

'Here's Hope' yields 4,174 new Christians

by Marv Knox, Editor

"Here's Hope" gave Kentucky Baptists more than hope, Bill Jagers believes.

"Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You" simultaneous revivals—held across the commonwealth this spring and early summer—helped them refocus their priorities and understand their potential, said Jagers, evangelism director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Statewide totals for the simultaneous effort are:

- 1581 participating churches.
- 4174 professions of faith in Christ.
- 3532 baptisms.
- 1270 new church members who joined by transferring their memberships from other churches or by stating their faith and previous church membership.
- 9689 rededications of faith in and commitment to Christ.
- 73 commitments to full-time Christian ministry.
- Three congregations started.

The totals may increase slightly, since all participating churches have not reported their results, Jagers noted.

However, the statewide statistics reveal several points, he said.

"The significance is that Here's Hope has been an effort to make evangelism a priority, with our churches cooperating in the process," he explained. "It's also been good for us to realize a lot of things we do are good and even necessary, but our main priority is touching lives of people for Christ's sake.

"Last year, 504 (of 2270) Kentucky

Baptist churches reported no baptisms. That doesn't mean they didn't try or bore no witness, but it does reveal there are some real problems.

"The theme we had—Here's Hope, Jesus Cares for You—was a relevant one to a hurting society. Southern Baptists touched on the nerves of folks who live in America in this age. Evangelism needs to have that heartbeat of concern and total-caring emphasis. You could call it 'ministry evangelism.'"

Added Eugene I. Enlow, coordinator of the revival emphasis: "The expectancy for evangelism has been heightened. The zeal for evangelism has been heightened throughout many of the churches.

"We had probably the greatest participation of churches together than we've had in any evangelism event in years. The enthusiasm of the pastors was excellent."

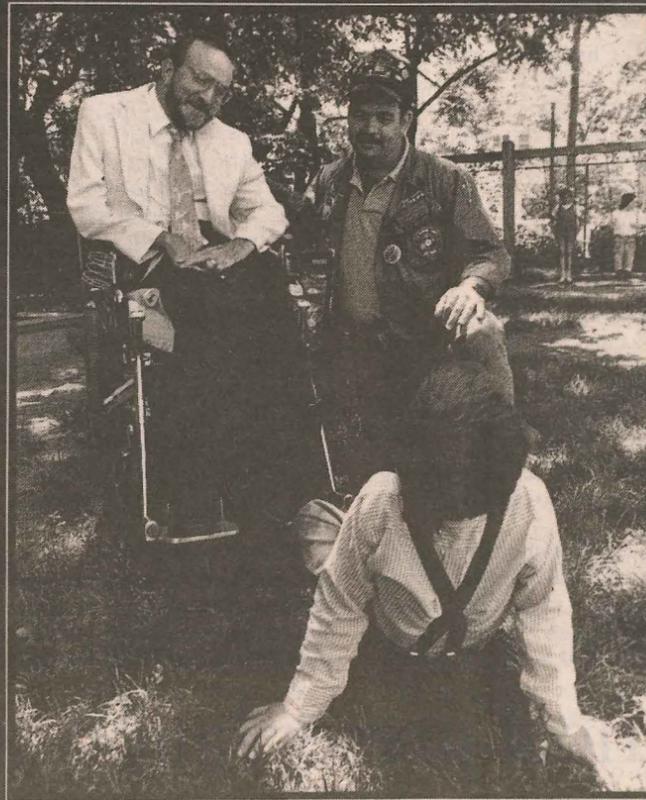
The spirit of their cooperation also strengthened Kentucky Baptists, Jagers noted: "It's done something for the fellowship of our churches. I have not sensed a lot of the competitiveness, but rather a rejoicing with churches that have had success."

The high-profile media campaign that supported the revivals—from TV commercials to billboards to magazine ads—also taught Baptists a lesson, he reported: "This probably was a time when Kentucky Baptists really saw the potential of what could be done in the medium of communicating who we are and what we're about. We discovered a real tool for reaching our state for Christ."

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"Have Peace One With Another"

(Mark 9:50)



Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace
August 5, 1990

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

MAKING PEACE—Southern Baptists will observe the Day of Prayer for World Peace Sunday, Aug. 5. "Have Peace One With Another," based on the 50th verse of the ninth chapter of the Gospel of Mark, is the theme for the annual observance.

Chairman Pace defends committee's closed-door actions

by Tammi Ledbetter

SBC Executive Committee Chairman Sam Pace responded to criticism for conducting discussions of Baptist Press employee terminations behind closed doors July 17.

"The Executive Committee exercised its stated right and responsibility to conduct executive sessions in unusual circumstances," Pace said in a statement

July 24 from Lawton, Okla., where he is associational director of missions.

Nashville attorney Frank Ingraham led in protests of the executive session, seeking a public forum in which Baptist Press employees Alvin C. Shackleford and Dan Martin would be given opportunity to respond to any charges by the Executive Committee.

Immediately following an executive session of the administrative subcommittee, the full committee began its proceedings in private. Off-duty Nashville police were employed for the purpose of limiting access to the meeting area, Pace said.

When Ingraham and others were denied access to the Executive Committee session, the Nashville attorney told the crowd gathered in the foyer that the Executive Committee had violated Robert's Rules of Order restricting entry before an actual vote had been taken to go into executive session.

Pace defended the decision to keep the doors closed when the meeting

began, stating in a phone interview, "Had we opened the doors and gotten everybody in there, it would have been impossible to ever have voted."

Citing the limited time allotted for the meeting, Pace said, "The logistics of getting it done made it almost essential to do it as we did. Voting themselves into executive session was the only responsible and effective way to conduct any business of the nature of that under consideration."

The use of off-duty policemen was a necessary security measure, Pace noted, in light of an expectation that over 1000 spectators might be on hand for the meeting. Pace said the estimate was drawn from several sources, all of which indicated attempts were being made to rally protestors to the scene.

Pace responded to questions about armed guards by pointing out that off-duty Nashville police officers are required by department policy to carry sidearms even while off duty. It was "not

because of any request of the Executive Committee," he added.

Once the Executive Committee adjourned, Pace and other members refused all comment. The explanatory statement issued by the committee was read without elaboration by Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president.

Pace said a portion of the statement had been formulated in advance, but "was not complete until the end of the meeting." Because of an agreement among the committee members that they be made aware of any statements issued to the media, he declined to address a news conference.

"Our meeting was not a time to engage in slander, but it was a time when all Executive Committee members could freely and carefully weigh information in an effort to know the truth and to lay falsehood to rest," he told the Indiana Baptist. "This could not have been done in a public forum."

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Honeycutt recuperates well after bypass surgery

Roy L. Honeycutt, 63-year-old president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, is recovering in a local hospital following open-heart surgery July 24.

The four-and-one-half-hour surgery involved five heart bypasses.

Honeycutt's wife, June, reported that the surgeon, Layman A. Gray, Jr., told her following surgery, "Things couldn't have gone better." Later last week, doc-

tors expressed satisfaction with his recovery.

The surgery was performed less than a week after some heart blockage was discovered through stress tests ordered following Honeycutt's recent physical exam. Although he had not experienced any pain or other prominent symptoms of heart problems, Honeycutt elected to schedule the surgery as soon as possible.

Doctors anticipate that he will remain in the hospital for eight to 10 days.

Honeycutt, president since 1983, has appointed Provost Willis G. Bennett to serve as acting president during the recuperation period.

Honeycutt's surgery came about four months after Russell Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex., underwent successful triple-bypass surgery. (BP)

Kentuckians help Leningrad project

by Jane Taylor Howell
State Correspondent

Hard work and Christian spirit transcended language barriers when Kentucky Baptist students helped reconstruct a Russian Baptist Church this summer.

Kentuckians were David Buie, Somerset, Western Kentucky University; Christopher Horne, Lexington, University of Kentucky; Bryan Leazenby, Owensboro, Western; Chris Thurman, Lexington, Vanderbilt University; Phillip Walker, Oak Grove, University of Kentucky; and David Wooden, Louisville, University of Kentucky. Oxford Smith, associate in the Student Department at the Alabama Baptist Convention, accompanied the Kentucky and Alabama students.

They teamed together and were among five groups to go to the Soviet Union this summer.

"We had selected all our student summer missionaries and allocated our funds when I received the invitation," said Ralph Hopkins, Kentucky Baptists' associate director of student work. "I turned

to two churches that have quality ministries to college students, Calvary Baptist in Lexington and First Baptist in Bowling Green. It was a rare opportunity for a church to send student missionaries abroad. I felt the invitation was such an important one that I didn't want Kentucky to be left out."

"It was a tremendous task," said Horne. "The building was a cathedral, built in 1865 with onion-shaped domes and ceiling murals. It had been taken over and converted to a factory by the Bolsheviks. The domes had been removed."

Construction repairs are being done in phases. The congregation is just now converting the basement into a kitchen and fellowship area, students reported.

"I got along better than I expected communicating with the people," Horne said. "I learned a few Russian nouns and acted out the verbs."

Walker stayed with a family who had four children. "They were very hospitable and lots of fun," he said. "One night Chris played piano, David played saxophone and the host and I sang, he in Russian and I

in English. We serve the same God and no matter how far away we are from home, the Christian spirit is still there."

"I went over expecting them to have much less freedom, but they had more civil liberties than I thought," Horne recalled. "We even saw evangelism on the street. To me that was incredible. I never felt threatened, perhaps because we went on business visas and could see things like the people see them. We lived like the Russians. As persons, they are like we are. The people we lived with are happy; they just don't have the conveniences that we have."

The church has been open for only one year. Worship services last two to three hours, students reported. The patterns and structure of the services are like most Baptist churches, except preachers offer three sermons. The prayers are intense, sometimes lasting 10 minutes.

Horne said the language barrier was too great for the group's personal witness. But they felt the worship experience even if they could not understand the words.

'On Mission' planned as focus of autumn retreat

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Kentucky Baptist Convention president Bill Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ashland, has been selected to address a statewide meeting of laymen and ministers.

He will speak during the annual Kentucky Baptist deacon, pastor, spouse retreat Sept. 14-15 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, near Bagdad. His topic is "On Mission Together," theme of the weekend event.

The retreat draws laymen and ministers for a discussion of issues facing contemporary Christians and churches. It is sponsored by the KBC's Family Ministry and Church Administration Department.

Department director John Lepper said the sermons and special-interest conferences will focus on positive ways deacons, pastors and their spouses can cooperate in ministry.

Discovering one's individual part in a local congregation's ministry and how church leaders can work in harmony are specific objectives of the retreat, he said.

Connie Lepper, of Crestwood, wife of the program planner, Christian homemaker and conference leader, will conduct sessions especially for women on "Using Our Gifts."

Seven seminars will be offered, from which retreat participants may select three. They are "Using Our Gifts," "Developing a Plan for Ministry," "Let's All Go to Church," "Lifestyle Evangelism," "Helping Folks in Crisis," "Managing Family Stress" and "Family Enrichment Series."

Reservations should be made with Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Box 37, Bagdad, KY 40003, telephone (502) 747-8911.

Costs for the retreat for overnight guests range between \$23 and \$36.50 per person, meals included, based on type of accommodations and persons per room. A deposit of \$15 per person should accompany reservations, fully refundable until two weeks prior to the retreat.

Commuters will be charged \$1 for insurance and use of facilities, plus meals. Meal prices range between \$3.25 and \$5. Cedarmore should be advised in advance by commuters of their plans.

The retreat begins with supper at 5:45 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, and ends at 1 p.m. following lunch Sept. 15.

Historical preservation stands in spotlight

by Marv Knox, Editor

Preservation of the history of local churches stood in the spotlight during the July 20 meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission in Louisville.

Commissioners also convened with the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society, which met July 20-21.

Planners unveiled the Local Church History Workshop, to be sponsored by the commission Saturday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Middletown.

The workshop has been designed to "provide information and assistance to church history committee members, church clerks and others interested in preserving, writing or celebrating their church's history," reported Doris Yeiser, curator of the Kentucky Baptist Convention archives and editor of Kentucky Baptist Heritage, the journal of the society.

The workshop is to feature three seminars: "Collecting and Preserving Your Church's Historical Materials," led by Ronald Tonks, retired assistant executive director of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission; "Writing

Your Church's History," Karen Smith, assistant professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; and "Celebrating Your Church's Anniversary," Andrew B. Rawls, director of media services at Southern Seminary. It also will feature a tour of the KBC archives, led by Yeiser.

Churches need to participate in the workshop, said Ronnie Forrest, commission chairperson and pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Lewisburg: "Grassroots history takes place at the churches. There are so many churches that don't have church histories. They have the information; they just don't have it compiled together."

Participants must register with the commission at P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243, by Oct. 12. Cost is \$10, which includes materials and lunch.

The Historical Society unanimously voted to raise its annual dues from \$10 to \$25, increase the cost of a life membership from \$50 to \$250 and to ask current life members to make annual contributions until those gifts and the amount they paid for their life memberships equals \$250.

"If we do not raise these fees, we can-

not continue to exist as a Kentucky Baptist Historical Society," said Terry Wilder, president of the society and pastor of Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg. "The constitution requires that we publish the Heritage annually; it also requires that we stay solvent. We now are in a serious financial crisis."

The society's \$1100 1990-91 budget calls for expenditures of \$400 for office expenses and \$700 for the journal. Funding calls for \$650 in dues, \$50 in donations and \$450 spent from prior years' accumulated savings. The society has 79 annual members and 110 life members.

The society elected Wilder to a second term as president and elected J. Chester Badgett of Campbellsville as vice president and Barry Allen of Middletown as secretary-treasurer. New at-large members of the society's executive committee are John D. Broome of Williamsburg, Mabel Felts of Lyndon and Hughlan Richey of Madisonville.

The society's meeting was sponsored by Kentucky Baptist Hospitals Inc., which presented a history of the hospital system and a tour of Baptist Hospital East in Louisville.

