



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

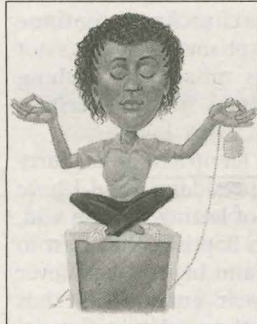
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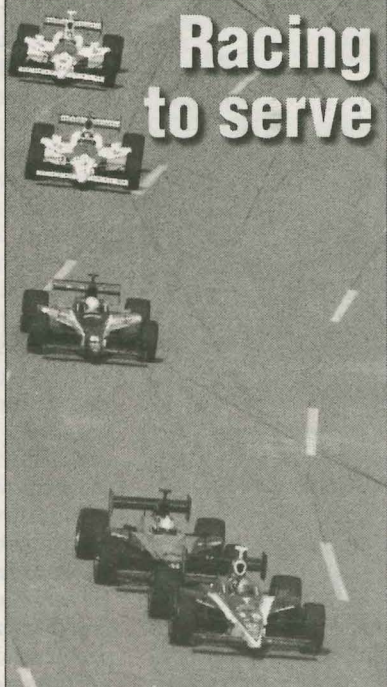
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Recent killing might be evidence of stress that pastors' spouses feel. Page 10.



**HIGH-SPEED SPORT** Drivers race around Kentucky Speedway in practice for the recent Meijer Indy 300. Kentucky Raceway Ministries has become an important player in the track's efforts to serve fans. (KBC photos by Robert Reeves)

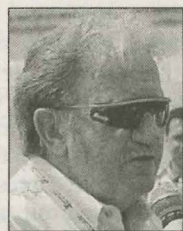
## Sparta racetrack officials praise ministry's impact

By Robert Reeves  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Sparta**—At Kentucky Speedway, everything is fast. Fast laps, fast pit stops, even fast autographs for the fans.

But Kentucky Raceway Ministries Director John Roberts has learned that even here some things take a little time and patience.

When Roberts and J.T. Marsh first began the ministry at the super speedway, which opened in 2000, they found track management hesitant to work with the group, unsure of its aims.



John Roberts

Their first day of ministry consisted of providing water from a small tent in the parking lot.

"We didn't see very many people. We didn't have contact with a lot of people," Roberts said, noting that about 35 people showed up for the ministry's first worship service.

But during the last six years, track officials gradually have become convinced that the ministry and its 250 volunteers can be depended on. As a result, Kentucky Raceway Ministries has become a heavily relied upon member of the track's support team.

"They are very important to our daily operations here," said Debbie Shipp, Kentucky Speedway's director of human resources.

□ See Sparta track values ... Page 3



## Need a better solution?

### Speaker offers win-win way to handle poor leaders

By David Winfrey  
News Director

**Lexington**—Dealing with an ineffective Sunday school leader doesn't always have to end with hurt feelings, according to Aaron Reed.

"The dream is always win-win," said Reed, minister of education at Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville. "You always want to demonstrate grace so you don't hurt the person."

While admitting some people simply won't respond well to being told they aren't meeting expectations, Reed stressed that Sunday school directors should maintain a positive attitude and not let fear keep them from addressing a bad

situation.

And, he said, by following a few rules they can decrease the number of bad fits that result in having to replace an ineffective leader.

Reed was among the scores of workshop leaders at Super Saturday training conferences held this past weekend in Lexington. Other conferences are scheduled Aug. 26-Sept. 16 in Prestonsburg, Bowling Green, Paducah, Somerset and Crestwood.

Prayer is a foundational strategy for any dealings with people, Reed said during his workshop on preventing, improving or replacing ineffective leaders.

"Pray with your leaders. Pray for your leaders. Pray for guid-

ance," he said.

Supervisors should cultivate a positive attitude and overcome any fear of addressing an ineffective leader, he added.

"Don't get caught up in the negative parts of it," he said. "Believe me, I've bit my tongue many times."

Supervisors also should discover the reason why someone is ineffective. "If we can discover the why, we might be able to improve the situation."

Proper enlistment, apprenticing and coaching can reduce the likelihood that a leader will need to be replaced, he said.

Good recruitment requires more than a blanket request for volunteers, he said.

□ See Speaker offers ... Page 6

## Dumped chickens give church more than one flock to care for

**Staten Island, N.Y.** (RNS)—It's a mystery most fowl.

Someone has been abandoning roosters and chickens at the Episcopal Church of St. Andrew.

"We have this reputation as being pet-friendly," said Pastor Michael Delaney. "But we really need people to stop doing this."

The first drop-off was on the weekend of the church's annual antique fair in July. Two roosters and five hens, all Rhode Island, were dropped off outside the parish offices.

Then recently, according to facilities manager Rich Ragsdale, came "more chickens." On his way into work he found a box containing another rooster and hen.

"There was a bag next to the box," Ragsdale said. "I thought maybe it was food for them, but out popped the head of another black thing. I don't know what it was."

Whatever it was, it got away.

The Rhode Island roosters acted so aggressively toward the new arrivals that Delaney feared for the newcomers' safety. So he took them to the rectory where they are now living under a bush.

When Karen Kelly, the parish's administrative assistant, approached with a bag of bread crumbs, the chickens came running.

The chickens swarm her and Ragsdale as they arrive for work in the morning, apparently knowing breakfast has arrived.

The chickens also have been known to line up outside the church door when there's a party going on. Clients of Project Hospitality who stay overnight at the church sometimes wake up to a cock fight outside.

The church is home to the only pet cemetery in New York City, but these robust birds certainly aren't ready for interment.

Delaney birds whoever abandoned the birds might have chosen his church because it is known for its Franciscan hospitality to animals.

"You feel sorry for any abandoned animals," Delaney said. "We've been taking care of them. But we want them gone by September."

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, August 23.

## 'Everyone Can' countdown

*Welch continues push for Southern Baptists to baptize 1 million converts*

**"For Southern Baptists, the quest to witness, win and baptize has never been a one-year emphasis. It has been a biblical mandate."**

Former SBC President Bobby Welch

By Erin Roach  
Baptist Press

Nashville (BP)—Bobby Welch, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is continuing a fervent push toward the Sept. 30 culmination of the "Everyone Can" Kingdom Challenge for Southern Baptists to reach 1 million baptisms.

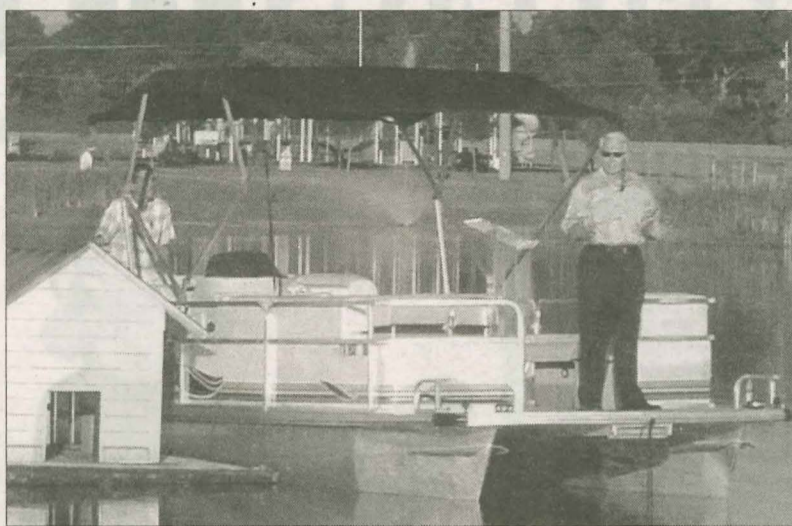
During a recent associational baptism rally hosted by Weakley County Baptist Association in Dresden, Tenn., Welch preached from a pontoon boat on a small lake to nearly 400 people gathered on the banks for the rally.

"I think the thing that struck me about it was how wonderfully the Lord is using the emphasis on witnessing, winning and baptizing to unify and propel so many associations to a new level of gathering and emphasis," said Welch, who is continuing his Everyone Can travels across the country. "The thing that continues to encourage me is that where people have made an effort to take seriously the Everyone Can challenge, there seems to always be a newfound unity of purpose. That was certainly evident in Weakley County."

### Cooperative effort

Welch first urged churches to get together for associational baptism rallies last fall. The Aug. 8 event in west Tennessee was a cooperative effort among the 44 churches in Weakley Association, Director of Missions Wayne Perkins said.

Each church was invited to bring candidates for baptism who recently had made professions of faith, Perkins added, noting that seven churches brought 22 people



**FISHING FOR SOULS** Former Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch preached from a pontoon boat on a lake in west Tennessee as part of a recent "Everyone Can" associational baptism rally. (BP photo by Linda Perkins)

to be baptized that night.

After Welch preached, a teenage boy accepted an invitation to accept Christ as his personal Savior.

"So it was really an outstanding event, and it was a first-time event as far as I know in west Tennessee," Perkins said. "I know it was a first-time event for Weakley County Baptists."

Kenny Carr, pastor of Long Heights Baptist Church in McKenzie, Tenn., and chairman of the association's evangelism committee, said Welch's challenge for rallies inspired the association to try one, and associational leaders plan to host another one.

"We really want to do it again in the future but with more churches helping each other," Carr said. "Some of these churches are struggling, and they need someone to come alongside them and help

them go out and knock on doors and witness."

As Sept. 30—the end of the church year and the end of the Everyone Can emphasis—approaches, Welch reflected on a baptism service that kicked off the year, held in Kirbyville, Texas, last Oct. 1. John Britt was baptized one minute after midnight by the pastor of First Baptist Church, making him the first in what Welch envisioned would be 1 million baptisms.

### All-night prayer meetings

"I'm praying now for a church or churches that will surface who will be willing to baptize at least one person Saturday night, Sept. 30, at the last minute just before the year of 1 million baptisms ends," Welch said.

Such an event would be a "wonderful bookend" to the Everyone Can emphasis, he noted, and "it

would be a great thing for churches to have all-night prayer meetings and end them with baptisms."

Welch said it's still too early to evaluate progress toward the 1 million baptisms goal numerically because churches aren't due to report those numbers yet, but he is confident the convention is "doing overwhelmingly better than we would have been had we not made this effort toward reaching more people."

"The thing I continue to experience," Welch said, "is what was characterized by the meeting in Tennessee and others I've attended, which is that all over the country I've never heard as much talking and as much emphasis on witnessing, winning and baptizing in recent history as we are now."

By throwing out a seemingly unattainable number, Welch said he was raising the bar for baptisms. He said he is sure Southern Baptists will baptize 1 million people in a year, even if it's not this year.

But since this church year is not over yet, Welch said churches still have plenty of time to act.

As he urges churches to continue to focus on baptisms, Welch has not let up on his mission of pushing Southern Baptists toward reaching the world for Christ.

"I have not let up at all since turning over the presidency, and I have no intention of letting up," he said. "For Southern Baptists, the quest to witness, win and baptize has never been a one-year emphasis. It has been a biblical mandate right out of the mouth of the Son of God for every believer. We'll continue after September to do more than ever before."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**Glorieta hosts retired ministers' retreat.** Russell Dilday, former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be the keynote speaker at next month's retiree ministries' retreat at LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico. The Sept. 25-29 retreat, sponsored by Glorieta and the Baptist General Convention of Texas, is for all Southern Baptist ministry-related retirees. Workshops will focus on such topics as health and nutrition, estate planning and volunteer missions. For more information, contact Glorieta at (800) 797-4222.

**GuideStone offers free resources.** GuideStone Financial Resources has released a new online resource, "Planning Financial Support," for use by church personnel and finance committees in planning staff members' compensation packages. The presentation, along with a related workbook, is available from GuideStone at no charge. "Our goal with this new presentation is to help churches provide for their pastors in a comprehensive, holistic manner," said Chris Elkins, a financial solutions and services staff member at GuideStone. The presentation's launch comes on the heels of the release of the 2006 SBC Compensation Study. The resources are available on GuideStone's Web site, [www.GuideStone.org](http://www.GuideStone.org), or by calling (888) 984-8433.

**NAMB leader resigns pastorate.** Kansas Pastor Terry Fox, chairman of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's presidential search team, resigned from his church Aug. 6. Fox, who also is former chairman of NAMB's trustee board, said he plans to travel across the country encouraging pastors and other Christians to engage the culture on such issues as gay marriage, evolution and abortion. His resignation after 10 years as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita took effect immediately.

## Muslim refugees exit Lebanese Baptist shelters

Beirut, Lebanon (ABP)—Hundreds of Lebanese Muslims who had taken refuge in Lebanese Baptist institutions said farewell to their hosts Aug. 17. Meanwhile, Lebanese Christian leaders continued to care for refugees still in Beirut.

As a cease-fire took hold in the month-long conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, hundreds of refugees who had fled the fighting for the relative safety of Christian parts of Beirut began to leave the Beirut Baptist School.

In an Aug. 17 update, leaders of the umbrella organization that runs the school and nearby Arab Baptist Theological Seminary said the departure was bittersweet.

"Our more than 750 visitors for the past month or so have left. The farewell between the children, youth, women on the one hand and our team members on the other was at times quite emotional," the update from the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development said. It noted that the handful of other refugee families staying at the seminary "who come from the southern villages are still cautious, preferring to remain at ABTS for a few more days."

In addition, Lebanese and other Baptist personnel in Beirut contin-

ued to go to refugee centers near the schools, leading programs for displaced women and children.

At the conflict's height, Lebanese Baptist officials estimated, approximately 800 refugees were staying at the two schools, located in the Christian parts of Beirut. Many of the displaced families are Shiite Muslims who came from hard-hit Hezbollah strongholds in southern and eastern Lebanon and Beirut's Shia-dominated southern suburbs.

