

Prayers 'made the difference,' ex-hostage reports

Southern Baptist worker Maurice Graham, just back from four months of captivity in Kuwait, says the prayers of thousands of Christians "made the difference in survival."

Graham, who went to Kuwait to work with the National Evangelical Church, found shelter at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City from the early days of the Iraqi invasion until his departure to freedom Dec. 9. His wife and two sons were allowed to leave Kuwait in September. Graham issued the following statement to Southern Baptists and others who prayed for his safe return:

"All my life I have been told that prayer makes the difference, but when I actually experienced an outpouring of prayer from thousands of Christians around the world that were praying specifically for me and my situation, it made the difference in survival."

"When I actually experienced an outpouring of prayer, ... it made the difference in survival."

—Maurice Graham

"A day did not go by in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait that I was not aware that thousands of Baptists were praying specifically for me and my family. There were days when I was frightened for my physical well-being and uncertain about how well my wife and children were coping back home without me. What made the difference is knowing that people were holding us up in prayer, and I knew that God would respond to their heartfelt petitions."

"I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve as one of your missionaries in God's work in his kingdom. Knowing that prayer makes a difference, I ask you to continue to pray for the hundreds of thousands of Americans in the Middle East who are serving their country—that they will have a positive Christian witness in the most closed country for sharing the gospel."

"My other prayer concern is for the five lay leaders who I left in charge of the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ in a hostile, broken country. Pray that they would have the spiritual resources to meet the challenge that God has placed before them."

(BP)

See related story, page 2.



REUNITED—Home for the holidays, Maurice Graham makes up for lost time with his family. Graham numbered among the last American hostages released by Iraq in December. He was separated from his wife, Laurie, and sons, Aaron (left) and

Peter, this fall, when American women and children evacuated Kuwait and Iraq. The Grahams, Southern Baptists' first workers in Kuwait, took refuge in the U.S. Embassy there shortly after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion. (BP photo by Connie Davis)

Christians asked for help with DUI bill

by Marv Knox, Editor

Kentucky Christians have been asked to support a drunk-driving bill lawmakers are to consider next month.

Similar legislation passed 35-0 in the Senate during the 1990 General Assembly. The bill failed when Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives would not bring it up for a vote.

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson supported the tougher laws, and he will place the issue before legislators when a special session of the General Assembly convenes in mid-January.

"We've got a second chance," Justice Cabinet Secretary Michael Troop told a coalition of law enforcement, religious and traffic safety leaders in Frankfort last week.

"The governor's got (the tougher legislation) on the special session," said Troop, who also is acting commissioner of the

Kentucky State Police. "We need to be there. We need to talk about it. We need to educate on a one-to-one basis the members of the General Assembly."

"What I've been hearing from lawmakers is, 'My people don't care about this bill.' I know that's not right. The people need to tell them."

The 35-page bill contains two high-profile components, which supporters say are vital for getting drunk drivers off Kentucky roads:

- An "illegal per se" law will provide an objective test for determining if a driver is intoxicated and illegally operating a motor vehicle.

According to this proposal, a driver with a blood alcohol content of 0.10 percent would be driving illegally.

Current law allows for a "presumption" that a driver is under the influence, but does not set a verifiable standard for illegal

operation of a vehicle.

An illegal per se law "sets a legal limit—the percentage of alcohol in the bloodstream," explained Lois Windhorst, legislative liaison for Kentucky Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"In a court of law now, you will hear all kinds of defense arguments," she added. "They are trying to put doubts in the minds of jurors, saying, 'He could drive a car all right,' even with a high blood alcohol content. "This law sets a limit. It's no presumption of guilt."

A per se law will reduce plea bargaining radically, said Earl Bell, president of Kentucky MADD and a former vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"We have literally hundreds of people with numerous arrests but no convictions, because their cases have been plea bargained," Bell reported. "It's not uncommon

continued on page 2

120+ SBC chaplains serve troops in Saudi Arabia

by Sarah Zimmerman

More than 120 Southern Baptist chaplains are ministering to American military personnel in Saudi Arabia, trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board learned.

Lew Burnett, HMB director of military chaplaincy, reported on the ministry of chaplains assigned to Operation Desert Shield during the trustees' December executive committee meeting.

Some chaplains are conducting up to five Bible studies a day and leading multiple worship services on Sunday, Burnett said.

One chaplain reported holding baptis-

mal services in the Persian Gulf.

Troops have been overwhelmed with Bibles, as individuals and organizations have sent Scriptures to the desert. Burnett said the Home Mission Board also has sent Bibles with troops, but the need now is for Bible study materials.

Mailing restrictions on religious literature have been lifted. Burnett said, "At the present time, anyone can send any religious materials to any military personnel they desire in Saudi Arabia."

Trustees were asked to refer people to the HMB chaplaincy office for suggestions on how to be a part of the Persian Gulf ministry. The number is (404) 898-7000.

Trustees also heard that year-to-date

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering receipts are 8.1 percent more than 1989 receipts. The total of \$35.4 million is less than the \$41 million goal set by Woman's Missionary Union, but more than the \$32.85 million the HMB budgeted to receive from the annual offering.

In other business, trustees voted to include in the total missionary count Mission Service Corps volunteers who serve at least two years. Currently 1,301 people serve as Mission Service Corps volunteers, with about 500 of them serving for more than two years.

The committee elected four people to the Atlanta staff and approved appointment of 19 missions personnel. (BP)

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

December 25, 1990

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

Hostage's lesson: 'Pray for your enemies'

by Wm. Fletcher Allen
& Connie Davis

"You really get to practice what you preach," Maurice Graham says about his confinement in the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

The Southern Baptist worker, who was released along with 150 other Americans this month, added, "You learn to pray for your enemies."

Graham and his wife, Laurie, and two sons, Peter and Aaron, were part of a small band of refugees who went to the embassy just after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

Mrs. Graham and the sons joined other Americans and Westerners who were released in September. They have been staying in a home provided by Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville.

The invasion situation was shaky at first, Graham said. "We were relatively safe inside the embassy compound, while all around us was devastation and destruction," he explained.

In their haste to evacuate the country, many people left everything they owned; and others went into hiding for fear of being captured by Iraqis. Graham heard the kind of gunfire that indicated executions were taking place. Iraqi troops pointed munitions toward the compound and placed mustard gas containers near it.

The paradox with Graham was that he had worshipped with Iraqis in the National Evangelical Church, where he was associate pastor.

"They're human beings who are also caught in a situation in which they don't have a lot of control and, from my point of

view, which they don't really understand," he said.

The church, which drew worshippers from 28 ethnic groups, continues its ministry despite extensive problems, he reported. Members care for 43 severely handicapped children at a local hospital and pay the salaries of 19 people who work there. They have fed countless people.

Even though confined to the embassy, Graham continued his work with the church via telephone. He recorded sermons by

phone; he encouraged members to accept leadership positions. (Pastor Jerry Zandstra of the Reformed Church of America is on furlough.)

His telephone ministry also reached others. One of the first calls Graham made after arriving in Nashville was to report on a relationship he formed by telephone. Graham learned about a young Kuwaiti man who was visiting family in Kuwait from his home in Louisiana and was trapped.

Church members have risked their lives

to take food to the family, reported Graham. Because of the witness to him, the young man became a Christian.

Calls to an American hiding from the soldiers with only a dog as comfort were especially meaningful.

Telephone availability is just one example of God's provision for the group that stayed in the embassy, he explained. "God handpicked the people to make it possible for all of us to survive," Graham said was the remark of U.S. Ambassador W. Nathaniel "Nat" Howell concerning the 24-member group.

Besides someone who rigged the phones to make contact with the outside world, the group included someone who could repair a generator; someone who cooked delicious desserts from the few provisions available. Someone else planted and grew vegetables; and someone dug a well so water was available for washing and bathing—without depleting the clean water supply.

And Graham was there to counsel in person and by telephone, to lead prayer and worship services, to be a Christian friend.

