

# Light

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN

BAPTIST CONVENTION

OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1990



Photo by Louis A. Moore

**Volunteer Lena Howard coordinates Master's Market food supply for the hungry at the Clark Howell Techwood Baptist Center in Atlanta.**

## Hunger ministry takes many forms

By Louis A. Moore

Despite the downturn in giving to world hunger causes, Southern Baptists remain deeply involved at the local church, associational, state, national and international levels in the fight against hunger.

And the multi-tiered battle against hunger spans a variety of ministries ranging from providing food for the hungry to education to help eliminate the underlying causes of hunger.

At the Clark Howell Techwood Baptist Center, near downtown Atlanta, volunteer Lena Howard distributes food to hungry people through the center's Master's Market. Much of the food at the "market" is purchased with \$1,400 weekly from the Home Mission Board's domestic hunger relief fund. The center is able to multiply the impact of the \$1,400 by

securing food at lower-than-wholesale prices through a local food bank.

Food donations by individuals and churches in the Atlanta area also expand the supplies available for the area's hungry.

"We permit people to obtain emergency food once every three months," says Terry Moncrief, director of the center. "We allow for unusual circumstances such as ill health, loss of job, or delay in getting food stamps, but we make a strong effort to keep the client from establishing a dependent relationship with the food ministry."

Techwood Center is situated in one of the poorest parts of Atlanta. The center ministers to about 6,000 people who live in Clark Howell Techwood, the nation's first public housing project. Its 1,735 apart-

*(See Hunger on Page 4)*

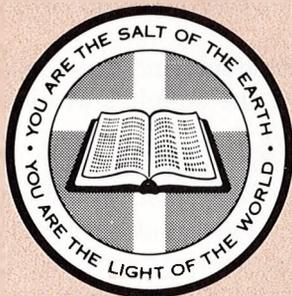
**Don't forget the CLC's Annual Seminar in Fort Worth March 25-27, 1991**

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## Think about it!



Southern Baptists have assigned several extremely important tasks to the Christian Life Commission. The CLC's program statement, approved by the Southern Baptist Convention, delineates the scope of our responsibilities.

The CLC's responsibilities can be grouped into two categories. The first is prescriptive, educational and prophetic. The CLC has been called "the conscience of the Convention." One of the CLC's most important tasks is to speak to our fellow Southern Baptists about where we believe Southern Baptists ought to be on ethical, moral and public policy issues based upon the Bible's teachings in these areas. This is our assigned prophetic role.

As part of this task we are to help Southern Baptists "become more aware of the ethical implications of the Christian gospel" and to help them "apply Christian principles to moral and social problems." In order to facilitate these goals, the CLC is authorized to promote ethical issues through both regional conferences and national seminars in such areas "as family life, human relations, moral issues, economic life, daily work, citizenship, religious liberty, and world peace."

The CLC is also authorized to produce and distribute pamphlets, booklets, tracts and other materials in the area of Christian ethics. Additionally, the CLC is assigned to provide an information service and to maintain a program of study in the field of ethical concerns and public policy in order to be a center for research and information.

Through these activities and endeavors the CLC seeks to fulfill its prophetic role to inform, excite and energize Southern Baptists to be where God wants them to be and to do what God wants them to do in these crucial areas of moral and ethical concern.

The second category of responsibility assigned to the CLC can perhaps best be understood as descriptive. This task is much more restrictive than the prophetic role. The CLC is authorized by the Convention to "Present Southern Baptist insights" and to "Bring to bear Baptist statements, convictions, and insights in the field of Christian ethics and religious liberty" in speaking to "important policy-making groups" and to the federal government.

It is important to note that no one can presume to speak for all Southern Baptists. Thus, the descriptive assignment is far more restrictive than the prescriptive, prophetic task, where the Commission is free to speak to Southern Baptists about where it feels Southern Baptists ought to be on a moral or ethical issue. In its descriptive role, however, the CLC's task is to seek to ascertain where Southern Baptists are on a particular issue, not where it would like for them to be. Its task is then to describe the situation as it is among Southern Baptists at any given time when dealing with government panels and officials.

If the CLC fails to distinguish between or confuses its prophetic and descriptive roles, then it both exceeds its authority and loses its credibility. We have no right to represent Southern Baptists as supporting positions they do not support or opposing positions they do not oppose. If we were to do so, we would lose our credibility with those with whom we deal in Washington as well as with Southern Baptists. As Executive Director of the CLC, I promise we will always do our best to distinguish clearly between our prophetic and descriptive roles.

*Richard D. Land*

(All quotations are from the CLC's Program Statement.)

# 'What then shall we do?' (Luke 3:10-11)

By Robert M. Parham

Physicians investigating hunger found that Pat Jones' refrigerator contained only a jug of water, a slice of cheese and three eggs. They learned that her three-year-old son had not had milk to drink in three weeks and that he had eaten his last bowl of cereal with water.

Pat Jones and her son, residents of Montgomery, Ala., were at dire risk of hunger.

Hundreds of miles away in Roses Creek Hollow, Tenn., Letta Casey and her two boys eked out a living in the Appalachian Mountains. She eagerly waited for school to start in September so that her sons could get decent breakfasts and lunches.