Recent revivals apply human touch to evangelism

Continued from page 1

Several aspects of the campaign helped spell success, he said: The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board developed preparation plans specifically for churches with 200 or less members. Also, the campaign was one of "total involvement" on the part of Kentucky Baptist staff members and their leader, executive

director William W. Marshall. And thousands of Kentucky Baptists joined in, sharing their Christian faith, distributing Scripture, inviting people to the revivals.

Looking ahead, Jagers said, "A lot of revivals are still happening." Churches and district associations will have follow-up crusades and revivals this fall, he added, noting that the Kentucky Baptist Discipleship Training Department staff is

"ready to help any way they can to train new converts."

Looking back, he added: "One of the byproducts is the witness training that has taken place, and the discovery and development of prospective church members.

"Here's Hope also has restored authentic revivalism. There is a place and need for revivals in this age."

Chairman Pace explains why committee closed doors

Continued from page 1

"No specific charges were leveled against either man, but the opinion of many was that irreconcilable differences did exist. Accepting the fact that the journalists had been operating in ways consistent with their own consciences, to ask them, or anyone else, to do otherwise would have been unconscionable.

"By the same token, the majority of the Executive Committee members could not continue in good conscience to operate Baptist Press as it was. To do so was unconscionable to them."

In his prepared statement, Pace said, "The issue is not only a free press, but also a fair press with news releases truthful, balanced and equitable."

He rejected charges that the Executive

Committee intends to refashion Baptist Press into "a propaganda tool." Pace responded, "I'm committed to maintaining the integrity and professionalism of Baptist Press...."

"We would like for the Baptist journalists to wait and see what we do with Baptist Press before they automatically prejudice that we're incapable of operating an acceptable free and fair press." (BP)

 cooperative program		
September 1989-June 1990 gifts		
	Month	YTD 10 mon.
June 90	1,469,390	14,121,796
June 89	1,558,444	13,786,341
% Change	(89,054)	335,455
% Change	-5.7%	2.4%
Budget	1,476,441	14,764,408
\$(under)/over	(7,051)	(642,612)
%(under)/over	-0.5%	-4.4%
Year	\$ Over/(Under) Budget to Date	% Increase/Decrease Over Prev Year
89-90	(642,612)	2.4%
88-89	(410,205)	2.9%
87-88	(248,839)	1.6%
86-87	185,991	9.3%
85-86	(940,157)	5.8%
84-85	(634,491)	3.3%
83-84	(208,277)	4.4%

Morehead State recreation program includes shelter

by Beth W. Prassel

Youth at the Morehead Temporary Shelter enjoy being around Victor Gainer, maybe because he plays college basketball, but more likely because he cares about them. Like other recreation majors at Morehead State University, Gainer, a senior, uses his talents to help troubled youth.

He did volunteer work at the Morehead Shelter, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, last summer, organizing parties and games. This summer he has been hired to lead the youth in regular recreational activities.

Gainer first came to the Morehead Shelter at the encouragement of Howard Nesbitt, professor of health, physical education and recreation at MSU, and a member of First Baptist Church, Morehead. Nesbitt explains that some students need projects for field experience classes and internships but says he encourages all his students to get practical experience. "You get so much theory," he explains, "but you have to get out of the classroom to do it."

Nesbitt helps students find places to work and often directs them toward helping groups like those at the shelter or other groups of disadvantaged children.

He says he has always felt compelled to help troubled youth as part of his profession. In recreation centers, community centers, teaching and coaching jobs he has given youth many opportunities.



Victor Gainer (c), MSU basketball player and recreation major, leads Morehead Shelter youth in daily activities.

"We really need more missionary zeal, (which should be) a part of whatever (profession) you're in," he says.

Nesbitt feels his efforts to help both college students and troubled youth have been successful. MSU students work at camps for children from low-income housing, lead special olympics, work with YWCA and take youth for recreational outings, among many other activities.

"I set up the situation and get them involved," he explains. "Then they start

feeling more confident and want to go out and do some of these things themselves. That's what happened with Victor. We've taken him several different places. He liked doing these things, so he went (to the shelter) and volunteered (last summer)."

Gainer has taken the youth on trips to Mammoth Cave, King's Island and Carter Cave. Later in the summer, youth will go camping at a nearby lake and participate in other outdoor activities.

Youth at the shelter will join other area children, ages 10 to 16, for a five-week NCAA sports camp at the university. There Gainer and other students and staff will help youth learn about various sports. Youth also will gain information on nutrition, career planning, educational opportunities, health and drug abuse.

Although Gainer says keeping shelter youth busy helps them stop focusing on their problems, he doesn't spend all his time leading activities. "I try to talk to them and show them I really care," he says. "I feel like I'm the closest one to them. I take a whole lot of time with them, telling them about my life."

Gainer grew up in Cairo, Ga., where he was a star basketball player in high school. But Gainer says he also got into trouble when he became involved in a street gang.

"Then one day, God just woke me up," he says. "I decided to come to college. And I always told myself, one day I would help kids."

When Gainer finishes his education at Morehead, he wants to play basketball overseas and work with troubled youth like those at the shelter. His job is difficult at times, Gainer admits: "Sometimes I take their problems back with me to the dorm."

But he focuses on one fact: "I love what I do. I really understand them a whole lot because I've been there. The only thing they want is love and that's something they've never really had."

Simpson County Association supports youth evangelism

HERE'S HOPE
the story continues

by Betty Anderson
State Correspondent

Simpson County Baptist Association is in the business of bringing hope to their young people. The association provided the way for 60 youth and their sponsors to attend the Kentucky Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference in Frankfort in June.

Simpson County youth have attended the evangelism conference the past three

years. This meeting is "one of the best things Kentucky Baptists have done," insisted Bruce Brown, a co-director of youth activities.

The association budgeted \$800 for youth work the past year. That amount paid the motel rooms for the conference. Various churches whose youth were attending provided transportation. Three young people made professions of faith in Christ, and others recommitted their lives to him, Brown reported. He had reserved the motel rooms when he attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention last November.

Brown supports the association's

funding, feeling: "It's harder each day to win youth. It's going to take more than just the pastor and the local church. The association needs to take up some of the slack and pull together in providing for youth."

So sold on the conference are Brown and co-director Bobby Forshee, mission pastor who is bivocational, that next year will be their biggest project of all—taking along non-Christian, unchurched teenagers as well as associational youth.

Brown, pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Franklin, will be associational moderator next year. Forshee has been a youth leader several years. The mission

where he is pastor, in fact, received an award at the conference for being 10th in the state in youth baptisms.

Brown encouraged other associations to promote and support the evangelism conference, to get teenagers there.

Simpson County Association is small, with perhaps 12 churches, Brown said. They operate independently, paying a monthly stipend to Warren County Baptist Association for some program services. Youth work is one of the biggest budget priorities. Brown would like to provide a youth evangelistic meeting in his association, fashioned after the state conference, he said.

Youth groups participate in big events on a small-church level

by Mary Royals Driskill
State Correspondent

An estimated 600-plus decisions were made at the youth evangelism conference in Frankfort June 22-23. Four of them were made by youth from First Baptist Church, Jackson.

They almost didn't go.

They were without a pastor for a year and had waited too long to make hotel reservations. Finding someone who could go with them was a problem.

Like most small churches, First Jackson is a single-staff church which relies on volunteer laity leadership for youth ministry. Sometimes getting the youth organized to participate in a statewide event like Here's Hope revival efforts and the evangelism conference can be a major challenge—especially without leadership.

Small churches often feel handicapped because they don't have youth ministers or full fledged youth programs available in their churches. Norma Strong, youth discipleship leader at First Jackson, doesn't see that as a problem.

"They're only as handicapped as they let themselves be," she affirmed.

But is participating in statewide events a problem for some smaller churches? It can be.

Billy Compton, associate, Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention, sees the state events as opportunities for small churches to be involved. "It presents a place for small churches to see the youth evangelism conference as a major event they can participate in," said Compton. "A lot of small churches are using the youth evangelism conference as a rallying point. It's a two-day revival atmosphere."

Compton noted larger churches have other options for youth participation on a big scale, like Ridgecrest. Most of the churches attending the Frankfort conference were small. "Larger churches can have rallies on their own," observed Compton. But for the smaller church, that's not an option.

Several lay persons contacted the Office for Evangelism about the youth evangelism conference. They indicated they didn't have a youth minister, and

some didn't even have a pastor, but they wanted to participate.

Compton said that several associations made attending the conference an associational youth project. The association would pay some toward the transportation, housing or registration fees to allow more youth to go. "That's a good way to provide catalyst leadership for rural areas," stressed Compton. "It's an effective way to promote participation." He also suggested associations allocate money in the youth association budget for events like this.

Getting leadership for youth is the key.

Mark Driskill, pastor of First Jackson, faces the frustration of seeing the needs of youth and realizing the limitations of available time and resources. "I can't give as much time and energy to it as it needs," said Driskill. "But youth need to know they are a part of something big—the Christian life."

Compton added that youth ministry built on one person isn't always the best option. "The ministry needs to be built on the basics, not on one personality. The key is involving Sunday school

teachers, Discipleship Training leaders and laity at all levels." A youth council is a good place to begin, he said: "Let them assume the responsibility to plan and participate in youth events."

Driskill sees events like the Frankfort conference as great encouragers for small church youth groups. "It's hard for youth to feel a part of something big, but they are a part," said Driskill. "They're told they are the 'church of tomorrow.' But they're not—they're the church today."

Compton noted that conference personnel can't do all the followup necessary during the event. That's where the local church comes in.

Compton sent decision records to every church and a letter to the pastor, indicating the individuals who had made decisions during the conference. He then sent letters to each person who made a decision, encouraging them to followup by sharing the decision with a local church.

The youth at First Jackson who made decisions have already started Youth Survival Kit, an 11-week course in the basics of Christian discipleship. Three were baptized July 22.

Good job, Kentucky Baptists; you offered hope

Editorial

Marv Knox

Congratulations, Kentucky Baptists. You offered hope to our state this spring and summer.

You took a slogan—"Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You"—and made it reality for 4174 fellow Kentuckians. They attended our simultaneous revivals, heard the Lord's message and accepted faith relationships with Jesus Christ. They never will be the same again. And as they live out their new-found faith, only God knows how many lives will be changed.

Here's Hope refreshed the souls of 9689 Christians, who rededicated their faith commitments during the revivals. Here's Hope helped define the faith of 73 believers, who determined that expressing their faith will mean devoting their lives to full-time Christian service.

Here's Hope energized 1581 churches that participated in the revival campaign, witnessing the baptisms of 3532 new Christians and receiving 1270 fellow believers into their midsts. It delivered into the world three new congregations, born during the emphasis.

Here's Hope carried a message of love and

compassion into cities and villages, from Paducah to Pikeville, from Franklin to Covington. Billboards, magazine ads and television spots all proclaimed Christ's—and Baptists'—concern for the commonwealth.

The simultaneous meetings and media emphasis heightened the visibility of our churches in their communities. It gave them the opportunity to announce to friends and neighbors that, just as "Jesus cares for you," Kentucky Baptists do, too.

Our gratitude should be extended to God, for blessing our human efforts and bringing new life to people, churches, even communities. Thanks

people who poured themselves into our Here's Hope emphasis: director Bill Jagers and associate director Billy Compton of the Kentucky Baptist Office for Evangelism; campaign coordinator Eugene I. Enlow; and Kentucky Baptist executive director William W. Marshall.

Now, the challenge begins. We've got 4174 new Christians to equip for effective service, 1270 new church members to weave into the fabric of our congregations, 9689 rededicated lives to lead to faith fulfillment, 73 new ministers to train.

We've also told our fellow citizens that they have hope because Jesus cares for them. The way

they interpret and structure that hope will in large part be determined by the way they see hope displayed in the lives of Baptist Christians around them. God has used us to lead them to faith; now we must teach them how to express it.

Those new Christians are only the beginning. Our billboards, ads and TV spots have told hundreds of thousands of non-Christians that Jesus cares for them. The truth of that slogan can be proved by our actions. Do we demonstrate the

love of Christ in their presence? Do we love one another? Do we love unbelievers in our midst?

Our actions will reveal Christ's love in us and make real the claim of our bumper stickers: "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You."



Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you.

1990 Simultaneous Revival Emphasis

should be offered to hundreds of laypeople and ministers across the state; they redoubled their efforts to deliver the message of faith to the faithless and speak the word of hope to the hopeless. Special thanks also ought to be extended to four

guest editorial

Total support urged for SBC Cooperative Program

by Morris H. Chapman

Southern Baptists must not be deterred from the gigantic task of winning our world to Christ. Missions and evangelism, along with church growth, have always been at the heart of our faith in action.

Bold Mission Thrust is a vital strategy for planting churches and for reaching the unsaved. I enthusiastically encourage every pastor and church leader to review the goals and methods of Bold Mission Thrust and to ask the question, "How can our church better participate in this historic challenge?"

Now is the time to enhance our cooperative spirit through substantial participation in the Cooperative Program. We must be certain that we do not damage our world mission effort to present

the claims of Christ to the 5 billion people around the globe.

In instances where churches currently give a minimal amount through the Cooperative Program, I urge that prayerful consideration be given to an increased participation.

I strongly disagree with and discourage anyone who would call for withholding Cooperative Program funds or who would call for negative designations (selective designations) to be directed around the Cooperative Program. I caution churches against choosing to bypass certain national agencies and seminaries and likewise caution state conventions against choosing to selectively designate funds on a national level. Such action could lead local churches to decide to support the national organizations to the exclusion of state organizations.

I do not think this generation of Southern Baptists wants to engage in unraveling the method of funding which God has so greatly honored.

Southern Baptists are now poised to enter the '90s with hearts tuned to expanding our witness for Christ around the world. Now is the time for reduced rhetoric, for Christ-like attitudes and for gracious communication. Now is the time to focus on spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Now is the time to boost our worldwide missions enterprise. Now is the time to encourage cooperative participation.

We need to pray that God will grant us wisdom and courage for the facing of this hour.

