

Budget writers to gain above-average increase

The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee will consider a 1991-92 SBC budget with a percentage increase six times more generous to itself than to the average convention agency.

The Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee has proposed a \$140,710,282 goal for the 1991-92 Cooperative Program.

That amount represents a 2.46 percent increase over the current \$137.3 million goal. The increase compares to a current inflation rate of about 6.3 percent.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' combined ministry budget. It supports missions, evangelism, education and other endeavors worldwide.

The \$140.7 million allocation proposal will be presented to the full Executive Committee Feb. 18-20 in Nashville. If approved by the Executive Committee, the proposal will be considered by messengers to the SBC annual meeting next summer.

The total amount requested by the various convention organizations was more than \$148.6 million, or an increase of 8.2 percent. However, the subcommittee was limited to the 2.46 percent increase because the budgeting process specifies that a new goal can be no greater than receipts for the latest year of record, which now is 1989-90.

Funds received over the \$140.7 million goal will be divided evenly between capital needs projects and the programs represented in the basic goal.

Subcommittee members decided not to

apply the 2.46 percent increase evenly. Instead, they based the proposals on merit.

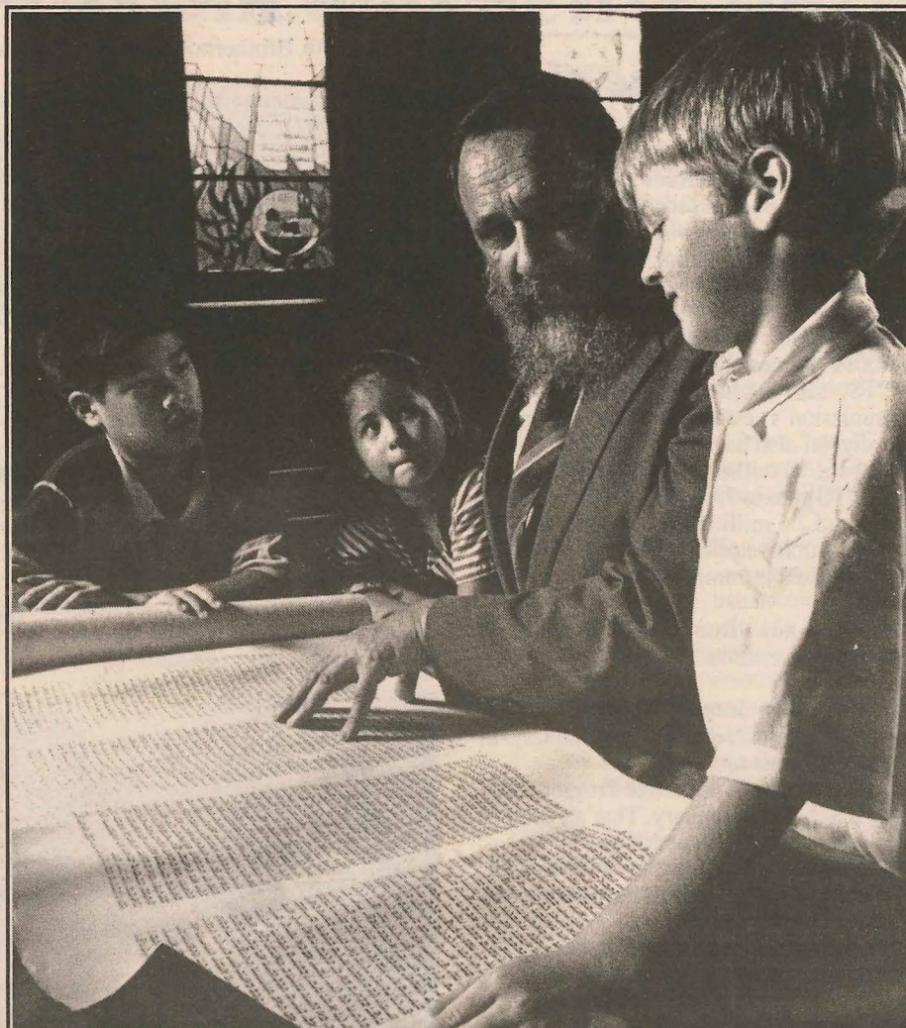
Their own agency, the Executive Committee, received one of the biggest percentage gains. Citing the need for extra funds to finance the SBC annual meeting and a new public relations program, the committee proposed a 15.48 percent increase, or a gain of \$369,698.

That amount is 6.29 times the 2.46 percent increase of the overall budget. The subcommittee proposed a 2.46 percent gain for the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board and Baptist World Alliance.

The highest percentage increase went to the SBC Public Affairs Committee, which got a proposed 30 percent hike—up \$7,500 from the current \$25,000.

Other proposals include:

- Christian Life Commission, 6.3 percent.
- Religion in American Life, a consortium of American religious organizations that work together to promote church attendance, 2.23 percent.
- American Baptist Theological Seminary, sponsored jointly by National and Southern Baptists, 2 percent.
- Radio and Television Commission, 1.76 percent.
- Six SBC seminaries, 1.5 percent.
- Stewardship, Historical, Education and Brotherhood commissions; Southern Baptist Foundation; Annuity Board, 1 percent.
- Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, no increase. (BP, WR)



LIVING IN HARMONY—Southern Baptists will observe Race Relations Sunday Feb. 10. Typically a time for examination of relationships between black and white people, the observance this year will be influenced by war in the Middle East. The theme for the annual emphasis is "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" It is based on the Gospel of John, chapter 1, verse 46.

Islamic rejuvenation may grow from Saddam's ashes

The Gulf War may eradicate Saddam Hussein's clout in the Middle East, but it also may leave fertile ground for Islamic fundamentalism.

Muslim fundamentalists may gain new momentum from longstanding issues—such as poverty, a Palestinian homeland, regional politics and nationalism, and Western colonization—in the Middle East, experts predict. And those issues could become even more explosive after the war ends.

Islamic movements may emerge as "the only refuge" for the poor, said Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', a Muslim Arab from Nazareth,

Israel, and a Rockefeller Foundation fellow at the University of Texas.

Islam could become "a symbol of salvation from a general feeling of despair among the Arab population," Abu-Rabi' said. "We might see many charismatic figures talking in the name of Islam as a way of counterbalancing the inequities."

Islamic and Arabic anger against the United States could be kindled even by a convincing victory over Saddam, warned Dudley Woodberry, a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

"If the damage to Iraq is great, we can

expect even the Arabs who have sided with us to have sympathies for Iraq," he said.

That could uncover resentment against being colonized by the West, said Abu-Rabi'.

Muslims see U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia as "an infidel force trampling on holy Muslim territory," added George Braswell, professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and former Southern Baptist worker in Iran. "We have gone to the heartland of their religion."

Unfortunately, the political struggle has

serious ramifications for ministry in the region, Christian workers in the Middle East report.

"Predictions are that this could hurt Christian-Muslim relationships for 100 years," said one worker. "A realignment of Arab nations will create a quagmire of relations we (Americans) don't understand. Americans think of it as a police action, but more is involved."

Some say the hard feelings many Muslims already harbor toward Christians are getting mixed up with a hatred of America, *continued on page 2, "War's chaotic ..."*

Coalition produces equal access guidelines

by Larry Chesser

Consensus guidelines to help school officials understand and comply with a 1984 act designed to end discrimination against religious speech in public secondary schools have been issued by a coalition of educational and religious groups.

The publication, "The Equal Access Act and the Public Schools: Questions and Answers," represents the end product of four months of work by the diverse coalition, which included both supporters and opponents of the 1984 act.

In light of the Department of Education's earlier decision not to issue regulations, the guidelines likely will serve as the baseline for understanding the act, according to Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and a chairman of the coalition of groups that issued the guidelines.

The guidelines include definitions of what types of student groups qualify for free speech protection under the act.

Under the Equal Access Act, public secondary schools that permit groups to meet for student-initiated activities not directly related to the school curriculum must offer equal, but not preferred, treatment to those seeking to exercise religious speech rights.

The act requires that such student meetings be student-initiated and student-led.

According to the guidelines, the 1984 act is triggered when a public secondary school creates a "limited open forum" by providing an opportunity for non-curriculum student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time. The act applies to all public secondary schools receiving federal financial assistance.

According to the guidelines, outsiders may attend student-initiated meetings if invited by students and the school does not have a policy barring all outsiders. Teachers or other school employees may be present for student religious meetings but only in a "non-participatory capacity." However, no teacher or employee may be re-

quired to attend a student religious meeting in violation of his or her conscience.

The guidelines also note that some student groups may be excluded under the law. "The law gives schools the latitude to prohibit groups from meeting if they are going to be disruptive," Thomas said. "But that doesn't mean they can be prohibited just because their ideas are unpopular."

Thomas said the guidelines should provide a "safe haven" for school officials seeking to comply with the act. "The Equal Access Act strikes a nice balance between the requirement that government refrain from promoting religion and the students' right to exercise their religion in ways that do not impinge upon the rights of others," he noted.

The Equal Access Act "fit our interest in maintaining the balance between 'no establishment' and 'free exercise,' making creative tension between the two clauses," said James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee. Twenty-one agencies formed the coalition. (BP)

Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

February 5, 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.

RTVC doubles potential audience

around the sbc

The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission bought Jerry Falwell's FamilyNet TV network because the commission could double its potential viewers at a fraction of the cost of developing its own ACTS network.

FamilyNet is available on cable to 740,000 homes currently unavailable to ACTS, said Richard T. McCartney, the commission's executive vice president. FamilyNet also has 70 TV stations, covering about 10 million to 12 million homes.

ACTS goes to 7.5 million households on cable and 2.5 million over broadcast.

The purchase price will not be revealed until the deal is completed.

In other news from across the Southern Baptist Convention:

CP tumbles in January. The SBC's unified budget suffered its worst January in seven years last month.

The national Cooperative Program took in \$10,325,469 in January. That's a drop of 29.18 percent from January 1990.

Receipts are 6 percent below receipts for the same period last year. The inflation rate is about 6.3 percent.

At least one state convention did not get its receipts tabulated in January.

Brotherhood to go coed. The SBC Brotherhood Commission has activated a coed missions education/action program for youth.

"World Changers" will be targeted at 700,000 Southern Baptist high schoolers not involved in missions.

The commission approved the concept last fall. The SBC Woman's Missionary Union, which announced similar plans, is

to meet with Brotherhood representatives in April.

The program is to go into effect by October 1992.

O'Brien heads strategy center. William R. O'Brien, former executive vice president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, will become director of the new global strategies center at Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity, effective March 1.

The center will seek to become an international forum for data analysis and planning. It also is to focus on research, evangelization and church renewal.

O'Brien joined the Foreign Mission Board as director of denominational coordination in 1976. He became executive vice president in 1980 and executive director of public affairs in 1989.

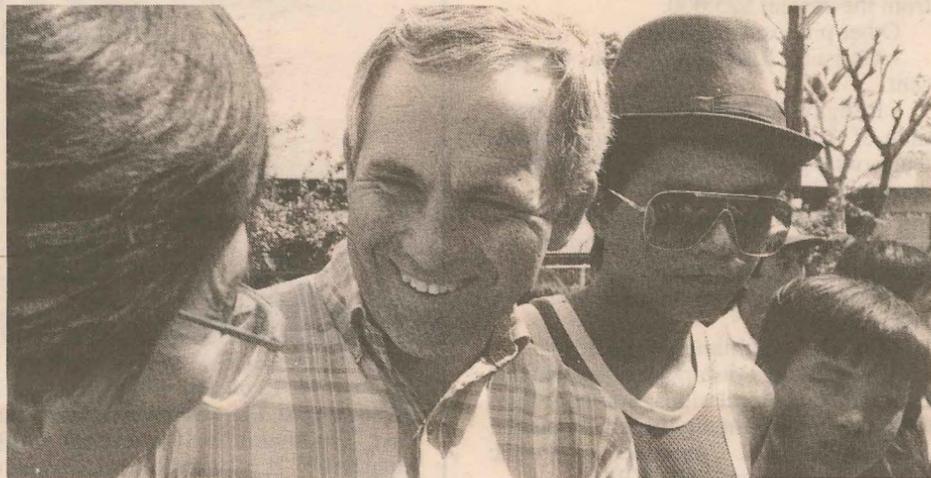
He also has been a foreign missionary, pastor and church musician. His wife, Delanna, is executive director of the SBC

Woman's Missionary Union.

