

## Kurdish relief: Kentuckians wait, others return

by Mike Creswell & Marv Knox

Three Kentucky Baptists played a waiting game late last week as they prepared to help feed Kurdish refugees in Iran.

Harold Moore of Ashland, Robert Y. Simpkins of Louisville and Marvin "Pete" Toole of Carrollton were to leave for Iran June 2. But by last Friday, they still had no idea when they would depart.

The Kentucky trio is part of a coalition of Southern Baptist disaster relief workers who have committed to help meet food and medical needs of Iraqi Kurdish refugees. The coalition has been recruited by the convention's Brotherhood Commission and

is working in conjunction with its Foreign Mission Board.

Twelve volunteers left Iran May 22 and 26 after feeding 9,500-13,500 Kurds per day in northern Iran. Follow-up teams—including the Kentuckians—are waiting on Iranian clearance to resume the work.

"The FMB is now negotiating with (the) Iranian government to clarify places, purposes, tasks and volunteers needed," Bob Saul, a staff member with the Brotherhood Commission, said last week. "Teams will be international—three or four Americans with two or three internationals."

Saul urged state Brotherhood directors:  
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## Messengers arrive early to share faith with Atlanta

by Mark Wingfield

Just days before the Southern Baptist Convention convened this week in Atlanta, several dozen messengers arrived to preach the gospel on the streets of their host city.

Early-arriving messengers joined SBC Home Mission Board staff members in the evangelistic effort at 12 sites May 29-31. After the first two days of witnessing, about 60 professions of faith in Christ and about 40 renewed commitments to the Christian faith had been recorded.

In all, nearly 100 Southern Baptists participated in the street witnessing project, said Thad Hamilton, HMB associate director of mass evangelism. The Baptists witnessed mainly near rapid-rail stations and public parks, using techniques ranging from music to mime to preaching.

Outside the Five Points MARTA station, the hub of Atlanta's rapid-rail system, Sheron Kaye Rohmfeld of Houston drew a crowd by singing gospel tunes through a portable sound system. Rohmfeld roamed around one side of the large plaza singing

tunes such as "Just a Closer Walk" and "The Old Rugged Cross."

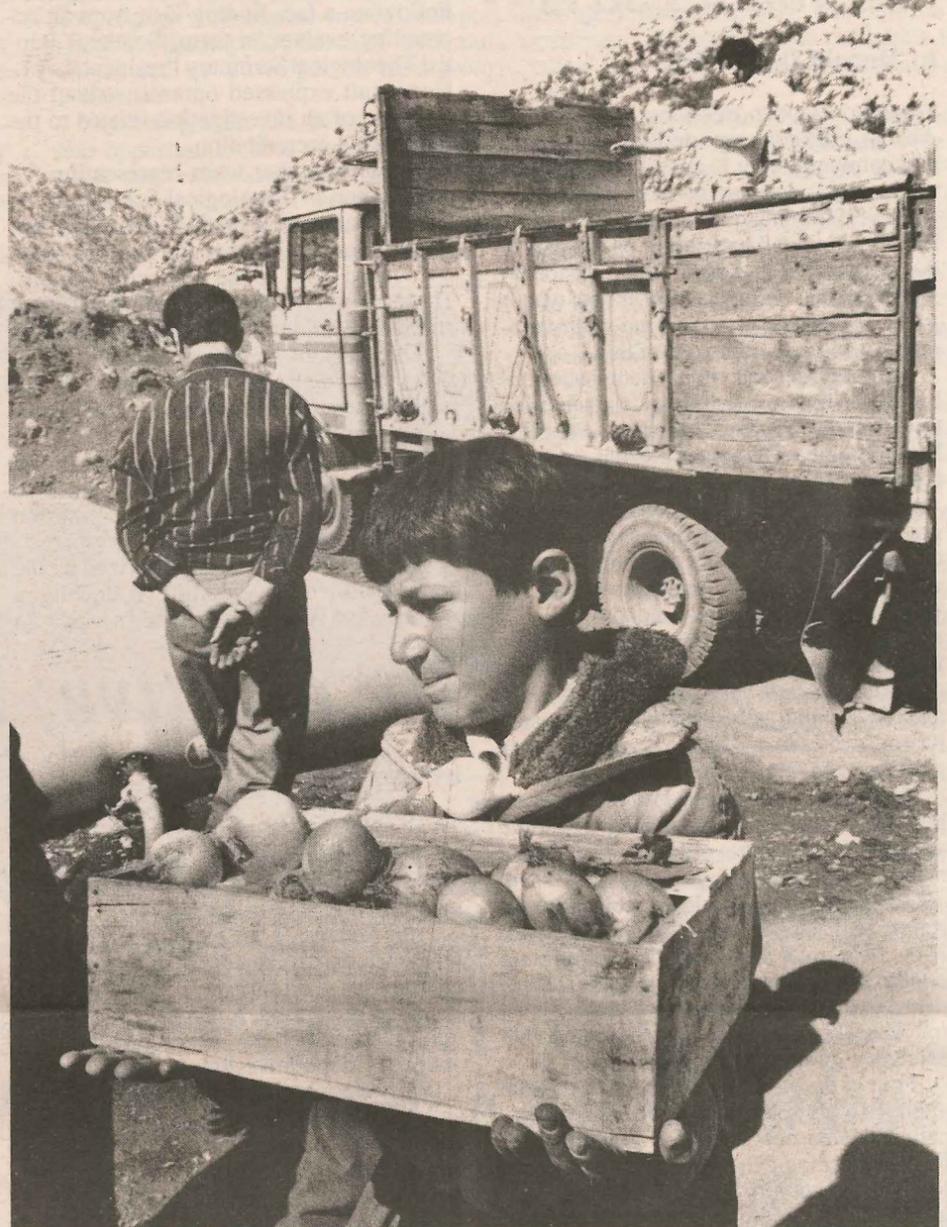
With a fistful of tracts clutched near the microphone, she greeted passersby, giving them tracts and pats on the back. At other times, she asked individuals to sing along with the familiar hymn tunes.

Most of the time, people sang out when she placed the microphone in front of them. Some even asked to sing.

While Rohmfeld sang, Missouri evangelist Jack Stanton, HMB President Larry Lewis and others mingled with the crowd, handing out New Testaments and tracts. When Rohmfeld stopped singing, Stanton and Lewis took turns preaching.

At one point, Rohmfeld told about her husband's suicide, an event that led her to a life of shoplifting and eventually to jail, she said. After relating the hope she found in Jesus Christ, Rohmfeld led the loosely assembled group in a prayer of repentance and commitment to Jesus Christ.

She then asked all those who had made a commitment to stand. Six people immediately  
*continued on page 2, "Messengers take ..."*



**FOOD FOR KURDS**—A young Kurd helps unload a shipment of food at a refugee camp in Iran. Kurds, religious workers and Iranians have teamed up in the effort. Three Kentucky Baptists are waiting to serve. (BP photo by Paul Obregon)

## CP committee makes annuity proposal, requests more time

by Marv Knox, Editor

Kentucky Baptists' special Cooperative Program study committee has proposed untying the knot that binds annuity partici-

pation to the unified budget.

But the committee has declined to recommend further changes in how Kentucky Baptists relate to the CP. Instead, it has asked to be allowed to monitor the issue for another year.

The Cooperative Program is Kentucky and Southern Baptists' combined ministry budget. The study committee—created last fall at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting—met for a third time last week in Middletown.

Committee members had separated annuity participation from other CP issues during their second meeting in March.

Under current rules, a church's undesignated CP contributions provide the basis for determining whether its ministers can participate in the denominational annuity program.

Under that program, the KBC provides matching funds for ministers' annuity accounts. Qualification for that money is based upon a formula that includes how many ministers the church places on the program and how much money it gives to the CP.

Advocates for change have said the CP qualifications force churches to participate in the national budget, even though the matching money comes from the Kentucky Baptist portion of the budget. Opponents have said a change ultimately would hurt both state and national budgets.

The proposed new rules remove unde-

signed contributions to the national CP as the only means of qualifying ministers to participate in the annuity program. Instead, the guidelines would allow participation if a church gave undesignated contributions either to the CP in the usual way or designated to the KBC for its own causes.

"This is a change that could be made and no one be required to compromise their integrity," said Clark Brown, pastor of Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville and chair of the subcommittee that drafted the proposal.

"The changes allow any church in Kentucky that is cooperating with the KBC to qualify to receive the annuity."

However, the changes provide that, in the case of a budget shortfall, the contributions to the annuity program come from the KBC portion of receipts and none from the percentage earmarked to go to Southern Baptist Convention causes, Brown noted. And the proposed guidelines still stipulate that a church must provide enough money to fund the annuity in order for its ministers to receive funds, he added.

The committee approved the proposal without dissent on a voice vote. It will be reported to the KBC Executive Board, which administers the budget, and it will be presented for approval to messengers to the KBC annual meeting next fall.

The proposal to extend the committee's life for a year will follow a similar path.

That move came up during discussion of a no-change proposal, which had been tabled at the committee's March meeting.

The tabled motion had been offered by Don Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin. It proposed "that no change be made in KBC messenger requirements and that the present policy remain in place for receiving and distributing funds. Further, we urge KBC churches to continue and wherever possible to increase support of the Cooperative Program, and that we encourage our KBC staff and leadership to expand positive promotion of the Cooperative Program."

The issue has become a point of contention because the SBC's 12-year-old theological/political controversy has engulfed the procedure for distributing CP funds.

Some moderates have said they feel excluded from meaningful participation in the SBC decision-making process, now controlled by conservatives. Some of them have contributed to cooperative denominational ministries without sending their money through the national CP, which is distributed by the conservative-dominated SBC Executive Committee.

Conservatives, however, have said they supported the CP when moderates were in control. They have insisted moderates should support the CP without changes now.

*continued on page 3, "Kentucky CP ..."*

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June 4, 1991

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## Ethiopian calm follows takeover, missionary says

by Donald D. Martin

Southern Baptist missionaries in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, reported late last week that calm and order is quickly returning to the capital following the rebel takeover.

