

LIGHT

THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1999

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Richard Land is President of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and host of the nationally syndicated daily radio talk show, For Faith & Family.

Questioning Biblical

RELIGIOUS CRITICS RENEW DEBATE BY RICHARD LAND

Once again Southern Baptists have enraged the goddesses of radical feminism and the gurus of political correctness, bringing down upon their heads the wrath of this culture's zealous arbiters of what may, and more importantly, what may *not*, be believed. Southern Baptists were sacrificed on the

family article's five-man, two-woman drafting committee on which I was privileged to serve stated, marriage is "a covenant commitment to the exclusive, permanent, monogamous union of one man and one woman . . . enriched by the couple's unconditional love for and acceptance of one another." Thus, they rejected both the modern concept of divorce as a routine solution to marital difficulties as well as the acceptability of homosexual and lesbian marriages.

It was the *New York Times*, however, who identified the language which ignited a continuing firestorm of controver-

sy. Aghast with disbelief, they ran a front page story headlined, "Southern Baptists Declare Wife Should 'Submit' to Her Husband."

The ever vigilant defenders of the subjective, secular Church of Sociology and Political Correctness which so dominates our culture at present immediately focused their formidable arsenal of withering ridicule on Southern Baptists, denouncing them as reactionary, ignorant, woman-hating Neanderthals.

What Southern Baptists *did* was to reaffirm their commitment to the Apostle Paul's divine vision for holy matrimo-

ny as articulated in his letter to the church at Ephesus. The Southern Baptists' statement says, "a wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband." The key idea in that sentence is "servant leadership."

Some of the statement's critics cite Ephesians 5:21, which instructs all Christians to submit themselves one to another, as teaching a "mutual submission" to negate the next twelve verses which detail the distinct but equally valuable roles of the husband and wife in the marriage relationship. In fact, Ephesians 5:21 addresses the mutual submission that all

Religious critics should remember that there are many kinds of submission. There is the submission to the divine authority of the Bible, and then there is submission to the pervasive pressure of a secular culture which rejects the authority of Scripture.

altar of cultural ridicule for having the audacity to proclaim that they believed the Bible still revealed God's changeless, absolute truths concerning the family as a sacred institution of divine origin and design.

In adding, by overwhelming vote, a new article on "The Family" to its *Baptist Faith and Message* confessional statement during its 1998 annual meeting, the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination, proclaimed that "God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society" and that "marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime."

At the very outset of their 272-word family statement, buttressed by 42 Scripture references, Southern Baptists rejected the idea that marriage is an institution of human origin. As the accompanying "commentary" issued by the

THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE'S Statement of Faith on THE FAMILY:*

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 3:1-20; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Josh. 24:15; 1 Sam. 1:26-28; Ps. 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Prov. 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Eccl. 4:9-12; 9:9; Mal. 2:14-16; Matt. 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Tim. 5:14; 2 Tim. 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7.

* Overwhelmingly adopted as a new article to *The Baptist Faith and Message* confessional statement during the Southern Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 9, 1998

Submission:

Christians are to express one to another. Then, beginning in Ephesians 5:22, the passage explains how that submission and servant's heart are to be expressed within marriage.

The primary emphasis both in the Apostle Paul's Ephesian epistle and the Southern Baptists' family statement is on the husband's responsibility to submit himself to his wife by loving her "as Christ loved the church" and to fulfill his "God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family." How did Christ love the church? The love with which Christ loved the church was the *agape* love which He modeled by giving His life for the church. It is *agape* love which transforms worldly ideas of submission from dominance and subservience to humility and service.

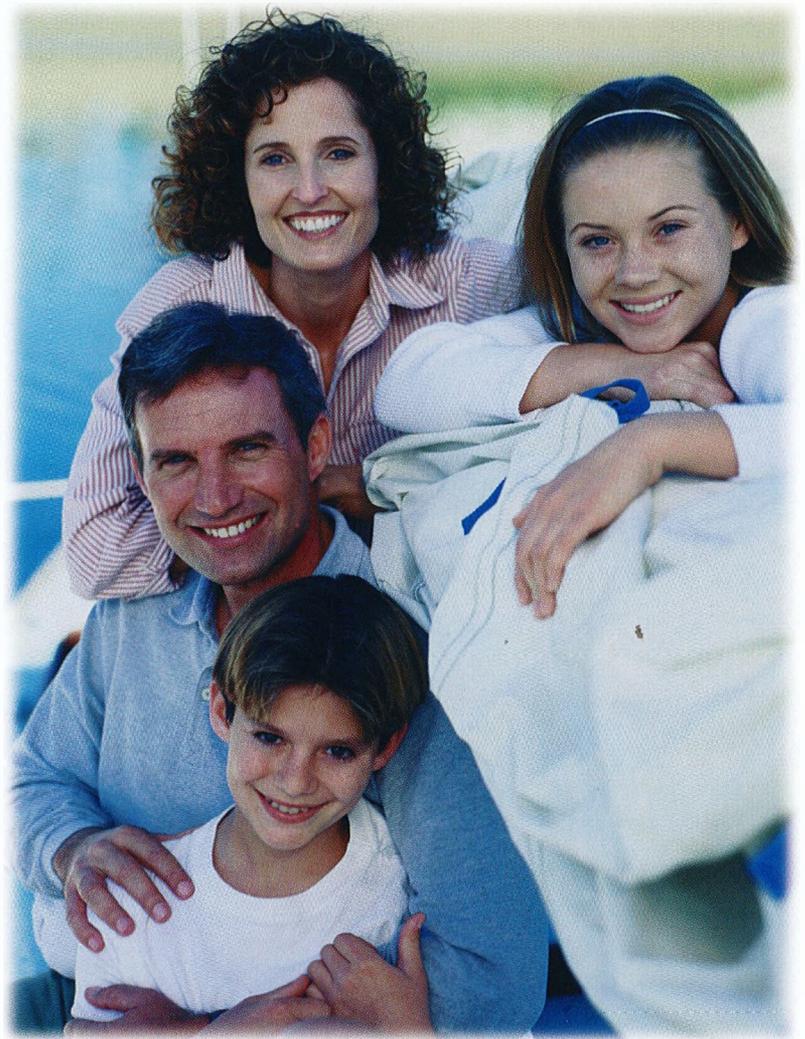
In writing to the Corinthian church the Apostle Paul penned a divinely inspired essay on this *agape* love with which husbands are commanded to love their wives: "Love is patient and kind, Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice. . . . Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Love will last forever. . . ." (1 Cor. 13:4-8a, *New Living Bible*).

Agape love requires the husband to *always* put his wife's needs above his own and to give himself in self-sacrificial service to her. The Southern Baptists' reaffirmation of a biblical model of marriage elicited an appreciative response from the evangelical community. Over 130 evangelical leaders from across the nation took out a full-page ad in *USA Today* in August 1998 affirming the SBC's marriage and family

stance, including Franklin Graham, of Samaritan's Purse ministry; Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson and his wife Patty; Promise Keepers founder Bill McCartney and his wife Lyndi; prominent Dallas African-American pastor Tony Evans and his wife Lois; and Moody Bible Institute president Joseph Stowell and his wife Martie. Such a response was much appreciated, but not surprising.

The Southern Baptists' stance on the family has also continued to provoke the extreme displeasure and stern rebuke of the cultural cognoscenti. That, too, was to be expected.