Elder admits taping. SBC Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder agreed he did not alert individuals on two occasions when he taped their phone conversations.

Board trustees leveled the charge against Elder Jan. 17, when they agreed on a package calling for his early retirement. Elder did not specifically deny the charge, but said he had taped "conference-type" calls involving board business.

A document signed last week by Elder and Chairman Bill Anderson notes: "After a review of the events, (Elder) has corrected his statement at one point; he did not alert the chairman (Anderson) and general counsel (Robert Thomas) that their conversation was being taped. The president and those at his office conference-speaker phone had knowledge of the recordings being made by his executive assistant and that the tapings ... were for business purposes and accurate follow-up action." (BP, SSB, WR)



MODERN PAUL—Southern Baptist missionary Doug Kellum has been called a "modern-day Paul." His natural rapport with Vietnamese refugees enables him to help them during their stay at a processing center in the Philippines. (FMB photo by Joanna Pinneo)

Christians need sermons that apply to life, pastors hear

by Joan C. McKinney
Special Correspondent

Biblical texts that connect to listeners' needs provide a key ingredient in sermon-building.

Consequently, preachers need to develop a sensitivity to people's feelings, said Charles Bugg, the Carl E. Bates professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"People are hungry for biblical preaching. We are living in a time when they are desperately searching for meaning for life," Bugg said during the Kentucky Baptist

Convention's preaching workshop.

The workshop was held Jan. 28-29 at Campbellsville College in Campbellsville. It is sponsored annually by the KBC family ministry and church administration department.

"Everything we do in church is the by-product of worship," said James C. Barry, who recently retired as senior consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department.

Churches need to rethink the place of the Lord's Supper and baptism, clarifying positions on close communion and alien immersion, Barry insisted.

The role of women in worship also is critical, he said, and he urged pastors to be leaders of the total worship service, yet flexible on things unrelated to salvation.

Richard W. Bridges, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bowling Green, pleaded for disciplined study periods for the minister.

"You will become more confident in yourself if you begin an orderly life of study," said Bridges. "Studying is the moment when I draw closer to the reality of God in my life."

Bridges told the preachers to remove guilt about sealing themselves off for study.

"Make it a matter of ongoing commitment that you are going to do it," he suggested.

Calling the pastor "a messenger from the king," Don Mathis urged giving an invitation authoritatively at the close of a sermon.

Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, told the preachers to extend an invitation with integrity, firmness and gentleness, while being specific and calling for an immediate decision, offering the time proudly and prayerfully.

Build an opportunity for invitation into the existing worship service time frame for people to respond, he told participants in the workshop.

War's chaotic emotions create 'fragile time' for Christians in region

continued from page 1
like their loathing of Israel.

Describing the general Muslim view, an Arab Christian said: "Missionaries come from America, and Americans are thought to be those who started the war. It's not important who started the action last August—the bombardment was started by Americans. People are upset because of the bloodshed, the torn loyalties."

"It's a fragile time for us and our presence," a Christian worker said. Arab Christians have told him they fear Muslims may decide to attack Christians if they can find nobody else to attack.

Some Christian workers who remain live under virtual house arrest for fear of being attacked as "just another Westerner."

Moreover, the conflict threatens to spill

outside the Middle East and weaken Christian work in other Muslim areas.

"The Arab world is like a drum," an administrator of one Christian agency said, talking about both the Middle East and Asia. "Hit one place and it reverberates throughout the region."

Among other developments related to the war:

- A Southern Baptist task force on international students has mailed a special bulletin to directors of Baptist student ministries, urging special sensitivity to the needs of Arab students on American college campuses.

The bulletin—prepared by representatives from the Southern Baptist Home Mission, Foreign Mission and Sunday School boards—encourages campus min-

isters to make contact with advisers to foreign students. Campus ministers can help protect the students, develop community understanding and form support groups for Arab students.

The task force also suggests formation of groups to pray for Arab students and their families, American troops and their families and U.S. students studying abroad.

- Two Kentucky Baptist members of Congress—one who opposed a resolution permitting President Bush to use force in the Gulf and one who did not—stand behind the president and U.S. troops, now that the war is raging.

Sen. Wendell Ford, who opposed the resolution permitting the use of force, said: "It is clear that Saddam Hussein has made his most serious miscalculation to date. He

has miscalculated the American people's resolve, and he has confused our diversity of opinion over this crisis with division. We are united, and we stand firmly behind President Bush and our servicemen and women in the region."

Rep. Carroll Hubbard of western Kentucky, who voted for the resolution, said: "All of us had hoped for a peaceful resolution to the crisis in the Middle East. However, in recent days it became more and more obvious that Saddam Hussein was not interested in negotiating a settlement."

"Saddam Hussein assumed we were full of rhetoric and lacked the backbone for action."

"Well, we've made a believer out of Saddam Hussein. The end for Saddam Hussein is near." (BP)

9 Kentuckians to work abroad

Nine volunteers with Kentucky ties have been selected to work overseas through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Nate Adams, a child-care worker at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in Louisville, will be a conference/encampment coordinator in Venezuela for two years. He is a member of Woodland Baptist Church in Louisville and a graduate of Campbellsville College in Campbellsville.

Charles and Shirley Clark, retired missionaries who worked in Venezuela for 38 years, will do accounting and secretarial work in Bolivia for four months. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Glen and Rose Davis, members of Thornhill Baptist Church in Frankfort, will be English-language workers in Asia for six months. They will be affiliated with Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist agency that assists nations where missionaries do not work. They have been auxiliary personnel workers for the Foreign Mission Board in Asia.

Jennifer House of Alvaton will work through CSI in central Asia for two years. She is a member of Living Hope Baptist Church and a graduate of Western Kentucky University, both in Bowling Green.

Sheila Sullivan of White Plains will be a secretary in Switzerland for two years. She is a member of White Plains Baptist Church and a graduate of Southern Seminary and Western Kentucky University.

Mark and Dawn Thames of Louisville will live in Zambia for two years. He will be a theological education teacher, and she will be a church-and-home outreach evangelism worker. They are members of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville. He has been a research consultant for the Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation in Louisville. She is a graduate of the University of Louisville, and he is a graduate of Southern Seminary.

3 Kentucky Baptist pastors called to active duty

by Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

The largest single call-up of Kentuckians since Operation Desert Shield began has taken at least three pastors from their churches.

Chaplains Gabriel Collett, Willie Ailstock and John Meadors, members of the Army Reserve's 100th Division, received orders Jan. 21 that they were called to new "churches" at Fort Knox, effective immediately.

The three, at Cynthiana, Dry Ridge and Heavenbound (Elizabethtown) Baptist churches, said they had prepared their congregations for such a possibility. But the news was still a shock when it came.

Bill Cull, a member of Dry Ridge Church, said Ailstock's announcement came with a dramatic flourish. The pastor had been attending informational meetings at the 1st brigade headquarters in Lexington, but returned just as the evening service was concluding.

"He walked in with his uniform on," Cull recalled. "We knew it was coming, we just didn't know when."

Church leaders said that when they called their present pastors, they knew of their reserve commitments. But no one expected a pastor to actually be deployed. The last time the 100th Division was activated was in 1962, during the Berlin crisis.

This fall, however, as reserve units around the nation began to be activated, contingency plans for churches began to be made. For all three churches, the pastor is the first member to be deployed as a result of the Gulf War.

Cynthiana gave Collett a leave of absence while he's gone. The call-up order indicates he can be kept on active duty up to a year, but that could be extended.

The church will seek an interim pastor, said Joe Judy, Cynthiana's deacon chairman. Other ministries and plans for revival will go on as planned, he added, with the deacons taking on many pastoral counseling and administrative duties.

The church is looking for a full-time minister of education and Collett is hoping he can slip away to help in the interview process.

"This is a unique church. I've gotten nothing but cooperation from the congregation," Collett said in an interview before he left for Fort Knox.

War unites, encourages mountain Baptists

by Glenn Mollette
State Correspondent

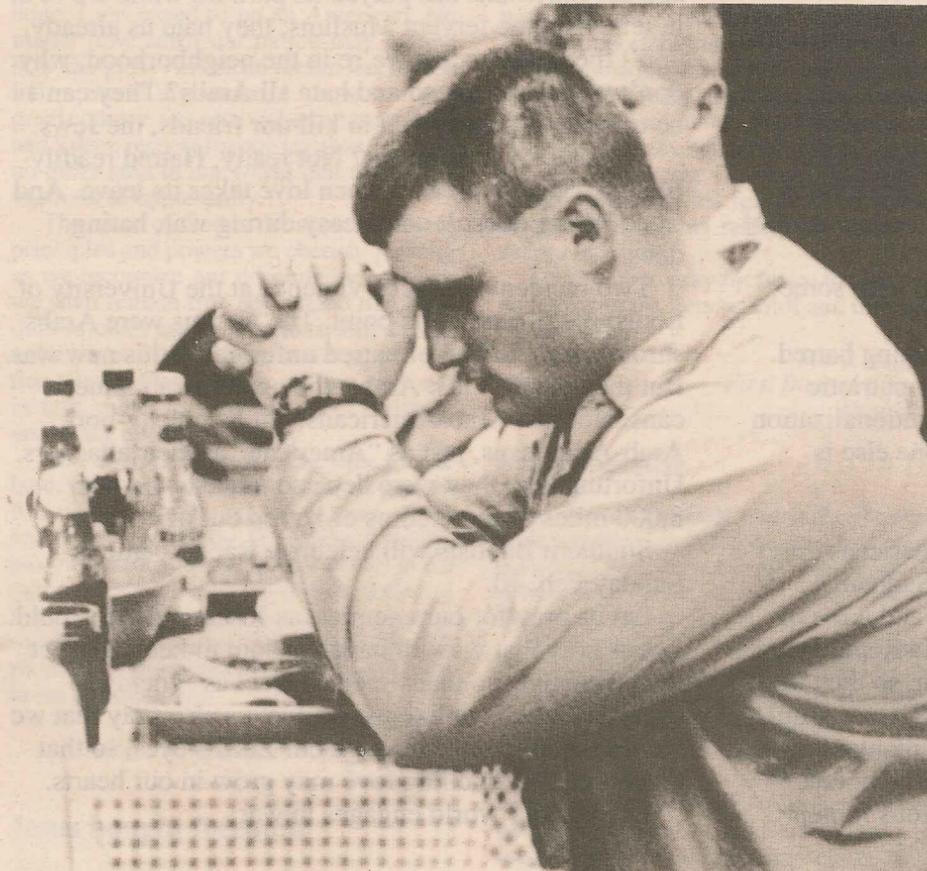
Churches throughout the Kentucky mountains have joined congregations nationally in prayer for American soldiers stationed in the Middle East. Many congregations changed their upcoming schedule of activities in order to focus on America's war with Iraq.

Calvary Baptist Church in Betsy Layne decided to open the doors of the church each evening for prayer.