"Everything is quiet, but there is still a lot of tension and frustration on the part of the people living here," said missionary Jerry Bedsole. "People ... don't know what's going to happen or what kind of government is going to come out of this."

Although several violent demonstrations have been reported in the city, the rebel-led government of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front dropped the city's 24-hour curfew.

However, the new rebel government had not completely sealed its control of the capital. And protests raised fears that the rebel takeover could launch a wave of revenge killings or ethnic violence.

The other Southern Baptist missionaries in Addis Ababa are Rob Ackerman and his three daughters, 9-year-old Bethany Nicole and 6-year-old twins Melody Rene and Krista Joy; John and Mary Lou Lawrence; and Sam and Ginny Cannata.

Ackerman and his children plan to join his wife, Patty Ackerman, in Kenya as soon as commercial flights out of Addis Ababa resume. When the flights resume, which could be this week, Rosie Bedsole plans to return to Ethiopia from Kenya. She and Mrs. Ackerman were attending a training conference in Kenya when Ethiopian president Mengistu Haile Mariam fled the country May 21 and rebel forces routed the Mengistu government army May 28.

Four of the missionaries in Addis Ababa attended a May 30 meeting of relief groups, called by the new rebel-led government. Rebel leaders said their main goals now are to make the country safe and secure and to get relief work going so people can return to their homes and start working again, Bedsole said. Baptists have provided hunger relief in Ethiopia for much of the past decade. (BP)

## Honeycutt optimistic about new status

by David R. Wilkinson

Following a fact-finding visit from an accrediting evaluation team, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt expressed optimism about the outcome of an investigation related to the seminary's accreditation.

A four-member team representing the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools made a "focused visit" to the Louisville campus. The team met with seminary administrators and faculty and trustee representatives.

The sessions were "constructive, positive and cordial," Honeycutt said. "I do not wish to presume on the report of the evaluation team, but I am optimistic."

ATS officials indicated a report from the visiting team may be completed in time for consideration by the agency's commission on accrediting June 10-12.

The focused visit was authorized by the commission on accrediting following a review of an ATS staff member's report on

a preliminary fact-finding visit to the seminary campus last November.

Accrediting issues raised in that report dealt primarily with two 1990 actions of the seminary's board of trustees: adoption of the Southern Baptist Convention's 1987 Peace Committee report as a guideline for employment, promotion and tenure of all faculty, and approval of a policy allowing use of tape recorders in all seminary classrooms. In both cases, the ATS staff report questioned whether the board had moved beyond its normal policy-making function and potentially damaged the school's academic environment.

At its annual meeting in April, however, the board effectively rescinded both actions. Trustees voted to replace the Peace Committee report with a "covenant" document drafted by a special committee of trustees and faculty. The document also received faculty approval.

In an effort to ease tensions between faculty and administration and a conservative majority of trustees, the covenant plots a more conservative course for the 132-

year-old seminary. It pledges the seminary will seek "balanced representation" on the faculty through "intentional employment of conservative evangelical scholars for future openings."

At their meeting, trustees also voted to drop the requirement that tape recorders be allowed in all classes, opting instead to leave decisions about a taping policy in the hands of the administration.

The seminary previously had no policy prohibiting use of tape recorders, leaving the question to the discretion of each professor.

"In addition to the specific actions of the board in April, I think the commitment by both trustees and faculty to work together to resolve our differences has been evident," Honeycutt said.

"I am aware that the covenant is only a beginning, and it will require a lot of nourishment to make it work. Yet I remain hopeful about the opportunity we have to deal honestly and creatively with the issues before us in ways that will strengthen rather than harm this seminary." (BP)

## Be positive, Kentucky Fellowship told

by Marv Knox, Editor

"We're traveling on land we haven't walked before," Jimmy Allen told about 115 moderates at a Kentucky Baptist Fellowship meeting in Frankfort last week.

The journey is an exploration of new relationships, explained Allen, former chair of Baptists Committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, a moderate organization out of which has developed the new national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Early Baptists braved a similar journey, on which they formed regional, state and national associations, he said, "but this is the first time .. this generation has done something this different."

Allen refused to call the new state and national organizations a new denomination, noting many members of both groups have no intention of leaving the Kentucky and Southern Baptist conventions. "We're

having birthed among us a thing that could be a movement, a renewal," he said.

Moderates should drop any anger-fueled political strategies against conservatives, he insisted: "If (the fellowship) is of God, it's going to be a positive call to do something right and positive rather than fight off somebody else. ... We can't win the controls back. We've been family, and we can't do secular precinct politics."

Consequently, moderates must stop fighting political battles with conservatives, seek to rebuild trust among themselves and search for positive ministries, said Allen, former president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

"God's going to spark something," he said, "and we don't even know what it is."

The meeting also featured a panel discussion of churches that have decided to fund missions through alternatives to the Cooperative Program, the Kentucky and

Southern Baptist unified budget.

The three churches featured on the panel—Bagdad in Bagdad, Broadway in Louisville and Faith in Georgetown—and others represented in the discussion cited several factors in common:

- They began the process by appointing committees to study the situation and report back to the churches. The congregations then voted on how to proceed.

- They continue to support the Kentucky Baptist Convention, most at the same or higher levels than before.

- Most of their money that goes out of state still goes to Southern Baptist Convention causes, such as the two mission boards and the seminaries.

In a meeting of the KBF board of directors, President Jim Holladay of Louisville announced that the organization currently has 175-200 members who have signed its covenant statement.

## U.S. Baptists, Iranian soldiers team up to feed Kurds

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"Please continue to pray. And thanks for your understanding and support in the midst of this opportunity. Our watchword is 'rigid flexibility.'"

Meanwhile, the Kentuckians were waiting by their phones, prepared to leave at a moment's notice, said Simpkins, the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood director.

"When we leave depends on what they do in Iran with the embassies," he reported. "Everything seems to have its own pace with this process."

The first Southern Baptist disaster relief

team that worked in Iran fed Kurdish refugees daily for a week in the Dolenov refugee camp before leaving the country to cheer, hugs and a multi-gun salute from friendly Iranian soldiers.

Equipment and training provided by the team will enable a 10-member Iranian Christian team to continue the food program for several more weeks, probably until the camp closes.

During their final days in Iran, the Southern Baptist team members were praised and formally blessed by a Muslim leader who anointed their hands with rose oil.

When Iranian soldiers introduced the team to their religious leaders, they chose words of high praise: "These men are not like other Westerners we know. They don't smoke or drink or chase our women. They are really good men."

The older leader then gave the team his blessing as he anointed their hands. "It was amazing," said Jim Furgerson, disaster relief coordinator for the Brotherhood Commission.

On a more dangerous note, the workers narrowly missed being hit by three artillery rounds which exploded within 100 yards of

their campsite on the night of May 25.

In a separate incident, Iranian soldiers guarding the camp fired automatic weapons one night at a point on the mountainside across from the cooking camp.

When the team left the camp, hundreds of Kurdish refugees lined the road for a mile to the camp entrance, cheering their American friends.

"I don't know how many hundred were on the road hugging us and telling us they loved us," Furgerson said. Then the troops saluted them by firing their automatic weapons into the air. The soldiers "really had become our friends. It's hard to believe that could happen in one week. If you used one word to describe it, you'd have to say 'miraculous.'"

Southern Baptist ministry in Iran is part of a continuing effort to aid the Kurds and other victims of the war in the Middle East. Total cost will be about \$2.4 million.

Discussions between Iranian Christians and the Iranian government on future ministry possibilities will continue in coming weeks, said Sam Yeghnazar, an Iranian-born evangelical who now leads a Christian group in the London area called the Iranian Christian Fellowship.

"We hope new plans can be worked out soon, since there is still so much need," he said. (BP, WR)

## Messengers take gospel to Atlanta streets

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ately stood up from benches in the plaza.

The plaza of the Five Points MARTA station attracts an odd mix of people, ranging from the homeless to workers in nearby office buildings. Just around the corner from the Baptists, street vendors sold produce, a man preached about Islam and a woman wore a sandwich board proclaiming the impending end of the world.

Electrical current to power the Baptists' amplification system was provided by a Korean Catholic who runs a sandwich shop off the plaza. He encouraged the group to

"turn it up" even louder than they had.

Gig Rohmfeld, Sheron Kaye's husband, ran the sound system and passed out literature. He knows street evangelism can be effective, he explained during a break, because he became a Christian through the witness of a street evangelist.

"This is what Jesus meant when he said to go out into the highways and hedges," Lewis said in an interview after leading a man to profess faith in Christ.

"I've witnessed to at least 50 people today, and most of them have been gracious. They have taken the tract and even

asked for a New Testament. The two men I led to the Lord today both came up and asked me to talk to them about God."

The street evangelism project was scheduled for the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday prior to the SBC annual meeting, which is being held this week. A One-Day Soul-Winning Encounter was slated for Saturday, with teams going door-to-door across the city. Also on Saturday and Sunday preceding the convention, disaster relief units from five states were to feed the homeless two meals each day to relieve ongoing local feeding ministries. (BP)

# Deaf ministry communicates with friendship, Bible study

by Brad Bull, Staff Writer

No one really knows exactly how many deaf people live in Kentucky—or in any region of the United States for that matter. The U.S. census does not include a question about hearing-related handicaps.

In addition, the nature of deafness contributes to a lack of awareness about its presence. Other handicaps are more visible, due to aids such as wheelchairs and red-tipped canes. But Deafness has no such visible symbol. Sign language, if a deaf person uses it, is not always used in public and, therefore, cannot be used as an accurate gauge of the prevalence of deafness.

This scarcity of solid information complicates ministry for people who would work with the deaf.

For example, Enterprise Baptist Association in eastern Kentucky began seeing the need for ministry to the deaf about two years ago. But the association needed to know more about the challenge of such a ministry. How many deaf people lived in the area and where were they?

The association sought help in finding answers, and it got the help from Deaf Opportunity Out Reach. DOOR is a Mission Service Corps project of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The Louisville group provided knowledge and legwork in surveying the needs and opportunities for deaf ministry in the region.