Chapman is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Tex.

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viewpoint

An appeal to reason

I have read with great interest the hoopla in the Western Recorder over the firing of the two Baptist Press staffers. It is my firm conviction that this is a continuing effort to bloody the nose of the Conservative resurgence.

I would like to pose a few reasonable questions for our readers to consider:

- Why wasn't the full response of Sam Pace, chairman of the Executive Committee, printed without editorial comment in the WR?

- Why wasn't WR readers told that the staffers received seven months severance pay even though they aired their dirty linen in public to embarrass the EC? They only succeeded in injuring the cause of Christ before the secular world.

- Why wasn't all the facts clearly reported concerning the "armed guards" at the meeting? The fact is that attorney Guenther, who would never be accused

of favoring the Conservatives, was the one who requested the off-duty police. He had no idea that Nashville law required them to be armed. It was estimated that up to 1000 from both sides of the issue might be present.

- Finally, why were we not reminded that the staffers had retained an attorney to represent them? So why shouldn't the EC be concerned with a possible lawsuit?

Al Shackelford said his motto was "tell the truth and trust the people." There are two important elements missing in that statement. First—tell all the truth. Second—tell all the truth without any obvious taint of bias. The question is not will we have a free press but will we have a fair press. Will they use fair lead lines and will they do complete reporting instead of selective reporting?

Walter H. Annenburg, in a TV Guide commentary wrote, "Freedom of expres-

sion' and 'academic freedom' are noble sentiments used today as often to justify bias as to condemn it. There was a time when press freedom meant freedom to balance an opinion with an opposite opinion. Now, in the strange reasoning of public radio and television, and frequently in academia, it can just as easily mean freedom to avoid balance."

I appeal to our state editor(s) to become a trumpet call to truth instead of a flute leading bias following—to be a prophet instead of a puppet. Give the new staffers in Nashville time to prove themselves. Criticize the Conservatives when they err. Report the Moderates when they fail. Do it forcefully and fairly. That is a free and fair press. We all must have it.

Allen F. Harrod, pastor
First Baptist Church
Bellevue



on
mission
together

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

Mr. Spencer's gift

In 1885, J. H. Spencer's two-volume history of Kentucky Baptists was published, a remarkable document by a remarkable man.

A number of Baptist leaders had attempted, without success, to accomplish the mammoth task. The years included in his work span the period of 1769 to 1885.

By his own admission, the author collected materials all across the state while preaching from 442 to 572 times a year. (Yes, that is more than once each day!)

He met with surprising resistance at times. Some apparently felt he was doing it for financial gain (which was untrue); others felt reluctant to share their information.

Some of the more accessible information had already been gleaned by other would-be writers. In a number of cases, it had been lost or destroyed; a few felt it was too valuable to part with.

Letters and circulars requesting information received very little attention.

Because of his occupation and calling as evangelist, his work had to be seasonal and his means of travel, a horse.

It took him 19 years to complete his mammoth work to which Kentucky Baptist historians refer as the primary source of information for this beginning period in Kentucky Baptist life. Without it, our historical awareness would be impoverished.

Toward the end of the time of its completion, Spencer's health was "so enfeebled" that he feared he could not live to finish the task. He was so afflicted by rheumatism that he could handle papers only with extreme difficulty and was compelled to employ an amanuensis to do his writing.

Most of the foregoing can be found, almost verbatim, on pages 5-10 of the two-volume preface.

Just a glance through the table of contents is enough to make the true Kentucky Baptist want the two volumes:

"The First Revival in Kentucky;" "Regular and Separate Baptists in the State;" "Agitation on the Subject of Slavery;" "The Indians Overcome;" "Apostasy of Preachers;" "The Jerks. Rolling. Running. Dancing. Barking. Laughing. Visions and Trances;" "The Great Revival Among Baptists;" "Alexander Campbell;" "The Anti-Mission Schism;" "Know Nothingism;" "Georgetown Female Seminary."

One conclusion I have reached in touching base with these volumes again: "There are periods of darkness from time to time; challenges that the Baptists of the day find almost impossible. But as the clock of history ticks on, Kentucky Baptists have endured and grown."

Breath of fresh air

C. R. Daley's comments in "Viewpoint," July 17th issue, concerned what he called "the vast differences that separate the old and new SBCs."

He says the SBC was "overtaken by a deadly virus 11 years ago." I disagree.

I believe that all Southern Baptists need to return to the basic beliefs that our forefathers expressed. It certainly hurts when issues must be confronted, and I feel that the average rural church member has not been made aware of what has happened long before "11 years ago."

Like a cancer, liberal church leaders and teachers have taught that it's OK to question the truth concerning the Word of God. Commentaries on books of the Bible have statements by learned men that question the validity of the miracles recorded in the Bible. They even seem to scoff at the historical reality of events recorded in the Bible.

When our most prestigious centers of learning (our seminaries) have professors who teach that certain accounts in the Bible are merely legends or "wonder stories," it is time to remove this "cancer" from our body before it is destroyed.

As previously stated, 11 years ago men dedicated to the belief that the Bible means exactly what it says decided to stop ignoring the problem and do something about it. Men referred to, by Mr. Daley, as "a deadly virus" in our convention.

A surgeon does not intend to harm the body when he cuts it open. He must do so to remove the problem, make corrections and restore the body to health.

I know that small, rural congregations without a seminary-educated pastor are often considered to be uncivilized, unintelligent or immoral just because they are not "enlightened" by the wisdom of seminary professors. Such churches sim-

ply believe that God's Word is true and do not try to analyze it. It is accepted as stated with no doubts as to its being free from errors and mistakes.

Let Southern Baptists not sacrifice their heritage of doctrinal integrity on the altar of contemporary so-called "authentic education." No professor at any of our seminaries should be permitted to stand before young God-called individuals and feel at liberty to distort the truth of the Bible with theories and the "wisdom of men" as a means of explaining the miracles of God.

"Yes, there is a vast difference between the old and the new SBC, and I say the breath of fresh air we are now experiencing is welcome indeed.

Donald R. Daniel, pastor
Mt. Eden Baptist Church
Shepherdsville



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Is Sunday school boring?

Earlier this year a Nashville newspaper reported results of a 42-month survey conducted among 11,000 members of six mainline Protestant denominations.

The most disturbing finding was that most members believe Sunday school is "boring."

Produced by the Search Institute of Minneapolis, Minn. and commissioned by the six denominations, the report found that only three in 10 adults in the typical church participate in religious education. The survey was conducted among 563 congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Southern Baptist Convention, United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church.

The low Sunday school participation was linked to outdated methods, difficulty in recruiting teachers, lack of interest, content failure in meeting adult and adolescent needs, busy schedules and parental indifference.

The report noted that Southern Baptists alone have thus far avoided the slide. A relatively "mature and integrated faith" was cited as the key. Prime reasons: a tradition emphasizing personal faith witnessing to others, regular Bible reading, doctrinal insistence that salvation is a gift from God, early involvement in Sunday school and enthusiasm for congregational life and worship.

There are implications: (1) None of us has a right to be comfortable with the status quo. The typical Southern Baptist Sunday school won't find more than 50% of its members present on a given Sunday. (2) The reasons cited for our failures seem legitimate. The Sunday school battles a lot of forces. (3) We must employ the most ingenious methods we can to attract new members and retain those already enrolled.

I don't have the answers. One may be to produce materials that relate Bible truths precisely to where people live. It takes years to develop new products. That's a task for Sunday School Board editors. But I believe we can take the materials we now have and apply them in better ways, too.

If your adult Sunday school has lost its zip, some excellent resources exist to help you.

Among the best I have encountered is Findley B. Edge's *Teaching for Results*. It should be required reading for every adult Sunday school teacher. Published by Broadman in 1956, its precepts are as valid now as then. Use it and I predict your class members will never have cause to say, "Sunday school is boring!"

Ethics takes back seat to immorality, leader says

by Terri Lackey

Immoral behavior in America has become the rule rather than the exception, and the result has forced Christian ethics to take a seat behind moral confusion, a discipleship training conference leader said.

"America is in a state of moral confusion. The people of America, the home of the free and the brave, say, 'If it feels good, do it; if it's OK with you, it's OK with me,'" Anna Marie Edgemon of Nashville told participants in a session on ethical issues during the discipleship training leadership conference at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Edgemon, a former missionary to China and wife of Roy Edgemon, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship training department, led the conference based on content of a new Equipping Center module, "The Bible Speaks to Today's Ethical Issues."

The discipleship training resource addresses abortion, abuse, addiction, personal economics, world economics, homosexuality and pornography.

Statistics cited point out that the extent of moral confusion includes:

- 40 abortions are performed for every 100 live births in the United States today.
- Teenage pregnancy and abortion rates are about twice those of other industrialized nations such as Britain, Canada, France and Sweden.
- One girl in four and one boy in seven are sexually abused.
- As many as 45% of women have been subjected to rape or attempted rape.

• Twenty-five thousand highway deaths are caused each year by drunken drivers.

• Pornography is an \$8 billion-per-year business.

Edgemon attributed much of today's diminished morality to "the breakdown in family life."

Parents in broken families or parents who do not spend much time with their children are less inclined to teach their

children strong moral values, she said.

"We must ground our children in the Word of God. We must see the Word of God as our resource against immorality," she said.

Edgemon said immorality affects all walks of life, from fallen politicians and religious leaders to insider trading on Wall Street and improprieties in college sports.

Christian ethics, she said, is affected

by five basic social institutions—economics, education, family, government and religion.

Education on moral and ethical issues is a role which could and should be carried out by the churches, said Edgemon.

"Sometimes as Christians, we are not seen as being 'with it,' but we have the responsibility of trying to shape the morals of the society in which we live." (BP)



ABORTION MARKERS—Harp's Crossing Baptist Church in Fayette, Ga., covered its grounds with 4400 small white crosses to symbolize the number of abortions performed in America daily. An accompanying sign explains the number of crosses and references Psalm 139:1-16, which includes the passage "you have formed my inward parts; you have covered me in my mother's womb." (HMB photo by Paul Obregon)

Sound doctrine linked to effective evangelism, Vestal asserts

by Terri Lackey

Southern Baptists who do not study the doctrines of their own denomination will stray into false beliefs and will not be effective evangelists, Daniel Vestal and Roy Edgemon said at Glorieta (N. M.)

Baptist Conference Center.

"Effective evangelism is impossible apart from sound theology," Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church, Atlanta, said during discipleship training leadership conference June 30-July 6

Edgemon, director of the Baptist Sun-

day School Board's discipleship training department which sponsors the annual Baptist Doctrine Study conducted in many churches each spring, was interviewed during the conference which drew about 1200 participants.

"Without sound doctrine, it is possi-

ble for our piety and our spirituality to become harmful and hurtful and stray into error," Vestal said.

One problem of Christian society is "we have people who do not want to hear doctrinal preaching or teaching."

Instead, he noted, "Christians say, 'Give me something that makes me feel good, or give me something that makes me wealthy or something that can help me cope.'"

Edgemon compared doctrine to a human skeleton. Without a strong knowledge of doctrine, he said, Southern Baptists have no structure for their beliefs and are "apt to fall for any false teaching that comes their way."

One false doctrine churches of today are grappling with is the doctrine of universalism, he said: "Here, the idea is evangelism is not important. Christians believe that somehow people will hear about Christ and accept him without personal evangelism."

One noticeable result of the presence of universalism in Southern Baptist churches has been the decline in the number of baptisms, Edgemon said.

"Churches in the Southern Baptist Convention which did not report any baptisms at all increased last year to 21.2 percent, or 8003 churches," he said.

In another area, Southern Baptists need to study important doctrines inherent to their denomination to "counterattack the new-age movement and cults that are taking over America," Edgemon said.

He said some important Southern Baptist doctrines include the doctrine of God, the doctrine of atonement or salvation, the doctrine of holiness or holy living, the doctrine of creation and the doctrine of the lordship of Christ.

Vestal said Christians should study doctrine so they might "know God, love God and serve God." (BP)

Worship traditions bind some Southern Baptists

by Charles Willis

Southern Baptists may be bound in a humdrum worship pattern out of traditions they have not analyzed, a church music educator said during Church Music Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"Many of the rules we follow in our worship have been established through tradition," observed Jeri Graham, artist-in-residence at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. "We've come by these elements from a pretty rich history, but we've forgotten why they were selected in the first place. Without planning it or expecting it, Southern Baptists have become very ritualistic—tradition bound."

Graham noted that almost without exception, the forms of worship used in Southern Baptist churches Sunday after Sunday include a call to worship; invocation, pastoral, offertory, and benediction prayers; announcements; scripture read-

ing by the pastor, responsively or in unison by the congregation; the offering; congregational singing of three hymns; special music by the choir or a soloist; a children's sermon; the pastor's sermon; and an invitation. These are sandwiched between musical preludes and postludes.

Variations, she said, may include observance of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

"I don't begin to suggest you drop any of them," Graham said. "We're not looking at change for change sake."

But Graham said she believes changes in worship form "freshen thinking. We provide the atmosphere for people to meet God. We need serious goals of worship in mind when we go to the auditorium and all the leaders in a service need to know what the goals are."

Worship planners need to ask how the service can be planned to communicate the essence of the worship goals.

She said she is concerned some worship planners hesitate to change any of

the order of worship because the congregation may find change uncomfortable.

"'Comfortable' is a deadly word," Graham said. "We have to be uncomfortable enough to move. We need to be reasonably comfortable but stimulated to think for the sake of our purpose—to meet God."

Graham said exchanging worship ideas with other ministers of music is one way to find ways to break the stagnation that causes worshipers' minds to wander during a predictable service. She also advocates talking to people in the congregation to see what they would like.

"Dare to be original, read books, look at other church's bulletins, borrow and adapt ideas."

Graham said she believes tradition for the sake of tradition "has had a dulling effect on us, making worship a comfortable habit. We are engaged in the most important task in the world when we gather people together to worship," she declared. "How can we be so lazy about it?" (BP)

Churches should prepare for aging baby boomers

Issues facing older Americans will be key ministry areas as baby boomers age, a Southern Baptist missionary claimed.

