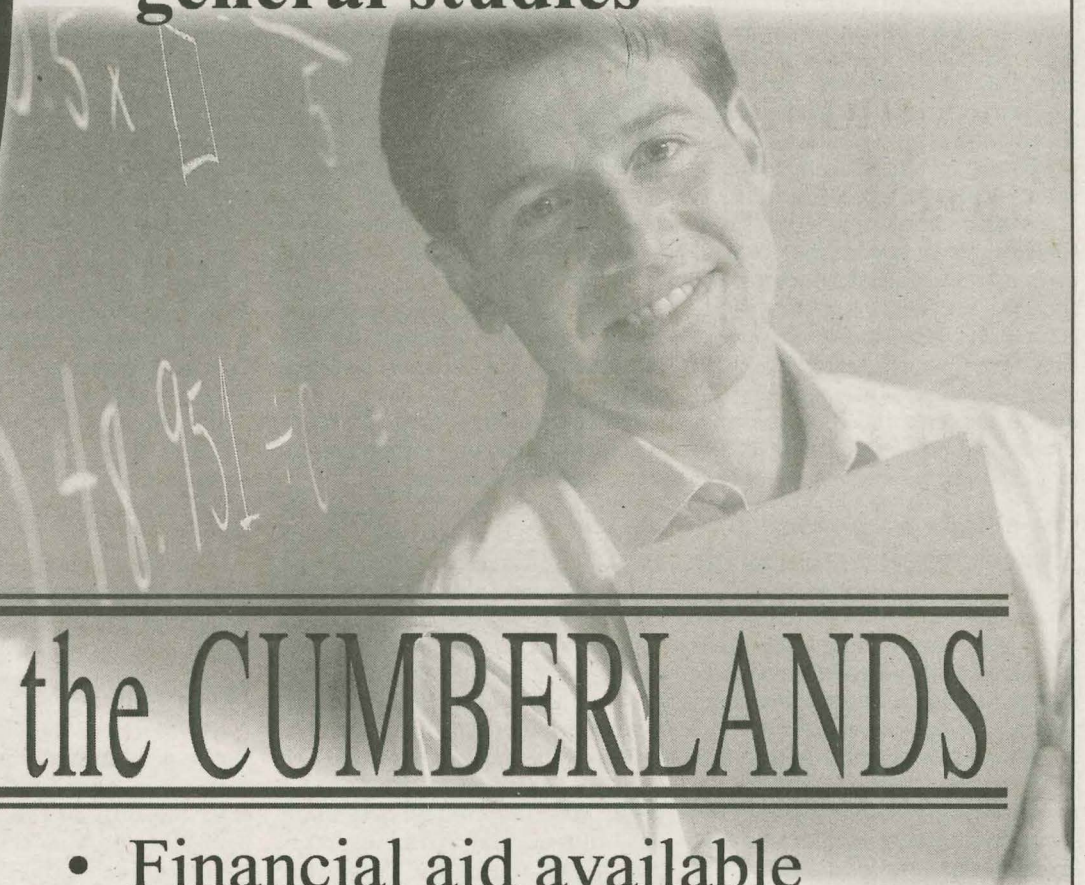
The U.S. Secret Service recently seized dozens of packs of "Million Dollar" tracts distributed by Great News Network of Denton, Texas. Government officials said the tracts too closely resemble actual U.S. currency. (RNS image courtesy of American Family Association)

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