Cathy Howle is the director of DOOR's church development department. According to Howle, a team of researchers at New York University have determined that deafness in a given area ranges from one per 1,000 to 8.7 per 1,000. Multiplying these numbers by an area's population will give

the high and low estimates for the number of deaf people in the area.

DOOR used such information along with an independent study to help determine the feasibility of initiating a deaf ministry in Enterprise Association's four-county region. According to one volunteer, the study revealed that about 800 deaf persons live in the area—with a higher than usual rate of genetic deafness.

Based on the study, the association has

started a Bible study program for the deaf. The program will be held two weekends per month at First Baptist Church of Allen and will be led by a two-person team from DOOR.

According to Howle, Bible studies provide opportunities that compliment traditional deaf ministries, such as sign language interpretation of worship services. DOOR's philosophy is that interpretation ministries alone foster a paternalistic atti-

tude in the relationship of the church and the deaf. DOOR's goal, therefore, is to cultivate relationships and ministries that allow deaf people to take leadership positions.

"We don't send in interpreters and hope the deaf will come," Howle said. "We go into a community and ask the deaf what they need. We cultivate relationships and focus on creating ministries for the deaf which are led by the deaf."

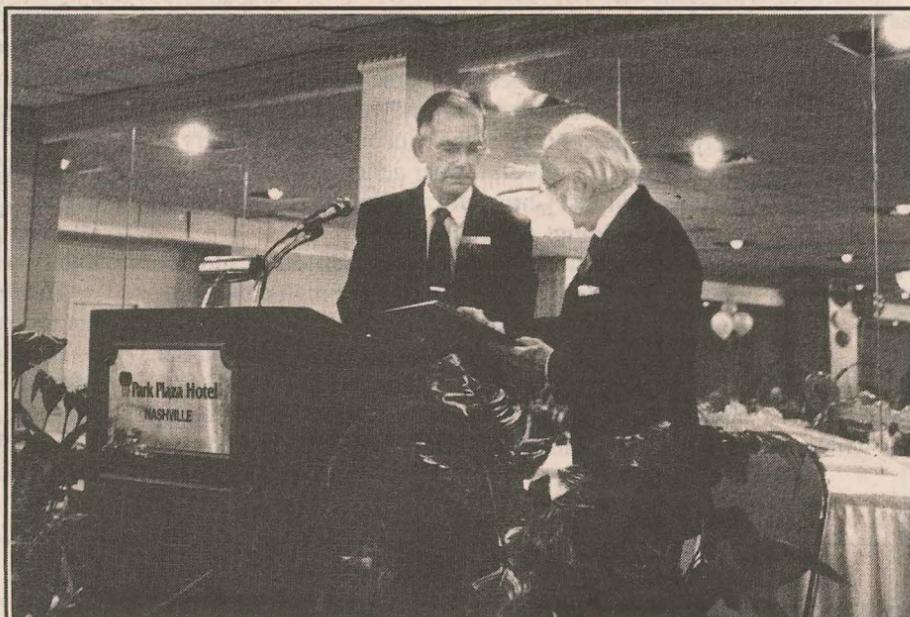
Kentucky Baptist churches support 15-20 deaf ministries in the state, Howle said. Of these, three are deaf churches—congregations with deaf members and deaf leaders.

Ministry with the deaf, like other ministries, requires motivation but not necessarily an army of workers, she said. The new program at Enterprise Association, for instance, began with one person's commitment to deaf ministry.

Two years ago, Tina McFarland, a secretary with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, began traveling to the association once a month on a personal project with a single deaf girl. Jim Smith, the association's director of missions, attributes McFarland with bringing the needs of the deaf to the attention of the association. Since that time, McFarland's gifts also have been affirmed by her appointment to the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired.

Prior to the slated Bible study program, which grew from McFarland's work, the 800 or more deaf people living in Enterprise Association's region had no church ministry.

Smith said the association is thrilled to be setting a new course for ministry with deaf members of the community.



**RECOGNIZING HISTORY**—C. Penrose St. Amant (right), former dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, received the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contributions to Baptist history at the Southern Baptist Historical Commission's 40th anniversary celebration. Lynn E. May, historical commission executive director, presented the award.

## Baseball major leaguer models success at KBHC banquet

Former baseball major leaguer Doug Flynn spoke at a spring banquet for older youth receiving care from Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

The Continuing Care/H.E.L.P. Banquet was held at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville May 21.

The theme of the banquet, "Soaring to Success," reflected its aim to encourage and honor KBHC youth who are rising above difficult circumstances in life, a homes' spokesperson said. Representing a

positive model for success, Flynn brought the keynote address.

A Lexington native, Flynn finished his baseball career in 1986, after playing for the Cincinnati Reds, the New York Mets, the Montreal Expos and the Detroit Tigers.

In September 1986, he joined Kentucky's "Champions Against Drugs," and in August 1987 he became its executive director.

The banquet program also included recognition of college students in KBHC's continuing care program and graduates of

the H.E.L.P.—How to Experience Life's Possibilities—program. H.E.L.P. classes, held at KBHC's metro-Louisville office, prepare older youth for independent living.

Michelle Weaver was the first KBHC youth to complete the continuing care program. She graduated this spring from Lindsey-Wilson College in Columbia with a major in human services.

The banquet helped introduce the continuing care program to high school juniors and seniors who are residents of the homes.

Continuing care assists graduating high school seniors in making the transition to college, vocational school or a job. When youth leave the homes, the program allows them to keep in contact with and receive further supervision from KBHC. Scott Shouse is continuing care coordinator.

Kentucky Baptist Homes provides care for abused and troubled young people. It is affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and has its central office in Middletown.

## Kentucky CP study committee seeks to continue through next year

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The CP's chain of support begins with members who give to their church budgets. The churches pass a portion of their budgets on to state conventions, and the conventions pass a portion of their receipts to the SBC.

The KBC now keeps 61.25 percent of undesignated receipts for Kentucky causes and passes 38.75 percent to SBC causes.

The issue of participating in the CP and convention life is more complicated in Kentucky than in some other states, since the Kentucky convention's CP policies are more strict than most.

Only receipts that are completely undesignated—at both the state and national levels—are considered CP contributions as far as the KBC is concerned.

Consequently, gifts to KBC causes, no matter how large, qualify Kentucky Baptist churches for only two of a possible 10 messengers to the Kentucky annual meeting. More messengers are allowed for each \$250 of undesignated CP contributions or for every 250 members.

A change in current CP guidelines would hurt Baptist institutions, said Donald Coleman, pastor of South Jefferson Baptist

Church in Valley Station.

"I've been a Kentucky Baptist pastor for over 30 years and graduated from three Baptist institutions in the state which the CP has supported," he said. "If we made changes in the CP funding, it would affect those institutions."

"The one unifying factor that brings us together is the CP. What if we go to messing with the CP?" Brown asked. "There is a possibility that somewhere down the road we can get back together. But if we dismantle the CP, it will be difficult to get it back together."

That reasoning ignores the "closed shop" attitude prevalent in the SBC today, countered Bill Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ashland: "I'm completely closed out. I couldn't serve on the obituary committee of the SBC. There are people in the pews who ask, 'Why should we be asked to continue to support a structure where our pastor—and our church—are completely closed out.'"

"All of us have areas in which we are excluded," responded Mathis, who said the KBC is just as closed to conservatives as the SBC is to moderates. "If we start saying we will not support the world mission program

because of exclusion, we cannot hold this together. The cause is greater than the differences."

But refusing to change ignores change already taking place in the convention, contended Gilmer Fauber, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ft. Thomas.

"Someone will have to come up with a solution," he said. "As much as I don't want to change, I must change, because the institution to which I have related for so long has changed dramatically."

As an example, he cited the twice-daily telecasts of independent Baptist preacher Jerry Falwell—who formerly often criticized Southern Baptists—on the SBC's television network.

"I still want to relate to the CP as I've perceived it in the past," Fauber said. "But it has changed, and I've got to change."

KBC President J. Robert White expressed feelings from both sides of the issue.

"Our church placed 40th in the Southern Baptist Convention in Cooperative Program giving last year, and we don't have a snowball's chance in hell of being put on an SBC board because we're considered moderate," said White, pastor of First

Baptist Church of Paducah. "That's not right at all."

But he said he feared a backlash if major changes were made in the CP structure: "I'm concerned about the Kentucky Baptist Convention and our strength. I fear if we change our structure, it could hurt us very badly."

Expressing concern that the no-change proposal also would harm the convention by disrupting its fellowship, H. Stephen Shoemaker, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, offered a substitute motion to defer specific action and give the committee a year to operate.

After fine-tuning by White and Don Mantooth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Morehead, the substitute passed without dissent.

It states: "The special committee chooses not to request changes in the convention policy of receiving and distributing Cooperative Program funds and qualifying messengers at this time."

The special committee requests the opportunity to continue monitoring all factors which may impact the processes and report back to the 1992 Kentucky Baptist Convention."

# Can you trust anybody? Disney plans TV lottery

## editorial

Marv Knox

Say it ain't so, Walt! Or Mickey, Donald or Bambi.

Walt Disney Co. has announced it plans to start the country's first national lottery game.

The Wall Street Journal printed a report on the venture in a recent entertainment section.

"Disney's Buena Vista Television unit has teamed up with a national group of state lottery directors to launch a half-hour syndicated game show that would revolve around a nationwide lottery," Staff Reporter Pauline Yosmihasmu wrote. "If all goes well, Disney and lottery officials say, the show will be on the air by the fall of 1992 and offer millions of dollars in pooled prizes every day."

The District of Columbia and 33 states have lotteries. If they all participate in Disney's numbers game, the lottery could reach 85 percent of the nation's population, the Journal story said.

Disney and lottery industry officials said the format for the show has not been developed. But it's likely to combine the purchase of daily lottery coupons with a nightly telecast that announces winners.

The show also would be entertaining, Randy Reiss, executive vice president of Walt Disney Studios, told the Journal. And if the show is successful, it could lure non-lottery states to play the numbers.

So, the good-natured giant that once stood for wholesome family entertainment now wants to gamble in your own home.

What's wrong with televised expansion of an industry that wants to become America's next pastime? Plenty.