However, the Southern Baptists' family affirmation has also evoked a surprisingly negative response from within the Christian community, including some Southern Baptists. These critics denounced the statement about wifely submission in the trendy egalitarian rhetoric of the late 20th century, blithely ignoring the fact that the Southern Baptists' family statement clearly affirms the "husband and wife are of equal worth before God since both are created in God's image" and the wife is "equal" to her husband. Perhaps these religious critics should remember that there are many kinds of submission. There is the submission to the divine authority of the Bible, and then there is submission to the pervasive pressure of a secular culture which rejects the authority of Scripture. God inspired the apostle Paul to warn Christians: "Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect" (Rom. 12:2, *Today's English Version*). ■



The primary emphasis both in the Apostle Paul's Ephesian epistle and the Southern Baptists' family statement is on the husband's responsibility to submit himself to his wife by loving her "as Christ loved the church" and to fulfill his "God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family."



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Young people today are more permissive than at any time in American history. A case could be made that our society permits its young to begin sexual activity sooner than any society before it. A recent poll indicated that over 50% of the sexually active boys had their first sexual encounter between the ages of eleven and thirteen, two years earlier than in the 1950s.

One hundred years ago it was not so. The rate of teenage unwed pregnancy then was nothing in comparison to what it is today, meaning the promiscuity level was nothing like current sexual activity among young people.

A hundred years ago, the church was the conscience of the nation. At one time, the church, as a powerful, morally savoring influence on the nation, spoke out loudly and effectively against any attempt to lower public moral standards. Today, Hollywood and Broadway have more influence on the morals of society than the church.

Where Did Permissiveness Come From?

THE MULTIBILLION DOLLAR ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

For about the last ninety years there has been a cultural war going on in this country between the entertainment industry and the church. Sexual permissiveness has been at the core of that cultural war. "Sex sells" is more than a cliché, it is a fact of life. Since its inception there have been those in the entertainment industry who have constantly tested the sexual mores of the nation. Today every moral standard is aggressively challenged by programmers. Christians are made to look ignorant, and sexual permissiveness is the "in" philosophy.

Virtue: **Every Parent's Dream**

EXPLICIT SEX EDUCATION

Sexual permissiveness and experimentation have gone up in direct proportion to the amount of time students spend in sex education classes. Children are curious, they want to experiment with what they learn. Without the benefit of strict adherence to abstinence, it should not be surprising that sexual permissiveness has reached all time high proportions for a civilized society.

Had it not been for courageous parents who fought a relentless battle in their public schools against compulsory explicit intercourse indoctrination programs, conditions would be far worse than they are. And the big lie in it all is that this radical brand of sex education, and the condoms given out to minors in school (often without parental consent), do not cut down on unwed pregnancy or venereal disease. How could it? It promotes promiscuity.

THE PORNOGRAPHY INDUSTRY

The early 1970s saw an almost unknown pornography industry burst onto the social scene in this country, promoting an "anything goes" mentality. In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court legalized pornographic literature for the first time. Within ten years we became the "porn capital of the world."

The results of easily accessible porn are obvious to all but liberals and those within the industry itself who refuse to acknowledge it as the primary cause of rape, incest, and sexual permissiveness. Most police officers acknowledge that whenever they arrest rapists and bizarre sex criminals, they invariably find ample evidence the offenders are heavily into pornography.

There is little doubt that pornography, which can be obtained by almost any teen who is willing to pollute his mind, is having a sexually permissive impact on society. Only

those who are committed to keeping their minds pure can resist the temptation to indulge in porn.

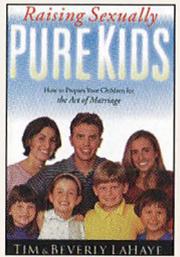
THE INCREASE IN DIVORCE

Today's divorce rate of 51% has contributed greatly to teenage sexual promiscuity. Many of these couples have children who are adversely affected by the destruction of their home. Even the most friendly separation causes pain to children, and many go into rage, self-rejection, and depression. Most blame themselves for their parents' decision. Some hold it against the parent they live with and feel rejected by the parent who leaves. They experience a serious love deficiency that many think they can resolve through early sexual activity. Instead, they wake up to find themselves pregnant or infected with a sexually transmitted disease. Both of these results will adversely affect their entire lives.

LATCHKEY CHILDREN

Roughly 20% of today's children are raised at some period of their lives as "latchkey children." That is, over four million young children go home after school to an empty house. Many become bored, curious, or defiant and spend time with neighbors or friends their parents would never approve. Such children are vulnerable to sexual curiosity or experimentation and many are victims of child molesters or perverts.

The picture of our cultural future is not too promising, particularly for those who are serious about raising virtuous children. Unless God intervenes, our culture will become even more sexually permissive than it is today, with sexual perversion and child molestation becoming the next taboos to fall to modern degeneracy. With the decline in moral standards, serious parents are going to have to become more involved in the sexual education of their children. ■



Excerpted from *Raising Sexually Pure Kids*, copyright ©1998 by Tim and Beverly LaHaye, by permission of Multnomah Publishers, Inc.

Available from the ERLC. Product code: BKRAI, \$12.00 ea. To order, call toll-free, 1-800-475-9127.

RECOMMENDED READING

Talking to Your Kids About Sex

"What does God want my child to know about sex?"

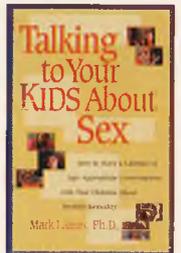
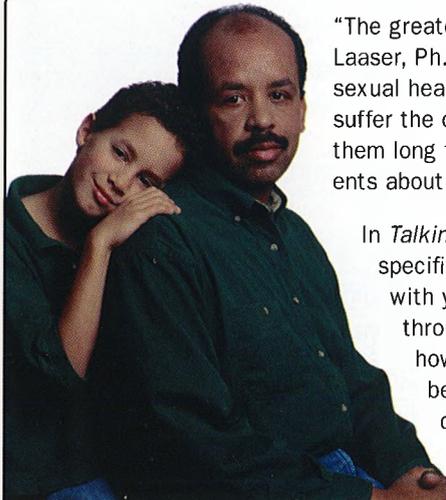
"My daughter is only 10. Is it too early—or too late—to begin talking with her about sex?"

"How can I lead my child to a standard of purity I wasn't able to achieve myself?"

"Where do I begin?"

"The greatest enemy of sexual wholeness today," asserts Mark Laaser, Ph.D., "is silence." A therapist specializing in the field of sexual health, Dr. Laaser has worked with hundreds of adults who suffer the consequences of sexual sin and dysfunction. All of them long to have had meaningful conversations with their parents about sex when they were growing up.

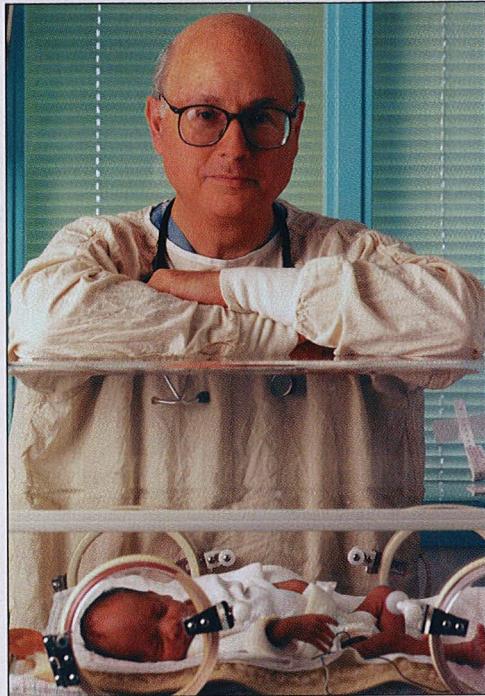
In *Talking to Your Kids About Sex*, Dr. Laaser offers specific, age-appropriate discussions you can have with your son or daughter from early childhood through young adulthood. He gives guidance on how to explore and examine your own sexual beliefs and empowers you to help your child develop a healthy, biblical understanding of sexuality, a glorious gift from God.