"We had members and persons from the community at large who have attended and spent moments in meditation," said Pastor Lewis Walter. "Our doors will be open each evening at 6:30. We have not broadly publicized it. We have simply made it available."

First Baptist Church of Pikeville added to its morning service the pledge to the flag, the national anthem and heard a patriotic sermon along with thoughts on how to face the current crisis.

Other congregations blended patriotic music into their services. Allen Baptist Church Pastor French Harmon played the



SHIFT OF LEADERSHIP—Seaman Norm Beck, 18, of St. Louis reacts in the mess hall of the USS Wisconsin after the captain announced the beginning of war Jan. 16. At least three Kentucky Baptist pastors have been called up in recent days to serve in that war, leading their congregations to shift some leadership burdens onto laypeople. (Photo by RNS/Reuters)

What happens when a church loses its pastor to the war?

Retirees might rise to the rescue.

Churches whose pastors are called into active duty with U.S. armed forces could call on retired ministers for help.

The benefits: A retired minister could fill in for the time needed without requiring a long-term commitment himself. The retiree would not require a full-time salary. He could provide experienced leadership, particularly needed during unsettled times of stress. He could provide non-

threatening support for the minister's family while they wait out the war.

Guy Futral, consultant in the Kentucky Baptist minister/church relations department, has volunteered his office as a clearinghouse to connect volunteers and churches.

Churches and/or volunteer ministers should contact him at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, Ky. 40243-0433.

tape of the Lee Greenwood song, "I'm Proud To Be An American," after using the children's sermon as a time to talk to his younger church members about the war.

"I feel like our children are experiencing fears that many adults may be overlooking," he explained. "I feel my children's sermons are a good place to explain what is going on. And I feel it is important to alleviate some of their fears."

Warfield Baptist Church in lieu of the crisis has begun a study about the Middle East. Pastor Jimmy Grayson is leading the study each Wednesday evening.

Most of the pastors report an increase in church attendance. One pastor estimated his attendance had been 20 percent higher at most of his services thus far.

Bob Norman, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Shelbiana, reported, "I gave my folks an opportunity to talk on Sunday evening. It seemed like while there was not a lot of conversation about the war before the service, that there was a spirit of tension. Twelve persons responded to the opportunity by telling what their thoughts or fears were about the current crisis." He added, "Some of our church members recently

sponsored sending 144 gallons of distilled water to Saudi Arabia."

Many area churches are combining prayer lists. Others are sending packages and writing letters. Walter of Betsy Layne said: "We've started a project of sending our soldiers valentines. Our youth are making valentines to send to the 'Any Soldier, Any Sailor' address. We will be enclosing a gospel tract with each valentine."

Along with the prayers, special services and projects, area pastors agree their people are feeling stress they have not experienced in many years. Glued to their televisions, people have seen around-the-clock bombings, correspondents trembling with donned gas masks and horrifying pictures of prisoners of war.

Norman reported: "This tension and stress is difficult. I suggested to our people that they take a break and watch a basketball game or do something to get their minds off the situation for at least briefly."

Jim Smith, director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association, remarked, "Every place I go I find persons really encouraging each other. I think we can all stand this at a time like this."

The church voted in special session to continue to pay insurance, annuity and housing for Collett. His wife, Sharon, will remain in Cynthiana. They have three sons: a 7th grader, an 11th grader and a University of Louisville student.

"This has catapulted our lives into a state of chaos," she confessed. They have been at Cynthiana almost two years. The deployment had been "so quick" they hadn't had time to contemplate just how their lives would change, she said. But church members had been calling and sending them lots of cards in the meantime.

"I've just been up and down," said Collett. "There is so much uncertainty. God is testing my faith. But I know he'll be with me everyday."

A \$250,000 remodeling project at Dry Ridge church is almost complete, and other ministries will go on as usual, said member Cull. Supply preachers already have been enlisted for several Sundays, and after that an interim pastor will be secured. Rebecca Ailstock, with children ages 4, 5, 10 and 11, will remain in the church parsonage "as long as we need to," she said. They have been at Dry Ridge Church three and a half years.

"We'll stay here and carry on with what the Lord wants us to do," she added. She said members have been generous to their family.

Because Meadors has not been assigned a chapel at Fort Knox, he is planning to work six days as a chaplain on post and take Sundays off to preach at Heavenbound Church.

The bivocational pastor may even be able to live at home, said Dorothy Meadors. Meadors only began his tenure at the 2-year-old church in December. A local automobile dealership, where Meadors worked as service manager, will continue to carry the family's health insurance, she said.

"So much work needs to be done at Fort Knox," she mused. "He has 500 troops in his brigade. He'll have a big congregation to take care of."

Ailstock, an assistant brigade chaplain, said he'll be involved in counseling and preaching and in conducting seminars on drug and alcohol abuse and in maintaining good marriages. He'll also join active duty chaplains at Fort Knox in other duties outside of the division.

He joined the reserves six years ago as an "opportunity to minister to those who might otherwise never hear the gospel," he recalled. In fact, before he went to Dry Ridge Church he considered becoming an active-duty chaplain. Now God is calling him to that ministry, he chuckled. "You really don't want to go, but if you're called upon, you just do it," he added.

Collett, a brigade chaplain, also looks upon this call-up as a new ministry.

"Southern Baptists have an opportunity like never before," he noted. "When we get to Fort Knox, I'm going to share Christ like never before."

The 100th Division is a training unit, teaching other recruits how to operate the M1A1 Abrams tank, among other equipment, and, as such, is not expected to go to Saudi Arabia. Some individuals may go as needed, however.

Collett said the chaplains will practice a "ministry of presence," moving around with different groups as they drive tanks or practice firing. "We'll be doing informal counseling, you name it. I don't know what to expect," he added.

He sees the call-up as a new ministry for him and for Cynthiana Church. "The Lord is opening a door of ministry we might never have the opportunity for again," he said. "These are folks that have no contact with any church. But they'll be wide open to the gospel of Christ."

Don't let war force you to hate Arabs

editorial

Marv Knox

A commentator on the radio last week said the Gulf War hasn't taken on the racial overtones of previous conflicts. We haven't invented the Arabic equivalent of "Gook," "Jap" or "Kraut," he said.

Give us time, professor, we'll come up with something.

War provides a focal point for crystallizing hatred. In fact, hating the enemy takes on almost-patriotic overtones. We fall victim to the age-old rationalization we teach our children is wrong: "Everyone else is doing it."

The spiral of hatred seduces us.

Take the current war, for instance. Americans don't have much trouble hating Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein; he seems to be a ruthless killer and a foe of most things we hold dear. Next comes his Republican Guard; they're infinitely loyal to Saddam, so they must be our mortal enemies. Then we have the lesser armies and the workers in the chemical-warfare plants; they're bent on our destruction, so why not hate them, too? Don't forget the Islamic preachers; religious foment

against Christians has played its part. So while we're at it, let's hate the fervent Muslims; they hate us already, don't they? And since we're in the neighborhood, why don't we just go ahead and hate all Arabs? They can't be trusted, and they want to kill our friends, the Jews.

Sarcastic overstatement? Not really. Hatred readily fills the vacuum created when love takes its leave. And since loving doesn't come easy during war, hating does.

Two incidents of racial violence at the University of Louisville illustrate the point. The victims were Arabs, shrouded in the flag of hatred unfurled by this new war. But they weren't just Arabs, they were Arab-Americans. Not just Arab-Americans, but Kentucky-born Arab-Americans, just as "American" as their attackers. Unfortunately, they were depersonalized by a war 8,000 miles away, victims of hatred out of control.

Southern Baptists will celebrate Race Relations Sunday Feb. 10.

Let us pray for our enemies, as Jesus said we should. Let us pray that we will have wisdom to keep conflict in perspective, so that we don't label as "enemy" everyone who is unlike us. And let us also pray that we would see all people through our Lord's eyes, so that redeeming, reconciling love may grow in our hearts.

Even as our world engages in war.

God protect the children in these days

down home

Back in the good old days—say, about three weeks ago—our biggest TV worry revolved around switching Roseanne off on time. We didn't want her screeching words our children shouldn't hear.

Now, the problem is deciding how much news is enough. Our desire—need?—to track this war contrasts with our children's ability to absorb its horrible details.

Child psychologists say war news can be most disturbing to youngsters. They're old enough to comprehend the carnage, too young to turn on the coping filters.

So, we watch the news with remote control in hand. Absorb details, ready to pop over to Nickelodeon if the kids start watching when the stories become too awful.

Ah, but there's that decision again: How much is enough? War news doesn't come with G, PG, PG-13 or R ratings.

Children need to be children. Lord knows, they're shoved into adulthood too quickly. Yet they can't—and shouldn't—be insulated completely from reality.

Do you remember Chance the Gardner in the movie "Being There"? He had been cloistered on a mansion compound his entire life. Then his old master died, and he found himself on the street. Accosted by a gang, Chance pointed his TV remote control and pushed. Unfortunately, his real-life problem didn't go away. Life never gets as simple as TV.

Even war on TV. With that remote control in hand, I sometimes think about Iraqi, Saudi and Israeli daddies. God bless them, they can't press a button and make this war go away for their kiddoes.

And in those moments, I let our children take a peek at the war. They deserve to know that it's real. People lose their homes, and some of them die, because grown-ups can't work things out with words. They also deserve to know that brave women and men follow duty and honor, risking their lives for the lives of others and causes they believe are just.

No wonder war scares and confuses children. If our minds were as innocent and uncluttered as theirs, it would scare and confuse us. In fact, fright and confusion penetrate the clutter anyway.

For now, I pray that we—all of us—will do a good job helping our children watch the war. May they maintain their innocence, despite evil and suffering. May they value peace and justice and mercy, even as others clamor for revenge. And may they grow in faith and wisdom and maturity, pursuing peace as vigorously as others have fought war.

—Marv Knox

baptist forum

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

My heart weeps

My heart weeps for a dedicated denominational servant whose career has been brought to a close by the controversy that has engulfed our convention. I refer to Lee Porter, who served faithfully as design editor of the adult curriculum section of the Sunday School Board and as registration secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention until he dared respond to questions about the controversy in a seminary class he had been asked to teach and for this unpardonable crime was forthwith removed from both these positions.

My heart weeps because his superiors at the board bowed to pressure, demanding that he publicly apologize for the supposed wrongs he had done. And while they spoke out to rebuke him, they spoke not a word of the public concern for him and his family or of appreciation for his long years of service to the convention.

My heart weeps for the denomination in the loss of an able and dedicated editor of its Sunday school materials. He often served as my editor. I have never worked with a

more capable editor or with one more committed to the preparation of lessons that were biblically sound and suited to the needs of Southern Baptists. He loved his Lord, his Bible and his denomination. I fear that his removal from his editorial position signals one more step in the decline in quality of Sunday school curriculum materials.

My heart weeps most of all for a denomination that simply closes its eyes when someone who has served it so long and so faithfully is told that he must spend the rest of his career doing little odd jobs that require no training and no expertise. "Father, forgive us all, for we seem not to know what we are doing to one of our own."

Page H. Kelly

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Louisville

Sin was inhospitality

There are several issues in the Jan. 15 Western Recorder letter entitled "'No' to toleration" which I would like to address. I trust the letter writer and those who would

agree with him will take this as educative and not as an attack. There is a tendency on all our parts to be fearful of those who are different from ourselves, irrespective of right and wrong.

The language from Revelation as quoted, "and those that defile themselves with mankind will not be accepted" comes out of a long tradition of maintaining religious purity by not patronizing temple prostitutes, male or female. Loving, same-gender relationships of today are vastly different in intent from those prescribed by both testaments.