Graham is enthusiastic about the spiritual development he viewed among the group. He has been asked by the U.S. State Department to continue a counseling service to hostages and families.

Graham will be "grossly disappointed" if Americans stop praying because he and other Americans have returned unharmed.

"I have no doubt at all that God called me to Kuwait, and I would return if things settled down enough to allow it," he said. (BP)



MID-EAST POSTCARD—Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and troop transport to Saudi Arabia have brought new images of a strange land and foreign religion to U.S. Christians. Muslims pray on their knees five times daily. (RNS photo by Reuters)

'Grassroots effort required' to pass drunk-driving bill

continued from page 1

to be arrested five or six times and not have a conviction. A per se law will stop that."

With an illegal per se law, an intoxicated driver could not argue that he or she was able to operate a vehicle safely, Windhorst said. The only defense is that an arrest was made illegally or the breath analysis was incorrect.

Kentucky is among only five states that do not have illegal per se laws, she said.

• An "administrative license revocation" law would set guidelines for suspending the licenses of offenders.

Specifically, it would force a driver charged with DUI to attend a hearing on the case within 25 days, and a hearing would be rendered within 10 days of the hearing.

Drivers who do not attend their hearings will have their licenses pulled automatically, with a six-month suspension for first offense. The penalty for drivers who do appear for their hearings is 90 days' suspension.

"We want the suspension to be quick, to get them off the trial dockets and get them off the highways," said Mark Bubener, director of grants for the Justice Cabinet. "With administrative per se, there does not have to be a conviction; it's an administrative determination."

"We're going to see the courts move along faster," Windhorst said. "The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said administrative license suspensions were responsible for a 9 percent reduction in

(DUI) involvement in fatal accidents."

The proposed legislation also mandates that people convicted of driving under the influence must be assessed for alcohol and substance abuse and complete education or treatment programs.

If the new laws are passed, Kentucky would qualify for \$800,000 in federal highway safety funds, to be distributed over five years, said Gene Peters, deputy commissioner of the State Police.

"A grassroots effort will be required to get this legislation through the special session," he said, calling upon the religious community to urge lawmakers to pass the measures.

"It's a good bill," said Claude M. Witt, executive director of the Temperance

League of Kentucky and a member of Farndale Baptist Church in Louisville. "It isn't as extensive as the Temperance League would like to see, but it's worthy of our support."

"It's a significant step in gaining control of alcohol used by drinking drivers. The law as currently written has many loopholes for defense attorneys and judges to reduce penalties for drunk driving."

"Above all, it's a bill that the legislature can and will support."

Legislators can be contacted by calling the Representative Message Line, (800) 372-7181, toll free. Lawmakers' address is Legislative Offices, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Ky., 40601.

See related editorial, page 4.

Base ministry on 'miracle-working power,' McCall tells grads

Ministry must be based on the "miracle-working power of the word of God," Duke K. McCall told graduates at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's 166th commencement.

"God's word is where the power is," said McCall, chancellor at the Louisville school. "Use it in your teaching and preaching. That's where the power is. Let's not argue about it. Just turn it loose. It'll do the work."

McCall, president of Southern Seminary for 31 years until he retired from the post in 1982, advised the 187 graduates to "take the high ground" in the current denominational debate about scripture and "stay out of the valley where little men are slashing each other with their shibboleths."

The seminary presented the E. Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award to Emmanuel L. McCall, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Black church extension division, and the George W. Norton Award to Joseph Stopher, a Louis-

ville attorney, during commencement ceremonies.

The Mullins Award, the seminary's highest honor, is named for the late president of Southern Seminary who served from 1899 until his death in 1928. The award is the seminary's equivalent of an honorary doctorate.

McCall, a Southern Baptist Home Mis-

sion Board staff member since 1968, has taught 20 January terms as a visiting professor of black church studies at Southern Seminary.

The Norton Award, named in memory of the late Louisville businessman and seminary benefactor, is presented annually to honor outstanding service and contributions to the seminary.

Morton, longtime KBC business officer, dies

Garnett B. Morton, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's chief business officer for 23 years, died Dec. 19 in Louisville.

Morton, 80, was accountant and office manager for the KBC Executive Board from 1952 to 1961. He was accountant and business manager from 1961 until he retired in 1975.

During his tenure, the KBC budget grew from \$1.5 million to almost \$5.4 million.

The business division expanded from two employees to 14.

A native of Farmington, he was a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

He and his wife, Emma, were charter members of Beechwood and Hurstbourne Baptist churches in Louisville. Prior to 1950, they were members of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville and First Baptist Church of Frankfort.

Stopher served 33 years on the seminary's board of trustees before leaving the board in 1985.

In a separate commencement ceremony the same day, Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Seminary that trains ministers who do not have college degrees, awarded diplomas or certificates to 18 graduates. (BP)

Prior to joining the KBC, he was a high school principal and later worked for the Kentucky Highway Department, a construction firm that built synthetic rubber plants and a supply company, where he served immediately before joining the KBC.

He is survived by his wife, of Louisville. Their son, Richard Eugene, was killed in an airplane accident aboard the U.S.S. Coral Sea in 1960.

Medical volunteers bring hope to Brazilians

partnership missions

by Ken & Ginger Collier
Missionaries to Brazil

Brazilians slept on the sidewalk this fall, in hopes of seeing Kentucky Baptist medical doctors.

Time and again, the medical volunteers felt the compassion of Jesus for "sheep without a shepherd."

The crowd outside the church—Primeira Igreja Batista de Vila Batista in Vila Velha, Espirito Santo—grew larger daily. Sixteen Kentuckians—one pediatrician, two family practitioners, two ophthalmologists, one pharmacist, seven nurses and technicians and three non-medical personnel—ministered to 2,200 people.

They brought more than 1,000 pounds of excess baggage with them, carrying medicines, eyeglasses and medical supplies in 32 boxes. They examined babies, fitted eyeglasses, removed cataracts, and dispensed antibiotics, worm medicine, vitamins and other medicines.

Regardless of the need, each patient received a lot of attention and a lot of love. Each heard, in the best Portuguese the

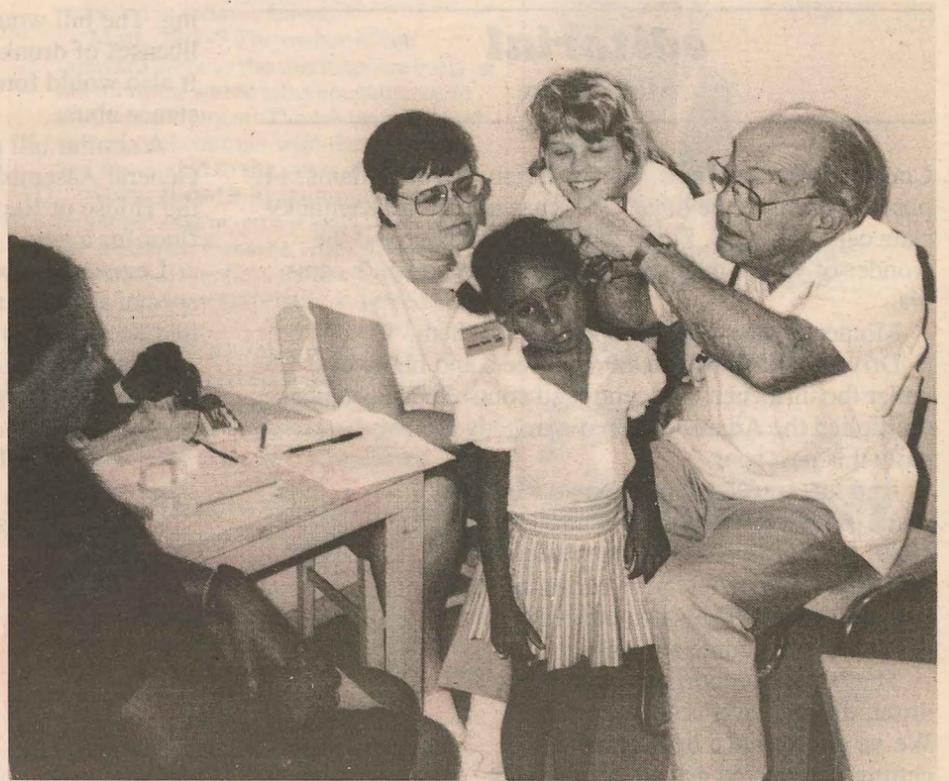
Kentuckians could muster, "Jesus te ama" (Jesus loves you) or "Deus te abencoe" (God bless you).

