



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
"New Baptist Covenant" organizers exclude gay-friendly Baptist groups. *Page 2.*

Financial Forum
Don't allow debt trap to rob you of financial freedom. *Page 4.*

Editorial
Places in the heart—from Hawaii to heaven. *Page 5.*



Kentucky
Mountain Outreach makes ministry impact in Eastern Kentucky. *Page 6.*

Disaster relief
Electricians and plumbers needed for New Orleans rebuilding effort. *Page 6.*

Ministry
Organizers plan inaugural Children's Ministry Day for 2008. *Page 9.*

Girl's chastity ring violates school policy, court rules

London (RNS)—A British court has rejected a teenage girl's request that she be permitted to wear a chastity ring to school as a symbol of her Christian faith.

The High Court in London on July 16, denied a claim by 16-year-old Lydia Playfoot that her "purity ring" was a "religious artifact." The court ruled instead that it was a "piece of jewelry" and she has "other means ... to practice her belief."

The decision supports a ban imposed by the Milais School in Horsham, England, which says that wearing rings violates the institution's dress code.

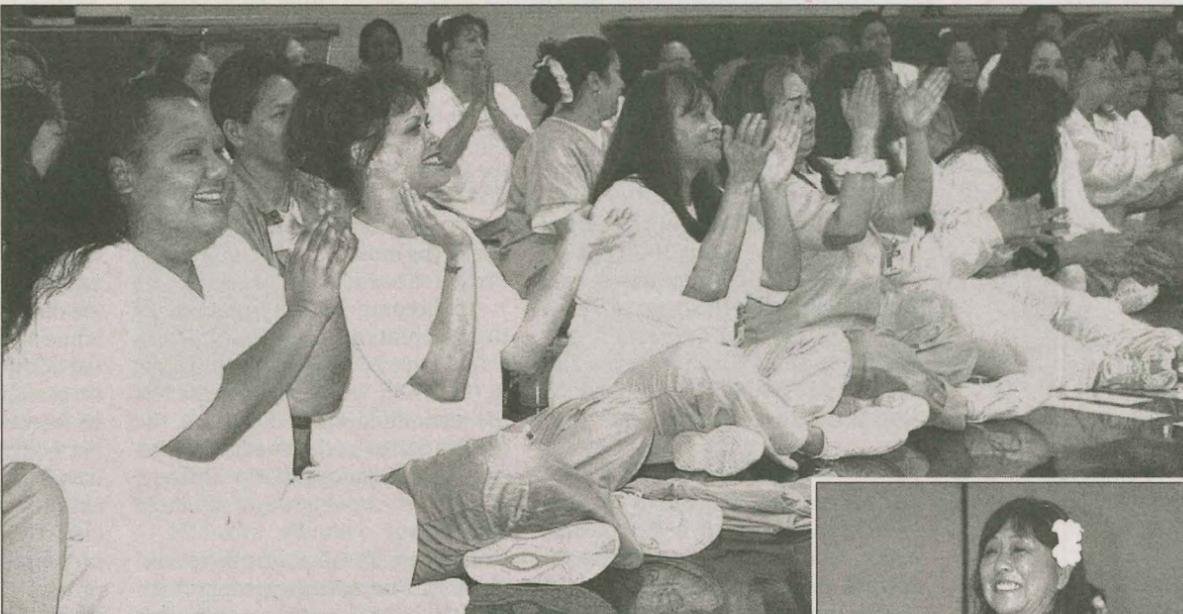
The ring stems from the "Silver Ring Thing" movement in the U.S., in which teens are encouraged to wear the ring to symbolize their pledge to refrain from premarital sex.

Playfoot's lawyers argued that the school allowed Muslim and Sikh students to don headscarves and religious bangles and bracelets, and that her chastity ring should be regarded as a genuine religious symbol.

But the court found that she "was under no obligation, by reason of her belief, to wear the ring" and that the school's ban was "fully justified."

Playfoot said in a statement that the court's decision "will mean that slowly, over time, people such as school governors, employers, political organizations and others will be allowed to stop Christians from publicly expressing and practicing their faith."

'Hawaii still loves us'



Above: Women from Hawaii incarcerated at Otter Creek Correctional Center in Floyd County applaud following a performance by Master's Touch, the hula ministry of Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu. **Right:** Ethel Kubo, who teaches the traditional Hawaiian dances to fellow members of the group, performs for inmates. In addition to recorded Christian music, the group danced to vocals provided by Randy Hongo, who with his wife, Gay, made the recent trip to Kentucky as part of the 25th anniversary of their music ministry, Christian Vision. Randy Hongo is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. (Photos by Dannah Prather)

Members of Baptist hula ministry visit island inmates serving time in Kentucky

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Wheelwright—The distance from Hawaii to Kentucky can be measured in more than miles. Honolulu and Wheelwright are separated by time zones, dialects, climate, vocabulary, customs, music and more; in short: they are worlds apart.

Recently, the chasm separating those worlds closed briefly as a group of Hawaii Baptists visited the

Otter Creek Correctional Center in Floyd County. Members of Master's Touch, the hula ministry of Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu, made the trip to minister to the 174 women from Hawaii incarcerated there because of overcrowded prisons at home.

"We wanted to bring you a taste and touch and love from Hawaii," Ethel Kubo, a member of the group, See 'Hawaii still loves us' ... *Page 3*



Blume challenges girls to live 'amazing life' on mission with God

Kansas City, Mo.—More than 3,000 teenage girls, collegiate young women, and leaders—including more than 240 from Kentucky—were challenged July 10-13 to live "The Amazing Life" during Blume, sponsored by national Woman's Missionary Union.

Blume, formerly known as the National Acteens Convention, is a national missions event held every four to five years.

Chelsea Ballou, a member of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, was one of eight National Acteens Panelists who shared words of prayer and challenge with participants throughout the four-day event.

LaRaine Dail, Kentucky WMU's youth/college consultant, said Ballou "represented Kentucky well," noting that "she displayed a true servant's spirit and a humble attitude."

Affirming that "there was a strong group of girls from Kentucky" at Blume, Dail added, "It was

great fun to take a group and see it through their eyes."

Keynote speaker Clella Lee of Fayetteville, N.C., used an analogy of TV reality show "The Amazing Race," and asked the girls to consider what is necessary to live "The Amazing Life." Her answer, developed over five sessions, was to live out Luke 10:27 in which Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind. And, love your neighbor as yourself."

More than 80 girls responded to a public invitation, including 10 who made professions of faith in Christ and 26 who indicated God was leading them into missions as a life direction.

Girls were given an opportunity to put their faith into action by learning about and supporting five different ministries—Blood:Water Mission in Africa, Beginning of Life Foundation in Moldova, The Ricks



HANDS-ON SUPPORT Rebekah Evans (left) of Clay City and Jana Edmonson of Frenchburg write "encouragements" to North American missionaries.

Institute in Liberia, Locks of Love, and a ministry in Jordan that helps Arab women. Participants responded by donating more than \$45,000 to the various ministries.

In the "Welcome to Moldova" exhibit, girls wound their way through a maze, their path based on tough life decisions presented at each doorway. The exhibit was designed to help the girls understand how

thousands of girls in Moldova become enslaved by human trafficking, and how the Beginning of Life Foundation can help rescue them. At the end of the maze, participants were encouraged to write a prayer for girls in Moldova and add it to a prayer chain made of paper links.

In the Locks of Love salon, 120 girls donated their hair to be made into hairpieces for children with long-term medical hair loss.

Shea Arnold, 14, of Bethel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, was among five members of her group who donated hair to Locks of Love.

"It's soooo short!" Arnold exclaimed, after 11 inches of her long brown hair were bound into seven ponytails, cut and placed in a plastic ziplock bag.

"It's short, but I like it," she declared, "and it's going to a good thing."

The next Blume will be held in the summer of 2011 in Orlando.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Aug. 1.

'New Covenant' excludes gay-friendly groups

Falls Church, Va. (ABP)—The organization sponsoring an upcoming pan-Baptist gathering has told two gay-friendly Baptist groups they cannot participate in an official capacity.

The North American Baptist Fellowship, under whose auspices next year's "Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant" is being held, has informed the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists and the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America that they cannot join NABF. Therefore, they cannot be official participants in the event.

"This is not a rejection of either organization or the people in those organizations," wrote Alan Stanford, general secretary of the NABF, in a July 18 e-mail alerting leaders of the two groups about NABF's decision. "It is a recognition that we cannot hold together the large coalition of Baptists needed to create a new Baptist voice in North America and address the issue of sexual orientation at the same time."

Diverse group cites common goals

The event is scheduled for early 2008 in Atlanta. It is designed to bring together as many different Baptist denominational bodies in North America as possible. Organizers—who include former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton—have

said they hope to unite an ideologically diverse array of Baptists around the common causes of promoting evangelism, fighting poverty and supporting religious freedom.

But Ken Pennings, executive director of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, said organizers are ignoring one of the biggest social-justice issues by avoiding the controversial topic of sexuality and the church.

"This sort of thing ought not to go on in Christ's church," he said in an e-mail responding to Stanford. "Here we are at a critical juncture when Baptists of all stripes are coming together to take a strong stand for justice for all of God's children, and the very people in American society being scapegoated and marginalized the most ... are not going to be invited to participate."

To become official sponsors of the celebration, the organizations would have had to become affiliates of the NABF, which is comprised of the denominational bodies in the United States and Canada that belong to the Baptist World Alliance, as well as those groups affiliated with them.

In a July 24 telephone interview, Stanford said inviting groups with explicitly pro-gay stances—AWAB is made up of gay-friendly congregations and BPFNA counts support-

ing gay rights as a justice issue—would imply changing the terms of the meeting. That could cause an already fragile coalition to unravel, he said.

"We agreed that we would focus on those things that there was broad agreement about, and there is not broad agreement on this subject," Stanford said.

