



## Virginia conservatives form group as Draper admits he was misled

by Craig Bird, Feature Editor,  
Baptist Press, and Tom Miller,  
Associate Editor, Religious Herald

An effort to form an "association of conservative churches" in Virginia has not received encouragement from James T. Draper Jr.

Draper, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., said a group which met in Lynchburg, Va., had contacted him and requested he send a letter of congratulations or greetings when they met to discuss forming a new association.

At the meeting Arthur B. Ballard Jr., pastor of Old Forest Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg and host and spokesman for the group, read Draper's letter, which was described as "congratulating the group on their plan to form the new association."

The group set up a committee to study a new association which could, among other things, "sponsor a conservative newspaper in Virginia" and use contributions for evangelization "rather than in associational administrative overhead."

"I was misinformed," Draper said. "They told me they had been in touch with Dr. (Robert) Baker (retired professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.) to be sure they were following proper procedures."

"My letter, which I tried to word very carefully, merely affirmed that they were following historic Baptist principles in the right of churches to form an association."

"I completely disavow any implication I was encouraging the establishment of parallel state conventions," he stressed.

DRAPER INDICATED SOME MISUNDERSTANDING may have been over the word "association." He took the word to mean a local, geographically compact, organization of churches. However the Virginia convention is

known as the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Ballard agreed Draper's letter had a narrow scope. "He merely endorsed our freedom to form an association," Ballard told Baptist Press in a phone interview. He added he did not see the new organization as a parallel state convention and while it had some statewide programs in mind, "I don't know of any association that does not address statewide issues."

"Any time you make a move that is new some people see it as a split," Ballard explained. "But all we are doing is moving within the framework of Baptist history and giving conservative preachers a new awareness of expression within Virginia Baptist circles."

"The historical significance of this is that no one has ever gotten an organization together for this purpose (to group conservatives for fellowship) within the guidelines of Baptist policy."

AS OF SEPT. 30 BALLARD SAID 11 CHURCHES had indicated they would join and four more would be deciding in the next week. The churches are scattered all across Virginia but Ballard said the aim was not another state convention but a "means of allowing us to work within the system—as you know many of us started on the outside."

Last fall, Ballard led his church to align with the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists. At that time he said he could not support some of the teachings at the University of Richmond and the abortion policies of Virginia Baptist hospitals so Old Forest Road Church would give only nominally to the Baptist General Association of Virginia while sending the bulk of its Cooperative Program gifts to the West Virginia convention.

A three-hour service of "freedom in autonomy" was held Sept. 26 at Old Forest Road Church. Robert G. Witty, founder and chancellor of Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla., and Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, Dallas, were principal speakers.

In preliminary remarks Ballard listed five things "we can expect to do" if a new association is formed: "One, we can speak with a united conservative voice; two, we can sponsor a conservative newspaper in Virginia; three, we can speak out on moral issues such as abortion, prayer in schools, pornography, the direction of the hierarchy in the SBC; four, we can use the association's money for evangelization and

starting churches in areas where Baptists are weak rather than in associational administrative overhead; five, through revivals and crusades we can reach the lost in Virginia."

Ballard said, following that meeting, they are "not leaving the Southern Baptist Convention; not going independent. We can be dually aligned with the associations we are now in."

Ballard said a committee made up of eight pastors and 16 laymen will study why an association is needed, guidelines for a fresh new work, recommend a name for the association, poll local churches as to interest, plan the next meeting, enter into correspondence and report back at a Nov. 21 meeting tentatively set for Old Forest Road Church.

SEPT. 9 HOUSTON APPEALS COURT JUDGE PAUL PRESSLER and Russell Kaemmerling, editor of the independent Southern Baptist Advocate, met in Lynchburg with some of the same people who are discussing the new association.

At that meeting, both Pressler and Kaemmerling predicted the election of a president from their camp in Kansas City, Mo. next June, an action they said would "reflect the demise of the stranglehold of liberalism on the convention."

Kaemmerling later told the Religious Herald a small group of persons present suggested Homer Lindsay Jr., Charles Stanley and Ed Young as acceptable candidates. He could not recall if the Virginians or the visiting Texans called the names.

Lindsay is pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta; and Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.

Pressler said he expected "God to place the mantle on one of these three just before the convention as in years past."

In talking with the Herald, Kaemmerling said one of the main agenda items for the inerrancy faction is the removal of James M. Dunn as executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C. He said the main reason is Dunn's opposition to the constitutional amendment on prayer in the public schools and Dunn's referral to President Reagan as a "demagogue."

"We cannot have an agency head who constantly humiliates the convention," stressed Kaemmerling.

## BSSB hears views on millenium

Southern Baptist pastors gave differing views on the millennium—events surrounding the second coming of Jesus Christ as interpreted primarily in the book of Revelation—but affirmed a common belief Jesus will return to earth at the end of time.

A two-day millennial consultation was held for 140 employees of the Baptist Sunday School Board to hear differing views commonly held by Southern Baptists.

The pastors who presented papers on

their views were Hal Brooks, pastor of Southcliff Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex., historical premillennialism; Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Tex., dispensational premillennialism, and John McClanahan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Ark., amillennialism.

"The purpose of the consultation was to sharpen and broaden our perception of the millennium at some points," said Morton Rose, vice president for church programs and services at the board.

## Outcry continues against Senate vote on Vatican ties

Protestant and evangelical church leaders assailed as unnecessary and discriminatory a move in Congress to authorize funds to establish official U. S. diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

The U. S. Senate unexpectedly approved a measure Sept. 22 to fund a diplomatic mission to the Vatican, overturning a ban imposed in 1867.

At an Oct. 5 press conference, spokesmen for five Protestant and evangelical organizations voiced alarm the Senate vote was by unanimous consent and no hearings had been held.

Speaking for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, whose executive committee on Oct. 3 reaffirmed the agency's longstanding opposition to diplomatic recognition of the Vatican, executive director James M. Dunn said "any attempt to show preferential treatment to one particular church or religious body" violates separation of church and state.

## HMB reprimands pastor for arrest at nuclear protest

Jim Lowder, pastor, Delores Street Baptist Church, San Francisco, has been reprimanded by the Home Mission Board.

Lowder, his wife, Rose Ann, and nine other members of Delores Street Baptist Church, were arrested June 20 during a nuclear protest outside the Livermore Research Laboratory.

Their protest gained national coverage when the 11 gave their individual names as "Southern Baptist Convention" after they were among more than 1000 protesters who were arrested and charged with obstructing traffic.

The Lowders are jointly appointed by the Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

The reprimand did not become public knowledge until a budget fight erupted in the September meeting of the California convention's executive committee in which board member Richard Neely, pastor of Alameda Baptist Church, moved the budget line for salary assistance for Delores Street church should be deleted. Neely said he was upset Lowder was receiving help from the California convention.

Robert D. Hughes, executive director-treasurer of the California convention, said he was likewise "appalled by the use of the name Southern Baptist Convention" in the protest but noted most of the salary was from the HMB.

Ralph Longshore, director of the missions division of the California convention, added, "(the Lowders) have been reprimanded and if it (their actions) continues, he (Lowder) will be dismissed."

After being cautioned not to remove the line item because, if Lowder were replaced, the funding would not be available for a new pastor either, the board voted overwhelmingly against the proposal to delete the funds.

Paul Adkins, director of the Christian social ministries department of the Home Mission Board, confirmed Oct. 3 the Lowders had been reprimanded but declined to comment since it was a personnel matter.

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C. R. Daley

# daley observations

## Historic religious freedom is threatened by government encroachment

(The following penetrating treatment of the threat to churches and their related agencies is recommended for serious study. It was prepared by Stan Haste, a keen analyst of church-state affairs, for the publication, *SBC Today*, and is used here with permission of that publication.—Editor)

While most of the controversy in current church-state relations swirls around such issues as prayer in public schools and tuition tax credits, no area of First Amendment religion law troubles church-state specialists more than what they perceive as unwarranted and unconstitutional intervention by the state into institutional religious life.

These experts are troubled by the multiplying instances in which governmental units at all levels are attempting to impose rules and regulations on churches and agencies belonging to churches. Until a decade or so ago, the controlling maxim seemed to be that church and state best coexist when government simply leaves the church alone to be the church.

Many of these instances of government intervention lie in an increasingly fertile area of constitutional law—taxation as it relates to churches. Perhaps the advent of fiscal crises at every governmental level has triggered close surveillance of religious groups.

Without question, the rise of well-publicized, highly visible and suspicious-sounding newer religions has also encouraged taxing authorities at local, state and federal levels to go beyond traditional limits in attempting to define a legitimate church or religious group.

Whatever the reasons, however, perhaps the most troubling cloud over America's church-state horizon is the growing tendency of government to intervene in religious life.

### INTEGRATED AUXILIARIES

Church-related agencies of all kinds have lived under the uncertainty of qualifying as "integrated auxiliaries" of churches under the ever-watchful eye of the Internal Revenue Service since 1969, the year the troublesome term "integrated auxiliary" was born.

Since 1976, when the Tax Reform Act passed by Congress took effect, churches have been plagued by classic bureaucratic bungling by IRS in proposing and implementing formal regulations defining "integrated auxiliaries."

Sen. Wallace Bennett, a Mormon, was concerned that some of his church's affiliated organizations might not fit into "churches" or their "conventions and associations." With the term "auxiliaries," he intended that IRS give as broad a latitude as possible to include all church-related institutions. But IRS regulations have achieved the opposite.

A case in point is the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes.

Despite the fact that Tennessee Baptists have maintained homes for the care of orphaned and other needy children since 1891, the IRS in 1981 declared the homes did not qualify as "integrated auxiliaries" of the Tennessee Baptist Convention or of the Tennessee churches that maintain the homes.

