

Baptists to feed 100,000 Kurdish refugees in Iran

by Art Toalston

A Southern Baptist feeding program—inside Iran—is being organized to feed 100,000 Kurdish refugees a day.

The joint program of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Persian Gulf Response unit, Texas Baptist Men and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission jumped toward reality last week when board representatives received verbal commitments from Iranian officials to permit Baptist refugee ministry inside Iran.

The board forwarded specific plans for the feeding program to Iranian officials April 19 for formal approval, said Tim Brendle, executive director of the Persian Gulf response unit.

About \$1.25 million would be allocated from foreign mission relief funds, and April 25 is the projected date for starting the feeding operation, Brendle said.

More than 1 million Kurdish refugees—unprepared for the mountainous region's cold weather and many of them barefoot—have entered Iran or amassed at the Iran-Iraq border, fearing retribution for their failed rebellion against Saddam Hussein's forces.

The Iranian government itself has committed \$57 million to the Kurdish relief effort, according to reports from international relief agencies.

"Animals have protection on this earth," Ahmad Zyai, governor of an Iranian town near the border with Iraq, was quoted as saying, "but these people have nothing." Between 500,000 and 700,000 refugees also are in the mountainous Turkey-Iraq border region.

A thousand Kurdish refugees are dying daily of exposure, starvation and disease, according to relief agencies. Even with President Bush's announced plans for an expanded relief effort by the U.S.-led coalition, Brendle noted a broad range of supplemental efforts by Baptists and others still will be needed among the displaced Kurds.

In organizing the Baptist feeding program for Kurdish refugees in Iran, Texas Baptist Men have begun:

- Assembling four portable kitchens, each capable of feeding 25,000 people two meals a day. Each kitchen will cost about \$15,500 and include 10 stoves, pots, utensils, a water purifier to process 10,000 gal—*continued on page 2, "Baptists provide ..."*



REFUGEES' PLIGHT—A Kurdish mother holds her months-old baby in a mountain refugee camp following their flight from Iraqi government troops. The child's face was blistered by exposure to the sun during their dangerous trek. The Southern Baptist Convention has joined the international community in the struggle to meet the needs of the newest group of refugees in the Middle East. (Photo by RNS/Reuters)

15 Kentuckians nominated to serve on SBC boards

Seven Kentuckians have been nominated to trustee-level positions within the Southern Baptist Convention.

Eight other Kentucky Baptists have been renominated for second terms on SBC boards.

The nominations were announced last week by the convention's Committee on Nominations. To serve, the nominees must be elected by messengers to the SBC annual meeting, June 4-6 in Atlanta.

Kentucky nominees, the SBC organizations to which they are nominated and the expiration dates of their terms are:

- Jewell R. Pruitt, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Glasgow, Executive Committee, 1995.
- Gary Southard, associate pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, Home Mission Board, 1995.
- Kent Workman, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, Sunday School

Board, 1995.

- Roger Williams, pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in London, Sunday School Board, 1994.

- M. Lynn Cooper, a bank president and member of First Baptist Church of Madisonville, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1996.

- James K. Pierce Jr., pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 1996.

- Sandra Butler Hodge, a homemaker and member of First Baptist Church of Princeton, Committee on Order of Business, 1994.

Kentuckians renominated for terms are:

- James T. Garland, pastor of Hazel Baptist Church in Hazel, Foreign Mission Board, 1995.
- Gene Flynn, a branch manager of an *continued on page 2, "Kentuckians ..."*

Church options: Reach new generation or shrink

by Sarah Zimmerman

Southern Baptists face two choices about their future, author Lyle Schaller charged.

"You can grow smaller as your people grow older, or you can grow larger by reaching a new generation," the church growth analyst told 138 church leaders attending a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board conference in Indianapolis.

A key to reaching a new generation is starting churches Schaller said. But effective church planting requires teamwork, he added.

"Starting a new church is one of the loneliest jobs in the world. I wouldn't do it unless I were part of a team," said the parish consultant for Yokefellow Institute in Richmond, Ind.

Church planting teams should include a minimum of three people—a pastor, evangelist and music specialist, he said. A five-person team could include a person to minister to families with children and a person responsible for developing church

life.

Schaller, a Methodist, recommended church planting teams establish at least eight small groups. When the groups are brought together to form a church, "every-

"You can grow smaller as your people grow older, or ... grow larger by reaching a new generation,"

body would already belong." He said teams should try to have at least 200 people in their first church service.

Schaller called on volunteers and churches to work with church planters to form teams.

He also suggested adding two questions to the denominational survey completed by Southern Baptist churches each year: "How

many new churches did you start or help start this year?" and "How many will you start or help start next year?"

"The church (survey) assumes that every church has Sunday school. It wouldn't ask about baptisms unless you assume the church is in the baptism business," Schaller said.

Church-starting questions on the church survey would "build into the system the expectation that every church every year will at least help start a church."

New churches attract people who do not attend church anywhere, Schaller said.

The unchurched population is so large, new churches do not compete with existing churches, he added.

Schaller used an analogy from Operation Desert Shield to make his point. "If you had the only McDonald's in the Persian Gulf and someone put in one next door, you wouldn't be competing because neither of you could fry hamburgers fast enough to feed all the soldiers coming for some 'back home' food." (BP)

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Southern Seminary elects professors

Three people, including a native Kentuckian, were elected to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's faculty during the school's annual trustee meeting in Louisville this month.

Rebecca Munn Russell, a native of Louisville and a part-time instructor at the seminary since 1981, will become an assistant professor of church music, effective next fall.

Her father, Lawrence Edward Straney, was pastor of Jeffersonton Baptist Church in Jeffersonton for 30 years until his retirement six years ago.

Other new or promoted faculty are:

- Leigh E. Conner, director of training

for the counseling center at Georgia Baptist Medical Center in Atlanta, who was elected associate professor of psychology of religion.

• David C. Stencil, minister of pastoral care at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, elected assistant professor of psychology of religion.

• Ronald Johnson, curriculum editor for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's evangelism section, named associate professor of evangelism and assistant director of the doctor of ministry program on a three-year presidential appointment.

• Craig A. Loscalzo, assistant professor of Christian preaching, granted tenure.

• Jon W. Rainbow, assistant professor of social work, granted tenure.

• Ronald A. Turner, promoted from associate professor of church music to full professor.

• David L. Mueller, named to the Joseph Emerson Brown Chair of Christian theology.

• G. Wade Rowatt, named to the Lawrence and Charlotte Hoover Chair of pastoral care.

Trustees also granted a two-year leave of absence to R. Alan Culpepper, the James Buchanan Harrison professor of New Testament interpretation. Culpepper will be a visiting professor at Baylor University.

Full-time editor hired by ABP

Greg Warner, associate editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, has been named the first full-time editor of Associated Baptist Press.

The autonomous news service's board of directors unanimously elected Warner as executive editor, announced Chair Charles Overby of Washington.

A veteran Southern Baptist journalist, Warner has worked for the Florida Baptist newspaper since 1985. Previously, he was news coordinator for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and a news writer for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Warner has won the Baptist Public Relations Association's top prize for writing twice and won eight first-place awards. He is a graduate of Florida Southern College, Southwestern Seminary and the University of North Texas.

ABP was formed last summer, after the Southern Baptist Executive Committee fired the leaders of Baptist Press, the convention's news service—Director Al Shackelford and News Editor Dan Martin—without citing cause.

Martin was interim editor of ABP during its early months last fall. He worked with the news service's interim manager, Floyd Craig, a public relations consultant from Nashville.

"All freedom-loving Baptists owe a debt of gratitude to Floyd Craig ... and Dan Martin, who helped get the dream of ABP off the ground," said Don McGregor, ABP's volunteer executive director. "Southern Baptists will benefit from their committed efforts for years to come."

Warner will be the first salaried employee for ABP, whose offices are to be located in Jacksonville, Fla. Plans call for an editorial assistant to be hired as quickly as possible and for a system of correspondents to be put in place across the country, McGregor said. (ABP)

Dewey Mercer dies in Japan

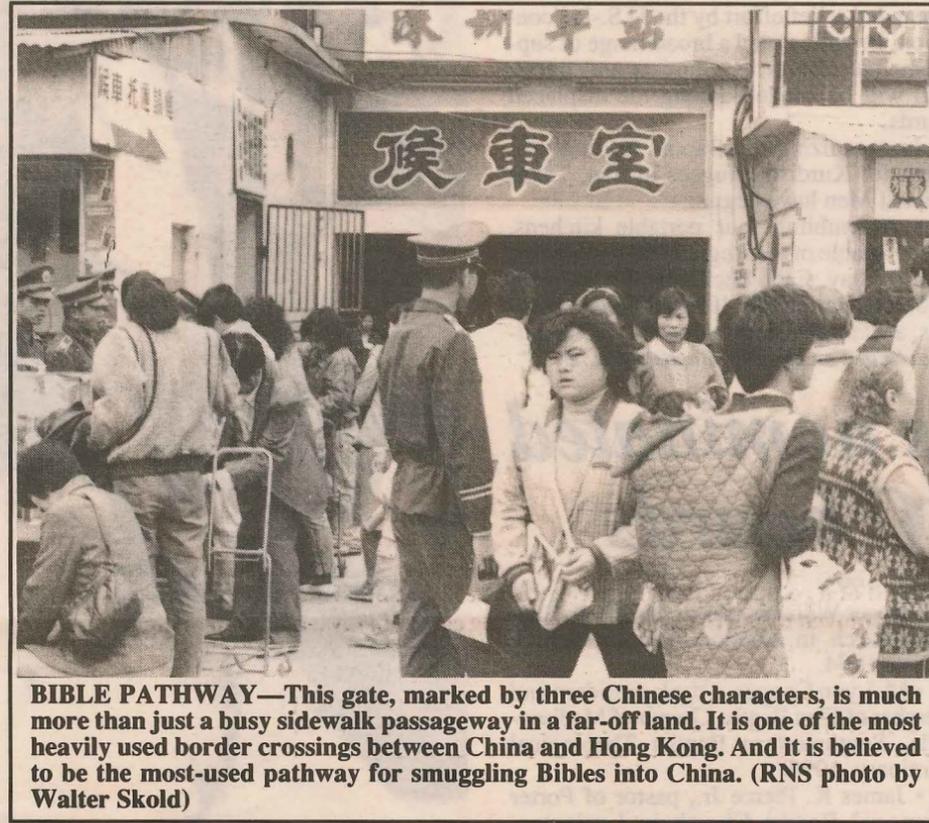
Kentucky native Dewey E. Mercer, a Southern Baptist missionary who spent the last decade of his life rebuilding a congregation in an out-of-the-way area on the western coast of Japan, died April 17 of a heart attack.

Mercer, 61, was from Central City. He attended Campbellsville College in Campbellsville and graduated from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He was a pastor in Kentucky before he and his wife, Ramona, were appointed missionaries in 1955.

They moved to Matsue, Japan, about 10 years ago to resurrect a near-dead church. Using evangelistic zeal, all the personal money they could find and volunteers to refurbish a building, they established a fellowship of about 30 Christians.

He used lapidary—the gathering, polishing and trading of rare stones—as a tool to meet people who otherwise would be difficult to reach with the gospel.

