

## Spiritual war, harvest top evangelism emphasis

*'We face an enemy, & Satan is his name'*

by Marv Knox, Editor

As the Gulf War entered its final hours, the 1991 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference focused on a cosmic conflict.

That war rages between God and Satan, and Christians are the foot soldiers, speakers told about 1,150 Kentucky Baptists, who met at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown Feb. 25-26.

Battle images shaped the theme, "Extend Christ's Mission: Share the Gospel."

Ricky Cunningham, the first speaker, noted the conference started while troops engaged in battle in the Middle East.

"Let me remind you about another war that's raging," said Cunningham, pastor of Hardin Baptist Church in Hardin. "You'll not hear about it on CNN, ABC, NBC or CBS, but there are people being held by the shackles of sin."

"We are training for Operation Great

Commission. ... The battlefield is not in the church, but in the marketplace: schools, shops, the workplace."

Dan Macmillan, a newspaper publisher from Boston, added: "You and I are fighting a war—between the believers of right and the believers in evil. This is a war our Lord, I fear, is losing."

"We face an enemy, and Satan is his name," insisted Dean Finley, a consultant for youth evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, who offered a "press briefing from the battlefield."

"Satan has slaughtered our teen-agers," he said, urging adult Christians—"sergeants and lieutenants in this battle"—to lead youth to faith in Christ.

In the end, the fate of the battle lies in Christians' hands, said Carl Powell, president of Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood and an elementary school principal from Richmond.

Calling on other laypeople to take up the fight, Powell maintained: "Jesus would say, 'I have no other plan; I'm counting on you.'"

See *Evangelism Conference stories*, page 3.

*'Harvest Weekend' yields 34 Christians*

by Suzanne Darland  
State Correspondent

Thirty-four new Christians attended Elizabethtown-area churches because 164 people knocked on 1,193 doors Feb. 23 and 24.

But numbers tell only part of the story of Harvest Weekend, a simultaneous revival campaign the weekend before Elizabethtown hosted the annual Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

The 14 participating churches also found that "the Gospel works" when members share the plan of Christian salvation in door-to-door visitation.

"I was impressed," related Ron Davis, pastor of Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church and Severns Valley Baptist Association's evangelism director. For every four people his members told about Christ in Saturday and Sunday canvassings, one person accepted Christ.

That's about the ration visitors found at a similar campaign in Las Vegas, Nev. in June 1989 before the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting there.

Davis also was excited about three of his church's deacons who had never before led anyone to faith in Christ.

"They caught something tremendous," he said of their experience. They'll feel more confident now."

Davis credits much of the success of the revival campaign to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's religious opinion survey. It begins innocuously, asking general questions about stress and changing moral values. If participants indicated and interest, however, the survey leads trained visitors to ask permission to share the plan of salvation.

"It worked better than we anticipated," Davis said. Nine people made professions of faith in his church when evangelist L.C. Gray spoke at the Saturday night and Sunday revival.

Rineyville Baptist Church tallied eight new converts after its revival with evangel-

continued on page 2, "Visitation ..."

## Convention starts 3 churches daily

Southern Baptists started about three churches per day across America last year.

The total number of church starts is believed to be between 968 and 1,201, according to statistics developed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

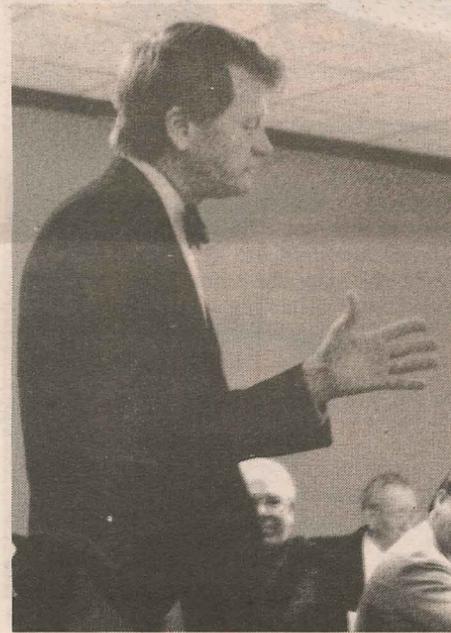
Reporting mechanisms for the annual number of church starts have not yet merged into one definitive database.

Last year's starts bring the total number of Southern Baptist churches and missions to 43,419, according to Sunday School Board tabulations.

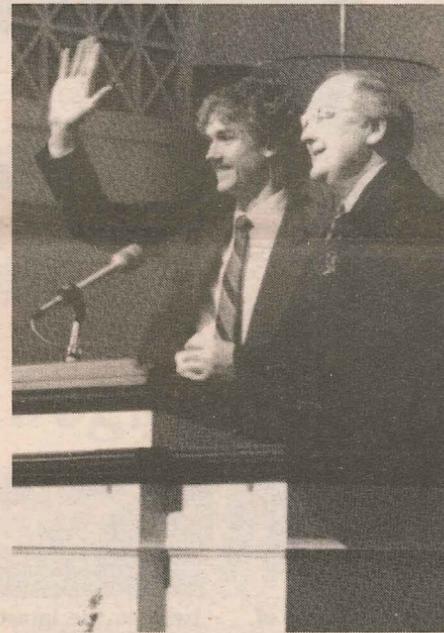
Southern Baptists have set a goal of having 50,000 churches and missions by the end of this century.

To do so, Southern Baptists must push themselves to start an average of four churches per day, reported Charles Chaney, an HMB church-starting strategist.

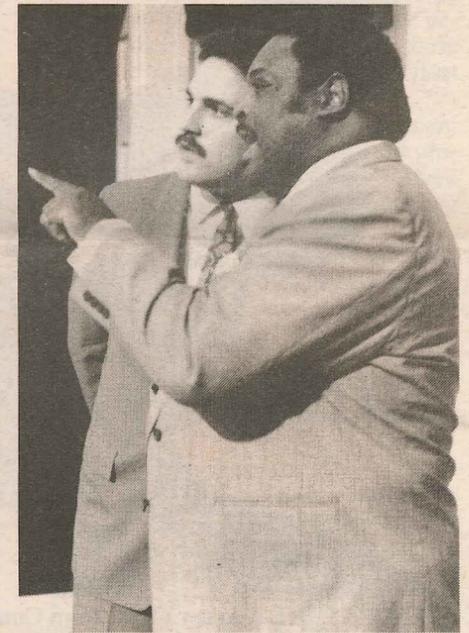
In addition to new starts, the Home Mission Board's statistics indicate 309 missions constituted into churches during 1990, and another 226 existing churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the first time. (BP)



**RAISE YOUR HANDS**—People from across the commonwealth gathered in Elizabethtown last week for the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. Dan Macmillan (left photo), a layperson from Boston, explained his brand of lifestyle evangelism three times. Brance Long (left, center photo), pastor of Danville's Deaf Baptist Mission, joined W.O. Willham, director of missions for South District Baptist Association, to accept



the award for the best ratio of baptisms to members in the state last year. And E.K. Bailey (right, right photo), pastor of Concord Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas, visited with Kevin Shrum, pastor of Bedford Baptist Church in Bedford, before delivering the closing sermon. More than 1,100 people attended the conference, held at Severns Valley Baptist Church. The theme was "Extend Christ's Mission: Share the Gospel."



## 'Sponsor Soviet refugees,' pastor requests

by Jim Newton

A Soviet Baptist pastor has urged Southern Baptists to support missions among Soviet people at home and abroad during a time of openness created by glasnost and perestroika.

Sergei Nikolaev, pastor of the Temple of the Gospel in downtown Leningrad, issued a plea for Southern Baptists to sponsor and resettle thousands of refugees from the Soviet Union who are immigrating to America.

Nikolaev, pastor of one of the world's fastest-growing churches, also told the 34th annual Southern Baptist language missions leadership conference that his church had grown from only 35 members to more than 1,000 members in one year.

The church meets in a 100-year-old former Russian Orthodox church building that had been closed from 1937 to 1989, when Nikolaev got permission to start a new downtown Baptist church.

Last year, four teams of students en-

listed by Baptist Student Unions in the United States worked as volunteers to refurbish and repair the building. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board provided \$150,000 toward the renovation.

In November, the church received permission to broadcast its worship service on Leningrad's cable television system, reaching 100,000 homes.

While Nikolaev is excited about the new freedom for evangelism and worship in the Soviet Union, he warned that past restrictions might be reinstated.

"Don't make the mistake of believing that communism has failed," he warned. "This is a dangerous illusion."

A military takeover could come at any time, he said. The Soviet people are in turmoil because they have no bread, no food, nothing to buy, he noted: "Thousands of people are trying to escape. Most of them want to come to the United States because they have heard your propaganda for years on the Voice of America which portrays the United States as a paradise on earth."

Recently, President George Bush approved new quotas for the Immigration and Naturalization Service that will allow 60,000 refugees from the Soviet Union to enter the United States each year.

More than 600,000 Soviets have applied for resettlement, including almost half a million Jews, said David Terry, associate director of the Home Mission Board's language church extension division.

Lisa Taylor of Fort Worth, Texas, sponsorship development consultant for the Southern Baptist Refugee Resettlement office, cited potential for starting Russian Baptist churches among the new refugees and immigrants who come to the United States.

Dozens, even hundreds, of Russian Baptist churches could result from the new wave of immigration from the USSR, she predicted.

Thirteen Russian and Ukrainian Baptist churches now are affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention in America, Taylor said. (BP)

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March 5, 1991

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## 'Shallow faith' threatens churches

by Mark Wingfield

Shallow interest in religion that does not lead to commitment is a greater problem for the church than secular humanism, Martin Marty said.

Marty, professor of American Christianity at the University of Chicago, spoke to Southern Baptist state missions leaders last month.

"Our biggest problem is not secular humanism, but interest in religion that doesn't turn into commitment," Marty said.

Secular humanism is a powerful symbol Christians can easily identify as an enemy, he explained. However, the number of

Americans who would identify themselves as secularists is "statistically insignificant."

In reality, interest in spiritual things is increasing, Marty claimed. "American people are more ready to talk about their religiosity, but this is mainly in their private lives."

Spirituality has become a consumer item in America, the Lutheran minister said. Statistics from polls indicate that about 90 percent of Americans say they believe in God or are open to spiritual things, he added.

Many Americans claim to be spiritual but not religious, he noted. The faith of many modern Americans is a "vague, ob-

long blur" that gives them "no more than a warm tingle in the bathtub."

