



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Supreme Court refuses to revisit abortion ruling

Washington (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court declined Oct. 10 to revisit one of its 1973 opinions that resulted in the legalization of abortion for all reasons throughout all stages of pregnancy.

The justices announced without comment their decision to deny a request to reverse the *Doe v. Bolton* decision, a companion to the landmark *Roe v. Wade* ruling. While the high court struck down state prohibitions on abortion in its *Roe* opinion, its *Doe* ruling defined a woman's health so expansively as to permit, in effect, an abortion for any reason throughout pregnancy.

In 2005, the Supreme Court rejected a similar request to vacate its *Roe* decision.

In its 1973 *Doe* ruling, the high court provided an exception from state regulations of abortion for "maternal health," which it defined as "all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman's age—relevant to the well-being of the patient."

Sandra Cano, whose case was filed under the name "Mary Doe" in 1973, urged the justices to overturn the decision made in her favor.

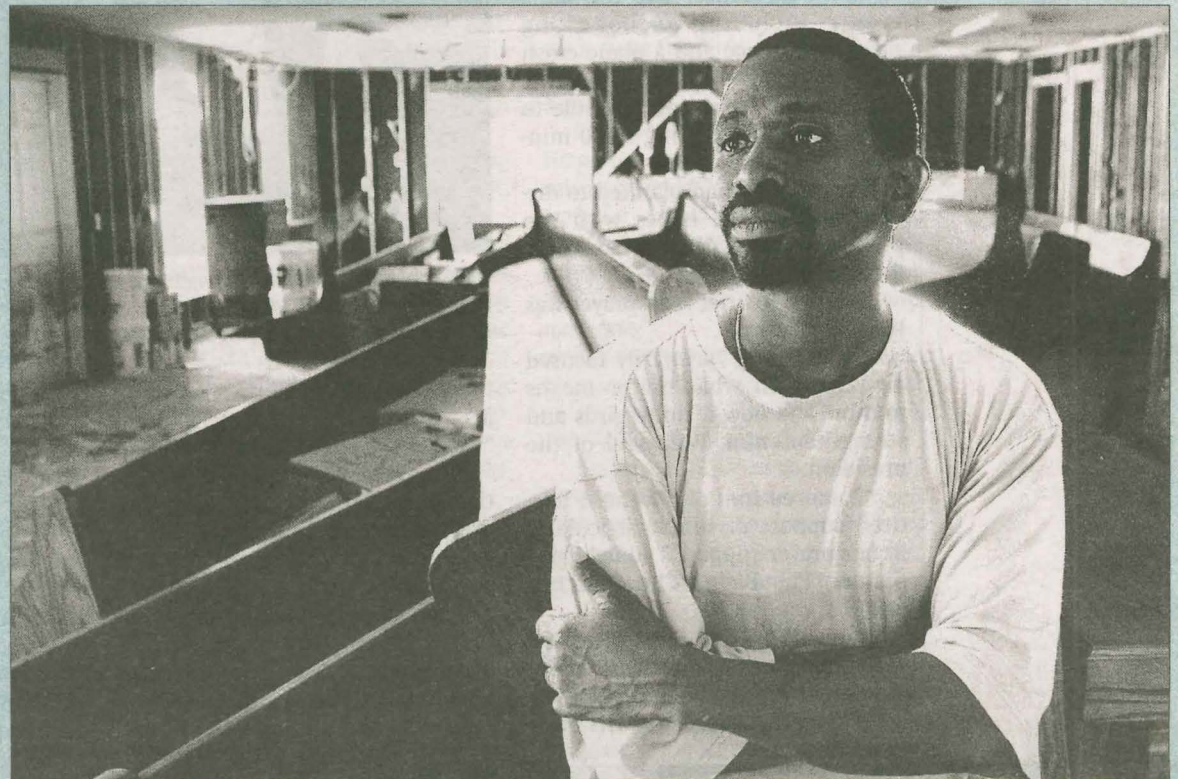
Her attorneys requested the action under a federal court rule that allows such re-evaluation if changing circumstances have rendered past decisions obsolete or unjust. Legal papers filed on Cano's behalf said advances in medical technology call for such a reconsideration.

Cano, who reportedly never had an abortion, said she was pressured into becoming the plaintiff in the 1973 case by an activist attorney.

Cano's motion to invalidate *Doe v. Bolton* previously was rejected by a federal judge and a panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press

Time to rebuild



DEVASTATION Willie Breaux, pastor of Christian Fellowship Temple in New Orleans, stands in his church's heavily damaged sanctuary a year after Hurricane Katrina. Breaux was among pastors KBC staff member Randy Foster visited during a recent fact-finding tour to determine how Kentucky Baptists can help meet long-term needs. (Photos by John Foster)

New Orleans looks to Baptist volunteers for help

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

New Orleans—More than a year after Hurricane Katrina pounded Orleans East, the hard-hit neighborhood on the southeast shore of Lake Ponchartrain remains devastated.

"Everything you look at is just ruined," says Randy Foster, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Men on Mission department, who recently spent several days on a fact-finding mission in the area.

Major retail outlets like Dil-

lard's and Wal-Mart stand eerily empty, with roofs blown off and windows blown out, Foster noted. Heaps of trash are gone from streets, but block after block of empty homes remain.

Houses are empty of any salvageable content, he added. What wasn't swept away by the storm surge or immersed in floodwaters from the broken levees was finished off by the creeping mold that bloomed everywhere as the waters receded.

Despite the widespread destruction

□ See *Hard-hit New Orleans ... Page 3*



AFTERMATH A pile of debris atop Pastor Breaux's desk bears witness to Hurricane Katrina's wrath.

Relational issues primary reason for Baptist ministers' dismissal

By Chris Turner
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville (BP)—The general inability to "get along" remains at the root of the top five reasons staff members in Southern Baptist churches are terminated from their positions, according to a study by LifeWay Christian Resources' department of pastoral ministries.

Relational issues top the list for the 10th consecutive year, according to Bob Sheffield, a pastoral ministries specialist. The top five factors are: control issues (who's going to run the church), poor people skills, churches' resistance to change, pastor's leadership style being too strong, and churches already in conflict when the pastor arrived.

"The interesting thing since we began doing this study in 1996 is

that the top five have been the top five every year," Sheffield said. "The only difference is in their order from year to year. We consistently see the inability to develop and maintain healthy relationships within the church as the reason for dismissals."

The study is compiled in cooperation with state Baptist convention church ministry relations teams and directors of missions, and Sheffield tabulates the data. Twenty-nine conventions participated this year, marking the highest total in the study's 10-year history.

At least 1,302 staff members were dismissed in 2005: 314 bivocational, 655 full-time pastors and 333 full-time staff, the study found. The totals for full-time pastors and staff are the highest totals during the 10

years, but Sheffield said the numbers could be slightly skewed because the highest number of conventions reporting in any one year in the past was 26.

Sheffield noted that a pastor's administrative incompetence (No. 8) and sexual misconduct (No. 9) cracked the top 10 for the first time and ethical misconduct (mismanaged monies, dishonesty, etc.) made it into the top 20 for the first time at No. 11.

"Most people would probably think that ethical issues or sexual misconduct would have been one of the leading reasons for dismissals," Sheffield said. "Although I am glad they are not, I am disappointed to see sexual misconduct creeping higher on the list, and ethical issues making the top 20. Let's face it,

this is not an uplifting list to begin with, but I'd love to see those numbers decline."

Another first in the top 20 is disagreement over doctrine (No. 12).

"It is difficult to know exactly what that means from the way the question is asked on the survey," Sheffield said, "but it has never been this big of an issue before."

Sheffield said much of the conflict that results in dismissals could be avoided if search committees and pastors would interact better during the interview process.

"Pastors ought to ask hard questions," he suggested. "They should ask to see the minutes from the last several business meetings. They ought to check the (church's) constitution and bylaws and the annual

□ See *Relational issues ... Page 6*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, October 18.

SBC leaders' visit with President Bush focuses on prayer

By Tom Strode
Baptist Press

Washington (BP)—Prayer was the topic of conversation when the president of the Southern Baptist Convention met with the president of the United States Oct. 11.

Other issues were on the agenda when President Bush welcomed SBC President Frank Page; Page's wife, Dayle; and SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman to the Oval Office. But the day's events—including an hour-long news conference and a plane crash into a New York City high-rise building—reduced what was schedule to be a 45-minute meeting to 20 minutes.

Page said he had planned to discuss some moral issues with the president, but "I did not have time for that."

During the brief visit, prayer was the primary topic.

The meeting "primarily focused on prayer, on what prayer means to him" and how it undergirds and strengthens him, Page said of the president.

"I assured him of Southern Baptists' support of him, particularly in our prayer support," added Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C.

Page said he told Bush, "Perhaps the message that I've heard more than anything else" about the president from Southern Baptists "was



OVAL OFFICE President Bush meets in the Oval Office with SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman (center), SBC President Frank Page and Page's wife, Dayle. (BP photo courtesy of the White House)

that we pray for the president and Mrs. Bush" every day, especially for "wisdom, strength and endurance."

Chapman, in a statement to Baptist Press, said the president "expressed his deep and sincere appreciation for the prayers of Southern Baptists."

Page said he told the president that Southern Baptists feel strongly connected to him "because of our soul connection, because we believe we have a man (in the White House)

who knows Christ and is not afraid to talk" about his Christian faith.

"He seemed delighted to hear that," Page noted.

The president also talked about evil and terrorism during their meeting, Page and Chapman said.

He "spoke briefly about the truth of the reality of evil" in the world and about the violence that sometimes is carried out in the name of religion, Page said.

Chapman added that Bush

"spoke of his resolve to defeat terrorism wherever it threatens to disrupt peace and security in the world and to spread democracy around the globe."

Chapman noted the president's optimism, adding that Bush "spoke of his everyday reliance upon the guidance of God's Spirit and the importance of faith in his life and leadership."

Page pointed out to his guests that the presidential seal on the rug in the Oval Office was designed to convey optimism, Chapman said.

The president "stated that in his opinion, 'Optimism is a necessary characteristic of every successful leader,'" Chapman said. "He asked, almost parenthetically, why people would want to follow a pessimist who always dwells upon the negatives rather than upon the positives that can be seen through the lens of optimism and faith."

Page, who was elected SBC president in June, acknowledged that all Southern Baptists do not agree with the president on some issues but by praying for him they are praying "as Scripture commands."

Page said he encouraged Bush "to consider strongly speaking to us in person" at next year's SBC annual meeting in San Antonio.

At Bush's request, Page prayed at the close of the meeting for the president, his wife and the cause of freedom.

BAPTIST DIGEST

Alaska Baptists pledge prayer support for troops. Alaska Baptists celebrated their 61st annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Fairbanks by emphasizing evangelism and expressing support for members of the military deployed to the Middle East. Messengers adopted a resolution offering "continued prayer and support to the troops and family members." They also approved a 2007 budget of \$1.9 million, a 3 percent increase over 2006. Gary Cox, pastor of University Baptist Church in Fairbanks, was elected state convention president.

Fran Porter, former missionary & chaplain, dies. Fran Porter, who battled a rare neurological disease, died Oct. 10. She was 74. After working as a chaplain at St. John's Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, she served at Calvary Baptist Church in Waco until she was diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy in 2004. Porter's husband, Nathan, was employed for 30 years by the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Marty King, a spokesman for the SBC North American Mission Board, described the Porters as faithful home missionaries for many years. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Porter is survived by two daughters and one son.

Southeastern breaks ground for Patterson Hall. Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., broke ground during their Oct. 9-10 meeting for a \$6.2 million classroom and office building named in honor of former seminary president Paige Patterson and his wife. Southeastern President Danny Akin said Paige and Dorothy Patterson Hall is scheduled for completion in 2008.

American Baptists mull sale of headquarters. Officials of the American Baptist Churches USA are considering selling their Valley Forge, Pa., headquarters building, which currently houses Baptist offices in less than half of its space. "We want to be good stewards of our resources and to 'right-size' to fit our current space requirements," said Roy Medley, American Baptists' general secretary. "We should not be in the real estate business. We need to remain focused on our primary work of proclaiming the gospel of Christ as radical disciples." The denomination's General Board Executive Committee unanimously voted in September to recommend the sale; the full board is expected to act on the proposal next month.

N.C. actions address nominations, homosexuals

Caswell, N.C. (ABP)—Directors of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina endorsed changes to the convention's bylaws that would give North Carolina Baptist institutions a greater say in choosing their trustees and directors.

The board also approved a motion that excludes churches from the convention that "affirm, approve, endorse, promote, support or bless" homosexuality. The board approved guidelines for determining if a church is too approving of gays.

Both changes will be voted on by messengers to the convention's annual meeting in November.

If approved, the new bylaws would allow agencies and the convention's nominating committee to approve nominees together. Agency heads would submit lists of trustee nominations to the nominating

committee for review. If the committee rejects an agency's suggestion for a trustee slot, it must provide a written statement explaining the rejection. If the committee rejects a second suggestion, the entity would carry forward one of the trustees scheduled to rotate off at the conclusion of a four-year term. The next year, the selection process for that slot would start with the three years remaining in the term.

