

Messer's proposals offer 'a place for all'

by Marv Knox, Editor

Seeking what he called "a place for all Kentucky Baptists," Bill Messer has offered two proposals that he hopes will maintain peace within the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The first proposal recommends creation of a special committee to study how the KBC "receives and qualifies Cooperative Program gifts from the churches."

The second recommends establishment of an endowment fund to support the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and a one-time direct contribution to the agency. It stipulates the Baptist Joint Committee would not receive a line-item allocation in subsequent KBC budgets.

Convention President Messer presented the proposals to the KBC Executive Board's administrative committee last week.

The proposal regarding the Cooperative Program, Kentucky and Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, received unanimous approval from the 13-member committee.

The Baptist Joint Committee proposal passed 10-2, with a warning that the issue will be divisive.

To go into effect, the proposals must be approved by the Executive Board and then by messengers to the KBC annual meeting. Both groups will meet in mid-November in Paducah.

"In all likelihood, in Paducah the diversity of Kentucky Baptists will be on full display," said Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ashland, as he presented the proposals. "I'm committed to the fact that there is a place for all Kentucky Baptists."

Both issues have generated controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention and threaten to do the same within the KBC, Messer said.

The issues are related: Dissension regarding the Cooperative Program escalated this summer, when messengers to the SBC annual meeting approved a 1990-91 Cooperative Program budget that cut the SBC's allocation to the Baptist Joint Committee by 87 percent and gave most of that money

to the SBC Christian Life Commission.

The Baptist Joint Committee is a multi-denomination religious liberty organization in Washington. SBC conservatives have said it is too liberal and does not represent them. They have been successful in expanding the portfolio of the Christian Life Commission, the SBC's moral concerns agency in Nashville, to allow it to pursue religious liberty issues in Washington.

Moderates have said the BJC has been correct in maintaining strict adherence to religious liberty issues and support for separation of church and state. They have said the CLC is controlled by right-wing politicians who do not support those issues.

Consequently, some moderates have looked at alternative or supplementary ways of funding Southern Baptist missions to keep their money from going through the SBC Executive Committee, which disburses the national Cooperative Program, and to keep it from going to the CLC.

Some churches have escrowed their Cooperative Program funds—some from

all causes and some only from national causes—while they study the situation. Two state conventions, North Carolina and Virginia, have proposed optional methods of giving. A national group, "the fellowship," has established the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program Inc., to distribute missions funds.

The issue is more complicated in Kentucky than in some other states, since the KBC's Cooperative Program policies are more strict than most. For example, churches' qualifications for messengers to the KBC annual meeting are based upon undesignated gifts to the SBC Cooperative Program. Also, the formula for KBC contributions to some annuities of church staff members involves church CP gifts.

Messer's recommendation to establish a committee to study the KBC's relationship to the CP represents an attempt to keep Kentuckians from fighting over the budget, he said.

Its objective is "to hear and address
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HELPING HANDS—Norman Coad, former missionary now living in Missouri, steadies 2-year-old Aminata Jiallo's shaky steps to her mother, Suntura Jiallo, as missionary Sandra Knop (center) looks on. Southern Baptist missionaries in Mali, using their own money, helped Jiallo rebuild her home after her ex-husband damaged it during a legal dispute between the two. The missionaries' concern not only helped her regain a home, it has helped her learn about a new life in Christ. She has offered to let the missionaries use her home as a meeting place for area Christians. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Budget totals \$140.7 million

Southern Baptists contributed a record \$140.7 million to their conventionwide ministry budget during the 1989-90 fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30.

The Cooperative Program received \$140,710,282 in 1989-90, up \$3,377,759 from the 1988-89 budget, reported Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

That gain is a 2.46 percent increase. It means a decrease in spending power, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau has determined the cost of living rose 5.6 percent in the United States for the 12-month period that ended Aug. 31.

Kentucky Baptists contributed \$6,621,991 to the total, an increase of 4.02 percent over the previous year's \$6,365,871 contribution.

SBC Cooperative Program receipts topped the basic operating goal of \$134,787,543 by \$5,922,739, Bennett noted.

Of the overage, \$2,431,880 was spent to retire the debt on the 5-year-old SBC Building in Nashville. The balance was divided
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Committee members differ on use of report

by Dan Martin and Marv Knox

The 1987 report of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee was not intended to be a "creedal supplement," but it was intended to be taken as a whole, Chairman Charles Fuller said.

Fuller and three other Peace Committee members—whose viewpoints represent the diversity of the group—spoke about the report in the wake of action by trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville to use the report as a guideline for hiring and promoting faculty.

The interpretation of Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., was similar to that of Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla. It differed from the interpretations of Herschel Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, and Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta.

In a called meeting Sept. 24, Southern Seminary trustees adopted a recommenda-

tion that says: "In addition to existing guidelines, the Peace Committee report—both the findings and recommendations—serve as a guideline for the employment of temporary and permanent faculty, the promotion of existing faculty and the granting of tenure."

The findings section of the report says "most Baptists believe" that "Adam and Eve were real people," "named authors did indeed write the biblical books attributed to them," miracles "did indeed occur as supernatural events in history" and "historical narratives given by biblical authors are indeed accurate and reliable."

The recommendations section calls on SBC institutions "to build their professional staffs and faculties from those who clearly reflect such dominant convictions and beliefs held by Southern Baptists at large."

A decision to make the findings section of the report binding on any SBC institution would be an apparent contradiction to by-law 33 of the SBC constitution. It says, "The adoption of recommendations con-

tained in reports to the convention shall not bind the convention on any other matters in the body of reports; but the convention reserves the right to consider and amend the body of all reports."

Fuller, in a letter sent in response to inquiries by four Southern Seminary trustees and made available to Associated Baptist Press, said that when the report was presented to the 1987 SBC annual meeting: "I was instructed to say that we felt the entire report had equal importance. Because our recommendations were based on our findings, we felt one without the other would be either incomplete or confusing."

He added: "We determined there was no need for any statement of faith other than the Baptist Faith and Message (a confessional statement adopted by the SBC in 1925 and revised in 1963). Therefore, we resisted the idea of drafting anything which would be viewed as a creedal supplement."

"Our struggle was over how various Southern Baptists interpreted the (Baptist
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FMB enters Bulgaria, sends 48, OKs budget

by Robert O'Brien

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees, pointing toward the challenges of the future amid sobering realities in the world and the denomination, voted a record \$182.76 million 1991 budget and appointed 48 new overseas personnel last week in Richmond, Va.

They also voted to send missionaries to Bulgaria and heard reports of a Baptist seminary scheduled to open in Moscow, worldwide mission advances despite change and unrest, and new approaches to reach the 1.3 billion people in the world who live where Christian witness virtually does not exist.

In other action, trustees held a dialogue with pastors from across the Southern Baptist Convention, tabled until December a motion to study criteria for moving the FMB headquarters, appointed a committee to coordinate policy interpretation with staff and honored 71 retiring missionaries with 2,164 years of service.

Trustees also clarified policy on mission service by divorced people, named veteran missionary and administrator Billy Bullington as vice president for Africa and received a report endorsing continued open and unbiased news reporting by its communications staff.

FMB President R. Keith Parks said the budget, a \$7.9 million increase over 1990, reflects his belief that Southern Baptists will continue to give cooperatively amid talk of alternative funding programs.

During the dialogue, reports of growing mission opportunities and advances across the changing world scene excited trustees and the 41 visiting pastors, but the continuing convention unrest tempered the enthusiasm.

"In spite of all of our idealism, it's impossible for us to just talk missions, evidently, (without) some of the struggles we're facing seeping into the conversation," said SBC President Morris Chapman.

The pastors gathered at the board's invitation for a special session to hear about the challenges of world missions and consider increasing gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

FMB trustee Chairman Bill Hancock of Louisville, who conceived the idea of the pastor dialogue, told trustees and visitors, "The work begins as we leave here to support the Lottie Moon offering."

At the end of the four-hour dialogue, Hancock called for an offering among staff, trustees and visiting pastors to start moving

toward the Lottie Moon goal. More than \$11,500 was collected, plus \$2,700 in pledges.

At the dialogue session, several pastors raised fears about the directions the board may take under conservatives now in control of the SBC.

Trio seeks bigger purse for Lottie

Kentuckians who participated in a briefing for pastors at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last week expressed their confidence in the board and appreciation for Chairman Bill Hancock.

They were Howard Cobble of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, James E. Jones of Campbellsville Baptist Church in Campbellsville and H. Stephen Shoemaker of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

"It was truly inspirational to see the continuing quality of the work our Foreign Mission Board is doing in extending the gospel around the world," Shoemaker said.

They witnessed a retirement service for missionaries whose service exceeded 2,000 years, an appointment service for new missionaries and briefings.

"I came away from the meeting believing our foreign mission program is stable," Cobble said. "I came away feeling our division is not hampering the selection

process of the board. They evidenced that in the quality of the new missionaries."

"We found out a lot of rumors about the FMB are untrue," Jones said. "I am pleased with the health of the board. Missions can keep us together."

For all three, Shoemaker added: "We want to thank Bill Hancock (pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville) for gathering a broad cross-section of pastors together to begin the emphasis on the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. We commend (President) Keith Parks on the work of the board."

"We challenge every Kentucky Baptist church to give 10 percent more than it did last year to the Lottie Moon offering."

Hancock initiated the briefing to challenge people to reach the Lottie Moon goal, he said, adding, "We can overcome our differences when we work together, and the Lottie Moon offering is something to work on."

Wilson said that he had not intended to appear that he was seeking to move the headquarters, but only that a committee be appointed to "develop the criteria which the board would use to decide the merits of moving."

He has asked for five years that a study be done to determine the stewardship of remaining at the board's present location in Richmond or moving to another site either in or out of Virginia.

The motion has no connection to the convention controversy, as some observers felt, he said, but added he was asking for the motion to be tabled until December because he had been told Virginia's state Baptist body would interpret it as political pressure. It meets Nov. 13-14 and will vote on a plan to develop alternative funding for Southern Baptist causes.

Trustee Paige Patterson, interviewed by

Parks responded that the board has not changed qualifications for mission appointment and will continue to appoint qualified people without regard to politics. The board "will continue to appoint all God-called, biblically sound, evangelistically committed and otherwise qualified Southern Baptists from the full spectrum of our denomination, while ignoring partisan political identity and avoiding creedal shibboleths," he said.

Chapman addressed doubts expressed by several pastors about the pledge of conservative leaders to broaden the spectrum of people appointed as Southern Baptist trustees.

But while acknowledging his promise to "enlarge the tent," he added: "You need to hear very carefully that, again and again, I have also indicated the parameters of that tent."

"I do, unapologetically, with all of my heart, believe this Bible to be the inspired, infallible, inerrant word of God. ... The only

Home Board trustees adopt budget, respond to SBC motions

by Mark Wingfield

Adoption of a \$78.87 million budget and response to motions from the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention highlighted the fall meeting of SBC Home Mission Board trustees.

The \$78.87 million 1991 budget is an

increase of 1.6 percent over the current \$77.65 million budget.

The budget anticipates \$27.4 million in income from the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget and \$34.5 million from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Additional funds will come from designated gifts, earnings on investments and

retained income.

Trustees responded to three motions referred to them by messengers to the 1990 SBC meeting in New Orleans.

The first concerns involvement of agency personnel in convention politics. The unanimously adopted response states: "The directors ... are unequivocally opposed to the

Convention's financial skirmish hasn't hit CP yet, Bennett says

continued from page 1

between the 18 SBC agencies that receive the budget in the same proportions as they received basic operating allocations.

"I am absolutely delighted by the 2.4 percent increase over the budget a year ago," Bennett said, noting estimates indicated the gain would be about 2 percent. "Southern Baptists are continuing to be concerned about supporting world missions through the Cooperative Program and will give strong support to it."

The Cooperative Program has become a focal point in the SBC's 12-year-old theological/political controversy.

Some moderates—who say they have been excluded from meaningful participation in the convention—have begun designating or escrowing their national contributions while considering options for cooperative missions support.

Conservatives have accused moderates of sabotaging the convention's missions-funding mechanism.

The effect of the financial skirmish has not been determined, said Bennett, noting that designated receipts were up only 3.9 percent. "We have not been impacted as yet by any withholdings or designations to any degree," he said. "A quarter from now, we may see a trend. It will have to be after the Baptist state conventions (in November) before we see appreciable changes occurring."

The goal for the current CP basic operating budget is \$137,332,523.

a local reporter, was quoted as saying: "If Virginia Baptists take precipitous action to hurt the Cooperative Program, they (FMB trustees) might be advised to consider whether they would keep the agency in that kind of milieu."

