

Mission Kentucky's 305 starts rated 'success'

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Kentucky Baptists have eclipsed the 300 mark in their five-year campaign to start 400 ministry sites across the commonwealth.

Three hundred five churches, missions or preaching points have begun since the Kentucky Baptist Convention voted in 1985 to launch the Mission Kentucky campaign, said Ken Forman, the KBC's church-starting strategist.

The total includes 51 new churches, 77 missions and 177 preaching points. The program is scheduled to conclude Dec. 31.

Forman, associate director of the KBC direct missions department, praised Kentucky Baptists for focusing on a need for new work and for "becoming serious about doing it."

Before Mission Kentucky existed, William D. Jagers, Forman's predecessor and now director of the KBC office for evangelism, suggested that "not many were thinking new work." Only 10 new Southern Baptist congregations was recorded in the 10-year period from 1970 to 1980 in Kentucky, he noted.

"Now," Jagers acknowledged, "the awareness level is heightened." While the goal of 400 may not immediately be reached, he added, "One of the significant discoveries that people have made is that new work grows faster and it reaches more people for the Lord."

KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall also recently noted that the goal of 400 new church starts seemed "highly unrealistic" to many Baptist leaders at the time of its inception.

"That 305 such starts have been given birth in this five-year period is the best argument that God has placed his hand of blessing on this effort," Marshall declared.

The KBC Executive Board had enhanced the effort by allocating more than \$1 million in operating funds for the project. The board further earmarked \$1 million in mission reserve funds for new church start loans at a rate lower than the prevailing markets.

While almost all of the second million dollars already has been loaned to congregations to purchase property and construct buildings, the Executive Board recently voted to extend the loan fund indefinitely. As loans are repaid and interest is earned, that money will be reloaned to additional

congregations to perpetually assist in starting new churches.

Forman, a former director of missions who joined the direct missions department staff in February 1989, has subsequently focused his energies on a theme which he calls "multiplied outreach."

While the term is original, including "a blending of personal experiences and relationships with those of fellow Baptists," Forman believes the effort has implications for others. He defines the concept as "the association, local church and individuals committing themselves to reaching people for Jesus, using their structures, abilities and finances in meaningful, committed stewardship." This idea, Forman said, was tailor-made for Mission Kentucky.

In addition to the 305 new starts which have grown out of Mission Kentucky, Forman confirmed that more than 100 additional sites where new work is needed already have been pinpointed.

This has largely been accomplished by employing five part-time church starter

strategists to help identify the areas of greatest need. They have included D.M. Aldridge of Lexington; J. Bill Jones of Princeton; Kerry Smith, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary student of Louisville; Harold Wainscott of Covington; and James W. Watt Sr. of Owensboro.

At least 70 targets for new work have been set in eastern Kentucky, 15 more in western Kentucky and 21 others in Long Run Baptist Association, including greater metropolitan Louisville.

Forman hopes to see both trained ministry and laity respond to the call for new work as a result of Mission Kentucky. He is convinced that two key strategies which should receive greater emphasis are a concentration on multi-family housing units and encouraging multiple use of current church facilities by more than one congregation. "We would see significantly greater results in new work if people gave higher priority to these avenues," he said.

C. Benton Williams, director of the KBC missions, evangelism and church services

division, took note of the fact that the current year has been the slowest in beginning new work. Forman answered this by observing that much of state convention, association, church and individual energies in the last year were correctly focused on "Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you" nationwide simultaneous revival efforts.

"Ultimately," said Forman, "this (revival emphasis) will bring about motivation and cultivation which will result in even more new work."

"Absolutely no competition" exists between the two areas of evangelism and new work, and in the long run, "all of it will work in our favor as new converts eventually translate into new congregations," he said.

Williams expressed appreciation for Robert C. Jones, director of the direct missions department, and for Jones' two associates during the Mission Kentucky emphasis, Jagers and Forman, who implemented much of the planning and strategy of the emphasis.

continued on page 2



LENDING A HELPING HAND—Cecil Jenkins of Stanford, Ky., lifted a log into a wheelbarrow in Plainfield, Ill., last week as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief ministry helping victims of the northern Illinois tornadoes. In one week more than 60 Kentucky volunteers worked alongside about 200 Illinoisans serving nearly 11,000 meals to victims and relief workers as part of the Kentucky Brotherhood-sponsored program. (Photo by Michael Hayman. Copyright 1990, The Courier-Journal. Reprinted with permission.)

Kentucky Cooperative Program tops \$17 million

by Marv Knox, Editor

Kentucky Baptists' Cooperative Program unified budget received \$17,118,788 during the 1989-90 fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31.

The record contributions eclipsed the previous year's total by \$341,626, for a gain of 2.0 percent.

However, the receipts fell \$598,501 below the \$17,717,289 budget goal, for a shortfall of 3.4 percent.

The Cooperative Program is Kentucky and Southern Baptists' method of financing evangelistic, missionary and educational ministries across the state and around the globe. Of Kentuckians' contributions, 61.25 percent is used by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and 38.75 percent is forwarded to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

"This is the 58th consecutive year that Cooperative Program receipts in Kentucky exceeded the preceding year," noted Barry Allen, director of the KBC business division. "That's a nice heritage."

"The churches have done a good job of supporting the Cooperative Program, and we have gratitude for their work," said William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the KBC. "The fact that we have been able to expand our budget in economically and politically stressful times is a tribute to our churches."

The Kentucky Cooperative Program goal for the current fiscal year, which began Sept. 1, is \$17,894,462. That goal is 1.0 percent larger than the just-completed budget goal.

Last week, the KBC Executive Board's business and finance subcommittee proposed the same goal—\$17,894,462—for the 1991-92 budget. To become official, the goal must be approved by the Executive Board and messengers to the KBC annual meeting in Paducah, Nov. 13-14.

"Global economic woes, plus the decline in growth of giving, means it doesn't seem wise to expand our budget goal for 1991-92," Marshall explained.

The 1989-90 budget shortfall of 3.4

percent, combined with the 1990-91 budget goal increase of 1.0 percent, creates a needed revenue hike of 4.4 percent during the current fiscal year, he said. That kind of growth has been achieved only once in the last seven years. "If we should have an overage, we'll praise the Lord and distribute the overage in the same percentage as the original budget was allocated," he said.

Twelve-month totals for the KBC's five special offerings are:

- Eliza Broadus State Mission Offering, \$610,072, a gain of \$30,783—5.3 percent—over the total for the 1988-89 fiscal year.
- Thanksgiving offering for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, \$785,594, an increase of \$30,105—4.0 percent.
- Mother's Day offering for Baptist hospitals, \$20,005, down \$803—3.9 percent.
- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, \$2,539,729, a decrease of \$156,650—5.8 percent.
- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, \$1,218,397, a gain of \$91,045—8.1 percent.

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

September 11, 1990

Are you moving?
Please give us three weeks' advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address above, and send to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

Post-Cold War world: more dangerous, not less

by Erich Bridges

So much for peace in our time.

Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait created, in the view of some defense analysts, the most dangerous military standoff since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

It also awakened people who dreamed of a peaceful world after the Cold War ended. And it signals a more dangerous world for the practice of Christian missions.

Some call Iraq's invasion the first shot fired in the post-Cold War era. The Kuwait crisis portends the kind of world now being born, according to many observers.

What will that world be like, and how will it affect the Christian global mission? Several world watchers at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board offered predictions and recommendations:

- Expect wars and rumors of wars, just as the Bible says.

War is nothing new in human affairs, of course, and 83 major armed conflicts have been fought since 1960. More than 20 wars were raging last year alone.

But the end of the Cold War and super-power dominance will produce even more small- or medium-scale wars.

"I personally think the world is going to be more dangerous than ever," said FMB President R. Keith Parks. "In a way, we've lost some worldwide stability with such a decline of control by the Soviet Union over its satellites and such a two-power kind of world. The world has moved beyond that stage."

If more dictators, or terrorists, gain nuclear, chemical or biological warfare capability, they may hold whole cities or countries hostage, said Clark Scanlon, director of research and planning.

- With decreasing fear of U.S. or Soviet interference, fragmentation along ethnic, tribal, religious and nationalistic lines will speed up.

"With the volatility and ethnic hatreds that are resident in so many countries—because these countries were not drawn up along ethno-linguistic lines—you have tinderboxes of ethnic conflict. I don't see us moving toward a calmer, more peaceful world at all," Parks said.

Mission strategist David Garrison sees history repeating itself, with the colonial breakdown and internecine warfare, seen in Africa during the '60s and '70s, extending to Eastern Europe and Asia.

One political scientist calls this scenario "Back to the Future"—a return to the hatreds that tore continents apart.

Running beneath the national, ethnic and religious hatreds now resurfacing is another old theme: poverty. Some 2.4 bil-

lion people are poor, and 1.8 billion of them are undernourished.

The desperately poor will "hold on to anything," said Jim Maroney, assistant director of the board's Global Desk.

- Christian missionaries and other workers won't escape the turmoil.

"To people who say we shouldn't send missionaries to dangerous places, I would ask them to tell me where the dangerous places are and where they'll be next week," Parks said. "I think more missionaries will face dangerous places in the future than they have in the past. But this is a risk Christians have to take. It was true in New Testament times and has been throughout Christian history. We need to accept that as a part of the price of sharing the gospel. There's no way of knowing where the next conflict is going to break out."