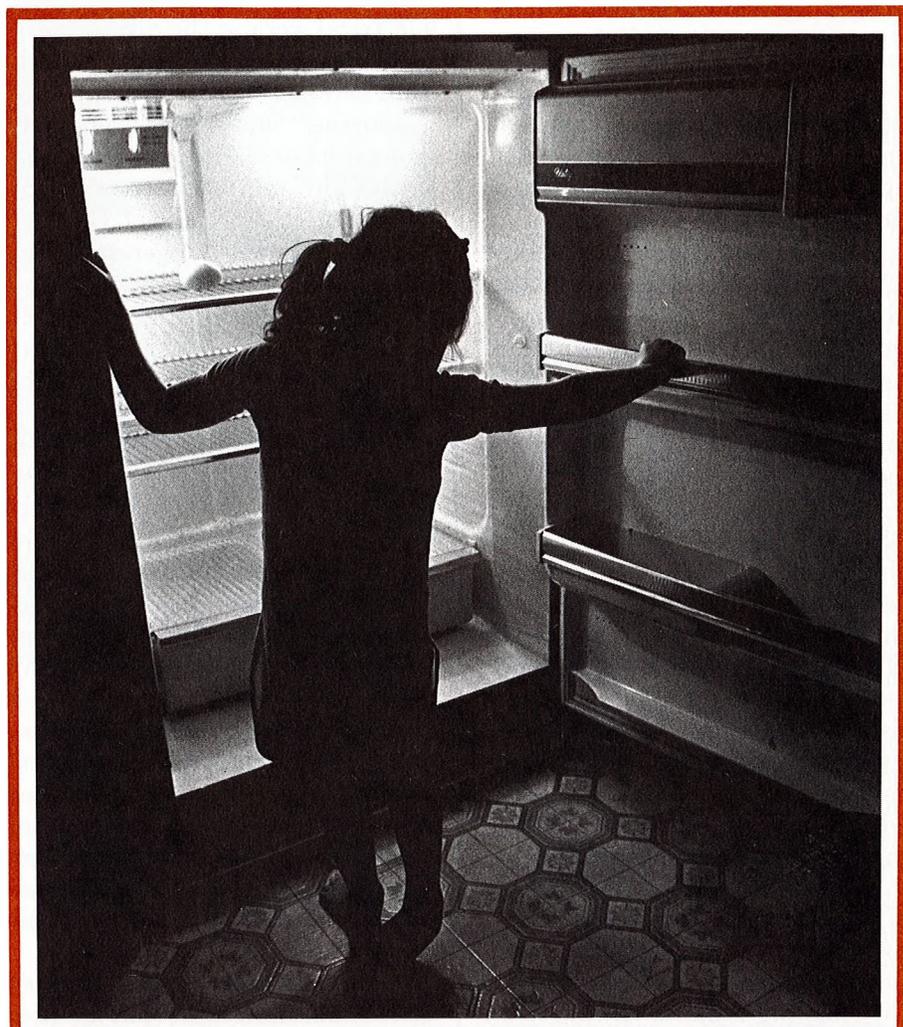
These news stories represent the ongoing reality of poverty and hunger faced by countless people at home and abroad.

Hunger is a grinding reality which causes a host of problems. Lack of adequate nutrition between conception and age three can cause permanent brain damage. Daily hunger can dull the ability of children to learn in school, diminish the productivity of adults and weaken the immune system of aged adults.

The reality of chronic hunger compels us to ask what we can do to alleviate the problem. Our modern-day question is similar to another which has echoed down through the ages of history.

When the multitude heard John the Baptist's call for repentance and righteous living, they asked him, "What then shall we do?" They desperately wanted to know what they could do to avoid judgment and to live rightly.

John the Baptist replied, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise" (Luke 3:11). John expected con-



**Observe World Hunger Day  
October 14, 1990**

crete actions as a sign of righteous living.

We, too, ask the question, "What shall we do in a hungry world?" We, too, hear the answer, "We must act."

Consider the following concrete actions:

- Pray that those who are hungry might have bread and that those of us who have bread might have a hunger to act.
- Study your Bible about the causes of and the cures for hunger.
- Organize the missions committee in your church to study

and to act on the problem of hunger.

- Give to the hunger ministries of the Foreign and Home Mission Boards.
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen or night shelter.
- Observe World Hunger Day in your church.

What will you do in a hungry world this year?

*Robert M. Parham is an associate director of the Christian Life Commission.*

# Hunger ministries abound

(Continued from Page 1)

ments are situated on 60 acres.

In Jefferson City, Tenn., the BSU staff at Carson-Newman College spearheads that area's battle against hunger. Its program is called Appalachian Outreach.

The BSU program receives \$2,500 a year from the Home Mission Board's domestic hunger relief fund. That money is used to help feed residents at the BSU's Samaritan House for the homeless and to help stock its emergency food pantry.

In addition, each summer the BSU coordinates youth and adult church groups who volunteer to repair homes for poor people in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Yearly, 300 volunteers representing Southern Baptists from across the country do such chores as rebuilding outhouses, replacing worn-out electrical wiring and painting and repairing the inside and outside of homes.

People such as Dwayne Ewald of Old Ocean Baptist Church in Sweeny, Texas, spend their vacations on mission trips to Jefferson City making repairs. Ewald is an electrician and spent much of his

time at Carson-Newman doing electrical work in the area.

"We have many more projects and needs than people or resources," said Jim Wilson, campus minister at Carson-Newman.

At the headquarters of the North Carolina Baptist Convention in Raleigh, hunger specialist George Reed spearheads that state's hunger ministry, which now raises more money than all but one state convention for the SBC's hunger ministries.

At the state level, only Texas, the biggest contributor to SBC hunger ministries, has a state worker who spends as much time as Reed does on hunger programs.

"As I've worked on the hunger issue, I've become aware of how complex it is," says Reed. "We often picture hunger as solely a problem of food, but it embraces much more than that. There are the related issues of contaminated water which causes diarrhea or parasites that drain off nutrition. Then there are the related issues of medical care and health education.

"The hunger problem also includes the high cost of fuel because there are people who

## Fewer rice bowls being sold

Alastair Walker, pastor of First Baptist, Spartanburg, S.C., wanted to do something about world hunger when he hit upon the idea of creating piggy banks in the shape of rice bowls for churches to use to collect money for hunger.

Once designed and sold at cost, Walker's rice bowls became a major fund-raising source for SBC hunger projects. More than 1 million were distributed. Even Baptists in Finland raised \$8,000 for hunger causes using these bowls.

Today, sales of these rice bowls are off more than 45 percent from their peak four years ago. SBC hunger giving is off by about 30 percent.

"These rice bowls provide an opportunity to reach hungry people with a cup of cold water in Jesus' name," said Walker.

must choose between being hungry or being cold in the winter because they don't have enough resources to have both," he said.

"Another issue is transportation. In Ethiopia, food gets to that country's docks but not out into the countryside where the hungry people live," he said.

In addition to helping North Carolina Baptists raise money for domestic and foreign hunger ministries, Reed also focuses his attention on educating Baptists about hunger as well as working on various projects such as the North Carolina Hunger Network, a coalition of secular and religious hunger programs.