In another action, Hancock appointed a committee at the request of the board's council of trustee committee chairmen to coordinate with staff and trustees to decide who interprets policies referred to the council. The policies may involve such things as missionary leave following deaths in the family, how the board will respond to alternative giving plans, "minor theological matters" and the response of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, to the board's request that it consider drafting a doctrinal statement, he said. Some trustees have felt the Ruschlikon seminary's response has been too slow, while others have urged that it be allowed to have more time.

On the question of divorce, trustees approved a recommendation that further defined the FMB policy for selecting overseas personnel.

Last February the trustees reaffirmed a longstanding policy that divorced people cannot be appointed as career or associate missionaries. But they voted Oct. 10 to remove the requirement that divorced people must provide their own funding for assignments of two years or less through the International Service Corps. Previously, the board allowed divorced people to serve in ISC roles other than pastoral or theological education assignments if they provided their own funding.

The board will continue considering ISC and volunteer applications from divorced people.

Trustees also approved creation of a new volunteer channel called Creative Evangelistic Opportunities for Southern Baptist lay people who travel overseas regularly and make contact with high-level leaders in government and business. Southern Baptists in the program would agree, in a covenant with the board, to share their faith through their travel and work.

In voting to open work in Bulgaria, the board paved the way for assignment of personnel to serve as liaison with Bulgarian Baptists.

Trustees also heard a report that a Baptist seminary is scheduled to open in Moscow in January, initially with 15 to 20 students. In 1989 the board appropriated \$200,000 to assist in creation of the new seminary. (BP)

use of the agency, its resources or personnel in support of or in opposition to political activities within the Southern Baptist Convention."

Trustee Walter Carpenter of Houston asked whether the admonition on convention politics also referred to trustees. Chairman Ralph Smith responded that it did not. Carpenter also suggested the statement should not prohibit HMB President Larry Lewis or others from supporting of the Cooperative Program. Smith affirmed that was his understanding.

A second motion asked the board to reverse its policy of not providing financial support to churches with female pastors. With three opposing votes, trustees voted that no action be taken.

The third motion requested the board to send copies of The Soul Winner's New Testament to churches recording no baptisms in one year. The HMB evangelism section already has undertaken this project. (BP)

Chaplains become friend, family to 101st Airborne

by Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

Southern Baptist Chaplain Jim Duke has been praying daily for revival among the troops from Fort Campbell who are stationed in Saudi Arabia.

And its happening.

On Sunday, Oct. 7, soldiers were in worship. Hundreds attend nightly Bible studies and sing-a-longs. The seven Southern Baptist chaplains deployed from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division report a highly receptive spirit.

"They don't have to ask any to come to church," reports Martha Moore, whose husband, Sonny, is a brigade chaplain. "They're coming and being saved."

Moore called his wife Saturday, Oct. 6, at 3 a.m. and reported that the desert temperature had dropped to a more reasonable 105 degrees from 130. He told of good morale and of arranging Bible studies before video movie showings—with 600 to 700 soldiers watching two television screens.

"They're experiencing the spirit of revival," said Duke's wife, Joni. She said her husband had baptized 12 soldiers from his battalion in a near by reservoir.

Being a part of the uncertainty of Operation Desert Shield has caused troops to contemplate their own mortality. "They

realize the shortness of their lives," she noted.

Post chaplain Charles Adams, stationed at Fort Campbell, agreed.

"When an individual comes under pressure and stress, he has a tendency to want to be close to Jesus," he confirmed.

Duke has been spending long days counseling soldiers about their spiritual conditions as well as their concern for families back home, his wife reported.

"He's had to limit his counseling," she said. "They're coming to see him from 6:30 a.m. to late at night—whenever they have a need."

Even when Chaplain Dave Coram was lying on a cot ill with a virus, he was sought out by someone in his battalion, said his wife, Renee. He led that soldier to faith in Christ.

She supposes the other main reason for an interest in spiritual things is that troops don't have much to do when they are off

duty.

"They're sitting around and waiting when they're not training," said Renee Coram. "They have a lot of time to think."

Her husband, chaplain for two 300-member battalions, has been nicknamed Chaplain Smiley, she said.

"I don't want you to think I'm happy to be here," he told her recently by phone. But he continued to share of his satisfaction in what he called a "total ministry."

"At Fort Campbell, his ministry was limited to the daytime. At night they went home to their families," she explained. "In Saudi Arabia, it's 24 hours a day. The chaplain becomes their friend, family and support."

Coram has taken his guitar for Thursday night sing-a-longs from the Armed Forces hymnal. He'll soon be going with his battalion support infantry troops in the field and will hold worship services

close to the Kuwaiti border.

Despite reports of restrictions on Christians in an Islamic state, the division chaplain has reported "complete freedom" of worship and ministry within the hangers, buildings and tent cities occupied by American forces, post Chaplain Adams said.

Each of the 18,000 soldiers from Fort Campbell was given a choice of Bibles and a cross or rosary before leaving for Saudi Arabia, he said.

And while lots of religious literature has been shipped by military transport, he advised churches and individuals to be prudent in what they send through the mail.

"We're advising churches not to use return labels identifying the contents of a package as being from church," he said. A large box of Christian literature or Bibles from a church would likely be seized by Saudi postal or customs workers.

Private mail seems to go through less hindered, he said. Requests have gone out for snacks, wholesome paperbacks, movie videos and music tapes.

Joni Duke emphasized that many troops are "desperate for mail," especially younger soldiers who need to hear that someone is praying for them. Her husband has distributed "large stacks" of letters addressed to Any Soldier to just such men. The remainder of the address is Operation Desert Shield, 101st Airborne Division, APO NY 09309.



Pastor stands in pulpit first time in 15 years

by Beth Wyatt, State Correspondent

"If I had not been in the accident, I would probably not have seen the error of my ways and likely have continued in sin," bivocational minister Jimmy Williams said recently of the experience that left him paralyzed for life.

Recalling that trauma which occurred in his youth, he said he believes it was his "wayward Christian living" that led to the automobile accident which nearly cost him his life. But instead of giving up, he worked

Jimmy Williams (left) uses a wheelchair given to him to stand and greet worshippers at the door of Lick Fork Baptist Church. The special chair enables Williams to stand on paralyzed legs to proclaim the gospel.

"to regain every drop of life possible," being supported by his Christian parents and 12 brothers and sisters.

Williams, pastor of Lick Fork Baptist Church in Laurel River Association, is also a full time employee of an insurance agency in London, Ky.

Two years following the accident, Williams married his high school sweetheart, Mairian Grundy. He was also ordained as a Baptist minister and called to pastor Sand Hill Baptist Church in Irvine Association. He later served in Rockcastle Association before returning to Laurel River, his home association.

For 15 years, Williams has preached sitting in that wheelchair—until recently. He was given a new chair made in California which has "opened a new avenue of life." In September, for the very first time, he was able to use the new chair to stand in

the pulpit to preach. Since then, he has used the chair for preaching and for greeting people following services.

Williams is highly visible at a London bowling alley and little league ball games. Some of his members say he doesn't know he has a physical problem as he plays with

"I have truly been blessed," paralytic says

his children or witnesses to strangers.

"The Lord blessed me, my wife has stood with me, I have two children, a faithful church and a secular occupation that allows me to help support my family and be a witness. I have truly been blessed," said Williams.



Perryville minister's enthusiasm rampant after trip to Brazil

partnership missions

by Jane Taylor Howell
State Correspondent

If enthusiasm were contagious, Perryville pastor Bob Morrison would have all Kentucky Baptists packed and ready for Brazil. Morrison and several of his members served on medical and construction teams in Vitoria, Brazil, in August as part of the Kentucky Baptist partnership with Brazil.

Morrison recalled a visit to an agnostic couple.

"When I asked them if they were to die tonight, would they know for sure they were going to heaven, they began to listen and both accepted Christ. It was that way all week.

"One evening on the way to a children's service, a native stopped us and invited us in to talk about Christ. Soon, neighbors came in, stood and listened. The woman

accepted Christ when questioned and 4 more who were listening responded."

The medical and evangelistic teams worked out of a church. In 6 days they treated 1,574 patients, gave tracts, literature and Bibles. They held evening services at several churches.

With no previous medical experience, Morrison, Sue Garrison and Opal Hall as-

sisted a medical team with emergency medical technician Fran Morrison and registered nurse Katie Hall.

David Barnett and Ted Garrison painted, built recreational facilities and playground equipment at the Baptist orphanage. At night, they participated in revival services with Charlie Simmons, director of missions in Graves County.

Relocation helps rekindle Louisville congregation

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

For at least one church affected by the airport expansion of Louisville's Standiford Field, relocation has meant rejuvenation.

Highland Park First Baptist Church, which moved to new facilities in Jefferson-town Aug. 5, has seen 109 additions in a little more than two months.

Among new members is pastor Jerry Browning, who went from First Baptist Church in Liberty and arrived on the Highland Park in Louisville when the church relocated. Harold Lee Jones, pastor for three- and a-

half years, will remain as associate pastor until his retirement in about a year.

Members had hoped to average 85-100 attending Sunday morning worship after the move, Jones said, but attendance has exceeded 350.

Participation in other aspects has increased accordingly, he added. In August, average Sunday school attendance was a little over 100. Highest attendance since then has been 209. The church has increased its proposed 1991 budget from \$80,000 to almost \$200,000.

Robert Y. Simpkins, Kentucky Baptist

Convention Brotherhood department director and new member of Highland Park, is working with Baptist Men's organizations. Woman's Missionary Union organizations are branching out as well, Jones noted.

Some elderly members can't make the trek to the new facility, but "we've received more than we've lost," Jones noted. "New members now outnumber those of the old church."

Jones didn't credit the rapid growth only to relocation. "There seems to be a new spirit among the people, he acknowledged."

Support president's peace proposals

editorial

Marv Knox

What would you do if you were in Bill Messer's shoes?

Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ashland, is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He will moderate the KBC annual meeting Nov. 13-14 in Paducah.

Messer sees stormclouds building over Paducah. His forecast is based on history and current events:

- Many moderates are coming to Paducah unhappy. They have lost the Southern Baptist Convention presidential election 12 straight times. Consequently, they have lost most of their representation on SBC boards. They say their concerns are not heard by SBC trustees, even though they historically have sacrificed to finance the ministries of the agencies. They have been disenfranchised from the SBC, they claim.

Some moderate churches have escrowed their contributions to the national Cooperative Program, the convention's unified budget. Many moderate churches are studying the SBC situation, trying to decide how to relate to the convention. A number of them would like for the KBC to change its policies to accommodate their desire to give to cooperative ministries without funding the SBC agencies they feel they cannot support.

- Many conservatives are coming to Paducah unhappy, too. They are pleased with the direction the SBC has taken the past decade. But they are angry with the moderates for even thinking of pulling back support for the Cooperative Program. They say they maintained their support for the budget when they were under-represented in SBC boardrooms, and moderates should do likewise.

They say they have felt disenfranchised from the KBC, just as moderates now are feeling left out of the SBC. They believe accommodation to the moderates' desire to change the Cooperative Program structure would be just another insult to them and an affront to the cooperation they have provided through the years. They want to maintain the status quo, and let everybody fall into line.

- Many other Kentucky Baptists—probably the majority—just wish the controversy would go away. They're

tired of thinking about it, and they anguish over the division it has caused. They just want to get on with the work to which the Lord has called them and their fighting sisters and brothers. They would rather not choose sides.

Messer knows a battle over budgets and cooperative missions philosophy will widen the rift between conservatives and moderates. He realizes up-or-down votes will force Kentuckians in the middle to choose sides. He's concerned that a violent storm in Paducah could shake the very foundation of the KBC.

Consequently, Messer has offered two recommendations that he thinks can scatter the stormclouds. The first would create a balanced, bipartisan committee to study how the KBC relates to the Cooperative Program. The second would provide a one-time gift to the budget of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and establish an endowment fund on behalf of the committee; in return, the committee would not be given a line item in the KBC budget. (For details, see a related story on page 1 and the text of the recommendations at the bottom of this page.)

The first recommendation probably will sail smoothly. It establishes a fair, orderly process for examining one of our most troublesome issues, gives us a chance to find a way around controversy and buys us time before we have to make a decision on the issue.

The second recommendation most likely will be opposed. Neither the pro- nor the anti-Baptist Joint Committee forces are pleased with it. BJC friends think the agency deserves more support and should be put in the budget. Opponents think none of their money should go to an agency they detest. So, this proposal could be shot from opposite sides.

Both of Messer's recommendations deserve Kentucky Baptist support. Almost nobody would argue that the first proposal is a peacemaking strategy. The second proposal contains elements of compromise: neither side gets everything it wants, but neither side loses everything it values.

