

Missionaries evacuate with mixed emotions

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

"Guilt" describes Robert and Pat Bellinger's reaction to evacuating Liberia in the wake of escalating violence between rebel and government forces.

The Bellingers, 26-year foreign mission veterans, were among the last Southern Baptist missionaries evacuated from Liberia by American Embassy-chartered planes in June. They are staying in Louisville until they return to Africa in July.

Until their evacuation, the couple had maintained that foreign missionaries to Liberia were in no immediate danger. They were reluctant to leave the country they consider home.

"Our Liberian friends had told us not to worry," Bellinger says. "They believed that because we were neutral, siding with neither rebel nor government forces, we were foreigners and missionaries, we were not really in danger."

But the nature of the violence began to change, the Bellingers say. What had begun as rebel forces fighting the government began to include tribal warfare, they believe.

The situation is grave but not unusual, Mrs. Bellinger claims: "It's like anything you read about in the history of war. They (fighting forces) come in and wipe out everything in their path—burn buildings and kill animals and civilians."

Particularly the Gio and Mano tribes seemed to be subject to abuse, Bellinger says. In the weeks prior to the evacuation, tribespeople had been found beheaded and butchered along the streets of the capital city of Monrovia, center for a Southern Baptist mission compound and site of Liberian Baptist Theological Seminary.

The situation came to a head when men dressed in military uniforms invaded the United Nations compound, carrying away 30 or more Liberians who had sought refuge from harassment, Bellinger says. Many of those taken later were found dead.

"This (type of violence) was all new, and all of Monrovia began to be fearful," Bellinger explains.

With escalating violence, more Liberian people were becoming concerned about the missionaries and their positions. "It was rumored that if rebels and soldiers came to (that part of) Monrovia, fighting would erupt in our

mission compound," Mrs. Bellinger says. "We were right in the direct path of any invading and defending forces. Our Liberian friends, who had previously told us it was safe to stay, began to tell us it was time to leave. The fact that we were neutral, missionaries and foreigners could no longer guarantee our safety."

The U. S. Embassy also was becoming increasingly concerned for the safety of Americans. Since April, officials had strongly urged all Americans to leave Liberia. Short-term missionaries were evacuated in May.

John and Lela Hendrix of Louisville were among them. Both were visiting professors at the Liberian Seminary.

Hendrix, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, notes a sense of incompleteness associated with returning to the States before their year of service was over. "It was a relief to be home and see family and friends," he says, "but after about three days we asked ourselves, 'What are we doing back here?' There was not enough time for closure."

Career missionaries shared that frustration. Three days before they left Liberia, the Bellingers received word

that the U. S. Embassy would charter one final flight to evacuate Americans. The next evacuation would be by American Naval ship.

"We had to make a decision immediately," Bellinger says. "We tried to make the best decision we could, even though we still feel guilty about leaving. Liberian Christians cannot leave. There is a sense of guilt in leaving them behind. We could have stayed; we had a choice."

All 50 or 60 Southern Baptist missionaries have left except three couples on the extreme western coast. They are not near the fighting, the Bellingers say.

Some missionaries have fled to bordering African nations, while others, like the Bellingers and Jim and Jane Park of Paducah, have temporarily returned to the United States.

"The situation had gotten to the point where our work was hampered," Mrs. Park says. The seminary, where Park taught, had closed. Mrs. Park was not able to conduct village health care clinics. Even working with refugees was difficult because of gasoline shortage.

Their almost immobilized ministry coupled with the deteriorating warfare

Continued on page 2

Baptist Press staffers told to quit quietly

by Marv Knox, Editor

Baptist Press staff members Al Shackleford and Dan Martin have been told to resign their posts.

Shackleford, 58, has been director of the Southern Baptist Convention's news service in Nashville for three years. Martin, 51, has been news editor for 10 years. They both have more than 30 years of journalism experience.

The SBC Executive Committee's six officers met with committee president Harold C. Bennett June 13 and directed him to tell Shackleford and Martin to resign or be dealt with "harshly," the newsmen reported last week.

Bennett conveyed that message to them June 19. He told them they could resign and remain on the payroll through Sept. 30 and receive up to six months' salary and benefits if they were unemployed, they said. The deal was offered on the condition that they remain silent and that no Baptist state paper editor would defend them, they said.

Shackleford and Martin were not given reason for the demand for their resignations, and the EC officers did not offer to discuss the issue with them or talk about their options, they reported.

As of late last week, neither of them had stated his intention to resign.

The six Executive Committee officers presented their plan to Bennett one hour before the committee met during the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, he told Shackleford and Martin. Under committee bylaws, the officers have no authority to hire or fire staff. However, Bennett can dismiss Martin, a professional employee. He can fire Shackleford, an executive, with the compliance of the EC administrative subcommittee.

The previous day, Conservatives won their 12th consecutive SBC presidential election. Consequently, they maintained control of the convention, which has been involved in theological/political controversy since 1979.

Baptist Press has drawn criticism from leaders of both Moderate and Conservative causes in the SBC during that period. At first, most criticism came from Moderates and SBC agency leaders, who said BP gave the Conservatives too much coverage. In recent years, more criticism has come from Conservatives, who charged BP with bias toward their opponents.

The forced resignations of the BP staffers is part of a larger issue, Shackleford said: "In reality, the action is not just to control the director of Baptist Press or even BP itself, but rather an attempt to control the right and responsibility of Baptist church members to know what is happening in their denomination. This is a violation of a treasured Baptist principle, and I believe that Baptists have a right to know that these officers do not trust them to discern the truth and are seeking to deprive them of their access to a fair, objective and balanced news service."

Martin added: "Sooner or later, they were going to have their own minister

Continued on page 2



CAUSE THAT REFRESHES—Graham Philpot, a South African Baptist, offers refreshment to guests at his mud-and-tin house in a South African black township. The Philpots' work has attracted international attention. Local attention comes from people like Menzi. (BP photo by Craig Bird)

SBC records decisions for Christ, missions

Southern Baptists led 575 people to faith in Jesus Christ during a witnessing blitz in New Orleans just prior to their convention's annual meeting there.

And after the meeting began, a record 1882 Southern Baptists committed themselves to foreign missions support.

The total number of professions of faith in Christ made during the witnessing effort increased by 54 when all reports were received.

During the convention, 521 professions of faith were reported, but three Baptist associations had not turned in their results. The total reached 575 when all reports were made.

Volunteers recruited by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board worked with 113 Louisiana and Missis-

issippi churches to canvas neighborhoods and share the gospel prior to the annual meeting.

Similar witnessing efforts are being planned by the Home Mission Board for the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta next year and in Indianapolis in 1992.

The record number of people committed themselves to foreign missions support or participation during the Foreign Mission Board's report to the meeting.

By signing decision cards, 1430 people pledged to support missions and 452 committed to some type of mission work overseas. That total included 115 people interested in career missionary service and more than 300 interested in volunteer missions. Total pledges are expected to top 1900. (BP)

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Soviet refugees seek Baptist sponsors

by Sarah Zimmerman

"Soviet Pentecostals" are the newest group of refugees seeking Baptist sponsors in the United States.

Soviet Pentecostal is a catch-all term for Protestants who were not members of Russian Orthodox, Catholic or registered Protestant churches in the Soviet Union, said William Rutledge, assistant director for refugee church growth with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The term is not related to highly emotional religious groups Americans equate with Pentecostalism.

Rutledge is seeking churches or associations to sponsor such families. The focus on Soviet Pentecostals is an extension of the board's refugee resettlement program which previously has centered on people from Asia and Spanish-speaking countries, he said.

The number of refugees from Soviet bloc countries is "literally in the thousands each month," Rutledge said.

The Home Mission Board is not a member of Church World Services, but works with the organization to place refugees.

Despite expanded religious freedom in the Soviet Union, Jim Powers, director of missions for Concord Baptist Association in Murfreesboro, Tenn., said Russians "live with the fear that the liberties will be taken away."

As long as the government denounces a belief in God, "there is no hope," said Liubov Mormul, a Russian refugee who moved to the United States last year with her parents and her three children.

To be classified as a refugee, a person must have experienced persecution or the threat of persecution. Mormul's family experienced death, imprisonment and poisoning because of their Baptist convictions, she said.

Powers said joint sponsorship is almost essential with Soviet families because of family size. "It would be very hard for any single church to sponsor one family with 12 or 10 people," Powers explained.

Powers estimates the cost of sponsoring a large family at \$1000 a month, which includes renting a house and paying utilities.

When a church or association agrees to sponsor a family, it agrees to provide food, clothing and shelter for at least three months. However, Thomas said sponsors should be prepared to support the family for six months.

The obligation includes running a number of errands, from getting Social Security cards for the family to enrolling children in school and taking the family to the local health department for screenings.

Sponsors also must teach refugees the difference between socialism and free enterprise. Families have to be

taught how utility companies operate because they are used to the government providing their water and electrical services.

One of the sponsor's key responsibilities is to help the adults find work. Rutledge said many of the refugees are highly skilled but must take entry level jobs until they master the language.

Though sponsors are committed to the refugees, the family is under no obligation to its sponsors, Rutledge said. One family assigned to a church in Tennessee never made it past Philadelphia.

Sponsoring refugees is an investment that can return eternal dividends, Rutledge said. He noted that about 380 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention are "refugee churches" composed primarily of refugees from a certain country.

Baptists interested in sponsoring refugees should contact Rutledge at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367. (BP)

Chapman stops at SSB 1st

Southern Baptist Convention president Morris Chapman predicted times of disagreement in the denomination are coming to an end and called for increased commitment to cooperative missions and reaching the world for Christ during participation in trustee orientation at the Sunday School Board June 21-22.

The visit was Chapman's first to an SBC agency since his June 12 election as president of the 14.9-million-member denomination. As president, Chapman is an ex-officio member of the board of trustees of each SBC agency.

"I come to you today to say I affirm you as one person and on behalf of Southern Baptists," Chapman, whose wife, Jodi, just completed eight years' service as a trustee, told employees during a chapel service.

"As we stand on the Word of God, I pray we are in a position to move on with the things that are our priorities—reaching people for Christ and Bold Mission Thrust," the SBC goal of sharing Christ with every person in the world by the year 2000.

"I pray God will bring revival to Southern Baptists and through us to the world," said Chapman. (BP)

Baptist Press director, news editor told to resign quietly

Continued from page 1

of information. It was sooner than I expected, but it's not surprising that they want to have someone to tell their story their way."

Kentucky members of the Executive Committee said they were unaware of the dismissal action until the story came through the news media. They are David Gray, an attorney from Radcliff; James Jones, pastor from Campbellsville; Dewey Keys, pastor from Glendale; and Terry Norris, dentist from Owensboro.