Board members also approved specific changes for the trustee election process of North Carolina Baptist colleges. The move would allow school alumni who have moved out of state or come from other faith backgrounds to serve as trustees.

If approved by messengers, schools may draw up to one-third of their trustees from people living outside of North Carolina. Trustees

from non-Baptist churches would be allowed if they provide both a personal and a church statement affirming the trustee's conversion experience.

Under the agreement, schools may elect up to half of their own trustees but risk giving up a matching percentage of funds. That provision, often called the "50-50 Rule," would not apply for trustees of other North Carolina Baptist entities.

The convention's budget committee would make decisions on the reduction of funding on a case-by-case basis for a school that chose the 50-50 option.

In the proposed provisions related to dismissing a church that affirms homosexuality, the new rules also lay out a plan for churches to appeal a decision by the convention board to eject the congregation.

Carson-Newman president gets 'no confidence' vote

Jefferson City, Tenn. (ABP)—The faculty of Carson-Newman College reported a vote of "no confidence" for President James Netherton Oct. 5.

The vote, approved by a 129-71 margin, was evidence of growing dissatisfaction among faculty in Netherton's leadership. Two hundred of the school's 260 faculty members voted in the hour-long meeting.

The resolution was e-mailed by the chair of the faculty council to all faculty members after the vote.

"Be it therefore resolved that we the faculty do hereby declare that we individually and as a whole have no confidence in President Netherton and respectfully request the Board of Trustees to act for the health, well-being and future of the

college," the statement said.

Stephen Karr, faculty council chair, added in the e-mail that "a clarification was made immediately prior to the vote which pointed out that we were voting on this resolution—a vote of no confidence—not voting to remove the president from his position."

While the faculty can express no confidence in Netherton, they cannot remove him from office. Trustees, who have the power to fire Netherton, will meet later this month.

Karr, a biology professor, also said in the letter that it was his "sincere wish, hope and prayer that the college community will come together in a spirit of cooperation and Christian love, working towards resolving

the challenges before us."

Trustee Chairman C. T. Cozart also issued a statement about the vote, saying the board "respects the opinion and perspective of the faculty and will be attentive to this expression in future deliberations."

"All of us recognize and acknowledge there are concerns that need to be addressed, and we will do so in a constructive fashion, working with the trustees, administration, faculty, staff, alumni and other friends of the college," he said.

Netherton, who was hired at Carson-Newman in 2000, succeeded Cordell Maddox, who had been president for 22 years. Netherton previously was provost of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Convention leaders endorse proposed staff realignment

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Louisville—Revising the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2003 Mission Board staff restructuring plan, members of the Mission Board's administrative committee approved five new ministry positions last week.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, who introduced four of the five position changes, emphasized that the revision involves realigning current positions rather than creating additional staff positions.

The staff realignment was prompted partially by the resignation of Dan Garland, former leader of the KBC's church development and evangelism team, who became pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County in August.

Mackey proposed returning the team to its pre-2003 structure of two teams, the church development team and the evangelism growth team.

The combined team under Garland's leadership was designed "to integrate the work of church development and evangelism for the local church," Mackey explained. He said that plan "proved to be an effective approach, utilizing the strengths of the staff at that time."

"Cross-team integration"

Mackey said the proposal to divide the combined team is an effort "to take advantage of the strengths of current staff." He added that the change is appropriate because "cross-team integration has been enhanced" by last year's move to a new Baptist Building facility "and by staff collaboration around the common objectives and goals of Kentucky Baptists Connect."

The church development team



French Harmon



Alan Witham

will include discipleship & assimilation, adult Sunday school/ministry, youth Sunday school/ministry, preschool & children's Sunday school/ministry and the KBC's four regional church development strategists whose positions were created during the earlier restructuring plan.

The evangelism growth team will include collegiate ministry, creative ministries and an evangelism intern as well as all KBC evangelism emphases, training and conferences.

Positions approved by the administrative committee include evangelism growth team leader, church development team leader, church development strategists coordinator and discipleship & assimilation director. Committee members also approved the option of making the discipleship/assimilation position a field-based assignment to allow the staff member more opportunity to work directly with local churches.

The positions will be recommended to the full Mission Board in November.

In addition to the proposed position changes, committee members will recommend French Harmon and Alan Witham to serve in two of the new positions. Their promotions will be considered by the Mission Board in November.

Harmon, who currently is an as-

sociate team leader, will be recommended as church development team leader. Witham, currently a church development strategist, will be recommended as the strategist coordinator. He will be responsible for reviewing reports by other strategists, coordinating training and serving as a liaison between the strategists and other KBC staff.

Harmon "has excellent people and communication skills and provides gracious leadership that is spiritually based," Mackey noted. "He understands Kentucky Baptists Connect and has been the lead person in connecting with young leaders."

Mackey said Witham "has extensive experience as a pastor and KBC staff leader in church planting."

Witham "has proven to be an effective communicator with pastors and directors of missions," Mackey added. "He has the ability to see the big picture and to implement that vision in a customized way for local churches. He will continue to provide significant Kingdom leadership among Kentucky Baptists in this expanded role."

Mackey told committee members he hopes to recommend individuals to fill the evangelism team leader and discipleship/assimilation director positions in December.

Hispanic associate proposal

In other action, committee members approved a Hispanic associate position that will be presented to the full board in November.

The proposed job description calls for the staff member to coordinate "a comprehensive program of assisting Kentucky Baptist churches and associations in developing new work with ethnic groups throughout Kentucky."

Randy Jones, leader of the KBC missions growth team, emphasized that "the challenge to evangelize and start new churches among our rapidly growing Hispanic population is indeed overwhelming."

Citing the need for a Hispanic associate to coordinate ministry efforts throughout the state, Jones noted that the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board had declined repeated KBC requests over the past three years "for assistance with new funding to partner with KBC in creating this new staff position."

Faced with the state's growing Hispanic population and urgent ministry needs, "we can no longer wait for outside assistance," Jones told committee members. "We missed the first wave (of ministry to Hispanics); we cannot miss this next one."

Committee members also heard an update from Keith Inman about collegiate ministry's "Haystack Awakening '06" emphasis.

Inman, director of the KBC's collegiate ministry department, noted that college students were midway through a 21-day period of prayer and fasting for spiritual renewal.

Citing a four-pronged emphasis on prayer, purity, ministry to the poor and proclaiming the gospel, Inman said, "Right now across our state we have prayer groups that are meeting every day. This is the most cohesive strategy we have used in our state in the seven years I have been in this position."

In other business, Harmon reported on the KBC's six Super Saturday training events for 2006. He noted that this year's total attendance of 2,874 participants was an increase of almost 500 over the previous year.

Hard-hit New Orleans community looks to Baptists for help, hope

Continued from page 1

tion, Foster believes Kentucky Baptists can help the residents of Orleans East and inspire others to do the same.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention recently announced plans to join Operation NOAH (New Orleans Area Homes) Rebuild, a partnership between the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and other faith-based organizations. The effort is focused on coordinating volunteers and materials to help rehabilitate homes and churches damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

So far, state Baptist conventions have been slow to join Operation NOAH Rebuild. But with the KBC "adopting" Orleans East, one of the six areas of major construction identified by project organizers, Foster hopes other large state conventions will be challenged to join the effort.

Through Operation NOAH Rebuild, Kentucky Baptists hope to rehabilitate or rebuild 200 of the thousands of homes destroyed in the Orleans East area, and rebuild six Baptist churches.

"Two hundred in the midst of thousands doesn't look like a lot, but it gives hope," Foster declared. "It does encourage neighbors to rebuild. Our message is going to be for neighbors to help each other."

More than 50,000 people in the

area were displaced when their homes were destroyed by floodwaters, according to Freddie Arnold, church planter/association missionary for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans.

A year later only about 15 percent of residents have returned to Orleans East, Arnold estimates, far below the rate of return in many other areas of New Orleans. Most of those displaced want to come home, but will need help, Arnold added. Few businesses have reopened, and some street signs and traffic lights still have not been repaired.

"Kentucky Baptists will provide a ray of light and hope for those communities, that people are still caring, are still willing to come and help us," Arnold said.

"The people have made it clear that if we want to show our love for them, we need to help them get back in their homes and churches," Foster agreed. "Their crying need is to get them out of their FEMA trailers. Some are driving 100 or more miles to work on their homes. After a year, they are just wearing down from that kind of inconvenience and disruption."

Volunteers with construction skills are especially needed, Foster said. The most critical need is for volunteers with the skills and knowledge to assess the condition of

homes and determine whether they can be rebuilt, and what it will take to rebuild them.

Foster hopes to identify longer-term volunteers to serve as on-site coordinators. The on-site coordinators would conduct the home assessments as well as coordinate volunteer groups from Kentucky.

Electricians also are a critical need, Foster said, as are volunteers with drywall hanging and finishing skills.

Disaster relief and recovery volunteers from Christian organizations have made a profound impact on those they have helped, Arnold noted.

"We've seen thousands of professions of faith, so many that they are not recorded," he said. When homeowners witness the outpouring of love and care from volunteers, he added, they almost always want to know why volunteers would give their time and money to assist.

That question—"Why are you doing this for me?"—creates an opportunity for volunteers to share their faith, Arnold noted.

A volunteer team from Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah already has signed on, Foster said, and plans to work on one of the churches and its pastor's home.

Foster hopes that other churches—especially those not already in-



involved in disaster relief—will follow Lone Oak's lead.

Kentucky Baptists interested in volunteering should call the Operation NOAH Rebuild office in New Orleans at (504) 362-4604 or toll-free at (877) 934-0808 at least six weeks before their proposed arrival date. Volunteers should identify themselves as Kentucky Baptists and request assignments in the Orleans East area.

The cost is \$20 per person per night, which covers the cost of housing at Operation NOAH's Volunteer Village. A nonrefundable deposit of \$25 per person is due at registration.

Volunteers are responsible for bringing their own tools and providing their own transportation.

For more information about disaster relief and other ministries, visit www.kybaptist.org/bmen.

HOME REPAIR Geraldine Hill sits outside her home in St. Bernard Parish. With help from Southern Baptist volunteers, she soon will be able to move out of a FEMA trailer and back into her renovated house. (Photo by John Foster)

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Box 43969
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TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

JANET McINTOSH
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

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True Baptist structure

The Oct. 3 article "Clergy abuse victims urging SBC to take action" caught my attention. It said that this issue must be addressed by the main permanent governing body. That last sentence is the one that got me. Do we really have a main governing body?

I came to believe early in my career as a pastor that the main governing body of Baptists was the local church.

As I understand our structure, the Southern Baptist Convention was organized to carry out missions. They were to take the money we send them and use it for missions—that was all we expected from them. The only people they could discipline were the ones working under them.

We are not structured like the Catholic Church. No one at the so-called top has any power to discipline a local church for any reason.

I think anyone who knowingly recommends a child molester to a church for pastor or any other position should be charged with com-

licity to a crime. Child molesting is against the law. Anyone who knows it is going on and doesn't do anything about it is a law breaker as well.

The SBC has every right, I think, to govern those they hire to make sure this doesn't happen. God forbid that they should become the watchful eye of every local church for any reason.

Joseph H Scalf Jr.
Danville



Too high a price?

In the Oct. 10 issue of the Western Recorder, the guest editorial by David Winfrey was both interesting and informative. His departure will be felt in the state and more particularly in the offices of the Western Recorder.

The first anecdotal memory he chose to share involved young people who don't attend church services if the order of worship doesn't suit them. As the memory developed, the observation was made that worship in church, when found to be boring by young adults, needs

to be reshaped and formatted to attract those who find it boring.

It is interesting that today's attempt to garner numerical evidence of affirmation in worship is couched in the idea that those who do attend, have attended, regularly support the church financially, and have invested decades in the effort, should be ignored and virtually forgotten when the assumption is made that change, most any change that "brings them in," is not a price too high.

What does appeal to many young adults is the effort that is made to keep them from thinking they are in church. We give away worship essentials for guitars, drums, blue jeans and microphones. The shallow verbiage of repetitive and mind-numbing chorus mumbling is about as high on the musical approach to worship as the "praise leader" intends to go.

The suggestion that missionaries adapt to the varying world cultures is not the point. What is happening here is the attempt to create a new culture.

Edward Clark
Danville

Seeking revival among Southern Baptists

By Frank Page

Taylors, S.C. (BP)—In recent days, God has given me the opportunity to speak in various churches, entities and organizations around our country. This has been a wonderful experience which has encouraged me to see the true heartbeat of many Southern Baptists.

I have spoken in several places about the need for revival. I call this one of the three "Rs" which are needed desperately for the future of our convention. Those three Rs are rightness, revival and relevancy.

I am praying that God will send a Holy Ghost revival upon the churches and people of our convention. It is our only hope! Without revival, we will not be able to see unity, church transformation or increased

baptisms.

Recently, I spoke at First Baptist Church of Dallas as that congregation dedicated its new Criswell Center. There are those around our convention who would say that this church has seen its best days. It has had a storied past under the leadership of great men such as George W. Truett and W.A. Criswell, as well as others in recent days. However, I want to tell you that this church has hope. They truly believe that they can make a difference in the heart of that great city.