• Lottery doesn't play fair. Of course, every ticket buyer has the same chance as the next to win the big pot. But lotteries target the people least able to afford it. "Low-income lottery players wage a disproportionately high percentage of their income on the lottery," wrote Larry Braidfoot, former general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in his book, "Gambling: A Deadly Game."

Lotteries historically have sold their dreams to poor people, Braidfoot reported, citing the high concentration of lottery outlets in poorer neighborhoods.

• Lottery sells empty dreams. Odds of winning the New York lottery's \$22.1 million jackpot were 3.5-million-to-1, almost twice as bad as the odds of being struck by lightning, Braidfoot's research showed. Even a "good" bet—the \$13 million Massachusetts

lottery—offered odds of 1.9-million-to-1.

Lottery doesn't disprove the old adage, "You can't get something for nothing." But only one person among countless masses wins millions with a \$1 lottery coupon.

• Lotteries pull kids into gambling. This factor comes into play in several places with the Disney lottery. First, children and families have trusted Disney for more than 50 years to provide entertainment that would not hurt them. Second, Disney plans to market an entertaining lottery game show, to be viewed at home, where children have daily access to the program. Third, lottery is the form of gambling most available to children. Fourth, over 90 percent of compulsive gamblers begin gambling before age 21, according to a 1979 New Jersey study. Fifth, the average compulsive gambler negatively affects four to 10 other people, the study showed. Sixth, Disney's lottery will hurt thousands of families.

The lottery show has not hit the airwaves, and it's not too late to make your feelings known.

Disney's chairperson is Michael Eisner. His address is Walt Disney Co. 500 S. Buena Vista, Burbank, Calif. 91521.

Tell him you're neither Goofey nor Dumbo, and you expect more from Disney.

## baptist forum

### Stop supporting independents

Enough is enough. These independent Baptist groups who are seeking to change the way Kentucky and Southern Baptists have done missions through the Cooperative Program for years should not be allowed three or four pages in our state paper (WR, May 14) to promote their new denomination.

The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship are independent organizations. They are just as independent as any fundamentalist that has ever pulled their church out of the convention. Their statement of purpose is clear that they intend to bypass the Cooperative Program, and they are encouraging others to do the same.

You can call it what you will, but this new group is a new denomination. They may give to some of their pet programs, but they will not be giving through the Cooperative Program. Any honest person that has heard what they say or read what they have spoken has to admit that these folks are not in "friendly cooperation" with the SBC.

I want to sound the alarm to all the loyal, supportive Southern Baptists in Kentucky. There are several influential persons on the board of directors of this Kentucky Baptist Fellowship. There is an attempt to dis-

mantle the Cooperative Program in Kentucky as we now know it. The majority of Kentucky Baptists is made up of both moderates and conservatives who believe in the Cooperative Program as it now is and want it left alone. This majority will let our staff in Middletown (including the Western Recorder) know that we expect them to support and promote the Cooperative Program. They have no obligation to this new independent denomination, but they are responsible to cooperating Kentucky Baptists who are in "friendly cooperation" with both the KBC and the SBC.

Clark A. Brown, pastor  
Grapevine Baptist Church  
Madisonville

### Good stewardship

As a trustee of the Radio and Television Commission, I would like to respond to some of the misinformation contained in the letter (WR, May 14) from W. Robert DeFoor.

It is true that FamilyNet was purchased from Dr. Falwell's organization. If the Radio/TV Commission had not purchased it, some 10 to 12 million house holds would have been lost to programs of outreach such as "Invitation to Life," "COPE" and "The Baptist Hour." By spending a very small amount of money, the impact of such programs has been more than doubled.

The money paid by the commission, \$200,000, did not provide any working capital to the Falwell interests. All of it was paid directly to the owners of the satellite transponder on which FamilyNet is carried. The rest of the purchase, some \$3 million,

is a non-cash credit for program time on FamilyNet and ACTS. It represents no drain on commission finances and certainly no capital to Falwell.

Prime time is generally considered to be the time between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. each day. "The Old Time Gospel Hour" is on ACTS at 8 a.m. Eastern time—11 hours away from prime time. While the program is on daily, Dr. Falwell is not the speaker every day. People such as Elmer Townes, Darrell Gilyard, E. V. Hill, J. Harold Smith, Rick Stanley and others have been speakers.

When the RTVC trustees considered the purchase of FamilyNet, we asked, "How would this new delivery system help the commission accomplish the mission task assigned to us by Southern Baptists?"

We did not concern ourselves with who owned it. We concluded that it would be poor stewardship to pass up the opportunity to reach out to 10 million additional households when we could lay hold on it for a fraction of what it has cost to build ACTS to the same level of outreach.

C. Wyman Copass, pastor  
Farndale Baptist Church  
Louisville

### Poor decision

I'm disappointed, but not surprised, that the Southern Baptist Convention invited President Bush to address this year's convention ("Bush Invited to Convention," WR, May 21). Power politics is the bond which unites Bush and the convention's leadership. Right-wing Republicans and Christian fundamentalists joined forces 12 years ago

with an agenda for gaining control of the White House and the SBC.

They used unethical tactics to achieve their power. Sleazy election campaigns were justified, because they are so sure they're right. It's the old "the ends justify the means" mentality at work. Then when power is solidified, a "might makes right" mindset prevails.

Racism is America's national sin, and using race to win elections is evil. Making Willie Horton a household name in 1988 was not in the best interest of young black males who struggle against great odds to become men. To his credit, Republican National Committee Chairperson Lee Atwater, before he died, apologized to Michael Dukakis for the sleazy campaign Atwater helped George Bush wage.

Inviting Bush to the convention on the heels of the end of the Persian Gulf War is offensive to many Southern Baptists who opposed a war which was avoidable. The war may ensure Bush's re-election in 1992, but the war's aftermath shows it was a hollow victory. Bush used race to win the presidency. He'll use the Gulf War and will exploit white fear of blacks and Jesus to boost his bid for re-election. And Jesus weeps.

The SBC I've known and supported for most of my 53 years is dead. It succumbed to the temptation which Jesus rejected, lust for political power. If Mario Cuomo were president of the United States, would the SBC invite him to speak? To maintain separation of church and state purity, they shouldn't invite any president to address the convention.

Paul Whiteley Sr.  
Louisville

## western recorder

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# Religious liberty makes uneven progress

## analysis

by Elaine Furlow

The balance sheet for global religious liberty in the '90s reveals dismaying minuses and astounding pluses.

Perhaps the most far-reaching changes have come in the Soviet Union, where thousands of citizens exercise new freedoms of expression, assembly and religion. Since a 1990 law on freedom of conscience was passed, churches have reopened, religious music has played in open-air theaters and several high officials even appeared at Easter services in Orthodox churches.

Since Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev assumed power in 1985, official tolerance has replaced hard-line Communist opposition to religion. In a country troubled by economic woes, alcoholism, unemployment and other problems, "everybody agrees some moral fiber is needed, and religion can be a source of that," says Priscilla Clapp, deputy assistant secretary for refugee admissions at the U.S. State Department.

For years before, religious believers had been stifled by pressures of society and by government restrictions. Now all of that has changed dramatically, with government propaganda against religion subsiding and believers feeling safer about once-forbidden acts such as handing out Bibles.

Legislation forbids the government from interfering in the practice of religion, and improves the legal status for groups such as Baptists. The new law also makes it easier for U.S. Baptists who are helping establish a seminary in Moscow, sending volunteers to construct a seminary in Leningrad and developing "sister church" exchanges.

In many respects, conditions for Jews in the Soviet Union have improved as well. Since Soviet authorities relaxed travel restrictions, Soviet Jews have been getting out in numbers that would have been unthinkable before. In 1990, three times as many emigrated as the year before.

Marring the improvements in human rights, however, were the grassroots signs of anti-Semitism. "With the advent of glasnost, one unfortunate consequence is that people's dark side comes out... against other national groups," says an American diplomat who monitors human rights.

Across Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, more changes are in the wind:

- Bulgaria. A 1991 State Department assessment said: "Bulgaria's constitution and laws provide for freedom of religion, but under the (earlier) totalitarian system this freedom was a sham."

When Bulgaria's Todor Zhivkov was ousted in 1989, however, the climate changed, and barriers to religious freedom began tumbling down. For the first time, Easter services at Sofia's Nevski Cathedral were opened to the general public. Because security agents no longer accosted worshippers, crowds at local religious services increased. Several evangelical churches and Bible centers have been formed and officially registered. The government has not interfered with the importation of Bibles in Bulgaria.

- Romania. Under Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in the 1980s, religion was tightly controlled, and a number of churches throughout the country were destroyed. When Ceausescu has overthrown in December 1989, the government's attitude began to change. The government eliminated restrictions on the importation and dissemination of religious materials, on the printing of Bibles and on the ability of Romanians to meet with fellow believers from abroad.

"With the new, avowed freedom also comes concern," notes Bill O'Brien, director of the Global Center at Samford University in Birmingham. "Will the Orthodox Church (to which 70 percent of Romanians belong) begin to exercise more control on the government activities? The jury is still out on that."

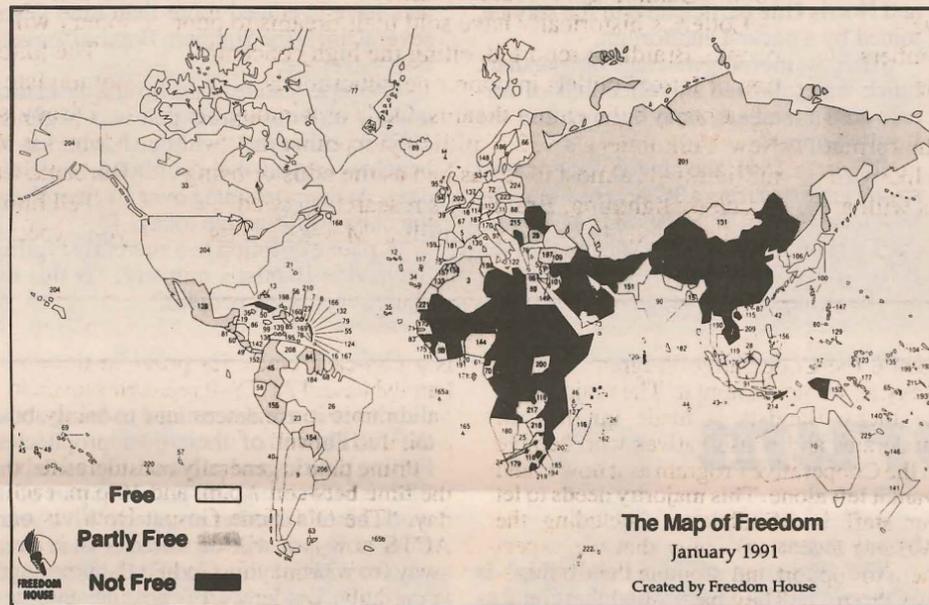
- Yugoslavia. Freedom expanded in 1990, as restrictions were lifted on proselytizing, selling religious materials and teaching religion to young people.

Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Roman Catholicism and Islam are the largest faiths. A small Protestant community includes Baptists and Pentecostals. Construction of places of worship requires the consent of local government authorities, who in the past often raised bureaucratic roadblocks. Permits now are easier to obtain, but minor-

Christian missionaries to enter. Tensions had been high there because of a sharp rise in the number of conversions.

- China. The government restricts religious practice outside of officially recognized and government-controlled religious organizations. Across China, the bureaus of religious affairs—staffed primarily by Communist party members—manage and control religion. The government usually tolerates the existence of unofficial Catholic and Protestant churches as long as they remain small and discreet. However, officials occasionally rein in unregistered churches that seem to be growing too large.

- Indonesia. Jehovah's Witnesses periodically are detained and their religious materials confiscated. A 1963 ban on the Baha'i faith remains in force. The government opposes Muslim groups which advo-



ity religions still face obstacles.

- Poland. Poland is 98 percent Roman Catholic, and Catholicism seems to have permeated all facets of life.

Chris Hill, Polish desk officer at the U.S. State Department, puts those ties in historical context: "Politically, Poland has come and gone and come again," he explains. "From 1939 to 1989, the country as they knew it had disappeared. The Catholic Church was the embodiment of the nation. Having the cross in a classroom was a symbol of the country. Today, now that they have a popularly elected government, they are looking afresh at the church's relation to the government."

While the government does not interfere with the practice of minority religions, some representatives of minority religions worry about the Catholic Church's promotion of its own agenda through government.

While the most publicized advances in religious liberty have come in Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R., other parts of the world offer different stories:

- Middle East. O'Brien, formerly vice president on the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, warns of the "hemorrhaging" of the Middle Eastern church.

In Iran, religion and government intertwine. The president and many top officials are clergymen, and the constitution declares that "the official religion of Iran is Islam."

Slightly over 1 percent of Iranians are non-Muslims, all concentrated mainly in urban areas. In theory, they are permitted to practice their religions and maintain schools. But in practice, official interference and harassment seem commonplace.

- India. India is a secular state in which all faiths enjoy freedom of worship. Yet religious tensions continue to be a problem. Officials in the state of Arunachal Pradesh have refused to issue permits for foreign

cate establishing an Islamic state.

- Africa. Most African countries do not have state religions, and governments tolerate many forms of religious practice. But registration of church groups is common, and proselytizing is strongly discouraged, if not illegal. Groups that the government sees as disruptive are banned.

- Egypt. Christian missionaries who engage in proselytizing Muslim Egyptians may be prosecuted under the penal code. In September, an Egyptian Christian was arrested for "preaching and converting." Conversion from Islam is discouraged by the government, and even more so by social pressure.

- Sudan. In practice, the government favors Islam. Radio and television time are available to Muslims but restricted for Christians. Christian churches cannot be built without permits, and none have been issued for 10 years.

- South and Central America. An active missionary presence is felt in many countries, and foreign missionaries often are allowed to proselytize. Roman Catholicism is predominant. Minority groups sometimes have to register, bringing the bureaucratic problems of paperwork and building codes.

Religious workers in various spots around the world commonly are arrested or killed for upholding the rights of the poor and oppressed.

David Barrett, who compiles statistics on repression of church workers, projects a worldwide average of 1,000 church-employed workers killed annually.

Looking at the worldwide balance sheet for religious liberty, the key questions are: Have the human rights gains in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union been lasting achievements? And will the gains be consolidated? Will the effects be felt not only in Eastern Europe but elsewhere around the world? (ABP)



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

## on mission together

### The Fellowship ... a further word

A few phone calls and a letter concerning my May 21 column suggest to me the need to speak a little further concerning the "Fellowship."

To do that, I am simply sharing in this column an exact copy of my response to a pastor-friend who expressed disappointment with my column.

"Dear Pastor:

"I have received your letter of May 29 expressing disappointment with my May 21 column.

"Since I made no personal statement in the column, other than to introduce the editorial I quoted from the Atlanta Constitution, I must presume that your disappointment is with the fact that I published the editorial.

"I value your opinion and appreciate your willingness to express it in writing. However, I believe the editorial I quoted was a unique opportunity to help Kentucky Baptists further recognize how our Southern Baptist controversy is damaging to our reputation, our mission and our witness for Christ. The editorial I quoted reinforces that opinion.

"As for me, personally, I am still reserving judgment about the Fellowship. On the one hand, I regret its emergence and do not believe, at this point, it is in the best interest of the Kingdom to form another denomination.

"On the other hand, it appears that this organization may provide a 'safety valve' for hundreds of churches and/or Baptists who might otherwise leave the denomination.

"Regretfully, I know persons on both sides of the controversy who want them to go, each for different reasons.

"I am encouraged that the Fellowship, which includes a number of fellow Kentucky Baptists I know, is strongly represented by persons who resist the idea of creating a new denomination.

"I am not eager that any should leave our denomination, and I still have hope for some authentic reconciliation.

"It appears, sadly, that without divine intervention (and I consider reconciliation as such), you and I may spend the remaining years of our ministry dealing with the ramifications of the controversy.

"Your promise of prayer support is encouraging and appreciated."

Fraternally in Christ  
Bill Marshall

# KSU makes history with 1st revival

Kentucky State University made history this spring, reported Baptist Campus Minister Mikel Robinson.

"For the first time in its 200 years, a revival was held on its campus" in Frankfort, Robinson said.

The idea for a campus revival began with the KSU Ministerial Association, a 1-year-old support group for young student ministers, said Robinson, the organization's founder and first president.

"It is done we take back this campus for God," Don Anthony Woods, a professor of public administration and a licensed preacher, told the group.

"Suddenly, plans were underway," said Robinson. "Realizing that asking permission to hold a revival on the campus might not fly very well, the group decided to call it 'Spiritual Renewal '91.' Permission was granted, and our revival was soon underway."

Forest Brooks, pastor of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Midway, preached during services in the campus amphitheater. KSU students and staff, as well as members of local churches, provided music.

"As I sat in the amphitheater," Robinson recalled, "I couldn't help but glance up into the sky and recite Psalm 19:1, 'The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork.'"

# Scottsville celebrates 150 years of helping

by Bill Moore  
State Correspondent

Scottsville Baptist Church in Allen County celebrated its 150th anniversary May 18-19 with note burning, tree planting, balloon release, two birthday cakes, participation by former pastors, Lord's Supper and message by William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Pastor Terry Peck reported: "I've only been here a year; the people did a tremendous job getting ready for this. They raised approximately \$80,000 since Jan. 1 to pay off the debt three years ahead of schedule."

On Saturday, games, rides, cake cutting

and balloon release were climaxed by a tree planting on the church yard. The new tree symbolized the past and future growth of the church.

Sunday, former pastors Ron Bradley and Norris Hite participated in the service, joined by a packed auditorium.

After the morning message by Marshall, lunch was followed by reflections of former staff members, note burning and the Lord's Supper.

Begun in 1841, the church experienced strong growth during a 36-year pastorate by Mordecai F. Ham Sr. His grandson, Mordecai F. Ham Jr. was the evangelist when Billy Graham was converted.

The younger Ham began his ministry in

1902 in the Scottsville area in a series of revivals with more than 600 decisions in five months.

Ken Goforth, minister of music for 16 years, pointed out that the church's pastorates have averaged more than nine years, several times the Southern Baptist Convention's average.

A unique feature of the Scottsville church is the courthouse class that was begun in 1956 to enlist the "whittlers" who sat on benches around the courthouse on Sundays. At times reaching over 100 members, the class still is active today.

A phone question to a secretary typifies Scottsville Baptist's ministry: "Is this the church that helps people?"

# Fall choir fest set to feature state's seniors

Choirs from across the commonwealth are to converge on Cave City this fall for the Kentucky Baptist Senior Adult Choir Festival Sept. 30-Oct. 1.

"The goal of the festival is to provide a time of inspiration and motivation for senior adult choirs," said Eddie Howell, adult music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"This is achieved partly through mass-choir rehearsals, which culminate in a final performance during the closing worship service. Each choir at the festival has the opportunity to sing for the other choirs."

The festival also will include a "featured senior" segment, highlighting an exceptional senior adult choir, Howell said. The featured choir will present a 30- to 45-minute concert for the other choirs at the festival.

The festival will be held at the Cave City Convention Center, beginning at 3 p.m. Monday, Sept. 30, and concluding at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1.

For more information about the festival, contact Howell in care of the KBC church music department, P.O. Box 43433, Middlesboro, Ky. 40253-0433.

# baptist forum

## God will sustain

I am thankful that Bill Marshall printed the 'secular' article from the Atlanta Constitution in his column. We could not paint a 'red flag' any clearer than that in the last line of the article.

'Pluralism' is an anti-biblical trait. The church is people under 'one Lord'; 'baptized into one Spirit'; of 'one faith'; 'in one accord'; unified in faith and doctrine. We are diverse in ministries but not 'pluralistic'

by any means.

The formation of 'the Fellowship' is subversive to the organization that God has used to proclaim his gospel more than any other in history. Frankly, I would fear such presumption. On the other hand, who knows what God is doing? Perhaps just exposing the truth. Those who claimed concern for the SBC but weren't genuine are now openly exhibiting their true dispositions.