Executive Committee chairman Sam Pace, a director of associational missions from Lawton, Okla., issued a statement through the Oklahoma Baptist newspaper.

He said the officers met with Bennett "to avoid a very unpleasant confrontation" in the full Executive Committee meeting.

"Reliable information indicated that the matter of Baptist Press...was to be brought to the floor of the meeting and that the services of Dan Martin and Al Shackelford were going to be requested to be terminated," Pace said. "The officers, anticipating that such an action would pass by a strong majority, felt that the situation and the denomination would be much better served by handling this quietly and graciously through the good offices and regular channels of the president of the Executive Committee. After prayerful and serious discussion, Bennett agreed to facilitate the

suggestions of the officers in the most loving...manner possible.

"In view of a prospective reorganization of the Executive Committee staff, it was deemed an appropriate time to make these major changes."

When Shackelford was elected to his post in 1987 he asked for "a year to prove he would be fair, equitable and balanced," Pace noted. "After more than three years, the ever-increasing perception of the vast majority of Executive Committee members is that the very opposite has proved to be true."

Liberian missionaries anxious to return

Continued from page 1

situation led the Parks to evacuate on the final plane. "It was best to leave to be able to come back," Mrs. Park says.

"We were not equipped well to know how to live in conflict like that, in a country at war," Hendrix says. "There was nothing in our experience, training or education that prepared us to deal with that situation."

"We've been equipping people for ministry for our entire ministry and to come into a situation we don't know how to cope with is hard."

Still, missionaries who evacuated left behind a ministry to refugees that continues. After the invasion of the U.N. compound, Liberian refugees no longer felt safe there, Bellinger says, so in Monro-

SBC president Morris Chapman, a pastor from Wichita Falls, Tex., also issued a statement. He noted:

"My knowledge of the situation is limited....My best guess is that whatever is occurring is the result of long-term evaluation, not a sudden off-the-cuff consideration. I do know that Baptist Press has long been criticized among grassroots Southern Baptists for a bias which seemingly favored Moderates and disfavored Conservatives."

"Baptist Press personnel are employees of the Executive Committee. Con-

sequently, the president of the Executive Committee and the trustee officers are not beyond the range of their responsibilities in addressing personnel matters of Baptist Press."

BP was founded in 1947 at the request of Baptist paper editors.

The daily news service produces about 1200 stories annually, covering events, people and issues, as well as agencies and ministries of the convention. It is circulated to the state papers, as well as religion writers for publications and broadcast media.

Virginians suggest new plan for giving

Two Virginia Southern Baptist committees last week recommended a new giving plan to allow congregations to boycott selected denominational agencies under control of conservatives.

If approved, the plan would affect about a third of the \$16 million contributed annually by the state's 1500 congregations, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported.

The Baptist General Association of Virginia's budget committee is expected to come up with a proposed state-wide budget that will be the roadmap for congregations in giving to state and national coffers.

The plan of giving, which will allow a variety of options, is to be aired further at a special meeting of the Virginia Baptist General Board July 31, the Times-Dispatch said.

It is the first reaction at the state level by moderates since conservatives consolidated their control of the denomination three weeks ago in New Orleans.

Conservatives, who control the boards and agencies of the convention's bureaucracy, elected their officers and continued a process of appointing trustees to the agencies, threatening to stamp out what they see as liberal theology and locking out moderates from service.

Within days of the national convention, several large southwestern U. S. congregations in the moderate camp announced they were cutting off all denomination-bound money, the newspaper reported.

Moderate leaders announced a national meeting to be held some time before most of the state conventions meet this fall.

No specific budget figures are yet available for the Virginia plan. However, as proposed, each church would have a choice of two options.

for Baptist missions in French-speaking West Africa. Both plan to continue their work from the Ivory Coast. The Parks hope to go to Togo.

In light of the shaky peace talks between rebel and government forces, missionaries have little idea when they will be able to return. "It looks like this may be a long, drawn-out process," Mrs. Park says. "A lot of pieces will have to be picked up."

Still, they long for Liberia.

"We had to secure the compound in three days (before the evacuation)," Bellinger says. "It is best we return soon to bring order out of the chaos we left behind, best we return soon to enable others to come back in."

In the meantime, they wait and pray for peace talks to begin again.

Glen Dale Home celebrates 75th anniversary

by Beth W. Prassel

Nearly 400 friends and alumni attended the Glen Dale Children's Home Celebration of "75 Years of Caring" June 24 in Glendale.

C. Ford Deusner, superintendent of the Kentucky Baptist home from 1948 to 1963, said the home "is the result of a dream in the heart of Kentucky Baptists that dates back at least to 1914. In this sheltered valley, here at Glen Dale, hundreds of children have lived and have gotten off to a good start in their lives."

Staff planned for one of the largest gatherings since the first homecoming in 1937. Historical accounts call the first homecoming "one of the greatest days in our history," and record an attendance of nearly 500 people.

Two other major events will be part

of the anniversary celebration, said Glen Dale director Buckley Carlin. On July 21, William Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will speak at Glen Dale's annual Child Care Day. Glen Dale staff will recognize all churches who have supported the home. Kentucky Baptist pastors have been invited to the event.

A celebration scheduled for September 29 will close the anniversary festivities. This day will honor individuals, businesses and other friends who have made significant contributions to the home.

In addition to these events, Glen Dale sponsored reunions earlier this year for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Women's Advisory Board and for its board of trustees.

Glen Dale staff are using the anniversary year as a time for physical improvements on campus. Improvements already completed include the renovation and reopening of an old cottage as Mercer Campus Activities Center, made possible by donations and workers from the Mercer Baptist Association; a new maintenance building; and a new 4-H building. Other projects underway include the renovation of Covington Cottage, making room for 10 to 12 more youth.

Glen Dale's ability to change has made it successful since 1915, said Carlin, noting, "Glen Dale has always been able to adjust and adapt and change its program to meet the needs of children at a given time."

Carlin described Glen Dale as "a soft, open and caring place. If there are

any words to mark Glen Dale, they are teaching young people to be more capable, teaching them responsibility and doing that through involvement with Christian people who model Christ before them."

Carlin himself can attest to the "life-changing opportunity" Glen Dale offers. He first came to the home in 1949 as a student, graduating from Glendale High School in 1954. The home provided people he could trust and relate to, he said: "That led to some undergirding I wouldn't have gotten otherwise. But the main thing they gave me was faith in Jesus Christ—and we're still doing that."

In 1980 Carlin became director of Glen Dale, following Harold Holderman. He considered coming back twice before, once as a social worker and once as administrator. Neither time, however, did he feel "spirit-led" to go. "The time wasn't right," he explained. "I felt that way (spirit-led) in 1980. And I guess as long as I continue to feel that way, that's where I'll continue to be."

Carlin hopes that, through the anniversary celebration, Kentucky Baptists will learn about the purpose of Glen Dale and will be proud of its ministry to children. Glen Dale's continuing goal is to serve youth with increasingly difficult problems, he said. "I want them to see that Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children at Glen Dale is alive and well, that we're theologically sound, that we're professionally on top of it and that what we're doing is fitting and appropriate for the children of today."

Two Kentucky Baptist colleges honored

Two Kentucky Baptist colleges have been listed in nation-wide publications honoring colleges with outstanding academic and character-building emphases.

Cumberland College in Williamsburg and Georgetown (Ky.) College have been included in the John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll, initiated by investment advisor and philanthropist John Marks Templeton. The Honor Roll formally identifies and acknowledges those schools which make the development of strong moral character among students a priority.

The colleges are among 102 institu-

tions chosen from 32 states. College and university candidates are nominated exclusively by presidents and development directors of the 1465 institutions of higher learning in the United States. This is the second straight year Georgetown has been included in the Honor Roll.

In addition, Georgetown has been ranked 48th among the 95 colleges and universities named to this year's John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Free Enterprise Teaching. This listing identifies schools that have "an institutional commitment to traditional western

political and economic philosophies."

Cumberland College also has been included in U. S. News and World Report America's Best Colleges and ARCO, the Right College.

Test scores, acceptance rates, tuition and expenses for more than 1350 colleges are correlated for the U. S. News publication. Criteria is based on degrees offered, most popular majors, faculty, graduation patterns, expenses and financial aid. ARCO lists Cumberland's selectivity rating as "competitive." Costs, enrollment, ACT test scores and faculty are considered in the selection process.

Turned-on teens: youths' most effective ministers

HERE'S HOPE
the story continues

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

"Turned-on teens" are the "greatest ministers" for reaching today's youth with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So says 35-year-old evangelist Rick Caldwell of Little Rock, Ark., who calls himself a full time "youth communicator."

Caldwell was principal speaker June 22-23 at Kentucky Baptists' youth evangelism conference at Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center, Frankfort. An estimated 5000 young people and youth leaders participated.

Said Caldwell: "I have to work hard to communicate with an 18-year-old. But you (youth) have an opportunity I don't, for you're with them every day in almost every thing you do."

Our purpose in being on this planet, Caldwell suggested, is "to let God's light shine through us." He offered three suggestions:

1. Secure the light. You can't share something you're not sure of. Make sure you have received Christ as your own personal Savior.

2. Strengthen your Christian light. Your light will not shine unless it is a strong light.

3. Share the gospel. Be a witness visibly and verbally.

At an invitation, which climaxed each of three sessions, hordes of young people poured down the aisles to the front. Trained counselors met them, offering encouragement and direction about commitments just made.



Miss Texas, Leah Kay Lyle, a concert grand pianist, told 5000 participants at the Kentucky youth evangelism conference at Frankfort she would one day surrender a crown in glory "as a tribute to my Heavenly Father."

The counselors indicated that a total of 118 youth made recorded decisions to accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior. Another group, estimated at 500 persons, made separate decisions—rededication, call to vocational Christian service and other commitments. While KBC executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall acknowledged in a greeting that the

youth evangelism conference is "the largest gathering of Kentucky Baptists each year," it was the largest visible response to the gospel state Baptists produce at one time, too.

Another personality on the weekend agenda was Christian mime and theatrical clown Mark McMasters, of Charleston, S. C. A former youth minister, McMasters illustrated the gospel through visual interpretations which were enthusiastically received.

But the performer, according to program planner Billy Compton, associate director of the KBC office for evangelism, that most folks came to see was Leah Kay Lyle, who completes a 12-month reign this week as Miss Texas.

A concert pianist whose talent, looks and brains propelled her after four tries to win her state beauty pageant, Lyle performed at the grand piano in every youth evangelism session. She also shared her personal testimony.