On the other hand, Maroney sees a brighter day for missionaries, at least in the

access they gain to places once off-limits. "There will be pockets that you stay out of, but it won't be that massive monolith that the Soviet Union and its allies represented before," he said.

- Instability creates new opportunity for Christians, both to meet human need and to spread the gospel.

"Chaos is a great time to do missions," Garrison said. "When there's war, when things are unraveling, people are thinking about eternity."

Cultures and populations in turmoil always migrate—physically or psychologically—toward stability, Myers added. "The hope for the gospel," he said, "is that during this period of confusion, when all sorts of changes are in order, that somehow there's a valid communication and people begin to grasp that Christianity can be a stabilizing factor. That would be working against the tendency to hold the status quo and move back to that which was, but I think that's the hope for the gospel in those situations. And it's just a narrow little window" that must be entered quickly when it opens.

- To be effective, world Christians must work in coalitions.

If Korean Christians, for example, are more welcome in a given country than Westerners, they should go there, strategists urge. American Christians can help them go and work behind the scenes to help make them successful.

Concluded Garrison: "Americans are engineers by nature. We're into how do you do it, how do you make it work? And maybe that's our big contribution to missions—not always doing it ourselves, but analyzing problems and seeing how we can make it work, and then finding the resources to pull it off." (BP)

Grahams still waiting to leave Kuwait

Southern Baptist worker Laurie Graham and her two young sons did not get to leave Kuwait with 171 evacuees Sept. 7.

Mrs. Graham and her husband, Maurice, are Southern Baptists' first workers in Kuwait.

They had been in the country less than three months when Iraq staged its invasion Aug. 2, and they took refuge in the U.S. Embassy.

Kuwait has ceased to be a nation and has become a hell-on-earth, according to American women who evacuated Sept. 7. They cited people being shot by Iraqi

soldiers for no reason, babies taken from incubators so the incubators can be stolen and Iraqi jets screaming overhead at building height.

One evacuee said Iraqi troops shot two American men through both hands and broke their legs. "People are very terrified. They're beating people; they're shooting," a woman said.

Another evacuation flight from Kuwait was scheduled for late last week. Friends and relatives hoped Mrs. Graham and their children would be on board. (BP)

Concern for Cooperative Program participation yields questions

by Marv Knox, Editor

Churches' concerns about participation in the Southern Baptist Convention unified budget have produced questions for Barry Allen.

"Churches have called, wanting to know everything from, 'Is the Cooperative Program reliable?' to, 'How will our gifts to the Cooperative Program affect our ministers' annuities?'" reported Allen, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention business division.

The Cooperative Program is the Kentucky and Southern Baptist conventions' unified budget. It supports missionary, evangelistic and educational ministries across the state and around the globe.

Churches participate by sending a portion of their budgets to the KBC in Middletown. The KBC keeps 61.25 percent of undesignated receipts for commonwealth causes. The remaining 38.75 percent is forwarded to the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville for disbursement to SBC agen-

cies.

This summer, some moderate churches—frustrated with 12 straight SBC presidential losses, wary of the Executive Committee and tired of what they call "taxation without representation"—decided to reconsider their participation in the Cooperative Program. A national group, called "the fellowship," is in the process of developing its own unified budget for support of selected Southern Baptist missions causes.

"The KBC business division is committed to doing exactly what the church wants done with its funds," said Allen.

"When undesignated money comes here, it is automatically considered Cooperative Program, by policy and definition. But our remittance form has a line for noting the amount of contribution that is to go to the CP and multiple lines for designations to other Kentucky and SBC causes."

The KBC accounting office keeps and provides contribution records to ensure the trustworthiness of its process, Allen said.

For example, the church receives acknowledgements of each of its contributions, and SBC and KBC agencies receive monthly statements of the designated funds they are to receive.

"There are good internal controls between the state and national entities," he said. "Even if it tried, the Executive Committee could not get away with messing around with the designated money. If I were concerned about that, I would be the first to recommend dealing with that in behalf of all our churches."

A church's cutback in participation in the Cooperative Program could have immediate repercussions in two areas, Allen noted.

First is the church's representation at KBC annual meetings. "If a church has made any gifts to the work of the convention, it is entitled to two messengers," he explained. "But for anything over two messengers, there is a dual test: an additional messenger for so many church members or an additional messenger for

each \$250 in undesignated Cooperative Program gifts."

Those Cooperative Program gifts—at least the first \$2,000 needed to qualify for a full complement of 10 messengers—must be completely unrestricted, he added: "In Kentucky, 'cooperation' and 'Cooperative Program' are the same."

The second area of potential impact is ministers' annuity, he said. KBC executive board policy requires that churches contribute to the Cooperative Program on a sliding scale—depending on their numbers of participating staff members—to get matching funds from the KBC for annuity coverage.

For example, KBC matching funds for a church with one participant may be no more than 80 percent of that church's CP gifts. Matching funds for a church with seven or more participants may be no more than 10 percent of that church's CP gifts.

The formula has been developed to balance annuity participation with stewardship of mission funds, Allen said.

State leaders give Mission Kentucky nothing but high marks

continued from page 1

Jaggers, now evangelism director, who has maintained a keen interest in Mission Kentucky since its inception five years ago, noted that today there are missions, Bible studies and—in some cases—full-fledged churches "where there used to be none."

These new outreach efforts have resulted in professions of faith in Christ and subsequently in baptisms, he said. "There have probably been hundreds of renewals and rededications by estranged Baptists and other Christians through these newly formed groupings," he added.

Jaggers called for a "planned, thoughtful, continued program to generate new church starts." New work needs the support of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, KBC, local associations and local churches, he said.

Williams added, "We have laid plans for the next five years to accelerate the beginning of new work."

"Some wish to do church planting," Jaggers said. "Mission Kentucky has provided a climate for them to pursue that interest in beginning new missions."

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marshall,

who had cited 1 million non-Christians in 1985 in Kentucky as the "imperative reasons" for pursuing Mission Kentucky, urged Kentucky Baptists to reach beyond the original goal of 400 new work starts.

In what he termed phase two of Mission Kentucky, suggesting the time frame of 1990 to 1995, Marshall called for reaching and surpassing the original goal.

The cooperation of churches and associations with KBC staff throughout the project is "a reflection of Kentucky Baptist teamwork at its best," said Marshall. "As far as we can tell, this has been the most

effective church start effort in Kentucky Baptist history."

Williams added, "Just because the five years of Mission Kentucky new work strategy will be completed by Dec. 31 does not mean our people do not have a mindset for beginning new work. There has been excellent support for it from the executive board, directors of missions, pastors and laypeople."

"Mission Kentucky has been successful. While we have not met all of our goals, many have been reached and new directions have been set. For this, I am eternally grateful."

Central celebrates 20 years of care for children

by Jane Taylor Howell
State Correspondent

Two decades of ministry to society's tiniest members stood up and took a bow when Central Baptist Church in Lexington celebrated its child care center's 20th anniversary.

Twenty years ago, Central member Anita Privett, a mother with young children and later one of the first chairs of the child care committee, was going back to school. She asked the church about beginning a day care program.

"We didn't know the amount of work involved or the regulations we would face to begin a program," she recalled. "It was work and it did create controversy within the church. Some thought the walls would get dirty, and it's true they have been painted many, many times. But we saw it as a mission and a service to meet the needs of our members."

Current director Betty Morrison, a teacher in the church's kindergarten program when the day care was established Aug. 21, 1970, became director in March 1971.

"We have no advertising, yet we have a waiting list of around 100," Mrs. Morrison said. We are licensed for 85 in day care and 25 in kindergarten, but because of the space, we serve only about 96 children.

"Although parents don't have to be Central members to work in the program or for their children to attend, we minister to many of our own. We also have a ministry with Central Baptist Hospital and the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

"We help when a parent is slated for surgery or a long hospitalization by caring for the patient's children. Sometimes we have to cover the cost of the child care as a part of our commitment to ministry.

"One of my proudest moments came when I received a call from a mother in Atlanta stating she would be moving to Lexington and wondering what she had to do to enroll her child. She had heard how terrific our program was. We hear that story many times now as our program's 'graduates' move away and recommend us to

those they hear moving to the Lexington area."

Judy Browning, kindergarten teacher, added: "Churches have a responsibility to nurture children. A child care center is the greatest way to do that. It provides peace of mind to parents and security to children that they need. Many don't have a secure home life, and for them, this is it."

Betsy Jerner, a parent, noted: "Ali brought prayer back into our home because

of the prayers she learned here. In the last year, she has made us say the blessing and hold hands as we do."

"With not having family here, the child care and our church have become our extended family," her husband Bill acknowledged.

Gerald Howell, pastor of Central Baptist Church, credits Morrison and her staff with the success and reputation of the program. "Betty Morrison teaches Christian values

to the children," he said. "She recognizes and promotes positive self esteem in the students. That is one difference between a child care program and a Christian one."

Other members noted Morrison's concern. "The success of the day care center is Betty's love for every child and her concern for their present and future welfare," said Mary Showalter.

"She doesn't stop caring when they leave."



HAVE A GOOD DAY—Ali Jerner enjoys the balloons at Lexington's Central Baptist Church 20th anniversary child care celebration. Betty Morrison, program director, stands behind her. (Photo by Charles Bertram. Used by permission of the Lexington Herald Leader.)

101st Airborne chaplains major on opportunity, not obstacles

by Marv Knox, Editor

Southern Baptist chaplains from Fort Campbell have focused on opportunity rather than obstacle as they prepared to accompany troops to Saudi Arabia.

