

## Partnerships may diminish politics in Kentucky

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The relative peace and tranquility which exists within the Kentucky Baptist Convention at a time when turmoil runs rampant in the Southern Baptist Convention may be linked to Kentucky Baptists' intense involvement in partnership missions.

Denominational leaders identified with the partnerships noted these dual relationships partially may be responsible for diminished rhetoric and controversy in Kentucky.

Kentucky Baptist partnership Coordinator Calvin Wilkins, at his post the last two years, suggested that the pairings often "bring people together for a common purpose."

"We put aside controversy and work together as a team in evangelism and missions," he said. "Volunteers are on a mission to reach people for Christ."

KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall noted many Kentucky partnership teams include people from both sides of the Baptist theological-political aisle.

"The partnerships transcend our differences and create an arena in which we find mutual agreement and support," said Marshall. "Perhaps, as someone suggested, it is the partnerships, more than anything else, that have contributed to the relative peace and stability in our state convention."

C. Benton Williams, director of the KBC missions, evangelism and church services division, said: "I feel that in the future, God will bless unselfish people who are willing to not only share themselves but share their faith. This may be the secret of an unselfish group of Kentucky Baptists who are willing to do what God would have them do. Partnership missions, to date, has given us that opportunity."

The partnership plans link members of Baptist congregations, and in some cases churches and district associations, with Baptists in distant places who have needs their partners can supply. Sometimes a reciprocal arrangement mutually benefits both groups. Hundreds of Kentucky Baptists who already have participated bear this out in testimonies of life-changing experiences.

Their participation is voluntary; they are not coerced. Almost all of them are responsible for raising or supplying their own travel expenses, often in addition to taking vacation time or time off a job without pay

in order to go.

Kentucky Baptists currently are involved in partnerships with:

- Ohio. Kentucky Baptists' involvement in partnerships began in 1982, when the first of two three-year link-ups began with

the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. The original concept, later refined, became the prototype of today's pairings. A more carefully supported and structured relationship emerged from the initial involvement, resulting in a second phase entered by

Kentucky and Ohio Baptists in 1985.

At the beginning of 1990, after a two-year lapse, the two states again were paired in a third phase, this time for five years. In recent months, Kentucky Baptists have underwritten the expenses of providing an Ohio coordinator to direct partnership opportunities in that state, similar to Kentucky's Wilkins. Henry Johns, who retired from the pastorate of Versailles Baptist Church in Versailles, Ky., moved to Columbus, Ohio, and later became the coordinator.

Already in 1990, 280 Kentucky volunteers have participated in 33 Ohio projects. Many included the "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You" crusades in the spring when Kentucky pastors preached in the Buckeye State.

- Brazil. The partnership with Espirito Santo, Brazil, was preceded by a well promoted, highly visible, extremely successful 1985-87 effort in the east African nation of Kenya.

The KBC Executive Board offered funds to pay half the travel costs to Kenya for every director of missions in Kentucky, said Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marshall. "The end result was that most participated, many with their wives," he remembered. "And because of their interest, their involvement and promotion, a very high percentage of the 78 associations statewide had participants."

So successful was that tie with Kenya, and so enthusiastic were the returning laypeople, ministers and denominational leaders, telling of their experiences in Africa, that enthusiasm ran high for a subsequent overseas mission partnership.

*continued on page 10*



## Baptists divided over future, poll reveals

Kentucky Baptists' predictions about the future of the Southern Baptist Convention are divided, according to a poll conducted by The Courier-Journal in Louisville.

The Bluegrass State Poll showed that almost one-third of Kentucky Southern Baptists think the SBC will split; slightly more than one-third said the convention can overcome its theological/political controversy; and almost one-third said they don't know.

The poll was conducted after more than 11 years of SBC controversy.

This spring, conservatives exerted control over the trustee board of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. In June, conservatives won their 12th-straight SBC presidential election and cut the budget allocation to the moderate-supported Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by 87 percent. A month later, the conservative-led SBC Executive Commit-

tee terminated the director and news editor of Baptist Press, the convention's news service. A month after that, 3,000 moderates gathered in Atlanta to look at options for the future, including new methods of funding cooperative missions ventures.

The next month, in mid-September, the Bluegrass State Poll queried Kentuckians about the SBC situation. Researchers interviewed 185 Southern Baptists from a random sample of 806 Kentucky adults. The margin of error for the Baptist portion of the poll is 7.2 percent, the newspaper reported.

The poll asked Southern Baptists, "Do you think the Southern Baptist Convention can overcome the disagreements, or do you think the disagreements are so great that they will split the convention into two separate religious denominations?"

The answers revealed:

- 37 percent feel Southern Baptists can

overcome the disagreements.

- 32 percent believe the convention will split.

- 31 percent do not know.

In a companion survey, pollsters talked to 391 Louisville and Jefferson County adults of all religious affiliations about their views concerning how the controversy has affected Southern Seminary.

Forty-eight percent of the sample said they were aware of the controversy.

Among that group, 34 percent said the seminary has suffered because of the conservatives' control of the school, 6 percent said the seminary has benefited, 16 percent said the trustee change has made no difference and 43 percent said they don't know.

The poll was conducted by Mark Schneider, research manager for the Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Co. It was reported by Bill Wolfe, religion writer.

## Supreme Court upholds religious access case

by Bob Allen

The U.S. Supreme Court has let stand a lower court ruling that a Pennsylvania school district cannot exclude religious groups from after-hours access to school buildings available to other groups.

The court declined to review a decision by the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that a Centennial, Pa., school district policy allowing school facilities to be rented to civic organizations but excluding their use for religious activities violates the free speech clause of the First Amendment.

The school district had denied a request by a Campus Crusade for Christ group to

rent a local high school.

The district denied permission because of a policy prohibiting the use of school buildings for religious services, instruction or activities.

At the time of the request, the school district had allowed more than 65 other groups access to school buildings. Thus, the school district had created a "limited open forum," in which both religious discussion and worship are protected as free speech, ruled the appellate court.

The ruling has important church/state ramifications, said J. Brent Walker, associate general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a Washing-

ton religious liberty watchdog agency.

Walker hailed the decision as "a logical extension of the equal access concept that the Baptist Joint Committee has advocated for years."

The case "makes clear that religious speech and worship may not be discriminated against, even in public school buildings," he said. "We hope this decision will make school districts less inclined to kneecap a 'no' to religious speech out of a near-paranoid fear of violating the establishment clause" of the First Amendment.

The case set a "strong precedent" for small churches and missions which meet in rented school facilities, Walker said. (BP)

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October 23, 1990

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# 'Fellowship' OKs funding plans, convocation

An interim steering committee of the new "fellowship" of Southern Baptist moderates has approved mission funding tracks for churches that bypass the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The committee also announced a convocation May 9-11, 1991, in Atlanta.

That city was the site of the embryonic group's first meeting this summer. It attracted 3,000 Southern Baptists, who formed an as-yet-unnamed organization they called "the fellowship."

Acting on the issue of most apparent concern to participants in this summer's organizational meeting, the interim steering committee agreed to a two-track funding plan. Both tracks delete any funding for the SBC Executive Committee, Baptist Press news service, Christian Life Commission, Public Affairs Committee and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The five organizations are those "most flagrantly violating Baptist principles at the point of religious liberty, freedom of information and priesthood of the believer," said Jimmy R. Allen of Fort Worth, Texas, chair of the funding committee.

One of the tracks, a "venture" plan, specifies that 25 percent of the money received will be set aside for new mission initiatives of the fellowship and a "safety net" to provide emergency assistance to SBC employees discharged or otherwise forced out of their jobs by conservative trustees. Another 1.58 percent will be set aside for administrative expenses of the fellowship and of Baptist Cooperative Missions Program Inc., a separate unit established during the summer meeting to receive and disburse mission funds from churches and individuals.

Under the plan, each of the other SBC

organizations will receive a share of the remaining funds, based on a formula adopted in June at the SBC annual meeting.

Churches choosing the second track, the "regular" plan, will send their missions gifts through BCMP Inc. according to the SBC formula with the noted exceptions.

Both plans provide funding for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Associated Baptist Press and the Baptist World Alliance.

Churches that use BCMP Inc. as a bypass mechanism may continue to send mission monies to all SBC entities under the convention formula, or they may tailor their own mission giving.

The specific site of the Atlanta meeting next May will be chosen by a convocation committee chaired by Asheville, N.C., pastor John H. Hewett and Oeita Bottorff of Houston. Dallas will be the host city for the 1992 convocation.

Next spring's event is considered crucial to development of the fellowship, leaders said. It will feature worship, business sessions and topical workshops.

In other business, the interim steering committee:

- Elected two officers to serve alongside Moderator Daniel Vestal, pastor of Dunwoody Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta.

They are laypeople Patricia S. Ayres of Austin, Texas, vice moderator, and Bill Owen of Ardmore, Okla., secretary.

- Approved seven working committees proposed by Vestal. The committees are administrative, convocation, funding, purpose and policy, workshop strategy, communications and nominating.

- Elected 14 new interim steering committee members at the recommendation of the fellowship's nominating committee. The

interim steering committee now has 70 members: 37 clergy and 33 laity, 46 men and 24 women.

- Agreed to accept an offer from the independent moderate newspaper SBC Today of a free page in each issue leading up to the spring convocation.

Communications committee Co-chair Alfred Ayscue of Mount Airy, N.C., told the steering committee: "We have a story to tell ... the story of renewal and revival among traditional Baptists; a story of fresh

hope and new vision; a story of Baptists energized by a new appreciation for our freedom; a story, not of a tent that can be entered only with a creedal pass, but of an umbrella that shelters free Baptists."

- Accepted an offer from Atlanta lawyer Bob Eubanks for free space in a Marietta, Ga., office building.

- Authorized Vestal to open a checking account and employ a part-time interim staff in consultation with the administrative committee. (ABP)



**HOME DESTROYED**—A Palestinian mother and son lost their home this fall when Israeli authorities retaliated against her husband for allegedly murdering a government informant. Southern Baptist mission workers are ministering in the strife-torn Middle East, seeking to heal a host of hurts. (RNS photo by Reuters)

## Dilday, trustees mend rift; other boards take action

Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and President Russell Dilday apparently have buried their differences and called for healing in the Southern Baptist Convention's theological/political controversy.

At other Baptist schools:

- Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological seminary alternately praised and criticized faculty members.

- Trustee officers at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have urged Southern Baptists not to cut funding for the national Cooperative Program unified budget.

- Baylor University's recent move to distance itself from the Baptist General Convention of Texas has resulted in formation of a special BGCT study committee.

Southwestern Seminary trustees met amid rumors that Dilday would be fired from the presidency of the Fort Worth, Texas, school. But they emerged from a three-day retreat last week calling for trust and deliverance from the controversy.

"This is the first bright light of hope I've seen moving forward to solve our prob-

lems," Dilday said. "Maybe God is working through us to show ways Southern Baptists can work together again."

Trustees made no move to dismiss Dilday, nor to install the 1987 SBC Peace Committee report as employment/promotion guidelines, as has been done at Southern Seminary in Louisville.