Under a related provision in the Internal Revenue Code, the IRS demanded the homes file financial information form 990. On the advice of the executive board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the homes refused.

After being assessed \$17,000 in penalties and

interest for failure to file the form in 1977, 1978 and 1979, the homes took the government to court.

The basis of their complaint, in a suit filed by Nashville attorney and Baptist layman Frank C. Ingraham, was that the homes' "principal activity is to carry out the mission and teachings of the member churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and, hence, its primary function is the Christian mission of its churches."

The case, which was filed Feb. 15, 1983, is set for a November trial in U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee.

### ADMISSIONS POLICIES

In the most publicized decision of its 1982-83 term, the U. S. Supreme Court upheld IRS' 13-year practice of denying federal tax exemption to private schools whose policies show racial bias.

In its 8-1 ruling against Bob Jones University and Goldsboro (N. C.) Christian Schools, the high court was apparently determined to leave no doubt that race discrimination of any form in admissions policies would not be rewarded with tax exemption.

One day before the May 24 decision, a unanimous high court had ruled in another case that tax exemptions and tax deductions for contributions to charitable organizations constitute government subsidy of nonprofit groups. That reasoning apparently eased the following day's decision.

The court held that the granting of tax exemptions may be conditioned by Congress and IRS on compliance with "fundamental public policy." The elimination of race discrimination in educational institutions of all kinds, including those of a religious nature, is such a public policy," the court held.

Many church tax experts are bothered by the ruling.

While uniformly condemning the policies against blacks at Bob Jones and Goldsboro, these specialists have criticized the court's view that the IRS may deny tax exemption to religious institutions with views contrary to established public policy even if Congress had not given the tax collecting agency specific authority to do so.

Much of these experts' concern is understandable; they know the sorry history of IRS abuse of the tax laws when it suits its purposes.

They remember, for example, the twin legal proceedings of the late 1960s against both the National Council of Churches and Billy James Hargis' ultra-right Christian Crusade. A blatantly politicized IRS was seeking to strip those polar opposites of their respective tax exemptions for the same reason: each was criticizing Richard Nixon's Vietnam policy.

Now, in light of the Bob Jones result, these legal experts—representing groups ranging from the National Council to the evangelical Christian Legal Society—are saying the justices went too far in giving IRS such broad statutory authority.

Does the ruling mean, they ask, that a similarly politicized IRS might choose to strip tax exemption from a church that speaks out against prevailing public policy on nuclear arms or refugee resettlement?

Only Congress can answer that key question, a point aptly made by Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. in a concurring opinion in the Bob Jones-Goldsboro case. Limiting IRS authority, he wrote, rests on the legislative branch.

Powell is right. Although members of both parties

on both sides of Capitol Hill breathed a collective sigh of relief when the decision—a ruling that apparently spared them from dealing with the matter—was announced, they should now be reminded that an unfettered IRS is like an untrained Merrill Lynch bull in a china shop. Congress now has the obligation to make plain to IRS that the high court ruling was intended to be limited to the fundamental public policy of eliminating race discrimination in educational institutions, not as a license to decide for itself what constitutes such basic public policy.

### EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

Another agency of the federal government, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, sought in 1978 to require reports on the racial, sexual and ethnic makeup of faculty and administrative and support staffs of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. EEOC cited Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and subsequent regulations adopted by the agency to implement Title VII as grounds for the demand.

After Southwestern Seminary refused to submit the information, EEOC took the school to court. Southwestern sought and received permission to ask the other five SBC seminaries to join the case as interested parties who would inevitably be affected by the outcome.

Southwestern won an initial battle when in January 1980, U. S. District Judge Eldon Mahon of Ft. Worth ruled on church-state grounds that the school was not subject to EEOC jurisdiction.

But on appeal, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans reversed portions of Judge Mahon's ruling. Although the circuit court agreed that EEOC had no constitutional grounds to demand information on the seminary faculty or those administrators directly involved in the school's teaching mission, it held that employment data must be submitted on support staff and administrators performing tasks that "are not traditionally ecclesiastical or religious."

The seminary then asked for relief from the U. S. Supreme Court, but in March 1982 its appeal for review was turned aside without comment. As of this writing, EEOC has yet to attempt to enforce hiring standards on the seminary. But it presumably may choose to do so in the future.

### CONCLUSION

The three categories examined—integrated auxiliaries, admissions policies and employment practices—do not comprise the sum total of those areas where government has recently intervened in religious life. They are but examples—and to a degree debatable examples—of the phenomenon which troubles so many church-state experts.

Because of their unique denominational heritage, Baptists are particularly obligated to respond creatively to the increasing instances of such intervention and to stand in the breach defending separation of church and state.

At the same time, Baptists must not become concerned about government intervention to the neglect of standing firm against continuing efforts by churches to benefit from government largess, whether in the form of tax subsidies like tuition tax credits or in the shape of improper government sponsorship of religious acts such as mandated school prayer.

What Baptists must do, if they are to be true to their heritage, is simply to continue seeking what they have always demanded from government—a free church in a free state.

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C.R. DALEY, Editor, JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor

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

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# baptist forum

## Chalk another up against Las Vegas

It was too late to register a complaint when we were made aware that the Southern Baptist Convention is planning to meet in Las Vegas. However, it is our intention to voice our opposition to meeting in a city built upon gambling as its major industry. The First Baptist Church, Ludlow, believes this is a sign of approval of such action and asks that our convention consider such things in planning the future meetings.

First Baptist Church, Ludlow

## Widow's mite goes a good long way

I appreciated very much your editorial about Grace Atherton and her contribution to New Mexico Baptists. Let me share with you an experience closer to home.

When I was pastor of Youngers Creek Church in Hardin County we were blessed to have Miss Pauline Botto as one of our long standing and most faithful members. She was al-

ready seriously ill when I became her pastor and I was unable to know her as an active member in the church, but the stories of her faithfulness over the years were plentiful. At her death she continued what had been a life long stewardship and included the church in her modest estate. The income from the trust which she established was only \$50 or \$60 a quarter. I confess we thought it was a nice gesture and reflected the kind of persons she was but didn't take such a small amount very seriously. Then the wonderful meaning of the widow's mite unfolded before our eyes.

We opened a special account and let those \$50 and \$60 checks accumulate. Soon there was several hundred dollars in the account. We used part of that to buy tapes and a tape player for the tape ministry. Before we knew it there was even more money accumulated which allowed us to install a hearing aid system for the hearing impaired. Besides these major purchases we rented several films. This was her only stipulation, that part of the money be used for

Christian films.

Somewhere during all this it hit me. That is really the way God works. Give him what you have and it is always

enough. I give him thanks that the faithfulness and stewardship of this dear saint taught me this lesson.

Barry D. Dennis, Taylorsville

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# mountains to the mississippi

## missions

Jim and Nancy Ann Townzen, Jeffersontown, were among 33 persons appointed to home mission service by the Home Mission Board at its September meeting.

Townzen was named a church planter apprentice to serve in Richfield, Utah. Formerly, he was pastor of Sorento (Ill.) Baptist Church.

He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Michael and Billie Kay Bone of Campbellsville were among 43 persons recently commissioned at First Baptist Church, Lithonia, Ga., by the Home Mission Board as US-2'ers.

The Bones will work in evangelism in Mt. Clemens, Mich. He is a native of Vasalia, Cal. and a graduate of Campbellsville (Ky.) College. Mrs. Bone, a native of Kokomo, Ind., also attended Campbellsville.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill D. Whittaker, missionaries to the Philippines, may be addressed at Box 1287 MCC, Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines 3117. He is a native of Bowling Green and she, the former Rebecca Howard, was born in Owensboro but considers Bowling Green her home.

They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

Mr. and Mrs. Terry W. Sharp, missionaries to Spain, have arrived in the states (address: 4706 Marigold Ave., Louisville, KY 40213). He is a native of Tennessee and she, the former Kathy Chapman of Louisville.

They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom W. McMillan, missionaries to Tanzania, are in the states on furlough (address: 7708 Tower Woods Dr., Springfield, VA 22153). He is a native of Texas and she, the former Marilyn Jones of Jeffersontown.

They were appointed to the mission field in 1959.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Hardy, missionaries to East Asia, have arrived in the states on furlough (address: 103 Reservoir Heights, Russellville, KY 42273).

He is associate area director for East Asia and was born and grew up in



Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Aldridge were recognized with a surprise reception hosted by his mother, Mrs. Jewell Aldridge, and their children on the eve of their departure for a second year's volunteer service in Lusaka, Zambia with the Foreign Mission Board. Friends from Pineville, Lancaster and Lexington attended the occasion.



Marion Duncan [l] and William Rowlett [r] are two new Foreign Mission Board members representing Kentucky. Duncan is pastor of Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, Catlettsburg, and Rowlett, an ophthalmologist, attends Hopkinsville First Baptist. They were officially welcomed to the board by R. Keith Parks, president, at its September meeting.

Logan County. She is the former Mavis Shiver of Frisco City, Ala.

They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Covington, missionary associates to Germany, have arrived in the states (address: Rte. 4, Box 198, Fulton, KY 42041). He is a native of Wingo and lived in Graves County and Paducah and she is the former Laurie Burnette of Fulton County.

They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

## personnel

Three members of Central Baptist Church, Bracken Association, participated in missions this past summer. They were Mary Robinson, student summer missionary; Scott McDonald, special missionary to France; and Mary Beth Helton, crisis center worker in Atlanta, Ga.

Paul Sims is new minister of music and youth at Corbin First Baptist Church, Mt. Zion Association. He is a native of Williamston, S. C. and a graduate of Furman University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Allen Black resigned as director of missions in Muhlenberg Association, effective Sept. 15.