"At breakfast this morning, we were talking about what an unusual way for Christian missionaries to get into a country that doesn't allow Christian missionaries," Chap. Jim Duke noted last week.

Saudi Arabia is an Islamic state and does not allow Christian missionaries to work within its borders. But by the end of next month, eight Southern Baptist chaplains from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell will be ministering on Saudi soil, said Duke, a member of First Baptist Church of Oak Grove.

Sonny Moore, assigned to an aviation unit and another member of First Church of Oak Grove, was deployed Aug. 17. Duke and Dave Coram, Larry Holland and Barry Presley will leave by Sept. 15. Tommy Preston and Eddie Sumbler will be deployed afterward, and Charles Walker, who is recovering from surgery, may be deployed.

Eventually, 18,000 Fort Campbell troops, including 30 chaplains, will participate in Operation Desert Shield in the Middle East. The tally doesn't count troops and chaplains from other divisions, Duke

said.

"I can't even begin to tell you how many Southern Baptist chaplains will be there," he said.

"The Saudis haven't objected to worship. No one has been detained for holding religious services or carrying a Bible."

Religion may be more real for troops in the Saudi desert, Duke predicted: "Troops here in the States have their lives to distract them. But I'm already discovering troops who want to think about their faith. When they get over there—far from their families and with less to do—they'll think about it even more. And it (potential combat) makes them think more about the Lord and life and death.

"I'm anticipating a fruitful ministry in Saudi Arabia."

Duke's Fort Campbell "congregation" is 650 troops, 250 of whom will leave families behind.

About half of the families are very young—wives as young as age 17, with small children—and living near the poverty level. Under normal circumstances, an important part of Duke's ministry is to those families.

Anticipating deployment, he has developed a list of tasks rear-deployment Army personnel can do to help. He has notified families of churches and ministries available to them. And he has set up a food locker

that his wife, Joni, will administer while he's away.

Meanwhile, his thoughts are turning to a desert parish on the other side of the globe.

"We're going to see our Christian experience put to the test," Duke acknowledged. "We feel we'll be up to the challenge. But we don't want to go, though."

The chaplains' job will be to help the troops deal with the faith experiences that come their way.

"I anticipate conducting worship just like I did at home," Duke predicted. "I'm looking forward to it. I think they'll be responsive."

In preparation, he is taking a six months'

supply of Sunday school lessons from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Life and Work series.

Duke joked about a potential problem, noting, "My main concern will be finding enough water to baptize."

If work is slack, side trips to the Red Sea or the Jordan River—great biblical bodies of water—might be arranged, he added, laughing at the irony.

And speaking of biblical relationships, Duke said the chaplains have paraphrased a quote from the Old Testament book of Esther for their motto:

"Perhaps we were called into the Kingdom for such a time as this."

Rooms available for 1991 SBC

Housing request forms for the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta have been mailed to each associational director of missions in Kentucky, announced Jim Hawkins, associate to the executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The forms can be copied as needed, Hawkins said.

All SBC housing request forms must be postmarked Oct. 1, 1990.

Complete instructions for obtaining housing are included in each set. A list of

hotels, rates and a map of downtown Atlanta also are included.

No phone orders to the SBC housing bureau in Atlanta will be accepted, Hawkins said.

No deposits are required when housing request forms are mailed.

In associations that do not have directors of missions, copies of the form were sent to the 1989-90 clerk.

Housing request forms also may be obtained from the executive office of the KBC, Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253.

People or petroleum: Why are we 'over there'?

editorial

Marv Knox

What's a gallon of gas worth? Don't answer with the outrageous price you just paid to fill your tank. Ask yourself what you'd give up to keep the wheels of the family van (or the sporty new two-seater, four-by-four, subcompact or vehicle of your choice) running at the pace to which we've become accustomed.

When, or if, we get past the awful hostage situation in Iraq/Kuwait, we'll have to ask ourselves, "What's a gallon of gas worth?"

Is it worth the life of your son or daughter? How about your sister or brother, niece or nephew? Would you want your grandson to die in the desert so your Oldsmobile would never thirst? Those questions won't seem very bizarre if our friends and loved ones from Fort Campbell and other bases spend Christmas in Saudi Arabia.

You're probably way ahead of me. "Saddam Hussein is a madman," you're thinking. "Saddam's an Arabic Hitler. He's already gassed ethnic minorities; now he's taken over a tiny, defenseless country and is threatening a (more or less) peaceful neighbor. Change the date by 50 years, move to a next-door continent, and he's Hitler all over again. Nobody would question stopping Hitler."

You're right. President Bush acted swiftly and appropriately to thwart Iraq's advance across the sub-continent. With Operation Desert Shield, he called Saddam's bluff, made the dictator think again before slicing the lives of the people we now refer to as "the hostages."

Our military personnel—most of them so young they can't remember the last time troops went to war—shipped out bravely. We all salute them. They have pledged their lives to protect our country. No matter what happens, we must respond to

the nobility of their intent and treat them better than our brothers and sons were treated when they arrived home from a jungle war two decades ago.

Still, the thought of sacrificing these young lives to keep my Dodge on the road makes me shudder. Oh, I know about global relationships and economics. Political scientists, sociologists and historians all explain the delicate dynamics of the region. They articulate compelling arguments for keeping a dictator in check, especially when millions of Arabs think he's right. The situation is not simple.

That's why, as a nation, our best thinking and most earnest prayers should be aimed toward the Middle East debacle. After the hostage situation is settled, we must ask ourselves if troops should remain. If our military presence saves lives, and if the risk of bloodshed is lowered because armies are present, then we follow the implications of that logic. But if we're there simply to keep cheap crude oil flowing, we should pack up the tanks, load up the troops and come home.

Already, the conflict has forced Kentucky

missionaries Jeff (of Hickory) and Susan (of Sacramento) Vann and their three children to leave Jordan, an Arab nation where many Palestinians are angry with the U.S. military buildup. Another Southern Baptist missionary couple, Maurice and Laurie Graham, and their two sons are holed-up in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. Their host is Ambassador W. Nathaniel Howell, who was active in Baptist Student Union while he studied at the University of Virginia. As evangelistic, missions-minded Christians, we must consider what impact a war would have on our ability to reach the world with the message of Christ.

So, the next time you fill your car and feel like cursing the price of gas, pray. Pray for the hostages and their families. Remember the troops and their kin. Seek a blessing for our missionaries in the region. Ask God to guide the work of people who are studying alternate fuels. And pray for our national and world leaders. Ask the Lord to help them tell the difference between the value of petroleum and the infinite worth of people.

Save money; print your newsletter on our back page

Fall means budget-setting time in most Kentucky Baptist churches. Unfortunately, some churches inevitably discover a discrepancy between anticipated income and necessary expenditures.

Some of those churches decide to save money by dropping the Western Recorder from their budgets. They quit sending Kentucky Baptists' weekly newspaper to their members, depriving them of Baptist information from across the commonwealth and around the globe.

Churches that are considering dropping the Recorder can make a wiser choice than those who have gone before them. They can combine and conquer their budget woes (or at least the news-and-information budget woes).

A church that has a weekly newsletter can print its news on the back page of the Recorder and mail the whole thing to its members for less than the cost of mailing the newsletter alone.

The weekly cost is less than what you would pay to send a postcard to each family in your church. And for that, you provide your entire congregation with Baptist news at its broadest: from the grassroots level of your own church, all the way to the latest developments on foreign mission fields.

Interested in saving money and doing your church a favor? Contact the Recorder's business manager, Ray Hayes, at P.O. Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253, or call him at (502) 245-4101.

—Marv Knox

'Cooperative way still best,' mission leaders declare

guest editorial

by R. Keith Parks and Morris H. Mills

The cooperative way is still the best way. Southern Baptists came together around missions. From the beginning, we struggled to find a way to honor autonomy of churches while planning and working together. The combination of the Cooperative Program and special mission offerings (foreign, home, state and association) has become the most effective way any group has yet found to jointly support missions and other commonly agreed upon

causes. It is a system built on trust and a commitment to financially support together a witness and ministry beyond what each church could do singly.

Some of us from the Foreign Mission Board staff and trustees attended the meeting of Baptists held in Atlanta August 23-25. We went because mission support was being discussed. It seemed prudent to observe and try to assess what impact this might have on our foreign mission effort. It was gratifying that there was expressed a strong desire to continue supporting our foreign mission effort. It was distressing that the vast majority seemed to feel that distrust and alienation made it impossible to continue that support through the channels of the Cooperative Program as it now exists.

Many Southern Baptists are feeling grief, but it would be a great tragedy for Southern Baptists to revert to an independent church approach for supporting missions and other causes of common concern. It would be highly regrettable for an alternate funding system to be implemented.

For the sake of this lost world, we would call on the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention and the leadership of this group to try one more time to find a way to restore trust and join in support of our agreed upon causes through a single Cooperative Program.

Parks is president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Mills is first vice chairman of the FMB board of trustees.

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

MARV KNOX, *Editor*
JAMES H. COX, *Associate Editor*
RAY L. HAYES, *Business Manager*
C. R. DALEY, *Editor Emeritus*

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., Box 43969, Middletown, Ky., except for one week in July and December. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Middletown, KY 40253.

Subscriptions: Single, \$8.48; foreign, \$9.00; church budget, \$6.50. Payable in advance, except church accounts, which require tax exemption number.

Advertising: Rates available upon request (502-245-4101). Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space.