Talking to Your Kids About Sex, copyright ©1999 by Mark R. Laaser, Waterbrook Press, Colorado Springs, Colo. ISBN 1-57856-199-X

Of Life and Limb:

Reports of Trade in Fetal Body Parts Bring Swift Reaction



Why would a physician who has devoted his life's work to delivering healthy babies intentionally create a breech delivery? Mark Crutcher, president of the Denton-based pro-life organization Life Dynamics, Inc., suggests a chilling explanation for the widespread acceptance of partial-birth abortion among health-care professionals.

BY TOM STRODE

Reports of a macabre trade in the body parts of aborted babies have seized the attention of members of Congress and prompted a Southern Baptist bioethicist to describe the transactions as the "21st-century equivalent of grave robbing, but worse."

Evidence compiled clandestinely by a Texas-based pro-life organization shows some businesses are operating as agents between abortion clinics and researchers, procuring organs and other body parts from aborted children, then shipping them throughout the country to scientists who have requested them.

This trade in fetal parts, which requires whole or nearly whole bodies, explains why the partial-birth abortion procedure is defended so vociferously by abortion advocates, some pro-lifers say.

The practice of selling fetal body parts for research is worse than grave robbing, says Ben Mitchell, a consultant for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "At least the grave robbers didn't kill their victims," he notes.

WORSHIPPING AT THE ALTAR OF SCIENCE

"Commodifying, commercializing, and marketing aborted babies is almost too grotesque to imagine. Have we created an American research culture without a conscience?"

"Science has become a new religion — researchers are the priesthood, and we are sacrificing our babies on the altar of a modern Molech," laments Mitchell, assistant professor of bioethics and contemporary culture at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois.

Molech was a pagan god to whom even some of the Israelites sacrificed their children in Old Testament times.

The U.S. House of Representatives adopted a resolution Nov. 9 calling for Congress to hold hearings and to take the necessary steps to deal with companies "involved in the trafficking of baby body parts for profit." The resolution, though nonbinding, apparently will achieve its purpose. Hearings are expected in the House Commerce Committee next year, a congressional spokesman says.

"I applaud the Congress for calling for hearings, and I pray they will take place at the earliest possible opportunity," says ERLC President Richard Land. "This highly lucrative but barbaric business that is being supplied from the tiny victims of partial-birth abortion must be stopped."

AUDIOTAPE ADDRESSES IMPACT OF CLONING

A special program of Mars Hill Audio, this tape can be ordered by calling Mars Hill toll-free at 800-331-6407 (www.marshillaudio.org).

Mars Hill offers subscriptions to a 90-minute, bi-monthly audio journal with interviews of guests who offer incisive commentary on the important ideas that shape contemporary culture.

These essays by Leon Kass, Gilbert Meilaender, and Abigail Rian Evans examine the myriad ways in which human cloning would alter traditional understandings of human nature, procreation, and the family. (Read by Ken Myers.)



This sheet is one of more than 50 orders included in a publication by Life Dynamics, Inc., on the subject of fetal tissue harvesting/marketing related to the May 1999 and August 1999 editions of *LifeTalk* video magazine. The orders span from 1988 to 1998. For copies of *LifeTalk*, call toll-free, 1-800-401-6494.

Rep. Joseph Pitts, R.-Pa., in advocating oversight hearings, said, "This is not Nazi Germany; this is the United States. "Don't be fooled by false choices between medical research and no medical research. We have options other than buying and selling dead children's body parts for research. Don't believe the lie that medical progress hinges on this cruel commerce."

Federal funding of fetal-tissue research has been permitted since 1993, a change brought about after the election of Bill Clinton, and there is no ban on private experimentation. Fetal-tissue transplants are promoted by some as potential treatments for Parkinson's disease and other conditions.

The law, however, makes it illegal for a person "to knowingly acquire, receive, or otherwise transfer any human fetal tissue for valuable consideration."

INSIDER BLOWS WHISTLE ON TRAFFICKING OF BABY PARTS

Concerns about the practice were raised after reports of a secretive fetal-parts operation surfaced in *World*, a biblically based newsmagazine, and in the monthly newsletter of J.C. Willke's Life Institute. The source of the information was Life Dynamics Inc., a pro-life organization based in Denton, Tex.

Life Dynamics began its own investigation in 1997 when a woman asserting she worked as a procurer of baby tissue in an abortion clinic secretly contacted the pro-life group. She continued to work undercover in a Planned Parenthood clinic and provided

copies of forms from researchers requesting specific fetal tissue. LDI made available to interested news media copies of more than 50 of those orders, as well as price lists and, from one company, a brochure touting "fresh fetal tissue harvested and shipped to your specifications."

In an interview featured in a LDI video, Kelly — wearing a wig, her back to the camera, and her voice altered to conceal her identity — said she worked for an outside organization that paid a fee to the abortion clinic to enable it to send in technicians to "dissect and procure fetal tissue." Her colleagues and she "were looking for eyes, livers, brains, thymuses, cardiac blood, cord blood, blood from the liver, even blood from the limbs."

"We would get a generated list each day to tell us what tissue researchers, pharmaceutical companies, universities were looking for," she said.

Among the order forms provided allegedly by Kelly and released by Life Dynamics were requests for:

- ▲ Five to 10 samples a month, ordered by a researcher in San Diego, from babies 15 to 24 weeks' gestation of each of the following — kidneys, hearts, lungs, livers, spleens, pancreases, skin, smooth muscles, skeletal muscles, and brains.
- ▲ Livers from children 12 to 15 weeks into pregnancy, requested by a researcher at a Massachusetts primate center, ultimately to be implanted into apes or monkeys.
- ▲ Brains from babies of eight to 24 or more weeks' gestation

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CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED] M.D., Ph.D.

Phone: [REDACTED]
 FAX: [REDACTED]
 Pager: [REDACTED] → secretary, leave msg 1/95

Principal Investigator: [REDACTED] M.D., Hematology Branch Chief

Contact Person: [REDACTED] [home phone (e.g. Saturday morning) [REDACTED]]

Request effective: Immediately
 Request expires: indefinite

Federal Express Account Number: [REDACTED] same day or next morning delivery
 Purchase Order Number: [REDACTED] (expires 11/95)
 Accounts Payable [REDACTED]

Tissue desired:

1. fetal tibia and/or femur; spleen or thymus or liver
 gestational week 19-23
 quantity: 2-4 bones & either spleen (preferably) or thymus or liver (sub-optimal)
 receipt within 24 hours post-mortem (i.e. cells need to remain viable)
 preparation: standard (i.e. in DMEM or RPMI with antibiotics on wet ice); obtained aseptically
2. fetal cardiac tissue
 gestational week 16-24
 quantity: 1
 receipt within 24 hours post-mortem
 preparation: standard; obtained aseptically

I would prefer tissues without identified anomalies, in particular bone anomalies, although anomalies known not to affect bone, bone marrow, or lymphohematopoiesis would theoretically be acceptable if tissue availability was limiting.