Trustees did ask Dilday to explain comments he made when he described as "satanic" the political methods used in the SBC controversy. He previously said he was criticizing methods of both SBC moderates and conservatives, and he apologized to trustees for his "harsh language."

At Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., trustees passed without discussion a resolution that says: "We affirm and commend the faculty and administration and express our confidence in them that they are acting within the spirit of the Baptist Faith and Message (statement) and the Peace Committee report."

Then they adopted a resolution to consider increased trustee involvement in the faculty-selection process and heard discus-

sion on a motion to allow students to tape classes and chapel.

Sid Peterson of Bakersfield, Calif., who introduced the motion on faculty selection, said: "By the time it comes to the trustees, it has already gone through the dean, the president, the faculty. Everyone has already determined who's going to be here except the trustees, whose duty it is to elect the faculty."

Trustee Jerry Davenport of Sheffield, Texas, moved that "students be allowed to tape record class lectures and chapel sessions." Davenport withdrew the motion when President Milton Ferguson said, "We do not have any regulation that prevents taping a class lecture, and chapel messages are taped routinely."

Davenport said he felt conservative students are intimidated on the campus and that most professors do not have "a higher view of scripture."

Ferguson said Davenport's criticism "is not an accurate representation of the quality, commitment or performance of our faculty in general."

## Plane crash survivor will return to Oklahoma

Erin Thomas, the Southern Baptist teacher who survived the Oct. 2 crash-landing of a hijacked plane in Guangzhou, China, has been moved to Hong Kong and will return soon to Oklahoma.

Thomas, 30, of Harrah, Okla., traveled by train with her parents from Guangzhou to Hong Kong Oct. 18, where she was met by an ambulance and taken to Hong Kong Baptist Hospital. Soon she will be moved to Baptist Burn Center in Oklahoma City for further treatment.

Her Southern Baptist colleague, Mary Anna Gilbert of Alexander City, Ala., who taught English with Thomas at Jia Ying University in Meixian, China, was killed in the crash that claimed 132 lives.

Thomas suffered second- and third-degree burns over 6 percent of her body in the crash and will need skin grafts. She also sustained a dislocated shoulder and several broken bones, and she developed pneumonia from smoke she inhaled while struggling to escape the burning plane wreck.

Southern Baptist missionary physician Lewis Smith is treating her in Hong Kong.

"I'm better than I was two weeks ago," she commented from her hospital bed. "My lungs are clear, the pneumonia is gone and I feel better. People have been so wonderful. So many calls and letters ... I couldn't have made it without them."

Thomas said she plans to return to China once she is fully recovered but will "wait and see" how she feels when the time comes. (BP)

"I would lay their view of scripture alongside yours, mine and others. They're betting their lives on the Bible as the inspired word of God and the final written authority for our faith and practice."

In response to Davenport's charge that if a student said how he really feels he would not get to graduate, Ferguson said: "That I do resent. ... I stand ready to be confronted with any evidence."

At Southern Seminary, three of four trustee officers met to voice concern about the Cooperative Program.

Trustees have grieved over meager salary increases granted to seminary faculty and staff during the past five years, said Wayne Allen, first vice chair. "We urge state conventions to take no action that would result in decreased funding. Ironically, many people who would possibly initiate this kind of action will only be hurting those faculty members and others they have a deep commitment to."

In Texas, the executive board of the state convention appointed a 26-member special committee to study recent charter changes at Baylor.

The Baylor board of trustees revised its charter Sept. 21, establishing a board of regents "with sole responsibility for governance" of the Texas Baptist school. Previously, Baylor's charter provided for governance by trustees, which were elected by the Texas convention.

The study committee will be chaired by Robert Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Seminary.

A progress report probably will be presented when the convention holds its annual meeting in November, but a final report and convention action is not expected at that time. (ABP, BP)

# Calendar, not designated giving, nets CP September squeeze

by Marv Knox, *Editor*

The calendar squeezed Kentucky Baptists' Cooperative Program unified budget in September.

The Cooperative Program received \$984,661 for the first month of the 1990-91 fiscal year. That amount is \$506,544—or 34 percent—below budget.

A tight calendar put that pinch on September, and the Kentucky Baptist Convention's financial health is not as puny as the September diagnosis appears, said Barry Allen, KBC business division director.

September typically gets off to a slow start because it is the first month of the fiscal year, Allen explained. The KBC accounting office credits to August all money that is received the first working day of September if it is postmarked by Aug. 31. Consequently, the previous year's budget gets a portion of the funds that normally would be credited to September.

And this year, September's receipts were hurt by the calendar, he added. The last day of the month was a Sunday, and receipts taken in by churches could not reach the KBC office in Middletown in time to be

credited to September.

That last-day-of-the-month squeeze is compounded because many churches do not send their Cooperative Program funds for the month until after the last Sunday, he said. In this case, those churches' September CP contributions did not arrive until October.

Kentucky was not the only state squeezed by the calendar, he reported, noting his colleagues at other Baptist state conventions have said their receipts followed similar patterns.

Another potential factor in the Cooperative Program—escrowed or designated funds from churches—has not had a sizable impact yet, Allen said.

Some moderate churches in the Southern Baptist Convention have decided to seek alternate ways to fund cooperative Southern Baptist missions. They have explained that they feel conservatives who control the SBC trustee structure are taxing them without allowing them to have representation, and most of them cite their intention to keep their churches' funds from the trustees of the SBC Executive Committee and Christian Life Commission.

That has not made a major dent in Kentucky's receipts, Allen noted, adding, "We do not see any significant pattern of alternate giving."

Two churches have voted to escrow their contributions, and another dozen have decided to send the KBC only its portion of the Cooperative Program. The KBC keeps 61.25 percent of undesignated receipts and sends 38.75 percent to Southern Baptist Convention causes. Receipts from churches that are designating around the SBC are not considered Cooperative Program.

As of September, all such contributions totalled an insignificant percentage of the overall budget, Allen said.

The KBC's Cooperative Program goal for the current fiscal year is \$17,894,462 and would require an average monthly income of \$1,491,205.

Budget-watchers will need at least another month to see how Bluegrass Baptists are doing with their CP giving, noted William W. Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer.

"Given the traditionally low September," he said, "the end of October will be a better gauge of the Cooperative Program."



## Kentucky Gifts - September 1990

	Month	YTD 1 mon.
Sept. 90	984,661	984,661
Sept. 89	1,188,893	1,188,893
\$ Change	(204,232)	(204,232)
% Change	-17.2%	-17.2%
Budget	1,491,205	1,491,205
\$(under)/over	(506,544)	(506,544)
%(under)/over	-34.0%	-34.0%

Year	\$ Over/(Under) Budget to Date	% Increase/Decrease Over Prev Year
90-91	(506,544)	-17.2%
89-90	(287,548)	0.7%
88-89	(238,496)	-12.0%
87-88	(22,597)	3.0%
86-87	3,067	65.6%
85-86	(513,068)	5.5%
84-85	(157,621)	-25.6%

## Paducah's satellite experiment may be 1st among Baptists

by James H. Cox, *Associate Editor*

In their first microwaveable meeting in history, Kentucky Baptists will gather Nov. 13-14 at Paducah's First Baptist Church for their 153rd annual session.

The two-day event very possibly will be the first Baptist state convention in which interaction can take place between two auditoriums filled with messengers, said Paul Lee, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's media department.

Two-way communication—both visual and audio—will be available between the auditoriums of host First Church and Immanuel Baptist Church, located three blocks due west of First, where overflow crowds will participate.

Messengers in the Immanuel sanctuary

will be able to introduce a motion or vote on officers in much the same way as those seated in the First Church auditorium, according to James A. Hawkins, KBC executive assistant. Both facilities will be equipped with TV monitors, cameras and microphones, which will relay the actions to the opposite setting.

"This will be especially helpful during business sessions and at election time," said Hawkins. He noted that a convention officer will be available at Immanuel to instruct messengers and assist with proceedings, particularly during business periods. Tellers also will be assigned to the Immanuel auditorium.

In addition, the chapel of First Church will be equipped with a TV monitor for additional overflow crowds. Due to the

chapel's proximity to the sanctuary, there will be no microphone in the chapel, Hawkins said. People viewing the convention in the chapel may go into the sanctuary during the business sessions to introduce motions at microphones placed there.

The sanctuary of First Church seats about 1,100 people, and the chapel will accommodate another 275. The sanctuary of Immanuel Church holds about 1,200.

Lee said a local Paducah television station, WPSD-TV, will provide personnel and equipment to microwave the convention proceedings between Immanuel and First churches. He also said that at least a portion of the convention is expected to be offered on the local ACTS network channel, making it possible for messengers and area residents to view it from hotel rooms,

homes and businesses.

The satellite transmissions are scheduled all day Tuesday, Nov. 13, and—if needed—Wednesday, Nov. 14, between the two church auditoriums. The Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference, to be held in the auditorium of First Church Monday, Nov. 12, will not be available by TV.

Hawkins said registration for the convention will be handled in the fellowship hall of First Church, but will not be available at Immanuel. Because parking is limited at both locations, arrangements for a shuttle service and maps will be provided at registration desks, he said. Nevertheless, Hawkins encouraged convention participants to carpool from Paducah area hotels and motels in an effort to accommodate all vehicles in the shortage of parking space.

## Henry County celebrates at church that opposed cooperation

by Brad Bull, *Special Correspondent*

The 75th anniversary celebration of Henry County Baptist Association contained some "good-natured" irony.

Campbellsburg Baptist Church, at Campbellsburg, one of two churches in 1915 opposing formation of the association, hosted the anniversary event Oct. 14.

Sixteen Baptist congregations existed in the county in 1915, affiliated with three different associations. Ten of the 16 churches voted to cooperate and merge into a new

county-wide association. Campbellsburg opposed it.

Today, Henry County Association includes 14 churches and is one of only two in Kentucky served by a female director of missions, Pam Cobb.

A fellowship meal launched last week's commemorative Sunday evening activities, followed by a special service requiring overflow seating to accommodate nearly 200 people.

In a business session, Cobb reported on the association's achievements in the 1989-

90 year. Henry County is actively participating in Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Utah-Idaho Southern Baptists, she said.

C. Benton Williams, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions, evangelism and church services division, brought greetings from the state convention. Oliver Duggins Jr. was installed as the association's newly elected moderator.

Speaker for the occasion was a former pastor of New Castle Baptist Church in Henry County Association, William E. Hull, now provost at Samford University in Bir-

mingham, Ala. For 25 years, Hull was on the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and later was pastor in Shreveport, La.

In his address, Hull traced the history of the Baptist movement and stressed the meaning and significance of autonomy.

"Autonomy means that lay people are responsible for making the church work," Hull said. He suggested that Baptists flourish in environments where individual freedom is valued. "Be your best—be free," he concluded.

## Baptist Peacemaker honored for decade surpassing 'dream'

by Pat Cole, *Special Correspondent*

The 10th anniversary of a Kentucky-born journal on peacemaking was celebrated at an Oct. 11. banquet in Louisville sponsored by the Long Run Baptist Association's Christian life committee.