Directors: Richard Bridges, Bowling Green, chairman; Greg Earwood, Murray, vice chairman; Glenn Mollette, Pikeville, secretary; Bill Crosby, Erlanger; Denzel Dukes, Paducah; Glenn Durham, Harlan; Paul Godsey, Burlington; Garnett Hulette, Frankfort; Don Mantooth, Morehead; Isaac McDonald, Hodgenville; John Searcy, Franklin; George Smith, Leitchfield.

baptist forum

Decrying politics

Kentucky Baptists do not want political polarization in our state. We see clearly the tragedies of such a movement in the Southern Baptist Convention. Therefore, let us rise up with one voice and repudiate it before it gets off the ground. We do not need the "London Lobby" to pick candidates for our fall meeting.

The best way to defeat this effort is to ignore it with a loud voice and not cast a single vote for a single person on the selected list. Proper leaders will emerge at the Paducah convention without the help of any group ahead of time.

When people see that organized political movements and candidates running for office before the convention means certain defeat, the movement in Kentucky can be laid to rest.

*C. Carman Sharp
Louisville*

Looking for examples

For some time I have heard rumors that our Southern Baptist missionary boards have refused to appoint individuals as missionaries for rather trivial "doctrinal" reasons. These were merely unsubstantiated allegations until such an event occurred to a friend. If the mission board could delay and reject such a fine Christian man, perhaps the widespread allegations have truth to them. I have heard reports of discrimination in four areas:

- Candidates being questioned on small doctrinal matters and appointment delayed, but they were eventually confirmed and appointed.
- Candidates being questioned and rejected on doctrinal grounds.
- Candidates who were questioned on these matters and who withdrew their names before board approval/rejection.
- Those Southern Baptists interested or called to a mission vocation, but who choose to exercise that ministry outside our Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board.

In order that an objective study of this problem can be undertaken, I am asking all those Southern Baptists in any one of the four categories to notify me before Nov. 15. Larry Douglas Smith, 2218 Wadsworth Ave., Louisville, KY 40205.

Response to this inquiry will demonstrate quickly whether this is a minor or major problem within our denomination. Thank you for your cooperation in this study.

*Larry Douglas Smith
Louisville*

Rejoice in missions giving

There has been much said and written in recent months concerning alternative giving to Southern Baptist causes which bypass the Cooperative Program. One pastor recently wrote that to withhold cooperative funds is to "strike a blow at our heart....to cut a little piece out of our Bold Mission Thrust." I think he is right, but I think he is also wrong.

The Cooperative Program did not fall from heaven as the way all Christians are to give to missions. It is a man-made device which, in its day, worked very well. However, with the shift in the convention its days are over.

The operative word in the Cooperative Program is "cooperative." There are some churches whose convictions will not allow them to give money "cooperatively" which they have no voice in spending, just as there are some churches whose convictions tell them to support this program no matter what. Both are free to express these convictions as they wish. The greatest sin we could commit is not to cut cooperative gifts, but rather to not give to missions at all. In all alternative programs I have seen, mission giving is still a priority, and the people

giving have a voice in where their money goes.

Over the past 12 years we have paid for our sins, and paid dearly. Let us not compound the problem by arguing how the money gets to our missionaries. Let us rather rejoice in the fact that it gets to them, and retain what semblance of diversity that still remains in Southern Baptist life.

*Gary J. McAbee, pastor
Beech Grove Baptist Church
Owenton*

On right track

I wish to commend those professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary who are looking at starting a new seminary. I believe that they are on the right track in starting an independent seminary that is not connected to the Southern Baptist Convention. I do appreciate their thinking on this point even though I disagree with their theology.

Our SBC seminaries need to be brought back to the teaching of the inerrant Bible that our Lord Jesus taught and never condemned. The apostles, the early church fathers and even the New Testament writers had no problems with the Bible being God's Holy Word.

These professors must feel that they need to go to a place where the Bible is not the main emphasis of their teaching and where they can teach that the Word of God is full of flaws. I respect their attitude in moving to a new location since they teach something other than what most Southern Baptists believe and want taught at our SBC seminaries.

For the last 12 years, the majority of Southern Baptists have spoken loud and clear the direction that they wish for their leaders, preachers, teachers and seminaries to lead. The majority want Bible believers in these positions.

We have a large group that has practiced the theology of the New Testament church and a small group who have taught, preached and lived a humanistic theology. It seems to me that this small group wishes to be of the world instead of being a peculiar people.

Yes, I believe that it would be best for those who do not hold with the doctrines of the Bible to go their own way as independents.

I wish those professors well if they decide to move elsewhere. We pray that their choice will be for the best for all concerned.

*Daniel L. Belcher
Grand Rivers*

Thanks, John Brown

When I was a freshman at Bardstown High School over 55 years ago, John Brown was a senior. Since it was a small high school, we knew each other even though he was a member of New Salem Baptist and I was a member of Mill Creek Baptist on the other side of Nelson County.

The first Friday evening of my freshman year at what is now Western Kentucky University, John Brown, then a senior there, not only invited me to Baptist Student Union, but came by the home where I was staying to take me to BSU, several blocks away. Taking someone then meant walking with that person, as almost no student had a car.

I remained very active in BSU the four years I was in college there, and fortunately, have remained active in Baptist work throughout my life. I think I would have been active in college even had John Brown not asked me. Yet, he did not take that chance.

Feeling that my BSU experience set the tone for my life, I have remained extremely grateful for the concern and actions of John Brown.

I have told this story to hundreds of Baptist youth either preparing to enter college or already in college. I tell them that probably the most I can wish for them is that

they find themselves a John Brown. I continue by telling them that I hope when they are upperclassmen that they will be a John Brown to someone else.

John Brown went on to Southern Seminary when he completed his undergraduate work, and to the best of my knowledge, I never saw him again. I understand that he devoted his life to pastoral ministry.

I do not know where John is living now, nor, in fact, whether he is living at all.

With deep gratitude, this I say, "Thank you, John Brown, wherever you are!"

*John Searcy
Franklin*

Clarifying a false impression

A Baptist Press story recently featured the establishment of a new legally independent entity for the funding of theological education at Southern Seminary: Alumni and Friends of Theological Education, Inc.

I wish to clarify a false impression I inadvertently conveyed in a statement made in the interview.

All money given through this foundation to SBTS can only be used to fund educational programs approved by the seminary trustees.

For example, a general endowment fund may be established to supplement all faculty salaries. Donors may also establish an endowed chair. The donor and the foundation may stipulate conditions for the use of the money, but the seminary trustees may refuse the gift.

The foundation can also receive designated gifts for general operational expenses and student scholarships.

There is also a provision in the articles of incorporation that upon decision of the board of directors (a majority which must be alumni of SBTS) if SBTS has departed from its 125-year heritage, the endowment monies may be given to some other institution for the education of men and women for Baptist ministry.

Because the actions of a growing number of the seminary's trustees indicate a desire to move SBTS away from its historic heritage and mission, this foundation may offer a more desirable path for support of our mother seminary.

More information may be received by writing Alumni and Friends of Theological Education, c/o H. Stephen Shoemaker, 2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40206.

*H. Stephen Shoemaker, pastor
Crescent Hill Baptist Church
Louisville*

Looking for definitions

I am writing to find out about the name "Moderate Baptists."

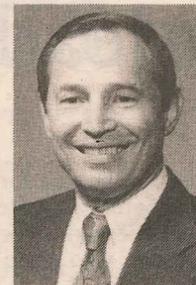
To me, moderate means middle, neither hot or cold; not very strong for or against, just lukewarm. So I am writing for a clarification of the meaning of the term or name "Moderate Baptists." Also, I would like to know what your doctrines or beliefs are and how they differ from "Conservative Baptists."

Conservative, to me, means going all the way with the teachings of the word of God, and accepting what it says just exactly as it is written; understanding about parables and comparisons.

Anyway, how can one decide as to whether he or she is a "Moderate Baptist" without knowing their doctrines or beliefs. I, for one, would really like to know what it's all about.

We Baptists are supposed to believe in majority rule. Shouldn't we all be so busy concentrating and praying on keeping lost souls out of hell and teaching Christians how to live so they will be an example to the lost that there is no time for bickering within our wonderful Southern Baptist churches and organizations?

*N.W. Bishop
Somerset*



on mission together

William W. (Bill) Marshall
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Box 43433
Middletown, KY 40253

China: Part I

Between 1969 and 1976, as Middle East field representative, Iran, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh were part of my territory. I can remember more than once wishing I could arrange one of my many trips in that direction to include China. But it never happened. The doors of that most populous of nations had been tightly closed.

Thus, when we were given the opportunity to connect our Baptist World Congress meeting with a few days in China, a long-held hope would be realized.

Dr. Bill O'Brien of the Foreign Mission Board arranged and led our group of executive secretaries and spouses.

Our group was joined in Hong Kong by missionary Jack Shelby who serves as the area director for the FMB's Cooperative Services International. Through this arm of ministry, the Foreign Mission Board is engaged in a number of projects in China.

China will not likely ever grant visas to "career" foreign missionaries. CSI is an innovative and effective way to "do missions" in countries otherwise closed to missionaries. China's new openness has generated an appetite among Chinese students to learn English but there are more opportunities than there are volunteers to fill them.

Jack supplied some fluency in Chinese and a daily commentary on what is happening in China. He shared some remarkable stories which may not now be published—stories which will thrill anyone who wonders if Christianity is alive and well in China.