"When someone claims they are spiritual, it doesn't mean your work is finished; it means your work is just beginning."

It is a paradox that Americans "like our presidents to be religious but not to use their religion in making decisions," Marty said. "We like them to be religious in their private lives."

The question churches must help people face is how to express a private faith in a public way, he suggested.

While some Christians may express their faith through ethical actions in business, "witness is a lot harder thing," he said. (BP)

## Network targets child advocacy

by Pat Cole

A group of Southern Baptists has formed a network aimed at encouraging churches to be advocates for children.

The Southern Baptist Child Advocacy Network will try to motivate Southern Baptist churches to be advocates for children both within the context of church ministries and in the larger society, according to Diana Richmond Garland, a church social work professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and an organizer of the group.

"The purpose of advocacy is to protect children, help all children achieve their God-given potential and integrate children into the life and worship of the church community," she said.

Churches can be advocates for children through prayer and Bible study about children's issues, befriending children, "pleading the case" for children within social structures that impact them, mobilizing resources, educating the church and community about children's needs, and programming for and in behalf of children, Garland said.

The idea of forming the child advocacy network surfaced at an October meeting, sponsored by Southern Seminary's Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry, for denominational workers who deal with children's issues. The group reconvened at Southern Seminary in February and decided to move forward.

Ways the network may promote child advocacy include developing resources for churches, seeking to include child advocacy in church programs and encouraging churches to focus on child advocacy during Children's Day worship services, said Garland, director of the Gheens Center. Network participants also have discussed holding a major conference in 1993 on children and the church.

Statistics that address the overall welfare of children in the United States "have never looked so negative" in 30 years, Garland said.

"The call to the church to get involved, in my estimation, couldn't be clearer," she said. "We need to help churches find ways to be advocates for children." (BP)



**MAMA'S GIRL**—Army Capt. Joan Conley wears a photo of her 2-year-old daughter, Stephanie, on her helmet while on active duty in Saudi Arabia. Women in combat added a new

twist to the latest war. Families across the country offered prayers of thanksgiving last week, as combat ended and loved ones could think about coming home. (Photo by RNS/Reuters)

## 'Key Church' project to start 20,000 congregations

by Jim Newton

A new strategy proposed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board could result in 20,000 new churches across America.

The strategy calls for 1,000 "key churches" to start at least five churches per year for four years.

Church extension leaders from state conventions endorsed the strategy during their annual meeting in Chicago. The strategy has been approved by the HMB administrative committee, but still must be approved by its trustees.

A similar strategy was pioneered by

Texas Baptists, who have enlisted 43 "key churches" which have started 417 new church-type missions since 1984. Those 417 congregations baptized 5,906 new believers last year.

HMB President Larry Lewis said he sees the "key church" concept as a priority strategy, and said the HMB will do all it can to fund the project.

J.V. Thomas of Texas and Charles Chaney, HMB vice president for extension, presented papers on the project to the state leaders.

Key churches would elect a minister of missions or director of missionary outreach

to lead the key church strategy. When possible, the key church would pay the total salary of the staff member.

In some cases, the local church would pay at least half of the salary of the minister of missions and the state convention and HMB would share in the salary support based on individual agreements.

Texas Baptists had no funds to finance the project when they started, but discovered the strategy produces more mission financial support from larger churches, Thomas said.

The big temptation, he noted, is for participating churches to expect the minis-

ter of missions to do all the church-starting personally, but the staff member's biggest job is to lead the church members to start new missions through a comprehensive missions program.

Thomas warned other state directors that the program has not worked effectively when a church hires a dual-role minister of missions with other responsibilities such as music or education.

The key to the success of the program, Thomas said, is the commitment of the local church to start new churches and missions. "You can't water that down and expect it to work." (BP)

## Visitation, simultaneous revivals produce 34 new Christians

continued from page 1

ist Keith Winfree. Pastor Odis Weaver said his members did not use the door-to-door survey, but instead targeted prospects and inactive church members. The second day of the revival brought to Sunday school, an all-time high for the church.

At a reporting breakfast the morning after the revivals, Director of Missions Allen Baugh pointed out another result of the

campaign. Of the churches, five have been having problems with staff or attendance. Members found a fresh spirit of renewal in winning others to Christ.

"There's a lot of excitement in the meeting this morning," he grinned. Bill Jagers, director of the Kentucky Baptist office for evangelism, thought another success of the weekend was pairing state vocational evangelists with the churches, many of which

had not used one in a revival before.

Plans for the revivals became tangible in January with Soul-Winning Commitment Day in the churches and with an associational witness-training session. Seventy-four people learned to use the surveys.

At a kick-off dinner the night before the visitation and revivals, Jagers told the church leaders and evangelists that "some folks are just waiting for somebody to tell

them about Jesus." Such door-to-door canvassing works because some have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel, or they're drawn to faith because of some recent crisis in their lives.

"When we sow the seed and water, there is the harvest," added Benton Williams, director of the state Baptist missions, evangelism and church services division. "God's Holy Spirit does his work."

# Overcome fear & share faith, Kentuckians told

by Suzanne Darland,  
Denise Spencer  
& Marv Knox

Even preachers can get scared when the time comes to share their faith.

Several ministers confessed their fright last week, during the annual Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference in Elizabethtown.

Effective evangelism requires confidence, courage and compassion, noted Ricky Cunningham, pastor of Hardin Baptist Church in Hardin.

But even as a pastor, he faced times when he was scared to tell another individual what Christ had done for him. "I could preach from the pulpit, but I was afraid to go into a home and witness," he admitted.

Cunningham encouraged Kentucky Baptists to participate in Continuing Witness Training, a 13-week course that enables Christians to share their faith with non-believers.

Reporting that 50 percent of all soldiers in World War II, Korea and Vietnam never fired their weapons because of fear, he promised that witness training will enable Christian "soldiers" to fire the weapons of their faith.

"If we're afraid, imagine how our laypeople feel," stressed Jay Strack, an evangelist from Dallas. "We can't ask our teenagers to go (witness), our laypeople to go, if we don't go.

"In Kentucky, there are thousands of men and women and young people waiting for someone to simply say, 'Can I share with you the greatest thing that ever happened to me?'"

Every Christian should have a list of 10 to 15 people who need to hear about the love of Jesus, he said. Then, Christians

should share their faith, confident that "God's Spirit will empower us to reach people for Jesus Christ."

Fear commonly afflicts Christians as they prepare to share their faith, reported Dean Finley, a youth evangelism consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

In fact, such feelings reflect a fear of rejection, he explained, noting that fear is one of several tensions created by Christian witnessing. Other tensions come from relationships with other Christians who are uncomfortable with witnessing, dealing with brand-new Christians, struggling against unholy influences and struggling to be obedient to God.

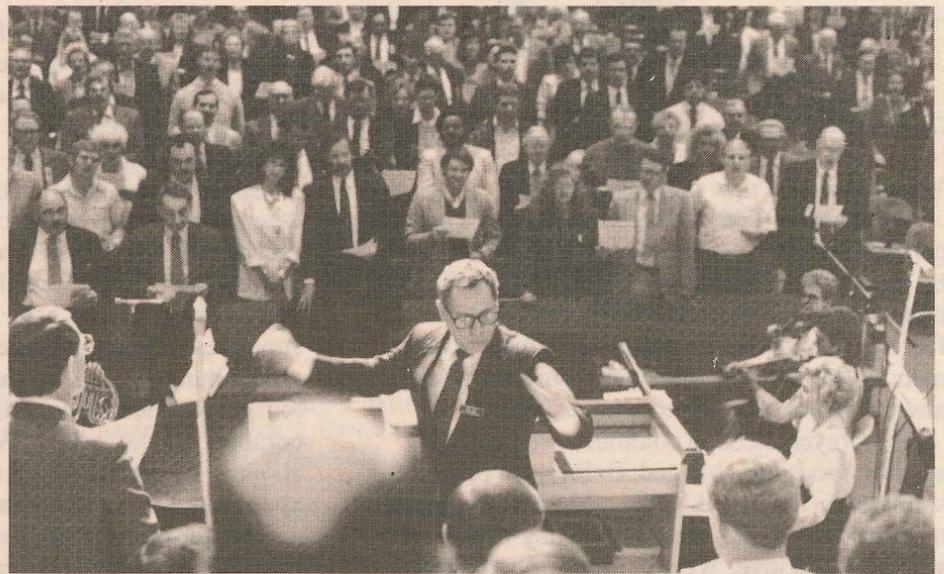
But the rewards of faithful witnessing outweigh the fear and tension, Finley insisted. "I don't know any greater joy than the joy that comes from telling people about Jesus and seeing them get right with God," he said.

Despite fear or other anxiety, Christians must lead other people to faith in Christ, stressed Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans.

"A Christian who is not leading other people to Christ has got a spiritual problem," Leavell said.

Christians must make witnessing a priority in their lives, lead pure lives that are good examples for others, remove prejudice from their lives, overcome preoccupation with other things and be committed to sharing their faith every day, he urged.

All this will come together if Christians will be obedient to God's demands on their lives, he added: "In our Southern Baptist churches today, there are very, very few people who give any indication about being serious about following Jesus. Why? Be-



**JOYFUL NOISE**—Music and singing played an important part in the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. Allen Case, minister of music at host Severns Valley Baptist Church, led the congregation, choir and orchestra during the last session.

cause they're not obedient. Jesus equated greatness with obedience."

God demands obedience of all Christians, not just pastors, said Carl Powell, president of Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood and an elementary school principal in Richmond.

"For Bold Mission Thrust (the denomination's global missions/evangelism campaign) to become a reality, it will require the immediate activation of all the laity," Powell claimed. "The decade of the '90s should become the years of the laity."

"Jesus would say: 'I have no other plan. I'm counting on you.'"

B.J. Bennett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Clinton, echoed Powell. He told

pastors, "We've got to equip our people for personal evangelism, because the pastor cannot do it by himself."

In fact, laypeople do the best job of leading other people to faith in Christ because of their relationships with those people, said Bennett, who was led to Christ at age 20 by his best friend.

He encouraged churches to implement Building Witnessing Relationships, a program designed to train Christians to share their faith through the relationships they have with friends and neighbors.

When Christians share their faith, they are empowered by God's Spirit, he reminded, asking, "If you knew you could not fail, what would you do?"

## 'Save the cities,' Bostonian begs of Bluegrass Baptists

"Try to save the cities," Dan Macmillan begged Kentucky Baptists last week.