But Pennings said such an attitude betrays the purpose and name of the celebration itself. "This really is more like the Old Covenant than the New Covenant," he said. "Why would we want to participate in this? There's nothing new about this; it's the same old exclusion."

SBC leaders maintain opposition

The criticism of the event from the left is new, but organizers of the celebration have already received extensive criticism from the right. Some leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention—also not invited to participate in an official capacity because it is no longer a member body of the NABF or the BWA—have characterized the event as excluding conservatives. Others have cited Carter's and Clinton's involvement in the event as a way to drum up Baptist support for Democrats, even though organizers have also enlisted prominent Baptist Republicans as speakers.

Collaborative blog gains support from top denominational leaders

New York (ABP)—In a ringing show of support, several prominent Baptist leaders have publicly endorsed a collaborative blog operated by reform-minded pastors within the Southern Baptist Convention.

The endorsers include the presidents of three SBC entities and a college president—Morris Chapman, president of the SBC's Executive Committee; Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources; Jerry Rankin, president of the SBC's International Mission Board; and David Dockery, president of Union University.

All four have posted messages of support for SBCOutpost.com. The weblog, previously run by Georgia pastor Marty Duren, relaunched in June as a collaborative site with the goal of becoming the "premier site for Southern Baptist news and commentary."

Participating writers include several well-known bloggers who recently announced they would quit writing about the SBC on their respective personal weblogs.

All of the bloggers are conservatives and have been involved in efforts to reform the SBC, which many of them say has become too narrow in recent years.

A controversy over new IMB trustee policies triggered the Baptist blogging revolution in 2006.

In his statement, Rankin said he appreciated the "vision for the new direction" of the site and called the blog a "significant channel of communication (that) can serve Southern Baptists."

Rankin also praised "candid exposure of denominational policies and developments" that hold leaders to accountability and integrity.

"Informed people are better equipped to respond appropriately to contemporary issues," Rankin added.

Chapman, the SBC's chief executive, has repeatedly called for more openness and less bickering among SBC leaders. Citing the benefits of "open" writing as well, Chapman said he is "encouraged" by the SBC-Outpost contributors' stated intentions to "tone down personal criticisms of those who have differing views."

"Whether you agree or disagree with any particular opinion expressed by Outpost bloggers, their open and straightforward style of writing gives insight into their own thinking while often challenging the reader with views that otherwise might remain unspoken and thus unheard," Chapman said.

Dockery and Rainer also emphasized that the site should be a "positive" outlet and a "tool ... to open doors of communication."

The site is noteworthy not because the articles and comments are always right, Dockery said, but because "significant issues are addressed in a well-informed, and often challenging, manner."

For their part, regular contributors to SBCOutpost.com have said they are pleased with the results of their endeavor, which has received more than 72,500 viewers to date.

"We have enjoyed watching as we have encouraged dialogue from individuals on every inhabited continent on this globe," they wrote on the blog. "We have been more than satisfied as discussion has occurred in earnest concerning some of the more significant issues which the SBC is facing currently."

SBC president assesses ministry needs in Africa

By Clinton Wolf
Baptist Press

Kenya, Africa (BP)—Hours from any city, traveling on roads he described as "horrible," Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page recently saw firsthand how Southern Baptist representatives are partnering to provide clean drinking water to a remote, nomadic people in northern Kenya.

"It was great to see the hands-on ministry and the relationships that are developing out of that," Page said. "They are a people in need of the Lord and the gospel, and meeting human needs is a great entree for that."

Two International Mission Board regions—the West Africa region and the Central, Eastern and Southern Africa region—are working together to mobilize young adult Southern Baptists to address spiritual and physical needs across the continent of Africa. Still in the development stages, the program is set to be unveiled at LifeWay's Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Centers this summer, with the first wave of volunteers reaching Africa in January.

"I see the 20-something generation as integral to reaching the world," Page said. "If we do not find strategies that involve them, we will not fulfill the Great Commission."

"A cup of cold water"

Page, who visited Kenya in mid-July, drew a parallel between work being done in Kenya among nomads and the millennium generation's desire to meet both physical and spiritual needs.

"They want to minister to the whole person," he said. "Well, if you talk about offering a cup of cold water in Jesus' name—that's exactly what they are doing here."

While there has been some Catholic and Muslim influence in the area, evangelical work is virtually nonexistent.

"It was by far the most isolated place I've ever seen in the world," Page said, noting the group's separation even from other nomadic tribes. The area is spiritually dark, he added.

"They don't even know the questions to ask," he said. "They've been living in darkness so long they don't know how to turn to the light. They don't know where to turn or who to turn to."

It might be possible, Page said, for Baptist medical and dental teams to play a role, but it will be necessary to establish an ongoing supportive presence in the area to be effective. Establishing that presence will be Southern Baptists' greatest challenge, given the area's harsh, arid climate, he added.

BAPTIST DIGEST

Missouri Baptists continue legal wrangling. The Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Board has abandoned its contention that trustees of five institutions acted illegally when they changed their charters to elect their own board members. Convention lawyers agreed at a July 18 hearing that agency trustees have the power to act for their individual corporations, but those actions cannot abrogate the convention's rights. The hearing was the latest round in legal action the MBC brought against Windermere Baptist Conference Center, The Baptist Home, Missouri Baptist University, the Missouri Baptist Foundation and Word & Way in August 2002. The convention now contends the entities breached a contract. Attorneys for the entities argued the MBC does not have standing to bring the lawsuit since it is not a member of the individual corporations. Cole County Circuit Court Judge Richard Callahan will meet with attorneys Aug. 3 to issue a formal order on the July 18 hearing. The first jury trial in the case, with Windermere as the defendant, is set for Oct. 15-19.

Odom to head Duke leadership initiative. A Baptist expert in encouraging congregational health is moving from a company he founded to a new initiative at Duke University Divinity School. David Odom, who founded the Center for Congregational Health, will become executive director of a program tentatively called "Leadership Education @ Duke Divinity." The initiative is part of a plan to develop leaders in Christian institutions. According to Marinn Bengel, chair of the Center for Congregational Health's board, Odom's new position will involve work with large-scale entities such as seminaries, foundations and denominations.

LifeWay campaign receives \$1 million pledge. LifeWay Christian Resources' \$29 million philanthropic campaign, "A Defining Moment," has received a \$1 million pledge from the Carolina Legacy Trust. The pledge, announced by LifeWay President Thom Rainer, will be fulfilled in \$200,000 annual payments over a five-year period by the Travelers Rest, S.C.-based trust, which focuses on ministry and mission causes locally and internationally. The Defining Moment campaign is designed to help LifeWay and strategic partners such as the Southern Baptist International Mission Board impact the nations for Christ through a variety of global ministries. Earlier this year, True Love Waits International received \$950,000 through major donations to the campaign, enabling True Love Waits to begin expanding its abstinence-until-marriage message in six African countries.

'Hawaii still loves us'

Members of Baptist hula ministry visit island inmates serving time in Kentucky

Continued from page 1

told inmates. Master's Touch and Christian musician Randy Hongo shared authentic Hawaiian gifts, songs and dances with the entire Otter Creek population and its staff. On the second day, they spent a few more hours with the island inmates.

"It means so much to know that Hawaii still loves us," said inmate Jennifer Edwards, "to know that they care for us and are praying for us."

Tour makes a detour

When Master's Touch planned its Kentucky/Illinois tour with Christian musicians Randy and Gay Hongo, they did not intend to make a two-day trip to Eastern Kentucky. Then, a member of the group saw a news report on a Honolulu TV station that referenced the inmates from Hawaii serving time in Kentucky. The tour



CHRISTIAN MUSIC PIONEERS Randy and Gay Hongo sing a selection from their repertoire of Christian music with a Hawaiian flair at a Kentucky Baptist Building chapel service. The couple embarked on a music ministry 25 years ago. Six of their 14 recordings have won Na Hoku Hanohano Awards for inspirational album of the year. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

took a new direction.

"A four-and-a-half-hour drive (from Louisville) was too close to miss," said Kubo, who teaches the traditional Hawaiian dances to fellow members of Master's Touch.

In addition to music and dance, visitors brought thousands of homemade chocolate chip/macadamia nut cookies and a dendrobium orchid for each inmate and staff.

Each member of the prison hula group received a skirt. Some of the skirts were donated by a professional hula instructor. Kubo and church volunteers made the rest.

More than the gifts, or even the music and dance, inmates said the visitors provided a connection back to their far-away homes.

"It brought tears to my eyes," Janelle Arias said, noting that most members of Master's Touch shed tears while they were there. "Our families cry to see us," Arias said, "but they cry for us, too. They're beautiful people."

Hawaii being incarcerating a percentage of its prison population on the mainland 12 years ago, according to Howard Komori, a supervisor with the state department of public safety. He said currently there are about 2,000 Hawaiian inmates on the mainland.

Inmates Lynn Larson and Dalina Perez remember the day they came to Wheelwright. They recall the bus maneuvering a narrow, unstriped road curving in and out of tiny communities, their yard-less houses backed up against steep, iced mountains. "I was scared," Larson said. "The houses were so close to the road."

The weather was a shock. "It was



December," Perez said. "It snowed the first two days we were here." In Honolulu, 50 degrees would be a record low for December.

Although everyone speaks English at the Otter Creek facility, Larson said there have been times when staff and inmates alike seemed to need interpreters. "At first it was hard to understand the staff," she said, referencing the locals' Eastern Kentucky accent. She said she felt as though she constantly was asking people to repeat themselves.

"It's been a learning experience," Komori said, noting that current and previous governors have pledged to build a new prison in Hawaii, "but there is no community willing to have one in their own back yard."

Recently, Corrections Corporation of America, the firm that runs Otter Creek, opened a facility in Ari-

zona that eventually will house all of Hawaii's mainland inmates.

The facility features improved technology for prisoners communicating with family on the island, Komori said. The new system "allows inmates a crisper image and to hear voices better." Currently prisoners have "video visits" with family once a month. Komori said the schedule is increasing to twice each month.

