

Missionaries risk lives daily, Graham reports

by Robert H. Dilday

Southern Baptist missionaries risk their lives every day in sharing the gospel with the world's people, Maurice Graham recently told Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees.

Graham, a mission worker who returned to the United States in December following virtual imprisonment in the U.S. embassy in Kuwait, related his experience to trustees during their meeting last week.

It was Graham's first appearance before the board since his return, and trustees, who greeted him with a standing ovation, followed his comments with an extended prayer session.

Graham's report was a highlight of the

meeting, during which trustees also appointed or reappointed 31 mission workers, voted to eliminate local board members and expressed appreciation to retiring staff member William R. O'Brien.

Graham and his wife, Laurie, were Southern Baptists' first full-time workers in Kuwait. They and their two sons had been there less than three months when Iraqi troops stormed the country Aug. 2.

After Iraqi soldiers entered their home several times, the family took refuge in the American embassy.

Laurie Graham and her sons left Kuwait Sept. 12 as part of an evacuation of Western women and children, but her husband remained in the beleaguered embassy. During that time he was able to maintain

some contacts with members of the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait City, where he was assistant pastor. The congregation consists of a variety of nationalities, including many Filipinos and Indians.

He was released Dec. 9 after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein freed all foreign "guests."

"I am still torn about leaving," Graham told FMB trustees. "It was hard to leave without saying goodbye" to members of his church.

"I tried to find a way to get to the church to say goodbye to my congregation—to say, 'You'll be in my prayers and I won't abandon you.'" But he was unsuccessful.

Prior to the invasion, many people in Kuwait City were responding to the church's

ministries, and the future for a successful Christian witness there appeared bright, he said. But "it seemed the invasion crushed the entire dream."

However, he said, in the midst of the upheaval the church found new ways to minister. Members discovered a hospital for handicapped children had been left without services since the invasion and quickly stepped in to provide care.

In addition, as food supplies dwindled in the country, the congregation took bags of rice to needy families, including many Muslims, who later visited the church to express thanks.

"For the first time in Kuwait, Muslims were freely coming into our church ... and continued on page 2, "Foreign Mission ..."

Brotherhood vols equal \$42 million

by Jim Burton

Time and labor provided by Southern Baptist Brotherhood volunteers last year equalled a \$42 million contribution, Brotherhood Commission President James H. Smith reported.

The 59,810 Brotherhood missions volunteers participated in 4,002 national and international projects.

"We've always known the Brotherhood was making a significant contribution to missions," Smith said.

"When you put a dollar figure to volunteer participation, you begin to see how great that contribution is."

The convention's Volunteers in Missions Task Force estimated volunteers spent an average of three days on a project and that the average missionary salary is \$88 per day. Applied to 42,330 volunteers reported in non-construction projects, the formula values their time and labor at \$11.2 million.

In addition, 17,480 Brotherhood volunteers accomplished 612 mission construction projects, including 306 churches. At a construction savings of \$100,000 per building, that contribution equals \$30.6 million.

State Brotherhood directors also reported on their own projects, including sports, performing arts, agriculture, business, education and medical/dental. Of 4,002 projects, 134 were overseas. (BP)



SIGNS OF LIFE—Survivors Plutarco Arias (center) and his wife, Fanny (second from right), show Colombian Baptist home missionaries Sergio and Janet Henao what once was Armero, Colombia. On Nov. 13, 1985, a mud slide caused by an

erupting volcano buried the town alive. Baptists were among the groups helping survivors to recover. Today, new plant life grows on the gray terrain that formerly was Armero, amid crosses honoring the dead. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Kentucky's baptism gains out-pace SBC's

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Kentucky Baptists, like Baptists in most other states, baptized more people in 1990 than in any recent year.

Kentucky Baptists baptized 17,027 people during the 1989-90 church year, which ended last Sept. 30.

Those baptisms represent a 10.2 percent increase over the 15,445 baptisms reported in 1989. The previous high in Kentucky during the last decade—20,677—was set in 1981.

The latest Kentucky figures compare favorably with those of all Southern Baptist Convention churches for 1990. The SBC baptism rate rose by 9.7 percent over 1989.

During 1990, Southern Baptists conducted "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals across the nation. The crusades significantly affected the outcome of baptismal records in Kentucky and other SBC state conventions, denominational observers reported.

The national statistics for 1990 were

reported on page 1 of the Feb. 12 issue of the Western Recorder. All figures are based on the Uniform Church Letter survey, which was completed by individual churches and processed by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals boosted KBC baptisms to 17,027—the best total in nine years.

In Kentucky, four out of the five ongoing church programs whose enrollments are tracked annually also registered numerical and percentage gains in 1990 over 1989.

Of the four programs, the most impressive gain—13 percent—was recorded in discipleship training. It added 10,418 participants in Kentucky, for a 1990 enrollment total of 90,811.

Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood enlarged its ranks during 1990 by 1,269, a 4.6 percent increase, attracting 28,489 participants.

In the SBC, discipleship training and Brotherhood enrollment/participation registered larger totals than 1989. National figures are not comparable, however, due to changes in reporting procedures for both organizations.

The ongoing music ministry in Kentucky Baptist congregations boasted a 4 percent gain in 1990, representing 3,629 people. Names on music rolls in KBC churches swelled to 90,286. SBC churches combined saw a 2.7 percent growth rate in music activity participation.

Sunday school is the only other ongoing church program organization to witness an enrollment increase in 1990 among Kentucky Baptists. It added 2,623 names, for a total membership of 368,201. This gain of 0.72 percent is slightly under the 0.9 percent experienced by Southern Baptist Sun-

continued on page 2, "State, SBC ..."

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Missile fragments hit Baptist Village

Fragments of Scud or Patriot missiles showered down over Baptist Village in Petah Teqva, Israel, recently, but they did no damage.

Some fragments struck the roof of Southern Baptist workers Ray and Suzanne Altman. Their home is on the Baptist Village complex, a conference center.

They were unaware that pieces of flat, twisted metal as big as tennis balls struck their roof until sometime later.

Baptist Village is only eight to 10 miles from the urban area repeatedly hit by Iraqi Scud missiles.

Finding missile fragments on her roof has not made Mrs. Altman any more afraid, but it has given new meaning to the drill of rushing to the room that has been sealed against gas attacks.

"The fragments have made the whole thing more tangible, more real," she said.

In other war news:

- "Real spiritual revival" continues in Saudi Arabia, an Army chaplain said.

In fact, a "groundswell" of spiritual renewal is taking place among troops, said Charles T. Clanton, Army Forces Command Staff chaplain at Fort McPherson, Ga.

"Hundreds of people have been saved. This is not on a small scale," said Clanton, who based his report on word from other senior chaplains.

Onset of war increases spiritual con-

cern, he explained: "People start thinking seriously about their mortality. They're seeking spiritual help."

- Ken Sehested, executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, has begun a bread-and-water fast for peace. It began Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13,

and will last until Easter.

"I am taking this action to further dramatize the profound grief over our nation's decision to undertake this war," he said.

- Florida Baptists plan "Desert Calm," a conference to help churches minister to military families. (BP, FMB)



HOPEFUL HEADLINE—Christians who fought to abolish racial segregation in South Africa found hope in news of South African President F.W. de Klerk's recent pledge to remove all apartheid laws by June. (Photo by RNS/Reuters)

State, SBC stats look very similar

continued from page 1
day schools overall.

For the second consecutive year, Woman's Missionary Union suffered a decline in participation, being down nationally 0.4 percent, but only 0.35 percent in Kentucky. The state WMU ceased 60,240 members in 1990, a net loss of 211.

Kentucky compared well with all Southern Baptists in two other major statistical categories.

Commonwealth Baptists almost kept pace with the SBC in starting new congregations. The SBC added 189 churches in 1990, a 0.5 percent increase. Kentucky contributed 11 of the 189 new churches bringing KBC-affiliated congregations to 2,276.

Missions expenditures in Kentucky compared even better to SBC figures. While Southern Baptists increased their giving to missions by 0.8 percent, Kentuckians raised theirs 1.07 percent, to \$30,948,418, a jump of \$329,479 over 1989.

But Kentucky Baptists were not as generous overall as their brothers and sisters in other states. While tithes, offerings and special gifts grew by 6.0 percent in the SBC, Kentuckians recorded a 5.2 percent increase in total giving. Baptists of the commonwealth added \$9,101,565 to their 1989 gifts, sharing \$184,692,915 in 1990.

Foreign Mission Board approves elimination of local trustees

continued from page 1

would hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and feel and know the sense of love," Graham said.

Now that the war has broken out between Iraq and the Western allies, "I'm frightened for my congregation," he said. Food supplies continue to diminish and increasing numbers of casualties are being brought to the hospitals.

He asked trustees to pray for the church members.

"Continue to pray for all missionaries who risk their lives daily for one reason—to allow every creature on earth to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ," he added.

In other business, trustees named the first mission workers of 1991.

The 29 people appointed will serve in 11 countries. Later, trustees reappointed a board staff member and his wife for service in Switzerland. That brings the total Southern Baptist mission force to 3,873, serving in 121 countries.

Kentucky tied to 1 new missionary

Jane F. Paysinger, who recently lived in Kentucky, joined 29 new missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last week.

Paysinger, a pharmacist, will live in Ghana, where she will work in a hospital and be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

She recently attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. While there, she attended Highview Baptist Church, whose pastor, Bill Hancock, is chairperson of the Foreign Mission Board.

Earlier, she was a nutrition-support pharmacist in Buffalo and Cleveland, and she is a member of Parma Baptist Church in Parma, Ohio.

She is a native of Oak Ridge, Tenn., and considers Cleveland, Tenn., her hometown. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Memphis.

Paysinger will go to Rockville, Va., in March for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the mission field.

Phyllis Randall, vice chair of the board's mission personnel committee, told trustees 414 people joined the mission force last year—195 of them as career mission workers, 21 as associate missionaries, 178 as members of the International Service Corps and 20 by reappointment or re-employment.

After taking retirements and resignations into account, 1990 saw a net gain of 83, said Randall, of Blackburg, Va.

Unanimous action to eliminate the board's 12 local members will reduce the number of trustees from 91 to 79.