The flight on China Air from Hong Kong to Guelin (Gwe-lin) was on a comfortable but aging American-made Boeing. It was still very hot when we arrived late in the night at the tiny airport facility.

Passengers gathered in one large room, awaiting luggage. Presently a tractor chugged in pulling a large flat-bed wagon with luggage stacked six or seven deep. Passengers converged on the wagon and began pulling the baggage to the concrete floor. After the departure of the tractor, we surrounded the pile like ants on a discarded candy mint, until the pile of luggage disappeared. This routine was repeated a second time during which we found our bags. A Chinese lady, who was probably younger than I would have guessed, elbowed me out of the way while she wrestled her large bag toward customs where our ladies stood, quite amused by their husbands' struggles.

As we made our way in sweltering heat through immigration and customs, the smile on the face of the Chinese official signaled that I was welcome in his country.

I wanted to hug him. He had no idea how excited we were to be there. I hoped he could translate my American smile just as I had translated his.

(to be continued)

Prayer leaders say SBC to see revival or judgment

by Ken Camp

Southern Baptists either are headed for a final judgment from God or for the greatest revival they ever have experienced, according to national prayer leaders who spoke at the "Cedars of Lebanon," Aug. 31-Sept. 3.

To escape judgment and experience genuine spiritual awakening, God's people must become broken, repentant and overwhelmed by the awesome holiness of God, prayer leaders told more than 350 people who attended the retreat at Mt. Lebanon Encampment near Dallas, sponsored by Texas Baptist Men organization.

God is "stirring the nest" of Southern Baptists and of the United States, said Avery Willis of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Hurricanes, earthquakes and floods experienced last year and the current crisis in the Middle East all are God's way of "trying to get our attention" and redirecting his people to himself, he said.

"God is trying to shake us up so we will hear him," Willis said. "God is stirring our nest and letting us down on the briars."

Before God can use Southern Baptists for his glory, they first must be broken, according to Don Miller of Bible-Based Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas. However, he added that God breaks his people to create something else out of the shattered pieces, not so that they can remain broken.

"God wants to make something out of us. We dare not sit and moan and groan in our brokenness," said Miller. "The potential is too great."

As the bride of Christ, the church must be pure, faithful and holy, according to

T.W. Hunt of the Sunday School Board.

"There is a mystical purity that is already there," he said. "Practically, we have a long way to go."

In recent months, Hunt said he has been encouraged by meetings of Southern Baptists characterized by deep confession of sin and by total lack of awareness of time as God moved.

"I've seen people overwhelmed by God's dread holiness," he said. "God has taken the initiative in a profound way."

The pattern is not new, according to Richard Owen Roberts of International Awakening Ministries. Every Old Testament revival was preceded by a tragic moral and spiritual decline, by a righteous judgment from God, by the raising up of immensely burdened leaders and by some extraordinary act of God, he said.

Currently, the Southern Baptist Convention is under the remedial judgment of God, said Roberts, a Congregationalist minister serving the non-denominational Providence Chapel in Wheaton, Ill.

Remedial, corrective judgment is characterized by the "withdrawal of God's manifest presence," he said, and is a merciful act toward a disobedient people who still have the opportunity to repent. A final judgment, on the other hand, is when God strikes his people dead, and they have no opportunity left for repentance, he explained.

Roberts, who authored the definitive booklet on "solemn assemblies," warned Southern Baptists not to make the solemn assembly a "fad" or a "program." Based on an Old Testament practice, the solemn assembly is a time in which believers are

called together for prayer, fasting, confession of sin and repentance.

Henry Blackaby of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board said Southern Baptists' national prayer leaders consciously have resisted all efforts to turn the solemn assembly into "just another program."

"There is a deep moving of God in our

leadership, but most Southern Baptists have never heard of solemn assembly. We have not gone far enough into solemn assembly to have corrupted it yet," he said.

Blackaby underscored Roberts' assertion that Southern Baptists are under God's remedial judgment, and the need for repentance is urgent. (BP)

Chapman meets prayer leaders

Southern Baptist Convention president Morris Chapman met privately for more than three and one-half hours with key convention prayer leaders Sept. 1 at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Encampment near Dallas to discuss prayer and spiritual awakening.

"I wanted to learn more about what is occurring in solemn assemblies with leaders around the country," said Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas.

Avery Willis and T.W. Hunt of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Henry Blackaby of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board were at the encampment for the "Cedars of Lebanon" prayer retreat, sponsored by Texas Baptist Men organization. Minette Drumwright of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Doug Beggs with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission flew in specifically at Chapman's request.

Chapman said that even before the votes were tallied June 12 in New Orleans (site of the 1990 SBC annual meeting), God had directed him to emphasize prayer and spiritual awakening if he were elected president of the SBC.

"Once I was elected, one of my first thoughts was to call together these prayer officers of our convention agencies," he said. "I wanted to listen to them and hear some of the things that they had learned about prayer since first calling Southern Baptists to solemn assembly in September of 1989."

The solemn assembly is based on the Old Testament practice of calling together God's people for prayer, fasting, corporate repentance and confession of sin. "I am greatly encouraged by what I believe God is going to do among Southern Baptists as we increasingly come before him," Chapman said.

Though he indicated he would have to "give more thought and prayer" to the matter before making specific plans, Chapman said he was considering ways to help implement the idea of solemn assemblies among Southern Baptists.

Since he had not heard the sermons referring to judgment, Chapman said it was difficult for him "to determine how God views our spirituality at the present time," but he agreed that Southern Baptists need to seek God in humility and repentance. (BP)

ANDY ANDERSON on CHURCH GROWTH

SEPTEMBER 24-28, 1990 2:30 to 4:30 and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.



- "Discoverer" of Open Enrollment and the ACTION PLAN
- Inventor of the GROWTH SPIRAL
- One of Southern Baptists' National Treasures

FOUR HOURS WITH ANDY TO . . .

Explore the how and why of church growth • Examine the place of Sunday School in church growth
• Hear from a man who "did it" in church growth • Discover some interesting connections between the plan of the Bible and the way we "do church" • Share some suggestions on reaching people

MONDAY — SEPTEMBER 24 — PADUCAH, West End Baptist Church

TUESDAY — SEPTEMBER 25 — OWENSBORO, Third Baptist Church

WEDNESDAY — SEPTEMBER 26 — ELIZABETHTOWN, Severns Valley Baptist Church, 2:00-5:00 P.M.

THURSDAY — SEPTEMBER 27 — LEXINGTON, Gardenside Baptist Church

FRIDAY — SEPTEMBER 28 — FLORENCE, Florence Baptist Church

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention / A Ministry of the Cooperative Program

Diversity, not conformity urged by SBTs pastor

by Pat Cole

The fall semester at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary opened with an appeal for faculty and students not to plow paths that "may usurp the freedom of those who follow."

Seminary Pastor J. Estill Jones said at the Louisville school's Aug. 28 convocation that the spirit of Southern Seminary has been characterized by free exploration and expression.

The seminary should seek diversity rather than conformity, he stressed: "The

seminary is not a sausage mill ensuring the uniformity of every skin-encompassed bunch of bologna. Creative thinking is the foundation of progress. It thrives on conversation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit."

Jones also stressed the importance of seeking truth within the context of freedom. Both freedom and truth are God's gifts and must be "treasured and cultivated," he said.

"Both freedom and truth are necessary in the fellowship. Relationships among us depend on our respect for freedom. Relationships among us depend on our loyalty

to the truth. And both loyalty and freedom in this place depend on relationships. Yet neither is relative; both are absolute."

Jones substituted for seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt, who is recuperating from open heart surgery performed in late July.

During the convocation, Doris Borchert, associate professor of Christian education, signed the original copy of the Abstract of Principles, the seminary's confessional statement. The document has been signed by every tenured member of the seminary faculty since the school's founding in 1859. Borchert was granted tenure by

seminary trustees at their April meeting.

Other faculty recognitions during the convocation included the installation of three professors to endowed chairs—Gerald L. Borchert, T. Rupert and Lucille Coleman chair of New Testament; Diana Garland, C. Edwin Gheens chair of Christian family ministry; and Bill J. Leonard, William Walker Brookes chair of American Christianity. In addition, Bob I. Johnson was installed as dean of Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Seminary that provides ministerial training to persons without college degrees. (BP)

Cooperative way 'still best,' leaders maintain

by C. Lacy Thompson

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks has responded to the recent meeting of moderates in Atlanta with a plea for dialogue and support of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program giving plan.

Parks and FMB trustee First Vice Chairman Morris Mills issued an Aug. 29 open letter that affirms, "The cooperative way is still the best way." (See guest editorial, page 4.)

The letter was response to the gathering of 3000 moderates last month to discuss fellowship and alternate funding possibilities. The group established an interim organization to allow churches and individuals to designate funds.

Others joined Parks and Mills in commenting on the meeting:

SBC President Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, called the Atlanta meeting "unfortunate" and said it indicated moderates "have now made it clear they have no desire to cooperate with mainstream Southern Baptists."

Chapman said the alternative funding plan could require some initial budget adjustments by convention entities. "But in the long term, I believe Southern Baptists will respond overwhelmingly in giving through the Cooperative Program to support our missionary efforts. I think the

Cooperative Program is woven in the fabric of Southern Baptists and action taken by moderates in Atlanta will not shred that fabric. Southern Baptists are a resilient people, and we will—as a convention—come through this time."