International Baptist relief workers, including a medical team from Hungarian Baptist Aid and church groups from the United States, have provided other services to the refugees.

The release also noted that, because of the halt in fighting and departure of the refugees, both institutions will begin their 2006-2007 academic years Sept. 25.

Recent news reports detailed Lebanese returning to villages and cities that had been all but destroyed in the 33-day conflict.

"There are those who go back not knowing what awaits them. Will they find their homes in place or will they struggle to identify through the rubble what was once their home and shelter?" an Aug. 14 Lebanese Baptist update said. "And

for those, much uncertainty is in store for them. Where will they go next? And until when?"

News reports last week indicated that the United Nations-brokered cease-fire still was extremely fragile. Several Hezbollah leaders said they would not disarm, as required by the UN resolution that brought about the cease-fire. Meanwhile, The New York Times reported Aug. 16 that Israeli military officials said they will not retreat from areas of southern Lebanon they have occupied until the promised joint force of Lebanese and international troops arrives to keep the peace.

The practice of Baptists providing activities for Muslim women and children might not end with the conflict, the Baptist leaders wrote.

"Our teams are receiving repeated requests that we hold similar programs in the areas of origin of our displaced friends," they said. "God willing, these are the beginning of new and fruitful interactive relationships between Christians and Muslims. May God be glorified in the process!"

The update also requested prayer for Baptists who were returning to their homes and churches in Deir Mimas and Marjeyoun, two hard-hit villages near the Israeli border.

# Sparta track values Kentucky Raceway Ministries

Continued from page 1

"As soon as people come onto the property, whether it is fans or as drivers with their teams, Raceway Ministries is here, and they show another whole side to our operations."

Three Kentucky Baptist Associations—Owen County, Ten Mile and Whites Run—primarily sponsor the interdenominational ministry. It receives grants from the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions (promoted by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union) and Long Run Baptist Association. The Kentucky Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board also commission Roberts as a Mission Service Corps missionary.

The ministry's primary point of contact is at one of the racetrack's larger campgrounds, where as many as 10,000 people gather on some race weekends. A Kentucky Raceway Ministries tent offers race information, entertainment, children's activities, refreshments, free breakfasts and worship services.

Along with information about the speedway and the races, ministry volunteers also distribute Bibles specifically designed for race fans. Other printed items feature photos and testimonies from Christian drivers.

## "Beat them over the heart"

Volunteers take a low-key but direct approach to sharing their faith, said Bill Prewitt, a Raceway Ministries volunteer from South Fork Baptist Church in Owenton.

"We don't beat them over the head with our Bibles. We just beat them over the heart with our love," he said.

But in recent years, racetrack officials have welcomed volunteers and chaplains into the track. Inside the fence, they now help the public relations staff with some functions.

Kentucky Raceway Ministries' volunteers also serve as liaisons between fans and the track. And as Roberts and other chaplains roam the premises in their bright yellow shirts, it's not uncommon for them to give a listening ear to track staff or race team members.

"If they are having a bad day and need a little encouragement, then Raceway Ministries is here to talk to them and help them in any way



**OPENING PRAYER** Kentucky Speedway Ministries chaplains and volunteers gather for prayer as race weekend activities get under way for the Meijer Indy 300. Approximately 250 volunteer serve with the ministry. (KBC photos by Robert Reeves)

they can," Shipp said. "Sometimes they (race team members) come here and have left their families and have been on the road for a while and they may be down and out about that. Or they're having a losing season. Or they're having a winning season and they just want to thank God and they want somebody to sit with them."

Now that track officials are more comfortable with them, ministry workers are allowed to pitch two information tents near the track on race weekends. The tents offer services for families as well as Christian materials.

Shipp said the tents serve a valuable purpose for families.

"We have lots of families who come here with little kids and

they're all excited to be here," she noted. "It's hot. It's a grueling day. The kids need water. The kids need a little activity. Parents are a little unnerved. Raceway Ministries is here to help them have an enjoyable time."

## Serving fans during race

Also on race days, ministry volunteer chaplains are posted throughout the track, serving as members of the trauma response teams for both fans and race teams.

The chaplains are stationed throughout the grandstand as well as in the medical care stations with emergency medical personnel. They are charged with helping fans who develop medical or other problems during a race.



Sometimes the help is needed because of tragedy on the track itself.

"If there's a wreck on the track, Raceway Ministries is right there to help the family of the driver who is devastated by the wreck or the team or the owners whose friend is hurt," Shipp said. "Raceway Ministries is right there, taking them to the hospital, sitting with them in the hospital, taking them home after the hospital. They are just vital to our organization."

Roberts recalled a day when a driver had what turned out to be a minor accident on the track. But during the initial time of uncertainty, the driver's wife had a heart attack in the grandstand.

The Raceway Ministries volunteers immediately stepped in to help the family extensively for the next three weeks with emotional and spiritual support, meals and accommodations while the woman was hospitalized.

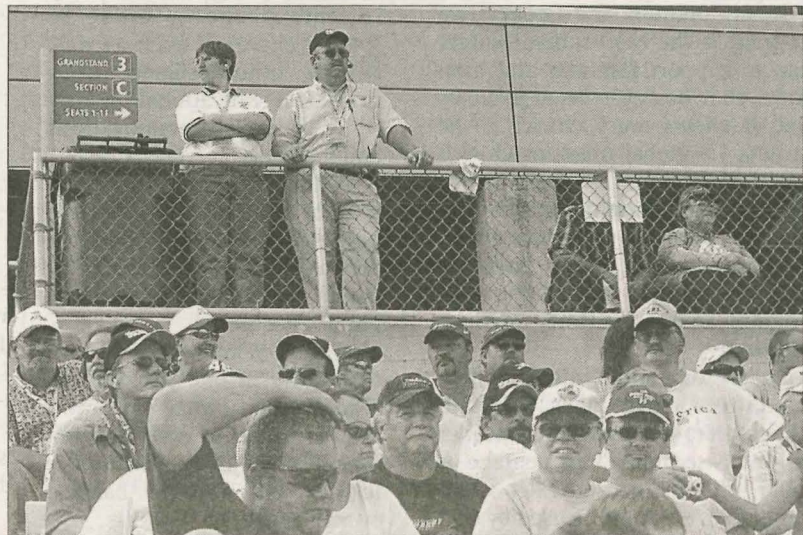
"Those people have just been so grateful. We hear back from them regularly," Roberts said.

Shipp said that with all that the Kentucky Raceway Ministries volunteers do at the speedway, she now can't imagine doing without them.

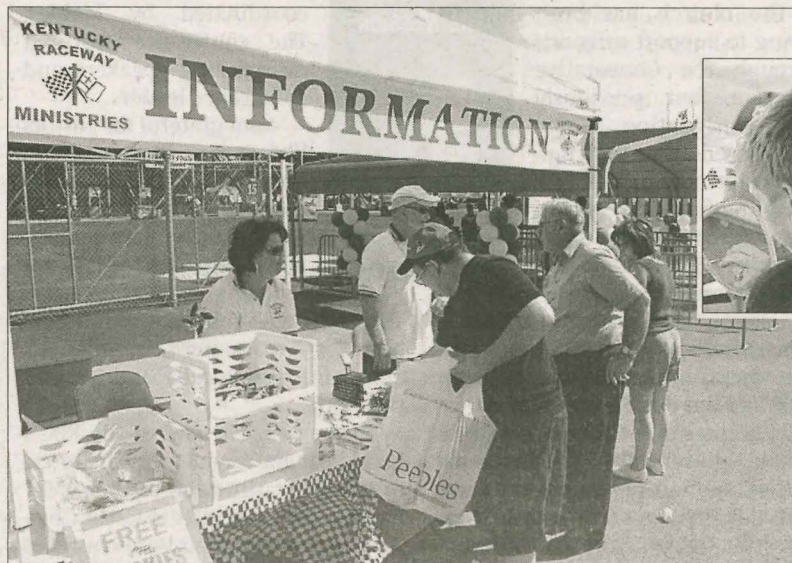
"There are people here who look for Raceway Ministries more than they look for my people that work for me on our payroll because they meet a need and provide a service that is sometimes more than what they are looking for from us," she said. "So many of our people need them. Our employees need them."

"I hire people and put them on our payroll and ask them to do work for me. You can't pay for what they (Kentucky Raceway Ministries) provide. They're invaluable."

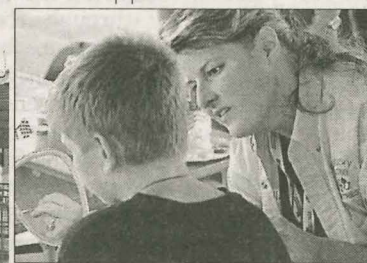
**COOPERATION** Kentucky Raceway Ministries Director John Roberts (right) talks with Debbie Shipp, director of human resources for Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky. Shipp calls the work of the ministry volunteers "vital" to the speedway's operations.



**TRACK CHAPLAINS** Kentucky Raceway Ministries chaplain Tony Stewart scans a section of the crowd during the race. Stewart and other chaplains serve as members of the speedway's trauma response teams to minister to families of those who require medical attention during a race.



**FAN FRIENDLY** Volunteers greet guests at an information tent at Kentucky Speedway. The tent offers free cookies, race-theme Bibles and other materials featuring Christian race car drivers. Inset: A race fan gets some free custom artwork featuring a face painter.



## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Calvinism 'divisive'

It appears to me an increasing number of Southern Baptist churches in Kentucky are being pastored by men who are five-point Calvinists. That is fine if that is what the churches want, but could it be that these pastors are getting these pastorates because the pulpit committees might not be asking the right questions?

While most Southern Baptist churches would probably agree with a couple of the distinctives (such as total depravity, Romans 3: 23, and perseverance of the saints, 1 Peter 1:5) most, I believe, would certainly have raised eyebrows at the doctrine of limited atonement.

Limited atonement asserts that Jesus died for the sins of the elect, and not for the sins of the world. That is not what John the Baptist said in John 1:29.

I believe Calvinism to be divisive and is not the main issue of what it means to be a Southern Baptist. The main issue is Jesus Christ for the

world! Let us labor together to keep the main thing the main thing.

I have been told that sometimes pastors skirt the issue in their talks with pulpit committees by saying things such as, "Jesus' death on the cross is 'sufficient' for the world, but 'efficient' for the elect." That is not what Calvin meant, and truth be told, that probably isn't what they believe.

Would it not be appropriate, if the pulpit committee really wanted to find out what their prospective candidate believes, to ask them point-blank: "Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world?" Yes or no. It is that simple.

Again, if the church wants a Calvinistic pastor, well and good. But if I were sitting on a pulpit committee, I would want to know where my future pastor stands theologically, and not tiptoe through the "TULIP."

Robert P. Tipton  
Lebanon Junction

## Applaud God, not man

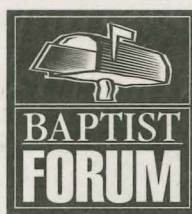
I am responding to an article in the June 27 issue regarding hand clapping in church.

I come from the perspective of someone who has received applause in church. I was applauded once for singing a song that was personal to me. I think the congregation received that spirit with me and therefore applauded. That applause I agreed with because it was an actual applause to the Lord.

But I have received other applause and felt as though the whole thing were not a ministry but a show instead. The applause made it seem like a waste of time.

There are times when I wish people would not applaud, but instead would hang their heads in careful consideration of the message. I say if you wish to applaud, applaud the Lord and not the man.

Eddie Rainbolt  
Louisville



## Reaching the next generation

By Chad Childress

Alpharetta, Ga. (BP)—I often am asked, "What will it take to reach this next generation?" Oh how I would love to answer that question with a simple response that would please everyone. That would make it easy.

However, in the real world of reaching the next generation, nothing is easy. The complexity of students' lives today runs circles around that of their parents. The confusion and hurt of today's students must push the church to invest deeply in their generation. Here are a few suggestions I believe the body of Christ must move toward:

**Rely on the power of God.** Please don't take this for granted or quickly move past the critical necessity of relying on God. For far too long, church leaders have ministered and built programs that leave little room for the power of God. Unless we see

God move freely in our churches, we will not see the next generation come to Christ.

**Make disciples.** If we are not making disciples of Jesus Christ who have an understanding of God's

Word, then we are not building a foundation that will reach the next generation. Jesus' command was to make disciples. Making disciples must be the priority in all we do.

**Parenting.** Many parents have abdicated their disciple-making role. Churches have created programs from birth to college that rob parents of the responsibility and joy of being the spiritual leaders in their kids' lives. Church leaders should covenant to help bring parents back into the lives of their kids.

**Pastoral support.** The days of the "youth director" are over. We no longer can afford to hire babysitters for our students. Pastors and

churches must begin by hiring and empowering God-called leaders who effectively invest in this generation. We also must move beyond the idea that our students are the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today as much as anyone else.

**Send missionaries.** One of the greatest mission fields in North America is school campuses. If our churches would equip, empower and send students to school as missionaries, I believe students would understand what an "on mission" lifestyle looks like.

We are in a battle for the heart and soul of this generation. The enemy wants to distract us so that we distance ourselves from doing what it takes to reach them. May we fully rely on the power of God to make disciples, equip parents and send students into the greatest mission field in North America.

Chad Childress is director of student evangelism for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board

## Corinth Church in London strengthens CP

"We have restored the Cooperative Program to 7 percent!" exclaimed Pastor James Blaylock. Those were the welcomed words I heard during lunch recently with the pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in London.

The church has been giving to support missions through the Cooperative Program, but previously was designating some gifts. Based on undesignated receipts, the restored CP percentage could result in the church's Cooperative Program gifts reaching \$70,000 next year.

Corinth is a growing and missions-minded church. The congregation moved into a new sanctuary in 2000 and has doubled its attendance to an average of 575 since that time.

