

Religious groups get 'equal access' to schools

by Kathy Palen

Students in public secondary schools who wish to form religious clubs may have the same "equal access" to school facilities and privileges as students in other non-curriculum related activities, the U. S. Supreme Court has ruled.

In an 8-1 decision, the high court upheld the constitutionality of the Equal Access Act, a 1984 law that prohibits public secondary schools that receive federal funds and maintain a "limited open forum" from denying equal access to students who wish to meet within the forum on the basis of the content of speech at such meetings.

Under the law, a limited open forum exists when a public secondary school allows one or more "non-curriculum related" student groups to meet on

school property during non-instructional time.

In writing for the court in *Westside Community Schools v. Morgens*, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said the term "non-curriculum related" is best interpreted broadly to mean any student group that does not relate directly to the body of courses offered by the school.

"A student group directly relates to a school's curriculum if the subject matter of the group is actually taught, or will soon be taught, in a regularly offered course; if the subject matter of the group concerns the body of courses as a whole; if participation in the group is required for a particular course; or if participation in the group results in academic credit," O'Connor wrote. "We think this limited definition of groups that directly relate to the curriculum is

a common-sense interpretation of the act that is consistent with Congress' intent to provide a low threshold for triggering the act's requirements."

Such a reading of the Equal Access Act allows schools and school districts to retain a significant level of authority over officially recognized activities, O'Connor said.

Schools and school districts, she explained, have the authority to determine appropriate subjects of instruction; prohibit meetings that would interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities; and assure that student attendance at meetings is voluntary. They also may escape equal access obligations by refusing federal financial assistance, she added.

"Congress clearly sought to prohibit schools from discriminating on the

basis of the content of a student group's speech," O'Connor wrote, "and that obligation is the price a federally funded school must pay if it opens its facilities to non-curriculum related student groups."

A school or school district may not define as "curriculum related" anything remotely related to abstract educational goals, O'Connor wrote. "To define curriculum related in a way that results in almost no schools having limited open fora," she said, "or in a way that permits schools to evade the act by strategically describing existing student groups, would render the act merely hortatory."

The court's definition of non-curriculum related activities "looks to a school's actual practice rather than its stated policy," she said. (BP)

KBC president Messer and wife participate in Brazil partnership

by Marv Knox, Editor

Bill and Sharon Messer went to Brazil bearing gifts. They received much more than they gave.

The Messers were part of an eight-member group that participated in Kentucky Baptists' Partnership Missions project with Brazilian Baptists late last month.

"We had a tremendous week," reported Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ashland and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The Messers led revival services in First Baptist Church of Gardin Itapoa, in the coastal province of Espirito Santo.

They also distributed gifts, including the largest portable keyboard they could find. The keyboard was donated by Woman's Missionary Union circles. Other gifts were given by area businesses, individuals, Cumberland College and Oneida Baptist Institute.

"We received much more than we gave," Messer said after he returned home. "It (the experience) did more for me than for them."

The Brazilians were extremely receptive to the Christian gospel, he explained, reporting attendance at about 100 each service—double the church's membership.

"We had a number of significant decisions," Messer said. "We saw 10 professions of faith and baptisms; a couple of 'reconciliations' in which people were brought back into the church; eight to 10 rededications of faith."

The vitality of the Brazilian Baptists' faith amazed the Messers, he said: "The people really assisted the church. There were many young people, and the laypeople do everything—

lead music, sing, read Scripture. The Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union (missions organizations) were extremely strong.

"I was impressed that they do not have non-resident membership. If you're not active, not a tither, and if you smoke or drink, you're excluded from membership.

"I'm thrilled that the people love the Lord that much. They don't get in a

hurry; they love worship."

Messer's trip to Brazil—his third experience in overseas missions—taught him "three great lessons," he said:

"First, they take the work of the Lord very seriously. They mean business. Second, they have tremendous lay involvement. We're talking about visitation, worship—the whole scope of church work. Third, the first thing they ask is, 'Who are you as a person?' Those are three lessons we've lost in our culture and churches."

The five-year Brazil-Kentucky Partnership Missions effort will benefit Baptists from both places, Messer predicted.

"The (Brazilian) people will encourage us to recapture the enthusiasm we've lost for sharing the gospel and helping people. We can learn from them," he said. "And they need our resources and some techniques for evangelism and church growth."

In addition to the Messers, participants in the recent effort were James Cason of Kevil, Larry Lindsey of Pleasureville, Kenneth Lupton of Shepherdsville, Mary Nell Markham of Madisonville, Margaret Rudd of Cadiz and Randy Wallace of Independence.

Eighty Kentuckians have participated in projects to Espirito Santo, and 106 more are scheduled to go through November, said Partnership Missions coordinator Calvin Wilkins.

Two teams—13 medical workers, and 26 musicians from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville—are in Brazil now, Wilkins said, and several other groups are slated for the summer:

- Four volunteers will teach conversational English in June.
- Twenty-one construction workers will start a new church building and lead evangelistic services in June.
- Six college students will spend 10 weeks in Brazil as part of the summer missions program sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Student Work Department.



Among other gifts, Bill Messer, Kentucky Baptist Convention president, and his wife Sharon presented a portable keyboard to Baptists in Espirito Santo, Brazil. The keyboard was donated by WMU circles. (photo by Kevin L. Goldy)

State Cooperative Program over \$12 million to date

May totals pushed 1989-90 Kentucky Baptist Cooperative Program receipts to \$12,652,406 at the end of three quarters of the fiscal year.

May's \$1,629,139 was \$48,987, or 3.1 percent, more than contributions for May 1989.

The nine-month total is \$424,509,

or 3.5 percent, more than the total for the first nine months of the previous fiscal year.

The 1989-90 Kentucky Baptist Cooperative Program operational budget goal is \$17,717,289. A \$1.3 million challenge goal brings the overall state Cooperative Program goal to \$19,017,289.

Of Cooperative Program gifts sent to the Kentucky Baptist Convention office in Middletown, 61.25 percent remains in Kentucky for statewide missions, educational and ministry endeavors. The other 38.75 percent supports the worldwide ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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June 12, 1990

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Kentucky, Ohio Baptists aid Indiana twister victims

by Jim Burton

A series of deadly tornados in the Midwest has prompted the response of Kentucky and Ohio Baptist Men's disaster relief teams to assist two small Indiana Southern Baptist churches.

Southside Baptist Church in Bedford and Immanuel Baptist Church in Petersburg, each representing the only Southern Baptist church in its county, suffered little damage to their buildings. But each church must now minister in the midst of extensive tragedy.

Six Petersburg residents and three Bedford residents were killed. Another fatality was reported in Roachdale, Ind. Several people are reported missing.

"Petersburg is unbelievable," said Jim Furgerson, Southern Baptist Broth-

erhood Commission national disaster relief director. "Half of the town is gone."

The Ohio Baptist Brotherhood's disaster relief feeding unit was sent to Petersburg. The crew is sleeping in vans and in Immanuel Baptist Church. All emergency feeding was turned over to Southern Baptists.

The Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood's disaster relief feeding unit began serving lunch Monday, June 4, at Southside Baptist Church to victims and disaster relief workers in Bedford. Bob Simpkins, Kentucky's Brotherhood and disaster relief director, said 30 Kentucky volunteers were preparing meals and removing debris. Another 10 were expected later. Volunteers from First Baptist Church of Crane, Ind., assisted.

Kentucky Baptists have been named coordinators to match services from all volunteers with needs requests.

"We are also coordinating with government agencies at the church," said Simpkins. "They moved to this site to be close to the operation performed by Kentucky Baptists when they recognized our professionalism and experience in this type of work."

"Everyone is working together to make this operation work. Turf battles normally associated with this type of operation are not occurring."

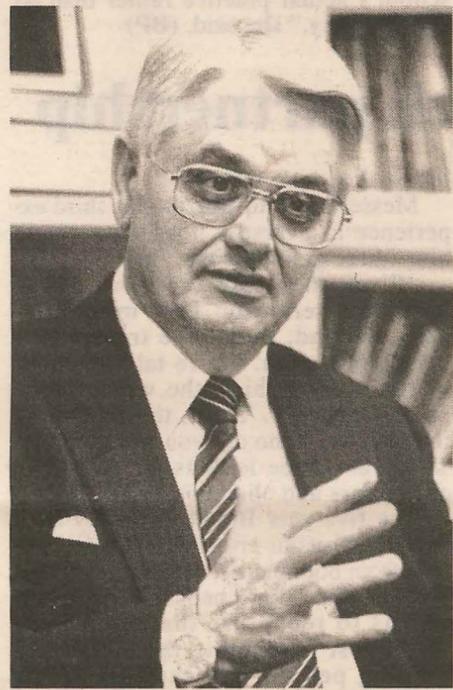
The bulk of the Kentuckians' work has been cleanup and debris removal.

"I've got loggers on my team who do this every day," said Simpkins. "They come in here and cut mobile homes apart and trees apart and stack them up."

This marks the first multi-state response by Brotherhood disaster relief teams in Indiana, which does not have a disaster relief program. Furgerson is in Indiana serving as on-site coordinator for the Southern Baptist effort.

"I think (the Southern Baptist response) is not only going to be a big help to the people at the scene but it will help the esprit of being a Southern Baptist," said Mark Coppenger, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has authorized the use of domestic hunger funds in Bedford for use in the disaster response, and \$20,000 was sent to the Indiana Baptist convention, said Paul Adkins, HMB vice president for ministry. (BP)



Historian Leon McBeth addressed Sunday School Board employees. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Historian McBeth launches centennial celebration

by Jim Lowry

Historian Leon McBeth characterized the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as the "shaper of a denomination" during the launch of the board's centennial celebration.

"Sundayschoolandchurch" were described as "one word and one experience" for McBeth as he grew up in Cross Roads Baptist Church in Fisher County, Tex. McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., also is the author of "Celebrating Heritage and Hope," a historical account of the board's first 100 years.

"No other agency or organization has done as much, I am convinced, as the Sunday School Board in shaping Southern Baptist activities and outlook," McBeth told board employees.