Some inmates mature on mainland

Acknowledging the pain inmates experience being far from home, Komori said time on the mainland provides some advantages.

"They focus more on their (rehabilitation) programs," Komori said. The prison provides substance abuse counseling, anger management, parenting classes and other initiatives to try to prevent an inmate from re-offending.

"From what we've seen from our office," Komori said, "when they come back, basically, they've grown up."

Randy Hagans, Otter Creek's chaplain, said separation from the familiar gives some inmates their first opportunity "to stand on their own two feet." What's more, "a bunch of them start turning to God," he said.

Previously, Otter Creek was a minimum-security prison for men, said Hagans, who has served there nine years. When it changed to a medium to high-security prison for women—and then introduced the Hawaiian inmates—Hagans said he saw interest in the things of God skyrocket. "Worship attendance has doubled," he said.

Today he works with a team of 48 volunteers providing Bible study, worship services and other activities for inmates. Most volunteers, he noted, travel more than an hour to get to the facility.

In addition to spiritual interest, many inmates find a new, or renewed, interest in Hawaiian culture, Komori said, citing Otter Creek's hula group as an example.

"Inmates incarcerated here on the islands don't have a cultural group," he noted. "Only since our inmates have been going off the islands has there been a need to find out more about their culture."

ALOHA Etsuko Oshiro hands an inmate a bag of dried mango and other authentic Hawaiian treats at the close of a two-day visit by the Hawaii Baptist to a Floyd County prison. An army of volunteers in Hawaii baked thousands of chocolate chip/macadamia nut cookies; provided 750 dendrobium orchids so each inmate and prison staffer would have an authentic tropical flower, and donated devotional CDs, and other gifts to remind inmates of the love of Christ. (Photo by Dannah Prather)



TRYING IT OUT Kimberly Molena, a member of the inmate hula group at Otter Creek Correctional Center in Wheelwright, dances for the first time in a skirt given to her by Master's Touch, the hula ministry of Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu. Church volunteers and a professional hula instructor made or donated skirts for each member of the prison group. Before the skirts were shipped, church members prayed over each garment as a way to intercede specifically for the woman who would wear it. (Photo by Dannah Prather)



UNIQUE PRAISE Danette Kong Poole (right) and Audrey Mizushima worship through hula during a recent chapel service at the Baptist Building in Louisville. In addition to the two-day event at Otter Creek Correctional Center, Master's Touch, with Christian musicians Randy and Gay Hongo, offered concerts at churches in Campbellsville, Frankfort, Harrodsburg, Louisville, Nicholasville and Shelbyville. Several impromptu performances arose in private residences, a nursing home and even a Krispy Kreme Doughnuts shop. Poole is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Her late father, Dan Kong, was the first Hawaiian-born pastor of a Southern Baptist church in Hawaii. He also served as executive director of the Hawaii Baptist Convention, and was president of Hawaii Baptist Academy. A graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary, Dan Kong was the first pastor of Shakertown Baptist Church in Harrodsburg. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

WESTERNRECORDER

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News DirectorTHOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business
Manager**Earnestly contend for
the faith which was once
for all delivered to the
saints.—Jude 3**

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Letting go of the love of money

By Judy Woodward Bates

Dora, Ala. (BP)—I don't think there's a Baptist alive who hasn't heard Hebrews 13:5: "I will never leave you or forsake you." But that's actually only the last eight words of that verse. How many of us know the entire passage?

"Your life should be free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for He Himself has said, I will never leave you or forsake you."

Why should our life be free from the love of money? Because Jesus Christ, who "will never leave you or forsake you," is sufficient. Why should we be satisfied with what we have? Because He who "will never leave you or forsake you" is our Provider.

Are we free from the love of money? A survey done a few years ago by the Barna Group compared churchgoers with unchurched people and found varying degrees of differences in their responses to a number of situations. For example, 62 percent of unchurched people said they would go out of their way to speak a kind word to someone who appeared to need encouragement. A more im-

pressive 79 percent of churchgoing respondents said they would offer encouragement.

But when it came to people opening their wallets, here's what the survey found: "There was no discernible difference" between the unchurched and churchgoers "in their likelihood of giving money to a poor person whom they met."

Another recent Barna survey showed that 16 percent of those who claim to be born-again Christians give nothing to their church over the course of an entire church year. Zip. Zero. Zilch. Cut that percentage in half and you'll find the percentage of believers who actually tithe their income—8 percent.

Seems to me that those statistics speak loudly—we have a major problem with the love of money. Which leads right into the next portion of Hebrews 13:5: "Be satisfied with what you have." We aren't doing too good on that point, either.

Despite what the Bible teaches, despite the sadness and misery we see in the lives of many fabulously wealthy celebrities, we still think that having a little more "stuff" is going to make all the difference in

COMMENTARY**Women's top priorities**

I'm responding to the recent letter regarding the new programs for women at our seminaries.

First, while a few ministerial roles are reserved for men, I'm certain all would agree that if we removed women from their places of service, our nation's churches would face a crisis.

To say our seminaries are trying to remove women from all ministerial roles is a gross misstatement. Furthermore, I'm personally insulted to see the God-ordained role as wife and mother reduced to a "calling to maid service and meal preparation." I don't know of any Chris-

tian woman who doesn't desire to keep a presentable home. If our seminaries will encourage this and teach skills to help fulfill this desire, then I would like to sign up.

The letter complained about a doctrinal statement claiming a wife has "the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household." Unfortunately, the writer is complaining to the wrong source. The source of this dictum is not Paige Patterson or anyone else in the SBC; it is indeed God Himself.

That statement does not imply that is woman's only responsibility. While this is the main priority

our own lives. But it's just not so.

A study published in a 2003 issue of Journal of Personality and Social Psychology concluded that people "live happier lives if they invest in experiences more than material possessions." Meaning what? Stuff won't make us happy; what we do with our lives, on the other hand, very well can.

Certainly, "stuff" can give us temporary happiness. But the single experience that's imperative even to begin to discover lasting joy and continual peace is a 100 percent commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. After all, He made us in His image (James 3:9); therefore, our fulfillment can only come from being like Him.

How do we accomplish this? By consciously refusing to feed our old fleshly selves and constantly choosing to keep "the new self" (Ephesians 4:24) growing and healthy and fed on the Word of God through regular worship, prayer and times of fellowship with other believers.

So here it is in a nutshell: When we seek to be like Jesus, our generosity will increase and the importance of material possessions will diminish.

Judy Woodward Bates is the author of "Blessedly Budgeted Women's Events"

for women, they are not prohibited from other roles of service to God. Some of those may well be in vocational ministry, provided they fall within scriptural guidelines.

Some love to criticize our seminaries, especially Southern, but I have deep gratitude for Mary Mohler and Virginia Walker and others at Southern's Seminary Wives' Institute. I will be eternally grateful for a seminary that chose to teach women how to make a Christian home.

If Baptists in our state just want more reasons to lash out against our seminaries, they need to think more logically about their complaints. This time, the arguments don't hold water.

Monica Hall
Lafayette, Ind.

Super Saturday training opportunities

Super Saturday has developed into a premier training conference for church leaders in Kentucky. With four dates and six different locations, church leaders have incredible opportunities for training within easy driving distance.

This year's Super Saturday events will be held Aug. 18 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Aug. 25 at First Baptist Church of Pikeville and First Baptist Church of Owensboro; Sept. 8 at First Baptist Church of Paducah and First Baptist Church of Somerset; and Sept. 15 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

There are 18 focus areas and more than 100 separate workshops to choose from. It seems to me that every area in church life has been included. I am very excited to see that the conference topics are addressing real needs in the local churches.

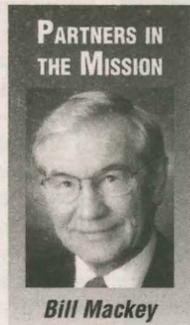
Thanks to our African-American leaders, a special track has been

planned especially to meet the needs of predominantly African-American congregations at the events in Lexington, Owensboro, Paducah and Elizabethtown. A special track for

Hispanic church leaders will also be offered at the Elizabethtown location and a special track for youth is being offered at all six locations.

The leaders of the workshops are people who have demonstrated success in their own areas of ministry. This training will help local churches reach and develop people more effectively and mobilize them in missions and evangelism locally and around the world.

I want to encourage church leaders to attend as many workshops as possible and to focus on the areas where your church has the greatest opportunities. If you can bring a group by van or bus with you, you'll have a ready-made opportunity to share and debrief with your group on the way home.

**STEWARDSHIP****Don't allow debt
trap to rob you of
financial freedom**

By Don Spencer

Debt continues to be one of the major financial problems for many people today. If you do not control debt, you become a slave to debt. You can never have financial freedom as long as you are a slave to debt.

Accumulating debt is so easy. You can get a five-year car loan and have a period of time when you owe more than the car is worth. Home equity loans make for easy debt. Pre-approved credit cards are much too easy to obtain.

Recently I've heard of people doing debt consolidation loans involving their mortgage and they end up owing up to 125 percent of their house value. This is bad financial planning and sets one up for a major financial disaster.

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

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

■ Buying on credit increases the cost of the items we purchase.

■ Buying on credit assumes one's future ability to repay the debt.

■ Buying on credit can create a bonded relationship to the lender—a relationship never to the advantage of the person borrowing.

■ Repaying debt can seriously lower your future lifestyle.

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

■ Excessive debt can damage your credit rating, restricting your ability to borrow in the future.

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

Use extreme caution in taking on debt. Avoid the debt trap and avoid being another statistic. You can never have financial freedom as long as you are a slave to debt.

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



Prepare early to help teens determine college choices

Q: How can we help our teenager begin early in making a good choice about where to attend college?