Another recent speaking engagement was at Community Mission Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C. This predominantly African-American congregation is led by Pastor Furman Gatewood. Here is a church

FIRST PERSON

Premium Baptist Church on mission

My wife, Kay, and I recently had the privilege of being with Premium Baptist Church in Letcher County for revival services. Dock Frazier, a native of the area who became a Christian at age 44, has been the pastor for several years.

The founding pastor, David Herb Banks, also was a native of the local area and a retired school principal. He built a wonderful foundation and Pastor Frazier has continued to build on that strong spiritual foundation.

Premium Baptist Church has experienced steady growth since it was constituted in the early 1980s. God has blessed the church with 15 to 20 baptisms each year since becoming a church.

Under Frazier's leadership, the church has grown to 275 members and averages more than 150 in worship attendance.

The church facilities have doubled in size recently to accommodate growth. A second worship ser-

vice was started this fall with a young man from Pikeville leading the music and praise.

Two young men also recently surrendered to the call of God to ministry. One will preach soon at Colson Baptist Church.

Ninety children and youth are involved in Awana children's ministry on Wednesday nights and many have come to faith in Christ, along with several families. Steven Boggs, the principal of Letcher Central High School, is the

leader for Awana.

The youth choir, with about 17 voices, sang for the first time the Sunday morning that we attended. The choir, under the leadership of University of the Cumberland's student Sarah Whitaker, was strong. Sarah plans to serve in South America next summer. I was amazed at the number of talented young leaders and members.

Several of the current leaders at Premium—Steven Dollarhide, Tom-

my Dollarhide and Mitch Whitaker—were reached as youth by First Baptist Church of Whitesburg when I was pastor there in the 1970s. It was gratifying to see them and to see the son of Alan Bremmer (another man whose family was ministered to by First Baptist, Whitesburg) profess faith in Christ.

It also was my privilege to share in witness visitation with Pastor Frazier. He already knew the people who live in most homes. Please pray for two men in that area—Robert and Rick—to be saved/restored in their relationship to Christ.

The revival provided a special time to connect with friends; visit with ministers in the area; and spend time with Jim Castlen, director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association.

Pastor Frazier has an incredible vision for Premium Baptist Church. Please pray for him and the church as this congregation moves forward in Kingdom ministries, evangelistic growth, and missions involvement and support.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Do you know the practical benefits of having a will?

By Laurie Valentine

Do you have a will? As you consider the benefits of making a will, did you know:

■ That between 60 and 70 percent of all adults in the United States have never written a last will and testament? Making a will is a part of Christians' estate stewardship responsibility.

■ That for those who have not written a will, the state in which they reside has a plan of asset distribution written for them? Here in Kentucky that plan is called the "Kentucky Intestate Succession Statute." There is a good possibility that Kentucky's "will" sets up a plan of distribution that doesn't meet your family's needs or your wishes regarding how your assets will pass at your death.

■ That the court will decide who will rear any minor children if both parents are deceased and they have not made a will or included a nomination of guardian provision in their will for their children? This is a far more important issue than where your assets will go.

■ That Kentucky's plan for asset distribution does not include your church or any other Christian ministry? You also forfeit the option of creating provisions that will benefit both your family and the Lord's work.

■ That without a properly drawn will, the death taxes and cost of administering your estate could be higher, thereby reducing what will be available for your family?

■ That by having a properly drawn will, you get to choose who serves as executor, guardian for your children and trustee? You also get to decide who gets what and when they get it.

■ That by having a properly drawn will you are helping to ease family friction at your death? This is especially important at a time when your loved ones are grieving your loss.

■ That the Kentucky Baptist Foundation is the trust agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and can help you design an estate plan that includes family and Christian ministries?

If you did not know, but would like to know about the benefits of making a will and/or other estate and incapacity planning documents, call the Kentucky Baptist foundation toll-free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3533. There is no cost for the foundation's estate planning consultation service.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



Recipe for remarriage includes considering children's feelings

Q: My wife died three years ago and I am beginning to think about marriage again. I have been dating a woman in our church for six months, but am concerned about how my teenagers will respond if I begin to talk about a wedding. Am I being selfish by considering remarriage?

Three years sounds like a reasonable amount of time to allow for grieving the loss of a wife and mother. While considering remarriage is not selfish, you must realize that your children might not be at the same place

PARENTING

in their grief as you are. Talk with them about your feelings and, more importantly, let them know that you want to listen to their thoughts, feelings and concerns.

If you do choose to marry, understand that creating a stepfamily will be a process. Experts suggest that it typically takes three to five years to blend a family, longer with teenagers since you are asking them to bond with new family members at the same time they are trying to establish some independence.

Remember that you must not attempt to "microwave" the new family; neither will you be successful in "pressure cooking" them. Successful stepfamilies typically are produced at low heat in the "crock pot," giving all members time to work through their losses, establish a new sense of identity and adjust to change. Your challenge will be to make sure you give plenty of time to the new marriage, as well as building strong one-on-one relationships with your stepchildren while also paying a lot of attention to your own biological children.—Scott Wigginton

Q: My wife wants me to attend a marriage workshop. I don't see the point. We get along fine. We don't have any problems. Why can't she just be content?

Perhaps there is another way to look at this. Consider the relationship you have with your employer. Job performance is evaluated regularly in several categories. Here's a marriage performance checklist to guide you through your quarterly evaluation:

MARRIAGE

Rank each category as unacceptable performance, needs improvement, shows progress, meets satisfactory standards, performs at high level and looks for ways to improve quality, or excels consistently.

Communication. How you talk to each other; what you talk about.

Sex. Level of knowledge about spouse's preferences and needs; willingness and ability to respond to spouse.

Friendship. Degree of interest and likeability; depth and quality of friendship.

Goals. Support and affirmation of spouse's goals; goals held in common by both partners.

Development. Degree of self-development and impact on marriage; extent of couple development in quality of marriage; support and encouragement of faith development in self and couple.

Conflict resolution and management. Level of skill development in resolving and managing conflict; ability to create opportunities and growth out of conflict.

Couple mission. Identification and fulfillment of mission given to couple by God.

Before closing the door on a marriage workshop, consider your marriage performance evaluation. Is there room for growth, improvement? Would the two of you earn a promotion, an increase in pay grade, or would you be candidates for retraining? The marriage relationship is one of the most important relationships and needs to be regularly assessed. Just as job performance will not improve without work, attention and accountability, neither will a marriage. Perhaps a marriage workshop could serve as an evaluation tool to help you and your spouse move to the next pay grade.—Valerie Vincent

Family Forum writers are:

David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. E-mail: dgarrard@smbclouisville.org.

James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.

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

Scott Wigginton, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University. E-mail: sewigginton@campbellsville.edu.

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



God calls His followers to lives of integrity

In the past two months, a rash of troubling articles about Baptist ministers has made headlines across the Southern Baptist Convention. Among developments reported in the Western Recorder:

■ A high-profile pastor in Texas resigned in August amid allegations of an improper real estate deal. He reportedly bought a prime lot for \$25,000 in an upscale neighborhood where property routinely sells for \$200,000 or more. The purchase came after another congregation received the land as a donation, but was told the property was worth only \$25,000.

■ The pastor of a Florida megachurch resigned three months after accepting the pastorate when it was revealed he reportedly lied on his resume about his academic degrees. He also left a Georgia church eight years earlier with unauthorized debts from credit cards and checks totaling more than \$160,000.

■ Here in Kentucky, a prominent pastor resigned after reportedly accumulating more than \$160,000 in fees and losses to the church through stock day trading. A county sheriff's official said his office has been asked by some members of the congregation to investigate "possible wrongdoings within the church staff."

■ The former chairman of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's presidential search team resigned in August as pastor of his Kansas church, citing a desire to travel and speak about current social issues from a Christian worldview. A subsequent statement from the church's deacons cited financial issues as one of the reasons for his abrupt departure, including reallocating a portion of Cooperative Program gifts for a radio program not affiliated with the church.

■ Two former executives of the defunct Baptist Foundation of Arizona were sentenced last month to six to eight years in prison and ordered to pay \$159 million in restitution to the victims of a fraudulent scheme that cost about 11,000 investors more than

\$550 million.

That definitely is an agonizing list. Why recount such painful news? As a reminder to all Christians, especially ministers, of God's call to live our lives above reproach.

Among the many Scripture passages that hold believers to a high moral standard, consider the following examples:

■ **Psalm 26:1-2.** "Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity; and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Examine me, O Lord, and try me; test my mind and my heart."

■ **Micah 6:8.** "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

■ **Philippians 2:3-4.** "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself. Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

A page one article in this week's issue details a LifeWay Christian Resources study about reasons Southern Baptist church staff members are dismissed. For the first time in the study's 10-year history, ethical misconduct (including mismanaged monies, dishonesty, etc.) cracked the study's top 20 issues at No. 11.

The tragic reality is that unethical behavior is taking an increasing toll on ministers called by God to proclaim and practice His unwavering truth. For those who claim they never would succumb to such temptation, remember the words of Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."

It's doubtful that any of the ministers cited above ever intended for their actions to derail their ministry. For others who still are serving in ministry leadership roles, God's Word clearly calls us to lives of integrity, justice, kindness and humility. We dare not do less for the sake of the gospel.

Forgiveness the Amish way

By Donald Kraybill

Elizabethtown, Pa. (RNS)—The blood was hardly dry on the bare-board floor of the West Nickel Mines School when Amish parents sent words of forgiveness to the family of the man who had killed their children.

Forgiveness? So quickly and for such a heinous crime? Why and how could the Amish do such a thing so quickly?

The Amish are better equipped to process grief than many other Americans. Their faith sees even tragic events under the canopy of divine providence—having a higher purpose or meaning hidden from human sight at first glance. Such religious resolve enables them to move forward without the paralysis of analysis, letting that rest in the hands of God.

Additionally, their historic habits of mutual aid, such as barn raisings, arise from their understanding that Christian teaching compels them to care for each other. This is why they reject commercial insurance and government-funded Social Security.

In moments of disaster, the resources of this socio-spiritual capital spring into action. Meals are taken to grieving families. Neighbors milk cows and care for other daily chores. Hundreds of friends and neighbors visit the home of the bereaved to share quiet words and the gift of presence.

Make no mistake: The pain of death is sharp, searing the hearts of Amish mothers and fathers like it would any other parents.

But why forgiveness? Surely some anger—at least some grudge—is justifiable in the face of such a slaughter.

A frequent phrase in Amish life is "forgive and forget." That's the recipe for responding to Amish members who transgress Amish rules, if they confess their failures. Amish forgiveness also reaches to outsiders, even to killers of their children.

Amish roots stretch back to the Anabaptist movement at the time of the Protestant Reformation in 16th-century Europe. Hundreds of Anabaptists were tortured and burned at the stake because they contended that individuals should have the freedom to make decisions about religious faith. This insistence that the church, not the state, had the authority to decide matters like the age of baptism laid the foundation for our modern notion of religious liberty and the separation of church and state.

Anabaptist martyrs emphasized yielding one's life completely to God, even to death in the face of torture. Songs by imprisoned Anabaptists, recorded in the "Ausbund," the Amish hymnbook, are regularly used in Amish church services today.

The martyr testimony springs from the example of Jesus, the cor-

nerstone of Amish faith. Like other Anabaptists, the Amish take the life and teachings of Jesus seriously. Without formal creeds, their simple (but not simplistic) faith accents living in the way of Jesus, rather than comprehending the complexities of religious doctrine.

Their model is the suffering Jesus, who carried His cross without complaint, and who, hanging on the cross, extended forgiveness to His tormentors. Beyond His example, the Amish try to practice Jesus' admonitions to turn the other cheek, love one's enemies, forgive 70 times seven, and leave vengeance to the Lord. Retaliation and revenge are not part of their vocabulary.

As pragmatic as they are about other things, the Amish do not ask if forgiveness works; they simply seek to practice it as the Jesus way of responding to adversaries, even enemies.

Forgiveness is woven into the fabric of Amish faith. And that is why words of forgiveness were sent to the killer's family before the blood had dried on the schoolhouse floor. It was just the natural thing to do, the Amish way of doing things.

Such courage to forgive has jolted the watching world as much as the killing itself. The transforming power of forgiveness may be one redeeming thing that flows from the blood that was shed in Nickel Mines.

Donald Kraybill, distinguished professor at Elizabethtown College in Lancaster County, Pa., has written numerous books on Amish life, including "The Riddle of Amish Culture."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trens Henderson

Graham grandson's first crusade buoyed by Shea, Barrows

"The greatest need we have today is to have our sins forgiven."

Will Graham, grandson of evangelist Billy Graham

By Bob Carey
Baptist Press

Gastonia, N.C. (BP)—Nearly 60 years after his grandfather held his first citywide crusade in Charlotte, N.C., William Franklin Graham IV held his first U.S. crusade just a few miles to the west in Gastonia, N.C.

Will Graham, 31, opened his three-day Greater Gaston Celebration Oct. 9, with a crowd of more than 4,500 on hand at Sims Legion Park. He was introduced by his father, a beaming Franklin Graham, who has taken over the reigns of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

People began flowing into the small baseball field nearly two hours early. The grandstand quickly filled and an overflow crowd ringed the baseball diamond when former "American Idol" contestant George Huff began leading in worship.