In fact, McBeth said he had never been to Nashville or heard of the Sunday School Board when it was affecting him so profoundly through use of quarterlies, hymnals and training materials.

"Every president from J. M. Frost to Lloyd Elder has been firmly committed to the authority of the Bible."

"The Sunday School Board shaped the educational ministry of our churches and our denomination," McBeth explained. "Independent programs were tested, honed, streamlined, restructured, and 'baptized' to sharpen the focus, develop suitable literature and train needed leadership."

McBeth gave much credit to the "Broadman Hymnal" for affecting the quality of worship in churches, because it was the first standard worship guide for Southern Baptist churches. He said this was the first introduction to worship aids for many churches and it brought the element of commonality.

"I really believe this board created the great consensus among Southern Baptists in the basics, such as allegiance to the Bible, commitment to evangelism and commitment to missions," McBeth said. "I respect state conventions, universities, state papers, seminaries and other agencies, but

when the Sunday School Board speaks, it has the ear of the denomination."

"Churches that are large and famous or remote and small, the Sunday School Board speaks to them all."

"We need to get back to those basics and build a new consensus," he said, noting consensus has been fragmented over the past few years.

"Celebrating Heritage and Hope," the historical account of the board's centennial, will be available in October. (BP)

Some missionaries evacuate Liberia

by Donald D. Martin

About half of the 25 Southern Baptist missionaries remaining in Liberia evacuated June 4 on a U. S. flight to Freetown, Sierra Leone, according to missionary Robert Bellinger. Passengers included 12 Southern Baptist missionaries, about 65 other U. S. citizens, about 15 Japanese embassy personnel and about 30 Africans.

Previously, 28 other Southern Baptist missionary personnel had departed Liberia. Missionaries staying in Monrovia are Bellinger and his wife, Pat, of Carbondale, Ill.; Jim and Jane Park of Paducah, Ky.; and Fred and Mary Lou Levrets of Abilene, Tex.

The missionaries outside of Monrovia are staying in towns that have remained quiet through most of the six months of fighting. They are Ed Laughridge of Rock Hill, S. C., and Fran Laughridge of Clinton, S. C., who remain in Mano River; Kenneth Nicholson of Magdalena, N. M., and Joyce Nicholson of Seaside, Calif., in Voinjama; and Chris Wilkinson of Gainesville, Fla., and Gwen Wilkinson of Ardmore, Tenn., also in Voinjama.

Bellinger said he and others in Monrovia are staying in contact with mission officials in other African countries and with the Foreign Mission Board.

Missionaries who left Liberia in early June are Dale and Nancy Allison of Dallas; Brian Barlow of Pensacola, Fla., and Vicki Barlow of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Bret Brown of Amarillo, Tex.; Mary Katherine Campbell of Abilene, Tex.; Daryl Cox of Lake City, Tenn., and Glenda Cox of Atlanta; Rachel Dubard of Carrollton, Miss.; Margaret Fairburn of Tyler, Miss.; and Lawrence and Alice Hardy of Savannah, Ga. Dean Ekberg of Rockford, Ill., drove out from Fahnja to Sierra Leone earlier. (BP)

Southern professor named general editor for new commentary

David S. Dockery, assistant professor of New Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has been named general editor of "The New American Commentary," replacing Michael A. Smith, who resigned to return to the pastorate.

Smith, an editor of Broadman books at the Baptist Sunday School Board for five years, will become pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Hermitage, Tenn.

The first two volumes of "The New American Commentary" are scheduled to be released in June 1991. Writers have been enlisted and are working on manuscripts which will be released between 1991 and 1995.

Dockery, 37, recently accepted a position at the board as editor of academic books, to be effective at the end of the school year. He was approved to assume leadership of the commentary project by board president Lloyd Elder and Johnnie Godwin, vice president for general publishing, to ensure a smooth transition in the plans and production of "The New American Commentary." Dockery is writing the commentary volume on I and II Peter and Jude.

Dockery, a native of Alabama, is a graduate of the University of Alabama-Birmingham; Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Ind.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort

Worth, Tex.; Texas Christian University, Fort Worth; and the University of Texas-Arlington.

Prior to joining the faculty of Southern Seminary, Dockery was professor of theology and New Testament at Criswell College, Dallas. He also has been associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas and pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The commentary is being written and edited according to the doctrinal guidelines of the Baptist Faith and Message statement, and the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy serves as the operating definition of biblical inerrancy. (BP)

Ashcraft retires at Richmond; successor search under way

Morris Ashcraft, who for the past year has been acting president of the Southern Baptist Alliance-sponsored Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., retired from the post May 15.

Seminary trustee chairperson Mary M. Strauss announced an eight-person search committee charged with finding a permanent chief academic officer for the new school.

Strauss announced a June 15 deadline for applications and nominations for the post, adding she has set the committee's initial meeting for June 18

in Richmond.

The announcement specifies the committee's choice will be a Baptist who holds an earned doctorate in a recognized theological discipline and is a committed churchperson desiring to work in an ecumenical and interracial consortium of theological institutions.

The new school's statement of purpose includes a pledge "to seek and maintain balance in gender and race" in the employment of faculty and staff.

In a letter advising Strauss and other trustees of his retirement, Ashcraft

cited family and health reasons.

Ashcraft, 67, noting that May 15, the effective date for his retirement, also marked the first anniversary of his service in the post of acting president, added, "We have confirmed during this year that we do not have the necessary resources, health and energy for this effort at this stage in our lives."

The former dean of the faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., expressed optimism that the new seminary will open in the fall of 1991. (BP)

Court rejects dispute involving Operation Rescue

by Kathy Palen

The U. S. Supreme Court has refused to overturn a federal court order that bans anti-abortion protesters from blocking access to abortion facilities and imposes fines on demonstrators who violate the order.

It was the second time in two weeks the high court rejected an appeal by Operation Rescue, an anti-abortion group.

In a one-line order May 21, the Supreme Court refused to review a 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals decision that upheld \$69,000 in fines that had been levied against Operation Rescue and

its founder, Randall Terry. The fines were imposed after members of the group repeatedly violated court orders that they not block access to abortion clinics in New York.

Attorneys for Operation Rescue contended the court orders and the threat of fines violated their clients' free speech rights. They also argued the appeals court erred in applying a 1871 federal law to the anti-abortion protesters. The appeals panel held the protesters—under the Ku Klux Klan Act, which prohibits conspiracies designed to deprive a class of people of their rights—interfered with the consti-

tutional rights of a category of women.

On May 14, the high court refused to lift an injunction barring Operation Rescue protesters from holding demonstrations within 50 feet of any abortion clinic in Atlanta.

In writing for the five to four majority, Justice John Paul Stevens said the anti-abortion protesters "have persistently and repeatedly engaged in unlawful conduct" unlike other groups of demonstrators.

The Georgia Supreme Court is considering an appeal in the case, which eventually could go back to the Supreme Court. (BP)

Supreme Court refuses to reconsider decision involving dispute over religious use of peyote

The U. S. Supreme Court has refused to reconsider its recent decision in a case involving the religious use of the drug peyote. In a one-line order issued June 4, the court denied a petition for rehearing in *Employment Division of Oregon v. Smith*.

A diverse coalition of religious and civil liberties organizations, along with 55 constitutional law scholars, had joined the petition asking the court to reconsider its *Smith* decision, in which the court held a state not only can prohibit the religious use of peyote but also can deny unemployment compensation to individuals dismissed from their jobs for using the drug.

The decision also limits application of the "compelling state interest" test

to a narrow range of cases involving the free exercise of religion. The test, which was set forth in a 1963 Supreme Court decision, requires that governmental actions that substantially burden a religious practice must be justified by a compelling state interest.

"The denial of our petition for rehearing was disappointing, but it does not mean the battle is over," said Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "We're already talking with a number of members of Congress and constitutional experts about a possible legislative solution to many of the problems caused by the *Smith* decision. And, frankly, with the broad coalition that has developed around this

case, I think we have a reasonable chance of success."

Organizations supporting the petition for rehearing included the American Jewish Congress, American Civil Liberties Union, American Jewish Committee, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Baptist Joint Committee, Christian Legal Society, American Friends Service Committee, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, National Association of Evangelicals, National Council of Churches, People for the American Way, Rutherford Institute, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Unitarian Universalist Association and Worldwide Church of God. (BP)

Abortion counseling to go before Supreme Court

by Kathy Palen

The Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether regulations that bar federally funded family planning clinics from providing any information on abortion are constitutional.

The high court will review a federal appeals court decision on federal regulations issued during the Reagan administration to implement Title X, a 1970 law that established federal funding for family planning clinics.

The rules prohibit family planning clinics that receive federal funds from offering abortion counseling or referral. Clinic employees are barred from discussing abortion even when asked about it directly or from providing a list of abortion providers.

The regulations also require that any Title X organization that uses its own money for abortion services must provide physically separate facilities for that purpose.

The American Civil Liberties Union was joined by the city and state of New York in challenging the regulations in court. They argued the rules place an impermissible burden on women's constitutional rights and violate the First Amendment's free speech guarantee.

The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in New York upheld the regulations last November. But in March the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals struck them down on First Amendment and privacy grounds. Two district courts also have ruled against the regulations. (BP)

St. Croix volunteers work to restore family's dignity

by Clay Renick

Annette Gereau will never forget the storm at night—or the volunteers the morning. The 34-year-old St. Croix resident lives with her sister, Edith, who has six children. When Hurricane Hugo started, they huddled in a closet.

"I didn't know which way to turn," said Gereau, a schoolteacher. She couldn't afford repairs and they had no insurance.

St. Croix is in the U. S. Virgin Islands about 75 miles southeast of Puerto Rico. As a U. S. territory, victims received grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

But some contractors raised their prices and cheated residents. Gereau

paid her grant money in advance. The contractor said he needed it for supplies. She never saw him again.

Several months passed with the family living under a plastic covering. During rain storms, the children, ages 7 and younger, would sleep in two old cars.

Baptist Brotherhood teams came from all over the United States to help. About 45 volunteers a week stay at Grace Central Baptist Church. The volunteers provide free labor for the people who can't pay for a new roof.