I, for one, would never suggest that John the Beloved was Jesus' lover, nor would I agree with the writer that he was Jesus' favorite friend. I can't believe that Jesus had favorites.

If one allows scripture to interpret scripture, then the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was inhospitality, an attitude to which many in the contemporary church come perilously close.

Carl L. Enoch
Louisville

Thanks, friend

Two and one-half years ago, I found a friend. This friend helped me to grow in my spiritual walk with the Lord. This friend has revealed to me what the Lord wants me to do with my life. I wish I could always have this friend.

Thank you, Boyce Bible School.

Ken Richardson
Dayton

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

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

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

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

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

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

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

ministerially speaking

Share your faith

Every conversation ultimately comes around to the subject of the Middle East situation. I was asked by one who is not a part of our church family if I preached about "Armageddon" this past Sunday. When I said no, I was told that it seemed that every preacher has used this time to deal with the subject. I haven't preached about it, but it has been on my mind.

I heard an interesting report from Paul Harvey that Rabbi Epstein of Israel has stated that these are indeed "Messianic Times." "If the Messiah comes, I will ask him one question. Is this your first visit or your second?" It is interesting to me that even the Jews are conscious of the implications of these days.

"Wars and rumors of wars" often cause people to explore spiritual truths for answers to deep and personal longings. Be sensitive to these searching people. As Christians, we have answers that will bless and lead to new life for many people. You have many opportunities to share Christ with someone who has never been open before. Don't push. Be available.

During these days stand firm in your faith and share it when God opens the door.
Ron Williams
Lewisport Baptist Church

Battle belongs to God

There was something poignant and ironic about receiving the news of the Gulf War during prayer meeting. To me it served as a reminder of what you and I can do during this time of war.

First, we can pray. We can bring our concerns and our worries to God at any hour of any day. Toward that end, we will be keeping the church open every Tuesday for prayer. Please come and share your prayers for our troops and for peace.

Secondly, we can be reminded that even in the midst of war we need to be faithful with our responsibilities. Our mission remains: to share the good news of the peace Jesus brings to a troubled world. This crisis gives us a great window of opportunity to share that Good News.

Finally, this is a time for us to extend our hearts in faith and place our trust in God. This battle belongs to God. Let us not be arrogant, nor prideful. Instead, let us trust our lives and our nation into God's hand and trust him to give us the strength we need.

Clay Smith
Southside Baptist Church
Louisville

Come together

As you read these words of love and concern, the war with Iraq and the dreaded loss of life continues. The issue of war intensifies the significance and importance of missions throughout our world. God has called us and commissioned us to openly declare his saving grace and liberating gospel to all people throughout the world. That includes the vast arena of the Persian Gulf. We must begin to see the importance of sharing Christ's love to all the world while there is time and openness.

This concern for openness reminds me of God's grace expressed to us as Americans in our freedom. How precious, but how seldom we express our love and gratitude for it in our daily lives and prayers. Most of us in Oldham County know nothing of the stifling, fearful, deprived lifestyle of a police state such as in the Middle East. We were born free, and at the terrible price of the patriotic blood of other men and women, we live out that freedom.

I am so grateful to almighty God to be an

American. In fact, I can openly acknowledge, I am proud to be an American. No matter how adrift our nation may be and how the great American dream has turned into a moral nightmare, I know that this great country was established on truth, love and a deep respect for one another. There is no other land in our world that offers this vastness of opportunity.

The word of God is the source of those principles and powers we cherish. As long as we recognize our dependence on God, we shall remain free and extend that freedom to other aspiring nations. But we are not exempt from judgment if we, as a nation, forget God. This is not my personal insight, rather it is a principle of scripture and a fact of human history.

This is a critical and crucial time for our land. Our most powerful weapon is prayer. It is time for each man and woman, youth and child to get on the firing line of persistent prayer. If ever there was a time to fill the house of God with the people of God, it is a time like this. Let us come together as we sing praises to our God and pray for his presence and power in these difficult days in the Persian Gulf.

William E. Day
DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church
LaGrange

Jesus bought freedom

On Jan. 16, under the mandate of a United Nations resolution, the fourth major conflict since 1945 started in the Middle East. In 1956 Israel and Egypt went to war over the Suez Canal. In 1967 and in 1973 Israel and the Arab States fought over territorial claims. Now the battle has once again been joined in this most troubled section of our world.

Any type of armed conflict brings to mind two irrefutable principles of life: people find it impossible to get along with each other, and freedom is never free.

Is there a solution to this double human dilemma, or are we forever damned to struggle and destroy, to kill and be killed? Ironically, the devotional thought for Jan. 16 on my 1991 Good News desk calendar provides the answer: "Thank you, Jesus, for being a winner by dying on the cross for me. That makes me a winner, too! Forever!"

In response to the first principle, in order for people to get along with each other, someone has to give up something. There must be a sacrifice, and the supreme sacrifice of history was Jesus giving his life for you and me. Now we can get along with God and with each other.

The second principle, freedom, is really misnamed, for freedom is always expensive, never free. Ultimate freedom was bought for us at Calvary with the highest price ever paid for a transaction. Jesus' death freed us from the bondage of death and hell and freed us to truly love self, others and God.

Someday, all conflict will end. Until that day, may we continue to pray that the peace of God will enter every human heart. And, dear God, pour your grace on the Middle East.

Robert D. Montgomery
Hurstbourne Baptist Church
Louisville

Speculation unnecessary

"And there shall be wars and rumors of wars" (Mark 13:7). Our world is no different today than it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus spoke these words. We still have wars. The Persian Gulf has most recently become the theater of action for the United States and a number of other countries.

Many Christians have taken the position that this must be the world's final conflict,

the beginning of Armageddon. Scripturally, there's no need to speculate about "times and seasons." Jesus continues to say in the gospel of Mark, "When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is not yet."

The important thing for the Christian to keep in mind is that when history concludes it will be on God's time table, not ours. All the speculation about the fulfillment of biblical prophecy concerning the timing of the end of the age is unnecessary. Jesus rather commands his followers to always be prepared for his return and leave the timing to God.

I continue to pray for peace to take root and grow in the Persian Gulf and throughout the world.

Mark Hopper
First Baptist Church
Frankfort

We are called

With war in the Gulf and polls showing widespread support for the war, how shall we act as Christian believers? How shall we behave toward one another? How shall we behave in our community?

Our faith in Christ addresses these questions far more appropriately than do the emotions prompted by war. We are called to live in tolerance of one another. For me tolerance means a "listening openness" to others, their opinions, convictions, feelings and questions. Tolerance refuses to dismiss people because they hold a different perspective on this war. Tolerance refuses stereotypes.

We are called to acceptance. The next step beyond tolerance is embracing persons and welcoming the diversity people bring to us, our church and community. Welcoming persons helps us see beyond the labels of "Rambo" or "whiner." We see the complexity of humanity in another person and perhaps understand our own complexity a little better. We allow our own mixed feelings about this war to surface, and when we do, we recognize the pain that war brings ... even when we think it is necessary.

We are called to support one another. Prayer for each other is certainly first. Phone calls and cards are high priorities. I have already heard and seen you supporting one another. I saw persons of different generations and different perspectives on the war leave the worship service, arms around each other, supporting and encouraging each other in each one's unique pain. That makes me proud to be your pastor.

When this war is over, tolerance, acceptance and support will be instruments of healing the wounds of war in the world and within our own nation.

Jim England
Deer Park Baptist Church
Louisville

Let's do our best

Paul told Timothy that "in the last days, there will be times of stress." The King James calls these "perilous times." Stressful, perilous times—we are certainly in the midst of them.

The war in the Middle East is causing havoc around the world, but that pain is felt among us. We know people who are there; we know those who suffer in families here.

Be prayerful for all those involved. "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in time of need" is not only the word of the psalmist, but it is our hope. Like people of old, we tend to turn to our weapons or human means for security. Our real security is in God, and we must turn to him.

As fellow Christians, let's do our best in prayer. Let's also do our best in the encouragement of others who need someone to stand with them in difficult times.

Robert DeFoor
Harrodsburg Baptist Church
Harrodsburg



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

on mission together

Speaking of grandchildren

Following my "grandfather" column, I received a note from T.A. Prickett, pastor of Seven Hills Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Since a grandchild may also have a grandmother as well as a grandfather, he enclosed an item from the newsletter of Beaver Dam Baptist Church where Glenn Armstrong is pastor.

"A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own. She likes other people's little girls and boys. A grandfather is a man grandmother. He goes for walks with the boys, and they talk about fishing and stuff like that.

"Grandmothers don't have to do anything except to be there. They're old so they shouldn't play hard or run. It is enough if they drive us to the market where the pretend horse is and have a lot of dimes ready. Or if they take us for walks, they should slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They should never say 'hurry up.'"

"Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums off.

"Grandmothers don't have to be smart, only answer questions like 'Why isn't God married?' and 'How come dogs chase cats!'"

"Grandmothers don't talk baby talk like visitors do, because it is hard to understand. When they read to us, they don't skip or mind if it is the same story over again.

"Everybody should have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because they are the only grown-ups who have time."

Now I really don't know any grandmothers just like that. In fact, I know one who is about to be a grandmother and who is just as busy as she has ever been; she plays tennis; active in church and other activities, and I would never risk suggesting that her underwear looked funny, at least, not to her face. She'll be a "fun" grandmother.

I suspect there is something very special about grandmothers and grandchildren ... partly because they can remember what it was like to have a baby ... I am told they understand in ways we men can never know.

Frankly, I'm counting on this "expectant grandmother" to help this "expectant granddaddy" to make all the right moves. With her around to help me, who knows, I just might win the "granddaddy of the year" award!

Baptist colleges mark 9th year of enrollment increases

by Tim Fields

Southern Baptist colleges and universities showed an overall increase in fall enrollment for the ninth consecutive year according to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Enrollment figures for the 1990 fall

semester show 110,605 students attended Southern Baptist junior and senior colleges, a 1.4 percent increase over the 1989 total of 109,035. The 1990 figures show a slowing in the rate of enrollment growth from a 4 percent increase in 1989, and 3.6 percent increase in 1988.

The enrollment figures include both full-

time and part-time students in college credit courses, but do not include students enrolled in non-credit courses. Student totals were released to the commission by each school.

A compilation of the figures shows that 34 of the 49 senior colleges had an increase in enrollment ranging from 20.2 percent to

0.1 percent, while only 1 of the 4 junior colleges had an increase in enrollment.

The last time overall enrollment in Southern Baptist colleges and universities decreased was in 1981, when enrollment was 91,602, a drop of less than 1 percent over the previous year.

The increased enrollment for nine straight years means that 19,003 more students attended the 52 Southern Baptist junior and senior colleges during the fall 1990 term than attended in fall 1981 for a net increase of 20.7 percent.

The 1990 fall enrollment figures and the percentage of increase or decrease from fall 1989 to fall 1990 at Kentucky Baptist colleges are Campbellsville College, 824, up 8.4 percent; Cumberland College, 1,812, down 2.0 percent; Georgetown College, 1,595, up 2.1 percent. (BP)

Clergy malpractice case dismissed by court

by Larry Chesser

The Supreme Court of Ohio has joined California and other states that recently have rejected so-called "clergy malpractice" lawsuits. The court's decision, however, leaves open the door for some malpractice claims against clergy.

The state's high court reversed an earlier appeals court ruling and dismissed local, state and national organizations of the Seventh-day Adventist Church from a lawsuit filed by an Ohio couple who attended the Hill Church in Knox County.

The plaintiffs alleged malpractice, fraud, intentional infliction of emotional distress and non-consensual sexual conduct on the part of the church's pastor. The lawsuit also named as defendants the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The complaint contended that the church organizations were liable for the pastor's

alleged actions based on legal doctrine under which employers may be held responsible for their employee's misconduct.