Please pray about these issues. Pray for the KBC Executive Board, which will consider whether to present the recommendations to the convention. Pray for the messengers in Paducah, who will vote on sensitive issues. And don't forget to pray for Messer, who will preside over one of the most important sessions in Kentucky Baptist history.

Of serpents, Popo's place, naps in heaven

down home

Molly wanted to talk about serpents.

Well, OK, she really called them "snakes." But "serpents" is a much more biblical word.

"Momma, why do some people keep snakes?"

"Daddy, why do they keep them in glass boxes?"

"Why can't people let snakes crawl all over the house?"

"Could a snake crawl into the closet? And under the bed?"

"Do some people keep snakes in bathtubs? Do they really squeeze people?"

Persistence and curiosity have been Molly's companions for most of her almost-4 years. Something behind those bright blue eyes latches onto a subject as tenaciously as Max, her dog, snaps onto anything we really don't want shredded.

"Do snakes live in rocks? Do snake babies hatch out of rocks? What happens to snakes when they die?"

"If a snake bites you, will you die?"
Uh-oh, she's changing subjects here. Do you see what's coming?

"What happens to people when they die?"

"Why do some little kids die? If I die, will I go to heaven?"

"Will Popo be there? And Mr. Don?"
"Can people in heaven see us? When we get there, can we see them?"

"What does God look like?"

Blissfully unaware that nobody can answer most of her questions, Molly chases after them, much like a roadrunner chases one of her fabled snakes across the desert.

"Well, what do you do in heaven? Can you sing any songs you want to?"

"Do they have games there?"

"What kind of food do they eat?"

"Do you have to wear shoes? Do you have to take naps?"

Life with an almost-4-year-old can be intellectually exhausting. But before the threshold of a parent's tolerance for questions has been crossed, a chirpy blonde's honesty ends the interrogation.

"I love Popo and Jesus, but I don't want to go to heaven for a long, long time."

—Marv Knox

Messer offers recommendations on budget, BJC

Editor's Note: Following are the two recommendations Kentucky Baptist Convention President Bill Messer has offered regarding cooperative missions funding and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Recommendation on CP:

That the president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Bill Messer, appoint a special, convention committee to study the present policies and guidelines which govern the way the Kentucky Baptist Convention receives and qualifies Cooperative Program gifts from the churches.

Objective: To hear and address fairly all

concerns with the present rules and guidelines governing the receiving and qualifying of Cooperative Program funds contributed through the KBC.

Intention: To provide adequate time for a balanced committee to consider and evaluate our present rules and guidelines, with the responsibility of reporting back to the Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Nov. 12-13, 1991.

It is to be understood that the committee's report may include recommendations for change, for no-change or a request for an extension of time for continued consideration.

Recommendation on BJCPA:

A. That the Executive Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention establish an endowment, the interest from which is to be distributed through the Executive Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

B. That this endowment be managed by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

C. That the Executive Board allocate \$25,000 from year-end funds to establish the endowment.

D. That the Executive Board allocate \$17,358 from year-end funds to cover the Kentucky Baptist Convention's portion of

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western recorder

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baptist forum

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

Either, neither

The Kentucky Baptist Convention was established eight years before the Southern Baptist Convention.

We don't have either a conservative or a modern label.

Neither do we want such nor do we try to label each other.

We do have a true and lasting label: Jesus is Lord! Praise his name!

*Ruth E. Harris
Cold Spring*

FMB's view

I noted the letter from Larry Douglas Smith, who is studying potential missionaries who may have been discriminated against for doctrinal reasons. Permit me to share a few thoughts from my perspective at the Foreign Mission Board.

Our process is largely one of self-selection. Our candidate consultants seek to be good counselors to those who are seeking God's will with regard to overseas service. Most of those who are not appointed have withdrawn from the process because they believe that it is not God's will for them at this time. Some discover that health or lack of other qualifications prevent them from serving. Sometimes a candidate is discouraged from continuing in the process because staff believes that one or more factors makes their appointment highly unlikely. A high percentage of those who have come through the entire process have been appointed (95 percent to date in 1990).

Some have suggested that many candidates are being turned down for doctrinal reasons by trustees over the recommendation of staff. Only three times in the last 10 years have candidates been turned down by trustees over the recommendation of staff. One of the three was a decision to delay. Only one of the three would be considered by some to have been related to theology.

My fear is that some may not apply for missionary service in the belief that we do not continue to appoint persons from the mainstream of Southern Baptist life. This is not true. It is true that we believe that all missionaries should be persons who feel called of God to share their faith. It is not true that we only appoint preachers. If a person senses that God may be calling them to serve overseas, we hope that they will not hesitate to contact the Foreign Mission Board.

*Harlan E. Spurgeon, vice president
FMB mission personnel*

Submit to PrayerLife

Every Baptist should submit to the discipline of PrayerLife.

It will take me three years to complete it,

and I already spend two hours praying, memorizing scripture and acquiring additional prayer disciplines. A major feature I've learned is that I dare not break my chain of relationship with all saints.

Jesus prayed to the Father that all his disciples will be one in each other as Jesus is in the Father and the Father in him, so that the world might believe the Father has sent him. Jesus has given his glory to his disciples so they may be perfect in One, that the world may know the Father has sent him. Paul's prayer on the inner man includes our acknowledgement that we may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth and height of the love of Christian faith. Finally, that we may grow up into Christ in all things, for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do his good pleasure, for the life of Christ is my life, and the faith of Christ is my faith.

I dare not break my chain of relationship with the saints, no matter what others may do.

*Homer Wm. Smith
Louisville*

Misplaced priorities

We Southern Baptists have misplaced our priorities.

On Oct. 2, Mary Anna Gilbert, a Foreign Mission Board worker from Alabama, died in a plane crash in Canton, China. Mary Anna, 23, was one month into her two-year term of service.

Our missionaries, and indeed the people of the world, are dying while we argue over semantics. May God forgive us.

*Steve Law
Louisville*

Assembly too much

Pronounced during the recent three-hour "solemn assembly" of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, as noted in the Western Recorder of Sept. 25, were these comments and/or prayers:

(1) "I have had deep resentment against moderates who think we're stupid and can't discern God's will."

(2) "We have to forgive every person who spoke every word against us. We also must repent of words we have spoken."

(3) "Forgive those who disagree with us."

(4) "I know God will never move within us until fractured relationships are healed." Some observations concerning each:

(1) To the contrary, the moderate position, known as "priesthood of the believer," is that each believer—even the lowly layperson—can discern God's will.

(2) Perhaps those who have spoken against such actions as the costly and un-

necessary "special" firing of Dan Martin and Al Shackelford only weeks ago feel no need for the forgiveness of the committee, but take no exception to anyone else's need for contrition.

(3) Unbelievably arrogant, this statement speaks for itself, unless, of course, the committee constitutes the inerrant voice of Burning Bush II.

(4) If God's movement relied for success upon man's purified relationships, God would never move, since believers, at least en masse, are never pure. Second-guessing God is risky business, but I suspect he will move if and when he is ready, the devil take the fractured relationships.

Finally—take it from a layman—"solemn assembly" piety (especially three hours of it) is more than any mortal (moderate, fundamentalist or atheist) should bear. I suspect Jesus would have preferred the company of Matthew, Zaccheus and the Gadarene.

*James L. Clark
Danville*

Amazed at naivete

I have been deeply involved in Kentucky and Southern Baptist life for well over half a century.

I am deeply distressed over the attitude of many towards the Cooperative Program. My generation spent many of our earlier years in leading our church people to accept and use the Cooperative Program. I am disappointed in a number of my brethren whom I thought were mature Baptist pastors who are now willing to start dismantling the program which has worked wonders for Southern Baptists.

I have steadfastly refused to be branded either a "fundamentalist" or a "moderate." I have been satisfied to try to be a loyal Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist. I have lost many votes which I have cast for the officers of the Southern Baptist Convention and other matters, but I have never considered abandoning the Cooperative Program as an expression of my disappointment.

I have been surprised to learn that many who have preached that in Baptist life the majority rules meant that this is true only when they are voting with the majority. It appears that for many their loyalty to Baptist polity is pretty thin.

I recognize the right of every Baptist church to make its own choice concerning the disposition of their funds, but I question the wisdom of considering anyone as an officer in our convention who, when denied the right of control, sets about to dismantle our Cooperative Program and destroy the Southern Baptist Convention.

I am amazed at the naivete of those who believe that any person or group of persons can control the vote of over 21,000 Southern Baptists who have been brought up to believe that in a democracy each individual has a right to vote his or her own convictions.

*J. Chester Badgett
Campbellsville*



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

on mission together

Closing ranks: the big middle

In the early stages of the current confrontation with Iraq, I was struck by a statement lifted from an editorial on the increasing possibility of war there. It reads: "War is a series of miscalculations."

Although the editorial pointedly related to real, shooting wars, I found myself applying that statement to our own Southern Baptist controversy. It is easy for me to conclude that both sides have, indeed, miscalculated both the determination and capability of the other. Especially have the results of the conflict been miscalculated. The fact is that all are scrambling now to see if this entity called the Southern Baptist Convention can survive, even in some inevitably modified form. Some splintering is already taking place and few feel wise enough to predict what will happen next. Who would have "calculated" another funding organization to bypass the SBC's Executive Committee? Who would have "calculated" Baylor University's move to drastically alter its relationship to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. "War is a series of miscalculations."

Some have said that what has happened in the Southern Baptist Convention will have a "trickle down" effect in the state conventions. There are some indications that this may be true. However, in Kentucky at least, there are indications also that it isn't inevitable.

A forthcoming Courier-Journal bluegrass poll will reveal what some have long contended about the Baptists in this state—that there is a "big middle"; a large majority which prefers neither label—"moderate" or "conservative."

There is also a growing resentment by an ever-enlarging number of Baptist laypersons who have concluded that this is a "preacher fight" and that it is time to put an end to it.

Among the purposes of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is "fellowship." And without fellowship, the mutual mission of the state convention is diminished, at best; obliterated, at worst.

Sustaining that fellowship and our mutual mission rests upon this "big middle"—the people who will listen to both sides and seek to find, if possible, a way to compromise (a word too easily disregarded and abused) for the good of our mission; fair-minded folks who are willing to "give a little or a lot" (without violating their conscience) in order to conserve a mission in which most can participate.

Our president, Dr. Bill Messer, has exceeded normal expectations of a president this year in attempting to find ground upon which the "big middle" can stand together.

What he proposes, as seen in this issue of Western Recorder, is the result of hard work, fair-minded intentions, and a deep commitment to the Baptists of Kentucky.

He deserves our gratitude; his proposals deserve prayerful consideration.

President's recommendations

continued from page 4

this year's reduced Cooperative Program funding for the Baptist Joint Committee.

E. That the \$25,000 to establish the endowment and the \$17,358 to cover this year's reduced Cooperative Program funding be a one-time allocation from the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

It is the intention of this recommendation to:

1. Retain the autonomy of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to determine how it may relate to the Baptist Joint Committee

on Public Affairs.

2. Resist the possible option of designating Cooperative Program funds to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs as a continuing line item in the Kentucky Baptist Convention budget.

3. Relieve the immediate financial stress faced by the Baptist Joint Committee this budget year.

Objective: To recommend a plan by which the largest majority of Kentucky Baptist churches can relate to this matter about which there are differing and strongly

held opinions and convictions.

This recommendation attempts to address the "bottom line" areas of the issue in such a way as to provide what is believed to be an acceptable alternative to what might otherwise be a "win-lose" situation, not only at the 1990 convention in Paducah, but at subsequent conventions as well.

This recommendation is made with the earnest and prayerful desire that such a recommendation will enable the Kentucky Baptist Convention to put this issue behind us and move forward to deal with other issues which may arise and with the mission for which we have been given holy responsibility.

PC members divided on status of 'findings'

continued from page 1

Faith and Message) statement that the scriptures have '... truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.'

"It was that discussion which led to the findings. (The) four examples (are) the position we believed most Southern Baptists would take if asked what they felt was the meaning of 'truth, without any mixture of error' when applied to the nature and origin of the Bible. The four examples are not designed to be the first four statements of an unfinished, unpublished list of other such statements. Neither were they designed to be a specific checklist as much as they were given to define what we felt was a majority view of the Bible among rank-and-file Southern Baptists."

The definitions were offered to describe the "type of theological conservative we felt needed to be recognized, legitimized and given rightful positions on agency staffs and seminary faculties," Fuller said.

In an interview, Fuller said he knew only what he had read about the Southern Seminary action.

"From what I read, it appears the trustees were trying to honor not only the recom-

mendations but the spirit of the recommendations," he noted. "I still believe the Peace Committee report is a good report, but it must be applied and carried out in its entirety, or it is unbalanced."