Macmillan, a successful Boston publisher and a Christian for just three years, told his story to the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

He has lived his entire life in the exclusive Beacon Hill section of Boston, attended private schools, graduated from Harvard and was president of five companies by the time he was 40. His family name is attached to one of the world's largest publishing firms. He thought he was self-sufficient, with no need for God.

"I wondered why there was something missing," Macmillan said of his life a few years ago. Then he met David Draper, pastor

of tiny Beacon Hill Baptist Fellowship. "I asked David, 'Why are you happy?' He said, 'Because I'm a Christian.'"

Through their relationship, Macmillan came to faith in Christ. "At one time, I would have thought being a Christian is a weakness," he said. "Today, I know it is a strength."

He also realized other people need Christ, too, but "being a Christian in Boston is offensive." He knew his friends would not respond to high-pressure evangelism and other Bostoners would not stop to hear the gospel.

Consequently, Macmillan developed two ministries to reach his city for Christ.

First is the Friends' Breakfast Club. It is

designed to involve a layperson, a minister and about 10 non-Christians in weekly discussion about their lives.

Macmillan's group did not turn to the Bible or mention God for a year, while members broke down barriers of communication and became honest with each other. Now, a year later, all participants are Christians and each plans to start another breakfast club, to share his new faith with other non-Christian friends.

Think of the multiplication factor involved in the clubs, he said, noting that in four generations of the 12-member clubs, almost one-quarter of a million new Christians could be involved.

Macmillan's second outreach is Bright Star Christian Day Care Centers, designed to use recent seminary graduates or retirees and their spouses to provide day care and foster care for children.

The centers are planned to provide outposts for the gospel in the cities—not only by caring for children, but also by sharing Christian faith with their families and neighbors.

If they are to reach America for Christ, Southern Baptists must not be afraid of the wealthy, powerful people who control the cities nor of the poor people who suffer there, Macmillan stressed. "We are waiting for you," he said. "Come to us and teach us to be Christians."

Teen-agers comprise another group that needs to be reached for Christ, said Dean Finley, a youth evangelism consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He described the divorce, physical abuse, drunkenness, drug abuse, drop-out ratio, pregnancy, sexual disease, abortion, suicide and crime that plague teens.

"We live in a tough time," he said. "Does anybody care that our children are paying

for 'the sins of their fathers'?"

Kentucky Baptists must equip the 53,000-plus teens enrolled in their Sunday schools and work to reach other youth for Christ, Finley said.

Four Baptists from Paducah have been doing their best to lead as many people as possible to faith in Christ, participants in the evangelism conference learned.

Last year, Barton and Ludie Record and George and Rose Chappell, all members of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, led 585 people to faith in Christ. This year, they are on target to reach 1,000.

"We're finding a hunger in people and a searching," Record said. "They want to know something about life and death and eternity and God."

The foursome led Mt. Zion to baptize 204 people last year, tops in Kentucky.

More churches could baptize more people, but they are "foundering in a quagmire of moral confusion," said E.K. Bailey, pastor of Concord Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas.

"The church has become de-Christianized. We've stopped denouncing sin," he explained. "Sin (eventually) degenerates and warps the perspective so that we can't tell right from wrong."

"Sin always looks better before you do it than after you do it. But afterwards, it separates you from God and other people."

Nevertheless, God will continue to love and forgive sinners, he said: "You can break God's heart, but you cannot break his love. ... There is something relentless about the love of God."

The conference was planned by the Kentucky Baptist office for evangelism: Bill Jagers, director; Billy Compton, associate director; Margie Oliver, administrative secretary.



**GOOD DEAL**—Scores of Kentucky Baptists took advantage of a discount sale on Bibles during the evangelism conference. LaVerne Grider (left) of Harrodsburg and Nancy Bennett of Clinton checked the merchandise. (WR photo by Suzanne Darland)

# Pray a new prayer for peace

## editorial

Marv Knox

We all prayed a new prayer last week.

We thanked God that the war came to a speedy conclusion. Our fears of a long conflict—informed by memories of World War II, Korea and Vietnam—were not realized. No matter what our feelings about war, we had to recognize God's mercy: The fighting ended after only six weeks, and the ground war lasted a mere 100 hours.

Our prayers need to continue, even as their specific focus has changed. Before, we prayed for soldiers, civilians and leaders. Most of us prayed most intensively for the troops. They're the ones we know and love. We still pray for their safe journey home and for the families whose loved ones will not return.

We focus our new prayers on the people of Kuwait and Iraq as they seek to rebuild their lives and reconstruct their countries. World and regional leaders still need our prayers. They face the difficult task of resolving the deep-seated problems that plague the area, particularly the Palestinian issue.

And now, let us also pray that our world will wage peace as valiantly as it fought war.

No matter how you felt about the war, you had to be impressed: Our allied forces joined the battle

with a will and intensity that shocked the world. Our leaders applied the people, materials, strategy and determination necessary to "fix" the overwhelming problem. They did so with breathtaking speed and power.

One wonders what would happen if similar skill, determination and resources were applied to our other problems. Where are the Schwarzkopfs, Powells and Cheneys of the war on unemployment and poverty? Do we have similar leaders and strategies to join the battle against pollution and global hunger? Can we show equal determination to fight AIDS, rising medical costs and ever-so-complex ethical issues? Will we be as enthusiastic about implementing civil rights at home as we have about supporting democracy abroad?

The questions go on and on. At the core, they are one: Do we have the courage, commitment and, yes, compassion to resolve our problems?

As Christians, we know government cannot provide the entire solution. We believe spiritual wholeness is part of the answer, and that's something government never will offer. The Bible persistently encourages us to make our world a better place. We're to be light, salt, leaven—agents of change and completion.

So, as the "new world order" emerges from the rubble of war, we must take our places. As Christian soldiers, let us follow our Commander in a battle for justice, mercy and a humble walk with God.

## Laypeople give lessons in meaningful evangelism

Two laypeople stood out among the preachers at the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Of course, we expect preachers who make the big-time Baptist preaching circuit to grab our attention. Last week's preachers filled that bill.

But the laypeople were unique.

Few evangelism conferences ever featured anyone like Dan Macmillan. He's a blue-blooded, Harvard-educated Bostonian, a Christian for just three years. He made fun of Southern schools, food, speech and motels. He described himself as blunt, a Yankee virtue Southerners often mistake for rudeness; most people loved him still.

Macmillan told about his ministry to secular, well-heeled Bostonians. It's a weekly breakfast club that has produced 10 new Christians. He also described Bright Star Christian Day Care Centers, a ministry aimed at his city's families.

Then came Barton Record, retired from the TVA and a member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Paducah. He sounds like your favorite uncle, who taught Sunday school for 25 years.

But Record, his wife, Ludie, and friends George and Rose Chappell led 585 people to faith in Jesus last year.

The laypeople offered two lessons in evangelism: First, pay attention to the people around you and offer the gospel in ways that are meaningful to them. Second, never be afraid to share your faith.

# The reality of war: How to help our children find strength

## guest editorial

by Carol Bruning

"No matter how calm I try to be, I can't stop thinking about the war's effects on my children. They're so tired and whiny. How do I talk to them about the war? How can I help them face it?" A casual conversation between neighbors one cold winter day ended with a discussion of our worst fears.

My neighbor, Fran, is one of the thousands of family members coping with the deployment of a loved one. Called to active duty, Tom is now serving in Saudi Arabia. He left behind his thriving medical career, his wife and their two very active preschoolers.

Children face all sorts of "normal" stressors in their day-to-day life—moving to a new home, divorce, academic and social difficulties. Parents try to provide an emotional balance as they grow through these experiences. Unfortunately, these "regular" problems pale in comparison to the assaults our children receive as they struggle to cope with war.

Fran and I are not alone in our attempts to give our children stability.

Educators and counselors as well voice serious concerns about the emotional toll of the war on America's children. Teachers find children these days are restless and easily disturbed.

"Amanda is 5 now," Fran reports. "I can't isolate her from the TV or the comments she hears from everyone. She's so anxious about her father. It's really hard to answer her when she asks if her daddy will die."

As the struggle in the Middle East has intensified, children confront images of death and destruction. Like Fran, Christian parents can do little to prevent children from discovering the awful realities of war. "I'm trying to limit the amount of CNN I watch every day," Fran reports. "They seem to just repeat the news, anyway. All the speculation makes me even more nervous. I guess it rubs off on the children, too."

Psychologists agree with Fran's common-sense approach to defusing the tense situation in her home. It's normal for children to feel confused when the entire world turns its complete attention to events 8,000 miles away. "Some things in life we have no control over. I can't let them overwhelm us. We're trying to share more hugs and less fear."

Fran's efforts to encourage lines of

communication are not easy. All around, folks repeat all sorts of unsettling rumors. It's hard to remain upbeat and positive. The struggle is to offer optimism without glossing over the obvious. "Maybe I could be more up-front if my children were older. If I use ideas which encourage them, though, it helps me, too."

Like a turtle's shell, a loving, stable home environment can provide some insulation for a child's emotional well-being. The challenge is not to ignore or even minimize the stress we feel. Instead, perhaps we can seek new ways to reassure each other. In doing so, we can discover new strength together.

There are some important, basic survival tools which provide structure and balance for children and parents as well. Children find the structure of regular meals and bedtime rituals especially comforting. By continuing to celebrate birthdays and other family traditions, we can maintain a shelter of continuity.

Fran confirms many families are staying busier than ever before. "It uses up some of our nervous energy to stay active. It keeps our minds off the terrible possibilities. We go to story hour at the library and ballet lessons. We are regulars at mid-week Bible study and potlucks at church. Of course, we write to Daddy

every day, but we write others we know, too. We're trying to reach out. By helping others, we're helping ourselves."

Fran readily acknowledges the significance of her family's faith. "No matter what I do, my children and I can't be strong all the time. I'm learning how important our prayer life really is." Millions of Americans also are discovering renewed interest in spiritual matters. Even President Bush concedes his work would be impossible without the power of prayer. Faith can supply strength.

The Lord, his word and his church often are the best support group. "I guess we're praying like Robert Schuller says. We expect a miracle. If that doesn't come, we'll get a blessing instead." Fran smiles.

There are some valuable lessons for all of us in Fran's efforts. Probably most appealing is her ability not to dwell on the uncertain potential for the future. "There's an old saying, 'Nothing ever happens until it happens.' The night before Tom left, we claimed II Corinthians 4:18. We are trying our best 'not to fix our eyes on the temporary, but on the eternal.'"