In the year 2011, the first of the baby boomers will be 65 years old, B. J. Dier, a national missionary based in Florida, said during the annual home missions confer-

ence at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center.

One of the greatest needs will be for adequate housing, Dier said.

Apart from housing, churches could be involved in other programs to help senior adults remain independent.

Another program churches could provide is senior adult day care, he suggested. This is designed for senior citizens who live with their children or other adults. Social activities are provided during the day while caregivers are at work. (BP)

Agency heads discuss 'threat' to Cooperative Program

by Mark Wingfield

Leaders of two Southern Baptist agencies disagreed about whether churches threatening to withhold contributions to the Cooperative Program unified budget are holding missionaries hostage.

Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis and Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder disagreed July 22 at a town hall meeting during "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

In later interviews, both affirmed the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified funding mechanism for missions. Both Elder and Lewis last year joined other members of the Southern Baptist Inter-agency Council in support of the Cooperative Program and in opposition to negative designation or withholding of funds from certain causes.

The topic of the Cooperative Program

was raised as the last question during a one-hour dialogue.

Since the denomination's annual meeting in June, some churches and state conventions have said they might redirect their national offerings to bypass certain agencies. Such decisions are in reaction to 12 years of political victories by denominational Conservatives, who now control most national SBC agencies.

"Yes, I think the greatest threat to the Cooperative Program in its history is being experienced right now," Lewis said. "I get very nervous and anxious when I hear talk of alternate plans, negative designation, withholding funds."

"Folks, let's understand what it is: it's a blatant frontal attack on the Cooperative Program, which has been our lifeline for missions support."

"There are a lot of problems in our convention," Lewis continued. "There are ways perhaps we need to go about

solving them. But I don't believe holding our missionaries hostage is the way.

"I hope in your churches, I hope in your associations, you will do everything you can to dig in your heels and bow your back and say: 'No, no, no, this is not the Baptist way. We're not going to hold our missionaries hostage while we try to figure out who ought to be president of the Southern Baptist Convention.'"

Elder replied: "I know of absolutely no Southern Baptist church wanting to hold our missionaries—either home missionaries or foreign missionaries—as hostages."

"I do know that Southern Baptists' missionary participation and support is built on trust. We are a volunteer organization. I also know that local Southern Baptist churches have tough decisions to make. There's a vast number of ways to support missions, and broad-based participation and involvement and trust

building have served us well.

"What I see happening is that we today should be very prayerful and mindful because decisions will be made in the local church on what folks will do voluntarily. And where they are given opportunity for participation and involvement in decision-making, there will be continued support."

"I know of absolutely no local church with a gun to the head of any missionary, trying to hold our mission agents hostage," Elder said. "I know of many Southern Baptist churches deeply troubled about a lack of opportunity for involvement in the missionary enterprise called Southern Baptist Cooperative Program."

In an interview after the public meeting, Elder again affirmed his belief in the Cooperative Program but said he believes Southern Baptist agencies must listen to the churches as agencies damage to the unified funding plan. (BP)

Directors of missions consider their role in SBC controversy

by Sarah Zimmerman

In the midst of denominational conflict, some Southern Baptist associational directors of missions see themselves as the "glue that can keep churches on track for missions and ministry."

About 25 DOMs met for a church conflict management seminar during home missions week at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center. The last hour of the two-day seminar became an informal dialogue among participants as they focused on their response to the Southern Baptist Convention theological-political controversy.

Because of the pressure they feel from conflicting churches, none of the participants would allow their comments to be attributed for this story.

"How can we address this (in the association) intelligently and maintain our integrity?" one DOM asked the group.

Another reported that churches in his association are saying, "We're no longer represented; why should we keep giving?"

One man responded: "We have to ask ourselves why we are giving to missions. Because I am not recognized at the top does not relieve me of my responsibility to give to missions."

Such answers did not seem to satisfy at least one man who said that attitude was like "sticking your head in the sand."

Their concern about missions giving centered around the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget. Together, the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board and six Southern Baptist seminaries receive about 90 percent of the convention's \$137 million annual Cooperative Program receipts.

Some Moderate churches have announced plans to reduce or withdraw giving to the Cooperative Program because they believe Moderates are no longer represented on the convention's governing bodies.

In the conflict environment, one DOM asserted: "We can intervene to be the glue that holds us together. We have to try to keep our churches on track for missions and ministry."

George W. Bullard Jr., the seminar's leader, said: "As denominational servants, we have to find ways to work with all the churches. I must do everything I can to keep everyone I serve on mission for God's kingdom." Bullard is state director of missions for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

To be effective, Bullard said, associational directors of missions should refrain

from taking a side in the convention controversy. "If we become identified with one group, we lose our right to be servant of all."

The key to associational integrity, Bullard said, is to maintain fellowship among pastors and churches.

The group applied principles from the seminar to the past 12 years in the Southern Baptist Convention. To simplify the discussion, participants used the terms "fundamental-conservative" and "moderate-conservative."

Challenged church apparently cooperated with SBC

by Ferrell Foster

A church characterized during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting as not being a cooperating SBC church apparently was in "friendly cooperation."

Messengers from Emmanuel Baptist Church in McAllen, Tex., turned in their ballots before the convention in anticipation of a challenge to their credentials.

The situation created some of the most emotional protests during the meeting in New Orleans because the church's pastor, Roland Lopez, was chairman of the SBC Committee on Nominations.

In a July 13 telephone interview, Lopez said he and another church-elected messenger turned in their ballots to help bring "peace to the convention." The church itself gave no money to SBC causes during an 18-month period from 1988 to May 1990, he said. But its mission, Prince of Peace Baptist Mission in McAllen, did give through the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget in 1989.

Records of the Baptist General Convention of Texas show the mission gave \$881 in 1989, according to Roger Hall, treasurer.

"The membership of the mission are members of our church," Lopez said, and thus its contributions count on behalf of the mother church. That giving, he believes, satisfies the technical requirements of the SBC for messengers to be seated.

The SBC constitution says messengers will be seated from churches "in friendly cooperation with this convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the convention's work."

Lawton Searcy, chairman of the SBC Credentials Committee during the annual meeting, said he believes Emmanuel Church was a cooperating church,

Bullard said when the conflict began, "moderate-conservatives acted as though fundamental-conservatives would be willing to stop with balance." However, people in extreme positions on each side of the issues have "belief systems that are so intense they won't allow for balance," Bullard said.

One thing that prevents the conclusion of the controversy is the lack of a middle ground, Bullard suggested. "Southern Baptists have clearly defined the difference between a fundamental-conserva-

tive and a moderate-conservative. But no distinction between a moderate and a liberal has been defined. Without it, the middle has no way to emerge."

Bullard said both fundamental-conservatives and moderate-conservatives are loyal to the Southern Baptist Convention, noting "many denominations split in fewer years of controversy."

He said the fact that the SBC has not split "shows a high level of commitment to what we're about as Southern Baptists." (BP)

but that information supporting that position was not available early on the opening day of the annual meeting.

"In my opinion, after viewing all of the information, after personally talking with Mr. Lopez and members of his congregation, I feel that Mr. Lopez's church is a friendly, cooperating church," said Searcy, pastor of First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, La.

"Due to the lack of information at the time and due to the time factor itself, it simply was not possible to make the appropriate decisions" at the beginning of the annual meeting.

Don't weaken evangelism, missionary urges

by Mark Wingfield

A foreign missionary pleaded with Southern Baptists not to be the missing link in world evangelization.

Clifford Vick, a church planter in Leuven, Belgium, issued the challenge during "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center. "The ultimate goal of all mission efforts is to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ," he said. "They must hear the gospel message, but how will they hear?"

Vick based his message on four questions found in Acts 10 that form "essential links in the gospel chain:" belief, hearing, calling and sending.

"The great danger comes when there are weak or missing links in this chain," Vick declared. "If any link in the chain is missing, it can all fall apart and the goal of bringing people to Christ can break down."

For example, if Southern Baptists believe the gospel is intended for everyone, they must give everyone the opportunity to hear the gospel, Vick said. "If any nation of our world does not hear the gospel,

there is a missing link in the gospel chain."

Vick explained that at least 1.3 billion people in the world have never heard the gospel explained one time. In addition, there are millions who have been exposed to the gospel but have never really heard it, he said.

The foreign missionary lamented that 95 percent of Christian preachers continue to focus their energies on 5 percent of the world's population.

If God cares for all the world and wants everyone to hear the gospel, the problem must be that some messengers aren't willing to be transferred to places of need, Vick suggested.

He chided pastors who are more concerned with career advancement than giving every nation a chance to hear the gospel. "A lot of what we call success God sees as nothing," he said. "God is concerned about getting the message out to the whole world. But without messengers, the gospel chain is broken."

Although not everyone can be sent as a missionary, all can "hold the ropes" through praying and giving, he said. (BP)

Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore:

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

Necessities for a good summer youth trip:

- Large youth group.
- Travel to a distant place.
- Camp program staff from across the country.
- Glamour.
- Stereotypical, maybe, but not necessarily true.

Kentucky may have some of the country's best summer youth weeks at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assemblies.

In fact, one youth minister stated the programs his group had attended.

But possibly the best reactions to the assemblies come from youth themselves. Stephanie and Angela Clausen, Jeana Smith and Rebecca Fight, from Crab Orchard Baptist Church in Lincoln City, have attended youth week for several years.

"Each year it seems like it gets better,"

they say. "Our experience with Christ seems to strengthen more."

Nine youth weeks, six at Cedarmore near Bagdad and three at Jonathan Creek near Aurora, attract throngs of youth from Kentucky Southern Baptist churches. This summer Cedarmore registered almost 300 youth, leaders and staff in its largest week, July 9-13. Jonathan Creek averaged 210 per week.

"Discovery," coined several years ago by Ralph Hopkins, associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Student Department, is the title for youth weeks each year. Discipleship is highlighted in hopes youth will discover more about themselves and put spiritual growth into perspective.

The theme of Discovery changes yearly. "Decisions, Decisions, Decisions" is this year's focus.

About 15 to 20 churches bring youth to Discovery each week. Most bring eight to 10 youth in grades seven to 12, but some groups have over 40 youth. Tom Smoot, Student

Department associate, coordinates Discovery. He works primarily with the Son Teams, five performance teams of students from Kentucky Baptist unions. (See related story.) Three teams staff each week of Discovery.

Assistant Discovery director is Leslie Pack, a speech therapist in Carter County and member of First Baptist Church, Russell. Though this is her second year as assistant, she is no stranger to youth weeks. She's been a camper, Son Team member and counselor. As assistant director, Pack is a liaison between counselors, youth and staff. A major responsibility is coordinating the Son Teams.

This year for the first time Discovery has a full time recreation assistant, Phyllis Ferguson, a University of Louisville student.

Each week has a different director, a campus minister whose duty is to be a representative of the KBC, says Clay Mulford, campus minister at Western Kentucky University. They provide a resource for Son

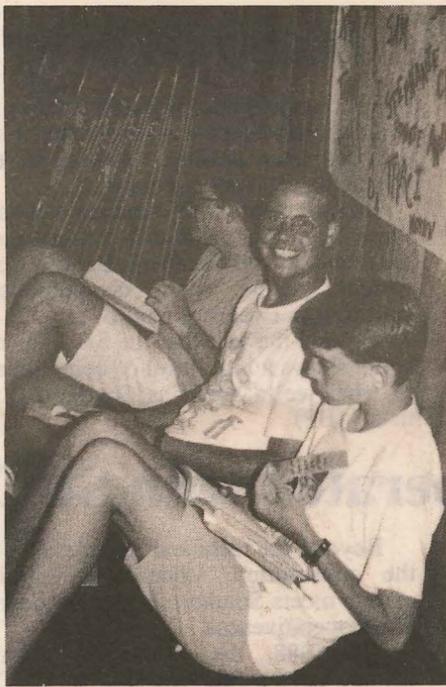
Team members who counsel youth.

Each week also brings a new camp pastor from a Kentucky church. Primarily, the pastor's responsibilities are for worship services.

Discovery begins Monday afternoons and ends after lunch Fridays. Beginning Monday evenings, the weeks are packed with Bible study, recreation, worship and just plain fun.

■ The Beginning—After Monday's evening meal youth are divided into eight teams, each designated by a color, for the week's Bible study and recreation. Then comes "Welcome to Camp," an orientation to the week's activities. Color groups introduce themselves with original cheers or words put to the tune of popular songs. Finally, the room roars with laughter as Son Team members perform several spoofs of the television series "Hee Haw."

■ Bible Study—Each morning after breakfast and personal devotion time, color groups participate in Bible study led by Son Team



BIBLE STUDY—A primary emphasis for youth at Discovery is Bible study. These young men discuss decisions as they read the Bible passage.



WORKSHOPS—Afternoons at Discovery begin with a variety of special-interest workshops. Here, youth read through a script for beginning drama.



LEARNING SKILLS—Helping youth develop self-esteem, leaders say. Youth at Discovery may participate in the afternoon workshops.



WORSHIP—Evenings at Discovery provide a time of fun and seriousness. The worship service includes special music and group songs, one of the activities youth most enjoy. (photos by Lawanda Smith)

Son Teams highlight for Kentucky

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

Son Share players began helping with two youth camps at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly in 1976. Since then, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Student Department has expanded its summer camp ministry to include five Son Teams. The department's associate director, Tom Smoot, believes the teams have contributed to Discovery's growing popularity.

Smoot coordinates all five teams at camp and directs Son Share, the drama team. Campus ministers direct other teams: Son Celebration music team, Rick Howerton of Northern Kentucky University; Son Praise revival team, Rick Trexler of Eastern Kentucky University; Son Bound sports team, Gene Parr of Morehead State University; Son Burst creative ministries team, Angela Perkins of University of Louisville.

The Student Department holds auditions for the teams beginning in November. Selections are made in February.