Vines: "a logical next step"
Vestal: "a creed and litmus test"

Hobbs, who chaired the committee that wrote the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement, said he does not believe the findings were intended to have equal weight with the recommendations.

In fact, he said, he opposed a last-meeting attempt to move the four items from the findings to the recommendations section.

"I hit the floor," he said. "Where it (the four-part theological statement) is, it's information; ... you move it to a recommendation, it becomes creedal."

He compared the findings to an SBC

resolution, which states the opinion of people present and voting at a particular meeting. The recommendations are more like an SBC motion, which is binding on SBC institutions, he added.

"My own judgment is that to take the statement from the findings and enforce it as though it were a motion would be an abuse of it, not a use of it," Hobbs said.

Application of the report should be made only to future faculty, not any present members, he noted: "There was no intention of purging present faculty members. And as a stipulation for advancement, that was not the intent of the committee."

Vines, immediate past president of the SBC, said seminary trustees' use of the report "is just a logical next step in the

whole process (of turning the SBC in a more conservative direction). I am very pleased with the trustee action."

The four illustrations are to be understood "as guidelines," he added. "They are not exhaustive, but illustrative."

Vines said the Peace Committee discussed at length whether to include the illustrations in the recommendations section, but when "there was agreement the illustrations carried equal weight with the recommendations, we voted for the report."

Daniel Vestal, who is chair of "the fellowship," a moderate SBC coalition, said: "On the surface, what the trustees did appears to the layman or average pastor to be good, but in fact it is damaging to the long-term health of the institution."

"Using the four illustrations of scripture to prove orthodoxy makes a person confess his faith and belief in the authority of scriptures by agreeing to a certain interpretation."

"This makes the Peace Committee report exactly what we said it would not become—a creed and litmus test of orthodoxy. When you add these things, you narrow in such a way as to become creedal rather than confessional." (WR, ABP)

Proposals buy time on budget, seek compromise on BJC

continued from page 1

fairly all concerns with the present rules and guidelines governing the receiving and qualifying of Cooperative Program funds contributed through the KBC. Its intention is "to provide adequate time for a balanced committee to consider and evaluate our present rules and guidelines, with the responsibility of reporting back" to the KBC in November 1991.

"It is to be understood that the committee's report may include recommendations for change, for no-change or a request for

an extension of time for continued consideration," the recommendation concludes.

"This won't be an offensive, by that I mean aggressive, committee," Messer said of the group, which will have seven to nine members. "It may bring recommendations to the 1991 meeting in Lexington; it may not."

"I'm wholeheartedly behind the idea," said William E. Shoulta, pastor of First Baptist Church of Providence. "Part of our fear is the unknown—of what might take place in Paducah and what might not."

The structure "makes people think about whether an action is worth the problems it could create," he added.

While noting he supported the recommendation to create the committee, Don R. Mathis offered two concerns.

"The perception of the grassroots Kentucky Baptists is that this is an attempt to change the rules in the middle of the game. ... I hope it is an attempt to look at all the implications," said Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

"Second, there is the perception across the state that many of the committees are not balanced. I think I know the president's heart; I would urge him to be very careful in his appointments."

"We'll have a balanced committee, ... representing all sides and all angles," Messer said. "There's room for all."

Turning to the recommendation concerning the Baptist Joint Committee, he predicted: "This is probably the most explosive issue we'll face in Paducah."

"My heart's desire is that Kentucky Baptists can avoid cleavages in the fellowship. I grieve to think we could face disintegration. The intent is to keep us together."

People with strong views for or against the Baptist Joint Committee probably will not like the recommendation, Messer said: "It does not give either all they want, but it is an attempt to give all of us a place to stand. ... If you have an up-or-down vote, one side will win. But they'll be back year after year."

The recommendation provides for creation of an endowment, established by the KBC Executive Board through deposit of \$25,000 from 1989-90 year-end funds. The endowment would be managed by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, and its interest would be distributed to the Baptist Joint Committee through the Executive Board.

The recommendation also calls for an allocation of \$17,358 from year end funds "to cover the KBC's portion of this year's reduced Cooperative Program funding" of the Baptist Joint Committee.

It also states that the \$25,000 and \$17,358 grants "be a one-time allocation."

The intention of the recommendation is to "retain the autonomy of the KBC to determine how it may relate" to the BJC, to "resist the possible option of designating Cooperative Program funds (to the BJC) as a continuing line item" in the KBC budget

and to "relieve the immediate financial stress faced by the BJC in this budget year."

In a statement of its objective, the recommendation notes it "is made with the earnest and prayerful desire that such a recommendation will enable the KBC to put this issue behind us."

Mathis cited several problems with the recommendation. "Designation of Cooperative Program funds (in this case, the \$17,358 special allocation) is the beginning of the demise of the Cooperative Program," he said, citing the report of a special KBC study committee last year.

Also, use of \$42,358 in year-end funds "means everybody will be supporting the Baptist Joint Committee," he said. "I don't think that's fair."

The use of that money outside the state when budgets are tight also could cost jobs within the KBC, Mathis added.

And the recommendation poses a "fellowship problem," he said: "There is a perception that the administration only hears the moderates. It will be seen as the administration lining up with one side of the Kentucky Baptist people."

"It would be best for this to come up from the floor of the convention, deal with it and move on."

Shoulta expressed concern from the other side: "My problem with this recommendation is I don't think it goes far enough. I would like to see more endowment. My preference would be for it (the BJC) to be included as a line item in the budget."

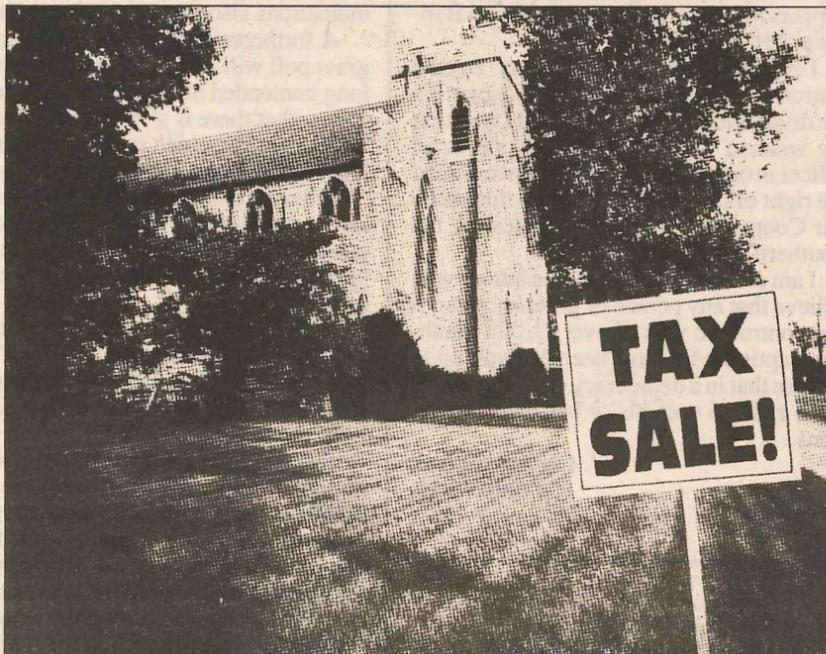
"My fear is that if we don't have some alternative for people to give directly, they're going to pull money out of the Cooperative Program to do this."

"If this recommendation were to pass, it would be much less painful beyond this year, because we would not be asking people to continue to put money into the Baptist Joint Committee," said Dick Allison, pastor of Georgetown Baptist Church in Georgetown.

Just before the vote, Mathis called for a "reasonable compromise," urging: "Set up the foundation account and tell Kentucky Baptists about it. I would agree with everything if you strike out the dollars."

KBC Executive Board staff left the room when the 10-2 vote for the recommendation was taken, to prevent them from possibly influencing the vote, said KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall.

"You've got to be kidding!"



"It's No Joke!"

Will our churches be taxed for the first time ever in Kentucky?
It could happen, unless you vote yes on November 6th.

YES Amendment 4

Mid-East missionaries on furlough offer prayer concerns

by Beth Wyatt, *State Correspondent*

Southern Baptist foreign missionaries to the Middle East who are currently on furlough at Mt. Vernon, Ky., paint a vivid portrait of religious practice in that territory.

Bob and Eddie Fields, who began a scheduled furlough from Cyprus to their home at Mt. Vernon's cleftRock Retreat before the crisis developed, were torn with indecision. Concerned for the mission family in the Middle East and for their own family in the states, the couple was encouraged by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials to proceed with their departure plans.

"Islam has a tight grasp upon the minds and loyalties of the majority group of the area's population," Fields said. "Although Jesus is known as a prophet by the Muslims, they think of Christians as infidels." He noted that local Middle East Christians are a minority and are usually born into their religions.

Greek Orthodox, Roman and Latin Catholic, Maronites and Coptics are principal sects. These churches are steeped in tradition and superstition, according to Fields. Few are open to evangelicals.

"To speak the Christian message, one must live the faith as a disciple," Mrs. Fields said. "Learning the language and adapting to the culture is a high priority for Baptist representatives. God's grace is depended upon constantly."

Fields urged Kentuckians to pray. "Pray for war to be avoided and a peaceful solution found for the political tensions, for the

hostages to be released and for the gospel to be freely shared and received," he said. He asked special prayer for Maurice Graham, a Southern Baptist missionary who is still being held hostage.

The Fieldses are in their 13th year as foreign missionaries. Based in Cyprus, their work carries them to Yemen, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon. Their three children are also in religious work. Two were recently

appointed as overseas missionaries.

From 1962 to 1971, Bob and Eddie Fields served in Israel. In those years, they also helped establish cleftRock Retreat, a prominent eastern Kentucky conference center, with which they have been closely identified since.

Fields reported that Southern Baptist TV, a hospital in Yemen, a publication company for Arabic Christian books and

resources, schools with grades K-12 in Lebanon and Jordan, a nursing school in Gaza, conference centers in Jordan and Israel and several book stores.

"Baptist personnel seek to become as salt and light in the midst of the spiritual darkness. As unbelievers question what makes their lifestyle different, missionaries share Jesus in local languages. Relationships of integrity and love are imperative," Fields said.

\$800,000 November drive set by KBHC

by James H. Cox, *Associate Editor*

When hundreds of congregations in the commonwealth share in the Thanksgiving offering of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children on Nov. 18, they will be giving to a supply line benefitting needy young people for more than a century.

Homes for Children, which has been founded by other earlier names, was established in 1869 by Louisville's Walnut Street Baptist Church to help Civil War orphans. In its formative years, an offering at the Thanksgiving season was raised to support its work.

Today, roughly 23 percent of the agency's budgeting is dependent upon the Thanksgiving offering, said Robin Oldham, director of development and communications. The Kentucky Baptist agency with headquarters in Middletown received in excess of \$775,000 in 1989 and has set a goal this year of \$800,000.

"While not every church participates on Nov. 18, many do," Oldham explained. He noted that some prefer another Sunday near Thanksgiving day, and others receive an offering for the homes at varied seasons. Some take no offering but include a line item for the homes in their annual budgets.

The funds collected feed, clothe and shelter children who are "dependent, neglected, abused and abandoned," according to Oldham. The Thanksgiving offering assists young people "in finding stability and purpose in life," he said, "and above all, many come to know Christ as their savior."

KBHC Executive Director Curtis C. Mooney responded: "Through the years, Kentucky Baptists have shown their love and concern for needy children by generous support of the Thanksgiving offering. It is crucial to our work and its challenging goal will be reached only as we pray, promote and give."

Homes for Children supports campuses

at Glendale and Middletown, plus crisis care facilities at Dixon, Louisville and Morehead, a youth ranch at Elizabethtown, and adoption, foster home and continuing care programs, among its ministries.

While the Thanksgiving offering will be promoted by paid radio spots and Western Recorder advertising, Oldham said "we are primarily dependent upon word of mouth" for sharing the need. He observed that a women's advisory board from across the state plays a large role in promotion. The 40-member panel is in contact with perhaps 500 designated child care representatives who encourage local churches to support the offering. The agency also relies heavily upon its board of directors, associational directors of missions and local pastors for promotional assistance.

An annual packet of Thanksgiving offering materials will be mailed to every Kentucky Baptist church on Oct. 19, Oldham said.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention meets in Paducah November 13-14, 1990.

Make your hotel reservations early.

(Rates available on reservations made through October 22, 1990. Tell reservations clerk you are attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention.)

