

## Legislators urge prayer; workers wait on news

Meeting in the shadow of war, state lawmakers have called on Kentuckians to fast and pray for peace.

The General Assembly's resolution—adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives—calls Kentucky citizens "to fasting and prayer for the forgiveness, mercy and favor of almighty God."

The resolution echoes the words of President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, at the height of the Civil War.

"Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient," the resolution states, "... too proud as a government to openly acknowledge our need for divine forgiveness, mercy, guidance and favor."

It quotes a passage from the Old Testament, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Rep. Tom Riner, D-Louisville, said the resolution reflects a feeling that war is a curse and that world leaders need God's guidance.

"There exists today a deep spiritual consensus among Americans of all faiths and all walks of life that regardless of how noble a leader's intentions may be, no individual is capable of making such decisions without relying upon the wisdom and the strength of the living God," he said.

Among other events related to the war:
 

- Baptist personnel had avoided injury last week following the third Iraqi missile attack on Israel.

"We heard explosions pretty loudly where we were," said Kathy Sibley, a Southern Baptist in the Tel Aviv area.

Despite the frightening conditions, "believers are standing very strong as far as we can tell," she said.

• American military action may have a negative impact on ministry to Arabs, said Sonny Rogerson, who ministers in churches in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

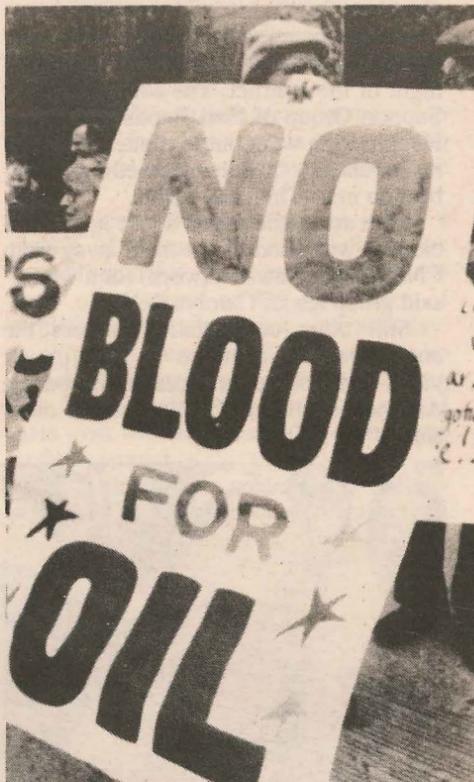
"I'm afraid the long-term effects of this war will be devastating," he said.

• Christian representatives who evacuated to Cyprus from Jordan and Israel just ahead of the war are praying they will be able to return to their ministries.

"I don't think we're talking about a long-term evacuation," said David Smith, a Southern Baptist who served in Israel.

In the meantime, watching the war on TV frustrates the workers. Missionaries are

*continued on page 2*



**STRONG FEELINGS**—Conflict in the Middle East has brought out strong feelings about war and peace from people the world over. Pickets voiced dissent against the possible sacrifice of people for petroleum during a march at the United



Nations in New York City. But supporters of the military action also have made their feelings known. A pro-war demonstrator wearing a Saddam Hussein mask marched near the White House in Washington. (Photos by RNS/Reuters)

## 'Fellowship' committee plans for future

by Stan Hastey

The interim steering committee of the Southern Baptist "fellowship" formed last summer will recommend a formal name for the group, a new center for world missions and a search for an executive director.

The temporary panel agreed on "The Baptist Fellowship" as a name to be recommended to a convocation May 9-11 in Atlanta.

The fellowship is comprised of moderate Southern Baptists concerned about the rightward shift in the denomination. It held its first convocation in Atlanta last summer.

The steering committee voted to incorporate and asked Moderator Daniel Vestal of Atlanta to appoint a task force to develop the legal framework for incorporation. The action to incorporate is a necessary legal step rather than a move toward forming a

new convention, committee members said.

Participants at the May convocation, to be held in Atlanta's Omni Coliseum, also will be asked to approve a world missions center. It would function as a "catalyst for cooperative missions projects and ministries," planners said.

It would be a think-tank for world evangelization and strategic mission planning. It also would publish literature; sponsor conferences, crusades and mission partnerships; and be a center for fostering renewal for missionaries, clergy and laypeople." An eight-member task force will flesh out the proposal.

The committee also gave temporary approval—subject to vote at the convocation—to task teams on ethics, theological education and literature. The three panels presumably would make specific recommendations at a later date for initiatives in

each of these areas.

The convocation planning committee reported the May program will include worship, workshops and business.

It will open with a worship service Thursday evening, May 9, said John H. Hewett of Asheville, N.C., co-chair of the committee. The meeting also will feature workshops in 10 locations, two business sessions and two more worship services.

Four subcommittees—program, registration, networking and local arrangements—are at work.

The committee voted to employ L.H. Johnson, a retired church administrator from Atlanta, as logistics coordinator for the convocation. He will work from the organization's new office in Marietta, Ga., an Atlanta suburb.

In addition to approving the Johnson

*continued on page 2*

## Enlistment underway for pre-SBC projects

by Mark Wingfield

Volunteer enlistment has begun for evangelism, church starting and ministry projects slated for Atlanta prior to the June 4-6 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The projects are all part of Crossover Atlanta, an SBC effort initiated by President Morris Chapman.

The basic element of Crossover Atlanta is door-to-door witnessing in eight metropolitan Atlanta associations for three days. Additional projects include a one-day Soul Winning Encounter, construction of four to seven church buildings during a three-week period and a telemarketing project the week of the convention to start a new church.

For the main evangelistic blitz, churches from outside the Atlanta area will team up with churches inside the Atlanta area.

Teams from 1,000 churches nationwide are expected to join teams from 100 Atlanta-area churches in door-to-door witnessing. The SBC Home Mission Board

has designed an evangelistic tract especially for the Atlanta project.

The three-day project will begin Wednesday night, May 29, with launch services in Atlanta-area churches and conclude with Sunday morning services June 2. New converts will be referred to local churches.

Additionally, a Crossover Atlanta rally will be held at Baptist Tabernacle in downtown Atlanta Friday night, May 31. Speakers will be Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., and Darrell Gilyard, pastor of Victory Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas.

The one-day Soul Winning Encounter is scheduled for Saturday, June 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It also will include door-to-door witnessing and will be similar to projects in Las Vegas and New Orleans.

Construction projects will begin the week before the convention and conclude the week after the convention. As many as seven church buildings will be constructed across the metropolitan Atlanta area.

The telemarketing project will be done

from a specially equipped room at the convention site. Three hundred volunteers are needed to give one hour each making phone calls to prospects for the new church.

Churches desiring to participate in the three-day evangelistic partnership should send a letter of commitment to Bobby Sunderland, Crossover Atlanta coordinator, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601. Deadline is April 30.

Individuals desiring to participate in the one-day Soul Winning Encounter should contact Howard Ramsey, HMB director of personal evangelism, at the same address or call (404) 898-7180.

Individuals or churches desiring to participate in construction projects should contact Elmer Goble, HMB associate director of short-term volunteers, at the same address or call (800) HMB-VOLS.

Volunteers for the telemarketing project should write Sid Hopkins, Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association, 1648 Highway 29, Lawrenceville, Ga. 30244. (BP)

Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

January 29, 1991

**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.

# Troops' families discover Baptists' care

by Betty Anderson  
& Suzanne Darland  
State Correspondents

Stress and suffering joined hands as war engulfed the Middle East. They afflicted not only the men and women on the battle's front lines, but also relatives and families at home.

Several Kentucky Baptist congregations, particularly those near military bases at Forts Campbell and Knox, braced for such a time. Now they are responding to families traumatized by war.

A Baptist Women's group at Vine Grove Baptist Church in Hardin County near Fort Knox launched a family-support circle several weeks ago.

Lois Riffle, wife of a serviceman, credits the group with providing a "spiritual dimension" to such opportunities. "We want to be an extended family," she explained, "to care in a spiritual way."

Don Vance, a member of Valley View Baptist Church in Vine Grove and a sergeant with the 530th Maintenance Company, was scheduled to retire. But his retirement was put on hold due to the conflict.

Vance is one of several individual Baptists working on post with an established family-support group to provide emotional help to families needing it.

At Youngers Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, the congregation has reversed the tables and is supporting Pastor Henry M. White. A reservist, White says the church is very encouraging of his extra job. As chaplain for the 100th division in Louisville, White admits that he currently gives extra time to telephone counseling of men and women in that unit.

Stress seminars have been conducted by at least two churches near Fort Campbell.

John Lepper, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry and church administration department, coun-

seled at First Baptist Church of Oak Grove in Christian County Jan. 13. Pastor John Walker said many members brought friends from the community who were comforted by the session.

Retired chaplain Col. Frank Deese of Hopkinsville headed a list of leaders for a Jan. 19 seminar at Henderson Memorial Baptist Church there. The event was sponsored by the congregation's Military Wives Support Group.

Anticipating the seminar, Henderson Memorial member Nancy Schneeberg said: "It's different from talking on the phone. We say we're all right, but I want to see them—to see that they are all right."

The church's 18-member Military Wives Support Group meets three times monthly.



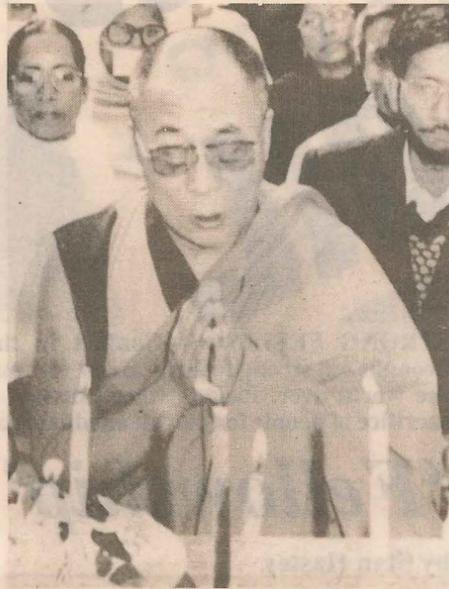
**PEACE PRAYERS**—Christians are not the only people praying for peace in the Middle East. An Israeli reserve soldier (left) carried an Uzi submachine gun over his shoulder as he read scripture during a prayer service at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. And Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama prayed after leading 50,000 people on a peace march in Sarnath, India. (Photos by RNS/Reuters)

Not all participants are Baptists, and not all were born in America.

Yet another organization proceeded with lighter business as usual on the second night of the conflict. The Military Wives Support Group of First Baptist Church in Hopkinsville went out to dinner at a local restaurant as scheduled, something members do most Thursday nights.

"We asked the ladies about it, and decided it was good to get them away from CNN (Cable News Network) for a while," said group leader Carolyn Self.

Still other congregations across the commonwealth continue to hold prayer vigils and special services remembering Americans who are fighting on the other side of the globe.



# SBTS students called into duty

continued from page 1

asking, "Why should our missionary call and vision be squeezed down into 20 diagonal inches and filtered through the editorial view of Cable News Network?" reported Doug Clark, an Assemblies of God missionary administrator.