Two Baptist Student Union directors—Rick Trexler of Eastern Kentucky University and Clay Mulford of Western Kentucky University—helped the medical team. More importantly, they led worship services and Bible studies, and they provided individual counseling.

Patients who came to receive medicine got the gospel while they waited. A total of 206 of them made professions of faith in Christ, and 94 recommitted their faith.

Other team members and their churches were Gabe Payne, Cadiz, Cadiz; Tom Ashburn, First, Barbourville; Alan Graham, First, London; Morris and Susann Nacke, Parkland, Louisville; Bill and Marilyn Rowlett, First, Hopkinsville; Sheila Goodman, First, Fort Thomas; Leah Cloys, Immanuel, Lexington; Connie Taylor, First, Fort Thomas; Jeannie Smith, Mt. Zion, Elizabethtown; Patience Fort, Rich Pond, Bowling Green; Brenda Aldrich, Valley Creek, Elizabethtown; and Sherry Hignite, First, London.

Translators included missionaries Tony and Karen Gray, Ginger Collier, Angie Finley and Sarah Faris; missionary children Jennifer and Amy Collier; Pastor Aurecil do Santos and his family and a host of Brazilians.



JUST A PEEK—Pediatrician Gabe Payne of Cadiz and nurse Connie Taylor of Fort Thomas examined one of hundreds of patients treated by Kentucky Baptists in Brazil this fall. "Missionary kid" Jennifer Collier interpreted for them.

FMB reappoints missions prof to education post

A former professor of missions at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville and his wife were among three couples with Kentucky ties appointed missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board during its December meeting.

Bobby and Oakie Blevins, FMB missionary associates in Grenada from 1985 to 1986, will live in Namibia, where he will work as a religious education consultant. Blevins was professor of missions and assistant to the president at Clear Creek and a pastor in London, Ky. Mrs. Blevins was public affairs coordinator at Clear Creek.

Born in Raysal, W.Va., Blevins received the diploma in biblical studies from Clear Creek, a bachelor's degree from Cumberland College in Williamsburg, and a master's in Christian education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Mrs. Blevins, from Paynesville, W.Va., received the certificate in biblical studies from Clear Creek, a bachelor's degree from Cumberland.

Since 1987, Blevins has been director of missions, and Mrs. Blevins, secretary, for Booneville and Irvine Baptist associations in Manchester. They are members of Lytle-

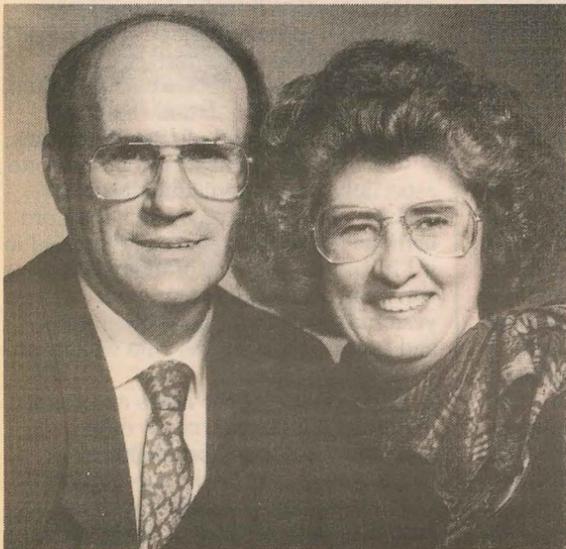
ton Baptist Church in Manchester. The Blevins have three adult children.

Two other couples will start and develop churches.

Kenneth and Judy Milam were reappointed to Indonesia. Milam, of Indianapolis, Ind., received bachelor of church music and divinity degrees from Southern Seminary. He now is a doctoral student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Mrs. Milam, of Vandalia, Ill., attended Northern Community College in Covington, Ky. The Milams have three adult children and Khara Kristina,

born in 1978.

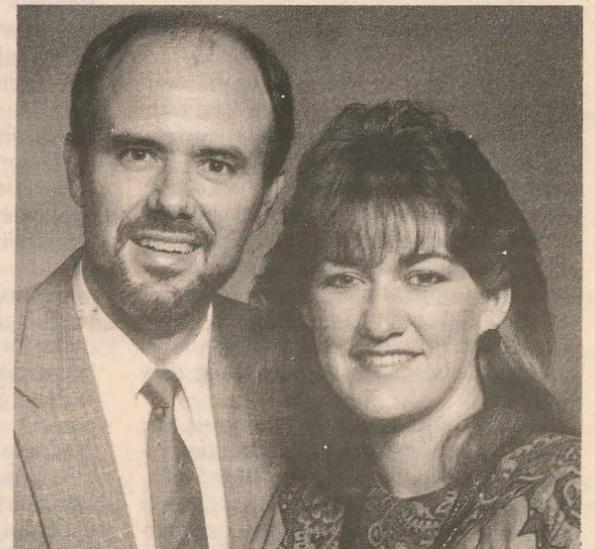
Lawrence and Gail Osbrink will work in Senegal. Osbrink is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Osbrink of Louisville. He earned a master's degree in Christian education from Southern Seminary and was youth minister at East Baptist Church in Louisville. Mrs. Osbrink, of Raleigh, N.C., also earned her master's at Southern. She was a houseparent at St. Joseph's Catholic Children's Home and a social worker with the Cabinet of Human Resources, both in Louisville. They have two children, Lydia Elyse and Jordan Luke.



Bobby and Oakie Blevins



Kenneth and Judy Milam



Lawrence and Gail Osbrink

Kentucky Baptist men 'live it up' on rooftop

A group of Kentucky Baptist men lived it up during a two-day party this fall, and they praised God for the opportunity.

They climbed to the top of Mount Eden Baptist Church in Shepherdsville for what they called a "roofing party"—removing the old roof, repairing decking and putting on a new roof.

The project was sponsored by the Brotherhood—men's missions group—from Hardmoney Baptist Church of Boaz. Help-

ers also came from Jefferson Hill Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, First Baptist Church of Lebanon Junction, Clarks River Baptist Church in Symsonia and Mount Eden Church.

"To accomplish this amount of work in two days with amateur, volunteer labor—most of whom were a little frightened to be on a roof—is a tremendous testimony as to what God can do when we are willing to let him," said John Sheridan of Hardmoney

Church.

The workers also praised God for the dry weather, especially since rain fell as close as seven miles away during their project, Sheridan reported.

"I have no doubt that all of the churches involved will be spiritually enriched by this experience," he said. "Those of us who were able to be directly involved are even more fortunate in that we have new friends and memories to cherish."

No paper next week

The Western Recorder will not publish an issue on New Year's Day, according to policies that dictate the paper is to be published 50 times per year.

The next issue of the Recorder will be dated Jan. 8, 1991, when weekly publication will resume.

Help get drunk drivers off our roads

editorial

Marv Knox

Cousins Ronnie Adams, 7, and Christy Nicole Adams, 11, posed in front of the huge Christmas tree at the Kentucky state capitol Dec. 8. Filled with holiday cheer and the wonder of youth, they smiled for another cousin's camera.

Moments later, a drunk driver killed them.

Drivers who hurtle down our streets and highways under the influence of alcohol and controlled substances multiplied the Adams children's tragedy almost daily this past year.

And that tragedy echoes down Kentucky roads every year. From 1984 through 1989, alcohol-impaired drivers killed an average of 335 people per year in the commonwealth. They also injured another 5,756 people annually.