The trial court dismissed the case against the Seventh-day Adventist organizations but was reversed by the appeals court, clearing the way for the case against the church

organizations to proceed to trial. The churches then appealed to the Supreme Court, which dismissed the complaint.

The court held that a church or other organization is not liable for an employee's intentional misconduct or other actions outside the "scope of employment." (BP)

Annuity Board retirement plan funds show long-term success

Despite the threat of war in the Middle East and a slowing economy in the United States, long-term performance of the Annuity Board's funds continues to yield significant success.

The Annuity Board offers its members a choice of placing their money in any or all of four retirement plan funds. The plans include Fixed Fund, Balanced Fund, Short-Term Fund and Variable Fund.

Earnings of the Fixed Fund exceeded the projected crediting rate for a second straight year in 1990. The projected crediting rate for 1990 was 8.9 percent and the fund

earned 9.1 percent.

The Fixed Fund is a plan fund invested primarily in fixed income assets. The primary objectives are preservation of principal and predictable returns. Since 1981 the Fixed Fund has averaged 10.2 percent compounded annually.

The Balanced Fund earned 2.59 percent in 1990 and a 10-year average of 11 percent compounded annually.

The Balanced Fund is designed to have an asset mix of stocks and high-quality bonds. The investment in stocks is directed toward growth and value while the invest-

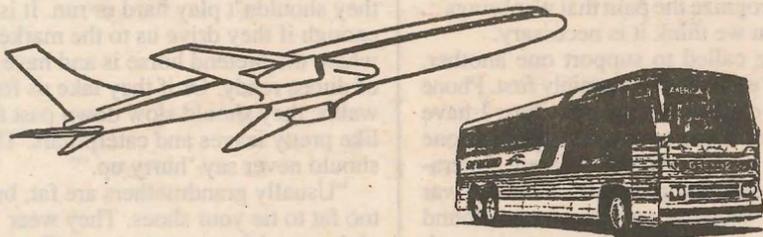
ment in bonds is directed toward income and capital preservation.

The Short-Term Fund earned 7.6 percent in 1990 and a 9-year average of 8.8 percent compounded annually.

This fund, started in 1982, has assets of short-term instruments with maturities of 12 months or less. There is a very high security of principal.

The Variable Fund is composed of common stocks and securities convertible into common stocks. The primary objective of the Variable fund is to provide growth rather than income.

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: _____

BUILDING WITNESSING RELATIONSHIPS (BWR) SEMINAR

March 18-20, 1991
Second Baptist Church
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

- BWR equips Christians who know how to present the gospel to build relationships with people not immediately receptive to the gospel.
- BWR helps Christians develop a witnessing lifestyle.
- BWR contacts are to be made in a local church context. Pastors and/or Evangelism staff persons should be trained in BWR training activities.
- BWR Seminars are designed for participants from churches with ongoing witness training (CWT, LES, One Day Soul Winning Workshop, etc.).

Registration for BWR Seminar

TUITION FEE ENCLOSED (\$75 per person) \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

Kentucky Baptist Convention
and mail to:
Office for Evangelism, KBC
Box 43433
Middletown, KY 40253

CHURCH NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Street City State Zip

PASTOR/LEADER'S NAME: _____
(Person responsible for leading BWR in local church)

OTHERS ATTENDING: _____

YouthReach emphasizes prayer and baptism

by Mark Wingfield

Southern Baptists hope to resurrect an 18-year dip in youth baptisms through a nationwide emphasis called YouthReach.

YouthReach is not a new program, but is a simultaneous evangelism emphasis among Southern Baptist churches, said Dean Finley, youth evangelism specialist with the Home Mission Board.

YouthReach was designed by Finley and a task force of youth leaders from the Sunday School Board, Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission. The task force was created to explore ways to increase the number of youth baptisms in Southern Baptist churches.

Youth baptisms reached a peak of 137,667 in 1972 and gradually fell to a low of 79,900 in 1987. That number has increased slightly the past three years, with a projected 86,000 youth baptized in 1990.

Despite a decrease in birth rates after the baby boom generation, youth baptisms in Southern Baptist churches have not held steady in proportion to the youth population, Finley said. Additionally, the birth rate in America began growing again in 1977, meaning that today's 13-year-olds are the front edge of an expanding youth population.

For YouthReach, churches are asked to include two events as part of their year-long strategy for evangelizing youths: a "Gather at the Pole" prayer rally the first day of school and a baptismal celebration service between the third week in August and the third week in September.

The "Gather at the Pole" event is similar

to the "See You at the Pole" emphasis promoted by Texas Baptists last year. In Texas, more than 41,000 students met at their school flag poles to pray on the same day.

As part of YouthReach, Baptist students nationwide are encouraged to meet at their school flagpoles 30 minutes before school starts the first day of classes, Finley explained.

The event provides an opportunity to pray for the school and other concerns as well as provides a witness to the community.

The second aspect of YouthReach is a baptismal celebration service to be held between the third week in August and the third week in September. The purpose of this event is to encourage teenagers to be

baptized and encourage both teenagers and adults to evangelize teenagers, Finley said.

He suggested the celebration service could be the time to baptize all teenagers converted during summer camps and other special events. Also, the celebration could be an opportunity to baptize youth who have made professions of faith but never been baptized. (BP)

IRS considers housing benefits for tax credit

by Larry Chesser

While members of the clergy are not required to pay federal income tax on housing benefits they receive, those benefits are considered earned income in determining a taxpayer's eligibility for an Earned Income Credit. The Earned Income Credit is credit of up to \$953 allowed taxpayers with one or more children whose earned income is at least \$1 but less than \$20,264.

An IRS spokesman said a number of ministers in recent years have mistakenly applied for the credit because they failed to count their non-taxable housing allowance or the rental value of a parsonage as earned income.

In determining their eligibility for the credit, taxpayers must include the total of their taxable and non-taxable earned income.

The IRS has no specific figures on the

number of ministers who mistakenly have calculated their qualification for the Earned Income Credit by failing to count their non-taxable housing benefits as earned income, an agency spokesman said. She further stated that the IRS has no information that ministers deliberately had eligibility for the credit, which is deducted from taxes owed or refunded in cases in which no taxes are owed.

When all U.S. taxpayers are considered, errors in calculating the Earned Income Credit rank in the top 10 most frequently made mistakes each year, often in the top five, according to the IRS.

Beginning with 1991 tax returns to be filed in 1992, the IRS hopes to reduce some of the apparent confusion regarding the Earned Income Credit by requiring taxpayers to complete a form, schedule or worksheet to be attached to their tax return. Currently taxpayers use a worksheet provided by IRS to compute the credit, but keep the worksheet with their records rather than including it as part of their tax return. (BP)

Women ministers to see 'Who Cares'

"Who Cares" will be the theme of the fifth-annual spring retreat for Kentucky Baptist Women in Ministry March 1-2 at Shaker-town of Pleasant Hill.

Suzanne Coyle, executive director of the Samaritan Center of Central and Eastern Kentucky in Lexington, will be the featured speaker.

"The annual retreat is designed to be a time for professional development, fellowship and networking among women in church-related vocations and ministry," said

Nenette Measels, chair of the steering committee that planned the retreat.

Cost is \$55 for Kentucky Baptist Women in Ministry members and \$65 for non-members. Checks should be made payable to Kentucky Baptist Women in Ministry.

Reservations should be sent to Measels at First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 839, Middlesboro, Ky., 40965.

Reservations are required, and the registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 15, Measels said.

Conference On Cults And World Religions

March 4 & 5, 1991

Mormons

New Age

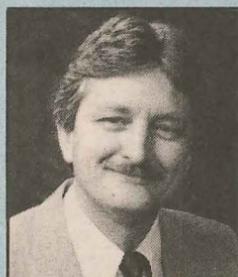
Occult

Buddhism

Jehovah's Witnesses



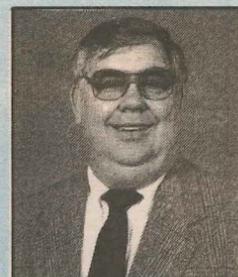
Paul Blizard
Pastor of First Baptist Church Fairdale, and former Jehovah's Witness



Allen Harrod
Pastor of First Baptist Church Bellevue, and Certified Consultant



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



Charles Rice
Dean, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville



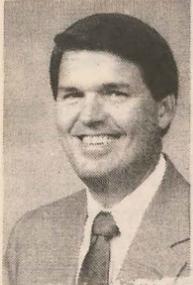
Mark Terry
Professor, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville

Monday, March 4, 1991, 7:00 p.m.
Red House Baptist Church
Richmond, Kentucky

Tuesday, March 5, 1991, 7:00 p.m.
Broadway Baptist Church
Lexington, Kentucky

Sponsored by Office for Evangelism, KBC

Bill Jagers, Director



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

clear creek chronicle

Meeting the challenge

James (not his real name) came to Clear Creek as a single. Some faculty remember him as "immature" ... trying to find himself ... very likable and a friend of other students." He decided not to graduate and left with an unpaid account. I got a letter from James last week. He reflected on the past and on how God has blessed him with new direction and purpose. "I was never a saint, but I never let go of his hand and he pulled me through. Like Job, he has more than replaced everything I lost, including my life, my heart and my attitude. I just want the school and all my friends in the area to forgive me for being such a knucklehead while I was there."

His letter continues: "I've been gone awhile and have seen a lot of places and met a lot of people, but some of the best memories I have are of my years at Clear Creek. The Lord has blessed me in the army way beyond what I could ever have imagined. I was one of the oldest graduates in the Ranger School class. I also made sergeant in two and a half years and hopefully will make staff sergeant in the next year or so. I'm finally out from under my other debts and am enclosing a check for \$50; a monthly allotment will come until my account is paid. My company is being replaced by new privates in March, and we're being sent to Saudi. I hope to be in a Ranger Battalion. I left instructions in my will that my wife make sure that my bill is paid and \$5,000 of my life insurance go to Clear Creek in the event I am killed in this war. I'm very scared about going over but I feel I have received the best training possible. Whatever happens, I will not let you down and most of all my Lord."

Last March, James married "a beautiful Hawaiian girl, a wonderful Christian, and she's changed my life. We have a good church home and a great pastor. I don't really know what we'll do when I get out of the service, but I know with what I've learned here and what I learned at Clear Creek, I can meet any challenge thrown my way. I pray that next year when all this is over, and I can return home, my wife and I can come and visit you for a day. Until then God bless you all. You're in my prayers." He is in our prayers as are the many others who yearn with us for peace.

mountains to the mississippi

PERSONNEL: Pastors—**Donovan Smith** to New Enterprise, Somerset, from Cedar Point, Ingle. ... **Randy Chesnut** to Northside, Science Hill, from Doctors Fork, Harrodsburg. ... **Graden Sears** to Indian Creek, Gray, from Patterson Creek, Williamsburg. ... **Larry Wishon** resigned Pleasant Run, Stab. ... **Tully Turner** to Floyd Switch, Eubank. ... **Claude Mincey** resigned Mt. Victory, Somerset. ... **Russell "Rusty" Brock** to Jordan, Sanders.

Interim pastors—**Elmer Wiley** to Pine Knot, Pine Knot. ... **Jesse Buell** to Prestonsburg, Prestonsburg. ... **Al Hickman** to Acton, Campbellsville.

Others—**Linda Judge-McRae** to Resource

Office for Social Ministries, Lexington, as resource coordinator from Parkway, Lexington, as minister of education and youth. ... **Alan Dodson** resigned Duke Memorial, Somerset, as minister of music/youth.