"There is a tendency to go with what is big and flashy when what is needed in hunger ministry is simpler," Reed said.

*Louis A. Moore is an associate director of the Christian Life Commission.*



Terry Moncrief, director of Techwood Baptist Center in Atlanta, talks with a resident of the nation's first public housing project.

# Newspapers help Baptists focus on hunger

By Bob S. Terry

Torrential rains bring mud slides in Central America. Villages are destroyed, crops wiped out. In Africa, the rains don't come. Crops wither and die in the parched, cracked earth. Along the underbelly of the Asian continent, hurricane-force winds drive the salt water across the land, destroying the rice on which millions of people depend.

How will Southern Baptists learn about these tragedies and the efforts of their missionaries to love the victims in the name of Jesus Christ? How will Southern Baptists know ways they can be a part of demonstrating God's love to people in need? The answer is, "Through the state Baptist papers."

Southern Baptists have 39 state Baptist publications reaching into nearly 1.6 million Baptist households. No other communications network among Southern Baptists reaches as many people as often as the state Baptist papers. In cooperation with other expressions of Baptist work, the state Baptist papers share the needs and opportunities for ministry with millions of Baptist readers each week.

Pictures and stories bring the pain of world hunger into the homes of Southern Baptists. News stories proclaim the opportunities for ministry as missionaries request seed for replanting, announce plans for demonstration farms to teach better agricultural methods, provide tools to assist families that have lost everything or construct reservoirs to hold water through the dry seasons.

State Baptist papers provide hope as they share Baptist response to the needs and opportunities. Sometimes the hope comes from the response of a local church -- a church such as First



Baptist of Wright City, Mo., where members fasted and gave to world hunger an amount equal to two percent of the church budget; or through a church where thousands of dollars were raised through a teen-sponsored rock-a-thon.

Sometimes hope comes from the mission boards as they combine these local church funds with gifts from other SBC churches to appropriate millions of dollars annually to world hunger projects.

Month after month, year after year, state Baptist papers help educate Southern Baptists to the responsibilities of world hunger. The headlines tell the story: "What every Baptist should know about world hunger," "How Southern Baptists feed the hungry," "The children: world hunger's silent victims," "HMB wages war against hunger in the U.S." and "Baptists concentrate on hunger causes."

Much of the work is done in cooperation with the SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards as well as the Christian Life Commission. These national bodies provide the

information, and the state Baptist papers deliver the pictures, stories and articles to the Baptists of their various states.

Sometimes it is the state Baptist papers that take the lead. Before world hunger was a national SBC emphasis, *Western Recorder* in Kentucky and *Baptist Standard* in Texas focused on the plight of the world's hungry. *Western Recorder* was the first state paper to call for an offering to help alleviate world hunger.

When Southern Baptists placed the world hunger emphasis on a Wednesday in August, Missouri's *Word & Way* led that state to observe a Sunday date and to provide offering envelopes as is done with other special offerings. The SBC soon changed its emphasis date to a Sunday.

The *Baptist Courier* in South Carolina learned of a local church providing rice bowls to each of its families where offerings for world hunger could be placed each day. When the state paper printed the story, the idea caught on in other states, producing a marked increase in offerings wherever the idea was used. (See related story, Page 4.)

Southern Baptists will not pray for world hunger or respond through their pocketbooks unless they know about the needs. Providing that information is the role of the state Baptist papers. The state Baptist papers provide the catalyst on which our cooperative responses are built.

One of the best ways to increase information, interest and involvement in world hunger in your church is to make sure that each family regularly receives the state Baptist paper.

*Bob S. Terry is editor of Word and Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.*

## Class lived the gospel with hammer and nails

By Robert M. Parham

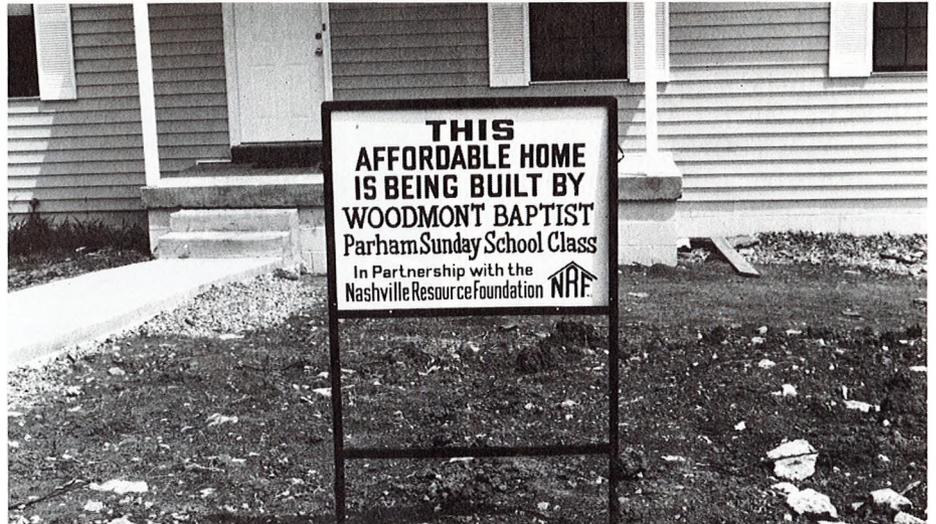
"What the poor need is not charity but capital, not caseworkers but co-workers. And what the rich need is a wise, honorable and just way of divesting themselves of their overabundance," wrote Clarence Jordan in an open letter in October 1968 to the friends of the interracial Christian agrarian community called Koinonia Farm near Americus, Ga.

Jordan envisioned a partnership between the well-off and the down-and-out. Both economic classes had needs which the other could help meet. The poor needed a hand up; the rich needed a way to give. The solution for Christians, Jordan said, was a spirit of partnership.

That spirit was born in my affluent 50-member Sunday School class at Woodmont Baptist Church when a health care executive started dreaming about building a home with a low-income family. The class studied Scripture, prayed about it, talked about the complications of such a project and mulled over the mission project for months. We even did a simple but confidential financial survey to see if we could pull off the mission project.