He was called to pastor Woodson Baptist Church in that association.

Kim Allen has begun his new pastorate at New Salem Baptist Church, Blood River Association. He is a native of Manchester, Tenn.

Noel Dodson is now pastor at McKee Baptist Church, Irvine Association. He goes there from Freedom Baptist Church, Rockcastle Association.

David Sheriff has resigned as associate pastor of East Bernstadt Baptist Church, Laurel Association, to return to his native state, South Carolina.

Shelby Reynolds has been named pastor of Ottawa Baptist Church, Rockcastle Association.

Tom and Sandra Howard have been named ministers of music and youth at Dover Baptist Church, Shelby County Association. Both are graduates of Furman University, Greenville, S. C., and students in church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Alvin Hardy, interim pastor of Buck Grove Baptist Church, Salem Association, is still vice president of business at Campbellsville College. He was erroneously reported as being former vice president of business in the Sept. 14 issue of Western Recorder.

Buck Grove also has two other interim staff members: Tom Disney and Leigh Ann Miller who replace David High as interim directors of music and youth.

Alan Beck began his work as minister of education and activities at Green Acres Baptist Church, Long Run Association, Aug. 14.

Danny Cobb has resigned as director of Freedom House Ministries Inc., Louisville, to complete his studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Freedom House Ministries is an associational missions outreach of Long Run Association.

A. L. Meacham, Henry County and Whites Run associations director of missions, resigned effective Aug. 31 to become Sulphur Fork Association director of missions.

B. Byron Fletcher, Southern Baptist evangelist now living in Carlsbad, Cal., recently completed a tour of Europe with his wife, the former Ruth Somers.

Fletcher has completed 47 years in ministry and was pastor in six states before entering full time evangelism.

Edgar E. Hatfield concluded 18 years as pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., Sept. 25 with an open house. Hatfield went to Parkview in 1965 from churches in Edmonton and Owensboro and Eldorado, Ill.

He is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Both he and his wife Jo Ann are natives of Louisville and plan to return to Kentucky.

Bob Bottoms became pastor Sept. 1 of Martin First Baptist Church. He formerly was county missionary in Morgan County and pastor of West Liberty First Baptist Church.

Barney Ferguson, pastor, Eighteenth Street Baptist Church, Long Run Association, has been elected president of Shively Area Pastors' Conference, Louisville.

## congregations

Penile Baptist Church, Long Run Association, held its 25th anniversary and

homecoming Aug. 21 with recognition services.

Parkwood Baptist Church, Long Run Association, observed its 25th anniversary with homecoming and potluck dinner and afternoon recognition services recently.

Clear Run Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, held homecoming services recently with singing and dinner on the grounds.

Hazel Patch Baptist Church, Laurel Association, reports 15 rededications and one addition by baptism during revival services recently.

Forty professions of faith, 50 rededications and 23 other decisions were recorded during the fourth annual Starlite Crusade held Aug. 21-24 in Louisville.

Loyall First Baptist Church, Upper Cumberland Association, has organized a Pioneer Royal Ambassador chapter. Leader is Joe Durham and pastor is C. Keith Rogers.

Elkhorn Association has moved its headquarters to 1161 Red Mile Pky., Lexington, KY 40504, phone (606) 254-7747. Harold Polk is director of missions. Dedication of the new facility is Oct. 16, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Concord Baptist Church, Owen Association, celebrated its 100th anniversary Sept. 11. Paul Williams is pastor.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association, celebrated its 131st anniversary Sept. 11.

## ordinations

Brian Craig was ordained to the ministry May 22 by Bethany Baptist Church, Louisville. A native of Missouri, Craig is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and presently minister of youth at Bethany.

Donald T. Burris was ordained to the ministry Sept. 18 by Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Long Run Association, upon request by Bush River Baptist Church, Newberry, S. C. He is a May 1983 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Wayne Chester and Eugene Wright were ordained Aug. 28 as deacons at Henderson Memorial Baptist Church, Christian County Association.

John Michael Hubbard was ordained as deacon Aug. 28 at Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association.

Bob Bushby was ordained deacon Sept. 25 by Middletown First Baptist Church, Long Run Association.

## deaths

Charles S. Bratcher died Aug. 12 at age 92. He was a graduate of Georgetown College and held a PhD from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Bratcher was ordained to the ministry in 1917 and served Kentucky Baptist congregations 57 years. His pastorates have included Ballardsville; First Baptist, Hartford; First Baptist, Morganfield; Uniontown Baptist and several churches in Grayson and Union counties.

Memorial services were conducted at Morganfield First Baptist Aug. 16.

## Haworth conference draws crowd for Cedarmore marriage meeting

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

"I'm responsible in my marriage primarily to God and secondarily to my partner," a well known Christian family counselor told 125 participants in the Haworth Conference last week.

Citing three levels of premarital conversation, Wayne E. Oates explored basic ingredients of an effective marriage. He suggested the three levels include verbal and unspoken agreements and unconscious assumptions. He gave examples of each.

There are eight basic ingredients for an effective marriage, according to Oates, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Louisville's School of Medicine and director of Louisville General Hospital's program in ethics and pastoral counseling.

The eight are:

1. A capacity to form and maintain lasting relationships.
2. A capacity for commitment.
3. A respect for each other's judgment.
4. Answerability.
5. A basic agreement on handling money.
6. Teachability.
7. Forgiveness.
8. Considerateness.

Oates was one of several speakers in a two-day program at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly near Bagdad, Ky. The Haworth Conference is sponsored annually by Baptist Homes for Children and the Christian Life Relations Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Earlier, G. Wade Rowatt, associate professor of psychology of religion at Southern Seminary, Louisville, delved into formats for a marriage enrichment experience.

He explained models to pastors, church staff members and lay leaders for four types of marriage enrichment events: retreat, worship, on-going weekly sessions and on-going processes through church program organizations.

"This latter plan is the way we'll reach everybody," he attested, "for at some point, it touches every person who regularly participates in the activities of our churches."

He suggested that marriage enrichment could be touched upon through the Sunday school, Church Training, music, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood and other activities. He confessed that many people who need help would never go on a retreat or to a workshop, but could be reached through such emphases in the church.

## Allen addresses BSU

by Susan Shaw, Staff Writer

"If you're a walking battlefield, isn't it a sign the prince of peace isn't ruling in your life?" Radio and Television Commission president Jimmy Allen asked 684 college students at the annual Kentucky Baptist student convention Sept. 30-Oct. 2 on the campus of Southern Seminary.

Allen, who preached three times throughout the weekend, addressed the group on the subject of discipleship.

"Worldliness is not a moralism of misbehavior," he told them. "It is an attitude long before it is an action."

Allen blamed worldliness on separation from God. "The world in which we are born is a hellish world. It has a lot more hell in it than heaven," he exclaimed. "The most horrible part of hell is separation from God. There's a lot of separation from God in this world."

Allen concluded the first session by an analogy: "It's not just a matter of making a D or a C or an A in the Christianity course of life. Don't hand God anything as a substitute for yourself."

Saturday evening William Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer, and

his wife Alice were presented to the students. Marshall told them, "We have a world to participate in winning. It is winnable, and you will have a part in winning it."

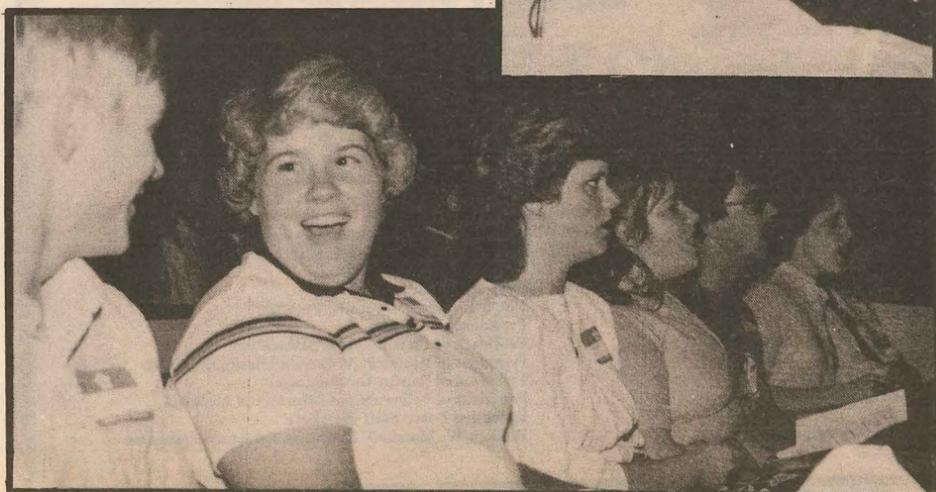
Other weekend highlights included special music by the BSU choirs of Cumberland, Georgetown and Campbellsville colleges; multimedia presentations; Bible study led by Udell Smith, director of Baptist student work in Louisiana; and various seminars on topics relevant to students.

A Saturday night decision service yielded 82 public decisions—two professions of faith, 52 rededications and 28 commitments to church vocations.

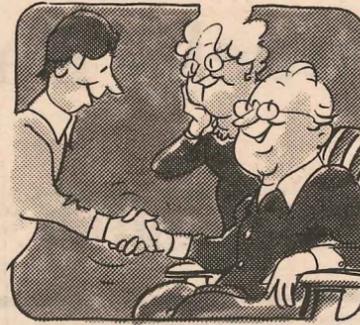
Student Department director Don Blaylock called the convention, "one of the finest we've had in my 10 years as director."



Jimmy Allen addresses college students at the annual Kentucky Baptist Student Union convention.