Baptist Peacemaker began publication in December 1980 with an all-volunteer staff headquartered at Louisville's Deer Park Baptist Church. The journal is published four times a year and includes devotionals, editorials, sermons and practical advice on peacemaking. Its 13,500 readers receive the publication free of charge.

The founders of Baptist Peacemaker

dared to bear a "foolish dream," said Ken Sehested, co-editor. "Who would have ever thought Southern Baptists could start a journal on peacemaking that could stay alive for 10 years without any major source (of funding) or paid staff?" asked Sehested. He noted seminary students, professors, laypersons and pastors freely donated their time to the publication.

Sehested, executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, became co-editor this year when the Memphis, Tenn.-based peace fellowship assumed responsibilities for publishing Baptist Peacemaker. E. Glenn Hinson, a church history professor at Southern Bap-

tist Theological Seminary in Louisville, is the publication's other co-editor.

C. Carman Sharp, retired pastor of Deer Park Church, was co-editor of Baptist Peacemaker for many years. The publication has helped make Baptists aware there are many Baptists concerned about peace, he said in an interview: "One of the most significant letters we got came from a young man who was a missionary in Africa who said, 'I thought I was the only Baptist interested in peacemaking until I got this journal.'"

During the banquet, the Long Run Association's Christian life committee presented the 1990 Clarence Jordan Award to retired Louisville pastor Joe Priest Williams. Wil-

liams was pastor of Baptist Tabernacle for 27 years until his retirement in 1988. At Baptist Tabernacle, he led a church that resolved to serve its surrounding inner city neighborhood in the midst of a major demographic shift. While Williams was pastor, the church became one of Louisville's first racially integrated Southern Baptist congregations. He also has been active in civil rights causes in the broader Louisville community.

The association's Christian life committee presents the award to individuals "whose life exemplifies the practical application of the gospel," said committee Chairperson Wayne Hager.

# 'Braided Baptists' make strong rope

## editorial

Marv Knox

An old missionary taught an important lesson to a group of Baptist children one hot summer afternoon.

He got up to speak just before recreation time at camp. Visions of swimming pools and softball games preoccupied his young charges. Global Christian missions hardly rates with a 13-year-old whose personal mission is to perfect his cannonball dive off the high board.

But teenage mutant ninja campers were no challenge for Brother Missionary. He'd survived killer mosquitoes in the Amazon, eaten Lord-knows-what's-in-it stew, preached in foreign tongues. This time, he used a participatory sermon to rein in the meandering minds of his young congregation.

The old missionary began by calling upon the two rowdiest boys he could find. He asked them to pull on opposite ends of a straw-looking piece of something. No problem. The he-boys yanked it apart in a snap. Then the veteran missionary pulled more of the suff out from behind the podium. He talked while he worked—telling hair-raising, heart-breaking tales of his adventures overseas and braiding those thin fibers together.

Near the end of his speech, he started talking about that straw-looking stuff and the rope he had just made.

Christians' lives are a lot like those single fibers, he said. They're short and weak. Against the larger forces of nature, evil and human circumstance, they can be pulled apart. But when those lives are braided together through Christian commitment, cooperation and partnership, they

become strong enough to move nations and long enough to span the globe.

Almost done, the old missionary took his new rope and his young listeners outside. He called for volunteers—the bigger, stronger, fiercer the better. Pretty soon, two teams were tugging away on that rope. One group wound up in the mud, but the rope never gave way.

When the laughter and fun-poking died down, the missionary made the final point of his sermon: Let God braid your lives together. He will strengthen and lengthen the ministry you can do for him. Together, as partners with each other and the Lord, you can reach the world for Christ.

Kentucky Baptists have known the truth of the missionary's sermon for years. Through partnership missions endeavors, Kentucky Baptists have allowed God to braid their lives and ministries with the lives and ministries of fellow Baptists throughout the commonwealth, across the country and around the globe. The Lord has braided a partnership missions rope that has tugged at the hearts of people everywhere it's been carried—changing lives and growing churches in Kentucky and in distant places.

This issue of the Western Recorder contains a special focus on Kentucky Baptists' partnership missions efforts. We hope you will enjoy reading about the work our people and churches are doing in partnership with Baptists in Brazil, Ohio, Utah, Idaho and the eastern part of our own state.

We also hope you'll pray as you read. Ask God to bless the efforts of Baptist partners who are serving in his name. And ask him to braid you into that partnership rope, so that your own life and ministry will be strengthened and lengthened to pull others to Christ.

All I really needed to know I first learned from the hallowed 'Baptist Hymnal'

## down home

Robert Fulghum's best-seller, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," has touched thousands of readers. His collection of childhood truisms (Play fair. Share everything. Put things back where you found them.) speaks to our sense of goodwill.

I went AWOL on kindergarten. Schools didn't have every-student kindergarten in 1962. When our family moved, I lost a high spot on one waiting list for a low spot on another one. So, my class got a head start on me; that's probably why I didn't go to Harvard 13 years later. Who knows.

Sunday school, Training Union and Sunbeam teachers (as well as Mother and Daddy) must have tried to make up for the good-manners training I missed in kindergarten. At least most of Fulghum's admonitions sounded vaguely familiar.

But thinking about Fulghum's wisdom made me wonder where I learned the truisms of my faith. Well, parents and teachers certainly did their part. They told Bible stories and taught memory verses from the scriptures. They also lived out the faith they taught, and that made an impact on my young life and the lives of a slew of kids who grew up in Key Heights Baptist Church.

But where did the one-liners of faith originate? For most of my generation, it was the songbook we used in three-times-a-week worship services. In our little church, that songbook was the 1956 edition of the "Baptist Hymnal."

I'll sing those songs in heaven and still be thanking the Lord that he let me grow up surrounded by people who loved to sing their faith. Many of the hymns have titles that articulate a faith principle or express the singer's own faith feelings. Here are some of my favorites:

- God Will Take Care of You.
- Jesus Loves Me.
- A Mighty Fortress is Our God.
- Have Thine Own Way, Lord.
- When the Roll is Called Up Yonder, I'll be There.
- Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus.
- Christ Receiveth Sinful Men.
- Count Your Many Blessings.
- Faith is the Victory.
- Great is Thy Faithfulness.
- It is Well With My Soul.
- Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult.
- Jesus Saves.
- Love Lifted Me.
- We'll Work 'Till Jesus Comes.
- Wherever He Leads, I'll Go.

—Marv Knox

## 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.

### No alcohol ads

KSL-Television in Salt Lake City, Utah, recently decided to discontinue accepting beer and wine advertising on local programming. This station serves the 41st-largest market of 214 nationwide.

In explaining the decision, the general manager said, "It became obvious that one small step we could take was to reduce the exposure of young and old alike to advertising messages designed to promote the consumption of alcoholic beverages."

In 1989, the alcohol as a beverage industry spent more than \$1 billion advertising their product. The sad part of the advertising message is that it only tells part of the story. You never see the accidents, deaths, broken homes and lives which can result from the experience of those who would tell

you they are responsible drinkers and know when to say when.

We congratulate KSL-TV, Salt Lake City, for their courageous decision.

Claude M. Witt, Executive Director  
Temperance League of Kentucky  
Louisville

### Together, divided

The statement is simple: "Together we stand; divided we fall."

But what goes for a country also goes for a church. We must have a united purpose. If we are going in even two different directions, then we are divided and we will suffer the dire consequences.

What is the purpose that unites us? Is there one purpose that ought to give direction to a church?

Certainly we can move together. For you see, we are a church under the leadership of God through his word and the direction of the Holy Spirit. There are some principles that help us know what that direction is.

First, there are the evidences of love for one another. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for the other" (John 13:35). That doesn't mean just to love a few, but all the disciples of our Lord.

Secondly, Jesus said, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15:8). From this, and many other passages, we would assume that the purpose of a united band of disciples would be to reach as many for our Lord as possible.

Now, all of this is to say, let's put all our resources, human, material and spiritual together for the express purpose of reaching our community and our world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mrs. O.R. Wayne  
Louisville

## western recorder

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# FMB warns of phony foreign fund drive

## around the sbc

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials are warning U.S. churches about fraudulent letters from an African pastor soliciting church construction funds.

A pastor of a church in Kabwe, Zambia, sent an unknown number of letters to U.S. churches asking for money to complete a stalled church construction project. In fact, the money was intended for the pastor's personal use, said Zeb Moss, the board's associate area director for the region.

Officials have not released the pastor's name, a young man in his 20s, because he has repented, asked forgiveness, and plans to write letters to the churches he contacted and tell them the truth, reported Richard Kuter, a missionary who counseled with the pastor.

Among other developments in Southern Baptist Convention life:

**Furman board perpetuates.** Furman University trustees voted last week to amend the South Carolina Baptist school's charter to give the board sole power to elect trustees.

Furman, in Greenville, became the second Baptist school in a month to create a self-perpetuating board and take the authority for trustee election away from a Baptist state convention.

Baylor University in Waco, Texas, voted Sept. 21 to amend its charter to create a board of regents that will have "sole governance" over the university.

Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., also moved to put distance between itself and the Florida Baptist Convention, but the July action was an agreement between school and convention administrators.

Furman and Baylor officials cited fear of a conservative takeover of the schools, similar to what has happened to SBC seminaries. Also, both schools may face legal battles with state conventions following their actions.

**China teachers increase.** A late upsurge in applicants to teach in China this fall has given fresh impetus to Southern Baptist work there.

Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization, placed 55 teachers and students in China in September, up from seven applicants four months earlier. CSI now is looking for more teachers and a variety of medical specialists for next year.

**CLC opposes art developments.** The SBC Christian Life Commission recently opposed two actions involving the art world.

First, it has objected to the new motion picture rating system that replaces the "X" designation with an "NC-17" rating. CLC Executive Director Richard Land said the new rating "waters down the 'X' rating and opens the way for material that is objectionable and pornographic to work its way into neighborhood theaters."

Second, the CLC has expressed concern over failure of a congressional amendment that would have required the National Endowment for the Arts to oversee distribution of federal tax dollars to the arts community. "There is no right to public funds without accountability to standards of public interest and decency," Land said.

The NEA has been criticized for funding art that has been characterized as "obscene, highly offensive, morally repugnant and sacrilegious." Land threatened to support abolition of the NEA if it does not improve.

**FMB to appeal.** The Foreign Mission Board will appeal a \$1.56 million legal judgment against it to the Virginia Supreme Court.

FMB President R. Keith Parks said the board would appeal after a Richmond Circuit Court judge upheld a jury verdict in a suit waged by former missionary Diana Sue Wade on behalf of her four children.

Mrs. Wade said her children suffered trauma because board officials learned her husband, G. Thomas Wade Jr., was abusing their oldest daughter sexually but did not disclose the information to Mrs. Wade. She contended her husband eventually abused two other daughters.

FMB attorney Lewis T. Booker said the case could be precedent-setting. "There's never been a case that I'm aware of where an employer has been held responsible to the children of an employee for an employee's misdeeds," he noted.

The verdict threatens the "financial viability of religious agencies anywhere," Parks said.