• Grief characterizes the feelings of many missionaries whose ministry has been interrupted by the war.

"Our workers have deeply invested themselves in ministry. That's the reason the grief is profound," said Eddie Fields, a Southern Baptist.

• Most volunteers planning to do mission work overseas have an attitude that "life must go on," despite terrorism threats, said Ron Boswell, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's volunteer department.

However, volunteer trips to the Middle East are on hold. Insurance will not cover death or disability for victims of war. The Foreign Mission Board self-insures each career missionary for \$100,000 in life insurance benefits.

• The Baptist World Alliance has called on Baptists to pray for peace and for all the people of the Middle East.

"We want to assure our brothers and sisters living in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and the Middle East that we are joining them in prayer for peace," said Denton Lotz, general secretary, and Knud Wumpleman, president, of the BWA.

• A trio of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary students have swapped their seminary textbooks for military uniforms.

Robert Brill of Louisville; Kristin Kennedy of Edmond, Okla.; and Terry Roberts of Dayton, Ohio, have been called from military reserve status to active duty.

Roberts went to Saudi Arabia, Brill has reported to Fort Knox and Kennedy is in Europe. (BP, WR)

## Benberg named acting president

Tom E. Benberg has been named acting president of Georgetown College in Georgetown, pending the Jan. 31 retirement of President W. Morgan Patterson.

Benberg, the Kentucky Baptist school's vice president for administration and finance, was chosen acting president last week by Georgetown trustees, announced Chairman Robert G. Baker, pastor of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville.

He will begin his duties Feb. 1 and will retain his current responsibilities.

"Our presidential search committee ... is not ready at this particular time to recommend a presidential candidate to the board of trustees," Baker said. Benberg is not a candidate for president, he added.

Benberg has worked at Georgetown College since 1979. He earned a doctor's degree in education from East Texas State University in Commerce, a master's degree from Indiana University in Bloomington and a bachelor's degree from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

## 'Fellowship' committee suggests name, world missions center

continued from page 1

appointment, the committee authorized Vestal to contract with other staff as needed to promote the convocation.

Walter B. Shurden of Macon, Ga., presented a motion to form a search committee to seek an executive director. The motion was approved, and it will be presented at the May convocation.

Baptist Cooperative Missions Program

## California editor picked to head Baptist Press

by Polly House

Herbert V. Hollinger, editor of the California Southern Baptist, has been elected director of Baptist Press, the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Hollinger will be vice president for Baptist Press at the SBC Executive Committee, which operates the central office of the news system.

Hollinger, 49, has been editor of the California Southern Baptist Convention's newspaper since 1983. Previously, he was editor of the Northwest Baptist Convention's newspaper for five years.

He fills a vacancy created when the Executive Committee fired Dan Martin and Al Shackleford last summer.

The committee met in a called session for three hours July 17 before announcing that Vice President for Public Relations/BP Director Shackleford and BP News Editor Martin were terminated. Committee members voted to keep their deliberations secret and declined to cite cause for the firings.

Since that meeting, the committee re-

structured its communications staff.

Shackleford's position was divided. Mark Coppenger, formerly executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, has been elected vice president for public relations. He also assumed a portion of the responsibilities for managing the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, formerly directed by the vice president for business and finance.

In assuming the vice presidency for Baptist Press, Hollinger takes on a consolidation of responsibilities formerly held by Shackleford and Martin.

Another BP position—formerly called feature editor—has been vacant since Marv Knox became editor of the Western Recorder June 1.

Hollinger will be responsible for filling the remaining vacancy, said Executive Committee President Harold C. Bennett.

Hollinger is a native of Idaho and a graduate of the University of Idaho and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of churches in California and Washington.

Based on reports from other churches whose budget years began Jan. 1, sizable increases are expected, Cothen said.

In order to encourage and inform other congregations about the new funding plan, committee members agreed to organize a network of trained volunteers to promote BCMP as an alternative to sending national mission funds through the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. (ABP)

He and his wife, Mary, have three adult children, Doug, Kerri and Tracy.

"Both my wife and I have sought the Lord's will," Hollinger said. "Most of my ministry has been in the West, but God has given us a new direction. "I'm very interested in what happens to Baptist Press. I want to see it be the finest news service it can be."

"Frankly, I thought God might have someone else for the job, but I guess it's me."

Hollinger was the unanimous choice of the Executive Committee's president and officers. He, Coppenger and Richard P. Rosenbaum, vice president for business and finance, are subject to approval by the full Executive Committee when it meets Feb. 18-20. (BP, WR)

## Correction

Keitha Brasler, not Keitha Brasher, is the teacher of a special-needs Sunday school class at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville ("Highland helping those with special needs," WR, Jan. 22).

Brasler has asked for clarification of an indirect quote attributed to her which stated "mainstreaming is not a possibility for adults."

"A more accurate quote would be that it would be difficult—but not impossible—to mainstream this particular group of adults because of their history of long-term institutionalization," she wrote. "Our goal is to include all persons in every chronologically age-appropriate program and service to this church."

# Break tradition to share gospel, laypeople told

by Suzanne Darland  
State Correspondent

Many church members are so overwhelmed with "in-house" jobs and activities that they have forgotten to reach out to a hurting world that needs Christ, William D. Jagers told Kentucky Baptist leaders.

"Laypeople must reach out beyond traditional church ministries if they are to reach 170 million lost Americans, including 2 million Kentuckians," said Jagers, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's office for evangelism.

"A lot of people won't come to church. The laity must carry the responsibility," Jagers said during a marketplace retreat Jan. 18-19 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. About 50 associational directors of missions and Brotherhood directors attended.

"We are the mobile body of the living Lord," echoed Robert Y. Simpkins, director of the KBC Brotherhood department. "We can't afford to let it stagnate in a bricks and mortar situation."

All too often pastors are expected to win the world for Christ while their church members do little to advance the cause, he added.

Simpkins called for "radical stuff," a change of perspective, in which pastors spend time training and encouraging their army of members on the front lines of ministry—where they work, shop and play.

What that means, said Don Putnam, who owns a computer program trouble-shooting firm in Lexington, is that Christians should go to work with the attitude, "We are priests to those around us."

"It's having our antenna up," he explained. "There will be a moment in time

when it will be appropriate to say something as a witness for Christ."

A shop owner can gain a reputation for counseling customers who have lost their jobs or are having troubled marriages, he continued. A dentist can chat about his faith as Christian music is piped into the office. A nurse can witness to other nurses of her calm assurance in Christ in a stress-filled world.

Since most women are working and retirees are returning to work, most non-Christians now are in the work world, Jagers explained. That was not true a generation ago. As the pace of the 1990s becomes more hectic and isolated, the only place to reach most non-Christians is in the marketplace.

"Coal miners can reach coal miners, lawyers can reach lawyers, teachers can reach teachers," he suggested. "They're reaching in their own language, in their own culture. It's not a strained witness. They've known this person and have worked

with this person. They have things in common."

Simpkins hopes to sell the concept of marketplace evangelism to Baptist churches across Kentucky through four follow-up meetings this spring: March 16 at First Church of Ashland; March 23 at Oaklawn Church in Paducah; April 6 at Trinity Church in Lexington; and April 20 at Hurstbourne Church in Louisville.

"Being nice is simply not good enough," Putnam warned. "Atheists and non-believers can be nice, too." Christians must be committed to sharing their faith along with heavy doses of caring and love, he noted.

"Marketplaces ministries can be as simple as baking for neighbors, with the express purpose of witnessing along with the loving action," Simpkins added.

"My belief is that there is a rising awareness among the laity that there is something special and meaningful God wants them to do. It's not simply washing communion cups."

## Brazil travel safe, says Wilkins

### partnership missions

by Marv Knox, Editor

War-related travel advisories have not halted Kentucky Baptists' partnership with their colleagues in Brazil.

The U.S. State Department has advised Americans that travel in Europe, the Middle East, northern Africa and southern Asia is dangerous, due to threats of Iraqi terrorism.

Those warnings do not impact travel to South America. So, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership with Baptists in the Brazilian state of Espirito Santo is not affected directly, said Calvin Wilkins, partnership missions coordinator.

In fact, Wilkins' office sponsored an orientation for volunteers last weekend.

Still, threat of terrorism has made an indirect impact on the partnership.

"We are experiencing some holdoff," he explained. "Some people are frightened because of the threat of terrorism. But we're proceeding with our projects."

Overall, the partnership needs 200 Kentucky volunteers this year, he noted.

"The top priorities for 1991 include seven construction/evangelism projects," he said. "Requests for 12 chapels to be built in 1991 will require at least 100 volunteers. As each chapel is being built, evangelism will also be a key element. Hopefully, as the con-

struction team works on the chapel a team will also work at the same site to do personal evangelism during the day and then conduct evangelistic services each evening."

Planners hope to send three 16-member medical teams on projects this year. Other needs include teachers of conversational English, who will spend four weeks with Brazilians, Wilkins said: "The previous projects have been greatly used to prepare those who participated to become interpreters (for Kentucky volunteers). These projects are great opportunities to reach Brazilians for Christ."

Other projects include church recreation, family enrichment, student work, sports evangelism, music and deacon training.

For more information about the partnership, contact Wilkins at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown, Ky. 40253-0433; phone (502) 245-4101.

Some of last year's results:

Volunteers .....	210
Professions of faith .....	1,345
Other decisions .....	1,422
Medical patients treated .....	6,536
Chapels built .....	2
Seminary students taught .....	625
Children in Big "A" clubs .....	1,256
Evangelism clinics .....	141
English students .....	280
Muslim students .....	2,474
Baptist Student Union workers .....	6
Average professions per volunteer ....	6.4

## KBHC sets self-sufficiency plan

by Beth W. Prassel

Twelve teen-agers gather around tables, looking through apartment guides and catalogs full of furniture. They ask questions about rental costs, mattresses, appliances and low-priced furniture stores.

They appear ready to move into their own apartments. But they aren't.

The young people are participants in a HELP—How to Experience Life's Possibilities—class at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Metro Louisville office.

The program prepares older youth for independent living.

"Most youthful participants have never been to a bank and know nothing about money management," said Martha Elder, a HELP class instructor. "They can get a job but don't know how to keep it."

Youth who have been in residential

homes usually have at least nine jobs before they keep one long term, she explained. They don't know how to deal with the public, supervisors or fellow employees.

Elder and her assistant, Freda Parker, devise situations for the classroom as near reality as possible.

In a unit on apartment living, for example, students must decide how much they will have to spend for rent and furnishings. They learn about deposits, leases and engaging utility services.

Five HELP classes meet two hours weekly for 22 weeks. Participants encounter 13 real-life situations during the course.

HELP is funded through an independent living grant and is open to Jefferson County youth committed to the state Cabinet of Human Resources. Students are referred to the program by their social workers. More than 300 youth are eligible, said Elder.