The church also conducts extensive mission projects every year, especially in cooperation with "Crusades for Christ," directed by evangelist Joe Mobley, who is a member there. The church has conducted mission projects in Brazil, Poland,

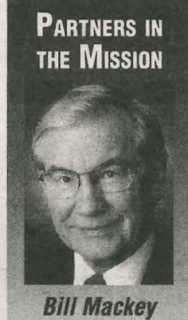
Jamaica, Romania, Haiti, Trinidad, Russia and Honduras.

In addition to providing the home base for the Crusades for Christ ministry, the church hosted the recent "Calling America Back to God" conference coordinated by Mobley. The conference featured outstanding speakers and conference leaders.

I am grateful for pastors like James Blaylock who are willing to lead their churches to make a strong commitment to missions and ministries that are reaching people for Christ.

They are equipping church members for involvement in missions and ministries locally and around the world.

As we near the end of the KBC's fiscal year on Aug. 31, I want to express my gratitude to all Kentucky Baptists for their gifts to Great Commission work in their local churches and associations, and for their gifts through the Cooperative Program for state and world mission causes.



Bill Mackey

## GIVING

## Which gifts to charity qualify as tax deductions?

By Laurie Valentine

Here is a quick review of the basic rules regarding the deductibility of gifts made to charity:



First, to be deductible the transfer must be a gift to charity. As a minimum,

the IRS requires that what you give has a value that exceeds any benefit you receive in return. If you receive some item or benefit when you make your gift, your deduction is limited to the difference between the value of what you give and the value of what you receive.

The gift must be to charity. A gift to charity earmarked by the giver for a particular individual is not deductible if the giver's primary intention was to benefit a particular individual rather than advance the mission of the charity. The test for deductibility is whether the charity has full control and discretion over the gifted funds and their use.

Gifts must be completed by Dec. 31 to be deductible in that tax year.

Cash gifts are completed if the check is dated Dec. 31 or earlier and delivered to the charity, or placed in the mail with appropriate postage, by Dec. 31. Gifts of securities are completed when properly endorsed stock or bond certificates are delivered to the charity (or placed in the mail with appropriate postage), or when the securities are received into the charity's brokerage account, or when the security is retitled on the books of the issuing company, whichever occurs first. Real estate gifts are completed when a properly executed deed is delivered to the charity.

There are percentage limits on the amount of lifetime gifts you can deduct in a single year.

The maximum allowable deduction—50 percent of adjusted gross income—is available for cash gifts and gifts of ordinary income property made to "public charities" such as your church, other religious organizations, educational institutions, benevolent organizations and hospitals.

A deduction limit of 30 percent of adjusted gross income applies to gifts of long-term appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds and real estate given to public charities.

If the amount of your charitable gifts in one tax year exceeds the percentage limits, you are permitted to carry the unused portion of the deduction forward and use the balance over the next five tax years.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

## Couple seeks ways to enhance quality, quantity time together

**Q: My husband and I have been married three years and it seems we have less and less time together. What suggestions do you have for balance in an overly busy marriage?**

In "The Weekend Marriage," Mira Kirschenbaum reminds her readers that couples should be less concerned with "Mars and Venus" and more intentional about dealing with their "time-starved lives." She suggests that the less time you have together, the more things tend to go wrong.

### MARRIAGE

Because relationships, like infants, languish from lack of nourishment, it is critically important to identify strategies for increasing and maximizing time together. Following are Kirshenbaum's four strategies along with specific examples:

**Take care of yourself.** Most people need to find almost-daily ways of recharging so that we bring home more than leftovers. Recharging activities include: swimming laps at a local pool, taking a walk, listening to music, a quiet lunch, taking a brief nap, talking with an encouraging friend. Spending time with God on a daily basis in his Word and prayer and enjoying His presence can be amazingly recharging.

**Break free of old patterns.** In areas of conflict, this might mean stop avoiding conflict and begin to learn to deal openly with things that bother you.

**Discover and create new ways of being close and experiencing intimacy.** Begin with you and your spouse making a list of things that make you feel close to each other. Compare your lists. In general, women need to talk to feel intimacy. Men experience intimacy through mutual activities with their spouse, including sex.

**Make a commitment to stop saying and doing things that injure the relationship.** Learn to say "no" to things. Spend less time with "time wasters" on the phone. Use the answering machine to screen calls when at home. Stop bringing work home. Focus on doing chores together.—Scott Wigginton

**Q: I can't get my husband to change his behaviors that get on my nerves. He's a wonderful man otherwise. How should I handle my frustration?**

My response might sound like it came from behavioral psychologist B.F. Skinner, but give it a try: Ignore the behavior that is problematic, and reward the behavior that you want.

For example, if the problematic behavior is something like yelling loudly about his inability to find his keys, try to react as little as possible. Later, when he finds the keys on his own and doesn't blame you for the inconvenience, reward his behavior. It does little good to point out his faults, and you will not be reinforcing the problematic behavior with corresponding negative behavior of your own.

What is a reward for your husband? One place to take a hint is from Gary Chapman's book, "The Five Love Languages." To which of the following does your husband seem to respond: physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, acts of service or thoughtful gifts? Another list you could draw from for rewards is Willard Harley's "His Needs/Her Needs." Harley lists major needs of men as sexual activity, recreational companionship, an attractive spouse, domestic support and admiration. Hurley's list for what a woman wants includes affection, conversation, honesty and openness, financial support and family commitment.

Give the behavioral model a try. There is much in Scripture about kind and loving behavior toward one another. Give Colossians 3:12-17 some time in your daily meditation time with your spouse in mind as you seek to express love in a more intentional way.—James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are:

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**Valerie Vincent**, Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: dr.vincent@insightbb.com.

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Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@earthlink.net.



## Do you need to negotiate a cease-fire?

Last week's cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah is an answer to prayer for many people around the world.

While the halt to daily bombings is a small, positive step in the volatile Middle East, any hope of long-term peace remains extremely fragile in the troubled region.

As Christians and people of other faiths affirm the latest lull in the deadly violence, it is important to remember that the Middle East isn't the only setting where an urgent plea for peace is needed. As believers continue to pray for peace in hot spots around the world, areas that need an immediate cease-fire in our own culture include:

**Marriages.** Last week's Family Forum column cautioned couples against using "toxic humor" and other negative communication techniques in marriage. Tragically, the privacy of one's home is where many people unleash the most negative, hurtful words toward their spouse. That's not to mention abuse, neglect, divorce and other problems that fracture far too many marriages.

**Families.** As children and teens start back to school, parents and kids need to find common ground on a variety of issues. Respect, cooperation, attentive listening, quality (and quantity) time together and numerous other needs exist in countless American families. Parents must take the initiative to negotiate a cease-fire in the interest of family health, hope and happiness.

**Local churches.** How is your church doing in the area of conflict vs. cooperation? Are church members actively at peace with one another or nursing long-held grudges? Are you working in partnership with other area churches to reach your community with the gospel, or are you competing for attendance, tithes and turf? What about your local association

and the state Baptist convention—is your congregation a team player or are you committed to a Lone Ranger approach to ministry?

**Baptist life.** Leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and other Baptist groups often are at odds both publicly and privately.

In one recent example, Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's official news service, posted a pair of articles critical of CBF. The articles questioned how CBF counts partner churches and criticized CBF-supported seminaries and divinity schools.

Russell Moore, dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of theology, blasted CBF as "a parasitic movement" and claimed its schools "have become a haunt for every liberal fad imaginable."

The sad fact is that leaders of both groups have taken potshots at each other over the years, often distracting fellow believers from vital Kingdom work.

That's a troubling contrast to SBC President Frank Page's call for Southern Baptists to focus on the positive.

"Too long Baptists have been known for what we're against," Page said after his election in June. "It's time to say, 'Please let us tell you what we're for.'"

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone," Romans 12:18 declares. While peace isn't always possible in every situation, God's Word urges each believer to avoid being the stumbling block.

It generally is easier to pray for peace in the Middle East than it is to confront the need to pursue peace in our daily relationships. In what areas of life do you need to declare a cease-fire for the sake of your personal Christian witness?

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Interesting days ahead

By Erich Bridges

Richmond, Va. (BP)—"May you live in interesting times," goes an oft-quoted saying.

Is it a blessing or a curse? It depends on how you define "interesting." Our tumultuous times are definitely interesting—in every sense of the word—and promise to get more so.

Forecasting International, a firm associated with the World Future Society, periodically offers predictions for the near- to medium-term future. A recent list, compiled by FI President Marvin Cetron and futurist Owen Davies, includes a number of items that affect the church and its world mission enterprise:

■ Despite rising fuel costs, economic disruptions and terror threats, global travel (by air, land or sea) will become faster, cheaper and safer, Cetron and Davies predict.

Implications for the church: More missionaries, short-term mission volunteers and Christians from many nations can take the gospel farther and wider—if they chose to do so—and many more people who have yet to hear the gospel will be visiting us.

■ Internet users worldwide will surpass 1.35 billion by 2007. "Cultural, political and social isolation (have) become almost impossible for countries interested in economic development," say the forecasters. Psychological and spiritual borders still prevent the gospel from enter-

ing some places, but fewer and fewer political borders do.

■ International business growth and integration will act as a "stabilizing force" in the world, as interdependent nations "find that conflict is unacceptably hard on the bottom line." That trend, if it proves accurate, will give unreached people groups in chaotic areas greater access not only to political peace but to the message of God's peace.

■ However, the ongoing fragmentation of the post-Cold War world has destabilized some regions, a trend that will continue. State-sponsored terrorism will decline, but terror groups motivated by "generalized, virulent hatred based on religion and culture" will increase their attacks.

Islamic extremism, in particular, is expected to continue to undermine stability both in the Muslim world and beyond. Mission agencies and workers, like international companies and their employees, have no choice but to increase training in risk management and security.

■ People in the developed world are retiring later. By 2010, the average retirement age in the United States will reach into the 70s. Many baby boomers and their children will make career changes because they desire "to do something more fulfilling"—like helping others. The phenomenon of second- and third-

career Christians entering full-time ministry and mission service already is well under way and will increase as the U.S. population ages.

But Global Research Director Jim Haney of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board offers a caution: These late-blooming Christian workers must be ready to "think outside their cultural box, a necessary step to making a difference cross-culturally. ... (Many) Christians in our churches insulate their lives with other Christians."

■ Millennials and Gen Xers worldwide (people in their 20s and 30s) share more in common with each other than with their parents and will "tend to homogenize basic attitudes throughout the world." They are entrepreneurial, ambitious, materialistic and in a hurry. They're throwing off old traditions that prevented their parents from hearing the gospel. Whether they have the inclination—or the time—to listen to the call of God as they chase the "good life" is another matter.

■ Nearly half the world's population now lives in cities. That total will reach 60 percent by 2030. By 2015, the number of megacities with populations topping 10 million will reach 23. Christians have yet to find effective strategies for evangelizing them.

Interesting days lie ahead, to be sure. Will the church muster the energy, creativity—and above all, the obedience to God's global call—to respond to them?

Erich Bridges is a senior writer with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

## Minister: Discipleship plan helps retain new Christians

### Super Saturday

Future conferences will be held in:  
**Prestonsburg**, Aug. 26.  
**Bowling Green**, Aug. 26.  
**Paducah**, Sept. 9.  
**Somerset**, Sept. 9.  
**Crestwood**, Sept. 16.

For more information, visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org).

By Ken Walker  
 State Correspondent

Lexington—A church that hopes to retain new members must develop an intentional discipleship process, said the adult discipleship pastor at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

"When they come up out of those waters, what are you going to do with them?" Richard Carwile asked a Super Saturday workshop audience last Saturday.

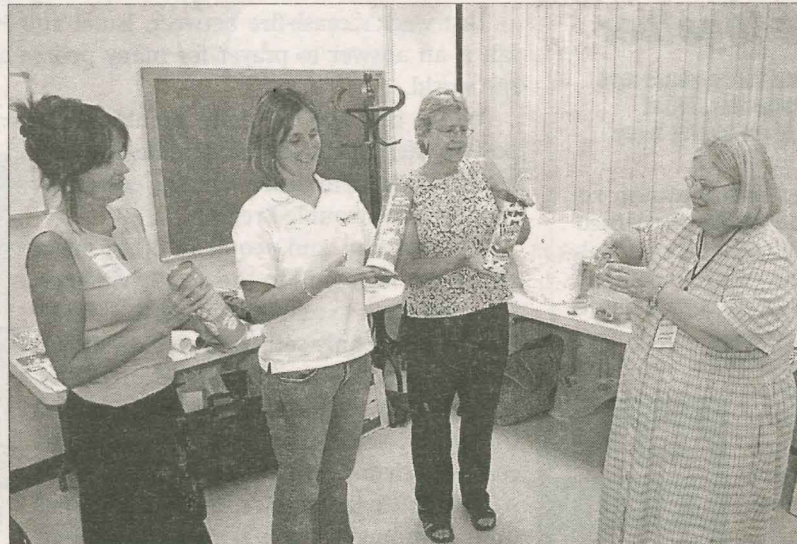
"Often we do very little," he said. "We give them a list of Sunday school classes and let 'em go. Look at the records five or 10 years later and many of them aren't there."

Despite the challenges involved, discipleship is vital to helping people learn to follow Christ, said Carwile, who accepted Jesus as his personal Savior during his first year of college.

Once he made this decision, Carwile said several Christians explained the Bible to him and helped him mature in his faith.

That is the same thing existing members should do for newcomers, he said.

In his workshop, Carwile reviewed "The Call to Follow Christ: Six Disciplines for New and Growing Believers," a new study published



**MUSIC WORKSHOP** Tina Cundiff (right), minister to children at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, shows a workshop how to create musical games and instruments from basic supplies. Super Saturday features more than 60 workshops on topics ranging from evangelism and discipleship to music and Sunday school.

by LifeWay Christian Resources.