Over a year later and after several setbacks, we started building a 1,100-square-foot house with Jimmy and Leslie Halfacre and their two daughters. Rain and a tight building schedule necessitated that we start on a Sunday afternoon. Every one of the 25-plus men and women involved readily agreed that experience was the most meaningful, albeit unorthodox, service of worship we had ever had.

My class and other Woodmont Sunday School classes worked 11 Saturdays and a host of other afternoons. Lawyers, bankers,



**To help break the cycle of poverty, Sunday School class members lived the gospel by building a home with Jimmy and Leslie Halfacre in Nashville.**

health care professionals, insurance agents, school teachers, architects and other professionals put into the house more than 1,200 hours of "sweat equity."

Many of the folks knew more about golf irons than construction tools. But we all soon learned about hammers, a multitude of nail sizes and the correct way to read a level. We learned to put the bark side up on the floor of a wood deck and how to measure, cut and tack up siding.

Our house is part of Nashville Resource Foundation's New Hope Subdivision. NRF is a brand-new effort which pairs low-income working families with church groups.

Like most American cities, Nashville has a severe shortage of affordable living facilities for the poor. The Metropolitan Development and Housing Authority estimates that nearly 11,000 low-income families spend over 50 percent of their income on housing. Consequently, low-income families cannot get ahead financially, must cut costs on food and face the likelihood of breakup.

Nashville Resource Foundation's goal is to provide home own-

ership for low-income working families. Church groups work with, not for, poor families to build houses. Equally important, church groups retain a relationship of nurture, education and fellowship with their families during the following year.

Our family is representative of the kinds of folks who need access to capital instead of charity and co-workers rather than caseworkers. Jimmy Halfacre has a full-time job, as well as an early morning paper route. His wife Leslie is a full-time homemaker.

They are part of America's working poor. Homeownership gives them hope, a financial basis for their daughters to go to college and an opportunity to get ahead. Homeownership has given members of our church another way to do missions.

Late one afternoon, after the class members had all left, the Halfacres wrote in the wet concrete in the basement, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Thank you, Woodmont. Thank you, Jesus" (Psa. 127:1).

Amen to that!

*To be held in Fort Worth, Texas*

## 1991 Annual Seminar focuses on environment

By Lamar E. Cooper

The Christian Life Commission's 1991 Annual Seminar is a call for Southern Baptists to take the lead in providing evangelical Christians with sane, solid leadership in the area of environmental ethics and practical stewardship of the planet.

The meeting will be held March 25-27, 1991, at the Hyatt Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas. The theme for the meeting is "Christians and the Environment: Finding a Biblical Balance Between Idolatry and Irresponsibility."

Southern Baptists have been slow in becoming involved in the environmental issue. This has

been due in part to the way the New Age movement and other cultic fringe groups have tried to capitalize on this issue. But in neglecting this issue, we have done a disservice to ourselves, our communities and our denomination. An area vital to the survival of everyone has been surrendered to peripheral groups who often distort the truth and seek to make an idol of the natural order.

As problems related to the environment increase over the next decade and beyond, everyone will be forced to face issues vitally related to the stewardship of the earth. It is therefore crucial that we develop a sound theology of ecology and a plan to implement

practical methods for improving the well-being of our planet and its people.

Speakers include: Dr. Millard Erickson, Bethel Seminary; Dr. Russell Bush, Southeastern Seminary; Dr. Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church; Dr. Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church; Dr. William Pinson, Executive Director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and Dr. Richard Land, Executive Director of the Christian Life Commission.

*Lamar E. Cooper is an associate director of the Christian Life Commission.*

### Registration Form

## Christians and the Environment:

### Finding a Biblical Balance Between Idolatry and Irresponsibility

Fort Worth, Texas  
March 25-27, 1991

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Please reserve room(s) at Hyatt Hotel (Downtown Fort Worth):

Single \$75\_\_ /Double \$75\_\_

Arrival date/time \_\_\_\_\_

Departure date/time \_\_\_\_\_

For special travel arrangements, call  
World Class Travel 1-800-237-0434  
and in Tenn. 1-615-383-4500.

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Number) (Expiration Date)

### Call (615) 244-2495 for registration information

\$35 Seminar registration fee enclosed.

\$17.50 for spouse or student.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of spouse)

(\$45 after Feb. 15, 1991, \$21.50 spouse or student)

Return to  
**Christian Life Commission**  
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Nashville, TN 37203

By Tony P. Hall

Under the United States Constitution, one of the functions of government is to "promote the general welfare." Through our federal government, we share our resources to advance the national interest and to implement national priorities.

As a nation truly "under God," America has established the priority of providing various measures of assistance to the needy and hungry. The generosity we have shown through government programs to "the least of these" among us has reflected the many blessings we have received collectively as a nation. From a Christian perspective, our national policy of compassion for the less fortunate is appropriate thanksgiving for the countless times God's grace has been shed upon our land.

As Chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, I have seen firsthand the benefits of programs such as Food Stamps and the Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women,

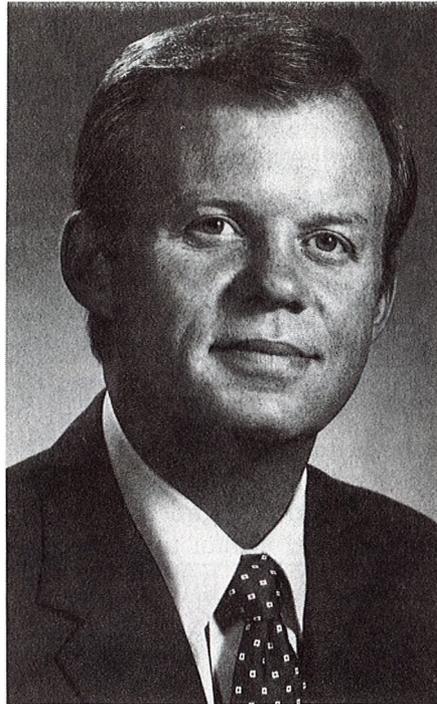
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***In the face  
of increasing  
need, a welcome  
spirit of private  
activism is  
emerging.***

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Infants and Children (WIC). The WIC program, for example, reaches 4.5 million nutritionally at-risk women and children. Each federal dollar spent to provide proper nutrition to vulnerable infants saves three dollars in future health care costs.