Carol L. Bruning is a Christian educator and counselor and the wife of an Army chaplain at Fort Knox. © 1991, Carol L. Bruning.

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## baptist forum

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

### Trying times

These are truly the times which try the souls of all. "What is causing the quarrels and fightings among you?" (James 4:1)

I am reminded of the speech that Gen. Douglas MacArthur gave to Congress after his return from Korea. One of his remarks has an application to our present-day global situation. MacArthur said, "It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh."

"Our ultimate concerns" in life are evident or are becoming evident in times like these.

David E. Fletcher  
Mayfield

### Hugging in church

I just received our Christian state paper and read an article that upset me to the point that I walked to my fireplace and burned the paper.

You see, I am amid a time in my life of deep sadness due to the death of my beloved husband. The article in the Western Recorder was about hugging and the ministry.

Lord, help us! We have let the baseness of our immoral society creep into the holy places of our spiritual life.

I would have missed hundreds of hugs in the past few weeks from God-called men and laypeople. Then, I might have died. These were holy embraces, mixed with prayers and kind acts. As God's people, can we afford not to show and express or let it be known who we are? We are a people of love, aren't we? Or am I thinking wrong?

My pastor stated in a sermon recently that "quote" Christians make no difference until they are different. Isn't it time for us to be different? And this means brotherly, holy love. Well, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord! Would you like a hug?

Rosa Lee Robinson  
Greenville

### Further kingdom

The inerrantists that control our convention have demonstrated anew their moral dishonesty. They claim to love and follow the perfect and inerrant word of God. They claim to want to spread salvation from one

end of the world to the next.

Yet, our Southern Baptist Convention president has supported publicly governmental policies that undermine all Christian evangelistic efforts throughout the entire Muslim world. He has neglected the teachings of the Bible to "turn the other cheek" and to "love your enemies." He is part of a policy which is destroying the effective Christian evangelism of Muslims.

It is time that Southern Baptists unite behind Bible-believing, missionary-minded people to further the kingdom of God.

Larry Smith  
Louisville

### Stop parody

Since the controversy began, I have remained neutral. I am not a liberal nor a fundamentalist. I am a Christian and a Baptist. But I had some fears at the outset, which I expressed—fears that good people would be hurt.

I can tolerate the litmus test, even though I don't like it. I can tolerate the over-blown rhetoric and the worn-out clichés. But I believe silence ceases to be a virtue when blatant wrongs are being committed. I raise my voice against the abuse of power, character assassination and the wasting of Cooperative Program money to achieve political goals.

It was reported that it cost about \$35,000 to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee to fire two reputable journalists. Now the Executive Committee is giving itself a 15 percent increase. So it can fire more people and establish a new public relations program? Now that Porter has been muzzled, Elder has been quelled, who will be next? Honeycutt? Dilday? Parks? Kelly? Hinson? How much will it cost to get rid of these? Will we be closer to Jesus when we have done them in?

Some of us remember McCarthyism. If you didn't like someone, you called him a Communist. Many innocent people were ruined for life. I appeal to my brethren on all sides: For the sake of a world that cries and a savior who chose the towel above the sword, let us stop this parody.

Ben A. Baird, pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Hazard

## ministerially speaking

### 'Someday'

"Someday" is a convenient word. We can use it in a multitude of situations. "Someday" can mean as little or as much as we want it to.

To a casual acquaintance we may offer "Someday" we'll have to get together for lunch." And who hasn't promised that "Someday I'll get around to writing a distant friend." I know for certain that I need to clean off my desk "someday."

"Someday" waters down an otherwise

strong commitment. "I'll be in church," is a much better commitment than "I'll be in church someday." "I will tithe" is a good promise. "'Someday' I'm going to tithe" means little. "I want to serve" carries more weight than "I want to serve 'someday.'"

Let's take "someday" out of our vocabulary when it comes to living for and serving Jesus Christ. Instead of "someday," let's do it today.

Charles Darland, pastor  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Elizabethtown

city of four million people is zero, our reaction was one of shock.

Here? In the nation's cradle of religious liberty, where the Great Awakening revivals began?

Yes, here. High and holy values virtually have been displaced by materialism and moral bankruptcy. Beautiful cathedrals—gathering places for God's people in an earlier era—are abandoned, now recast as condominiums, museums and posh restaurants.

In a place where only a fraction of the citizenry professes Jesus Christ as Lord and lives by that commitment, a handful of Southern Baptists labor relentlessly. Their daily witness encounters incredible odds. Certainly, at times, loneliness, discouragement and despair overtake them in that part of God's vineyard. Yet, we may be assured that God honors and multiplies unselfish acts of love.

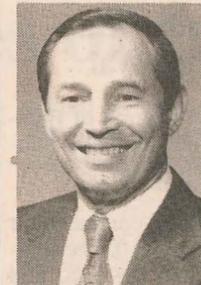
Native Kentuckians Larry and Joyce Sweeney Martin are among the comparatively few Southern Baptists at work here. Larry, who has been director of missions in Greater Boston Baptist Association since 1983, hails from Pulaski County. His wife, from Lincoln County, makes her impact as editor of the New England Baptist, an informational supply line reaching into six adjacent states. Their significant contributions were profiled in an earlier Western Recorder issue.

In 1989, former Western Recorder journalism intern Joy Jordan-Lake joined them. As a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Mission Service Corps volunteer, she, too, has cast her bread upon the waters of New England. Daily she plys creative talents as director of print media for the local Baptist association which extends from Cape Cod all the way into southern Canada. There's much to her exciting story of opportunity, witness and service I don't have space to tell.

Joy is one of hundreds of MSC volunteers who personally finance their ministries, 18 of them in Boston. While called of God like any missionary, they often depend upon others to meet basic living expenses so they may fulfill divine appointments.

I know of no more dedicated young person than Joy. She has set a goal of raising \$15,000 annually to provide the necessities of life. If you care to know more of her ministry, write her. Also, consider sending a tax-deductible check in her name, or that of another MSC volunteer, to Greater Boston Baptist Association, 187 Church St., Newton, Mass. 02158.

Joy's sacrifice can be a happy reminder to you that "much is required from those to whom much is given, for their responsibility is greater" (Luke 12:48, TLB).



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

## on mission together

### The power of humility

At 10 minutes to 10 on Tuesday night last week, over a thousand of us headed for the parking lot of Severns Valley Baptist Church; some expressing appreciation to the speakers; some continuing good fellowship in the halls; a bunch hung on even later out at Jerry's and the Cracker Barrel.

I said to Bill Jagers immediately following that I, personally, thought this was the best yet. The 1991 Kentucky Baptist evangelism conference had been good for the soul—my soul, anyway. And I've been around long enough to know that a lot of others had the same experience.

It is a hard time to be up beat about much of anything; what with the war, the recession and the SBC controversy. Still I was enabled to lift up my head through the depression that seems to be hanging over our world like a cloud, and get a fresh look at the Lord.

I didn't shout "amen" every time someone else did—and there was a good bit of that. I'm more of a "quietest" in worship. Neither do I really like to stand up and clap but I do sometimes. It feels a little conspicuous sitting there by yourself when everyone else is standing and clapping. So sometimes I compromise with myself—I clap while I remain seated. It bothers me when I feel that I'm letting a crowd manipulate my response when it isn't really how I feel or how I want to express what I feel.

Sometimes I just sit there and look down—down deep into my own soul, just as I did at Severns Valley last week.

I heard a layman well beyond my age share that he, his wife and two friends had helped over 500 persons receive Christ as savior last year. I had met him last fall in west Kentucky. He is for real for those who may be doubters. And the church of which he and his wife are members is Mount Zion Church in Paducah, a small church which led all other Kentucky Baptist churches in baptisms this past year with 204.

His was an eloquence—not of speech—for he struggled with words and went beyond his time allotment.

His eloquence was in his singularity of purpose: to reach people for Christ.

He didn't try to say everybody could, or that everybody should do what he was doing. Neither did he imply that he was someone with a special calling.

Rather, he told simply and humbly what the Lord had put on his heart to do.

I sat there realizing that perhaps the most effective evangelist in our state was this humble, quiet man, without extensive education or experience in revivals or a large church.

And if he had been a carpenter, I wouldn't have been surprised.



James H. Cox  
Associate Editor

## fourth estate

### Divine appointments

"The Southern Baptist Convention doesn't mean a thing here."

Communicators from across the SBC were stunned. The SBC, to us, is a consuming passion. But when George Collins, former religion editor of the Boston Globe, told us that the impact of Southern Baptists' well-publicized squabbles on the teeming masses of his

### Prospect teens lead effort praying for the Gulf War

Youth from First Baptist Church of Prospect have challenged other Kentucky Baptist teen-agers to conduct a "prayer revival" for the Gulf War.

The Prospect youth plan to conduct their prayer revival Sunday, March 10. The service will include pledges to the U.S. and Christian flags, patriotic songs, a sermon and five prayers for the war.

They have encouraged other young people who have similar services to include those prayers: for God's intervention and the armed forces; for prisoners of war and the wounded; for families of military personnel; for leaders; and thanks to God for intervening "in all facets of the war."

### Truett Cocanougher elected Bracken DOM

Truett Cocanougher, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Maysville, has accepted the call of Bracken Association of Baptists as director of missions.

The native Kentuckian was raised at Perryville. He holds degrees from Georgetown College at Georgetown and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville.

Cocanougher has been on Kentucky church staffs at Valley Station, Nicholasville, Cecilia, Florence and Mount Sterling.

He and his wife, Jeanene, are parents of two daughters, Sara and Lela.

## 300 collegians study missions at seminary

by Lawanda Smith  
State Correspondent

Christians are the instruments that God can use to bring his message into the world, said Nona Bickerstaff, Christian social ministries director for Metro New York Baptist Association in New York City.

"Sometimes we get the idea that we take God to foreign fields and inner cities. I have a feeling God is already there," she added.

Bickerstaff addressed 300 college students from across the eastern United States at a worship period during the 35th annual student missions conference at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville Feb. 22-24.

Collegians sampled missions at a world marketplace. Southern Baptist home and foreign missionaries, and student volunteers, exhibited objects and artifacts representing their mission fields.

"I see a real experience when I talk to missionaries," said Jeremy Bright, a student at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Ala. "If you're thinking about missions, it's comforting to know somebody's been there and experienced what you will find."

Students could select three of 24 missions seminars to attend. Some participated in hands-on mission activities in downtown Louisville and environs.

A worship experience included a performance by about 400 teen-agers who were part of a state Baptist youth choir festival held the same weekend in Louisville.