With more than 3,000 colleges and universities in the United States alone, there are a myriad of choices that face you and your student. The process of college selection is best begun at least two years before graduation from high school. Talk with your teenager about the following concerns:

PARENTING

Costs and financial considerations

■ What resources does your student/family have to commit to a college education?

■ How much financial aid/scholarships will likely be available to help?

■ Is your student willing to work to help offset the cost of attending school?

Proximity

■ How far from home would be acceptable for your student to go?

■ In what ways will distance add to or detract from your ability to visit or have your student come home?

Plans for housing

■ What type of housing is preferred (dorm, apartment, house)?

■ Will your student live off-campus or at home?

Anticipated career

■ Does your student already have a particular interest or chosen career path?

■ What schools specialize or excel in this area?

Size and type of college

■ How large a school would your student be comfortable attending?

■ How important is it that the school be explicitly Christian in its orientation?

Often these conversations are best stimulated by visits to various schools. Walking across a campus, talking with admissions personnel and individuals connected with various colleges can go a long way in helping young people and their families sort out the factors that are most important in choosing the right school.—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: My wife and I are newlyweds, but I worry that we could end up as statistics. There are so many divorces in our culture that I need some tips on how to build a foundation for success. Any pointers?

Focus on the goal. Want a healthy marriage? Learn to practice healthy marriage skills. You can gain skills from a good mentor, marriage education classes, and visits to a good marriage therapist.

MARRIAGE

What are some of those skills?

■ Don't assume your spouse will or should always do everything the way you would do it. You had two different sets of parents. A little realistic expectations go a long way.

■ PREPARE-ENRICH and you'll have lots of fodder for discussion and a safe coach to guide you through the process.

■ Find areas of agreement in subjects such as chores and money. Balance is key. In many areas of life it doesn't matter so much where you come down as much as that you have an agreement and understanding.

■ Learn how to manage conflict, rather than how to avoid it. Use "I" messages such as: "When you hold me, I feel loved."

■ Know what makes you happy. How is your spouse supposed to please you when you don't even know what you want? Practice curiosity and introspection so you know what your needs are. Books such as "The Five Love Languages" and "His Needs/Her Needs" can help get you started.

Marriage is a sprint; it is a marathon. Use these skills to give it a good pace and help you reach a positive destination.—*James Stillwell*

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 for Hardy Associates in Louisville. E-mail: dr.vincent@insightbb.com.

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

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



Places in the heart—from Hawaii to heaven

It's a story Eileen Mullins probably won't tire of telling anytime soon.

Eileen is plenty busy with Haven of Rest, a ministry that serves families of inmates at the federal prison near Inez. Still, a few years ago she felt God leading her 60 miles away, to Otter Creek Correctional Center in Wheelwright, a private prison for women.

It began with Christmas gifts for inmates and then blossomed into a Bible study that today is led by volunteers Dawn Reed and Tonya Parker.

As wonderful as these efforts are, Eileen would be the first to admit something still was missing for a group within the Otter Creek population—the inmates from Hawaii.

Yes, Hawaii.

When you think about it, the fact that our 50th state needs to incarcerate some of its public offenders on the mainland makes sense. Hawaii is, after all, a chain of islands with restrictions imposed by nature. And homeowners there demonstrate the same "not in my back yard" tendencies as we mainlanders do when it comes to the location of prisons, landfills, mental hospitals, even children's homes.

Eileen, even the 174 island inmates were easy to spot, and not just because many of them have the physical characteristics of native Hawaiians.

"Their faces were so sad," Eileen said. "I'd never seen such depression." Sure, no one expects prisoners to be giddy with joy, but Eileen said this sadness went deeper. "Lord, these ladies need something special," she prayed.

Watching the local news usually isn't a priority in Danette Poole's Honolulu home, but one day a story about Hawaii's prison system caught her eye. When the reporter "threw" the piece back to the studio, the anchor added that Kentucky was among the mainland states housing local inmates.

Just a few words tagged onto a story—perhaps only a good ad lib by the anchor to fill a few seconds before the commercial break. It could have been missed so easily.

When Master's Touch, the hula ministry of Olivet Baptist Church in Honolulu, recently came to Kentucky on tour with Christian musicians Randy and Gay Hongo, the two-day detour to Appalachia was a no-brainer.

It also would have been a no-brainer for Warden Joyce Arnold and her staff—after considering the list of details required to arrange two concerts, shuffle

schedules and staffing patterns, inspect gifts, escort guests, address confidentiality issues and more—to say "no." Instead, they seemed to understand how important the visit would be to the island inmates. I commend them for such insight.

As partnership editions editor of the Western Recorder, I work with six frontier-area Baptist conventions—including the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention—to produce their newspapers. The tour gave me the opportunity to meet some of the people making news in HPBC life.

I was blessed to have a front-row seat when they spent a few hours with the island inmates. Beside me was Eileen, all smiles at how God chose to answer her prayer.

The lyrics to one of Randy's songs, "Lord of the Islands," reference Hawaii landmarks. Inmates applauded and shouted when a city or island with special meaning to them was mentioned. Many also cried.

I was struck by the profound importance a place can have in our hearts. The inmates' response was the same many of us have when we attend a concert and the singer yells, "Good night, (your city name here)!" at the end of the show.

The draw of place compels us to claim complete strangers simply because they are from our hometown. With multi-generational ties to LaRue and Hardin counties, I always tell people that Abraham Lincoln was born there.

When I lived in Georgia, I recall making an acquaintance with a woman from Jellico, Tenn. When I commented that my family lived in Middlesboro until I was 9, she grabbed my arm, her eyes nearly filling, and said, "People don't understand, do they?"

I'm pretty sure she wasn't referencing our mountain accents—which probably sounded like breaking glass to ears accustomed to syrupy Deep South drawls.

Place is also that intangible that makes coming home after a trip so wonderful. As Randy, Eileen and the members of Master's Touch told the inmates about the love of Christ, and that He died to secure a permanent home for us with Him in heaven, I recalled another set of lyrics.

They are from the hymn, "Beulah Land," where the writer confesses he is homesick for a country to which he's never been. I pray that as the women of Otter Creek ponder the love that brought these saints from Hawaii, they catch that homesickness too.

GUEST EDITORIAL



Dannah Prather

Casinos in Kentucky would be bad business

By Donald Cole

Let me see if I have this right.

There are those who say letting Las Vegas-type casinos into Kentucky will keep us from having a tax increase. Seems that I have heard

that story before when they sold us the lottery. They say now that casinos will produce \$500 million for the state treasury. They said then that the lottery would provide all the money we would need for education. It did not happen.

Do you realize for casino gambling to produce \$500 million, citizens would have to gamble and lose \$1.7 billion? Let's break this down in terms we can understand. The revenue taken in by the casinos will be taxed. The above figures are based on a 30 percent tax rate. What that means is that every dollar you spend at the casino will be taxed 30 percent and sent to the state by the owners of the establishment. So in reality you have just increased your tax rate on dollars spent at the casino, assum-

ing you gamble at the casino, to 30 percent. Is this not a tax increase on those who gamble? That means for every dollar you spend, the state will get 30 cents. Yes, it is paid by the casino, but they pay the tax out of money you lose. So it is your money that is paying the tax.

So out of your dollar, you have spent 30 cents in taxes and 70 cents with nothing to show for it. You have no product to show for the money expended such as a new car, boat, furniture or even a home. No durable goods. And remember this: There are always more losers than winners. How else can the casino stay in business?

There will also be taxes passed on to all taxpayers, although not called a tax. As gambling will lead to broken homes, there will be bankruptcies, foreclosure on homes and a need for more law enforcement. We must also add in the court costs and attorneys' fees associated with all of the above problems.

The people who are promoting gambling say these things will not materialize. They will talk about the economic development and jobs.

Go to Indiana which has more gambling than we do and you will find that they are not experiencing a boom. Why do they want to sell their lottery to a foreign country? Why are some of the casinos not paying off as they had projected? Why are people being laid off from jobs if gambling is such a good investment? Why are businesses closing around the area that has casinos?

If gambling is good, why are states all across the country saying no to more gambling expansion? Go to your bankers and ask their opinion about expanded gambling. Ask the mortgage companies. Ask law enforcement officials in areas where there are casinos.

It seems that we are being sold a pig in a poke. We can no longer afford to feed at the trough of the gambling industry. It's bad business. It's bad for Kentucky.

Donald Cole is president of the Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems

Electricians and plumbers needed for relief efforts

Louisville—Operation NOAH Rebuild project coordinators are calling for electricians and plumbers throughout Kentucky to help meet the critical need for skilled workers in the New Orleans relief effort.

Operation NOAH (New Orleans Area Homes) Rebuild is a Southern Baptist volunteer project seeking to rehabilitate more than 1,000 homes and 20 churches destroyed in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina in the New Orleans area.

While there is an ongoing need for volunteers with various skills, the demand for electricians and plumbers is especially high right now, said Lew Cook, project coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Operation NOAH Rebuild effort.

"Because we don't have enough of these types of people, many projects are on hold until the electric and plumbing can be done," Cook said. "The need for workers is as great as ever."

Throughout the year, hundreds of Kentucky Baptist participants have traveled to New Orleans to aid the recovery effort. Operation NOAH Rebuild will continue at least through next year.

Operation NOAH Rebuild divides the New Orleans area into 27 zones with churches, associations and state conventions from across the nation partnering to work in specific zones. The KBC is working in Zone 4, which encompasses areas that sustained some of the heaviest damage when levees broke in the wake of the Category 5 hurricane.

Individuals interested in helping can contact the Operation NOAH Rebuild office at (504) 362-4604.

Mountain Outreach makes ministry impact in Eastern Ky.

Williamsburg—It took just five days for the youth group of First Baptist Church of Pleasant Hill, Mo., to build two wheelchair ramps, assemble furniture and install appliances, plumbing and a septic system for a Mountain Outreach project in Williamsburg.