With the characteristic Graham look and voice, the third-generation evangelist quickly called the crowd to examine whether they had sin in their lives.

"Have you disobeyed your parents? Have you stolen anything?" Graham asked. "Have you murdered somebody? Have you told a lie? Black lie or white lie, it still breaks God's law."

Tackling various social and moral issues head-on, Graham declared, "Society says that abortion is a



HARMONY George Beverly Shea (left) holds the microphone as Billy Graham's grandson, Will, and Cliff Barrows join in a rendition of "This Little Light of Mine" during Graham's inaugural evangelistic campaign in North Carolina. (BP photo by Bob Carey)

choice, but that's redefining what it is; it is murder."

Targeting his own generation, Graham said two of the greatest problems today are society's acceptance of sin and coveting others' possessions. "The greatest need we have today is to have our sins forgiven, not buy a new house or flat screen television," he said. "Before we can have a new life, we must first have a new life. The cross of Christ provides that."

As the warm North Carolina evening air began to cool, Graham told

the crowd, "Man deserves death. The Bible says the wages of sin are death. But He bore our sins on the cross."

"The good news is that Jesus Christ took the guilt and shame away. Peace can only come through the cross."

Two nights later, thunder, lightning and pouring rains held off as Graham concluded his inaugural crusade.

Longtime Billy Graham associate George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows had Will take Billy's part in

their rendition of "This Little Light of Mine," a featured part of Graham's meetings through the years. Both Shea and Barrows were part of Billy Graham's first citywide crusade in nearby Charlotte.

As Will Graham made his way to the podium, dark clouds loomed in the west, threatening to spoil the evening. Despite the weather, an impassioned Graham told the crowd of 4,000 they must decide how they will respond to Jesus.

Graham reminded the crowd that truth is absolute, quoting Jesus' words in John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Referencing Barabbas, described in the Bible as a murderer and thief who had been sentenced to death, Graham told the crowd, "You and I are like Barabbas, sentenced to death. But Jesus took our place on the cross."

"Tonight the buck stops with you. Barabbas took his pardon; will you take yours tonight?"

As people responded to Graham's invitation to make a decision for Christ, small flashes of lightning began cutting into the night sky. Some 45 minutes later, the rain began, after the decisions had been recorded and volunteers had cleaned up the scattered remains from the three-day crusade.

Relational issues primary reason for Baptist ministers' dismissal

Continued from page 1

reports to the association and state. They should talk to area pastors about the perception of the church. They should ask if there have been previous terminations, the tenure of the previous three or four pastors and why they left.

"Pastors should do their due diligence and as with the pulpit committee, both should be looking for the right match," Sheffield added.

"Bottom line, however, is that if God is calling a pastor to a particularly difficult situation and he knows that going in, he should go into it with his eyes open understanding it might be difficult. Obedience to God should always be the overriding factor."

Pulpit committees ought to represent the full church, Sheffield noted, but that's not always the case.

"They often represent the more

progressive segment of the church and what it wants to see happen, and not necessarily what the whole church wants to see happen," Sheffield said. "Some people will say a pastor search committee was dishonest. That is sometimes the case, but I believe more often the people on the committee are communicating what they'd like to see happen and not necessarily what is happening in a church."

Sheffield said search committees should check a pastor's references beyond what is given and even ask other pastors in the community where the pastor is serving for references. Sheffield also recommended two resources available through the pastoral ministries department to guide search committees: information at www.lifeway.com/pastors and the "Pastor Search Committee Handbook."

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Members of burned churches focus on rebuilding, forgiveness

By Hannah Elliott
Associated Baptist Press

Birmingham, Ala. (ABP)—Roughly eight months after arsonists destroyed several rural Baptist church buildings in Alabama, pastors and members from the affected congregations joined to celebrate the churches' restoration Oct. 1 with government officials and leaders from the college where two of the three arsonists were students.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley, a Republican, and Rep. Artur Davis (D-Ala.), both of whom are Baptists, attended the event, along with Birmingham-Southern College President David Pollick and Lemarse Washington of the National Conference for Community and Justice. NCCJ—formerly known as the National Conference of Christians and Jews—is dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism in America.

The February fires damaged or destroyed nine Baptist churches, all lo-

cated near each other in and around Alabama's Bibb County. The fires made national headlines, calling to mind a string of suspicious fires at rural African-American churches across the South in the 1990s. However, many of the congregations in the February blazes had majority Anglo congregations.

College aids rebuilding effort

The driving force behind the dinner was the Alabama Churches Rebuilding and Restoration Fund, established March 8 by Birmingham-Southern to distribute more than \$368,000 to the churches affected by the fires.

A spokesperson for the Methodist school said the fund was created the same day Birmingham-Southern officials learned two of their students were charged with arson and conspiracy in connection to the fires. Pollick's first response to the news, she said, was that the school should

help rebuild the churches.

Bob Little, pastor of Galilee Baptist Church in Panola, Ala., said he harbors no ill will toward the young men. Little grew up in the congregation whose building had stood more than 60 years before the fire. Located less than two hours southwest of Birmingham, Panola has a population of about 100 people.

Little's church broke ground on a new building Sept. 30. Church members decided to build on a new plot of land in the middle of town and hope to be a pillar of the community there, he said.

"We don't have any bitterness," Little noted. "All things work together for good for those who love the Lord. He's going to work all things together for a purpose. Sometimes the acts of the world seem to be bad and bruising, but in this church, God can make them work together for good."

More than 100 ATF personnel sorting through 800-plus leads worked on the case after the initial fires, which burned the morning of Feb. 3.

Fires completely destroyed Ashby Baptist Church in Brierfield, Rehobeth Baptist Church in Randolph, and Pleasant Sabine Baptist Church near Centreville. Old Union Baptist in Randolph and Antioch Baptist in Centreville had some damage. All of the churches except Pleasant Sabine are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Alabama Baptist State Convention and Bibb County Baptist Association.

Another string of fires Feb. 7 destroyed Little's church and Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, near Boligee. Dancy Baptist Church near Aliceville and Spring Valley Baptist Church near Emelle suffered damage as well.

Jim Parker, pastor of Ashby Baptist, said in a National Public Radio interview that despite the destruction, his church plans to rebuild. The congregation has been using

two trailers donated by Southern Baptists as a sanctuary and for classroom space.

Even with the trailer-sanctuary, Parker said he has reason to believe Ashby Baptist has good years ahead. "The church is still intact, because the people are the church," he said.

"I can't speak for other churches, but I can interpret what the fire has done for us," Parker added. "What this has done is answered all those questions (about whether to expand) for us. The Lord has made a way for us to do some things that we otherwise would have not been able to do."

Church plans to share gifts

Ashby Baptist had building insurance, and all gifts to Ashby that exceed what the church needs will be funneled to other burned churches, he said. The other churches are in various stages of planning, rebuilding and possibly relocating.

The rebuilding fund includes \$55,000 from a collaborative effort among the NCCJ, Birmingham-based AmSouth Bank, and WBRC TV, the Birmingham FOX affiliate. It also received \$33,000 from the Community Foundation of West Alabama, a group that works with donors to create charitable funds and match them to causes.

An anonymous couple from Jackson Hole, Wyo., contributed \$150,000 to the rebuilding process. The fund also received donations from individuals, corporations and foundations across the country.

Little said events like the dinner and support from Birmingham-Southern have helped tremendously. In hindsight, he added, the fires have moved his church to "another level."

"Everything is going well—the congregation is healing," he said. "Overall, the church has seen God doing some awesome, miraculous things."

Burned Alabama church rebuilds, gets new steeple

Birmingham, Ala. (RNS)—Burned by arsonists and rebuilt with help from volunteers, Pleasant Sabine Baptist Church in Bibb County got its new steeple Oct. 3.

A work crew hoisted the steeple atop the new church building and delivered a baptistery, moving the church closer to completion of its rebuilding project.

Of the three Bibb County churches burned to the ground Feb. 3, Pleasant Sabine has been the first to rebuild. Two others, Rehobeth Baptist and Ashby Baptist, are still planning their structures.

With volunteer help from members of other churches, students and faculty at Birmingham-Southern College and others, Pleasant Sabine Baptist has made good time on its effort to bounce back from arson.

"It's a blessing from the Lord," said church member Spurgeon Boddie, who grew up attending the church and was there to watch the steeple raised onto the new building. "We got quite a bit of help."

The church had \$100,000 worth of insurance and the cost to rebuild will be about \$375,000. Contributions have come from across the country.

Much of the rebuilding has been paid for with donations, including \$53,000 from a fund administered by Birmingham-Southern College, where the three young men charged as arsonists met as students.

The three former college students, Ben Moseley, Russell DeBusk and Matthew Cloyd, arrested March 8, are still being held on charges related to the burning of nine churches.

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Boston congregation sets 'earth-friendly' example

Boston (ABP)—Members of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Boston are striving to be green—when it comes to the environment, that is. And they're doing it with simple gestures like bringing their own coffee mugs to church, instead of using disposable cups.

David Draper, pastor of the 20-member congregation, wants his church to be a model of good stewardship for larger congregations. His church demonstrates that even simple things count when it comes to protecting the environment. And Baptists who enjoy and utilize nature should think about preserving it, he said.

"There are a large number of Baptists out there who love nature," Draper said. "We just need to do the best we can to preserve those God-given places of stewardship, joy and refreshment."

Draper said earth-friendly efforts are popular in Boston, where every family has bins for recycling plastic and paper. The next step is to expand that attitude to other churches and Baptist institutions.

"We can all do something," he said. "I think we're at a point now when we should see this is something that needs to be addressed. It's a good witness to the neighborhood. It's a good witness to the world."

Draper suggested that larger congregations establish environmental committees to determine how the church can become more earth-friendly and offer members updates on ecological news. On a broader scale, Draper said, large organizations should offer recycling bins for soft drink cans and food cartons at conventions and other large gatherings.

At Beacon Hill, meanwhile, members began church-wide recycling efforts about five years ago. They use recycled products and have reduced waste from food and containers. The congregation, founded in 1985, even held an outdoor service last summer to conserve energy in their building.

One of the most novel ideas at Beacon Hill involves its recycling program. The church doesn't receive cash benefits from recycling. Instead, members leave items with redeemable deposits outside for homeless people to collect.

Looking to the future, Draper said he hopes to expand on that creative thinking. Members of Beacon Hill are considering bringing their own plates and utensils for potluck meals. It's not much less convenient than using disposable items, and Christians must choose to be ecologically responsible just as they choose to do good, he added.

"Each individual and each church will have to count the cost of helping our world," Draper said. "But after you start recycling, you fall into the good habits."

Motorcycle rally offers ministry, camaraderie

By Russ Rankin
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

Ridgecrest, N.C. (BP)—The hills were alive with the sound of throats engines as approximately 200 motorcycle enthusiasts converged on LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in the Blue Ridge Mountains for the inaugural "Ride to Ridgecrest" motorcycle rally.

Bikers from as far away as Beaumont, Texas, and Columbus, Ohio, traveled to North Carolina for a weekend of seminars, worship and biking on some of the most scenic roads in the Southeast.

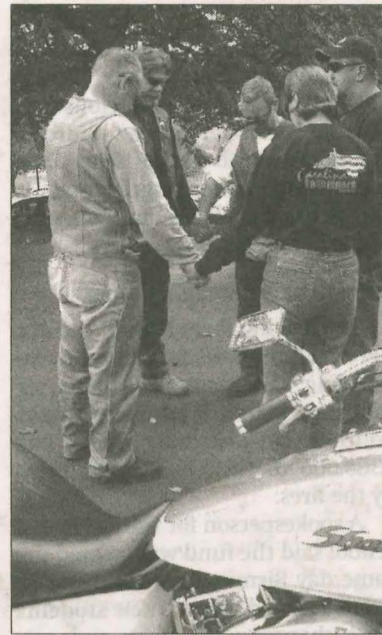
"Our mission for this gathering is to ultimately help build community among Christians and present a place where unbelievers will hear the gospel and find a place of belonging," said Ron Pratt, national event planner for LifeWay Conference Centers. "We also want to help existing motorcycle ministries develop outreach opportunities through frequent, safe and well-organized motorcycle events."

Evening worship sessions were led by evangelist and Christian counselor Dale Brooks from Charlotte, N.C., and international speaker and author Richard Headrick, president and CEO of The Headrick Companies, Inc., based in Laurel, Miss.

Evening worship at Ridgecrest's newly opened ARC (Auditorium and Recreation Center) was led by Direct Message, a Southern gospel rock and praise band, and Second Chance, a Christian band often featured at motorcycle rallies across the nation.

Brooks, who rides with the Carolina chapter of the F.A.I.T.H. Riders Christian motorcycle group, shared his testimony about how God saved him from a life of drugs and crime.

"Satan says lies to us to keep us from Christ," Brooks said. "I lived the lies that God isn't fair, that I would have to make it through life on my own, and that I couldn't trust anyone.



PRAYER CIRCLE "Ride to Ridgecrest" participants pause for prayer after a day trip through the Blue Ridge Mountains. (BP photo by Russ Rankin)

"Little did I know that the sovereign God of the universe was with me all the time. I was just a mean person. And people (without God) like to be with the tough kid. I went from alcohol to the drugs, and got worse and worse," he said, recounting how he got involved with a motorcycle gang.