**Baptists aid Mexican flood victims.** Southern Baptist representatives and Mexican Baptists are providing relief to victims in Chihuahua, Mexico, following heavy rains that killed about 45 people and left another 200 missing.

**HMB picks coordinator.** William A. Cox has been named national coordinator of volunteers in evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board. He retired in August following 29 years with the SBC Sunday School Board and will be a volunteer.

**Commissionings overlap.** SBC foreign and home missions overlapped for about an hour this fall, yet they still were separated by 500 miles.

Due to a coincidence, Southern Baptists set apart 65 home missionaries and 48 foreign missionaries at the same time in different locations.

The Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board have held joint commissioning services, but this time the HMB operated out of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, while the FMB commissioned from Derbyshire Baptist Church in Richmond.

The 48 foreign missionaries and 10 representatives of Cooperative Services International. They will work in 19 countries.

The 65 home missionaries will work in 27 states in black church extension, church and community ministries, evangelism, language church extension, associational missions and new church extension.

Two former foreign missionaries were commissioned as home missionaries. Leon and Sarah White, who worked in Argentina, were assigned to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (BP, ABP)



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

## on mission together

### Association

By the time this issue of Western Recorder makes its way across the state and beyond, I will have participated in my last annual associational meeting of the year.

Between mid-July and late October, at least 75 of our 77 associations will have conducted an annual meeting. And some will have been present either to speak or bring greetings. Based on estimates of the attendance at each, more than 12,000 Kentucky Baptists compose the collective gatherings. Put another way, almost six times as many Kentucky Baptists attend associational meetings as attend the annual state convention.

• That is probably not a surprise to many, but it clearly demonstrates the fact that the closer to our mission, "the more likely the interest and commitment."

• Another striking feature of associational meetings is to be found in the large representation of laypersons, not only in attendance but in leadership roles. Yet even with such a pool of lay leadership, men and women, associations tend to nominate preachers for membership on the KBC Executive Board. For example, of the 158 associationally nominated members of the Executive Board this year, only 38 are laypersons (23 men and 15 women).

• It is not uncommon in the majority of the associations periodically to elect a layperson as moderator, the top elected leadership role in associational life. Yet in Kentucky Baptist Convention life, only two laypersons have been elected president in the past 40 years—Eugene Siler Sr. in 1953 and Henry Huff in 1976.

• Some associations make doctrine a test for fellowship; some choose not to do so. Consequently, there are some churches which are affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention but who are no longer affiliated with the association. Sometimes these churches re-affiliate; sometimes they affiliate with another association; most of the time they remain affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The association is the oldest of Baptist organizations, created for fellowship and mission. The association, the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention serve the churches to fulfill the mission assigned to them. Each is autonomous; each is dependent upon financial support from the churches; each will suffer without it.

The entire Southern Baptist system is a strong but delicate fabric which depends upon the good will and support of local churches. James Sullivan has labeled it a "rope of sand."

As we close out another associational year in Kentucky Baptist life, I am grateful for that special place where the "rope of sand" begins ... the local association.



**James H. Cox**  
Associate Editor

## fourth estate

### Beyond our grasp

A letter from Victor Lyons, Southern Baptist missionary in Chile, was a fresh reminder of how our influence sometimes exceeds our grasp.

Victor and I crossed paths when he was a student at Southern Seminary in the

fall of 1978. My friend and colleague Lucien Coleman was then taking a year-long sabbatical from seminary teaching. In his absence, I had been asked to instruct one of the journalism courses he normally taught every year.

Victor Lyons, who professed an interest in writing, signed up for the class. How much that experience might influence a missionary-to-be probably never crossed my mind. But Victor's recent letter suggests otherwise:

"Every so often I go through the materials we received in class and the notes that I took. You might be interested in knowing that I am now the editor of our two-year-old Baptist newspaper, Chile Bautista." (He enclosed a copy of his latest issue.)

Victor's communication caused me to search for and find the roll book from that writing class of 12 years ago. Reading the names, I recalled the accomplishments of several students.

Catherine Howley became state Action director for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, and now is engaged in a ministry to the hearing impaired.

Tommy Smith is a Southern Baptist missionary to the Philippines.

Sharon Wegman is a publicist for Broadman Press, publishing arm of the

Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Gail Rothwell is an advertising promotion specialist, church music department, Sunday School Board.

Bill Webb, first a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board journalist, is now editor of the Illinois Baptist.

Steve Higdon is a promotional editor in literature with the Sunday School Board. Earlier, he was assistant editor of Tennessee's Baptist & Reflector.

David Nelms is editor of preschool materials at the Sunday School Board.

Jimmy Hester is editor of Living with Teenagers, a Sunday School Board family ministry department magazine.

John Hughes has been a secular news writer for metropolitan dailies in several cities and states.

Including Lyons, I can account for 10 of the 17 in that seminary class. Six of the 10—Smith, Rothwell, Webb, Higdon, Hester and Hughes—were also journalism interns at Western Recorder.

About all I could have hoped for was that one or two of these students might catch some enthusiasm for religious journalism as a career. But now, through the words and pictures they produce, millions may realize life-changing benefits from their collective talents. May God be praised for it!

# Ohioans: only 28% claim church affiliation

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

Kentucky Baptists have been involved in Ohio missions since World War II, when that state's industrial centers attracted a migration of Kentucky laborers.

Thus, an official partnership between the two states was a natural and logical evolution, said Robert C. Jones, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department in Middletown.

The 1990 to 1994 project follows two three-year link-ups beginning in 1981. Goals for the present project include starting 10 churches each year, or 50 in five years, and strengthening 50 churches annually—a total of 250.

Ohio has 7.7 million non-Christians. Seventy-two percent of the population is unchurched, more than the total population in each of 42 other states.

Starting new work in Cincinnati, Dayton, Cleveland and Columbus—megafocus cities with a population of 1 million or more—is a top priority for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Willingness to go and ability to be flexible are basic guidelines for Kentucky mission groups, said Calvin Wilkins, partnership missions coordinator in the direct missions department.

Already much has been accomplished. Last spring, Kentuckians conducted Here's Hope revivals in Ohio. Other projects included vacation Bible schools, backyard Bible clubs, lay-led and youth revivals, surveys, witnessing and leadership training and construction.

Ten youth from Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington did door-to-door surveys and helped with revival in Aberdeen. Thirteen members of Grace Baptist Church

in Lexington conducted surveys and vacation Bible school at First Spanish Baptist Church in Lorain. Two couples from First Missionary Baptist Church in Benton worked with Crystal Avenue Baptist Church in Findley.

Volunteers have responded financially, too, said Wilkins. Some Kentucky churches have helped purchase property, literature and supplies or supplemented bivocational pastors' salaries.

"Our goal is to work alongside Ohio Baptists, not do the work for them," Wilkins asserted.

Hands-on mission work has opened the eyes of Kentucky Baptists to unchurched areas, Jones believes.

"We found out we are larger than ourselves," he said. "We appreciate our own mission responsibility. We found we are our brother's keeper."

# partne missi

## Kentucky volu

*It has to be one of the most rewarding things God can do. I feel that the lives we work with are the same again.*

—Frank Kilgore of Princeton, Wis.

*It was the most wonderful and most rewarding experience I have ever had. The people were so warm and friendly, especially the young people.*

—Pat Schmidt of Leitchfield, a registrar

*One of the mountaintop experiences in faith and a time of spiritual renewal.*

—Leslie W. Langley Jr., M.D., of Rineyville.

*I have never felt the presence of God so strongly.*

—Kim Elliott of Boone

*The believers at Nova Brasilia are true Christians." There is a sparkle, a brightness and speech that radiates their joy.*

—Margaret M. Rude

*It was very rewarding to be hugged and loved because you took time to try to understand.*

—Gail Bright of Campbellsville



These volunteers from Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association in west Kentucky traveled to Espirito Santo, Brazil, last summer to participate in the Brazil-Kentucky partnership. The link-up continues through 1992.

# Baptists face struggle in Mormon country

by Ron Chaney, Staff Writer

"People out there have a tenacity about their ministry," asserted Robert C. Jones, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department, referring to the Baptists in Utah-Idaho. While Kentucky has sent teams to help churches, those returning say they have been struck by the

Utah and Idaho Baptists, Jones said. In an area where Mormons dominate, being Baptist may shut people out of the system. But 95 Baptist churches and 38 missions have survived.

One such congregation is Grantsville Baptist Church in Grantsville, Utah, about 30 miles northwest of Salt Lake City. In a town of about 5,000, eight Latter Day Saints

wards (Mormon churches) surround a single Baptist church.

In August, a group of 20 men from Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro traveled to Grantsville. Mike Melloan, coordinator of the group, and a former state Brotherhood president, learned about the prospect of a partnership with Utah-Idaho. Melloan approached the Brotherhood at Yellow Creek and found many interested in a mission trip. They focused on a rural area. When the Grantsville request came, they jumped at it.

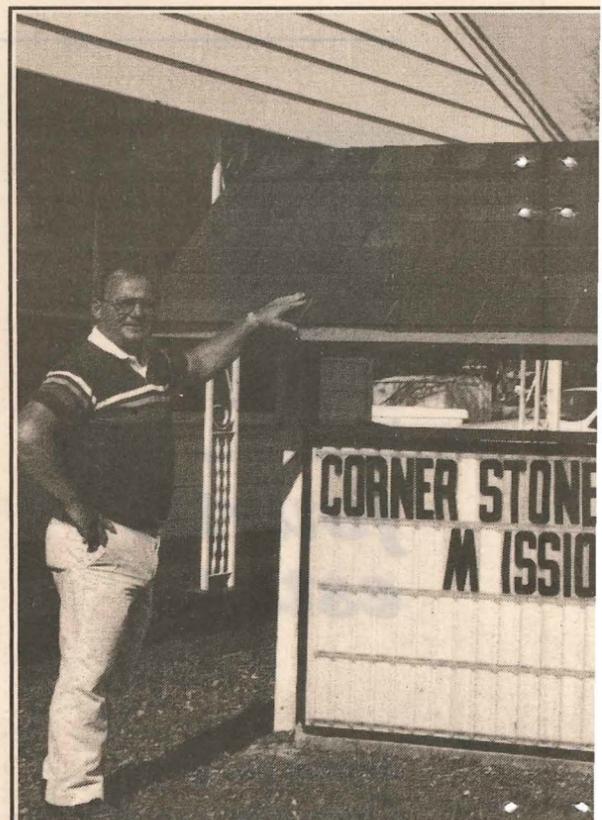
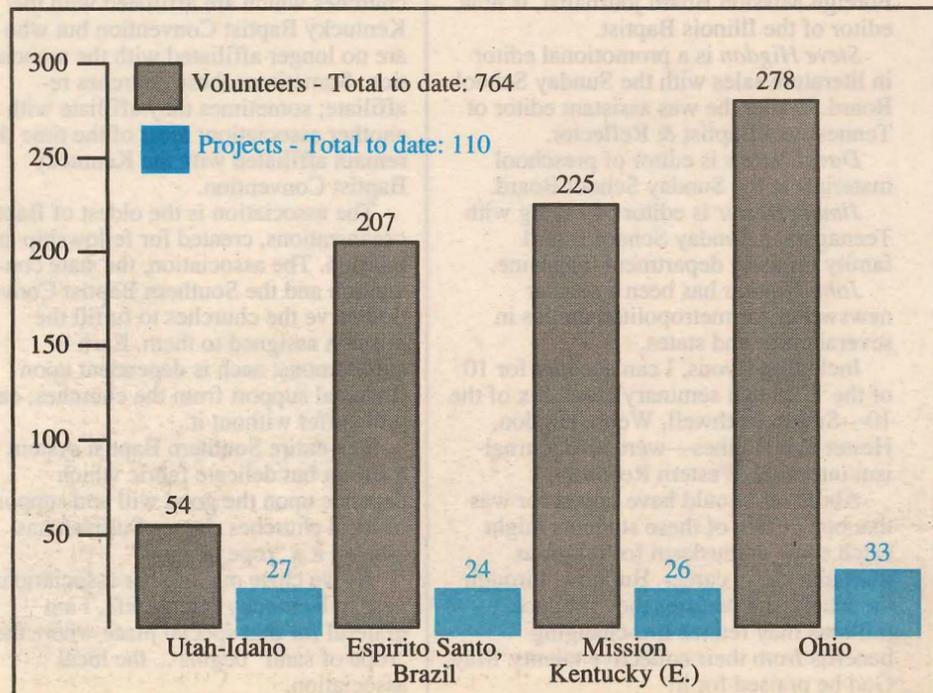
To meet their goals and return to work in one week, they drove 36 hours non-stop over the 1,600 miles. They finally reached Grantsville early Sunday morning, Aug. 5.