Please Note: *The Executive Office and the Communications Division of the KBC Executive Board make every effort to advise Convention messengers concerning good lodging at a variety of prices in any host city. Messengers should be aware, however, that lodging other than that listed may be available. Also, individuals are expected to exercise personal discretion in the selection of appropriate accommodations. Telephone a hotel if you have specific questions about its services or policies.*

Hotel/Motel	Rates (add 9.18% tax)*	Phone
Budget Host 1234 Broadway Paducah 42001	\$33.53 (tax included) 1 person, 1 bed \$38.93 (tax included) 2 persons, 2 beds \$43.26 (tax included) 4 persons, 2 beds	502/443-8401 800/234-2911
Best Inns of America US 60W at I-24 Paducah 42001	\$29.88 plus tax (1 person, 1 bed) \$36.88 plus tax (2 persons, 2 beds)	502/442-3334 800/BEST INN
Days Inn US 60W at I-24 Paducah 42001	\$28.00 plus tax (1 person, 1 bed) \$34.00 plus tax (2 persons, 2 beds)	502/442-7501 800/325-2525
Comfort Inn I-24 at Exit #3 Paducah 42001	\$32.00 plus tax (1 person, 1 bed) \$43.00 plus tax (2 persons, 2 beds)	502/442-1616 800/228-5150
Drury Inn US 60W at I-24 Paducah 42001	\$37.00 plus tax (1 person, 1 bed) \$43.00 plus tax (2 persons, 2 beds) (includes quickstart breakfast)	502/443-3313 800-325-8300
J.R.'s Executive Inn One Executive Blvd. (downtown) Paducah 42001	\$40.00 plus tax (1 person, 1 bed) \$44.00 plus tax (2 persons, 2 beds) \$48.00 plus tax (4 persons, 2 beds)	502/443-8000 800/866-3636
Thrifty Inn US 60W at I-24 Paducah 42001	\$30.88 plus tax (1 person, 1 bed) \$33.88 plus tax (2 persons, 2 beds) Free coffee in lobby each morning.	502/442-4500
Westowne Inn US 60W at I-24 Paducah 42001	\$28.00 plus tax (1 person, 1 bed) \$34.00 plus tax (2 persons, 2 beds)	502/442-5666

*9.18% Tax = 6% Kentucky sales tax; 3.18% city tax

All 800 telephone numbers are toll free.

NO ROOMS AVAILABLE

Kentucky Baptist Convention 153rd Annual Meeting First Baptist Church Paducah November 13-14, 1990

Theme: "Celebrate Christ! Our Help and Our Hope"

CONVENTION OFFICERS

President
Bill Messer
First Vice President
Don Short
Second Vice President
Earl S. Bell
Secretary
Doris B. Yeiser
Assistant Secretary
G. Allen West
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
William W. Marshall

OTHERS SERVING THE CONVENTION

Host
First Baptist Church, Paducah
Host Pastor
J. Robert White
Organist
Malissa Heath
Pianist
Bobbie Sue Chumblor
Press Representatives
Gregory L. Hancock
Marv Knox
James H. Cox
Music Coordinator
Jim Cordell

TUESDAY MORNING, Nov. 13

Bill Messer, president, presiding
Music leader, Todd Dowdy
8:50 Pre-session music
9:00 Ashland First Baptist Church Choir
9:15 Call to Order of the 153rd convention, Bill Messer
Prayer, President
9:20 Hymn, "The Solid Rock"
9:25 Welcome, J. Robert White
9:30 Organization of the 153rd convention, Doris Yeiser
Appointment of committees, Bill Messer
Appointment of tellers, Bill Messer
Report: Committee on credentials, Charles Milam
Report: Committee on order of business, Wallace Kent
9:50 Report: Cooperative Program, Kenneth Abbott
9:55 Report: Committee on constitution and bylaws, Willis Henson
10:05 Fraternal greetings
10:15 Report: Minister and church support division, C. Vernon Cole
Annuity department, Don Spencer
Family ministry and church administration department, John Lepper
Minister/church relations department, Guy Futral Jr.
Stewardship department, C. Vernon Cole
10:40 Report: Home missions, David W. Harris
10:45 Hymn, "O God, Our Help In Ages Past"
10:50 Ashland First Baptist Church Choir
11:00 President's address, Bill Messer
11:30 Benediction, Glenn Mollette

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, Nov. 13

Theme: "Help and Hope for Single Adults"
Music leader, Jim Cordell
1:15 Kentucky Baptist instrumental ensemble
Kentucky Baptist Chorale
1:45 Hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
1:50 Theme interpretation and prayer, Bret Robbe
2:05 Recognition of new leadership, William W. Marshall
2:20 Recognition of past presidents, Bill Messer
2:30 Report: Committee on public affairs, George Ramey
2:45 Hymn, "The Church's One Foundation"
2:50 Election of the president
3:05 Business session and resolutions
3:25 Report and recommendations: Executive board, William W. Marshall
3:55 Election of the president (run-off, if necessary)
4:05 Hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
4:10 Report of executive secretary-treasurer, William W. Marshall
4:30 Benediction, Bill Williams

TUESDAY EVENING, Nov. 13

Theme: "Help and Hope for Youth"
Music leader, Bill Adcock
6:15 Special music, West Union Association Youth Choir
6:30 Hymn, "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"
6:35 Theme interpretation and prayer, Jeff Fuson
6:50 Report: Missions evangelism and church services division, C. Benton Williams
Brotherhood/human needs department, Bob Simpkins
Church music department, Jim Cordell
Discipleship training and special ministries department, Douglas Strader
Direct missions department, Robert C. Jones
Office for evangelism, Bill Jagers
Student/church recreation department, Don Blaylock
Sunday school/church architecture department, Chip Miller
7:50 Hymn, "The Light of the World is Jesus"
7:55 Election of officers
8:05 Report: Communications division, Gregory L. Hancock
Media department, Paul W. Lee
8:15 Report: Western Recorder, Marv Knox
8:25 Report: Foreign missions, Doris Mullendore
8:30 Report: WMU, Dolores Gilliland
8:40 Hymn, "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"

8:45 Introduction of speaker, J. Robert White
8:50 Special music, Cynthia Winfree
9:00 Foreign missions message, R. Keith Parks
9:30 Benediction, Mike Harmon

WEDNESDAY MORNING, Nov. 14

Theme: "Help and Hope for Senior Adults"
Music leader, David Whaley
8:45 Special music, Senior Adult Choir, First Baptist Church, Owensboro
9:00 Hymn, "There is Sunshine in My Soul"
9:05 Theme interpretation and prayer, Bob Kersey
9:20 Report: Temperance League, Claude Witt
9:25 Report: Baptist Hospitals, Edgar D. Vaughn
9:35 Report: Conventionwide education, W.R. Davenport
9:40 Miscellaneous business
10:00 Report: Committee on resolutions, Terry Wilder
10:20 Hymn, "Nothing but the Blood"
10:25 Report: Committee on arrangements, Bill C. Forte Jr.
10:30 Report: Historical Commission, Ronnie Forrest
10:35 Report: Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Richard Carnes
10:45 Report: Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Curtis Mooney
10:55 Report: Business division, Barry G. Allen
Accounting services department, Cathi Roy-Sanders
Administrative services department, B.J. Watts Jr.
Computer services department, Douglas D. Hays
Support services department, John Pate
Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Harold W. Barnes
Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, Deward Hurst
11:05 Centennial of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Harry Piland
11:20 Scripture reading and prayer, John T. Wallace
11:25 Special music, Cynthia Winfree
11:30 Convention sermon, C.C. Brasher
12:00 Benediction, Mike Brady

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, Nov. 14

Theme: "Help and Hope for Children"
Music leader, Wayne Causey
1:50 Special music, Young Musicians Choir, Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville
2:05 Hymn, "This is My Father's World"
2:10 Theme interpretation and prayer, Jewell Nelson
2:25 Report: Obituaries committee, Calvin Perry
2:30 Miscellaneous business
3:00 Report: Committee on committees, Walter McNeil
3:10 Report: Committee on nominations, Floyd Price
3:20 Hymn, "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"
3:25 Recognition of convention officers, William W. Marshall
3:30 Campbellsville College Choir
3:40 Report: Christian education in Kentucky, Jim Hawkins
3:45 Report: Georgetown College, W. Morgan Patterson
3:50 Report: Cumberland College, James H. Taylor
3:55 Report: Oneida Baptist Institute, Barkley Moore
4:00 Report: Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Bill Whittaker
4:05 Campbellsville College Choir
4:10 Report: Campbellsville College and Christian education message, Kenneth W. Winters
4:30 Benediction, Trace McCann

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Nov. 14

Theme: "Help and Hope for Middle Adults"
Music leader, Kent Jackson
6:30 Special music, Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Paducah
7:00 Hymn, "Come Thou Fount"
7:05 Theme interpretation and prayer, Paul Robinson
7:20 Miscellaneous business
7:40 Hymn, "He Lives"
7:45 Introduction of speaker, Bill Messer
7:50 Special music, Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Paducah
8:00 Message, Roy L. Honeycutt
8:30 Recognition of new officers and presentation of gavel, Bill Messer
8:40 Benediction, Mike Williams

Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference

November 12, 1990
 First Baptist Church
 Paducah

- 1:15 Music, First Baptist Church, Pikeville
- 1:30 Call to order, Glenn Mollette
- 1:35 Prayer, Jim McKenzie
 Music, Walter Jackson
- 1:40 Theme interpretation: "Divinely Called, Joyfully Serving," W.B. Bingham III
- 1:50 Congregational hymn
- 1:55 Testimony: "From the Plant to the Pastorate," Gene Crowder
- 2:05 Sermon: "The World's Greatest Job," Willis Henson
- 2:25 Congregational hymn
- 2:30 Sermon: "Striving for Excellence," Paul Powell
- 3:00 Offering
- 3:05 Sermon: "Finding a Better Way," Bob DeFoor
- 3:25 Testimony: "Joyfully Serving in Spite of Adversity," Dudley Pomeroy
- 3:35 Music, First Baptist Church, Pikeville
- 3:45 Sermon: "Calling All Preachers," Roy Fish
- 4:15 Benediction, Jimmy Gentry

- 6:30 Music, First Baptist Church, Pikeville
- 6:45 Congregational hymn
- 6:50 Solo, Ted Sisk
- 6:55 Welcome and sermon: "Feet Worth Seeing," Bob White
- 7:20 Greetings, Bill Messer
 Greetings, Bill Marshall
 Election of officers
- 7:40 Offering, Glenn Mollette
 Prayer, Gerald Sharon
 Offertory music, First Baptist Church, Pikeville
- 7:45 Sermon: "Making the Best of a Bad Situation," Wayne Dehoney
- 8:05 Congregational hymn
- 8:10 Sermon: "Joy in the Fire," John Wood
- 8:40 Music
- 8:50 Sermon: "Rekindle the Dream," Roy Fish
 Commitment Service, First Baptist Church, Pikeville
 Benediction

Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association

November 12, 1990
 Executive Inn
 Paducah

- 10:30 Registration
- 11:30 Lunch, International Room C
- 1:00 Plenary Session, Kentucky Room
- 2:30 Ministerial groups
 Minister of Education
 Minister of Youth
 Minister of Preschool/Children
 Minister of Recreation
- 3:30 Plenary session
- 4:30 Business session

- 6:00 Banquet, International Room C
- 8:30 Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministers Association

Kentucky Baptist Music Association

November 12, 1990
 Lone Oak First Baptist Church
 Paducah

- 11:30 Officers' luncheon
- 1:00 Registration begins
- 1:30 Call to order, Bill Williams, president
 Welcome, Randy Holt, host minister of music
- 1:45 Worship/hymn service, Jim Cordell, director
- 2:15 Address: "Roots and Routes of American Church Music," Leonard Van Camp
- 3:15 Break/exhibits
- 3:45 President's address: "Some Mistakes I Have Made," Bill Williams
- 4:00 Church music department report, Jim Cordell
- 4:15 Business session
- 4:45 Break/exhibits
- 5:30 Banquet

- 7:00 Address: "Anthems as Responses," Leonard Van Camp
- 8:00 Recognition of professor W. Wayne Johnson, Bill Williams
- 8:15 Concert, Campbellsville College Chorale, Kenneth Martin, director
- 9:00 Dismiss/instrumental ensemble rehearsal

Kentucky Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship

November 12, 1990
 Immanuel Baptist Church
 Paducah

- 6:00 Call to order
 Greetings, Host
 Appreciation and welcome, Billie Wright, president
 Prayer
 Scripture and devotional, James E. Casey
 Business
 Minutes, Randall Jones
 Treasurer's report, Randall Jones
 Committee reports
 Nominating committee report, Tom Shelton
 Miscellaneous business
- Recognitions
 New DOMs, Frank Dorris, president elect
 Retiring DOMs
 Past officers
 DOM of the Year award, Russell Bennett
 "That's the Way It Was," Francis Tallant
- Closing Items
 Prayer
 Recognition of new officers
 Announcements
 Benediction, Wayne Newby

Eastern European students soak up Bible at lay academy

by Mike Creswell

Students from nine Eastern European countries enrolled in the new International Baptist Lay Academy this past summer, and all soaked up the Bible-based training "like sponges," administrators said.