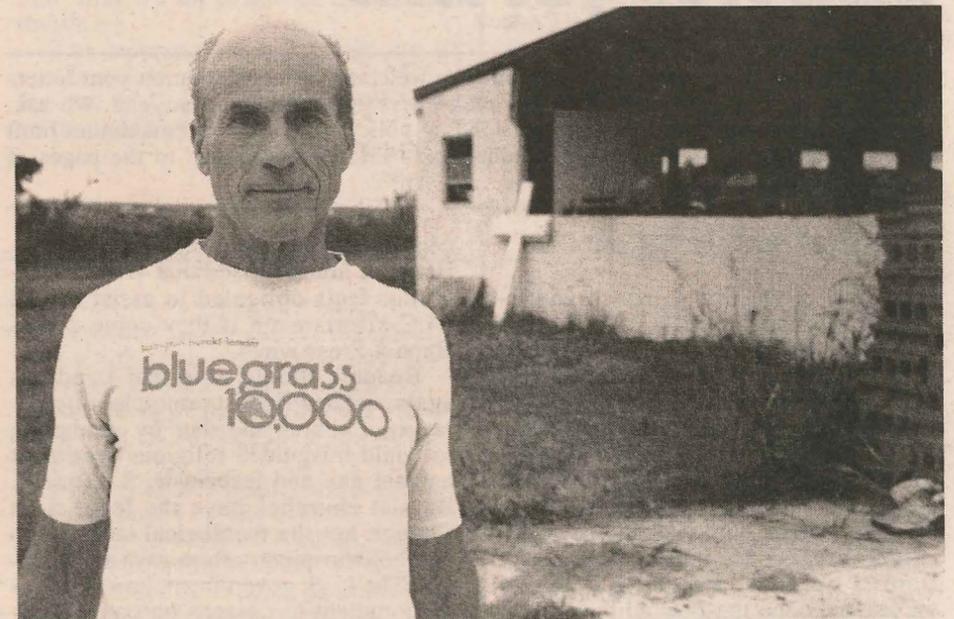
Recently a group of 57 volunteers were completing their work week when Gereau asked for help. M. B. Howard, on-site coordinator, agreed to assist but found more problems than expected. Rafters needed replacing. Wiring was fouled. Trash remained from the storm and the supplies weren't enough to finish the job.

The volunteers contributed about \$300 for the remaining supplies and arrived at 8:15 on Saturday morning. Four hours later the roof was on, the house was clean and even the family grave out front was filled where it had sunk during the storm.

"It's like the good Lord put his hand down and said, 'OK fellows. We're going to do this quick,'" recalled Steve Thomas of Springfield, Tenn. "And that's how it happened."

"This project was one of the most emotional things we have done," said Howard of Covington, Tenn. "When we first looked at the project on Thursday night, Gary Kahler of Midland, Texas, had to get off by himself and cry that night."

"That four hours of work on Saturday morning was worth the whole



James Hilke, Central Baptist Church, Paris, was the first Kentucky volunteer participating in the Brotherhood Commission's St. Croix project to reroof 100 homes destroyed by Hurricane Hugo. The Commission has extended the project through July. (photo by Jim Burton)

trip," said Kahler.

A number of women volunteers cleaned the house, even polishing aluminum thresholds. They removed all the trash and debris, making a pile that would fill three pickup truck loads, said Howard.

"We gave that family dignity," he continued. "They had totally given up on that house." But volunteers have not given up on St. Croix.

"Everyone paid their own way," added Harold Bailey, 66, from Dallas. Volunteers even left \$1,000 to help

other residents who lacked enough roofing materials.

Bailey said neighbors would stop by during the project wondering how Gereau, who now attends Grace Central with her family, could afford all the workers. "They volunteered to do it," she told them. "God worked a miracle in my life."

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's St. Croix project continues through July 31. Those interested in participating should contact their state Brotherhood directors. (BP)

Together...through the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

September 1989-May 1990 gifts

	Month	YTD 8 mon.
May 90	1,629,139	12,652,406
May 89	1,580,152	12,227,897
\$ Change	48,987	424,509
% Change	3.1%	3.5%
Budget	1,476,441	13,287,967
\$(under)/over	152,698	(635,561)
%(under)/over	10.3%	-4.8%
	\$ Over/(Under)	% Increase/Decrease Over
Year	Budget to Date	Prev Year
89-90	(635,561)	3.5%
88-89	(548,994)	3.1%
87-88	(421,444)	1.5%
86-87	(7,379)	5.7%
85-86	(639,577)	5.8%
84-85	(376,512)	5.6%
83-84	(218,636)	6.9%

Take children on a 'family faith pilgrimage'

Editorial

Marv Knox

Did you ever notice how pilgrims always make splendid storytellers?

They're soldiers, photographers, serious tourists. You probably know others. Their common denominator is that they've been on a trip, and they went on purpose. Maybe they are so good at telling stories because they traveled with their eyes wide open, expecting to see what accidental tourists take for granted.

Don Rutledge is the best pilgrim-storyteller I know. Before he went to work for Southern Baptists, he trotted the globe with his camera. Now, more than two decades later, he is a veteran of both our mission boards and has brought pictures of home and foreign missionaries into your home and mine. A dinner with Don is a journey to dozens of mission fields. His stories jerk tears, pump laughter. Talking to him is almost as good as being there—because he's already been.

Some observers of our culture say the art of storytelling died at the birth of television. That's a particularly vexing problem for Christian families. We're failing to communicate our faith and values to our children partly because (and other reasons abound) they don't know the intimate, personal stories of our spiritual pilgrimages.

Kenny Cooper—a Kentucky contribution

to the world of faith, who grew up in Hard-money Baptist Church near Boaz and learned to minister at Cumberland College and Southern Seminary—addressed this issue in a recent sermon. He challenged parents and grandparents in his church to take their offspring on a "family faith pilgrimage."

The idea is remarkable in its simplicity: Pack your bags, load the car and head for the places that were important to your spiritual development. Take the kids to the spot where you gave your life to Christ. Visit the church house where you learned to worship. Walk with them down the aisle you walked to make your faith public, and point to the spot where you were baptized.

But don't stop there. Introduce them to the people who made faith real for you. Some may be family members, but others were friends and neighbors who conveyed God's love to the youngster you were back then. If some of these people have died, visit their cemeteries; find their gravestones.

All the while, of course, talk. Tell the stories of these people and places. Tell how you came to know the Lord. Describe what you felt when you went "down front" to shake the preacher's hand and when you came up out of the baptismal waters. Tell how that changed your life. Recall the everyday bravery, grace and faith you saw in that special Sunday school teacher, mission leader or youth worker. Tell the simple stories of your faith; you'll remember them as you visit the

shrines of your spiritual heritage.

That pilgrimage may not seem as glamorous as trips to the monuments of our collective history—the Liberty Bell, Yorktown, Shiloh, Gettysburg, the Lincoln Memorial. It may not sound like as much fun as a trip to the beach or a retreat into the mountains. But think what a shame it would be to leave your children and grandchildren without passing on this legacy of your faith. Father's Day next Sunday would be a terrific time to plan the odyssey.

But obviously, the date is late. You've already paid the rent on the condo; you wrote the check for the down payment on the camper months ago. Don't be dismayed. Start telling the stories anyway, preparing for the day when the trip becomes reality.

That's what our family will settle for this summer. A sojourn to tiny West Texas hamlets will wait for a less-busy season. So, too, will introductions to people like Chuck Waller, who taught countless fourth-grade boys the books of the Bible, and visits to the graves of people like Mary Crowe, who practiced steadfast love.

One day soon, however, we'll sit under those magnificent trees on the Southern Seminary campus in Louisville. Lindsay and Molly will hear stories of people and places that brought their mother and daddy closer to Jesus, that helped us understand what God wants from our lives.

I hope the stories do justice to the pilgrimage.

baptist forum

To all who would write to Baptist Forum: We welcome for consideration your letters on any subject, provided they do not make personal attacks on anyone. We ask, however, that you accommodate a longstanding policy of a 300-word maximum limit for published letters. Thank you for adhering to this, and welcome to the pages of Western Recorder.—Marv Knox, *Editor*

"Honesty" critical of WR and CLC

We object to the way in which you reported Richard Land's criticism of President Bush's White House reception of gay and lesbian leaders concerned about hate crimes.

Contact with Honesty, Louisville, would have allowed you to include Baptist voices which applaud the president's action and which counter Land's attack. We fully expect our state Baptist publication to present a balanced report of Baptist opinion, including minority views. We hope the new editor will be more attentive to those needs.

The Christian Life Commission has its own publication in which it presents its opinions unchallenged. Given re-

cent events and your responsive editorials, we are surprised that Western Recorder feels obligated to assist biased CLC efforts even if they come across Baptist Press wires.

Readers should note that Land has again violated Baptist principles of separation of church and state by attempting to wield misguided religious sentiment against gay and lesbian U. S. citizens. Baptist churches have the legal right (though not the theological support) to withhold hospitality from gays and lesbians. The U. S. government, however, has no comment to citizens on consenting-adult expressions of sexuality and relationship. President Bush has done well to recognize needs across the broad spectrum of citizens and to offer hospi-

talities without prejudice.

We encourage readers to use the address and phone number printed in the May 15, 1990 issue to express their support for the president's gracious reception of gay and lesbian representatives as united citizens battle hate crimes.

Quinn T. Chipley
"Honesty"
Louisville

True biblical revival

Do we really understand what biblical revival is? Today, we say that revival is a four-day event, bringing in an evangelist and a music person. Sure we see an increase in seeing people saved and baptized. That's great! But biblical revival is extraordinary. Amazing things happen when biblical revival comes.

It seems that preachers, pastors and even lay people are scared of the words Pentecost and Holy Spirit, etc. They are in the Bible so we should believe, preach, teach and most of all use it (re-

ferring to the Holy Spirit). In biblical revival a preacher will not preach what his congregation wants but he will preach according to the Holy Spirit.

The only way biblical revival will come is when the Holy Spirit controls our lives. That means we need to fall on our knees and repent! Where in the Bible does it say that the Holy Spirit controlled their prayer meetings and worship services (Acts 4:31)?