The Mercers have two children. (BP)



BIBLE PATHWAY—This gate, marked by three Chinese characters, is much more than just a busy sidewalk passageway in a far-off land. It is one of the most heavily used border crossings between China and Hong Kong. And it is believed to be the most-used pathway for smuggling Bibles into China. (RNS photo by Walter Skold)

Baptists provide food, blankets, Bibles to victims of Gulf War

continued from page 1

lons a day and tarps.

• Enlisting disaster-relief teams of two or three volunteers to operate the portable kitchens for up to four weeks and train Kurdish refugees to take over the feeding operation.

• Exploring sources capable of providing the large quantities of rice, canned food and powdered milk that will be needed.

Both the Persian Gulf response unit and Texas Baptist Men also were exploring logistical arrangements for moving the portable kitchens and food supplies to Kurdish refugee areas inside Iran.

The scope of the potential feeding operation, Brendle said, is such if the meals consisted only of rice, 68,000 pounds of rice and 8,500 gallons of water would be needed daily.

Additionally, Korean Baptists have begun efforts to assemble medical teams to work in tandem with the feeding program, with their first team scheduled to arrive April 26.

Southern Baptists wanting to donate above their regular church giving to the feeding program can send funds to Persian Gulf Response, Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230, or Texas Baptist Men, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798.

In other developments, the Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Texas Baptists are enlisting two four-member medical teams to work among Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq to treat diseases and initiate community health

programs, Brendle reported.

Each team will have a physician, a nurse, a team leader and an interpreter. Baylor Medical Center in Dallas is securing medical supplies.

No Southern Baptist personnel ever have worked in Iraq. In Iran, Southern Baptist personnel worked in Tehran until a few days after the Ayatollah Khomeini rose to power in 1979.

Jim Ferguson, Brotherhood Commission disaster relief director, recalled the agency's work in organizing volunteer teams after hurricanes in the Caribbean in 1989 and 1990. "We felt at that time that God was preparing us for an even bigger

project," he said, noting Kurdish refugee relief "is that project."

Other Southern Baptist Persian Gulf ministry efforts include:

• Purchase of nearly 35,000 blankets to help Kurdish refugees endure the nighttime cold in mountains along the border between Iraq and Turkey.

• \$25,000 in Foreign Mission Board relief funds for Kurdish refugee aid in Turkey and along the Turkey-Iraq border.

• \$92,600 for distribution of Arabic Bibles in the postwar Middle East.

• \$120,000 in FMB hunger funds for food distribution in Baghdad and Basra, Iraq. The funds will be handled by an

emergency relief committee of the Jordan Baptist Convention, in cooperation with evangelicals in Baghdad and the board's Persian Gulf Response field coordinator, veteran missionary Paul Smith.

• Arrangements to send two-month supplies of food to Kuwait for at least 10,000 workers and family members from India, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Sri Lanka who were stranded in Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion.

FMB officials are waiting for Jerry Zandstra, who has returned to Kuwait as pastor of the National Evangelical Church, to complete preparations for the relief effort there. (BP)

Kentuckians nominated to sit on SBC boards

continued from page 1

investment company and a member of Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington, Annuity Board, 1995.

• Ron Meredith, a U.S. district judge and member of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1996.

• John L. Smith, a real estate agent and member of Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville, Southern Baptist Church, 1996.

• Jean Crady, a homemaker and member of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1996.

• Gorman J. Roberts, a stockbroker and member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, Southern Baptist Foundation,

1995.

• C. Richard Dendler, a minister and member of Hall Street Baptist Church in Owensboro, American Baptist Theological Seminary Commission, 1995.

• C.A. Easterling, a retired coal company official and member of Slate Branch Baptist Church in Somerset, Brotherhood Commission, 1995.

This year's Kentucky representatives on the SBC Committee on Nominations, which nominated the prospective trustees, are Charles E. Stewart, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, and Walter Winn Davis, an attorney and member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Glasgow.

In a related development, SBC President Morris Chapman announced his ap-

pointments to the 1991 SBC Committee on Committees.

That committee nominates special committees authorized by the convention, as well as next year's Committee on Nominations.

Kentuckians on Chapman's Committee on Committees are Michael W. Hail, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Verona, and Jeanette Roberts, an executive secretary and member of Lovelaceville Baptist Church in Paducah.

Chapman told Baptist Press he reached "deep into the heart of Southern Baptist life for these appointments."

"Many ... have never (before) served on an SBC committee or board," Chapman added.

Conflict will bypass Annuity Board, Powell says

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The argument over "The Book" doesn't necessarily have to hinder "the pocketbook," retired church and denominational servants across Kentucky heard at their annual spring fellowship last week.

Paul W. Powell, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, assured Kentucky annuitants: "Up until now, there has been no indication that the controversy that swirls around our seminaries and other

boards and agencies has touched the Annuity Board. We are working to preserve that."

At an informal question-and-answer session at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown April 16, he noted that the more money Southern Baptist employees invest with the board, the more cheaply it can be managed, an increased benefit to investors.

While the board's bylaws call for serving churches within bounds of the Southern

Baptist Convention, Powell said, funds for several non-Southern Baptist groups are managed by the board.

"If churches should split off from the convention, it is quite possible we would still be in position to manage their employees' retirement money," Powell told the group.

The investment managers of the board are required to outperform the leading stock indicators "or they are replaced," said Powell.

Sixty-four percent of Southern Baptist ministers' retirement money managed by the board is in the fixed fund because most ministers are very conservative, he explained.

Earlier, Henry Johns, Ohio coordinator for Kentucky-Ohio partnership missions, encouraged Kentucky annuitants to become involved in the current partnership between Baptists of the two states.

"It does not go one way. When two churches link together, we've found that both are strengthened," said Johns, a former Kentucky pastor.

Comparing one Southern Baptist church for every 1,500 Kentucky residents to only one church for every 21,000 Ohio citizens, he suggested four things Kentucky retirees could do to strengthen Baptist work among their northern neighbors:

- Make themselves available as interim pastors or revival preachers.
- Visit Baptist church fields in Ohio for personal observation, then return to Kentucky and describe the needs.
- Volunteer as a member of a team going to work in established and potential Ohio church fields.
- Remember Ohio Baptists in prayer.

A country comedy duo, Marshall Phillips of Shelby County and James Whaley of Middletown entertained at the luncheon.

In a worship service, Powell urged retirees to learn from the past, look to the future and live in the now.

"Most of our days are what we will them to be," he suggested.

Life would be richer if people would do five things: walk with God, find joy in little things, do something for somebody else, bury all resentments and trust God for tomorrow, he said.

The Kentucky Baptist annuity department underwrote the fourth annual annuitants' fellowship luncheon.

SBC cards ready

Two options are available to churches that wish to receive messenger-registration cards for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The SBC will meet in Atlanta June 4-6. Southern Baptist churches may qualify for one to 10 messengers.

The best way to order the cards is to write a letter of request to the Kentucky Baptist Convention by early May, said KBC Executive Associate Jim Hawkins.

The letter should be written by the church pastor or clerk and include: name of church, its address, the Baptist district association to which it belongs, number of cards needed and the signature of the pastor or clerk.

The address is: Messenger Cards, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, Ky. 40253-0433.

The other way to order the cards is to call the KBC voice-activated "automated operator." Call (502) 245-4101 and ask for "messenger cards."

The automated operator will ask several questions and record the answers. They are: name of church, church address, district association, number of cards needed, and the caller's name and relationship to the church.



ROUND OF APPLAUSE—Willis Bennett (right), provost at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, leads well-wishers in hearty applause for Mary and Henry Huff at a reception in their honor last week in Louisville. The Huffs have retired and moved to North Carolina after a long career of lay leadership in the Kentucky and Southern Baptist conventions. He has been Sunday school teacher and deacon at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, moderator of Long Run Baptist Association, president of the Kentucky convention, vice president of the national convention and trustee of three schools. See "Time turns ...," page 4. (WR photo)

Singles exhorted to displace gender stereotypes

by Pat Cole
State Correspondent

Christian men and women should set aside the stereotypes society often assigns them, a seminary professor told 125 Kentucky Baptist single adults.

"Society makes artificial distinctions between sexes, and as Christians that gets us into trouble," said G. Wade Rowatt, professor of psychology of religion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "We listen to the world's definitions and not the Bible's definitions, and we get into trouble."

Rowatt addressed a single adult retreat at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly April 12-14, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist family ministry/church administration department. A second retreat is set for May 3-5 at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly.

Caring often is identified in society as a feminine trait, Rowatt noted. "That's not very biblical, is it? To be caring should be no more feminine than masculine."

On the other hand, decisiveness is perceived as a masculine trait, he added. "That's ridiculous. Women can think as well as men. Part of the difficulty is taking what we know and editing out what we have been taught all these years."

Churches should liberate men and women from stereotypes, he said: "It's time the church took over the task of liberation. It's time the church called off the war between the sexes and found peace based on Christ Jesus."

Christ has liberated men and women to be equals, he insisted: "Women need to

have freedom to be people. They need to have freedom to be family members. They need to be free to seek the calling God has given them. They need to have freedom to give faith to other people."

Likewise, men need liberation from images which communicate that "real men" cannot be people of faith, Rowatt said: "We need in our churches to counter those kinds of messages. Men need to be liberated to say, 'It is OK to be a person of faith and be a man in American society.'" Adhering to

the Christian faith "doesn't make you a wimp," he added.

Men also need to be free to express their feelings, Rowatt said, noting, "It's OK to have feelings and be a man."

The retreat featured 10 workshops. In a workshop on single adult leadership, Bo Prosser, associate pastor at Forest Hills Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., pointed out that 50 percent of the adult population in the United States is single.

In order for churches to reach single

adults, they need to have intentional ministries that care for people, he said.

"Single adult ministry is using God's word to reach and teach people," he said, noting single adult ministry should emphasize both evangelism and discipleship.

"The basis of singles' ministry is to love them and touch them with the love of God," Prosser said. "You let the word get out in the community that you care about people, and single adults will be attracted to your church."

5 Missionaries with Kentucky ties appointed by FMB

Five missionaries with Kentucky ties were among 22 people appointed to service by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board this month.

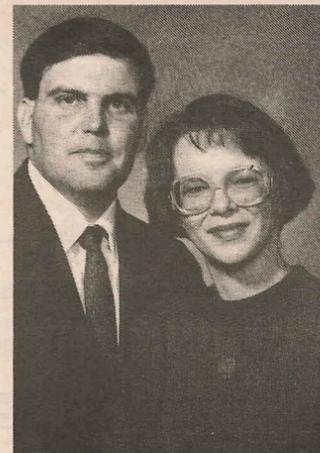
Greg and Sara Lu Hooper will live in Ecuador. He will promote religious education, and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

They have lived in Bowling Green since 1985 while he has been on the staff of Eastwood Baptist Church. He was minister of education and youth from 1985 to 1987 and has been minister of education and administration since 1987.

The Hoopers have three sons: Benjamin Scott, 9; Brandon Brooks, 7; and Brady Rudd, 4.