Standard contagious disease screening (HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and syphilis) is sufficient

sought by a doctor at a Philadelphia hospital.

- ▲ Whole legs, including entire hip joints, from babies 22 to 24 weeks' gestation requested by a researcher at a Philadelphia university.
- ▲ Four to 10 eyes a day from children 16 to 24 weeks' gestation for doctors at a Chicago medical school.

Upon receiving the orders, Kelly and her colleagues examined patient charts, screening out babies with sexually transmitted diseases and abnormalities in order to obtain "the most perfect specimens," she said in the video interview. Only about 2% of late-term babies had abnormalities, Kelly said. While the babies they

Continued on page 10

Reactions to Lit

BY OLGA-MARIA C. CRUZ

I think I will always remember my emotional reaction to the tragedies that rocked Columbine High School this past spring, and that continue in the recent school shooting episode in Fort Gibson, Okla. Shock. Grief. Bewilderment. Like many, I continue to struggle with some very troubling questions and concerns about the violence in our nation; particularly violent acts carried out by young people:

- How can these young men progress so far into madness with no one intervening to counsel or to discipline them?
- How on earth can the survivors and bereaved families heal from such incredible trauma?
- What kind of justice can be done in the cases where the assassins take their own lives?
- What will happen to the survivors when they reach the "anger" stage of their grieving process? Will there be those who want to retaliate? Who will reach out to help them?
- When will the insanity of these school shootings end?

People blame the National Rifle Association, Hollywood film producers, absent parents, racism and secular humanism. Perhaps all these are partly to blame.

I hear people calling for prayer "to be allowed again in school" (in reality it has never been disallowed), and for the Ten Commandments to be posted on schoolhouse walls. Perhaps these would help, somewhat. But do we not realize that the real problem is sin? In our fallen world, a plaque inscribed with the Ten Commandments

provides little hindrance to our sinful behavior. We often fail to recognize the reality that we suffer, not only for our own sins, but also for the sins of others. Littleton, Colo., along with many other communities across our nation, now intimately understands this sad reality.

Our goal as Christians is to introduce people to the Lord Jesus so they might discover His life-changing power. Yet salvation is only the beginning of the Christian life, and prayer is only one aspect of what it means to follow Jesus. Even if we were able to reach the whole world with the Gospel, there would still be sin — there would still be disturbed teenagers and adults — there would still be violence in American streets and schoolyards.

Stricter controls on the film and firearms industries will not, cannot, fully eliminate violence from our schools or society. Posting the Ten Commandments is a fine statement of

Judeo-Christian values, but "Thou shalt not" simply does not have the power it once did. Our society has embraced moral relativism — a tragic confusion of right and wrong with no concern for the moral teachings of God's Word. There are no quick and easy solutions in a fallen world.

The only real solution is, in fact, a slow and difficult one. It is to develop Christ-like character in ourselves and our young people. We must model and nurture in our children the virtues that the church has long recognized as the core of Christian morality:

- **Faith** — trusting God in all circumstances.
- **Hope** — not giving in to feelings of pain and despair; keeping a perspective that protects us from being overwhelmed by the past, the present, or the future.
- **Love** — not putting others in "unlovable" categories; going beyond respect to cherish and embrace others, rather than excluding them.
- **Patience** — not giving in to frustration; not demanding instant gratification.
- **Peacemaking** — not giving in



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to feelings of anger; stepping in to resolve conflicts; walking in forgiveness.

We need to acknowledge and teach that sin has not just ultimate, but real, earthly consequences that are unavoidable. Despite our occasional feelings of isolation, none of us lives in a vacuum. Our actions, words, and attitudes deeply affect those around us.

We need to vigorously promote the sanctity of human life — that each person is sacred in the eyes of God and that God calls us to treat one another as sacred.

We need to model and teach *agape* love — not the unbiblical love that says, “I’ll love you if you’re skin color is the same

as mine,” or “I’ll love you if you dress like me,” but instead — “I love you because Christ loves you.” Let us not love with words alone but with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18).

We need to lead our churches in reaching out to young people who appear isolated, troubled, or on the fringes of their school society.

We must help our youth strive to be peacemakers, following the example of Christ.

We need to decide, as individuals and communities, that we are going to take intentional steps to shield our children from the very real danger of the very real sin hiding within their hearts. We will be successful only when we equip them with shields made from the virtues of faith, hope, and love. ■

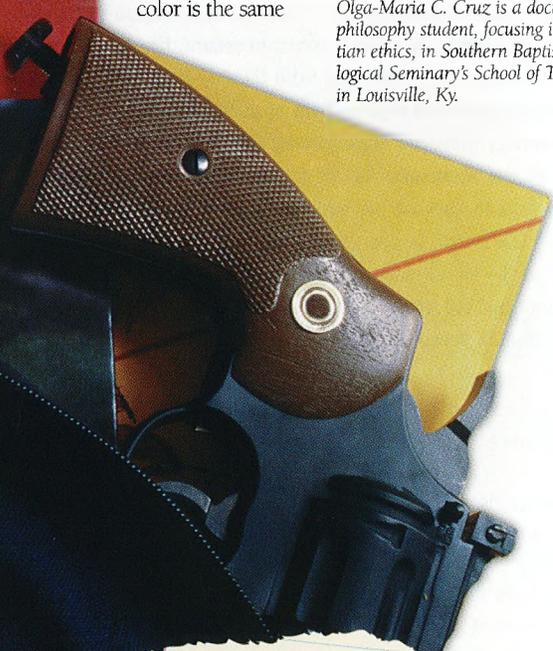
Olga-Maria C. Cruz is a doctor of philosophy student, focusing in Christian ethics, in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's School of Theology in Louisville, Ky.

U.S. TEENS SHARE ATTITUDES ABOUT SCHOOL VIOLENCE

The carnage at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., reminds us of the importance of paying attention to the opinions of the nation's teenagers. The Gallup Youth Survey (GYS) has been measuring the attitudes of teenagers in the United States on a weekly basis since 1977. The following snapshot represents a sampling of these opinions on issues which are related to the events at Columbine. Note that these teenagers' opinions were collected before the Colorado shootings, and may change in future measurements as a result of the tragedy.

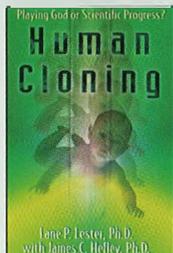
- ▲ One teen in six (17%) says that students bringing weapons to school is a “very big” or “big” problem in his/her school.
- ▲ Seven in 10 (70%) say they would report someone who brought a weapon to school.
- ▲ “Gangs”/“violence” is the third most often cited problem facing people their age.
- ▲ In a 1996 survey, three in 10 teens said that when they are in school, they fear for their physical safety.
- ▲ One teen in five has a best friend who was attacked within the period of a year by someone wielding a lethal weapon.
- ▲ Seven in 10 report observing fights at their schools.
- ▲ Three in 10 teens say they are aware of peers who have carried or regularly carry guns and knives when they are in school.
- ▲ Six in 10 teens say that laws governing the sale of firearms should be stricter; 54% would favor a total ban on assault rifles; 70% say Americans should NOT have the right to own large quantities of weapons.
- ▲ Nearly half of teens say there are guns in their homes.
- ▲ About half of teens say it is “very important” or “somewhat important” to know how to shoot a gun.
- ▲ Six percent say it is “very important” or “somewhat important” to belong to a gang or posse.
- ▲ One fifth of teens (based on a GYS scale) fall into the category of “alienated.” About 10% of teenagers say they are unhappy with the way they are.
- ▲ Six in 10 teens believe that media containing violence contributes to violent behavior in life.
- ▲ Only about one in five says his/her parents are very strict about what he/she is permitted to watch on TV.