When the Holy Spirit controls us, people will be saved (Acts 6:7). Revival will come *only* when we get right with God and the Holy Spirit controls us. To have revival like that in Wales (1904-05), we must get on our knees and ask God to cleanse us, because the Holy Spirit will not use people wrapped up in the things of this world. I'm referring to holiness!

Here's Hope...because Jesus does care for us! He wants us to have *true biblical revival*.

Glenn Riggs
Louisville

western recorder

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baptist forum

Outraged with CLC tactics

I am expressing my outrage that the Christian Life Commission executive director has taken it upon himself to sit in judgment over those with whose lifestyle he disagrees. To urge Southern Baptists to write the president with "hate mail" seems to me as much a "hate crime" as any act of violence.

If the Christian Life Commission is to live up to its name, it should be trying to minister to ALL people with the same love and compassion that Jesus taught.

Jean Cravens
Lexington

Beward abomination

First, I am a woman. Second, I am a pastor's wife. Third, I believe Jesus put the leadership as pastors in the hands of men.

I also read in my Bible where the first command Jesus gave after he was raised from the tomb was to a woman, and he said, "Go and tell my brothers."

So as a Christian since 10 years of age I hear, "Go and tell my brothers—they are making a mockery of my church, they are acting like little boys fighting over a toy. They are acting like little children fed on milk. They need to assume the responsibility of eating meat so they may discern right from wrong."

All my life I have loved and respected the called of God, but I am so sick of what our educated, most desired ministers of our convention are doing to us. I want to do what the fish did with Jonah: vomit them up on an island and tell them to get in the will of God and start preaching what he called them to do.

I am not the only woman who feels like kicking them out. I think that they are a disgrace to our convention before the eyes of the world.

My husband has been a minister for 57 years and we are ashamed of our leaders. We teach and preach the Bible in the little church that we serve, and don't run our convention down but ask for prayers hoping a miracle will come from God and we will not have to give account for being on either side.

My Bible says, "These six things

doth the Lord hate; yea seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands which shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Jamie Smith
Hartford, Ky.

What is happening?

What is happening to us? We cause President Bush to decline to speak at the Southern Baptist Convention because he shows compassion.

The leader of the Southern Baptists is himself acting as God and judging, yet God doesn't judge someone he doesn't know. We are trying to get involved in the separation of church and state issue, the very thing that gives us the opportunity to worship as we please.

We scream about abortion, then allow people to starve to death without offering as much as a comment. We show disrespect to our nation's leader yet refuse to talk with or try to understand the people he reached out to. The SBC spends thousands or even millions of dollars arguing about certain words in the Bible, while people die due to lack of proper medical care.

I don't understand. I am a Christian, though not perfect, and I read the Bible. Maybe some of our SBC leaders should read I Corinthians 13:1.

Tim G. Gray
Eddyville, Ky

Being forewarned

One of our members received a telephone call soliciting money in the name of Southern Baptist Convention to distribute Bibles in Germany. They said they got his name from us when in fact they did not. We would not give out such information.

We feel this is some sort of ploy to raise money for their own ends. I am writing because they may be contacting other people throughout the state.

Ben A. Baird, pastor
First Baptist Church
Hazard

Too busy to save

An early childhood prayer petitioned, "If I should die before I wake...." With regard to the SBC I pray that we "...wake before we die."

To our discredit we have a tongue problem. Controversy is fanned by what we say and how we say it. Statements are made that are unnecessary, unkind or untrue. The tongue cuts and separates like a knife and we have too many judgmental, self-licensed surgeons.

We have had a leadership vacuum. Too often the action of elected officials and appointees are more confrontative than constructive. There is more interest in control-ship than in leadership. Mistrust is fostered when important decisions are made on a cruise. We have enough of this type of politics in the workplace!

Based on recent convention elections, we seem polarized into camps, roughly 55/45. What an opportunity here for someone to exert loving, affirming, mission-minded leadership.

Too often pastors act like the elderly couple who argue, both talking at the same time, neither one listening. We pick at passages, talk about 'signature scripture,' which is about as obtainable as those Mormon gold plates, and miss the message of humility, love and saving a lost world.

All of us need a behavioral change. We pray too little, listen too little, love too little and talk too much.

Officers and board members, remember you are Christ's servants. You are not to be stumbling blocks to his cause. Pastors, don't judge another man's pulpit. Pay him a compliment for something he is doing well. Affirm him. Lay persons, pray mightily for Christlike conduct from pastors and those in leadership positions. Pray for the local church. It is here that the cause of Christ is won or lost and it is here that we must not let differences divide us.

The rancor that exists among us weakens our effectiveness for Christ, but the real victims are the souls we are too busy to save.

Durwood W. Beatty
Murray



on
mission
together

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

Still a dreamer

A Missions Challenge Committee, established at the 1974 Southern Baptist Convention, worked for two years to present their proposal to the 1976 SBC meeting in Norfolk, Virginia. The chairman of that committee, Dr. Warren Hultgren of First Baptist, Tulsa, Oklahoma, has recently reviewed some of their conclusions.

There were 15 recommendations which became the essence of what was later labeled as **Bold Mission Thrust**.

The most important of the 15 was the challenge itself in Recommendation I:

"That the Convention set as its primary missions challenge that every person in the world shall have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ in the next 25 years, and that in the presentation of this message, the biblical faith be magnified so that all men, women, and children can understand the claim Jesus Christ has on their lives."

The committee had to deal with the seeming-impossibility of such a challenge. But they concluded that: "anything less than the Great Commission — 'Go ye therefore and teach all nations' — would not have been adequate."

In presenting one section of the report, Dr. Carl Bates stated: "No individual or group could do the SBC greater service than to provide a challenge sufficient to command the expenditure of the life and substance of this convention to its very limit."

The other recommendations essentially represented strategies for achieving the number one recommendation.

In 1984, the Executive Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention affirmed six objectives (or priorities) for guiding our work together for the future.

Three of the six objectives relate directly to the number one statement of Bold Mission Thrust:

- To increase the awareness of and involvement by Kentucky Baptists in the total world mission of God.

- To increase significantly the financial resources for Kentucky Baptists to support the total missions program.

- To increase, at a more rapid pace, the development of Baptist missions and churches in Kentucky.

Only those who have stopped "dreaming the dream" believe Bold Mission Thrust is dead.

I'm still a dreamer!



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

What's my line?

If you're 40 or older and had access to a television set, you saw it—perhaps regularly—every Sunday night. *What's My Line?* was a staple of early TV. It became one of those weekly traditions (for 17 years) that many of us tried never to miss.

Where we lived it was on the air live at 10:30 p.m. in the winter. But when New York observed Daylight Savings Time in summer (long before most of the rest of the country) we watched it at 9:30.

John Daly was the scintillating host who tried to maintain composure as he often worked with undignified guests whose occupations a celebrity panel tried to guess.

And that panel. Who could forget the sedate Dorothy Kilgallen, the hilarious Fred Allen and his successor Steve ("Is it bigger than a bread box?") Allen, the unflappable Arlene Francis and the effervescent Bennett Cerf?

There were mystery guests who went to great lengths to disguise their voices, trying to convince the panel they were someone else. (The panel was blindfolded at that juncture.)

The fond memories of those Sunday nights with the *What's My Line?* gang are for me inextricably tied to two other families in our Baptist congregation. They, like we, were at church virtually every time somebody turned the lights on (in fact, I think we turned them on and off many times).

Sunday night had a characteristic

routine that seldom varied. It began with youth choir in late afternoon followed by a snack supper (which my mother often prepared), Baptist Training Union (BTU) and the evening worship hour.

After church, the question was invariably posed by one of those families to the other two: "Want to come to our house tonight to see *What's My Line?* I heard that scores of times over the years. The three families took turns "hosting" one another. Light refreshments were provided and the kids were always included.

I'll never forget those satisfying Sunday night experiences. They were as much a part of our tradition as going to work or school on Monday morning. It was a sad night for me in 1967 when John Daly and friends signed off for the last time.

It's peculiar what we may associate with our church-going experiences and with those with whom we attend church. *What's My Line?* was clean and enjoyable entertainment. But it also remains a pleasant memory for me because I watched it every week with good friends who were part of the family of God.

Bible makes miraculous return during war

by Beth Wyatt
State Correspondent

If only a Bible could speak audibly!

Glen Robbins, a deacon, Sunday school teacher for 35 years and active layman at Liberty Baptist, Laurel River Association, reports he has a 50-year-old New Testament with many stories to tell.

The Bible has survived three wars, has been separated from its owner by hundreds of miles and through special providence was returned to its owner. It has been through mountains and valleys, waded rivers and crossed swamps. The word has not returned void; it has been an insurmountable source of strength and encouragement.

Home Mission Board stops sending interns to BJCPA

by Jim Newton

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has stopped sending student se-mester and summer missionaries to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The decision was announced by Home Mission Board president Larry Lewis following an incident in which a semester missionary of the HMB made telephone calls soliciting support for the Baptist Joint Committee.

At their May meeting, members of the HMB administrative committee expressed opposition to the student's involvement, saying they felt it was inappropriate activity for a semester missionary.

Lewis said the semester missionary had been making telephone calls to Southern Baptist convention pastors urging them to attend the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans and to oppose a recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee cutting budget support for the BJCPA.

Lewis added he and the administrative committee also felt that at a time

Robbins testifies how many nights he prayed and sought comfort from the word of God when all around him were the sights and sounds of war.

Robbins was drafted into the Army late in 1941. A family friend presented him with the New Testament when he was leaving. It was like any other New Testament except the front was metal and was inscribed with the words "May This Keep You From Harm."

Robbins, his brother Brooks and son Eldon carried the Bible through three wars and believe the God of the Bible kept them safe hundreds of times.

