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FOR THE RECORD

State's empty tomb replica resurrected

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Patterson visits
Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson visited Southern Baptist Theological Seminary last week, where he talked about conservatives and Calvinism as well as defended seminary President Al Mohler against a Western Recorder editorial. *Page 2.*

Programs announced
Details of the program for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting, as well as for the annual Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, have been announced. *Page 3.*

Big gift
The Temperance League of Kentucky has received

COVINGTON—Though it initially attracted thousands of visitors, since 1960 the world's only exact replica of what many believe to be Christ's tomb has been Northern Kentucky's best-kept secret.

However, the vision of the late Morris Coers, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Covington, experienced a resurrection just before this past Easter.

A dedication ceremony on Palm Sunday marked the resumption of regular public tours of the Garden of Hope, which first opened in 1958.

"I think it's going to be an awesome experience and an opening to cross denominational boundaries," said Pastor Ben Murray, who came to the Covington church last November. "This is what Coers tried to do—set up an interdenominational effort so people could see who Jesus is."

"The risen Savior is what it's all about," added Roxie Jacoby, church secretary and a member of the garden committee for 11 years. "I'm excited. God is calling a lot of people up there to see and believe

ing a 2.5-acre site on top of a hill overlooking the skylines of Covington and Cincinnati.

Among early backers were Kentucky Gov. A.B. "Happy" Chandler and Hubert Taft Jr., the great nephew of former U.S. President William Howard Taft. Coers brought Solomon Matter, warden of the Jerusalem tomb, to Kentucky to oversee construction.

The garden also features a carpenter's shop like the kind Jesus likely worked in with his father, a chapel patterned after a Spanish mission, a 503-pound stone from the Wailing Wall and an Italian marble statue of Jesus preaching the Sermon on the Mount.

There also is a small gift shop with items from the Holy Land and the "Mystery Cross." Fashioned of telephone poles, the cross mysteriously appeared on the grounds late one night in the 1950s.

The garden cost an estimated \$125,000 to build and attracted more than 150,000 visitors the first two years it was open. But two months before the official Easter dedication

ceremony in 1960, Coers suffered a heart attack and died.

In addition to its founder's death, the garden was hurt by Immanuel's membership decline amid the decade's suburban growth. The church considered allowing the state to manage the attraction, but later sold it to Matter's son. His attempt to revive the garden failed and in 1971 the deed reverted to the church.

While Immanuel held Easter sunrise services there for years and periodically gave tours, for most of the past 25 years the site has been idle. Problems with vandalism and overgrowth symbolized its state of neglect.

Repairs to the property began in 1993, with several members cutting grass and weeds and planting flowers. Wanda and Ed Hodge got involved in the effort soon after joining the church.

When a member showed Hodge the property, he was amazed that such a beautiful site existed near their home. Although they have lived there throughout 41 years of marriage, the

□ See *Replica of ...*, page 12

Parent-teen relationships still important

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

OXNARD, Calif. (ABP)—Mom, dad and God are still important to America's teenagers—no matter what TV and movies say, according to two nationwide surveys.

Polls by the Barna and Gallup organizations provide peeks into the emotional and spiritual aspirations of youth in the United States.

"The relationship between a teen and his or her mother is the most important relationship of all," religion researcher George Barna reported.

"The depth of the relationship between a teenager and his or her mother has extensive implications for the life of the teen," Barna said. "For instance, teenagers who said they were not emotionally close to their mother were three times more likely than other teens to

its largest-ever donation.
Page 3.

Editorial

Is everyone out there
having an affair? Page 5.

Electioneering

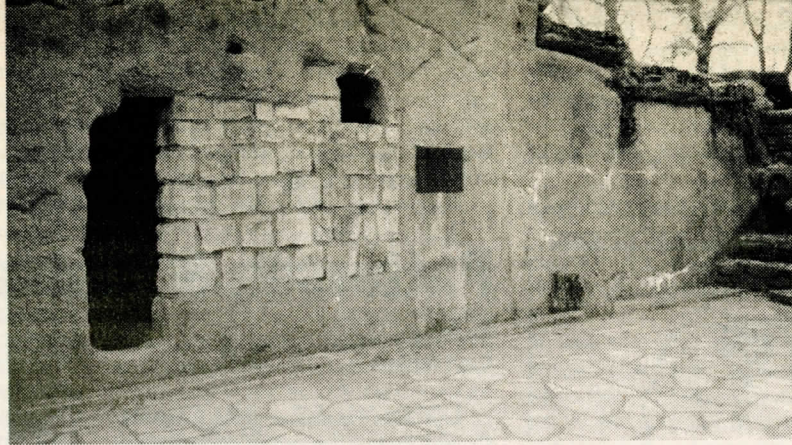
The reason churches are
banned from endorsing
or opposing political
candidates has much
more to do with Texas
politics than with the
separation of church and
state, a Purdue
University researcher
claims. Page 8.