"I'm not talking about guys that drive down to the Dairy Queen and

get ice cream," he quipped. "These were bad men." After years of trying to remove himself from that lifestyle, "I found out that people can't straighten up without the sovereign Son of God changing us."

Acceptance is why motorcycle riders mired in negative lifestyles have trouble finding freedom, Brooks said. "The gangs accept them, and churches say, 'We don't want people like you.'"

Danny Moats, chaplain of the Florida F.A.I.T.H. Riders based at First Baptist Church at the Mall in Lakeland, Fla., led a seminar on effective ways to share the gospel with bikers.

"Don't get caught in a trap of thinking what you do is important," he said. "It's because of Whose you are and that you've asked Jesus Christ (to be) your Savior that matters. The most powerful witnessing tool is your own testimony."

Buddy Newsome, a former motorcycle police officer who started the first F.A.I.T.H. Riders chapter at First Baptist Church in Lakeland, led a workshop on how to begin a church motorcycle ministry. "It must be a motorcycle ministry about Jesus Christ, not a motorcycle ministry about motorcycles," he said.

The next Ride to Ridgecrest motorcycle rally is scheduled for the 2007 Memorial Day weekend. For more information, contact Ron Pratt at ron.pratt@lifeway.com.

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Congress gives military chaplains partial victory

By Tom Strode
Baptist Press

Washington (BP)—Supporters of increased religious freedom for military chaplains gained a partial victory before Congress went into recess for the November election.

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives agreed on their last night in session on legislation directing the Air Force and Navy to rescind regulations issued early this year and follow previous guidelines considered less restrictive, particularly for evangelical Christian chaplains. The provision was part of a conference committee report on the National Defense Authorization Act that was approved in a 398-23 vote by the House. The Senate followed with

agreement by unanimous consent.

The action settled an impasse between House and Senate members on differences between their two bills concerning the annual authorization for the Department of Defense.

The House's version of the bill included language some congressmen considered necessary to protect evangelical chaplains who choose to follow the New Testament pattern of praying in Jesus' name. It said every chaplain "shall have the prerogative to pray according to the dictates of (his) own conscience."

The Senate version of the Defense authorization did not include that language. The conference committee ultimately agreed on calling for two of the military branches, the Air

Force and Navy, to drop guidelines published in February and to return to ones issued in 1999 and 2000, respectively.

Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., a key backer of the House language, said in a written statement, "The repeal of the restrictive Air Force and Navy guidelines is a mark of progress in the effort to restore the First Amendment right of military chaplains—all faiths—to pray as they see fit."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, noted that "while the congressional action to restore the constitutional rights of chaplains was not as complete as we would have wished, it certainly was a step in the right direction."

California appeals court rules against gay marriage

San Francisco (BP)—A California appeals court panel upheld California's marriage laws Oct. 5, ruling against gay marriage supporters and declaring that the definition of marriage is an issue for the state legislature or the citizens—and not the courts—to decide.

The 2-1 decision overturned a March 2005 ruling by a trial court judge, who said gay marriage should be legalized and that a 2000 voter-approved initiative that banned it violated the California constitution. Homosexual activists say they will appeal the decision to the California Supreme Court.

"Courts simply do not have the authority to create new rights, especially when doing so involves changing the definition of so fundamental an institution as marriage," Justice William McGuinness wrote for the majority. "The time may come when California chooses to expand the definition of marriage to encompass same-sex unions. That change must come from democratic processes, however, not by judicial fiat."

California voters passed a law in 2000, Proposition 22, that protected the traditional definition of marriage and specifically banned

gay marriage. It was adopted with 61 percent of the vote. But in 2004 the city of San Francisco and a host of liberal legal groups—including the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Center for Lesbian Rights—filed suit seeking to overturn Proposition 22 and the state's other marriage laws and have gay marriage legalized.

In other rulings this year, the supreme courts of New York and Washington state refused to legalize gay marriage, while the highest courts in Georgia and Tennessee affirmed the constitutionality of their state's marriage amendments.

NATIONAL NOTES

School agrees not to display Jesus portrait. A West Virginia public school board agreed Oct. 6 not to display a portrait of Jesus or other devotional art at its high school. The settlement coincided with a decision by Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union to drop a joint lawsuit against the Harrison County school board. Warner Sallman's famous "Head of Christ" portrait had hung on a wall at Bridgeport High School for 37 years. The board voted 4-1 to settle the suit by promising never to display any renderings of Jesus, religious iconography or other devotional artwork featuring teachers, philosophers, religious or inspirational leaders.

Alabama unveils 'God Bless America' license plates. Alabama Gov. Bob Riley recently unveiled the state's "God Bless America" license plates now available to motorists. The red, white and blue plates feature an image of the American flag blowing in the wind with the words "God Bless America" along the bottom. Motorists can choose between the new plate and the older "Stars Fell on Alabama" plate for the same fee. Several states, including Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri and Texas, also have God Bless America plates, but they are specialty tags that require extra payment.

Prolific hymn writer John Peterson dies. Gospel hymn writer John Peterson, who authored more than 1,000 hymns and 35 cantatas, died of cancer Sept. 20 in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 84. Peterson worked as music editor at Singpiration, a sacred music publishing company. After Zondervan Publishing House acquired the company, he was named president and editor-in-chief of Singpiration. Peterson was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1986. His song titles include "It Took a Miracle," "So Send I You" and "Surely Goodness and Mercy." His cantatas and musicals include "Night of Miracles" and "No Greater Love." Peterson is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marie, and three daughters.

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November 14-15, 2006

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Drury Inn Bowling Green

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800.325.0720 (reservations) / 270.842.7100
\$85-\$94 (doubles and kings; 1-4 persons)
Complimentary hot breakfast
Reservation deadline: October 13

Fairfield Inn Marriott

1940 Mel Browning Street
270.782.6933
\$79 flat rate (singles and doubles)
Complimentary deluxe continental breakfast
Reservation deadline: October 13

Hampton Inn

233 Three Springs Road
270.842.4100
\$82 flat rate (doubles, kings and queens)
Complimentary breakfast
Reservation deadline: October 1

Fox steps out on faith with biblical epic about Esther

"We found a demographic that was underserved, and we were positioned to fill a need."

Steve Feldstein, senior vice president at Fox Home Entertainment

By Jason Anthony
Religion News Service

New York (RNS)—It opened Oct. 13 at more than 1,000 theaters across the country. More than 55,000 tickets were pre-sold. But unless you go to church, you might never even see the trailer.

"One Night with the King," a \$20 million biblical epic from Gener8xion Entertainment, is one of the first films to be released in partnership with the new FoxFaith label. While the subject—the Book of Esther—is an ancient story, the strategy that is expected to fill theater seats is at the cutting edge of the new marriage between big studios and grassroots Christian organizing.

The film tells the story of Queen Esther and King Xerxes. It focuses on Esther, a Jewish orphan-turned-queen who reveals her nationality at a critical moment and saves her people from extermination.

One example of the film's unorthodox recipe for success: Landry Humphries, who works with the homeless in the Los Angeles area, filled one of the theaters with 350 children from foster care and orphanages on opening night. "Esther was an orphan," said Humphries, who hopes the movie will inspire and lead children to read the Bible.

Because Esther was herself an orphan, ministry leaders are urging churches to take orphans and foster children to see the movie. Matthew Crouch, the producer of the film and CEO of Gener8xion Entertainment, hopes to build a bridge of trust between two historically opposed camps: Hollywood and the conservative Christian audience.

Bible society affirms film

In place of more traditional marketing avenues—such as fast food tie-ins or network television spots—Crouch is finding ways to reach out to church leaders nearer to their experience. He gained the endorsement of the venerable American Bi-



CORONATION The newly crowned Queen Esther (Tiffany Dupont) greets her subjects in "One Night with the King," which hit theaters Oct. 13. (RNS photo courtesy of Gener8xion Entertainment Inc.)

ble Society which has labeled the movie "accurate to Scripture."

He has also undertaken a marathon tour of talking personally with pastors. "Pastors don't ask what you do—they ask why you do it," Crouch said. "If you can answer that question, you can create a partnership."

During his 16-day Pastor Screening Tour, Crouch screened a cut of his movie in 21 cities. Rod Rieger attended in Oklahoma City, and his congregation at Newcastle Christian Church is doing its part. Church members watched the trailer, put up a cardboard display inside the church and bought out an entire show on Sunday of opening weekend.

"We need to support these or they're gonna go away," Rieger said.

Crouch is the son of Trinity Broadcasting Network founders Paul and Jan Crouch, whose Christian television network is the most lucrative ministry on the small screen. It is no surprise that a scion of this high-wattage Christian media outlet was one of the first to partner with

the newly minted FoxFaith.

FoxFaith is a new division of Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment committed to making movies that have "a clear Christian message or (are) based on material by a Christian author." Although the Esther movie was developed by Crouch's Gener8xion Entertainment, FoxFaith will distribute the film in a limited number of theaters and oversee its DVD release.

Focus on Christian fare

FoxFaith plans to produce original straight-to-DVD titles and at least six theatrical release movies per year. Though other major studios are making movies with religious content, Fox is the first to take the risk of devoting a whole division exclusively to Christian fare.

FoxFaith grew out of the studio's recent success with evangelically supported releases, especially Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," which grossed \$370 million domestically.

"The Passion' gave us all our

MBAs," said Steve Feldstein, a senior vice president at Fox Home Entertainment. "To be honest, we found a demographic that was underserved, and we were positioned to fill a need. It's that simple."

If it seems strange that the studio that brought out "Dude, Where's My Car?" is getting into the Christian market—and even offering Bible study materials through its Web site—Feldstein said it shouldn't.

"There's no cynicism where it matters," he said, citing Christian executives at Fox, like producer Ralph Winter, who have been involved on the project from the beginning.

For Crouch, there is only one condition necessary for the partnership to work. "You can have an automatic audience, as long as you don't violate their faith. Do comedies, do action movies, do adventures—all they ask is that you don't violate their faith."

Heather Hendershot, a professor of media studies at City University of New York and the author of "Shaking the World for Jesus: Media and Conservative Evangelical Culture," said the new partnerships in Hollywood should involve close scrutiny—on both sides. "FoxFaith is capitalizing on a grassroots niche. But you have to ask: Is Fox playing them for their grassroots organizing?"

While many have expressed an "anxiety" about an evangelical "takeover" of Hollywood, Hendershot said, she sees a more likely danger in the other direction: big studios taking business away from smaller Christian distributors.

"Pastors will jump on films to be recognized as an audience," she said. The coming years are likely to bring them a sharp learning curve in Hollywood economics.

"One Night with the King" tells the story of Queen Esther and King Xerxes, and the bonds of trust in her marriage allow her to become a hero. Centuries later, such trust remains powerful, rare and hard won.

'Facing the Giants' tops \$3 million in ticket sales in first 2 weeks

Albany, Ga. (BP)—Filmed on a shoestring budget using volunteers from a Southern Baptist church, the inspirational movie "Facing the Giants" has racked up enough success in its first two weekends that one major newspaper labeled it "miraculous."

The squeaky-clean PG movie passed the \$3 million gross mark Oct. 12, which already makes it a success story for a film that cost only \$100,000 to make. And while \$3 million is mere change by Hollywood standards, the movie has more than held its own in the theaters where it has been shown.

Facing the Giants was produced by Sherwood Productions, the media arm of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.

It finished 12th among all movies on opening weekend, and was

an impressive fifth on an average-per-screen tally (\$3,046) among the Top 20 movies, according to BoxOfficeMojo.com. In its second weekend, Facing the Giants ended up 14th among all movies and was ninth on a per-screen average (\$2,407) among Top 20 movies.

By comparison, MGM's "School for Scoundrels" cost \$35 million to make and finished fourth on opening weekend while showing on 3,000 theaters, but grossed \$2,863 per screen—less than Giants' opening weekend.

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The film's success has caused national media to take notice. The Washington Post ran a story Oct. 10 with a sub-headline reading, "Facing the Giants,' Shot On a Shoestring and a Prayer, Does Miraculously at Box Office."

Facing the Giants lost only 25 percent in gross from its first to its sec-

ond weekends—a figure considered a success in Hollywood.

"Movie-industry standards say that if a movie experiences less than a 40-percent drop in ticket sales from the previous weekend, it has done exceptionally well," according to an e-mail newsletter sent out to fans of Facing the Giants.

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Tribute to Grady Randolph

Christ's mission continues to reap harvest of his labor

Our Kentucky Baptist family, and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation family in particular, were saddened at the Sept. 24 death of Grady L. Randolph, who served as the executive of the KBF from March 1, 1969, until his retirement Aug. 31, 1985. Grady was the third full-time executive since the KBF's inception in 1945.

During his years of leadership, he diligently encouraged Kentucky Baptists and presented them many opportunities to make stewardship decisions, which would benefit in perpetuity their churches, associations and the various missionary, educational and benevolent ministries of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. His motto not only reflected his conviction that "every adult Christian should have a Christian will," but also served as the motivation from which he led the KBF's stewardship ministry.