Chapman suggested the meeting "set the wheels in motion" for moderates to withdraw from the convention. "First, over the years they've moved from conservative theology. Now they're moving away from cooperative methodology. And these are the two great traditions of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Chapman said he did not know how productive dialogue of convention and Atlanta leaders would be but noted he has voiced his willingness "to meet with any person at any place who wants to share their heart-felt convictions."

However, he reiterated earlier statements that the impetus for such dialogue lies with moderates, who he said have remained resistant to conservative theology and leadership.

Chapman stressed keeping the recent meeting in perspective. "Southern Baptists must remember we have 37,000 churches, and by far most of those churches were not in attendance in Atlanta," he said. "And there's no way to immediately gauge the results of this meeting due to the fact that those attending will have to go back to their churches, and the individual churches will

have to make those decisions.

"And I just believe the larger body of Southern Baptists is going to find it very difficult to be uncooperative," Chapman said. "I think Southern Baptists will be reminded that our resources are in heaven and God will provide for our needs in funding missions around the world. Historically, Southern Baptists always have been steadfast in doctrine, stouthearted in spirit, courageous in convictions and faithful in fellowship."

Daniel Vestal, chairman of the Atlanta group's steering committee, noted he has been "dialoguing for 12 years" in an effort to promote reconciliation. "But there can't be reconciliation without a willingness to share in decision making," he said.

Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist

Church in suburban Atlanta, disagreed that the impetus for dialogue lies with moderates. "We have no power. We are disenfranchised. We have nothing. We have no leverage. We have no way to compel anybody to do anything. So what we have done is choose as free Baptists to voluntarily associate ourselves together in good will for the sake of missions and evangelism."

"I don't wish ill to those in control (of the convention)," Vestal added. "But they don't want us. They want our money, but they don't want our participation. So we have no recourse but to seek ways to participate in the service of Christ."

"They've been saying for 12 years that people like us don't have a place. We're still not leaving, but we are going to try to get on with the work of the kingdom." (BP)

President

Georgetown College
Georgetown, Kentucky

Georgetown College invites applications and nominations for the position of President. The college is a privately endowed, residential liberal arts institution located 10 minutes from Lexington, Kentucky, in a triangle bounded by Lexington, Louisville, and Cincinnati. Related to the Kentucky Baptist Convention since its founding in 1829, the college emphasizes a strong academic curriculum in a Christian environment.

With a budget of \$13.5 million and a 70-person faculty, Georgetown College seeks a chief executive who is a committed Christian and is experienced in institutional planning, management, and fund raising in a college or university setting.

The 1989-90 student body enrollment of approximately 1600 (includes graduate students) men and women and the average ACT scores of its freshman class both represent record highs for the college. Seventy percent of the distinguished faculty hold the doctorate or terminal degree.

The position is available in February, 1991, but a starting date for the new President is negotiable prior to the beginning of the 1991-92 academic year. The search will remain open until the position is filled. Because the Search Committee will begin screening candidates in October, early submissions are encouraged. A complete application consists of a letter expressing interest in the position, a current *curriculum vita*, and the names, professional affiliations, addresses, and telephone numbers of at least three sources of reference. No contact will be made with these sources without the applicant's approval. All communications, which will be held in strict confidence, should be addressed to:

Presidential Search Committee
P.O. Box 26
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324

Georgetown College is an equal opportunity employer.

CONTINUING WITNESS TRAINING (CWT)

A National Seminar for Pastors/Leaders
is scheduled at the Hardin Baptist Church
Hardin, Kentucky

Monday, Oct. 15, 1:00 p.m.
thru

Thursday noon, Oct. 18 (central time)

Cost — \$75 per person

(Room, board and travel are not provided)

Co-sponsored by

Personal Evangelism Department, Home Mission Board, SBC
and

Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention

Bill Jagers, Director; and Billy Compton, Associate

Telephone: 502-245-4101

Registration for CWT Seminar

Church Name: _____ Phone No. _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Pastor/Leader's Name: _____
(Person responsible for leading CWT in local church)

Tuition Fee enclosed (\$75.00)

Make checks payable to: Kentucky Baptist Convention
Mail to: Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention
P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433

Instructions for preparation for the seminar
will be sent on receipt of your registration.



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

clear creek chronicle

Praise the Lord

"It's amazing what praising can do" is a song Clear Creek enjoys. May these chapel praise testimonies encourage you as they did me.

"I thank the Lord we closed the sale on our house."—Keith Weldon, Owensboro freshman.

"Praise the Lord for a great summer at my church. We baptized 13!"—Shawn Madden, Kentucky senior.

"My wife has told most of you already but I am so thankful we are expecting our first child after a seven-year wait."—Wayne Whaley, northern Kentucky senior.

"We figured out our first year and thought we had adequate money saved. Expenses were more than we expected but the Lord supplied our need. We had enough to start the new school year."—Carolyn Dixon, western Kentucky sophomore.

"The Lord opened a door for a campus job and also to work on Saturday mornings at a hardware store to help the company that helped me last year."—Billy Howell, North Carolina sophomore.

"I thank the Lord for all he's done. I've been here a year after leaving a job and family like others. Thank the Lord for all he has taught me. I am praying for wisdom."—Jimmy Baxter, Kentucky sophomore.

"Thank God I went to Brazil this summer. It was so exciting; I plan to go again."—Kenny Queener, Tennessee junior.

"I have cause for big praises to God and his people. This summer a fire destroyed all we had; after two months the Lord gave us more than before. At the fire I saw people come together to help whose lives had never touched. Families with few resources helped us. One little boy gave me \$1.24 of his own money to 'help me get my life back together.' I have always been prideful and it was hard to accept anything from others. Through this experience the Lord humbled me. People saw a need and wanted to help. We must do the same."—David Foley, Kentucky junior.

mountains to the mississippi

PERSONNEL: C. Vernon Cole of Middletown, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's minister-church support division, suffered a major heart attack Sept. 1. He has been released from Louisville's Baptist Hospital East and is at home.

Pastors—Clay Hughes, from Providence Church, Campbellsburg, to Moreland Baptist Church near Danville John Zekausky to Rolling Hills Mission Church, LaGrange Robert Petersen to Pelville Baptist Church, Pelville Harold Mayfield to West Point Baptist Church, Reynolds Station Garnett Lawson resigned Antioch Church, Bedford Terry Settles to Beech Grove Baptist Church, Irvine Don Gregory to Mt. Haven Baptist Church,

Mayfield Guy Gordon retired from Glenville Baptist Church, Utica Mike Miller to New Concord Baptist Church, Melber Kelly Caruthers to Sand Hill Baptist Church, Benton Jeff Cox resigned from Hopewell Baptist Church, Arlington Bill Patterson to First Baptist, Henderson Paul Ballew to Moscow Baptist Church, Fulton Robert Johnson to Sassafras Ridge Baptist Church, Hickman Ray Farrow to Waddy Baptist Church, Waddy Tom Herington resigned as pastor of Lake Dreamland Baptist Church, Louisville.

Interim pastors—Verlin Kruschwitz to Providence Church, Campbellsburg Guy Deane to Central Baptist Church, Hawes-

ville Fred Jenkins to Auburndale Baptist Church, Louisville Paul Lee to Hardinsburg Baptist Church, Hardinsburg.

Others—Jerry Burke to Seven Hills Baptist Church, Owensboro, as interim minister of music Ron Fellows resigned as minister of education and singles from Victory Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville Steve Sansom resigned as minister of music from First Church, Paintsville Chuck and Cindy Stallard resigned as ministers to youth and children at Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster M. Andy Reese, who retired as pastor of First Baptist Church, Barbourville, named special representative of the president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Home turf

One of the opportunities some of my colleagues in the state Baptist Building say they cherish most is in visiting with the grassroots constituency. Being in local

churches for high spiritual hours and rubbing shoulders with people who make up our diverse constituency are some of the high marks of our careers.

This week I will complete 15 years at Western Recorder. Early on I decided to keep a little spiral notebook in which I could record the dates of my visits to KBC congregations. As a layman, I recognized that the pages of that book would never be as bulky as those in similar books kept by Bob Jones, A. B. Colvin, Jesse Stricker and Bill Marshall. Yet I am pleased to note that my travels have thus far carried me to 151 churches. That averages to 10 visits annually with pastors and people not previously encountered on their home turf.

Not very impressive, admittedly, when you consider there are about 2300 KBC-affiliated congregations. But my task is often that of reporting on denominational events. And you can count on less than 10 fingers the number of Southern Baptist sanctuaries in the commonwealth that are capable of hosting gatherings of 1500 or more. Therefore, we frequently return to a handful of churches again and again for the bigger meetings and often for some medium and smaller functions as well.

My notebook indicates there have been 100 visits in 15 years to just seven of these 151 congregations. I have been to one—Louisville's Walnut Street Church—35 times in 15 years. If this is in direct proportion to Kentucky Baptists' meeting use of Walnut Street's facilities, we may owe this congregation a tremendous debt of gratitude and possibly some consideration on the light, heat, water, telephone, supplies and cleaning bills as well!

Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown, is second on my list of "regulars," including 23 trips. Two Louisville congregations follow—St. Matthews, at 16, and Hurstbourne, at 15. I've covered events at the First churches of Bowling Green and Paducah on a dozen occasions each and 10 times at Madisonville First.

There are many, many other congregations with multiple visits recorded in that little spiral notebook.

Kentucky Baptists are a joyful fellowship. The people are gracious hosts and their genuine warmth is appreciated by Middletown staffers. Thank you for inviting us to share in a variety of experiences at the places where you worship the heavenly Father as his called people.