Team members for this year include:

- Son Share: Tony Carney, Georgetown; Keith Farmer, Morehead; John Griffin, Northern; Michelle Hudson, Northern; Rebecca Morris, University of Louisville.

- Son Celebration: Jeffrey Driggs, Cumberland; Jerett Gieseler, Morehead; Joseph Jenkins, University of Louisville; Stacy Liggett, Henderson Community College; Shannan Peery, Murray; Robert Roy, Cumberland; Joy Wallace, Cumberland.

- Son Praise: Amy Cade, Northern; Shannon Harter, Cumberland; Tina Miller, Cumberland; Amy Reeves, University of Louisville; Terry Tipton, Campbellsville.

- Son Bound: Kimberly Beam, Morehead; Cynthia Gore, Campbellsville; Scott

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Places of 'Discovery' for youth

members. A typical study begins with an ice-breaker. Small group activities follow. In one session, youth discussed three topics: decisions they made that day, decisions they would make during the year and decisions they would face the remainder of the week. The Bible study, Matt. 27:11-26, focused on Pilate's decision to allow the Jews to crucify Jesus.

"Pilate let the crowd make his decision," stressed Joy Wallace, student at Cumberland College in Williamsburg. "Sometimes we'd rather listen to others than make our own decisions. God through Jesus Christ can deliver us if we give ourselves totally over to God every day," she offered.

■ **Morning Celebration**—All youth gather following Bible study for a time of announcements, fun songs, skits, testimonies and special music. Staff, counselors and youth participate in "mission moments," telling about their mission experiences. In addition, Son Team members give testimonies about their

experiences as teenagers, focusing on such things as peer pressure, parents' divorce or drug and alcohol abuse. Morning Celebration is dismissed with prayer before lunch.

■ **Workshops and Recreation**—To begin afternoon activities, youth choose from a wide range of workshops. The three-hour workshops are built on stages; youth attend the same workshop for an hour daily. Activities include choir, physical fitness, indoor/outdoor games, sign language, puppets, multi-media, poster making, drama and recreation leadership.

Later, color teams compete in team sports. Activities include variations of volleyball, basketball and frisbee as well as table games and the ever-popular swimming.

■ **Talent Show**—Tuesday afternoon youth audition for a highlight of the week, Wednesday evening's talent show. Some acts are humorous—one youth performed a lip sync act to Ray Stevens' "Mississippi Squirrel Revival"—while others are more serious.

The show is filled with solos, duets, puppets and skits, and whether the performers or audience has more fun is a toss-up.

■ **Evenings**—Worship, church group meetings and special features follow the evening meal. Music and scripture reading aid the worship atmosphere before the camp pastor brings the message. In one service, Jim England, pastor of Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville, reminded youth that some of them were moving from the sheepfold into the wilderness. He offered suggestions for decision making:

- Do not let fear make your decisions.
- Do not listen to those who do not love.
- Listen to the voice that says God believes in you.
- Listen to one who says Christ died for you.

Following church group meetings, Son Team members present a special feature. One of the most enjoyable, youth say, is the campfire Monday evenings. They partici-

pate in traditional campfire songs, and the camp pastor introduces the week's theme.

But Discovery is much more than days full of activities. It is a means by which young lives are influenced for Christ, leaders say.

"One of our goals is for youth to see Christian examples," Pack relates. "Some of the inner city youth tell us camp is not the real world. But then they hear testimonies from Son Team members who have come from the same background they have. Other youth can relate to college students who have grown up in a Christian lifestyle."

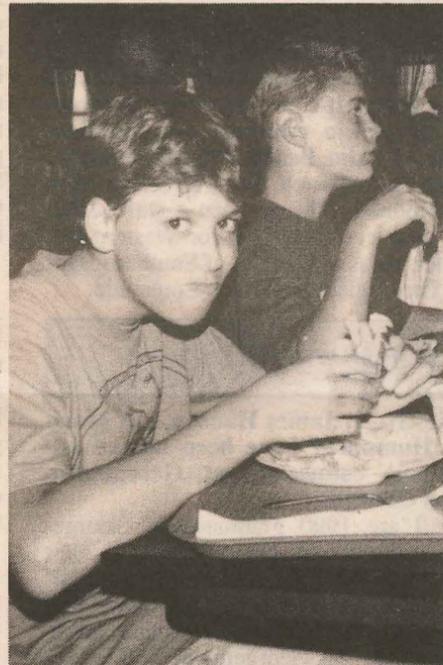
"The value of youth week has to do with connectedness and community," England added. "It interrupts the normal routine where peer pressure is strong. It connects youth with other young people and examples of faith in a community setting where they can grow. For the non-Christian, it provides a setting where they can think seriously about faith."



develop interests and skills is important to Discovery may choose to work puppets in one of



RECREATION—Spiritual and physical exercise are encouraged at Discovery. Youth enjoy earthball, a unique variation of volleyball.



LUNCH TIME—With so many energizing Discovery activities, it's no wonder youth heartily enjoy the meals at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore.

Eight Discovery '90 Tucky youth

Mikels, Morehead; Michael Sanders, University of Kentucky; Michael Steely, Cumberland.

• **Son Burst:** Christina Davis, Paducah Community College; Richard Foster, University of Louisville; Jacob Vincent, Georgetown; Laura Werts, Cumberland; Edward Wesley, Georgetown.

At the beginning of the summer, all teams participate in a two-week intensive training program at Cedarmore, Smoot says. Training culminates in a dinner theater. About 200 people attended this year's; teams began performances the next day, June 11. They perform seven days a week until Aug. 6.

Three teams participate in each week of Discovery '90, while two other teams work with churches and associations across Kentucky. Activities include programs in state parks, vacation Bible schools and youth

rallies, as well as church worship services and fellowships.

A highlight of the summer is working with Spring Meadows and Glen Dale Children's Homes, say some team members.

Teams also work with other KBC departments, Smoot says. This year Son Share and Son Celebration were part of the youth evangelism conference in Frankfort.

Still, team members believe, probably the most intensive part of the summer is Discovery '90. All teams teach Bible studies, lead morning celebration, conduct workshops, help with recreation, present a nightly 45-minute feature and participate in worship.

The summer leaves an impact on student missionaries.

"I'll never forget this summer," says Jeff Driggs. "These experiences will be with me a lifetime."



SON TEAMS—Teams of students from Kentucky Baptist student unions spend their summer working with youth at Discovery. During Monday's "Welcome to Camp," members introduce themselves to youth in a take-off on the TV show "Hee Haw."

christian education

southwestern seminary

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary president Russell Dilday conferred 141 degrees during July 13 commencement ceremonies at the Ft. Worth, Tex. school, including two from Kentucky. Sondra Epley received an MA degree in religious education. Wayne Allen Day received a doctorate in education.

Bruce Corley, associate professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be nominated dean of the seminary's School of Theology when the board of trustees meets Oct. 15-16.

Corley, 47, has taught at Southwestern since 1976. If elected, he will succeed William Tolar who was elected vice president for academic affairs and provost at the March trustees' meeting. Tolar is replacing the retiring John Newport.

palm beach college

Greg Hodnett assumed duties as director of public relations and publications at Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., effective May 29. Hodnett, 35, has been a staff writer and state correspondent for Western Recorder. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

georgetown college

Julie Greer, James Hanson and Marilyn Humphrey have been named admissions counselors at Georgetown (Ky.) College.

All are 1990 graduates of Georgetown. Greer, of Danville, will cover south central Kentucky. Hanson, of Owenton, has been assigned to western Kentucky, Nashville and Indiana, while Humphrey, of Georgetown, will cover northern Kentucky and Ohio.

More than 70 percent of Georgetown College alumni from 1980-86 said they would choose to attend the institution again if they were starting over, according to a national survey conducted by the American College Testing program. Over half the respondents thought a Georgetown education was better than that offered at other institutions. Among major strengths were the quality of faculty, faculty/student ratio, Christian environment and Georgetown's liberal arts emphasis.



Bill Messer (l), of Ashland, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, expressed his appreciation for Campbellsville (Ky.) College during the school's groundbreaking for a student activities center June 21. The \$700,000 project was initiated with a gift of \$100,000 from the Brown Foundation. Campbellsville president Ken Winters is at right.

A senior art exhibit by Rebecca Lee Hill is on view in the Cralle Student Center lobby at Georgetown College through Aug. 31. She is a graduate of Scott County High School and a 1990 graduate of Georgetown. Currently she is teaching community education classes on drawing and beginning painting at Georgetown.

Andrew Baker and Michelle Wise are the first recipients of the Georgetown College Department of Music's Scott County student scholarships. Each student's award carries an additional \$600 per year grant beyond the basic scholarship offered to a music major or minor. The Music Department will offer two awards each year to Scott County music students.

Georgetown College will grant the MA degree in education to more than 130 graduate students at the school's first such commencement Aug. 18 at 10 a.m. in John L. Hill Chapel. Normally, both the bachelor's and master's degree candidates are honored at Georgetown's spring commencement. The Honorable Carroll Hubbard, United States Representative from the first Kentucky district and a graduate of Georgetown, will give the commencement address.

The Georgetown College chapter of Phi Beta Lambda business fraternity was selected as a Gold Seal chapter for outstanding service at the national leadership conference in Washington D. C. Several students and projects earned national honors.

W. Morgan Patterson, president of Georgetown College, has been appointed by the Baptist World Alliance as vice chairman of the Baptist Heritage Study Commission in the Study and Research Division, 1990-95.

clear creek college

K. Maynard Head, vice president for development at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, earned an EdD degree at Vanderbilt University, Nashville. His field of study was higher education administration. A 1963 graduate of Clear Creek, he also holds an MEd degree from Vanderbilt.

cumberland college

Cumberland (Ky.) College professors G. W. Reeves and Garland Young, members of the Society of Biblical Literature, are involved in an international Greek New Testament text project of collation of selected manuscripts against the Oxford 1873 reprint of the Textus Receptus, New Testament portion.

Collation critically compares the manuscript of a book against an earlier, standard manuscript. Reeves and Young, members of the Religion Department at Cumberland, each have two manuscripts to collate.

southern seminary

Sheila M. Smith has been named assistant director of prospective student services at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. She will provide information and services for prospective students in seven states. The Lexington native worked for two years on the admissions staff of Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia. At Southern, she is pursuing an MDiv/CE degree. She earned a bachelor's degree in public relations from Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond in 1986.

campbellsville college

H. Ray England, trustee of Campbellsville (Ky.) College, and his wife Leslie were appointed missionaries to the Philippines in June. The Campbellsville board extended a vote of congratulations to the couple. England has been

pastor of First Baptist Church, Winchester, since 1982. He received a BA degree from Campbellsville and MDiv and PhD degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

mid-continent college

Two adjunct faculty members have been appointed at Mid-Continent Baptist College, Mayfield, for the 1990 fall semester. Thomas Walden will be associate professor of science. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Paducah, and holds a PhD in physics from Mississippi State University. B. J. Bennett, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clinton, will be assistant professor of Bible. He holds a ThD from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Preregistration at Mid-Continent is July 30-Aug. 3.

independent Ky. colleges

Kentucky's three Baptist colleges, Campbellsville, Cumberland in Williamsburg and Georgetown, participate in an annual interviewing event to help seniors find employment after graduation. "Spotlight on Employment" is sponsored by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities, an advocacy group for the state's private colleges. The 1990 Spotlight attracted 54 employers from across the region who interviewed over 350 college seniors from 17 colleges.

Employers interested in participating in Spotlight should contact a college coordinator: Patricia Cowherd, Campbellsville; Annabeth Brooks, Cumberland; Theo Leverenz, Georgetown.

baptist student unions

Michael Davis, area campus minister in the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association, is seeking to locate Southern Baptist students attending Chicago universities and Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. Contact Baptist Student Ministries, 2216 Maple Ave. #305, Evanston, IL 60201.

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Miller will be new campus ministers at the University of Montana in Missoula as Mission Service Corps volunteers. The couple requests prayer and financial support. Contact them at 4537 Providence Place, New Orleans, LA 70126 or Roger Hill, director of missions, Glacier Association, Missoula, MT.

— classified ads —

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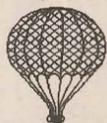
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mountains to the mississippi

missions

David and Sonya Coppedge, missionaries to Uruguay, are on the field. Address: Av. Agraciado, 3452 Montevideo, Uruguay. She is the former Sonya Alford of Artemus.

The Foreign Mission Board has named 46 people to work overseas through International Service Corps. They will work alongside missionaries for four months to two years. Those from Kentucky include **Michael and Michelle Barnett**, Kevil, literacy education in Asia; **Susan Harralson**, Madisonville, kindergarten teacher in Asia; **Bill Warmath**, pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Pembroke, interim pastor in Japan; **Mary Warmath**, Pembroke, church and home in Japan; **Wick Wood**, Lexington, maintenance coordinator in Israel; **Nere Wood**, Lexington, church and home in Israel.

Seventeen youth and six adults from **Immanuel Baptist Temple**, Henderson, spent July 15-21 doing mission work with First Baptist Church, Newtown, Oh. The team conducted four backyard Bible clubs each morning and led a vacation Bible school each evening. They presented the musical "People Need the Lord" Sunday night. **James L. Bunch** is pastor of First Newtown, **Dennis R. Plank** is pastor of Immanuel and **Tommy Tate** is minister of music and youth at Immanuel.

Five people from **Burlington (Ky.) Baptist Church** will be going to Australia as short term foreign missions volunteers. Under the auspices of the Foreign Mission Board, they will work in the western territory of Perth. Volunteers include **Betty Abdon**, **Ron Morris**, **Elizabeth Kirtley**, **Jane Dill** and **Randy Dill**. A commissioning service is planned Sunday, Aug. 5. Departure is Aug. 9.

congregations

Highland Park First Baptist Church, Louisville, will relocate and build a new structure on Billtown Road in Louisville. July 29 will be the last full day of services at the present location. The congregation will have a closing ceremony at 8 a.m. Aug. 5 and will proceed to the new location for an opening ceremony at 9 a.m. Aug. 12 will be dedication day.