## Volunteerism essential in fight against hunger



Rep. Tony P. Hall

There is a clear need for federal programs to address the urgent and costly impact upon our society of malnutrition and health deficiencies. But such programs alone cannot reach all of those in need. Church-based and other private interventions also are required. Indeed, the community of faith should be at the forefront of initiatives to provide a "hand up" to the disadvantaged.

As a nation, we are turning less to the federal government for the solutions to our problems. We are becoming increasingly decentralized, looking for neighborhood-based responses to local challenges. In the face of increasing need, a welcome spirit of private activism is emerging.

In my own community of Dayton, Ohio, individuals, churches and service groups have sustained local initiatives to raise money for the hungry, to stock local food

banks, to glean leftover crops, to bring hot lunches to senior citizens and to salvage discarded food from restaurants. These programs, which have reached tens of thousands of residents, have not cost the government one cent. Further, it is debatable whether the government could have provided these locally tailored services as effectively.

Such community-initiated efforts generate fellowship and understanding. To help another person directly, in a spirit of selflessness, is to partake actively in sharing God's love for humanity. Acts of generosity help to dispel selfishness and foster a sense of personal accountability for the plight of the poor.

Given the scope and cost of our social challenges, there will continue to be a need for government programs, especially those that seek to address problems of malnutrition and access to basic health care. Yet creative private initiatives offer the most immediate and sustainable advances against these challenges, particularly in the face of ever-tightening federal budgetary constraints. Moreover, volunteer work can renew and uplift both those who give and those who receive.

Not all of us can have the great heart of a Mother Teresa, but like her, we can start by aiding those right in front of us, in our neighborhoods and communities, one person at a time. It can be more convenient to insulate ourselves from personal involvement in community problems by surrendering responsibility to the government. But inaction and detachment run counter to the message of Scripture.

*(Continued on Page 10)*

By Carl C. Perkins

If domestic hunger is to be truly eradicated in this country, the U.S. government must take the lead by focusing more of its energy and its dollars toward national feeding programs. Indeed, while private relief efforts have proven successful in certain settings, they are limited and not evenly dispersed, with especially needy areas underserved. We cannot depend on these private sources alone to solve the comprehensive and fundamental problems of a nation. Without a strong and continued commitment from the federal government, the hunger crisis in America will only worsen.

Thirty-two million Americans now live under the poverty line, in contrast to only six million 10 years ago. A decade of misplaced federal spending has taken a toll on our nation's most vulnerable segment—poor families, especially mothers and children. Our schools, our jails and our streets are feeling the effects of this crisis. Malnourished mothers are giving birth to underweight, underfed children. These hungry

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***Though private programs can certainly enhance these efforts, they cannot take the place of federal responsibility.***

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children cannot learn. These school children cannot pay attention to their teachers when they are more concerned with their growling stomachs. These children grow frustrated. They drop out of school, have children, deal drugs and cost the U.S. govern-

## Federal help necessary in battle against hunger



Rep. Carl C. Perkins

ment many more billions than adequate feeding programs would ever cost. What was President Reagan's response to this growing crisis? He declared ketchup a suitable substitute for vegetables in a federally funded school meal. We all know that if we want our children to be concerned about education and the dangers of drugs, we must ensure that their very basic nutritional needs are met.

The irony is that government feeding programs already in place, like WIC, School Lunch and AFDC/Food Stamps have proven their effectiveness. Though some have criticized admitted administrative abuses in these programs, the greatest problem is lack of funding. These feeding programs, which include the School Lunch Program and the very successful WIC program, help save tax dollars by preventing potentially

costly medical expenses resulting from malnutrition. In addition, with adequate funding, such intervention could dramatically lower our nation's high infant mortality rate. Despite the proven effectiveness of the program, the present funding serves less than half of the eligible women. We are turning our backs on almost 56 percent of the women who could benefit from this nutritional assistance. School meal programs are equally important. For many children, these are the only quality meals they receive during these crucial growth years. However, while the School Lunch Program reaches almost all of the schools eligible to participate, only one-half of U.S. schools offer a school breakfast program.

Emergency relief programs such as the TEFAP (Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program) as well as the Food Stamp Program were also created to meet the needs of low-income and special-need populations. In many cases the dairy products such as cheese and milk, dispensed through these programs, are a poor family's only source of protein. In the 1980s, increased homelessness and increased demand on domestic resources strained the resources of these programs. The Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 extended many of these crucial food programs, including the Food Stamp Program, but the shortages persist.

We must have a more coordinated domestic hunger relief effort. Though private programs can certainly enhance these efforts, they cannot take the place of federal responsibility. Without federal administration, we cannot

*(Continued on Page 10)*

## CLC warns Congress about NEA

Unless Congress implements standards which will prohibit the funding of obscene, highly offensive, morally repugnant and sacrilegious art, the Christian Life Commission will be forced to call for the abolition of the National Endowment for the Arts, warned CLC Executive Director Richard Land.

In letters to members of Congress, Land said, "We are aware of several proposals which would significantly revise the method of grant-making and establish standards to restrict the content of what the NEA may and may not fund. Other proposals would completely abolish the NEA."

Land said in coming weeks the CLC will decide, based on which approach Congress takes in dealing with the NEA, whether to support abolishment.

"Each week seems to bring new revelations about the activities of the NEA," Land said. "Last year Robert Mapplethorpe and Andreas Serrano became household names. This year America has learned about the NEA's funding of Annie Sprinkle, the 'Tongues of Flame,' and the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

"Since it seems clear NEA will continue to periodically sponsor projects which are considered sacrilegious, obscene, or pornographic by most Americans, Congress must insist on meaningful standards," Land said. "The Christian Life Commission is not advocating censorship. We are merely saying the American people should not be forced to subsidize works which offend their consciences or sense of decency."



Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard D. Land offers the invocation during the "Rally for Life" in Washington, D. C. in April. (Photo by Tom Roepke)

## Federal help necessary in hunger battle

*(Continued from Page 9)*

ensure that needy areas, especially urban and rural, receive the assistance they deserve.