A near-capacity 110 students attended summer classes in Bible, English and Christian topics during the first three two-week sessions which opened in July. The Euro-

pean Baptist Federation and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board sponsor the school in cooperation with Hungarian Baptists.

The school, located on the campus of the Hungarian Baptist Academy, provides basic Christian training to Baptist laypersons and bivocational pastors from throughout Eastern Europe. Students from every Eastern European country except Albania attended.

Classes are taught in English, to provide

a common language to the varied language/culture groups represented. Christian materials are scarce in many Eastern European languages, so those wanting to study must do so in another language for now. The school provides intensive study of English.

"We've been tremendously pleased with the attitude of our students," said Southern Baptist representative O. Errol Simmons, IBLA administrator and associate director. "Attitudes are so positive and they're grateful to learn."

"Are they willing to learn? They're not merely willing—they're eager," said George Beasley-Murray, a specialist in the New Testament. A British Baptist, he was principal of Spurgeon's College in England and taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. During summer he taught a course on the gospel of John at IBLA.

Most students have secular jobs and work in their churches as volunteers. A few are pastors or serve churches in other ways; Soviet Baptist Victoria Mazharova edits a Baptist newspaper, *The Christian World*, in Moscow.

It costs about \$80 for a student to attend a two-week session at IBLA, said Simmons. Special gifts have enabled it to sponsor 16 students during the first two sessions, but now there are no more scholarship funds. Many students attend on a work-study program, exchanging work for partial tuition. IBLA has a modest operating budget of \$80,000, to last at least three years.

IBLA functions with a minimum of staff. Hungarian Baptist Laszlo Gerzenyi is director. Simmons is associate director and his wife, Mary, is bookkeeper. Teachers are Baptist volunteers from the U.S. and Europe. (BP)



In an impromptu singing session, Samuel Gallat of Czechoslovakia, at the keyboard, accompanies (from left to right) Nikolai Devyatkin of the Soviet Union; Maire Harvey of the United Kingdom; Christopher Kowalski of Poland; Reg Harvey, director of British Baptists' Mission Society from the United Kingdom; Aaron Summers, BSU summer missionary from Jackson, Tenn.; and Theodore Paul of Austria. The group is singing at the International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest, Hungary, which provides basic Christian training to Baptist lay persons and bivocational pastors from throughout eastern Europe. (Photo by Mike Creswell)

Baylor Prayer meet yields 23 decisions

by Ken Camp

When a Baylor Bears team meeting turned into a prayer vigil for a critically ill teammate, 23 players made professions of faith in Christ, according to head coach Grant Teaff.

Baylor offensive lineman John Karkoska, 19, collapsed during a Sept. 13 team workout and was hospitalized at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco, Texas.

An underlying condition, possibly viral and infectious, brought about Karkoska's

collapse and subsequent kidney and liver failure, according to a statement released Sept. 19 by team physician R.W. Covington. Karkoska died on Sept. 22.

Baylor Bears players and staff gathered in the team meeting room at the football stadium on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 16, for a routine conference. But deep concern for Karkoska transformed the gathering into a prayer meeting.

"It was a real private thing," said Teaff. "There was a spirit and unity one only finds when there is that concentrated effort and spirit of concern for someone else." (BP)

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Kentucky Baptist Convention

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS BREAKFAST

Conference addresses women's issues for the 1990s

by Susan Todd

While Southern Baptist women can expect some change for the better in most areas of their lives, more things will not change for them during this decade, according to a Southern Baptist sociologist.

Sarah Frances Anders, chairperson of the department of sociology, criminal justice, family life studies and social work at Louisiana College in Pineville, spoke to a group of more than 70 women gathered for an issues conference sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Women stand at the peak of a "cultural bridge," having more opportunities than ever before, Anders said.

"Hindsight reminds us that Baptists and women have survived and often been at their best in the worst of times," she said. "The present indicates slow progress in the midst of cultural sluggishness, but also indicates that hope can spring eternal."

Anders listed several areas in which women can watch for changes.

- Family. "The traditional family will continue to fade," Anders said. "For some time, less than 10 percent of American households have resembled the prototype of patriarchal breadwinner, thoroughly domesticated wife and mother and numerous children. I'm not sure the prototype of the family ever existed. It was probably just an ideal."

Households of non-married individuals and households of single parents with children will continue to claim great growth rates, she said. The families who do have children will have fewer children in the

next decade, decreasing from a 1990 average of 1.84 children to 1.81 children by the year 2000.

Families can also expect living expenses to rise. "By 2000, today's median-priced home of \$125,000 will have doubled," she said. The weekly grocery bill for a family of two adults and two children is projected to be about \$247 a week.

- Career. Women in the early part of this century had no more than a dozen "viable job classifications" to consider, Anders said. Today, women can choose from more than "500 broad job categories," she said. Anders predicted a mushrooming of those choices for the woman of the year 2000.

Women also can expect to work longer hours, she said, with weekly hours rising from 41 now to 46 by the decade's end. However, the work load of home will not decrease to make up those extra five hours, she said.

- Religion. Anders called the issue of ordination of women the "measuring rod" by which most people judge how far women are moving in religious circles. Among evangelicals, Southern Baptists rank sixth in the number of women in clergy roles, following Assembly of God, United Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Christian denominations.

However, the greatest number of women

to be ordained by their local churches has occurred in the last 12 years, she said.

Anders predicted that during the next few years in the Southern Baptist Convention, seminary enrollments will continue to drop, and women will become more discouraged about their "prospects of service in professional levels."

But Anders didn't write off the role of women within the Southern Baptist Convention. "Southern Baptist women do not subsist for the limelight. They never have claimed the limelight. They haven't had to have it to serve. And they prove daily that God has not given up on humankind, or America or Baptists." (BP)

Rely on Jesus and womanhood, speaker says

by Susan Todd

Women of the '90s can take their rightful place in the home, in the business world and in the church if they choose "fixed points" by which to navigate through this decade, a national women's leader said.

Catherine Allen, president of the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department and executive director of Samford University's Sesquicentennial Commission, spoke to more than 70 women who participated in "Navigating the '90s," a women's issues conference sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"In this decade more than in some other times, there are no fixed objects, no stationary landmarks in the sociodemographics of women," Allen asserted. "There never have

been any constants about women's roles in society."

Allen proposed two fixed points which she called "reliable" for the future. One is Jesus Christ himself.

Jesus included women in the work of his ministry, she said. Women were included in his inner circle and women preached on the day of Pentecost.

"Jesus has not changed, but the human manipulation of the Bible certainly has changed," she said.

Conservatives cannot tolerate women leaving those familiar places, she said. "So they resort to the most powerful weapon in their arsenal, the Bible. If they permit a biblical interpretation that is less than verbatim literal, the women will have too much license."

Allen accused conservatives of being literal on passages concerning women and ordination while allowing figurative interpretations of other passages.

Women have had to attempt to float on turbulent waters for so long within the Southern Baptist Convention, she added.

But instead of allowing womanhood to drag them down, women should use their womanhood as another fixed point on which they can rely, Allen said.

"A woman must take careful measure of her biology. You are woman—female of the species," she said. "God created you female and said, 'Very good.' You are created in God's own image. You can't get any better than that. Accept your essence and agree with God that being a woman is 'very good.'" (BP)

Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference

First Baptist Church, Paducah

1 p.m., November 12, 1990

Theme: "Divinely Called, Joyfully Serving"

Hear the
Great
Preachers
of our
Time



Wayne Dehoney



Roy Fish



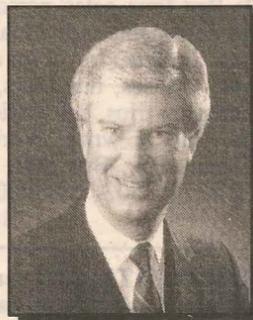
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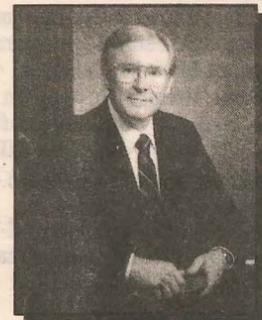
Glenn Mollette
President



Paul W. Powell



Bob White



John Wood

mountains to the mississippi



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

clear creek chronicle

Seek first the kingdom

Farrel and Dianna Green came to Clear Creek in 1989 with the attitude, "as for our home, the Lord comes first." They expected to be students involved as "active lay members" of a local church. One month after arrival, they started working at the Chenoa Baptist Mission, 12 miles from campus. The doors had been closed for three weeks and only three or four people attended. Now 30 are usually present. A door opened for outreach to residents of Bell County Forestry Camp, a state prison farm; 20 often attend services. Mrs. Green complements her husband's preaching-evangelism work by teaching Sunday school, developing teachers and working with small groups.

Many changes have come to the Greens since their conversions in 1974, one year into their marriage. Response to God's call into the ministry came in 1987. Separate confirmation of the Lord's direction to home missions came seven months later. The Greens anticipate work in Boulder, Col.

Dianna has missed being at home with her son who started public school when they came to Clear Creek. They moved from a large home into an apartment. "I miss the quiet place where I can pull everything together." She has found much fulfillment in leading a campus Master-Life group. Farrel expressed adjustments with church duties. His most difficult experience came with the funeral of a four-year-old boy.

For 15 years, Green was a commercial and residential landscaper. After seeing he "could make the grades during his first year," Green accepted a student workshop to landscape the campus. He turned the temporary medical clinic trailer into an attractive setting. The central courtyard is his current project. His plan calls for using many plants already growing on campus. Creek rock provides a beautiful touch. The forestry camp residents will be asked to help clear the creek banks and make it more appealing.

The Greens agree, "It is wonderful here at Clear Creek. We've seen so many changes in two years. Whenever God calls, he will equip and provide. An example is our Tennessee house; we have always had a renter. We see new students ponder, 'How will we make it?' They don't have to do it. Wait upon the Lord and he will take care of it, Matt. 6:33."

PERSONNEL: Pastors—Mike Sledge resigned West Pineville Church, Pineville. ... W.C. Cardwell to Bennets Fork Church, Middlesboro. ... Boyd Gray to Ferndale Mission, Middlesboro. ... Jim Stephens resigned Barretts Creek Church, Grayson. ... Jeff Salyers to South Shore Church, South Shore. ... William Bowling resigned Mt. Zion Church, East Bernstadt. ... Andy Hicks to Pleasant View Church, Bedford. ... John Meador to Union Grove Church, Bedford.

Others—Jim Williams to Rose Hill Church, Ashland, as youth minister. ... Clint Lester to Blood River Church, New Concord, as minister of education. ... Scott Aultman to Georgetown Church, Georgetown, as minister of youth. ... Travis McNeal to Southside Church, Louisville, as minister of music. ... Kay Dreyer to St. Matthews Church, Louisville, as assistant minister to children. ... Joey Williams is the coordinator of a new ministry to shut-ins and senior adults for Elkhorn Association. ... Claude M. Witt, executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky,

was elected secretary of the American Council on Alcohol Problems.

CONGREGATIONS: Homecomings—Olive Church, Hardin, Oct. 7. ... Palestine Church, Campbellsville, Sept. 30. ... Saloma Church, Campbellsville, Nov. 11. ... Hickory Church, Hickory, Nov. 4. ... First Church, Russellville, Oct. 14. ... Arthur Ridge Church, East Bernstadt, Sept. 16. ... Lick Fork Church, London, Sept. 9. ... Providence Church, London, Sept. 16. ... South Fariston Church, London, Sept. 16. ... Robinson Creek Church, London, Sept. 16. ... Post Oak Church, Russellville, Sept. 23.

Anniversaries—Acton Church, Campbellsville, 6th, Sept. 9. ... Sinking Creek, London, 150, Oct. 21. ... Providence Church, London, 175, Sept. 16.

Others—Berea Church, Berea, broke ground for its educational building. ... Buck Run Church, Frankfort, recognized Edna Gardner for over 35 years of Sunday school teaching, and Evelyn Hokensmith for over 60 years as pianist and organist.

ORDINATIONS: W.D. Laster as deacon by New Union Church, Russellville. ... Grace Church, Murray, licensed Matthew Johnson and Kyle Evans to ministry. ... Doug Root as deacon by First Church, Corbin. ... J. Stephen Bristow to ministry by Hiseville Church, Hiseville.