Like most Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions, the FMB has maintained seats for local members for decades. In the past, the policy was considered necessary because limited transportation facilities made quorums difficult to obtain and communications did not allow immediate contact between staff and trustees. Now, say some observers, the policy is outmoded and unnecessary.

At the 1990 meeting of the SBC, the SBC Executive Committee asked each of the denomination's agencies and institutions to evaluate the continued necessity of local members.

The SBC Executive Committee will ask messengers at the SBC's annual meeting, June 4-6 in Atlanta, to consider the change prior to the report of the convention's committee on nominations, which would have recommended persons to fill local member vacancies. Board officials said they anticipate approval of the change.

While the action eliminates 12 Virginians from the FMB, Virginia will retain three members as state representatives. Local members will serve until the end of their terms.

In his report to the board, President R. Keith Parks praised O'Brien, who is retiring as executive director of public affairs, concluding a 26-year association with the board.

He will assume the directorship of a newly formed global beegones center at Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity in Birmingham, Ala., March 1.

O'Brien, and his wife, Dellanna, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, were appointed missionaries to Indonesia in 1962, serving there with Parks.

Parks said he brought O'Brien to the board staff because he "knew him to be spiritually sensitive, prayerful, Bible-saturated, Christ-honoring, humble, a pilgrim servant, a man of faith, evangelistic, creative, gifted and one who had a full understanding of and commitment to Southern Baptists' way of doing missions."

In other action, trustees:

- Allocated more than \$70,000 from the 1989 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions to support new ministries in Eastern Europe. The funds will finance short-term and career mission workers in the region.

- Heard a report from the Europe, Middle East and North Africa committee that it has asked board staff to "do a mid-season evaluation of theological needs in Eastern Europe." Committee Chair P. Steve Hardy



Jane F. Paysinger

Cumberland coach is game's youngest, winningest

by Beth Wyatt
Special Correspondent

Randy Vernon, basketball coach at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, is the youngest, winningest coach in the game.

At 39, Vernon won his 300th game Jan. 15 against Alice Lloyd College of Pippa Passes. His career mark is 300-87.

Vernon reached this plateau earlier than any other coach.

Indiana's Bobby Knight won his 300th game at age 40 and North Carolina's Dean Smith reached the mark at 44. Both Indiana and North Carolina are National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I schools.

Cumberland is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Another NAIA coach, Georgetown's Jim Reid, reached his 300th at age 40.

Vernon is in his 12th season as the Cumberland Indians' coach. He put the Indians on the national scene, leading them to the NAIA national tournament six times. The Indians also can claim seven consecutive winning seasons.

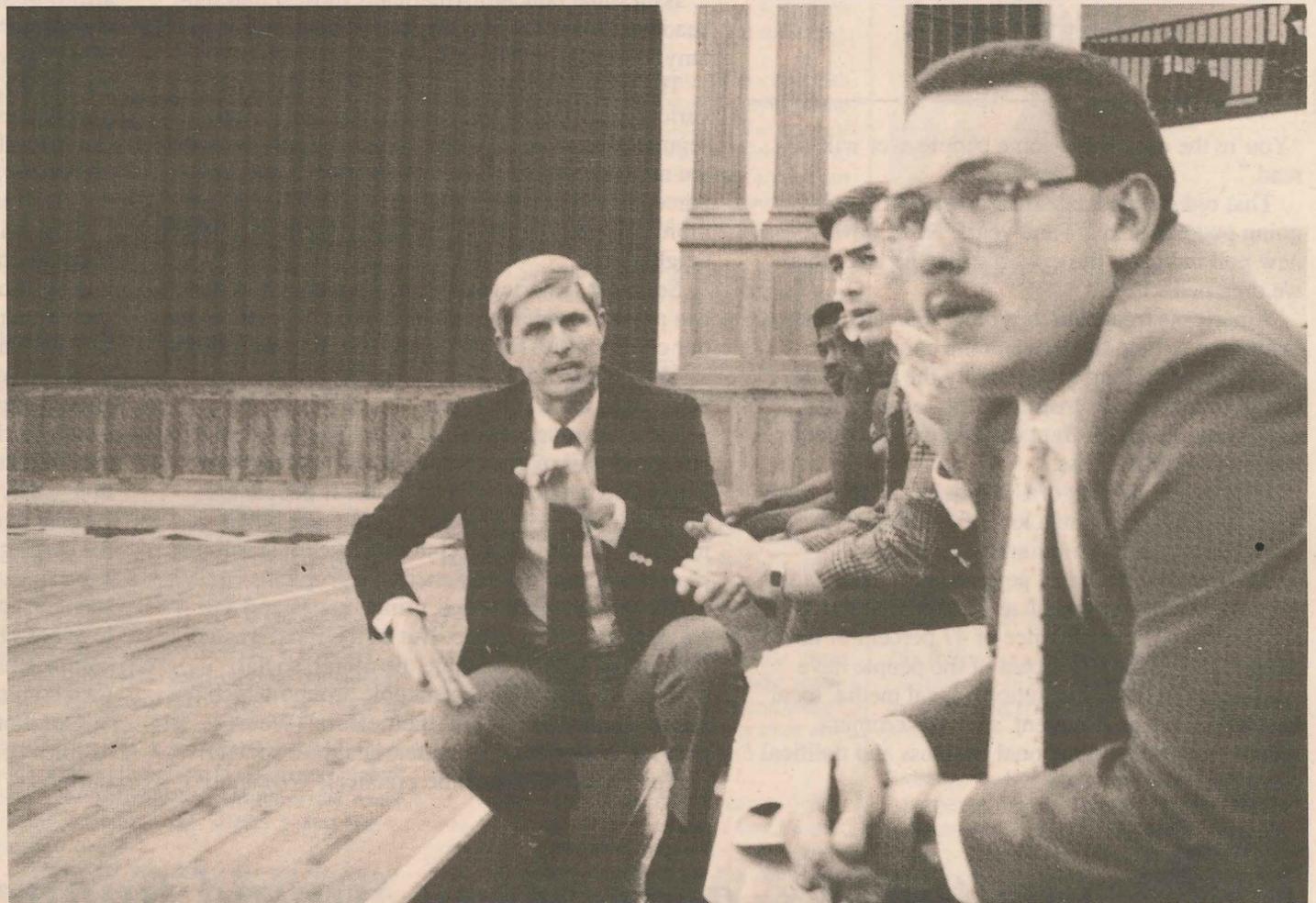
During the 1985-86 season, Vernon led the team to the coveted number one ranking for three weeks. That year the Indians were the number one seed entering the national tournament.

The coach is quick to pass on the credit to the players: "We've had good players. The chances have been there to win games."

"The school administration has been a tremendous part of the team. It backs us at every opportunity," Vernon added.

Vernon's Indians have been winners in the classroom, too. Only two players who have enrolled during his tenure as coach have left the school without a degree. Academic success is strongly stressed.

The coach's personal basketball pilgrimage began in Breckenridge County, Tenn., where he lettered in the sport four years. Graduating from Tennessee Wesleyan College in 1973, he became a graduate



SETTING A RECORD—Basketball's youngest, winningest coach, Randy Vernon (left), has been at the helm of Cumberland College's program in Williamsburg a dozen years. At 39,

he won his 300th game last month, for a career mark of 300-87. The Kentucky Baptist school's president, Jim Taylor, calls Vernon "an excellent role model."

assistant under Coach Lake Kelly at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn.

In 1977, Kelly left Austin Peay for Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla., taking Vernon with him. Two years later, Vernon

joined the Cumberland staff.

"I'm not sure how long I will coach at Cumberland," he said. "Or coach, period. But if I never coach anywhere else, I will be happy. I enjoy what I'm doing."

Cumberland President Jim Taylor added: "It's great to have a fine Christian coach such as Randy Vernon. He has high standards for his team, and for the individuals on it. He is an excellent role model."

Curiously interested drawn to Nicholasville storefront church

by Jane Taylor Howell
State Correspondent

What do pizza and worship services have in common?

Both may be found in the Edgewood East shopping center on U.S. 27 in Nicholasville.

But that's where the similarity ends.

On a Sunday morning, Faith Baptist Church resembles any Baptist congregation. Its 4500-square-foot of floor space isn't distinguished as a store.

Members of Calvary Baptist Church in Nicholasville launched a new worship ministry in May 1988. Within a year, 16 adherents decided to constitute into a new church.

After 19 years in the insurance business, John Sheppard responded to Faith's call, returning to the ministry as pastor in July 1989.

Today, the 55-member congregation draws an average Sunday school attendance of 50 weekly.

"People walk in off the parking lot to see what we're all about," Sheppard said. "This gives me an opportunity to minister. Lots of people are hurting in this county. I counsel up to eight hours weekly."

Sheppard noted that 70 percent of Jessamine County's residents are unchurched, although he thinks many of those are Chris-

tians. "We have retained some who are in the process of healing. We do all we can to maintain that process," he said.

When he became pastor, the storefront congregation was contributing nothing to missions. It liberally supports Southern Baptists' unified missions plan, the Cooperative Program, now.

"Although our budget is just \$42,000, we meet 95 percent of it," Sheppard said.

Excited about the work of a young, growing church, he added: "Different settings and methods, but common needs, have combined at Faith in an effort to reach the shopping community."



SHOPKEEPER GREETER—Pastor John E. Sheppard (left), welcomes Dan Corman to services at Faith Baptist Church in Nicholasville as Jesse Jones looks on. The three-year-old congregation occupies space in a shopping center, and has become an answer for some who might not attend worship in a traditional church setting.

Congregation tithing to association

by Ron Chaney, Staff Writer

Antioch Baptist Mission in Antioch Shores started its young life with a mature approach to ministry, said David Aker, director of missions for Pulaski Baptist Association.

Although the church is in mission stage—a congregation sponsored by another congregation—it already gives to support other mission efforts, said Aker. Included in that support: a tithe of its funds to the association.

Antioch pastor Jerry Frye said the church is concerned about furthering the association's work. "We decided when we opened our doors to give 10 percent to mission work," he explained.

Contributions help the association spon-

sor workshops, training seminars, student summer missions programs as well as new churches, Aker said.