Born into a Christian home, she noted that her father is an active Baptist deacon and her mother sings in the choir. She graduated from a Baptist institution, Baylor University, Waco, Tex. "But all of that is not the most important thing in my life," she said.

She made a "conscious decision" at the age of five to ask Jesus for forgiveness for the wrongs in her life. While she admits "I am not perfect," falling short of God's expectations, God is "the strength of my life. I could not be standing here with a smile on my face if I did not have Him in my heart."

Youth communicator Caldwell cited some meaningful statistics about young people as he faced them in the weekend's initial session.

Every hour, he said:

- 114 youth run away from home.
- 28 teenage girls give birth to babies out of wedlock.
- 44 other teen girls have an abortion.
- 2000 youth introduce alcohol or another substance into their systems which could kill them.
- 58 attempt or succeed in committing suicide.

There has never been a day, Caldwell said, when teens need to hear the theme of the youth evangelism conference, "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for youth," more.

During the weekend youth evangelism conference, William D. Jagers, director of the KBC office for evangelism, announced the names of leading congregations in the state in baptisms among youth for the last year. Some churches tied in rank among the top 10. Churches and youth baptism records:

1. Oneida, 114.
2. Mt. Zion, West Paducah, 55.
3. Immanuel, Lexington, 37.
3. Severns Valley, Elizabethtown, 37.
5. New Prospect, Manchester, 26.
5. Second, Hopkinsville, 26.
7. Porter Memorial, Lexington, 24.
8. Highview, Louisville, 23.
9. Old Yellow Creek, Middlesboro, 21.
10. Ohio Valley, Ledbetter, 19.
10. Providence, Franklin, 19.

The weekend youth evangelism conference included performances by Baptist Student Union summer missions teams Son Celebration and Son Share. Music was led by Kevin Landgrave, youth music director at Lyndon Baptist Church, Louisville.

The 1991 conference is scheduled June 21-22 at Frankfort.

BP crisis reveals lack of trust in 'the people'

Editorial

Marv Knox

"Tell the truth, and trust the people."

That proverb has guided Southern Baptist journalists for decades. They fervently supported the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers and our democratic form of self-government. They feel that if Baptist people have all the facts, pray mightily and accept the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the people will make the right decisions.

Apparently, the six officers of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee do not trust you, Southern Baptist friends.

They have called for the resignations of two of the finest truth-tellers Southern Baptists have known: Baptist Press director Al Shackleford and BP news editor Dan Martin. Although Shackleford and Martin have not been given reasons why they should be dismissed, their transgression apparently has been that they have given Southern Baptists a fair and balanced news service.

In the early days of Southern Baptists' theological/political controversy, BP received criticism from agency executives and Moderate leaders. They said Conservatives were a bunch of upstart troublemakers, and BP shouldn't give them ink. Conservatives, meanwhile, said they were seeking to right the convention's theological ship, and they deserved to tell their story. BP stood for that right and quoted from both sides.

In recent years, some of the most pointed criticisms have come from Moderates, who said BP was too lenient on Conservatives. All the while, Conservatives' criticisms—that BP was unfair to them and favored Moderates—grew more "official." They came from Executive Committee members themselves and were channeled through EC subcommittees.

Martin has been with Baptist Press for 10 years and has covered Baptist events since the earliest stages of the controversy. Shackleford has been there more than three years and has been on hand for many of the most pivotal moments in the history of the convention.

Southern Baptists' right to know what is happening in their convention has been at the forefront of Shackleford and Martin's consciousness. Many times, they knew publication of particular stories would bring the wrath of partisans on both sides. They often agonized over stories—not for fear of printing them, but how best to be fair. They went to extraordinary lengths to get quotes and information so that BP users, and ultimately the people, would have the most complete news possible.

Of course, they're not perfect. In retrospect, they occasionally wished they had written stories differently; not because of the consequences to them, but because they realized the story in question could have been a bit better.

On hearing the news about the BP staff, one Executive Committee member said: "Surely you can't tell me these guys are objective. I mean, nobody is." Precisely. Martin agrees. He wrote a column for a communication newsletter in which he said, "Objective reporting is a myth; fair reporting is not." He then noted that all people, even reporters, have biases. But honest, competent reporters and editors work from a mindset to overcome feelings and deal with facts. Professionals of integrity in many vocations practice the same discipline every day.

Shackleford and Martin have practiced the discipline of fairness throughout their tenures at BP. Sometimes they felt BP stories were too bland, because they removed adjectives, adverbs and other pejorative words. At other times, they acknowledged the criticism that stories were too long, but they felt they must include quotes and information to ensure that all parties had a fair say. They also endured complaints about the way state papers edited their stories—an action over which they had no control—all the while defending the editors' rights to use their articles.

Although their efforts have brought them criticism from some Southern Baptists, they have earned the respect and admiration of veteran observers, particularly religion writers for the news media.

"Baptist Press is the best denominational press service in the whole country," said George Cornell, reli-

gion editor for the Associated Press. "It heads right to the straight, factual journalistic line. It's been a clean, fair, honest news organization. We have respected it."

Added John Dart, religion writer for the Los Angeles Times and president of the Religion Newswriters Association: "It's unanimous among religion writers in the secular press that Dan Martin's work especially was very professional and helpful, and all of the Baptist Press officials and writers were seen by reporters as not publicists, but as fellow good reporters."

BP staffers have "bent over backward to be fair in reporting Baptist Press news," noted J. B. Fowler, editor of the Baptist New Mexican and president of the organization of state paper editors. "It is a sad day in Southern Baptist life when the officers of the Executive Committee use this kind of raw power, and Southern Baptists tolerate it."

Fowler's comment raises a point about the fairness of the Executive Committee officers. Shackleford and Martin were not given notice concerning why their resignations were requested, and the officers did not offer to discuss the matter with them, despite the mandate of Matthew 18:15-17. Politics aside, Christian ethics and human decency would demand that they be given a fair, impartial hearing after being notified of their alleged wrongdoings.

The Executive Committee officers' actions lead many Southern Baptists to wonder how their colleagues on other trustee boards will deal with out-of-favor denominational workers. Will Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Roy Honeycutt receive the same treatment? What about Lloyd Elder of the Sunday School Board, Russell Dilday of Southwestern Seminary and Keith Parks of the Foreign Mission Society?

People who believe Baptist journalists' proverb—"Tell the truth and trust the people"—would be more open and above-board in the forced termination of longtime Christian servants.

Unfortunately, the Executive Committee officers' action to silence these faithful, honest, committed truth-tellers indicates they either fear the truth or do not trust you, the people.

Al, Dan, Doris, Polly & Maria: Humanity in the drama

Ideals and principles often capture center stage as the drama of conflict unfolds.

However, the meaning of the drama usually is revealed by the sidelights—the stories of human beings affected by the war of ideals.

The story about the battle for Baptist Press illustrates the point. On the grand scale, the dispute is about freedom of the press vs. the employers' right to dismiss employees. But on the human level, it's about five committed Christians caught in the maelstrom of Southern Baptists' theological/political conflict.

Al Shackleford, Dan Martin, Doris Elliott, Polly House and Maria Sykes are friends with whom I grew to love and respect as I worked with them at Baptist Press in Nashville. The Southern Baptist conflict now affects them, and their families, deeply.

Al is one of the kindest, most gentle people I know. His friends note the irony of his situation in this conflict, because he detests confrontation. If he has a fault, they say, it's that he's too nice of a guy.

He's a committed Christian and active churchman. He has taught preschool Sunday school for years, a place where his gentleness conveys the love of Christ to children just learning to worship in God's house. Al sadly shakes his head when someone tells him the Baptist battle is theological; he never has been asked a

question about his theology, although he would be as conservative as his accusers. Yet he appears to be one of the casualties of the conflict.

Dan is a Southern Baptist mission success story. In his "unregenerate days," as he calls them, he was a hard-drinking newspaper reporter with little respect for God, himself or anybody. But he met the Lord through the ministry of Southern Baptists in Brighton, Colo., and tells a moving story of how our missionaries saved—spiritually and physically—him and his family.

He's also one of the best story-tellers anywhere and has become a gifted preacher. His sense of humor is legendary, and he has cheered many of his fellow workers through dark days of their own. Even in his present crisis, he offered mirth to salve my grief for his predicament. "I feel like the guy Mark Twain told about who was being run out of town on a rail," Dan explained. "Except for the honor," the fellow claimed, "I'd just as soon walk!"

You might ask why I would mention Doris, Polly and Maria. Well, try to imagine yourself in their positions. Uncomfortable at best, isn't it? Their pain is real as they suffer alongside their colleagues and also wonder what will become of them.

All three of them are exemplary Christians. They have shared their gifts of creativity, conscientiousness

and uncommon competence with Southern Baptists for years. They are strong family people, active in the ministries of their churches and devoted in their faith and obedience to Jesus Christ.

Most of you do not know Al, Dan, Doris, Polly and Maria. You never have had the opportunity to meet them, and you have missed a blessing. But they are your Christian brothers and sisters at the center of the latest crisis. Others—people with similar Christian commitments, family responsibilities and human feelings—have gone before them in the decade of our discontent. Others will follow.

You have your opinions about the Southern Baptist Convention situation. That is as it should be. You feel strongly about the ideals and principles that are involved, and that is your God-given right.

But please never forget that human beings are involved. Denominational workers and their families—whatever their positions on the theological/political conflict—are precious in God's sight.

Pray for Maria, Polly, Doris and Al, and for their families. Pray for Executive Committee president Harold Bennett, also caught in the conflict. And pray for all the committed Southern Baptists who feel the insecurity of the present age.

—Marv Knox

western recorder

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baptist forum

Disappointed with Knapp

I am writing as a Southern Baptist missionary colleague of Douglas Knapp, newly elected first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, to express my deep disappointment over his allowing the fundamentalist alignment to promote him as their candidate.

The reason for my chagrin is the fact that he ran against Mrs. Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, former executive secretary of the WMU, a great Christian lady and friend of Southern Baptist missionaries, and defeated her. Mrs. Crumpler has enlisted prayer support, raised funds and undergirded Douglas Knapp's—and all missionaries'—efforts to a degree unexcelled by others.

In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Knapp indicated that he considered his election not simply a personal honor, but one to be shared by all missionaries. I must beg to be counted out when such credits are loosely passed about, because his election to Mrs. Crumpler's expense brought me no honor and certainly no pleasure.

As the fundamentalist takeover accelerates, we are witnessing a growing loss of active church members, seeing fewer volunteers for foreign missions and experiencing an alarming decrease in giving to mission causes. I fail to see any "honor" which Mr. Knapp proposes to share with his fellow missionaries by being linked to those fearful realities.