MISSIONS: Brazil—Nov. 1, Alan Graham and Sherry Hignite from First Church, London, on a medical team. ... Nov. 15, Thurman Taylor, interim pastor of East Pittsburg Church, London, and Dennis Rush of Providence Church, London, for construction and evangelism. ... Robert Bickford, Clarence Steiner, Katie Gilbert and Wayne Newby from West Union Baptist Association for evangelism.

Others—First Church, Ashland, sent a team to Akron, Ohio, to replace the roof on Sherwood Church.

ASSOCIATIONS: Blood River Association passed a resolution against direct funding of Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by KBC.

74 percent of Americans report commitments to Christ

world in view

A 1990 Gallup Poll reports a record 74 percent of Americans say they have made a commitment to Christ, compared to 66 percent in a 1988 survey and 60 percent in 1978.

In other world news:

COURT UPHOLDS LANDLORD'S REFUSAL. The Minnesota Supreme Court has ruled that an evangelical Christian landlord has a right to refuse to rent to an unmarried couple because he believed they would be violating the state's anti-fornication law.

FALWELL DROPS BROADCASTS. Jerry Falwell's weekly "Old Time Gospel Hour" is dropping most of its television broadcast outlets in a move that will save more than \$8 million annually. The pro-

gram will be aired on three Virginia stations and the ministry's FamilyNet network.

GRAHAM BREAKS ATTENDANCE RECORDS. Evangelist Billy Graham broke four consecutive attendance records at Nassau Coliseum during his Long Island, N.Y., crusade in September. Crowds of more than 19,000 overflowed the 18,000-seat facility.

NAZI SURVIVOR SAYS CHRISTIANS FORGOTTEN. Christians and other Gentiles are the forgotten victims of the Nazi Holocaust, says Auschwitz survivor Michael Preisler, president of the New York Polish-American Congress. He was a political prisoner from 1941 to 1945 after being arrested for activities in the anti-Nazi underground.

ROMANIA TO HAVE NEW RELIGIOUS LAW. The new state secretary for the Department of Cults (Religions) has given assurance of equal rights for all churches in Romania. Meetings took place in September to discuss the text of the new law.

BULGARIAN BAPTISTS EXPERIENCE GROWTH. Bulgarian Baptists are experiencing unprecedented growth, said Karl-Heinz Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation. Since January, over 300 converts have been baptized into Bulgaria's 9 Baptist churches.

BAPTISTS, LUTHERANS PUBLISH REPORT. "Baptists and Lutherans in Conversation: A Message to Our Churches"

has been published in Geneva by the Baptist World Alliance and the Lutheran World Federation. The report of the international Baptist-Lutheran Joint Commission marks the culmination of 4 years of dialogue between the denominations.

BAPTISTS, MENNONITES CONTINUE TALKS. Meeting at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries in Elkhart, Ind., representatives of the Baptist World Alliance and the Mennonite World Conference celebrated the historic 1609 meeting of Baptists with Dutch Mennonites in Amsterdam. This summer's meeting was the second in a series of theological conversations.

CONSERVATIVE SCHOLARS DISCUSS VATICAN II. A group of Catholic scholars has blamed the confusion and diminished vitality of the U.S. Roman Catholic Church on liberal theologians who they said have misinterpreted documents from the second Vatican Council. The report charges that "some Catholic thinkers have cited Vatican II as providing a basis for Catholics...to dissent from binding Catholic teachings in the doctrinal or the moral order and as a basis to depart from the discipline of the church."

GROWING CHURCHES TARGET SPECIFIC GROUPS. Growing churches target programs to specific groups rather than trying to be all things to all people, according to a report issued by the Barna Research Group in Glendale, Calif.

"Successful Churches: What They Have in Common," is based on a study of Protestant churches that are growing in attendance at a rate of 10 percent or more per year. According to the report, growing congregations "refused to be enticed into areas of ministry in which they discerned no special calling. Instead, they concentrated on doing what they were called to do," such as focusing on teenagers, single adults or the elderly.

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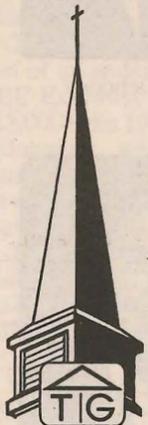
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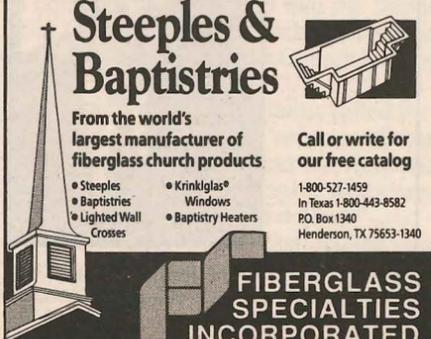
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God's presence and power

Exodus 3:11-14; 19-20 Moses was to be the agent whom God would use in bringing his people out of Egypt. Moses was qualified and fitted for the position which God intended he should fill. The commission was urgent: "Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh." Moses exclaimed, "Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh?" The

commission was purposeful: "That thou mayest bring forth my people the children out of Egypt."

This mission appeared to be too great for Moses, so he voiced his objections. Who was he to go into the presence of Pharaoh and demand the release of a people whom Pharaoh had sworn to exterminate? Possibly the objections which he offered were prompted by a sense of his own weakness, but Moses learned that God never calls a person to a task without supplying adequate strength for its accomplishment.

Moses was encouraged by the assurance God gave him in the promise, "Certainly I will be with thee." It was God's work to be performed with God's power, but Moses was the instrument for doing the work and the one through whom the power would flow.

Wondering what the response of the Israelites might be when he announced his God-given mission and anticipating that they might inquire about the God whom he would claim had commissioned him, Moses asked God what he should tell them. God told Moses exactly how he should answer them. God has revealed himself to us in nature, in history, in the Bible and preeminently in Christ Jesus.

The divine commission Moses received was to deliver the Israelites out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them into a land flowing with milk and honey. Since the time had arrived for their deliverance from bondage, it was urgent that Moses go at once to perform his task.

Thinking that this assignment was too great for him, Moses voiced his objections and made excuses. God gave him the assurance which he needed, and Moses yielded to God's will.

International series

Isaiah and Ahaz

Isaiah 7:1-4 Not long after Ahaz began to reign as king of Judah, Resin, king of Syria, and Pekah, king of Israel, joined forces and launched an attack on Jerusalem, the capitol of Judah. When Ahaz and his people were informed of the plans of their enemies, they were so frightened they sought an alliance with Assyria. They also checked to see if the water supply was sufficient to withstand a siege.

Following divine directions, Isaiah went to upper pool at the end of the water course and there found the king inspecting the water supply. Isaiah urged Ahaz not to give way to his impulses and do anything rash, because those who were threatening him were only ends of smoldering stumps of fire brands which would burn out shortly—they were not capable of giving him and his people any serious trouble if the people would only trust in God.

Isaiah 7:10-17 Isaiah was anxious for Ahaz to heed God's message and counsel, but Ahaz rejected both God's messenger and his message. When God offered to give Ahaz any kind of sign, he refused to ask for one. He was determined that he would not exercise faith in God regardless of the consequences. He preferred to place his trust in his allies rather than in God.

Isaiah gave him a sign anyway. He predicted that a virgin, a young unmarried woman, would give birth to a son, and the name of this son would be Immanuel, "God with us." The coming of this unique and divine child would be the absolute guarantee that God would not forsake his people.



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

homes for children

Back where it all began

In a sense, our ministry has gone back to where we began. Effective this month, the Metro-Louisville regional office which handles all referrals from the Louisville area has relocated from the Middletown central office to one of the facilities of Walnut Street Baptist Church. The office is being moved downtown where it can be more accessible to the youth and families who seek our help. Though the Middletown office is on a bus route, it is a long bus ride for many of families.

In addition to moving the Metro-Louisville office, we are also moving the H.E.L.P. program from Spring Meadows to the same location downtown. This program is one where older adolescents are taught independent living skills such as finding a job, handling money, finding an apartment, just to name a few. Though some of our Spring Meadows youth have participated in the program, it primarily serves older adolescents that are living in foster homes in the Louisville community. The central location will be helpful here as well.

As noted above, this is a movement back to where this organization began. In 1869, the pastor and concerned women of Walnut Street Baptist Church began the Louisville Baptist Orphan's Home. It was located at First and St. Catherine which is about two- and one-half blocks from where the new office is now located.

We are grateful to Walnut Street Baptist Church for being able to work with us to provide space in such a crucial location. The partnership with Walnut Street is only the latest in which our ministry works directly with a local church or association. In Madisonville, we are located at the Little Bethel Association office. In Morehead, our offices are in space provided by First Baptist Church. In Lexington, we have a satellite office located at Central Baptist Church. And in northern Kentucky, we are located at Erlanger Baptist Church.

This move and the location of offices in Lexington and in northern Kentucky are part of our effort to reach out to the urban areas of Kentucky.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

A clean sweep

There was great excitement as I approached my office this morning. The fog was unusually thick. But the excitement wasn't the fog. Our band members were loading one of our former Greyhound buses, preparing to leave for their first band competition of this year. Though departure time was three hours away, one would have thought there were only 20 minutes to get it all done.

The luggage compartments of our type bus are wonderful for hauling band instruments. But also to be loaded were seven portable sets which, when erected, are replicas of stained glass windows. Most of the painting had been done by art

student Chris Moore. Chris is a senior from Campbellsville where both of his parents have been music professors for many years at the college. This is the third year Chris has been at Oneida, and his artistic talents have developed steadily. The stained glass replicas, painted on wood, were cleverly built for easy assembly as props for Oneida's field show for competition. Our program consists all of sacred music. The windows are to help give the spectators the illusion of being in a church during the performance.

Various staff members and students met yesterday to watch and cheer our band in their last practice before the field show. But we are not able today to take along spectators to cheer our group on at the actual competition. All the other schools will have that type of support. Many band parents follow their children like the parents of basketball players. But our parents are scattered all over Kentucky, many states, even foreign countries.

I have been able to arrange my schedule to accompany the band today. I can make a lot of noise when I have to! I probably won't be able to speak tomorrow.

Day before yesterday we had a lot of cheering on our campus. In the span of three hours, we had three home meets in soccer, volleyball and cross country. That is a rare event, having so many things happening at the same time, all at home. Normally our various teams are scattered over several hundred miles on any day of competition.

On this day Buckhorn had brought their boys' and girls' cross country teams and also their volleyball team to our campus. Buckhorn began as a Presbyterian boarding school in 1902. For nearly

40 years our schools competed by walking or riding horseback over the mountain 13 miles. Now, it is a 50-mile trip by blacktop road around the mountains, coming and going. For years, Buckhorn has been a public school though they still have a small Presbyterian child care program on the old campus.

On this day, our boys and girls made a clean sweep in both cross country and volleyball. In fact, our boys' cross country team made a perfect score of 15 with five OBI boys across the finish line first.

The soccer game was much more difficult and it was nearly dark before the final horn in overtime against Laurel County. Oneida scored the first two goals and Laurel County scored their second one just as regulation play ended. Finally, the winning goal was scored in overtime with great rejoicing.

While the athletic events were being held, the band was on their own field practicing for their upcoming competition. One could see several hundred girls and boys giving it their best in competition or practice.

Minutes after the soccer game ended, nearly 400 were quietly studying in our two dining rooms. Evening study hall is mandatory unless a student is on "A" or "B" honor roll. Those highest ranking students can use that hour as they wish. All others must hit the books under supervision. Different teachers volunteer to help the dorm parents at night during study time. Rolling carts are filled with encyclopedias and other study aids. Following study hall there are 75 minutes of time before bed check at 10:30 p.m. That time is used for doing laundry, showering, watching TV, continuing to study, whatever.

Delap challenges singles to evangelize 1 million in 1 year

by Terri Lackey

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board family ministry department and the evangelism department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board jointly have set a goal to reach one million single adults for faith in Christ in a year's time.

Kicking off the emphasis at four Labor Day conferences, Rollin Delap, singles evangelism consultant for the Home Mission Board, said the two agencies hope to train 100,000 single adults to evangelize and disciple other single adults across the nation. Single adults attending the Labor Day weekend conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center were challenged to catch a vision of evangelization and to use their Christian gifts to witness to the unchurched.

Delap issued the challenge following a four-part SingleLife lecture series he delivered at the National Single Adult Labor Day Conference at Ridgecrest where more than 2,500 single adults attended. Ridgecrest and three other simultaneous conferences at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, Los Angeles and St. Louis, drew more than 6,000 participants.

The conferences were sponsored by the single adult section of the SSB's family ministry department.

"I believe many single adults have let the circumstances of their lives destroy them," Delap said. "I think they are now looking for a vision and a greater purpose in their lives."