The Yellow Creek group spent the next week working on a church, visiting the community and leading a revival. Everything had been planned in advance and they had even participated in a seminar on Mormonism before the trip. Each night of the lay revival, they planned hymns, special music, selected two men to give testimonies and a speaker for the evening.

They not only completed the building but also surveyed 200 homes, discovering 19 prospective families for church membership. During the week, two people were saved, two made rededications and one person asked to be baptized, Dunn reported.

The group returned home encouraged and excited about the possibility of future missions trips. Meanwhile, they have not forgotten Grantsville, Dunn said. In October, they coordinated efforts to find retired Kentucky pastors interested in going to Grantsville for temporary service.

## 1990 response to Kentucky Partnerships



Mission pastor Bobby Forshee (left), along with Providence Baptist in Franklin, welcomes people to a mission that began in 1988 as part of the statewide Missions Kentucky partnerships, with churches throughout the eastern part of the commonwealth.

# Partnership Missions

## Volunteers say:

Most rewarding things that a child of  
 es we were able to touch will never

nceton, who helped build a church in Vitoria, Brazil

l and meaningful experience I have  
 warm and outgoing, especially the

ld, a registered nurse who served on a medical team

xperiences of my life. It was a walk  
 l renewal for me.

Rineyville, who worked in overseas pediatric clinics

ence of God so strongly in my life.

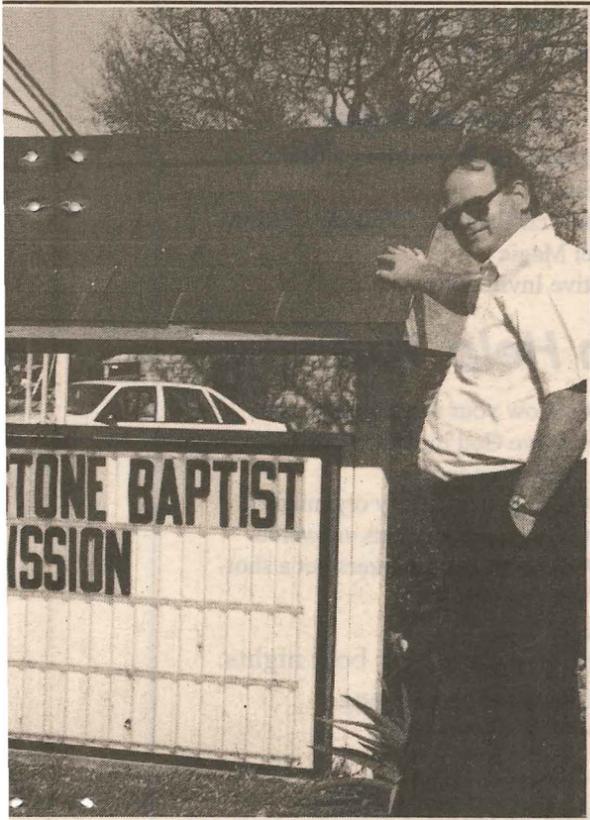
liott of Bowling Green, serving in medical missions

aslia are what I would call "radiant  
 le, a brilliance in their facial expres-  
 s their joy in Jesus.

et M. Rudd of Cadiz, who led in evangelistic efforts

be hugged and kissed by people just  
 o understand and help them.

pbellsville, who served in Vitoria on a medical team



g with Steve Curtis, pastor of sponsoring church  
 ple to Cornerstone Baptist Mission in Franklin. The  
 Mission Kentucky emphasis. The effort also included  
 es throughout Kentucky sponsoring new churches in

## Brazilians attend 'First Baptist Kentucky'

by Ron Chaney, Staff Writer

"First Baptist Church of Kentucky is not in Kentucky," said Calvin Wilkins, Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions coordinator. "It's in Brazil."

In March, a construction project encountered difficulty when the Brazilian president froze all assets in banks, Wilkins said. A Kentucky team arrived ready to build but without any money to buy materials. The group decided to take up an offering among themselves. They raised enough money and built the chapel.

The Brazilians showed their gratitude, Wilkins said, by naming the church "First Baptist Church of Kentucky." The congregation placed all the Kentucky team members' names on a plaque displayed in the sanctuary.

Wilkins said recent projects have included four medical teams, eight evangelism projects and three construction projects, among others. "Relationships with Brazilians form quickly," Wilkins explained. The Brazilians give team members a "brasas" (a hug) when they arrive and cry when they leave.

Sam and Jan Roy, who have been to Brazil on six separate occasions, agreed about the loving spirit of the Brazilians. They attended an evangelism rally in 1985 at a soccer stadium where Nilson Fanini, president of the Brazilian Baptist Convention, was speaking. During the service, two teen-agers approached them and stayed by their sides. When the Roys left, the girls went with them.

They discovered that the girls, Brigitta and Marcia, were members of the church they were working with in Sao Pedro. The

girls had been assigned to the Roys to make sure they returned to the church without getting lost. Thus began the Roys' relationship with Brigitta Dasilva.

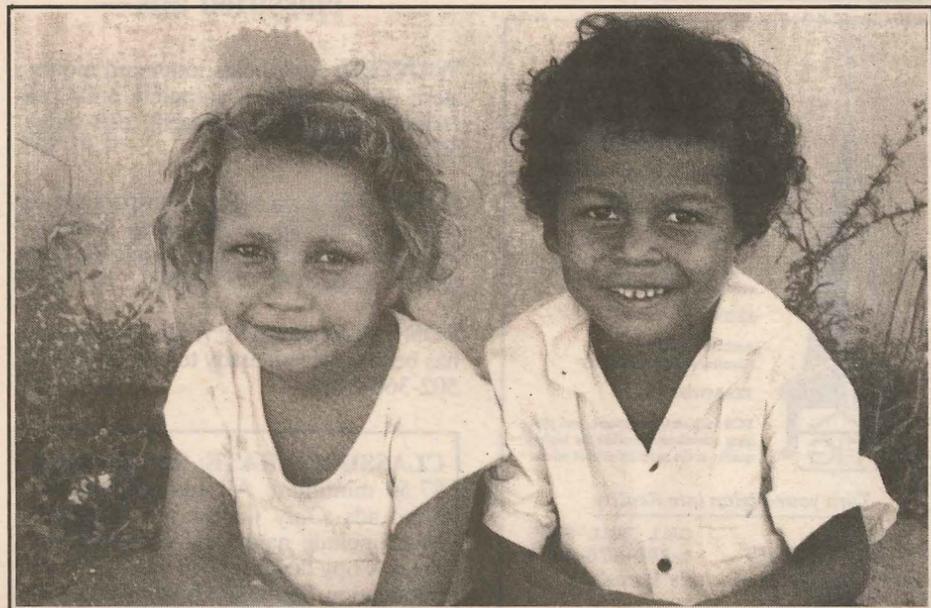
When they returned to Brazil on subsequent trips, they always visited Brigitta. On the next trip, Roy said, Brigitta met them at the airport and gave him a tie. She had saved her money to buy the materials and knitted it herself.

When Kentucky began the partnership with Brazil, the Roys took the opportunity to return.

This time Brigitta made the effort to see the Roys. Brigitta had recently married and

moved to Vitoria, the capital of Espirito Santo. When the government froze assets in the banks, Brigitta and her husband were prevented from purchasing a car. Yet, she learned where the Roys were working and on three occasions rode the bus to see them.

Mrs. Roy also said she was impressed with other children. The volunteers were allowed to enter schools and present the gospel. At one school, a child approached her wanting to know why the team had come to Brazil and who had paid for it. When Mrs. Roy explained that they paid for the trip themselves to come and share the gospel, the child was amazed.



The smiling faces of children were seen at a vacation Bible school conducted by Kentucky volunteers last summer at Guaranhuns Baptist Church in Espirito Santo.

## Kentucky Baptists keep building in east state

by Lawanda Smith, Staff Writer

In 1985, Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall of Middletown had a vision of helping lay people start new Southern Baptist churches.

C. Benton Williams, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention missions, evangelism and church services division, named the dream Mission Kentucky and set goals of 400 new churches, missions and preaching points in five years.

A host of Kentucky Baptists joined forces. Evangelism department Director William D. Jagers, then an associate in the KBC direct missions department as coordinator of church extension and language missions, "consumed, ate, slept and breathed new work," said Williams.

Mount Beulah Baptist Church, a mission of Warfield Baptist Church in Warfield, conducted vacation Bible school on a concrete slab, foundation for the church building a western Kentucky group later erected. First Baptist Church of Ledbetter helped with VBS, enrolling 70 with an average attendance of 41 and 10 professions of faith. Two children arrived on horseback.

Seven new language groups were started as a result of Mission Kentucky, reported W. Ken Forman, associate director of the missions department. Henry County Baptist Association and Franklinton Baptist Church in Pleasureville initiated work with tobacco farm migrant workers. Seminary students Tony Aja and Jamie Degaldo helped organize the mission. Several people made professions of faith at the first worship service.

Some of the earliest congregations organized in Mission Kentucky are now sponsoring missions of their own. Bell Baptist Association conducted vacation Bible school in a vacant Presbyterian church

building, Mountain Mission Director Ross Figart of Winchester remembered. As a result, people who had been members of the old Presbyterian church donated their property and additional money to Bell Association and Victory Baptist Church was born. Volunteers renovated the structure and added education space. Now, the Victory congregation is sponsoring a mission at Red Bird.