The missions conference in 1992 will be held at the seminary Feb. 21-23.



DRUMBEATS AND TINKLING CYMBALS—Zada Wagamon (right), of Highland Baptist Church, and Sean Bailey, of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, both in Louisville, added tympani and cymbal to a 400-voice youth choir during the 35th student missions conference in Louisville Feb. 22-24. (Photo by Lawanda Smith)

### High school girls compete for award

Baptist women who will enter college next fall are eligible to compete for a \$500 scholarship offered by Affirming Baptist Women.

Affirming Baptist Women is a group organized to support Baptist women in ministry. The scholarship competition is open to female high school seniors who are members of Baptist churches.

Applicants must complete a 500-word essay that should include references to women of the Bible, women in history and/or the status of women currently serving in

Christian work. References may include women in any phase of Christian service who might be used as role models.

Each application should include letters from the applicant's pastor and another church leader.

The essays will be evaluated by a committee, and the winner will be presented the scholarship in her home church.

Deadline for entries is May 1. Essays and letters should be sent to Affirming Baptist Women, 7609 Norwood Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40222.

# NATIONWIDE BIBLE CONFERENCE

## BRIGHT LIGHT FOR DARK DAYS

### A CONFERENCE FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

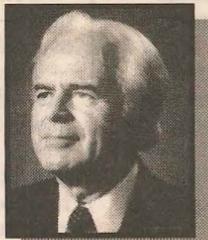
April 17-21, 1991 • Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, TN

- Seminars for Pastors, Deacons, Staff Members, Lay Leaders & Ladies
- Panel discussions • Workshops • Praise Worship Services

### CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



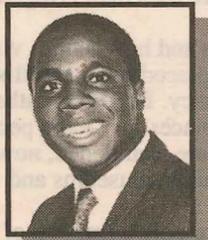
W.A. Criswell, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas



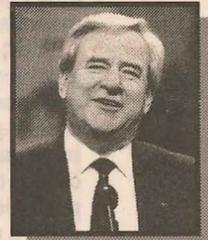
Stephen Olford, Encounter Ministries and the Institute for Biblical Preaching, Memphis, Tennessee



John Phillips, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Illinois



Darrell Gilyard, Victory Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas



Jerry Falwell, Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Virginia



Joel Gregory, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas



Ron Dunn, Lifestyle Ministries, Irving, Texas



Jim Whitmire, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee

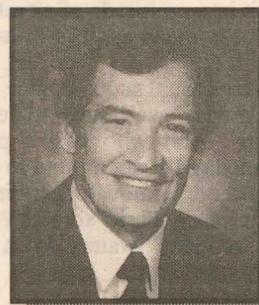
### REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Nationwide Bible Conference • April 17-21, 1991

clip & mail  
✂  
Mail To: Nationwide Bible Conference, Bellevue Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 1210, Cordova, Tennessee 38018

Name (Dr., Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss)	(First)	(Middle Initial)	(Last)	Church Address
Staff Position				City
Spouse's Name (if attending)				State
Church				Zip
Denomination				Home Address (if lay person)
				City
				State
				Zip
				Home Phone
				Work Phone
				Anticipated arrival time
				Flight #

### AN INVITATION

A second Nationwide Bible Conference is being offered because of the many requests from the 1990 "Decade of Destiny" Conference. The 1991 theme is "Bright Light for Dark Days." Preachers and prophets are being assembled to proclaim His Word during these days which are becoming gloriously dark. Bellevue Church will host pastors, deacons, laymen, and wives from across our land for a time of superlative Bible preaching, panel discussions and practical workshops. In the Name of Jesus and with great anticipation, I invite you to this timely conference.



Adrian Rogers, Pastor

**AIRLINE DISCOUNTS:** Special discounts on flights are available by calling Regal Travel at 1-800-562-2076. Please inform the travel agency that you are attending Bellevue's Bible Conference.

**PREREGISTRATION NOTICE:** While preregistration is not required to attend the conference, all who preregister by April 8 may purchase audio-cassette tapes of the conference sessions at a 50 percent reduction. Cut-off date for preregistration is Monday, April 8, 1991.

**CHILD CARE:** Child care for children ages birth through 3 is available by reservation. Call the conference office at (901) 385-5720.

For information call 901-385-5720 or write  
Nationwide Bible Conference, Bellevue Baptist Church,  
P.O. Box 1210, Cordova, Tennessee 38018

# Romanians struggle with the challenges of freedom

by Art Toalston

Romanians still are struggling for freedom—and with freedom—according to the Evangelical Alliance president of Romania.

"There was a revolution, a lot of things were changed and the process of change is going on," Paul Negrut said. "But not everything is well and good in the country."

The new government has not yet committed itself to full religious freedom, said Negrut, leader of the evangelical coalition formed after the overthrow of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in December 1989. Negrut also is co-pastor of the 4,000-member Second Baptist Church of Oradea, the largest Baptist congregation in Europe.

Romanians face an array of social problems stemming from the freedoms gained to date. Freedom has permitted "all kinds of philosophies and cults" to flood the country, along with drugs, immorality, pornography and guns, Negrut said.

"We need to have a new perspective on what's happening around us, to know who is who and what is what, to have a clear understanding of the different religious groups, philosophies and social problems that arise with freedom," he said in an interview at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va. The pastor addressed two committees during the agency trustees' meeting.

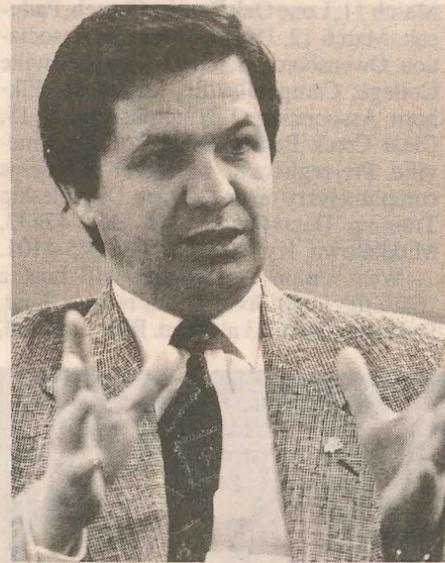
The Evangelical Alliance, encompassing Baptist, Pentecostal, Brethren and Lutheran churches as well as the Greek Orthodox evangelical movement known as the Lord's Army, is at the forefront of the

continuing battle for religious freedom in Romania.

A key sore spot is the government ban on radio and TV broadcasting by religious groups, Negrut said.

Under a proposed law on religious affairs, he added, denominations must register with the government—and the government would be able to withdraw its recognition of a religious body. "That means that a denomination can exist only if the state approves," he warned.

And the current draft of a proposed constitution provides for religious freedom—if religious activity does not harm the public order, state security or the coun-



Paul Negrut

try's moral standards. The state could have great leeway in "checking the activities of the church and approving them," Negrut said.

"That is not religious freedom," he stated. "That is religious control by some state institutions."

"The revolution changed a lot of things, but the structures that were in the society for 45 years have very deep roots and it's very difficult to get rid of them. They still want the power. They still want to come back in one form or another."

Further debates over religious freedom before various government committees lie ahead, Negrut said. Evangelicals are repre-

sented on these committees, he said, but they face opposition from others linked to the Greek Orthodox Church.

"The Greek Orthodox Church is not in favor of religious freedom because it was doing very well under the communist regime," the Baptist leader charged.

Orthodox antagonism toward evangelicals is akin to the centuries-old persecution aimed at "those who came to know Christ in a personal way and tried to live a committed, holy life," Negrut said. "The Orthodox Church wants to have the monopoly, the dominant position in society." It claims to be Romania's "mother church" and labels others as heretics, he said. (BP)

## Results follow fake beatings

by Charlotte Cearley

"It was pretty hard getting beaten up several times a day!"

That startling report came from John Denhollem, a short-term mission volunteer from North Carolina, about his recent time in Zimbabwe.

But don't fit him for a martyr's crown yet. The "beatings" were just for play—even though the work was real.

Denhollem was part of a 15-member team from Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., which spoke to more than 20,000 people in 28 schools during a two-week visit to the southern Africa country. At least 2,000 made professions of faith in Christ, missionaries said.

The volunteers gave their Christian tes-

timonies through interpreters and told Bible stories through drama. That's how Denhollem, cast as the victim of thieves in the story of the Good Samaritan, got "beaten up."

The group stayed in three villages and became proficient at eating sadza, a thick commeal mush that is the staple of the local diet, with their hands.

"We were overwhelmed by the love of the people toward us," one team member said. "They're so warm and friendly."

The Sunday after the Americans returned to the United States, the worship service at Mutoko Baptist Church was dominated by testimonies of gratitude for them. "I never thought white people could come and live with us black people," one new Christian said. "But they did and I thank God for them." (BP)

### ESPIRITO SANTO PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS PROJECTS FOR 1991

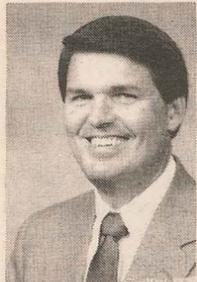
142 Volunteers Needed URGENTLY!



PROJECT #	TYPE	NEEDS	DATES for 1991
91802	Const/Evang	16 volunteers	April 4-17
91805	Const/Evang	16 volunteers	May 16-29
91808	English Teaching	6 volunteers	June 6-July 3
91809	Evang/Sports	16 volunteers	July 10-24
91811	Medical	16 volunteers	August 15-28
91812	Const/Evang	16 volunteers	August 29-September 11
91813	Const/Evang	16 volunteers	October 3-16
91814	Deacon Training	8 volunteers	October 17-30
91815	Medical	16 volunteers	October 31-November 13
91816	Const/Evang	16 volunteers	November 14-27

Contact: Calvin Wilkins, Partnership Coordinator; Kentucky/Brazil Partnership P.O. Box 43433; Middletown, KY 40253-0433; (502)245-4101 ext. 314 or 339

# mountains to the mississippi



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

## clear creek chronicle

### The rest of the story

Folks around Gamaliel knew George Masters as a rough man prone to excessive drinking. He once placed a cocked pistol in the sheriff's mouth and called him a coward. The sheriff later put six bullets in Masters and he was pushed aside at the hospital to die. Mrs. Masters pleaded to take him to Nashville; seven days later he awoke. He started preaching in the hospital and never stopped.

Masters came to Clear Creek in 1944 and later went to Maryville, Tenn. There he met Glenn Grubbs who describes his life then as "rough ... gambling away my money ... usually in trouble." Grubbs' young child was hospitalized and Masters came to visit. Before he left the pastor said, "I want you to know you're in trouble."