Jon and Lisa Lord were reassigned to Tanzania, where they were missionaries from late 1985 until last October. He will start and develop churches, and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

They lived in Kentucky while he worked



Greg and Sara Lu Hooper



Jon and Lisa Lord



D'Anna K. Shotts

on a degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

They have three sons: Jon Stephen, 11; Derek Steele, 8; and Ryan Christopher, 6.

D'Anna K. Shotts will work as a librarian and be involved in a variety of outreach ministries in Nigeria.

She is a student at Southern Seminary.

When it comes to pollution, 'they is us'

editorial

Marv Knox

We saw them first on television—billowing clouds of black smoke, rising above the oilfields of Kuwait. Those clouds made us mad; their pollution and waste was/is a crime of war.

Before that, we watched black goo lap up on the shores of Alaska's once-pristine coastline. The Exxon Valdez had wrecked, ripping a hole in its side and spewing millions of gallons of oil into the sea. "A crime," we said, and waited for the courts to dole out justice to the ship's hard-drinking captain and his employer.

Don't forget the tales of the super smokestacks and acid rain. "The Canadians have a case," we said, "for seeking claims against the greedy industrialists whose pollution killed the forests and streams, just to make a buck. If it's not a crime, it's surely mean-spirited." We hoped the moguls would be forced to pay big.

Almost every day, or at least every week, we see another headline about massive pollution. And if we slow down long enough to read the story and think about its consequences, we get mad, or scared, or both.

"They" always keep polluting our world. That thought, however, doesn't cover the problem. Quoting the comic-strip's Pogo, "We have met the enemy, and they is us."

When we spray our hair from aerosol cans and buy our fast food in plastic foam containers, we join the ranks of polluters. In fact, not polluting is harder than polluting. Most of the products we buy come to us over-packaged or wrapped in plastic. We speed up on the interstate and burn too much gas. We throw our newspapers in the trash because that's easier than taking them to be recycled. You can add your own examples; the list seems endless.

Day-to-day, we pollute our world in such tiny ways that we barely seem to notice. But our pollution has at least a couple of consequences.

First, the combined effects of our waste and pollution could ruin the world for generations. The things we do—and the things manufacturers do to provide us products for consumption—foul the environment, pollute the waters, trash the earth. The book of Hosea warns, "When they sow the wind, they will reap a storm."

Second, we damage our relationship to God when we spoil his creation. Through Adam and Eve, God made us stewards of the earth; we violate that trust when we do not protect the resources he loaned to us. Hosea quotes God: "Once again they will live under my protection. ... I am the source of all their blessings." How do we relate to God if we vandalize his gifts?

April 28-May 5 is Soil and Water Stewardship Week across the country. Let us resolve to demonstrate our Christian faith and commitment by resolving to be better stewards of God's good creation.

Time turns page on 'Huff Chapter'

farewell & thanks

Kentucky Baptists closed one of the most noble chapters in their history last week.

About 200 people from across the state gathered at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville to bid farewell to Henry and Mary Huff.

After decades of service to Kentucky and Southern Baptists, he is retiring, and they are moving back to his family home in Mars Hill, N.C.

The "Huff Chapter" in Baptist history has marked a high point for lay involvement in church life. Although quiet and unassuming, the Louisville attorney led Baptists at every level. Among his accomplishments and contributions, he:

- Taught a Sunday school class at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville for decades. He also filled multiple other leadership roles, including serving as deacon chairperson.
- Became only the second layperson to be elected moderator of Long Run Baptist Association in its 180-year history. He also chaired the association's finance and personnel committees and served as its legal counsel.

- Received the confidence of Baptists across the state, who elected him president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 1975. He also served as a trustee of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, trustee and board chair of Campbellsville College, member and first vice chairperson of the KBC executive board, and legal counsel for the executive board.

- Made history in 1989, when he became the only layperson ever to preach the sermon at a KBC annual meeting.
- Achieved distinction within the Southern Baptist Convention, which elected him second vice president in 1985. He also served the SBC as a trustee of Southern Seminary and the Southern Baptist Foundation.

An example of Henry Huff's influence among Kentucky Baptists: Four leaders at his farewell party were brought to their posts by search committees on which he served—F. Russell Bennett, executive director of Long Run Association; William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the KBC; H. Stephen Shoemaker, pastor of Crescent Hill Church; and Kenneth W. Winters, president of Campbellsville College.

Marshall spoke words echoed by many others: "No one can tell how many hours Henry Huff has invested in Baptists. No one knows how much he has given. ... We wish them well. We will miss them."

Others repeated over and over the sentiment that few—if any—laypeople have shaped Baptist life at every level as have the Huffs. Although the "Huff Chapter" has closed, may God open up new chapters in our history, written by committed, compassionate laypeople.

— Marv Knox

baptist forum

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

All people count

"God answered prayer," he said. "Only 184 persons were killed in the Gulf War."

Were the prayers of believers limited to the boundaries of the United States? Did some prayers extend to the "innocent victims" of our blanket of bombs? Surely, also, we can empathize with their dead soldiers, for whether reluctantly drafted or eagerly volunteering, they shared one thing in common with us—the worship of nationalism.

I wonder, would we be so apathetic about the "collateral damage" if they were people who shared our genetic, cultural and religious heritage?

I pondered that during the war, when I read these words said by Clarence Jordan to be inscribed on a tombstone in Mississippi: "Here lies J.H.S. In his lifetime, he killed 99 Indians, and lived in the blessed hope of making it 100, until he fell asleep in the arms of Jesus." Indians didn't count; he could look for another to round it out and fall asleep in the arms of Jesus. But kill one white man, and he would meet his "blessed

hope" at the end of a rope.

Deep within, every believer knows that the loss of each life—Indian, Iraqi or American—grieves the heart of God.

If we can recognize prejudice for what it is—an attitude which prevents understanding and empathizing with those who are "different"—we are closer to the Christ who said, "Love your enemy and pray for them that persecute you."

Gerard Howell, pastor
Central Baptist Church
Lexington

Historical similarities

I was struck with the similarities between 1845 and 1991 when I reread Jesse L. Boyd's book, "A History of Baptists in America Prior to 1845."

The slavery question appeared to be an irreconcilable issue. Southern leaders J.B. Jeter and Richard Fuller had said, "To prove it a sin, a new Bible would have to be produced" (p. 162). But the churches in the North had a conscience problem of accept-

ing "tainted money" from Southern churches that had slaveholding members.

The Triennial Convention in 1845 voted not to ask the brethren to violate their consciences on mission appointment. Withdrawal was inevitable by the Southern churches, not on a doctrinal or church policy, but on a mission matter.

When the Southern delegates met May 8, 1845, a letter written to them by Francis Wayland, president of the Triennial Convention, read in part: "You will separate, of course; I could not ask otherwise. Your rights have been infringed. ... We have shown how Christians ought not to act. It remains for you to show us how they ought to act. Put away all violence, act with dignity and firmness, and the world will approve your course" (p. 176).

The Southerners' greatest pain was giving up support of the Judsons in Burma—their first love in foreign missions.

According to Boyd, that's the way it was then. It's a lot like that now—except the assets are larger. If they could be divided on a 51 percent to 49 percent basis, it might appear fair—but would it be easier? Will it ever be easy to walk away from that to which you have given your life and money?

Baptists continue to struggle, and the Spirit continues to be grieved by "bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and malice among us" (Ephesians 4:30-31). Verse 32 is still the authoritative word of God.

Harold Wainscott
Covington

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KBC: Living and leading into an amended future



**on
mission
together**

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

When I was elected in December of 1982, Kentucky Baptists:

- Had experienced seven years of an average annual increase in the Cooperative Program unified budget of 11.4 percent.
- Dr. Baker James Cauthen's rousing message in Atlantic City in 1976 kicked it off. The excitement of Bold Mission Thrust had begun to catch on.
- Many Southern Baptists began to believe that it truly was possible for every person on the face of the earth to hear the gospel at least once by the year 2000.
- The search committee which recommended me to the KBC executive board was clear and convincing in their desire to see our state convention led to a greater involvement in missions in Kentucky, in America and overseas.
- The convention had gone on record just two years before as wanting to move the state's percentage to the SBC from 35 percent to 40 percent.

In December of 1982:

- There was no indication that the Cooperative Program growth was headed for a sustained, downward trend.
- Nashville continued to beat the drums for Bold Mission Thrust.
- The SBC Stewardship Commission continued to promote high expectations from the Cooperative Program.

- Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions continued to build budgets based on anticipated 8 percent to 10 percent increases.
- Though we were more conservative, many state conventions built budgets with an increase in double digits.
- The SBC Annuity Board had begun dreaming of an increased annuity support for ministers and church staff. Those dreams were based on the high-percent-age increase years.

By December of 1983, a year later:

- We had developed six objectives (priorities) to support the Bold Mission Thrust goals.
- We organized the KBC executive board staff to better fulfill our tasks and the mission priorities.

The executive board laid tracks and put a train on it. It was a train of optimism! Out of that optimism and mission strategy we began some ministries and accomplished some projects which are worthy of our review:

- Assumed the Jonathan Creek property and ministry and spent almost \$2 million for buildings and refurbishing.
- Began a three-times yearly video magazine that is now the longest-running series on state missions of any in the SBC.
- Initiated Kentucky Baptist Building Day in associations, now six each year. Our staff goes out and speaks in the churches of an association on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights.
- Established a badly needed archives and named Doris Yeiser as archivist.
- Initiated, funded and coordinated a foreign missions appointment service in Rupp Arena, with an estimated 15,000 present, still the largest such appointment service by the SBC Foreign Mission Board. That was 1987. I still hear people talk about that night in Rupp Arena.
- Planned, funded and directed year-long activities for the 150th anniversary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, with a final night at Commonwealth Center

with more than 4,000 present, all but three associations represented and several hundred of the Kenya volunteers seated separately.

- Established the Baptist Builders.
- Developed as far as we knew then the first module for training church members in meeting human needs and began annual conferences to sensitize Baptists to be aware of such needs.
- Increased the summer youth weeks at our assemblies from five to nine, reaching an increasing number of youth for Christ.
- Conducted the first major Sunday school convention in years.
- Developed and enhanced the annual youth evangelism conference.
- Initiated the annual Pendergraph Conference for pastors and wives at Jonathan Creek.
- Established an annual ministers' wives conference at Cedarmore.
- Updated the antiquated telephone system and have begun the process for updating the entire communications system at the Baptist Building.
- Developed individual covenants with each of our KBC agencies and institutions, taking three years to accomplish and now requested by several state conventions.
- Adopted the new church annuity plan and entered an unprecedented period of promotion in the churches to encourage them to participate in behalf of their employees, doubling the cost to the KBC executive board.
- Developed a missionary assistance plan that will help associations to become more independent and financially responsible in their relationships to the directors of missions.
- Completed an orientation manual and video to be used by trustees of our institutions and agencies in keeping with one of the covenant agreements.
- Increased significantly Baptist news, features and information to the city and county newspapers across the state.
- Initiated and coordinated a Kentucky Baptist booth each year at the state fair.

• Negotiated over five years to finally secure appropriate property at Western Kentucky University for a new Baptist Student Union building. At a cost of almost \$800,000, the building is under way and it will be ready for occupancy soon.