Recently a note came with the check. Russell Bunch, church treasurer, sent the check and his wife, Nell, wrote about Antioch's progress. "We are growing, and I feel with all my heart, it's because we are tithing what we get to our association," she said.

Three years ago Denham Street Baptist Church in Somerset started the congregation in Antioch Shores, a small community near Burnside. A tent revival generated prospects for a new church. Men from Denham Street put up a building and it was filled the first worship service, held on Good Friday.

About 60 people now attend worship services, Aker reported.

Americans look to churches to solve community problems

editorial

Marv Knox

"You're the only Bible some people ever will read."

That old saying has rained down on church-going people for years and years. Now, however, a new poll indicates those words may be truer than we dreamed.

Americans trust churches more than any other institution to help them overcome community problems, according to a study by the George H. Gallup International Institute. The results were released to Southern Baptists through the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

Fifty-seven percent of U.S. adults say they have a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in churches to handle community problems.

That compares to a 54 percent confidence rating for volunteer groups, such as the YMCA. Public schools have the confidence of 47 percent of the people. Less than 30 percent of the people have confidence in other institutions: local media, local business, local government, state government, federal government, national business and political parties.

Issues that concern Americans most sound like headlines from the morning newspaper: the economy, drugs, crime and gangs.

The poll shows that confidence levels in the various institutions remain constant for various segments of society, with two exceptions. Women are more confident in the church than are men, 65 percent to 48 percent. And adults over age 30 are more confident in the church than are their younger neighbors.

So, most Americans still believe our churches can provide leadership in curing the ills that plague our communities. What an awesome responsibility.

The Gallup poll's findings offer at least two challenges to our churches:

First, we must capitalize upon the confidence and good will of American citizens and provide leadership needed for these times. If people are turning to us, then we cannot turn them down. As members of America's churches, we must roll up our sleeves and tackle America's problems.

We cannot whip drugs, crime, gangs and a sluggish economy alone. But as the most-trusted institution, we can become the moral, social, cultural and emotional stackpole around which our entire communities build their efforts. We can provide leadership for a safer, healthier society.

This leadership must be practical. We cannot

afford to offer only pious statements. Everyone knows we're against drugs and rape. We need to help provide the ideas and volunteer labor, if not the money, for community programs that give people alternatives to lives of crime and hatred. We can offer the faith, hope, love and values needed to defeat our problems. In the process, we can become the catalysts for transforming our communities.

That brings us to the second challenge. We can translate this public confidence and our hard work into spiritual blessing for our communities. As our secular neighbors see us improving the quality of life, we earn the right to be heard by them. They might never darken a church door, never read a tract, never sit still for a sermon. But when they watch Christian people working to solve problems, they'll listen for an answer to the inevitable question—why?

That question presents the wonderful opportunity for casting spiritual light on all the dark problems. We can explain—to receptive hearers, who have seen our faith validated by our deeds—how God's love has changed our lives and how that love compels us to change our world, beginning in our own communities.

Our words then become the illustrations of the "Bibles" of our lives. May we live them openly and uprightly, for all to read.

KBC's institutions, agencies in 'sound financial condition'

viewpoint

The audit workgroup of the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board's business and finance committee met Jan. 24, 1991, to perform its annual review and evaluation of the financial condition and practices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's affiliated entities and its executive board as reflected in their 1990 audited financial statements.

The entities include Campbellsville College, Cumberland College, Geor-

getown College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Baptist Hospitals, Western Recorder and Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

This annual audit review process is one important way Kentucky Baptists receive an accountability report from the convention and its affiliated entities.

Kentucky Baptists can be pleased and encouraged with the sound financial condition and stability of their institutions and agencies and the level of cooperation demonstrated by them. Furthermore, Kentucky Baptists can be pleased that a

procedure exists whereby the convention and its institutions and agencies can give an accounting of the stewardship of the resources entrusted to them.

The workgroup was most complimentary of the board and administrative leadership of the convention and each of its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to increase their support of these institutions and agencies prayerfully and financially.

Members of the audit workgroup are Willie Barbour, Covington; Howard Beaman, Paris; Tanya Berry, Port Royal; Mark Boes, Cecilia; Donald Reed,

Harrodsburg; Michael Thomason, Glasgow; Jerry Tooley, Henderson; Ron Williams, Lewisport. Convention President Robert White, convention Executive Secretary Bill Marshall, Business Manager Barry Allen and certified public accountant Asa Hord, met with the audit workgroup.

The workgroup's report will be made to the full business and finance committee in March.

Howard Beaman, chairperson
KBC audit workgroup
pastor, First Baptist Church
Paris

ministerially speaking

Doctor knows best

Like many folks in Kentucky, I have some serious allergies. These allergies have caused me congestion, discomfort, etc. I have struggled with it for years.

Two years ago, my physician gave me a prescription that he thought would head off the allergy problems. I began to take the

prescription, as per his direction, two pills per day. They worked. The last two years I have been free of allergy symptoms. It has been great!

The physician said I needed to get this medicine into my system, and then I could reduce the medication taken each day. I began to reduce the medication from two pills a day to one pill a day, and for the last

couple of months to one-half pill per day. In fact, recently, I have been taking half pill every two or three days. Lately, however, I have started sneezing and felt congested. I reduced my medication too much. I have increased the medication and feel much better.

The scriptures give us a prescription for worship. The book of Hebrews says we are not to forget to gather together, as is the habit of some.

The spiritual doctor says we are to meet weekly for worship, Bible study, prayer

and support. If we reduce that prescription too much, we invite trouble. It is very important that we worship faithfully not just occasionally, or whenever we feel like it. Spirituality, like medicine, has to get into our system to ward off evil, rather than just deal with symptoms.

The spiritual doctor knows best. We need to take the prescription every week.

Rick Landon, pastor
Trinity Baptist Church
Lexington

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western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

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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.

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ministerially speaking

But and therefore

What a difference these two words make! From many we hear, "I'm a Christian, but ..."

- "I have to work such long hours, Sunday is my only time for recreation.
- "I'm just no good at personal work, so please excuse me.
- "I have too many pressing debts, so I cannot give much.
- "I want to leave my membership back home where my parents belong.
- "I struggle with children all week, so don't ask me to work in nurseries.
- "My club meets that night, so I cannot attend the committee meeting."

What a relief to meet a man or woman who cheerfully says, "I'm a Christian, therefore ..."

- "Count on me for anything and everything I can do.
- "I'll put my church before recreation or club meetings.
- "I'll gladly knock on doors to win friends for my church and my savior.
- "I'll attend Sunday school, Discipleship Training and all worship services.
- "I'll not ride the wagon while others pull the load;
- "God shall faithfully receive a tithe of what he blesses me."

*Jerry Howerton, pastor
Liberty Baptist Church
Russell Springs*

Be Sweet

A farmer repeatedly invited a friend into his apple orchard to taste the fruit and make some fresh cider. But just as often, the friend said, "No thank you." Finally, the farmer said, "I guess you're just prejudiced against my apples."

His friend said he had tasted some of them and they were sour. The farmer asked where he had found them, and his friend said they were the ones along the road near the fence.

The farmer smiled and explained they were sour apples he had planted on purpose to discourage the boys in the community from taking his apples. "Come into the middle of my orchard and you will find the sweetest apples you have ever tasted," he told his friend.

On the edges of the church are some very sour apples. Passerby are discouraged by the testimony of those on the fringe. Those in the middle need to share the sweetness of the fruit of the gospel. God resides in the middle, and the closer to God, the sweeter the fruit.

If we are to reach our community, we need to offer our sweetest fruit to those who are hungry. The good news is that we are not the sweeteners, God is. The closer we walk with him, the more his sweetness will shine through.

*Robert Bailey, pastor
Clifton Baptist Church
Louisville*

The mighty Atlas

You have heard of Angelo Sicilano, better known as Charles Atlas.

When he was 16, he was a 97-pound runt. One day he really got a vision of strength as he saw statues of Apollo and Hercules in the Brooklyn Museum. He was told that young Greek athletes had served as models for the statues.

That very day, he began taking exercises according to some instructions he had found in a newspaper. People made fun of him, but he did not let it slow him down. He never gave up. Later, he even invented his own exercises. He became "the mighty Atlas" and held many titles, one of which was "the world's most perfectly developed man."

Charles Atlas set his heart on a goal and accomplished it. His greatest weakness became his greatest strength. He did not let his current condition discourage him, but he allowed it to challenge him.

God can do a lot with your life, if you will just allow him to. He just wants you to be willing to follow him.

Your model should not be Apollo, or Hercules, but Jesus Christ. Set your heart on him and strive to conform to his image.

*Jerry Shepherd
Minister of Music & Youth
Burgin Baptist Church
Burgin*

Make a difference

You and I can make a difference, but do we have the commitment and resolve to do so? Are we willing to trim our lifestyles so that we may share more with our fellow human-kind.

Think about this: Americans eat enough food yearly to feed 1.5 billion people. This means Americans eat five times more food than is needed. Not only do we eat too much, but we waste vast amounts of precious food. (These facts and figures were taken from Tarbell's Teacher's Guide.)

Our lifestyles need careful consideration in the light of the world's starving and dying millions. The question confronting the Christian in America: Am I willing to commit myself to share in a vital way of that which the Lord has blessed me with? Am I willing to adjust my lifestyle and share more?

Too often you and I do not display a sense of true commitment to causes; we give token gifts. We give just enough to save our consciences. Generally, we do not give in a sacrificial manner. We give, but it doesn't really cost us very much.

Yes, you and I can make a difference if we really want to. When we give offerings for the relief of world hunger, we have another opportunity to demonstrate our willingness and commitment to share.

*Jack C. Naylor, pastor
Oaklawn Baptist Church
Paducah*

Bless, don't blame

Who is to blame? What went wrong? These are questions often posed when adverse circumstances develop with their accompanying trauma and heartache.

Jesus spoke to this when he addressed the issue in John 9. The occasion was when a blind man, blind from birth, was to be healed by the loving hand of God.

Ideologues were on hand then as always, asking the question, "Who sinned, this man or his parent?" Each of us have known the temptation of those folks, the fixing of responsibility for adverse conditions. Even the casual student will notice they were careful not to accept any responsibility themselves. They could have asked, "Where did we miss it?" but they, like most, could not conceive that in any way that they may have had some responsibility. Many are like this, always ready to place blame on someone else.