Calling it a foundational resource, Carwile said it is important for both new and longtime believers to review such material.

The pastor said one reason many Christians aren't faithful to Bible reading and discipleship studies is they haven't learned what Christ told His followers while on Earth.

"We're asking people to commit to something, but we haven't shown them what Scripture requires them to do," Carwile said. "If they don't understand Christ requires them to deny self and take up their cross, they don't understand what Christ meant when He said, 'Follow me.'"

Carwile outlined six disciplines he said every Christian should incorporate into his or her life:

**Abide in Christ.** Abiding in Christ means experiencing a oneness with Him, spending time

with Him and bearing spiritual fruit, the speaker said.

The concept is described in John 15:5, he added, in which Jesus said, "If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit."

**Live in the Word.** This means not only treasuring the Bible, but following its concepts and memorizing it.

Reasons to memorize Scripture include being able to show someone where a particular instruction is located and helping people meditate more deeply on a passage's meaning.

"Share an experience you've had where the Word applies to life," Carwile added.

**Pray in faith.** Prayer is one of the areas that isn't taught much because too many people think others automatically know how to pray: "Teach them about prayer; don't assume they know it."

He suggested asking new Christians to pray publicly. Listening to someone pray out loud is a good

way to learn about their heart and Scriptural knowledge.

**Fellowship with believers.** While church fellowship often is associated with fried chicken, Carwile said, the concept involves much more than sharing a meal.

Fellowship also means such things as accepting one another, loving each other and forgiving each other, he added.

**Witness to the world.** Carwile said it is crucial to get new believers to share their spiritual experience with others as soon as possible.

The reason many don't talk about their spiritual experience, he said, is fear of rejection, fear of public speaking or fear of being embarrassed if someone asks them a tough question they can't answer.

He said he encourages new converts at Living Hope to start by praying for three friends and looking for opportunities to tell them what happened in their life.

**Minister to others.** This means showing God's love by meeting others' needs inside the church and those who don't believe in Him. "You need to take this and pour it into somebody else," Carwile said.

After the workshop, Carwile said that in addition to discipleship classes, churches should set higher expectations for new members.

Living Hope has long required new members to attend a membership class, but two years ago it changed the format to include material on opportunities for spiritual growth and service.

"Most people are on a one-connection level: worship," Carwile said. "But in the last two years, 78 percent of people who have gone through the class are in service, in (spiritual) growth opportunities or both."

## Speaker offers win-win ideas to deal with ineffective leaders

Continued from page 1

Current leaders should be in the process of identifying and mentoring potential church leaders, Reed said.

Proper enlistment also requires that recruits know upfront what will be expected of them, he added.

"If I don't tell you what I expect of you, ... then I'm going to get from you what I ask, which is nothing."

Some churches give all leaders a covenant that outlines expectations, he noted.

"If you're going to establish a covenant with a teacher, be very specific," he said. "Then let them know they'll be evaluated by that."

A period of apprenticeship gives new recruits an opportunity to respond to God's call and discover their passions and gifts without having all of the pressure and responsibility, he added.

"They get to practice it, and they get to do it, but it's not all on their shoulders."

Providing coaching for new leaders helps them realize they are not alone, Reed said. "We have got to understand everything that happens within the church is a team idea," he said.

Proper coaching can keep a leader's motivation strong and prevent disasters before they occur, he said. "Don't you feel more at ease when you have someone you can turn to and ask, 'How have you handled this in the past?'"

Reed suggested a coaching schedule that involves a strong relationship before the new leader begins serving. Coaching sessions should start out weekly for the first six weeks, every other week for the next six weeks, monthly as needed, and then eventually quarterly.

To improve ineffective leaders, Reed recommended being encouraging and affirming as directors seek to discover what's not working and whether the person would respond to training opportunities to improve.

While some leaders must be removed for such issues as moral failures or being undependable, others simply are bad fits for a role they never should have been assigned. In that case, Reed said, they might welcome being assigned a new role that better matches their gifts and passions.

If someone does have to be replaced, he said, directors must be honest about the reasons. Sugar coating the situation isn't fair to the person, his or her class or the church.

"Let them know, 'You're not meeting ... the church's expectations.'"

## Who are Baptists? What does it mean to be a Baptist?

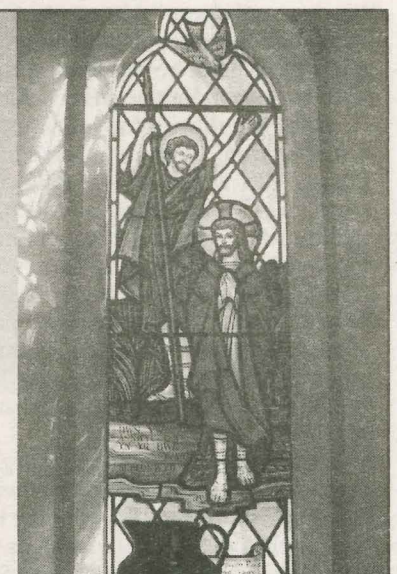
Would you like to know more about the origins of Baptists, Baptist developments, and its theological emphases? Do you wonder what relationship Baptist identity has to a church's theology, to your church's theology?

### Register for a 4-week online study of Baptist Identity.

Each session is highly interactive and provides opportunities for online discussion with the facilitator and other study participants. The facilitator, Jon Messer, is the Education Coordinator for the Virginia Baptist Historical Society.

Registration is \$150 (Scholarships are available to cover 50% of registration fee). Study dates: September 11 - October 8, 2006.

For information, visit [www.btsr.edu/scm](http://www.btsr.edu/scm), or call 1-888-339-2877.



# BTSR

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL  
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 CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## KBC leaders detail keys to 'Connect' strategy

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Lexington—Warning that “the church is losing its grip on the very world it has been called to save,” Glen Cummins said church leaders “can’t stay in your ivory tower and reach the world.”

Cummins, a Kentucky Baptist Convention church development strategist, was among state convention leaders who detailed how the KBC’s five-year “Kentucky Baptists Connect” emphasis can help strengthen local churches in practical ways.

The overall strategy, according to workshop leaders at last week’s Super Saturday leadership conference, is as simple as “CONNECT”—an acronym that highlights seven ministry priorities.

Cummins, along with French Harmon, coordinator of the KBC church development and evangelism team, and fellow strategist Alan Witham, outlined the plan for pastors, church staff members and directors of missions. The seven-step strategy includes:

- Call upon the Lord (Jeremiah 33:3).
- Opening the front door of your church by becoming visitor friendly (Hebrews 13:1-3).
- New units and how to start them (Isaiah 54:2).
- Needs in the community: assessment and ministry (Matthew 25:37-40).
- Evangelism strategies (Matthew 28:19-20).
- Closing the back door of your church (1 John 1:3).
- Training leaders and members (2 Timothy 2:2).

“How do you develop a prayer ministry in your church?” Harmon asked. “It requires leadership that walks the walk.”

Major goals of an effective prayer ministry, Harmon said, should include renewing a personal passion for prayer, affirming the church as a “house of prayer” and responding to God’s call to pray for global evangelism and awakening.

### Make sure visitors return

Addressing keys to attracting visitors and new members, Harmon told workshop participants, “Your church cannot grow if visitors don’t come back. What are you doing every Sunday to make sure your visitors return?”

Highlighting such details as ample parking, friendly greeters and a well-marked welcome center, Harmon said, “Everything should be first class. We are representing the King of Kings.

“Teach your people to value their guests,” he urged. “Intentional planning for guests will get them to come back.”

Cummins said one key to starting Bible study units is to create a positive mindset among church leaders and members. He also encouraged churches to determine if there are specific age groups or interest groups whose needs are not being

met by current classes.

Although change and growth often are difficult, Cummins said, “If you’re not starting new units, your church is probably not the most healthy.”

Assessing and responding to community needs also is vital to church growth, Cummins noted.

“Do you know the needs in your community?” he asked. “How are you connecting to your community?”

Describing Jesus as “a daring bridge builder,” Cummins said, “The church must rediscover its essential role ... as a bridge builder. We must connect.

“You can criticize your community all you want,” he added, “but that’s not going to reach them.”

One way to connect to the community, Cummins said, is through servant evangelism projects such as free car washes, oil changes and snow removal “with no strings attached.”

“It’s the idea of getting into the community and touching people out there,” he said. “Jesus told us to connect.”

### Don’t “hunker in the bunker”

Witham emphasized the need for local churches to develop a comprehensive evangelism strategy.

Quoting Roy Fish, interim president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Witham asked, “When was the last time you led someone to Jesus? When was the last time you tried?”

Church members “must be intentional about building relationships with lost people and sharing their faith,” Witham said.

Rather than practicing a “hunker in the bunker type of mentality,” he added, Christians are called to “be on the offense with the gospel.”

“We need to communicate that lost people matter,” Witham told church leaders. “The main thing is seeing people come to Christ and seeing them discipled.”

Citing a Barna study that found most unchurched adults in Kentucky attended church in the past, Witham said Kentucky Baptist congregations “need help in assimilating new members.”

Four steps to effective assimilation include raising expectations among members, building intentional relationships, getting members involved in small group Bible study and involving them in ministry, Witham explained.

Harmon concluded the session with an emphasis on multiplying local church leadership.

Citing Christ’s example of investing three years of His life in mentoring His disciples, Harmon urged Kentucky Baptist ministers to maintain “an intentional process of pouring your life into people.”

“How do leaders emerge? Most of the time it is the influence of another leader,” he said.

“Are you multiplying your ministry?” he asked. “Start connecting to people and modeling it.”

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## KBC joins long-term New Orleans rebuilding effort

### How to help

To get involved in Kentucky Baptist Convention mission projects in New Orleans, contact the KBC missions growth team at (502) 489-3525 or toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3525.

For more information about Operation NOAH Rebuild, visit [www.namb.net/noah](http://www.namb.net/noah).

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

**Louisville**—One year after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, churches and neighborhoods continue to reel from the destruction caused by the killer storm.

Kentucky Baptist leaders have announced plans to join a long-term response effort coordinated by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans.

Baptist leaders in New Orleans recently unveiled a strategy to divide the area into 27 zones and invite Baptist groups from throughout the nation to "adopt" zones for ministry and rebuilding.

The project, Operation NOAH (New Orleans Area Homes) Rebuild, will seek to rehabilitate 1,000 homes and 20 churches in the next two years. Baptist workers will partner with the Salvation Army and Promise Keepers to meet the widespread needs.

Kentucky Baptist leaders have agreed to adopt region 4, a hard-hit area along Lake Pontchartrain, Randy Jones told members of the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee last week.

Jones, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team, said the KBC will partner with the Baptist Convention of New England to channel volunteers and resources into the area. The KBC already has a long-term missions partnership with the New England convention.

Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers have been serving in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region for the past year. Jones said Operation NOAH Rebuild is an effort to shift into major ministry and rebuilding efforts.

Key objectives include "reaching people with the gospel; rebuilding lives, homes and church buildings; and starting or restarting churches in strategic locations," Jones noted.

He said specific goals in region 4 include restarting three churches and starting four other churches—two Anglo and two Hispanic.

Jones announced that Lew Cook of Maysville will serve as the KBC's on-site coordinator during the rebuilding effort.

In other business, administrative committee members approved two personnel changes.

Shari Rogers, who has served since 2001 as human resources assistant, was promoted to the newly created position of administrative services specialist effective Sept. 1. She will be responsible for managing the KBC's fleet vehicle program, track facility management-related expenses and serve as the primary staff liaison with outside vendors.

Describing Rogers as "a very dedicated, conscientious individual," Jim Donnell, director of the administrative services department, noted that she "loves taking on new projects and finding solutions to problems."

Committee members also ap-

proved employing Tonya Penick as senior accountant. She succeeds Becky Harris who resigned in July.

Penick previously was director of accounting for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, business manager for Bellarmine University in Louisville and treasurer for Campbellsville University, her alma mater.

Cathi Roy-Sanders, director of accounting services, told committee members that "with her background and skill set, (Penick) will make a great addition to the staff."

Penick and her husband, Paul, have one son, Wesley.



**DIVISION OF LABOR** The Kentucky Baptist Convention will work with New England Baptists to help rebuild a section of New Orleans, designated as area No. 4 in the above map, on the southeast side of Lake Pontchartrain. (BP photo)

## KENTUCKY BAPTIST MINISTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

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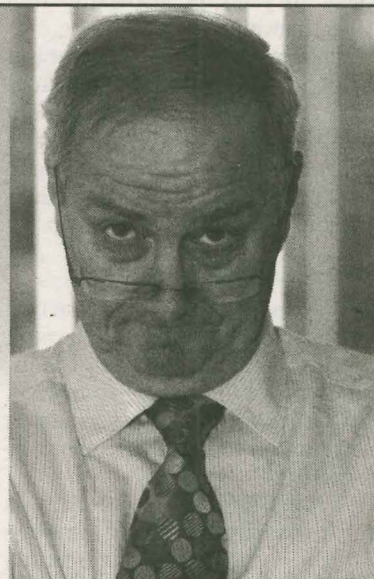
## Me? Called to ministry? Are you serious? What does that mean?

**D**o you ever ask yourself, "What do I have to offer to the ministry of my church?" or "How does my specific ministry fit into the big picture of my church's mission?" Would you like to study and interact with others who are asking the same questions?

**If so, register for a 4-week online study of the Biblical Basis for Ministry.**

Each session is highly interactive and provides opportunities for online discussion with the facilitator and other study participants. The facilitator, Ted Lewis, is the pastor of Mt. Nebo Church, in Portsmouth, VA.