Dwight Baker
SBC missionary (retired)
Dundanville, Tex.

'No' to exclusion

In the June 5, 1990, edition of Western Recorder a group of Kentucky Baptist ministers placed a two-page advertisement "Breaking the Silence" over issues in our convention. While proclamations of this type have been placed before by those on both sides of the controversy, thinking Kentucky Baptists should consider the implications of this most recent declaration:

• Those "Breaking the Silence" approve of the goals, methods and ethics of the current convention leadership. Bible-believing, cooperating Southern Baptists are now excluded from leader-

ship in our convention. Only independent fundamentalists supporting every aspect of the takeover are included. Those placing the ad support more of the same.

• The time has apparently come when a takeover of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is next on the fundamentalist agenda. Those ministers "Breaking the Silence" are surely warning all who love our cooperative work as Baptists in Kentucky that they are organized and determined to have their way in our state. Are we willing to see our Kentucky Baptist work and institutions go the way of the SBC?

• Those "Breaking the Silence" have the courage to sign their names by their convictions. Is it not time for all Baptist leaders and ministers in our state to come out from behind nebulous labels and announce where they stand: with Bible-believing, cooperating Baptists or with independent fundamentalists? The faithful people in our churches deserve the truth.

When the fundamentalist takeover of the SBC began in 1979, cooperative and missions-loving Baptists did not mount a credible resistance until it was too late. We have an opportunity in Kentucky to speak up now, before it is too late. I am willing to be excluded from the SBC, but not from our Kentucky Baptist family. Will anyone else say the same?

Michael Spencer
Shepherdsville

German church needs pastor

Anderson Memorial Baptist Church, a congregation of about 50 people located in Schweinfurt, West Germany, is in need of a pastor. The congregation is mainly people connected with the American military. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to pastor in a missions setting, please contact John Roamer, USMCA-DEH Box 125 APO NY, NY 09033. Please respond prior to Aug. 1, 1990.

John Roamer
Pastor search committee

Waste no more time

The point of yielding the officer positions at the national level to the fundamentalist political activists has been reached. The folks who believe a resolution to our ongoing controversy could begin occurring with the recovery of those offices by persons open to the participation of all members of the SBC have made their best efforts, but the offices remain in the hands of the fundamentalists. The time has come for consideration of alternatives.

Daniel Vestal has encouraged Southern Baptists to resist fundamentalist control of the state conventions they haven't already overcome—this is where we must seek to preserve the remaining opportunities toward further cooperation among all Southern Baptists. It seems to me, however, the time is at hand to demonstrate the significance of the 40 percent vote the candidates for national office who are open to including Christians within the SBC in the governing/oversight process on a financial level.

The ministry of God is too important for us to take our contributions to the Cooperative Program lightly, or to use them as mere weapons in a political dispute. Nevertheless, there ought to be some way where we designate our contributions so the impact could be clearly seen on the national level while still providing funding for the boards and agencies.

Looking toward further possibilities, perhaps it is time for a new "Peace Committee" to be established with the expressed intention of exploring the task of division.

We must continue to seek God's guidance, and we must begin to think about possibilities which to many of us, raised as Southern Baptists from birth, would have been inconceivable a few years ago. Our ultimate responsibility is not to a denomination or a tradition, but to the call of God through His Son, Jesus Christ. If we can better serve in His ministry separated from those who prefer us out, let us waste no more time or resources.

Ed Canada
Middletown



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

on
mission
together

One of many KBC ministries

Far and away the largest annual gathering of Kentucky Baptists is the KBC Executive Board's Youth Evangelism Conference. And it is still growing!

By the end of this year's June 22-23 session, entitled "Youth Fest '90," more than 5000 persons, mostly youth, had occupied a seat in Frankfort's civic center.

When youth evangelist Rick Caldwell extended an invitation Friday evening, hundreds of precious young people, many in tears, made their way to the front. A host of counselors joined them at the front. In small huddles behind the rostrum, counselors listened and prayed with three or four of those who made decisions.

During this year's conference, 118 persons made professions of faith in Christ. That number is roughly equivalent to the number of baptisms reported in a year by the Kentucky Baptist churches who lead our state convention in baptisms.

Between 400 and 500 others made a public commitment to rededicate their lives to Christ.

It was an excellent conference with outstanding leaders. Bill Jagers and Billy Compton, the KBC's office for evangelism leaders, deserve commendation along with a host of others who work behind the scenes to make such events possible.

But it became clear to me just what makes these conferences "tick," humanly speaking.

The conclusion is obvious to anyone who asks questions of the smattering of adults who were there. Simply put, all those young people would not have been there if some caring adults—pastors, youth leaders, parents—didn't care. These 12- to 17-year-olds either would not or could not come on their own.

I interviewed several of these "caring adults" and cite only one as an example of many.

Robert Wright is pastor of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Hart County. He, his wife Debbie and four other adults had brought 21 youth to the conference. Twenty-one youth from a church with an average Sunday school attendance of 75!

They had traveled in two vans and a car, were spending the night—four to a room—at Signature Inn in Lexington.

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church was paying for the entire journey—room, meals and registration—a cost Robert estimated at about \$350.

I stood with Robert behind the rostrum while he awaited some of his youth who had made decisions. He thought four of those decisions were professions of faith.

It was Robert Wright's first Youth Evangelism Conference. It is not likely to be his last.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Firstfruits for the king

The Sunday school lesson was on the subject of tithing. Members of the couples' class were sharing from their perspectives.

One woman gave us plenty to think about when she allowed that in the Bible we are "mandated to tithe—we have no choice about that." She hardly paused, adding: "As far as I'm concerned, we are not being generous in giving until we go beyond the tithe."

Pretty strong stuff.

My mind went back to a Sunday night service years ago as I heard a successful Christian businessman, giving his personal testimony, tell how important tithing was to him. He spoke of putting aside "firstfruits" for the king, citing Prov. 3:9: "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase."

I was ashamed that I had not always designated "God's part" of my income first. There were times, I remembered—very tight times—when God had been given "what was left."

But God used those words of a dedicated layman to convict me of a sin I knew was displeasing to him. In the days that followed I resolved never again to knowingly be guilty of giving so little importance to the tithe. The days in which my tithe took a number alongside a list of bills to pay were

over. My intention was and is that the tithe comes first forever more.

Over the years my resolve and convictions about tithing have solidified. Not only is this the first "obligation" cheerfully cared for on pay day, we have been blessed by setting challenges in giving which seemed virtually impossible only a short time earlier. So far, every goal has been met.

Don't read into this any intention of prideful boasting. I have simply discovered new joy in giving that seems satisfied only by increased giving. Those dollars willingly shared through my church join those of tens of thousands of other Southern Baptists who faithfully support local churches and missions and evangelistic enterprises and agencies and institutions at home and abroad. There is gratitude in my heart to be able to be a partner in underwriting those needs.

The scripture says, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

And the man who shares like that feels pretty good, too.

Operation Andrew turns Sunday school around at FBC, Leitchfield

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

Sunday school provides the major avenue of growth for First Baptist Church of Leitchfield.

But it has not always been so.

For the past six years, the church's Sunday school has declined.

But all that changed this year. In fact, the Sunday school has done a complete turn-about the past three months.

With a project known as Operation Andrew, Sunday school members set out to get others to join them as the disciple Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Christ.

Beginning Mar. 4, Sunday school workers set a goal of enrolling 55 new members in 57 weeks. When Operation Andrew concluded Apr. 29, 56 had been enrolled. Sunday school enrollment increased from 490 to 546.

Increase in enrollment led to an increase in Sunday school attendance. Average attendance for the nine-week period was 277, up from 215 a year ago.

The budget for this year is \$4014 ahead of its budget for this year.

Sunday school workers believe growth began when they met for Sunday school preparation week last September. They feel getting their heads together to plan for the entire Sunday school year was what sparked the vision that fired growth.

Operation Andrew was the culmination of those plans. The idea came from the December 1989 issue of Sunday School Leadership magazine. Workers read the story of a larger church that had conducted a similar emphasis, seeking to add 1000 new members. First Church decided a smaller church could do the same on its own scale. With enthusiasm and hard work, it did.

During Operation Andrew, the church focused its attention almost solely on Sunday school. Chief organizer of the project was minister of education and activities Charles Vochatzer. He issued a weekly Sunday school memo to keep workers up to



Youth minister Tony Beach (l), pastor George Smith and minister of education Charles Vochatzer helped emphasize Sunday school enrollment at First Baptist, Leitchfield.

date on enrollment, plans and each unit's progress.

Sunday school workers and others devoted their energy and hard work to Operation Andrew. At the end of March, 40 people conducted a telephone survey to 2200 homes in the community. Almost 10 percent of those contacted—225 people—showed interest in the church. Of those, several families have begun attending the church.

Youth minister Tony Beach claims Operation Andrew gave youth a vision of what could be done and a reason to visit other youth about Sunday school. Some youth helped with the telephone survey. A Baptist Student Union revival team from Georgetown College led a weekend youth revival to conclude Operation Andrew. Seventeen people were enrolled that final Sunday.

Sunday school workers used open enrollment during Operation Andrew. The principle was to enroll anyone, any

place, anytime, with his or her consent.

For First Baptist, the concept worked. The Sunday school began two new classes during Operation Andrew. A new singles class enrolled four new members, and a new senior adult class enrolled five. Twenty-two of the existing 32

Kentucky Quinns 'probably best'

by Marjorie Kelly

Having returned home to Kentucky June 4, Gene and Phronsie Quinn will be missed in Baguio City, Philippines, their friends and colleagues say.

"They have probably been the best long-term special-assignment missionaries most of us have ever seen," reported a missionary with whom the Quinns worked for the past two years.

Quinn was director of the music department at the Baptist Theological Seminary, and she taught music. Heading home, the Quinns took the long route by way of the Holy Land and the Passion Play in Germany.

Quinn was director of the KBC music department for 31 years. The Quinns are looking forward to returning to Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville, and to the friends all over Kentucky who have prayed for them during their mission experience.

Quinn first went to the Philippines in 1970 for a two-week evangelism crusade. Both he and Mrs. Quinn went for three weeks in 1976 to conduct a summer institute for the seminary in Baguio City, and to present a series of concerts.

That trip determined their future. In 1988, they signed up for a two-year period and returned to the delight of students and missionaries.

They both offered quality teaching

teaching units enrolled at least one new person. One of the last people enrolled joined the church by baptism.

Primarily, Operation Andrew proved successful in reaching adults. Adult units emerged on top for number of enrollments: ages 18-25, seven new members; 36-42, six members; and 60 and above, five members. Sunday school workers feel that by reaching adults, they also will reach children and youth.