It seems to me that some who predicted doom from the controversy of 12 years, yet

didn't see it, are determined to bring about the fulfillment of their own prophecies. Putting politics and personalities aside, the SBC is still strong and you are a part of its work. Here's another prophecy: Five years from now, we will be stronger than ever, with or without you. God gives his strength and abundant grace to what he initiates. What God began almost 150 years ago, he will sustain in his grace.

Greg Pearson, pastor  
Bashford Manor Baptist Church  
Louisville

## Still supporting missions

I am concerned by recent articles in the

Western Recorder which imply that our denomination's mission efforts are being hindered by churches who reduce their support of the Cooperative Program and distribute their funds through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. I refer specifically to the following stories: "March receipts place CP giving 9.6% behind budget," April 9, p. 3; "Hard times ahead?" April 16, p. 5; "KBC: Living and leading into an amended future," April 23, p. 5; and "What's happening to the Cooperative Program?" May 7, p. 7. Our fundamentalist brothers and sisters are perfectly capable of perpetuating such myths on their own without assistance from the Western Recorder or Kentucky Baptist Convention staff persons.

Kentucky Baptists should understand that a reduction in giving to the Cooperative Program does not mean a reduction in giving to the Foreign and Home mission boards or to the KBC. In fact, Buechel Park Baptist Church doubled its giving to foreign and home missions by withdrawing the bulk of its money from the Cooperative Program and contributing through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We also increased our giving to the Kentucky Baptist Convention by the same action.

I am weary of folks who mislead our Baptist people and "Southern Baptist missions" as one and the same. These two categories are radically different. And, believe me, when I give an account to God of my stewardship, I'll want to say I supported missions. God couldn't care less which path I take to do it!

Rob Nash, pastor  
Buechel Park Baptist Church  
Louisville

## Plan to Attend the Youth Evangelism Conference '91

### "Forward in Faith" June 21-22

Frankfort Civic Center

(Registration fee: \$3.00 per person)

#### FRIDAY EVENING

Theme: Faith to Begin

5:30 p.m. EDT Doors open to Civic Center  
Registration begins in Civic Center lobby for those not pre-registered.

7:00 p.m. Forward in Faith rally begins ...

- West End Baptist Youth Choir, Louisville, Ky.
- Rick Ousley ... pastor and youth evangelist
- Billy Crockett ... guitarist, songwriter and singer
- Paul and Nichole Johnson ... contemporary worship and drama



Ousley

#### SATURDAY MORNING

Theme: Faith for the Present

8:45 a.m. EDT Registration in lobby of Civic Center

9:30 a.m. EDT Forward in Faith rally continues ...

- State-wide Youth Choir directed by Louie Bailey
- Paul & Nichole Johnson
- Rick Ousley
- BSU drama team ... SonShare
- Billy Crockett

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Theme: Faith to go Forward

12:45 p.m. EDT Registration

1:00 a.m. Forward in Faith rally challenge

- Billy Crockett
- Paul & Nichole Johnson
- Rick Ousley
- "See You at the Pole" challenge
- SonCelebration ... BSU music team



Crockett



Johnson & Johnson

Sponsored by the Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention. Bill Jagers, Director; Billy Compton, Associate

The family of Dr. and Mrs. C.R. Daley cordially invite you to a reception honoring them on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary Saturday, June 22, 2-5 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Hurstbourne Baptist Church, 8800 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

# 47 Kentuckians graduate from Southern, Boyce

Steer a middle course amidst the diverse demands of Christian faith, educator Barbara Brown Zikmund told Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduates at the Louisville school's 167th commencement this spring.

Zikmund, president of Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Conn., said effective Christian leaders balance the tensions between the polarities of the faith.

"Your faithfulness always is found in the midst of ambiguity," Zikmund told the graduates.

During the commencement, the seminary presented the first Findley B. and Louvenia Edge Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence to Kathryn N. Chapman, professor of childhood education.

Chapman, a faculty member since 1978, formerly was a church director of children's work and a public school teacher.

She is a graduate of Georgia College, Southern Seminary and St. Louis University.

Edge is emeritus professor of Christian education at the seminary.

The seminary conferred 267 degrees in the commencement ceremony. In a separate ceremony, the seminary's Boyce Bible School awarded certificates and diplomas to 59 graduates.

Forty-seven Kentuckians graduated during the ceremonies. The graduates, their degrees and the towns they listed as home are:

- Doctor of philosophy: Timothy Edward Madison, Paducah.

- Doctor of ministry: David Paul Charlton, Lawrenceburg; Ova Lee Gussler, Ashland; Bill Messer, Ashland; Phillip Morris, Corbin; Bret Robbe, Lexington.

- Master of divinity: Z. Allen Abbott, Burlington; Donald J. Bleak, Hardinsburg;

- E. Woodson Brewer, Louisville; Robert Montgomery Fox, Louisville; Paul Carlisle Frederick, Louisville; Stephen E. Hamby, LaGrange; William Jackson, Louisville.

- Also Douglas Wayne Pavey, Louisville; David Kentner Popham, Elizabethtown; Jonathan Thomas Son, Louisville; Steven Thomas Valentine, Shepherdsville; Ashlee Renee Wiest-Laird, Louisville.

- Master of divinity in Christian education: Joseph Robert Ball IV, Zoneton.

- Master of arts in Christian education: Hilton Davis, Louisville; Sherry Kay Dennis, Louisville; William Allen England, Louisville; Jeffrey Seay McCall, Pineville; Connie Piercy, Monticello; Jonathan Eric Weiner, Louisville; Mary Barnes Zimmer, Louisville.

- Master of church music: Rod E. Ellis, Erlanger; Kevin L. Graham, Elizabethtown; Yolanda Green, Louisville; Frederick D.

- Horn, Ashland; Paul Jeffrey Thorlakson, Louisville; Julia Yuen, Louisville.

- Master of social work: David Matthew Ramsey, Louisville.

- Diploma in Christian ministry: Bill L. Bare, Harrodsburg; William E. Nation, Southville; Lana D. Southwood, Greensburg; Kyle Dexter Wiley, Shelbyville.

- Diploma in educational ministry: Charles Grant Logsdon, Louisville; Kathy Sykes, Louisville.

- Advanced diploma in Christian ministry: Geoffrey Lacefield, Louisville.

- Certificate in ministry training: Donald R. Arthur, Catlettsburg; Glenna Faye Clark, Langley; James R. Harrison, Nicholasville; Anna Blythe Howard, Calhoun; Reva J. Sunn, Calhoun; Harold L. Taylor III, Whitesville.

- Special student, Boyce Bible School: Geri Sue Bare, Salvisa.



*Photos not available:*

Donald A. Arthur	William Jackson
Glenna Faye Clark	Geoffrey Lacefield
Paul Carlisle Frederick	Phillip Morris
Yolanda Green	William E. Nation
Ova Lee Gussler	Douglas Wayne Pavey
James R. Harrison	Bret Robbe
Anna Blythe Howard	Lana D. Southwood
	Reva J. Sunn
	Kathy Sykes
	Harold L. Taylor III

## Theology Dean Larry McSwain named provost at Southern Seminary

Larry L. McSwain, dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will become provost at the Louisville school Aug. 1.

McSwain has taught church and community at Southern Seminary since 1970. The Pond Creek, Okla., native has been dean since 1988 and was director of master of divinity studies from 1980 to 1983. As

provost, he will be the seminary's chief academic officer. He succeeds G. Willis Bennett, who is retiring after 32 years as a professor and administrator.

McSwain, 50, is a graduate of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Southern Seminary. He has been pastor of Southern Baptist churches

in Oklahoma and Indiana.

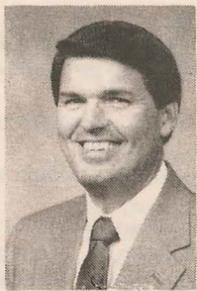
McSwain's responsibilities as theology school dean will be assumed temporarily by Walter C. Jackson, professor of ministry and director of supervised ministry experience at the seminary. Jackson, who will be acting dean for the 1991-92 academic year, joined the faculty in 1982.

Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt

said a permanent dean for the school will be named no later than next spring. The new theology dean will be "an evangelical scholar as defined in the covenant renewal document" recently adopted by the school's faculty and trustees, he said.

In the covenant, faculty and trustees agreed to fill teaching positions with "conservative evangelical scholars." (BP)

# christian education



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

## clear creek chronicle

### Faithful servant

1951 Graduate Archie Oliver now pastors one mile from the farm where he was born. He indicated, "My pastorate at Johnson Island is cream on the cake." Attendance has doubled and the church was remodeled since he began working with them in July, 1989. Forty-four years as a Baptist pastor have enabled him to help people throughout Kentucky and southern Indiana. Archie and his wife, Katie, farmed near Nebo the first six years of their marriage; then he was called to preach.

"I knew the call included the need to prepare. A copy of Clear Creek's Mountain Voice paper was left at our house. We moved to Clear Creek in 1947. While there I had wonderful teaching. We heard missionaries and great preachers like R.G. Lee. The summer Sunday school conferences whetted my appetite for developing churches," Oliver recalls.

His pastorates include: New Bethel in Evansville, Ind., and 10 churches in Kentucky—Diamond, Providence; Concord, White Plains; Graham; Liberty, Madisonville; Roland Memorial, Greenville; Fairview, Ashland; Pleasant Grove, Hopkins County; Watson Lane, Henderson; Mt. Pisgah, Bremen; Associate Pastor of First Baptist, Madisonville; and Johnson Island.

His leadership has been marked by faithfulness to the word, mission support, love for people, and stability.

Oliver is very appreciative of his Clear Creek training. "I love the school and dream of its growth." He's completing a second term as trustee and is also a member of the alumni executive committee. He's been moderator of Little Bethel Association and president of the local ministerial association.

The Olivers remember two Clear Creek distinctives: encouragement of the family and the campus worship program. "The faculty and students rallied around us when our child was born." Oliver helped lay gas lines across the campus. He recalls with a smile the use of surplus World War II pipes with several holes in them. "We would stop up one end to find the holes and patch them before we laid them."