Emerging Trends (Princeton Religion Research Center), April 1999



In a 1996 survey, three in 10 teens said that they fear for their physical safety when they are in school.

RECOMMENDED READING



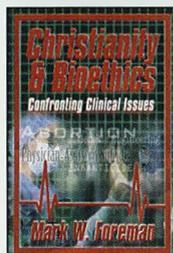
Human Cloning

Is human cloning playing God, or scientific progress?

This book takes a look at where genetic engineering is headed and highlights the challenges posed by a mechanistic science that denies the God of creation.

BKHUM (175 pages)

\$10.00 ea.



Christianity & Bioethics

Because medical technology is advancing at such an alarming rate,

we often don't have the time to reflect on their ethical, social, legal, and religious implications. This book addresses these questions, and others:

- ▲ Is abortion ever justifiable?
- ▲ Should doctors be allowed to help patients who wish to end their lives?
- ▲ Can we use genetic therapy to enhance the human race?
- ▲ Should we seriously consider cloning human beings?

BKCHR (298 pages)

\$21.99 ea.

To order, call toll-free: 1-800-475-9127.

Fetal Body Parts—*from page 7*

used were from seven to more than 30 weeks' gestation, her team would see 30 to 40 babies a week of about 30 weeks' gestation in the clinic, Kelly says.

The fetal parts were shipped through normal routes, such as Federal Express and United Parcel Service. Shipments contained not only body parts but sometimes a "completely intact fetus," Kelly says.

GROTESQUE PRICE LISTS OFFER "HIGHEST QUALITY"

According to LDI, two of the businesses that provide fetal-tissue procurement and delivery are Anatomic Gift Foundation, based in Laurel, Md., and Opening Lines, until recently operating out of West Frankfort, Ill. Opening Lines fled the southern Illinois town after the local newspaper reported the nature of its business and is operating elsewhere, according to a report in *World*.

AGF's price list, provided by LDI, is based on the age of the fetus and whether the tissue is fresh or frozen. For instance, fresh tissue from a baby of 13 to 24 weeks' gestation is \$90, while fresh tissue from one six to 12 weeks is \$220.

Opening Lines' prices are for specific parts or intact babies. An intact child of more than eight weeks is \$600. A brain from a child of eight weeks' or less gestation is \$999. Eyes of more than eight weeks are \$50, while gonads are \$550. Opening Lines promotes its business through brochures touting its desire to provide, as one says, "the highest quality

product prepared to your specifications and delivered when you need it."

The companies seek to avoid breaking the law by not paying directly for fetal tissue and by not accepting money directly for it. They pay site fees to work at the abortion clinics, according to LDI. The researchers pay the companies for their retrieval costs, LDI reported.

Susan Dudley of the National Abortion Federation, which represents about 350 abortion clinics, says she

LDI President Mark Crutcher says Dudley was guilty of "making a blanket condemnation" about his organization without addressing whether the information it has provided is correct. He would be glad to "go on a national television debate to debate [with her] whether this is true or not," Crutcher says.

The information provided by Kelly has helped lead Crutcher and other pro-lifers to charge the fetal parts market is the reason abortion advocates defend

Selling body parts or human tissue is against federal law, so how does the abortion industry circumvent this? Fetal tissue wholesalers pay abortion clinics a "site fee" to place employees, also known as "procurement agents," into abortion clinics to collect various body parts of aborted babies. In return, the employee will have access to all desirable fetal tissue. These agencies then ship the tissue to researchers at pharmaceutical companies, university research laboratories, and government agencies. Technically the wholesaler is not paying for the tissue itself, but renting space to harvest the body parts. The abortionist then "donates" the tissue to the wholesaler. At the other end of the transaction the wholesaler will "donate" the fetal material to researchers but bill them for the cost of retrieval. Thus the business deal is complete.

Bradley Mattes, excerpted from the September 1999 *Life Issues Connector* (www.lifeissues.org)

is "aware that tissue donation goes on." She also acknowledges AGF has exhibited at NAF meetings. As for LDI's charges, Dudley says she would give no credence to "any information coming from Life Dynamics about anything." She has not seen the order forms distributed by LDI, Dudley says.

so intensely the partial-birth abortion method. "There is simply no other plausible explanation why a physician would intentionally create a breech delivery..." Crutcher speculates on one of LDI's videos. "Any way you cut it, the hidden agenda behind partial-birth abortion is the wholesaling of dead babies." ■

Winning at the Lottery

Alabama Christians

Joe Bob Mizzell, director of Christian Ethics/Chaplaincy Ministries for the Alabama Baptist State Convention, was instrumental in the pitched battle to defeat the lottery in Alabama.

BY JOE BOB MIZZELL

In 1998, then Lieutenant Governor Don Siegelman decided to run for governor of Alabama. Siegelman and his advisors placed their electoral hopes on the lottery issue, making a statewide referendum on the lottery the center of their campaign. Siegelman raised over four million dollars (much of it from the gambling industry) and successfully defeated the incumbent governor, Fob James, in a landslide. His platform consisted of one issue: the "education lottery."

On March 3, 1999, when the legislature convened for the first session of Siegelman's term, two gambling bills were immediately submitted—one to institute a state lottery and a second to permit video poker at the states' four dog tracks. Legislation for a referendum on a lottery based on Georgia's lottery passed over-

whelmingly; the video poker bill passed the House, but failed in the Senate.

Those who opposed the lottery, mainly churches and pro-family groups, knew the promises Siegelman made during his campaign were about to come true. With the full backing of the governor and legislature, the lottery was favored by nearly 65% of the state's citizens. To many it appeared futile to resist the rush to institute a lottery. However, leaders in the Christian community determined that, despite the odds, they would oppose it.

The Alabama Baptist Convention's Christian Ethics office began gathering material that was critical of gambling. The office developed an anti-gambling packet, easily recognizable for its red cover, and staffers worked to get the packet in the hands of every Alabama pastor.

The packet, nearly 200 pages thick, contained copies of the *Christian Life Report*, a newsletter from the Alabama Baptist State Convention's Christian Life Commission, four pamphlets on gambling from the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, a 27-page report called "Theft by Consent" by John Hill, research analyst with Alabama Family Alliance, mailings from Focus on the Family's James Dobson (January and April 1999), and other materials, including sermons and a Sunday School lesson on the topic. The Christian Ethics office produced and distributed over 3,000 packets.

The Alabama Family Alliance, a pro-family organization, produced a 12-minute video against the lottery in April. Thousands of these videos were sent throughout the state to be shown in churches on Sunday and

Wednesday evenings.

In May, the state's Christian Coalition chapter began planning a voter registration drive. While only 50% of the eligible voters in Alabama churches were registered to vote at the start, their efforts and help from churches added thousands of new voters to the rolls.

In June we began developing an anti-gambling organization, turning to the Alabama Citizens Action Program for leadership, an organization supported by a wide range of denominations. ALCAP executive director, Dan Ireland, with twenty years of experience on Alabama's Capitol Hill in Montgomery, is highly respected by all the churches of Alabama as well as by state legislators.