Glen Robbins, a veteran of World War II, was stationed in New Jersey, Ireland, England, Scotland and North

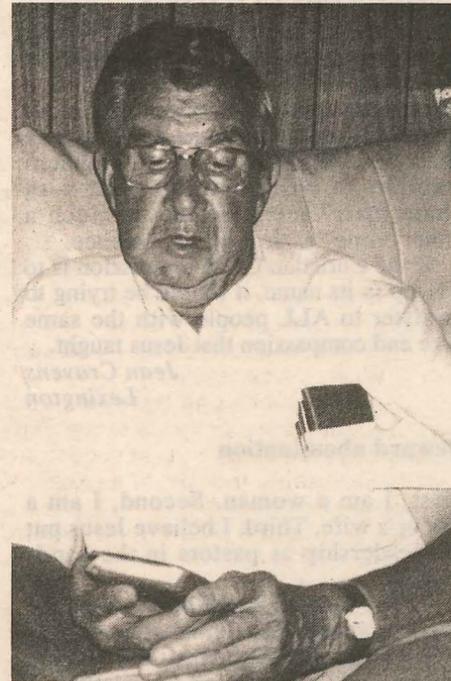
Africa and was injured in Italy. His entire tour overseas was more than three years and has five battle stars representing different areas of battle. He was decorated Aug. 18, 1944 with a bronze star for aiding seven men who were buried in the debris of a house that had been hit. Endangered by shells and injured himself, he worked for three and one-half hours with his bare hands to rescue the men.

Glen Robbins returned to his home and family in 1945.

When his brother Brooks was drafted into the Army during the Korean conflict Glen gave him the Bible. Brooks was wounded Sept. 18, 1951 during a battle north of Seoul, Korea. He was hit by a 120-millimeter mortar shrapnel and during the blast lost his clothing and the Bible. He spent four months in hospitals in South Korea and Japan.

Early in 1952 Brooks rejoined the First Cavalry Division and they were moved to the northernmost island of Japan. He was called to the supply room one morning and the sergeant said, "Robbins, I have something I believe belongs to you." Overcome by surprise, Brooks was looking at the precious Bible. After his discharge in 1952 he returned the Bible to Glen.

1970 found the Viet Nam War raging. Eldon Robbins, son of Glen, was drafted. After completing his college education he trained at Ft. Benning, Ga. in the noncommissioned officers school and served in Viet Nam during



Glen Robbins reminisces with the 50-year-old New Testament that has survived three wars with the Robbins family.

1970-71. The now worn New Testament was his constant companion.

Glen Robbins claims the well-worn Bible as one of his most prized possessions. He feels the friend who gave him the New Testament did not have any idea how much help it would be nor all the stories it could tell. "It is good to be reminded of the protection of God," he smiled.

when the HMB is facing budget restraints, priority should be placed on sending summer and semester missionaries to field ministry assignments, not to work at another SBC agency office.

The semester missionary, Don Chenevert of Slidell, La., was told by his HMB supervisor to discontinue such missionary's term ended at the conclusion of the May semester. Chenevert is a recent graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton.

Since then, Lewis said, the Baptist Joint Committee withdrew its request for student missionaries to work as interns at the Washington-based agency this summer. The HMB has sent summer and semester missionaries to the Baptist Joint Committee for almost 20 years.

Oliver S. Thomas, BJCPA general counsel, said every member of the Washington agency's staff, not just the interns, has been working "to alert Southern Baptists to the danger to religious liberty and to the convention if the effort to defund the Baptist Joint Committee succeeds." (BP)

Senior adult choir festival set for October

The Church Music Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, has announced the third annual Kentucky Baptist senior adult choir festival, set for Oct. 8-9 at Hurstbourne Hotel and Conference Center, Louisville.

Among the activities are mass choir rehearsals, fellowships, worship and a presentation by featured seniors.

Program personalities include Jim Hawkins, adult and youth music consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, music director for mass choir rehearsals; Allen Case, minister of music, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, accompanist; and Rollin S. Burhans, pastor emeritus, Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville,

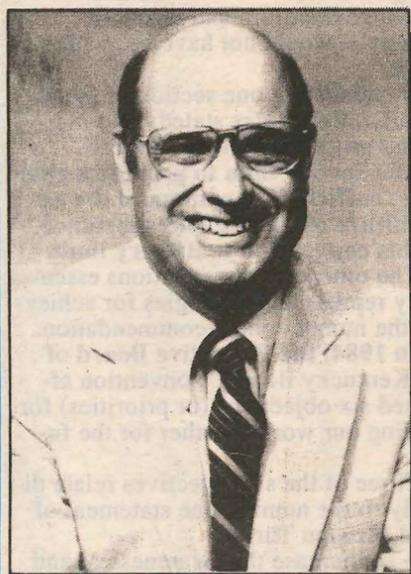
worship leader.

Churches with senior adult choirs or those interested in starting a senior adult choir are invited. For registration information: KBC Church Music Department, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243, (502) 245-4101.

— classified ads —

FOR SALE: 1975 International bus, 44 passenger, power brakes/steering, AM-FM radio, radial tires with good tread, Wayne body. Best offer. Call Southside Baptist, (502) 363-3915.

6-5-2T



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Adoption program aids Kentucky retirees

by Mary Royals Driskill
State Correspondent

She stands behind her grocery cart in the checkout line at Kroger. Like all the other shoppers, she reads the headlines on the tabloid publications and chuckles, "I'm glad I don't have money to waste on these things. I'd buy some of them just to use as examples of absurdity! When I was teaching English, I'd fail a student for using the kind of language that appears in print today. Why, back then we'd have suspended a student for turning in a paper on some of those topics."

At the age of 83 she exhibits no shyness when it comes to sharing her opinion. Her eyes are bright and her confidence in her classical education is strong. "As long as my health holds, I intend to take care of myself and do my own shopping," she asserts.

For 53 years, Mildred (not her real name) followed her husband, a Southern Baptist pastor, from church field to church field. "We never served any big churches," she recalls, "and I guess that's why we weren't able to save much or put much money into retirement."

"As long as my husband was alive he continued to preach and we had income from that. It wasn't until after he died that I realized how poor we were."

Mildred is one of 33 Kentuckians receiving money to supplement an inadequate retirement income, thanks to a program called "Adopt an Annuitant."

According to John Bloskas, director, Endowment Department, Annuity Board

of the Southern Baptist Convention, "Out of the more than 20,000 retired ministers and widows (in the SBC), some 3400 are estimated to have total income below the poverty level."

Most of these retired annuitants living below poverty level are 75 or older. They served Southern Baptist churches and agencies in an era when little attention was paid to planning for retirement and money to put away was difficult to find. As early as 1870, however, Kentucky Baptists recognized the problem and began pouring energy and resources into a solution. That year, the Kentucky Baptist Convention appointed a committee to find a way to help needy ministers and their families or widows.

Early responses to the need came from individual churches and were directed toward individual recipients, usually known by and living near the church. In 1888 the convention took action to broaden the scope of annuitant aid by establishing the Baptist Minister's Aid Society of Kentucky.

For fifty years the trustees of the Baptist Minister's Aid Society of Kentucky struggled without much success to raise funds. Finally in 1948 they turned their responsibility and its accompanying bank account over to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

The Foundation was well organized to manage and build financial programs. In most instances, however, the proceeds from Foundation-managed endowments were (and still are) specifically designated to such things as

Christian education scholarship programs and foreign missions. The agency was not expected to develop channels for the outflow of investment earnings. When made aware of particular need, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation responded to that need but little, if anything, was done to solicit requests for aid from the Kentucky Baptist annuitant community.

Then, in 1988, the Foundation approached the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention concerning a relief program the Board, through its Endowment Department, had developed. "Adopt an Annuitant" began in 1982 as an effort to raise supplemental funds for retirees. The program allowed individuals, Sunday school classes, churches and others to pledge \$50 a month for a minimum of one year to help an annuitant. More than 6700 retired Southern Baptist ministers receive less than \$100 per month in retirement benefits. There are 827 annuitants in Kentucky. Almost 200 of them receive less than \$100 per month.

Thanks to the early efforts of the Baptist Minister's Aid Society of Kentucky and good investments later on by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky had money to invest in annuitant aid. The Annuity Board had the names of individual clients in Kentucky who were living at or below the poverty level. Therefore, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention found in each other able partners for a totally unique relationship.

What exists between the Foundation and the Annuity Board is unparalleled in Southern Baptist life at this time. According to Richard Carnes, executive director for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, "When we contacted the Annuity Board in 1988 we were only helping seven Kentucky annuitants. Today we've expanded that number to 33 and we're looking for more."

"Of course," he goes on, "the ideal situation is to get more parties involved on the 'giving' side of the partnership so this help can be an ongoing thing for generations and generations."

The "Adopt an Annuitant" process is set in motion when a potential recipient completes a personal income profile which graphically reflects need. The information from this profile is sent to a special committee of the Annuity Board for approval. The board notifies Carnes of qualified candidates and Carnes makes the necessary funds available.

One adopted annuitant wrote: "We want you to know what your gift of love means to us. We were at the place where we could not make ends meet. We prayed for help. Then the call from the annuity office came, telling us someone had given a love gift and we were to get it. It just as much came from heaven as if it had the return address: 'The Throne of God.' We thank God for you, whoever you are."

Another wrote: "After pastoring small Baptist churches for 30 years, I was shocked to learn of the small retirement I had built up of less than \$350.... We don't know how to say thank you enough or express how much this means to us.... We just pray that others who are perhaps in more need than we will be aided in their time of need."

The identity of the annuitant receiving supplemental assistance is kept confidential. One hundred percent of any money pledged is sent to the annuitant. The Endowment Department and the Foundation cover administrative expenses so no pledged money is used. And contributions to the program are tax deductible.

Because June 24 is Annuity Board Sunday, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation seeks to involve more Kentuckians in adopting annuitants. Southern Baptist Convention-wide, more than 670 annuitants receive additional retirement funds through this program. This is up from 448 last year. The Annuity Board's goal is to assist 1000 annuitants in 1990 and 3400 in this decade.

Some who want to contribute may not be able to make the \$50 per month, one-year commitment. Smaller one-time gifts can be pooled until \$600 is on hand for an annuitant.