**PAY-OFF TIME**—After a dozen years, Beth Henry (center) and other leaders of a Cambodian ministry at First Baptist Church in Bowling Green are seeing results as conversions from Buddhism to Christianity occur. She is shown with the first two Cambodians reached, Jackie Prom and Nat Ta.

## Cambodians in Bowling Green converted in First Baptist effort

by Bill Moore  
State Correspondent

Several years of patience and loving care elapsed before First Baptist Church saw any Cambodians in Bowling Green accept Christ as their savior.

Now, a dozen years after the first immigrants arrived, an active ministry helps meet their needs. It includes nearly a dozen native Cambodians who are members of the congregation and more who attend regularly. Still others who converted from Buddhism to Christianity while in Bowling Green have moved to other American cities.

On a recent Sunday morning, 16 children, four youth and five adults attended church. The children sang choruses as enthusiastically—some as mischievously—as any American youngsters.

The children attend regular Sunday school classes but participate in a separate worship hour planned for them.

Layman Chester Redmond teaches a Bible study for the Cambodian adults, then leads them in a discussion group during the following hour. The latter session is a combination of teaching English, American culture and Christianity.

While Cambodians encounter language and culture adjustment, they also experience the lingering trauma of atrocities

endured by their nation. Only 12 of 600 physicians remain in Cambodia, for example, the immigrants said. Most of the others were killed.

Despite this, Redmond described the Bowling Green, Ky. as happy, well-adjusted and industrious. He praised them as "the hardest-working people I know." The children are doing well in school, he said. One high school graduate received a four-year scholarship to Western Kentucky University in 1990.

Seath Bun, who participates in the Bowling Green program, is a native Cambodian with a deep faith in God. Bun began attending Christian services while he was in a refugee camp. He drives a church bus carrying Cambodians to and from the weekly services.

"I wish more of our people would come and worship God," he said.

About 30 Cambodian families live in Bowling Green. Laotians and Vietnamese also have moved into the area. All three groups are represented at other local churches, including a small Laotian ministry at Hillvue Heights Baptist Church.

First Baptist Church also conducts programs for Russians and the deaf and provides community ministries.

Assisting Redmond with the Cambodian work are his wife, Ann, and Beth Henry and Pat Glascock.

# 'What's best' for the Sunday School Board?

## editorial

Marv Knox

A single theme echoes through the latest, painful chapter in the history of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"I just want to do what's best for the Sunday School Board."

The board's president said it. Numerous trustees said it. The president of the Southern Baptist Convention said it.

"What's best" turned out to be early retirement for board President Lloyd Elder and promises all-around to work for a smooth transition of leadership.

Elder will be president until Jan. 31, 1992, or 30 days after his successor is chosen, whichever comes first. Then he will be a consultant until April 1, 1993. He will retain his full salary—\$135,800—until retirement, and retire at half salary. He agreed not to compete with the board and never to do or say anything "not in the best interest of the board."

The trustees and Elder wrote this chapter in the board's history from an impasse. They could not agree about what is "the best interest of the board."

For much of Elder's presidency, some conservative trustees argued that he was not right for the job. Almost 18 months ago, they debated a motion to fire him before the motion was withdrawn.

Their relationship took a downturn this winter, following a fairly peaceful summer meeting. Would Elder have been fired at their called trustee meeting Jan. 17? At least 15 members of the 90-member trustee board requested the special meeting to evaluate his presidency. He pre-empted their course by offering to resign only hours before the meeting started.

Trustees built a three-point case against the president. They claimed:

### • Editorial bias.

H. Leon McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, wrote the manuscript for a centennial history of the board. Trustees who read a draft of the manuscript said it was biased against conservatives and unduly favorable of Elder's presidency. Consequently, trustees voted last summer to recommend that the board not publish the book, and administrators complied.

Elder's supporters have insisted trustees placed him in double jeopardy when they used the centennial book as evidence that Elder is not doing his job.

Trustees respond that three new items surfaced since last summer.

First is knowledge of the latitude Elder gave McBeth in researching the book. They cite a Jan. 31, 1989, memo from Elder giving McBeth permission to study "all materials needed for a thorough research" of the history. They say Elder should not have allowed the author to study confidential materials involving lawsuits.

Elder supporters counter that he would

have been wrong to try to interfere in research. They say he properly allowed the author to research his work and the board's editors and attorneys to deal with the manuscript according to policy.

Second is Elder's failure to provide information to trustees regarding an attorney's reservations about the book.

They cite a Nov. 7, 1989, letter from Robert P. Thomas, an outside attorney held on retainer by the board, to a staff lawyer, Norm Finney. Thomas said material on four employee cases "has potential for exposing the board to future legal and/or other problems." Thomas also expressed a "non-legal concern" about "a noticeable bias ... against the conservatives."

Elder's critics say he should have told trustees about that letter when publication was discussed last summer.

His supporters note first that the letter exchange substantiates their claim that board procedure was working—editors took questions to in-house attorneys who buttressed their findings with opinion from outside counsel. They also note that Elder, citing potential conflict of interest, had removed himself from oversight of the project. They say Elder had given that responsibility to Johnnie Godwin, the board's vice president for general publishing, a claim documented by an Oct. 3, 1989, memo from Elder to Godwin. So, Godwin, not Elder, had full responsibility for helping trustees.

The third new item in the history-book affair is Elder's statement about it after the fact. Critics cite a letter from Elder to McBeth dated Sept. 28, 1990.

Elder's letter calls the episode "painful and regrettable." He says the "position of the administration was, and is, that the manuscript was worthy, though not yet ready for publication: that it was unfortunately interrupted in its final editing process." He notes McBeth "did fulfill your commission to write a history of the board ..." and describes McBeth as a "distinguished historian, a thorough researcher, a skilled writer, and an esteemed and faithful Southern Baptist scholar."

The letter notes the administration "understands and affirms the role of the trustee board to make policy and set direction," and "we accepted the counsel" of the trustees. The project was pulled when "after review, the trustees came to a position: that the manuscript was not balanced, would fan the flames of controversy and that any history during this period of denominational tumult would risk offending."

Supporters say Elder's letter fairly reflects the trustees' rationale as well as actions. Its tone, they add, is flavored by longstanding friendship.

Critics charge Elder "hung us out to dry" with the letter. They dispute his notion that any history written now would be divisive and claim the editing process had been completed. Because he did not endorse the trustees' findings and

practically apologized for pulling the project, they insist, Elder undermined the trustees. In so doing, he set himself over against the trustees and fueled denominational controversy by making the issue political, which it was not, they maintain.

### • Financial mismanagement.

Trustees say Elder has not provided the board with sound financial leadership. During the Jan. 17 meeting, Dan Collins, chair of the board's general administration committee, noted "three business ventures (have) failed, losing \$20 million to \$25 million." Asked for clarification, Collins identified those as the Baptist Telecommunication Network; Church Information Services, a computer system; and Genevox, a music-publishing label. Collins also noted the board's business and finance division repeatedly has warned Elder about financial declines.

Elder noted that Baptist Telecommunication Network, or BTN, was started under the previous administration and that he inherited a financial nightmare in telecommunication. He stressed that he made the tough decision to scuttle BTN because it could not pay its own way.

Elder also said he instituted the financial mechanisms that provided the board's business division with an early-warning system. Rather than ignore those warnings, he made them possible and took them seriously, he added. Last summer, Elder took note of the financial shortcomings of the new computer system and Genevox but said the short-term losses actually are investments in lucrative markets.

Elder defended his other business practices. Describing how he had dealt with unfavorable economic trends, he said the board froze employment, gave up salary increases in 1988-89, developed an improved distribution plan, improved products and focused on marketing and distribution. Revenue grew from \$96 million to \$176 million in the past decade, he said, and sales increased from \$133 million to \$180 million. As innovations, he cited forthcoming publication of the New American Commentary and the "Baptist Hymnal;" a new magazine, "Growing Churches;" and improvements in Sunday school literature.

However, Charles Wilson, a trustee from Somerdale, N.J., introduced another way of examining business statistics. Adjusted for inflation over the past six years, sales of church literature, Convention Press and Broadman Press materials and Baptist Book Stores all posted declines, ranging up to 25.5 percent.

Elder's supporters say those inflation-adjusted declines reflect the reality of hard economic times. They also claim that by narrowing the theological scope of the board's materials during the past decade, the trustees shrunk the size of the market in which the board competes.

### • Secret tapings.

Trustees produced signed affidavits charging Elder with secretly tape-recording telephone conversations he had

with board Chair Bill Anderson and with Thomas. The affidavits were signed by Finney and E.V. King, the board's vice president for business and finance.

In addition, four trustees said Elder twice denied taping the telephone calls.

Confronted with the affidavits and the testimony of the trustees, Elder did not directly deny their charges.

"I'm in substantial agreement with these men about their memories," he said. "We have taped 'conference-type' calls to do the work of the board. Your personal calls coming into my office are not taped."

So there you have it: Editorial bias, financial mismanagement, secret tapings. Elder and the board disagreed over the validity of those charges. They reached an impasse, and Elder took retirement.

Elder's retirement agreement—approved both by him and the trustees—says the situation was not political or theological "but rather results from the parties' honest and good-faith differences with regard to the board's management."

One Kentucky trustee wisely noted, however, "Southern Baptists are going to believe whatever they choose to believe."

And that brings us right back to the theme of this latest chapter in the board's history. The participants all said, "I just want to do what's best for the Sunday School Board." Southern Baptists will determine if this solution is "best."

Many conservatives are thrilled that Elder will be leaving. They are delighted that a board composed of people they have supported will choose a new president to lead the agency into its second century. Some of them wish Elder had been forced to leave the presidency immediately. Some wish the terms of his retirement were not as large as they are. But on the whole, they express pleasure with the situation.

Many moderates, on the other hand, are angry. Some of them are disappointed in Elder for not putting up a fight. Some resent the money he's getting. Some are mad at the trustees for, they believe, forcing a good leader to quit at the prime of his career. Some are afraid they no longer will recognize the board when new leaders develop staff and programs.

And many Southern Baptists reflect a range of other emotions: confusion, relief that an apparent battle was averted, ignorance of what the board is and what it does, apathy over denominational life in general, boredom with "the fight" in the convention, other feelings yet to be voiced.

In the end, all these Baptists will decide whether Elder and the trustees did "what's best" for the board.

They'll begin the next time they pick up a literature order form or when they drive by a Baptist Book Store. If Baptists' faith in the board has been strengthened, then "what's best" will have been secured. But if Baptists' faith in the board has eroded, then the board's "best" will be left for historians to discover.

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

MARV KNOX, Editor

JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor

RAY L. HAYES, Business Manager

C. R. DALEY, Editor Emeritus

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

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

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

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

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

# Respond now to support House Bill 11

## legislative update

by Marv Knox, Editor

Baptists can help get drunk drivers off Kentucky highways. But they must act now.

Strengthened "driving-under-the-influence" legislation awaits lawmakers' approval during the current special session of the General Assembly.

If enacted, the new laws would define "driving under the influence" tightly. The legal determination would be based upon a driver's blood-alcohol content, not the apparent ability or inability to drive. This would reduce plea-bargaining among arrested drunk drivers.