The 27 Pleasant Hill volunteers worked with the University of the Cumberlands' Mountain Outreach program to help finish a home that was completed in seven weeks.

"We were looking for a summer missions project for the kids, and we asked the Lord what we could do," said youth group director Mike Harper. "He called to mind my previous experiences with Mountain Outreach, and I got in touch with them through their website."

Since the program's start in 1982, Mountain Outreach has constructed 126 homes for members of the surrounding communities. The ministry also makes needed home repairs and distributes donated clothing, shoes, coats, blankets, personal hygiene products and other items to help meet families' basic needs.

University of the Cumberlands' senior Ranessa Warwick is among college students who work with volunteers as part of the program.

Warwick, who has been involved in the program for four years, noted, "I enjoy everything that is involved with Mountain Outreach, even getting up every morning at 7 a.m. during our 10-week summer program."

"Before Mountain Outreach, I had a little bit of construction experience," Warwick said. "I learn something new every day. To learn something and then apply it toward God's will is an amazing blessing."

"I have learned to rely on God for everything, whether it is picking up trash or putting a roof on in 90 degree weather," she added. "Mountain Outreach has really helped me know the Lord's love through patience and flexibility."

Andy Couch, a recent high school graduate from Pleasant Hill, noted, "It has been awesome since the first day we got here. Seeing (the homeowners') eyes light up when we arrive every day, you just know God is working in their hearts."

While plans have not yet been finalized to return next year, several members of the Missouri group said they are eager for the opportunity to work with Mountain Outreach again.

"I would definitely come back," Couch said. "It is a great environment with great people."

Warwick said she would recommend the program to individuals and groups "interested in being completely in God's will and who want to learn something new every day."

"It brings me complete joy," she added, "when I see (new student workers) swinging a hammer or getting on a roof for the first time and they never thought they could have done it."

'Extreme Build' project provides home, hope for rural Kentucky family

McCreary County—Approximately 125 volunteers converged July 15-21 in rural McCreary County to build a new home—and hope—for the Richard Garland family.

In the region's second annual "Extreme Build," Kentucky Baptist Fellowship's Mountain Hope rural poverty initiative partnered with the McCreary County Community Housing Development Corporation to build the house.

Garland and his five children currently live in a two-bedroom apartment.

"This is all my dad can afford with five kids," said Courtney Garland, 14. "He's doing a good job, but we need a bigger house."

"The build is just a small part of addressing poverty in Eastern Kentucky, specifically through improving the quality of housing in McCreary County one house at a time," said Rhonda Blevins, Kentucky Baptist Fellowship's associate coordinator for missions.

"Housing is one our most basic human needs, but more than that, when a child can be proud of

his or her home, it increases self-esteem and sets that child on a path toward a brighter future," she added. "That's our ultimate goal: a brighter future for these kids and others in our focal counties."

Mountain Hope also works in Owensley County and the community of Nada in Powell County. It is part of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's rural poverty initiative, Together for Hope, which ministers in 20 of the poorest counties in the United States.

Most of the Extreme Build partici-

pants were from McCreary County or other areas of Kentucky. Some of the volunteers worked up to 12 hours each day in order to complete the house within a week. To help speed along construction, workers used a pre-built kitchen, bathroom and laundry room provided by the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corp.

"There's a lot of teamwork going around," said Sharon Davis, a volunteer from Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville. "Rain showers stop us here and there, but it hasn't been a problem."

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Campbellsville University's School of Theology

Proudly presents the Guest Speaker for its annual
January Bible Study Preview:
Romans



Dr. Douglas Moo

Dr. Douglas J. Moo has served on the faculty at Wheaton since 2000. For over twenty years Dr. Moo's ministry was based at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Deerfield, IL). He claims inspiration from the great theologian Johann Albrecht Bengel's words: "Apply yourself wholly to the text; apply the text wholly to yourself." He has applied himself to the Biblical text by writing commentaries on James, 2 Peter and Jude, and Romans (no less than two commentaries on Romans: NIV Application Commentary and New International Commentary on the New Testament). He has served on the Committee on Bible Translation, the group of scholars charged with revising the text of the NIV and with producing the TNIV.

August 2, 2007

Ransdell Chapel

Campbellsville University

12:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

For more information:

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Protect your family

Don't postpone drafting key estate planning documents

The Apostle Paul both advised and warned us in 1 Timothy 5:8: "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

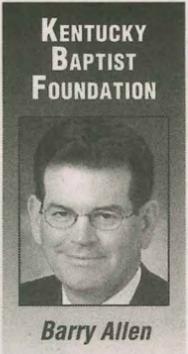
So, why do so many Christians die without a will and other estate planning documents? Although there are a variety of reasons, perhaps the difficulty of talking about death and money is the most likely. Furthermore, there is the tendency to ignore and delay having to make emotional choices such as: Who will raise my children or who should inherit my assets? Unfortunately, ignoring these issues could result in leaving those tough decisions in the hands of a probate court judge. That is not what the Apostle Paul would have us do.

Let me suggest you recognize from the start there will never be a good time to talk about your demise, so don't wait for one. Instead, imagine what would happen if you died without a will. Surely you are aware of someone else's messy situation, which you do not want to duplicate. The key questions are:

Who will inherit your assets, who will be the guardian of your children and who will be the executor of your estate? Schedule an appointment for consultation with an estate planning attorney. Remember, Laurie Valentine, KBF trust counsel, is available to consult with you.

Once you have made your choices about guardians and an executor, as well as alternates should your first choices not be able to serve at the time, contact them and verify their willingness to serve as you desire.

Finally, have an estate planning attorney draft the documents you need to accomplish your objectives and execute those documents as promptly as possible. To the extent we in the KBF can be of assistance to you and your estate planning attorney, please give us that privilege. Remember to include God's will in your will.



KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION
Barry Allen

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

It's all about the kids

Sunrise Children's Services plants seeds in kids' lives

Helping children, whatever their issues, is what we do at Sunrise Children's Services. The kids we help have experienced terrific losses along with the physical and emotional pain few of us have ever endured.

Matthew* was a very angry and disrespectful young boy when he arrived at Spring Meadows Center. Because of severe physical abuse, a cousin had taken him in after his biological parents "abandoned him."

By age 12, Matthew turned to drugs and alcohol and began running with the wrong crowd. The school expelled him for selling drugs on school property. Because of marijuana possession and habitual running away, Matthew was facing charges. His out-of-control behaviors forced his cousin to have him removed from her home. The court awarded Matthew's custody to the state and sent him for residential treatment at Spring Meadows.

Matthew participated in an anger management group and the Seven Challenges Group, a special program dealing with teen alcohol and drug issues. Slowly, his behavior began to change and he appeared more relaxed and mature. He finally realized he did not need to prove anything to anyone but himself. He and his cousin were able to attend family sessions with the therapist at Spring Meadows to work on their tattered relationship. Eventually, after graduating from Spring Meadows' program, Matthew, now 15 years old, was able to return to his cousin's home. She remarked that he was more caring and respectful than ever before, but what struck her most was the fact that Matthew was smiling—something she had not seen him do in a long time.

We do not know if Matthew ever trusted Christ. Some kids make public decisions and others do not. We minister to all the kids in our care from a holistic approach, which includes spiritual development as well as addressing their physical and emotional needs. We helped Matthew begin to smile again. Maybe a seed was planted that will grow some day. Pray for him and us as we care for hundreds of kids like Matthew.

*Name changed to respect his privacy
Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or www.sunrise.org



SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Bill Smithwick

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



Bible Crosswords

By Janet Kennedy

Across

1. "With trumpets and sound of ____ make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King" (Psalm 98:6)
7. "The people piped with ____, and rejoiced" (1 Kings 1:40)
11. Able to give way
13. "And the fish of the ____" (Psalm 8:8)
14. Motor torpedo boat, abbr.
15. "David took an ____, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed" (1 Samuel 16:23)
16. "Praise him with stringed instruments and ____" (Psalm 150:4)
18. 51, Romans num.
19. Fourth tone of the music scale
21. Lincoln's state, abbr.
22. Tellurium, chem. symbol
23. "That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, ____, harp" (Daniel 3:5)
26. "Ye ____ the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)
29. First day of the week, abbr.
31. Black sticky substance
32. "That at the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, ____, psaltery" (Daniel 3:5)
35. "That chant to the sound of the ____" (Amos 6:5)
36. Gold, chem. symbol
37. Suffix: more
38. Kind of molding
39. "And the seven angels which had the seven ____ prepared themselves to sound" (Revelation 8:6)
42. Maritime province, abbr.
43. Inches per second, abbr.

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				16			17	18		
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	32				33		34	35		
36				37			38			
39		40				41		42		
43				44						45
			46			47				48
49								50		

44. Contraction of it was, poetic
45. "I ____ the way, the truth, the life" (John 14:6)
47. French article
48. "Come unto ____, all ye that labour and are heavy laden" (Matthew 11:28)
49. Miriam took one of these instruments (Exodus 15:20)
50. "For we have seen his ____ in the east, and are come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2)
10. "The trees of the Lord are full of ____" (Psalm 104:16)
12. "Give thee seed of this woman for the ____ which is lent to the Lord" (1 Samuel 2:20)
17. Opposite of untidy
20. Man's name
24. Messy
25. A large Australian bird similar to an ostrich
27. "No lion ... nor any ____ beast shall go up thereon" (Isaiah 35:9)
28. "That at that time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, ... psaltery, ____, and all kinds of music, ye fall down" (Daniel 3:5)
30. "Nor to ____ authority over the man" (1 Timothy 2:12)
33. Witch's concoction
34. Throws
36. Not straight
40. "Come now, and let ____ reason together, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 1:18)
41. High stature
45. American Medical Association, abbr.
46. Same source, Lat. abbr.