Jesus said in effect: "No one has sinned. This circumstance is allowed in order that the works of God might be made manifest." When you study this, the conclusion that God allows adversity is inevitably reached. The fact is, God allows to arise all around us human dilemma resulting in broken, aching hearts. This is known as the permissive will of God. He does this in order that his work may be done and seen.

As one thinks about it more, another conclusion is drawn. The work of God is the blessing of ailing humanity. Many spiritualize this story, making the blindness refer to spiritual blindness rather than physical blindness. This man was blind physically, and it was physically that God healed him.

God was interested in his being able to enjoy life about him.

When are we going to learn that the work of God entrusted to us is not to assess blame, but to bless those who are suffering, regardless of the cause?

Jesus took some clay, moistened it with his own saliva and anointed the eyes of the poor fellow. After washing in the pool of Siloam, he received his sight. Needless to say he was thrilled as well as his family, but the crowd that sought to fix responsibility was upset, objecting and finding fault to what had been done.

This scenario surely teaches us that the object of serving God is to help the helpless and to rejoice in their blessing that God is able to provide.

*Wallace Morris, pastor
Crabtree Avenue Baptist Church
Owensboro*

Fix what you can

During our church family meal recently, one of our kids came to me with a problem. He had put his money into the soft drink machine in the kitchen, but had not gotten a drink. "The place where you put your dime is clogged up," he said. We looked at the machine together. Sure enough, the dime slot was packed full of coins. I had a ready solution. This was one of those problems I could "fix." I reached in my pocket and gave his money back. I figured I could always get repaid later.

I came away from that situation thinking, "I wish all problems in the church could be settled that easily." In fact, I wish all problems in our lives, in our homes, in our marriages, in our work places and in our government could be fixed that easily.

Later that same evening, I saw another kid about to put money in the machine and stopped him just in time. I didn't have any more change in my pocket. What was needed was a good "Out-of-Order" sign.

Actually, my solution was only a temporary one. The real problem lay deep inside the machine itself. Dimes were not going through the slot. A couple of days later I wanted a Coke myself. Then I remembered that the machine was still out-of-order. I armed myself with a screwdriver and pliers, and in a few minutes, I found the problem and corrected it. I don't know how long my repair job will last, but for now you can buy a Coke from the machine for 40 cents.

Indeed, my real-life situation has real-life applications.

First, we generally only see the surface of the problems that affect us and our relationships with other people. Rarely is the first statement of a problem accurate. The real problem is generally deep beneath the surface, and it normally takes a lot of digging to get to it.

Second, the easy solution is usually a temporary one and almost always has to be repeated until the real problem is solved. For example, I could have stood there all evening giving change to anyone who lost money in the machine.

Third, while recognizing that a problem does exist, and even identifying the problem with an "Out-of-Order" sign is a good thing to do, it does not solve the problem. In fact, that kind of solution often keeps us from dealing with real issues.

Finally, most of us will not get involved in the solution of a problem until it affects us personally. I must admit that it was not until I wanted a Coke myself that I thought about taking tools in hand and making the necessary repairs.

Problem solving, whether in our homes, at work, or even at church, is never easy. But God has given us the tools, and with his willingness to work at it, and with his wisdom and guidance, we can "fix" just about anything that goes wrong in our lives.

*Don Mantooth, pastor
First Baptist Church
Morehead*



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

on mission together

How rich are we?

The following article attempts an interesting reply to that question. I am indebted to a friend who provided it. It is provocative:

From the standpoint of material wealth, Americans have difficulty realizing how rich we are. Going through a little mental exercise suggested by Robert Heilbroner can help us to count our blessings, however. Imagine doing the following, and you will see how daily life is for as many as a billion people in the world.

1. Take out all the furniture in your home except for one table and a couple of chairs. Use blanket and pads for beds.
2. Take away all of your clothing except for your oldest dress or suit, shirt or blouse. Leave only one pair of shoes.
3. Empty the pantry and the refrigerator except for a small bag of flour, some sugar and salt, a few potatoes, some onions and a dish of dried beans.
4. Dismantle the bathroom, shut off the running water and remove all the electrical wiring in your house.
5. Take away the house itself and move the family into the tool-shed.
6. Place your "house" in a shantytown.
7. Cancel all subscriptions to newspapers, magazines and book clubs. This is no great loss because now none of you can read anyway.
8. Leave only one radio for the whole shantytown.
9. Move the nearest hospital or clinic 10 miles away and put a midwife in charge instead of a doctor.
10. Throw away your bank books, stock certificates, pension plans and insurance policies. Leave the family a cash hoard of 10 dollars.
11. Give the head of the family a few acres to cultivate on which he can raise a few hundred dollars of cash crops, of which one-third will go to the landlord and one-tenth to the money lenders.
12. Lop off 25 or more years of life expectancy.

Is your church actively involved in some ministry to the poor of your community?

Do you, personally, feel that through your church you make at least some positive impact upon the poor other than through missions contributions?

Are you personally involved, either within or outside the context of church in making a positive contribution to the needs of the poor of the community?

These may be difficult questions for many of us to answer, since so many of us number among the 'rich' by world standards.

Con artist claiming to be missionary preys on churches

by Erich Bridges

Let us now prey. That's the daily watchword of one or more swindlers who continue to rob collection plates by targeting generous churches and pastors.

It's getting to be a familiar story—except for the unsuspecting victims. A man places long-distance calls (collect, of course) to churches and asks for the pastor. He claims to be a missionary or pastor in Brazil who once attended the church. He says he has been robbed in New York or another American city while preparing to fly back to Brazil. Please send money via Western

Union, he pleads—just enough to finish paying for a plane ticket.

He knows the pastor's name; sometimes he mentions the names of other area pastors or church members. He talks fast and supplies enough authentic-sounding details to fool some. He is a master at exploiting his listeners' good nature—as well as their little imperfections.

"The thing that angered me the most is he tries to get you to lie," said one recent target, James Erlich. Erlich, pastor of First Baptist Church in Santa Fe, N.M., and another Southern Baptist pastor in Santa Fe both received calls from the scam artist in

late January.

"He keeps saying, 'Now you remember me, don't you? My wife was so impressed with you. You talked with her after the service.' He tries to get you to say, 'Oh yes, I remember you.' And of course then you're committed. He's worked with enough preachers to know he can make 'em lie if he tries," Erlich related. "He was talking 97 miles an hour."

The caller identified himself as "Mark Bennett" to both Santa Fe pastors.

"He said he was robbed in what sounded like New York. He was calling from a Wendy's restaurant and he needed \$46 to

make up his plane ticket," Erlich said. "He said we should use Western Union to send him a telegram where he goes up (to the Western Union desk) and answers a code question. The question is, 'What is my son's name?' The answer is Johnny. Therefore they would give him the money without him needing identification. I called Western Union and they said he could have been calling from right here in Santa Fe or anywhere. All a person has to do is go up to any Western Union desk and say 'I'm Mark Bennett. Do you have a will-call money order for me?'"

The caller—or others trying the same con—has used the names "Dr. Bill Slater," "Bill Jennings" and "Bill Harmon" in the past. He targeted Southern Baptist churches in at least three states—Oklahoma, Kansas and South Carolina—in 1989 and 1990. And he probably has called churches in many other states, and other denominations. (BP)

'Crossover Japan' begins overseas crusade efforts

by Marty Croll

As men and women in Japan open their minds to the gospel, the Southern Baptist Convention is calling on its people to help gather in the harvest.

The Japan Baptist Convention has asked the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to send volunteers to work with some 40 churches in a special evangelistic crusade May 20-June 3. SBC President Morris Chapman is urging churches throughout the United States to send pastors and lay people to help.

Called "Crossover Japan," the crusade would be the first in a series of "Cross Overseas" projects emphasizing participation from all parts of the Southern Baptist Convention in a yearly crusade overseas. It would parallel the "Cross Over America"

campaign Chapman has launched in conjunction with the denomination's Home Mission Board.

Chapman said he hopes Southern Baptists can stage one major evangelistic crusade in the United States every year. He and the Home Mission Board have dubbed this year's project "Crossover Atlanta" and have planned it in conjunction with the denomination's annual convention. "Crossover Japan" will be its foreign counterpart.

"There's response to the gospel from Japanese people here better than we've had in years," said Max Love, administrator for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Japan. "I don't know exactly the reason for it. It could be a disillusionment with materialism. It could be the people are looking for something deeper and more fulfilling."

The world has watched as Japan used a hard-working and imaginative labor force to forge itself into a world power. But as the Japanese have become prosperous, their attention has drifted from the eastern faiths of their forefathers. Many believe what remains is a spiritual vacuum—a very dangerous one. In the vacuum, even cults are finding acceptance.

"The gross materialism and preoccupation with the good life is beginning to produce great fatigue among the Japanese people," said Sam James, who oversees Southern Baptist mission work in Japan and other nations of east Asia. "There is a renewed interest in spiritual things. There are churches in Japan that are growing at an unprecedented rate."

Japanese Baptists have restructured their convention to start new churches and missionaries are ready to help, so excitement for the campaign in Japan, at least, is running high. "Japanese churches are eager. They're calling and asking, 'Who's coming to my church?'" said Bill Peacock, who is coordinating the enlistment of volunteers for the Foreign Mission Board.

International Service Corps volunteer W.H. "Dub" Jackson, a former missionary to Japan, is working with the Japanese to coordinate crusade arrangements there.

For more information about enlisting in "Crossover Japan," call Peacock or Anita Mahoney at (800) 999-3113. (BP)

Annie Armstrong offering up 8%

National gifts to the 1990 Southern Baptist Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions totaled \$35.68 million, an increase of 8.14 percent over the previous year.

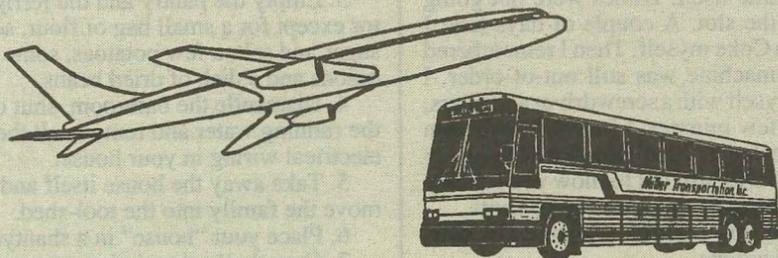
The unaudited final report shows the offering's largest percentage increase in three years and the sixth-largest increase in 10 years.