- Initiated Baptist radio commercials to be aired during the state high school basketball tournament each year.
- Developed biannual conferences for involuntarily terminated ministers and their spouses.
- Created and maintained a network of qualified counselors across this state to assist ministers and their families who need help, and we help pay for it on a need-based scale.
- Created an emergency fund to assist terminated ministers and their families.
- Developed a comprehensive partnership ministry, including partnerships with Kenya, Brazil, Ohio, Utah-Idaho and partnerships with churches and associations in the state. Several thousand Kentucky Baptists have been involved.
- Introduced "Mission Kentucky" with its special strategy of starting 400 new churches by 1990. We've started 316 by my last count — 200 more is the goal for 1990-1995.
- Planned and coordinated two major simultaneous evangelism efforts, one in 1986, the other last year, 1990. And the executive board last December appropriated \$70,000 toward a \$200,000 funding goal for a 1995 evangelism emphasis.
- Reversed a trend of downward baptisms; each of the last three years reflected increases.
- Conducted the first regional evangelism conference last year.
- There are a number of other new project ministries on the calendar for future years, and others that are on the drawing board.
- And we moved from 35 percent for SBC causes to 38.75 percent.

Everything I have mentioned to you (and much unmentioned) has taken place since 1983:

- With a modest increase in staff
- With no increase in program operating funds in three years.

However the financial picture has changed dramatically since 1982.

- With a zero growth in budget for 1991-92, it means we actually must cut budgets.
- The emergency plan calls for cutting executive board, Christian education and SBC proportionately to provide for our obligations.
- This year's operating budget already reflects the reduction of two staff positions and a \$26,000 budget account.
- To provide appropriate support for existing staff and pay our obligations, it is likely that further budget cuts will need to be made, perhaps further cutting of staff.
- This matter has always been in the hands of the churches—and the extent to which they are willing to sacrifice personally and collectively.
- If the current trend in Cooperative Program giving continues long into the final decade of this century, the optimism with which the Kentucky Baptist Convention adopted in 1980 its noble missions challenge of 60-40 will fade and the train called Bold Mission Thrust may be little more than a relic to be placed in a train museum.
- And a few old-timers like me may one day be asked to give guided tours through the old relic and tell them that one day, long ago, Southern Baptists had a dream ... ah, what a dream!



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Time lines

It seems to me, at times, Southern Baptists bend over backwards to avoid any hint that they are conforming to society.

I am a vigorous exponent of Sunday night church services. From infancy, I have been in God's house most Sunday nights from about 6 to 8 o'clock, mostly

by my own choice. The second worship service of the week is my favorite for its informality and emphasis on family, music and youth involvement.

That said, I wonder if Baptists are not guilty of setting Sunday evening schedules in motion, then—for decades—failing to recognize shifting patterns around them. Television ratings services, TV Guide, USA Today and other sources have told us for years that Sunday night is the biggest prize on TV, due to the largest audiences. The networks, cable companies, professional sports and local entertainers roll out their best wares then. Meanwhile, without intending sacrilege, I suggest that Baptist churches plod along in neutral, seemingly oblivious to the competition. As new generations achieve freedom from parental control, many opt out of worship.

Make no mistake about it. Large populations of church folks are addicted to "60 Minutes" and "Murder, She Wrote" and aren't about to give them up, even in a day of videocassette recorders. Shall we become realistic, or wait for so few to show up that the congregation votes to lock the doors on Sunday nights? It has happened in my city repeatedly, and maybe yours.

Why not rethink the matter of Sunday night church programming? Consider breaking out of traditional molds and

plow unbroken turf. If it's worthy of doing, it's worthy of doing when more will benefit, which includes the older folk who won't attend after dark.

Consider setting the training hour at 4 or 4:30, with the evening service afterward, or vice versa. Sunday committee meetings and choir rehearsals, where held, could follow. Meanwhile, the bulk of the membership would be free by 6 or 6:30 to fellowship over dinner, view TV, visit with families and pursue other activities in keeping with the sabbath. Expenses should be reduced, as light and heat bills decreased. Families with early bedtimes for young children would welcome it.

For the faithful who strongly protest invading their Sunday afternoon leisure, moving church events an hour or two later during daylight savings time could make it palatable. This would accommodate outdoor activities during warmer months, when most TV series are reruns.

Please don't read the riot act to me. I'm familiar with Rom. 12:2: "Be not conformed to this world." My suggestion is an attempt to fill more pews for the second Sunday service. We might have to break with tradition. But the potential seems to be well worth the risk, that of filling God's house a second time every week.

Isn't it an idea whose time is overdue?

New Englanders become Clinton pastor's burden

by Pauline Stegall
State Correspondent

Tall spires dotting the landscape are deceptive.

Some call New England a land of many churches but few congregations. Many buildings, forsaken by worshippers, have been converted to wordly uses.

One-tenth of 1 percent of the population of New England is Southern Baptist. Four percent of the people are members of other evangelical churches. Twelve and one-half million are non-Christian or unchurched.

B.J. Bennett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Clinton, experienced life on the East Coast for 10 days, holding evangelism conferences in all six states of the New England Baptist Convention. He led laymen in one day soul-winning workshops sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He also trained pastors and outreach leaders in Building Witnessing Relationships, a program in lifestyle evangelism.

"God is ready to bring a great spiritual awakening," said Bennett. "It could well begin in New England, such as one did in the mid-1700s."

But the Southern Baptist force in New England needs help. Bible Belt Baptists



FISHER OF MEN—B.J. Bennett, of Clinton, surrounded by lobster traps, pauses on a wharf at Bailey Island, Maine, during his busy schedule of evangelism workshops.

have difficulty understanding the area's perplexities, he added. The cities are hard to penetrate. The powerful and intellectual are hard to reach. Little mission activity takes place in rural areas.

"The people have seen artificial steeples.

Now they want something real," Bennett reported. "When they realize they can trust Southern Baptists, they respond well. New Englanders are good people, but cautious and conservative. You have to be a third generation New Englander to be accepted.

We best reach people within their own culture but without compromising principles."

"We fight a spiritual battle," said Ray Allen, director of evangelism for the nine-year-old New England convention. "Someone said, 'Satan has his hands on the United States with fingernails dug in California and New England.'"

Money is needed to start 20 churches, including 16 language churches. Land rates are exorbitant. Congregations must find homes in store buildings or abandoned churches. Living conditions are so expensive, mission workers must almost take a "vow of poverty," Allen added.

On the positive side, New England Baptist churches enjoy close fellowship. And they are more open to new ideas than are their counterparts further south. Not having established Baptist backgrounds, they do not counter innovations with, "We've never done it that way before."

Bennett urges Kentuckians to respond to five urgent needs:

- More summer Baptist Student Union missionaries and short-term missionaries.
- Church planters.
- Financial support.
- Southern Baptists who will move there.
- Prayer—most of all.

Bremen layman's dream fulfilled in Brazil

**partnership
missions**

by Bill Moore
State Correspondent

Jackie Perkins has felt a strong call to foreign missions since he was 25 years old.

But as a high school dropout, he would have been too old for appointment before he could attain the required training.

But Perkins, of Bremen in Muhlenberg County, found an answer to his sense of call—as a short-term mission volunteer.

He has relinquished vacation time for three years to take teams of volunteers to South America, where they assemble prefabricated church buildings.

"While the buildings are only about the size of a big double-car garage, the Brazilians put 150 people in there," said Perkins.

The group erected an auditorium-educational facility in 1990 that was not prefabricated. He also took a team to South Carolina to do repair work in the wake of destruction left by Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

The owner of a building supply business in Central City, Perkins is a deacon and Sunday school teacher in First Baptist Church of Central City. He has now completed his high school education and enrolled in a few courses at a community college.

Later this year, he plans to take a team to Brazil for the third time, building more prefab chapels. He likes this ministry because each project can be completed quickly.

Perkins also hopes to go to the African nation of Mali to help with a well-drilling work. Missionaries there have access to an airplane but not enough pilots. He is taking flying lessons, expecting to take a test soon for a license.

His Brazilian trips usually have occurred around Thanksgiving, when the building supply business is slow. Returning to the United States at the height of the Christmas season, Perkins says the excesses of commercialism bother him.

"Most of the people I saw could live off our waste," he explained.

His enthusiasm has recruited workers

from several Baptist churches in four counties. Volunteers have been members of Temple, Nelson and Central City First Baptist churches in Muhlenberg County; Island in McLean County; Nortonville in Christian County; and Lewis Lane in Daviess County.

Robert Campbell of Owensboro made the trip to Las Andes, Chile, last November, constructing a building for a 30-member congregation without meeting facilities. While there, he reported, the church held a four-day revival resulting in 70 decisions and averaging 85 in attendance at each service.

Missionary Bill Baer, who preached the revival, said five other nearby sites need chapels built on them—and need volunteers to build them.

"The (Brazilian) people were super," recalled Carol Eaton of Island, who has been on several mission trips. "They were always giving us things, although they couldn't afford it."

Baptists offer physical food, too

by Ron Chaney, Staff Writer

Jesus fed the 5,000 because they were hungry. Today, in Kentucky, people hunger and need to be fed, according to Baptists who try to help them. Churches that operate food ministries follow Jesus' example in feeding people, they said.

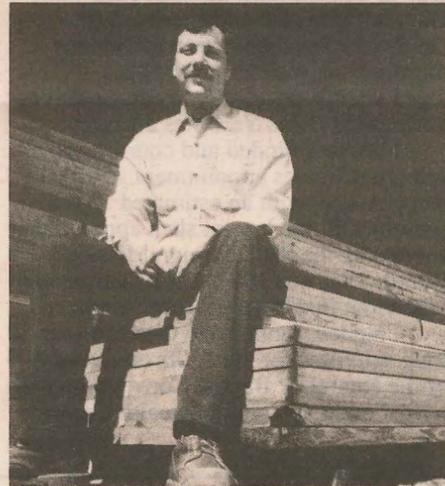
First Baptist Church of Fitzpatrick near Prestonsburg operates a food pantry. The ministry began as an emergency service but mushroomed because of the great need.

"Once you open, it spreads like wild-fire," said Director Lana Wicker.

Most of the families the church helps are on fixed incomes and often lack money for food. But workers must treat these people with respect, Wicker said.

Fitzpatrick's food pantry opens monthly on the 15th and continues until the end of the month. Although it is open only three days each week from 9 to 12 a.m., it reaches around 100 families each month.

Jefferson Street Baptist Chapel/Center in Louisville also has a feeding program. Cindy Weber, interim director and associate pastor, said starting a program is easy.



REST FROM LABOR—Muhlenberg County Baptist layman Jackie Perkins leads volunteers to construct chapels in South America. (Photo by Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer.)

Weber listed ideas for churches wanting to begin a food ministry:

- Decide what group the food ministry will reach—homeless, people who need emergency assistance, or families on fixed incomes who might run out of money for food at the end of the month.

- If a community has a food ministry, a church can be more effective by working with it, not duplicating services.

- The food ministry should be advertised. Then prepare and serve meals.

Jefferson Street currently supplies meals to homeless people Saturday and Sunday mornings and Sunday afternoons, reaching as many as 150 people weekly.

Both churches receive aid from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Money comes from the board's domestic hunger fund and is channeled through the state missions office.