"What do you mean? I'm always in trouble," Grubbs responded.

The pastor told him, "Last night 12 men got on their knees and prayed for you—you're in trouble!"

Grubbs was eventually saved. He graduated from Carson-Newman College and Golden Gate Seminary, and returned to Maryville where he will soon complete 21 years as pastor of Madison Avenue church. The church has two morning services and facilities cover a city block.

Grubbs has made 10 mission partnership trips to Brazil and the church has built that many chapels to support new work.

Loving outreach from the congregation reached Virginia Ashford who was reared Catholic. One day at church she joined three men in a prayer meeting and begged the Lord to save her husband, one of east Tennessee's leading drug dealers. The Lord's amazing grace reached him and Steve Ashford now commutes from Maryville to Clear Creek.

Ashford left a "job" in which he and his partner grossed \$400,000 in a year. With plenty of debts and no income, he started to school. Several church friends have helped them become debt-free. Mrs. Ashford works part-time in a restaurant. The past four years Steve has preached and taught in six nursing homes.

Glenn Grubbs is eternally grateful for a Clear Creek preacher whom God used to turn him from sin. Another now prepares to do the same for someone else.

As Paul Harvey says, "Now you know the rest of the story."

**DEATHS:** Henry Schafer Jr., former Kentucky pastor and 1973-4 Kentucky Baptist Convention president, died in St. Petersburg, Fla., Dec. 9, 1990.

Immediately before retiring to Florida, Schafer was pastor of Bellevue, Owensboro. He also pastored several other churches in the Owensboro area and Victory Memorial, Louisville.

Along with 2 brothers and 4 sisters, Schafer helped establish Camp Schafer, near Owensboro, in Daviess-McLean Association. The camp was named for and established on land owned by Schafer's late parents. The Schafer children donated the land following their parents' deaths.

A memorial fund has been established in Schafer's honor by Daviess-McLean Association. Schafer is survived by his wife, Albertine, of St. Petersburg; daughter, Joanna Harrison, of Covington, La.; son, Bill, of St. Paul, Minn.; and sisters, Mary Storm and Sarah Gibbs, of Owensboro. ... **Betty Joyce Perry**, 53, wife of Calvin A. Perry, pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, died Feb. 6 of cancer.

The Perrys have served churches in northern Kentucky for 35 years, including the last 23 at Main Street.

She is survived by her husband, 2 sons, her mother, a sister and 2 brothers.

John W. Kruschwitz and George Munro officiated at the Feb. 8 funeral.

**CONGREGATIONS:** Members at Bethel, Pine Knot, are pleased with the church's growth in the year Brad Porter has been pastor—increased attendance in Sunday school and discipleship training which has been extended by one half hour. Remodeling two rooms to accommodate increased enrollment is planned. The congregation has liquidated indebtedness and celebrated with a note-burning ceremony. ... **Immanuel**, Covington will observe its 100th anniversary March 17, starting with a special service at 2 p.m.

**EVENTS:** William H. Stephens, senior coordinator of curriculum development in the discipleship training department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, will preview "The Doctrine of Lordship" in Kentucky. Sessions, 9 a.m. to 12 noon: March 11, Lone Oak Baptist Church, Paducah; March 12, Daviess-McLean Association, Owensboro; March 13, Campbellsville College, Campbellsville; March 14, Elkhorn Association, Lexington; March 15, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville. Pre-registrants by March 8 receive complimentary texts. Contact: Discipleship Training Department, P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, Ky. 40253; (502) 245-4101.

... West Union Association will host a "Saturday night live" youth rally at First, Paducah, March 23 at 7 p.m. Rick Caldwell,

evangelist from Little Rock, Arkansas, will be speaker. For more information, contact the associational office at (502) 443-8277. ... "Crown Him Lord of All," an Easter musical drama, will be presented at Gate, Lexington, March 24-25 at 7 p.m. The production is directed by Minister of Music David Stone.

**ORDINATIONS:** **Luther Dean Whitaker**, youth director, First, McDowell, Jan. 27. Deacons—**Tom Conner** and **Troy Hutchison** Feb. 10 at First, Winchester. ... **Forrest Kincaid** at Seven Hills, Owensboro, Feb. 17. **Jim Lobb** at Trammell Creek, Greensburg.

**MISSIONS:** First, Mount Vernon, recently held a commissioning service for Joe and Tamara Korn as career missionaries to Togo, Africa.

**PERSONNEL:** Pastors—**Charles Jayne** to Southside, Louisa. ... **Zora Oliver** resigned after 33 years at Freedom, Lancaster. ... **George T. Akers** resigned at First, Martin. ... **Jimmy Williams** is now full-time pastor at Lick Fork, London. ... **Jack Renner** resigned at Union, Mount Vernon. ... **Truman DeBord** to Elkhorn City, Elkhorn City, from Trinity, Middlesboro. ... **Charles Thompson** as interim at Sharpsburg, Sharpsburg. ... **John Engle** to Pleasant Grove, Rockhold. ... **Thurman Sutton** to Woodbine, Woodbine. ... **Doyle Lester** is no longer at Corinth, Corbin. ... **Larry Smith** resigned at Union Band, Hodgenville; **Kevin Minchey** is now pastor. ... **Joe Harper** to Cardinal Hill, Louisville. ... **Robert Judd** went to Brush Grove, Willisburg, last fall. ... **Larry Wetherington** resigned at Smithfield, Smithfield. ... **Henry Parrott** resigned at Pierces Chapel, Flatplay. ... **Mason Beville** is no longer at Blackford, Hawesville. ... **Freeman Clark** from Tugglesville, Hulen, to Wallins Creek, Wallins Creek. Others—**Mike McMillen** resigned as minister of music at First, Flatwoods. ... **Dan Hill** to Oaklawn, Paducah, as minister of music and education. ... **Joyce Sweeney Martin** has been named editor The New England Baptist, the monthly newsjournal of the six-state Baptist Convention of New England. Martin is a Kentucky native and graduate of Georgetown College, Georgetown. She also holds a degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, where she has been a trustee.



First Baptist Church, Pikeville, has retired a \$400,000 debt from a sanctuary remodeling and TV equipment purchase project. Pastor Glenn Mollette and the church's long-range planning and finance committees celebrated the occasion with a note-burning ceremony.

## Lewisburg church 'walks the talk' in Nicaragua

Five proved to be a productive number for Elk Lick Baptist Church of Lewisburg last month.

For the fifth straight year, the Elk Lick congregation formed the nucleus of a mission team to Central America, reported Pastor William G. Humphrey.

The 37-member team worked in Pacaya, Nicaragua, about an hour's drive from Managua, during the Feb. 8-16 trip. The trip was sponsored in cooperation with Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International, Humphrey said.

The team included doctors, nurses, den-

tists, a pharmacist, preachers, interpreters and other support workers. Roy McEndre, a physician from Lewisburg, was team leader and received help from five other members of Elk Lick Church, including the pastor.

"Twenty-five preaching services were held in a small church," Humphrey noted. "The people were very receptive to the gospel. Six hundred forty people came forward indicating their desire to receive Jesus Christ as savior. Each of these received a Spanish Bible. A total of 988 Bibles were given in Nicaragua.

"The four doctors saw 3,700 people and gave vitamins and other medicines to each. The two dentists pulled over 600 teeth, and over 600 pairs of used eyeglasses were fitted." Previously, Elk Lick members made four trips to Honduras.

"These mission trips are but one indication of the belief in missions of this rural church," Humphrey said. The church also gives 22.5 percent of its budget to the convention's Cooperative Program unified budget, supports the mission teams and gave more than \$3,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

## 'Silver Sunday' celebrates 25-year golden ministry

Burlington Baptist Church in Burlington celebrated a "silver Sunday" Feb. 24.

Members honored their pastor and his wife, Paul and Christine Godsey, upon his retirement after 25 years as their pastor.

"Nobody here knew we were getting two ministers who would serve this church for 25 years," deacon Chair Carl Smith said of the church's Jan. 6, 1966, vote to call Godsey as pastor. During those years, the church baptized 519 people, and 523 joined from other churches, Smith said.

William W. Marshall, the Kentucky

Baptist Convention's executive secretary-treasurer, recounted the church's progress under Godsey's ministry: growth in receipts, from \$37,048 in 1965-66 to \$428,449 in 1989-90; growth in Cooperative Program unified budget giving, from \$4,425 to \$62,467; total Cooperative Program contributions of \$626,181 through last fall; growth in Cooperative Program as a percentage of the budget, from 11.9 percent to 15.2 percent. Godsey also served 12 years on the KBC executive board and currently is a member of the Western Recorder board,

Marshall noted.

"This church has had solid, steady progress," he said. "That doesn't happen without a pastor who loves and leads and is committed to missions."

The Godseys retired by looking to the future.

"We look forward to other opportunities and occasions for service," he said. The choir sang an anthem she wrote for the service: "Empower us, O God, with thy holy presence, to the work you called us to do. Lead us to faithfully, gladly serve you."



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

## sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR MARCH 10, 1991

Life and Work Series

### Mission

**John 17:13-23** A large portion of the earthly life of Christ was given to prayer and meditation. In "The Lord's Prayer" (John 17) Christ did not ask the Father to deliver the disciples from temptation, suffering and sorrow. Rather he asked that they might be preserved while passing through these experiences. In his matchless intercessory prayer, Christ did not ask God to remove his disciples from this world. Such a procedure would have

deprived them of the discipline which they needed so much.

Christ prayed that his disciples might be separated from the world and set apart to do the specific work of representing him effectively. God's truth constituted the means through which they were to be sanctified. Christ's representatives in every age need special cleansing grace to make them vessels fit for the use of the Master.

He did not want them brought under the influence and control of Satan, or deceived by the allurements of the world. What an impressive contrast is our Lord's intercessory prayer for all believers to much of the praying which we do today, concerned primarily with or centered around self! If we would only follow the example of Christ in his prayer life, things would be quite different for us and with others.

Christ did not pray for the organic union, but that they might have a oneness of spirit. Christ prayed that believers in him might be linked with one another as well as with the Trinity. God's truth constitutes the means through which they are to be sanctified.

### International Series

### Sexual responsibility

First Corinthians was written when Corinth was notorious for the atrocious moral conditions which prevailed among the people therein. Moral life had sunk to such horrifying depths that sexual immorality was even connected with the observance of some of the pagan religious rites. Hundreds of prostitutes were made available to those who desired them at one of the great temples overlooking

the city. The inhabitants of Corinth never thought of immorality as being wrong.