However, the offering still fell short of the \$41 million goal. The \$35.68 million received in 1990 is a \$2.69 million increase over gifts received the previous year.

"All of us here at the Home Mission Board are elated by the strong support of Southern Baptists across the nation," said HMB President Larry Lewis. "The increase indicates that even though Southern Baptists are divided on many issues, they are united in their concern for missions and are not going to allow controversy in the convention to deter their strong support for our missionaries and our missions cause."

Kentucky Baptists contributed \$1.23 million to the offering. (BP)

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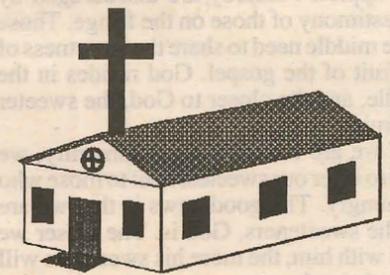
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Liberian couple narrowly escapes war-torn country

by Lori Zonner and Pat Cole

Enduring captivity, beatings and a life-threatening journey to safety, Lincoln Brownell escaped the Liberian civil war holding fast to the faith he proclaimed as a Baptist seminary professor.

That same faith, in fact, now compels him to return to his native country.

"You see so many people die," said Brownell, professor of Old and New Testament at Liberian Baptist Theological Sem-

Guerrillas threaten Baptist radio station in Guatemala

by Mary E. Speidel

Leftist guerrillas threatened to burn a Baptist radio station and other buildings in Las Casas, Guatemala, during a public rally in late January.

After seizing control of Las Casas, rebels representing the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) threatened to burn Radio K'ekchi' and several other buildings, said a Southern Baptist missionary in Coban, about 60 miles southwest of Las Casas. The URNG is a coalition of several guerrilla groups.

Guerrillas burned an electrical power installation on the outskirts of Las Casas and later forced several hundred people to attend a public rally supporting their causes, according to reports from the area. The rebels controlled the town, located in a remote area of north-central Guatemala, for about half a day. Government troops reportedly restored order in the area. (BP)

nary in Monrovia. "You don't give up on life as a Christian, but you realize you can die anytime. You come to a point where you are afraid of the process of dying, but you are not afraid of the point of death. You see God protecting you through each stage."

Brownell and his wife, Chinco, arrived at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., last October. Brownell,

a 1986 graduate of Southern, has been studying at the seminary as a visiting scholar and plans to pursue a doctoral degree in Christian education. Chingo, who was a third-year medical school student in Liberia, hopes to complete her medical degree in the United States.

Liberia has been besieged by civil war since late 1989, when the forces of Charles

Taylor and Prince Johnson began their attempt to overthrow the government of President Samuel Doe. Doe was killed in September, and the country now is headed by an interim government. Currently, an uneasy cease fire is being held in place by the multi-nation West African Peacekeeping Force.

On Labor Day, rebel forces captured the seminary and held Brownell prisoner for two weeks. During the first two days of captivity, he was stripped, beaten and placed with mutilated bodies. Chingo was away visiting relatives during the attack on the seminary, and the couple lost contact with each other for about eight weeks. Finally, Lincoln learned Chingo's whereabouts from a former schoolmate.

Damage to the seminary was limited to minor structural damage and some food and personal items that were taken. The library and all its books were left intact, Brownell noted. "That is a miracle in itself," he said. "God was good to the seminary."

Once the Brownells began their journey out of the country, they survived an ambush and 50 military checkpoints before crossing the border to the Ivory Coast. "The bridge to the Ivory Coast was like crossing the Jordan River," he said.

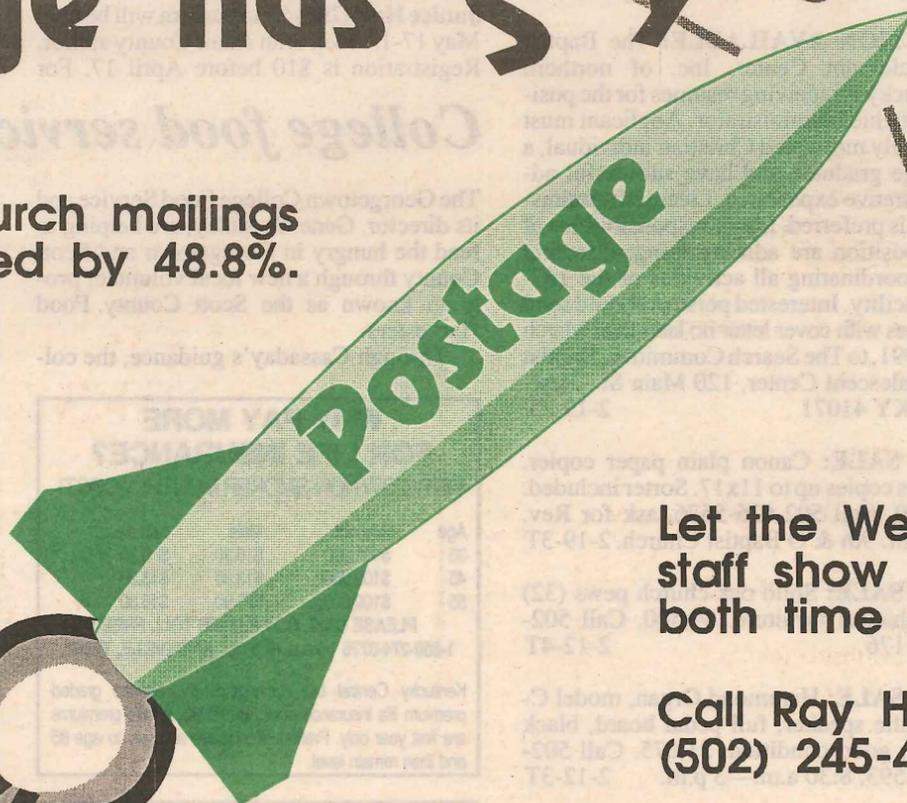
With help from friends at the seminary and other Baptists in the Louisville area, the Brownells were able to obtain the needed visas and funding to come to the United States. Eventually, Brownell hopes to resume teaching at the Liberian seminary where he joined the faculty shortly after graduating from Southern. (BP)



Lincoln Brownell, a faculty member at Liberian Baptist Theological Seminary, and his wife, Chingo, are encouraging people to pray for peace in Liberia as they await return to their native country. Currently, Lincoln is studying at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. (Southern Seminary photo by Tony Aja)

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

clear creek chronicle

Thanks from Saudi Arabia

In December, I wrote in this column about '83 graduate Doyle Dunn, a Marine chaplain in Operation Desert Storm. Somewhere in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia." I share it to encourage your continued prayer support.

Thank you for including my letter in the Western Recorder. I had no idea it appeared there until I started to receive letters and cards from Baptists all over Kentucky and other states.

I was amazed. Children in Sunday school, women in home prayer groups, Clear Creek students, even retired ministers have responded with encouragement and promises of continued prayers. I can see the difference. We have had five men accept Christ as their savior since Christmas!

As I write you now, the war is raging. I no longer live in a camp and have the luxury of a tent at night. Our Marines (and I) have moved north to the border of Kuwait and are waiting for the order to attack. At night, we hear volleys of artillery fire coming toward us as we remain just outside their reach.

We live out of our vehicles. We pull into low areas in the sand each evening, open a cot, stretch out our sleeping bags and lay silently under the stars. None of my battalion has been injured from attack yet. One officer was killed earlier this month in a car accident. My battalion is solely responsible for moving up first and clearing minefields and obstacles and open lanes of travel for tanks, infantry and artillery units close behind us.

This war is dangerous, even if air assaults are effective. Yet the men here are not panicked or outwardly afraid. They are well trained, disciplined and well adjusted to this environment. As we approach six months of living in the desert sand, I am becoming more and more convinced that God is watching out for us.

Now that I know of so many believers who are taking their positions in Kentucky as prayer warriors and allowing their faith to intercede on our behalf, I rest very well at night—as do many of the U.S. Marines with me. Thank you for letting people know about us. God bless you and keep the students under your care. Keep the Son in your eye!

—Doyle W. Dunn, LT CHC USN

mountains to the mississippi

PERSONNEL: Pastors—Ronald Fellemdente to Gardenside, Lexington, from Mendon, Texas. ... Howard Davenport to Mt. Pleasant, Nicholasville, from South Campbellsville, Campbellsville. Music—Betty Jean Chatham, concert pianist and composer and organist at First, Shelbyville, has been invited to play two recitals as part of PraeSing II March 12-13 in Nashville. The event celebrates the release of the new Baptist Hymnal.

ORDINATIONS: Ministry—John D. Strimple, serving at Millersburg, Millersburg, by Parkway, Lexington. ... Scott Riggs, youth minister by Rosemont, Lexington. Deacons—H. T. Waldrop at Buechel Park, Louisville. ... James Claiborne at Cadiz, Cadiz.

CONGREGATIONS: Ridgewood, Owensboro, celebrated its 35th anniversary Jan. 9-13 with a series of services led

by former members who accepted calls to ministry at the church in 1975 and 1976.