That's why supporting tough new drunk-driving laws is so important. We've got to find a better method of getting intoxicated drivers off the highways so we can save the lives of innocent Kentuckians.

The General Assembly will consider a "driving-under-the-influence" bill when lawmakers meet in special session in mid-January. Details of the proposed laws begin on page 1 of this issue of the Western Recorder.

The bill is 35 pages long, but three results leap off those pages: If enacted, the new laws would tightly define "driving under the influence," thus reducing plea-bargain-

ing. The bill would mandate rules for suspending driver's licenses of drunk drivers, speeding up court proceedings. It also would force offenders to get treatment for substance abuse.

A similar bill passed the Senate 35-0 during the 1990 General Assembly. Unfortunately, Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives would not bring it to the floor for a vote.

Legislative observers predict a similar scenario for the special session, unless voters convince House Democrats that Kentuckians want stiffer laws.

"A grassroots effort will be required to get this legislation through the special session," said Gene Peters, deputy commissioner of the Kentucky State Police, asking for help from Christians statewide.

You can do your part by contacting your senator and representative, telling them you want them to vote for the DUI bill proposed by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

Also contact the House Democratic leadership. Tell them Kentuckians do, indeed, want people who drive under the influence of alcohol and controlled substances pulled out from behind their steering wheels.

Those leaders are:

- Don Blanford, speaker of the House.
- Pete Worthington, speaker pro-tem.
- Greg Stumbo, House majority leader.
- Kenny Rapiere, House whip.
- Jody Richards, Democratic caucus leader.

You can leave a message for them toll-free by dialing the Representative Message Line, (800) 372-7181. Their address is: Legislative Offices, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.



In the shadow of martyrs: Give to missions

viewpoint

by Bill Hancock

The Adney Cross family serve as missionaries in Namibia. Most of their first term was spent under a dusk-to-dawn curfew. Gunfire disrupted their rest nightly. Commenting on their experiences, the Crosses stated: "Missions grows out of the biblical principle of laying down your life for another person literally, if you are in a war zone. Most of the time, you just lay down part of it. You give up something you would like to have, or some small comfort so that somebody else can have something they really need."

Lottie Moon exemplified that spirit. She gave up comforts and the necessities required to sustain life. There are other Southern Baptist missionaries who have given their lives. Let us never forget those martyred:

- J. Landrum Holmes, China, 1861.
- John O. Westrup, Mexico, 1880.
- Rufus F. Gray, China, 1942.
- Bill Wallace, China, 1951.
- Paul and Nancy Potter, Dominican Republic, 1971.
- Mavis Pate, Gaza, 1972.
- Gladys Hopewell, Taiwan, 1973.
- Archie Dunaway, Rhodesia, 1978.
- James Philpott, Mexico, 1985.
- Libby Senter, Liberia, 1986.

These, like all our missionaries, did not seek a safe place to serve. Comfort and conveniences were not among their priorities. Their commitment to Christ resulted in death.

Few of us ever face the decision whether we will go serve in places that might require dying for Christ. But there is a question that keeps bobbing up and won't stay down: Will we give up some comforts to help send others?

These are exciting days for foreign missions. When the walls came down in the Iron Curtain countries, our Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board was ready with the good news. This readiness was possible

because of your faithfulness in giving.

Your praying and faith have propelled Bold Mission Thrust goals for the year 2000. Today, our missionary presence is felt in 121 countries. Six other countries have been approved, surpassing the goal of 125 by A.D. 2000. Our goal of 10,000 volunteers abroad was achieved 12 years in advance. Coupled with the visionary, persistent and tireless leadership of Dr. Keith Parks and his staff, God is performing marvelous miracles.

With every advance in our foreign mission enterprise, more doors are opening. The Macedonian call is greater and louder than ever before. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is \$86 million and will deploy missionaries and supplies through these doors. Kentucky Baptists' part in reaching this goal is \$2,793,702, representing an increase of 10 percent over 1989. Challenge your church to give 10 percent more than before. May Southern Baptists have ears to hear and hearts to respond.

Bill Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, is chairperson of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.



on mission together

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

The Station

At year's end, "The Station," by Robert J. Hastings, is worthy once again of our contemplation. This version is slightly amended from his Jan. 2, 1980 column of the Illinois Baptist.

"Tucked away in our subconscious minds is an idyllic vision. We see ourselves on a long, long trip. We're traveling by passenger train and out the windows we drink in the passing scene of flatlands and valleys, of mountains and rolling hillsides, of city skylines and village halls.

"But uppermost in our minds is our destination. A certain day and a certain hour and we'll pull in the station with bands playing and flags waving. And once we get there, so many wonderful dreams will come true, and so many wishes fulfilled, and so many pieces of our lives finally and neatly fitted together like a completed jigsaw puzzle. How restlessly we pace the aisles... waiting, waiting, waiting for the station.

"However, sooner or later we must realize there's no station, no one place to arrive once and for all. The true joy of life is the trip. The station is only a dream. It constantly outdistances us. 'When we reach the station, that will be it!' we cry. Translated this means, 'When I'm 18, that will be it! When I buy a new 450 SL Mercedes Benz, that will be it! When I put the last kid through college, that'll be it! When I've paid off the mortgage, that'll be it! When I win a promotion, that'll be it! When I have a nestegg for retirement, that'll be it! And I'll live happily ever after!'

"Unfortunately, once we get 'it,' then 'it' disappears. The station somehow hides itself at the end of an endless track.

"'Relish the moment' is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24, 'This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.' It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad. Rather, it is regret over yesterday or fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who would rob us of today.

"So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefooted oftener, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more and cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough."

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 30, 1990

Life and Work Series

Who then is Jesus?

After the fruits had been gathered in the autumn, thousands of pilgrims made their way to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Tabernacles, the last of the great annual Jewish festivals.

John 7:14-18 This feast was celebrated with such joy that Josephus called it "the greatest and holiest feast of the year." During the seven days of this festival, the pilgrims dwelt in booths constructed of branches from trees with thick foliage as a reminder of their sojourn in the wilderness. The festival was designed as an occasion of thanks-

giving for the concluded harvest, as a commemoration of their wanderings in the wilderness and as a celebration of their deliverance from Egypt and their settlement in the promised land.

John 7:28-29 During the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus appeared in the courtyard of the temple and began to teach. Even though the leaders of the Jewish faith hated him and even began scheming to kill him, they did not make any attempt to stop him. Their inactions caused the residents of Jerusalem to wonder if perhaps they had learned Jesus was actually the Messiah. Knowing that Christ was from Nazareth, being acquainted with his family and aware that he had been performing miracles, they still could not or would not believe that he was in reality the Messiah. They attempted to discredit the Christ by telling the people he was merely voicing his own opinions on religious subjects. They wanted to seize Christ, but no one laid hands on him.

John 7:40-46 A controversy arose as to the identity of Christ and what should be done with him. Believing that a prophet was coming, many said: "Of a truth this is the prophet." Some thought he was the Christ. Others asserted they knew that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem. Still others were hostile and wanted to arrest Jesus and take him before the Sanhedrin. While they were divided in their opinions of Christ, he remained the same.

International Series

Servants in God's vineyard

Matt. 20:1-16 Jesus told the disciples that a rich man enters the kingdom with great difficulty. Simon Peter inquired,

"Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?" Instead of rebuking Peter, Christ spoke the parable which is recorded in today's lesson.

Matt. 20:1-7 The owner of the vineyard went to the marketplace early in the morning where laborers gathered to await employment. The laborers entered into an oral contract with the employer and proceeded to the vineyard to work.

Matt. 20:8-12 At quitting time, the employer instructed his steward to call all the workmen from the vineyard and to pay them. Doubtless those who came to work late were surprised, delighted and grateful when they received a full day's wages. Those who labored all day expected to receive a bonus, but they were paid the amount on which they agreed. They complained to their employer that he had discriminated against them.