The Annuity Board has produced a 22-minute video explaining the "Adopt an Annuitant" program, entitled "Helping Our Family—An Annuitant Story." The video is available on request, free of charge through the Church Media Library of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, (502) 245-4101. Churches, WMU and Brotherhood groups and Sunday school classes are urged to view the video. Also, interested parties may find it helpful to speak with Richard Carnes in the Foundation office in the Kentucky Baptist Building.

The motto of the Annuity Board is "Serving those who serve the Lord." By adopting an annuitant, Southern Baptists are saying 'thank you' to ministers who have provided years of service to the denomination.



HELPING OUR FAMILY

This pastor's widow still gets hugs from women who were her GAs many years ago, but she is having a tough time financially. See how the Annuity Board's ministry is helping her.

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ANNUITY BOARD SBC
Attn: Endowment Department
P.O. Box 2190
Dallas, Texas 75221-2190

THE VIDEO IS
FREE

House passes bill to protect disabled

by Kathy Palen

The U. S. House of Representatives has passed legislation that would extend broad anti-discrimination protections to an estimated 43 million Americans who have physical and mental disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act would give the disabled the same civil rights protections given to women and minorities under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The House approved the bill 403 to 20. The Senate passed a similar measure last September by a 76-8 vote.

The legislation will go to a House-Senate conference for resolution of the relatively minor differences between the two versions. Following that process, President Bush is expected to

sign the measure into law.

The ADA bill would prohibit most employers from discriminating against any qualified individual with a disability.

The legislation, however, would allow religious organizations to exercise religious preference in hiring. It also would allow a religious organization to require all applicants and employees to conform to the organization's religious tenets.

The bill would ban discrimination against individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, such as stores, restaurants, theaters and office buildings. But the measure excludes "religious institutions or entities controlled by religious organizations, including places of worship" from the public accommodations section. (BP)

One of several ads prepared by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for promotion of the "Adopt an Annuitant" program. Kentuckians have a unique relationship to the program through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

mountains to the mississippi



Bill D. Whittaker
President
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek chronicle

More senior testimonies

"God did much shaping of my character. The influence, faithfulness and commitment of fellow students and help me. I am excited about sending students here from churches I will serve." Lawrence Gresham, Oklahoma, class president; recognized for effective in-service training.

"I've been through as much change as anyone. I entered the fall of 1984 and have been on the five-year plan. I came to be one of the swinging singles in Kelly Hall but leave married with a child. I am thankful for the hard times which have taught me. I leave a different person with more character and vision. I look forward to what the Lord has in store. I have learned far more than my grades show." Kenny Duggan, Tennessee.

"We came to Clear Creek eight days after our marriage. I leave having gone through five cars, with two children and extra weight. Here we had our first home, my first revival and my wife was saved in 1987." Gary Nunn, Alabama, given the Mitchell award for stability, integrity and academic standing.

"I hope you have found at school at least one person with whom you can share. I did and I am most thankful. Clear Creek is a unique campus where professors can be professional and then go to the office and cry with you or you can go to their home and plug in the coffee. Let us not forget those who take care of our children and the secretaries who work behind the scenes." Jim Delano, Maryland.

"I am very thankful for my special friend Polly. I prayed God would give my husband Jim a close Christian brother; he found one in Gary. I hope when new graduates come to Clear Creek they will find special friends who will encourage them in their transition and study. I am thankful for the preschool and enjoy taking care of the children. Our very special director, Mrs. Whittaker, gives them the very best care." Patricia Delano, Maryland.

"Some things could be different. My only regret is not knocking on the door and getting to know others better than I have. Paul reminded us to forget our failures. Clear Creek was difficult for me because I had come out of a comfortable situation. Now my wife feels comfortable here!" C. W. Bartlett, Lexington.

revivals

Hurricane Baptist Church, Little River Association, held revival Mar. 25-Apr. 1. There were seven professions of faith, three additions by letter and one other addition by baptism. Herman King of Rockford, Ill. was evangelist and Gary Pete is pastor.

Pleasant View Baptist Church, Pulaski Association, held revival Apr. 2-8 with Tim O'Dell, chaplain at North Point Detention Center, Burgin, as evangelist. There were two professions of faith, one addition by letter and several rededications. Jewell Hail is pastor.

Corinth Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, held revival Apr. 29-May 4 with Denny McCowan as evangelist. There were five professions of faith and one addition by letter. Roger Williams is pastor.

First Baptist Church, Inez, Enterprise Association, had 11 professions of faith, six rededications and two additions by letter during its Here's Hope revival Apr. 8-13. Among those baptized was a grandmother, her daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. Glynn Orr was evangelist and Paul Peterson is pastor.

Bedford Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, held revival May 20-23. Over 42 decisions were recorded including 15 professions of faith, two additions by statement and 25 rededications. Kevin L. Shrum is pastor.

missions

Lawrence and Lou Anne Baker, missionaries to Peru, have arrived in the states for furlough (406 Sunnyvale Ln., Hopkinsville, KY 42240). They are natives of Kentucky. He was born in Ft. Campbell and she is the former Lou Anne Pool of Hopkinsville.

Dale and Ann Beighle, missionaries to southern Africa, are in the states for furlough (Rte. 2, Box 166, Williamstown, KY 41067). They are natives of Kentucky. He is from Pendleton County and she is the former Ann Puckett from Pike County and Elkhorn City.

Greg and Shelly Bruckert, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the states for furlough (2800 Ridgeview Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73120). He is a native of Louisville and she is the former Shelly Michele of Oklahoma City.

Larry and Becky Doyle, missionaries to Ecuador, are in the states and may be addressed at 1889 Mammoth Cave Pky., Park City, KY 42160. A native of Kentucky, he was born in Park City and grew up in Horse Cave and Cave City. She is the former Rebekah Hill of Greensboro, N. C.

Mark and Ruth Fischer, missionaries to Ecuador, have arrived in the states for furlough (611 Margot Ave., Elizabethtown, KY 42701). He was born in Atlanta, Ga. and considers Fanwood N. J. his home town. She is the former Ruth Masters of Elizabethtown.

Eric and Natalie Fruge, missionaries to France, have arrived in the states for furlough (4657 Leitchfield Rd., Owensboro, KY 42301). He was born in Washington, Ind. and grew up in Ow-

ensboro. The former Natalie McCloskey, she was born in Williamsport, Pa., lived in several states, but considers Lexington her home town.

Mac and Betty McElrath, missionaries to Indonesia, are on the field and may be addressed at J1. R. P. Soeroso No. 5, Jakarta, Pusat, Indonesia. He is a native of Murray. The former Betty Hendricks of North Carolina, she was born in Winston-Salem, N. C. and also lived in Greensboro.

John Ray, Baptist representative to Yemen, has arrived on the field to begin his first term of service (Jibla Hospital, Box 70080, Ibb, Yemen). He is a native of Louisville.

Terry and Kathy Sharp, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the states for furlough (4706 Marigold Ave., Louisville, KY 40213). He is a native of LaFollette, Tenn. and she is the former Kathy Chapman of Louisville.

Kenneth and Linda Watkins, missionaries to Paraguay, have arrived in the states for furlough (4559 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214). He was born in Enterprise, Ala. and also lived in Barstow, Fla. The former Linda Claville of Florida, she was born in St. Petersburg and lived in Tampa and Brandon while growing up.

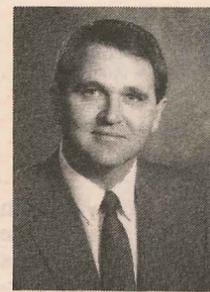
deaths

Thurman Eaton, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Taylor County Association, 1973-80, died May 11. He also pastored Summerville Baptist Church in Green County. He is survived by his wife Margaret and two sons, Cary and Jeffrey.

Retired Southern Baptist missionary **Ethel Harmon**, 84, died May 5. She worked for 34 years in Nigeria helping promote Sunday schools. Nigerian Sunday school enrolment grew from 5000 to more than 62,000 during her missionary career. She also introduced vacation Bible schools to Nigeria. A native of Whitley County, Ky., she retired in 1972.

personnel

Jim Haskell has resigned as pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Warren Association, to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Georgetown, Tex., in the suburban Austin area. During his six- and one-half-year tenure the church has added



Haskell



McSwain

750 church members and 1280 Sunday school members. Eastwood has experienced growth in the following areas: Sunday school enrolment, 454 to 1100; Sunday school attendance, 245 to 525; morning worship attendance, 275 to 700; total annual giving, \$226,091 to \$926,131. The church has also erected a 1200-seat sanctuary and witnessed 15 members make commitments to vocational ministry during the same period.

Haskell served on the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board, administrative committee, committee on nominations, financial crisis study committee, Baptist joint advisory committee and Here's Hope revival steering committee.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association, called **T. L. McSwain** as pastor. McSwain pastored Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville, prior to going to Warren Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga., where he has been the past four- and one-half years.

While he was at Warren the church more than doubled in size, with about 1000 additions. Sunday school increased from 400 to 800. The church budget increased a million dollars, and a new church costing \$4.5 million was built and dedicated.

McSwain has also pastored First Baptist Church, Richmond; Immanuel Baptist, Paducah; Third Baptist, Owensboro; and Southside Baptist, Louisville. His denominational experience has spanned 30 years: president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, 1972-73; vice president of the Pastor's Conference, Southern Baptist Convention, 1960-61; trustee of Georgetown (Ky.) College, 1968-85; trustee of the Kentucky Board of Child Care, 1965-69; moderator of Tates Creek Association, 1974-75; director of the Home Mission Board, SBC, 1977-86.

Jerry L. Reynolds is available for supply, interim pastorates or revivals. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Sturgis. Contact him at Rte. 1, Box 48, Sturgis, KY 42459, (502) 333-4129.

Laura L. Caudle resigned as minister of children at Victory Memorial Baptist Church, Long Run Association.



The choir of Loyall Baptist Church near Harlan, Upper Cumberland Association, presented "Victory in Jesus" Easter Sunday. The Easter cantata, directed by 40-year veteran Glenn Durham, combined 25 members for the Sunday morning event. One family, representing four generations, participated. Pictured are Clove Britain Risner, Vaughnita Miniard, Nita Rezek and Brittany Rezek. The Rezek's son Chris made a profession of faith after the cantata.