DEATH: Philip Crabb, 33, son of Southern Baptist missionaries Stanley and Patsy Crabb of Louisville, at New Orleans Feb. 10 following surgery. Funeral and burial in Louisville Feb. 12. Survivors include wife, Diana, two daughters, European Baptist Press news service in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

christian education

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE—The college experienced the second highest spring enrollment in history for the spring 1991 semester with 1,092 undergraduate students. The highest freshman retention rate was also achieved with 94 percent of the 1990 fall freshmen returning. ... W. Morgan Patterson, recently retired Georgetown College president, will receive the distinguished alumni award of Stetson University in Deland, Fla., March 2. ... Seven people were elected officers of the Georgetown trustees: Robert Baker of Danville, chairman; Bill Barnett of Harrodsburg, vice chairman; Peggy Snowden of Winchester, secretary; Ken Denton of Ashland, chairman; the nominating committee; Franklin Ensor of Louisville, chairman of the student life committee; Paul Parks of Bowling Green, chairman of the development committee; and David

Nelson of Owensboro, chairman of the education committee. ... Verlin C. Kruschwitz and Richard VanHoose, both of Louisville, were named trustees emeritus. ... George McGee, associate professor of communication arts, will be director of Georgetown's children's theater workshops beginning in March. For information, call (502) 863-7865. ... J. Todd Coke, English instructor, earned a Ph.D. degree in American literature from Vanderbilt University in Nashville. ... James O. Roberts, director of the physical plant, completed an Association of Physical Plant Administrators' training program for facilities management. ... Twenty-one Georgetown faculty members will be judges and quizmasters at the 6th annual Sweet 16 Academic Showcase at Georgetown college Feb. 23. ... The Woman's Association of Georgetown is arranging applications for 1991-92 scholarships. For information, contact Genevieve Clark, 1086 DeGaris Mill Road, Georgetown, Ky. 40324.

information, contact Clara Metzmeier at Box 518, Campbellsville College, 200 West College St., Campbellsville, Ky. 42718, or call (502) 465-8158, ext. 5242. ... Campbellsville College Children's Theater presents "Punch and Judy" Feb. 21-23. Call 789-5266 for reservations. Tickets are \$5. ... Works by Campbellsville artist Billie Sue Kibbons are exhibited in the Fine Arts Center through March 1.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY—Timothy J. Johnson, faculty member at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa., was named associate professor of social work. ... Thomas J. McGlothlin Jr., seminary treasurer was named vice president for business services. ... Students, faculty and staff have sent more than \$2,000 to Baptist missionaries in Romania to meet critical food shortages.

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY—Larry J. Baker, of Russellville, a student in the doctor of ministry program, has been named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT RICHMOND—Thomas H. Graves, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., has been elected first permanent president of the Southern Baptist Alliance-sponsored of the seminary. Classes are expected to begin in fall 1991.

—classified ads—

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POSITION AVAILABLE: The Baptist Convalescent Center, Inc. of northern Kentucky is receiving resumes for the position of chief administrator. Applicant must be highly motivated Christian individual, a college graduate and have successful administrative experience. Licensed administrator is preferred. Major responsibilities of this position are administering, directing and coordinating all activities of the 167-bed facility. Interested persons should send resumes with cover letter no later than March 31, 1991, to The Search Committee, Baptist Convalescent Center, 120 Main St., Newport, KY 41071 2-19-3T

FOR SALE: Canon plain paper copier. Makes copies up to 11x17. Sorter included. \$1,000. Call 502-636-5576, ask for Rev. Burkett. 9th & O Baptist Church. 2-19-3T

FOR SALE: Solid oak church pews (32) and chancel furniture. \$9,500. Call 502-736-5176 2-12-4T

FOR SALE: Hammond Organ, model C-3, Leslie speaker, full pedal board, black finish, good condition, \$1,075. Call 502-842-2593, 8:30 a.m.—3 p.m. 2-12-3T

CHURCH BONDS: Church bonds available at a discount for Trinity Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Ky. Any interested party may contact Larry Blackwelder at Community First Bank, Winter Garden, Fla. 407-656-4646. 2-12-3T

FOR SALE: 28 pews, 20' long, oak, blue, padded, in excellent condition. Pulpit furniture to match also available. Will sell separately or all together. Contact Alton First Southern Baptist Church, 4500 Humbert Rd., Alton, IL 62002, 618-462-1276. 2-19-2T

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE—At 16th annual founder's day ceremonies, Kevin Widener of Florence was presented the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award.

CAMPBELLSVILLE COLLEGE—The Janice Holt Galt Symposium will be held May 17-18. Holt is an Adjair County will be held. Registration is \$10 before April 17. For

College food service aids the hungry

The Georgetown College Food Service and its director, Gene Cassaday, are helping to feed the hungry in Georgetown and Scott County through a new local volunteer program known as the Scott County Food Harvesters.

Through Cassaday's guidance, the col-

lege has been contributing 20-30 complete dinners Monday through Friday to the food harvesters who in turn donate the food to The Amen House, the distribution site.

Cassaday said that rather than throwing away good food which has already been prepared for the Georgetown students, he saw this program as a viable source of providing food to the needy.

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sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR FEB. 24, 1991

Life and Work Series

Fruitfulness

John 15:1-11 Fellowship with Christ is the secret of an untroubled heart, a radiant personality, the overcoming life, and effective service. Because Christ is the life-giving vine, believers in him—who are the branches—are expected to perform their God-given function of bearing fruit for him. In order to bear

much good fruit for Christ there is a real need for pruning, purging and cleansing. God removes those things which mar the effectiveness of our lives in order that we may be more prolific fruit-bearers, which is the great purpose for which he has brought us into his kingdom.

For abundant fruitfulness in the Christian life there must be regular study of the word of God, frequent prayer and consistent dependence upon him for strength for victorious living and for the doing of all things that are harmonious with God's will.

Love walks in the way of obedience to the commands of our Lord. Our Lord desires devotion willing to surrender, a love willing to sacrifice and a loyalty ready to stand with him under all circumstances.

It is surprising that our Lord spoke of his joy in that dark season, for he was about to be plunged into a sea of suffering. To speak of joy at that time was amazing. Jesus' joy did not consist of material possessions, physical enjoyment or human approbation, but rather in a proper relationship to God the Father, and a redemptive ministry for others.

True Christian joy comes through self-surrender to God and submission to his blessed will. God wants us to have great joy and it is through conformity to his will that we come to have lasting joy.

International Series

The sheep and the goats

Matthew 25:31-46 There will be a marked contrast between the coming of Christ, referred to in this passage, and his coming as a babe in Bethlehem. Then he

came in humility and in poverty, but when he comes again for "The Judgment of Nations" it will be in the role of a mighty, majestic, glorious king and judge.

The Division—Matthew 25:31-33 The subjects at this judgment will be at the nations which will be living on earth when the judge shall appear. The righteous judge will separate into two groups those appearing before him on the basis of their treatment of God's chosen people. They will be separated into two groups: those who have done good unto the brethren and those who have done evil unto them. The former will be placed at the right hand of the judge, which indicates the place of honor. The latter will be placed on his left, which indicates the place of condemnation and dishonor.

The Declaration—Matthew 25:34-45 The judge will invite those on his right to enter upon the enjoyment of the kingdom prepared for them prior to the foundation of the world. This gracious invitation will be extended to them because of their relationship to Christ.

Ministering to the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical needs of others is a fruit of salvation, but it is never a condition on which one can obtain salvation. Christians prove their love for Christ, or lack of it, by what they do toward meeting the needs of others.

The Destiny—Matthew 25:46 The eternal destiny of each will be determined by his or her acceptance or rejection of Christ. Those who reject Christ will spend eternity where Christ will not be, and their punishment will be eternal, as certain as the bliss of the righteous in heaven will be everlasting.



Curtis C. Mooney
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homes for children

Personality types

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

Recently, while reading an article about some of the country's most effective managers, I was reminded that—though we live in an age of tremendously advanced technology—people are still our most valuable resource.

The article's author, Brian Tracy, president of the Institute for Executive Development, reminds his readers that "typewriters, desks and carpets begin to depreciate as soon as you acquire them. But people are assets that continually grow in value when they are trained and developed."

Tracy emphasizes that knowing the basic personality types is a must in working with people. While there are as many as 16 basic personality types, Tracy narrows them to four: the relater, the thinker, the autocrat and the socializer.

The relater is concerned about relationships, about getting along with others—about cooperation, teamwork, friendliness, harmony. He needs lots of encouragement and support.

The thinker, or the analytical person, is fastidious about detail. He wants to know the exact task before him.

The autocrat is impatient. He wants the facts and he wants them now. He makes decisions rapidly.

The socializer is extroverted, friendly, enthusiastic and spontaneous. He loves human interaction.

Where does your personality fit? Perhaps there is a combination of more than one of these traits in your makeup. Whatever our personality, it is good to know that we are created by God in his image.

Someone has said that life is God's gift to us. What we do with life is our gift to God.

At Baptist Homes for Children, caring cottage parents, team leaders, directors and others devote their lives to helping young people find meaning and purpose in life. KBHC boys and girls are assured that God created and loves them and has a plan for each life.

Thanks to the support of our many friends, young personalities (of all types) are being encouraged to be everything God wants them to be.



Barkley Moore
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oneida journal

Little is much!

"Little is much when God is in it" says the hymn of that title written by Mrs. F.W. Suffield. No truer words were ever penned. We live by that truth at Oneida, in large and small ways.

After years of buying expensive commercial window cleaner, we are now mixing our own. We have many hundreds of windows to wash on our campus. We are now getting the job done at about three cents an ounce where previously it cost us about nine cents an ounce. Much of the savings comes by having our own pump spray bottles that we reuse. About three-fourths of the cost of a bought producer is the cost of the dispenser. We simply get the ingredients commonly used in window cleaners, mix our own, in our own bottles at a tremendous saving.

We have scores of showers in our four

dorms, and others in our gyms and athletic areas such as the swimming pool. These are used daily, and we have to constantly work to prevent or remove mold or mildew. That is a good job for some girl or boy who isn't sleepy at bedtime and wants to keep everyone else up. Give them a toothbrush and let them go at it! For years we used a trade-brand mold-mildew remover. Now we are diluting concentrates ourselves and getting the job done at about half the previous cost.

A major job every day is mopping. This is done at various times in various campus areas. In our dorm areas, the mopping is normally done after everyone has gone to bed at 10:30 p.m. That is the only practical time. We do not have hired help for such jobs. Our students do all the cleaning. They make the mess. They get to clean it up. That teaches responsibility and also saves thousands of dollars each year in janitor bills.

Previously we used gallons of disinfectant deodorizer daily in our mop water. The problem with that was our students never quite knew how much disinfectant to use. Being naturally enthusiastic, they might just as likely pour in five cups of disinfectant deodorizer as one. If one drop is good, five is five times better! Right? Wrong!