Registration is \$150 (Scholarships are available to cover 50% of registration fee). Study dates: October 23 - November 19, 2006.



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# Faith in the workplace

*Employers trying to be fair as religious expression becomes more diverse*

By Candace Goforth  
Religion News Service

Washington (RNS)—A Muslim employee's daily prayers. A lunchtime Bible study group. A Jewish employee's observance of the High Holy Days.

What does any of this have to do with conducting business? These days, plenty.

More Americans are bringing their faith to work, and employers should be sure their workplace policies are keeping pace with the trend.

That doesn't mean simply putting a menorah next to the Christmas tree in the lobby once a year. It means balancing the needs of expressively religious workers with those of employees who may think the only higher power that matters at work is the one signing the paychecks.

Two studies, one by the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Studies and another by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, indicate religion has taken on a more prominent role in American culture. That translates to an increasing emphasis on those issues in the workplace.

"I notice that there seems to be more of an acceptance of talking about" religion, said Andrea Capuano, director of human resources for ComDoc Inc., an office-machine supplier based in Ohio. "It used to be something you wouldn't talk about. Now more people feel like, 'Why do we have to leave (our beliefs) at the door?'"

Experts on the subject suggest four factors are contributing to the trend:

- Baby boomers are aging and searching for meaning.
- Expressions of faith have become part of the nation's political discourse, from city halls to the White House and the U.S. Supreme Court.
- As people are spending more time at work, the line between personal life and professional life is being blurred.
- The workplace is a microcosm of an increasingly pluralistic society. That might cause some people to hold tighter to their own traditions and declare them more loudly.

## Creating a welcome atmosphere

Whatever the cause, Norm Douglas is happy to see spiritual forwardness coming into fashion. Douglas and attorney Larry Vuillemin founded Akron, Ohio-based Heart to Heart Communications 16 years ago to encourage the integration of faith and work. The idea was that greater mutual understanding and ethical commitment would follow.

"We have a separation of church and state, but that doesn't mean we can't show our faith," Douglas said. "And we can find values that a lot of faith traditions hold in common. All emphasize living with integ-



ity, caring for each other, having a higher purpose in life than making money."

Some experts suggest the most valuable accommodation might be creating a workplace atmosphere that welcomes talk of faith and spirituality.

That has been ComDoc's approach. And it has worked without controversy, Capuano said.

"I'm not seeing people preaching in the workplace," she said. "I don't see people coming in and hanging big crosses at their desk. It's more of a subtle thing."

It might be a break-room prayer group, a conversation about a church fundraiser or an employee sharing details of a particularly moving worship service.

And it all plays out with ComDoc's corporate blessing.

The company has sent more than 30 employees, including Roy Ismail, through Heart to Heart Communications' leadership program.

Ismail, who is Muslim, said the spiritually open environment—one that is predominantly Christian—has helped him connect with some of his co-workers in a way he might not have done otherwise.

"Everyone should be proud of who they are and where they come from and be able to share that at work," said Ismail, a technical support analyst for the company. "I think ComDoc is on the right track."

What might seem like spiritual openness to some can be proselytizing to others. Employers are under pressure to find a balance.

Michelle Weber, assistant director of Religious Diversity in the Workplace at the Tanenbaum Cen-

ter in New York, said organizations should make it clear what is expected of their employees. They can do that through leadership that honors employees' religious practices without compromising the rights of those who are uncomfortable with the subject.

"There is no line you can draw in the sand and say, 'X is proselytizing, and Y is not,'" Weber said. "It depends on the perspective of the receiver. I would hesitate to put anything down in a policy. Just take it on a case-by-case basis."

## Defining workplace expectations

Tom Wiencek, chairman of labor and employment law at the Brouse McDowell law firm in Ohio, said an organization can lay out its expectations of employees through a mission statement or code of conduct.

But it is difficult to restrict religious expression or the backlash from it, he said. The tension between gay and lesbian employees and employees who denounce homosexuality on religious grounds is just one high-profile example.

The issue could become more pressing. Separate bills in the U.S. House and Senate propose strengthening the law that protects workers' rights to religious expression. That law states employers must accommodate workers' religious requirements as long as doing so does not create an undue burden on the business; the new law would raise the standard of employer hardship.

Wiencek offered this example: A Jewish employee's observance of the Sabbath could make him unable to work certain shifts on Fridays. As the law stands, an employer would not be required to excuse the employee

## Tips on keeping the faith

Washington (RNS)—Experts suggest these ways to give employees room to express their spirituality without smothering others:

**Holiday swapping.** Provide a process by which employees can swap days to cover religious holidays not included in the corporate holiday calendar. This could be as simple as providing a list of dates known to be observed by different faiths. Workers sign up for the days they need off and swap with others, subject to supervisor approval.

**Flexible paid time off.** Instead of separating time off into banks for vacation, sick days and personal days, combine them into one large bank. Employees can use the time for whatever they like, including religious holidays that aren't observed organization-wide.

**Education.** Whether through brown-bag lunches or seminars, employers can invite workers from different backgrounds to share their experiences and their traditions. These efforts can help individuals understand their similarities, but they must never be mandated.

**Maintain a strong anti-harassment policy.** Include a clear prohibition of harassment on religious grounds. Indicate in writing that the organization will not tolerate harassing behavior that targets someone's religious views or unwanted attempts to sway others toward a religious view.

**Handle complaints swiftly.** Provide employees with an efficient way to make complaints about those kinds of harassment. Make sure they understand the procedure.

**Model appropriate expression.** An organization's mission statement or code of conduct can set the tone for the company's expectation that employees treat one another with dignity and respect, but also emphasize that the focus of the company is productivity and service to its customers.

**Make basic accommodations automatic.** When employees have to ask for particular provisions, such as time off for a holiday or a quiet place to pray, it invites the perception that those employees are getting special treatment. Instead, put in place accommodations—designating a private space for prayer or quiet reflection and addressing time off for religious holidays—before the issue develops.

Sources: Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding; Cleveland Society for Human Resource Management; Tom Wiencek, Brouse McDowell law firm.

if the Friday work was necessary to the operation of the business.

Wiencek said the new law would place greater strain on companies that already bend under the weight of workplace regulation. And, he said, it is unnecessary.

"The current accommodation standard provides employees protection, and it invites dialogue," he said. "When you continue to legislate the workplace culture with more restrictions, you just elevate the cost of doing business."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposes the House and Senate bills, neither of which is expected to make it into law any time soon.

Still, momentum is gathering behind the idea. Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., has 18 co-sponsors from both side of the House aisle for his Workplace Religious Freedom Act. The bill was given a subcommittee hearing in November.

Regardless of what Congress does, the workplace climate seems to be shifting.

Weber, of the Tanenbaum Center, said it's up to organizations to see the change as an opportunity rather than an obstacle.

"If handled with sensitivity, (bringing spirituality into the workplace) can result in more engaged employees, and engaged employees are good employees," she said. "The challenge is in how employers choose to handle it."

# Under pressure

*Pastors' spouses often face financial problems, unrealistic expectations*

By Hannah Elliott  
Associated Baptist Press

Selmer, Tenn. (ABP)—The Tennessee case of a pastor's wife charged with murdering her husband has highlighted the pressures that pastors' spouses often feel.

Mary Winkler allegedly killed her husband, a 31-year-old pastor, because of financial and familial problems—problems often present but undetected in pastors' families.

After posting her \$750,000 bond, Winkler's lawyers said, she left jail Aug. 15 for McMinnville, Tenn., where she will live with a family friend and work at a local dry cleaners until her first-degree murder trial starts in October.

At a June bond hearing, officials said Winkler said she shot her husband March 22 because she "snapped" in response to his repeated criticism and her ongoing stress about finances. Matthew Winkler was pastor of Fourth Street Church of Christ in Selmer. Church members found him in the church parsonage with a fatal bullet wound in his back.

Mary Winkler, 32, reportedly fell prey to the "Nigeria Scam," a popular e-mail scam that gets victims to pay advance fees to receive supposed lottery winnings. Annual losses to all forms of the Nigerian scam total more than \$100 million in the United States and more than \$1.5 billion worldwide, according to law enforcement officials, even though only 1 percent of the people targeted are duped. The average loss is \$5,575, according to the FBI.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said Winkler also deposited more than \$17,000 by check-kiting—writing a check from one bank, depositing it at a second bank and then withdrawing the money before the check clears.

## Dysfunction in the parsonage

The Winkler case has brought to light the oft-hidden tension and dysfunction that sometimes haunts pastors' families. While counselors and family experts can only specu-

late about Winkler's particular case, they can offer an inside look into the pressures prevalent among pastors' wives.

Christian counselor Karen Luce, said disagreements about money are the cause of family trouble 65 percent to 80 percent of the time.

"When frustration and hurt and fear are not dealt with, anger will always erupt," said Luce, who co-wrote "Claiming the High C's" about marriage and family relationships. "And angry people can act out in innumerable sinful ways."

Oftentimes, Luce said, women who have excelled in school or other activities are left behind or overlooked in favor of their pastor-husbands, who often must work long hours and spend intimate time with other women in counseling sessions. The new role of taking a back-seat to her husband can cause some wives to resent him or the church, Luce said.

"These are women who have shone, and now they are considered secondary," Luce said. "And perhaps all they are asked to do is work in the nursery ... which may not even be related to their spiritual gifts."

Indeed, ignoring a woman's spiritual gifts and criticizing her are ways churches—and pastors—contribute to pent-up frustration. Sometimes, that criticism can even develop into emotional abuse.

Most experts define emotional abuse as anything designed to humiliate or psychologically hurt or control another person. It includes belittling remarks, insults, name-calling, cursing and threatening others.

According to the Associated Press, Winkler told police she had suffered from her husband's criticism, complaining that he "had really been on me lately, criticizing me for things—the way I walk, what I eat, everything. It was just building up to a point. I was tired of it."

Church members also contribute to the problem, counselors say. Besides dishing out insensitive criti-



**HIGH PROFILE CASE** Attorneys stand beside Mary Winkler, the Church of Christ pastor's wife accused of killing her husband. Winkler is reported to have said she "snapped" in response to criticism from her husband and stress related to finances. (Selma, Tenn., Independent Appeal photo by Russell Ingle. Used with permission.)

cism, they sometimes gossip about pastors' wives under the guise of telling "prayer requests." Treatment like that, Luce said, sometimes leads to eating disorders, substance abuse, depression and anxiety. It also affects the children, she said.

"Children always watch adults," she said. "If they see Mommy acting out, they will either follow her or they can get very worried and concerned. In school, they could be underachievers or overachievers ... or just lost."

## Setting bounds amid expectations

Apparently, church members in the small Tennessee town had no idea how Mary Winkler felt. Reactions from neighbors and church members consisted of shock and dismay at the previously undetected dysfunction.

"The Mary we knew didn't do this," Anita Whirley, a Church of Christ member, told Ryter. "She was a wonderful person. We just don't understand. They were a good Christian family. They always seemed so happy."

That perception of happiness can be part of the problem, said Tony Rankin, a pastoral and family counselor for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Pastors' wives sometimes engage in an unattainable quest for perfection, he said, often isolating themselves and losing a sense of reality along the way. Staff members and congregations alike would do well to remember that just because a woman has married a minister doesn't mean she's perfect, he said.

"Living this intensely does not mean increased production," Rankin said. "You just have to set some boundaries."

Rankin also said that absence of boundaries creates physical, mental and emotional damage that can sap energy and happiness. Avoiding isolation by connecting with a small core of women and maintaining a good sense of humor are vital.

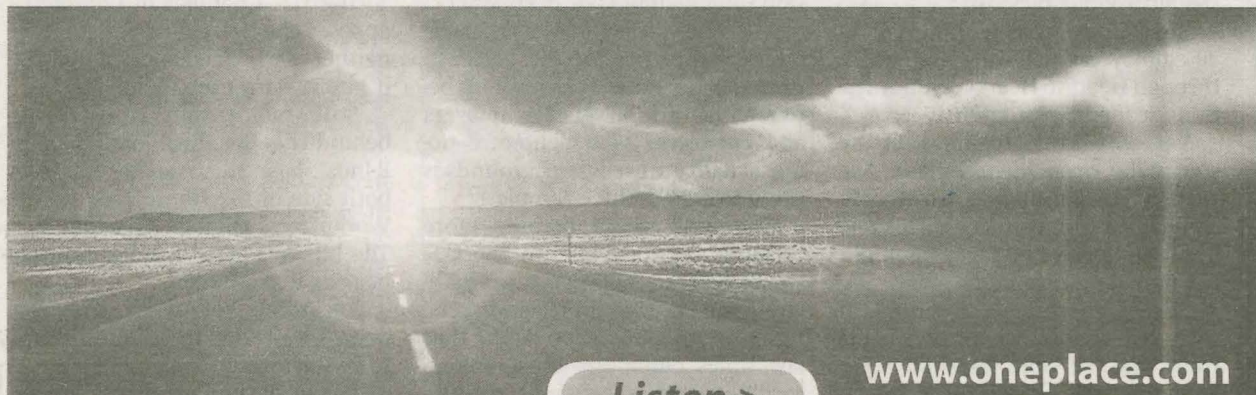
"Find a way to have some fun," he said. "The minister's family needs to have some fun too. I don't know why some think they need to be so serious."



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with Dr. Glenn Mollette

# Pathway Of Light

Turn on the light of forgiveness, hope, direction & love in your life!

Building on a great summer

Great staffs help KBA pave way for success next year

As the camping summer has ended, I am amazed again at how God has changed so many lives. Our total summer attendance included 13,000 campers between Cedarmore, Jonathan Creek, and Moldova. In addition to the campers, we have used hundreds of volunteers and approximately 150 paid staff.