Down

1. "Praise him upon the loud ____: praise him upon the high sounding ____" (Psalm 150:5)
2. Office of International Trade, abbr.
3. A blunt rejection
4. U.S. National League (baseball), abbr.
5. Suffix: forms the past tense of many words
6. "And the harp, and the viol, the ____, ... are in their feasts" (Isaiah 5:12)
7. Gym class, abbr.
8. "Thanksgivings ... with singing, with cymbals, ____ and with harps" (Nehemiah 12:27)
9. Weird

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63

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National Education Association actions promoting gay agenda

By Erin Roach
Baptist Press

Philadelphia (BP)—Despite opposition from much of their base, leaders of the National Education Association took recent action to advance the homosexual agenda in public schools.

At their annual meeting earlier this month in Philadelphia, the NEA's Executive Committee adopted three recommendations from the organization's committee on sexual orientation and gender identification, but the move went largely unnoticed by the 9,000 delegates present at the Representative Assembly.

The approved recommendations, which did not require a vote of the assembly, call for the NEA to lobby for hate crimes legislation, boost the NEA website to "include all resources" devoted to homosexual causes, and push for sexual orientation training to be a requirement for earning a teaching credential.

Andy Linebaugh, director of public relations for the NEA, told Baptist Press July 20 that he was unaware of the three recommendations on homosexuality adopted by the Executive Committee.

Jeralee Smith, a California teacher and founder of the NEA Ex-Gay Educators Caucus, said the latest developments remind her of the way leaders pushed their agenda through a few years ago to promote gay-lesbian curriculum, despite opposition.

The NEA's committee on sexual orientation and gender identification was created in 2002. It "monitors NEA implementation of policies related to full inclusion and safety

of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) members and students," according to the NEA website.

The first recommendation urges the NEA to "develop public and member support" for the "creation, amendment and/or passage of federal hate crimes legislation" that the recommendation says "protects members and students from harassment or discrimination based on sexual orientation."

Opponents of hate crimes legislation argue the law could be used to restrict religious speech and would grant protection based on lifestyle.

The second recommendation included a directive for the NEA to "expand the GLBT web page on the NEA website to include all resources devoted to GLBT issues." Another portion of the recommendation asked that "NEA develop training standards for the appropriate inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression issues in NEA trainings."

The third recommendation called for the NEA to "advocate for more fully incorporating sexual orientation and gender identity/expression within National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education standards and principles."

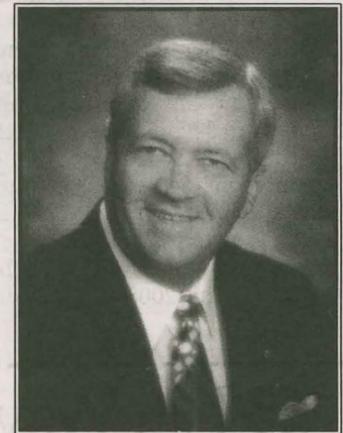
In addition to the recommendations, Smith said, the standing committee reported that during the past year the NEA contributed \$5,000 to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and made "significant contributions" to other organizations such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.



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Dr. William K. Smithwick

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to the hurting
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and
Staff of Sunrise Children's Services

Read Dr. Smithwick's Blog online!
Click the Blog link on www.sunrise.org

Friendship, commitment & accountability

Strong ties bind Kentucky Baptists and Oneida in commitment to the gospel

By Michael Spencer, assistant to the president

A topic of conversation among Baptists these days is the connection between churches and the schools they sponsor. What does Oneida Baptist Institute feel about our relationship to Kentucky Baptists?

Church-related schools have a tendency to fluctuate in their views about their church relationships. Denominational controversy, financial prosperity and varying styles of leadership all play a part in those changes. Oneida has never fluctuated in its affirmation of a strong relationship to Kentucky Baptists for three simple reasons.

First, Kentucky Baptists have historically "been there" for us in good times and bad. Oneida has seen many dark days in its history, and it has seen many good times. One constant is the presence of Kentucky Baptists at our side, encouraging us and keeping us viable as a ministry.

Friendship is a very important concept on our campus. It is also a very important part of our relationship with churches, pastors, contributors and parents. Kentucky Baptists are our friends. We will never be at the point we don't need those friends who have stood by us in the past. While we are looking forward to the future, we are always aware of those who made it possible for us to arrive in the future.

Second, Kentucky Baptists and Oneida Baptist Institute are committed to the same things. Kentucky Baptists are about missions and evangelism. We are a school and we do almost everything other schools do, but we are, and always

will be, a missionary school with an evangelistic calling.

Last week, two students were baptized at Oneida Baptist Church. This church has been our partner in ministry for more than half a century. They share with us a desire to see young people make a commitment to Christ and begin to walk with Him while they are young and moldable for God's purposes.

Every dollar that comes to OBI serves the cause of missions and evangelism. Oneida will always make these priorities of Kentucky Baptists our priorities for the present and the future.

Finally, OBI is committed to doing our work in a relationship of cooperative accountability. Many church-related schools come to a point that they no longer want the accountability that comes with church-based funding and sponsorship. Being accountable, in some way, to every person who participates in a cooperative funding program can mean getting some feedback and complaints that might be frustrating. But that same relationship means every person who ever gave a dollar is part of your vision, and that is a blessing that multiplies over and over.

Because Kentucky Baptists know and love the gospel, we are happy to be in a relationship with them where we are accountable to share the good news of Jesus and the message of the Bible in a way they can recognize and affirm.

Our relationship with Kentucky Baptists is here to stay, and we are grateful for it.

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



W.F. Underwood

From heavy metal to ministry

Alumnus gives thanks for God's call to Clear Creek

Seth Miller is thankful for the role Clear Creek Baptist Bible College had in his life to equip him for God's call to ministry; especially after thinking about how close he came to bypassing that call.

"I gave my life to the Lord when I was entering my adolescence," Miller said. "The problem, however, was that my initial desire to serve the Lord was almost squelched by the typical temptations that face a young man in this day.

"One of my worse vices was heavy metal music. I had formed a heavy metal band that was semi-successful and played at the local party scenes. All of my actions at that time suggested everything but that I was a Christian."

When Seth finally decided that he needed to start attending church on a regular basis, God began to speak specifically to him about a call to ministry that would lead him to Clear Creek.

"One night I decided to listen to the guest speaker at my church," Miller recalled. "God spoke through this man and it was clear to me that I was supposed to surrender my life to preach His gospel."

The guest speaker for that night

just happened to be Keith Weldon, a 1994 Clear Creek alumnus. Seth's pastor at the time was James Harley, a 1978 alumnus of Clear Creek.

"I immediately left the heavy metal band, and after visiting Clear Creek Baptist Bible College with several key figures in my life, I decided that was where God was leading me to begin my equipping for ministry training," Miller said.

Seth is thankful that his Clear Creek experience also involved meeting his wife, Janie, who was also a student. "We dated for a year and eventually married," Miller said. "A little over a year later, we had our first son named Benjamin Travis Miller.

After graduating from Clear Creek with a B.A. in Pastoral Ministry in 2006, Seth continues to prepare for God's call at Southeastern Seminary.

"I found that seminary was a smooth transition from Clear Creek," Miller noted. "The curriculum I had at Clear Creek gave me more of an advantage than the average seminary student."

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; Web site: www.ccbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu

CLEAR CREEK
CHRONICLE



Donnie Fox

Organizers look ahead to inaugural Children's Ministry Day in Feb. '08

Birmingham, Ala. (BP)—The first-ever national Children's Ministry Day is aiming to involve children in missions projects across the country.

On Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008, all children's groups in churches are encouraged to join with 100,000-plus members of Girls in Action and Children in Action organizations affiliated with Woman's Missionary Union to actively minister and witness in their communities for a concerted one-day effort.

Mitzi Eaker, WMU children's ministry consultant, said children involved in GAs and CiA learn about and do missions throughout the year but the focus on doing missions across the country on a special designated day will "be exciting to see."

Hope for the Hungry is the theme for the 2008 day of min-

istry as children are encouraged to serve those who are in need of food and nourishment as a tangible part of WMU's focus on poverty through its Project HELP ministry.

"Participation will help children understand the needs of others and grow in their ability to minister to others as Christ did," Eaker said. "As they serve, children will realize that God can use them in a mighty way, even now while they are young, to share His love and minister to others."

To help plan and implement the event, a complete Children's Ministry Day promotional pack will be available from WMU in November, including project ideas, learning activities for before and after the project, a children's sermon and ideas for involving families.

Alabama truck stop offers unique worship experience

By Leigh Pritchett
Baptist Press

Robertsdale, Ala. (BP)—Along Interstate 10 in south Alabama sits a chapel with a shape, size and design that reveals much about its ministry.

Situated at exit 53 at Oasis Travel Center in Robertsdale is a trailer that no longer hauls refrigerated items but now serves as a place for emitting the warmth and light of Jesus Christ.

Known as Exit 53 Chapel, this trailer is a church for truckers—the first of its kind for Southern Baptists in the state.

The truck-stop chapel, a ministry of Baldwin Baptist Association, "provides an opportunity for truckers to be able to worship in an atmosphere they feel comfortable in," said Rick Barnhart, associate director of missions for Baldwin Association. "Plus, they know their rigs will be secure because they're parked nearby."

David Blanton, chaplain of Exit 53 Chapel, understands their concerns. A trucker himself, he hauls explosives and radioactive materials for Tri-State Motor Transit, based in Joplin, Mo.

Blanton lives in Irvington, 43 miles from the chapel, and his home church is Travis Road Baptist in Mobile. He has been involved in chaplain ministries for 14 years, helping start a trucker chapel in South Carolina and another in Wisconsin.

Exit 53 was selected as the site for the Alabama chapel because "it's where the Lord told me to go," Blanton said. He calls the travel center "one of the most pleasant truck stops (where) we've ever done a ministry." It sees heavy traffic and is a place where drivers like to stop to spend some time, Blanton said.