Beulah Nelson, 93, and **Laura Bethel Bennet**, 87, were honored as 75-year members of **Zion Baptist Church**, Henderson. They were presented with Kentucky Colonels and roses.

Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, completed a fund raising campaign and voted to build a family life center and improve music and education facilities. Construction on the \$2.3 million family life center will begin this summer. Completion is slated for November 1991.

This year's August artist's series at **Walnut Street Baptist Church**, Louisville, will feature music from 1815 to the present. The Aug. 5 concert will highlight music written between 1815-65. Music from 1866-1900 will be spotlighted Aug. 12. Aug. 19 will feature early twentieth century music, including the work of **B. B. McKinney**. The series will conclude Aug. 26 with contemporary gospel songs. All concerts, presented by a 12-member ensemble, begin at 6 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Walnut Street is celebrating its 175th anniversary.

Thirty-seven people from **Hartford (Ky.) Baptist Church** helped rebuild houses in South Carolina destroyed by last September's hurricane Hugo. Fifteen adults spent five days finishing construction on nine homes destroyed by the storm. Twenty-two teenagers conducted backyard Bible classes at two churches. The team assisted Volunteer Ministries, a group that usually helps rebuild churches. **David Bullock** is pastor of Hartford and **Dean Gray** is minister of music and youth.

personnel

Chris Carden resigned as minister of education and youth at West Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville.

Jim Morrison resigned as associate pastor and business administrator at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville. He goes to the Annuity Board in Dallas, Tex., as director of the board's largest region.

Ginny Reasor is minister of youth and recreation at Southside Baptist Church, Louisville. **Eddie Jones** is interim minister of music.

Jim Carpenter resigned as pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Nicholasville. He goes to Woodland Baptist Church, Middletown.

Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, called **Hershael W. York** as pastor.

James Sasser retired as pastor of Clover Bottom Baptist Church, Berea.

Tyner (Ky.) Baptist Church called **James Morgan** as pastor.

Duke Memorial Baptist Church, Somerset, called **Alan Dodson** as minister of music.

Larry Wishon is pastor of Pleasant Run Baptist Church, Stab.

Jim Molden resigned as pastor of Hopeful Baptist Church, Nancy.

Northside Baptist Church, Science Hill, called **Samuel Paul** as minister of youth.

Thomas Downey resigned as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Greensburg.

Pinckneyville Baptist Church, Salem, called **Eugene Wyatt** as interim pastor.

Joe Ed Rice is pastor of Corinth Baptist Church, Smithland.

Lola (Ky.) Baptist Church called **Jack Harris** as interim pastor.

George Francis resigned as pastor of Auburndale Baptist Church, Louisville, to go to Florida.

Lynn Acres Baptist Church, Louisville, called **John Meeks** as pastor.

Tim Duncan resigned as pastor of Cardinal Hill Baptist Church, Louisville.

Ridgewood Baptist Church, Louisville, called **Dan G. Lane** as pastor.

First Baptist Church, Loyall, called **David Ferguson** as pastor. The congregation also refurbished the parsonage.

White Oak Baptist Church, London, called **Kenneth Wilhoit** as pastor.

Terry Williams resigned as pastor of Ferndale Mission, Middlesboro.

Terry Rhye resigned as pastor of Locust Grove Baptist Church, Girdler. He goes to **Nebo (Ky.) Baptist Church**.

Ronald Riley resigned as pastor of Green Road (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Otis Mason resigned as pastor of Callihan Baptist Church, Barbourville.

First Baptist Church, Barbourville, called **Robert K. Lowery** as pastor.

First Baptist Church, South Shore, called **Jeff Salyers** as pastor.

Carl Lindsey resigned as pastor of Red Hill Baptist Church, Chavies.

Paul Edward White is new pastor of Locust Grove Baptist Church, Dizney.

Macedonia Baptist Church, Mt. Sterling, called **Bruce Workman** as pastor.

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Munfordville, called **Seymour Wattenbarger** as pastor.

Dillard Bowman resigned as pastor of Red Lick Baptist Church, Berea.

Roy Himes resigned as pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, McKee.

Owsley Fork Baptist Church, Berea, called **Walter Robinson** as pastor.

Philip Hedgecoth resigned as minister of music and education at Jeffersontown Baptist Church, Louisville.

Highland Park First Baptist Church, Louisville, called **Jerry Brown** as pastor.

Kings Baptist Church, Taylorsville, called **Phillip Bradshaw** as pastor.

Bill Craddock is interim pastor of Cardinal Hill Baptist Church, Louisville.

Harmony Baptist Church, Louisville, called **Leonard Martin** as interim pastor.

Frank J. Kuriger, retired Kentucky and Indiana pastor, is available for supply, revivals and interim pastorates. He may be contacted at 9120 Blossom Ln. #4,

Louisville, KY 40242, (502) 426-0878.

Chris Henson is new minister of education at East Baptist Church, Louisville.

First Baptist Church, Whitley City, called **Daryl Varble** as pastor. He has been associate pastor of Whitley City since 1985.

Vanzora Baptist Church, Benton, called **Headley Thweatt** as interim pastor.

James Hale has retired from the pastorate and is available for supply and interim. He may be contacted at Box 207 Hardin, KY, 42048 (502) 437-4862.

William Bowling Jr. resigned as pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, East Bernstadt.

John Henry Woods is new pastor of New Salem Baptist Church, London.

Odis Weaver is new pastor at Rineyville (Ky.) Baptist Church. He goes from Locust Grove Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

deaths

William Goodan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Whitley City, for 31 years, died June 6 in Lexington. Funeral was held at Whitley church. Survivors include his wife, **Anna Margaret Adams**, Whitley City; three sons: **William**, **Charlotte**, **N. C.**; **James**, Whitley City; and **Mark**, Somerset; three brothers, two sisters and six grandchildren.

revivals

Calvary Baptist Church, London, held revival July 11-15. Evangelist was **J. Harold Smith**. Sunday school attendance was an all-time high of 572. Thirty-six made professions of faith and were baptized. There were four additions by letter. **David Walters** is pastor.

Finley Baptist Church, Henderson, held Here's Hope revival Apr. 29-May 4. **J. Bill Jones** was evangelist. There were five professions of faith and 38 rededications. **James L. Murphey** is pastor.

ordinations

Shively Baptist Church, Louisville, ordained **Tom Pittman** to the ministry.

James Arthur Coffey, **James Curtis Tucker**, **Harrison Earl Beck** and **Danny Ray Douthit** were ordained deacons at **Finley Baptist Church**, Henderson.

Southside Baptist Church, Middlesboro, licensed **Donnie Fox** to the ministry.

New Zion Baptist Church, Manchester, ordained pastor **Aaron Melton**.

Raymond Turner, **Donald Jones**, **Brett Miles** and **Randy Kursave** will be ordained deacons at **Northside Baptist Church**, Almo, Aug. 12.

Church member cleans up after founders

Helen Yager still cleans up the church her ancestors founded 193 years ago.

Yager, 92, is a direct descendent of Baptists who founded **Harrod's Creek Baptist Church** in 1797, and she's been the church's custodian for 15 years.

Yager can be found almost every day keeping the new building and the restored historical building in order.

She has taught Sunday school for three generations of church members. She's the church cook, famous for pre-

paring "the best rolls in Oldham County" at Wednesday evening meals. She's church historian.

She's a member of the **Harrod's Creek Foundation** committee, which restored the "old" church building erected in 1925.

She drives to the church daily, but refuses to park in the reserved spaces near the front door. That puzzled pastor **Jim Barnette**, but she grins, "Those places are for old people!"





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

clear creek chronicle

Black Baptists

A historic event took place on campus July 18-20 when Clear Creek hosted the 111th annual session of the London District Missionary and Educational Baptist Association. This fellowship of 23 black Baptist congregations covers five counties from London to Harlan. Meeting in conjunction with the parent body was the Sunday school and BTU Congress, the Women's Missionary and Educational Convention and the ministers and deacons meeting. Training seminars, challenging preaching, joyful music, fellowship and business blessed the participants. They enjoyed the Kelly Hall food and the family life center.

A key person in planning the program and bringing the group to Clear Creek was J. C. Jordon, pastor of Bethel Baptist, Pineville, and moderator of the ministers and deacons. Jordon graduated from Clear Creek May 3. Program personalities included Lincoln Bingham, superintendent of missions, General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, and H. B. Harris, General Association moderator and Middlesboro pastor.

James E. Raglin was our first black graduate. He attended 1976-79 while pastoring Harlan First Baptist Church. Harlan church assisted Raglin with school expenses. Raglin "found the Lord in 1942 at the age of 13." Mrs. Raglin was a gifted pianist and singer; the two of them "preached and sang in many churches." Mrs. Raglin died while he was a student. Their four sons and three daughters "all have the gift of music." Raglin now lives in Midway and hopes to start a new church in Versailles.

We hope the London District meeting will encourage area black pastors to train at Clear Creek. Bivocational pastors could take advantage of night classes or the flexible class schedule. A Knox County black pastor recently brought a prospective student to see the campus; we pray he will be among our August entrants. Financial aid is available through the William H. Rogers scholarship, created in honor of the KBC director of cooperative ministries. Rogers' work with black Baptists is an exceptional model for race relations.

Rebels permit Liberian missionaries to leave

by Donald D. Martin

Two Southern Baptist missionaries in Voinjama, Liberia, said July 20 they were free to evacuate after waiting several days for permission to leave from rebel troops who captured the city July 14.

Missionary Chris Wilkinson of Gainesville, Fla., said he and his wife, Gwen, of Ardmore, Tenn., were safe and planned to drive to Yekepa, Liberia, July 20, then into Ivory Coast the next day. The Wilkinsons have been awaiting permission to pass through rebel roadblocks.

Voinjama, a Liberian provincial capital about 140 miles north of the country's capital, Monrovia, was captured by rebel troops of the National Patriotic Front less than 24 hours after peace talks in Sierra Leone broke down July 13.

Wilkinson asked the assistant rebel commander July 18 for permission to cross roadblocks with Mrs. Wilkinson and a small group of missionaries from other mission organizations. The assistant commander said he would not let them go until he cleared it with his commander, who was away. The rebels gave permission July 20 for the Wilkinsons and other missionaries to leave.

Wilkinson stressed the missionaries were not under any form of house arrest.

Missionaries Kenneth Nicholson of Magdalena, N.M., and Joyce Nicholson of Seaside, Calif., the other Southern Baptist couple who worked in Voinjama, left July 11 for the United States.

When the Wilkinsons depart, two other Southern Baptist missionary couples will remain in Liberia.

Earl Williams, of West Monroe, La., and Jane Williams, of Knoxville, Tenn., are in Yekepa, a small town near the Guinea border. Ed Laughridge, of Rock Hill, S.C., and Fran Laughridge, of Great Falls, S.C., remain at a Baptist mission station in Mano River, a small mining town about 80 miles northwest of Monrovia near the Sierra Leone border.

Mrs. Laughridge said via radio messages July 19 that she had not seen any fighting in Mano River, but most roads into the town were blocked by government troops. The town has no electricity, and food and fuel are becoming scarce. The Laughridges stay in contact each day with missionary Steve Springer in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, via a radio powered by a generator.

The rest of the 60 Southern Baptist

missionaries assigned to Liberia are temporarily in the United States or in countries near Liberia.

The rebels, led by Charles Taylor, a former aide to Liberian President Samuel Doe, have demanded that Doe resign and stand trial for corruption, nepotism and human rights abuses. Most international observers believe Doe's government could fall any day.

Human rights groups have accused both sides of killing hundreds of civilians in the seven-month war, which has been fought mostly along tribal lines.

Lack of food for refugees is the remaining missionaries' greatest concern, Mrs. Laughridge reported July 19. Stores of rice and medical supplies at the mission station were depleted after they aided several waves of refugees moving through Mano River to Sierra Leone.

Mrs. Laughridge said they only had enough fuel to run their generator two hours a day for about five more days. If more supplies are not found, they also will have to leave in the next few days.

Five Southern Baptist missionaries to Liberia met July 17-18 in Atlanta to start planning what will need to be done in Liberia once missionaries return. (BP)

Airlift rescues stranded Philippine personnel

by Mary E. Speidel

Five Southern Baptist mission workers were airlifted from a highway leading into Baguio City, Philippines, after a major earthquake left them stranded for almost three days.

The July quake has killed over 1000 people, according to reports.

All Southern Baptist mission personnel in the Philippines are safe and uninjured, said Sam Waldron, administrator of the mission organization there. Waldron said it was a "miracle" no missionaries were hurt in the quake, measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale.

The rescued mission workers—missionaries Robert and Janet Nash and Julia (Judy) Yost and special assignments workers John and Helen Thomas—and at least one Philippine Baptist were traveling on Kennon Road into Baguio City when the temblor hit. John Thomas is a

trustee of the Foreign Mission Board.

They were stranded with hundreds of other motorists when landslides made the road impassable. Relief helicopters reportedly dropped food and supplies to the travelers.

Mission officials arranged for a helicopter owned by the Summer Institute of Linguistics (Wycliffe Bible Translators) to evacuate the group from the highway into Baguio. They joined other mission workers in relief efforts from the campus of the Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary in Baguio.

While some Americans in Baguio were reportedly being evacuated from the city by military helicopters, the mission workers wanted to return to help with quake relief. "That's their home, that's where their work is, that's where the people that they serve are. They were much aware that they could be of service there," said Waldron.

Former missionary wins suit against FMB

by Art Toalston

A Richmond (Va.) Circuit Court jury has awarded \$1.56 million to four children of a former missionary couple in a lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The lawsuit, filed by the children's mother, Diana Sue Wade, contended board officials learned her husband, G. Thomas Wade Jr., was sexually abusing their oldest daughter but did not disclose it to the mother so she could halt the molestation.