The results of the summer include more than 1,840 salvation decisions, 352 students called into ministry, and 1,891 other spiritual decisions.

I am reminded daily of how blessed I am to have such a wonderful group of people who serve in this ministry. To all the camp employees and volunteers, thank you so much for what you have given, not only this year but in years past. God has used your efforts to build the programs that we offer today.

I also want to thank each of the spouses, kids and other related families of our staff for their sacrifice due to the extreme requirements of serving on camp staff.

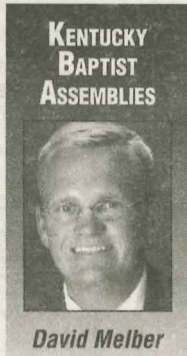
This year marked the first of many significant changes in our ministry. The most exciting has

been the launch of Crossings at Cedarmore. I am thankful for the leadership of Bert Lace, Shane McGrath, Scott Bidwell, Matt Crawford and Eric Yeldell. Camp simply could not have worked without each of you.

The excitement continues to grow, as we already have 2,000 reservations for the summer of 2007. Later this month, our staff will meet together for four days of evaluation and planning for the coming year. Recruitment for summer staff begins next month, as we will visit 25 colleges and seminaries to seek young adults to lead camp for the coming year.

Finally, I want to thank each of you who have prayed for our staff and this ministry during the last year. We finished camp without any serious injuries—no less than a miracle with 13,000 campers attending, plus hundreds of staff serving.

Please continue to pray as we seek to be the best stewards of what God has entrusted to us.



David Melber

David Melber is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. Contact him at Box 99918, Louisville, KY 42069-0918; phone (502) 491-7000.

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Elaine Okupski

Across

- 1 "Give ear, O \_\_\_\_ of Israel" (Psalms 80:1)
- 8 Animal fat
- 11 "And now abideth faith, \_\_\_\_\_, charity" (1 Corinthians 13:13)
- 12 "Every \_\_\_\_ shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low" (Luke 3:5)
- 14 Gold, chem. symbol
- 15 Revise
- 17 Direction
- 18 Dental surgeon, abbr.
- 19 "Make the \_\_\_\_ for fire" (Ezekiel 24:9)
- 20 Advantage, resource
- 22 Over (poetic)
- 24 Father
- 26 What the doctor wants you to say when you open your mouth
- 27 "To him ... who liveth for \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 4:9)
- 30 "They shall fall, and \_\_\_\_ rise" (Amos 8:14)
- 33 Abijam's son (1 Kings 15:8)
- 34 Foreign
- 36 A cereal grain
- 37 Three letters of Latin anagram for Christ
- 38 Chemical warfare, abbr.
- 39 Old Testament, abbr.
- 40 Longing
- 42 Land measurement
- 44 Larger, abbr.
- 46 "The four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 11:16)
- 48 A snake-shaped fish
- 49 "The veil of the temple was \_\_\_\_ in the midst" (Luke 23:45)
- 51 Paul was a \_\_\_\_-maker
- 53 Building wing
- 54 "What then? Are we \_\_\_\_ than they?" (Romans 3:9)
- 56 "He shall suck the poison of \_\_\_\_" (Job 20:16)
- 58 Exclamation of disgust
- 59 "Cattle shall feed in large \_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 30:23)

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Down

- 1 "Put your trust in my \_\_\_\_" (Judges 9:15)
- 2 "Peace be to thine \_\_\_\_" (1 Samuel 25:6)
- 3 Estimated position, abbr.
- 4 Chick's sound
- 5 "Turn ye from your \_\_\_\_ ways" (Ezekiel 33:11)
- 6 Scored
- 7 550, Romans num.
- 8 Part of an eye or a camera
- 9 Affirmative votes
- 10 "Deliver our lives from \_\_\_\_" (Joshua 2:13)
- 13 "Narrow is the way, which \_\_\_\_ unto life" (Matthew 7:14)
- 16 "Pharisee besought him to \_\_\_\_" (Luke 11:37)
- 21 "He that hath an \_\_\_\_, let him hear" (Revelation 2:7)
- 23 "Elias verily cometh first, and \_\_\_\_ all things" (Mark 9:12)
- 25 "I am the God of Bethel, where thou \_\_\_\_ the pillar" (Genesis 31:13)
- 28 Very large
- 29 Color again
- 31 Passport
- 32 European Community, abbr.

- 33 Alcoholics Anonymous, abbr.
- 35 Inhabits
- 36 "Hurt not the wine and the \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 6:6)
- 38 Crawls
- 41 "Take, \_\_\_\_, this is my body" (Matthew 26:26)
- 43 Common Era, abbr.
- 45 Gregory, for short
- 46 "There is but a \_\_\_\_ between me and death" (1 Samuel 20:3)
- 47 Tin, chem. symbol
- 50 New Testament, abbr.
- 52 Black sticky material
- 54 Abbreviation for a dry measure
- 55 Royal Academy, abbr.
- 57 Direction

Last week's solution

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**Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host Alaska Cruise And Pacific Northwest Vacation**

On June 19, 2007, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. Billy Williams on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Rev. Williams, now retired, has served as a Baptist Minister for 47 years. For 23 years he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gautier, MS. He and his wife Rebecca have cruised Alaska's inside passage twice before. Once in 2005 as a Your Man Tours Baptist Chaplain on this same vacation package. They look forward to returning as your hosts visiting the land of the midnight sun during the year's longest daylight hours. Your group will fly into Seattle for a night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Zaandam. **Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested island and glacier carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.** After the cruise you'll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily escorted sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington; the Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Montana; two days at Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Park, West Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You'll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$2248 (per person, double occupancy). Included is round trip airfare, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, transfers, and baggage handling.

\$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For information, reservations, brochure, and Rev. Williams' letter call:  
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## NATIONAL NOTES

**Focus on Family to target battleground states.** Focus on the Family will mount a voter registration drive in eight battleground states this fall to "combat voter apathy and encourage Christians to go to the polls," according to an e-mail sent to supporters. The drive solicits volunteer "county coordinators" to "recruit key evangelical churches, friends and family." Each of the eight targeted states—Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee—is hosting a race for the U.S. Senate this fall. Focus on the Family staffers say the voter drives are nonpartisan and legal. Focus on the Family Action, the political arm of Focus on the Family, will host "arena events" in Nashville, Minneapolis and Pittsburgh with other conservative Christian leaders this fall.

**Update: Bush signs law putting cross under federal control.** President Bush signed a measure into law last week that aims to preserve a controversial cross on public land in San Diego. The law permits the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial to be owned by the federal government, marking the latest juncture in a legal battle over its constitutionality. In July, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy issued a stay that suspended a lower court decision that would have forced the city to remove the 29-foot cross from public property. While supporters argued that the religious symbolism of the memorial did not merit its removal, opponents said its use of the symbol of the Christian faith was inappropriate because veterans have a range of religious backgrounds.

**High court sets Nov. 8 for partial-birth abortion arguments.** The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Nov. 8 on the constitutionality of a federal ban on a procedure known as partial-birth abortion. The high court announced Aug. 14 it would hear arguments in two cases involving the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act the day after the general election. The Supreme Court, which will open its next term Oct. 2, is expected to issue an opinion in the cases before it adjourns next summer. Three different appeals courts at the federal level have ruled the prohibition is unconstitutional. The Eighth Circuit invalidated the law based on its lack of an exception for the health of the mother, while the Ninth Circuit said the ban imposes an undue burden on women and is too vague.

## Court: City councilman can't pray in Jesus' name

**Fredericksburg, Va. (RNS)**—A district court has dismissed a suit by a Virginia city council member who argued the council had violated his freedom of speech by preventing him from praying in Jesus' name.

The case of Hashmel Turner, a pastor and a Fredericksburg, Va., council member, is one of several recently in which courts have had to define the appropriate boundaries for religious expression in civic life.

Turner wanted to invoke Jesus' name during opening prayers at council meetings; council members take turns offering the invocation. In November, under threat of a lawsuit from the American Civil

Liberties Union, the council adopted a proposal to offer nondenominational prayers. Turner, with the help of the Rutherford Institute of Charlottesville, Va., sued in hopes of gaining court permission to pray as he wished.

On Aug. 14, Chief Judge James Spencer of the U.S. District Court in Richmond sided with the council, which argued that Turner's prayer is government speech rather than private speech.

"Since the opening prayer is government speech, it must abide by the mandates of the Establishment Clause," he ruled, citing U.S. Supreme Court rulings that said the

First Amendment prohibits legislative prayers that are sectarian.

John Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute, said his organization intends to appeal the decision. "Cases of great constitutional importance always face uphill battles," he said.

Lawyers for the People for the American Way Foundation welcomed the decision.

"The council's approach is not only constitutional, it also reflects the fact that the council represents all Fredericksburg residents, regardless of their faith," said Judith Schaeffer, deputy legal director of the Washington-based foundation.

## National Association of Evangelicals silent over Israel-Hezbollah fighting

**Dallas (BP)**—The president of the National Association of Evangelicals has stated the organization won't take a pro-Israel stand for fear that evangelicals in the Middle East could face a Muslim backlash.

Ted Haggard told the Associated Press that the NAE's "silence (over the Israel-Hezbollah clash) is not a rejection of Israel or even a hesitation about Israel. Our silence is to try to protect people.

"There's a rapidly growing evangelical population in virtually every Islamic country. Much of it is underground in the countries that are more radicalized, and many of the Christians survive based on their neighbors just ignoring the fact that they don't go to mosque," he said.

An NAE spokesperson stated in an e-mail to Baptist Press Aug. 17, "We are currently in the process of

having the official NAE statement approved by the Board of Directors. There are 170 members of our BOD and so we should have a response in two to three weeks."

Asked for comment, Richard Land, head of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, told AP, "Southern Baptists overwhelmingly support Israel's right to live at peace with her neighbors within secure borders and they pray for the peace of Jerusalem to prevail in the Middle East."

The Israeli-Hezbollah clash has claimed an estimated 800 lives in Lebanon and 155 in Israeli, according to official counts reported by the AP on Aug. 15. An estimated 1 million Lebanese, or one-fourth of the population, were displaced in the conflict, along with 500,000 Israelis, according to the AP report.



## Position Available

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Communications Department in Louisville is seeking an experienced professional to serve as marketing and media relations associate. Position begins in January.



Must be a member in good standing of a Baptist church affiliated with the KBC and/or the Southern Baptist Convention. Direct job description requests and resumes to [shari.rogers@kybaptist.org](mailto:shari.rogers@kybaptist.org).

## Alumnus impacting lives for Christ in Sudan

## International flavor of Oneida helped direct Clint Kimmel toward ministry

By Denise Spencer

Oneida Baptist Institute Publications

Oneida alumnus Clint Kimmel (class of 1990) is living out his faith by serving as a humanitarian aid worker in Kauda, Sudan. He has worked for two years with Samaritan's Purse, and is in the international relief branch. That branch's aim, Kimmel said, is "to share God's love through the distribution of aid in disaster-stricken areas and to bring development into the developing world."

The first job Kimmel did in Sudan was that of logistician, "an all-around position that picks up all loose ends." Now he serves as project manager, supervising five international employees and about 25 local employees. Their projects include training in technology, welding and mechanics; rebuilding 50 churches destroyed in the 20-year civil war; and construction of a Bible college. Kimmel also oversees an agriculture program that trains the Sudanese and assists families in farming 2,400 acres in the Nuba Mountains.

Originally from Athens, Ga., Kimmel came to Oneida Baptist Institute at age 14. He grew up in a Christian home and gave his life to Christ as a child. "I was not walking in my faith during my time at OBI or through my time at college," he said. "After graduating from Warren Wilson College in '95, I began working with Youth with a Mission, and through this was led to recommit my life in '96."

Kimmel's interest in international ministry began at Oneida. "Two of the biggest influences on my being led down the road to international

service are probably hearing Barkley Moore talk of his time in Iran with the Peace Corps and having lots of friendships with international students," he said.

Oneida also helped him mature. "OBI allowed me to become personally more responsible for my own life," he said. "It allowed me to show responsibility through work while being a hall monitor and by participating in academic team and sports."

When asked to describe some of the greatest challenges he faces in his ministry, Kimmel replied, "When working in a country like Sudan, you have to realize almost everything is a challenge. After 20 years of civil war, most parts of the country are completely undeveloped. ... Water has to be brought sometimes from great distances. There are actually no roads as we know them. ... To top it all off, you have a plethora of tropical diseases, like malaria and typhoid fever, which can wipe you out for weeks."

What is Kimmel's biggest reward? "Knowing that you are being instrumental in impacting someone's life for Christ," he said. "To know that someone recognizes Christ working through you and then chooses to make Christ a part of his life is always pretty awesome."

He continued, "Also, when you see the work you've put into any project begin to make a difference in people's lives, whether it's having more food to eat or learning a new trade, at the end of the day you know all the hardship has been worthwhile."

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

## THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Go tell the good news

## College stresses personal evangelism, world missions

During the 2006-07 academic year, Clear Creek is emphasizing our core value of evangelism and missions. I have challenged the campus family to intentional actions that demonstrate personal evangelism and world missions.

Throughout this coming year, I'll be sharing stories of how the campus family is fulfilling this commitment. The first one comes from Marge Cummings, director of library services. Her husband and 1987 graduate Fred Cummings is interim pastor of Pleasant View Baptist in Williamsburg.

"On Aug. 6, after the offering plate was passed, Fred had it passed again, this time with the offering from the week before (\$600) in twenty dollar bills. He asked each one to take what they wanted, until the plate was empty and go find someone to minister to with that money, and come back the next week, ready to share a testimony. Last Sunday was very interesting. One fellow took the first opportunity to 'get rid of this burden.' Others pooled their money and took needy children shopping for school supplies and clothes; others helped an elderly

neighbor.