His first effort was to have a meeting at Birmingham Southern College, a Methodist college in Alabama. Bishop Fanning hosted the meeting, and denomination heads throughout the state were invited. Attendance was not good, but it was a symbol of the united effort in this battle. Later, a second meeting of denomination heads was called in Birmingham and again attendance was poor; however, again it created a nucleus of denominational leaders for the battle against the lottery.

Next, strategy meetings at the Baptist Building in Montgomery were scheduled for July 6, September 7, and October 4. These meetings were well attended by selected pastors, denominational leaders, representatives of pro-family groups, politicians, and lay persons and became the focal point for organization.

The next move was to devel-

IS GAMBLING A GOOD BET?

Despite its lure as the pathway to happiness, gambling is a destroyer of homes and lives. The resources shown here reveal the true nature of an industry that offers false hope and empty promises and has a devastating effect on the nation's economy.

Seducing America

This book stirs Christians into action with true stories of lives destroyed by gambling. Further, it includes biblical analyses and a hard look at legalized gambling as a destructive force in America.

BKSED (176 pages)

\$10.00 ea.

Crapped Out

This book details how gambling ruins the economy. Loaded with statistics and powerful personal stories, it includes articles from *U.S. News and World Report*, major gambling trade publications, and various newspapers.

BKCRA (233 pages)

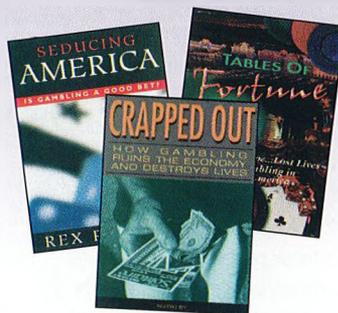
\$15.50 ea.

Tables of Fortune

This book exposes attempts by gambling interests to control the economic and social fabric of the nation. In addition, it points out the Bible's call to a level of lordship that values persons above things.

BKTAB (80 pages)

\$7.95 ea.



To order these products or the pamphlets mentioned in the article above, call toll-free: 1-800-475-9127.

ery: Say NO

op a political action committee that could receive contributions from churches and groups and do the proper reporting to the Secretary of State. This organization was called Citizens Against Legalized Lottery (CALL) and was led by businessman Jim Cooper. CALL's primary responsibility was to develop and purchase radio and television ads.

The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions played a significant role in defeating the lottery. Under the leadership of a new executive director, Rick Lance, the board voted to oppose the lottery and provide funding for the fight. They voted to again endorse a resolution against the lottery that had been unanimously passed by the Alabama Baptist State Convention during its annual meeting in November 1998.

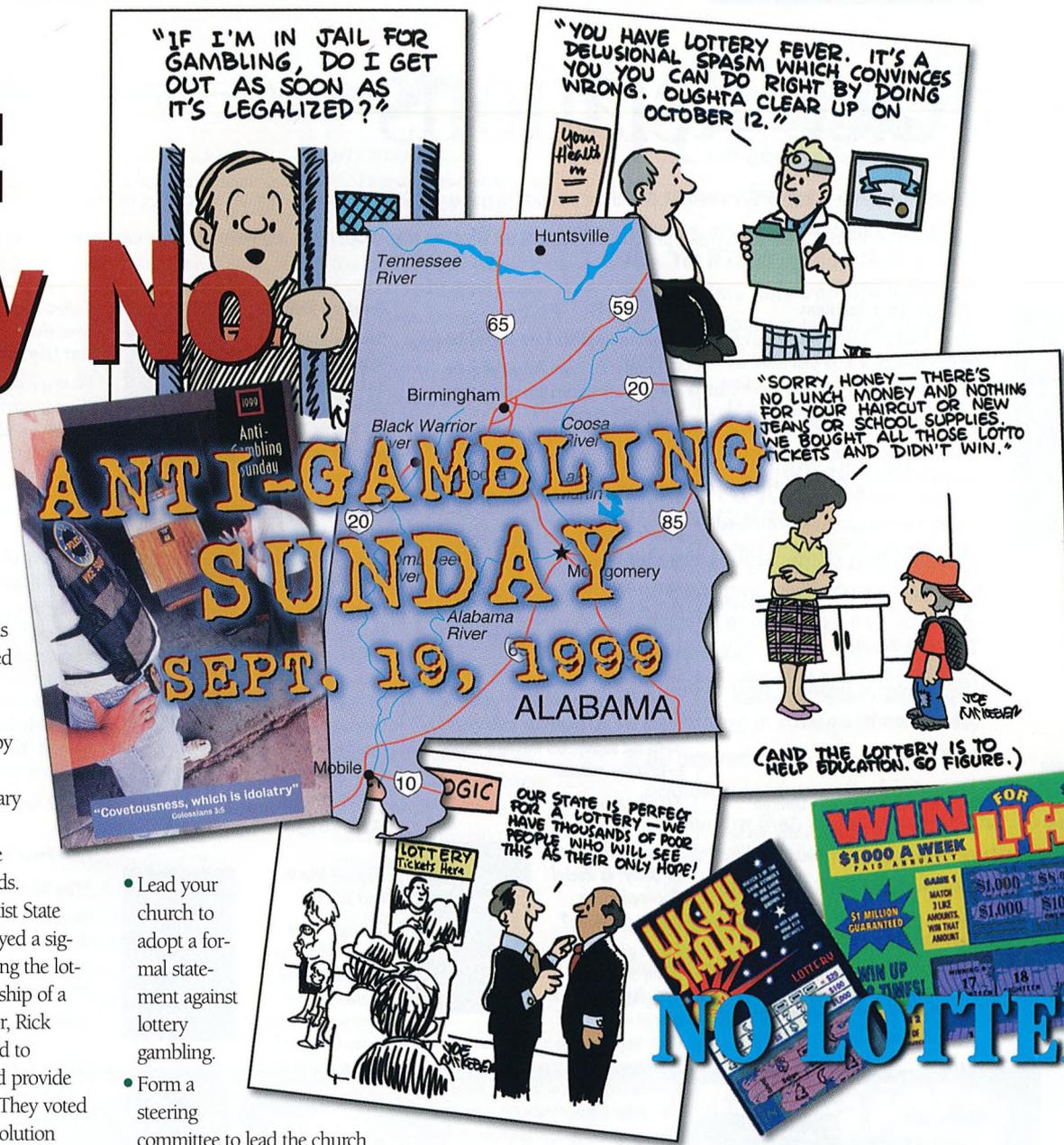
With this backing, Lance called on the Christian Ethics office to lead the battle for the convention to defeat the lottery. Immediately an informational packet was sent to every Baptist church and minister in the state. This packet contained a letter from the executive director, a sermon: "What the Bible Says About Gambling," a pamphlet from the ERLC on the state lottery, a pamphlet on church and government, and several other pieces, but the centerpiece of the packet was a page entitled "Ten Ways to Defeat the Lottery":

- Lead your church to adopt a formal statement against lottery gambling.
- Form a steering committee to lead the church in defeating lottery gambling.
- Start a voter registration drive. Cards can be obtained from your county courthouse.
- Get out the vote. Educate the people on the importance of voting. Provide transportation to the polls and child and/or elder care.
- Observe the SBC's denominational Sunday on Anti-Gambling (third Sunday of September). Order undated products from the ERLC.
- Establish prayer groups.
- Organize telephone committees to call people asking them to vote against the lottery.
- Share testimonies in church and other places about the evils of gambling.