The Home Mission Board offers a \$500 grant to churches wanting to start a food ministry. Churches wishing to receive grant money may contact Robert C. Jones, director of the Kentucky Baptist direct missions department, at (502) 244-6460.

Help, hope given barren couples

by Beth W. Prassel
Special Correspondent

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children can't promise miracles for childless couples. But it can offer encouragement through an adoption support group called HEAL.

HEAL—Helping Enhance Adoptive Living—provides resources and information on adoption, infertility and related topics.

The group meets at KBHC's central office in Middletown the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. It is open to anyone interested in adopting.

"HEAL" is another way we're trying to provide hope," said maternity/adoption Coordinator Sherra Still. Still decided to start the group last year while working with prospective adoptive couples.

"We became sensitive to their struggles to build a family and wanted to find a way to minister to them," she explained.

KBHC currently accepts no new applicants for adoption. But the support group can help those who need to try other agencies, as well as those working with KBHC.

"We help them look at other resources and get their names on other lists," Still said. "It's not too late if they'll just keep looking."

Volunteer group leader Denise Ivey, a social work student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, coordinates HEAL meetings. She plans sessions according to topics chosen by group members.

They discuss all stages of the adoption process: types of adoptions, how to begin the process, how to approach an adoption agency and how to tell a child he or she is adopted.

Members also deal with emotional issues. Some couples have trouble accepting their lack of control over the situation.

Harold and Gina Butler felt hopeless after trying to adopt for five years.

Before joining HEAL, "We dealt with it by staying busy and not talking about it," Butler added. The group has helped us to open up, to realize that it's not unnatural to be seeking adoption and that others are going through the same things."

Sunday School Board expands to meet churches' needs

Editor's Note: The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board celebrates its 100th anniversary this spring. Historian Leon McBeth has written an eight-part series to commemorate the event; this is part four.

by Leon McBeth

In 1917 the newly elected head of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Jacob Van Ness, wrote, "The Sunday School Board is a business enterprise and has goods to sell." For a hundred years the board has paid its own way from its own earnings and has ploughed its profits back into Baptist work.

Many Southern Baptists assume that the board is supported by offerings, like the two mission boards. But that is not the case. No Cooperative Program money goes to the SSB. The board earns its way by producing and selling literature, books, hymnals, Bibles and other supplies that the churches need. Like any other business, if its products do not sell, the board would go out of business.

In addition to products that it produces and sells, the board also offers a number of services to the churches and denomination. Staff members often come to churches and associations to organize, teach and promote Sunday school, discipleship training and other forms of ministry in the churches. They also offer seminars and workshops in Nashville in many subjects. While their products usually sell at a profit, some services the board offers at cost or below.

The era of the two world wars saw Baptist progress and expansion on every front. Board buildings and property in Nashville expanded to make room for new publications and programs. Mushrooming enrollment in Sunday school, Baptist training union, vacation Bible school, church choirs and other activities called for more literature and, in turn, more staff in Nashville. Perhaps the best single word to describe the board during this era would be "expansion."

The following paragraphs describe the highlights of some of that expansion.

Church Buildings

When the Southern Baptist Convention was formed in 1845, fewer than half of the Baptist churches in the South had any building of any kind. Even by the turn of the century, most Baptist buildings in the South consisted of a single room. Churches that had no Sunday school felt little need to build Sunday school rooms.

The board helped change the shape of SBC church buildings. J.M. Frost, first head of the board, saw at once the need for better church buildings if Southern Baptists were to make the most of Sunday schools. In 1917 Van Ness said, "I am trying to get these churches, ... to add Sunday school annexes to their church buildings." He later added, "The development of modern Sunday school ideals ... has made it imperative that the board as an element of its campaign of Sunday school education should make some effort to secure buildings adapted to modern Sunday school work."

Noting that "the pickle takes on the shape of the jar," one board worker pointed out that church programs take on the shape of the buildings that house them. Sunday school, and the board, could never have shaped Southern Baptists as they have without the revolution in church buildings in the South. The board not only led churches to add Sunday school rooms and later entire departments and educational buildings, but has also led in reshaping the worship center to enhance preaching, singing and overall worship.

The first book on church architecture

published by the board was "Church and Sunday School Buildings" by P.E. Burroughs in 1917. The next year, the church architecture department was formed to work with churches to improve their buildings. That work lapsed during the Depression and was renewed in 1940 under the leadership of W.A. Harrell. Today many SBC church and educational buildings follow blueprints from the church architecture department.

Books and Stores

A person visiting a modern Baptist Book Store might be surprised to learn that in its early years the board was forbidden to publish books and that early leaders spoke out against the idea of bookstores. At its formation in 1891, the board was allowed to produce Sunday school quarterlies, but books, commentaries and hymnals still came mostly from Northern Baptists. Frost and his successors chafed under this restriction and longed for the opportunity to meet all the publishing needs of Southern Baptists. That day soon came.

When the Northern Baptists refused to publish A.J. Barton's inspiring biography of Matthew Yates, pioneer Southern Baptist missionary to China, Frost led the board to publish it in 1898. Though published without permission, the book found favor with most Southern Baptists who gave the volume a belated approval. Many leaders expressed the conviction that the board by its careful policies had proven it could be trusted with larger ventures.

Restrictions on book publishing were eased in 1898 and removed completely in 1910 when the SBC voted that the board be authorized to supply "books, tracts, hymn and song books, and indeed all supplies for churches, Sunday schools, missionary societies, young people's unions, such as are suitable and desirable." In 1934 the book publishing division was named Broadman Press, in honor of two early Sunday school leaders, John A. Broadus and Basil Manly Jr.

Publishing books raises the question of their distribution, which led to the present chain of Baptist Book Stores. These stores have an interesting history of their own. The Bible Board operated a store in Nashville by 1862 that sold Bibles and other literature. This may have been the earliest bookstore operated by Baptists in the South, but it perished in the Civil War. Around the turn of the century B.W. Spilman operated the Sunday School Supply Store in North Carolina. This was later renamed Baptist Book Store, making it probably the first to bear that exact name. Book stores operated by Baptists emerged in many places, sometimes as private ventures, sometimes attached to state conventions or the state Baptist papers. At least one store originated in a local church, First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Ala., in 1927.

While Frost refused to get into the store business, fearing they might drag the board into debt, his successor Van Ness felt that stores could both perform a service and turn a profit. Over a period of years, the board gradually bought some existing stores and formed others of their own. A flurry of activity in 1927-28 brought 13 stores under full ownership of the board. That chain has since expanded to over 60 stores, with annual sales over \$60 million. Church literature is mailed from Nashville, but books, Bibles and other church supplies are marketed through the book stores.

Church Music

The worship service in some SBC churches around the turn of the century left

much to be desired. Church buildings often were not conducive to worship, and most churches had no hymnals or, at best, a paperback songbook of uncertain quality. From the first, the board has sought to help churches achieve better worship services. To this end, the board in 1904 published its first hymnal, "The Baptist Hymn and Praise Book."

In 1925 a committee on better church music recommended to the SBC that the board be instructed to establish a church music department for the purpose of improving the musical conditions in stated church, Sunday school, and B.Y.P.U. services of the various churches of this convention.

However, the board did not follow through in 1925, nor did it respond to a similar request in 1933. Some evidence suggests that board leaders could not agree on what kind of music program to sponsor, though the Depression helped sideline any new programs at that time.

When T.L. Holcomb came to head the board in 1935, one of his first actions was to bring B.B. McKinney to the board as music editor. McKinney's assignment was to "produce and promote through our periodicals the right kind of music for our churches."

He not only taught and wrote, but he modeled good music ministry as the song leader at training schools, convention meetings and at Ridgecrest Conference Center. He developed a church music training course in 1946, and launched the "Church Musician" in 1950. He also wrote a number of hymns we still sing, including "The Nail-Scarred Hand," "Let Others See Jesus in You," "Satisfied With Jesus," "Breathe on Me" and many others. Beginning in 1940, the board sponsored a church music week at Ridgecrest, with similar weeks at Glorieta, N.M., after that western center was formed. These special music weeks did much to teach and model good worship practices for Southern Baptists. McKinney came as music editor, but in 1941 was asked to head the newly formed church music department.

One of McKinney's most important achievements was editing the "Broadman Hymnal," released in 1940. This hymnal probably has done more to shape Southern Baptist worship than any other book besides the Bible. The "Broadman Hymnal" was widely used, and for a generation became almost the official worship guide for Southern Baptists. It included a balance of revival choruses, gospel songs and churchly hymns.

The board also released major new Baptist hymnals in 1956, 1975 and 1991. Changing styles of music have called for frequent revisions of the hymnal. The sale of vast numbers of new hymnals also has proved a financial boon to the board.

While preaching at First Baptist Church in Bessemer, Ala., in 1936, T.L. Holcomb saw for the first time a group of graded choirs for children. Holcomb, who headed the board at the time, was fascinated by the singing of these children in their colorful home-sewn choir robes. He returned to Nashville "all het up," to use his term, and said, "I knew just as well as I knew the ABCs that this thing [graded choirs] was going to take." From that time, the board has promoted children's choirs and has published suitable music for them and guidebooks for their leaders.

Church Recreation

"Worldly amusement" never ranked high among Baptists, nor did their customary lifestyle of hard work and long hours leave much time for organized recreation. How-

ever, times changed. Youth stayed in school years beyond the age when their parents entered the work force, giving a generation of older youth with high energy not damped down by daily work. The eight-hour day and five-day work week gave people more time, leading to an increase in church "socials" and "fellowships." Recreation appeared in summer camps for youth and adults.

At the SBC meeting in 1948, Chester Swor, well-known speaker to Baptist youth, appealed for a Christ-centered, church-integrated program of Christian recreation that would lead Southern Baptists to dedicate their entire lives to Christ. Upon the strength of this inspiring message, right on the spot the convention authorized the board to form a department of Christian recreation.

However, the board delayed, and not until 1954 did it form the church recreation department, headed first by Agnes Pylant. Pylant, a college professor affectionately known to her students as "Grandma," brought a vivacious spirit and extensive experience in teaching and leading recreation programs at churches, camps and assemblies. She also brought expertise in the field, as shown by her excellent book, "Playtime," published by Broadman Press. She and her staff also devised periodicals and guidebooks, and conducted conferences at Ridgecrest and Glorieta. They not only encouraged recreation but at a deeper level helped Southern Baptists to develop what some have called "a theology of leisure."

To the Last Church

The board took a sharp turn when it elected T.L. Holcomb of Oklahoma president in 1935. His predecessor had mostly worked at his desk in Nashville. That was not Holcomb's style. He was a pastor and promoter, rather than an organizer. He had uncanny ability to talk to people, to make them see what he saw and feel what he felt. More than any leader since Frost, Holcomb travelled among the churches. Almost every Friday, his wife came downtown to the board building with a freshly packed suitcase for her husband, and then drove him to the train station.

Holcomb felt that he could not lead properly without knowing what the people in the churches thought. He wanted to stay in close touch and feel the pulsebeat of the Southern Baptist people. He felt that the board had excellent materials and services to help the churches fulfill their ministries, but that too many of the churches remained unaware of what the board had to offer.

In 1936, Holcomb launched the Five Year Plan, to culminate at the board's 50-year anniversary in 1941. This was an ambitious effort to contact all Southern Baptists, working primarily through the associations. The plan proved to be a tremendous success, and did much to lay the groundwork for the incredible advance in Southern Baptist life during and after World War II.