"Fred and I went to Wal-Mart and walked the aisles, praying for insight about who to bless. We were led to a young mother with three little girls. Fred told her what our 'crazy preacher' had done (he didn't tell her he was the crazy preacher) and that in Jesus' name we'd like her to have the money. She began to have

tears and said her oldest girl was starting school, she was expecting their fourth child, and their house had burned in February. She said she'd begun praying after that, especially since they were told that another five minutes would have been too late. She had been raised in church but had gotten away from it after marriage; she said when she was able to begin attending again, she would keep Pleasant View in mind.

"We didn't see any of those who were ministered to at the service, but when Fred asked if they'd like to do that again sometime, there were several nods. On Sunday evening there was a spirit of joy that we have not seen at the church before. We're hoping this will spark some interaction with their community."

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

## CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# Illustrating the gospel

## Are mainstream newspapers ready for a Christian cartoon?

By Hannah Elliott  
Associated Baptist Press

Dallas (ABP)—Christian cartoons are nothing new. They're everywhere from gospel tracts to Christian magazines and newsletters.

But a Christian cartoon as a nationally syndicated feature in secular newspapers? That's harder to come by.

Despite the fact cartoonist Kevin Frank's upcoming strip involves Christian characters working in a place called Heaven's Love Thrift Shop, he doesn't consider the strip to be Christian.

Instead, he said his Sunday cartoon, which debuted Aug. 6 in Salt Lake City's *Deseret News*, simply takes his "own angle on things as a person of faith and reflects it through my characters."

"It's hard for me to think of this as a 'Christian' strip, as opposed to strips about working moms, office workers, divorced dads or single parents," Frank said. "A Christian can be all of those things. I like to think there's an audience for it among all kinds of people."

He'll soon find out. King Features Syndicate will begin national syndication of the strip this month in 15 cities. Readers will have the chance to meet Dag, Cassidy, Wilson and Shelby—Frank's main characters and purveyors of his Christian worldview. And while Frank plans not to be too "preachy," his message about faith in God will be clear.

The comic strip, called "Heaven's Love Thrift Shop," centers on a church-owned store and the workers who spend time there:

- Dag is an overzealous new convert.
- Wilson is the older, wiser shop director.
- Cassidy is the centered and warm-hearted shop manager.
- A frequent customer, Shelby, while not necessarily a person of faith, keeps returning to the thrift shop for something she can't quite identify.

Each character, Frank said, reflects a past or present aspect of his own spiritual growth.

That spirit has driven Frank, 43, since youth. As a child, he first published religious cartoons for his rural Mennonite church bulletin. He drew cartoons professionally, for the local weekly, at age 14.

Frank declined to name which congregation he belongs to now, hoping to unify believers instead of identifying himself with one specific denomination. But he said his current church is "pretty traditional."

"I grew up in the church, and my parents were people of faith," Frank said about his inclination to insert Christianity into his cartoons. "I knew people of faith. It just became part of who I was."

Frank doodled his way through high school. He then moved from Peoria, Ill., to Chicago and joined an urban ministry called Jesus People USA, a Christian community that helps homeless people with a soup kitchen, a shelter and, yes, even a thrift store.

He has worked on various projects for Christianity Today, Tyndale House and the Discovery Channel Canada.

All of it, he said, has helped refine his tone and talent. "Stylistically, you always try to learn and grow in your work. I like to think that I'm improving."

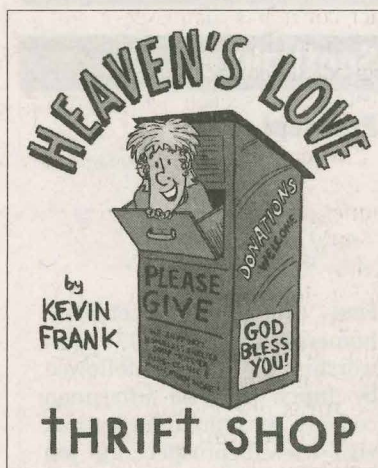
The growth paid off when King Features took an interest in his newest strip, "Heaven's Love Gift Shop."

"I think (the editors) thought, after 'The Passion of the Christ' (movie), they might have a niche audience there."

### Subtle preaching

One factor that separates it from his previous work is the subtlety of its preaching. Frank, a self-styled "connoisseur of thrift stores," said his thrift store and charity experience helped him learn that "charitable outreach" appeals to most people, but non-Christians often outright dismiss Bible lessons.

The charity aspect "gives me a vehicle to discuss matters of faith in a way that is more palatable to people, because nobody disagrees with charity," he said. "It's all good stuff, it's



all good works, and historically the church has a record of that."

These days, several popular cartoon strips promote specific worldviews or agendas. Nonetheless, Frank knows he will have to maintain a delicate balance in his strip. As a faith-oriented artist composing for a secular medium and syndicate, he expects some criticism.

He's not too concerned, though. His wife, Kathryn, and non-Christian editors keep him in line, helping him relate to all kinds of people.

Frank said he's not likely to address controversial issues like evolution, fundamentalism or politics. He's "not a political person" anyway, he said.

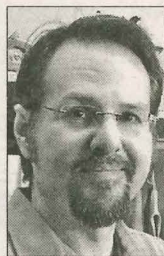
"I'm not that smart but I'm smart enough to know not to jump into the debate," he said. "Let's just say people hold all kinds of views of the world and where it comes from and how it works. The same holds for my characters, allowing me to work out my own opinions and doubts through their questions and interaction."

The bottom line, Frank said, is that the world has many people with all sorts of ideas about God.

"You can't separate religion from anything that has to do with life and ideas," Frank said. "Some papers put *Doonesbury* on the editorial page. I love *Doonesbury* and don't feel threatened by the views expressed there. Hopefully, the readers will feel the same way about my work."

Regardless of the size of his audience, Frank said he plans to take advantage of his opportunity with King Features.

"If I can glorify God in secular newspapers, even just a few of them, then that's success to me," he said. "That's just awesome."



Kevin Frank

## Church answers graffiti with drawings about God's love

By Gregory Tomlin  
Baptist Press

Farmersville, Texas (BP)—Members of First Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas, arrived for worship Sunday, Aug. 13, to find anti-Christian and communist slogans scrawled across their church's property.

But instead of merely scrubbing the messages off the building and walkways, church members wrote messages of their own about God's love for sinners around the graffiti.

"After the service the whole church went out with chalk from the children's area and wrote scriptural responses," Pastor Bart Barber said.

"The congregation wrote everything from 'Jesus loves you' to 'God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.' We were trying to respond in the way Christ would have us respond."

This was not the first time someone had "tagged" the 350-member church with graffiti, Barber said, but never before had the messages been so extensive or anti-Christian.

"When the chairman of the deacons called me, he began describing the content of the messages and I knew we had to call the police," Barber said.

"When I got to the church, I was upset and at a loss for words. ... Many of the comments implied that Christians and the church were worthless and even dangerous to society."

Police in Farmersville, a town of 3,000 northeast of Dallas, arrived to inspect the graffiti left by "Val" and "Sal," as one inscription read.

First Baptist's 106-year-old sanctuary was not affected by the vandalism, Barber said.

The vandals apparently were well-educated. Barber said many of the messages, fortunately written in chalk instead of paint, included phrases borrowed from Karl Marx and well-known authors.

"Some of the sayings included things like, 'Sunday is a fit conclusion to an ill-spent week,' 'Religion is the opiate of the masses' and 'Two great narcotics: Alcohol and Christianity,'" Barber said. "Another read, 'The masses of men lead lives of quiet desperation,' a line from Thoreau."

Barber said some of the most troubling comments were ones that referenced the failure of Christians and the church. He and his congregation, he said, were both "puzzled and hurt" by them.

### Vandalism provides "teaching moment"

As a pastor, Barber said his initial impulse was to remove the graffiti before church members arrived. But he said he realized the experience of seeing the vandalism could be a "teaching moment" for his congregation.

Ironically, Barber said he had scheduled an exposition of Jesus' words about persecution.

"We had the opportunity to ignore it, but I wanted to give the church the opportunity to affirm each other and affirm the words of Jesus," Barber said. "This does not arrive at anywhere near what other people experience when they are persecuted for their Christian faith. It is nowhere close to people around the world who are physically abused for following Christ—as to the intensity of it—but the sentiment behind it is the same."

Police said the vandalism only warranted a charge of criminal mischief because the messages were written in chalk. But those charges "could be enhanced" because the property is a house of worship, Barber said. "That's really a matter for the district attorney."

The messages written by First Baptist members remained on the property for several days.

Barber said the congregation hopes the vandals will drive by the church and read the messages of God's love and forgiveness. He said the vandals would find the church forgiving.

"If I could get on a loudspeaker and speak to Farmersville, I would tell them that we are aware that Christians and churches are not perfect," Barber said. "We are the first to acknowledge mistakes in history perpetrated in the name of Christ."

"Their deeper questions, however, were not bad questions. Unfortunately, they were posed in such a way that there was no opportunity for us to answer," he continued.

"But I would like to sit across the table from them and talk about their ideas."



## PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Parish nursing ministry, London Baptist Church.** This new ministry is being started by three registered nurses—Karen Wyan, Bert Taylor and Pearl Anderson—who feel called to use their gifts in ministry. The ministry will focus on the spiritual aspects of nursing related to evangelism visitation, grief recovery and wellness. The church has approved the ministry which will operate under the direction of a health ministry board. Pray for the nurses, Pastor Terry Lester and the church's deacons as they establish the health ministry board and develop policies and procedures to guide them. Pray also that the community will recognize the genuine care shown by those involved in the ministry and respond by accepting Christ as Savior.

**Mission Service Corps Missionary Judy Drummond of Louisville.** Drummond serves at the Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville as an assistant to the director. Many people come to the center for financial help, food, clothing, counseling and after-school programs. Drummond is there to assist them with their needs, listen and share a Christian witness. Pray for her ministry to people in need. Pray also for the staff to use available resources to communicate God's love to those who visit the center.

If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at [Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org](mailto:Eric.Allen@kybaptist.org) or call (866) 489-3530.

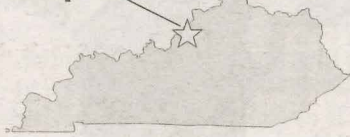
## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—New Light Church ordained **Thomas Skinner** as a deacon Aug. 13.  
 ■ **DRY RIDGE**—Dry Ridge Church will hold revival services Sept. 10-13 with Pastor **Joe Kitchens** as evangelist.  
 ■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church recently called **Barry Campbell** as transitional pastor and **David Brown** as minister of youth and children.  
 ■ **FOUNTAIN RUN**—**Bob Bottoms**, retired director of missions for Allen and Monroe associations, died Aug. 14. He was 73. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, one son, three daughters and five granddaughters.  
 ■ **HARRODSBURG**—Shawnee Run Church licensed **Chris Neal** to the gospel ministry Aug. 6. **Ralph Neal** is pastor.  
 ■ **LONDON**—Calvary Church ordained **Stacy Johnson** as a deacon Aug. 20. **Harlan Avera** is pastor.  
 First Church recently called **Floyd Price** as associate pastor. **Terry**

### Spotlight on ...

#### Prospect



First Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 17 with worship at 11 a.m. followed by lunch and an afternoon concert. For more information, visit [www.fbcprospect.org](http://www.fbcprospect.org). **Jon Cyrus** is pastor.

**Lester** is pastor.

■ **WHITE MILLS**—White Mills Church recently called **Bruce Underhill** as pastor. Underhill, who previously served as youth pastor, also is the Baptist campus minister at Elizabethtown Community College.

## Finlator, legendary liberal Baptist leader, fought segregation, war

**Raleigh, N.C. (ABP)**—William Wallace Finlator, one of the most outspoken and legendary liberals in Southern Baptist life, died July 3. He was 93.

Finlator, longtime pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., "thought the German theologian Karl Barth was right that a preacher should preach with a Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other," his son, Wallace Finlator Jr., told the Raleigh News & Observer. "He thought of himself as imitating Jesus, and trying to bring justice to the poor and peace to the world."

In the 1950s, unlike most of his white Southern Baptist counter-

parts, Finlator spoke out forcefully against segregation. Over the years, the causes he adopted including opposition to the Vietnam War, support for women's rights, calling for nuclear disarmament during the height of the Cold War and embracing gay rights.

Finlator wrote an open letter to then-President Jimmy Carter asking him to withhold federal funding from North Carolina State University for failing to desegregate adequately. Pullen Memorial, whose property is adjacent to the N.C. State campus, had several members who served on the school's faculty. His controversial stance on that issue led to his forced retirement

## KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

### August

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.

23 Children in Action Day Camp, Cedar Crest.

25 Discipleship/Assimilation, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

29-30 FOCUS 2006, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

### October

5-7 Ministers in Transition, Louisville.

6-7 Celebrate the Mission, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

9 Senior Adult Choir—West, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

13-14 Women On Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.

14 101 Workshop, Union Baptist Church, Union.

16 Senior Adult Choir—East, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

27-28 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Conservative Southern Baptist minister for revivals and youth evangelism events; small or large churches; contemporary or traditional worship; just where God leads. Call (859) 272-7156 for more information.

**NEEDED:** Stackable chairs for new growing church. If you can help, please call Kevin Whitt at (502) 845-2233.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister. Send resumé to: Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, 11212 Lees Road, Alexandria, KY 41001.