Grady was one of those rare individuals who had that unique quality required of any person who must provide effective leadership to a state Baptist foundation, namely, the capacity to labor in a

vineyard with the foreknowledge someone else likely will reap the harvest of your labors, but still be able to find fulfillment in that labor. The mission of Christ in this world continues to reap the harvest of Grady's labors more than 20 years after his retirement.

Grady's selection in 1969 resulted in a heightened level of confidence and trust in the KBF. He was able to move the KBF forward in a period during which the KBF had limited human and financial resources, and he cultivated a high level of cooperation between the KBF board and the KBC Executive Board under the leadership of two KBC executives, Harold Sanders and Frank Owen.

I started with the KBC in 1971. We became not only denominational colleagues, but also personal friends. Then 25 years later in 1996, I assumed the KBF leadership role Grady once held. The words of William James characterize my view of Grady: "The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; (866) 489-3533; www.kybaptistfoundation.org

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Kudzu

Doug Marlette



For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Bible Crosswords

Elizabeth B. Smith

Across

- 1 Lot was told to go to the ____ (Genesis 19:17)
- 7 "There was no harm in the ____" (2 Kings 4:41)
- 9 Yes, Sp.
- 10 How many daughters Lot had (Genesis 19:8)
- 11 Who came to Lot (Genesis 19:1)
- 14 "He ... did ____ unleavened bread" (Genesis 19:3)
- 16 "Bring them out ____ the place" (Genesis 19:12)
- 17 Dessert
- 18 Informed on a person
- 21 "The Lord ____ upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah" (Genesis 19:24)
- 24 "This ____ fellow came in to sojourn" (Genesis 19:9)
- 25 Abraham's nephew (Genesis 12:5)
- 27 Pittsburg's state, abbr.
- 28 In the year of our Lord, Lat. abbr.
- 29 One of the cities destroyed by God (Genesis 19:24)
- 32 Large vase
- 33 Farrow's first name
- 34 "Is there any taste in the white of an ____?" (Job 6:6)
- 35 "I cannot escape to the mountain, lest ... I ____" (Genesis 19:19)
- 37 Held up Moses' hands (Exodus 17:12)
- 39 Lot was told to ____ (Genesis 19:17)
- 41 "Lot ____ out at the door" (Genesis 19:6)
- 43 Continent in the northern hemisphere, abbr.

1		2	3		4	5	6		7		8
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	35				36			37	38		
					39	40					
41		42			43						44
		45				46	47		48	49	
50						51					

- 44 Masculine pronoun
- 45 Corrida cheer
- 46 "Then said I, ____, I come" (Psalms 40:7)
- 48 "Their sin ____ very grievous" (Genesis 18:20)
- 50 "Now, this ____ is near" (Genesis 19:20)
- 51 "He overthrew ____ cities" (Genesis 19:25)

- 15 "They shall ____ the way of the Lord" (Genesis 18:19)
- 19 "Lot went out ... ____ shut the door" (Genesis 19:6)
- 20 Bashemath was her daughter (Genesis 26:34)
- 22 "God remembered ____" (Genesis 19:29)
- 23 They escaped with Lot (Genesis 19:16)
- 26 Thomas, for short
- 29 "He pressed upon them ____" (Genesis 19:3)
- 30 Japanese unit of distance
- 31 "Take ... thy daughters, which are ____" (Genesis 19:15)
- 32 Unemployment insurance, abbr.
- 35 Female deer
- 36 Male adult
- 38 "Lot ... rose ____ to meet them" (Genesis 19:1)
- 40 "She became a pillar of ____" (Genesis 19:26)
- 41 A woman in the army, abbr.
- 42 "I will ____ overthrow this city" (Genesis 19:21)
- 47 "____, let me escape" (Genesis 19:20)
- 48 Island, abbr.
- 49 Southeast, abbr.

Down

- 1 They compassed Lot's house (Genesis 19:4)
- 2 "Neither shall ye ____ enchantment" (Leviticus 19:26)
- 3 Nothing
- 4 "There came two angels to Sodom ____ even" (Genesis 19:1)
- 5 ____ Jima
- 6 "____ man hath seen God" (John 1:18)
- 7 "God destroyed the cities of the ____" (Genesis 19:29)
- 8 Golf peg
- 11 "They ... brought them forth ____" (Genesis 19:17)
- 12 "Lot sat in the ____ of Sodom" (Genesis 19:1)
- 13 Another city destroyed by God
- 14 Bits per inch, abbr.

Last week's solution

1	C	H	A	P	5	M	I	D	9	C	H	A	S	
12	A	E	R	O	13	E	T	E	14	O	O	L	A	
15	S	L	E	W	16	R	E	S	17	V	A	I	N	
18	S	I	D	E	19	P	E	R	20	L	E	X	E	O
21	R	I	D	22	I	A	N							
23	R	E	D	S	26	S	T	P	27	U	L	S		
30	H	A	S	O	31	D	I	E	32	H	S	A	S	
33	S	T	A	M	E	R	35	S	T	A	B	S		
36	I	A	L	37	S	O	B							
38	A	B	U	N	D	A	N	T	42	G	R	A	C	E
45	R	O	N	I	46	Y	E	A	47	A	L	A	S	
48	A	N	N	O	49	E	R	I	50	K	I	S	S	
51	M	E	I	N	52	D	I	N	53	E	T	T	E	

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Reaching beyond its roots

Southern gospel music gains popularity outside region to make powerful comeback



REVIVED ART FORM Bill Gaither and his band are credited with propelling Southern gospel music back into popularity with their "homecoming" concerts and CDs. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

By David Briggs
Religion News Service

Canton, Ohio (RNS)—Visions of heaven dance in their heads as hundreds of people clap their hands, slap their knees and tap their toes on the concrete floor of the Ronald Howard Gospel Music Center.

Three sisters, members of the Southern gospel group Christ Unlimited, take the crowd to a happier place, singing in an upbeat harmony that they are going to "walk right out of this valley with my Lord."

The rhythm becomes more insistent with each verse, the voices rising to a majestic pitch until it is certain everyone in this prefab building "ain't going to let old Satan get me down, down, down."

More people throughout the country are praising God at Southern gospel hymn sings, part of a revival of an art form that was an essential spiritual connection for the tens of thousands of white Southerners who came north for industrial work in places such as Cleveland

and Akron.

Spurred by the popularity of country music, and in particular by the rising tide created by Bill Gaither and the Gaither Vocal Band, Southern gospel is making a comeback.

Jane Way, 70, does not hear a lot of foot-tapping, four-part country harmony at her Methodist church. But she likes to go to hymn sings.

"It just makes you feel good," she said. "Sometimes you got to let your hair down."

A wooden cross was the only

backdrop as the Pine Ridge Boys led a joyous crowd across a heaven and earth where people walked hand in hand with a loving God. The quartet has been singing for 43 years and were part of the Southern gospel trail that gave birth to the Blackwood Brothers, the Statesmen Quartet, the Kingsmen and the Jordanaires.

Southern gospel was the country music of gospel for a number of years, and it grew along with the popularity of country, said Don Cusic, professor of music business at Belmont University in Nashville. But the music nearly died in the 1980s as many white evangelical Christians, particularly young people, turned to contemporary Christian music.

What reignited the Southern gospel industry was the success of Gaither and his band and their commitment to recognizing the history of the movement with a series of "homecoming" recordings, videos and concerts.

"The advantage of Southern gospel is that it never changed," Cusic said. "The disadvantage of Southern gospel is that it never changed."

The message of Southern gospel remains the same: Jesus is a personal friend who guides followers through the raging storms of this life and will walk hand in hand with them into heaven. The joy of what awaits believers in the future always has been a major part of the appeal of Southern gospel, Cusic said. It is a spirit that sustains both fans and performers.



HAPPY HEART, HAPPY HANDS Allegra Thomas of Concord, Ohio (center), gets enthusiastic about Southern gospel music at a recent hymn sing in Perry, Ohio. (RNS photo courtesy of Thomas Ondrey/The Plain Dealer of Cleveland)

Waiting at the bus stop

Beloved 'rainy day' donor's wish of heavenly home finally comes true

One of the benefits of my responsibilities is the opportunity to meet some wonderful, faithful people. I meet people who love the Lord, greatly appreciate the Oneida ministry and demonstrate that love and support by helping us financially. We are blessed to have many friends who undergird our work and make it possible for us to minister to the young people God sends our way.

One of our very special friends died last week. Mrs. Jackson was 93 years old and had moved from her home in Harlan more than 20 years ago in order to be closer to her two daughters in Tennessee. She outlived most of her friends, and having been gone from Harlan for so long, she knew there would not be many people to attend her funeral. So she made preparations for a modest graveside service with family and friends. She was right; it was a rather small group that gathered at the cemetery to say good-bye.

I first met this wonderful lady about eight years ago when she visited our campus. She was a very small woman who obviously loved young people and was very interested in providing them opportunities she never had.

She grew up without a mother, and her father could not care for her. She lived with a family member and worked in a restaurant. That is where she met her husband who was a coal miner. The family had a limited income, but the Jacksons raised five children. Her husband died in the early 1980s. Mrs. Jackson started making monthly gifts to OBI in the fall of 1984. Over the years, her gifts increased and at times she blessed us

with larger contributions. Remember, she was a coal miner's widow and I doubt that they had been able to put much aside, especially with five children. On one special occasion, Mrs. Jackson called to make sure I would be in my office the following day. She, her daughter and son-in-law arrived the next morning. Mrs. Jackson presented me with a small bundle of old envelopes.

She told me that she and her husband put a little money aside over the years for a rainy day. She went on to tell me that she had never had a rainy day and she was getting too old to have one now, so she wanted to give her life savings to meet the needs of our students. I was quite shocked to find out later that the envelopes contained \$31,000 in \$100 bills.

A little frustrated, she also told me that she desperately wanted to go to her heavenly home and that she had been waiting at the bus stop for the Lord to pick her up, but her bus hadn't come.

She did not know why the Lord hadn't sent for her, but she was ready and anxious to go home. Nearly every time I saw her, either in her home or here on our campus, she expressed a little frustration that she still was waiting at the bus stop.

In His own special way, while Mrs. Jackson slept on a Sunday morning, the Lord sent her bus to take her home. I am sure she wore a big smile as she boarded the bus for which she had waited so long. We will miss this wonderful saint, but we are happy that she has been granted her wish. In the past 20 years, this generous friend, a coal miner's widow, gave more than \$100,000 to this ministry.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Semi-annual meeting

Five trustees appointed to help seek new president

The Clear Creek Board of Trustees held its semi-annual meeting Oct. 10. The agenda included familiar items associated with the close of a fiscal year. One item had not been on the agenda since 1988—seeking a new president.

Board members received an unqualified audit prepared by Marr, Miller & Myers of London. The college closed the books "in the black" and reported a 6 percent increase in endowment funds. The board authorized a gas-drilling lease on property in Webster County; an estate gift left a portion of the mineral rights to benefit the college.

Trustees reaffirmed the Tenets of Faith of the Association for Biblical Higher Education, the national Bible college accreditation agency. The Christian Workers Certificate was changed to require a 30-hour curriculum. It was reported that 18 students are enrolled in the Christian service curriculum for non-vocational ministry students, well below the 25 percent limit set by trustees.

The institutional advancement committee reported the "Affirming Our Values—Leaving a Legacy

Campaign" has surpassed the 50 percent mark toward the \$1.23 million goal. The student "workshop" endowment has reached 45 percent of the goal and trustees were encouraged to help reach the remaining \$554,000 by May 4, 2007. Three goals were removed from the strategic plan and three goals were completed during the

fiscal year. Trustees approved a policy on filling board vacancies. First reading was given to a bylaw amendment that will make possible more Kentucky members on the board.

Current officers were re-elected: Chairman Tim Langford of Hickman, Vice Chair Jack Fox of Louisville, and Secretary Denny Vincent of Madisonville. Appreciation was expressed to three members leaving the board: Kenneth Dick of Monticello, Doug Surber of Dayton, and Tom Prather of Louisville.

Five trustees were appointed to a presidential search committee: Jack Fox, Tim Langford, Richard Neal, Denny Vincent and Anna White. The committee also will include representatives from the student body, faculty and alumni.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Ministry amid grief

Baptist church in Amish country ponders slayings, plans for future

By Daniel Guido
Baptist Press

Wrightsdale, Pa. (BP)—A Baptist church in the heart of Pennsylvania Amish country moved ahead with celebrating the start of construction of a new worship center Oct. 9—sobered, however, by the murder of five young Amish girls in a one-room school 20 miles away.

"Life has to go on," said Dave Pope, pastor of Wrightsdale Baptist Church. "We are all still mourning this in our own way. It is so recent and happened so close," he said, shaking his head as he unlocked the doors and entered the church.

"But we have a program to keep to, with a four-day revival starting today and the celebration of the new construction planned this morning," Pope said, as he climbed a flight of steps and turned the lights on in the sanctuary. "You know, maybe in some way, having all this to do is a good thing."

The Sunday sermon, by North Carolina-based evangelist Royce Williams, appropriately dealt with how Christ calls Christians to deepen their faith and trust in Him in good times and bad.