Just driving through the hills and talking to the people of the Eastern Kentucky district I represent, one realizes that while life is still hard, people do live a better life now than they did 25 years ago when many of these programs were not in place. We simply cannot let the shortsightedness of the '80s continue. We must adapt a renewed commitment to the full

funding and further expansion of these programs. In our nation of great abundance, our government cannot let the tragedy of malnutrition continue. Now is the time to provide the leadership that is demanded in this area. If we at the federal level fail to acknowledge our nation's pressing hunger needs, then we fail the American people.

*Carl C. Perkins, a Democrat, is U.S. Representative from Kentucky's Seventh District.*

## Volunteerism essential in hunger fight

*(Continued from Page 8)*

It is essential that people of faith be active participants in laboring to end the solvable problem of domestic hunger. What better place is there to find a group that is genuinely called to help the poor? If every church, for example, "adopted" a homeless person or a hungry family, surely tremendous advances would be

realized against homelessness and hunger in America.

It is incumbent that the community of believers work for the physical and spiritual renewal of our nation. That's a job that simply can't be left to the government alone.

*Tony P. Hall, a Democrat, is U.S. Representative from Ohio's Third District.*

## New books on social concerns, Christian ethics spotlighted

Wennberg, Robert. *Terminal Choices: Euthanasia, Suicide, and the Right to Die*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1989. 229 pages.

By Marnie Mullen

Robert Wennberg's *Terminal Choices* provides the reader with a unique approach to the controversial and contemporary issues of medical advances and euthanasia, emphasizing the role of patient rather than that of the health-care professional. Wennberg historically traces the Judeo-Christian and philosophical roots of the different sides of the debate.

While calling the reader to moral struggle and reflection, the author broadens the categories and definitions with which we may limit euthanasia, giving us distinguishable real-life situations. He maintains that though a formula cannot be provided for all cases, Christians bring a unique theology to the arena of moral contemplation: Our lives provide us with the pilgrimage of being transformed into the likeness of God. There is ultimate worth in our lives on earth. This respect for life comes directly from our awe of God.

Wennberg's book may be useful to pastors, seminary students and laypeople as they attempt to ask the right questions and struggle over this sensitive and modern ethical issue.

*Marnie Mullen is a recent graduate of Wake Forest University and was research intern for the Christian Life Commission during the summers of 1989 and 1990.*

Asquith, Jr., Glenn H. *The Bible and Personal Crisis: Family Passages*. Nashville: Broadman, 1990. 166 pages.

By Rebekah Land

In *Family Passages*, Glenn Asquith uses biblical insights to broaden our understanding of the stages of the family life cycle and the possibility for growth during the transition between these stages.

He cites the family developmental task theory of Evelyn Duvall and modifies her stages to include: family formation, marriage, the child-bearing years, school-age children, adolescent children, the launching phase, the empty nest, retirement and single spouse. He reminds us that this process is evidence of the natural order in God's creation, and although each transitional phase offers the possibility for stress and intrapsychic upheaval, realizing that these changes are an appointed part of life should help us to accept them as an opportunity for emotional and spiritual growth.

While Asquith acknowledges that the passages of life require constant adjustment to the changes around us, he also calls us back to the truth of God's unchanging love which gives our lives meaning and stability.

This book should be useful to both families and family members and to anyone who is involved in counseling others as they attempt to understand the impact of family developmental passages on emotional and spiritual health.

*Dr. Rebekah Land is a Christian marriage and family therapist in private practice in Nashville, Tennessee.*

Wildmon, Don with Nulton, Randall. *Don Wildmon: The Man the Networks Love to Hate*. Wilmore, Ky.: Bristol Books, 1990. 223 pages.

By Louis A. Moore

Don Wildmon is a Methodist minister whose name evokes concern and sometimes fear among television executives because he is determined to make the airwaves cleaner and better for children and adults alike. His impact on the television industry is already impressive.

In the late 1970s, Wildmon became concerned about the quality and morality of television offerings and set out to do something about it. According to what he says in *Don Wildmon: The Man the Networks Love to Hate*, Wildmon only expected to make a tiny impact in his home community in Southaven, Miss., when in 1976 he decided to preach a sermon about television and to ask his congregation to join him in not watching television for one week. Through a series of surprises prompted by some unexpected media attention, Wildmon's efforts found themselves the subject of stories in newspapers across the country.

Soon his National Federation for Decency was drawing attention nationally as well as the ire of television executives who didn't like what he was preaching.

In *Don Wildmon*, Wildmon documents his rise to national prominence along with his beliefs and findings about television today.

*Louis A. Moore is associate director of the Christian Life Commission. His assignment includes concerns about the media.*

# ORDER WORLD HUNGER RESOURCES

## October 14, 1990

Quantity	Materials	Price	Total
	Guide - World Hunger Awareness/Action Guide	\$ .75	
	Guide - Hunger Alert: World Hunger Awareness/Action Guide for Youth	3.30	
	Pamphlet - What Are Southern Baptists Doing About Hunger?	.11	
	Pamphlet - The Bible Speaks on Hunger	.17	
	Pamphlet - Issues and Answers: Hunger	.17	
	Christian Actions for the World's Hungry (package of 10)	1.10	
	New Testament Studies for a World Hunger Emphasis (package of 5)	1.10	
	Old Testament Studies for a World Hunger Emphasis (package of 5)	1.10	
	Bulletin Inserts for World Hunger emphasis (package of 20)	1.20	
	Poster - World Hunger Promotional Poster	.55	
	Calendar - World Hunger Wall Calendar (package of 10)	1.70	
	Placemat - World Hunger Placemat (package of 20)	1.20	
	Play - "The Unseen Guest" - Playscript	.22	
	Bank Sticker to Support World Hunger Relief Offering (package of 5)	1.10	
	<b>World Hunger Resource Set</b> - 1 sample copy of each of above resources	<b>5.50</b>	
	<b>Book</b> - "What Shall We Do in a Hungry World?" by Robert M. Parham	4.95	
	<b>Videotape:</b> "What Shall We Do in a Hungry World?" 1/2" VHS, 45 minutes. Show date:	Rental \$11.00	Purchase \$27.50
	Videotape: "Give Us This Day" 1/2" VHS, 28 minutes. Show date:	11.00	27.50
	Videotape: Missions USA Video Magazine: "No Place Like Home" (Report on the Homeless) 1/2" VHS, 13 minutes. Show date:	11.00	27.50
	Videotape: Missions USA Video Magazine: "An Uncertain Harvest" (The Farm Crisis Challenge) 1/2" VHS, 30 minutes. Show date:	11.00	27.50
	Videotape: "Love in Action in a Hungry World" 1/2" VHS, 12 minutes. Show date:	11.00	27.50
	Film: "What Shall We Do in a Hungry World?" 16mm, 45 minutes. Show date:	27.50	275.00
	Film: "Give Us This Day" 16mm, 30 minutes. Show date:	27.50	220.00
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# ORDER SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE RESOURCES