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

Supporters of the legislation say they need the help of the Kentucky religious community.

"Legislators are saying, 'I haven't heard much support for this bill,'" reported Earl Bell, president of the Kentucky chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and a former vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

In the House of Representatives, the legislation—House Bill 11—has been assigned to the Judiciary Committee. Supporters are pleading a flood of favorable letters and phone calls to descend on every member of the committee.

The members, their legislative districts, addresses and phone numbers are:

Chairperson Louis Johnson (13)  
1511 Kent Pl.  
Owensboro 42301  
(502) 926-1717 - Office  
(502) 685-1514 - Home

Jon Ackerson (47)  
110 Kentucky Towers  
Louisville 40202  
(502) 587-8111 - O  
(502) 583-0569 - O

Joe Barrows (56)  
152 Stout Ave.  
Versailles 40383  
(606) 873-3341 - O  
(606) 873-9768 - H

Michael Bowling (87)  
No. 3, Edgerwood Ct.  
Middlesboro 40965  
(606) 248-4666 - O  
(606) 248-8660 - H

Jo Elizabeth Bryant (82)  
North 10th  
Williamsburg 40769  
(606) 549-4987 - H

Bill Lear (79) (Co-sponsor)  
732 Lakeshore Dr.  
Lexington 40502  
(606) 231-3000 - O  
(606) 269-4852 - H



Lindy Casebier (29)  
10807 Marcitis Rd.  
Louisville 40272  
(502) 583-0569 - O  
(502) 935-4805 - H

Herbie Deskins Jr. (94)  
P.O. Box 1199  
Pikeville 41501  
(606) 437-6206 - O  
(606) 432-3414 - H

Charles Geveden (1)  
P.O. Box 518  
Wickliffe 42087  
(502) 335-3186 - O  
(502) 335-3683 - H

Bob Heleringer (33)  
14209 Glendower Dr.  
Louisville 40245  
(502) 584-3187 - O  
(502) 245-7173 - H

Thomas Rober Kerr (64)  
5415 Old Taylor Mill Rd.  
Taylor Mill 41015  
(606) 431-2222 - O  
(606) 356-1344 - H

Chester "Bud" Gregory (25)  
1220 Pear Orchard Rd.  
Elizabethtown 42701  
(502) 737-5616 - O  
(502) 765-2519 - H

Richard H. Lewis (6) (Sponsor)  
P.O. Box 430  
Benton 42025  
(502) 527-1343 - O  
(502) 527-9312 - H

Steven R. Nunn (23)  
118 Wingate  
Glasgow 42141  
(502) 651-5286 - H

Raymond Overstreet (52)  
Box U, Riverview Estates  
Liberty 42539  
(606) 787-8347 - O  
(606) 787-7062 - H

Lawson Walker (66)  
7300 Turfway Rd.  
Suite 430  
Florence 41042  
(606) 283-0515 - O  
(606) 341-9064 - H

Mike Ward (34)  
1905 Deer Park Ave.  
Louisville 40205  
(502) 587-0954 - O  
(502) 451-3867 - H

Marshall Long (58)  
P.O. Box 505  
Shelbyville 40065  
(502) 633-3181 - O  
(502) 633-3621 - H

Citizens also have been urged to contact their own representatives and House leaders: Don Blandford, speaker; Pete Worthington, speaker pro-tem; Greg Stumbo, majority leader; Kenny Rapier, majority whip; Jody Richards, Democratic caucus leader.

All the lawmakers can receive messages through the Representative Message Line: (800) 372-7181. Their address is: Legislative Offices, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.



**on  
mission  
together**

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

## Down but not out

About seven years ago, the executive board approved the creation of a unit with its primary focus on helping ministers and their families.

Like it or not, right or wrong, much of Southern Baptist progress depends upon leadership from those whom churches call to serve them as pastor.

The "match" of congregation and pastor does not always materialize positively. And, if someone must separate, it is almost always the pastor—sometimes like the layman who goes into work on Friday and the supervisor says he no longer has a job.

Anyone who has been "fired" understands the pain, embarrassment, frustration and stress of such an experience.

Among its many ministries, the executive board through the minister/church support division offers emergency financial aid. The funds are minimal but they are sometimes like a candle on a dark night. This letter, dated Jan. 4 to Bill Rogers, who pioneered this work and still serves as a consultant, is but one example:

"Dear Brother Rogers,

"Forgive me for not having written sooner. My husband and I indeed did not want you and the KBC to feel like we were ungrateful for the assistance you saw fit to give in a very difficult time of our life. It is so miraculous how the Lord works. The financial assistance you saw fit to send to our aid was used toward groceries, gas and utilities most of all. It helped us hold things together until my husband could get some work. We are so thankful that there was a program set up for cases such as ours in which Christians have the means to reach out helping hand to those less fortunate in the ministry.

"My husband is now pastor of a little church in Tennessee. He is bivocational at the time but it is our prayer that soon he may be able to go full-time. I ask that you pray for him because he is having trouble with his right arm and is going to have to have surgery in the near future. We have no health insurance. Where there is a will (God's will), there's a way. It is our prayer that God will continue to use the Kentucky Baptist in a great and mighty way. God Bless You."

This is just one of more than a hundred ways Kentucky Baptists minister through the Cooperative Program.

## baptist forum

### Reconsider dispensationalism

My faith is renewed in the enlightening power of the free press when I read letters like that of Dr. Dale Moody, "No Jewish evangelists," (WR, Dec. 4).

I realize that good brothers in Christ respect different views on apocalyptic or the subject of Last Things or End-Time events. But it seems that serious events of history practically force a revision of popular views on that subject. Thus the consequences are so great that views more consistent with proper biblical interpretation must be heard. What irony that the Middle East crisis may force a drastic rethinking about dispensationalism. Thus I fully appreciate what Dale Moody has written.

The mindset of dispensationalists extends far. This kind of dispensationalism accounts for church/state marriages, moralisms, censorship of other views, and a dominion theology. In this doctrine, God is called into this political realm to lend en-

dorsement to the narrow views of vested interests. While Dr. Moody did not make direct application to the Persian Gulf crisis, this mindset has a bearing on events there. Credible sources cite the definite linkage between Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and Israel's occupation of Palestine and stridency toward Gaza and the Golan Heights. It also applies to Syria's being in Lebanon.

The rock-ribbed conviction of dispensationalist fundamentalists is that national Israel is foreordained by God to succeed in rebuilding the Temple at Jerusalem and the sacrificial system is to be reinstalled. Anyone laying hands on Israel is anathema. But the Bible deals with spiritual Israel.

That's news to Jesus. He refused a political kingdom in the first advent, and he surely will reject one at the second advent.

Donald O. Cassidy  
Premium

### Show true love

Statements made in the article, "New church members need training, fellowship," (WR,

Jan. 8), pointed out a common misconception in many churches today. Many church leaders feel it is their responsibility to "train" new members to become "good" Christians. No matter how well intentioned this may be, it comes across as judgmental and often turns people away from the church instead of attracting them.

Christ did not commission us to "train." He merely asked us to share the love of God with our fellow man. (Matt. 22:37, John 13:34)

As for being taught or trained, we are to rely on the Holy Spirit and encourage others to seek its wisdom and guidance in their lives. (I John 2:27)

I agree it is important for a church to establish goals. However, I feel the time has come for our churches and our denomination to stop wasting time on attendance goals and training programs and concentrate on showing true Christian love and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Not only will our churches be improved, but so will our world.

Nita Abbott  
Whitesville

# FMB seeks solutions for rising missionary attrition

by Donald D. Martin

Overseas missions gained only one missionary for every 49 the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed from 1987 to 1989, according to the latest attrition report.

The figures contrasted sharply with the years 1980 through 1986, when every 49 additions resulted in a net gain of 12 overseas personnel. Thirty-seven of the 49 replaced those who had retired, resigned, completed service or died. From 1987-89, it took 48 of the 49 to replace losses.

A combination of fewer missionary appointments and slightly higher rates of resignations and retirements caused the change, reported Jim Slack, a consultant in the board's research and planning office.

Slack told trustees on the Foreign Mission Board's strategy committee in December that if such negative trends in personnel enlistment and retention are left unchecked, Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust goal of having a foreign mission force of 5,000 by the end of A.D. 2000 will be in jeopardy.

But FMB leaders hope an appointment upturn recorded in 1990 will continue and that it will help reverse the recent trend. Slack said the year's final total of 414 additions is encouraging. Similar annual gains through A.D. 2000 can assure the Bold Mission Thrust goal is within reach, he said.

To reach the goal, appointments for the next 10 years must increase annually by 2.58 percent. Appointment increases have averaged 2.52 percent in the last decade. The board needs to close the gap by only 0.06 percent, Slack said.

However, the next few years are critical, he noted. If appointments do not continue to increase in these years, the board will have to appoint more than 600 people a year toward the end of the '90s to reach its goal.

Slack explained how quickly the attrition picture can change. The drop in net gain on the field occurred because the declining appointments, a slight rise in retirements and a slight increase in resignations all hit at the same time, Slack said.

So where do mission administrators look for fixes?

Mission workers leave the field in one of four ways: retirements, resignations, deaths, and completion of service. No category exists for terminations because when mis-

sionaries are fired, which is rare, they are allowed to resign. These numbers dissolve into the resignation category.

Retirements are part of the process. In the 1990s, as the board pursues its enlistment goals, large groups of missionaries who joined the board after World War II will continue to retire. In the 1980s, retirements averaged about 45 a year, reaching 84 in 1989. Potential retirements in the 1990s will average 79 a year, reaching a peak in 1995 with 93 possible retirements.

Yet mission administrators can do little except plan for these losses. Resignations are where administrators can have the greatest effect.

A growing number of resignations are occurring among missionaries who were between the ages of 28 and 32 at the time of their appointment. In 1989, this baby-boomer group accounted for 42 percent of all missionary resignations.

Missionaries also are resigning earlier in their careers. In 1989 there were 174 resignations. More than 50 percent of those resigned before completing two four-year terms. The majority said they were resigning because God was leading them into a different ministry or a "change of call."