H. C. Chiles
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
Pineville, KY 40977

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JUNE 17, 1990

Life and work series

Going on with life

Jer. 29:4-7 Jeremiah sent a letter to the exiles in Babylon challenging them to be faithful to God and to strive to the best of their ability to adjust to their new environment. He instructed the people to take their captivity as a chastening from the Lord and to be submissive to him and to their captors. He urged them to conform to the will of God and to make the very best of the circumstances in

which they found themselves. He sought to convince them that God still loved them and had great blessings in store for them. The prophet told these people that God had not deserted them but that he would bless them when they had learned their lesson and had returned to him.

The prophet instructed them to settle down to normal living in the land of their captivity and to strive to be a blessing while they were there. They were commanded to build houses for themselves, to plant and to cultivate gardens and to marry and rear children. He also urged them to seek the peace of the city in which they dwelt.

Jer. 29:10-14 Instead of promising the exiles a speedy end to their captivity God told them that they would remain in Babylon for 70 years. God's promise was speedy—"after 70 years." It was given in grace, not because they loved God and obeyed him but because he loved them. He promised them that when they repented of their sins and called upon him that he would answer them.

It is to be noted that the promises in verses 12 and 13 are conditional. It is both encouraging and challenging for us to remember that when God's children live in conformity with his will as it is expressed in the word of God they can call upon him with the assurance that he will hear, answer and bless them.

International series

No security without God

Psalm 49:1-15 Psalm 49 focuses our

attention on the foolishness and folly of seeking security in material wealth. In response to his inquiry, "Why should I fear?" the Psalmist gives two answers. His first answer is, "I should not fear because riches cannot save from death, nor can the owner thereof take them with him when he dies." Inasmuch as it is impossible to purchase life at any price the rich person does not have any possibility of attempting to purchase it and wisdom demands that he cease the attempt. It should be clear that all die and leave what wealth they have behind.

No matter how much or how little a person has accumulated of this world's goods he is certain to leave all of it to others when he dies. The Psalmist knew from experience and observation that the good and bad both die and that wealth does not offer any lasting advantage. Only a right relationship with God gives anyone hope which extends beyond the grave. Even if a person could gain all the possessions of the entire world they would be inadequate to purchase a home in heaven.

The godly poor should neither fear nor envy the wicked rich, for the success of the latter is consummate failure, whereas the apparent failure of the godly poor issues in eternal blessedness.

Most people look at success from a human perspective and spend their time on earth in accumulating riches, property and security. The greatest reason for not trusting in earthly riches is that they cannot redeem the soul of anyone. No matter how much or how little a person may accumulate he will leave all of it when he dies.



Curtis C. Mooney
President
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, KY 40243

homes for children

Living day to day

This past week I had occasion to visit two good friends of children in western Kentucky. Both individuals have been very successful businessmen and both run large operations today.

I was amazed as I talked with both that no one had had an idea of how large and successful their operations would be today. One shared that the founder of the firm had thought that some day it might double in size, but today it is ten times that dream and continuing to grow.

As I look around at the needs of youth today I can see all kinds of new programs that could be done and part of me would like to launch off into those new areas for there is great need and starting new work is always exciting. But then I look at our campuses and existing programs and see much needed improvement in our ongoing work and realize that we must concentrate our resources to have the best possible program for the children coming to us.

At Glen Dale we are making good progress. The new maintenance building is in place and work is progressing to turn the old Drake Cottage into the 4-H building. We have the plastering done in Covington Cottage and other work is scheduled. Several church groups have already been there to help us and more are coming.

At our youth ranch we are putting in a temporary classroom facility. The boys have been going to class in the basement, but we have simply run out of room. The new facility will be in by September.

At Spring Meadows we are beginning to think about a gymnasium and activity center. From late fall until warm weather we really have no place for our active youth to play.

Our central office is 20 years old and beginning to show its age. We have grown in that 20 years and today we have a real shortage of space. We have got to think about what we are going to do here.

Like every place else we have enough to keep us busy day to day. The dreams will come in their time.



75 years of caring



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

The magnet of love

Oneida has been a Baptist school from the day it was first conceived in the heart and mind of James Anderson Burns. The word Baptist formed the middle word of our school's name from the very beginning. The school's charter was signed in the old log Riverside Baptist Church, a crude house of worship a half mile west of our campus on the waters of Goose Creek.

Over half of those first trustees had to make their "X" mark on the school's charter as they could neither read nor write. Their leader had only

17 months of formal education. Yet these illiterate and near illiterate men started a school that serves today. Baptist people of Kentucky and many states were inspired by the boldness of their faith and helped to turn their vision of love and Christian education into reality.

Not only Baptists but people of many persuasions shared and still share. Baptists have, naturally, been our most generous supporters. But it is also a fact that our work could not have been carried on, would not be alive today, without the generous help of Presbyterians, Methodists and even Catholics. Whatever their denomination, each, too, has claimed Jesus as both savior and Lord and that is all that it takes to make them our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Among the faithful and generous have been two dear sisters, saints of God, in Elkhorn, Wis. Accompanying a recent \$75 check were these words: "My dream of seeing Oneida will not be achieved though I have been interested in the school since I was a teenager. I am now past 90 years of age. Keep up your good work."

A retired Presbyterian minister in Weaverville, N. C. regularly blesses us with a \$30 gift and a copy of the bulletin of his church. He lifts us up in prayer and often writes words of blessing and encouragement.

For about five summers hundreds of Methodist young people lived on our campus, while they helped repair the homes of the poor of our county. Many of these are today faithful supporters of this Baptist work. One of their leaders wrote: "Your assistance provided the support which was needed for us to

be an effective ministry to both families and volunteer youth. Thanks so much for letting our groups stay at your school. Without a place to house the volunteer groups, our ministry of repairing homes would not be possible. Thanks also for being a resource in leading a weekly evening session. Our volunteers all expressed appreciation for the stories and information that you relayed to them."

Yes, these paying guests also fell in love with our work. One of them, now a missionary in Australia, sends generous gifts and warm letters like: "It looks as though we'll be in Australia a few more years, so no visits to OBI in the near future. However, I do plan to return sometime. With inflation and all that, I suppose it is harder to make ends meet, but if anyone can do it, you can. I am enclosing a check for \$200 from my wife and myself to help things along."

A Catholic couple (he has been an AP White House photographer for over 30 years) from West River, Md. wrote, "We think of Oneida often and the wonderful work you do. Say a prayer for us and we'll do the same." With their letter was \$25.

Sending \$100, a Catholic gentleman writes from Frankfort: "The program that you administer for the benefit of many boys and girls is outstanding. We wish you every success."

A Catholic organization regularly gives us a \$1000 yearly scholarship. Their last letter said: "We wish to compliment you in your good work. We are hopeful this will be a continuing scholarship."

Reprinted from 6-4-86.

christian education

cumberland college

Jack Early, Louisville, president of the Kentucky Independent College Fund, has announced the election of Cumberland (Ky.) College president Jim Taylor as the college representative to the fund's executive committee.

KICF's purpose is to raise funds for the 15 four-year independent colleges and universities in Kentucky. A goal of \$2 million is set for 1989-90.

At the recent meeting Charles Barnes, Louisville, was named a lifetime trustee for his significant leadership on behalf of the KICF.

new orleans seminary

Brenda S. Hazell, a native Kentuckian, has been named assistant director of continuing education at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

She holds BS and MA degrees from Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, and earned an MRE degree in December 1989 from New Orleans Seminary. She is currently enrolled in the EdD program at the school and is director of youth and single adult ministries at Iglesia Bautista Parkview, a Spanish mission in New Orleans.

Mrs. Hazell was formerly on the faculty of Pasco-Hernando Community College, New Port Richey, Fla., and owned and operated Heritage Yacht

Charters Ltd. on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent with her now deceased husband. She is a member of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Her hometown is Lewisburg, Ky. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Smith of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Lewisburg.

georgetown college

Georgetown College has been selected for inclusion in the first edition of *The Barron's 300*, a directory of America's top academic schools.

According to Grace Freedson, publicity director for Barron's, Georgetown was selected from an initial pool of 450 schools. During the past year author Lucia Solorzano, former education reporter with U. S. News and World Report, researched those colleges and universities which provide quality academic programs at prices below the national average.

The top 300 schools were chosen based on their tuition rate as compared with the average rate for all colleges, colleges in their region and colleges of similar academic emphasis.

Other objective criteria included average test scores of entering freshmen, percent of faculty with PhDs, data on room and board and percent of students who seek higher degrees.

The Barron's 300 college directory will be made available at leading national booksellers in August.

Georgia church ministry becomes a circus

by Sarah Zimmerman

The ministry of a Georgia Southern Baptist church became a circus when it befriended 128 Russian circus performers.

The troupe's two-year tour of peace and goodwill ended in Atlanta after the first two performances were not well attended. The promoters backed out, leaving the artists stranded. Kay Bryant, director of the Care Ministry at Eastside Baptist Convention in Marietta learned of the performers' plight on the morning of May 11. By 1 p.m. she had arranged lunch for 150 people. She spent the rest of the month calling area restaurants and grocery stores to secure food for three meals a day.

In addition to providing food, Bryant enlisted the volunteer services of seven dentists and other medical specialists.

The Russians have already faced many problems in the United States. May 29 the group was evicted from the motel where it had stayed for more than two weeks. Bryant said the manager was very cooperative, but when the bill reached \$10,000, he could not permit the group to continue its stay.

Proceeds from a benefit tournament and a corporate donation from a local miniature golf company will be used to pay the motel bills.

By the end of the month, a contract

was pending for the performers to return to the big top. If the contract is not signed, the entertainers probably will return to Russia, Bryant said.

In any case, the troupe will leave Atlanta with a knowledge of Jesus and evidence of his love. The movie "Jesus" in Russian was shown on the motel's cable channel. Bryant said most of the group watched the evangelistic film, if only to hear something in their native language.

After the movie, one man told Bryant there was "too much talk of this Jesus." Since then he has questioned her about her faith. Another person asked for a copy of the film, which Bryant was able to provide. When people asked about her faith, Bryant shared a copy of the Four Spiritual Laws tract printed in Russian and said, "This is what we believe."