Matt. 20:13-16 The employer selected one of the grumbling laborers, took him aside and quietly rebuked him and his fellow workers for their attitude. He let them know that they did not have the right to grumble, because they had received the exact amount of remuneration for which they agreed to work.

In this parable, the householder represents God, the vineyard represents the kingdom and the laborers represent the Christians. It is both our privilege and duty to labor in the vineyard of the Lord. Our work for him will not be measured solely by the amount done nor by the skill with which we do it, but by motivation and the spirit in which we do it.

Sunday school lessons for Jan. 6, 1991, are provided on page 6 since the Western Recorder will not be published Jan. 1, 1991.



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

homes for children

Homelessness

During this week of Christmas most of us are enjoying far more food than we need to eat, delighting in presents and enjoying our nice homes. Our minds are far from the reality that surrounds the life of a growing number of people in our land and around the world.

From our experience it is hard to grasp what it is like to not know where your next meal is coming from. We cannot understand the sense of helplessness that individuals have when they can carry everything they own in a paper sack.

For many of us, homelessness carries a somewhat vague picture of the "King of the Road" as noted in the popular song of a few years ago. The truth is that the tremendous growth in the number of people who are homeless is taking place in single parent families where a young mother with little or no education struggles to provide for her children. Even two parent families are not immune from the crisis of homelessness, as we learned in Texas in the mid '80s when the economy took a sudden downturn.

I am concerned about these families and particularly the children. Can you imagine a child spending the night in an old car as the family moves from one moment of poverty to the next? Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" portrayed the misery of that existence in the '30s. Unfortunately there are still many people who can give you firsthand experiences that can match or be worse than those.

In our abundance it is easy to overlook these families or to pass judgment on them. As we observe our Lord's birth this week, perhaps it would be good for us to remember that the night he was born an innkeeper had taken pity on his "homeless" family and let them stay in a barn. Throughout his life he never owned a home nor any of the trappings in which we place so much confidence.

I believe our Lord understands the hunger, the shame, the worry and the stress of homelessness far more than we can ever imagine. Perhaps the best way to observe our Lord's birth would be to resolve to help those who have no home in which to celebrate.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

A coat from God!

It was very cold one recent day. Our band director spotted one of our boys not wearing a coat. Concerned, he asked the young man if he had forgotten to put his coat on. "I don't have a coat," the boy said.

With many things on his mind, Mr. Burns mentally checked this situation as something needing attention. To himself he thought that perhaps there was an extra band coat in storage. Later that evening he found none. A coat must be found elsewhere.

The next morning, Mr. Burns checked his mail following our daily chapel service. There was a package addressed simply "Band Director" with a Covington postmark. Inside was a used Oneida band jacket in excellent condition. There was

no note. Mr. Burns came to share with me what had just happened. Neither then nor a day later has either of us been able to think who might have sent the coat. It really doesn't matter who God's instrument was.

The important fact is that God knew this young man's need before we did. He put it in some person's mind and heart to pack up the coat and send it to Oneida.

In Isaiah 65:24 we read: "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

Our God, "the same yesterday, today and forever" has been meeting the needs of his own for many thousands of years. He is great enough to be concerned about one of his little ones at Oneida school.

I have been witness to countless similar evidences of God's provision in things great and small here at Oneida. I saw this as a child here 35 or 40 years ago, as a staff member 28 years ago and now for 19 years as president.

Richard Burns and I have just discussed the coat episode again, with awe and wonder and yet not with surprise. I mentioned that his great-great uncle, James Anderson Burns, founder of our school, had many such experiences. He replied, "Are you thinking about the fish?" Yes I was. Let me share that story with you as recorded in Darrell C. Richardson's biography of Burns titled "Mountain Rising."

"Burns constantly encouraged his teachers, and his never failing enthusiasm was contagious. 'Having begun a good work in you, he will perform it until the day all is fulfilled,' he would say to his coworkers. 'We shall labor on until God wills that all be fulfilled.'

"For several years the average pay of the teachers was fourteen dollars a

month. Somehow they managed to live. They worked with their hands at various tasks. They rented land and raised gardens and crops in summer. In addition to the fishing, they engaged in hunting, which placed a little meat on the table.

"One morning I ate breakfast with Dan Hacker," recalled Burns. "As we finished, Dan's wife Lucinda said, 'This is our last piece of meat.' Dan and I walked into the yard. He asked 'What will we do today?' I replied, 'Let's finish laying our corn crop.' Without another word, we crossed Goose Creek in a little boat, got our hoes and went to work. At 11 o'clock the last row had been hoed, and we started home. The crop was laid by. When we reached the river it was very muddy and swollen. There had been a heavy rain the night before on the head waters. I paddled the boat. It struck something which had not been there when we crossed in the morning. I stopped paddling. Dan reached out into the muddy water and drew up a fish basket, a sort of trap. It had fourteen very large catfish in it, meat for several days. It had floated down the river from somewhere. We never knew from where.

"We didn't talk about it, but I saw a strange light in Dan's eyes. Coincidence? Yes, undoubtedly. But who controls all coincidences of life, even the very small and seemingly insignificant ones? Believe as you may, but let me believe as I may. It encourages my heart in troublous times to think that our heavenly Father knows and tempers every wind that blows."

Just this date a wonderful gift came with a precious note: "Even as a Catholic, I will recognize the fine work Oneida Baptist is doing. Have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year."

And so we say to each of our readers.



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

clear creek chronicle

Desert Shield chaplain

When 1983 graduate Doyle Dunn raised his hand and repeated the words, "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the constitution of the United States" and received his commission as an officer in the United States Navy Chaplain Corps, he never dreamed he would wind up in the Middle East. A Navy chaplain since 1984, Doyle completed his MDiv at Southwestern Baptist Seminary, then served as chaplain aboard USS Sylvania homeported in Norfolk, Va.

In August 1990 he was reassigned as a Marine Corps chaplain with 1st Combat Engineer Battalion at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Only four days after arriving in California, he deployed to the heart of Saudi Arabia with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force—the first American fighting force to arrive in the tense desert area of operation.

After two months of living in the arid desert heat and facing potential hostility, Doyle comments, "These trying times bring me back to my knees often. Truths learned while at Clear Creek have been a mainstay of my ministry to the Marines. In spite of the conditions we live in, God is touching their hearts and providing his 'peace that passes all understanding.'"

Of the 45,000 marines currently in Saudi Arabia, Doyle's "flock" is a battalion of 500 men. He expects to remain in the desert up to nine more months. His recent letter included this request: "The prayers of Clear Creek are deeply needed and would surely reap a great harvest." Doyle's wife and three children wait for his return in San Clemente, Calif. She recently sent him a copy of our school newsletter. "It was so refreshing! I remember my days there with great affection."

One of the best Christmas gifts you could give Chaplain Dunn would be a greeting from Kentucky. His address is LT Doyle W. Dunn, H & S CO, 1st CEB, FPO San Francisco 96608-5519.

As you gather with your family for Christmas, don't forget to pray for the thousands of men and women who will observe Christmas in the desert. Chaplains like Doyle Dunn will communicate the good news of Christ's coming which makes all the difference in our desert experiences.

SBC churches rank among largest congregations

by Mark Wingfield

Nineteen Southern Baptist Convention churches appear on a newly published list of the largest churches in America, while 25 SBC churches appear on a similar list of the 100 fastest-growing churches in America.

Both lists were compiled by John Vaughan, a church growth professor at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. The lists are included in the 1991-92 edition of "The Almanac of the Christian World," published by Tyndale House.

Vaughan's listing of the largest churches in America is based upon 1989-90 worship attendance, not upon membership.

North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., is listed as the sixth largest church in America, with an average attendance of 9,500. Second Baptist Church in Houston ranks eighth with 8,500 in attendance.

The two Southern Baptist churches fall behind First Baptist Church of Hammond, Ind., Willow Creek Community Church of South Barrington, Ill., Calvary Chapel of Santa Ana, Calif., Thomas Road Baptist Church of Lynchburg, Va., and First Assembly of God in Phoenix.