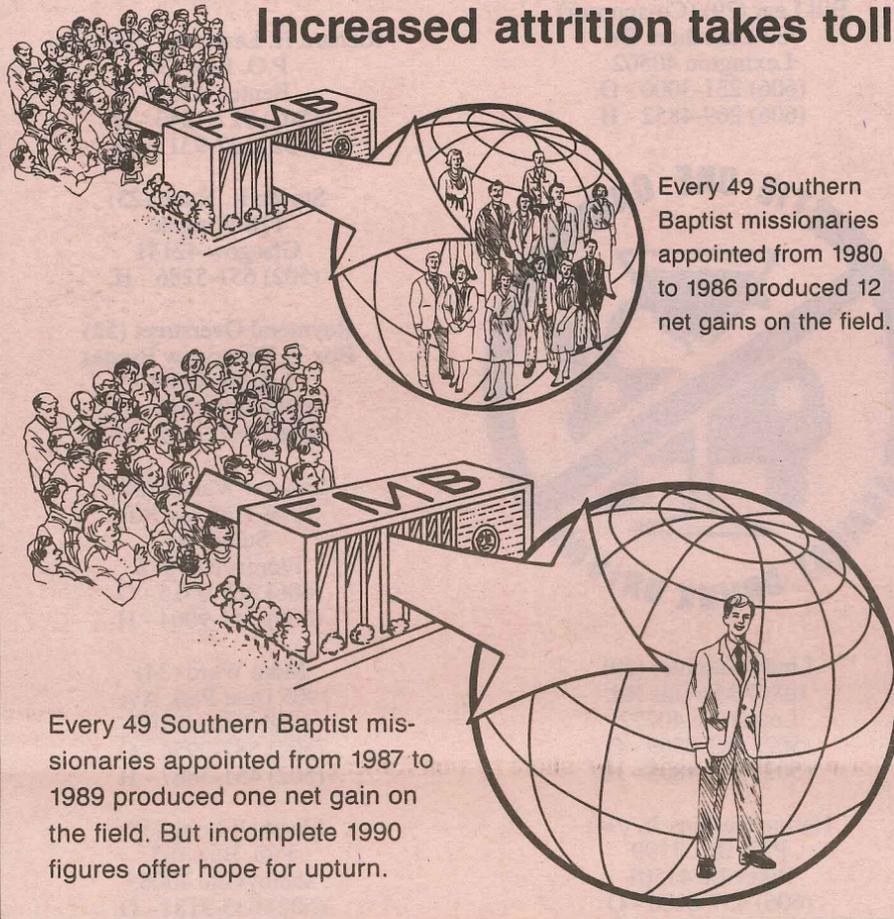
Mission leaders say if they can help new missionaries make it through two terms overseas, they almost assure their chances of never resigning. Betty Law, vice president for work in the Americas, heads a new committee to review how the board gathers information on why missionaries resign.

"Many times missionaries don't express their needs early enough," Law said. "Often by the time they state their frustrations or problems, they've made up their minds to resign. It's an irrevocable decision."

"We have to find ways to say, 'It's all right to share those concerns with us. Everyone has had the same concerns at one time or another. Let's see if we can work through it.'" (BP)

## Overseas missionary force:

### Increased attrition takes toll



## Brotherhood president projects \$6 billion CP milestone

by Jim Burton

The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program's cumulative receipts since 1925 will reach \$6 billion in 1991, projects James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president.

"We firmly believe that Southern Baptists will reach that milestone this year," said Smith. "It is a sign of the strength of our denomination. In the midst

of difficult times Southern Baptists remain committed to missions."

In 1989, Southern Baptists reached the \$5.23 billion mark. With annual giving by all Southern Baptist churches to the Cooperative Program's unified budget averaging more than \$350,000,000 per year, the \$6 billion milestone could be reached, Smith said.

Established at the Southern Baptist

Convention in Memphis in 1925, the Cooperative Program will be 66 years old this summer.

"The Brotherhood Commission wants to do its part to assure that \$6 billion is reached this year," said Smith. "I am challenging Baptist Men and Baptist Young Men's units to make stewardship a matter of personal and corporate prayer concern."

Creating a stronger Cooperative Program identity among laymen is a key to continued growth in missions support, Smith said. "Missions support is the responsibility of each Southern Baptist," he continued. "That support begins in the home where stewardship decisions are made. Men need to lead their family in that decision-making

process."

James Powell, Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission vice president for Cooperative Program promotion, noted this milestone is significant.

"This gives people even more encouragement to look at what has been done and encourage them about what can be done in the future," he said.

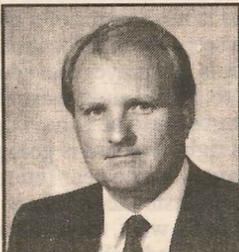
"Regardless of the size of the congregation every congregation is participating and having a part," Powell said. "That is the real key to the Cooperative Program."

"Some people don't understand the Cooperative Program because (they say) it is too big. The Cooperative Program is not too big, the job is big," he concluded. (BP)

## Conference on Cults

Sponsored by  
**Daviess-McLean Baptist Association**  
 February 7, 7 p.m. (CT)  
**Yellow Creek Baptist Church**  
 1555 Ky. Highway 144, Owensboro, Ky.

Jehovah's Witnesses



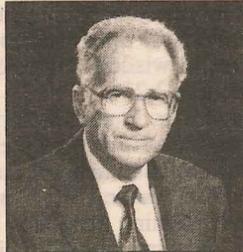
Paul Blizard, Pastor  
 First Baptist Church  
 Fairdale, and Former  
 Jehovah's Witness

New Age



Jack Oliver, Pastor  
 Vine Street Baptist  
 Church, Louisville  
 and HMB Certified  
 Consultant

Mormons



Harry Porter, Vocational  
 Evangelist, Louisville  
 and HMB Certified  
 Consultant

## RTVC installs president, acquires network

by Richard T. McCartney

Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, meeting in Fort Worth, Texas heard reports of the financial health of the agency, installed its fourth president and voted to acquire a second television network.

Under terms of a contract approved at the meeting, the RTVC would acquire FamilyNet, a television network owned by The Old Time Gospel Hour, Inc. and Liberty Broadcasting Network, Inc. both of Lynchburg, Va. Terms of the purchase were not disclosed pending completion of audits, but RTVC officials said it would involve cash and program time on ACTS and FamilyNet. The cash would be from current operating funds according to RTVC Presi-

dent Jack Johnson.

Acquisition of FamilyNet would greatly enhance the RTVC's outreach by adding a new dimension to its ministry, Johnson said. The ACTS television network, launched by the RTVC in 1984, is primarily a cable network, reaching about three-fourths of its ten million households through local cable channels. FamilyNet is primarily carried by television stations.

A service of installation for Jack Johnson as the fourth president of the RTVC was conducted in Fort Worth's Travis Avenue Baptist Church. Johnson, former executive director-treasurer for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, took office last July. Two former presidents, Paul M. Stevens and Jimmy R. Allen, participated in the installation. (BP)

## Baltic churches' advances threatened by Soviet crackdown

by Martha Skelton

In one of those self-revelatory statements East Europeans are famous for, an Estonian said last summer that his city's architecture ranged from the baroque to the "baroque"—as in army barrack.

Always a presence the Baltic peoples lived with, Soviet troops began taking over public facilities in Lithuania and Latvia in mid-January this year. At least 13 Lithuanians died trying to stop the troops. The military reality has resurged.

The reordering of Soviet society under Mikhail Gorbachev and last year's declarations of independence by the three Baltic states brought new hope and life to the peoples—including the Christians—of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. They faced many problems, but with a renewed sense of the possibility to direct their own destinies. All this is now in question.

Gorbachev appears determined to quash the independence movements in the republics, starting with the Baltics. The three once-independent nations on the coast of the Baltic Sea—swallowed by Stalinist Soviet expansion in 1940—began the parade of republics seeking independence last year.

Christians—including the 6,000 members of Evangelical Christian-Baptist churches in Estonia and the 4,500 members in Latvia—find themselves and the future of their work for Christ intertwined with these events.

In the last two years, amazing inroads have been made for the gospel in the Soviet Union and the Baltics. Believers have been acknowledged as full citizens, to be treated equally in education and employment.

"Before we were only borne in society. Now we are asked to take part," said one Latvian man.

Religious services, Christian films, interviews with church leaders broadcast on television or printed in newspapers have shown the public the numbers of believers and diversity of ministries they have in the Soviet Union. Churches have reported Communist Party members coming to enroll their children in Sunday school.

Christians also are taking part in the

overall life of their communities. In Talsi, Latvia, the pastor of the Baptist church, Aivar Skuburs, is a member of the town council.

In Parnu, Estonia, a local high school includes a religion class in its academic course of study.

One of the struggles Baltic Baptists have faced is that a popular, generic type of Christianity will overshadow the authentic gospel message. A teacher went to a Lutheran church last year and asked that his

name be put on their roll. "I don't believe in God," he told the pastor, "but the church has so much contributed to our culture."

Believers have a responsibility to counter that idea, according to one Baptist pastor. "There is a spiritual search among the people. Christianity is traditional in Estonia," he explained. Believers must preach and live an authentic Christianity, showing their society what faith really is, he indicated.

If a new period of hardship lies ahead, Baltic believers will face the future as they have faced the past. "We learned to depend only on God," one Latvian pastor said. (BP)



**FOUND FAITHFUL**—Members of the Baptist Church in Jelgava, Latvia, kneel in prayer during a worship service. Baltic church membership has been turning around since new openness brought greater opportunities to teach the Bible, evangelize and perform social ministries. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

## BWA urges Romania to approve law on religious freedom

by Wendy Ryan

Concerned about the delay of the Romanian government to pass a promised law on religious freedom and forces in Romania who are resisting such a law, the Baptist World Alliance has written Romanian president Ion Iliescu, encouraging him and his government to "approve the new law on religious freedom."

In the letter to Iliescu, BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz and President Knud Wumpelman praised the Romanian leader for the progress already made toward a democratic government in Romania, but said that "the lack of a law guaranteeing religious freedom is a glaring weakness in the progress toward democratic reform."

"With all our hearts," the Baptist leaders said, "we implore you and your government to pass the new law so that all Romanian people will enjoy the new fruits of freedom so recently won in your country."

The BWA letter told Iliescu that it is their understanding that the new law on religious freedom "will guarantee religious freedom as defined by the United Nations and accepted within European and other democratic countries."

Lotz and Wumpelman also wrote United States President George Bush asking him to encourage the Romanian government to pass the law for religious freedom. The BWA leaders also urged Bush to seek peace in these times and assured him of the prayers of Baptists during these difficult days of the Gulf crisis. (BP)

## Missionaries to return to Liberian capital

by Donald D. Martin

Southern Baptist missionaries plan to reopen mission work in Liberia's battle-scarred capital, Monrovia, by early February.

Civil war and the chaos, terror and hunger it caused in Liberia claimed thousands of lives last year. It also drove most missionaries out of the country. But the two main Liberian rebel factions and the west African peacekeeping force sent to Liberia several months ago have staked out separate territories in Liberia and a cease-fire now is in effect.

"I'm optimistic about this new beginning," said missionary Bradley Brown, executive director of the Liberia mission organization, who has made several short trips to Monrovia from the neighboring country of Sierra Leone. "My great hope

for our continuing Southern Baptist mission work in Liberia is that we will have unprecedented evangelistic and church-planting opportunities."

Brown, of Marietta, Ga., and his wife, Carol, of East Point, Ga., plan to begin the rebuilding by opening church-based medical clinics in Monrovia. Jim and Jane Park of Paducah, Ky., will join the Browns within weeks.

"We're going to have to start small and grow gradually, working through a holistic ministry," he said. The Browns and the Parks will dispense medical care and distribute food through the church clinics and help local pastors hold church services.