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## 146th ANNUAL MEETING

November 15-17, 1983

## Kentucky Baptist Convention

First Baptist Church

Paducah, Kentucky

## Program

## Tuesday Morning

- 10:00 Hymn: David Hale, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Pikeville
- 10:05 Call to Order of the 146th Annual Convention: Curtis H. Warf, President, Kentucky Baptist Convention and Pastor, First Baptist Church, Richmond
- Prayer
- 10:15 Message in Song: Kentucky Baptist Chorale, Donald Hustad, Directing
- 10:30 Welcome: J. Robert White, Host Pastor, First Baptist Church, Paducah
- 10:35 Introduction of new Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall: Curtis H. Warf
- 10:40 Organization of 146th Annual Meeting: Leo T. Crismon, Secretary, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville
- Appointment of Committees: Curtis H. Warf
- Appointment of Tellers: Curtis H. Warf
- Report of Credentials Committee: M. A. Reese, Committee Chairman and Pastor, First Baptist Church, Barbourville
- Report of Committee on Order of Business: Harold Mauney, Committee Chairman and Pastor, First Baptist Church, Williamsburg
- 10:55 Message in Song: Mrs. Rebecca Hale, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Pikeville
- 11:05 President's Address: Curtis H. Warf
- 11:40 Closing Prayer: Donald P. Bratcher, Pastor, Pleasant Memorial Baptist Church, Owensboro

## Tuesday Afternoon

- 6:45 Concert: Cumberland College Chorale, Russell Hosler, Director
- 7:00 Hymn Singing: Mike Rose, Minister of Music, Henderson Memorial Baptist Church, Hopkinsville
- 7:10 Scripture and Prayer: Robert B. Wallace, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Paris
- 7:15 Report of Missions Division: A. B. Colvin, Coordinator, Missions Division, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Brotherhood Department: William L. Kaufman, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Christian Life Relations: William H. Rogers, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Direct Missions: Robert C. Jones, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Evangelism: Jay Brown, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Stewardship Promotion: Jesse C. Stricker, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- 7:40 Message in Song: Cumberland College Chorale, Russell Hosler, Director
- 7:55 Message: William W. Marshall, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Middletown
- 8:30 Closing Prayer: Kit Yeaste, Pastor, Bardstown Baptist Church, Bardstown

Reception in Honor of  
Dr. and Mrs. William W. Marshall and Family  
Fellowship Hall  
First Baptist Church, Paducah

## Tuesday Night

- 1:45 Hymn Singing: Rick Case, Minister of Music, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Owensboro
- 1:50 Scripture and Prayer: Barry Don Dennis, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Taylorsville
- 2:00 Today at Cumberland College: James H. Taylor, President, Cumberland College, Williamsburg
- 2:05 Report and Recommendations of the Executive Board: William W. Marshall, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Kentucky-Ohio Partnership: Robert C. Jones, Director, Direct Missions Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- 2:50 Hymn Singing: Rick Case
- 2:55 Fraternal Greetings:
- Richard M. Kay, Director, Office of Planning, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville
- Ruth Ouzts, Manager, Baptist Book Store, Louisville
- Bryan Howard, Manager, Baptist Book Store, Owensboro
- Hollis E. Johnson III, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Southern Baptist Foundation, Nashville
- Others: A. B. Colvin, Coordinator, Missions Division and Assistant to the Executive Secretary, Middletown

- 3:25 Report on Cooperative Program: J. Howard Cobble, Pastor, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown
- 3:30 Recognition of New Leadership: William W. Marshall
- 3:45 Election of President
- 4:05 Message in Song: Bruce Richardson, Minister of Music, Versailles (Ky.) Baptist Church
- 4:10 Business Session and Resolutions
- 4:45 Closing Prayer: Bruce Wills, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Wickliffe

## Wednesday Morning

- 9:00 Hymn Singing: Ed Garr, Minister of Music, Buena Vista Baptist Church, Owensboro
- 9:05 Scripture and Prayer: Dennis R. Plank, Pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Henderson
- 9:10 Report of Committee on Obituaries: H. Curtis Erwin, Committee Chairman and retired minister, Glasgow
- 9:15 Today at Georgetown College: Georgetown College
- 9:20 Report of Business Division: Barry G. Allen, Coordinator and Business Manager, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Accounting Services Department: Douglas D. Hays, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Administrative Services Department: Richard G. Carnes, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Support Services Department: John E. Pate, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Annuity Department: Byrd R. Ison, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Kentucky Baptist Foundation: Grady L. Randolph, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Middletown
- 9:45 Hymn Singing: Ed Garr
- 9:50 Report of Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Guy Futral Jr., Committee Chairman and Pastor, First Baptist Church, Mayfield
- 10:00 Report on Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children: Eldred M. Taylor, Executive Director, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Middletown
- 10:10 Recognition of Past Presidents: Curtis H. Warf
- 10:30 Election of Officers
- 10:40 Miscellaneous Business
- 10:50 Historical Commission Report: Leo T. Crismon, Chairman, Historical Commission, Louisville
- 10:55 Kentucky Baptist Historical Society: George A. Jones, President, Kentucky Baptist Historical Society, Newport
- 11:00 Message in Song: Sun Burst Creative Ministries Team, Kentucky Baptist Student Department
- 11:05 Scripture and Prayer: Glenn Armstrong, Pastor, Beaver Dam (Ky.) Baptist Church
- 11:15 Convention Sermon: Bob C. Jones, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg
- 11:45 Closing Prayer: Charles L. Milam, Jr., Pastor, First Baptist Church, Paintsville
- 12:00 Seminary Luncheon

## Wednesday Afternoon

- 2:00 Hymn Singing: Steve O'Neal, Minister of Music, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Owensboro
- 2:05 Scripture and Prayer: A. Harold Pike, Pastor, South Side Baptist Church, Covington
- 2:10 Today at Oneida Baptist Institute: Barkley Moore, President, Oneida (Ky.) Baptist Institute
- 2:15 Report of Church Services Division: James H. Whaley Sr., Coordinator, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Cedarmore Baptist Assembly: Marshall Phillips, Manager, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Bagdad
- Church Music Department: Eugene F. Quinn, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Church Training Department: C. Vernon Cole, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Student Department: Don Blaylock, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Sunday School Department: Fred Halbrooks, Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- 2:45 Hymn Singing: Steve O'Neal
- 2:50 Report on Christian Education in Kentucky: Jesse C. Stricker, Staff Liaison, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- 2:55 Address: W. R. Davenport, President, Campbellsville College, Campbellsville
- 3:10 Message in Song: Barbara DeCoursey, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Hodgenville

- 3:15 Report of Committee on Resolutions: Wayne Dehoney, Committee Chairman and Pastor, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville
- 3:40 Miscellaneous Business
- 4:05 Report on Conventionwide Education: Bill Messer, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Ashland
- 4:10 Address: Thomas H. Graves, Professor of Religion and Theology, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.
- 4:40 Closing Prayer: Rodney Keith Hale, Pastor, Hyland Heights Baptist Church, Catlettsburg

## Wednesday Night

- 6:45 Concert: Sanctuary Choir, First Baptist Church, Paducah, Donn Wisdom, Director
- 7:05 Scripture and Prayer: H. Gary Coltharp, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Madisonville
- 7:10 Today at Clear Creek Baptist School: Leon Simpson, President, Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville
- 7:15 Report of Woman's Missionary Union: Kathryn Jasper Akridge, Executive Director, Woman's Missionary Union, Middletown
- 7:25 Western Recorder Report: C. R. Daley, Editor, Western Recorder, Middletown
- 7:35 Report on Home Missions: Don R. Mathis, Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Corbin
- 7:40 Hymn Singing: Grover Waller, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Owensboro
- 7:45 Report on Foreign Missions: M. A. Winchester, Layman, Whitley City
- 7:50 Special Music: Sanctuary Choir, First Baptist Church, Paducah, Donn Wisdom, Director
- 7:55 Message: William O'Brien, Executive Vice President, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.
- 8:20 Hymn Singing: Grover Waller
- 8:25 Introductions: Byrd R. Ison, Director, Annuity Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown
- Annuity Board Presentation: Elaine Elkins, Marketing Manager, Annuity Board, Dallas
- 9:00 Closing Prayer: Tom Lewis, Director of Missions, West Union Association, Paducah

## Thursday Morning

- 9:00 Hymn Singing: Eddie Russell, Minister of Music, Cadiz (Ky.) Baptist Church
- 9:05 Scripture Reading and Prayer: Don Farmer, Pastor, Westside Baptist Church, Murray
- 9:10 Report of Temperance League of Kentucky: Delbert Butts, Executive Director, Temperance League of Kentucky, Louisville
- 9:15 Report of American Bible Society: George Smith, First Baptist Church, Leitchfield
- 9:20 Report on Radio and Television: Ralph Hodge, Pastor, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville
- 9:30 Report on Baptist Hospitals Inc.: Gordon Palmer, Chairman of Board of Directors, Ft. Mitchell
- 9:40 Report on Baptist World Alliance: Wayne Dehoney, Pastor, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville
- 9:45 Report of Committee on Committees: Harold D. Tallant, Committee Chairman and Associate Pastor, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville
- 9:55 Report of Committee on Arrangements: Mrs. J. Brandon Price, Committee Chairman and Member, First Baptist Church, Paducah
- 10:00 Report of Committee on Nominations: Robert DeFoor, Committee Chairman and Pastor, Harrodsburg (Ky.) Baptist Church
- 10:10 Hymn Singing: Eddie Russell
- 10:15 Report of Committee on Public Affairs: Edwin F. Perry, Committee Chairman and retired minister, Louisville
- 10:20 Miscellaneous Business
- 10:30 Recognition of Convention Officers: William W. Marshall
- Recognition of New Officers: Curtis H. Warf
- 10:45 Hymn Singing: Eddie Russell
- 11:00 Season of Prayer:
- Newly Elected Convention President
- President of KBREA
- President of Church Music Association
- President of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
- President of Baptist Brotherhood
- President of Fellowship of Directors of Missions
- Executive Board Staff Members
- William W. Marshall, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION**