Holcomb kept on his office wall a painting of a remote rural church. He often pointed to that painting and spoke of his dream to carry the best the board had to offer out to the last church. To a remarkable degree, he succeeded.

Looking Ahead

Southern Baptists grew rapidly after World War II, but in some ways they grew like Topsy. Organizations multiplied and overlapped. Out of this confusion arose a great desire for "correlation." The next article will tell the story of how the board sought to streamline and correlate its work.

christian education



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

clear creek chronicle

The deaf hear

Mrs. Jeffrey Slone acknowledges the most meaningful part of her Clear Creek experience has been "learning sign language." That's probably because signing made it possible for her and her husband to win a hearing impaired man to faith in Christ.

Last year Sam—that's what everyone knows her by—attended signing classes taught by students Jane Dawson and Arthur Irvin. A new awareness of the deaf led her to visit a deaf prospect on their church field at New Castlewood Baptist Church, St. Paul, Va. Mrs. Dinghus began attending worship and Sam signed her husband's sermon.

On a recent Saturday the Slones were visiting in the community and decided to stop by the Dinghus home. A deaf man from North Carolina was there to visit his ill father. Sam inquired if he went to church and he responded (signing), "a little." "Are you a Christian?" she asked. He wasn't but indicated an interest in becoming one. Sam's excitement grew as Jeff presented scriptures and she signed his comments. "He prayed to receive Christ! On Sunday he visited our church and I got to interpret for him and Mrs. Dinghus. When I came to words I didn't know I would finger spell them and they would show me the sign. They were really patient with me. During the invitation the man came forward. We're following up with contacts in North Carolina."

Last summer a volunteer mission team from South Carolina visited the Newtown church in Bell County. The team included some deaf members who conducted a deaf clinic which Sam attended. She has checked on additional deaf training at nearby schools. Jeff graduates in May and they are hoping for a home mission assignment in New York state. Wherever they go Sam plans to reach the deaf through sign language.

The Slones came to Clear Creek from Ages in Harlan county. Jeff worked in the coal mines and did surveying. Their children are Matthew, six, and Sarah, two. Sam works the morning shift at the campus switchboard. Jeff has earned some school expenses as a carpenter's assistant to 1990 graduate Sam Macri who now lives in New York. The Slones pray a door will open for them to join the Macris in New York to start new churches.

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE—Jenny Cummins Ray, native of Brooksville and 1990 graduate of Georgetown, was named admissions counselor. She will be responsible for recruiting new students living in eastern Kentucky, eastern Tennessee and West Virginia. ... The Kentucky bicentennial grant fund awarded \$6,573 to Georgetown and the Scott County bicentennial committee for the restoration of an 1815 Asa Park portrait of General George Washington. The project will commence when \$20,000 is in hand. ... Five retiring faculty members will be honored at a faculty and staff banquet May 3: Ray Alexander, professor of education; Mary Cook, housekeeping; Horace Hambrick, professor of history; Vernon Mallow, professor of religion; Helen Reed, professor of education.

Also, 25 other faculty members will be recognized for continuous full-time service.

CAMPBELLSVILLE COLLEGE—Lou Cunningham, head coach of the men's basketball team, was named National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 32 and Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year for the 1990-91 season. He completed his 19th season as head basketball coach.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE—Thomas C. Clark, native of Barbourville, was presented an honorary doctorate of laws degree. He is senior vice president of U.S. Trust Company in New York. ... The Cumberland art department exhibits stu-

dent works through May 8 in the Art Gallery, room 241 of the Andersen Building.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY—Jackson W. Carroll, professor of religion and society at Hartford Theological Seminary in Hartford, Conn., is speaking during denominational heritage week April 23-26 at 10 a.m. in Alumni Chapel.

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its Institute of Theology this summer. Those who have participated in the past are invited to send photographs (marked with names and dates), remembrances and other information about the early institutes to: Institute of Theology History Project, 12 Library Place, Princeton, N.J., 08540.

mountains to the mississippi

PERSONNEL: Kyle Evans to New Zion, Benton, as youth director. ... **Butch Kiger** to Fairview, Ashland, as associate pastor of music and education. ... **Karen Forbes** to Flatwoods, Flatwoods, as minister of music. ... East Barbourville, Barbourville, called **Greg Farmer** as youth minister. ... **Jim Chevalier** to Central, Winchester, as associate pastor for youth. ... **Jeff Coursey** to Zion, Henderson, as associate pastor for education and youth. ... **Gene Wright** to Memorial, Frankfort, as minister of music and adults. ... **Mike Lee** resigned as youth minister at First, London. ... **David W. Whipple Jr.** resigned as music minister at DeHaven Memorial, LaGrange. ... **Buckley Carlin**, director of Glen Dale Children's Home, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, was elected second vice president of the Southeastern Child Care Association during the group's annual convention in March. ... Greenland, Corbin, called **Randy Edwards** as music minister and **Regina Roaden** as youth director. ... **Clay Mulford**, Baptist campus minister at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, has resigned effective May 31. ... **Jim Mor-**

risson, former business officer at Walnut Street Baptist Church and adjunct professor at Southern Seminary, Louisville, has been promoted to vice president of the member services division at the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

ORDINATION and REVIVAL: First Baptist, Burnside, ordained **Fred Haynes** and **Homer Jacobs** as deacons. The church also reports 20 professions of faith during

revival services led by Fred Donovan of Hueytown, Ala.

MISSIONS: **Melbourne Heights**, Louisville, accomplished several objectives during a special spring break vacation Bible school. In addition to ministering to community children, the project helped prepare youth members for a missions trip to Ocean City, Md., and also allowed the church to enlist workers for a summer VBS.

Man attends Sunday school 43 years, now class comes to him

by Beth Wyatt
State Correspondent

"He is a real backbone of the church. His dedication and faith are stronger than the chain of pins representing 43 years of perfect Sunday school attendance," Dennis Rush says of T.C. Gregory.

For 37 years Rush was pastor of Horse Creek Baptist Church near Manchester, where Gregory has been a member more than 53 years.

"I was baptized in the creek right across from our home," Gregory pointed out. "I have never had any desire to be anything but faithful. ... The church was right across the road, and the preacher lived next door."

Along the way, Gregory has served in almost every office of the church and association. Two weeks after he made a decision to follow Jesus Christ, he was asked to teach Sunday school.

In addition to 43 years of perfect attendance, he has been Sunday school director, deacon 45 years, church treasurer 30 years, Booneville Baptist Association secretary-treasurer 12 years, associational Sunday school director 15 years and a trustee of Oneida Baptist Institute 12 years.

Lucy, his wife of 50-plus years, is equally faithful. Though her chain of pins is only 25 years long, she has nursed aged parents and has been a Sunday school teacher and a charter member and leader in the Woman's Missionary Union.

Gregory recently had his first illness that required hospitalization and his absence from Sunday school. He had surgery on his 85th birthday. Since that time he has been homebound on some occasions. But the strength of his fellow church members came through when they went to the hospital or his home to conduct Sunday school.

Connie Bull tapped as WR staff writer



Connie C. Bull, 24, a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary student pursuing a Master of Divinity degree in communications, has been named to a journalism internship at Western Recorder.

Bull's appointment as a staff writer is effective in late August,

said James H. Cox, associate editor.

A native of Knoxville, Tenn., she is a magna cum laude graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and is employed as a linguistics tutor for Educational Resources of Louisville.

Bull has been published in several Southern Baptist magazines and newspapers, and aspires to a missions-related career with communications responsibilities.

She is married to Bradley W. Bull, a Western Recorder journalism intern since 1989.

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POSITION OPEN: There is an opening in the Farmdale Baptist Church office for an Educational Secretary. For more information, please contact the office, 502-366-1434. Resumes are being accepted by the Personnel Committee to fill this position. 4-23-2T

FOR SALE: Uniden satellite TV receiver, model UST-5000; Heyer electronic scanner (stencil maker), model 7500; ABDick electric mimeograph machine, model 418; Scriptomatic addressing system 29. Equipment may be seen at Pulaski Baptist Association. Sealed bids until May 1. Mail to: P.O. Box 72, Somerset, KY 42502. Phone: 606-678-4465. 4-16-2T

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Clarification

Due to a delay in postal delivery, the Cooperative Program contribution posted from First Baptist Church of Wickliffe, as reported in the April 2 Western Recorder, was less than the church's actual gift. The church gave \$3,750 during the first six months of the 1990-91 budget year.

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sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR APRIL 28, 1991

Life and Work Series

Beliefs for believers

Eph. 1:15-23 When Paul heard about the progress the Ephesians had made in the Christian life, he commended them for two things—their “faith in the Lord Jesus,” and their “love unto all the saints.” In this remarkable prayer are

three noteworthy elements:

Thanksgiving—1:15-16. Paul assured the Ephesians that he prayed for them. He thanked God for them and their progress in the Christian life. He commended them for their faith in Christ as manifested through their genuine love and good works.

Intercession—1:17-19. Paul prayed for what he wanted them to become. He prayed that God would give them spiritual discernment and wisdom, so they could understand three things:

1. The hope of God’s calling—1:18b.
2. The glory of God’s inheritance—1:18c. Paul prayed that they might know the riches God possessed in them, for whom he had paid a tremendous price—the blood of Christ, so they are precious to the Father.

3. The greatness of God’s power—1:19. Paul asked God to let the Ephesians know the greatness of God’s power which he was prepared to exert toward them, if only they were willing to receive and use it.

Adoration—1:20-23. God exercised power in raising Christ from the dead. It behooves us to adore God and bring to him all the honor and glory possible.

International Series

Mutual concern

II Cor. 1:1-11 Some years before writing this epistle, Paul had established the church in Corinth, a strategically located but notoriously wicked city. He spent 18 months in stabilizing and strengthening

the work there. He rightfully expected that church to be a great missionary agency.

Salutation—1:1-2. Paul wrote that he was an apostle of Jesus Christ through a direct, divine call. He rejoiced that Christ had saved, selected and sent him to deliver a message to people who needed it. Two words merit our consideration—grace, or God’s unmerited favor and peace, which is related to grace. There must be an expression of grace on God’s part before there can be an experience of peace on our part.

God of Comfort—1:3-4. God’s comfort is inclusive. There is not an experience in the life of a Christian to which God is not equal. God comforts us so we may be able to comfort others in their troubles.

Fellow Sufferers—1:5-7. Paul wrote to those who were encountering difficulties. Some were suffering because of their devotion to Christ. If we suffer for Christ, he will compensate us for it in his own way and time.

Gratitude for Deliverance—1:8-11. Paul wrote that he was called upon to pass through a terrible experience in Asia. What his trouble was we do not know, but it was to teach him to look away from self, and to place all of his trust in God.

As believers in Christ we *have been delivered* from the penalty of sin—that is an accomplished fact. We *are being delivered* from the power of sin—this is a present experience. And we *shall be delivered* from the presence of sin—when he takes us to be with him forever.



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

homes for children

A parent’s prayer

The following was written by Lowell D. Milburn, former Director of Oklahoma Baptist Child Care.