"It's going to be a beacon for
Covington," she said. "It was a vision of
one man that's been dormant for a
long time, but it's coming alive."

An Indiana native who later served
in that state's legislature, Coers decid-
ed against a political career and stud-
ied for the ministry at Chicago's
Moody Bible Institute. He held pas-
torates in Indiana and Illinois before
moving to Covington at the end of
World War II.

His first trip to the Holy Land in
1938 included a visit to the garden
tomb in Jerusalem. That so moved
him he vowed to build a replica so
Americans who couldn't afford to
travel to Israel still could experience
it.

He announced the project at an
Easter sunrise service in 1956, select-



RESURRECTED TOMB Forty years ago, a Northern Kentucky church built this exact replica of the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem where many believe Jesus was buried after his crucifixion. The Kentucky tomb site recently reopened to visitors after years of neglect.

describe themselves as "lonely."

The Barna survey found that
teens who said they are emotion-
ally close to their mothers were
twice as likely as other teens to
say both their parents and siblings
influence them "a lot."

Those teens also were twice as
likely to credit their parents with
having "the greatest impact on
their personal spiritual develop-
ment."

"Emotional bonding with
one's mother also relates to emo-
tional ties to the father," Barna
added. "Teens who were emo-
tionally close to their mother are
twice as likely as those who were
□ See Study finds ..., page 6

Billy Graham's children continue his legacy in ministry & writing

By Cecile Holmes
Houston Chronicle

DALLAS—The heir apparent to
the Billy Graham Evangelistic Asso-
ciation grinned and tugged on
his baseball cap as his older
sister lamented her difficul-
ties recalling her hectic
speaking schedule.

"I'm trying to remember
where the last place was I
spoke," said Anne Graham
Lotz. "You know, I'm taking
those herbs that are supposed
to help with your memory."

"You've already turned 50, right?"
said her younger sibling, Franklin
Graham, his eyes twinkling. "Ought
to try a Diet Coke. That's what I do."

His 50-year-old sister ignored him,
recounting a cross-country itinerary
that includes training events for adult
lay leaders and speeches for young
Christians. Like her brother, Lotz is a

respected Christian author, teacher
and public speaker with her own out-
reach project, AnGel Ministries. Like
his sister, Graham wins praise for
preaching the gospel in a way that
reaches his own generation.



Franklin Graham

All those activities keep
them on the go. With both
promoting new books, that's
even more the case. Recent-
ly, brother and sister came
together in Dallas, where
they were interviewed.

Lotz's new book, "God's
Story: Finding Meaning For
Your Life In Genesis," helps

average believers approach the Bi-
ble's first book as "God's eyewitness
account of Creation." Written with a
poetic, personal style, her book re-
veals a searching soul with an intense,
passionate faith.

"The flashing-red-light warning
for you and me is to beware getting
so caught up in the way everyone

around us is living that we get swept
away by the current of wickedness
and waste our own lives in a mean-
ingless existence," she wrote. "In the
midst of spiritual dwarfs, we must
strive to be giants."

It takes prayer and self-
discipline to keep that goal
in sight, according to both
Lotz and Graham. She
talked about the importance
of daily private devotions;
he stressed conveying
God's word in preaching
and outreach.

"I think preaching is
something God honors and something
he blesses," Graham said. "We're us-
ing his word. It's not my word. I think
people are tired of the overweight
preacher in a three-piece suit with
slick hair and rings on his fingers and
kind of talking down to them. I don't
want to do that."

At 45, Graham operates his own

emergency relief agency, Samaritan's
Purse. Headquartered in Boone, N.C.,
it has an annual budget of nearly \$50
million and provides assistance in
Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and oth-
er areas of the world.

Graham writes about
others' faith and his own in
his new book, "Living Be-
yond the Limits." His faith
has taken him into danger-
filled, war-torn regions, and
aviation metaphors run
through the book.

"I love to fly airplanes,"
he confessed, "especially

the Mitsubishi MU2. The MU2 is
known in the aviation industry as 'the
rice rocket.' It will get me where I
need to go really quick. In the Chris-
tian life, just like in a plane, you need
a good take-off—salvation in Jesus
Christ. But just as important, you want
to be able to fly safely, navigate

□ See Graham's children ..., page 10



Anne Graham Lotz

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Moving? See page 4 (0915)

KENTUCKY

Replica of Garden Tomb resurrected in Northern Kentucky

Mysterious engineer saved tomb

COVINGTON—Keepers of the replica of Jerusalem's Garden Tomb in Northern Kentucky believe miraculous things happen there.

When Morris Coers planned the replica of Christ's tomb, he paid attention to painstaking details—with one exception. The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem sat on level ground. Not so with the Covington copy, which was on top of a hill.

Because of the changes in Kentucky's weather, the freeze-thaw-freeze cycles caused the area around the tomb to slip.

For two years, the hillside had to be shored up each spring. Another rough winter and the tomb would have been lying at the bottom of the hill.