**Kentucky Baptist  
Religious Education  
Association  
First Baptist Church  
Paducah, Kentucky  
November 14, 1983**

- 1:00-1:50 Registration and Media Awareness
- 1:50-2:00 Welcome, Introductions and Book Review
- 2:00-3:30 Ministering Through Conflict: Bill Treadwell,  
Pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Georgetown
- 3:30-3:35 Book Review
- 3:35-4:00 BREAK
- 4:00-4:05 Book Review
- 4:05-5:25 Ministering Through Conflict: Bill Treadwell
- 5:25-5:30 Book Review
- 6:30 Dinner, Executive Inn, Paducah

**Kentucky Baptist  
Pastor's Conference  
First Baptist Church,  
Paducah, Kentucky  
November 14, 1983**

- 2:10 Preaching Themes from 1 Corinthians: Bill Tuck, Pastor,  
St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville
- 2:35 Hymn: Jerry Douglas
- Inspirational Music: Mike Tichenor, Minister of Music,  
Crestwood Baptist Church, Frankfort
- 2:45 "The Pastor and His Call": Issac B. McDonald, Pastor,  
First Baptist Church, Hodgenville
- 3:10 Hymn: Jerry Douglas
- 3:15 "The Pastor and His Preparation": George Redding,  
Professor, Oneida Institute, Oneida
- 3:40 Hymn: Jerry Douglas
- Offering: Steve McSwain, Pastor, East Audubon Baptist  
Church, Louisville
- Inspirational Music: Lynn Zuberer Bogart
- 4:00 "The Pastor and His Family": James Jones, Pastor,  
Campbellsville Baptist Church, Campbellsville
- 4:25 Benediction: Ken Abbott, Pastor, Wingo Baptist Church,  
Wingo

**MONDAY AFTERNOON**

- 1:45 Inspirational Music: Lynn Zuberer Bogart, Vocalist,  
Lexington; Mary Harned, Vocalist, West End Baptist  
Church, Paducah
- 2:00 Hymn: Jerry Douglas, Minister of Music, Westport Road  
Baptist Church, Louisville
- Prayer: T. A. Thacker, Pastor, Hurricane Baptist Church,  
Cadiz
- 2:05 Welcome and Introduction: James B. Lewis, Pastor,  
Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville

**MONDAY NIGHT**

- 6:45 Inspirational Music: JoySung and Wind Symphony
- 7:00 Hymn: Don Wisdom, Minister of Music, First Baptist  
Church, Paducah
- Prayer: Louis Walters, Retired Pastor, Louisville
- 7:05 Preaching Themes from 1 Corinthians: Bill Tuck
- 7:30 Inspirational Music: Don Wisdom
- 7:45 "The Pastor and His Problems": John Wallace, Pastor,  
Parkway Baptist Church, Lexington
- 8:10 Hymn: Don Wisdom
- Offering: Steve McSwain
- Election of New Officers: James B. Lewis
- 8:30 "The Pastor and His Denomination": William W.  
Marshall, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Kentucky  
Baptist Convention, Middletown
- 8:55 Benediction: 1983-84 President

**Kentucky Baptist  
Music Association  
Reidland Baptist Church  
Paducah, Kentucky  
November 14-15, 1983**

**MONDAY**

- 11:30 Officers' Luncheon at Sirloin Stockade, 2701 Irvin Cobb  
Dr., Paducah
- 12:30 Registration: Reidland Baptist Church, 5559 Benton Rd.,  
Paducah
- 1:00 Kentucky Baptist Chorale Rehearsal: Don Hustad, Director,  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 2:00 Call to Order and Welcome: Carlton Thompson
- Worship
- Union University Singers: Kenneth R. Hartley, Director
- 2:45 KBMA Business Session
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of New Officers
- Report of the Church Music Department
- 3:15 Baptist Book Store Presentation: Bryan Howard, Baptist  
Book Store, Owensboro
- 3:30 Refreshment Break and Exhibits
- 4:15 Concert by Union University Singers
- 4:45 Address: Trends in Youth Music: Leroy McClard, Baptist  
Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 5:30 Break
- 6:00 KBMA Banquet: Church Dining Hall
- Entertainment by the College Ensemble: First Baptist  
Church, Murray, Wayne Halley, Director
- 7:30 Concert by the Jubilee Bells: Bellevue Baptist Church,  
Memphis, Tenn., Jim Whitmire, Director
- 9:00 Kentucky Baptist Chorale Rehearsal

**TUESDAY MORNING**

- 8:30 Coffee and Doughnuts, Choir Room of First Baptist Church
- 9:00 Kentucky Baptist Chorale Rehearsal
- 10:00 Sing for the first session of the convention

# baptist news in brief

## WMU leader to retire sooner than announced

Kathryn Jasper Akridge, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union executive director since Oct. 1, 1970, will retire three months sooner than her Dec. 31, 1984 retirement date announced earlier this year.

According to Mrs. Akridge, she will retire from WMU Sept. 30, 1984 to allow her successor more time better to acquaint herself to state activities and responsibilities during busy autumn months.

"We have several conferences and meetings during September and October," she the WMU leader said.

Mrs. Akridge added that WMU hopes to fill her upcoming vacancy by Aug. 1, 1984 although she said no decision as to who will succeed her has been made.

## Jan Turrentine named editor of WMU magazine

Jan Turrentine is the new editor of Accent magazine at Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention, in Birmingham, Ala.

Miss Turrentine goes to WMU from the First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, La., where she was minister of education. She is a 1981 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

## FMB names Hamiter health care consultant

J. Cecil Hamiter, recently retired president of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Gadsden, Ala., has been named volunteer consultant for health care administration for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

As volunteer consultant, Hamiter will consult with the board's area directors and other staff on health care administration, help evaluate selected health care facilities, develop a manual for health care administrators and help recruit health care personnel, especially administrators.

## Seminarians hear call to world missions

Thirty-one Southern Baptist Theological Seminary students responded to calls to Christian ministry around the world during the seminary's first Foreign Missions Impact Week in September.

The emphasis was sponsored jointly

by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the seminary. Preaching about missions highlighted the week.

Richard Cunningham, professor of Christian philosophy at Southern since 1976, referred to the apostle Paul's vision, in which he was commanded to take the message of Christ into the region of Macedonia, in the opening service. Although Christianity has crossed most geographical barriers, he said, "Macedonia still exists—across frontiers that are cultural, religious and sometimes political."

John Mills, FMB director of West African missions, followed Cunningham's call with a challenge. He said seminarians need "a willingness to suffer and, if need be, die. That's the only way our world will be won."

FMB president R. Keith Parks concluded the week with a sermon which challenged seminarians to receive "the mind of Christ." He lamented Southern Baptists' failure to live up to their potential for winning the world to Christ.

In addition to preaching, the emphasis included conferences and meals with FMB personnel and students, class presentations and displays about missions and continuous-run movies on Southern alumni in foreign missions.

## Current nonprofit postal rates preserved, for now

Congress has voted enough funding to preserve current nonprofit postal rates until Nov. 10 or until it passes the regular appropriations bill for the

Department of Treasury and Postal Service, whichever comes first.

The interim funding for the postal service was included in a stopgap funding measure Congress passed Sept. 30 to keep most government agencies running at the start of the new fiscal year.

It is uncertain at what level Congress will fund nonprofit postal subsidy for the remainder of the fiscal year. In previous action, the Senate Appropriations Committee agreed to a figure of \$802 million, enough to mean only a one step increase in nonprofit rates. The Senate panel estimated a one-step hike would boost most nonprofit rates four to 12 percent.

Regardless, Congress appears unlikely to slash the funding for the subsidy to the \$400 million level requested by the administration.

## Estate leaves Southern Seminary \$90,000 in will

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has received \$90,000 from the estate of New Testament scholar Julius R. Mantey.

Mantey died in 1981 at his home in New Port Richey, Fla. His will, which recently was settled, provided that Southern Seminary could use the

\$90,000 for endowment.

Mantey, a 1931 doctor of philosophy graduate of Southern, retired in 1960 from the faculty of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Chicago. He taught New Testament for 40 years and once was president of the Chicago Biblical Research Society and the American Research Society.

## Rare Bible yields surprise: Luther Rice love letter

A handwritten love letter from Luther Rice was discovered in a collection of rare Bibles and manuscripts donated to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary library by Mr. and Mrs. John Halde-man of Coconut, Fla.

Folded in its original form, the long letter to Sarah H. Myers of Hamburg, S. C., was dated Jan. 21, 1831, and postmarked Washington, Ga.

Rice wrote: "I hope you will not be displeased with me for writing once more as I really feel myself compelled by an affectionate regard which I cannot resist!"

The marriage proposal is the third known Rice letter to Miss Myers. Apparently she never accepted his proposal since Rice was single when he died at the age of 47 in 1836.

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SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF EDITOR, PUBLISHER, BUSINESS MANAGER, OR OWNER <i>James H. Cox</i>		(See instruction on reverse)



# sunday school lessons

**H. C. Chiles**

**Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, KY 40977**

LESSONS FOR OCT. 16, 1983

## Life and Work Series COMFORTER FOR THE TROUBLED

**1 Samuel 16:14-17** Possessing the congenial benefits of health, height and handsomeness to the degree of striking superiority, Saul commanded the respect and admiration of a people who were fond of pomp and grandeur. Unfortunately Saul opened the door to pride and pretense and sold himself to Satan and disaster.