The chapel began three years ago in the travel center's television room. In April 2005, it moved out-

side into a loaner trailer. In November 2006, the chapel opened in the current trailer, donated by Ralph Stewart of Ralph's Trucking in Baldwin County. Volunteers renovated the interior to include air conditioning, a public address system, office space and a small chapel area.

At 9 and 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sundays, services are held in the chapel, which is open the whole day. Students of Pensacola Bible Institute in Florida help with the ministry, conducting services on Sundays when Blanton is on the road. Blanton's wife, Melissa, also serves, ministering to women truckers.

Larry Patterson, director of missions for Baldwin Association, said a future goal is for Blanton to be chaplain full-time.

Baldwin Association churches provide resources and materials for outreach, including items that filled 300-400 gift bags given out to truck drivers at Christmas. Through that outreach, one trucker accepted Christ as Savior, Blanton said. A number of other truckers have been saved since the chapel's formation.

When a person receives Christ, Patterson said, an attempt is made to contact a church in the area where the individual lives so that ministry to him or her can continue. He told of one trucker who left a letter for the chapel ministry, indicating that he had contemplated suicide before asking Jesus into his heart while at the travel center.

Blanton and others also minister to the truck stop employees. The travel center, he added, is a very gracious host, letting him distribute Bibles and tracts and talk with people in the parking lots and restaurant.

Jan Barnett, a manager at the travel center, said having a church in the parking lot has had a positive effect on employees and the atmosphere in general.

HOUSE OF GOD The inside of the Exit 53 Chapel in Alabama is small, but it has provided a place of worship for numerous truckers in recent years. (BP photo courtesy of the Alabama Baptist)

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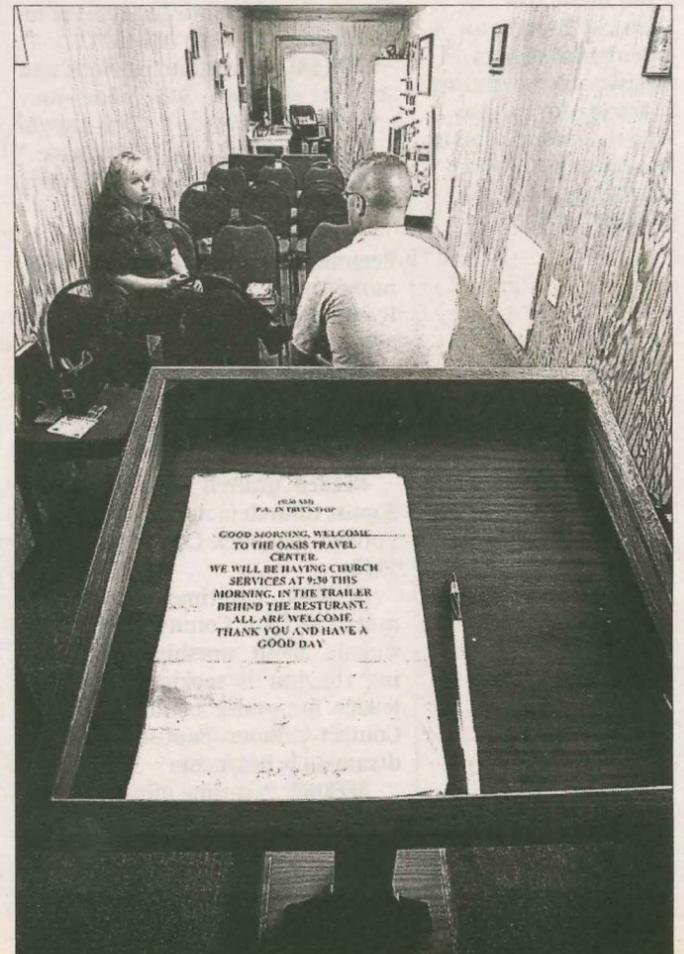
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Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist ministries and missionaries:

The Answer Center of Green Valley Baptist Association in Henderson. The center is directed by Kathy Strange and is open each Saturday to provide clothing, shoes and household items to families in need. Center volunteers from associational churches share Christ, distribute Bibles and pray with individuals receiving assistance. Pray for the ministry as Christ is shared and physical needs are met. Pray that God will grant strength and blessing on the lives of the many loyal and dedicated workers who keep the center open and serving the community.

Mission Service Corps Missionary Pauline White of Cumberland. White serves as Director of Shepherd's Pantry. She coordinates volunteers and supplies to assist in feeding more than 200 families each month. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of those who receive hunger assistance. Praise the Lord for a new chapel where volunteers and families can worship together.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BENTON**—New Zion Church ordained **Terry Powell** as a deacon July 15.

■ **BRODHEAD**—Two couples in Ottawa Church recently celebrated 50th wedding anniversaries: **Ray and Charlotte Bullock** and **Bentley and Bobbie Durham**.

■ **CADIZ**—Hurricane Church will hold revival services Aug. 5-8 with **Glenn Armstrong** as evangelist. For more information, call (270) 522-1599.

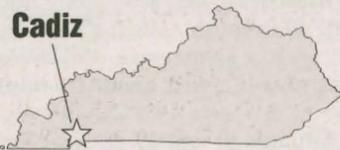
New Light Church called **Mark Choate** as pastor effective July 15. He previously was pastor of Bethany Church in Eddyville.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host Southern Baptist international missionaries **Lonnie and Fran Turner** Aug. 5, 6 p.m. The Turners will discuss their mission work in Zambia and southern Africa. A 5 p.m. potluck meal will precede the service. For more information, call (270) 789-0082.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Green Hill Church ordained their pastor, **Marvin Janes**,

Spotlight on ...

Cadiz



Ponderosa Church will celebrate Homecoming Aug. 5, 10 a.m., with **Mark Johnson** as guest speaker. A potluck meal will follow the morning service. The Southern gospel group, **The Southlanders**, will provide special music. For more information, call (270) 522-9305.

to the gospel ministry July 15.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Scaffold Cane Church recently called **Chris Cobb** as pastor.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church recently called **George "Buddy" Crabtree** as pastor.

■ **WALTON**—New Banklick Church recently called **Bradley Napier** as student pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 11 Crafters on Missions, First Baptist Church, Central City.
- 14 Understanding Other Beliefs, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- 18 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 20-22 Freedom Experience, Lincoln County High School.
- 25 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Owensboro, and First Baptist Church, Pikeville.

September

- 1-3 Wrangler Trail Ride, Land Between the Lakes.
- 8 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Paducah, and First Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 13 Understanding Other Beliefs, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 13 Retired Director of Missions/Spouse Luncheon, Severns Valley Associational Office, Elizabethtown.

14-15 Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek.

15 Super Saturday, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

17-18 State Baptist Ministers Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club, Georgetown.

22 Children in Action Day Camp, Cedar Crest.

22 Punt, Pass & Kick, Campbellsville University.

28-29 Focus 2007, Crestwood Baptist Church, Crestwood.

29 Marriage Celebration, Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

October

4-6 Basic Training for Church Planters, Baptist Building, Louisville.

5-6 Celebrate the Mission, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

12-13 Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat, Cedarmore.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Family reunion or wedding parties. Highway 30A, beachside, 75 yards from the ocean; more than 5,000 square feet, eight bedrooms including five masters; full game room; large dining area; private heated pool. Call Suzannah at (800) 397-2708; www.reunionhouse.org.

FOR SALE: Children's animated Bible DVDs. Professionally made; enchanting to watch. Free resource books. Each DVD plays in Spanish or English; each has Web access. Call (859) 699-8384. E-mail wjenkins@nestfamily.com.

FOR SALE: 1993 32-foot Holiday Rambler motorhome. Ford chassis, 460-ci motor with fuel injection. Must sell; reduced to \$21,000. For information, call (502) 245-4871.

FOR SALE: Christian, patriotic and striped neckties: \$15 value—your cost \$6. Humor book: "500 Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine," \$6. Dake compact Bibles: \$28. (606) 285-3051.

FOR SALE: Church property. New Beginning Baptist Church, 200 Clermont Drive, Bardstown, KY 40004. For more information, call (502) 350-0701 or 348-7044.

NEEDED: Good used van for small, African-American Baptist church in central Kentucky. Call (270) 789-1974.

NEEDED: Church pews for Calvary Baptist Church (a new church start). Contact Rev. Rick Cox at (423) 663-9915.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. McLean County church passionate about worship and reaching the lost is seeking a worship leader for praise band and choir. Contact Calhoun Baptist Church at drsams@cbcheart.com.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of education for First Baptist Church of Oak Grove. Please send resumé to Helen Stanfill, First Baptist Church, PO Box 27, Oak Grove, KY 42262. For more information, contact Helen Stanfill at (270) 439-5331.

SEEKING: Candidates for director of missions for Ozark Prairie Baptist Association in Lockwood, Mo. Send resumé to DOM Search Committee, Drawer S, Lockwood, MO 65682.

SEEKING: Minister of youth. Enthusiastic, passionate, contemporary minister needed to lead teenagers to Christ and on to spiritual maturity. Calhoun Baptist Church in McLean County, Kentucky, seeks to help hurting people, evangelize the lost, assemble together for fellowship, rejoice in the Lord through worship, and teach the uncompromising Word of God. Compensation package includes parsonage, health insurance and retirement benefits. Interested candidates should contact Dr. Richard Sams at drsams@cbcheart.com.

SEEKING: Mount Lebanon Baptist Church (www.mlbcn.org) is seeking a dynamic and ministry oriented individual to serve full time leading the worship and music ministry of the church. Mount Lebanon is a vibrant and growing community of faith located in Maryville, Tenn., at the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. The minister of music will provide innovative and strong Christian leadership for the worship ministry, which encompasses both traditional and contemporary worship. The minister of music will work closely with the senior pastor and ministry team in planning and coordinating worship. The minister of music also will be responsible for overseeing a choir program for all ages utilizing the gifts of a talented musical support staff and volunteers. In addition to having a strong musical education and full-time experience, applicants should exemplify a passion for Christ and His church, worship and music, and possess outstanding leadership, interpersonal and organizational skills. Resúmes will be received through 9/30/2007 and should be submitted to Allan Atchley, associate pastor, via e-mail at aatchley@mlbcn.org.