NN Investors Life Insurance Company, Inc.
presents

Long Term Care Insurance

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a nursing home stay will be a reality for seven out of ten couples or two out of five individuals age 65 and older.

Because Medicare pays only about 3% of nursing home costs,* you may not have any protection against the most serious threat to your retirement security!!

*Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Features Include:

- ★ Spouse insured at no premium cost!
- ★ Home Health Care Option covers homemaker and companion care! (Subject to coverage limitations.)
- ★ Provides coverage for prescription drugs!

NN Investors Life Insurance Company, Inc. policy form #3122(00)288
FORM #NP-001

For additional information, fill out this coupon and mail to: Valerie M. Russell, Long Term Care Insurance
2309 Ben Ali Court, Owensboro, KY 42301
(1-800-937-3123)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

I understand that an agent may call.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR SEPT. 16, 1990

Life and work series

Christian fellowship

Acts 2:42-47 When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, 3000 people repented of their sins and believed on Christ and were baptized. Those early church members continued in intimate fellowship

with Christ. They put instructions into practice. Happiness in the Lord and in their work together for him characterized them. Their spirit, fellowship, attitudes, conduct, testimony, labors and service resulted in the salvation of many others.

Because of grace and their spirit of oneness in their devotion to Christ and in Christian generosity, they shared their possessions with others as needs arose. Fellowship involves reciprocal knowledge, reciprocal love and reciprocal endeavor. Real fellowship means knowing each other better, loving each other more and doing things for each other.

II Cor. 1:4-6 Paul described God as the father of the savior, the father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. God stands by us in all our tribulations and gives us the strength we need. God comforts us that we may be able to comfort, encourage and strengthen others. God wants to open up to us the treasures of his grace so that we may be able to meet the needs of others.

Eph. 4:1-3 It is the will of God for all Christians to walk worthily of their call. Each Christian who walks worthily bears witness to the saving, sanctifying and satisfying power of Christ. The Christian studies to learn Christ's will for his or her life and then strives to do it.

Heb. 13:1 The writer of Hebrews challenged Christian readers to continue the cultivation of Christian love. Expression of love for one's brothers and sisters in Christ must not be neglected. However, love must not be limited to Christians, but must also find expression in hospitality to strangers. Christ will certainly bless and reward those who are kind and hospitable to others.

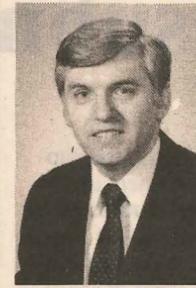
International series

Nathan rebukes David

II Sam. 12:1-10, 13 David's adultery is an example of how the Bible describes frankly the failures of God's children. After his indirect murder of Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, David took her as his wife. God's word says: "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord." When God's children fall into sin, in one way or another God deals with them in order that they may be forgiven and restored to fellowship.

God in mercy sent the prophet Nathan to declare unto David his personal guilt and God's displeasure. Nathan told David one of the most touching parables in all literature. It was so graphic that it caused David to vow that as certainly as God permitted him to live, he would see to it that the guilty rich man paid the penalty for his transgression. Nathan looked into David's face and said: "Thou art the man." That indictment was a shock to David. The prophet's blunt announcement that the seeds sown by the king would bring forth a harvest of adultery and murder among his descendants aroused David's conscience.

Nathan's disclosure of David's sin and guilt caused the king to abhor himself and the sins he had committed. Instead of pleading any mitigating circumstances, attempting to blame anyone else for his sins or trying to justify himself, in genuine repentance David acknowledged his sin against God and others and prayed for forgiveness and restoration. Even though God forgave David, sins left their scars on David's life.



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

homes for children

Taking advice

Do you ever have trouble taking advice? The answer to that question often depends upon who's giving it and whether it was asked for or not.

Unsolicited advice or advice that goes counter to what we want to do is usually a lot harder to accept than advice that is requested and advice that says do what you are doing. Prov. 13:10 says, "Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice" (NIV).

When we receive information or feedback that we did not want to hear, our first response is to become defensive. Our pride gets in the way and we do not actually hear what is said, for we are busy thinking up our response.

Pride leads us to then begin to put down the advice given. Rather than admitting that we may be wrong, we have to discredit the other individual.

In reality, pride often deafens us to some valuable information. There is some truth in any advice, and we need to search for that truth. We may have to cool down and move beyond our immediate reaction before that can happen.

Systems theory suggests that it is only negative feedback which allows an individual or organization to alter a course of action. If all one ever receives are positive words of encouragement to continue what we are doing, then we never see a reason to change.

Negative feedback, on the other hand, suggests something is wrong. As we begin to search our actions for what is wrong, we are open to correction and are willing to alter what we do.

Though it may be unpleasant, we all need advice and instruction which causes us to examine our actions. We all need people around us who want us to be better than we are and are willing to help by offering advice even when we may not want to hear it.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Combs' surprise visit

On the fourth day of a new school year, former Gov. (1959-63) Bert Combs came by for a one and one-half-hour visit. It was a total, but delightful, surprise. He celebrated his 79th birthday earlier in the month. He was a schoolboy here at Oneida 68 years ago, a second generation Oneidian. His mother enrolled at Oneida Monday, Jan. 1, 1900, Oneida's first classroom day.

My mind raced back to other visits by this noted former student. He came for homecoming in 1959, the nominee of his party for governor. Also, a 1930 graduate, Pleaz Mobley, was the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor that year. So it did not matter which party won that year, Oneida had one on the

ticket. That was quite a commentary on the influence of a tiny school in the eastern Kentucky mountains in a state of over three million people.

In the third year of a very notable governorship, Gov. Combs returned to speak at our 1962 commencement. Riding with him in his car were Saul and Lillie Houchell, Oneida graduates of 1911, and his cousins. Saul had been principal of Oneida when Bert was a boy. Having earned his doctorate in English, Houchell was a professor at Eastern State Teachers College for 28 years. He took a leave of absence to serve as Oneida's fifth president, 1941-46. Previously he had taught a total of 18 years at OBI, and had been principal 15 of those years.

On the night of the 1962 graduation ceremony, D. Chester Sparks announced his retirement after 14 years as OBI president. He and Saul had been baseball teammates during their Oneida school days.

Other notable Bert Combs visits included homecoming in 1981 and 1988. On both occasions Gov. Combs spoke.

This time Gov. Combs just came for a visit. Our first stop was our print shop. We gave him two of the books recently published by the Oneida Mountain Press. Then we went upstairs to the chapel where we saw the new carpet as well as in the band room and the piano lab. Our middle school choir was having its first practice of the year and Gov. Combs seemed to delight in listening to them sing. He told them he was about their age when he first came to live on the Oneida campus.

Gov. Combs then carefully inspected the five shelves filled with academic trophies for the five years since statewide academic championships have been conducted in Governor's Cup competition. Then he looked over the many shelves of athletic championship and runnerup trophies won in the course of qualifying for

participation in 53 state tournaments, winning 14 state championships and runnerup in four others.

Outside he looked across the valley at the 16 staff apartments built since his visit two years ago. From that vantage point he could also see the new 3000 square foot auto mechanics-auto body shop, 3200 square foot farm equipment storage building and a new 1800 square feet of storage for the student work program.

Then he went to visit the new gym finished last Christmas, seven new classrooms and three recreation rooms. He was delighted with the new student-made tables in the two dining rooms.

Afterwards we walked to Anderson Hall, the only building remaining from his own school days at Oneida. There, for the first time, he saw oil portraits of his grandfather, Lee Combs, and his great-grandfather, "Meridy" Combs, both members of Oneida's first board of trustees. Also, we have a lovely portrait of his great-grandmother, Easter Allen Combs. All these folk are buried on the mountain overlooking the school campus along with 314 other former Oneida students, staff members and benefactors.

Then we walked back through the campus to his car. All through the visit Gov. Combs had bantered and shook hands with scores of Oneida's girls and boys and many delighted staff members.

We very likely have a future governor or senator, or even a president of the United States, in our student body right now. I'm sure we have many future missionaries, teachers, doctors, you name it. We are trying to lead each to the Lord. We are trying to teach them the meaning of service. On this day of the governor's visit, our chapel message had been on Christ's washing the disciples' feet.

Pray for God's blessing this school year.



75 years of caring

Forget submission, go for servanthood: Miller

by Mark Wingfield

The biggest decision facing Southern Baptists concerns the role of women in the church, a pastor and acclaimed author said.

Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb., made the statement during home missions week at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

In a message on decisions, Miller said: "I think the big one for Southern Baptists is going to be the issue of women. We're all going to have to decide."

Modern society demands answers to tough questions, Miller said. "We must come out of our prayer closets, out of our time of looking at the Bible ready to answer

some pretty heavy questions."

In addition to questions about women, the church must face the issues of AIDS and abortion, he said, citing his church's strong stance against abortion.

"Dealing with these kinds of questions calls for making a decision that doesn't make you popular with everybody," he explained. "That's ok; you only need to be popular with God."

Miller called on Southern Baptists to take a new look at the theological basis for their position on women's roles. "I know that a hundred years ago Southern Baptist pastors ... would always point to Genesis 9, verse 25 and the Mark of Canaan and say that black people were engineered at Eden

to serve the whites.

"That was a theological doctrine, even though now we're embarrassed. None of us here would ever feel that any race was created to serve another race."

One hundred years from now, Christians could be equally embarrassed by their position on what has been termed the Mark of Eve, Miller warned. This concept emphasizes that Eve was told she would bring forth children in pain and be servant to her husband.