As a punishment for his sinful attitudes and ways, God permitted an evil spirit to come upon Saul. Primarily as a result of his personal disobedience and misconduct, Saul became the victim of overmastering melancholy, isolation, loneliness, jealousy, suspicion, malice, hatred and cruelty.

The strange blending of sullen remorse, obvious despondency and fearful foreboding aroused the apprehension of Saul's attendants. Knowing the soothing effect of music upon one in Saul's condition, they suggested to him he secure the services of an excellent musician to render this wholesome assignment for him. Highly pleased with that suggestion, Saul commanded them to bring to him an excellent instrumentalist, or harpist, and they did so.

**1 Samuel 16:18-22** One of Saul's servants informed his master a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite possessed remarkable musical ability, along with numerous other outstanding capabilities, whereupon messengers were sent to find this young man and summon him into his presence. David possessed four characteristics which eminently qualified him for the duties he would be expected to perform in the future. He was skillful, courageous, prudent and devout. After the sweet strains from David's harp soothed and calmed Saul, his spirit became tranquil and his wicked thoughts were lifted, like a cloud from a mountain. David's services were rewarded by the king, who

appointed him as his bodyguard and confidant. Saul then requested Jesse to allow his son to continue in his service, inasmuch as he had found great favor in the sight of Saul.

**1 Samuel 16:23** Jesse readily granted the request of Saul and consented for David to remain in the king's court and render whatever helpful service he could. When Saul was subjected to additional attacks of melancholy, David played soothing and comforting music on his harp for his enjoyment and comfort. David rejoiced in the privilege of being a comforter for Saul in his time of great need.

## International Series THE MEANS: GOD'S SON

**Romans 3:21-26** God's word, history, observation and experience teach us sin is a terrible reality. Sin is God's enemy and man's destroyer. Man does not have any righteousness of his own, so it is a certainty he cannot save himself. There are vast differences between people, such as culture and ignorance, riches and poverty, morality and immorality, and respectability and reprobation, but there is this feature that is common to all: "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Of course, there are degrees of wickedness and guilt, but all have come short of the standard set forth in the life of Christ. This accounts for the universal need of salvation and justification.

Justification is never secured through the works of men, but it is an act of God, performed once for all, and can neither be revoked nor repeated. This instantaneous act takes place the moment a penitent sinner believes on Christ as his savior. The fact that man cannot earn justification certainly strikes a severe blow to his pride and egotism. Right standing before God is not the result of what a person does for Christ, but of what Christ has done for him.

**Romans 5:6-11** We are deeply impressed by the love of God for sinners which motivated him to send his only begotten son to this earth to die on the cross so ungodly sinners might be saved from their sins. Through Christ's death on the cross peace with God was made available to sinners who would repent toward God and believe on Christ as their savior. The sins which previously separated them from God were blotted out by Christ's shed blood and they have been reconciled to God. Through Christ they have the continuing privilege of an easy access into God's presence, grace and favor, regardless of their circumstances. Salvation and reconciliation with God, which are inexpressibly wonderful and invaluable blessings, are not merely future possessions of believers in Christ. Rather, they were received when faith

in Christ was exercised.

**Colossians 1:13-14** These verses make it perfectly clear that a real transfer took place the very moment that a sinner repented toward God and believed on Christ as a personal savior. The words which are translated "hath delivered" and "hath translated" are in a tense that indicates completed action.

Inasmuch as we, who are believers, have already been delivered from the power of darkness and delivered into the kingdom of God's dear son, which transfer is an accomplished fact, let us prove our genuine gratitude for these marvelous blessings by making our lives conform to the divine will. Let us join Paul in thanking, praising and magnifying Christ for his provision of redemption, forgiveness, deliverance and translation into God's kingdom.

## Meet Cumberland College student



**Connie Teresa Croley**

Connie Teresa Croley knows the future is in the hands of today's children. She plans to do her part to improve the future by improving the opportunity of our "special" children.

Connie, a twenty-year-old sophomore is majoring in special education. She chose Cumberland College for her training because she "found it full of concern and love for it's students."

The love and concern found at Cumberland College is not all that keeps her growing toward her goals. Connie has found that the close student-faculty relationship has given her more initiative to work toward her goals in life. "I like having familiar faces around me and feeling comfortable while talking to my fellow students and faculty."

This closeness can be found anywhere on the Cumberland College campus. Connie says the atmosphere "has helped me to get to know people better. I understand them more, and it has influenced me to take my Christianity seriously."

The world needs more people with a true concern for children, and we are really proud to give Connie and other students who share the same concern the opportunity to grow, learn, and reach their goals.

Dr. Taylor,

Please send me more information about how I can help other students like Connie.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Clip and mail to Dr. James Taylor, President, Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Kentucky 40769).



## on mission together

**William W. (Bill) Marshall**  
**Executive Secretary-Treasurer, KBC**  
**Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243**

### LITTLE GLIMPSES OF GOD

Just a few years ago, the beautiful but worn face of an Indian lady appeared on the cover of Time magazine. Sister Theresa had just received the Nobel peace award for her years of selfless ministry to the homeless of Calcutta.

Through India missionaries, I had earlier heard of her work. In more recent years, while in Guatemala for an annual mission meeting, Alice and I encountered her with a small entourage in the airport waiting room. Adorned by a simple, white garment, she wore no shoes or sandals. Knowing of her ministry, it was a deeply moving experience for me to see her close up. She had come to Guatemala at the request of Catholic officials to assist them in ministering to the poor of the country.

A remarkable Christian, she had never sought to "organize" for financial support of her work. When money was needed, she prayed for it. It came.

Not wanting to call attention to herself, she was reluctant to accept the Nobel award. She relented as she became convinced that the world of the poor would be helped thereby.

She's back at work now, along with a multitude of hidden and unheralded servants who daily minister in Christ's name.

I think through her life, the Lord has provided our generation with a fresh reminder that he loves the world and that the authentic Christian can find his or her ministry in the every day of life.

There's a world out there and it's "right on our doorstep."



# homes for children

Eldred M. Taylor, Executive Director  
10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, KY 40243

## CARING WITH CANS

Cadiz Baptist Church's paper has just come to my desk. Pastor Harold Skaggs, a member of our board, writes of an experience which I think is beautiful and shows how much all ages care about children. I am going to let the pastor share the story with you.

"A little child shall lead them," the Bible tells us. That lesson came home to me Sunday morning when Jason and Carla Oliver met me in the sanctuary vestibule at the close of worship. They presented me a check for \$21 to be given to our Baptist Homes for Children. Jason, who is eight years old, has organized a club on his street. He and Carla (six years old) and their club decided they would collect empty aluminum cans to sell and raise money for a project. Their club decided to help the children of our Baptist homes. I really don't know of any gift that has exceeded theirs. Some may have given a larger amount, but I dare say none has given more. I should think that we would plan now to give during the food collection during September and also at

Thanksgiving to our Children's Home Thanksgiving offering."

What a beautiful picture of caring! These young people at Cadiz have indeed set an example for the whole state. They have demonstrated a way to help our ministry. Not everyone can gather aluminum cans and sell them to make money for Baptist Homes for Children. But if every Kentucky Baptist would give in proportion to these children, our Thanksgiving offering would go over the goal.

Now there are many ways to support us. First, we need your prayers daily. Then there are various ways to support us financially. The children at Cadiz showed their care with cans. Perhaps you can plan to share at least one day's pay at Thanksgiving time. Every gift is important, regardless of size. Gifts come to us in the form of school supplies, food, personal items and money—from the small change of young children to a thousand or more dollars. Whatever size the gift may be, it goes to make possible this important ministry to children.



# clear creek comments

Leon Simpson, President  
Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, KY 40977

## TOO SHORT FOR HATE

I have a little anonymous poem clipped from some publication that says,

"How oft' for some imagined wrong,  
In anger we retaliate;

We learn, although it takes us long,  
That life is far too short for hate."

Without boasting I can confidently assert there is no one whom I hate. I hate sin and how it ruins lives for time and eternity. I hate the devil who is constantly trying to ruin Christian's lives and influence. But I do not hate another human being.

At Clear Creek we teach and model that we are to put away "all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking . . . (and) malice" and that we are to "be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven" us (Eph. 4:31-32).

When differences arise, as they occasionally do, we seek to "clear the air" and be reconciled. We don't believe in carrying around grudges, anger or bitterness. This is excess baggage no

Christian needs to bear. Life is too short for hate, a Christian's heart is too large to allow it and God wants us to stand tall above it.

However, I have seen hate in life. I have known people who did not like me, were angry with me or even hated me. How this causes pain and anguish in my heart! I feel awful when anyone feels badly toward me. A Persian proverb states:

He who has a thousand friends,  
Has not a one to spare;

But a man with just one enemy  
Will meet him everywhere.

Thank God Christians have an antidote to hate. Our loving Lord can give us loving attitudes and teach us to be kind and forgiving toward one another. We overcome hate with love at Clear Creek. We believe the gospel of love and the loving Savior can change our world of hate. And each year we graduate and send forth missionaries of Christ's love because we are convinced life is too short for hate to be allowed!

# oneida journal

Barkley Moore, President  
Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, KY 40972

## A GENTLE BREEZE

Early last month I was asked to speak in the morning service of a long established church where I first spoke about nine years ago. I was thrilled to hear from the pastor a few days later that revival had broken out. The pastor wrote:

"Thank you for coming to share with us. Several expressed themselves most favorably. I believe many will be more supportive of our mission efforts than ever before. I am sure your message had an effect on our young people. Sunday evening we had two professions of faith, one by letter and five young men on recommitment of their lives. Revival broke out! The moving of the Holy Spirit was a gentle breeze throughout the congregation. As soon as possible we will be taking one of our boys to Oneida. My wife and I are looking forward to the opportunity to visit."