Friends of the Olivers are joining efforts to underwrite the Archie Oliver Scholarship Trust. With a goal of \$15,000, interest from the endowment will assist students who come from areas where Oliver has pastored. The Olivers have six children and on December 26 observe their 50th wedding anniversary. They have already asked their children to make gifts to the trust fund instead of to them.

**GEORGETOWN COLLEGE**—Daniel Tilford, associate professor of music, judged piano competitions at the University of Louisville, at Morehead State University, in Lexington and in Greenup County. ... **Terry Martin**, associate professor and director of library services, will help with retrospective indexing for the Southern Baptist Periodical Index. ... **Robert Bryant**, chairman of the department of sociology, participated in a National Science Foundation chatauqua on the 1990 U.S. Census. He will teach cultural anthropology and lead seminars in the governor's scholars program at Centre College in Danville this summer. ... **Steven W. May**, professor of English, received the 1990-91 Cawthorne Excellence in Teaching Award at Georgetown. ... Six members of the foreign language department judged at the central Kentucky foreign language conference held at Transylvania University in Lexington. The participants were: **Bob Davis**, chairman of the department; **Ruth Gragg**, instructor of foreign language; **Ilse Newbery**, professor of modern languages; **David Wilson**, part-time instructor of Latin; **Patricia Cooper**, assistant professor of foreign languages; and **Virginia VanArsdale**, assistant professor of modern languages. ... **Louis Polsgrove**, chairman of the department of education, contributed to the eighth edition of the textbook, "Introduction to the Foundations of American Education." ... **John Sadlon**, associate professor of English, moderated scholarly paper sessions at the annual East Central U.S. Writing Cen-

### Clear Creek grants honors

Danville native Dan Stallard and Gordon Christian of Kingsport, Tenn., earned high honors during Clear Creek Baptist Bible College's spring commencement exercises.

Stallard received the Trustee Award in "recognition and appreciation for dedication and faithfulness in a church-related ministry." Christian won the President's Award for "outstanding leadership in all areas of student life."

One graduate secured the minister's wife award; one received the Christian worker's certificate; four earned associate in ministry degrees; and 26 received bachelor of arts in ministry degrees.

ters' conference May 3-4 at Northern Kentucky University. ... **Lindsey Apple**, chairman of the department of history, was selected for a 1990-91 Sears-Roebuck Foundation Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award. ... **Paul L. Redditt**, professor of Old Testament and chair of the religion department, will write a Sunday school quarterly on the books of Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon for the Bible Book Study Guide series to be used July-September, 1994.

**CAMPBELLSVILLE COLLEGE**—Jay Padgett, junior at Campbellsville, wrote a devotional guide to be published in the April 1992 issue of Church Musician magazine. ... Campbellsville President **Ken Winters** was elected secretary of the Kentucky independent college fund. ... **Jerry Kibbons**, professor and chairman of Christian studies department, was selected for a 1990-91 Sears-Roebuck Foundation Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award. ... **Byron Bennett** of Campbellsville and **Cortni Crews** of Scottsville were named Mr. and Miss Campbellsville College during honors and awards day. ... Student Foundation has taken responsibility for coordinating the first graduate challenge, a program to create awareness among students of the importance of annual giving to private colleges by graduates. ... **Chris Scharcket** of Springfield, Tenn., and **David Delk** of Russell Springs placed third and fourth, respectively, in the Mr. Future Business Executive competition. ... Phi Beta Lambda adopted 2.1 miles of roadway under the Kentucky department of highways' "adopt a highway" program.

**CUMBERLAND COLLEGE**—**Harold Wortman**, professor of music, was selected for a Sears-Roebuck Foundation 1990-91 Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award. ... **Judy M. Roberts**, assistant professor of education, published an article titled "Computers as Tools for Remedial Teachers," in the May 1991 issue of Intervention in School and Clinic. ... Phi Beta Lambda will send students to the national leadership conference in Anaheim, Calif., in July. ... Students in Free Enterprise won first place in reginal competition and qualified to attend an international competition in Kansas City, Mo. ... **Robert Monestel** of

San Jose, Costa Rica, and chemistry student at Cumberland, received the Organic Chemistry Travel Award for outstanding undergraduate students in organic chemistry presented by the R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute at the American Chemical Society's national meeting in Atlanta. **Ann Hoffelder**, chair of the chemistry department, and student **Kim Begley** of Hazard also attended the meeting and read papers.

**MID-CONTINENT BIBLE COLLEGE**—The college will build a women's dorm-dinning hall to be completed in August for the fall semester. President LaVerne Butler led in a ground-breaking ceremony May 25. ... **Derik Hamby** of Nortonville received a Harris-Beadles-Cochran Memorial Scholarship. ... **Chris Cash** of Paducah received a Northside Baptist Church Scholarship. ... Financial aid is available for students wishing to enroll for the 1991 fall semester. Two scholarships are available: the L.R. Riley Memorial Scholarship, for freshmen or transfer students, and the L.W. Carlin Memorial Scholarship for currently enrolled ministerial students. For more information contact Melinda Stuber, director of financial aid, at (502) 247-8521.

**CLEAR CREEK BIBLE COLLEGE**—**H.C. Chiles**, distinguished professor of New Testament, will retire after nine years at Clear Creek. He was professor of New Testament interpretation at Boyce Bible School in Louisville from 1975 to 1982. Previously, he was pastor of First Baptist Church of Barbourville and First Baptist Church of Murray. He has written Sunday school lessons for the Western Recorder nearly 42 years. ... **Mark Terry**, professor of missions, will write an article titled "Elienger: Faithful Steward," for Biblical Illustrator magazine. Also, he will write the teacher's Bible commentary on missions in the Old Testament for the youth Life and Work series for 1993. ... Clear Creek awarded honorary memberships in the Delta Epsilon Chi honor society of the American Association of Bible Colleges to **James Edward Ditty**, professor of Old Testament at Baptist Theological College in Johannesburg, South Africa, and **Drew Martin**, pastor of Russell Cave Baptist Church in Lexington.

**SOUTHERN SEMINARY**—**Rod Ellis** of Erlanger received an honors award for excellence in vocal music. ... **Frederick D. Horn** of Ashland received an honors award for excellence in church music education.

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

## sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JUNE 9, 1991

Life and Work Series

### Live the new life

**Eph. 4:17-32** Since believers in Christ are new creatures, they are under obligation to put off the former ways and habits. Paul admonished Christians to refrain from walking as the unsaved do. Every believer is rightfully expected to practice and to exemplify the Christian virtues. "Walk" here means "to conduct one's self" or "to order one's behavior." We are to live and to walk in conscious fellowship with God. Prior to an experience of salvation, people are in a state of alienation from God, spiritual ignorance and hopelessness. Emptiness characterizes their lives. Any saved person has experienced a change that is visible.

Paul lists a number of carnal things Christians should eliminate from their lives:

1. Put away lying (Eph. 4:25). Children of God lay aside lying once and for all. There is no place for a spoken or acted falsehood in the life of any Christian.
2. Put away anger (Eph. 4:26). Christians are commanded to refrain from cherishing anger and allowing it to smolder in them. Anybody who harbors anger and bitterness does himself or herself an irreparable injury as well as hinders the progress of the Lord's work.
3. Put away stealing (Eph. 4:28a). Those who practice stealing must quit it.
4. Put away corrupt speech (Eph. 4:29). Christians should refrain from vulgarity, profanity and foul language of every sort. Unless one's words are edifying and beneficial to those who hear them, it would be better if they were not spoken.
5. Put away all that grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30). By their unholy imaginations, impure thoughts, wrong attitudes, sinful words and disobedient deeds, Christians cause the Holy Spirit pain.
6. Put away all unkindness (Eph. 4:31-32). Christians must overcome deep-seated and vicious desires to utter unkind words. One cannot harm another without injuring himself or herself and displease the Lord.

### International Series

#### The foundation is laid

David proposed to build the temple, but he was not permitted to do so because he was a man of war. Even so, he was comforted greatly in the promise that his son, Solomon, would build it. In preparation, David gathered materials for the project

and charged Solomon to build it. Solomon built the temple according to the specifications his father had given him. When he finished, Solomon said, "I have built an house of habitation for Thee, and a place for Thy dwelling forever." But four centuries later, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed that structure and carried the vessels and furniture to Babylon.

**Ezra 3:1-2** Seven months were needed to assemble the approximately 50,000 who wanted to return to Jerusalem. Comparatively speaking, this number was only a remnant. Many of the exiles had become so attached to Babylonian customs and pleasures that they did not have any interest in leaving. Only those who were constrained by a religious devotion had the courage to brave the hardships and perils connected with the return.

After making the journey of some 800 miles, those returning found Jerusalem still in utter ruin. Grieved at seeing the foundation and mere outline of the temple, they decided to rebuild the altar on its ancient site and offer their sacrifices.

**Ezra 3:10-11** In the laying of the foundation of the temple, God was extolled. When the workmen laid the foundation, the priests dressed in their professional apparel, took their trumpets to summon the people and occupied their proper places. In their singing, they magnified the continual goodness of God to his people. On the wings of the inspiring music the people were borne upward until their enthusiasm reached its height in shouting.

The songs of the ancient people of God were largely taken up with God's praises. "They sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the Lord." Loving God, all of them delighted in the place of his habitation and participated in the singing of his praises.

Also cleanest dorm room awards and most improved attitude awards were given on this day. All those honored met together that evening after our nightly supervised study hall for all the ice cream and banana splits they could eat. That is now a yearly ritual which is excitedly anticipated by students of all ages.

Next day followed a special assembly honoring the highest-ranking students of each academic class taught in the school. As with the work awards, each receives a special certificate printed in our own print shop that can be kept for life. They are beautifully printed and can be framed. Also given were individual awards for outstanding participation in choir, band, drama, art, academic team competition and letters.

On Thursday came a special assembly to honor our spring athletes for their achievements in baseball, softball, track-and-field events and tennis.

Both our girls' softball team and our boys' baseball team advanced from district into regional play this year. Our boys won the 49th district baseball championship in an exciting 10-7 victory over Clay County on their field.