Present day overexposure to pornography which contributes to the lowering of moral standards, makes it mandatory that Christians study the scriptures to learn divine principles. These pagan conceptions and our wicked environment are not going to contribute to an appreciation of the purity which Christ intended should characterize the life of the believer.

**I Cor. 6:9-14** The Conduct of Christians. Paul challenged the thinking of the Christians with the arresting question, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" Knowing that self-deception is the worst type of deception known, Paul admonished his readers not to deceive themselves by thinking that they could live habitually in adultery, homosexuality or idolatry, or as thieves, coveters, drunkards, revilers or extortioners. He readily admitted that they had a marvelous liberty in Christ, but he denied that they had a license to do wrong.

**I Cor. 6:15-20** The Claim of Christ. Paul placed strong emphasis on Christ's claim on the human body.

1. A Personal Realization. "Ye are not your own." Since people do not create, sustain or redeem themselves, they cannot be their own.

2. A Positive Reason. "For ye are bought with a price." Children of God have been redeemed from the curse of the law, the wrath of God and the vassalage of Satan.

3. A Persistent Responsibility. "Therefore glorify God in your body." Children of God become the temple of the Holy Spirit. Indwelt by the Holy Spirit, a child of God is responsible for glorifying God.



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

## homes for children

### Perspective

As those of you who are regular readers know, I have been off work for the past month recuperating from back surgery. I am now back at work and though I will have some sitting and lifting restrictions for several months, everything has gone extremely well.

When my doctor told me I might have to have surgery and that it would involve missing at least a month of work, my first reaction was "no way." I had never missed more than a few days of work at a time and my sole direct experience with hospitals was when I had my tonsils taken out in the eighth grade. However, it is amazing how continual pain changes one's perspective.

One of the things I already knew was that we had a good staff who could carry on without me. I want to thank Robin Oldham especially for writing this column for me. All of the staff have done a good job and I kept in touch with the office regularly. It was not the same as being here, but I was only a phone call away and paper work was regularly dropped by for my review.

A month of enforced rest also gave me time to think about what are the really important things in life. One of the notes I received was from Steve Hadden, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown and a former board member of KBHC. A couple of years ago he suffered a foot injury which took a long time to heal. He wrote, "These 'interruptions' have a way of changing our perspectives on life. I took my good health for granted. My youth is fleeting. Friends are wonderful creatures."

I find those thoughts mean more to me each day. It is a shame that it takes such interruptions for us to think about what is really important in our lives and what is truly mundane.

I have had a chance to do a lot of reading and thinking during this time. I have come to realize how important my family is to me and to look again on where I am and where I want to be in life.

All of life's experiences provide us with opportunities to learn. Sometimes we are too busy to notice them.



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

## oneida journal

### Our greatest need

With the exception of one year, the Cooperative Program has been our single largest donor the past 18 years I have been Oneida's president. Four years ago it represented 12 percent of our costs, but last year it represented eight percent of our operating budget. Our operating costs have been jumping several hundred thousand dollars yearly, but for some years actual dollars from the Cooperative Program have remained the same. In fact, they have been fewer than the year before. With inflation counted in, the loss has been even greater.

We are grateful for every dollar of Cooperative Program money. However, where is the other \$.92 of each dollar coming from? Only God knows where most of it is to come in any given year!

People often ask "What would you most like us to do?" If you haven't been here at all, or it has been many years, we

simply ask that you visit us. Come and see what is being done with the dollars given us. Having seen, with confidence we leave it with you what you will then do.

Prayer is a constant need. We feel the need hourly. Often we can tell when our friends are being faithful to pray for us. Even our oldest and most ill friends can help that way, if unable to visit, or give, or even to tell others of God's work at Oneida. If unable to speak, yet able to think, one can still pray and God can read your thoughts. As Mrs. F.W. Suffield wrote:

"Are you laid aside from service,  
Body worn from toil and care?  
You can still be in the battle,  
In the sacred place of prayer."

Then comes the question: "What is your greatest physical need? The answer simply is: money (check) gifts. Whatever the amount, your gift joined with others makes up the 92 percent difference between what is given through the Cooperative Program and what we must have. Whatever the amount given, the gift joined with others makes possible the feeding, housing, teaching, in many instances clothing, medical bills and personal necessities of over 500 girls and boys. No gift is considered "small" at Oneida. Little is much when God is in it.

Often people want to go out and buy something for us. We had much rather you send the equivalent amount in money. Why? You, as a private person, must pay tax, the retail price, take the time and effort and pay for gas to go shopping. Then there is added expense in packaging and paying postage or shipping costs, or the gas and time to personally deliver it to us. By simply adding that all up and sending us the money equivalent, you have been a much better

steward of money dedicated to the Lord.

We can then take your money and buy far more with it than you could have. We are a non-profit, charitable, educational institution that does not have to pay sales taxes. We buy wholesale. We buy in bulk. Thus, much more can be bought for less. There is further savings, for whatever is needed is delivered right to our door. We get it when it is needed thus saving on storage problems and having to pay extra employees to do inventory work. By giving us the means to shop, rather than trying to shop for us, you have allowed us to get exactly what we need, the size or amount or color or quality that we need when we need it. It has been much less trouble for you, and is much better for us.

Don't misunderstand. If you already have something bought, or used clothing for example, and want to share with us, certainly we will be grateful and we'll find a way to use it. But if it is not already bought, don't.

For the reasons already mentioned and other good ones as well, it is better stewardship not to "designate" for a specific project or person. Priorities change by the hour. There is always the unexpected emergency. Johnny may appear to have the greatest need when I talk or write you, but Susie may have an even more critical need by the time you respond, and Johnny's need already may be met. We save the salaries of several extra bookkeepers, several extra secretaries, and a lot of extra letter-writing, telephoning, if you trust us to use the money where most needed at any moment in time, rather than tying our hands by "designation."

Oneida School is open day and night, seven days a week for you to see how your dollars are used, his dollars. We mean that very literally. We are prepared to show you around at noon or midnight! Literally!

# First person: assessing new realities in USSR

by Russell Chandler

*Editor's Note: Chandler, a religion writer for the Los Angeles Times, traveled in the Soviet Union last fall. He currently is on leave from his paper to write a book on trends that will affect religion as we approach the year 2000.*

The beefy young guard, dressed in the standard Soviet military uniform of gray with red trim, stopped us at the entrance to the imposing Supreme Soviet building overlooking the Moscow River. We were there, I told him, to keep an appointment with the Rev. Vyacheslav Polosin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee on Freedom of Conscience, Religion, Philanthropy and Charity. Could he help us find him?

We were escorted into the sixth-floor office of the bearded, robed priest. There, we talked for more than an hour about the sweeping new religious liberty law that he had helped draft.

This incident, falling on the final day of a three-week intensive trip through the Soviet Union—from the Baltic to the Black Sea and the Ukraine to the Kremlin—struck me as an apt parable of a huge country in rapid and irreversible change.

The blustery oldline authority is wavering while the new guard is trying to figure out who or what will replace it. At the same time that leaders are adjusting to glasnost and perestroika, inefficiency, scarce resources and a lack of motivation are crippling the country's efforts to stave off political chaos and economic collapse.

And Soviet religion is caught in the

middle in this new era of freedom and opportunity, vulnerability and peril. There is simply no precedent for how the church should live and think in this environment.

I found a certain naivete as well: 70 years of repression have left many Soviets with the belief that religious values could now quickly instill moral leadership and install charitable services that communism

has so dismally failed to provide.

As a first-time visitor to the Soviet Union, I shared what I suspect are the assumptions and preconceptions of many Americans.

I had been aware that shortages and long food lines forced Soviet citizens to wait for food and household items. But the burden of the scarcity and the poor quality became real to me when I talked to a woman in



Russian Orthodox priests line up on Red Square for the blessing of the foundation stone of Kazan Cathedral, destroyed in 1936 by communists, which is being rebuilt at the edge of the square. (RNS Photo/Reuters)

Tallinn, Estonia, who had been standing in line for three days unsuccessfully waiting for a basic sewing machine she had ordered months earlier. In a nearby bakery, people waited in longer and longer lines for fewer and fewer selections. The large picture of Lenin looking down from behind the empty shelves was "mocking the shoppers," our guide suggested. (RNS)

## Soviet cultural exchange seeks 700 volunteers

by Marty Croll

Participants in what may become the largest overseas Southern Baptist volunteer trip ever can build a lasting relationship with a group of Soviet Muslims who have been closed to Westerners for centuries.

Up to 700 volunteers are being sought to participate in a far-reaching cultural exchange program in the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. Called the U.S.-Kazakh People's Festival, the project will be coordinated by Cooperative Services International (CSI), a Southern Baptist service agency, and the Golden Apple, a Kazakhstan-based agency promoting culture and tourism.

Volunteers from across the United States are being encouraged to participate; those who attend orientation and pay the \$1,950 package price (including round-trip airfare from New York) will become some of the first Westerners to encounter the culture of Kazakhstan. Members of the Golden Apple hope Southern Baptists can develop friendships among their fellow Kazakhs during the festival June 20-July 6. (BP)

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# Abandoned church building renews ministry in Benin

by Donald D. Martin

Most churches are known for reaching out to the lost, but one of the newest churches in Benin is known because it was itself lost.

For more than 10 years a church building stood abandoned in the middle of the southern village of Doguia in the west African nation. Villagers came to the empty shell every day, but paid little attention to it. Rather, they drew water from the church well, their only source of fresh water.

"It looked like an abandoned warehouse," said Southern Baptist missionary Asa Greear. "We found it with its windows and doors wide open. No one in the village owned it, so no one used it."

Greear, of Ashland, Ky., learned of the abandoned church last May while visiting Bible correspondence students. Greear's Beninese co-worker, Raphael Kouton, said he had heard of a church building in a village not far from where they were. He said Southern Baptist missionaries had built it in the mid-1970s.

Less than an hour later, the two men stood in an echoing church building that could easily hold 200 people. A few days later, Greear and his wife, Lydia, also from Ashland, returned to the village.

"We were so surprised," she said. "Our first thoughts were, 'How are we going to open this up? Why aren't people worshipping the Lord in this place?'"

Doguia villagers said government officials confiscated the church in 1976 following Benin's adoption of a Marxist-Leninist political system. Officials turned the church into a school, but closed the school a few years later.