God be praised for what happened. I am sure the pastor's message that evening and his daily ministry with his people had more to do than anything I could have said. Whatever, whoever, there is no accomplishment except by God's grace.

A woman in an adjoining county writes as she generously donates: "I praise God for the work at Oneida. I'm so thankful we have such a school in

this areas."

A dear couple making a \$75 gift writes: "We are very happy that we are able to contribute to the important work you are doing in Oneida. May God continue to bless and give you the good health you must have to carry on." Not only does the gift mean much but the love that motivates the donor.

A father whose son is here on scholarship writes: "As soon as I find employment, I will not only pay the full tuition, but will donate additional money and whatever else it takes to keep Oneida alive and well. Thank you for allowing my boy to attend. I will never forget your school's kindness and generosity."

A mother writes from New Jersey: "I was born in Kentucky and lived there until my husband's work brought us here. I have heard glowing reports of the Oneida school and may be interested in my son attending. My son is 16 and a junior. He plays the drums and has a special interest in music."

A woman aware of our help to Christian young people living under dictatorships and in danger of their lives because of their Christian faith writes: "I wish to thank you so much for your concern for Christians in horrible situations. It is no wonder that Oneida is prospering. You are truly doing the Lord's will."

An Indiana mother writes: "I did not have a chance to say all I wanted when I was there. I guess I was a little nervous. But I want to promise you if we can pay more than \$50 a month we will do so. I was shocked you would let him go for so little. I want to thank you for being straight and to the point. God has never failed us."

Richmond friends write: "My mother, friend and I enjoyed our visit. We believe in the purposes of Oneida and are awed and thrilled by the way they are being carried out. We pray God will continue to bless and supply your needs."

Some years ago I had to expel a young man for drinking. Later I was able to accept him back and he made a fine student and graduate of our school. Later he made an excellent marine. He was one of the finest drivers I ever saw, and often he drove me when I spoke in varying churches. Recently I was very pleased to hear from him. "I always enjoy receiving mail from Oneida. I did learn a lot there. I remember when you spoke to congregations, you always said, with the apostle Paul, of faith, hope, love, the greatest is love because God is love. Hope you are well. Take care of yourself and keep up your great work working miracles with God's love."

From Tyler, Tex.: "Convinced that you are performing the Lord's will as your school ministers to the students. Please find our 'help' enclosed. We have never seen Oneida . . ." But their letter brought \$200 to invest in the Christian training of our boys and girls.

A friend writes from Ashland with

\$25. "I was there in May. I believe in what you are doing 100 percent. May God bless and continue to use Oneida in the lives of many boys and girls like Brian. I cried when I read of his death in Western Recorder."

I have often been privileged to give my testimony in churches of other affiliation than Baptist. Many of these good people are now active supporters of our work and I praise God for blessing our efforts.

Sometime ago I was invited to speak to the staff of an Adventist hospital. One of the nurses later wrote: "The Lord is using your school in a mighty way to disprove the 'ways of the world' in its management. With the Lord's blessing your people are proving that the seemingly impossible can be done! We all need to be more dedicated and loving Christians so that God can use us to help our fellow man more fully. Many points you brought out will remain in my memory a long time. With the Lord's blessing there can be no failure. Keep up the good work and your dependence on God!"

A Frankfort friend wrote some months ago: "Judge Bill Graham got up in prayer meeting and told us what a fine boy Brian was and how much Oneida had done for him. He asked us to pray for his family and for Oneida."

From Winchester: "I know I can never repay you and Oneida for the many wonderful things you and Oneida have done for my son. Despite the fact you were disappointed from time to time, you turned his life around and started him in the right direction. He is going to be a fine man."

# bluegrass billboard

## OCTOBER

14-15 BYW Retreat. Cedarmore. Evening meal on 14th till 3 p.m. on 15th. Register with Cedarmore

21-22 Baptist Women Retreat. Cedarmore. Evening meal on 21st through lunch on 22nd. Reservations with Cedarmore

24-28 SBC Regional Recreation Lab. Lake Barkley. Register with Church Recreation Dept., BSSB. Begins Monday afternoon; concludes lunch Friday

28-29 Associational Officers' Briefing.

Cedarmore. Friday evening meal through lunch Saturday

## NOVEMBER

4-6 International Student Conference. Cedarmore. Reservations through Cedarmore. Sponsor: Student Dept., KBC

5 Associational Officers' Briefing. Jonathan Creek. 9 a.m. to early afternoon. Same meeting Cedarmore, Oct. 28-29

6-12 Royal Ambassador Week. Suggestions from Brotherhood Builder and Brotherhood Dept., KBC

13 American Bible Society Day. Suggestions available from The American Bible Society, Box 5656, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10017

14-17 Kentucky Baptist Convention. Paducah, First Baptist Church

14—Executive Board Meeting and Religious Education Association

14-15—Pastors' Conference; and Music Associational Meeting

15-17—Convention in session

# A wheel of misfortune

*Legalized gambling may seem like 'easy money' for state governments, but its problems far outweigh its assets — compulsive gambling, organized crime — is it worth the price?*

by Larry Braidfoot

If opinion polls are an accurate gauge of public attitudes, the gambling industry is slowly winning the war against groups which resist gambling legalization as bad public policy.

In 1982 the Gallup organization conducted a telephone survey, sponsored by Gaming Business Magazine, and an astounding 82 percent of those surveyed indicated they favored legalization of some form of gambling.

Sixty-eight percent of the respondents said they favored legalized gambling as an alternative to increases in state taxes. Seventy-four percent said that since some people are going to gamble anyway, the states should legalize gambling and thereby gain some revenue from gambling.

In spite of these gloomy statistics,

poll found 49 percent of the respondents favored a state lottery, and during World War II, 45 to 54 percent of respondents favored some form of legal government-run lottery. As recently as 1963 and 1964, the approval rate for lottery was between 48 and 51 percent.

Public opinion continues to show people are concerned about the relationship between gambling and criminal activity. In 1951, in a poll which sought to measure public attitudes about the relationship between gambling and crime, only 38 percent of the respondents indicated they favored legalization of gambling. In the 1982 poll a total of 44 percent of the respondents indicated they "strongly agreed" with the statement legalized gambling would attract organized crime into the state.

Southern Baptists and other con-

**'As Southern Baptists we must recognize clearly the need for responsible Christian citizenship and political action.'**

Southern Baptists and other concerned citizens must realize the trend toward acceptance of legalized gambling can be changed. Public opinion can be mobilized to resist efforts at legalization, especially in those states which have not yet accepted parimutuel, lottery and casino gambling.

While only 18 percent of those surveyed opposed any form of legalized gambling and only 28 percent opposed it to raise revenues for state governments, attitudes expressed in this poll do not give an unqualified vote of approval for legalized gambling. For example, 71 percent of those surveyed did not favor the complete removal of all laws restricting gambling activity.

Seventy-two percent of the respondents said they would approve of legalization of state lotteries. This represents a significant increase in recent years but historically the approval rate has been high. As early as 1938, one

cerned citizens need to take seriously the threat of legalized gambling which this recent poll indicates could become a landslide. They should also take heart in the fact public opinion, as the polls indicate, is capable of being influenced by information and questions which point out the correlation between gambling and other issues such as organized crime.

As Southern Baptists, we must recognize clearly the need for responsible Christian citizenship and political action.

Although the pressures of the gambling industry and the susceptibility of state legislatures to the promise of easy money grow greater each year, concerned citizens have been able to withstand the onslaught before and can do so again if they take the challenge seriously and practice responsible Christian citizenship and political action.



## They took a gamble . . . and lost

by Larry Braidfoot

Compulsive gambling is usually thought of as a man's problem but Marilyn (not her real name) knows better.

Marilyn was a young housewife with four small children when her husband, after years of financial losses to gambling, hocked the tools of his trade, gambled the money away and committed suicide.

The plague of compulsive gambling on Marilyn's family did not end with the death of her husband. Marilyn's teenage son, who was only eight when his father died, is now himself a compulsive gambler.

"My husband and I had a perfect marriage, except for the gambling," Marilyn said. "I only gradually began to realize he had a problem when there always seemed to be some catastrophe which supposedly kept him from getting home with his paycheck.

"I love him and stuck with him," she said. "Gambling is an illness just like alcohol addiction or drug addiction. It was hard, but I couldn't run out on him.

"There were many years at Christmastime when we couldn't buy the children present. I remember when the sole of my son's shoe came loose and we were not able to fix it or to buy him new ones," she said.

"One of the hardest parts was the discovery my son had become a compulsive gambler too. In his late teenage years he began to imitate what as a small boy he had seen his father do."

Marilyn is not alone. Thousands of families each year feel the devastating effects caused by a family member who is a frequent gambler.

Martha (not her real name) is an active member of a Southern Baptist church. She too knows the hurt caused by compulsive gambling. Her children didn't miss Christmas presents or do

without food, but her former husband gambled heavily.

"I don't know why he gambled so much. I don't think he ever realized how much money he lost. I tried once to show him how much he was losing, but he just said he must have had a bad month.

"He gambled after National Guard meetings and he joined a lodge and a social club just to have a safe place to gamble," Martha said. "He lost heavily in the commodities market, which for him was another form of gambling.

"He even worked with some acquaintances to run a poker game at an apartment complex. They reportedly were paying off the apartment manager and a policeman to keep from getting caught," she said.

"My son has a drinking problem and I'm sure his drinking is due in part to my husband's gambling."