All Liberian Baptist pastors and convention leaders, many of whom were feared dead, have been accounted for in the last few months, Brown said. Angelique Jones,

president of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Education Convention, was thought dead when others found her home destroyed. However, Brown learned that she is well and living in northern Liberia.

Several Baptist churches in the Monrovia area have begun ministering to the needs of the community. Providence Baptist Church, the oldest Baptist church in Liberia, began holding church services in early December. The church held a Christmas service attended by more than 700 people. Effort Baptist Church in Paynesville has reopened and Oldest Baptist Church in Congotown is holding services.

At first the missionaries will have to make frequent trips to Freetown, Sierra Leone, to resupply the clinic and their homes. Food and clean drinking water are still scarce in Monrovia. Electrical and water service have returned to only a few parts of the capital.

"We will have to bring in everything—food, water, even a bed to sleep on," Brown said. The mission compound, where they will live, is in fair condition. There are some holes in the roof and the compound was completely looted, but it is in better shape than they had expected, he said. (BP)

## Baptist workers arrive in Mongolia

by Michael Chute

Southern Baptists' first long-term workers in Mongolia arrived Jan. 13 in the capital city of Ulan Bator to begin full-time teaching assignments at the medical college there.

Stan and Laura Kirk of Memphis, Tenn., are under contract with Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization. Over the past two years CSI has placed some English-teaching teams in Mongolia for one- and two-week stints. The Kirks are the first Southern Baptists assigned to Mongolia on a long-term basis.

Mongolia is surrounded by China and the Soviet Union. It is closely allied with the Soviets but established diplomatic relations with the United States in early 1987.

"The Kirks' CSI contract is for two years but they're interested in staying longer," said Jack Shelby, CSI's Hong

Kong-based administrator. "Their teaching contract with the Mongolian government is for one year since such contracts are normally given on a year-by-year basis. But we have every confidence and hope that this will turn into a much longer arrangement."

The Kirks, members of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, have prepared to work in Mongolia for three years. They will teach English at the medical college. Kirk, a pharmacist, also may teach some pharmacy courses in English.

"Ours is a long-term commitment in Mongolia," Kirk said. "That means doing our jobs well enough to be invited to stay longer than two years. If we go with the attitude of helping them as people every way we can as much as we can, it won't take them long to pick up on that. People pick up on an attitude even if they don't understand the language." (BP)

### WHY PAY MORE FOR LIFE INSURANCE?

VERY LOW NON-SMOKER MONTHLY COST!

Age	Amount	Male	Female
35	\$100,000	\$10.30	\$ 9.30
45	\$100,000	\$13.30	\$13.30
55	\$100,000	\$25.30	\$16.30

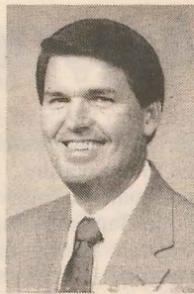
PLEASE CALL ROY NAPIER TOLL FREE

1-800-274-0776 9 a.m.-9 p.m. KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Kentucky Central Life, Lexington, Ky. Newlife graded premium life insurance from No. 76232. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 85 and then remain level.

Call Today Christian Retreat Center  
**The Plantings**  
 RR 1, Box 145-A  
 Bedford, KY 40006  
 (502) 255-7676  
 Call Today

**Summer Employment**  
 Ridgecrest  
 Baptist Conference Center  
 Positions available early June through Labor Day:  
 Media Preschool  
 Food Service Housekeeping  
 Business Office Recreation  
 Day Camp and others  
 Off-duty program for spiritual growth and development is provided.  
 Must be 17 years of age or older  
 For further information and applications contact:  
 Personal Services Administrator  
 P.O. Box 128  
 Ridgecrest, NC 28770  
 (704) 669-8022  
 Equal Opportunity Employers



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

## clear creek chronicle

### Chaplain in the storm

January 15, the UN deadline for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, I had a scheduled executive committee meeting. New trustees Ron Morgan of Frankfort and Gabe Collett of Cynthiana joined us for lunch and an afternoon orientation. The Persian Gulf crisis came closer to home when Collett told me he had visited the Army reserve center on his way to campus to check on his orders. He is a brigade chaplain with the Lexington Army Reserves and the unit is on standby call for active duty.

A 1977 Clear Creek graduate, Collett has 22 years in the reserves and was a first sergeant while on campus. He recruited 13 preachers for the chaplaincy. Some of his responsibilities with the Lexington unit include Sunday worship services, counseling, summer training and supervision of other chaplains.

Collett grew up in Bell County. He drove a bread route to the campus and recalls, "I felt sorry for those starving guys." At age 26 the Lord called him to preach and he joined the campus family. "I never missed a meal. Gap Creek Church in Harrogate, Tenn., gave us a monthly food pounding. I keep going back to what I received at Clear Creek. The school was a family of encouragers and brotherly love was exemplified in every way."

Collett acknowledges that the Gulf crisis "has caused my adrenalin to be up and down, but I'm dealing with it constructively. I love my nation and am willing to put whatever I have on the line. If activated, I will have an opportunity for ministry I've not known before. Recent drills have already shown increased interest in spiritual needs. You can minister with your heart until worn out. In times of combat, chaplains become one of the most important staff officers."

Cynthiana Baptist Church has already taken supportive action encouraging their pastor. Supply preachers have been secured and the deacons will handle the pastoral duties.

Gabriel Collett makes this present crisis more personal for me. If my son or daughters were among the troops, I would be thankful a chaplain like Gabe Collett stood beside them. He would pass on to them the faith he shared with me: "It is a difficult time, but our faith is in Christ and his grace will sustain us." Pray for Gabe, Sharon, Charles, Jon and Jeremy.

## mountains to the mississippi

**PERSONNEL:** Russ Gordon to Muldraugh, Muldraugh, as pastor, from New Concord, Ohio. ... Damon Helton to Corinth, Corbin, as pastor, from Indian Creek, Gray. ... Jennifer Mills to First, Russell, as minister of music and education, from Valley Station, Louisville, as assistant minister of music. ... Charles Owens resigned as pastor of Pleasant Valley, Greensburg. ... Eugene I. Enlow to Bethany, Louisville, as interim pastor. ...

Russell Wood to Immanuel Temple, Henderson, as interim youth minister. ... D.M. Aldridge has finished tenure as interim pastor of Gardenside, Lexington, and is in Zambia, Africa, where he and his wife, Kay, were missionaries from 1982 to 1984. They can be reached at Box 320034, 15701 Woodlands, Lusaka, Zambia, Africa.

**ORDINATIONS:** Yang Sook Ahn to ministry by Buechel Park, Louisville. ... James

P. Manning as deacon by First, Russell. ... Scott Guthrie as deacon by First, Franklin.

**CONGREGATIONS:** Immanuel, Lexington, will hold "Celebrating Your Single Season," Saturday, Feb. 23, with speaker Harold Ivan Smith, a national consultant on singles in the work place. ... Clear Run, Hartford, Baptist Women made dolls as a Christmas missions project and presented them to rest home residents.

## Bivocationalists are key to Bold Mission Thrust

by Ron Kline

The dual career minister must be called upon heavily if Southern Baptists are to be successful in their last decade of Bold Mission Thrust, Ernest Mosley told the 8th annual National Council of Bivocational Ministers in Memphis, Tenn.

"Without involvement of bivocational ministers, there is no way that we can reach the goals that we have set for ourselves," said Mosley, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

He addressed 67 dual-career ministers and Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, state and association bivocational strategists meeting at Southland Baptist Church. "Bivocational ministry is rooted in the style of Jesus Christ, and it is a primary solution

to the problem we confront in seeking to reach the goals which Southern Baptists have been led in God to set in this decade," said Mosley, who also edits the Baptist Program magazine.

A directive to rely more on bivocational ministers is included as the second of 10 strategies the HMB staff proposed as a means of meeting the goals of Bold Mission Thrust, Southern Baptists' plan to reach the whole world with the gospel by the year 2000.

"There is a vast reservoir of committed Southern Baptist laypeople and bivocational pastors who can make significant contributions to winning this nation for Christ" added David Bunch, HMB vice president of new church extension.

The bivocational minister "offers a

unique means of involving qualified people for service. Because of economic trends, increasing social mobility and growing secularism, it is predicted that in the future as many as 50 percent of churches will have bivocational pastors," Bunch said.

Now, almost 10,000 bivocational pastors work among 37,785 Southern Baptist churches, according to the 1989 denominational survey. That represents about 26.5 percent of Southern Baptist churches, although some bivocational pastors serve more than one church, so the actual percentage of Southern Baptist churches led by a bivocational pastor is somewhat higher.

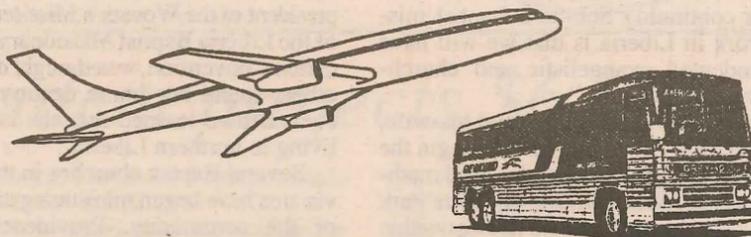
Although most bivocational pastors serve new or small churches which cannot afford to pay a full-time salary, members of the national council urge that bivocational ministry be done intentionally. This style may or may not be one of necessity, depending on the church's resources.

Southern Baptist figures indicate a bivocational pastor may be as effective as a full-time pastor. For every 100 members of a church led by a bivocational, an average of 4.3 people are baptized and 77.8 percent are enrolled in Sunday school. For the same number of members in a church with a full-time pastor, 4.1 people are baptized and 76.9 percent are enrolled in Sunday school.

Mosley, in his keynote address, explained that the full-time pastor did not become one of the trademarks of a "healthy" church until after World War II.

"With the surge of growth that came to the SBC in the late 1940s and early '50s came the philosophy that full time is good time," Mosley said. "Every church needs a parsonage and a full-time pastor living in it" began to be the mindset of Southern Baptists ... and it was a mistake."

### 10th Annual Western Recorder Charter Express



### 1991 Southern Baptist Convention Atlanta, GA — June 1 or 2-6, 1991

Choose between:

**Bus Package — \$375 per person, double occupancy**

or

**Air Lift — \$550 per person, double occupancy**

- Round Trip transportation
- 5 or 6 nights at Atlanta's Northside/Radisson
- All ground transportation
- Travel Insurance
- March 1st deadline

Call or write: Ray Hayes  
Western Recorder  
P.O. Box 43969  
Middletown, KY 40253  
(502) 245-4101

Enclosed is my \$75 per person deposit.

Ray, please contact me with additional information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St. Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

### —classified ads—

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

**FOR SALE:** Brasch, 490,000 BTU electric furnace, 5 years old. \$1000 or best offer. Contact Ralph Jump, Sr. 606-341-0433 evenings. 1-15-3T

**BAPTISTS NEED BLUEBIRDS:** White, painted pine nesting box with side clean-out. \$13 postpaid in Kentucky. Bluebird Evangelist, P.O. Box 436, Morgantown, KY 42261 1-29-1T

**CLASSIFIED RATE:** \$.50 per word, \$7.50 minimum. All ads prepaid. No blind ads. Only written ads accepted. Must include name and complete address. Copy deadline two weeks before publication. See page 4 for mail address.