But the results of Operation Andrew are not simply ends in themselves. Pastor George Smith reports the project has given the church a new vision.

"We will be reaping future benefits from this initial increase," he predicts. "This has sparked a renewed interest in outreach."

Sunday school workers have set new goals for the remainder of the church year. June through September has been designated the "Final Four." June 24 was slated high attendance day, with 320 people present. In July all units will participate in Sunday School Olympics, a contest in which each unit earns points for enrollment, attendance and outreach.

Already the Sunday school needs more space. "We're spaced out," chuckles Vochatzer.

"This is just the beginning," he says, noting the "urge to get back to the basics of Sunday school growth."

and exciting opportunities in music to students from several Asian countries as well as from the Philippines, people at the seminary said. Their last week on campus was spent directing concert after concert, both on campus and in scattered Baptist churches in the area.

"If the weather became too bad for us to return to the campus after traveling many miles to sing," said one student, "the Quinns just curled up on a church bench and spent the night just as the rest of us."

"Coming from Korea, I had a problem with English," the language at the seminary, said another student. "Mrs. Quinn spent many hours helping me."

"Have you ever played tennis with Dr. Quinn?" grinned a young Asian. "He's a killer!"

First on the Quinns' agenda is to see two sons, a daughter and grandchildren. Their son, Phil, has followed his parents into music and is music director at Erlanger Baptist Church. Son Paul is a landscaper and daughter Carla is in the computer business.

Quinn has a doctor of church music degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Both of them hold masters' degrees in music from Southwestern Seminary. Before serving Kentucky Baptists, Quinn was director of music for Illinois Baptists for nine years.

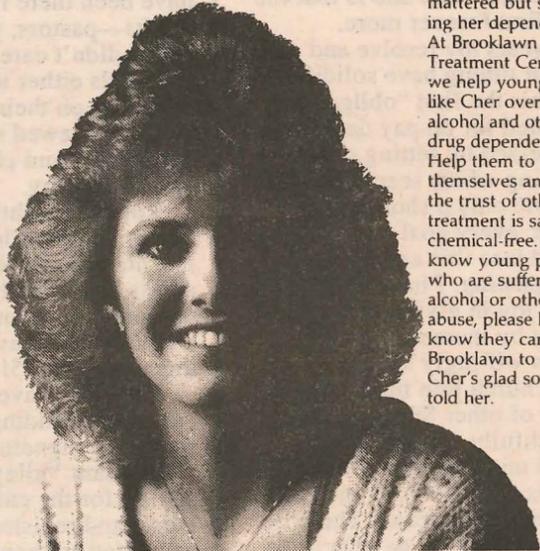
Marjorie Kelly and her husband, Earl, are volunteer missionaries in the Philippines.

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Foreign Mission Board trustee appointed missionary

Among 34 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board June 13 in the New Orleans (La.) Superdome were four Kentucky couples, including an FMB trustee.

Trustee H. Ray England and his wife Leslie will live in the Philippines, where he will teach in the seminary. Since 1982 England has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Winchester. He is a native of Campbellsville and received his BA degree from Campbellsville College. He received MDiv and PhD degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has been a member of the state executive board. Mrs. England, from Covington, is a second grade teacher for the Clark County Board of Education in Winchester.

Also appointed were David A. and Jennifer Hoglen, Spain; Guy and Tammy Causey, Burkino Faso; and Thomas and Sharon Nowlin, Japan.

Hoglen, who will start and develop churches, has been associate pastor of Central Baptist Church, Maysville, since 1988. He received his MDiv degree from Southern Seminary. Mrs. Hoglen, from Louisville, is a teacher with Maysville Independent Schools.



Foreign Mission Board trustee H. Ray England (r) and his wife Leslie were appointed missionaries to the Philippines June 13 in New Orleans. They are pictured here with Rev. and Mrs. William Hancock. Hancock (l) is chairman of the FMB trustees and pastor of Highview Baptist Church, Louisville.

Causey will work in agricultural development in Burkino Faso. The Causeys are members of St. Matthews (Ky.) Baptist Church and he is a student at Southern Seminary.

Nowlin, who will start and develop

churches, received his MDiv degree from Southern Seminary and has been pastor of Beech Grove Baptist Church, Owenton. Mrs. Nowlin has been a secretary at English and Kurtz attorneys in Louisville.

Two missionaries work Indian Ocean islands

by Craig Bird

Fred and Sami Sorrells may not be little fish, but they certainly are swimming in a big pond.

The only Southern Baptist missionaries on the massive island of Madagascar off the coast of east Africa, they have accepted mission responsibility for the island nations scattered around the western Indian Ocean where no Southern Baptist work is established.

Madagascar is playing host to the Indian Ocean Island Games Aug. 24-Sept. 2, which will attract top athletes from throughout the islands. Baptists are planning a high-energy evangelistic effort at the games. They are helping stage the opening and closing ceremonies, will run the welcome center and will hold evangelistic crusade.

Since few Christians live in many of the countries involved, Sorrells sees the games as a great evangelistic opportunity.

Sorrells will identify needs and provide ministries to groups in the islands who now have little contact with evangelical Christians. He also will continue his primary assignment as an agricultural evangelist in Madagascar.

Sorrells' training in French will carry over to most of the island nations, such as the Comoro Islands, Reunion and Rodriguez Island (a part of Mauritius), where French is the official language. Additionally, his agricultural background will allow him to use development ministries in countries that might not welcome a full-time church starter.

Rather than diluting his efforts on Madagascar, Sorrells thinks his new task will challenge and involve Baptists there.

"There are settlements of Malagasy people in most of the countries," he said. "There are ties to pull Madagascar Baptists into mission relationships with their ethnic kin in different countries. I'm hopeful this will help them catch the vision of evangelizing this part of the world, using Madagascar as base." (BP)

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mountains to the mississippi

personnel

Camp Ground Baptist Church, Somerset, called Kevin Hampton as youth minister.

Jeff Whitis resigned as youth minister at Burnside (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Olive Baptist Church, Hardin, called Johnny Phillips as pastor.

Tommy Temple resigned as minister of youth at Gilead Baptist Church, Glendale, to accept a minister of education and youth position in Georgia.

Dan Ferguson, former minister of youth and activities at Central Baptist Church, Corbin, is new pastor of First Baptist Church, Loyall.

First Baptist Church, Cold Spring, called

Rich Livingood as associate pastor.

Tony Camp is interim minister of youth at Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville.

Joy Hager is new minister of Christian social ministries at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville. She goes from Volunteers of America in Louisville.

Perry Brackin is new pastor of West Baptist Church, Hickman. He goes from First Baptist Church, Elaine, Ark.

Ancil A. Durrett resigned as pastor of Brush Creek Baptist Church, Summersville.

Collier R. Foster resigned as pastor of Cove Hill Baptist Church, Carrollton, to accept a church in Florida.

Robert Jordan resigned as pastor of Putney (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Roger D. Johnson Sr. resigned as pastor of Closplint (Ky.) Baptist Church. Sam Macri resigned as pastor of Blackey (Ky.) Baptist Church to go to New York.

Charles B. Thompson is no longer pastor of Ewing (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Beattyville (Ky.) Baptist Church called Alonzo J. Dixon as pastor. He goes from Topmost (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Licking River Baptist Church, Salyersville, called David Profitt as pastor. He goes from Brushy Fork Baptist Church, Salyersville.

Johnny Friend is new pastor of Rocky Ford Baptist Church, Hustonville. He goes from Pond Baptist Church, Kings Mountain.

(Continued on page 8)



Westside Baptist Church, Murray, broke ground June 3 for a new church facility. The building will include a 556-seat sanctuary expandable to 870, office and fellowship space and educational space for 480. Pictured above are (l-r): Andy Jetton, Sunday school superintendent of children; Hank Adams, building committee chairman; Franklin Carroll, trustee chairman; Glynn Orr, pastor; Hoyt Cleaver, Cleaver Construction Co.; Jim Neale, deacon chairman; Patsy Neale, WMU director; Kenneth Cleaver, Cleaver Construction Co. Architects are Gingles and Gingles, Nashville.

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

clear creek chronicle

SBC visitors

Clear Creek's impact in the Southern Baptist Convention was demonstrated by alumni from 19 states who stopped by to visit the New Orleans SBC exhibit: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia. Alumni from 25 different classes signed in at the booth. 1950 was the oldest class represented; 1978 had the most alumni present with eight. Two of our newest graduates also attended.

Mrs. Bernice Glaze, librarian during 1960-78, spent several minutes catching up on campus events and looking at new photographs. She recognized the names of many former students who had registered. Our strength today derives from past faithful servants like Mrs. Glaze. Indianapolis pastor and 1968 graduate F. S. Butler and his wife reminisced about their years. He commuted for one year on the bus from Indiana. They had six children while attending Clear Creek. Cynthia pastor Gabriel Collett remarked, "I keep going back to what I received at Clear Creek. The family of encouragers and the brotherly love of the campus nurtured me." Collett ran a bread route through the campus and often "felt sorry for those starving guys going to school." The Lord called him to preach and begin preparation at Clear Creek. He admits, "I never missed a meal. A Tennessee church had a monthly pounding for us while we were in school." Collett earned an MDiv at Southern Seminary and has started work on a doctorate. He is a chaplain major in the army reserves; at Clear Creek he recruited 13 preachers for reserve training.

The day after our 13-hour drive from the convention I walked the mile from our house to the office. The lush mountains and the call of a crow was a refreshing contrast to the New Orleans crowds and the cheers of the Superdome. I prayed that our beloved Southern Baptist Convention would soon experience again the unity we know at Clear Creek. Our love and commitment to God's Word bears the fruit of cooperation in the midst of diversity.

personnel

Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Stanford, called **David Miller** as pastor.

Randall C. Smith is new pastor of Polly Ann Baptist Church, Eubank. He goes from Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Cave City.

Pleasant Point Baptist Church, Waynesburg, called **James I. Kelly** as pastor.

Paul Frederick resigned as pastor of South Fariston Baptist Church, London.

Kevin Reynolds resigned as pastor of White Oak Baptist Church, London.

James E. Shaw resigned as pastor of Elkhorn Baptist Church, Lexington, to accept the call as pastor of Mill Creek Baptist Church, Radcliff.

Kenneth D. Cummins is new pastor of Buffalo (Ky.) Baptist Church. He goes from Meadow Land Baptist Church, a mission of Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, as interim pastor.

Ken Vinson resigned as minister of music at West Broadway Baptist Church, Jeffersontown, to become minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Lanette, Ala.

Lawrence Palmer resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Prospect.