The lawsuit contended Wade continued to abuse the daughter as well as a second daughter, who was adopted, and that he began molesting a third daughter. The couple also has a son. The sexual abuse began in 1979 in Botswana, Africa, when the oldest daughter was about 10 years old.

Defense attorney Lewis T. Booker of Richmond argued that board officials who handled the family's case acted reasonably under the circumstances. The first official to learn about the abuse confronted the father, who agreed to tell his wife and undergo counseling with his family, according to testimony in the case. The missionary subsequently failed to act on

the promise. The official then ordered the missionary to return to the United States with his family for counseling.

Mrs. Wade, 40, of Anchorage, Alaska, had sought \$141 million when she filed suit in April 1988 in Virginia. The jury awarded \$850,000 to the adopted daughter, \$350,000 to each of the other two daughters and \$10,000 to the son.

An Aug. 20 hearing is scheduled in the circuit court on motions by the board to dismiss the verdict. One key contention is that missionaries do not have written contracts stipulating specific expectations of the board. If the court denies the motions, the Foreign Mission Board will have 30 days to file a notice of appeal with the Virginia Supreme Court and three months to file its formal petition.

Mrs. Wade and her husband, an agriculturist, worked in Kenya and then Botswana. They returned from Africa in April 1984 on a furlough and then went on leave of absence. Wade, now 49, was arrested for sexual abuse of his daughters in June 1985 and is serving a 12-year sentence in Highland Mountain Correctional Center in Eagle River, Alaska. Mrs. Wade divorced him after the arrest. (BP)

Yost, a missionary nurse from Naples, N. Y., and a seminary student were driving from Manila to Baguio. The others were returning from preaching services at Clark Air Base when the quake occurred, Waldron said.

Nash, the seminary's president, is from Athens, Ga.; Mrs. Nash is from Cornelia, Ga. Thomas, also assigned to the seminary, is a retired professor at Mobile (Ala.) College.

Thomas phoned Waldron July 20 from Baguio to report on relief work. His call was one of the first direct contacts mission officials have had with Baguio since the quake struck, Waldron said.

Waldron said Thomas reported the Baptist seminary was being used as a rice distribution center for quake victims. A relief team of three Southern Baptist missionaries from Manila arrived in Baguio July 20 with food, supplies and a generator. They drove a four-wheel-drive vehicle on the only passable road into the city. Earlier, the road had been closed because of landslides.

So far, \$10,000 in Baptist disaster relief funds has been sent to the Baguio and San Jose areas, Waldron said. Another relief team is working in the San Jose area. An additional \$25,000 has been requested for the Santa Fe region, another hard-hit area southwest of Baguio. Relief also is being planned for Dagupan City, but details have not been finalized, Waldron said.

At the Baptist seminary in Baguio, two dormitories were badly damaged, the school's business manager told Waldron. A men's dormitory may have to be condemned because of damages and an international dorm was heavily damaged, he said. Several missionary houses on campus also were damaged.

Because of the damage to dormitories, seminary students have been sleeping outside on mattresses, Waldron said. Students are expected to move back into the women's dorm soon. They have been sharing food and cooking together on outdoor grills, he said.

Southern Baptist missionary Elaine Crane in Dagupan said the city was devastated economically. "About 80 percent of the businesses are condemned," said Crane, from Tallahassee, Fla. (BP)



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR AUG. 5, 1990

Life and work series

Await his coming

II Pet. 3:3-4 Peter wrote to remind his readers of God's message and to forewarn them that in the last days scoffers would minimize sin, openly indulge in it and glory in doing so. Some of the weaker Christians began to wonder if these scoffers might be right in their contention Christ would not return.

II Pet. 3:8-14 After reassuring his readers of the certainty and suddenness of the return of Christ at a time when the people will not be expecting it, Peter instructed his readers about the manner of persons Christians ought to be. God's delay in bringing this age to a close is due to mercy in giving people time for repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. Christians should strive to live in such a Christ-pleasing manner as to influence others to receive him as their savior and to enthrone him as Lord of their lives. Peter taught that they should be deeply grateful for the scriptures, the savior and the assurance of a home in heaven. Any Christian who is led by the Holy Spirit possesses an inward peace regardless of outward circumstances.

In view of the certain return of Christ, all Christians should wait in patience, walk in purity, witness in faithfulness, work in diligence, watch in readiness and weep in hopefulness. Having been set apart from the world, they should walk circumspectly, giving God his rightful place in their lives. He wants them to accede to his wishes and to live consistently for his glory. They are obligated to render a faithful service to the Lord as they watch and long for his return. All who are faithful in Christian service will be rewarded by Christ for all they do for him out of hearts of love.

International series

Times and seasons

Ecc. 3:1-15 In his search for happiness Solomon discovered that acquisition of knowledge did not satisfy. Then he decided to pursue happiness in pleasure,

but his experiment was very disappointing. He also sought it through accumulation of wealth. After amassing more wealth than either of his predecessors, he realized he was very foolish to spend his life in accumulating wealth that others would dissipate soon after his death.

What people think, what they are and how they conduct themselves are matters of vital concern. Since it is God's prerogative to give life or to take it, the person who wants the very best in life must have a right relationship with God, accept with gratitude the blessings which God provides, yield to God's will, work at the task God assigns, wield a wholesome influence over others and earnestly strive to please and honor God.

Each of us was born when God wanted us to be, and each of us will die when God's work has been finished. How grateful each of us should be that God has permitted us to live and afforded us opportunity to serve others in God's name!

There will come a time when what has been planted should be plucked up, when it is barren, unfruitful and useless. There comes a time when some dread disease baffles the knowledge and skill of physicians and is diagnosed as incurable, though sometimes God intervenes and the patient recovers. There comes a time when a building should be torn down and a better one erected in its place. There comes a time when stones should be removed from the soil in a vineyard or field, and there comes a time when those same stones should be used in building terraces and fences. There are times when one should refrain from speaking. There are also times when God's children should speak the truths of the gospel.



Curtis C. Mooney
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homes for children

High School Baptist Young Men

The first Kentucky chapter of High School Baptist Young Men's Association has been formed at the Spring Meadows Children's Home. Named in memory of Mike Goodwin, the purpose of this group is to provide a challenge to missions for young men.

Scott Shouse, continuing care coordinator, volunteers his time to work one evening a week with the youth. The program was developed by Dr. Mike Dixon, Spring Meadows administrator, and Alan Watts, activities director.

The group's study and activities are grouped into four areas: worship, witness, ministry and education. To complete their first unit of work they do Bible studies and 25 hours of community activities in each of the areas. Some examples of community activities for each area include *worship*—develop a devotional time with another adult, develop a personal prayer list and hold a youth prayer breakfast; *witness*—write and share their personal testimony, participate in church visitation and do a puppet ministry; *ministry*—develop a card ministry with some of the senior adults, visit a prison and do yard work for a senior adult who needs help; *education*—plan youth activities at church, tour Southern Seminary, tour SBC facilities in Nashville and talk with their pastor about problems youth face today.

Scott and the youth just returned from the national meeting of the association, which took place this year in Jackson Hole, Wyo. They stayed with Randy and Ann Foster, home missionaries stationed there. The meeting, led by Hal Hill, the national director, focused on work projects to help the home missionaries in the morning and fun activities in the afternoon, including canoeing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain climbing, repelling, white water rafting. At night they had initiative games and closed each day with devotionals.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Is not the Lord worthy to be praised?

A letter came the other day from someone I had never heard of in California. It contained a gift for our school and this wonderful letter:

"My mother attended your school. I've heard so much about Oneida all of my life. Now I am sharing what I know about you with my daughter. We would like so much to visit with you sometime. In the meantime we would like to contribute in some small way to your support.

"My mother first heard about the Lord Jesus Christ from your school and was saved. We four children heard from her and were saved. My daughter heard from me and is saved. Is not the Lord worthy to be praised? May he continue to bless you and his message."

That says it all.

In a few sentences this dear one has summed up what Oneida Baptist has been about for 91 years. Some weeks ago a number of Oneida students and staff attended the Kentucky Baptist Youth Conference in Frankfort. Our pastor, Joel Rackley, received a certificate honoring our Oneida Baptist Church for leading to the Lord and baptizing the largest number of young people in Kentucky the preceding year.

Yes, each of those 133 souls is precious. Each heard of Oneida in a different way. Each came to us on different days. Each has had a different set of circumstances in their lives. Each is unique. Each was in need of a savior as they came to us. Each has found peace for his or her soul. We have the daily responsibility to nurture, to teach, to train.

How many thousands of children have been led to the Lord—like the above person—who have never seen Oneida? Yet Oneida was a link in the chain that brought about their salvation because of its ministry to one who later became their friend, father, mother, grandparent, cousin.

It is thrilling to think about. Knowing that we are a part of something far greater than ourselves has kept many of us working at Oneida, day after day, for many years now. That certain knowledge makes it all worthwhile for ours is

a difficult and often thankless work. We suffer many defeats and setbacks. The hours are very long. The pay is very little. The responsibility is very great.

But, with it all, there are some wonderful results in precious lives.

Several weeks ago a grandfather and grandmother came to visit. They live in Canada. Their son-in-law—the father of a boy and girl who are now students in our school—died suddenly over a year ago. Both children are very intelligent, fine looking young people. But the loss of their father is still keenly felt, and circumstances are such that they needed this home away from home.

The visit of the maternal grandparents was a surprise to both us and the children. But it was a very pleasant surprise. I had a wonderful time introducing them to Oneida. I returned from being away a day to find a generous gift and this even more appreciated note: "We leave here easier in mind and soul when we see the care our grandchildren are getting."

I got a letter the other day from Dale. He was here all four of my high school years. If there was trouble, one could be nearly sure that if Dale wasn't involved, he knew about it! The adults who were trying to care for us could not help but love Dale, even though they were tempted to choke him many times. He recalls in his letter how various ones "would give me money for the movies, candy, little stuff, you know what I mean. I want to start sending you a little money and you share it with some of the kids that have a need. I kept waiting to get rich so I could help out in a big way. I'm still waiting."



Southern Baptists taste disaster relief at Glorieta

by Tim Yarbrough

Southern Baptists got a taste of disaster relief ministries during "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

On Monday night of the week-long missions conference, the dining hall closed and participants gathered around a mobile feeding unit to experience an authentic disaster relief meal.

One mobile disaster relief unit served 80 gallons of tea, 102 gallons of beef stew, 78 gallons of green beans, 72 gallons of peaches, 9000 crackers and 80 pounds of cookies to 1850 people.

The 1850 meals prepared and served by Louisiana Baptist Men are only a fraction of the 10,000 meals the modified tractor-trailer rig is capable of preparing daily during a real disaster, said

Cal Jones, associate director of Brotherhood in Louisiana and coordinator of the feeding demonstration.

Jones said the meal prepared by him and 11 Baptist Men volunteers from Louisiana is typical of meals served on the scene of a disaster. "We want to show Southern Baptists what their Cooperative Program money is going for, that we're using it to show people that Baptists care through meeting their needs in a disaster," Jones said.

In addition to the meal, Jericho participants got a close look at emergency child care facilities used by Texas Baptist Men in disaster relief.

Cotton Bridges, interim Royal Ambassador director and Brotherhood trainer for Texas Baptist Men, explained that emergency child care can be an important ministry to both children and

adult victims of disaster.

The child care unit is equipped to handle 150 infants and children daily. Games, Christian books and activities are used by child care workers who operate the unit at the scene of a disaster.

In the evening service after the feeding demonstration, participants heard the testimony of a volunteer who ministered in San Francisco after last year's World Series earthquake.

James McCullough, a Brotherhood Commission trustee from California, told how he was en route to assist victims of Hurricane Hugo in South Carolina when he was called home to assist his neighbors in another disaster.

McCullough said he had been looking for a way to use his talents in ministry, but hadn't anticipated an earthquake providing the opportunity.

The spiritual rubble he saw upon arriving in Oakland, Calif., after the quake "had always been there, but the people had not seen it," he said.

The 40-foot air conditioned trailer unit Louisiana brought to Glorieta houses sleeping quarters, a kitchen, freezer, communications facilities, a 500-gallon water tank and 15 kilowatt generator. Stored on the unit are 3000 meals that can be prepared and served within one hour of arrival to a disaster scene.

First used in 1978, the Louisiana unit has responded to 16 disasters in numerous states and Mexico. More than 500 Baptist Men in Louisiana serve as disaster relief volunteers. (BP)

(Mark Wingfield also contributed to this story.)

SBC agencies, Texas convention plan church growth meet

A national church growth conference has been announced for Aug. 31-Sept. 3, 1992, by officials of two Southern Baptist Convention agencies and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Gary Cook, vice president for church programs and services at the Baptist Sunday School Board; Darrell Robinson, vice president for evangelism at the Home Mission Board; and James Semple, director of the missions commission of the BGCT, are spearheading plans for the conference to be held in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

"We are combining the energies and resources of these three SBC entities to generate a new concerted effort toward church growth among Southern Baptist

churches," said Cook.

Program content will deal with helping churches grow through improved efforts in evangelism and Sunday school, as well as extension growth through starting new Sunday schools, satellites and missions, he said.

Robinson said the conference is being planned with the hope that churches will send a team including the pastor, staff and key lay leaders.

"It is our hope that we can project a model or style of church growth that will impact the nation," Robinson said.

Semple said program personalities will include acknowledged experts who have led churches to grow. He said the program will be planned to meet the

needs of churches of all sizes.

"This conference will serve as the statement of Southern Baptist theology and methodology of church growth, a sharing of practical principles that have worked in a multiplicity of settings and an encouragement to renewed commitment to reaching people and growing churches," said Semple.

Conference content is being planned to coordinate with a joint definition of church growth developed by leaders of the HMB and SSB.

The definition states: "Church growth is God at work through his redeemed people in adding to a church those who are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and helping inactive believers

come to renewed commitment. It is new believers added to existing churches or gathered into new churches and equipped to become responsible church members who minister and witness as personal soul-winners to others. It is strengthening the churches in fellowship, organization and in world missions commitment."