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

## sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR FEB. 3, 1991

Life and Work Series

### Everlasting life

**John 11:21-27** As soon as the word reached Martha that Christ was approaching her home she went out to meet him. Her statement, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died," indicated that she had sufficient faith to believe that if he had arrived before the death of Lazarus, her brother would not have died, but there her faith stopped.

Martha interpreted Christ's declara-

tion, "Thy brother shall rise again," to mean that Lazarus would rise on the resurrection day. She and Mary did not know that Christ had the power to raise the dead then and there.

**John 11:40-44** Christ, the bereaved sisters and some friends proceeded to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. Taking charge of the situation, Christ told the friends to remove the stone from the entrance to the tomb. Martha remonstrated with her Lord, reminding him that Lazarus had been dead for four days, and by this time his body would be decomposing; therefore, to remove the stone would be to pollute the air.

In spite of Martha's protest, the men removed the stone, and there lay the body of Lazarus in full and open view. Christ lifted his voice in thanksgiving to God, expressing appreciation for answered prayer, after which he called Lazarus to come forth from the tomb and restored him to life. Thus Christ demonstrated that he was and is the Lord of life and the one who has power over death.

This miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead was a splendid demonstration of Christ's power to give eternal life to those who are dead in trespasses and sins.

International Series

### The good samaritan

**Luke 10:25-37** From this passage we learn the lesson that when God's kind of love dwells in the human heart, it always produces the appropriate action in life.

The lawyer's questions—**Luke 10:25-29**. A certain lawyer, who was well versed in Mosaic law and an exponent of it, presumed to ensnare Christ with a

catch question, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" His query revealed his ignorance in supposing and assuming that eternal life could be secured by work or something he could do.

Christ inquired, "What is written in the law?" The lawyer responded by giving a summary. Then Christ said, "Thou hast answered right: This do and thou shalt live." Thus he was brought to see that works cannot buy eternal life. He asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Christ told a beautiful and immortal story.

The savior's reply—**Luke 10:30-35**. Christ told the lawyer about a man who was traveling along the dangerous road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers sprang out from behind the rocks and seized him. They beat him, stripped the clothing from his body and left him wounded and suffering.

When the priest came along the road and saw the wounded man, he was careful not to go near him. Totally indifferent toward the helpless fellow, "he passed by." A Levite arrived near the wounded man, he gazed at the hopeless soul and passed down the road.

Then the Samaritan approached the wounded man. As soon as the Samaritan saw him "he had compassion on him." He treated his wounds by "pouring in oil and wine." He lifted the man into his own saddle and walked until they reached an inn. He made provision for his future care and promised to pay on his return. When love finds a need, it seeks to supply it. Love ministers to the needy, feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, gives drink to the thirsty, visits the sick, entertains the lonely and comforts the sorrowing. With brotherly love, service becomes a source of joy.



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

## homes for children

### A parenting tip

Parenting is one of those roles that involves a lot of trial and error. Occasionally through that process we discover an idea that works well and may be worth sharing with others.

One of the dilemmas we have faced as a family is how to get all of the homework and other chores done on a school night when everybody is tired and it's easy and inviting to just turn on the television.

We have been particularly concerned about our five-year-old who really likes his television. We have always had trouble getting him away from it so that he could get his bath, do his homework or just go to bed.

SuEllen and I have always been concerned that we needed more time to read to the children or have them read to us. SuEllen gives piano lessons until 6:45 and with my varying schedule, it was difficult to have a routine. We would have one good night, but it would be difficult to carry it through.

What we have done now is simply turn the television off at 7:00 p.m. and it remains off until the children are in bed. This has not been accomplished without protest, but we have found that it really works for us.

Andrea now has time to practice her piano and Jason, who is not yet taking lessons, finds the piano a good diversion as well. Homework is done faster and better because both Mom and Dad can concentrate on helping.

We have also rediscovered reading. Both SuEllen and I spend time listening to Andrea read and reading to Jason. Though getting Andrea and Jason to stay in bed is still not the easiest chore, they are both more settled when bedtime comes. Dad and Mom have also discovered that magazines get read in more depth. With the TV on, it is easier to skim a magazine. Without it, I find that there are more interesting articles to read.

Your family may have learned this lesson a long time ago, but for us it has been really helpful. It is amazing how much more conversation there is and how many more hugs we exchange when the television is not beckoning the family's attention.



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

## oneida journal

### Three square meals!

I like to see our boys and girls eat. Growing teenagers need good solid food. I want them to get their fill. Occasionally, we will have a cook serving something. For the most each one serves himself. Students are allowed to come back for seconds or thirds or even fourths. One can drink six or seven glasses of milk if he wishes. We simply insist that once the food is taken, it must be eaten. If one comes to the dish window with something half eaten, we often send that one back to the table. But, even so, there are some leftovers. These go to help feed between 300-400 head of hogs. We then eat the hogs. As I often tell folks, it is a wonderful program of recycling. Waste not, want not.

Not only do I like to see our students

eat, I like to eat myself. My extensive waistline gives ample evidence. Nevertheless, I still outwalk my students and our many guests.

Of course, I know overeating is a serious failing. I have every good intention of cutting back. Many of you know how that goes. It is like many New Year's resolutions.

I bravely resolved with the start of 1991 to have a large bowl carried from our salad bar to my desk each noon. I would thus avoid the temptation presented by even entering our dining room.

On January 16, no guests were expected, but several showed up. Of course, we always want our guests to eat, and I was in the dining room before I remembered my good intentions. Too late!

Soup beans. We had them at least one meal a day when I lived in the Oneida dorms in the 1950s. Now we only have pintos every several weeks, but I love them. Then there were fried potatoes. They are potatoes raised on our school farm by our students. Knowing that makes them all the more delicious.

In the next large serving pan was steaming liver and onions. Another favorite and the liver was from our own corn fed hogs. Also available was homemade salami from our hogs, well seasoned and made up in rolls.

Another steaming pan was filled with macaroni and tomatoes, and beside it a serving pan full of hot chili soup left over from the previous evening meal. The hamburger of the chili came from our own beef cattle raised by our boys.

There were great pans of hot, fresh baked cornbread, generous helpings of butter. Oh yes, fresh applesauce,

Then there was the salad bar. We have had one at every noon and evening meal for the past eleven years. On this day, one

had a choice of fresh tomatoes, picked from our winter greenhouse; lettuce, broccoli, green peppers, cucumbers, radishes, carrots, boiled eggs, mushrooms, sliced onions, bacon bits, croutons and cottage cheese.

Drinks at each meal include white and chocolate milk, tea, coffee and water.

I do confess that I didn't get as far as the generous salad bar. I know I should have kept my resolution, but the soup beans were so good, I had two bowls! The cornbread tasted almost like cake. Those potatoes!

Now don't get too upset with me. I really am making an effort. I know that I need to lose a lot of pounds for my long term health. Many of you, my friends are very concerned. I do not take that lightly. Yet it is easier to talk about losing weight than doing it. I am convinced that the only lasting and healthy way of losing weight is simply eating smaller portions combined with good exercise and more of it. I am certain that fast walking is as practical an exercise as there is.

So I know the problem. I think I may know the answer. Just pray that I may have greater strength to resist partaking of so much of a good thing. Oneida has 12 cooks. They cook three meals daily except for Christmas Day. During the nine-month school term, that is over 2,000 meals per day. In the three summer months we average nearly half that number. Many of our cooks have served faithfully over 10 years, and Head Cook Ada Abner has cooked for our large Oneida family for 21 years. She is special. Our very capable dietitian and supervisor is Pam Burns Smith, who graduated in 1981.

Plan to eat with us any time you visit. We always prepare extra. If you leave hungry, it will be your fault. We don't charge. Do come see us.

# Cumberland students experience inner city

by Beth Wyatt

Thirteen Cumberland College students saw inner-city life "up close and personal" this winter.

They spent part of the break between semesters in Baltimore. For a week, students from the Williamsburg school prepared their own meals and slept on floors at the Heritage Family Life Center.

Their daily adventures included serving meals at shelters for homeless men and women, sorting and distributing clothing to the homeless, painting the homes of a few residents and working with elementary children after school. They observed the ravages of drugs and drug gangs, which result in pain and suffering for many inner-city children.

"Even though I grew up in the city, I had never seen children on the street nor homeless people as we saw there," said student Gary Strunk, a Detroit native.

One afternoon the students took an urban awareness walk. Each was given a quarter and dispatched in groups, searching for warm places to stay, something to eat and restrooms.

"One fast-food restaurant required a purchase to be made and time on the premises limited to 20 minutes," Strunk recalled.

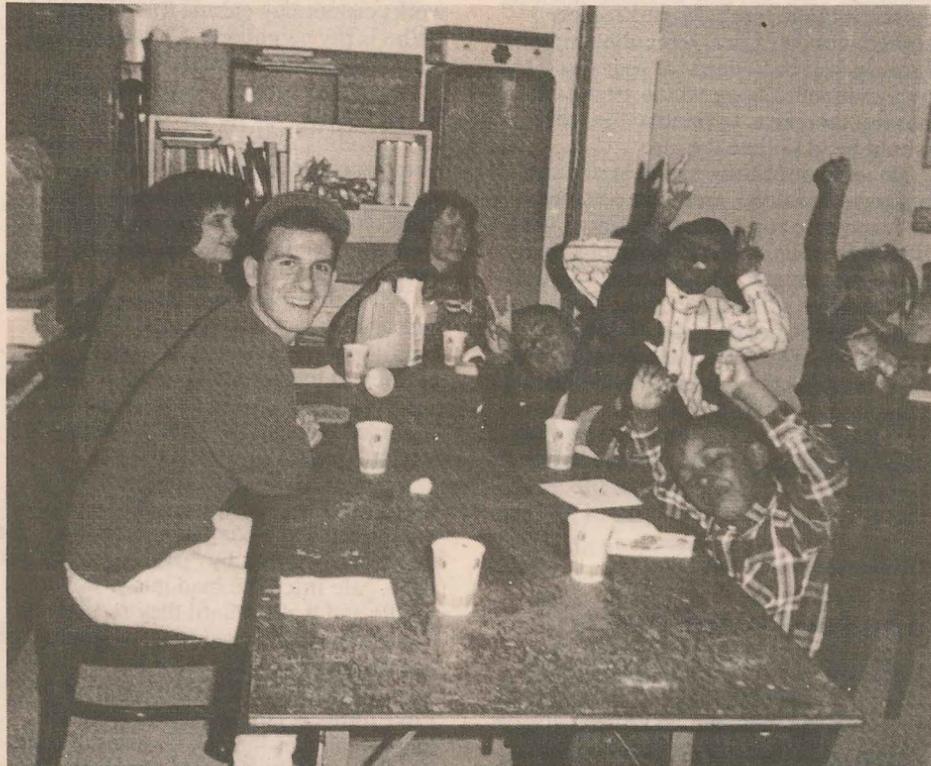
The Baltimore trip was sponsored by Cumberland's SPOTS—Special Projects Other Than Summer—organization. Students willing to use vacation time helping others are members. Richard Rieffer, director of the college's Appalachian ministries, coordinated the mission.