Other Southern Baptist churches on the 100-largest list and their attendance figures are:

First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., 7,000; First Baptist Church of Dallas, 6,750; Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., 6,500; First Baptist Church of

Orlando, Fla., 5,300; First Baptist Church of Houston, 5,035; First Baptist Church of Atlanta, 5,000; Trinity Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas, 4,500; Prestonwood Baptist Church of Dallas, 4,038; First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, 4,000;

First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., 4,000; Saddleback Valley Community Church of Mission Viejo, Calif., 4,000; First Baptist Church of Gonzales, Texas, 3,850; Champion Forest Baptist Church of Houston, 3,750; McGregor Baptist Church of Fort Meyers, Fla., 3,700; First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., 3,550; Loveland Missionary Baptist Church of Fontana, Calif., 3,400; Roswell Street Baptist Church of Marietta, Ga., 3,200.

Vaughan's list of the fastest-growing churches in America is based upon net gain in worship attendance from 1989 to 1990—not upon percentage growth.

On this list Saddleback Valley Community Church of Mission Viejo, Calif., ranks fourth with a net gain of 1,345. First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., ranks fifth with a net gain of 1,213.

The three fastest growing churches of any affiliation are Calvary Chapel in Albuquerque, N.M., Mount Ephriam Baptist Church in Atlanta and Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill.

Other SBC churches on the fastest-growing list and their net gain in worship attendance are:

East Brent Baptist Church of Pensacola, Fla., 940; Sunnycrest Baptist Church of Marion, Ind., 700; Second Baptist Church of Houston, 635; San Jacinto Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, 600; Hyde Park Baptist Church of Austin, Texas, 600; First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., 500; First Baptist Church of Merritt Island, Fla., 500; Woodland Park Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., 500; Hoffmantown Baptist Church of Albuquerque, N.M., 457; First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 450;

First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas, 438; Trinity Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas, 400; Casas Adobes Baptist Church of Tucson, Ariz., 400; Hickory Grove Baptist Church of Charlotte, N.C., 400; McGregor Baptist Church of Fort Meyers, Fla., 400; Rehobeth Baptist Church of Atlanta, 350; First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla., 350; Lake Pointe Baptist Church of Rowlett, Texas, 346; First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow, Okla., 300; Smoke Rise Baptist Church of Atlanta, 300; First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., 300; Roswell Street Baptist Church of Marietta, Ga., 300; Metropolitan Baptist Church of Houston, 300. (BP)

Chapman promotes Crossover Atlanta

by Mark Wingfield

Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman came to Atlanta Dec. 11 to promote Crossover Atlanta with directors of missions from eight area associations.

Crossover Atlanta is an evangelistic emphasis planned prior to the denomination's June 5-7 annual meeting in Atlanta.

Also attending the meeting were Georgia Baptist Convention President Truett Gannon, pastor of Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Atlanta, and Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga., and one of two co-chairs for Crossover Atlanta.

Chapman told how he conceived the idea for Crossover America, which is an ongoing plan for partnership evangelism

that will be launched with Crossover Atlanta this summer.

In 1992, Southern Baptists will participate in Crossover Indianapolis prior to the denomination's annual meeting there. Beyond that, Chapman said, he hopes the Crossover projects will not be restricted to the week prior to annual meetings.

Chapman earlier had announced the appointment of Reighard and Frank Polard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., as co-chairs for Crossover Atlanta.

Churches desiring to participate as sending or receiving congregations in Crossover Atlanta should contact Bobby Sunderland at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30367. Telephone inquiries should be directed to (404) 898-7687. (BP)

—classified ads—

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

AVAILABLE: 44 solid mahogany pews, 13-18 feet long, Zion Baptist Church, Henderson, Ky. 42420. (502) 826-4952. 12-25-4T

NEEDED: Waddy Baptist Church, Shelby County, Ky., is seeking Minister of Youth/Music (part-time). Send resume to: Sara Jane Scott, Route 5, Box 270-A, Shelbyville, KY 40065. 12-25-4T

sunday school lessons

FOR JAN. 6, 1991

Life and Work Series

Freedom from sin's enslavement

John 8:21-27 Even though the intense hatred of the Jewish leaders toward Christ increased daily, and they made various plots to apprehend him, God the Father protected his Son from premature harm.

Christ informed the Jewish leaders that he was going to depart this life at the proper time, without making it clear how he would go. Through mockery, or in ignorance, they questioned whether he was contemplating suicide. Ignoring their speculations, Christ warned them of their own fate: "Ye shall die in your sins." He let them know they were sealing their destiny by their own rejection of him.

John 8:31-36 Christ alone is able to break the power of sin. Christ, who is the only real source of freedom, provides deliverance from past guilt, exoneration from the punishment of sin, admission into the family of God and liberty from the fear of death. Christ's freedom is

deliverance from the bondage of the mind, the will and the spirit. Christ's freedom is possessed within by the child of God, even when there is pressure from without. His freedom is real freedom.

Christ gives liberty from the blindness of tradition which obscures the clear shining of the light which flows from the truth. He gives freedom from fear and dread of the unknown, enabling the believer to look calmly upon any action of God. Christ's is true freedom.

International Series

The sower and the soils

Matt. 13:1-9 We find a type of Christ during his earthly ministry in the parable of the sower also, a type of Christ's servants whom he has chosen to scatter the seed of the Word of God. The seed is the Word of God. It is to be sown in the hearts of everyone without reference to character or condition. The soil represents human hearts. The character of the hearer determines the effect of the Word.

As Christ faced that audience on the seashore, he discerned four classes of hearers, typifying four kinds of soil.

The wayside hearers were those on whom the message of Christ was wasted.

They heard his words but did not admit them. In order to prevent people from believing the Word and accepting Christ, Satan takes away the Word by causing forgetfulness, by creating prejudice against it or by distraction.

In the thin layer of soil which covered bedrock, the seeds sprouted quickly, but the shallowness of the soil did not permit the roots to grow, so the plant soon withered under the heat of the sun.

Shallow hearers listen to the Word with joy and are carried away with emotional enthusiasm, but they do not have any staying power. These people hear the Word but quickly forget it.

The seed penetrated the soil easily, germinated and sprang up, but the thorns drew the moisture and fertility from the soil, preventing a harvest from the seed.

In the thoroughly prepared soil the seed germinated, took root, sprang up and brought forth fruit. The heart which is good soil is one which accepts God's will, walks in his ways, endures affliction for his sake and awaits his recompense.

Matt. 13:18-23 Desiring to know the full significance of the parable, the disciples requested Christ to interpret it for them. He analyzed the parable point by point and gave to each symbol its own significance.

Religious leaders propose local film rating boards

by Tom Strode

The establishment of public film-ratings boards in communities and states throughout the country has been proposed as a way to correct an industry-run movie ratings system that has received increasing criticism.

The recommendation was presented by the National Coalition on Television Violence, a TV and movie advocacy group, and Good News Communications, a Christian ministry that rates films to the National Conference on Film Ratings, sponsored by the groups. A wide range of organizations were represented at the meeting, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, Women Against Pornography, the United States Catholic Conference, the National Council of Churches, the American Family Association, Focus on the Family and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The film-ratings conference was organized after the Motion Picture Association of America announced in September that it was replacing its X rating with a new NC-17 rating. Critics say the change enables movies to be featured in theaters that previously would not allow X-rated films and advertisements in newspapers that previously would not allow ads for X-rated films.

The proposed public ratings system would consist of the following classifications, which would be assigned to movies after they were previewed by the board: All Ages; Parental Guidance; Not Permitted for Young Persons Under Age 13 (R-13); Not Permitted for Young Persons Under Age 16 (R-16); Not Permitted for Young Persons under Age 18 (R-18); Unrated or X-rated.

Advertising must include the board's rating and any symbols it attaches to the film. The symbols are: L (obscene language); S (sexual conduct); V, VV, VVV (increasing levels of violence); D (drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, portrayed positively); N (nudity); P (perversion), and A (adult situations).