**SEEKING:** Secretary for Beechmont Baptist Church, 4574 South Third Street, Louisville, Ky. Requires 30 hours a week. Call (502) 368-5806.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students for a dynamic, growing student ministry. This individual will work with middle and senior high students (6th-12th grades), their families and adult volunteers. They will be responsible to plan, promote and implement an exciting and balanced ministry, leading students to worship, serve, grow and share. Bachelor's degree required; seminary preferred. Please send resumé to First Baptist Church, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065; Attn: Mark George.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Ridgcrest Baptist Church. Membership: 406; SS: 84. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Ridgcrest Baptist Church, PO Box 177, Beaver Dam, KY 42320.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for small church in Berea. Prefer individual with some pastoral experience, but will consider any individual who truly loves God. Resumés should be sent to: Pastor Search Committee, 273 Mount Vernon Road, Berea, KY 40403. Call (859) 986-9249 or e-mail [bhi2730@yahoo.com](mailto:bhi2730@yahoo.com) for more information.

**SEEKING:** Minister to preschool/children with good relational, planning and creativity skills who will take church to the next level. While the ideal would be full-time, an energetic part-time minister with recent experience may well accomplish as much as a full-time minister. The community is growing and the percentage of preschool/children in Bible study is 45 (average in SS is 40). Parents and workers will interview candidates and make recommendations to the personnel committee. If interested, submit resumé to First Baptist Church, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065. Upon resumé review, candidates will be contacted for date and time of interviews.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor, Southern Baptist church. Resumés to: PSC, Gardenside Baptist, 1667 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, KY 40504; or submit electronically to [gbcpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:gbcpastorsearch@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has an immediate need for a manager of compensation and employment services. This position is responsible for the development, implementation and administration of wage and salary policies and procedures, wage and salary surveys, performance-based merit increases, and management training on the new and/or revised procedures. This position also is responsible for the seminary's employment processes, including recruiting, screening, continuing education plans for selected positions, and employee records. B.S. in human resources, business administration or related, plus a minimum of five years applicable work experience is required. The seminary offers an excellent work environment, fast-paced and multi-tasking, plus a competitive salary and benefits package. Qualified candidates should e-mail their resumés with cover letters (reference this job title) and salary histories to: [humanresources@sbts.edu](mailto:humanresources@sbts.edu).

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for Caneyville Missionary Baptist Church. For information, call (270) 879-9761 or send resumé to Caneyville Baptist Church, c/o Norma Forsythe, 7421 Bowling Green Road, Caneyville, KY 42721-9749.

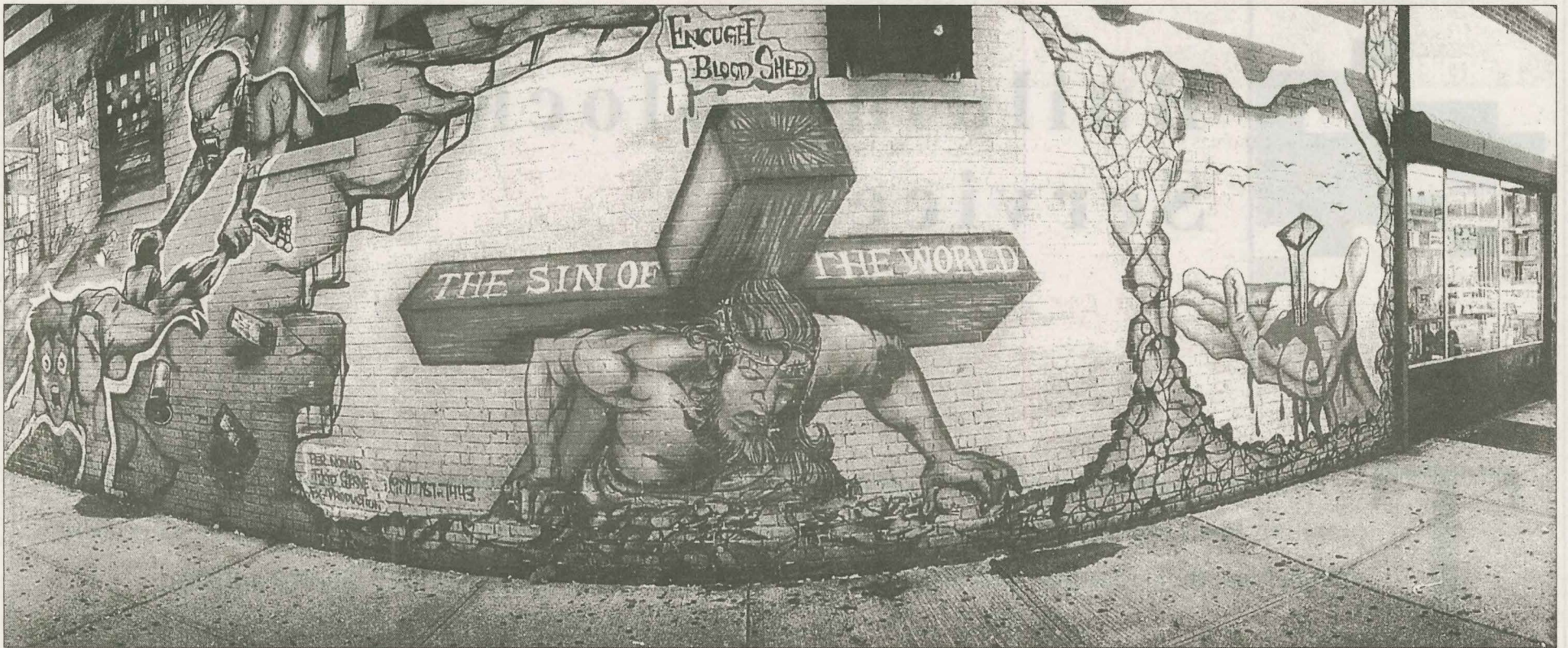
**SEEKING:** Part-time church pianist to accompany worship choir and join the praise band in worship. Send resumé and salary expectations to: Personnel Committee, Berea Baptist Church, 310 Chestnut St., Berea, KY 40403.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth director (grades 6-12) for Highlands Baptist in Lexington. Mail resumé to Mary Dixon, Highlands Baptist Church, 2032 Parallel Road, Lexington, KY 40511.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for FBC Olive Hill. Church averages 110 in SS, 155-170 in worship. Send resumé and a cassette/video/CD of sermon delivery to: FBC, Olive Hill, KY 41164, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister, Friendship Baptist of Campbellsville. Send resumés to: 5411 Bengal Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister. Send resumés to: Friendship Baptist, 5411 Bengal Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718.



"THE SIN OF THE WORLD" This mural in the Bronx is among the photos by Larry Racioppo in "The Word on the Street" exhibit at New York's Museum of Biblical Art.

## Sacred in the city

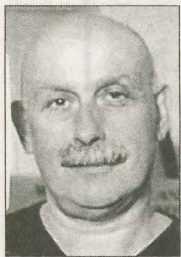
*NYC photographer finds expressions of faith in daily life*

By Chris Herlinger  
Religion News Service

**New York (RNS)**—The mean streets of New York might not seem a likely place to discover the sacred.

But amid the city's fabled profane—the grit of a boulevard or an underpass, the grime of a storefront sidewalk or a subway station—the sacred exists. You just have to be open and alert to it.

For more than 30 years, a New York photographer has been just that.



Larry Racioppo

Bracingly but lovingly, Larry Racioppo has captured the ways religious faith—often the private faith practiced among the city's black,

Latino and Italian residents—spills out publicly into the streets of New York's five boroughs.

A summer-long exhibit at New York's Museum of Biblical Art—"The Word on the Street"—has drawn attention to the unusual career of Brooklyn native Racioppo, 58. His sharp eye and sensitivity have produced a remarkable and distinctive chronicle of New York City: everyday expressions of religious faith as experienced on Gotham's streets, particularly its poorer corners.

Racioppo, educated at Fordham University in the Bronx after growing up in a predominantly Italian neighborhood in Brooklyn, was naturally drawn to the rhythms of street life when he began photographing the city in the early 1970s.

After holding down "every odd job in the city" to support himself, Racioppo started in 1989 as photographer for the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Develop-



ment. That job has given him remarkable access to the range of life within the city. A one-year sabbatical in 1997 on a Guggenheim Fellowship gave Racioppo the opportunity to deepen his craft and widen his vision. "I did five to six years of work that year," he said.

### Multitude of expressions

Much of Racioppo's total output has nothing to do with religion or expressions of faith per se. But enough of it has to constitute a strong, elemental theme in his work.

"In its diversity, it's typical New York," said Patricia Pongracz, the museum's chief curator and the organizer of the exhibit. And what Racioppo's photography chronicles—street memorials to the dead, graffiti, murals, even tattoos and jewelry—is proof that expressions of religious faith need not be limited to places of worship.

"There are vestiges of faith in very unlikely places," Pongracz said of the "improvised" and "ephemeral" forms of faith Racioppo sees on the street. "You expect to find it in a church, but it's also there where you look.

"There are people who make faith a daily part of their lives," she said—and they express that faith in a multitude of ways.

Street murals, like the one that memorializes a Brooklyn man named Mike with a depiction of the archangel Michael, are one such expression.

The many ways religious faith becomes a part of everyday work life are found in other expressions, be it a tattoo of the Virgin of Guadalupe on the arm of a young Mexican pizzeria worker or the open toolbox of a tin knocker that has an illustration of Jesus taped to the inside. Both elevate a "humble, everyday object to the level of a portable devotional

shrine," said Dolores DeStefano, another museum curator.

Racioppo calls himself a non-practicing Catholic—"spiritual" is how he describes himself—but credits the Italian-American Catholic culture of his youth for training his eye to the spiritual dimension and expression of the everyday. "I just have an affinity for it," Racioppo said.

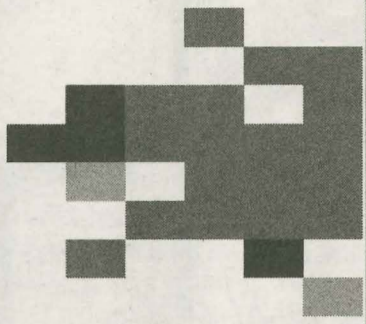
Pongracz affirmed those early influences: "Larry has been attuned to that (the spiritual of the everyday); it was part and parcel of his early life and he has been able to appropriate it in different contexts through his photography.

"It's not cynical and it's not an ironic comment on diverse religious practices," she said. "He's very emotionally connected and sees it with an artist's eye."

A catalog on Racioppo's work by Patricia Pongracz is available from the Museum of Biblical Art in Manhattan's Web site, [www.mobia.org](http://www.mobia.org).

### WORD ON THE STREET

Photographer Larry Racioppo has found expressions of faith in a variety of settings throughout New York.

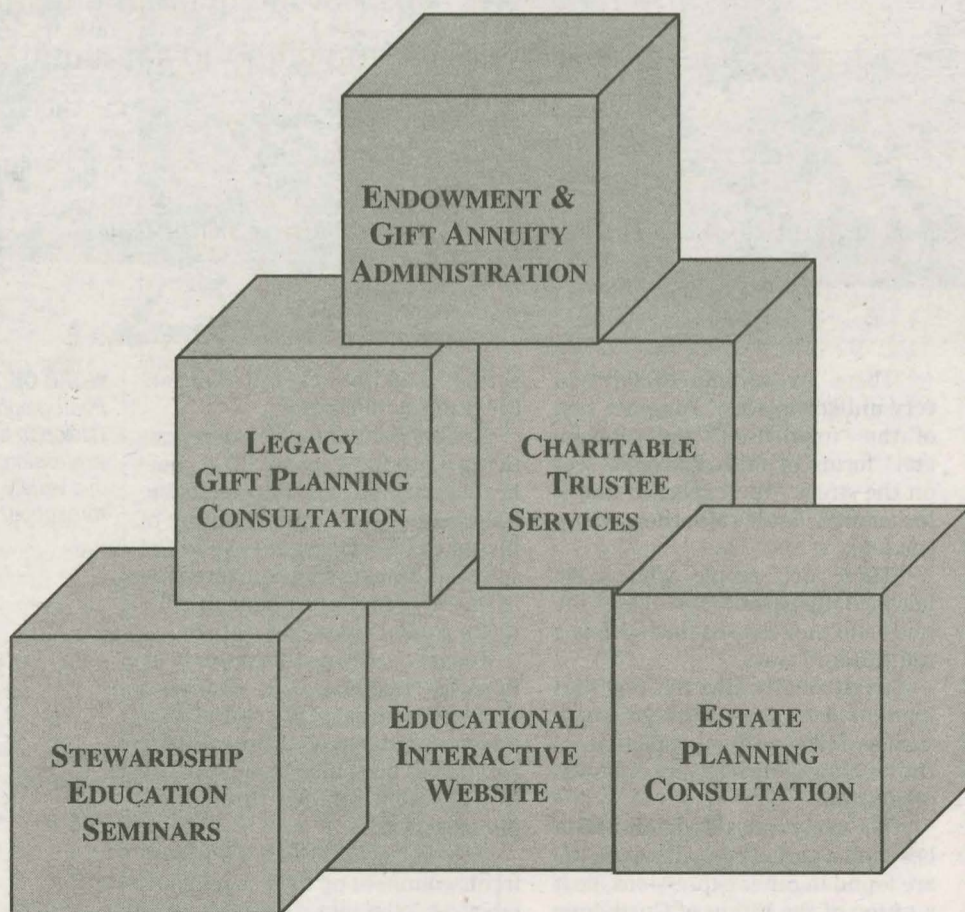


# Building Blocks Of Service

**T**he Kentucky Baptist Foundation's services are building blocks for the future. Foundation staff provide planning ideas and information which individuals may use to build for the future financial security of themselves, their families AND their favorite Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist causes.

Without fee or obligation, individuals and church groups can obtain information about the services of the Foundation through our website ([www.kybaptistfoundation.org](http://www.kybaptistfoundation.org)), one of our informative seminars, a personal visit with a Foundation representative or by being added to our mailing list.

## The Foundation's services include:



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