O Lord, help me to be a good parent of my children. My deepest desire is to have a Christian home, and to be worthy of the privilege of parenthood. Give me grace to lead the children in the ways of Christ, to be like him in goodness, love and truth.

Help me to meet the needs of the children for love, joy, acceptance, discipline, a sense of belonging and a sense of self worth. I pray that I might let the children live their own lives and not the one I wish I had lived. Show me how to value each child and encourage individuality and creativity. Forgive me when I lose my temper, when I punish out of frustration and am less than my best.

Help me never to laugh at their mistakes, resort to shame or ridicule in correcting them. Lord, when I have hurt one of my children through word or deed or spirit, may I have the grace to ask forgiveness and work toward reconciliation.

Let me not rob them of the opportunity to wait on themselves. Help me love each of them with an unconditional love, and even when I correct them, may they still know I love them. Help me to listen to their problems and take time for them each day. I know it is important not only to pray with them, but also to play with them. Give me wisdom to know when to be permissive and when to have the courage to say no! I pray for patience in times of trouble and stress.

Most of all, help me to set a good Christian example for my family, so they will sense the importance of spiritual things. I know it is best to take them to Sunday school, not just send them. I want to give them the Christian training they need while they are young so when they are old, they will not depart from it. Show me that I am not perfect and that I will make mistakes. When my children fail to live up to my expectations, help me to realize that they are individuals with their own free will and must take responsibility for their own choices. O Lord, make me worthy of their love, respect and imitation.

In Christ’s name I earnestly pray,
Amen.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Our guardian angels!

Tuesday, April 9. About 4:43 p.m. The first hint of trouble was our office lights going out. My electric typewriter stopped. I walked outside. As I did so, someone ran by and said something about a radio report that a tornado-like cloud had been spotted near London, 40 miles away.

Glancing to my right, I could see our farm manager far across Goose Creek, plowing in the lower field near Red Bird Creek. Directly across the creek I could see activity around the two greenhouses where transplanting had been going on

for days for the spring gardens. Farther to the right other boys could be seen near the shop buildings and the pig barn.

Directly below me our baseball team was in full uniform, warming up, waiting the arrival of Lee County. Far to the right our girl’s and boy’s tennis teams were practicing on the four new courts, waiting for Clay County to arrive for a match. Looking behind me, I could see students entering the dining area and our campus grill filled as the eight serving lines are opened at 4:30 p.m. for the evening meal.

At that moment I noticed three of our younger boys accompanying a small sixth grade boy from Pennsylvania with us only two weeks and still homesick. He looked frightened and matter-of-factly told me “I’m afraid.” He grasped my hand and hung on fiercely. He apparently had heard the word “tornado” and the sky was getting darker.

I reassured him and hand-in-hand we walked back toward the gym to find his shirt. With no warning there was a sudden surge of powerful wind like I have never felt before, and large hailstones began to rain down with a staccato beat.

The hail lasted for several minutes. They seemed like hours. Objects weighing several hundred pounds were flying through the air or being tossed on the ground like they weighed ounces. Large trees came crashing down. Metal covering the wood dormer windows of our swimming pool building was stripped off like peeling an orange. Pieces were flying through the air at a deadly speed. One third of the roof shingles and the underlying tar paper were stripped off our middle school building. Many tree limbs broke off and blew hundreds of feet across Goose Creek as a bird might have flown. Miraculously no one was killed. Many

could have been. There were no injuries from the flying debris trees though several hundred people were caught outside. Truly Almighty God and guardian angels were about each individual during those critical minutes.

Many headed for the central dining room which has no large windows to spray broken glass in such an emergency. The concrete and brick walls are several feet thick being underground on the east side. There was no panic. I was never so proud of our students and staff. Within minutes, due to the foresight of Dean “Bud” Underwood, gasoline-powered generators provided electricity for the dining room, for the new gym where hundreds played later in the evening.

Within 10 minutes, gasoline-powered pumps kept up the pressure of our water system. We were not without water during the next 24 hours as the electricity was off most of the time. Never has it previously been off more than about four hours.

With about three hours of daylight left, three of our staff and nine boys reroofed the middle school building with shingles in stock matching the remainder of the roof. In the meantime scores of other students picked up debris, sawed up trees and hauled it all away with tractors and wagons. One would have thought we had drilled for months. Each seemed to know just what to do.

There was nearly perfect order in all four dorms through the night. It was pitch black darkness except for a few flashlights and gasoline-generated glimmers of light in the hallways.

Miraculously, the large trees uprooted fell away from our buildings minimizing that type of damage. The total experience was unforgettable, terrible, yet inspirational.

Tract on tape helps teens tell friends about Christ

around the sbc

Satan speaks first: "Do not listen to this tape. Do not listen to this tape."

But "Gospel Tract," a new audio cassette produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, goes on to present the plan of salvation through Christ—along with rock music and an assorted cast of characters.

The tape was designed to be used by Christian teens, explained developer Richard Ross. They can pass it along to friends as a way to introduce them to Christ. It replaces printed tracts for the "Nintendo, M-TV generation"—today's teens.

The tape, available at Baptist Book Stores, is part of the board's 24-Hour Counselor Series of tapes for teen-agers.

In other news from across the Southern Baptist Convention:

Independents protest 'Fellowship.' The editor of an independent, fundamentalist newspaper has called on the new moderate SBC group, The Baptist Fellowship, to change its name.

James O. Combs, whose paper is affiliated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship, said the new group's name has represented the fundamentalist organization for 60 years. The issue is to be presented to The (SBC) Fellowship's steering committee.

RTVC trustees lead FamilyNet. The SBC Radio and Television Commission's trustees have elected themselves as the board of directors for FamilyNet, a network the commission recently bought from Jerry Falwell's television ministry.

FamilyNet will become a subsidiary of the commission. Together with the commission's ACTS network, it will give the commission the capability to transmit TV programs into 22 million homes.

Family ministry t-force started. SBC President Morris Chapman has named a family ministry task force to identify ways churches can meet needs of families in trouble.

The task force will work with the SBC Sunday School Board's family ministry department to explore ways to reverse the trends of dysfunctional families. "If these trends are not reversed, the moral fiber of our nation will soon be shredded beyond repair," Chapman said.

Ministers' wives to hear Petty. Charles Petty, a counselor and "family humorist" will highlight the SBC ministers' wives luncheon June 4 at 12:15 p.m. at the Omni International Hotel ballroom in Atlanta.

The event will be held in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting. Advance tickets to the luncheon are \$17 if ordered before May 20. They may be ordered from Margaret Murchison, 3235 Ramsgate, Augusta, Ga. 30909.

Ticket price at the convention booth will be \$19.



JOYFUL REUNION—Southern Baptist teacher Erin Thomas returned to Jia Ying University in China this spring after recovering from injuries she sustained in the crash of a Chinese jetliner last fall. When she walked into her former classroom March 4, students burst into applause. "God is not finished with me yet," she said. "I want to finish what I have started." (BP photo by Charlie Wilson)

'SBC Handbook' improved. Everything Southern Baptists wanted to know about themselves but did not know where to look is likely referenced in the new "Southern Baptist Handbook," set for a June release.

The handbook will be sold at the SBC annual meeting June 4-6 in Atlanta and in Baptist Book Stores beginning in July. It also will be listed on the SBC Sunday School Board's undated literature form and can be ordered by calling (800) 458-BSSB. Cost is \$5.95.

Multihousing ministry training set. The SBC Home Mission Board will offer training for people interested in multihousing ministries this summer.

Conferences will be held at Ridgecrest, N.C., June 29-July 5, and at Glorieta, N.M., July 20-26. Information is available from David Bunch, SBC Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St., NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367, phone (800) 634-2462.

BYPUB/TU members to reunite. A reunion has been planned for people who were members of Baptist Young People's Union or Baptist Training Union. The event will be held during Discipleship Training Week at Ridgecrest, N.C., July 20-26.

For information, contact Wayne Jenkins, SBC Sunday School Board, MSN 149, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn., 37234, phone (615) 251-2842. To register,

contact Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770. Registration procedures are available by calling (704) 669-8022.

Cholera medicine reaches Peru. About 65 tons of medicine supplied by Texas Baptists has arrived in Peru to fight the cholera epidemic there. Another 215 tons of supplies are to arrive late this month.

"Southern Baptists will have brought in more than any government anywhere in the world toward helping with the cholera epidemic," reported missionary Ken Bowie.

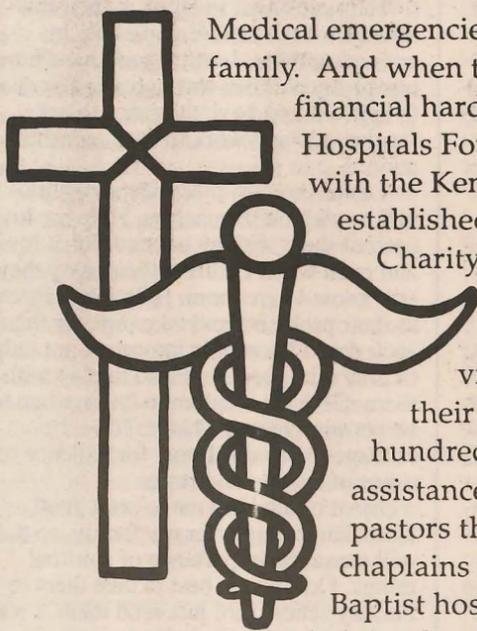
Missionaries also are trying to train Peruvians in methods to prevent the disease, added missionary Hayward Armstrong.

SBC housing still available. Motel rooms still are available in Atlanta for the SBC annual meeting June 4-6. For information about rooms and a housing form, call (615) 244-2355.

Golden Gate attempts upturn. Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., have approved a \$4.9 million budget and endorsed efforts to reverse serious enrollment declines.

The budget will be balanced, said President William O. Crews. But the greatest challenge is "a precipitous drop in enrollment," which has fallen from 530 to 419 in two years.

Sunday School Charity... Working Year-Round to Assist Families With Medical Expenses



Medical emergencies can happen in any family. And when they do, they often create financial hardships. That's why the Baptist Hospitals Foundation, in cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention established the Sunday School Charity Fund. The Fund has only one purpose: to provide financial assistance to individuals in need of help with their medical expenses. Each year, hundreds of requests for financial assistance are received by Baptist pastors throughout the state and the chaplains serving within the four Baptist hospitals. Providing a financial helping hand to these individuals is an ambitious goal. But one we can achieve with your help. This Mother's Day, please support the Sunday School Charity Fund at your Baptist church. For more information on the Fund, contact the Baptist Hospitals Foundation at 502/896-5013.

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Texan's ministry opens prison doors to gospel

by Mark Wingfield

David Umfreville has led an estimated 10,000 people to faith in Jesus Christ by going where most Christians won't go—to jail.

Umfreville has spent nearly every weekday of the past 10 years visiting prisoners in the Dallas County jail and weekends preaching in state prisons and juvenile homes across Texas. Before that, he led a street ministry in downtown Dallas.

Umfreville estimates he personally has seen 10,000 people trust Jesus Christ as savior in the past 13 years.

Of that number, about 4,000 have been baptized, many in an antique bathtub in the Dallas County jail. Umfreville, prison minister with First Baptist Church of Dallas, baptizes inmates there every Wednesday.