Participants, responsible for their own

meals and personal expenses, held fundraising projects before the trip. CSX Transportation, with home offices in Baltimore, also contributed.

In addition to Rieffer and Strunk, volun-

teers included Ginger Shillings, Martha Fouts, Jenny Collins, Crissy Roe, Candy Rhines, Lisa Farrish, Terrina Cornett, Tammy Franks, Jeff Klaiber, Patty Dye, Chris Setters and Debbie Miller.



**DOWNTOWN MISSION**—Cumberland College student Jeff Klaiber with children in an after-school program at Seventh Baptist Church in Baltimore. He and 12 fellow Cumberland students spent their Christmas break helping others in the inner city.

## christian education

**GEORGETOWN COLLEGE**—The James Graham Brown Foundation of Louisville has awarded the college with a grant of \$500,000, in addition to a grant of \$300,000 in December 1989, to construct an addition to Cooke Memorial Library. ... The V.V. Cooke Foundation of Louisville has committed \$30,000 to the library project. ... **Stephen King**, assistant professor of music, has been selected as one of six national finalists for the Annemarie Gerts Award at the artist awards competition of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. ... The German choir, **Kammerchor of Tirschenreuth**, will perform at Georgetown Tuesday, April 2, at 11 a.m. and Thursday, April 4, at 8 p.m. in the John L. Hill Chapel. For ticket reservations contact the Department of Music at (502) 863-8056 or the Office of Public Relations at 863-8174. ... **The Office of Public Relations** and its director, **Marc C. Whitt**, have won the grand award for news and public information program improvement in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's district 3 media awards competition.

**CUMBERLAND COLLEGE**—Perkins Place, alumni house and Williamsburg landmark, has been renovated by the college. The building dates to 1910 and was acquired by the school in 1985. Jim Taylor, Cumberland College president, said of the building, "Preserving a piece of Williamsburg's history is important."

## Evangelism Conference Dialogue Luncheons

Tuesday, February 26, 1991, 12:00 (noon)

Severns Valley Baptist Church Dining Facilities

COST: \$6.00 per person

Building Witnessing Relationships (BWR)  
Continuing Witnessing Training (CWT)  
Discipling the Saved  
Lifestyle Evangelism  
Marketplace Evangelism  
Partnership with Utah-Idaho  
Reaching the Cults  
Teaching Evangelistically  
Vocational Evangelists  
Youth-Reach  
Personal Evangelism

B.J. Bennett  
Ricky Cunningham  
Doug Strader  
Mary Lou Crutcher  
Carl Powell  
Calvin Wilkins  
Paul Blizard  
Chip Miller  
Joe Mobley  
Dean Finley  
Barton Record

For reservation fill out and return form by **February 15, 1991**.  
Enclose \$6 payable in check to Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Mail to: Office for Evangelism, KBC  
P.O. Box 43433  
Middletown, KY 40253-0433

Please Print

I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ dialogue.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTINUING WITNESS TRAINING (CWT)

A National Seminar for Pastors/Leaders  
is scheduled at the

**Yorktown Baptist Church**

7300 National Turnpike

Louisville, KY

Harry Hunter, Leader

Monday, March 11, 1:00 p.m.

through

Thursday noon, March 14 (EST)

COST — \$75 per person

(Room, board and travel are not provided)

Co-sponsored by

**Personal Evangelism Department, Home Mission Board, SBC**

&

**Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention**

Bill Jagers, Director; Billy Compton, Associate

Telephone: (502) 245-4101

### REGISTRATION FOR CWT SEMINAR

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor/Leader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Person Responsible for leading CWT in local church)

Tuition Fee Enclosed (\$75.00)

Mail to: Office for Evangelism

Kentucky Baptist Convention

P.O. Box 43433

Middletown, KY 40253-0433

Make checks payable to:  
**KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION**

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

# Volunteer house proves worth the investment

Stories by Sarah Zimmerman

If Boston Baptists could get cash back for the work of their volunteers, the association's \$255,000 volunteer home would be debt-free.

The seven-bedroom "Craft House" provides low-cost housing to volunteers for Greater Boston Baptist Association. In the area where monthly apartment rent begins at \$700, the house makes being a volunteer affordable.

"Probably six of the 10 residents would not be here if it weren't for the house," says Jim Pierce, volunteer house coordinator. "If you figure \$25,000 worth of work is done by one volunteer each year, the house is a good investment. It's a real deal."

Larry Martin, associational director of missions, says the association depends on volunteers for everything from college and youth ministries to creative evangelistic performances at special events. Of the 22 people working for the association, only three receive a salary.

In 1985 associational leaders began making long-range plans and realized volunteers would be vital to their work. They also realized the cost of living in Boston would make being a volunteer prohibitive unless housing was provided.

When the association began looking for a house, Pierce says, "We had no money—zilch. All we had was a dream."

In 1989 the association purchased a three-story house in the Boston suburb of Waltham. Leaders raised \$70,000 for a down payment and financed the remaining \$185,000 through a private source since no bank would grant the loan.

The house was named for Ira and Betty Craft, lay leaders from Columbia, S.C., who have been volunteers among New England Baptists for more than 20 years. The Crafts were also instrumental in raising funds to purchase the house.

The 85-year-old house was in good enough condition that it was occupied as soon as the donated furniture was in place. The first volunteers moved in during 1989.

The summer is particularly busy as short-

term volunteers move in and out. At times a volunteer moves out in the morning, clean sheets are put on the bed and another volunteer moves in that evening.

"It can be a little hectic keeping up with the keys," says Pierce.

Tenants each pay \$300 a month or \$10 a day in rent, but Pierce says, "We haven't evicted anybody yet." Rent income goes toward house payments and upkeep.

Residents contribute to the cost of the Wednesday night meal when they all try to eat together, but other meals are each person's responsibility. Chores and the phone bill are shared, but the Pierces pay the remaining utilities.

The role of Pierce and his wife, Eunice, is adviser and counselor. "In a sense, we're Mom and Dad," he says. Pierce, who is retired from construction work in the steel

industry, makes most of the house repairs. Mrs. Pierce, who always worked as a homemaker, says she has yet to retire.

Plans are underway to begin a similar ministry in an 11-bedroom house donated to the association by a local church. The church began meeting in the house, which it has since outgrown. It voted to give the dwelling to the association as long as it is used as a mission house. (BP)



**HOME FOR VOLUNTEERS**—This seven-bedroom house is the home of volunteers in the Greater Boston Baptist Association. Jim Pierce, house coordinator, says low-cost housing makes being a volunteer affordable. (BP photo by Sarah Zimmerman)

## Greater Boston churches set humanly impossible goals

Larry Martin has only one explanation for eight years of growth in Greater Boston Baptist Association: "God is doing it."

"Almost everything our churches attempt is humanly impossible," says Martin, associational director of missions. "God keeps opening the doors, and we keep trying to catch up."

In 1982, Boston was the largest city in the United States without a Southern Baptist association. Since the association began in October that year, the number of congregations has tripled.

Volunteers are a key to the growth. Of 22 people who work for the association, only three receive a salary. Some volunteers are seminary graduates raising their support, others are retired people supported by their retirement income, and still others are business people who devote their off-hours to the association.

"In 1985 we began developing long-range plans. We set goals that were far beyond us," Martin recalls. "We began praying for volunteers and found that God was already answering our prayers. Volunteers are now in charge of every area of our associational life."

Thirty-three of the association's 49 churches have begun since the association was formed. Only 14 of the churches own buildings, yet the association is making plans to start 16 additional congregations.

The association includes 22 ethnic con-

gregations which worship and teach in 11 languages. The 4 million residents of greater Boston speak more than 100 languages.

Vicky Brunson, Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer, directs ethnic ministries for the association. She helps new congregations find places to meet and helps develop ethnic leadership. Coordinating summer day camps for ethnic children and teaching English to internationals are also among her responsibilities.

## Home missions prepares couple for future

If Perry and Donna Logerstedt eventually serve in foreign missions as they plan, their first home missions assignment will provide some of their best preparation.

Logerstedt, a Montana native, and his Texas wife learned quickly that people talk differently and eat differently in Taunton, Mass. But the spiritual void among the people has been the most difficult adjustment for the Southern Baptist missionaries.

"People here are very spiritually neutral," Logerstedt says. "They're open to us being here—they're polite and courteous, but they're offended by talk of a personal relationship with Jesus."

Logerstedt spent two years in Liberia as a journeyman for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He has found church planting in Massachusetts more

difficult than being a missionary overseas. "In Africa they were more friendly, more receptive to spiritual things," he says.

Though many people in Massachusetts have a strong Catholic background, some families have not attended church for generations. Logerstedt spent his first week in Taunton trying to meet his neighbors. He says probably 100 people live in the block because the large houses have been converted to multi-family dwellings. He found three people who attend any church at any time.

Mrs. Logerstedt works in the sales department of a company with 50 employees. She has met one fellow employee who attends church, but she is not sure if he is a Christian.

Massachusetts residents who do attend

church are not likely to have been exposed to an evangelistic congregation. Mrs. Logerstedt says, "There are some Bible teaching churches here but they do not have an outreach into the community. People here have not had a positive experience of a vibrant, healthy, evangelistic church."

The Logerstedts moved to Taunton in June after graduating from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. They have since begun a Bible study in their home with attendance ranging from two to eight.

To find prospects for the new church, Logerstedt serves as a hospital chaplain, plays basketball in a city league and leads summer programs for children. His purpose, he says, is to introduce people to the hope found only through Jesus Christ. (BP)

# Make 1991 a year to remember. . . Remember the children at KBHC.

---

**January - Pregnancy counseling/adoption**

*Consider volunteering your home for service through the Rainbow Home program.*

**February - Baptist Youth Ranch**

**March - Easter**

*Pray for the spiritual development of our young people.*

**April - Temporary Shelters**

*Remember the work at Morehead, Middletown and Dixon shelters.*

**May - Memorials/wills**

*Give a gift to KBHC in memory of your loved one.*

**June - Summer recreation**

*Give to the recreation fund; help our youth have a fun and meaningful summer.*

**July - Glen Dale**

**August - Back to School**

*Help provide clothes and school supplies for students through a Back-to-School offering.*

**September - Food Roundup**

*Round up your extra canned goods to help feed our residents.*

**October - Spring Meadows**

**November - Thanksgiving Offering**

*Help us reach our 1991 offering goal.*

**December - Christmas**

*This year, begin a tradition of sponsoring a Christmas party for youth in one of the cottages.*

For more information, contact KBHC at 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, KY 40243; phone 245-2101 or 1-800-456-1386.

---

*Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children*

*Touching Lives*