Wrightsdale Baptist, the oldest Southern Baptist church in Pennsylvania, is nestled amid several large Amish dairy farms a few miles south of Lancaster in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Fighting back tears

Despite the festivities scheduled for the day, several Wrightsdale Baptist members clutched tissues



GRIEVING COMMUNITY An Amish man drives his horse-drawn buggy past the one-room Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pa., where a gunman killed five girls Oct. 2. (RNS photo by Rober Sciarrino/The Star-Ledger of Newark, N.J.)

and fought back their tears.

"I fear that this sort of thing could happen to our children," said Kelli Brandenberger, who grew up in the area. "This whole thing scares me."

Brandenberger's concern was shared by many other people in the congregation. Several members said they still have not been able to absorb how such a violent act was perpetrated in this rural farm setting of rolling hills where news of murders and mayhem usually are distant reports from major cities.

"This just doesn't happen here," John Hardy said as he stood on

the front steps of the church and watched an Amish buggy pass by. "This sort of thing tries your faith, it really does. But hopefully in the end it also drives you closer to Jesus."

Pondering "frailty of life"

"The Amish are such peaceful people. They don't harm anyone," Wrightsdale deacon chairman Keith Brown said. "For this to happen to them really makes you think about the frailty of life."

Brown and other church members expressed amazement that the families of the slain and wound-

ed Amish children already had reached out to the gunman's family to let them know they do not blame them for what happened.

Former Wrightsdale pastor Terry Douglas, who was visiting to help celebrate the start of construction, noted, "The public as a whole, here and all around the world, learned a lot from the Amish in the area of forgiveness this week."

Douglas said the grandfather of one of the little girls killed visited the shooter's family the next morning to pray with them and let them know the Amish community was not holding a grudge and would not seek revenge.

Mike Stike, operations manager for Lancaster Christian radio station WDAC-FM, said the local evangelical community was deeply touched by the Amish leaders' immediate expressions of forgiveness.

"We've had callers all week praising God that the Amish have been such good witnesses in this time of tragedy," Stike said. "If there is any good to come of this, it is that they were able to show the world that they practice what they preach—forgiveness."

Wrightsdale member Scott Osborne, who works for a local feed service, said he and his coworkers were stunned when one of their Amish clients told them the victims' families had requested that a fund be set up to help the shooter's family. "We were really touched by that. Imagine forgiving someone that quickly and that deeply. It really made you think."

"This sort of thing tries your faith, it really does. But hopefully in the end it also drives you closer to Jesus."

John Hardy, member of Wrightsdale Baptist Church in the heart of Pennsylvania Amish country

Movies, TV shape many people's perception of Amish way of life

By Pat Carroll and Li Wang
Religion News Service

Harrisburg, Pa. (RNS)—For many people, everything they know about the Amish was taken from the 1985 Harrison Ford movie "Witness."

Outside perceptions of the circumstances surrounding the recent shootings at an Amish school in Nickel Mines, Pa., seem steeped in the mythology formed from the few representations of the Amish on television and in the movies, experts said.

While "Witness" was a serious film and a worldwide hit, minor silly comedies such as 1996's "Kingpin," with Woody Harrelson, and 1997's "For Richer or Poorer," with Tim Allen, also impacted perceptions of the Amish.

"The problem with how people see the Amish is very similar to how people see the clergy," said Eric Michael Mazur, associate religion professor at Bucknell University. "People assume that because they are pious, they're not human. We tend to make them exotic and commercialize them."

In Lewisburg, where Bucknell is located, Mazur said he often sees Amish-labeled products sold, including Amish salsa. He is most troubled by the Amish dolls.

"What if on the same shelf there was little Charlie Catholic, Jeremy the Jew and Larry the Lutheran?"

asked Mazur, who added that there is a perception that traditionalists such as the Amish, Orthodox Jews or Christian fundamentalists are deviants. "Many people don't understand that the Amish are not ignorant of the world around them, they have made very specific choices about the world around them."

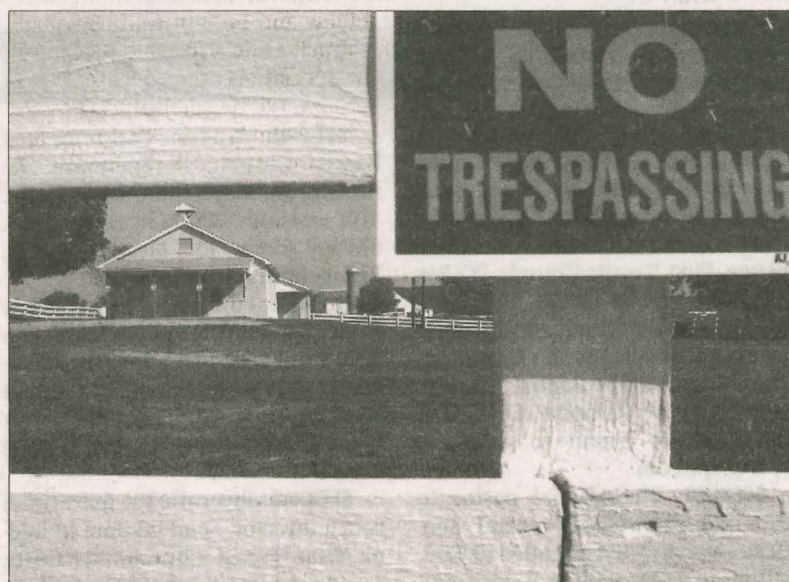
According to Richard Blake, co-director of film studies at Boston College, "I'm sure that this story gets extra notoriety because of the clothes the Amish wear and their language patterns are different. This sort of foreignness gets people more interested in the story."

That foreign aspect also has made the Amish a device in television shows based on a fish-out-of-water scenario.

The UPN Network's 2004 reality show "Amish in the City" had five Amish youths living with six non-Amish people. NBC's 1988 series "Aaron's Way" showed Amish people being afraid of modern appliances.

In the 1993 Warner Bros. TV show "Lois & Clark: The Adventures of Superman," villain Lex Luthor discovers that the Amish are the only ones who can't be mind-controlled because they don't use modern technology.

While the conflict with modernity often is employed for lightly comedic purposes, the same dynamic can distract from the essence of the



DEMOLITION Amish elders announced plans last week to tear down the West Nickel Mines school, where five Amish girls were killed. Construction workers demolished the one-room schoolhouse Oct. 12, 10 days after the shootings. (RNS photo by Robert Sciarrino/The Star-Ledger of Newark, N.J.)

tragic reality of the recent school shootings.

CNN's coverage included an expert on the Amish, which probably doesn't shed more light on why the murders and suicide occurred, observed Clay Calvert, associate professor of communications and law at Penn State University.

The perceived isolation of the Amish often is far from the truth, said David Weaver-Zucher, profes-

sor of religious studies at Messiah College.

"For many of the Amish in Lancaster County," he said, "there would be a good bit of contact with English people," as non-Amish are known.

"English people who would live next door to Amish farm neighbors would be friends with these people," Weaver-Zucher said. "It's not an utterly isolated community."

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following ministries related to Kentucky Baptists' mission partnerships with Baptists in Brazil and Europe:

■ Pray for Southern Baptist international missionary Scott Pittman and his family as they travel to Kentucky to participate in next month's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

■ Pray for the house churches that are being started in the Piaui Baptist Convention in Brazil.

■ Pray for Earl Pinkston, a Southern Baptist international missionary to Malta, as he travels to a leadership meeting in Germany. Pray also for other team members in Malta as they continue ministry efforts during Pinkston's absence.

■ Pray for the International Baptist Convention's fall meeting Oct. 23-26 in Paris. Participants from churches throughout Europe will participate in the meeting. Pray for clear communication among participants and for God's leadership in all decisions.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ASHLAND**—Rose Hill Church will hold revival services Oct. 22-25 with **Sid Nichols** of Alabama as evangelist. **Ronnie Mayes** is pastor.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Jackson Grove Church will host **Still Water Quartet** from Hopkinsville in concert Oct. 28, 7 p.m. Activities will include a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (270) 843-1556.

■ **BUFFALO**—Buffalo Church will hold revival services Oct. 22, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Oct. 23-25, 7 p.m., with **Tommy Purvis**, pastor of DeHaven Church in La Grange, as evangelist. **Rodney Troutman** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Forks of Elkhorn Church will host the Southern gospel quartet **The Kingsmen** in concert Oct. 22, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (859) 873-1967. **Todd Lester** is pastor.

■ **GARRISON**—Grace Church will hold revival services Oct. 25-29, 7 p.m., with **Harry Brooks**, **Kevin Cornette** and **Gene Miracle** as evangelists. The church will celebrate homecoming Oct. 29 with an 11 a.m. service, noon fellowship meal and special singing at 1:30 p.m.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will hold revival services Oct. 22-25 with **Dan Garland**, pastor of Crestwood Church, as evangelist. For more information, call (270) 338-6160.

■ **HENDERSON**—First Church recently ordained **Jim Bryan** as a deacon.

New Hope Church recently called **Tom Hancock** as pastor.

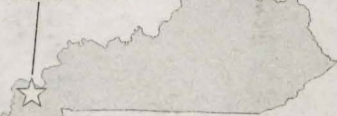
■ **JUNCTION CITY**—First Church recently ordained **Bob Denny** as a deacon.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Galloways** in concert Oct. 22, 7 p.m.

East Audubon Church will hold homecoming activities Oct. 22 from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spotlight on ...

Lancaster



Gilbert's Creek Church, the third oldest Kentucky Baptist congregation, will celebrate its 225th anniversary Nov. 5 with services at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. **Hamilton Valentine**, director of missions for Tates Creek Association, will be guest speaker.

Ralph Avenue Church will hold revival services Oct. 22, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Oct. 23-25, 7 p.m. with **Ronnie Pennington**, pastor of Kirksville Church in Richmond, as evangelist. **Terry Stallard** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Southside Church will host its 10th annual "Judgement House" drama Oct. 22-29, 6 p.m. This year's theme will focus on the issue of drug abuse. The program has attracted more than 3,000 guests each year, with more than 200 professions of faith recorded last year. For more information, call **Jackie Cannon** at (270) 365-5510.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church will hold revival services Oct. 22-25 with **Mike James** as evangelist. For more information, call (270) 726-2468. **Bruce Rendleman** is pastor.

■ **WALLINGFORD**—Foxport Church ordained **Dan Elliott**, **Paul Kirkland Sr.**, and **Jim Schumde** as deacons Sept. 17.

■ **WEST POINT**—Stites Station Church will hold revival services Oct. 22-26 with **Carson Howard** as evangelist. For more information, call (502) 922-9222. **Darrell Pool** is pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

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

November

3-4 Chaplaincy Training for Suicide Intervention, Baptist Building, Louisville.

3-4 International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

4 101 Workshop, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.

10-12 All State Jr. High Choir, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

10-12 Crossover, Bowling Green.

13 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

13 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

13 Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministry Association Fall Meeting, Bowling Green.

14-15 KBC Annual Meeting, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit www.kybaptist.org

South Korean delegation visits University of the Cumberlands

Williamsburg—Citing examples of how education turned the Republic of Korea's economy around and strengthened its democracy, Jin-Pyo Kim spoke at a convocation service Oct. 2 at the University of the Cumberlands.

Kim, a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, emphasized that his nation "has gone from poverty to an economic tiger through education."

Also during the service, university officials awarded an honorary doctorate of laws to Sung Soo Park, CEO of C & Tel Company, vice president of the Hotel Resort Society in Korea and board member of Korea's Food Service Management. Park was accompanied by former Baptist World Alliance President Billy Kim who served as Park's translator.

Kim's visit to University of the Cumberlands was the culmination of efforts by university officials to begin a Korean exchange program

at the Kentucky Baptist school. This fall, six Korean students enrolled at Cumberlands and plans are for American students to begin studies at a university in Seoul, Korea, next summer.

Kim told the convocation crowd that Korea has high quality primary and secondary school systems, adding that Korean students are among the world's top international students.

But Korea's universities lack global competitiveness, he added. Among the ways Kim suggested this could be changed is to implement a flexible school system supportive of lifelong learning and development.

Kim challenged students to "remember God is always right beside to lead and guide you, wherever you go."

Last year, Kim was awarded an honorary doctorate in public administration from University of the Cumberlands.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and children for First Baptist Church, Eddyville, Ky. Please send resumé by e-mail to eddyfirst@bell.south.net, or mail to Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 599, Eddyville, KY 42038.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister and a pianist. Send resumé to Grace Community Baptist Church, 7300 National Turnpike, Louisville, KY 40214; or e-mail to gcbc7300@peoplepc.com.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor to lead and serve south-central Kentucky church. Must be called of God, willing to work, willing to visit and interact with congregation and community to do God's will to facilitate physical and spiritual growth of church body. Send resumé/profile to Search Committee, Jackson Grove Baptist Church, c/o Lyndell Graven, 6299 Louisville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101-8409.