One morning Immanuel Baptist Church's garden committee was standing at the tomb, discussing whether they would have to abandon the project. Suddenly a tall gentleman wearing bib overalls appeared, asking for Coers. The committee watched as the pair talked for some time.

Finally, the stranger left and the pastor came running with a paper in his hand.

The stranger said he was an engineer who had built tunnels and bridges for the railroad out of West Virginia. Sketching a plan for the tomb's foundation and area around it, he guaranteed if they followed it the area never would slide again.

The committee followed the directions, holding their breath when the next spring approached. The hill held and has not moved for more than 40 years.

After the garden opened, Coers felt the stranger should be invited to the dedication and publicly thanked. He went to the address the stranger had listed, but it was non-existent. When he called the trade union of the railroad where the man said he had worked for 20 years, the company said they never had heard of him.

Continued from page 1

couple never had heard of the garden.

"He rededicated his life at Immanuel," Mrs. Hodge said of her husband. "This is like a mission for him. It shows when he works there."

"I think it's wonderful," Mrs. Hodge said of the reopening. "I've never been to Israel or seen the (Jerusalem) tomb but people who have been there say (Kentucky's) is almost like

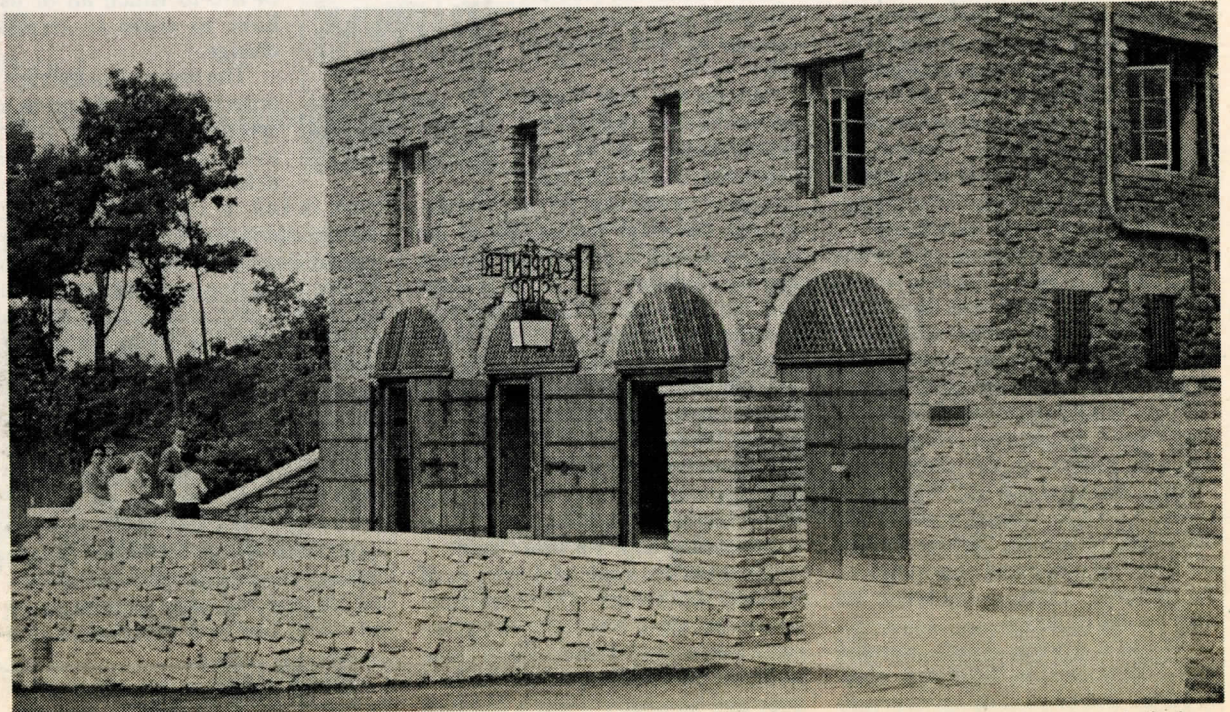
it. Whenever we work up there people ask questions about it and say they can feel the Holy Spirit. A lot of people come up there to pray."

Daily operations are directed by Donna Sheehy, who heads an all-volunteer ministry known as "The Upper Room."

The Garden of Hope is open daily from 9 a.m. to sunset. Access to the chapel and carpenter's shop is limited

to Mondays and Tuesdays. The gift shop is open Wednesday through Sunday.

To get there, take I-75 to the 12th Street exit and travel to Holman Street. Turn right on Holman and follow it to 16th Street, then turn right on 16th and take it to Monroe. Follow Monroe for one block and turn right onto Edgecliff Drive. The garden is on the left at 699 Edgecliff.



CARPENTER'S SHOP This building on the Northern Kentucky property where a re-creation of the Garden Tomb has been built shows a likely replica of the kind of carpenter's shop Jesus might have worked in with his father, Joseph.