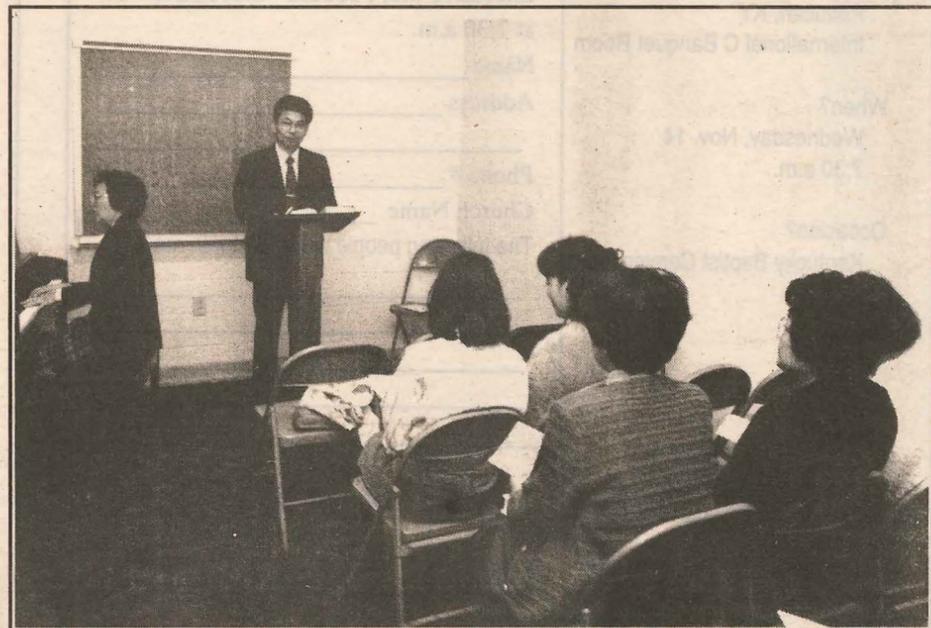
Officially, Mission Kentucky has been extended until 1995, Williams said. Other emphases are planned for the future, coordinators note.

One wide-open field is multi-family housing, noted direct missions department Director Robert C. Jones.

"The Home Mission Board tells us 95 percent of these people are unchurched," he explained. "When we start Bible studies and chaplaincy within housing units, we reach people where they are. The ministry is inexpensive and can be very rewarding."

Jones believes strength lies in laypeople finding creative ways to share the gospel, whether the preaching point actually becomes a church.

"Seven people made professions of faith at a northern Kentucky truck stop," he explained. "We're reaching people for the Lord in homes, businesses, mobile home parks and even flea markets. People are thinking in terms of more than traditional structure."



Goki Saito teaches a Sunday school class in Japanese at the Japanese mission of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Saito, who recently returned to his homeland, was instrumental in organizing the mission in 1987 as part of Mission Kentucky.

# christian education

**GEORGETOWN COLLEGE**—Ann McKinney, a teacher at Eastern High School in Middletown and a 1989 graduate of Georgetown, received the Sallie Mae First-Year Teacher Award as one of the top 100 teachers in America. ... The college broke a 161-year enrollment record this fall. Total enrollment is 1,595. ... **Stephen King**, assistant professor of music, is winner of the National Association of Teachers

of Singing Artist Awards Auditions for Kentucky. ... Kentucky youth choirs are invited to participate in the 12th annual **Youth Choir Day** Nov. 3 at 9:30 a.m. ... **Pawling Hall's renovation** was featured on the front cover of The Southern Baptist Educator magazine.

**SOUTHERN SEMINARY**—The congress of evangelism, "Evangelizing the City: Possibilities of the 21st Century," will be held Oct. 29-31. For information, contact the office of continuing education at (502) 897-4315. ... The office of alumni relations is seeking nominations for the 1991 distin-

guished alumni awards. Nominations of graduates who have been in ministry at least 10 years should be submitted in writing and include letters of recommendation and current resume. Send nominations to Office of Alumni Relations, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, KY 40280 by Jan. 1. ... The seminary posted a 6 percent increase in entering student enrollment, but total enrollment declined 7.6 percent from last fall.

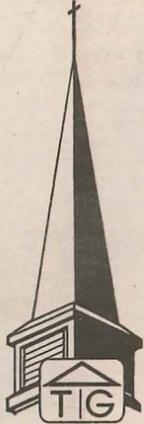
**CAMPBELLVILLE COLLEGE**—Thirteen new faculty and staff members arrived this fall: **Steve Bedingfield**, part time swimming coach; **Jackie DeVine**, interim campus minister; **Robert Dotson**,

director of financial development; **Jim and Lisa Dyehouse**, directors of North Hall dormitory; **John Hurtgen**, instructor in Christian studies; **Betty Judd**, campus nurse; **Betty Keene**, director of Stapp Hall dormitory; **Jeanette Parker**, instructor in psychology; **Beauford Sanders**, baseball coach/student activities director; **Lynn Sanders**, instructor in education; **Stephen R. Tilford**, instructor in music; **Lynn Taylor**, part time football coach. ... "Campbellville College—Like It Has Never Been Before" is the theme for homecoming Oct. 26-27. ... The college will present its fall play "Star Spangled Girl," at 8 p.m. Nov. 8-10 in the alumni building theater.

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## Louisvillian receives Cooke Award

Long-time Kentucky Baptist leader Mrs. Ralph V. (Lillian) Brown received the 1990 V.V. Cooke Award for outstanding support of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children at the second annual president's dinner Oct. 15 hosted by President and Mrs. Curtis C. Mooney.

More than 130 people attended the event at the Spring Meadows campus in Middletown. The program included a mini-concert by Glen Dale's Homeland Singers, testimony from former KBHC resident Russell Lemons and address by David Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Brown has been a KBHC trustee for eight years and a member of the KBHC's women's advisory board more than 20

years. She was president of the latter group for five years.

A graduate of Campbellville College in Campbellville, Brown was financial secretary for Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Middletown from 1940 to 1948. She is a charter member of the Woman's Auxiliary of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, serving as president for two years. Currently she chairs the SBTS hospitality committee and is a deacon at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.

The V.V. Cooke Award is named in memory of Cooke, a Louisville businessman and Baptist layman who devoted much of his life to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.



## KENTUCKY BAPTISTS' BEST KEPT SECRET . . . .

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Office of Church Relations  
College Station Box 7934  
Williamsburg, KY 40769-7934

**Reply Slip**

Yes, I will attend the Cumberland College Alumni & Friends Breakfast at the Executive Inn, Paducah - November 14th at 7:30 a.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

The following people will attend with me:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where?  
Executive Inn  
Paducah, KY  
International C Banquet Room

When?  
Wednesday, Nov. 14  
7:30 a.m.

Occasion?  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

## CUMBERLAND COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS BREAKFAST

## Bus Ministry & Children's Worship Seminar October 29 & 30 - 6:30 p.m. Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville



Dr. Larry Hipps, Editor  
'Bring Them In'

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

## sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR OCT. 28, 1990

Life and work series

### Accepting God's Commission

**Exodus 4:10-15** Moses' unwillingness to do what God commanded and to trust him for enabling power provoked God's displeasure. God told Moses he was naming Aaron his spokesman—that he would tell Moses what to say, who would then convey the message to Aaron, and Aaron would communicate it to the people.

**Exodus 4:19-20** Moses informed

Jethro, his father-in-law, about his intention to return to Egypt. God had assured Moses that the people who wanted to slay him had died. God made it clear to Moses to trust him and not be afraid.

So we read not only of the obedience that Moses yielded to God, but of the influence he wielded for God. The immediate result was liberation of a nation. It all hung on a decision that one man made in one moment in time, to do what God was asking him to do, to get involved. That moment of obedience held unforeseen usefulness and influence. God did not want Moses any longer to sit around watching sheep. Instead, he wanted Moses to get involved with people.

The message which Moses was to deliver to Pharaoh contained a divine command, "Let my son go." Thus, God demanded the liberation of his people. God wants his children to enjoy freedom from worldliness, the power of sin, and all that binds. Those who fully surrender to the Lord enjoy his liberty.

As people treat God's children, so will God treat them. God will reward kindnesses done to his children and he will also avenge the wrongs done to them.

Before the Israelites could serve God effectively, it was necessary for them to be emancipated from bondage in Egypt. God wanted his people to be set free in order that they might serve him. The divine order was life, liberty and service.

**Exodus 4:29-31** God instructed Aaron to meet Moses, his brother whom he had not seen for some 40 years, in the wilderness. There Moses told Aaron what God had commanded, and both of them were faithful in carrying out their tasks.

International series

### Isaiah and Hezekiah

Isaiah, one of the greatest and most famous Old Testament prophets, was born about 760 B.C. Apparently he came from noble stock, had tremendous intellectual capacity, first-class education and won distinction at the court in Jerusalem. Isaiah committed himself into the hands of the Lord saying, "Here am I; send me."

Hezekiah came to the throne when he was only 25 years old. He began his reign by abolishing idolatry and calling his subjects back to the worship of the Lord God. Hezekiah desired to reunite all of the Jews into a single community.

**II Kings 19:14-19** Hezekiah chose not to try to reduce the massive military threat by human means. He petitioned God to demonstrate mercy to his people so that he might vindicate his own name. Hezekiah laid before God the taunting words sent by the Assyrian ruler, Sennacherib. Instead of learning the answer to his prayer directly from God, he received a messenger sent by the prophet Isaiah. God judged the Assyrians on the night Isaiah received the answer to Hezekiah's prayer. "The angel of the Lord" caused 185,000 Assyrian soldiers to die in their camp.

**II Kings 19:20, 32-34** According to God's promise, Sennacherib would not even come close to taking Jerusalem. First, God would defend Jerusalem for his sake. Second, God would defend Jerusalem for David's sake. There is no challenge too great for God.



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

## homes for children

### The mummy game

The mummy game was the big hit at our daughter Andrea's birthday party recently. It involves dividing the children into two groups and then having them race to see how quickly they can completely wrap one of their teammates in toilet paper. Every time it breaks, they have to change wrappers.

That game and several others that we played were all a big hit, but I believe the most fun for the kids was that SuEllen and I played the games with them. With adults so busy today, many of our children have little time to just have fun with adults.

A stay-at-home party where the parents play with the kids may not sound too radical to some of you, but in this day of Chuck E. Cheese pizza parties, roller skating, Putt Putt golf and so many other places where you can have the party, believe me, it doesn't happen too often.

We have gone to all of those places and they are fun and it is easier on everybody. They provide the cake, you do not have to entertain and they clean up afterwards.

For us, however, it was special to see Andrea and her mother preparing for the party. Both played major roles in preparing the food and determining what we would do.

Sometimes it takes something simple like a birthday party to remind us of how important it is for adults to interact with children.

In our child care ministry, the greatest success comes when the staff don't just tell children what to do, they show them how and actually work together to accomplish a task.

One of the tremendous successes for the children at Glen Dale is the 4-H program. Everybody on campus from Buckley and Sue Carlin down take turns caring for the animals. Far more is taught to the children as they talk and work with caring adults to complete everyday tasks than in a lot of therapy sessions.