ORDINATIONS: Ministry—**Bill Campbell** by Fitzpatrick, West Prestonsburg. ... **Gary Morris** by Okalona, Nancy.

Deacons—**Mary Jane Yelton, Ralph Curry** and **Robin Botkin** by Georgetown, Georgetown. ... **David Collier, Mark Highbaugh, Gwen Nelson, Kevin Russell, Bill Wiggins, Bob Campbell** and **Art Robb** by Hurstbourne, Louisville.

CONGREGATIONS: Bloomfield,

Bloomfield, celebrates its bicentennial Mar. 17 with former pastor J. Herbert Gilmore of Gatlinburg, Tenn., in pulpit. Luncheon and anniversary program follows. Others with Gilmore in preaching series Mar. 13-17 include former pastors Young Lang of Indianapolis and Finley Ray of Lexington; Joe Hunt, who surrendered to the ministry at Bloomfield; and Pastor W. Earl Pike. ... **Central, Corbin**, reported the 1,900th person to join during the pastorate of Don Mathis.

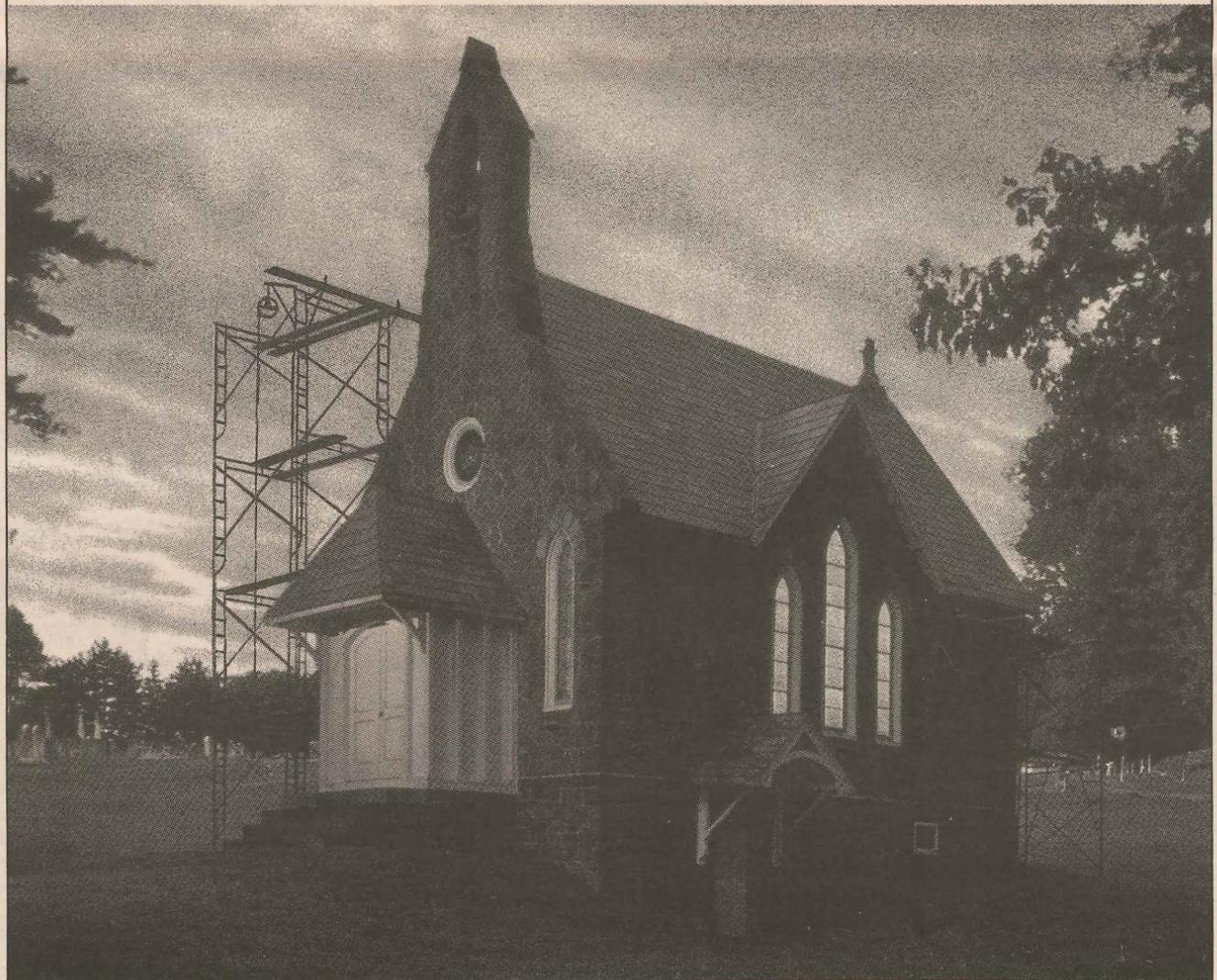
MISSIONARIES: **Bob Blevins**, former director of missions for Booneville-Irvine association, and his wife, **Oakie**, are now in Africa. They can be reached at Box 916, Tsumeb, Namibia, 9000, So. West Africa.

To everything there is a season. A time for change comes even in the life of a church. And like an old church, Presbyterian Ministers' Fund has served those whose lives revolve around their faith since 1717.

Now we're changing our name to The Covenant Life Insurance Company. It's a better reflection of the diversity of our congregation. Because through the years, our insurance products have represented an unbreakable covenant with members of all denominations.

Our new name is simply a new coat of paint on an historic structure dedicated to serving the religious community.

Putting A
 New Face On
 A Rock Of Ages.



Name change subject to individual state approvals.

At Presbyterian Ministers' Fund,
 we've changed our name, not our commitment.



THE COVENANT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

America's first life insurance company—formerly Presbyterian Ministers' Fund.

Serving the religious community since 1717.

1-800-445-1717 • (215) 568-1717



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR FEB. 10, 1991

Life and Work Series

Servanthood

John 13:1-5 A Pattern—Desirous of strengthening his disciples for the events which were about to take place, Christ assembled them in an upper room in Jerusalem for a period of intimate fellowship and a last meal before his crucifixion. On their way to that upper room the disciples engaged in an acrimonious dispute as to "which of them should be

accounted the greatest" in the kingdom.

It was customary for servants to remove the sandals and to wash the feet of their masters and of the guests. When it became obvious that neither of the disciples would render that humble service, Christ quietly arose from the table, took a basin, filled it with water, and began to wash the feet of the disciples and dry them with the towel wherewith he was girded. This unusual service was rendered when the need of the hour was action instead of words. Christ dramatized his masterful sermon before their eyes, and he did it in a way which they never forgot.

No wonder they were chagrined by his noble deed. They could not have been rebuked more severely than by seeing their Lord doing what they thought themselves above doing for each other.

John 13:12-17 A Precept—When our Lord resumed his place at the table, he gave the disciples an explanation of the event which had just taken place. He impressed upon them the importance and value of self-denying service. He taught them that a servant is not greater than his lord, and the one sent is not greater than the sender. He made it clear that following him means living a life of Christian humility, service and helpfulness. The real test of greatness is the ability and willingness to stoop and serve.

International Series

The friend at midnight

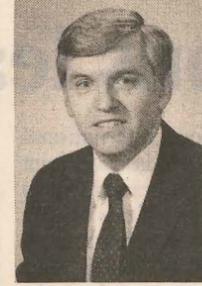
Luke 11:5-13 Christ's example emphasized the privilege, the power, and the blessing of prayer, and prompted one of

the disciples to make the earnest plea, "Lord, teach us to pray." In answer, Christ gave them the prayer which had to do with the whole range of human need, temporal and spiritual. It was a model of brevity, simplicity, and comprehensiveness. In it three things are indicated—relationship, "Our Father," reverence, "Hallowed be thy name," and resignation, "Thy will be done."

The Parable (11:5-8)—Christ gave his followers a specific lesson on importunity and perseverance in praying. Intercession, which is born of the needs of others, is the highest form of prayer because God is moved in our importunity in asking. Let us be persistent in prayer because God is moved in our needs! Our prayers should include a request for daily bread, a plea for forgiveness, and a plea for protection from temptation and for deliverance from the power of Satan.

The Promise (11:9-13)—Christ followed the parable with the assurance which has comforted the hearts of innumerable people through these intervening centuries. He also stressed the point that Christians should persevere in their praying. This is not a picture of how God answers prayer, but of how the children of God should offer prayer.

Those who have made the greatest impact on the world and left the best influence behind them have been men and women of prayer. In addition to being a glorious privilege, prayer is a duty which we owe to God, to others, and to ourselves. The kind of praying which pleases God enriches our lives and greatly benefits those over whom we have an influence. Converse of the soul with God cannot be overemphasized.



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

homes for children

The ongoing ministry of KBHC

Dr. Mooney is recovering from recent back surgery. In his absence, the KBHC column is being written by Robin Oldham, director of development/communications.

Since returning home to Kentucky in 1988 to serve as executive director (now president) of Baptist Homes for Children, Curt Mooney has written insightful, inspiring and sometimes poignant accounts of life at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Many friends of this ministry have voiced their appreciation to Dr. Mooney for his thoughtful accounts and uplifting articles.

As some of you know, Dr. Mooney has experienced recurring back problems for several years and after considerable exercise programs, prescribed medicines and some bed rest, he and his doctors agreed that back surgery was required in order to alleviate this lingering problem.

The surgery is considered routine, requiring a brief stay in the hospital followed by a few weeks at home. Every indication is that Dr. Mooney will be back on the job in the near future.

You will not be surprised to know that in the days prior to surgery, Dr. Mooney met with members of the management team and other staff members to ensure that our outreach to children in need will function smoothly during his brief absence. Already, he is looking forward to being back at work.

Obviously, the needs of boys and girls in our care are ongoing and ever-present. Your prayers, encouraging words and financial support are vital to us. Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry.

Please remember to pray for Dr. Mooney and his family during these days. We look forward to the time when he will be back on the job ready to continue his work with Kentucky Baptists in addressing the challenges that lie ahead.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

A wrestling championship

The Oneida wrestling team won the 1991 All "A" Classic championship recently. Wrestling is generally a sport sponsored by the larger Kentucky schools, yet even a large number of them do not have wrestling programs. Last year the high schools statewide with an enrollment of 500 or less got together to sponsor a tournament competition where each would be on more equal footing.

The 1991 meet was held at Frankfort High School. On the way to winning the championship trophy, the Oneida boys won 16 matches and lost 10. Oneida's overall score was 96 and the next score was 60. Taking second and third places were Kentucky Country Day of Louisville and host school, Frankfort High.

There are only three boys on our team this year that had wrestled previously. The other ten are new to the sport. Wrestling on this varsity team is 7th grader, Sam Yoder, who weighed in at 103 pounds and 8th grader, Seth Philyaw, 112 pounder. Both these young men are Honor Roll students. Each won a match and lost a match.

Freshman Mark Payne is the veteran of the team having been on the team since his seventh grade year. A 160 pounder, he pinned each of his opponents. Of course, there are differing weight classes for competition, so each one wrestles against someone near their own weight. 125-pound Louie Lagunsad, a sophomore, also won each of his matches.

Undefeated on this tournament day and getting first place medals also freshman Mike Miller at 119 pounds. 145-pound senior Murry Drury, 152-pound junior Surafel MaKonnen.

Our one heavyweight is senior J.R. Bodenheimer at 240 pounds. He has been at Oneida since his 6th grade year, but this is his first year to wrestle. He has been in band and choir for seven years, and also in many drama productions through the years. He has been chosen "top actor" of the region several times going on to perform in state competition. Also he was one of a very small number accepted last summer by the Governor's Council for the Arts to study during the summer at Spalding College in vocal music. J.R. got a second place medal in the tournament.