"The local option is certainly one effective answer to what seems to be a trend of national standards reaching the lowest common denominator. Clearly, there are many, many, many communities across the country for whom such a lowest common denominator, East Coast and West Coast standard is going to be patently offensive,

said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"What better way for parents to receive some meaningful guidance on the suitability of films for themselves and their families than to have a rating constructed by their friends and neighbors. I applaud the

efforts of those seeking to bring meaningful ratings standards back to the American film industry."

The proposed ratings also would be required to be placed on videotapes for rent or sale in the community. Violators could be punished by a maximum fine of \$500.

The classification board would include 26 citizen volunteers representing the entire community. The recommended ordinance is similar to that of the city of Dallas. Its movie ratings board was established in 1966.

The Dallas ordinance has been revised twice to comply with court rulings. It has survived several tests in court.

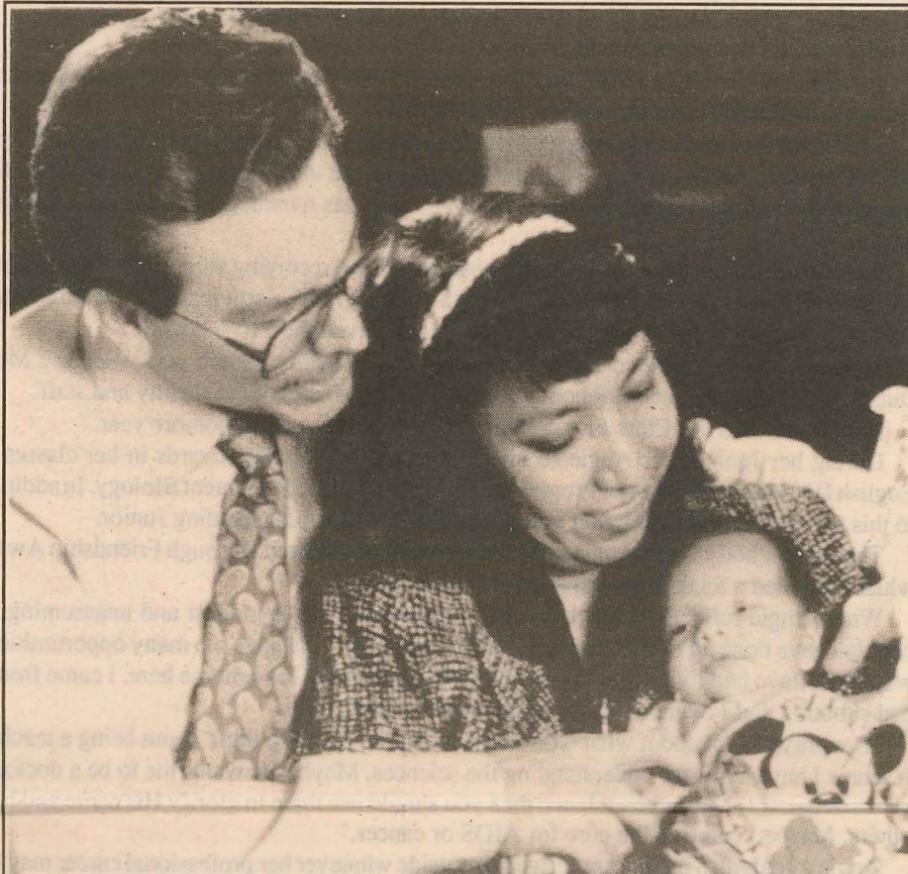
The Motion Picture Association of America's ratings system was established in 1968. Ted Baehr of Good News Communications said that the United States is "one of the few countries where the ratings system is run by the movie industry." The MPAA is the public relations arm of the movie industry, he said.

"The MPAA has a very serious conflict of interest," said Thomas Radecki, research director of the National Coalition on Television Violence. "It is putting profits ahead of social concerns, ahead of the welfare of our children. The current film ratings system is a joke, an intentional joke on the public.

"Fifty percent of the theaters and almost 50 percent of the video stores don't pay attention to their movie industry's own ratings.

"We have documented a steady deterioration in Hollywood films since the birth of the MPAA rating system. The MPAA now gives PG and PG-13 to films that would have been X-rated in 1970. G-rated films, which in 1970 made up 30 percent of all films, have all but disappeared."

The new NC-17 rating was given first to "Henry and June," which contains partial nudity and illicit heterosexual and homosexual conduct, according to reviewers. Radecki said, "Actually, 'Henry and June' is probably the mildest NC-17 we're going to see." (BP)



SURROGATE MOTHERHOOD TESTED AGAIN—The notion of surrogate motherhood, which many ethicists have questioned and even condemned, was tested in the case of Mark and Crispina Calvert of Santa Ana, Calif. Their son, Christopher Michael, was conceived in a test tube from the Calvert's egg and sperm and was carried to term by surrogate Anna Johnson. Ms. Johnson wanted to share parenting with the Calverts. The judge ruled that the biological parents have total custody rights over the child. (RNS photo/Reuters)

Land says religious and moral issues pose greatest problem for U.S.

by Breena Kent Paine

"We are at the center and at the beginning of a decade of debate on the issue of the church and the state, the Christian and society, and religious liberty," Richard Land told students and faculty at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary during a recent chapel service.

"We face a cultural, moral crisis that if it is not addressed and if we do not begin to try to reinvigorate the spiritual nature of human beings, and if we who are believers do not bring our understanding of the transforming nature of the gospel of Jesus Christ out into the academic and the commercial marketplace and seek to witness in the highways and in the byways and assert our right to be involved in the moral debate that is all around us, then there will be no answer that gives meaning and purpose to life for a people all around us who desperately need to hear the transforming nature of the gospel of Jesus Christ," said the director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"During the next 24 hours, 1,260 high school students will quit school; 2,740 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 will become pregnant; more than 1,000 of those girls will have abortions and kill their babies; 5,472 teenagers in America will attempt suicide in the next 24 hours.

In addition, "We have a pornography-fueled vortex of violence and sexual crimes against women and children both inside

and outside the home," Land said.

"Now a 12-year-old American girl has a one in four chance of being sexually molested or raped by the time she is 18, and a 12-year-old boy has a one in 10 chance of being sexually molested or raped by the time he is 18.

"We have had in the last 17 years a 600 percent increase in child abuse in the United States of America.

"The great problems of our time are not economic and political; they are religious

and moral," Land said, quoting George Gallup.

"Before we can confidently be in the debate, we not only have to understand the message, we not only have to understand the problems, but we have to address, at least in the culture in which we live, our right to have a say in the public, moral discourse of our nation.

"One of the greatest myths, persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic, abroad in our land in your lifetime and mine is the ...

Conservative Christian coalition advocates social change

by Darrell Turner

The chief organizer of an evangelical political action think tank, which has attracted support from some of the leaders of the Christian Right, said his group's elaborate scheme of economic and political reform is not dangerous but simply aimed at curing a "sick America."

In an interview with Religious News Service Jay Grimstead objected to a profile of his organization that appeared in an article in the November/December issue of Mother Jones magazine that he said was "a deliberate attempt to make us look bad."

The one-page piece, by writer Fred Clarkson, describes Grimstead's Coalition on Revival as "a theopolitical movement that seeks to make a fundamentalist Christian nation out of the United States." It says the related National Coordinating Council

has come up with a program calling for the abolition of public schools, the IRS and the Federal Reserve System by the year 2000 and the creation of county militias.

Some of the members of the coalition who have been active in Christian Right movements in the past decade include Tim LaHaye of the Traditional Values Coalition, D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries, former Congressman Mark Siljander and Dee Jepsen, board chair of Pat Robertson's Regent University.

Despite Grimstead's objection to the article, literature from his group and his description of the organization's aims and plans show a group advocating social change.

In a mailing publicizing the article to journalists, Mother Jones included several pages of a document that Grimstead told RNS is a seminar brochure of the National

platitudes you can't legislate morality.