## January 20, 1991

Quantity	Sanctity of Human Life Materials	Price	Total
	<b>New Pamphlet - Critical Issues: What the Bible Teaches About Abortion by Larry Lewis</b>	\$ .33	
	Pamphlet - Abortion and the Law	.22	
	Pamphlet - Alternatives to Abortion: Suggestions for Action	.22	
	Pamphlet - Issues and Answers: Teenage Pregnancy	.17	
	Sanctity of Human Life Sermon Outline	.22	
	Bulletin Inserts for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday - undated	20/1.20	
	<b>Sanctity of Human Life Resource Packet</b> (one of each above)	<b>1.00</b>	
	<b>New Videotape: "One in a Million"</b> 1/2" VHS, 18 minutes Purchase Price: \$39.95 [ ] Rental Fee: \$11 [ ] Show date:		

### Resources from Sanctity of Human Life Conference

Quantity	Speaker	Audio Cassettes	Price	Total
	Sylvia Boothe	What Are Southern Baptists Doing and What Needs to be Done	3.85	
	Lynn Buzzard	What the Webster Case Did and Did Not Do: What Can be Done and Needs to be Done Now	3.85	
	Jimmy Draper	The Impact of a Crisis Pregnancy Center on a Local Church and Community	3.85	
	Carol Everett	What Really Happens in an Abortion Clinic	3.85	
	Raymond Higgins	The Complex Issues of Pre-Natal Diagnosis	3.85	
	Paul Jones	The Do's and Don'ts of Lobbying Legislators: Utilizing Professional Expertise and Experience	3.85	
	Richard Land	The Obligations of Being Pro-Life	3.85	
	Liz Minnick	The Do's and Don'ts of Lobbying Legislators: Mobilizing Volunteers Effectively	3.85	
	Dorothy Patterson	Is the Right to Life Issue a Woman's Issue?	3.85	
	Ralph Smith	Theme Interpretations	3.85	
	John Sullivan and Bobby Welch	The Florida Experience	3.85	
	<b>Entire set</b>		<b>40.00</b>	

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# Light from the Capital

## "Right-to-Life" and "Right-to-Die"

The U.S. Supreme Court has continued the pro-life trend it began last year with the *Webster* decision with three additional pro-life decisions this year.

In *Ohio v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health* and *Hodgson v. Minnesota*, the Court ruled constitutional state laws which require parental involvement with minors who are considering abortion. The Court insisted upon a requirement that such laws include provisions which allow minors to seek court permission to obtain an abortion.

The Court also said in *Cruzan v. Missouri Department of Health* that states have a legitimate interest in protecting the life of people with profound disabilities.

In the *Cruzan* case, the Supreme Court said states have the right to protect incompetent patients from others who would deny them food and water. Nancy Cruzan has been in a persistent vegetative state since a 1983 automobile accident. Her parents sought permission to remove artificially administered food and water that keep her alive.

However, in the majority decision written by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, the Court found that Missouri has a general interest in the protection and preservation of human life. The Court also found that Missouri's standard of clear and convincing evidence of a person's desires regarding life-sustaining measures is a reasonable standard in determining whether a guardian can make decisions to withhold medical treatment or food and water.

The impact of this case will likely spawn increased efforts to further implement state laws

allowing living wills and durable powers of attorney. Sen. John C. Danforth, R-Mo., and Rep. Sander M. Levin, D-Mich., have introduced legislation (S. 1766, H.R. 5067) which would require states to adopt laws that allow for living wills or durable powers of attorney.

These bills would force medical personnel to inform patients of their rights to have a living will or durable power of attorney. States would have to enact such legislation as a condition of participation in the federal Medicaid program.

- James A. Smith

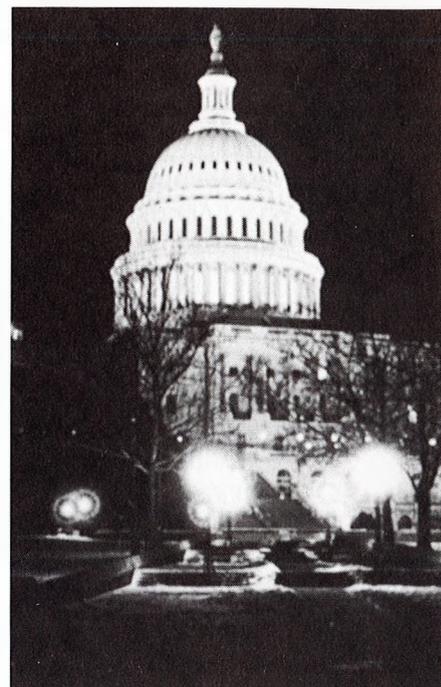
## Abortion counseling ban to be ruled on by Court

The Supreme Court has agreed to decide the constitutionality of regulations barring abortion counseling or referrals by federally funded family planning clinics. The Court has agreed to decide this dispute in order to resolve contradictory rulings by two lower courts.

The regulations, issued by the Reagan administration in 1988 and continued by the Bush administration, apply to clinics which receive funds under Title X of the Public Health Services Act of 1970. Title X, currently funded at the rate of \$138 million per year, is the primary source of federal family-planning funding and policy.

The Reagan and Bush administrations have argued that it was never the intent of Congress to allow abortion counseling in the Title X family-planning clinics. However, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), among others, argues that it is unethical not to provide women (and minors) information concerning every "family planning" option available, including abortion.