For all parents today, it is easier to let the children be entertained by television, Nintendo games and the like, but in the long run, what they need most is the attention and quality time of their parents.



**Barkley Moore**  
President  
Oneida Baptist Institute  
Oneida, KY 40972

## oneida journal

### A bagpiper at Oneida

Did you ever feel like you were riding on a cloud? Yes, everyone has a few such times over a lifetime. I have been blessed with that feeling hundreds of times. This is one of those times.

Our first Family Day is now history. What a wonderful day it turned out to be! We had never had such a day before. We did not know quite what to expect. We thought it would be a good day—we prayed for such. We worked hard to do all we could to assure it would be a useful day, an enjoyable day. But the day went far beyond our expectations.

Much of the week was cold and rainy. There were predictions it would be so on Saturday, our Family Day. It's true that no one got sunburned—we didn't see the

sun all day. But there was no rain. It was almost perfect weather-wise. It wasn't hot; it wasn't cold. It was just right.

Registration and the day's events were scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Many were here by 7 a.m. Lines had formed in the registration area shortly after 9 a.m. There was a steady stream throughout the remainder of the day.

It was almost certainly the largest number of people on our campus in the entire history of the school including graduation days and homecomings. There were cars parked in every direction for several blocks.

Kenny Pendleton, a seventh grader from Auburn, got a \$50 cash prize for having the largest number of family and friends here. Kathleen and Brian Crony-Saytar, 11th and eighth graders, respectively, had family who had driven the farthest to be present. Grandparents Crony had come all the way from Canada and their mother from Boca Raton, Fla. Each of them received beautiful pillows hand-stitched by our students.

Grandfather Kenneth Crony delighted folks throughout the day. He fought in Europe four years during World War II with the Canadian army. Resplendent in bagpiper dress (skirt and all), a chest full of war medals, he marched back and forth through the campus skirring his bagpipes. One was reminded of the fabled Pied Piper of Hamelin as folks surrounded and followed him about.

In the afternoon, he opened the talent show playing his melodic reed pipes, and the program ended with his rendition of "Amazing Grace."

The greatest single event of the day was the visitation between teachers and parents. Seventy-five minutes had been set aside for parents to visit the respective classrooms of their children and meet the teachers. Four hours later, some were still visiting. I have not seen our teachers so excited in years. Being a boarding school,

it is so very difficult for parents and teachers to make contact. All the parents I overheard also seemed excited about their visits with the teachers. Of course, some parents were critical when they saw this or that teacher, but even that was encouraging. To meet them, to know they cared enough to stand in line even to see a teacher—it was exciting. We will definitely schedule more time for this next year.

While all this was going on, hundreds of public school students were here competing in a cross-country run, volleyball and soccer. Our Mountaineers won the day in everything, junior varsity and varsity, except girls varsity cross country and volleyball. Several records were broken.

Another record broken was sales in our craft house. We sold over \$1,700 worth of student-made crafts. Have you ever seen the Oneida craft house? It is chocked full of hundreds of different types of crafts, quality work, and sold at much lower prices than most places. If you like that sort of thing, it would be well worth a trip to see that alone.

Probably another record was the number of people who visited our farm on Family Day. That wasn't even on the printed program. But the lure of walking our swinging bridge, seeing the little pigs, the cows, the greenhouses has a power all its own.

Our choir was excellent as usual and the band probably put on their most beautiful show ever, watched by the greatest Oneida crowd ever. Their final number was "Cum Ba Ya." Certainly the Lord did "come by here" Oct. 13.

Have you been to Oneida lately? Why don't you come before winter sets in. The leaves have lingered longer on the trees this autumn—green longer than I can ever recall. We already have many crafts and cards especially for Thanksgiving and very suitable for Christmas, including beautiful wreaths, ornaments, etc.



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

## clear creek chronicle

### A thankful alumnus

Alabama native Milton Burks worked at Ford Motor Company, Cleveland, when the Lord called him to preach at age 30. Burks quit his job, "loaded a truck and headed for Clear Creek." They had never been on campus. As they drove the old road with its horseshoe curves, his wife Mary asked, "Where in the world are you taking me?" Their son, Charles, was three and one-half years old. He still remembers "the fun going around the horseshoe curves."

Burks worked in the furniture factory

located then in the present chapel. He recalls wood stored in what is now the courtyard; the business office housed the kiln. His assignment usually involved making hymn racks. Six weeks away from graduation, an accident resulted in his losing one joint of his right index finger. He "felt the world had come to an end." Homiletics professor LeRoy Petersen told him he could "use it to make a blunt point" in his sermon. He continues to use the finger for fun with children.

Burks fondly remembers Old Testament professor Robert Fitts' emphasis on the Lordship of Christ. Dr. Denham, age 82 at the time, continually encouraged him to "stay in the word."

While a student, he pastored Indian Creek church in Knox County. Upon graduation, the Burks went to a three-year pastorate in Ashland. He pastored four Alabama churches and now leads the Chalybeate Springs congregation, Hillsboro. He also drives a school bus.

Accompanying the Burks on their trip were Mrs. Burks' cousin, Wynette Butler, and her husband, Travis, from Anderson, Ala. The Butlers had a brief assignment with Reynolds Aluminum in Manila, Philippines, and became active in International Baptist Church which I pastored. The two couples ate pizza one evening at a Pineville restaurant. They decided to take a pizza to the family living in the apartment where the Burks had lived. The couple was gone so they gave it to the neighbors, the Charles Dixon family from western Kentucky. Dixon responded with thanks, "The Lord sure looks out for me."

Burks appreciates his years at Clear Creek because "they emphasized knowing the word and getting it out to the world." That's what we still do.

## Partnerships provide 'hands-on' missions involvement, leaders say

*continued from page 1*

After a year of evaluation, working through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Kentucky Baptists linked up with Baptists in the state of Espirito Santo. Opportunities such as leadership training, Christian social ministries, construction, student ministry, evangelism, English teaching and music are highlights of the three-year plan, which began Jan. 1, 1990.

The Executive Board has set aside \$400,000 for the partnership. Included is a commitment of \$500 for each association to assist in sending volunteers to participate.

Since its inception this year, 207 Kentuckians have made the journey to Espirito Santo, serving in 24 projects.

- Eastern Kentucky. In an area of the commonwealth where Southern Baptist work is weakest, Kentucky Baptists have supported struggling churches and missions and attempted to begin new ministries. It is an outgrowth of a 1985-90 Mission Kentucky emphasis to start 400 new churches, missions and preaching points. A second phase is to continue from 1990 to 1995. Opportunities for individuals, churches and associations to align themselves with churches and associations in need still are valid.

The 26 partnership projects in 1990 have involved 225 volunteers.

- Utah-Idaho. The link with Kentucky Baptists is an initial relationship for Utah-Idaho Baptists in a territory where Southern Baptists lack strength in numbers. Several

associations in Kentucky have voted to unite with associations in Utah-Idaho as cooperating partners.

The partnership began in June, and 55 Kentucky volunteers have participated in 27 projects.

"Partnership missions has given Kentucky Baptists a planned and well-coordinated opportunity to be involved in 'hands-on' missions involvement," said missions, evangelism and church services division Director Williams. "Kentucky Baptists have been blessed in sharing their faith with the people where they have served."

Wilkins added: "I believe partnerships are biblically based and afford Baptists in Kentucky opportunities to become involved in missions in active ways outside their own local setting. Sponsorship by the state convention affords mutual support and order."

The first of six objectives that guide the Executive Board states, "Increase the awareness of and involvement by Kentucky Baptists in the total world mission of God," Marshall recalled.

"It really is something of a miracle to me to see our associations and churches and individuals involved in such a comprehensive and effective missions outreach," said Marshall. "It has become evident that Kentucky Baptists have both the will and the resources to become more fully and comprehensively involved through the partnership concept."

*Profiles of the Kentucky Baptist partnerships appear on pages 6 and 7 of this issue of the Western Recorder.*

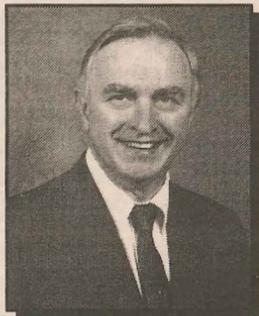
# Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference

## First Baptist Church, Paducah

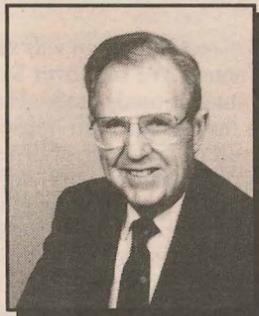
1 p.m., November 12, 1990

Theme: "Divinely Called, Joyfully Serving"

Hear the Great Preachers of our Time



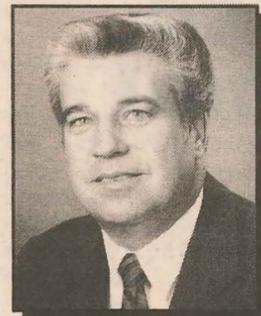
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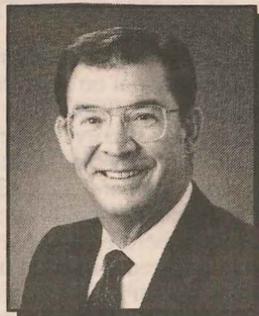
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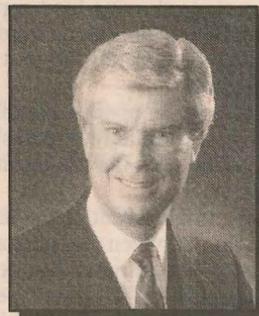
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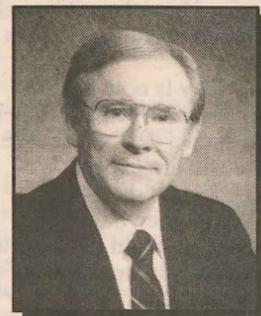
Glenn Mollette  
 President



Paul W. Powell



Bob White



John Wood

# Kuwait church feeding hungry, reports say

by Mary E. Speidel

Lay leaders at the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait City have begun conducting worship services again and feeding the hungry, according to reports.

Several Philippine evacuees from Kuwait have reported to pastor Jerry Zanstra that five Philippine lay leaders are conducting worship services at the church. Iraqi soldiers are attending services and are not disrupting worship, the evacuees said. Zanstra and his family were in the United States for the summer when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Other reports said Iraqi soldiers had asked a Catholic priest in Kuwait City if services could be conducted. A Catholic cathedral is located about two blocks from the evangelical church.

Reports from inside Kuwait indicate evangelical church members also are feeding hungry Asians.

"The church is busy ministering to the Asians who are going hungry," said one source. The food distribution reportedly began Sept. 17. "Food is available but (the cost) is two to three times higher," the report said.

Zanstra said he has not heard about the feeding project, but was not surprised such a ministry has begun. "It's just an extension

of the ministry they were trained to do and have done in the past," Zanstra said of the lay leaders, who are members of the church board. Each summer they conduct services while he is away, Zanstra said.