"It is true that you can't legislate beliefs. Jesus said that we are supposed to be salt and light. Salt is defensive. Salt retards against decay and degeneration. When we pass laws against immoral behavior that seek to keep people from imposing their racism or their thievery or their rapaciousness or their murderousness on their victims, we are legislating against behaviors. We can legislate against behaviors; we can't legislate against beliefs. (BP)

Coordinating Council. The brochure suggests "ministry merge goals" for citywide networking committees that include lobbying to Congress to "support freedom fighters financially;" establishing an "aggressive, fierce, Christian version of the ACLU;" and forming countywide militias "according to the U.S. Constitution under the control of the county sheriff and board of supervisors."

Describing the 50-member National Coordinating Council and the 112 leaders of the Coalition on Revival, Grimstead said, "We are evangelicals, and some of us are fundamentalists and a bunch of us are charismatics. What it is is a political-economic think tank. Our hope is to get America back to where it once was... We're not dangerous, really. We're just trying to get America back to where it was safer and saner." (RNS)

Profile of Two Oneida Baptist Girls

"God Surely Brought Me Here"



Angie Berry

Angie Berry enrolled at Oneida in the sixth grade. Seven years later she is a 17 year old senior.

This special person has been molded in the fire of many hard knocks.

When Angie came to Oneida, she needed a home as well as a school. Her father and mother had already divorced. Two years after entering Oneida, Angie learned her mother had died an untimely death at age 33. Earlier this school year, her 19 year old sister died in similar fashion.

Unlike many of today's teenagers and adults, Angie has resisted the temptation of alcohol and drugs. Angie says about it all: "I accepted Christ shortly after coming to Oneida in the sixth grade. Understanding more fully the commitment I had made, I rededicated my life in my eighth grade year. Each day I have been even more determined to do what God wants me to do."

Angie's remarkable accomplishments in academics, sports, the fine arts, and her spiritual life reveal the special person she has become.

Beginning in her middle school years, she proved to be quite the scholar. She was the "top" student from the sixth grade through her sophomore year, and near the top today.

Living in the dorm as one of our smallest children those early years was no easy task. Over the years she has earned the Good Worker or Outstanding Worker Award, The Cleanest Dorm Room Award and others many times.

A list of Angie's accomplishments are impressive to read:

Yearbook staff her four high school years as layout designer, business manager, layout editor, and now editor in chief. She received an award from Western Kentucky University Chapter of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi for first place in state yearbook competition.

Baptist Student Union three years as secretary and now president.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes six years as an activities leader.

Choir six years, traveling over 20,000 miles in scores of concerts. Receiving a varsity letter each year; also receiving the Most Improved Award 1986-87, 110% Award 1988-89, Directors Award 1989-90; participated in the All Festival Choir 1990 and participated in the Ensemble for the past three years.

Band two years playing the clarinet, and in the Honor Guard one year.

Elected Senior class president.

Varsity Volleyball five years, three years captain, receiving a varsity letter each year, also receiving the Coach's Award and the 110% Award.

Basketball four years receiving a varsity letter three of the four. Most Outstanding Player 1986-87, Most Assists in 1988-89, participated in the All Conference Team 1988-89, participated in the All District Team 1989-90, and was awarded the Lady Mountaineer Award.

Varsity Softball six years, serving as captain this year, receiving varsity letters four of the six years. Received the District All Academic Softball Award, participated in the All District team 1989-90, the Coach's Award 1989-90, and received the 110% Award.

In addition to her athletic skills and talents academically, Angie was voted the Most Outstanding Freshman and Sophomore by a unanimous vote of the faculty and staff.

Her peers voted her Class favorite both her Freshman and Sophomore year.

During her Junior year Angie received Outstanding Scholar Awards in her classes of English IV (Senior), Computer Programming, and Advanced Placement Biology. In addition to this the faculty and staff again voted Angie as the Most Outstanding Junior.

The student body voted Angie to be the recipient of the Brad Dorough Friendship Award which provided a \$3,000 scholarship for her senior year.

When Angie reflects on all these accomplishments she is modest and unassuming. "I couldn't have done all of this by myself. My being at Oneida gave me many opportunities I would not have had living where I used to live. God surely brought me here. I came from a bad situation and I overcame a lot of things with God's help.

"I've prayed a lot about what God wants me to be. I used to think about being a teacher. It seems I have a gift for understanding the sciences. Maybe He wants me to be a doctor, a pediatrician. If He gives you talents, then you should use them to glorify His name and help others. Maybe I can find the cure for AIDS or cancer."

Angie's goals also include an active life outside whatever her professional career may be. "I want to be involved in church activities as a Sunday School teacher. Also possibly work with an intramural sports programs in the community. I've learned many things. I am determined. It makes me feel good to be able to think that I can help other people someday. One person can change the world by going forward with determination and using the talents God has given to them. I can help others in this world. God allowed some bad situations in my life knowing that I could learn from them and help others."

From Vietnam to Oneida



Kathy Vo

Kathy Vo is a 17 year old Oneida senior. She was born in wartorn South Vietnam. Kathy is the middle of three sisters. Her father was a Lieutenant in the South Vietnamese Army. After the communist takeover in 1975, Kathy's father was arrested and imprisoned.

During much of her first five years in Vietnam, Kathy stayed with her paternal grandparents as was the social custom. Kathy says, "I don't remember too much about the struggle of those years. I do

remember my grandmother telling me of the United States and how only privileged people live there."

As was the dream of millions, the Vo family hoped one day to escape to America. They did so three years after the initial imprisonment of Mr. Vo. They were among the hundreds of thousands of "boat people" and others fortunate enough to safely get out, and on to America.

That was twelve years ago.

So Kathy was able to start school in America from kindergarten, to learn English, and to grow into a beautiful and intelligent young lady.

But her parents have had to work very hard, starting with nothing like millions of immigrants before them. Today, both work for a large auto corporation and have become a part of America's middle class.

In the meantime, Kathy has had the usual problems of any child growing up, entering her teenage years. But those problems are compounded when your heritage is that of another land, differing language, customs, religion from that of your new country. There is the constant pull between the old way and perspectives of her parents, and of those all about her in her new land.

Kathy looks forward to her own home someday, husband and children, to living a "normal" American life. That seems so

simple at first glance. But life has become complex with the U.S divorce rate now exceeding 50%. The rate of children living in single parent homes during their teenage years is 40% nationally.

Several months ago Kathy claimed Christ as her Savior at Oneida. That is a big step for anyone, but even moreso when one's parents and ancestors have been Buddhist for generations. Oneida Baptist Institute President Barkley Moore says, "We do share the saving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with all who come to us. That is not done with pressure tactics or in an atmosphere of hysteria. It is such good news, worthy of being shared, and has much power when shared. We do so on a daily basis, approximately 30 minutes each schoolday in chapel worship, the year round. Also we have Sunday School and morning and evening worship every Lord's day."

"There are many who never accept the gift of salvation by faith. But, year after year, normally over 100 souls do, sometimes many more than that. The challenge then, with each new decision made for Christ, is to disciple, to nurture that one toward a mature and fruitful Christian walk."

In the meantime, Kathy is doing well in her schoolwork, currently fourth in the class. She is also a hardworker in her physical chores. She has done an excellent job in watching the serving lines during meals, seeing that the pans are replenished as they are emptied. Also she has enjoyed working with the Flag Corps at Oneida. She has a more conscious love for the 'stars and stripes' than many who take for granted the freedom and opportunity the American flag represents.

Kathy says: "My family and I are really lucky, like my grandma used to say about those who live in America. To live in the United States is a privilege, and to be free from the kinds of things we had to deal with in Vietnam. It is possible to have the things you want here, if you are willing to work for them."

A Birthday Gift for Jesus?

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and fed thee? or thirsty and gave you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger, and took you in? or naked and clothed you? When did we see you sick, or in prison and visited you? And the king shall answer: 'In doing these things unto one of the least of these, my brothers, you have done it unto me.' " Matthew 25: 37-40