- Work on public relations. Use mail-outs, publications, signboards, bumper stickers, radio, letters to the editor, and other opportunities to educate people on the value of a "NO" vote on lottery gambling.
 - Preach on and speak to civic groups against gambling.
- Through the leadership of Beverly Miller, executive director

of the Alabama Woman's Missionary Union, WMU joined the fight. They formed a group called CARE (Citizens Advocating Responsible Education and Economics), made up of WMU leaders and women from other denominations and groups. They chose Lenora Pate, who had bid unsuccessfully for

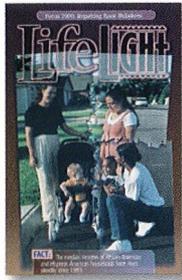
Continued on page 15



1999 was a banner year for Alabama Christians as they united across the state to defeat lottery gambling as a form of revenue for their state government. They used mail-outs, video presentations, bumper stickers, signs, anti-gambling cartoons in state publications and church bulletins, newspaper articles, radio and television to get their message across. The pro-lottery tide finally turned as Southern Baptist churches and many from other denominations observed anti-gambling Sunday on Sept. 19.

Race Relations

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission offers these products to encourage Southern Baptists to make overcoming racial prejudice an intentional process . . . with people of different races setting aside preconceived ideas about what the other's race is like and getting to know each other on a personal level.



RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY

FEB. 13, 2000

Featured on this page are resources offered through the ERLC that deal with race relations. Watch your mail for a catalog sheet with order form, or call to order featured products: 1-800-475-9127.

LifeLight: Race Relations

Formerly billed as a bulletin insert, this piece has been expanded to a four-page format and includes commentary written in layman's terms which relates real-life scenarios along with biblical application. It also includes vital statistics, prayer points, action points, and steps to becoming a Christian. The piece can be used in conjunction with the emphasis date on the Southern Baptist calendar as well as throughout the year when emphasizing critical life issues. Color/undated. One of a series. *Pictured left.*

RABULK \$3.50/50

2000 Race Relations Poster

This full-color 14"x22" poster complements the product above to promote Race Relations Sunday. Undated. One of a series.

RAPOS \$9.5 ea.

Race Relations Sermon Outline*

Suggested for Race Relations Sunday, this sermon can be used in its entirety or as a resource.

RASER \$22 ea.

Race Relations Fact Sheet*

The ERLC's new fact sheet reveals the work of Southern Baptists and others in racial reconciliation. The 1999 sheet provides statistics and quotes reflecting the state of race relations.

RAFAC \$22 ea.

Children's Coloring Poster and Activities Booklet

The 11"x17" poster includes a line drawing of children of all shapes and sizes in a neighborhood parade. The 8-page booklet (pictured), contains coloring and activities pages to help children recognize the similarities among people and teach them how to respond to the differences. Both are wonderful teaching tools in the church or home.

RACHI (poster) \$08 ea.

RAKIN (8 1/2" x 11" booklet) \$85 ea.

"Colors of the World"

This set of crayons includes a variety of skin, hair, and eye colors for coloring people of the world. When used with the coloring poster or activity booklet above, they make a great tool to teach children to "love one another" across racial and ethnic lines.

RACRA \$1.65 ea.



VIDEO

Southern Baptists Face Racial Issues

A reminder of the racism that existed in the past and a call to action to combat the prejudice that still permeates the SBC.

VTRAC (VHS, 22 min.) \$9.95 ea.

BOOKS

Leon's Story

Leon Walter Tillage takes us into a private world of hopes and dreams that dash against the very public world of segregation and denial. His story tells of a strong family and the love that bound them together amid cruelty and tragedy...and working to change an oppressive existence.

BKLED (107 pages) \$14.00 ea.

Winning the Race to Unity: Is Racial Reconciliation Really Working?

There is a tension in this country between the races, and sadly, it is no different in the body of Christ. Despite progress in some areas, the gulf between white evangelicals and African-American Christians is as wide as it has ever been. Author Clarence Shuler shares the blessings that can be ours if we take a serious look at the issues that separate us and obediently follow Jesus.

BKRCR (231 pages) \$11.99 ea.

Healing America's Wounds

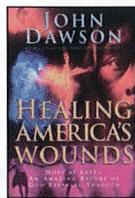
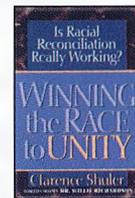
This book is a must-read for all who pray and labor toward a spiritual awakening to Christ in our nation. It provides a compelling, biblical road map toward Christ-centered reconciliation.

BKHEA (280 pages) \$10.45 ea.

More Than Equals

Spencer Perkins and Chris Rice present a model of intentional unity, crossing barriers for racial harmony as well as the furtherance of the Gospel.

BKMDR (254 pages) \$5.00 ea.



Breaking Through

Wellington Boone challenges Christians to break through to the next level in their faith and "take the Kingdom into the culture by out-serving others."

BKBRE (212 pages) \$15.90 ea.

Let's Get to Know Each Other

This book shares what white and black Christians need to know about each other, offering understanding and encouragement to help break the bonds of separation and build a foundation united by Christ's love and saving power for all people.

BKLET (165 pages) \$10.90 ea.

Beyond Black and White

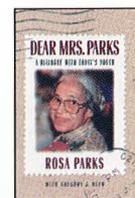
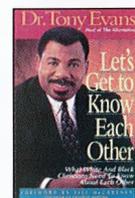
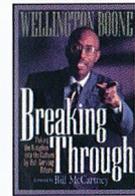
Sociologist George Yancey, with sensitivity and insight, answers the Christian's concerns about where he or she fits into God's plan for peace among the races.

BKBEY (173 pages) \$11.55 ea.

Dear Mrs. Parks

On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks changed the course of history when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, launching the 381-day boycott of the Montgomery bus system by African-Americans. *Dear Mrs. Parks* is a collection of letters between Rosa Parks and children over the last 40 years in which she challenges young people to be a force for positive change in society.

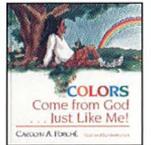
BKDEA (111 pages) \$10.99 ea.



Colors Come from God... Just Like Me!

This story is told by an African-American girl who shares about the many things God created and their beauty in the diversity of colors God gave them.

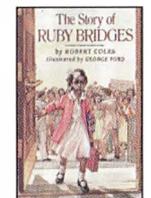
BKCOL (hardcover) \$11.00 ea.



The Story of Ruby Bridges

The first black child to attend an all-white elementary school, Ruby faces angry mobs as she is escorted to and from first grade by federal marshalls. With courage beyond her years, she becomes an important part of American history.

BKSTO (hardcover) \$13.40 ea.



PAMPHLETS

"The Bible & Race"

This pamphlet by Paul Griffin Jones and Elizabeth King Holmes clarifies passages from Scripture often misinterpreted and used to support and perpetuate racist attitudes.

RABIB \$35 ea.

"Issues & Answers: Human Rights"

A look at what Christians can do individually and as a church to champion human rights in both domestic and international arenas.

IAHUM \$17 ea.

"Issues & Answers: Race Relations"

Examining race from a biblical perspective and accepting an attitude of change in the home, church, and community.

IARAC \$17 ea.

"Critical Issues: Refugees"

Scriptural insights and a look at the Christian's responsibility as it relates to refugees.

CIREF \$33 ea.

"The Bible Speaks on Race"

Examples from Scripture which can be applied to race relations, evidencing the sovereignty of God to all men.

BSRAC \$17 ea.