The Oneida wrestling program began in the fall of 1974. The boys really pressed to have a team but we had no funds for expensive wrestling mats that cost thousands of dollars. We took some old cotton mattresses out of storage, and that is what we practiced on that first

year. Of course, having no suitable mats all our competitions had to be away. We could not afford that beginning year the pretty uniforms other schools had. But again we improvised. We had long-handle underwear dyed blue, our school colors, and blue shorts over them. A little unorthodox, but it did not hurt our wrestling one bit. Our program was underway. Half of any undertaking is just getting started. A lot of folks get little or nothing done because they want everything perfect right from the beginning. Many approach everything from the "can't" angle—we teach "can."

For many years we have had nice mats and traditional uniforms. With the second gym, our wrestlers get to practice right after school. For many years, with just one gym, they could not get the use of the gym until everyone else was in bed. Their practices would end after midnight.

High school wrestling is a fine sport. It has almost no resemblance to masquerades as wrestling on television. The TV version is largely posturing, fake, more comedy than reality. But true wrestling is extremely valuable for young teenage boys in helping to build self-confidence.

In today's society, millions of young people have a very low self-image. For many wrestling has been an outlet and a way for some positive achievement. The same can be said for nearly any sport, drama, music, academic competition.

We try to do our best with everything we do. But the bottom line for our sports or whatever is not how many "wins" or trophies are won, but rather how many students are given a chance to take part. We literally have enough athletic teams for both boys and girls, as well as many other activities, that it is physically possible for every child to have an active part from the smallest sixth grader.

Religious leaders decry crackdown in Lithuania

General secretaries of four international ecumenical organizations have issued a joint statement against the Soviet crackdown in Lithuania, saying that "news of this hostile intervention has been met with shock, deep disappointment and outrage among our member churches in Europe and throughout the world."

The statement was issued as the National Salvation Committee, backed by Soviet troops tried to consolidate control of the Baltic republic which declared its independence from the U.S.S.R. in March 1990. Meanwhile the elected government of Vytautas Landsbergis said it would neither step down nor abandon its claim to independence.

The ecumenical leaders appealed to the Soviet government to "instruct its armed forces to desist immediately from the use of

force in imposing its political will on the people" and to "honor the commitment made by the democratically elected leaders of the Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to enter peaceful negotiations on all matters related to questions of mutual security, trade and self-determination."

The statement urged the leaders of the Soviet Union to "return to the course of perestroika and democracy" and to "recognize the fact that no amount of physical and mental coercion will silence the people's will to freedom and self-determination."

The leaders also commended "the leaders of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in their determination to resist violence by non-violent means" and urged them to "take full account of the need of all the peoples of the Soviet Union to pursue the process of change." (RNS)



LITHUANIAN MEMORIAL—Women light candles in Vilnius, Lithuania, in memory of 14 people killed by the Soviet army last month. (Photo by RNS/Reuters)

Catholics won't celebrate '92

by William Bole

The U.S. Catholic bishops have called on the church's members to join observances of the 500th anniversary of the voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1492—but they don't ask them to "celebrate."

In a pastoral letter, the bishops attempt to strike a delicate balance by combining a remembrance of the coming of Christianity to the new world with a call to acknowledge the cultural repression and colonial domination that arrived as a part of the Columbus explorations.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a thoroughly revised version of a statement that caused distress last year among Native American, Hispanic and Black church leaders. These Catholic leaders had said the occasion should be a time of repentance, not celebration.

The final statement mutes the festive tone of the earlier draft. The new statement takes a sober look at the European missionaries and explorers who carried both sword and cross.

"Often they failed to distinguish between what was crucial to the gospel and what were matters of cultural preference. That failure brought with it catastrophic

consequences for the native peoples who were at times forced to become European at the same time they became Christian," says the 40-page document.

At the same time, the bishops give praise to the early missionaries. While bringing "contradictions and injustices with them, the missionaries also 'brought to the peoples of this land the gift of the Christian faith with its power of humanity and salvation, dignity and fraternity, justice and love,' the statement says. (RNS)

Polish letter 'represents breakthrough,' Jews say

Leaders of the American Jewish Committee say a pastoral letter on anti-Semitism issued by the Polish Catholic bishops is "unprecedented and represents an extraordinary breakthrough."

The letter, which was issued in Warsaw, expresses "sincere regret for all the incidents of anti-Semitism which were committed at any time or by anyone on Polish soil."

In the document, the Polish bishops address controversies that have divided Polish Catholics and Jews for much of the 20th century, including the role of Poles during the Holocaust and anti-Semitism

during the Communist period.

Referring to World War II, the letter says: "Many Poles saved Jews during the last war. Hundreds, if not thousands, paid for this with their own lives and the lives of their loved ones. For each of the Jews saved, there was a whole chain of hearts of people of goodwill and helping hands. The witness of that help for Jews in the years of the Hitler occupation are many trees dedicated to Poles in the place of national memory, Yad Vesham in Jerusalem."

But the bishops acknowledge: "In spite of so many heroic examples of help on the part of Polish Christians, there were also people who remained indifferent to this inconceivable tragedy. What is especially painful for us is those Catholics who in some way were the cause of the death of Jews. They will always, forever, gnaw at our conscience in the judgment of society. If only one Christian could have helped and did not stretch out a helping hand to a Jew during the time of danger or caused his death, we must ask forgiveness of our Jewish brothers and sisters."

The pastoral letter also notes that "many of our compatriots still remember the injustices and harm committed by the post-war

Communist authorities in which people of Jewish origin also took part... The source of inspiration of their activity was clearly neither their origin nor religion but the Communist ideology from which Jews themselves suffered many injustices."

In expressing "sorrow for all the injustices and harm done to Jews, the Polish bishops note that "we consider untrue and deeply harmful the use by many of the concept of what is called Polish anti-Semitism, and in addition frequently connecting the concentration camps not with those who actually were involved with them but with Poles in occupied Poland."

The pastoral letter advises that "one cannot forget and overlook the fact that the Poles as a nation were one of the first victims of the same criminal racist ideology of Hitler's Nazism."

The bishops say that Christians and Jews are "united in respect for the biblical books of the Old Testament as the Word of God and by common traditions of prayer" and in "the common hope of the final coming of the reign of God." Together, they say, "we are awaiting the Messiah, the savior, although we, believing that he is Jesus Christ of Nazareth, await not his first but his final coming, no more in the poverty of his manger in Bethlehem but in power and glory." (RNS)

The Cove
BILLY GRAHAM TRAINING CENTER
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA



**Exodus:
Moses, Model for Leadership**
April 9-12

"This study will analyze the character and experiences of Moses, with a view to growing Christian leadership and challenging individuals for personal growth in scheduling priorities, fellowship with God and appropriate investment of life. The seminar will strengthen individuals for local church leadership and broaden vision for personal lay ministry within the local church." -Mark Corts

*Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church
Winston-Salem, NC*

Join us for training in God's Word in 1991.

Also Coming to The Cove in 1991:

Warren Wiersbe	April 30-May 3
David & Karen Mains	May 14-17
Howard & Jeanne Hendricks	June 11-14
Joe Aldrich	June 25-28
Johnny V. Miller	July 9-12
Greg Laurie	July 26-28
Harry Reeder	September 13-15
Steve Brown	September 20-22
Physicians' Seminar	September 26-29
Anne Graham Lotz	October 11-13
David L. McKenna	October 22-25
Jill Briscoe & Judy Briscoe Golz	November 15-17

For information write to:
Billy Graham Training Center
At The Cove
P.O. Box 19223
Asheville, NC 28815
(704) 298-2092

PEW UPHOLSTERING
REVERSIBLE CUSHIONS
PEW REFINISHING
STAINED GLASS
LIGHTING
CARPET • PEWS

We have upholstered pews in over 1500 churches totaling over 600,000 lineal ft. We can reupholster and repair any pews on site for less cost than the original manufacturer.



Church Interiors Inc.
CHURCH FURNITURE & STAINED GLASS

Leading the Nation in Church Renovations
P.O. Box 5346 • High Point, NC 27262
Call Toll Free: 1-800-BUY-PEWS
(1-800-289-7397)

—classified ads—

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

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.

Missionaries cope amidst Colombia's drug war

Stories by Mary E. Speidel

When Avianca Flight 203 exploded in midair, John Magyar quickly called his daughter. "I knew the first thing that would go through their minds was, 'Maybe Dad was on that flight,'" said Magyar of his six grown children. Magyar, from St. Louis, is a Southern Baptist missionary in Colombia.

Magyar had been a frequent flier on that morning route from Bogota to Cali, Colombia. He wasn't aboard when a bomb killed all 107 passengers Nov. 27, 1989. But he knows he easily could have been.

"The danger that we feel is being in the wrong place at the wrong time," missionary Ellis Leagans said of Colombia's lingering drug war. Leagans is administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Colombia.

That danger escalated in August 1989 when leaders of Colombia's Medellin-based drug cartel declared "total and absolute war" on the government. They also renewed threats to harm Americans in Colombia. In the weeks that followed, a rash of violence rocked Colombia—bombings and murders of politicians, judges and journalists.

Whatever the war's outcome, violence remains part of life in Colombia, especially in Bogota, Cali and Medellin. In some shopping centers, customers wait in lines while police check their cars for bombs. At major airports, passengers may go through as many as four separate security checks.

Colombians open to gospel

As prospects for peace emerge in Colombia's drug war, people are becoming more open to the gospel of peace, according to some Baptist leaders there.

Since cocaine lords declared war on the Colombian government in August 1989, hundreds of civilians have died. Drug barons have targeted judges, politicians and journalists who have denounced their illegal trade. In 1990, some 420 Colombian policeman were killed and more than 530 wounded, mostly in the drug war.

The bloody battle has taken its toll on Colombia. "Our country is tired," said Luis Alberto Ramos, a Baptist pastor in one of Colombia's major cities.

Colombians saw violence subside last July after traffickers declared a truce in the fighting. And when the country's new president, Cesar Gaviria, took office the next month, he offered to waive extradition to the United States and cut jail terms for drug barons. One of the top three leaders in the Medellin-based drug cartel surrendered to the government. Some officials believe other drug bosses will follow his lead and the war may wind down into peace talks.

In spite of such prospects, the year of drug-related violence "has made people restless. They want answers," said Harold Segura, pastor of one of Colombia's fastest-growing Baptist churches.

"It's been very tense. There's been a lot of fear," added Jorge Giraldo, a Colombian Baptist chaplain and pastor.

Against that backdrop, "I think we very definitely are seeing an openness to the gospel," said missionary Ellis Leagans, administrator of the Southern Baptist mission organization in Colombia. Leagans is from Davie County, N.C.

"People are willing to listen because ... when there is a storm around, they'll look for answers," he said.

Although Colombians have seen a lull in the drug war, they still face the threat of violence from rebel guerrilla groups. Guerrilla bombings, kidnappings and murders continue as they carry out leftist causes.

"After a while, it just becomes part of what you do to live here," said Magyar, sipping Colombian coffee at his desk in one of the country's troubled cities.

And for some missionaries, "part of what you do" is cope with close calls.

In December 1989, a bomb containing half a ton of dynamite exploded outside the headquarters of DAS, Colombia's national secret police. The bomb, attributed to drug traffickers, killed some 60 people. The day before, a missionary couple had been standing in line in the area.

Last April a gunman killed presidential candidate Carlos Pizaro aboard a commercial airliner en route from Bogota to Barranquilla. A Southern Baptist missionary was to have been aboard that flight, but her plans changed. Another missionary had flown on the same aircraft the night before.