Rick McMillan resigned as minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Eddyville. He goes to Spring Branch Baptist Church, Madison, Ind.,



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Every day is special

Summer school is going full force, and we have 226 students on campus this summer and more coming. Over 60 of these are here for the first time. Tom Jenkin III, formerly a teacher and coach with us five years, has been doing mission work the past year in the Amazon jungle of Brazil. He led our first four chapel services of the summer session, each day a powerful message, each day presenting the Lord Jesus Christ and him crucified and risen. As he always did, he held every student's and staff member's attention daily.

Our summer school day lasts six



Seven Kentucky men were among more than 172 men from 23 states and Canada attending the national Baptist Men's University training conference for Baptist Men and Baptist Young Men's leaders on the campus of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn. They were, front from left: Glenn Whaley, Florence; Edward Dissell, Florence; Amos Tate, Bloomfield; and Lee Vincent, Greenville. Back from left: Larry Banister, Princeton; David Childress, Princeton; and C. V. Conatser, Greenville.

as pastor.

ordinations

Mickey D. Hyder, minister of education, and **Lloyd A. Sutton**, minister of music, were ordained to the ministry by Broadway Baptist Church, Lexington. **Gerald Bishop** of Cincinnati brought the ordination sermon.

Todd Gaddis, new pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Smith Mills, was ordained to the ministry June 24.

Ken Lee Creekmore Jr. of Louisville was ordained to the ministry by First Baptist Church, St. Matthews, S. C.

Victory Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville, ordained **Caleb J. Park** to the ministry.

Kevin Rogers, **Tommy Edwards**, **Billy Harmon** and **Alan Yates** were ordained deacons at Ohio Valley Baptist Church, Ledbetter.

John Rose and **Leroy Hodge** were ordained deacons at Marion (Ky.) Baptist Church.

hours. Each level of English is taught. General math, business math, algebra I and II classes are filled. Biology, American history, political science and Bible are other summer study opportunities. A student takes a single course, working with the same teacher and classmates all day. In six weeks, time a full year's work is done, and with passing grades, a full credit is earned toward graduation.

Also 37 students are being intensively tutored in reading and math by 16 teachers. Think of what a teacher-student ratio and a learning opportunity that is! Because of financial circumstances, many of these girls and boys have such an opportunity and yet are not required to pay a penny. That is possible only because of people like yourself sharing financially with us and many staff members who work at Oneida receiving no salary at all or only a fraction of a normal salary. Our reward is not in money but in knowing we are helping to change lives not only in this world but for eternity as well.

There are as many reasons why young people come to Oneida as there are boys and girls attending. Each is an individual. Why are they in summer school? Again there are as many reasons as there are young people. Many realize there is no better way to spend their summer. They can be in class six weeks and still have nearly six weeks of vacation. It is an opportunity to "make up" something failed or, in half or more instances, to work ahead in some course, to take something extra. Above Kentucky public school requirements, every Oneida stu-

dent has had at least a year of Bible, is computer literate, has had an extra year of science, an added year of social studies and an extra year of music, art or drama above state requirements. Over half of our graduates of recent years have had two to three years of French, German, Spanish or Latin.

As much or more is learned at Oneida outside the academic classroom. Oneida's work program is a wonderful tool in teaching responsibility, good attitudes, self-respect and simply how to do things with one's hands. Oneida students learn how to plow and plant, to cultivate, to harvest, to put away food for winter use. Oneida students learn how to carpenter, do mechanical work, weld, purify water or treat sewage. Oneida students learn how to paint, refinish furniture, clean properly, cook, wash dishes properly, so many things as a part of our work program.

Oneida's varied sports program, its broad music, art, drama and craft programs are also wonderful teaching tools. The biggest school in Kentucky does not offer all that is offered at Oneida. Yet Oneida is one of the smallest schools in the state. The bottom line is that Oneida is big enough to have such a program, yet small enough that each student can benefit from what is offered as an active participant rather than a mere spectator.

Then the spiritual dimension of Oneida is simply something beyond all measuring. What is the value of a soul? Oneida is a place where it is well understood that each soul is beyond measure or price.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JULY 8, 1990

Life and work series

Demonstrate your faith

James 2:14-17 Faith and works are united inseparably. If a person has saving faith, it is certain to manifest itself in good works. It is useless for one to say that he or she has faith if he or she does not produce good works. James challenged us to produce works as the evidence of the genuineness of the faith which we profess.

Paul wrote about justification before God on the ground of faith, while James referred to justification before people on the basis that works are an evidence or proof of saving faith. Paul emphasized the faith that works and James emphasized the works of faith. James insisted that faith be demonstrated in good works. Faith is first but works must follow, he said, or there is no proof that real faith exists. Faith that does not produce good works is not the kind of faith commended by God and revealed in His faithful and obedient children. Genuine Christian faith is to be demonstrated in and through dedicated service to others.

It is not enough for us to say we love, but we must prove it by our deeds. We help others by our deeds and not by pious good wishes.

James 2:18-26 The relationship of faith and works was exhibited in the life of Abraham. Abraham was justified by faith when he exercised faith in God. Abraham was justified by works when he offered Isaac as a sacrifice on the altar. Abraham proved that his faith was genuine by his willingness to offer his son in obedience to the specific command of God. In that act his faith reached its consummation. His faith and his works were inseparable.

James gave a second example of justifying faith in Rahab and illustrated by her case also that faith produces works. By risking her life in helping the spies to escape from her city, she demonstrated the genuineness of her personal faith in God.

International series

Wisdom—the Lord's delight

Prov. 8:22-31 Where is wisdom to be found? Wisdom is to be found not in the book of Proverbs alone, but in the Word of God in its entirety. God is the source of all real wisdom, and it is made available to all who request it and who are willing to commit them-

selves to Him. Wisdom declares that God's counsel is far more valuable than gold, silver and precious jewelry. The writer of Proverbs says that God "is righteous and just, so is He also the essence of wisdom." Wisdom here is personified as present at creation and as the agent of God in creation. There is a connection between the idea advanced here and the passage which speaks of the eternal and pre-existent Christ: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:1-3).

Prov. 8:32-36 Preaching and teaching the Word of God is intended to promote the best interests of the hearers. Proverbs says, "Hear instruction and be wise."

Verse 36 implies that people are capable of sinning and that it is a disgrace and ruin that they sin against God. Sin against God is an injury to one's nature. Obedience to God's laws is conducive to happiness. God's Word admonishes people to "do thyself no harm." God's laws should be carefully obeyed, for they are binding upon human nature.

LESSONS FOR JULY 15, 1990

Life and work series

Evaluate spiritual condition

James 3:1-12 Because of the great power of words, the Bible has much to say about the right and the wrong use of the tongue. This chapter is a classic. When it was written, many were ambitious to be teachers in the churches. Those who teach the Bible should be saved, have an intimate acquaintance with the Lord, have a thorough knowledge of the Word, live a consistent Christian life and have the ability to impart God's truth. Being a God-sent and Spirit-led teacher will please and honor the Lord and bring great satisfaction, joy and reward to the one who is faithful to the task.

James used natural objects to illustrate truths he was imparting. In illustrating control of the tongue James referred to governing a horse by a bit on the bridle, a helm in the hands of a governor or steersman on a ship. He compared an uncontrolled tongue to a small fire that sets a great forest ablaze. Through God's grace a Christian can refrain from making malicious statements about others. A

High court rejects religion appeals

by Kathy Palen

The Supreme Court recently rejected appeals in three religion-related cases.

In *Eanes v. Maryland*, the high court refused to review a dispute over whether a Maryland law prohibiting "loud and unseemly noises" could be used to stop an individual from preaching in front of an abortion clinic. Jerry Wayne Eanes was found guilty of violating the state law after he preached, read the Bible and handed out religious tracts near an abortion clinic in Hagerstown, Md. The court upheld Eanes' conviction.

In *North Valley Baptist Church v. McMahon*, the justices refused to hear a case involving state licensing of church day care centers. The California congregation challenged the constitutionality of that state's day care licensing mechanism. Although conceding California has

tongue can wound, defile and provoke to wrath. One should use the tongue for a wholesome and righteous purpose. With the tongue a Christian can plead for God, challenge others to do right, inspire to noble and heroic living, encourage the despairing and comfort the sorrowing.

A person will never use the tongue aright unless he or she has the right kind of heart, "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." As one lives within the circle of God's will, keeps on growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and yields the tongue to the control of the Holy Spirit, he or she proves to be a faithful witness and an effective instructor in the will and way of the Lord.

International series

Lessons from life

Prov. 22:1-16 Wealth is a great blessing when rightly used. It increases one's capacity for usefulness. It enables one to relieve poverty, dispel ignorance, ameliorate suffering and advance the interests of people. With it one can build church buildings, schools and hospitals. However, it cannot supply wisdom, confer happiness, guarantee the favor of God or procure a home in heaven.

It is far better for parents to leave their children a good name than to bequeath wealth to them. A good name is acquired by upright, unselfish and useful living. It rests on good principles, good character and good deeds. It is better than riches, friends or position.

Parents are challenged to begin early in building noble lives. The word "train" which is used here literally means "to put into the mouth." The figure suggests feeding an infant. Parents are responsible for the provision of proper physical, mental, moral and spiritual food. The impressions of early childhood remain with one through life. Parents who guide the feet of their children in the way of righteousness will never regret it and will be blessed for doing so. Through their examples, instructions, admonitions and exhortations, godly parents can have permanent influence over their children.

Children are entitled to receive from their parents the instruction, discipline, training and guidance which they will need for godly living. The best place in which to teach children the most important lessons they will ever learn is the home.

a compelling interest in regulating childcare providers, the church argued licensure is not the least restrictive means of accomplishing that interest.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held the burden placed on the church by California's licensing mechanism was justifiable because no other proposal would provide as high a level of accountability.

In *Kirkland v. Northside Independent School District*, the Supreme Court turned down an appeal by a public school teacher. Timothy Kirkland, who taught history, said the Texas school district's decision to dismiss him was influenced in part by a group of religiously fundamentalist parents who objected to his extra-credit reading list.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Kirkland's dismissal did not violate his First Amendment rights. (BP)



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

homes for children

A definition of caring

The dictionary definition of caring is "to take charge of, look after, provide (for)." That is a good technical definition to a point, but it does not define caring as it is performed daily at Baptist Homes for Children. It fails to capture what I believe is the essence of the word.

Caring can best be defined by looking at actual examples:

- It is seen in God's love for us that He gave His only son to die on the cross for our sins.
- It is a shepherd who left 99 sheep safely in the fold to look for one that was lost.
- It is a young mother who gives her life to care for a brain-damaged child.
- It is a mother working two jobs to educate her children so that they can leave the ghetto.
- It is the child care worker who gives his/her life to care for children because Jesus Christ gave His life for him/her.
- It is a child care worker talking late into the night with a teenager whose world has crumbled.
- It is a young person sharing with a peer about how Christ made a difference in his/her life.