"Racism and the Evangelical Church"

Evangelist Billy Graham defines racial and ethnic hatred as sin and offers Christians insight in the struggle for racial reconciliation.

RARAC \$10 ea.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

God Makes Us Different

This book shows young readers that although we all have different personalities and physical traits, all of us are beautiful and special in God's eyes.

BKGOD (softcover) \$5.60 ea.



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Shipment via the U.S. Postal Service is available on some small orders. Tracking and insurance are not available with this service.

Alabama Lottery Defeated— from page 13

candidacy in the 1998 Democratic gubernatorial primary, as director. Her outstanding abilities as a speaker and great skills in dealing with the media proved invaluable.

Letters and videos were sent to the state directors of missions. Missions directors were a vital grassroots part of the movement as they passed the word down the line to churches in their associations.

Under the leadership of the Baptist state executive director, other offices at the Baptist Building joined in the battle. The office of communications' Keith Hinson wrote numerous articles and news releases on the issue. He used the *Great Commissions Ministries Report*, a news bulletin developed to assist the executive director in getting out vital information to Convention leaders, to share timely information on the lottery fight. Cartoonist

Joe McKeever added his skills to the mix, creating 17 cartoons on the lottery issue which showed up in numerous publications across the state, including scores of church bulletins and local newspapers. Doug Rogers, also in the communications and marketing division of the state Baptist office, produced five radio commercials critical of the lottery proposal.

The office of Christian Ethics served as a supplier of materials and information to the churches, sending out over 54,000 bumper stickers, and distributing "NO LOTTERY" signs throughout the state.

With Baptists providing the leadership, the opposition to the lottery crossed denominational, racial, and organizational lines. Christian radio played a vital role. The state Baptist newspaper, *The Alabama Baptist*, produced editorials and articles against the lot-

tery every week.

Despite these efforts, as election day polls neared, Alabama voters still favored the lottery. Those working for a "NO" vote had a new foe: discouragement. Then on September 19, Anti-Gambling Sunday, polling trends began to reverse. As a result of this special day, observed by nearly all Baptist churches and many churches of other denominations, the Spirit of God fell on Alabama. From that day forward, people began to believe the lottery proposal could be defeated.

When the votes were counted on October 12, the people of God had soundly defeated the lottery by a vote of 54% to 46%. Never in the history of Alabama had all the Christian people joined together as one to fight such a battle. Without question, God gave the victory, and Alabama was saved from the tragedy of a state lottery. ■

Human nature, untouched by God's grace, seeks out pleasure and self-glorification.

We strain at the yoke and struggle at the harness, yearning to direct our own destiny. Yet it is all in vain. There is One far greater, One only who will have His way, His sovereignty revealed in Scripture and reflected in history. "My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please," says the Lord God (Isa. 46:10b).

HOW CAN YOU KNOW THIS ONE WHO HAS PROVIDED A WAY OF RECONCILIATION?

- ▲ **Cease your struggles and admit you are a sinner, realizing your works are nothing apart from God (Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:23).**
- ▲ **Come to God seeking a relationship by trusting in His Son (Rom. 10:13).**
- ▲ **Be assured that once you have acknowledged your disobedience to and before God, which is common to all, He will forgive your sins and restore your relationship with Him (John 3:16).**
- ▲ **Share your decision to accept Christ.**

Rejoice in your new life. Hoist His standard of morality as your solitary guide and rule.

What difference can you make?

13 cents will provide a meal for a **needy** person

\$1.79 provides milk for a hungry infant in Argentina for one month.

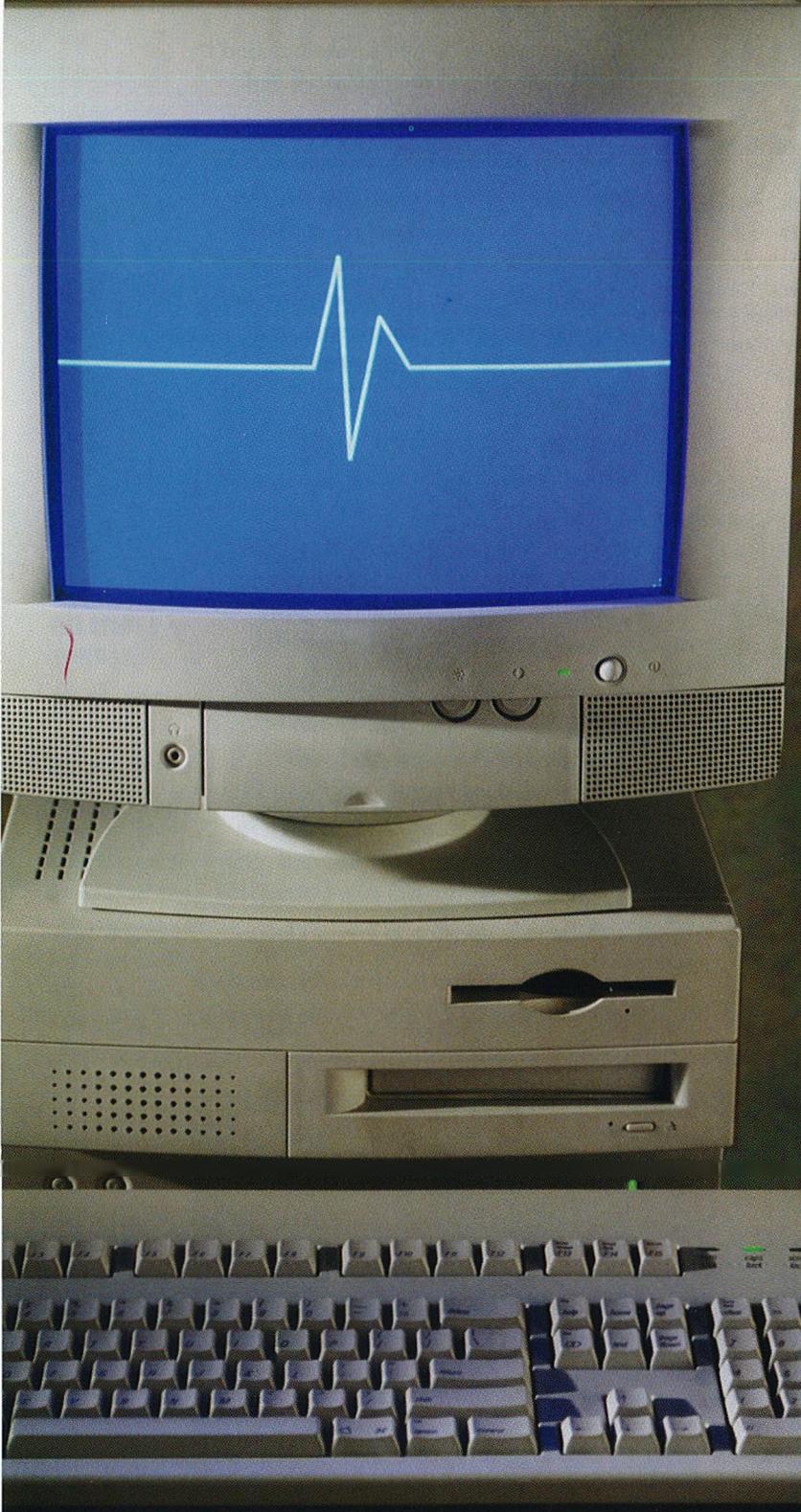
\$10 will feed a Kosovo war victim for one month.

The Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund uses 100% of all donations for hunger relief.

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