A week later, Greear and three Beninese Baptists received permission from village officials to hold worship services in the building. About 50 of the village's 450 people arrived for the first service in 14 years. The empty building had no pews, so Greear asked the group to find seats.

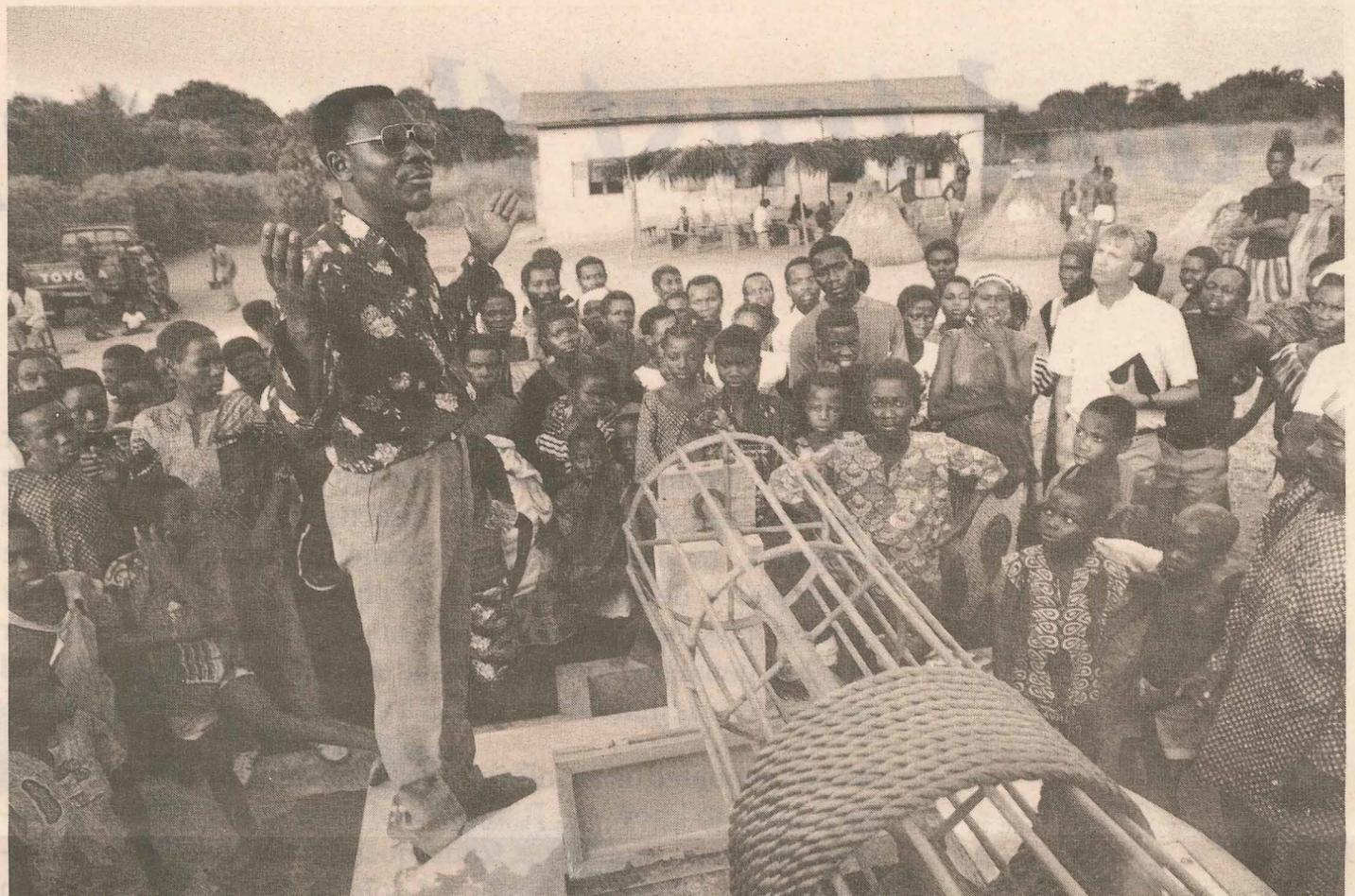
"They all left and returned in about an hour carrying 30 benches with 'Mission Baptiste' engraved on them," Greear said. By the end of the service more than 150 people sat in the church listening to Greear

and Beninese Baptists tell of God's gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Forty-six people made professions of faith.

Since then the Baptists have held weekly services there, and about 80 new Christians

meet weekly in a new members' class.

The government, which abandoned its Marxist-Leninist ideology in 1989, has returned legal ownership of the church property to the missionaries. (BP)



**WELL DEDICATION**—Standing on top of the village well, Beninese Baptist leader Mathieu Sangbe explains to residents of Doguia why he and other Christians have returned to their village in southern Benin. Southern Baptist missionary Mike Jones of Rockford, Ill., listens in the crowd at right. Sangbe

said missionaries and national Baptists in the west African nation not only repaired the well, the area's only source of fresh water, but reopened an abandoned church building to offer the only source of eternal life, Jesus Christ. The church is in the background. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

## Non-traditional approach sparks life in nearly dead church

by Mark Wingfield

Gene Richardson could be accused of coloring outside traditional lines, but he has sketched a bright future for a church that was nearly erased from existence six years ago.

The pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in San Fernando, Calif., has drawn from a palette including celery green, tomato red, banana yellow and potato brown.

Food has become the staple of ministry for this church located on the northern edge of the Los Angeles mosaic. Pallets of fruits, vegetables, meats and packaged goods arrive at the church by the semi-truck load every week. All the food is received free

and given away for free.

Last year the church gave out 1.4 million sack lunches, 50,000 hot meals and thousands of sacks of groceries.

As a result, the church that just six years ago had declined to two families in attendance now touches more than 400 people weekly through five preaching points. Last year the church recorded 276 baptisms, the second highest number of any Southern Baptist church in the state.

"The whole church was born again," Richardson says. "It was truly redeemed and revived from the dead. Our church turned around."

Because this church colors outside traditional lines, describing its growth in stan-

dard terms such as attendance and baptisms does not paint a complete picture.

Counting attendance is difficult because the church operates five preaching points and ministers to five different ethnic groups. "We're probably a church of 300 to 400 people, but there's never more than 200 people in any service," Richardson explains.

Also, the 276 baptisms recorded last year represent less than a fourth of the 1,200 professions of faith made through various ministries. Those who were baptized completed a six-week discipleship training course first.

In this highly transient area, many of the people whose lives are changed aren't around six weeks later to be baptized.

The local food ministry is merely the front edge of a larger movement. Two years ago, the congregation shipped 171 tons of wheat to the Philippines at a total cost of \$100. Church members have started and staffed seven accredited, tuition-free schools for needy children. Members also regularly take food to a city park where thousands of homeless people live in a crime-ridden environment.

Richardson admits not every declining church will experience a turnaround by doing the same things his church has done. But the attitude that changed this dying church could change others, he says.

"The way we arrived at it would work anywhere. We just saw a need and met it. One need revealed another need. We just ministered to each need as it materialized," he says.

As a result, the church grew to 50 people in the first year.

But the second year is "when war broke out," Richardson says. Older members were pleased with the growth but not with the people bringing the growth.

"The thing is, most people don't want the kind of church we have. They want to define how the turnaround will happen. They're not willing to let God do it."

"We decided whatever God wants to make us into, that's OK. Our church is more excited about what we're doing than who we are."

The secret of this success story, Richardson says, is that he did not scheme to grow a church. Instead, he attempted to lead his congregation in meeting the needs of the community. (BP)

## RAs' bid to buy bikes results in building a church

by Ken Camp

The Royal Ambassadors at Memorial Baptist Church in Baytown, Texas, just wanted to collect enough money to buy a couple of bicycles for Baptist pastors in Kenya. Instead, they raised enough to build a church.

In early December, Memorial's RA Director Wendell Romans and Minister of Recreation and Activities Stan Sullinger were discussing how their church could join the statewide effort to provide bikes for Kenyan pastors.

Early in 1990, missionary Ralph Bethea had told Texas Baptist Men leaders that Kenyan ministers urgently needed two-wheelers for basic transportation. Texas

RAs accepted the challenge to raise money to buy bikes for 150 pastors in Kenya at \$150 each.

"We thought it was kind of late to try to raise the money by the deadline, and we didn't want to do anything to take away from the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions," said Sullinger.

"So we thought, why not just take \$300 from the RA budget for 1991 and then raise the money after Christmas to replace that amount?"

The RAs parked a bicycle in the foyer at Memorial Church and posted a sign announcing a "bike-a-thon" to raise the needed \$300, but they did nothing else to promote the cause. Even so, a full month before the scheduled fund-raising event, church

members began to make contributions.

RA leaders collected the \$300 and had enough money for an additional 10 bikes. That same month, the church surpassed its Lottie Moon goal, giving \$22,000 to foreign missions.

Sullinger called the Texas Baptist Men's office in Dallas to tell state leaders another check would be in the mail soon. However, he was surprised to learn that the statewide goal for the bicycle project already had been exceeded and all needs had been met.

He asked how money that his church members had given could be used in Kenya.

"I was told that money was needed to build churches there next summer," said Sullinger. "And the cost was \$1,500 each—exactly the amount we had raised." (BP)

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# *“Tell the truth, and trust the people.”*

Baptists have been truth-telling, people-trusting Christians for centuries. From the beginning, we felt every believer had the right and responsibility to talk directly to God, to search the scriptures, to make personal decisions. Along the way, we developed a democratic form of church government: Every member gets one vote; majority rules. When we gathered for worship, convened for business and sent missionaries, we trusted the people—as individuals and as a group—to do the right thing.

We have counted on an informed membership. We have expected each other to know the Bible, spend time in prayer and understand the issues before us. Consequently, the ministry of information has played an important role in our life and mission together. Baptist magazines and newspapers have kept us up to date on the people, events and issues that shape our common world. We have read their stories and studied their pictures. Then we have rallied together to do the Lord's work in countless places, touching millions of lives in the name of Christ.

We at the Western Recorder are both proud and humbled to participate in the Baptist ministry of information. We are delighted to join ranks with communicators down through the ages who have served the Lord by telling others about kingdom work. We also are thrilled to be partners with Kentucky Baptists, sharing in the joy of knowing what God is up to among us. But we are sobered by the challenge and responsibility of telling the story accurately, creatively and redemptively.

We salute our readers, partners in ministry. We ask for your prayers as we seek to continue in the long line of Baptists who have told the truth and trusted the people.

# western recorder