Now we have switched from pouring in the solution to packaged one-half ounce dissolvable packets. Each student janitor is doled out one packet per day for their bucket of mop water.

By the way, each girl and boy has up to one and one-half hours of chores per day. The majority of student work is done between the end of the school day and the evening meal. But that time of the day is nap-time for those who work between bedtime and midnight sweeping and mopping dorm hallways and recreation areas, scrubbing down showers and cleaning dorm sinks, commodes, urinals, etc. Such work cannot be done during the

school day because students must be in class. It cannot be done before bed-time because all those areas are in active use after class.

For odor control, we have abandoned buying the deodorizers in aerosol cans. Bought that way, with the disposable containers, it was costing us about 27 cents an ounce to keep our hallways, rooms and restrooms smelling fresh. Now we use concentrates in our own pump-spray bottles that we use over and over at a cost of about 17 cents an ounce.

We recycle thousands of aluminum cans each month. They are sorted, crushed and hauled to Lexington. The money earned goes into our student aid fund.

When there is a market for glass, we also recycle that for the dollars gained for taking the trouble.

Sometimes we use some of the money and reward those students who are most outstanding and faithful in their work with all the pizza they can eat or some other "treat." The most outstanding are chosen to be supervisors. Thus, pride in a job well done is inculcated. Responsibility is being taught daily in very mundane ways.

There is an alarming growth in landfill problems in our nation. It is an acute problem with us. We meet that in varying ways. For example we find ourselves daily with a huge amount of cardboard. About one fourth of that is run through our shredder to be used as mulch around garden plants to hold in ground moisture and inhibit weed growth. The remaining cardboard goes into a large compost pile filled with leaves raked from the many acres of our campus, sawdust ground from fallen tree limbs, and manure from our hundreds of hogs and beef cattle. All of it goes to make natural fertilizer for our acres of gardens.

Little is much when God is in it. God is in the work of the Oneida school.

SBC politics aside, pastors help fired colleagues

by Sarah Zimmerman

Two pastors with opposing views of the Southern Baptist Convention controversy have found a common cause in assisting fired ministers.

"We're on totally opposite ends of the SBC conflict, but we both have a heart for fellow ministers," says John Yarbrough, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Cartersville, Ga.

Yarbrough, a self-defined conservative, and Jim Strickland have established a home for terminated church staff members. Strickland is pastor of Cartersville's Heritage Baptist Church which ordains women deacons and uses a liturgical approach in worship.

"I can't think of two more diverse preachers and congregations," Yarbrough says. "But on some things we can celebrate and

work together."

"When people are hurting or in trouble, our differences are less important," Strickland adds.

A 1988 survey, conducted by the church administration department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, of directors of missions showed that 116 pastors are terminated every month in the SBC. Norris Smith, consultant, notes that the statistic does not include people in other church staff positions.

The Cartersville home is a three-bedroom house occupied by one family at a time. Smith does not know of any other homes dedicated to helping fired ministers, but he and Yarbrough would like to establish a network of homes so they could refer ministers to other locations while their house is occupied.

The Cartersville home is named for Thomas J. Holmes, the late Georgia pastor who was fired from Tattnell Square Baptist Church in Macon in the early 1960s. Holmes had fought for the right of a Nigerian student to attend the church.

Ironically, the first residents of the Holmes House were fired for similar reasons. Bob and Wynette Hoggard, who currently live in the house, were dismissed in June after serving a church in coastal Georgia for 16 years. He was pastor and she was music minister.

"We were told we were fired because I baptized foreigners," Hoggard says. The church had a Vietnamese mission, and people representing as many as 10 ethnic groups regularly attended the church's worship service.

Hoggard points out that their termination does not reflect the thinking of the entire church or the most actively involved members. But the action does characterize the group which attended the Wednesday night business meeting when the couple was fired.

The Holmes House is open to ministers regardless of the cause of their termination. Strickland says the board of directors considered whether it should allow people who were fired for immoral actions to stay at the house.

"We decided we're not going to judge, but to help redeem them for ministry," Strickland says.

"No matter who's at fault, there's hurt involved," Yarbrough says. "Even if the person warranted termination, he still needs a ministry to love and restoration and usefulness and away from bitterness."

As part of the restoration process, residents are required to go to counseling sessions provided by the Georgia Baptist Convention.

"When staff members are forced out, the hurt is so deep and the feelings are so raw, they cannot help but take those feelings with them," Strickland says. "This gives them time to process what's happened so

they can go to another place without all that baggage."

People who live in the Holmes House are not required to attend church, but the Hoggards attend Heritage on Sunday morning and Tabernacle on Sunday night. Hoggard calls himself a "pre-1979 Southern Baptist." Strickland and Yarbrough both say a person's affiliation with SBC groups will not make a difference in determining who lives in the house.

To make the home financially feasible for unemployed ministers, residents are only required to pay the utility bills. The 12 member-board of directors raises money for the \$1,200 monthly house payments. Strickland says the house, which was purchased in February, is financed for five years to save money on interest payments.

Heritage and Tabernacle churches have each included \$600 a year in their budgets for insurance, taxes and maintenance.

Having lived in a church-owned house, the Hoggards were homeless as well as jobless when their severance package expired.

Hoggard was given three months salary plus one month's vacation pay. Mrs. Hoggard was given 30 days salary plus three weeks vacation pay. In addition to the cost of moving, the couple now has to pay their retirement, health and life insurance.

Looking for a job has been frustrating at best. Hoggard, 56, finds age his biggest obstacle, though he says he has at least 10 more years to give to full-time Christian service.

The Hoggards have both considered secular employment, but Hoggard still feels called to the ministry. They find employers are not eager to hire people temporarily. Mrs. Hoggard also notes that her only secular work experience in 30 years is three months as Christmas help in a department store.

Strickland says people are allowed to stay at the home for a year, but that is negotiable if they actively seek employment during their stay. (BP)

Theology and ecology

Church promotes recycling

by Ken Camp

Ecology is too important to be left to tree-hugging secularists and goddess-worshipping New Agers, according to George Mason, pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas.

"We decided that we would not allow environmental issues to be co-opted by the secular or religious left. Our church is doing what it is doing not because we worship Mother Nature but because we are stewards of God's creation," he said.

Following a series of sermons on stewardship last year, including one directly related to stewardship of creation, Wilshire Baptist Church established an environmental stewardship committee.

As one of its first projects, the 11-person committee did a comprehensive analysis of Wilshire's current practices related to kitchen procedures, office policies, waste disposal and maintenance of grounds. The report included specific recommendations concerning the use of recyclable and recycled materials and the use of pesticides on the church lawn.

"We felt it was important for us to assess our own practices and look at our own facilities before going out to change the world," said Claudia Barner, chairman of Wilshire's environmental stewardship committee.

The committee also surveyed the congregation to determine levels of interest and commitment to recycling and other environmental concerns.

Of the more than 250 households responding to the survey, about two-thirds indicated they were recycling some items, and a clear majority noted that they would like to see an on-site recycling collection center at the church facility.

Based on those findings, the environmental stewardship committee submitted a proposal to Wilshire's budget committee to include the cost of a recycling collection center in next year's church budget. The budget committee currently is studying that proposal.

In its most ambitious project to date, the environmental stewardship committee led Wilshire to sponsor a community environmental fair in the church parking lot on Oct. 13.

An aluminum and newspaper recycling collection point was the centerpiece for the five-hour event which drew about 300 families from the neighborhood and the congregation. More than 5 tons of newspapers and 283 pounds of aluminum were collected, and proceeds from the sale of the recycled materials were given to world hunger relief. "We wanted to emphasize the environmental connection between world hunger and stewardship of creation," Mrs. Barner said.

However, though the environmental fair was scheduled the same weekend as World Hunger Day in the Southern Baptist Convention, the church did not link the two emphases, Mason noted.

Rather than tie world hunger giving to a one-day emphasis, Wilshire is making it an on-going program associated with the three offerings for state, home and foreign missions, he explained.

In addition to the recycling collection, the environmental fair also included educational activities for children related to the environment, including recycling projects, composting demonstrations and junk art displays.

Other sections of the fair for adults included a display on energy conservation in transportation featuring a drive-through, tire air pressure check, a booth on household energy conservation and an exhibit on organic gardening.

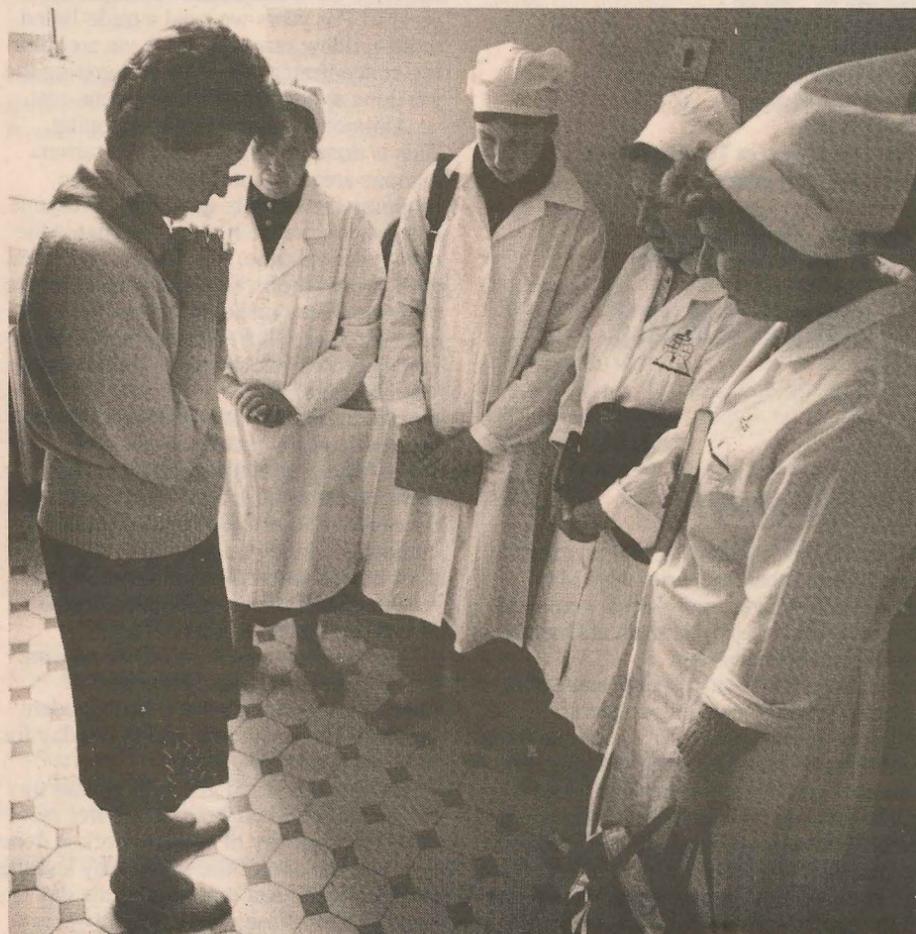
Persons attending the fair received refrigerator magnets bearing Wilshire Baptist Church's name and address and the logo: "Committed to Caring for Creation." The refrigerator magnets also were distributed following Sunday worship services at Wilshire Church.