SEEKING: Director of missions for Severns Valley Association of Baptists. The deadline for submitting resumé has been extended until Oct. 31, 2006. Resumé already submitted will be retained. Please submit a cover letter, resumé and references to: DOM Search Committee, PO Box 541, Elizabethtown, KY 42702.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Brandenburg, Ky. Average Sunday school attendance: 170; worship: 275. Mail resumé to: Shirley Jones, 155 Meade Springs, Brandenburg, KY 40108.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for New Hope Baptist Church, a conservative, rural SB church in West Liberty, Ky. Parsonage provided. Contact Stephen Howard, 270 Ridgeview Court, West Liberty, KY 41472. (606) 743-7437.

SEEKING: Bivocational (part-time) youth director. Send resumé to Buena Vista Baptist Church, 324 Clifty St., Somerset, KY 42501; or bvbc@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music (18-25 hours/week) for Friendship Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky. Experience and seminary education are preferred. For a more detailed position description, visit our Web site at friendshipthenet.org. Resumé to Music Search Team, 146 S Friendship Road, Paducah, KY 42003; or Jason@friendshipthenet.org no later than Nov. 10.

SEEKING: Part-time worship leader for Alton Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Personnel Team, Alton Baptist Church, 1321 Bypass North, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister to lead tomorrow's future generation at Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church. If interested, please send resumé with cover letter to FCBC, 4695 Hardinsburg Road, Cecilia, KY 42724, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Sand Run Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky is seeking God's choice for a youth minister. Send resumé to PO Box 88, Hebron, KY 41048; or call the church office Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.: (859) 689-7110.

SEEKING: Payroll accountant (immediate need) for The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This position is responsible for the accurate and timely preparation of all seminary payrolls, resolution of payroll-related problems and questions, and the organization and maintenance of payroll records. This position requires an associate degree in accounting, at least two years of accounting experience and at least one year of payroll experience. The seminary offers a fast-paced, multi-tasking work environment, plus a competitive salary and benefits package. Qualified candidates should e-mail their resumé with cover letters and salary histories to: humanresources@sbs.edu.

SEEKING: Part-time interim student minister (20 hrs./wk). Please send resumé to: Immanuel Baptist Church, 800 Rhodes Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Student Minister Selection Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for blended/traditional worship in Corbin area. Mail resumé to: Calvary Baptist Church, 96 Calvary Church Road, Corbin, KY 40701. Phone: (606) 523-0696.

SEEKING: Pastor of student ministries. Growing church (average: 2,000) seeks a leader/teacher passionate about reaching students to serve on a staff that has a clear vision and strategy. Resumé to: Danny Bennett, Calvary Baptist, 110 N McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759; or e-mail: dbennett@calvarybaptist.org.

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

SURVEY: Pastor search committee members (current and recent), please take confidential online survey to help SBC pastor with PhD research. For username and password, contact info@southernbaptistresearch.com.

Major League missionary

Facing tantrums & heckling, one of baseball's top umpires strives to reflect Christ

By Tim Ellsworth
Baptist Press

St. Louis (BP)—Major League umpire Ted Barrett, who worked last week's National League Division Series between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Mets, doesn't find too many players or managers willing to mess with him when they disagree with a call.

For one thing, at 6-foot-4 and 250 pounds, Barrett is bigger than most guys on the field. He also is a former amateur boxer. Add that to Barrett's size, and you get an umpire from whom players would just as soon steer clear.

"He's a Golden Glove boxer, so don't get in his face," St. Louis Cardinals first base coach Dave McKay said of Barrett.

But despite the apparent barriers, Barrett is approachable. In a Sports Illustrated poll conducted this year of 470 Major League players, Barrett tied for third as the best umpire in the game. Maybe that's because of the way he goes about his job.

Being fair, but no pushover

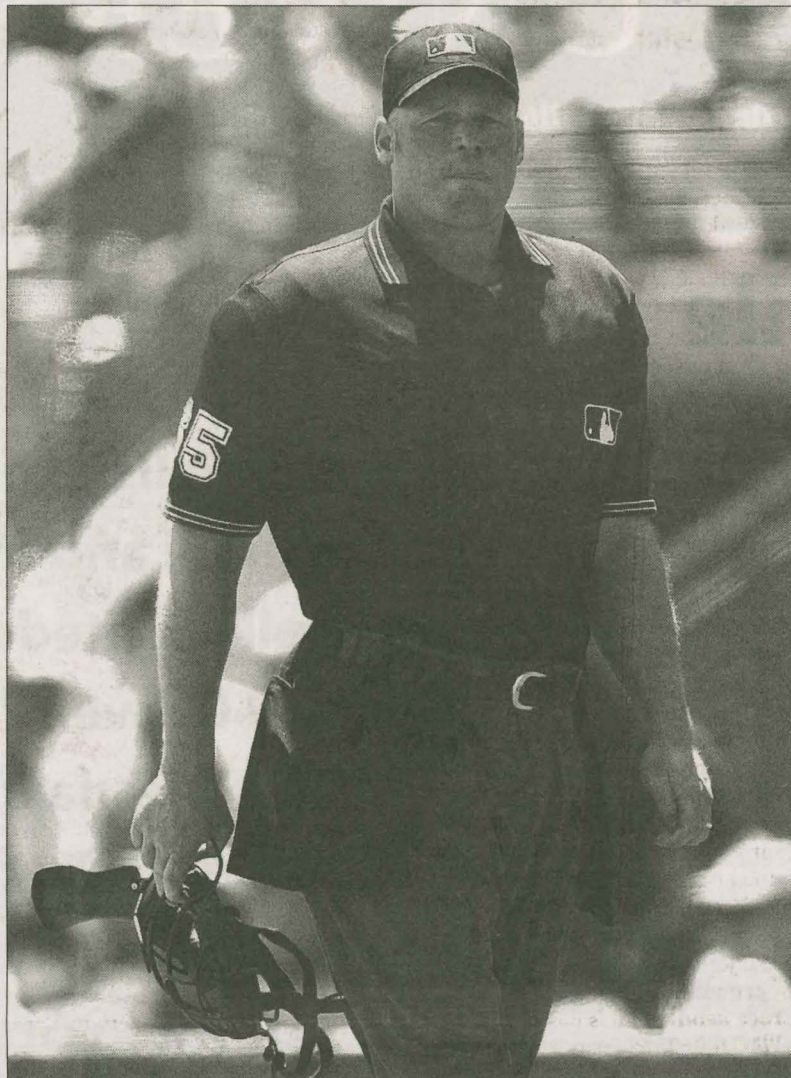
"You don't want to be perceived as weak," Barrett said. "The players see me, and I try to laugh and smile on the field a lot, and I enjoy my job. But I don't want to be perceived as 'Here's somebody we can just run over.'"

Or, what Barrett hopes even more, is that the characteristics of Christ are shining forth through his life, attracting others and pointing them to God. As he matures as a Christian, Barrett often finds himself acting in ways that run counter to the umpiring culture.

"Even though I was a Christian in the minor leagues, I wasn't trying to be Christ-like. I was trying to be umpire-like," Barrett said. "I realized I needed to start living this too, not just in my life, but in my work. It bends everything that's been in the tradition of umpiring for 100 years."

Barrett pointed to forgiveness as an example. Most umpires try to keep a healthy distance between themselves and the players, even when a player or coach tries to apologize for his behavior.

Barrett remembers an encounter



SLOW TO ANGER At 6'4" and 250 pounds, Ted Barrett strikes an imposing figure on the baseball field, but he said he has learned that his greatest influence comes from interjecting kindness in between the tough calls. (MLB photo by Brad Mangin)

he had with Doug Mansolino, now the third base coach for the Houston Astros. At the time, Mansolino was the bench coach for the Detroit Tigers, and Barrett ejected him from a game for his behavior.

The next day, Barrett was working third base, where Lance Parrish was the third base coach. "Doug wanted me to tell you he's sorry," Parrish told Barrett.

Barrett said that's a tactic players and coaches often employ—apologizing by proxy. He's not crazy about the practice, and he nearly told Parrish what he thought about it.

"Right away I was about to come back and say, 'Tell Doug to come

and tell me himself. Tell him to stick it,'" Barrett said. "But in my mind, I think God was just laying it on me, saying, 'I've forgiven you of so much. You need to forgive.'"

Barrett told Parrish to relay a message to Mansolino: "Tell him I forgive him."

Mike Port, MLB's vice president of umpiring, said the qualities of tolerance, dignity, knowledge, ability and diplomatic control are necessary to excel in the job.

"While Major League Baseball is fortunate to have a great number of umpires who fit that profile, certainly Ted Barrett is right up there in those respects," Port said. "He is now a 10-year veteran, and yet seems

to keep right on improving, which is no surprise given the pride he takes in his work. To say he is respected by his peers is an understatement. ... Many look up to him as an example."

Of the 26 weeks of the baseball season, Barrett works 22 of them. He gets four weeks of vacation, and sometimes his children will make trips with him while he's working. During the season, the time away from his family is difficult for Barrett. He and his wife of 18 years, Tina, have three kids—Andrew, 15; Amanda, 13; and Adam, 11.

'Don't you laugh'

Most people involved in baseball agree that umpiring is a thankless job. Everybody—players, managers, fans—expects perfection. Get every call right, and few will notice. Miss a call—especially a game-changing call—and get death threats. But the job isn't without its lighter moments, Barrett said.

He recalled when Terry Collins was managing the Angels and came out to argue a call.

"Ted, I've gotta get run," Collins told Barrett, indicating he wanted to get ejected from the game. "Will you run me?"

"Yeah, OK," Barrett replied.

"I'm gonna throw my hat, and then you can run me," Collins said.

Then Collins started yelling and making a scene. "I've got this player over here, and he quit on me," Collins griped. "My third base coach thinks he's the manager. These fans are all over me."

All the while Collins is waving his arms and raising a ruckus, Barrett started to chuckle. "Don't you laugh," Collins said in Barrett's face. "Don't you laugh. If you laugh, they'll know what I'm doing."

Whatever the situation, Barrett said his goal is to communicate the gospel to his colleagues by the way he conducts himself.

"If I can have an attitude that's reflective of Christ and trying to be obedient to Him, I think that speaks volumes to the people I work with," Barrett said. "The reputation I strive for is, 'He's a good guy, but we don't want to mess with him.' That would be the ultimate compliment a player could give me."

Off the field, Barrett preaches, leads Bible studies at Arizona church

Gilbert, Ariz. (BP)—For a biblical parallel to Major League umpire Ted Barrett, his pastor thinks of Barnabas.

"Ted has got the most encouraging, relational approach to people," said Bill Bush, pastor of Rock Point Church in Gilbert, Ariz. "He's everybody's friend."

Barrett has been involved with Rock Point Church since it was a new church plant of only five families. Today, about 1,500 people attend each Sunday.

"It's been great for me, because obviously I'm gone during the season, but when I come back each year I've plugged into a different area," Barrett said.

Sometimes he preaches. Sometimes he leads small groups. A master's degree in theology (with a doctorate in theology in progress) helps with that.

Whatever his role, Barrett's connection with his home church is important—because his job as an umpire is more to him than just a profession. It's also a ministry.

As Barrett made his way up through the minor leagues, he couldn't help but notice the debased life many minor league umpires lived.

"It's Sodom and Gomorrah," Barrett said. "Coming through the minor leagues, it's drink as much as you can. It's a hard life."

He said most guys stayed up all night drinking and partying, slept all day, got up at 4 p.m. and went to work, then did it again.

Barrett quickly sensed that he could make a difference among his fellow umpires. "God's got me here for a reason," he reflected.

He and Rob Drake, an umpiring friend of Barrett's, eventually started "Calling for Christ," a Bible study retreat in December for umpires. Their focus isn't strictly on umpires in the big leagues; they want to minister to umpires in the minor leagues as well.

When he retires from his job as an umpire, Barrett envisions traveling around the country in an RV

visiting minor league ballparks so he can spend time with the minor league umpires, encouraging them in their job and sharing the gospel.

For now, however, Barrett's task is in the big leagues. He tries to be a witness to his fellow umpires, as well as to players and coaches. Some might consider him to be an umpire who's a Christian.

His pastor, however, considers him to be a minister who's also an umpire. Every year, as Barrett prepares for another season on the road, his church family prays over him and commissions him.

"We consider him a missionary," Bush said. "He's our missionary to the Major Leagues."

"It bends everything that's been in the tradition of umpiring for 100 years."

Ted Barrett on adopting a Christ-like attitude in the high-emotion career of major league umpiring.



"HERE FOR A REASON" Major League Baseball umpire Ted Barrett and a peer started "Calling for Christ," a Bible study retreat held in December for umpires. (BP photo by Tim Ellsworth)

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Thursday, Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m.
at Campbellsville Baptist Church

The concert will be free as a part of Campbellsville University's Centennial gift to the community. However, tickets should be reserved.

Kate Campbell presents a wonderful blend of Southern musical styles, and her music includes the issues of civil rights, social justice, and the Christian experience. You may learn more about Kate Campbell's music on her website at www.katecampbell.com



*Reserve
by calling
270.789.5161*

In support of Campbellsville University, alumni and friends are cordially invited to attend the Annual Convention Breakfast Wednesday, Nov. 15 7:00 a.m. CST at Holiday Inn University Plaza Bowling Green, Ky. (1021 Wilkinson Trace)

The breakfast is free, but reservations are requested and may be made by calling 1.800.264.6014 ext. 5211, or via e-mail at development@campbellsville.edu.



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