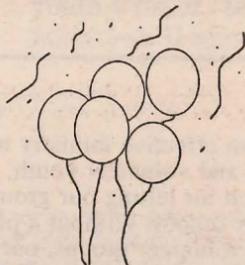
The film and the tracts were donated by a Presbyterian church preparing to make a trip to Moscow. One family, whom Bryant does not know, delivered 100 New Testaments in Russian to be given to the performers.

Most of the Russians have a concept of God, but they do not know about Jesus, Bryant said. "They have been able to see the love of Jesus as we share food and our time in taking them to the doctor and to our homes." (BP)



A troupe of 128 Russian circus performers found new friends in members of Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga. Cathryn Harrelson (l) and Paulina, one of the Soviets, became fast friends though they do not speak the same language. (BP photo by Sarah Zimmerman)

Come celebrate what we're doing for children.



**Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
Child Care Days 1990**

Glen Dale Children's Home
Saturday, July 21, 10:00 AM

Part of Glen Dale's 75th anniversary celebration.

Spring Meadows Children's Home
Saturday, July 28, 10:00 AM

For the first time: Child Care Day and Homecoming combined.

Fill out and return the form below by July 3.

Child Care Days Pre-registration Form

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, Kentucky 40243
Phone: 1-800-456-1386



Name of church, organization or individual _____

Address _____

Number in group _____ Phone number _____

Campus you will visit: (Please check one.)
 Glen Dale, July 21, 1990
 Spring Meadows, July 28, 1990

KBC Staff Position Vacancy

Director of Stewardship Department

Names of interested parties can be mailed to Dr. Vernon Cole, Director of Minister/Church Support Division, P. O. Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243.

Each written response will be mailed an updated job description for review. Should a respondent be further interested, they can mail a resume along with a statement of personal and professional qualifications for the responsibility as Stewardship Director.

From a pool of potential candidates gathered in this manner and those already received, a selection process will begin on about July 16, 1990. The deadline for receiving resumes is July 15, 1990.

The qualities sought in a person to fill this position are as follows:

1. Christian character demonstrated by some years of consistent Christian behavior.
2. Leadership ability known through work with laity in church and/or association that challenges, inspires, and guides laity to achievement of specific goals while keeping the people tuned to a larger objective.
3. Ability to lead in accomplishment of a task and maintain positive personal relationships in the process.
4. Sets personal and professional goals and can demonstrate that such were set and accomplished to some degree.
5. Demonstrates commitment to financial stewardship by practicing tithing or more through the local church.
6. Loyal supporter of and contributor to KBC and SBC missions program through the local church.
7. Demonstrates ability to handle failure and conflict.
8. Personal appearance to be neat, clean, with clothing to be fashionable without calling attention to clothing or appearance.



NEW CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH—Two young people at Bratislava Baptist Church in Czechoslovakia share comments during a youth meeting. Leaders express concern about how eastern religions and cult groups such as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses will affect Czechoslovakian young people. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

Czechoslovakians dust off church plans

by Mike Creswell

Baptists in Czechoslovakia are dusting off church construction plans that have been shelved for up to 20 years.

They want to construct new buildings or renovate old ones in a dozen or more locations. And finally, leaders say, they will be free to build churches that look like churches without fear of communist reprisal.

"We never thought we'd get an opportunity to use these plans, but we were ready," said Pavol Kondac, president of the Slovakian Baptist council and pastor of Bratislava Baptist Church. A church building constructed last year was the first for Baptists in more than 40 years.

In Bratislava, the nation's second largest city, Baptists meet in a former Lutheran funeral chapel allotted by the government. Several hundred people fill the sanctuary, requiring chairs in the aisle. The building needs renovation and lacks classroom or office space. Members rent a basement several blocks away for children's Sunday school, youth meetings and other functions.

Before the democratic revolution of 1989 plans for a new building were drawn up with an eye to close scrutiny by communist government authorities. The structure was purposefully designed to look like a factory, not a church, said Valdimir Dvorak, secretary of the Slovakian Baptist Council. "Now we will make some modifications."

Revised plans will include meeting rooms for Baptists throughout the area, a Christian bookstore, a chapel for weddings and an area for ministry to senior citizens. At the present site the congregation recently erected a sign announcing its name. Earlier, signs were not allowed.

But even with new freedoms getting any new building constructed will be difficult. Money and resources are low for Baptists throughout the country. In Bratislava the congregation is competing with other church groups for one of 16 church sites the city government is doling out.

Leaders of other Baptist churches across the country say lack of money is

now the biggest barrier to getting suitable buildings for worship.

At Ruzomberok lay leader Samuel Makonyi estimates a new building for a 40-member congregation will cost almost \$60,000. At Poprad, a city some 180 miles from Bratislava, pastor Albin Masarik estimates a new building would cost more than \$389,000. A 55-member congregation in Litomerice has managed to construct a building after financial sacrifice. Now they are struggling to pay off a \$5000 loan and secure a house for their pastor.

These amounts of money may seem small by American standards but in the country's economy a worker earns about \$2000 per year.

Baptists also are struggling to begin paying the salaries of their pastors after years of receiving modest salaries from the national government. "In earlier times, Baptists did not accept funds from the state but we were forced to do so during the past 40 years," said Pavel Titera, president of the Czechoslovakian Baptist Union.

Baptist leaders are urging churches to begin paying salaries this year and stop all government paychecks by next year—a sensitive subject being discussed in union meetings. Not all pastors believe accepting government paychecks is a bad policy and paying pastor salaries will be a major financial undertaking for the congregations. (BP)



UNDER THE CROSS—Errol Simmons preaches during a Sunday morning worship service at Bratislava Baptist Church in Czechoslovakia, with help from translator Marcela Hlubocka. Simmons, Southern Baptist representative to Hungary and Czechoslovakia, just completed a visit to discuss cooperative projects with Czechoslovakian Baptist leaders. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)



BUILDING AGAIN—Southern Baptist representative Errol Simmons, seated at left, reviews church building plans with Juraj Pribula, seated at right, pastor of a 115-member Baptist church in Kosice, Czechoslovakia. Standing, (l-r) are Valdimir Dvorak, secretary of Slovakian Baptists; pastor Julius Stupza of Dunajsztatuzua; and pastor Juraj Kohilt of Nesvady. Marcela Hlubocka, seated at center, helps translate. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)



Nursing class at Baptist Regional Medical Center

The Nursing Shortage and What the Baptist Hospitals Are Doing About It

One of the biggest problems facing hospitals today is a critical, nationwide shortage of nurses. At some institutions, the situation has reached crisis proportions, and hospital administrators predict that the shortage of qualified nursing personnel will continue well into the '90s.

Why is the pool of nurses shrinking? Reasons cited include other attractive career opportunities, fear of AIDS, and rapidly changing healthcare technology. In addition, today's hospital patients tend to be sicker than in the past, making skilled nursing care in greater demand. And the increase in outpatient clinics, surgicenters, home health agencies and other medical providers has also been a contributing factor.

The Baptist hospitals in Kentucky have not been immune to the crunch of the shortage. However, all are working to remedy the problem through a variety of short-term and long-term strategies.

Nursing Education the Key

For many years, the Kentucky Baptist Hospital School of Nursing was a significant source of nurses. More than 2,200 RNs were graduated from the school, which was one of the oldest and the last hospital-run RN diploma program in the state. In 1983, Baptist Hospitals, Inc. made the decision to close the school, due to declining enrollment and financial losses. Competition from university nursing degree programs, stricter regulation of student nursing labor and wide-spread nursing layoffs had taken a toll on hospital nursing schools.

The Baptist hospitals still regard nursing education as a key long-term solution to combatting the shortage. In response to the changing times, the hospitals have developed innovative educational approaches that combine extensive clinical experience in the hospital setting with academic training in the classroom.

Educational Efforts at the Hospitals

The past year has seen the start-up and expansion of nursing education efforts at the Baptist hospitals.

Last fall, **Baptist Regional Medical Center** in Corbin joined with Lincoln Memorial University in nearby Harrogate, Tenn. to establish an associate degree nursing program on the hospital campus. The program is fully approved by the Kentucky Board of Nursing and the Kentucky Council for Higher Education. Course offerings are intended to encourage potential students from all walks of life and are designed to meet the needs of working nurses, housewives, second-career men and women, recent high school graduates, hospital employees and others interested in a nursing career. In January, 27 students were admitted to the first nursing class. Next August, Lincoln Memorial will accept an additional 45 students.

Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington earlier this year established an RN educational loan program for employees who want to become RNs. A full scholarship and full-time pay and benefits have been given to 12 recipients, who in turn work weekends at the hospital during their two years of schooling at Lexington Community College. Participants agree to work at Central Baptist for four years as a registered nurse. In addition, Central started a similar LPN (licensed practical nurse) scholarship program in which 12 employees are participating.

Approximately 41 **Western Baptist Hospital** employees are enrolled in RN programs at schools in the Paducah area. The students include LPNs, ward clerks and nursing aides. They and other Baptist hospital employees are offered tuition reimbursement as a benefit. Additional educational opportunities Western provides its nursing employees include management development workshops and a take-home video program through which nurses can earn continuing education credits.

In April, **Baptist Hospital East** in Louisville began an LPN scholarship program with Jefferson State Vocational School. Fifteen Baptist East employees are participating in this work-study program for one year to obtain their LPN license. Baptist East also serves as a clinical site for six local nursing programs. This semester, 246 nursing students from area universities and colleges are rotating through various clinical departments. The rotations allow Baptist East to promote nursing opportunities at the hospital.

Other Strategies to Ease the Shortage

All of the Baptist hospitals make strong recruiting efforts aimed at working nurses as well as students. The good reputation each of the hospitals enjoys in their communities helps to attract and retain nurses. In addition, the hospitals offer competitive pay, attractive benefits and other incentives, and they continually explore ways to enhance working conditions.

For more information about the work of the Baptist hospitals, write:

*Director of Communications
Baptist Hospitals, Inc.
4007 Kresge Way
Louisville, KY 40207*