SEEKING: Pianist for small Baptist church in Camp Taylor area of Louisville. Salary available. Call Charles Smith, (502) 499-6962.

SEEKING: Minister to families for Grace Baptist Church. Seeking to magnify Christ in Lexington, GBC seeks Spirit-led minister who will coordinate and be directly involved in our youth/children, senior adult, outreach/visitation, education, training and promotion ministries. Please e-mail your resumé and letter of interest to gbclexington@windstream.net; or mail to 811 Bryan Ave., Lexington, KY 40505.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister for Bellevue Baptist Church, located in Boone County, Ky. Resúmes may be e-mailed to tomwithorn@fuse.net; or mailed to Bellevue Baptist Church, 6658 5th St., Burlington, KY 41005. All resúmes must be received by Sept. 1, 2007.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Southern Baptist church—approximately 20 hours per week. Prefer college training related to church music. Send resumé/application to Cecilia Baptist Church, 416 E Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724, Attn: Personnel Committee. E-mail to: church@ceciliabaptist.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Okaloona Missionary Baptist Church (50-80 attendees). Send resumé to Roy Chapman, chair, 1983 Highway 235, Nancy, KY 42544.

SEEKING: Part-time paid minister of preschool/children's department. If interested, please submit resumé to: Fisherville Baptist Church, 15001 Old Taylorsville Road, Fisherville, KY 40023; or call (502) 267-5605 or e-mail to: secretary@fisherville-baptist.com.

SEEKING: Part-time paid minister of music. Will be working with various ages and doing PowerPoint presentations. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Fisherville Baptist Church, 15001 Old Taylorsville Road, Fisherville, KY 40023; or e-mail to: secretary@fisherville-baptist.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Oak Grove Baptist Church. Send resumé to Pauline Crump, 2175 Old Canton Pike, Cadiz, KY 42211.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music (called to the ministry) for a dynamically growing congregation (20 hours per week). Duties: leading a comprehensive music program. For more information, see our Web site at www.woodburnbaptist.org. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Woodburn Baptist Church, PO Box 38, Woodburn, KY 42170.

SEEKING: Part-time worship/music leader (20 hours a week). Duties include: organizing and leading Sunday morning worship in a blended music style, and developing adult, youth and children music ministries. Send resumé to: Music ministry, Bagdad Baptist Church, PO Box 8, Bagdad, KY 40003; or e-mail kyleamanda@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Pastor. Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Beaver Dam, Ky., is actively seeking the pastor whom God has chosen to lead us into the future. We are a multi-generational congregation with a strong foundation of more than 200 years of ministry. The church is located in a small, western Kentucky town. Drawing people from several communities, we have an average attendance of 350 to 450 in Sunday morning service. Beaver Dam Baptist Church has a tradition of outstanding music, a strong youth program and a thriving Christian education program. Our church upholds the priesthood of the believer and has reaffirmed our acceptance of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. Please send resumé to: BDBC Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 341, Beaver Dam, KY 42320.

SEEKING: SBC seminary-trained children's specialist (preschool-5th grade). Prefer individual with previous successful church experience. Send resumé, references and photo to: Preschool/Children's Search, Hixson First Baptist, 5800 Grubb Road, Hixson, TN 37343. (423) 877-2467.



TAKING A WALK LifeWay employees Adam Dark and Emily Cole prayerwalk through Alfama, one of the oldest areas of Lisbon, Portugal. (BP photos by Brooklyn Noel)

Urban evangelism

Coffee, conversation are useful tools for missions teams in busy Portugal

By Brooklyn Noel
Baptist Press

Lisbon, Portugal (BP)—What do missionaries do when serving in a self-reliant urban location where the residents have little patience for gospel tracts, EvangeCubes and other traditional forms of evangelism?

They find the nearest café, order espresso and a pastry, and spend time getting to know one of the locals. Ideally, the small talk turns to spiritual matters and presents an opportunity to share a personal testimony or even the plan of salvation. But perhaps the conversation simply opens the door to a deeper friendship, growing trust and future occasions to share the Word of God.

A team of 14 LifeWay Christian Resources employees received a crash course in this type of relational evangelism during a recent LifeWay-sponsored mission trip to Lisbon, Portugal.

"It isn't traditional evangelism—it's just life," said Scott George, team leader for the International Mission Board's Young Lisbon ministry and contact for the LifeWay team. "Our bread and butter is the relationship and reaching the people that the church doesn't reach."

Lisbonites, he added, take part in an average of 68 positive spiritual conversations before they come to a relationship with Christ.

"There are only so many of us," George added, referring to the IMB team. "We can't get to everyone."

With a goal of collecting 1,000 contacts with which the long-term

Lisbon missionaries could follow up, team members spent nine days pounding cobblestone city blocks and engaging locals in conversations. The goal was to establish future relationships and seek opportunities to share the plan of salvation with anyone willing to listen.

Team member Emily Cole said the trip allowed her the opportunity to learn about her personal evangelism responsibility and to develop her ability to see others through God's eyes.

"I'm going to come back different," she said. "I'll be more focused on my day-to-day evangelism."

George acknowledged that many teams who conduct short-term missions in Western Europe struggle with how difficult sharing God's Word can be in a location generally unfamiliar with Christ beyond the connection to the many elegant Catholic cathedrals throughout the city.

"I just tell teams to remember that God's Word does not return void," George said, adding that the short-term missionaries with whom he works often tell him their time in Lisbon encourages them to conduct relational evangelism in their daily lives in the United States. "When you ask people about God, they can't help but think about Him—that's human nature."

"We recognize that this is a process and God is working through that. We don't know where we are in the process, but we're being obedient to take part in it."



ON THE STREET LifeWay employee Liza Bates visits with a boy outside the Vasco de Gama Mall in Lisbon, Portugal. Bates and 13 other volunteers from LifeWay recently visited the city, assisting local missionaries and spreading the gospel through relationship-building.

Man donates sizeable inheritance to translate Bible for unreached people

Richmond, Va. (BP)—He was determined to get Scripture into the hands of people who didn't have it in their own language. It didn't matter what it cost. If the International Mission Board wouldn't help him, he would find someone who would.

David Steverson, the IMB treasurer and vice president for finance, told the story of this determined Southern Baptist during the IMB's July 16-18 trustee meeting.

Steverson met the man—who wishes to remain anonymous—in late 2005. One Wednesday evening over a church dinner, they discussed the possibility of the man donating real estate that he had inherited. The money would go toward funding a Bible translation for an unreached people group.

Steverson had concerns. Any number of difficulties can arise when dealing with property donations, he explained. But in this case, Steverson's concern centered on the well-being of the donor.

"This donor has several physical challenges," he said. "There were questions related to his ability to take care of his day-to-day living needs."

"We have a responsibility to be careful to ensure as much as possible that anyone making a major donation to our organization is not

left indigent and unable to care for himself."

So when they talked, Steverson turned him down.

"I indicated to him that we were concerned about the effects that giving this property would have on him," he said.

The man insisted, saying that he had access to medical care and didn't need much to live on. Then the man said something that Steverson will never forget.

"Don't you understand?" the man said. "These people need the gospel ... they need Scripture in their language. I will use this property to see the Bible translated into their language—whether I do it through the IMB or someone else."

Steverson accepted the offer.

During the next 18 months, the IMB ran into a variety of obstacles to sell the property. But it was the man's challenge that drove Steverson and his team to hold out for the best offer.

After all expenses, the property sold for \$205,609.73.

And because of one man's gift, an unreached people group—one the man may never know about and never meet—will hear the gospel in their own language. People will come to Christ because of his sacrifice.

'Jesus' film celebrates 1,000th translation

Orlando, Fla. (BP)—The "Jesus" film reached a major milestone this month when it debuted in its 1,000th language, Lanka Kol, spoken by more than 1 million people in India.

"Now we have the opportunity to begin sharing the gospel story with them in their own language," Jim Green, executive director of The Jesus Film Project, said in a statement.

As the most translated film in movie history, the Jesus film outpaces translations of blockbusters like "Gone with the Wind," "The Wizard of Oz," "Star Wars," "Titanic" and "The Lion King" combined, according to a news release.

The Jesus Film, produced by Campus Crusade for Christ, opened in theaters in the United States in 1979 and has achieved more than 6 billion viewings worldwide.

More than 200 million decisions for Christ have been made as a result of the film, including about 14,000 people who made public decisions for Christ when a missionary team showed the Jesus film to Nigeria's Idoma people group this summer, according to the film project.

The two-hour docudrama about the life of Christ based on the Gospel of Luke often is shown in remote, Third World countries using a makeshift screen and portable projector, producers noted, and sometimes it's the first look people in those countries have at a movie image.

"Storytelling is the fundamental way that people communicate around the world," Green said. "Through the Jesus film, we can tell the incredible story of God's love in a way that people can relate to—and we can do it in their heart language."

Project coordinators have plans to contin-



REACHING THE UNREACHED The "Jesus" film, recently translated into its 1,000th language, often is shown in remote locations to large audiences, some of whom have never seen a movie image. (BP photo)

ue translating the Jesus film into 500 new languages. That includes every language with more than 100,000 speakers.

In the 1970s when Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade, thought of the idea for the Jesus film, he gathered a team of 500 scholars and leaders to determine how best to portray Jesus on the motion picture screen, according to the film's website.

The team agreed that the film must be as archeologically, historically and theologically accurate as humanly possible; must be unbiased and acceptable to all as a true depiction of Christ's life; must appeal to all ages; must be easily translatable into virtually all languages; and must be of theater-viewing quality and effective with both urban and rural audiences worldwide.

The film cost \$6 million to produce, and it was distributed initially by Warner Brothers.



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