These two women have suffered greatly because of their husbands' compulsive gambling. They both have become strong, independent persons capable of taking care of themselves. They have managed to avoid feeling guilty and inadequate and partially responsible. Thousands of wives and mothers and friends are not so lucky.

The states in which Marilyn and Martha live are not "wide open" gambling states. Most of the gambling activity in which their husbands were engaged were illegal, but if the efforts of the gambling industry to further legalize lotteries, parimutuel gambling and casinos succeeds, more women and their families will suffer.

Legalization of any form of gambling dramatically increases the amount of gambling in that city or state. In addition to recruiting new customers to the game, the legalization of gambling also provides an enormous boost to illegal gambling which inevitably increases.

# Wrestling with the problem: illegal aliens

by Roberta S. Todd

In April alone, 104,547 illegal aliens were caught in the United States. That's 48 percent higher than the April 1982 rate.

"We apprehend almost a million a year," says Janet Graham in reference to illegal or undocumented aliens. But that figure will probably go higher this year because, Miss Graham of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service adds, the number of aliens caught here without credentials has been on the rise.

Obviously, the problem is big. It is at least equally difficult. And it is one some Southern Baptists are addressing.

Mexicans account for about 85 percent of the illegal aliens apprehended, says Miss Graham. El Salvadorans are the next largest group.

Mexicans have been leaving their poor nation for a better life north of the Rio Grande River for years. But recently the numbers have swelled as the country's economic problems have worsened.

They leave home with next to nothing in search of jobs and tolerable living conditions.

Although Miss Graham says the I. N. S. doesn't know how many aliens are in the country illegally, a U. S. News and World Report article says the U. S. Border Patrol estimates three to six million Mexican illegals are already in the United States. The Border Patrol predicts another two million will enter by year's end, of which a third can be expected to become permanent residents. The rest will come and go across the border.

The fact that they are taking the jobs that would otherwise go to U. S. citizens angers many Americans. Legislation pending before Congress would make it illegal for employers to hire

undocumented workers and impose tough sanctions on those found guilty.

At present it is a felony to bring an illegal alien into the country or harbor one who is here, Miss Graham says. It is punishable by a fine of up to \$2000, a jail term of up to five years, or both for each alien, she adds.

Another part of that pending legislation will legalize the status of illegals who have been in the U. S. for an as yet undetermined length of time.

Some citizens also resent having their tax dollars spent on aiding the illegal residents. A U. S. Supreme Court decision guarantees a free education to children of illegal aliens, and dozens of school systems across the country have bilingual education programs for such children.

Some illegal aliens are also getting health care. Others, with forged documents, are receiving welfare and unemployment benefits, according to a study by the Federation of Immigration Reform.

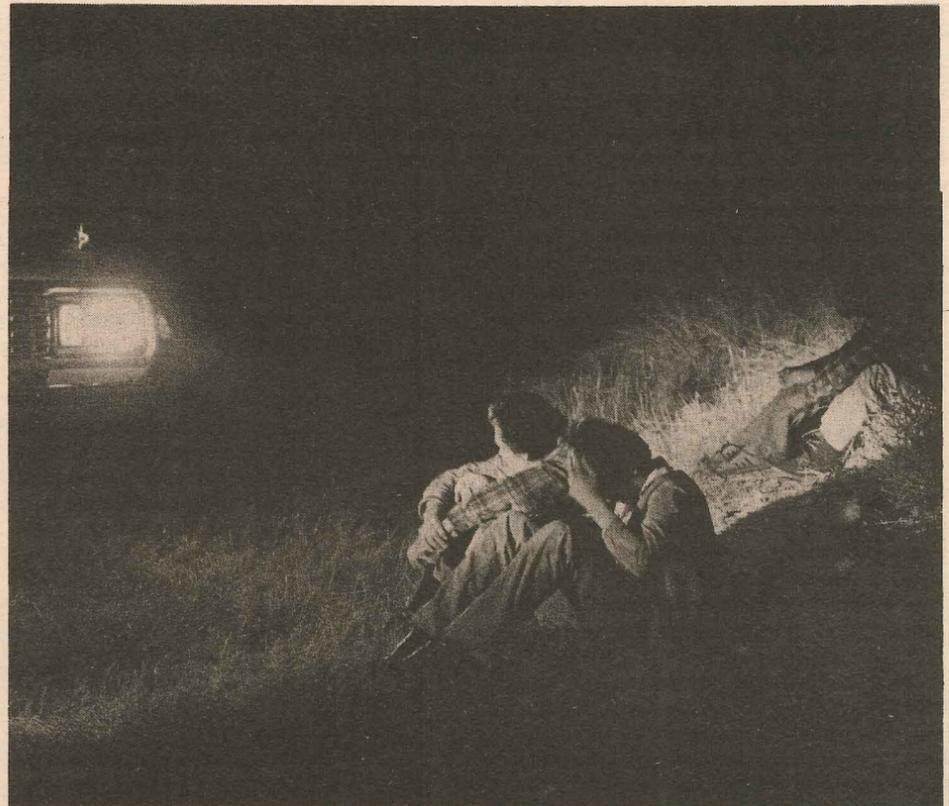
While many Americans see red when they consider the situation, others see the need to help.

Southern Baptists are among those in the second group, says Donoso Escobar, director of immigration and refugee service at the Home Mission Board. He says there is no record of the number of churches working with undocumented immigrants but he estimates there are dozens. Most are along the Mexican border.

When discussing reconciling the Christian and legal considerations involved in helping undocumented workers, Escobar notes first how delicate the issue is.

He says some churches probably don't ask those they're helping whether they're here illegally although they may assume it. "They just want to help."

More important than the status of an



alien's papers, says Escobar, is the status of his soul.

"We are here to minister to sinners. A criminal is any lawbreaker — I don't care the nature of the crime."

As for the legality of aiding immigrants who are in the U. S. illegally, Escobar says it is one thing to help smuggle them in or harbor them once they're here, but another to witness to them.

"Do those that help become lawbreakers? I don't think so," he says. "The law does not preclude any church to minister to any criminals. We encourage our churches to go to prisons to minister."

He adds that bringing salvation to undocumented aliens is more important than social work anyway.

The problem is one that Baptists and others will have to continue to wrestle with. The Border Patrol reports that Mexicans seem to be increasingly desperate to get into the United States. According to the U. S. News and World Report article, the patrol now routinely finds aliens mangled by freight trains they try to hop or dead from exposure from lying in wait by the Rio Grande. Others fall prey to the desert or Mexican bandits.

Sights Escobar, "The whole issue is tough."

## A port across the river

by Roberta S. Todd

Others are watching television, puttering around the yard and chasing balls across fields or courts, but Marc Azard spends his Saturdays and Sunday afternoons interviewing illegal aliens.

Azard, an attorney, questions the undocumented aliens to see if they qualify for legal status in the United States.

He's been at this since 1972 and now does the work out of South Main Baptist Church in Houston where he's a member.

It's one of two social ministries for undocumented aliens the 6800-member multilingual, innercity church provides. The other is an outpatient clinic used by nonaliens, too.

"It's very challenging work," says Azard of his immigration service. Last year we interviewed about 350 illegal aliens," he says. "Of that number only 15 were eligible to get their green cards."

Getting their green cards means attaining legal status, the attorney explained. It isn't the same as U. S. citizenship but allows the alien to live in the country legally.

Azard says one way for an alien to be granted legal status is to be needed

here to do a job his employer says no one else can do.

More commonly, aliens are granted status if they 1) have lived in the U. S. seven consecutive years, 2) have stayed out of trouble with authorities and have begun families and 3) can prove that being deported would cause them hardship.

Azard says a classic example of hardship is when an illegal alien has a child going to an American school. Taking the child out of the school and going back to another country would be a hardship on the child, he says.

Undocumented aliens can also file to stay here if they have brothers, sisters, or children who are citizens by birth.

"You have to meet the requirements. If you don't there's nothing you can do," he says explaining the low number of aliens he sees who are eligible for legalization.

Azard says the aliens trust him because they know he's been a minister and his office—officially the Main World Immigration Service—is connected with the church.

Azard operates with the "approval and blessing" of the district office of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, says David D'Amico, di-

rector of international ministries at South Main.

The service, for which there is a \$20 fee, is supported by the church and the Baptist General Convention of Texas. "We are providing a Christian service," says D'Amico noting some attorneys overcharge illegal aliens.

He says the church does not have to report the aliens it finds out are not documented. "There's no law that says you have to report them. They come here to ask for help.

"We're not harboring any of them. We're just helping in a quiet way."

D'Amico also is one of the doctors in the congregation who volunteers his time to the clinic South Main operates one day a week.

Although the clinic was originally set up to provide care for Indochinese refugees who couldn't get medical attention elsewhere, D'Amico says many of the patients today are Central Americans. He estimates 60 percent of the patients are undocumented aliens, but the church does not ask their status.

"We do not make any deal. We just know these people need help," D'Amico says.

"The needs of illegal aliens in any major city are for community, trust,

people who will help them out."

The clinic, originally free, now charges \$2. It is supported by the church. "We're now seeing about 200 a month," D'Amico says.

It's staffed with volunteer doctors, nurses, technologists and clerical workers from the congregation. Volunteers from the congregation also help Azard with the immigration service.

The church's participation in these ministries, as well as in others, excites D'Amico.

"The important thing about the clinic is it's a lay-led enterprise," the doctor says.

"I think it's beautiful," says Azard, adding, "It's a terrible thing to see people line up to get in because they don't have money for a doctor."

But, at South Main, the undocumented far from home and those with little money have a port where they can at least find compassion, medical care and people they can trust.

reprinted from World Mission Journal