"As an on-going project of our committee, we'll have monthly bulletin inserts focusing on different practical environmental issues and suggested lifestyle changes," Mrs. Barner said. "We'll encourage people to post these on their refrigerators with the magnets as reminders."

The committee also is in the process of compiling a resource booklet that it hopes to make available to other churches. The booklet, scheduled for completion in December, will include a "how to" section on recycling, suggestions for educational activities and a theological examination of stewardship of creation. (BP)



RECYCLE



PRAYER IN A SOVIET HOSPITAL—A group of volunteers from Temple of the Gospel (Baptist Church) in Leningrad pray with another guest before beginning work with patients at the Rauhfus Children's Hospital. Thirty-five volunteers from the church divide into seven groups to pray with patients, read Bible stories and lead other activities. (FMB photo by Don Rutledge)

Threat of death teaches man lessons about life

by Terri Lackey

When Bill Young discovered suddenly at age 59 he had an illness which could rob him of life, he realized he still had some lessons to learn.

In August 1989 Young learned he had acute myelogenous leukemia.

"One comes in contact with one's mortality instantly when he learns he has a life-threatening disease," said Young, manager of the preschool/children's section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship training department. "It helps us realize life is really a gift which we oftentimes take for granted.

"After all the shock and as many emotions as you can imagine have a chance to subside, you realize you need to prioritize some things," Young added.

'I think you have a life-threatening illness. I think you have leukemia.'

"I was forced to realign my priorities and really value life and people. I have come to a profound appreciation of my family and see their unique skills and attributes. I have learned my first responsibility is to be a husband, a father and a grandfather. And my second is to fulfill the duties of my job and my church," he said.

Young and his wife, Mary Todd, have two sons (Jeff and Todd), a daughter-in-law (Carol), and an infant granddaughter (Emily Marie), born soon after Young's illness was discovered.

Young was leading a workshop on early childhood education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary when he became so ill he decided to go to a hospital emergency room to get medication for what he thought was a sinus infection.

"I knew I was exhausted, but I got alarmed when I started having difficulty

walking," he said.

The doctor performed blood work on Young after questioning him about his symptoms and came back to tell Young, "You are a very sick man."

"I asked, 'What do you mean very sick,' and he said, 'I think you have a life-threatening illness. I think you have leukemia.'"

Young, whose leukemia is now in remission, has trouble recounting the story of his shocking visit to the hospital emergency room. The fear he felt causes his voice to break even now.

"The last thing Mary Todd said to me before dropping me off at the airport in Nashville for the Louisiana work assignment was, 'Don't go to New Orleans and get sick and get in a hospital. I don't have time to fly down there.'

"Well, she found the time. We laugh about that now," he said.

Young stayed in the New Orleans hospital until he was well enough to be transported to a hospital in Nashville. He immediately began four weeks of chemotherapy treatment. A second series of chemotherapy treatments was completed in January 1990.

Recently, when Young entered his upstairs playroom looking for Christmas decorations, he encountered four large boxes containing cards and letters from friends and colleagues all over the world.

The boxes and their compassion-filled contents are symbols to Young that people really do care in times of crisis and that each person expresses his or her support differently. "Since my illness I have categorized people into three groups on how they deal with other people's illness. And this is merely an observation."

The first group, Young said, are those who are "genuinely concerned and are so in touch with their own emotions" that they make the initial contact and periodic contacts on a regular basis. "They are open, supportive and remarkably sensitive."

Then there are those, he said, who are "genuinely concerned," yet who make only



Bill Young, left, shares a laugh with Donna Haner, one of the many nurses who tended to him during his chemotherapy therapy treatments at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

one contact. They stop because they may feel uncomfortable in dealing with someone who has a life-threatening illness.

And the third category are those "who are concerned, but do not know how to handle what you're going through. They really don't avoid you, they just don't know what to say or how to react."

I was forced to realign my priorities and really value life and people.

Young says all this only to point out that a person's gift of ministry to the ill can be cultivated.

"Physical presence at appropriate times and contact beyond the initial illness are

some of the positive things people can do," he said.

Young is taking "these new lessons I learn every day" and using them in his own ministry to others he knows and some he has never met but who have terminal or life-threatening illnesses.

"God has opened some interesting doors for me in expressing my concern for those who also have cancer. I try to be very positive, affirming and encouraging. I let them know I am open to answer any questions they might have," said Young.

"I have been ministered to, and I seek to do likewise."

Young said he is constantly examining his life "and trying to find purpose in situations."

"I live every day aware of the fact that this is another day God has given me to live." (BP)

Devotional editor helped readers find faith's open windows

by Ginny Whitehouse

Louie Wilkinson was 12-years-old the day "Open Windows" was born.

Fifty-four years and a million-plus readers later he retires as senior design editor of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's most popular publication.

Wilkinson has labored over more than

2,500 daily devotions during his seven-year tenure. As the 12th editor in the magazine's history, he helped carry "Open Windows" over the one million circulation mark in 1986, the year before the quarterly devotional guide's 50th anniversary.

"None of us can take credit," Wilkinson explained. "'Open Windows' continues to meet the needs of the people. If it had

not, it would not have survived."

Wilkinson has asked for writers to focus on issues—such as salvation and God's will—affecting all adults ranging from a single adult living in an apartment complex to a senior adult in a nursing home.

The quarterly magazine's 1.12 million subscribers are evenly divided between large- and small-print editions.

One of the great joys of Wilkinson's job has been the letters arriving each week reporting how a devotional has "turned a reader's life around."

"It's a time of personal inspiration for me just to read the manuscripts," Wilkinson said.

One woman wrote that an "Open Windows" devotional helped her family endure the destruction of Hurricane Hugo. A Detroit chaplain used a devotional to minister to families and airport staff following the collision of two airplanes in December 1990.

Approximately 6,300 copies have been sent to U.S. soldiers in Saudi Arabia.

Often Wilkinson has returned letters and phone calls himself to thank readers for their response, of which the "vast, vast majority is positive."

Providing Christians with tools to make their faith stronger has always been a focus of a Wilkinson's ministry.

"Anything I work on I run through a filter of real live people I've known over time. I remember some of the great church people I've worked with and ask 'Would they find this helpful?'" he explained.

Wilkinson has served as minister of

education at three churches: First Baptist Church of Longview, Texas; First Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida; and Terry Parker Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla. He also served as youth supervisor at First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, director of religious activities at Howard College (now Samford University) in Birmingham, and as an adult consultant in the board's Sunday school department from 1963-1965.

While a minister of education, Wilkinson said he viewed the Sunday School Board as a "great ally."

"Open Windows" continues to meet the needs of the people. If it had not, it would not have survived.

"They could help me help people," he said. "It has been a great privilege to provide materials to help other churches."

Wilkinson returned to the board in 1973 as editor of "Adult Leadership" magazine, 11 years later becoming design editor of "Open Windows." "Senior" was added to his title when he received the Career of Excellence Award in 1988. The following spring he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater, Stetson University in DeLand, Fla.

Wilkinson said he views retirement as a commencement with each phase of his life "blending into another."



Retiring "Open Windows" editor Louie Wilkinson visits a preschool Sunday school department at Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville where he is Sunday school director. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

The Kentucky Baptist Building in Middletown is the site of the annual *Welcome to Kentucky* orientation each April.

Photo by Denise Hawkins Withers



Welcome to Kentucky orientation acquaints new ministers to Kentucky Baptist work

This year's *Welcome to Kentucky*, an annual orientation event, is scheduled for April 15-16. According to Guy Futral, director, Minister/Church Relations Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention and coordinator of the event, *Welcome to Kentucky's* purpose is to "familiarize new ministers with the structure and function of the Kentucky Baptist Convention."

"*Welcome to Kentucky* gives ministers new to the state and those new to ministry within the last year a cordial welcome and acquaints them with how Kentucky Baptists do their business and how our Kentucky Baptist Convention staff is available to assist and minister to them," Futral commented.

Futral contributes the event, now in its fourth or fifth year, as the idea of Dr. Bill Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer, Kentucky Baptist Convention. When asked about his original conception for *Welcome to Kentucky*, Dr. Marshall said the event attempts "to demonstrate in a personal way to church ministers new to the state the intention of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to be available, supportive and helpful." Kentucky is now one of several state Baptist conventions which sponsors such an orientation.

Welcome to Kentucky begins with a fellowship banquet with Kentucky Baptist Convention staff on Monday evening, April 15,

at Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville. The staff will provide some of the entertainment with Dr. Marshall as a featured speaker. Futral calls the fellowship banquet "as much fun as anything because it's always so enjoyable."

On Tuesday morning, April 16, the orientation continues at the Baptist Building in Middletown. Participants will gain information on available resources within the Kentucky Baptist Convention and go on a tour of the Building's facilities, department by department. The event ends around noon that day.

Invitations to *Welcome to Kentucky* will be mailed in early March. All new ministers—whether serving as pastor, associate pastor, minister of education, youth, singles or music—are invited. Travel mileage, meals and overnight accommodation expenses will be provided by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. April 1 is the reservation deadline. If eligible and you fail to receive an invitation or additional information is needed, please contact Guy Futral, director, Minister/Church Relations Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40253, (502) 245-4101.

Denise Hawkins Withers
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