Before Iraqi troops stormed into Kuwait City Aug. 2, the church had an "extensive ministry" to Filipinos who work as domestics there, Zanstra said. The church provided food, shelter and employment assistance to runaway and abused household workers.

Such workers were employed as servants and depended upon their employers for food, said Zanstra. Since many of their employers probably have fled the country, Zanstra explained, the Filipinos now have no resources. Since the invasion, "I'm sure the need (for the ministry) is even greater," he said.

About 500 Filipinos were a part of the English-language congregation at the evangelical church, he said. They also met for Friday worship services conducted in Tagalog, a Philippine language; about 250 people attended.

The English-language congregation is about one-third Philippine, one-third Indian and one-third a mixture of other expatriates, Zanstra said. Before the invasion, about 10,000 people gathered for evangelical services held in numerous languages

each Sunday and Friday, the Muslim holy day, he said.

One of the Filipinos who fled Kuwait had reported earlier to Baptist Press that the church had been turned into an Iraqi military compound. Flora Labuguen, a nurse

who worked at a Kuwait hospital for nearly six years, fled the country Aug. 26. She arrived with about 250 other Philippine refugees at the Amman Baptist School in Jordan Sept. 9. The school was providing refugees food and shelter at the time. (BP)



**DESERT RELIEF**—The plight of Asians fleeing Kuwait took center stage as thousands were trapped in the desert between Iraq and Jordan waiting transportation home. As tens of thousands huddled in tents in searing temperatures, desperate needs for food, water, shelter and medicine were being met by church relief agencies. (Photo by RNS PhotoReuters)

## Religious leaders question Western values in Persian Gulf crisis

While Western religious leaders have issued virtual universal condemnations of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the lengthening crisis is beginning to prompt questions about Western culpability in creating and sustaining the Middle East standoff.

Two of the strongest recent criticisms have been issued by Jim Wallis, editor of the Christian magazine *Sojourners*, and Roman Catholic Archbishop J. Francis Stafford of Denver.

Both pointed to gas-guzzling, consumer-oriented Western society as the crucible within which the crisis took shape.

In an editorial printed in the October issue of *Sojourners*, Wallis asserted that Western colonialism and the thirst for oil "drew up the map of the Middle East" and "helped to create the situation in which we now find ourselves."

Wallis, a well-known figure in both

evangelical and ecumenical circles, acknowledged what he termed the "moral corruption and cruel opportunism" of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. But he said U.S. military intervention on the side of Kuwait seems directed toward "making the world safe more for feudalism and gas guzzling than for democracy."

Wallis urged withdrawal of both the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, to be replaced by a regional or U.N.-coordinated peace-keeping force "to act as a buffer against flash points until political solutions can be reached."

In Denver, Archbishop Stafford said in a letter to President Bush, "It is extremely difficult to defend military actions which flow from a policy of maintaining a standard of living for North Americans and Europeans who already use a disproportionate amount of the world's resources."

He added that "the immediate and overpowering presence of the United States military in the region requires us to reflect again upon the criteria of just war principles, one of which is that military action is a measure of last resort."

The Denver prelate called for the United States to work with the United Nations toward a negotiated settlement but warned that "the prejudicial attitude toward Arabs

which exists in this country will serve to create an atmosphere in which the pursuit of peaceful negotiations will be extremely difficult."

Stafford's comments drew a sharp retort from the editorial page of the Denver-based *Rocky Mountain News*, which scored what it called his "odd" and "weird" logic and rejected notions of American or European fault for the crisis. (RNS)

## Pastor cites growing Iraqi church

by Erich Bridges

Evangelical Christians in Iraq are experiencing spiritual revival and growth, according to a Jordanian Christian leader who preached in Baghdad earlier this year.

The evangelical Protestant church in Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, has grown to about 600 members, Fawaz Ameish said in an interview in Amman, Jordan. Ameish, pastor of Amman Baptist Church, spent two weeks preaching in Iraq before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Iraqi evangelicals attend four churches in Baghdad and three other cities and have "many home meetings," Ameish said. Recent spiritual renewal at the Baghdad church began after a Lebanese Baptist preacher from the United States conducted services there and "the Lord moved mightily," Ameish reported.

"Many were converted and joined the church," the Jordanian pastor said. "All the week it is like a beehive, even now. I went there and many came and gave their lives to the Lord. There is true revival going on in that church."

Ameish said he became so excited during his visit that he considered beginning Baptist work in Iraq, but he was told new denominations could not be started there now. Instead, he strongly encouraged evangelicals there to seek permission to start more churches.

About 25 new Christians from Iraq attended a summer training conference in Amman just before the invasion and were stranded there for a time, Ameish said. Seventeen were baptized in Jordan before

returning to Iraq in late August.

Christians in Iraq, a tiny minority in a nation that is 96 percent Muslim, were once persecuted by radical members of the ruling military council, Ameish said. Some believers were detained or imprisoned.

"But when Saddam Hussein got rid of those extreme people from his council and had power in his hand, he released (the Christians)," Ameish said. "He became very kind and nice to all the Christian groups. He even visited the homes of some Christians. Imagine! After this persecution some revival took place in the church."

Other minority groups have not been as free to operate. Saddam's police state suppresses any internal groups it opposes, including some Muslims, according to human rights groups.

Christianity came to what is now Iraq in the first century. Tradition holds that the Apostle Thomas evangelized Jewish communities there. The Ancient Church of the East, or Assyrian Church, is the oldest church body in the nation, but Catholics of various stripes are far more numerous.

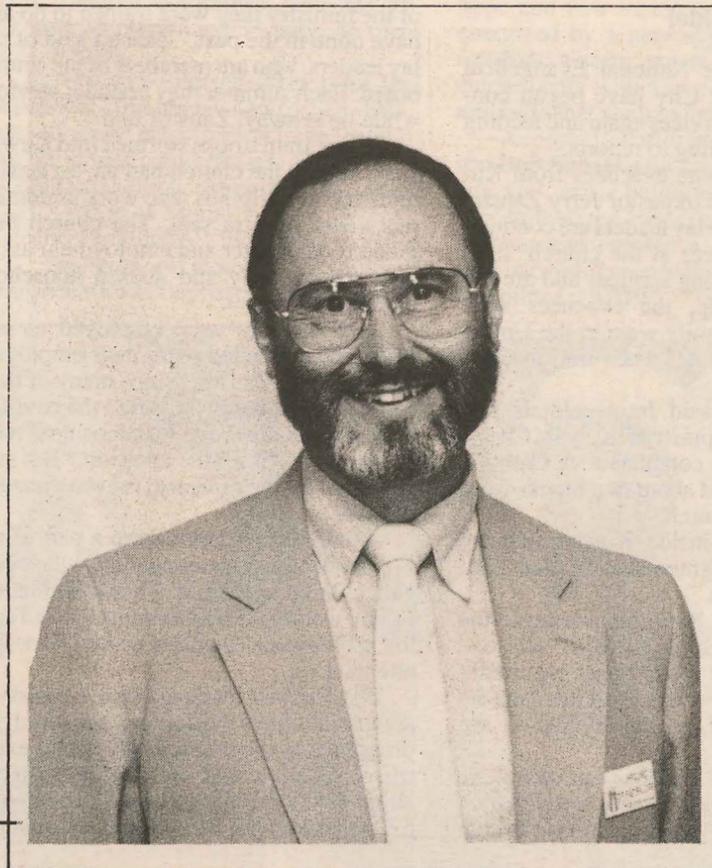
Protestant missionaries entered the nation in the 19th century. All American missionaries were expelled in 1969, and their schools were closed or taken over by the government. But most of their churches stayed open under Iraqi leadership.

Islam is the state religion, according to the 1970 constitution, but that document states that freedom of religion and worship are guaranteed. No proselyting or Christian broadcasting is allowed, and private publishing is carefully controlled by the government. (BP)



**FOOD AS A WEAPON**—U.S. church groups have recently begun to speak out against one element of the Bush administration policy towards Iraq—the use of food and medicine as a weapon. Here, an Iraqi woman leaves a bakery with bread after standing in line for several hours as food shortages begin to take their toll in Baghdad. (Photo by RNS PhotoReuters)

## Baptist Hospital East Chaplain Meets The Spiritual Challenge In Hong Kong



James T. "Jim" Pollard

When an individual loses a loved one or is faced with illness, human emotions can run the gamut. And in those moments of crises, it's often the hospital chaplain who is called upon to offer support and comfort. It's a universal need—in hospitals around the world.

Just ask James T. "Jim" Pollard, chaplain for the Center for Behavioral Health and Rehabilitation at Baptist Hospital East.

This summer, with the support of Baptist East, Pollard traveled halfway around the world to teach a basic unit of clinical pastoral education to 10 Chinese students at the 700-bed Baptist Hospital in Hong Kong.

As a representative of the Louisville hospital, Pollard's mission was to teach and broaden his students' awareness of pastoral care principles so they in turn could help patients and their families cope with and find meaning in crisis situations.

Whether it is a family dealing with grief and loss or an active person discovering he has cancer or needs surgery, pastoral care people must be prepared to respond and to offer support and encouragement, Pollard said.

Over a 10-week period, with the Baptist Hospital in Hong Kong as his classroom, Pollard shared with his Chinese students the experience he has gained in his more than 20 years of pastoral care service. It was, he said, "a spiritual challenge."

With the assistance of a translator, Pollard's classes focused on such pastoral care basics as ministry to families, the art of listening, relationships and death and dying. For the Chinese students, it was their first introduction to tying together behavioral science, theology and practical ministry in a hospital setting.

In a culture where 80 percent of the people have no understanding of Christianity, Pollard found his students committed and eager to learn. Of equal importance, he said, was the Hong Kong hospital's

pastoral care commitment to visit every patient who is admitted.

"The mission mind set of the Chinese students was strong in terms of their willingness and openness to witness to their faith," Pollard said. "My task was to teach them how witnessing needed to be relational and how through pastoral care that witness would be made stronger."

Pollard's trip to the British colony was coordinated by the Foreign Mission Board and was in direct response to a request from Dr. George Wilson, president of the Hong Kong Baptist Seminary. When the call from Wilson came, Pollard and Baptist East were ready to respond.

"It fit," he said, "with the feeling that I needed to be open to something." It also "fit" with Baptist Hospitals' broader outreach mission back to the faith group.

"My hope is that the Baptist hospitals in Kentucky can continue to help the Foreign Mission Board with its commitment and dream to offer clinical pastoral education to students around the world."

The experience in Hong Kong, Pollard said, changed his life and, in many ways, affirmed his ministry.

The "high points," he said, often came outside of the formal lecture format—when students would ask their teacher to join them at a patient's bedside.

"Just as a doctor teaches his students at the bedside, I went to the bedside with my students to be pastor. Those times of sharing clarified that I am basically a pastor," Pollard said.

In those moments when the patient's bedside became the classroom, Pollard believes his students came away with a real understanding of the art of relating to and comforting the sick.

They are the images of a Hong Kong summer that Jim Pollard will never forget.