The stakes are high for PPFA and other family planning groups



which currently receive Title X funds and provide abortion referral and counseling. PPFA's affiliates stand to lose approximately \$30 million a year if the regulations are upheld and they refuse to reform their practices.

As reported in the April-June 1990 issue of LIGHT, the Christian Life Commission has opposed S. 110 authored by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. That bill is currently pending and would remove the ban on abortion referral and counseling.

- James A. Smith

## Religious freedom decisions are mixed

Decisions on religious liberty handed down this year from the Supreme Court have caused some to wonder if the Court is schizophrenic. On the one hand, by an 8-1 majority the nation's highest court upheld the constitutionality of the Equal Access Act in *Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens*. Conversely, the Court reversed well-established constitutional law protecting religious liberty in *Oregon v. Smith*.

Enacted in 1984, the Equal Access Act bars secondary schools which receive federal funding and allow extracurricular student groups to meet on school grounds from discriminating against student groups based on the content of their speech. The decision in the *Mergens* case will give a green light to students in secondary schools who wish to hold voluntary Bible study or prayer groups before or after school.

The *Smith* decision is potentially ominous for Baptists and others who have historically cherished and thrived under the First Amendment religious liberty protections of the U.S. Constitution. Writing for the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia discarded the compelling state interest test in finding that the Oregon Employment Division was justified in refusing unemployment compensation to two drug rehabilitation counselors who were Native Americans and used the illegal drug peyote as a part of their religious rituals.

While the CLC agrees that the government may restrict the use of illegal drugs, we are distressed by the reasoning Justice Scalia and the majority used in deciding this case.

First Amendment scholars believe this ruling raises the possibility for the state to enforce generally applicable laws even when they violate a person's or group's religious practices without first proving that the state has a compelling interest in the application of such laws to these practices.

This ruling potentially relegates religious liberty to an inferior status by implying that it be joined with another constitutional protection in order for it to be exercised.

Southern Baptists who share CLC concerns should call and write their representative and senators and ask them to support a legislative remedy to this decision.

- Richard D. Land

## Crime bill attacks pornography

Legislation addressing various aspects of crime in America is expected to be enacted by Congress in some form this year. The Senate concluded its consideration of this legislation in mid-summer and took several actions which the Christian Life Commission is supporting with regard to pornography.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., successfully added an amendment to restore the record-keeping provisions of the Child Pornography and Obscenity Enforcement Act of 1988 which were declared unconstitutional. This provision will require producers of pornography to obtain proof of a performer's age and keep the records on file. This provision is vital to the enforcement and prosecution of child pornography.

Thurmond's amendment also amends federal statutes in light of the Supreme Court's decision this year in *Osborne v. Ohio*. The Court said that states could enforce laws which prohibit the mere private possession of child pornography. At this year's annual meeting in New Orleans, Southern Baptists overwhelmingly adopted a resolution on this matter.

Provisions enhancing criminal penalties for certain serious crimes against children were also included in Thurmond's amendment.

Because the crime bill, which is under consideration in the House of Representatives, is significantly different from the Senate bill, danger exists that these strong anti-pornography measures may be dropped in the conference committee. Concerned Southern Baptists should contact their representative and senators and ask them to work for the inclusion of these provisions in the final version of the crime bill.

- James A. Smith

## Anti-sports gambling bill introduced

In the light of a trend in several states to authorize state-run sports betting enterprises, Rep. John Bryant, D-Texas, has introduced legislation to prohibit all government-sponsored gambling on professional sports. Mr. Bryant says these enterprises "jeopardize the integrity and wholesome, family quality of professional sports."

The actions of the state of Oregon and the District of Columbia Lottery Board were the impetus for the introduction of this legislation. The legislation takes the form of three bills which would attack the proliferation of state-run sports lotteries in relevant federal statutes.

Rep. Bryant successfully amended the House version of the anti-crime bill to address this emerging problem. Because of opposition to this legislation in the Senate, attempts will be made to remove this provision from the crime bill in the conference committee.

Southern Baptists who share Rep. Bryant's concerns should contact their representative and senators and ask them to support its inclusion in the final version of the crime bill.

- Lamar E. Cooper

### Express your opinion

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### FCC bans all indecent broadcasts

The Federal Communications Commission plans to enforce a 24-hour ban on the broadcasting of "indecent" programs by the nation's radio and television stations in a move it said was designed to protect children from questionable programming.

The action comes amid a series of recent battles involving government efforts to regulate or ban controversial materials, including the ongoing fight over funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the banning in Florida of a record by the rap group 2 Live Crew.

Although the ruling does not affect programs that run exclusively on cable television, it covers programming on all local radio and TV stations and the three major networks.

- *Washington Post*

### In the South today, blacks are breaking new ground

In an historic change, a significant number of blacks are returning to the South. Since 1980, more than 100,000 more blacks

have moved into the South than have left. Census data show that between 1980 and 1990, the proportion of all American blacks living in the South increased--for the first time in the 20th century--from 52 to 56 percent. And some researchers predict brisker migration in the 1990s.

- *U.S. News & World Report*



### For Moscow's alcoholics, American-style treatment

In another glasnost-era first, the city of Moscow's Ministry of Health signed an agreement with a Pennsylvania-based foundation to open an American-style alcohol and drug treatment facility in the Soviet Union.

The residential program, which opens in September in two dilapidated buildings in Moscow's Hospital #17, represents a shift in thinking on how to handle the

country's enormous--and increasing--substance abuse problem.

- *Washington Post*

### Lutherans suspend churches that ordain homosexuals

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America has suspended two congregations that ordained a homosexual man and two lesbians in defiance of church rules.

The action came after an intense three-day hearing about the place of homosexuality in the church. Leaders and laypeople of the nation's fifth-largest denomination debated the church's policy that gay people cannot become ministers unless they promise to be celibate.

- *Associated Press*

### Global fund for ozone agreed for environment

Government ministers from 92 countries agreed to establish the world's first global environmental fund to help save the ozone layer and to speed up the elimination of chemicals that damage the earth's protective shield.

- *Washington Post*



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