In the face of such dangers, each missionary copes differently. One said he and his wife openly talk about the possibility of being killed or kidnapped. "I guess you get a little matter-of-fact about it," he admitted.

Missionary Bob Caperton said he relies on the truth found in Proverbs 26:13 as paraphrased in The Living Bible.

"It says something like, 'I can't go outside today because a lion may be in the street,'" said Caperton while driving down the street in a Colombian city where he works. "That's like saying, 'I can't go do my missionary work today because I might get killed.' That's always a possibility. But I might get killed in Houston, Texas, too." Caperton is from Alvin, Texas. (BP)

In the face of such turmoil and change, one pastor believes Christians need to do a better job of addressing Colombia's problems.

"We pray and we sing, but people haven't said much about the situation," said Giraldo. "They say, 'It's a sin. It's a sin.' But there's not a lot of effort to interpret what is happening from God's point of view.... The church needs to address people who are asking, 'Where is God in this?'" (BP)

Five years after mud slide, survivors find new life

"It seemed like the end of the world." That's how survivor Eli Oviedo described the massive mud slide that buried Armero, Colombia.

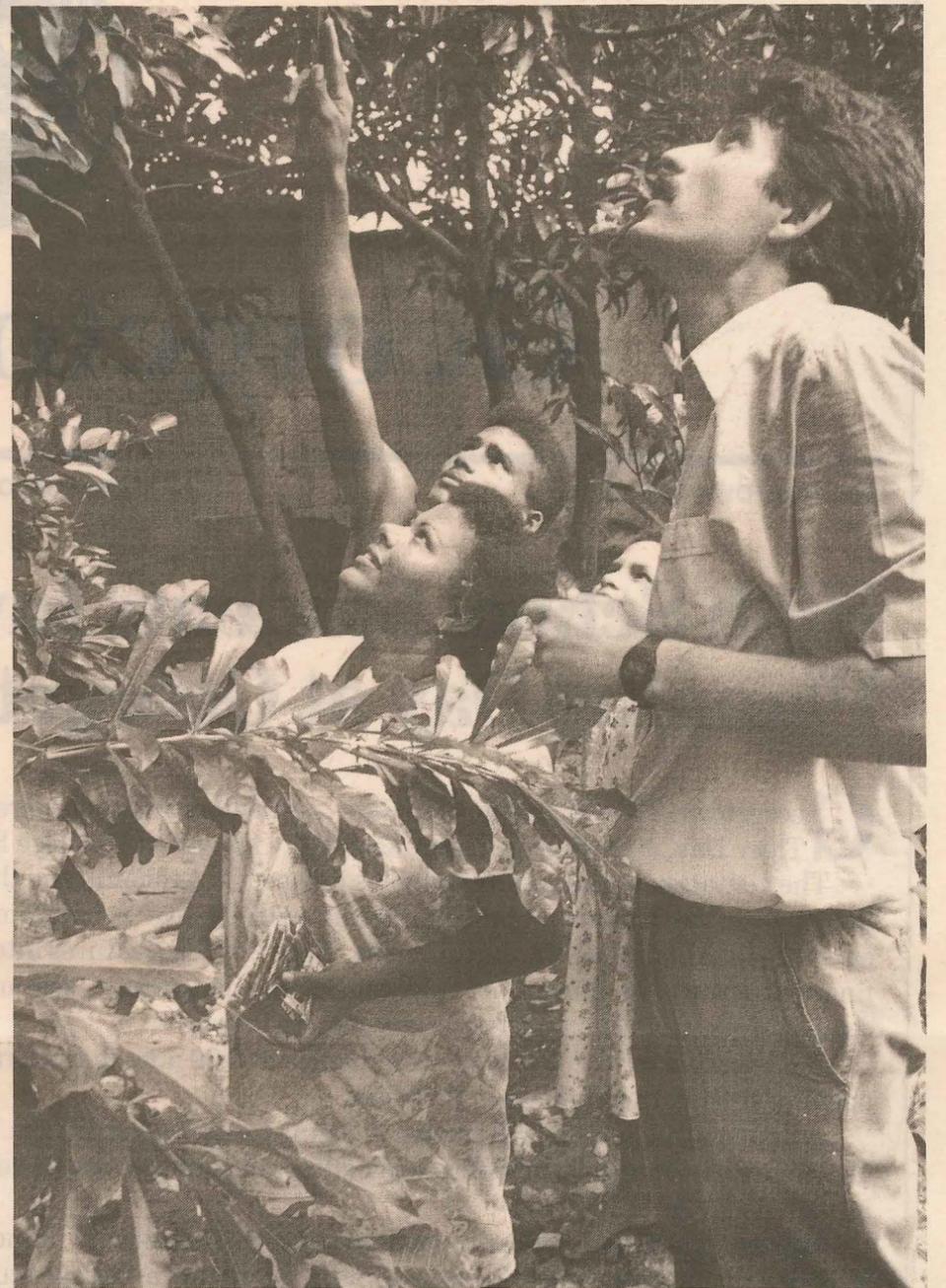
For many people in that small farming town, Nov. 13 of 1985 spelled the end of the world as they knew it. That night the volcano Nevado del Ruiz erupted in the Andes Mountains above Armero.

As chunks of melting ice and lava flowed down the 17,716-foot-high mountain, it smashed against a dam of boulders in the nearby Lagunilla River. Waves of rocks, ash and mud tumbled toward the valley below. Some 24,000 people died in the mud slide, one of the worst human disasters in South American history.

As the avalanche rushed forward, it picked up almost everything in its path. "It looked like the whole street was coming toward us," Oviedo said. He, his wife and eight children fled to higher ground. There, "We embraced each other and prayed. There was nothing else to do," he said.

Oviedo felt his children trembling as the avalanche roared closer. But about 15 feet away, the mud slide stopped abruptly. "It looked as if the mud had been held by a wall. But there was nothing there," he said.

Incredibly, they were safe. "For me it was a miracle of God," said Oviedo, who now attends a Baptist mission in the nearby city of Lerida.



COPING IN COLOMBIA—Southern Baptist missionary Bart Faris (right), examines a fruit tree in the backyard garden of Enalida Cairoso (left) while two of her children look on. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

But most people experienced no miracles that night. Some lost everything, including entire families. Others lost limbs. Some who lived said later they wished they had died in the mudslide. Said one father who lost both his children, "The real tragedy of Armero was having lived through it."

Even five years after Armero, survivors are still trying to build new lives. "They are still suffering a great deal. They need a lot of support," said Oswaldo Arenas, a Co-

Survivor envisions ministry to amputees

"I asked God to help me forget the pain," said Maria Teresa Malaver, a survivor of the killer mud slide that wiped out Armero, Colombia.

While waiting for rescuers after being freed from beneath a wall, Malaver tried to keep her mind off her pain. Injured people all around her cried, begging for death.

"I tried to encourage them," recalled Malaver. "I told them that God had given us a tremendous test. Somehow he was going to get us out of there."

Malaver waited two days before she was rescued. She was taken to the nearby city of Guayaval. When she arrived, doctors didn't have enough supplies left to treat her.

She was flown to a Medellin clinic, where surgeons had to amputate her right

leg below the knee. She was hospitalized there for three months.

"I realized that the only thing that I had was the Lord," she said as a tear rolled down her cheek. "He had saved me because he had something important and great for me. Since then, I ask him every day to show me the way that he has for me."

Today, she is employed by the Bogota Red Cross and works with volunteers. She also is involved in organizing an association of amputees from Armero. So far, she has found 60 amputees living throughout Colombia.

"I have a dream of being able to get them together in one place to hear the message of Christ," she said. "I think it's something very important for us." (BP)



Georgetown Focus

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE,

GEORGETOWN, KENTUCKY

JANUARY, 1991

High School Students Invited to Pre-College Planning Day at Georgetown College

Georgetown, KY—High School juniors and seniors and their parents are invited to attend Tiger Day, a pre-college planning day at Georgetown College Saturday, February 16.

The visitation to the campus enables prospective students and their parents the opportunity to tour the campus and meet and talk with faculty. A program filled with vital college entrance information and entertainment, Tiger Day also features interviews and auditions for fine arts grants in music, art and communication arts, a session on financial aid, and competitive exams for computer science and physics.

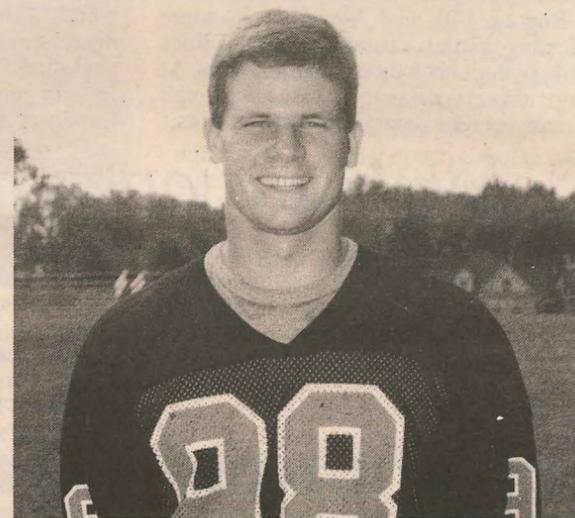
Registration for the day-long event begins at 8:00 a.m. in the Cralle Student Center. The opening session then follows at 9:00 a.m.

A financial aid session will end the morning's activities at 11:30 a.m. Martha Simpson from Georgetown's Financial Aid Office will address questions from students and parents pertaining to this subject.

Following a complimentary lunch, the afternoon session will include the presentation of science exam awards and entertainment by Georgetown College students.

Afterward, those attending Tiger Day are invited to attend a basketball game between the Georgetown Tigers and Campbellsville College at 2:00 p.m. Admission to the game is free.

To make reservations for Tiger Day '91, call the Georgetown College Admissions Office at (502) 863-8009. □



Brian McKenzie, a 6'-3", 230 lb. linebacker from Georgetown College was selected to the NAIA All-American first team. During his time at Georgetown, McKenzie led the Tigers in sacks and tackles for three consecutive years.

Pastor's Christian Leadership Scholarship Program Accepting Applications

Georgetown College is accepting applications for its Pastor's Christian Leadership Scholarship Program, according to Steve B. Cook, Director of Church Relations.

Fifty-three scholarships will be awarded by Georgetown. Three half-tuition scholarships amounting to over \$10,000 for four full years will be awarded along with 50 \$400 scholarships for four full years (\$1,600 total). In addition, all nominees will receive priority consideration for other types of financial aid at Georgetown College.

To apply for the leadership scholarship, the student nominee's pastor or other church minister must complete a minister's nomination form. The student nominee form must be

completed by the student. Also, pastors and students must complete a one-page essay regarding the pastor's recommendation, and the student's remarks concerning his/her ability to be an active leader on the college campus and qualifications for the scholarship.

This scholarship, said Cook, is awarded only to students accepted for admission at Georgetown College. Students must also complete the "Application for Admission" to the college which may be obtained by calling the Office of Admissions at (502) 863-8009.

Applicants for the Pastor's Christian Leadership Scholarship will be selected by a committee of three ministers from local

churches and three members of the college staff by mid-March of 1991. The submission deadline is March 1.

Students will be selected on the basis of their leadership levels, Christian commitment, the essay outlining their qualifications for the scholarship, and the recommending statement provided by their pastor/minister.

For more information on the Pastor's Christian Leadership Scholarship Program, contact Steve Cook at the college by calling (502) 863-8041.

Applications may be secured by writing: Office of Church Relations, Georgetown College, 400 East College Street, Georgetown, Kentucky, 40324-1696.