It's not uncommon for Umfreville to lead five people in a row to receive Christ while making one-on-one visits in the tiny lawyer's booths of the Dallas County jail. Umfreville sits on one side of a large glass window and talks by telephone to inmates who are locked in a tiny room on the other side of the glass.

The county jail system includes five separate units with an average population of more than 5,000. Last year 106,000 inmates passed through the barred doors of Dallas County jails.

On weekends, Umfreville preaches in state prisons and juvenile homes, where he routinely leads 20 to 30 inmates to profess faith in Christ each day.

As time allows, he also ministers in smaller city jails around Dallas.

Umfreville recalls the first time he went to the Irving city jail. The guard called out to the inmates, "Hey, anybody here want to



OPEN DOOR—David Umfreville has found an open door for ministry in Texas prisons. Umfreville, prison minister with First Baptist Church in Dallas, has led approximately 10,000 people to profess faith in Jesus Christ in the last 13 years. He helps the new converts grow in their faith by giving them Bibles and enrolling them in the Correspondence Bible Course offered by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He recently began a campaign to place Christian libraries in prisons. (BP photo by Mark Wingfield)

see a minister?" Every one of the 20 prisoners who lined up to talk with Umfreville made a profession of faith that day.

"Pastor Dave," as he is known in the jails, doesn't use heavy-handed tactics to gain converts. He delivers a straightforward presentation of the gospel with a big smile and a listening ear.

The Texas minister enters jails armed with Bibles, gospel tracts and enrollment cards for the Correspondence Bible Course

offered by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Correspondence Bible Course is a series of 19 volumes of Bible study materials mailed to participants one volume at a time. Students receive a certificate for each volume completed. Umfreville says inmates take pride in the certificates and often line the walls of their bunks with them.

Because the program is administered by mail, inmates can keep up with their studies

as they move from county jail to prison or back home.

Also, Umfreville recently launched a project to establish libraries in prisons. With donations from other Christians, he placed 900 Christian books in the state prison at Palestine, Texas, where Southern Baptist chaplain Albert Holmes serves.

More inmates would accept the gospel if Christians would take the time to minister in prisons, he believes. "These people are in an excruciating time in their lives. It can be a turning point either for God or for the devil.

"Incarceration gets your attention. You're stripped of dignity. There's a helplessness and hopelessness that pervades. Many people turn to God. It's the church's precious moment."

If Christians don't seize the opportunity, other religious groups will, he claims. Umfreville is the only Southern Baptist who ministers regularly in the Dallas County jail, but he is joined by representatives of cults and the flock of a local televangelist.

Umfreville was a salesman with an up-and-coming career when he was called to full-time ministry. He quit his job and enrolled in Criswell Bible College in Dallas and later Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

When he quit his job, Umfreville had just won a national sales contest with a free trip as the reward. "The joy I experience in winning people to Christ far exceeds any trip to Puerto Rico," he says.

Christians should be motivated to help inmates both for the sake of their spiritual needs and as a civic responsibility, he believes. "It behooves us as Christians to minister to and disciple these inmates so they'll be better citizens. Today's inmates are tomorrow's neighbors." (BP)

Chaplains counsel, give support to police in midst of crisis

by Breena Kent Paine

Dead on impact, the drunk teenager was tangled in a mess of metal, the car's "Saints Fan, Bud Man" bumper sticker plastered to his chest.

It was just after 1 a.m., and Jerry Pounds, director of continuing education at New Orleans Seminary, was on the scene of the accident, dressed in dark pants and tie, and a white shirt with metal crosses on the collar and police patches on the arms.

The officers approached him, apparently relieved he had answered their call. As a volunteer chaplain for the New Orleans Police Department, Pounds would accompany them to the boy's home to inform his single mother of her son's death.

"That's the most difficult part of the job," said Ken Pulliam, a graduate of New Orleans Seminary who also serves as a volunteer chaplain, "breaking the news to a mother that her child has been shot or killed."

"Usually, a regular pastor doesn't get to the parishioner until the crisis has passed; he's there to pick up the pieces. But we're there on the scene when the crisis happens."

A police chaplain's main ministry, however, is to the police officers themselves. Fighting crime daily, urban officers sometimes find comfort in a chaplain riding with them, listening to them, encouraging them, and trying to help them find ways to deal with their own problems.

Some officers may work an additional job during their off hours. This combined with the high stress of combatting crime daily may breed marital problems, physical illness, or other difficulties. "We hope to release the stress in those officers before they get to that point," Pulliam said.

In addition to working 40 hours a week as director of campus police at New Or-

leans Seminary, Pulliam usually works (without pay) several shifts a week as an NOPD reserve officer, sometimes wearing his "chaplain's hat" at the same time. In 1990, such reserve officers put in over 80,000 volunteer hours protecting New Orleans' citizens.

"Here, (officers) are very committed to their jobs," Pulliam explained, because they are "fighting for what they believe in."

"Nobody faces the pressures of police officers," he continued. "In the military, you face death, but those you are up against are usually faceless (an enemy you don't know personally). In the police force, they are people with faces, sometimes neighbors, sometimes even friends."

"It means a lot to the police officer to

know (chaplains) are not some kind of high and mighty." As a reserve officer, Pulliam can relate to them on a deeper level, having gone through their academy, and being able to say, "I've been where you've been, I've held a gun, I've faced death, I've been scared, and I understand what you're feeling."

"That's the idea of any kind of chaplaincy—to take the church into the work force and identify with the people in that environment, like a specialized pastor," said Pulliam. He feels his positions complement each other: the 10 months he spent in the police academy training to be a reserve officer helped him to be a more effective campus police director; and his theological training at the seminary benefits him as an

NOPD chaplain.

"I think the most frustrating thing for anyone in law enforcement is the lack of support," Pulliam said. Although many citizens who actually witness crimes are helpful, others out of fear or other reasons may respond to police officers' questions with "I wasn't there."

"Citizens need to take a stand," he continued, and Christians need to pray for their police officers and their city daily.

"Once you get through that hard mask of what an officer is, they're just like you and me; they have the same needs, the same hurts," Pounds said.

"Much of what we do as chaplains is just being there to give them support and show we care." (BP)

Sooners minister at other Big Eight schools

by Sarah Zimmerman

In some circles, Brett Yohn, Bob Anderson and Jack Owens would be considered traitors. They are Oklahoma natives and graduates of Oklahoma University, but they pledged their careers to rival Big Eight schools.

A calling greater than their alma mater drove them to establish full-time student ministries on three Big Eight campuses. All three men are still involved in student work.

The trio met as students at OU where their lives were significantly impacted by the Baptist Student Union ministry. After graduation, Yohn worked as a US-2 missionary for the Home Mission Board.

Anderson served the United States Army in Vietnam, and Owens attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Yohn and Owens were reunited when Yohn enrolled at Southwestern. As they reminisced about college days, they dreamed of every Big Eight school having a Baptist campus ministry.

The three Big Eight campuses without a full-time student ministry were the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Kansas State and Iowa State. Yohn and Owens visited the three campuses and found an interest in the ministry, but no funds for the program.

They recruited Anderson, and the trio pledged to raise their own support. Anderson took the post at Kansas State since he had been stationed near the Manhattan, school while he was in the military. Yohn began working at UNL, and Owens moved to Ames, Iowa, to work at Iowa State.

Owens worked in Iowa for 12 years, building a student ministry begun by a local pastor. Owens is now a foreign missionary,

working with students in South Korea. The ministry at Iowa State continues to flourish, with 150 of the school's 25,000 students attending weekly campus worship services.

Yohn and Anderson have stayed at their posts for 19 years and developed practically mirror ministries. Without student ministry buildings, work on both campuses focuses on weekly small-group Bible studies. About 80 students attend eight Bible studies on the UNL campus; 120 attend the dormitory Bible studies at Kansas State.

"Our vision is to plant an ongoing ministry and mobilize our students," says Yohn. He notes that more than 35 people who were involved in the campus ministry at UNL are now involved in mission careers. He knows of two churches started by alumni who moved to a community without an evangelical church. (BP)

Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel



Melissa Bryant, who was born on Mother's Day, is a member of Graefenburg Baptist Church. She plays the piano for some worship services, sings in the youth and sanctuary choirs and is president of Acteens where she has attained the Stuidact level of Queen Regent. As a freshman at Western Hills High School she is involved in Coed-Y, FCA, Drama Club, Spanish Honor Society, Kentucky United Assembly, and Kentucky Youth Assembly. Melissa enjoys music, volleyball, writing and drama.

Amy Goode of Prospect, Kentucky attends Ballard High School where she is a junior. She keeps busy at school with Student Council, Chemistry Club, Pep Club, FCA, SADD and is a Big Sister. During boys varsity games, you'll see Amy dressed as their mascot, the Bruin. At Westport Road Baptist Church she is active in choir, handbells, puppets and Acteens. She has achieved the Stuidact level of Queen Regent. Amy is gifted in the use of sign language.

Kim Pruitt is a junior at Green County High School. She is in the chorus, FBLA, 4-H, Beta Club, and the band. Kim uses her musical talent at Greensburg Baptist Church where she is involved in both the youth and adult choirs and the church band. As president of Acteens she has reached the Stuidact level of Queen with Scepter. In her free time she enjoys music, speaking in 4-H contests, drama, and is a volunteer for the Red Cross Blood Mobile.

Steph Nation is a busy member of Graefenburg Baptist Church. She is in both the youth and sanctuary choirs, sings solos, plays the piano at some services and serves as Mission Study leader in Acteens. Steph has achieved the Stuidact level of Queen with Scepter. At Western Hills High School, where she is a sophomore, she is in the choir, the band, FCA, Drama Club, Photography Club, and SADD. Steph sings and plays four instruments. She also enjoys drama, writing, public speaking and drawing.

Tomara Fox, is an active member of Ridgecrest Baptist Church. She teaches Sunday School, sings in the choir, sings solos, and serves as president of Acteens. Tomara has reached the Stuidact level of Queen Regent in Service and is a current National Top Teen. She was a sojourner missionary in Daytona Beach, Florida. As a senior at Ohio County High School she is an officer in the Beta Club, National Honor Society, Drama Club, Student Council, 4-H. She enjoys tennis, playing the piano and watching basketball.



Front Row (left to right)—Tomara Fox, Melissa Bryant, Bobbi Jo Rushing.
Back Row (left to right)—Steph Nation, Amy Goode, Kim Pruitt.

Bobbi Jo Rushing is a senior at Caldwell County High School. She is involved in cheerleading, National Honor Society, FBLA and Student Council. As an Acteen at Northside Baptist Church she has attained the Stuidact level of Queen Regent. She is also involved in two choirs, handbells, puppets, children's church and mission trips. She enjoys walking, talking and working with children. Bobbi Jo is especially proud of her name; she was named after her father and uncle.



The Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel is comprised of six outstanding Acteens from across the state. Each panelist must also be at least 14 years old and in the ninth grade or higher. She must also be a Christian and an active member of a Southern Baptist Church. The panelists are chosen to serve a year term running from October 1-September 30.

Applications for Kentucky Acteens Advisory panel are available from the State Woman's Missionary Union office and must be completed and returned before August 1.