Caring as defined by these actions is much more than the physical act of looking after or providing for someone else. Like all of Christian service it is rooted in the motive by which it is performed.

The thousands of youth who have received such care since 1869 know, like the youth in care today, that such care is characterized by love and self sacrifice on the part of those closest to them.

Caring for children at Glen Dale, Spring Meadows, the Youth Ranch, Dixon and Morehead is more than actions as listed on a job description. What may be observed can be captured by such a document, but what is felt and understood by the youth is much more than that and literally is what makes a difference in their lives.



75 years of caring

christian education

southern seminary

Calvin Miller, pastor of West Side Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., will be guest preacher for the second annual Pastor's School at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville Aug. 6-10.

Other conference leaders will include Harold Songer, vice president for academic affairs and professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern; Kenneth Chafin, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville;

David Dockery, editor of academic books for Broadman Press; Robison James, professor of religion at the University of Richmond, Va.; John Newport, vice president for academic affairs and provost at Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.; Al Mohler, editor of the Christian Index, Atlanta, Ga.; Walter Harrelson, professor emeritus of Hebrew Bible at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville; Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College, Dallas.

For further information, contact Southern Seminary at (502) 897-4315.

georgetown college

"The Pastor and the Baptist Heritage" will be the subject for the semi-annual Baptist Pastors' Fellowship series at Georgetown (Ky.) College Tuesday, July 10.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. in the college's Gheens Room, third floor of Giddings Hall. Contact Steve Cook, director of church relations, (502) 863-8041. Cost including lunch is \$10.

Georgetown College announced it has been awarded a \$75,000 grant to develop its faculty over the next several years.

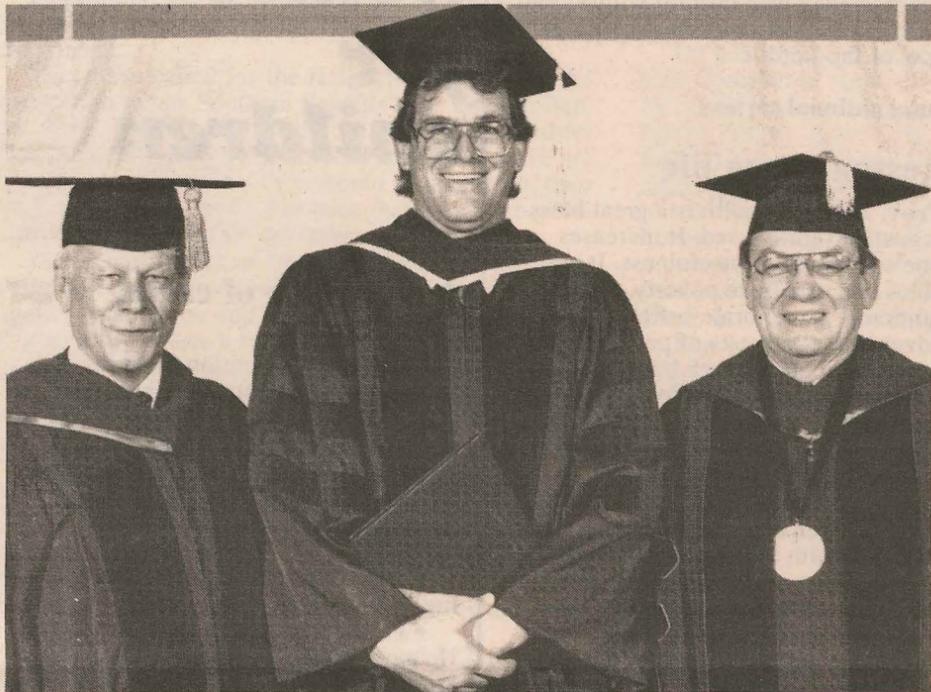
Georgetown was one of 84 private institutions in a five-state area that submitted creative proposals for strengthening faculties in a competition sponsored by the Lilly Endowment Inc., a private charitable foundation in Indianapolis. Twenty schools were named winners in the competition.

cumberland college

Cumberland College, Williamsburg, awarded Emma McPherson the Sears-Roebuck Foundation Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award on honor's day.

"Miss Mac" joined Cumberland's faculty in 1951 as dean of women and instructor of religion. In 1963 she became professor of English. She was dean of students, 1981-89.

Awards were also presented to Tom Fish, teaching excellence award and teacher of the year; Doyle Gilbert, Cumberland College service award; and Jim Hicks, William T. Miles community service award.



Former Kentuckian Edward M. Smith (c) is joined by Dan Rainbolt (l), director of the DMin program, and M. Vernon Davis, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, after commencement at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. Smith, who considers Finley, Ky., his hometown, received a DMin degree.



"Uncle Sam"

I served in the U. S. Army from 1969-74, and prior to that I was in the reserve Officer Training Corps for four years. Nine years of military training and experiences can influence your opinion on a lot of issues.

My military service as a battalion training officer in Alaska, rifle company commander in Vietnam and post-adjutant in Germany left me with some good memories. My overriding memory is the feeling of security I had in my Uncle Sam. I always knew, no matter how stressful the day was, how demanding my boss would be, how the odds seemed to be stacked against me, that my Uncle Sam would take care of me. Uncle Sam provided me and my family with a place to live, food and free health care.

As a Christian, I have security in my Heavenly Father. He takes care of me spiritually. As a realist, I have to be prepared to meet the financial demands of finding a job and providing housing and food for my family. My medical coverage, which far exceeds the industry standards, still requires financial participation by me.

Every day there are patients in our Baptist hospitals that don't have insurance. That is where you and the Foundation can work together to help these patients through their personal crises. Your contribution to the Sunday School Charity Fund, through your church or directly to us, can assist these patients during their time of need.

Help these patients regain their sense of security and self-esteem through the Sunday School Charity Fund. We all can't have an Uncle Sam, but with the help of our Heavenly Father we can assist others in regaining their feeling of security.

Jesus is the focal point of the Foundation's ministry. If you would like to be part of a ministry that helps patients and their families daily, then become a Friend of the Baptist Hospitals Foundation today. There are many alternatives available for service from which to choose. Don't pass up an opportunity to serve our Lord. Baptist Hospitals Foundation, the patients and the Lord want and need your help.

Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Hospitals Inc. or Baptist Hospitals Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., vice president of Baptist Hospitals Foundation, BHI Corporate Complex, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, KY 40207 (502) 896-5000.

WIN OUR WORLD



DEAN FINLEY
NATIONAL COORDINATOR

WOW Advance Training is 13 weeks of personal evangelism training for youth of all ages and their leaders. It was developed by the Personal Evangelism Department of the Home Mission Board to prepare youth for the challenge of Continuing Witness Training (CWT). The WOW workshop is for ministers of youth and youth Sunday School outreach leaders. The training is being offered in a few select places in the United States. This workshop will certify participants as equippers to use both the WOW Event and WOW Advance Training materials. Participants must attend all training sessions to be certified. WOW Advance materials can be ordered only by a certified equipper.

Registration is \$28, postmarked 30 days before the workshop, and \$38, up to 14 days before the workshop. Full refund of registration up to the 14-day deadline. No registrations or refunds will be made after the 14-day deadline. Registration fee includes all materials. It does not include travel, food or lodging. Workshops with less than 20 participants will be rescheduled. To register, send registration form and check payable to Home Mission Board, SBC • Personal Evangelism Department • WOW Registration • 1350 Spring Street, NW • Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

(tear off)

Please call 404-898-7707 for other dates and places.

Registration Form:

- () October 1-3, 1990
Lexington, KY
- () October 1-3, 1990
Bluefield, WV

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 Telephone Number (____) _____
 Workshop Date _____
 Workshop Location _____



HOME
MISSION
BOARD, SBC

Home Mission Board, SBC • 1350 Spring Street, NW • Atlanta, GA 30367-5601
 A Southern Baptist Convention agency supported by the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
 For general information or to order materials, call the Home Mission Board's Customer Service Center, 1 800 634-2462
 220-288/30M/7-89

Messianic Jews form fellowship within SBC

by Mark Wingfield

Messianic Jews within the Southern Baptist Convention have formed a new fellowship.

During the denomination's annual meeting in New Orleans, about 30 messengers formed the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship. That brings to 22 the number of ethnic fellowships relating to the SBC.

Ethnic fellowships are independent, autonomous groups that relate to the denomination primarily through the Home Mission Board's language church extension division. The Messianic Fellowship also will relate to the HMB's interfaith witness department.

The fellowship's president is Jim Hendricks, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Princeton, W. Va. Currently

Hendricks knows of fewer than 10 Messianic congregations within the SBC; most are small, struggling congregations with 20-30 members.

Those who have been interested in Messianic work have been frustrated by lack of support in the past, he said. "We felt like nobody was interested."

However, formation of the fellowship and support from the HMB will foster opportunities to strengthen existing congregations and start new ones, he said.

"We're making definite plans for training and for establishing new works," Hendricks said. "If we could see even 10 or 20 new works in the next 10 years, it would be wonderful."

The fellowship has set a goal of having 1000 Messianic Jews within the SBC by the denomination's June 1991 annual meeting in Atlanta.

Hendricks said the Southern Baptist Convention is the first denomination to reach out to Jews in any organized fashion. The SBC is the most ethnically diverse denomination in America with congregations worshipping each week in 101 languages among 97 ethnic groups and 97 American Indian tribes.

Even with this diversity, the denomination has not previously made organized attempts to minister to Jews, Hendricks said. Most evangelistic outreach to Jews in the United States has been done through parachurch organizations.