Robinson and Cook said the conference is the first major event sponsored by the two agencies since a joint agreement on church growth was announced in February by HMB President Larry Lewis and SSB President Lloyd Elder.

The Home Mission Board will sponsor a church growth conference Dec. 3-5, 1990, in Phoenix, Ariz. (BP)

Home missions conference provides training

by Sarah Zimmerman

Southern Baptists absorbed a week of training and encouragement during this year's home missions conference at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Conference Center.

One of the few public comments about the Southern Baptist Convention controversy was made during the final evening service. Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., urged Baptists to "pray for our boards, agencies and committees—that whatever they do will be done in love."

"We are diverse, but let us not be di-

vided. Let us be united by the seemingly impossible task of reaching our nation for Christ," said the trustee of the Home Mission Board.

In other sermons during the week, Price illustrated that God provides stability in life's storms and he works through all of life's situations. Price said living by faith means accepting God's plan and protection.

Price encouraged participants to renew their call to serve God and become "crocodile Christians." Like crocodiles, Price said, Christians need to "never quit growing, right up to the day they die."

HMB President Larry Lewis began the week by urging leaders to train every group within the church, from deacons to bus ministry workers, to be evangelistic.

Daily conferences provided specialized training in chaplaincy, evangelism, church extension and mission ministries.

The Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf met at Ridgecrest the same week and registered 449 participants. Its program included seminars such as being a Christian in the deaf culture, soul winning and parenting by grace.

Registration for the conference totaled 2755, including 572 in the youth program and the deaf registration. (BP)

Association formed, ministers organize for multi-housing

Baptists involved in multi-housing ministries have formed an association for support and resourcing.

Fifteen people attended an organizational meeting for the Southern Baptist Multi-housing Association last month. The association is an autonomous group that will relate to the Home Mission Board's church extension section.

Tommy Goode, mission department associate for church and community ministries for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, is the association's president.

Multi-housing includes any area of dense population, from manufactured home communities to duplexes to high-rise apartment buildings.

Typically only two to four percent of people living in multi-housing attend any church, Goode said.

Goode noted that door-to-door canvassing is not effective in multi-housing areas because managers seek to protect residents from solicitors. Other methods, such as extension Bible study, chaplaincy or organized social activities, are required to reach residents.

Noting the large number of people who live in urban multi-housing, Goode said, "If we are going to reach our cities, we will do multi-housing ministries."

Goode said the association plans to meet annually on Monday prior the Southern Baptist Convention. It will also assist in producing "The Hinge," a quarterly newsletter about multi-housing ministries. (BP)

Palen resigns position at Baptist Joint Committee

Kathy Palen, director of information services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, will leave the staff of that agency in late August to begin study at Yale Divinity School.

Palen, 34, joined the BJC staff in September 1985. She was elected to her current position in March 1989.

During the past five years, Palen also has served as a Washington bureau correspondent for Baptist Press news service, as well as reporting for the interdenominational Religious News Service.

She has provided news coverage of the Supreme Court, Congress and White House.

Before joining the BJC staff, she was director of public relations at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Palen, a native of Tulsa, Okla., earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from OBU. She also has taken courses at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. (BP)

Labor Day singles' meets set evangelism as theme

Kicking off a year-long emphasis on evangelism, the 25th anniversary of single adult Labor Day conferences will be observed Aug. 31-Sept. 3 in four locations across the nation.

With a theme of "Single Life with a Plus," sponsors of the Labor Day conferences will attempt to train 7000 single

adults in evangelism during the four-day meeting, according to Tim Cleary, single adult consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department.

Sponsored by the senior/single adult section of the Family Ministry Department, Labor Day conferences will be

held at Glorieta (N. M.) and Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist conference centers and in St. Louis, Mo., and Los Angeles.

Registration forms and additional information may be obtained by writing or calling the Family Ministry Department at MSN 140, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37234, (615) 251-2277.

Spring Meadows residents find friends in summer missionaries

by Beth W. Prassel

Residents at Spring Meadows Children's Home, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, always have counselors to help them with problems. But this summer, they have two counselors of "a different type."

Baptist Student Union summer missionaries Laura Brandon and Audrey Vaughn aren't much older than Spring Meadows residents. But when they arrived on the Middletown campus in early June, they were ready to begin their ministry to youth through recreation.

Vaughn, a junior psychology major at Murray State University and a native of Mount Vernon, Ill., says she didn't know much about summer missions before this year. "My idea (of missions) was going to Africa," she laughs.

When she decided to apply for a position and saw the list of places for service, "Spring Meadows kind of hit me," she says. "I kept thinking, 'Don't get your hopes up. You might not get Spring Meadows.' I was nervous, but I was excited because I knew wherever I was appointed, God was going to use me."

A native of Lexington and a sophomore at University of Kentucky, Brandon says she had studied about Baptist Homes for Children in Acteens since seventh grade. "I always thought it would be neat to work at a place like this," she says. "It's funny I would end up doing it."

Brandon admits she thought Spring Meadows served small children, until her interview for the position. As a middle school education major, she became even more interested when she learned the youth were older.

Both girls lead youth in Bible studies, devotions and indoor and outdoor recreation. Vaughn also works as lifeguard at the swimming pool.

"Our main responsibility is to have fun with them and teach them what it's like to live a Christian life," says Brandon. "A lot of these youth don't know how to have fun without the things the world teaches them."

According to Vaughn, some residents at first seemed surprised that these missionaries know how to have fun. "One young person thought we'd be wearing our hair in a bun." She says she wants to show them that "not all Christians are square."

But while they are having fun, the missionaries hope residents are also learning.

As part of the recreation program, the girls help lead residents in "initiative games." These games are "not just your regular softball, kickball, tag games," says Brandon. "They're really creative games." Through these games, supervised by Alan Watts, Spring Meadows activities director, youth learn to work together and to build trust in each other, in themselves and in God.

For example, one game requires youth to arrange themselves in alphabetical order while blind-folded and without talking. Through such activities, youth learn to cooperate. "We try to apply (the games) to life," explains Brandon.

In the morning Bible study group, called "Free Spirits," the summer missionaries try to make learning interesting. "We've done some creative things," says Vaughn. She explains when youth studied creation the first week, they dramatized the story with lights and cassette tapes. In connection with their study, the group took a field trip to Bernheim Forest.

Vaughn says she also wants to teach

the youth about themselves. She feels her own self-confidence can help "show these youth how to have a positive attitude and to feel good about themselves."

She wants Spring Meadows youth "to be able to laugh at themselves," to have fun without feeling pressured to perform. For instance, she participates in volleyball games although she says, "I'm terrible at volleyball. (I wanted to show them) if they mess up it's no big deal."

Vaughn admits she doubted youth

would respond positively to her efforts. She says, of her first experience leading games, "I thought, 'They're not going to want to do this.' But they liked it and they had a lot of fun. I've seen them laugh and they've been able to laugh at themselves."

Brandon feels there is real hope in ministering to youth at Spring Meadows but says her work will not make a big difference in such a short time. "Probably, I, Laura Brandon, am not going to

make an impact on their lives. But they'll remember that there was somebody who cared, and that's all you can expect really."

Both girls agree they find it difficult to relate to many of the residents because of their backgrounds. "I'm just trying to understand the feelings they're having," says Vaughn. "Their feelings aren't that much different (from ours). It's just the situations that are different."

Vaughn says when youth come to her with problems, she listens. "I can't say, 'I know what you mean,' because I don't know at all. I don't think I can say anything they want to hear, as far as advice. I ask them questions. Most of the time I'm just listening."

"My goal is not to see how many kids I can convert or to find out their 'real stories,' but just to be there and listen to them."

"There's no way I can relate to them," agrees Brandon. "But I can show them an alternative course (by contrasting) what they're doing with what they should be doing to make life happier."

She explains, although, "We do act as counselors; we're just a different type. (We counsel) from a different angle. When they come to us with problems, they're not really looking for answers. They don't want the counselor's response. When they come to us, they're asking as a friend."



Spring Meadows recreation leaders (l-r) Laura Brandon, summer missionary; Sean Goodwin, summer worker; Audrey Vaughn, summer missionary; and Alan Watts, activities director, make plans for an upcoming event.

Children's worker offers tips on preschool teaching

To really feel loved at church, a preschooler needs the emotional charge of touch and a chance to gain the undivided attention of his or her teacher, an editor of preschool/children's materials in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department said at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"It is important in our churches for our children to feel their teachers care for them because then they will also feel more comfortable in exploring their world and themselves," Larry Dry told participants in a session, "Helping Your Preschooler Feel

Loved," during the Discipleship Training Leadership Conference.

Rather than giving a child undivided attention, preschool leaders might have a tendency to answer a child's question while involved in other tasks, such as watching other children in the class, Dry said.

"Children need eye contact. We may be answering them verbally, but we are not giving them enough attention without eye contact," he said. "Making eye contact is something that is very difficult to do, especially when there are no other workers in the class. But it says a great deal about how you

really feel about that child. It makes them feel important."

Preschool and children's leaders should also watch how they communicate to children through body language. "You can communicate to that child just in the way you sit or fold your arms," he added.

Dry said preschool and children's teachers should not bring bad attitudes with them to church.

"Maybe it wasn't so easy getting your family ready for church this morning, but you can't come to church mad at the world," he said. "Check your attitude when you teach preschoolers; they can pick up on it. You can turn them off to church very quickly."

Meanwhile, Dry said, "actively listening to a child is how we really tell them we love them. There is a need to get excited about listening to that child."

Preschoolers learn best in one-on-one situations with their teachers, said Dry.

"And if you sit down with them for awhile, they will really feel you care about them while they are learning," he added.

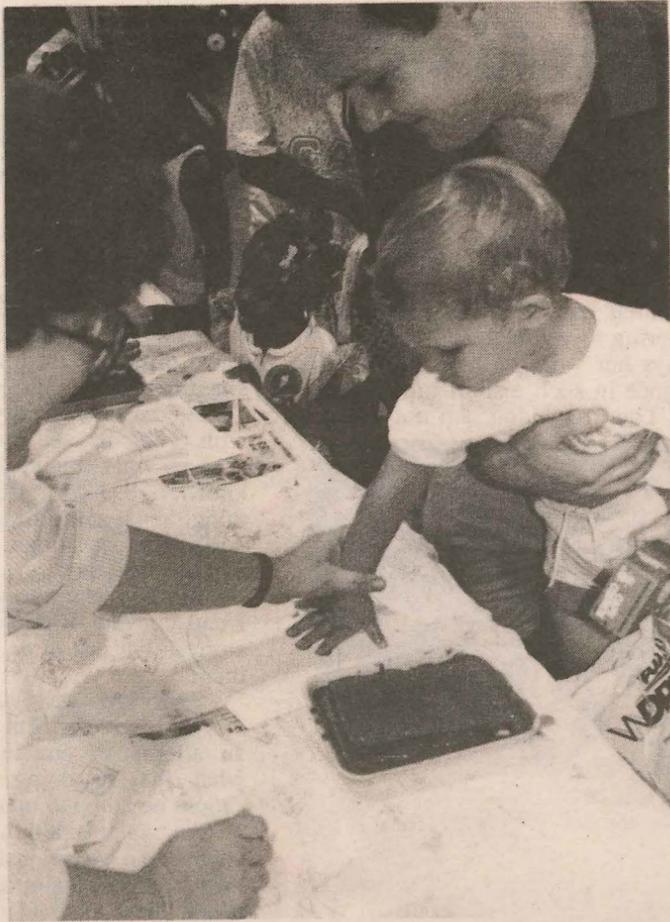
To actively listen to a preschooler, Dry suggested teachers "get down on their level literally. It's hard for that child to talk to someone who is four feet taller than he or she is."

Dry said a preschool teacher should also "concentrate on what the child is saying. Sometimes it is hard to make sense out of the words an 18-month-old is using, but you must keep trying."

The most important part of being an effective preschool teacher, Dry said, is to "relax, be yourself and give many more positive strokes than negative strokes."



Keith Turner, 8, of First Baptist Church, Deer Park, Tex., receives one-on-one attention from his teacher during Discipleship Training Week at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center, June 30-July 6. The third-grader was attending Exploring classes sponsored by the Preschool/Children's Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship Training Department. (Photo by Terri Lackey.)



TOP PHOTO: Connie Rucker, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville, assists a young child with his painted handprint poster.

TOP RIGHT: Among some of the Kentucky Baptist exhibit assistants were, in foreground, from left to right: Connie Rucker, Charlotte Tipton and Shirley Tipton, all of Hurstbourne Baptist Church. Other assistants not shown: Maloria McAteer, John McAteer and Josh McAteer, all of Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville; Jesse Tipton and Lori Ann Stewart, both of Hurstbourne Baptist; and Donna Thomas, Family Ministry Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention. Special thanks to Lucy Stewart, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, who served as coordinator of the exhibit's children's activities.

BOTTOM LEFT: Roxanne Nanney, associate minister of music, directs her Highview Baptist children's handbell choir.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Lyndon Baptist's children's choir, directed by Naomi King.

America's Great Showcase for Kids

Kentucky Baptists practiced marketplace evangelism as a first-time exhibitor at America's Great Showcase for Kids, a July 7-8 weekend event in downtown Louisville's Commonwealth Convention Center. The event was coordinated by WDRB-TV, Louisville's Fox network affiliate station.

Amid commercial exhibits, Kentucky Baptists offered a spiritual perspective to the 20,000 Showcase attendees. Children put paint-dipped handprints on posters which also included a printed sentimental message for parents to remember the occasion by; secret-coded messages were given to youngsters to complete; free Here's Hope New Testaments were provided for booth visitors and literature from Sunday School, Church Music and Family Ministry's Parenting by Grace were handed out.

Kentucky Baptists were also represented on stage by two Louisville area churches. The children's handbell choir from Highview Baptist and the children's choir from Lyndon Baptist performed.



Photos by Greg Hancock, director, and Denise Hawkins Withers, promotions specialist, Communications Division, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