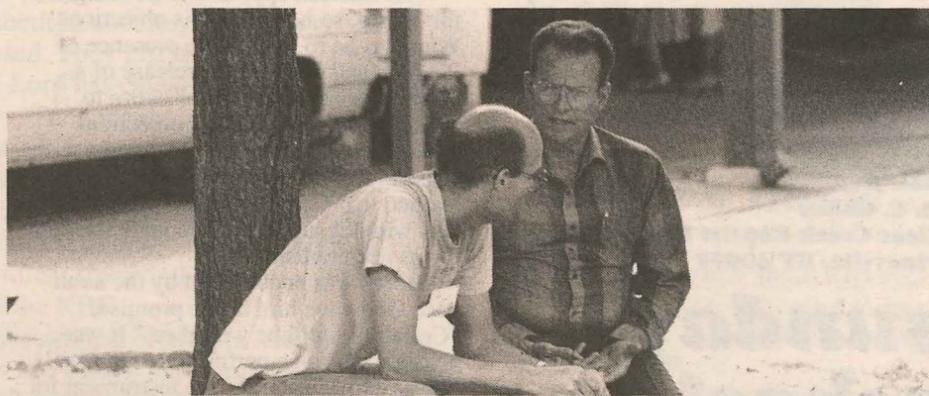
Delap challenged single adults to become a better Christian testimony to those

around them.

Characteristics of a faithful disciple are that they have a heart for God (put him first), they are teachable and they have a willingness to pay the price, Delap said.

"It will cost you to be a disciple, and it will cost you even more to be a disciple-maker. But Christian singles must stand faithful regardless of the costs," Delap said, "until every single is won across the nation."

"Every Single Won," is the theme for the evangelism emphasis and the title of a 1990-91 theme book for single adults written by Delap. A video tape the SingleLife series challenging single adults to evangelism and training them for that challenge has been produced by the SSB family ministry department. (BP)



Rollin Delap, singles evangelism consultant with the Home Mission Board, talks with a single adult attending the National Single Adult Labor Day Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center about an effort to tell one million single adults about Christ within the next year. (Photo by Terri Lackey)

'Search for friendship,' singles leader says

by Terri Lackey

Many single adults spend their free hours pining away for a lasting relationship that will lead to marriage when they should be searching for long-term friendships, a conference leader said.

"I get the idea that a lot of singles try to live their lives in order to find the right mate," said Cindy Dupree, associate director of Broadcast Music Inc. in New York City.

"But friendship—and I'm talking about true friendship—now that is the relationship of relationships. That is what we should

be pursuing," said Dupree, who led a seminar at the National Single Adult Labor Day conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Dupree is an Alabama native who moved to Nashville after marriage and became involved in the Christian music industry. After going through a divorce, she moved to New York where she is a member of The Lamb's of Manhattan Church and is active in ministering to the poor and homeless.

Dupree said "the great question of life" for single adults is, "What advice would you give someone seeking to find the right person?"

"The most reassuring answer I have found is 'Just don't look,'" she said.

Instead, Dupree said, cultivate friendships. "Friendship is a gift of God. We should take advantage of our ability to develop friendships with people.

"There are many ways to develop friendships. Be open to all kinds of people. Feel good about yourself. Be the best person you can possibly be. Be an initiator," she suggested.

She said if a man and a woman would develop a friendship before they ever started dating, they might discover the makings of a lasting relationship. (BP)



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Dr. Larry Hipps, Editor
'Bring Them In'

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- Promotions that Work
- The Painless Bus Program
- Getting Bus Workers
- Reaching Parents

Second Night

- 15 Things to do in Children's Church
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Ninth & O Baptist Church
2921 Taylor Boulevard
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(502) 636-5576

Kuwait refugees find shelter at Baptist school

by Erich Bridges

Three-year-old Michael Palomo is one of the youngest refugees fleeing the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Michael, a miniature ball of energy with a winning smile, could still be in the no man's land that is now Kuwait. Or he could be dead, like some children who have died of thirst as their families struggled across the hellish desert that stretches toward the Iraq-Jordan border. One family reportedly lost two children and had to bury them in Iraq.

Instead, Michael is alive and safe, along with his parents and about 200 other Philippine refugees from Kuwait who have found shelter at the Baptist school in Amman, Jordan. He hops from mattress to mattress scattered about the floor of the barracks-like school gymnasium, where the Filipinos are staying until their government sends a plane for them.

The Baptist school offers a safe haven. Southern Baptist workers in Amman, Jordanian Baptists and others provide food, medicine, blankets and other help.

Thousands of Filipinos, Thais, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis and other Asian contract workers have joined the vast human wave washing across Kuwait and Iraq to escape possible death—from war, thirst or starvation.

Michael may not remember these fearful days, but he will never be quite the same little boy.

"I think he got a mental block, because before the invasion he memorized most of the nursery rhymes by heart," explained his mother, Margarita Polomo, who ran a supermarket in Kuwait with her husband, Joseph. "After the invasion all he knows is about the Iraqis and guns and helicopters."

Like many Philippine workers, the Palomos tried to stay in Kuwait after the invasion, because their savings were tied up in the bank there (closed after the invasion) and because they feared an overland journey out. Then the Philippine embassy in Kuwait City closed Aug. 25. And an Iraqi soldier warned them to get out. They knew the time had come.



DESPERATION—Hungry Asian refugees from Kuwait swarm over a relief truck bringing water and food to a refugee camp near Jordan's border with Iraq. One man—atop truck, arm extended—throws food to others. Before the biggest, most squalid border camps were closed recently, food riots became common as refugees grew desperately hungry and thirsty. (Photo by Don Rutledge)

They abandoned their savings from six years of work and drove three days without sleep to reach the Jordan-Iraq border, joined by eight other Filipinos in a van loaded with water jugs.

They made it safely, and were treated well by Iraqis, perhaps because of Michael, she said. "Thank God we are safe, but I feel sorry for those who could not come into Jordan. There are so many out there in the boundary area, and there is no food, no nothing, because it is the desert. I pity them."

Another Philippine refugee couple now at the school, Nelson and Delores Flores, tried hiding out in their apartment building in Kuwait. When they looked out the window and saw Iraqi soldiers looting, they were shot at. When soldiers banged on their door, they crouched in silence until the soldiers went away. They had heard rumors

the Iraqis were raping civilian women.

They went to the Philippine embassy in Kuwait City Aug. 23 when they heard it would close, and found thousands of Filipinos sweltering on the grounds under the scorching sun. Afraid to leave but terrified of staying, they sold their possessions and joined 20 others in two cars and a van.

One woman in the group died before they reached Baghdad, and Mrs. Flores became very ill. But the Philippine embassy in the Iraqi capital gave them food. They found the border with Jordan closed, but hid in the desert until nightfall and then slipped through.

In Amman, they slept in front of their embassy for two days until "I felt if we could not stay in a good place I will die here," said Mrs. Flores. They found that place in the Baptist school's gymnasium.

Mattresses line the walls and clean laun-

dry hangs from lines strung across the windows or from basketball goal supports. As the sun sets and cool air settles on the evening, the smells of Philippine foods waft out the open door. One refugee shoots baskets to pass the time; another plays guitar.

The Southern Baptist workers still in Jordan provided the mattresses, blankets and medicine—in part with money from their own pockets. Southern Baptist relief funds also will help. Jordanian Baptists, other Christians, students at the school, and the Philippine embassy are providing food.

Volunteers with the Filipino Christian Fellowship in Jordan come each night to hold worship services with music, preaching or Christian films. Between 30 and 40 refugees have become Christians through the ministry, according to volunteer Manolo Quiambao. Four were baptized Sept. 2 in the Dead Sea.

Unfortunately, Baptists can accommodate no more than 200 refugees. But more than 100,000 had swarmed into Jordan by Sept. 5. Up to 20,000 are crossing the Iraqi border each day, and food riots are breaking out at the huge camp near the Al Ruweished border crossing, as refugees grow hungrier, angrier and more desperate in the oven heat.

At the largest camp in Amman, nearly 10,000 refugees huddle back-to-back in a warehouse-like exhibition building with a floor bigger than a football field. Even more camp outside, where they sweat during the day and shiver at night in tents or lean-tos made of sticks covered with sheets and blankets.

As the world focuses on potential tragedy at the Saudi-Kuwait border where hostile armies face each other, an actual tragedy is developing in Jordan.

A poor nation that can barely feed its own people, Jordan cannot meet the needs of refugees now in the country, much less the thousands of daily arrivals. Despite intensive efforts by the government, private citizens, charities, mosques and churches, the situation is rapidly approaching chaos.

Without major and immediate international assistance, Jordanian Crown Prince Hussein warns, refugees will begin dying from hunger and exposure.

At the Baptist school, workers are doing what they can. But water alone for refugees there costs \$50 a day; medicine, \$100. Food rationing already has begun for Jordanians, so food is becoming harder to find. (BP)



'DAD' ON CALL—Southern Baptist worker Gerry Milligan (right) and his wife, Arylis (not shown), distribute medicine, help care for ill Philippine refugees and provide other aid at Amman Baptist School in Jordan, which is sheltering hundreds of Filipinos fleeing Kuwait. (Photo by Don Rutledge)

SCENES ON THE ONEIDA BAPTIST CAMPUS



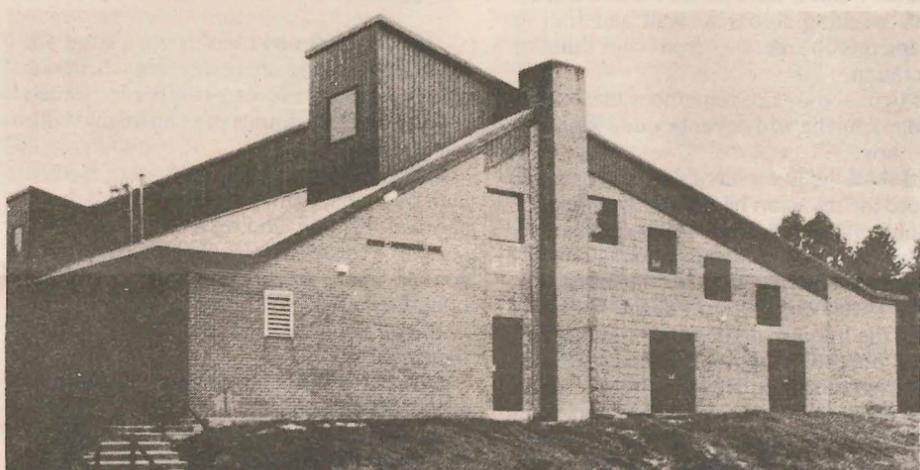
SYLVIA W. RUSSELL HALL housing administrative offices, library, computer lab, print shop, piano lab, classrooms.



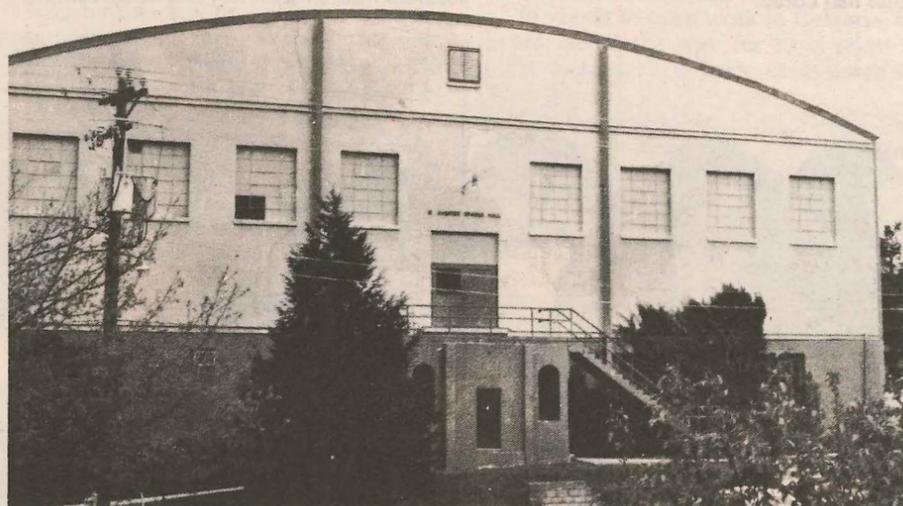
MELVIN DAVIDSON CHAPEL where Oneida students and staff worship daily.



JAMES A. BURNS HALL, girls dorm and school's largest building.



CHARLES GOINS-SAUL HOUNCHELL HALL, art complex, classrooms and heated indoor swimming pool area.



D. CHESTER SPARKS HALL, largest classroom area and gym.



GRITTON HALL, new two-story gym-classroom building.



PRESTON & RUBY BAKER HALL, younger boys dorm and staff apartments.