"I would like to see us get honest with an exegesis so that in a hundred years we don't feel about the Mark of Eve as our forebears felt about the Mark of Cain," Miller said. "I'd like to see us when we start quoting I

Timothy 3 try to reckon alongside that, that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither bond nor free, neither male nor female.

"I'd like to hear us quit talking about submission and lordship in the home and start talking more about mutual servanthood," he said. "I have never for the life of me understood in Eph. 5:25, when the Bible says husbands love your wives, how you can love her without serving her.

"Servitude and love, if I read the life of Jesus Christ and the incarnation right, are one single doctrine."

In reconciling scripture, Miller said Christians also must deal with the New Testament declaration that in the last days God will pour out his Spirit on all people and "your sons and daughters will prophesy."

Miller questioned how Southern Baptists would have regarded Lottie Moon had she lived 100 years later and won a Nobel Peace Prize. Moon, an early missionary to China, is the namesake of the denomination's annual offering for foreign missions.

"How do we feel about her now?" he asked. "Are we willing to put her name up alongside Hudson Taylor's (also a pioneer missionary to China) and say they were exactly equal in the sight of God, not only in what they achieved with their servitude to Jesus Christ, but in the fact that both were equally filled with the Spirit?" (BP)

Whitehead picked for CLC position

Michael K. Whitehead, a Kansas City, Mo., lawyer and deacon at First Baptist Church of Raytown, Mo., will be nominated as general counsel and director of Christian citizenship and religious liberty concerns of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

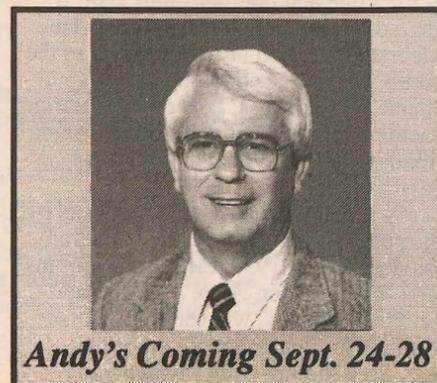
If approved by the Christian Life Commission's trustees at their meeting Sept. 10-13 in Nashville, Whitehead will join the CLC's Washington, D.C., staff Oct. 1. He will succeed Larry Braidfoot, who resigned from the CLC staff in May to accept a position as academic vice president at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans in June approved changes in the CLC's program statement adding religious liberty as an assignment in addition to Christian ethics, social concerns and public policy. (BP)

—classified ads—

WANTED: Junk boats, outboard motors, stern drives, trailers, complete units preferred, immediate settlement, call today: 502-969-7617. 7-17-50T

WANTED: Part-time Minister of Youth, 25 hours per week. Music background helpful, not required. Immanuel Baptist Church, 800 Rhodes Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. (502) 765-6516. 9-11-2T



Andy's Coming Sept. 24-28

PROPERTY and CASUALTY INSURANCE in KENTUCKY

ATTN: Independent Insurance Agents
Church Staff

Now, the Annuity Board offers a comprehensive program for Southern Baptist Churches.

Become a part of this exciting new endeavor
officially endorsed by the
Southern Baptist Convention.

Call 1-800-262-0511

to find out how you can be a member of
this winning team.

Annuity Board of the
Southern Baptist Convention
P.O. Box 2190
Dallas, TX 75221-2190

ANNOUNCING



Missions in Big Apple takes bite out of prejudice

by Mark Wingfield

Walls of prejudice and apathy came tumbling down this summer for 26 college students immersed in metropolitan New York City for 10 weeks of ministry.

"My attitude about issues like the homeless really changed," said Kevin Stringham, a Samford University sophomore from Fayetteville, Ga. "When you get here and see it and have to smell the smells, you start to have a genuine concern."

Stringham was among 26 summer missionaries assigned to Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, which encompasses the city's five boroughs and suburban New Jersey.

In all, 1369 Southern Baptist college students served as summer missionaries this year. Of that number, 676 were appointed by the Home Mission Board for service across the nation, 310 were appointed by Baptist Student Unions for work within their state conventions and 383 were appointed by BSUs for work outside their state conventions.

Although every summer missionary faced a change in culture, the 26 who ventured from mostly small Southern towns to the nation's largest city took a quantum leap.

"I expected the absolute worst," said Karen Edmondson, an East Texas State University senior from Fort Worth. "Anything bad, I thought it. I expected to be bouncing bullets. I expected to be living in a shelter with homeless people."

Those fears began to fade as the missionaries met new friends and put faces with the impersonal masses of the big city. But even then, they faced the shock of Baptist life outside the deep South.

"When I was taken out of the Bible Belt and put here, where you don't have a church on every corner and Baptist churches have to fight for survival, it opened my eyes," said Russell Gill, a Belmont College student from Waverly, Tenn.

Spending a summer in New York City helps students gain a "global awareness of needs," said Mike Chance, who coordinates the summer missions program for the association.

"New York is a slice of the world," he noted. "You can hit the streets and hear 50 or 60 dialects. It dramatically impacts the life of every summer missionary."

Chance knows firsthand what a summer in New York City can do. "I would not be here today were it not for my experience as a summer missionary in 1971," he explained. "It was because of that experience that New York got hold of me."

The association assigns summer missionaries to a variety of places, ranging from traditional churches to mission points to ministry centers. Some serve by themselves, while others serve in groups of two to six. They assist home missionaries in tasks such as vacation Bible schools, day camps, visitation, food and clothing distribution. Through their work, the students must deal with prejudices of race, culture, religion and economics.

"I never thought I was prejudiced before," said Bethany Shackleford, a Samford University sophomore from Woodstock, Ga. "But coming here I realized I was prejudiced in some ways. It was a shock to be in the minority."

Shackleford, who is from a predominantly white, middle-class community, spent the summer working with low-income black children at Trinity Chapel in LeFrak City, a cluster of high-rise apartment buildings in Queens.

April Batson, a Winthrop College junior from Liberty, S.C., worked mostly with Jamaican children at Wake Eden Baptist Church in Bronx. Although she previously

had talked about being opposed to racism, this summer she "had to put it into practice. I had to love all the children the same."

The summer workers—who mainly had read about and prayed for missionaries

before—learned what it takes to hit the streets in hands-on ministry.

Through prayer, the summer missionaries said they drew strength to do things they never thought they could do.

"You're out on the line and you have to totally depend upon God for your guidance," said Charlie Jackson, a Copiah Lincoln Community College sophomore from Roxie, Miss. (BP)



Bethany Shackleford, a Samford University sophomore from Woodstock, Ga., walks with a group of day camp participants on a field trip in Queens, N.Y. Shackleford and three other Samford students spent 10 weeks this summer working with Trinity Chapel in LeFrak City, a cluster of high-rise apartment buildings visible in the background. (BP photo by Mark Wingfield)

Journeymen cite church, campus influence

by Frank Wm. White

Student missions projects and church mission organizations are key factors cited by two returning journeymen as the basis for their decisions to dedicate two years to missions involvement.

Jason Thrower from Jacksonville, Ala., and Carol Greene from Oxford, N.C., attended the Ridgecrest Student Conference after completing two-year journeyman

assignments.

Thrower was youth director for the four churches of the Bermuda Baptist Fellowship, while Greene taught English at the Baptist Student Center in Bangkok, Thailand.

Both said they believe their assignments will impact their future career decisions and already have taught them patience as well as greater love and acceptance for others.

Thrower immersed himself in missions projects while a student at Jacksonville State University in Alabama.

Through summer mission projects in Wisconsin and New York, numerous other projects and the U.S.-Brazil Student Mission Encounter, campus ministry "played a very important part in my decision to become a journeyman," Thrower said.

In fact, entering the journeyman program in June 1988 after his graduation seemed a natural extension of his missions involvement.

For Greene, the journeyman program came after a one-year work stint following college. Although she was involved in her church college choir and Sunday school department, mission organizations from Mission Friends to Baptist Young Women provided the foundation that led to her decision to become a journeyman.

At the student center in Bangkok, Greene had opportunities to share the gospel while teaching English to people ranging from high school students to professionals wanting to learn English. English training was a drawing card for the center in the capital city of the Southeast Asian nation.

For Thrower, training workers to lead discipleship programs for youth was difficult in the island colony that enjoys a high standard of living and low unemployment because of the tourism industry.

"Being a journeyman changed my whole outlook," Greene said. "I want to get involved in some type of international or language ministry."

Thrower entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., this fall. No matter what his future role will be, he said the time as a journeyman helped prepare him to trust God's leadership. (BP)



Returning Southern Baptist journeymen Jason Thrower from Jacksonville, Ala., and Carol Greene from Oxford, N.C., discuss their experiences in the Foreign Missions Center at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center during student week. Thrower just completed two years as a journeyman in Bermuda while Greene was in Thailand. (BP photo by Frank Wm. White)



*Kentucky Baptist Homes
for Children
Touching Lives*



Glen Dale residents compete at Kentucky State Fair

The 1990 Kentucky State Fair meant work as well as fun for many young people at Glen Dale Children's Home. At the fair, boys and girls invested many hours in the animal events.

Every year, residents care for cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, rabbits and other animals as part of Glen Dale's 4-H program. Youth enter their animal projects in county fairs and other animal shows as well as in annual state fair contests.

Youth spent opening day participating in swine and sheep shows. From left, counterclockwise: Frankie Carroll, Jeff McBride, Tommy Leachman, Kelly Nicholas.