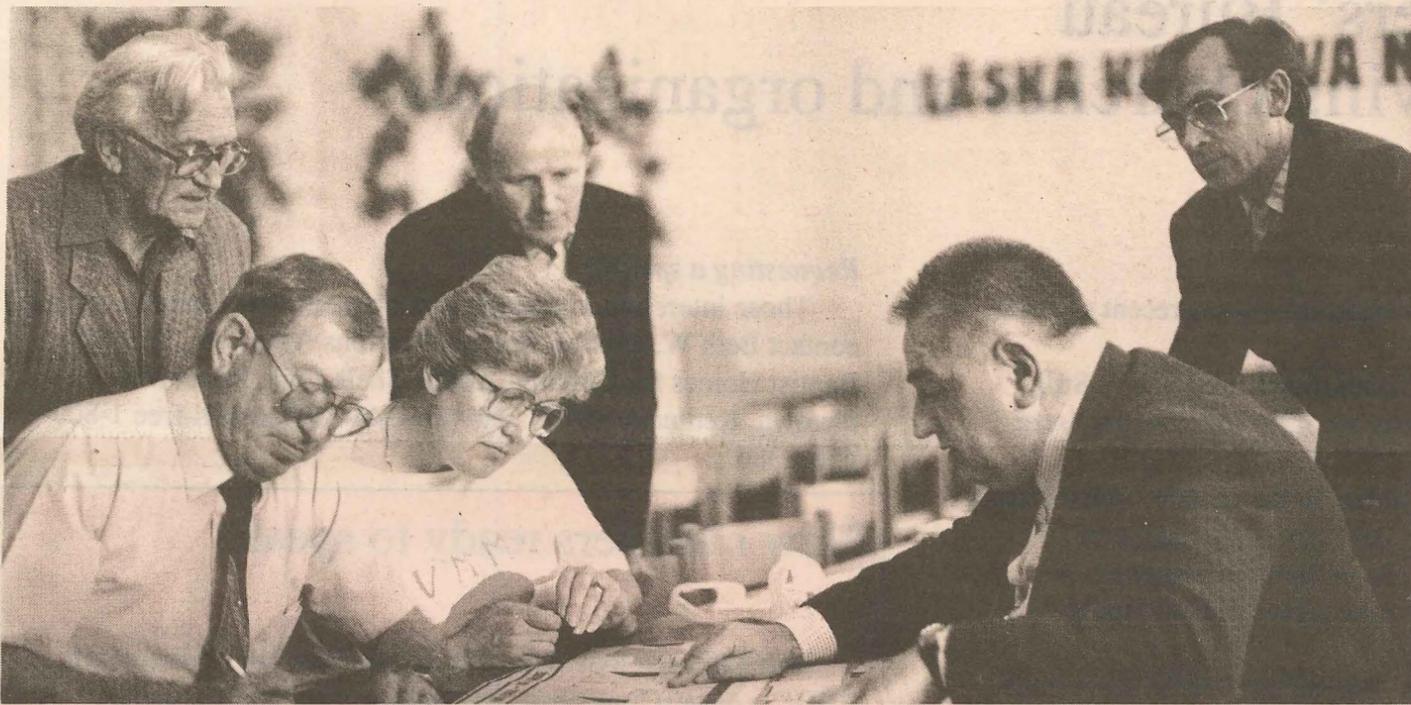
"If you had 5000 Vietnamese in a city, you would target that and try to start a congregation. But if you have 200,000 Jewish people in a city, no one would give any thought to it," Hendricks said.

"It has been ignored. We haven't been doing that much."

"This is a great day for us," said Jerry Young, vice president of the fellowship and pastor of the Houston Messianic Congregation. "We've been trying to minister to Jews for years, but we keep losing our people because they can't get support" within the SBC.

Leaders of the new fellowship are "legitimate, longtime Southern Baptists," Hendricks added. "We don't want to have to leave the convention to do this."

Other officers of the fellowship are secretary, Peggy Young of Houston Messianic Congregation; financial secretary, John Worley, mission pastor from First Baptist Church of Dallas; editor, Marcy Shaw of Norwalk Baptist Fellowship in Norwalk, Calif. (BP)



CZECH PLANS—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, a city of 250,000 residents in eastern Czechoslovakia. Many Baptists in the newly liberated country are eager to build a proper church building. Standing, from left, are Vladimir Dvorak, secretary of Slovakian Baptists; pastor Julius Stupza of Dunajszatuzua; and pastor Juraj Kohilt of Nesvady. Marcela Hlubočka, seated at center, helps translate. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

Baptist teachers denied Vietnam visas

by Mike Chute

Five Southern Baptist teachers planning to work in Vietnam this summer have been denied visas to enter the country.

But other Southern Baptist medical and agricultural work continues in the country, according to Jack Shelby, Hong Kong-based administrator for Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization.

The visa denial marks the second time the Vietnamese government has refused visas for teachers with CSI.

Shelby speculated the visas were denied because Vietnam's government fears current unrest in other parts of the world. In recent weeks Vietnamese security officials have denied visas for Americans, except tourists in organized tour groups.

A Mennonite English teacher, Miriam Hershberger, was expelled from Vietnam in early June. The government charged her with inciting student unrest by using English-language newspapers in classes she taught at Hanoi Foreign Language College. She had

been in Vietnam since last September and was about to finish the school year.

Despite the difficulties, Shelby still hopes to secure visas for two of the teachers—Frances Petersen and Hazel Garner, both professors at Mobile (Ala.) College. They taught in Vietnam last summer and hope to return to the University of Agriculture Number Three of Bac Thai province in northern Vietnam.

But Shelby believes it's too late to reapply for summer visas for Vi Marie Taylor of Austin, Tex., and Glenn and Rose Davis of Frankfort, Ky.

"The timing just isn't right now," said Taylor, who also was denied a Vietnam visa last year when Vietnamese troops were pulled out of Cambodia. "The Lord is moving and when it's the appropriate time, doors will be opened."

Taylor had planned to design curriculum and teaching materials for an English language center in Hanoi. A retired CSI worker in China, she instead will move to Mongolia and work with secondary school English teachers there.

The Davises still hope to teach this fall at the University of Agriculture and Forestry in Ho Chi Minh City and

help establish a master's degree program there. Previously, Davis was program manager for the Kentucky state education department. Mrs. Davis was a professor at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Both have spent the last two years teaching in China.

Securing visas and the availability of Southern Baptist teachers were Shelby's two main concerns in preparing for the English-teaching projects in Vietnam.

"Anything like this has a negative impact," he said of the visa problems. "People don't like to live with uncertainty. But we'll keep on trying."

Currently, CSI works in 10 agricultural, health and social projects in Vietnam. The organization supplies basic medical equipment to small rural hospitals and clinics, assists in several agricultural efforts and provides literature and equipment for Vietnamese social workers.

CSI also is working with Grace Baptist Church and Vietnam's social welfare department to develop a vocational rehabilitation and education center for street children in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). (BP)

Muslim World Project focuses on education

by Frank Wm. White

The Muslim World Project for Southern Baptist college students planned for the 1990-91 academic year will involve 66 students in foreign countries and training for students throughout the United States.

The project involves three Southern Baptist agencies, the Sunday School Board, the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board, according to Brad Gray, consultant for evangelism and world student ministry in the BSSB student ministry department.

"Educating students about the Muslim culture is important because it is the fastest growing religion in the world," Gray said.

While 66 students will participate in foreign mission aspects of the project, training and spring break mission projects will help develop for many others an awareness about Islam and the Muslim community, Gray said.

The Muslim world project is the second student world missions encounter. A 1988 two-week pilot project in Brazil involved 150 students.

For the Muslim project, six students will be selected to go to the nation of Sierra Leone and three to The Gambia in December 1990. Other teams will include from four to 15 students in the spring of 1991 in France, Indonesia, Israel and Trinidad.

State student ministry departments have been asked to request particular mission assignments. Based on those requests, assignments will be allocated to states in August. State convention student ministry departments then will be responsible for selecting students to participate, Gray said.

The project coincides with the fall 1990 missions study on "Islam and the Muslim Community." Student groups will be encouraged to participate in that study, Gray pointed out.

Interfaith witness personnel from the Home Mission Board and state conventions as well as others with knowledge of the Islamic religion will be available to lead conferences, seminars and training sessions on campuses and in churches, Gray said.

Involvement in the Muslim world project will begin with student conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest conference centers this August with seminars for students and student directors. (BP)



*Kentucky Baptist Homes
for Children
Touching Lives*



KBHC Speakers' Bureau Continues serving churches and organizations

Speakers' Bureau update

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children announces recent changes in the KBHC Speakers' Bureau.

Bob Milburn, director, Baptist Youth Ranch, and Sherra Still, Maternity/Adoption Coordinator, were recently added to the list of speakers.

Two speakers have changed positions in the agency: Mike Dixon, former Central Region Coordinator, now serves as director of Spring Meadows Children's Home; Scott Shouse, former activities director at Spring Meadows, now serves as Continuing Care Coordinator.

KBHC established the Speakers' Bureau last year to serve churches, church groups and civic organizations. The bureau consists of KBHC staff who are available to preach or speak to groups throughout the state.

A variety of topics

Some suggested topics for speakers include the history and/or ministry of Homes for Children, overviews of Glen Dale and Spring Meadows children's homes and the Baptist Youth Ranch, child development and family education, and preparing a Christian will.

Staff available to speak

Other members of the bureau are: Dr. Curtis C. Mooney, President; Robin Oldham, Director of Development/Communications Services; Don DeBorde, Director of Planned Giving; Audrey Puryear, Director of Community Services, Buckley Carlin, Director, Glen Dale Children's Home; Sue Carlin, Volunteer Coordinator of 4-H and Homeland Singers, Glen Dale; Harold Dunaway, social worker, Glen Dale; Carl Nunn, Livestock Director, Glen Dale; Cindy Nunn, Administrative Secretary, Glen Dale; Charlie Belknap, team leader, Spring Meadows Children's Home; J.T. Sutherland, Director of Christian Education, Spring Meadows; Dean Harney, Eastern Region Coordinator; Bill Heaton, Western Region Coordinator; Dwight Moore, Metro-Louisville Region Coordinator.

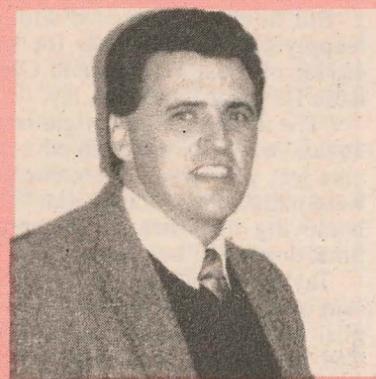
Requesting a speaker

Those interested in making arrangements for a speaker should contact Beth W. Prassel, Communications Associate, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Kentucky 40243; call 502-245-2101 or toll-free 1-800-456-1386.

New members ready to speak

Bob Milburn joined the KBHC staff last fall as director of KBHC's newest long term care facility. Originally from the Louisville area, he received the Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and religion from Kentucky Wesleyan College, Owensboro. He previously worked as program director at Owensboro Day Treatment and also worked as a juvenile counselor for four years.

Sherra Still came to KBHC last summer as a part time social worker in the Community Services department. She began working full time this June after receiving the Master of Social Work degree from Louisville's Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in May. Still is a native of Nashville, where she graduated from Belmont College with the Bachelor of Science degree in social work. At KBHC Sherra works with pregnancy counseling and adoption.



Milburn



Still