We did not have a winning tennis season, but it was glorious to have our four new courts to practice and play on at home. For years we traveled 40 or more miles round-trip daily just to have a practice and all our meets were away from home. After thousands of hours of labor filling in an area eight feet deep with shale and dirt, 250 feet by 150 feet, letting it settle for nearly a year, then building what many consider to be the finest courts in our entire area, this tennis season was pure joy.

Our boys' team advanced from the regional to be runner-up in the sectional. The past two years we had been sectional

champs. Our girls ranked eighth of 17 schools who qualified for the sectionals. Their regular season was 34 wins, 30 losses.

Our boys had a record of 64 wins, 4 losses for the season. Five of our boys qualified to go on to the state tournament in Lexington.

Four of our qualifying five are sophomores. They are: Jimmy Black, with us since the sixth grade, who won the championship in the pole vault; Louie Lagunas, born in the Philippines but now an American citizen whose home is Boise, Idaho, came in second in the pole vault—Louie's stepfather graduated from OBI in 1955; Jason Cox, also at OBI since the 6th grade, won the high-jump championship; Micah Hasty, who came to us in the 8th grade, took second place in both the 400-meter dash and the 1600-meter run. Jimmy, Jason and Micah, along with junior Tedros Tesfaye from Ethiopia, won the sectional championship in the 1600-meter relay.

The arrival of the 1991 yearbook, with its striking cover designed by senior Chris Moore, was the occasion of another special assembly during Christmas week.

Farm manager Jack Tillman and others grilled steaks that evening for our crew, who helped raise the feed for our home-grown beef. These same folk had grilled several hundred steaks for the annual junior-senior banquet.

On both Thursday and Friday evenings our Oneida Players gave outstanding performances of "Flowers For Algeron." Senior J.R. Bodenheimer, who made his acting debut on the Oneida stage as a sixth-grader, played the role of retarded Charly Gordon superbly. It was a smashing finale to his OBI drama career: that won him recognition twice as outstanding actor of the region.



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

## homes for children

### Getting a job

There is nothing that excites me more than seeing a young person who has been in our care succeed. The bottom line of all that we do is making a real difference in the lives of children.

On May 21 we held our second annual continuing care banquet in which those youth who have left our care, but are still enrolled in some type of higher education, return to share with the juniors and seniors in our program.

Doug Flynn, executive director of Champions Against Drugs, was the speaker for the evening. Mr. Flynn, former major league ball player for Cincinnati and other teams, shared a special message to our youth about the dangers of drugs and about the importance of continuing their education. Several of our youth who are in college shared about their experiences which included some of the trials as well as some of the good times.

The highlight of the evening was the acknowledgment of Michelle Weaver's graduation from Lindsey Wilson College and her announcement that she has her first full-time job starting in June.

Michelle is the first of our continuing care students to graduate from college and she set some pretty high standards. In her last semester she had a 4.0 and over all she finished with a 3.1 grade point average. She played basketball for Lindsey Wilson and her last year she had a full basketball scholarship.

Her guests for the evening included the executive vice president of Lindsey Wilson College and her basketball coach. We all are proud of her for completing her education and for landing the first job. She is a real inspiration to all of our young people.

In talking with her afterwards, she told how she had been really worried about getting a job. With the recession and the increased competition for work, one has reason to be concerned these days.

She will be working as a counselor in a mental health program and is very excited about the job for it was her first choice in a position.

Michele received two standing ovations during the course of the evening and it was obvious that everyone there was bursting with pride in her. She has overcome a lot of obstacles and is a real tribute to hard work on her part and the expression of real love on the part of the staff at Glen Dale and Lindsey Wilson. Congratulations, Michelle.



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

## oneida journal

### Taking time to honor

The class of 1991 has graduated and left. For three days afterwards, we gave underclassmen their final exams, and their summer vacation began. Several scores of students are here helping give the dorms a thorough spring cleaning before the start of summer school June 9. Others are working on the farm, in the gardens, in the mechanical and carpentry shops. Acres of lawns keep a mowing crew busy daily. By the time everything is gone over once, it is time to start again.

Graduation week began with dorm get-togethers and refreshments before the final busy "whirl" began. On Tuesday, there was a two-hour assembly honoring several hundred of our students with good or outstanding worker awards. Our work program is a major emphasis in Oneida's preparation of its students for their future.



# mountains to the mississippi

**PERSONNEL:** Pastors—Pierce Dodson from Providence, Frankfort, to First, Jasper, Tenn. ... Isaac B. McDonald to First, Dawson Springs, as interim. ... Richard Dendler resigned Hall Street, Owensboro. ... Timothy J. Najpaver to Salem, Campbellsville, from Rowletts, Rowletts. ... Gary McAbee to Sonora, Sonora, from Beech

Grove, Owenton. ... Timothy Burden to Middle Creek, Hodgenville. ... Jimmy Disney to Vine Grove, Vine Grove, as associate. ... Jeff Perry resigned East View, East View. ... Max Anderson to Tiline, Tiline. ... Lillard Dunn retired from Sugar Creek, Grand Rivers. ... Leonard Martin to Harmony, Louisville. ... Charles Shack-

lette retired from Valley Station, Valley Station. ... Darryl Jesse resigned Linefork Mission in Three Forks Association to attend seminary. ... David Hammond to Jenkins, Jenkins, as interim. ... Fontaine Jones retired from Hawk Creek, London. ... William Rogers to Howard's Mill, Mount Sterling.

## Kentuckians receive degrees from New Orleans Seminary

Two students with Kentucky ties received master of divinity degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans.

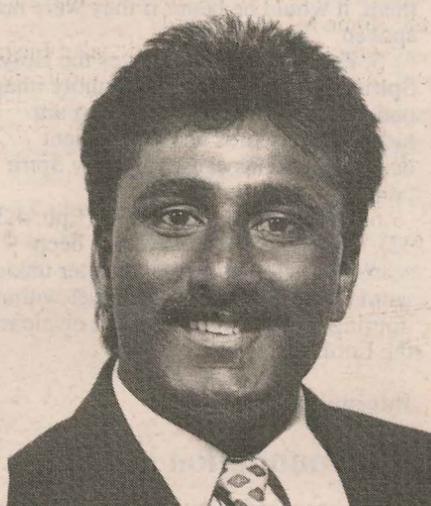
Michael W. Osborne of Danville is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy G. Osborne of

Danville and is married to the former Jennifer England of Ashland. His home church is Gethsemane Baptist in Danville.

Wesley Paul from India is married to the former Debra Foster of Stearns. He graduated from Cumberland College.



Michael W. Osborne



Wesley Paul

## 5K Summer Chase

On June 22, wellness, fitness and fun will come together as the Baptist Hospitals Foundation and Kentucky Harvest stage the eighth annual Summer Chase, a five-kilometer road race and walk through the St. Matthews area.

As in years past, Summer Chase is expected to attract walkers and runners of all ages and athletic ability. And if past years are any indication, more than 500 participants—from the serious competitor to the senior who prefers to stroll the course—will take up the challenge.

With each step or stride, the walkers and runners will be supporting the work of the Baptist Hospitals Foundation, which, in turn, supports Baptist Hospital East, Central Baptist, Baptist Regional Medical Center and Western Baptist Hospital. In addition, Kentucky Harvest will benefit from the non-perishable food items donated by Baptist East employees and Summer Chase participants.

The entry fee for Summer Chase is minimal: \$7 to \$12 depending on when the entry form is received and whether it is for a runner or walking category. But the runners and walkers who gather at the corner of Browns Lane and Kresge Way at 8 a.m. on June 22 will be helping to fund a wide range of programs and services, including nursing education efforts and the Sunday School Charity Fund—to name just two.

In many ways, the runners and walkers who will turn out for Summer Chase typify the broad-based support the foundation receives throughout the year from countless friends. Of equal significance are local businesses and organizations, in this case, PWM of Louisville and Ken Combs Running Store, that get involved and willingly offer their financial support or acumen to the foundation. Their behind-the-scenes assistance is crucial as the foundation works to support the healing mission of the Baptists hospitals.

At the finish line, "first place" can only belong to one walker and one runner. But no matter the order of finish on June 22, the friends and supporters of the Baptist Hospitals Foundation will have come through—once again.

Note: For additional information on Summer Chase, call the Baptist Hospitals Foundation's race hotline at 502-896-5035.

Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Hospitals Inc. or Baptist Hospitals Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., vice president of Baptist Hospitals Foundation, BHI Corporate Complex, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, KY 40207 (502) 896-5000.

Others—Stephen Willie to Loyall, Loyall, from Evarts, Evarts, as minister of music/youth. ... Stephen Lyle King resigned as minister of music/youth from Hall Street, Owensboro. ... Todd Dowdy resigned from First, Ashland, as minister of music to pursue a doctorate of musical arts in choral conducting at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

**ORDINATIONS:** John Pat Loyd to ministry, by Fellowship, Ledbetter. ... Elizabeth Price to ministry, by First, Russellville.

**CONGREGATIONS:** Oaklawn, Paducah, celebrated its 60th anniversary June 2. ... Beechmont, Louisville, celebrated its 80th anniversary in May. ... Lyndon, Louisville has homecoming July 7. ... First, Stearns, Beacon Hill, Somerset, and First, Maysville, will host a bicycle-missions team on its way to Ohio from First Baptist Church, Soddy-Daisy, Tenn. ... First, Pikeville, purchased 45 acres to begin Island Creek Mission, which was a Sunday school extension.

**MISSIONARIES:** Linda Dillworth, a native of Fort Knox and a missionary to the Philippines, is in the states. She can be reached at 2009 Afond Ct., Chamblee, Ga. 30341. ... Paul and Harriet Lawrence of Leeds, Ala., and Hopkinsville, can be reached at Box 44, Ashkelon, Israel.

**CORRECTIONS:** In the May 21 edition, Central Baptist Church of Ashland was incorrectly identified as Central, Flatwoods, where Charles Milam retired as pastor and John Sykes was called as interim.

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# Bivocationalists shake off 'part-time preacher' status

by Chip Alford

The acceptance of bivocational ministry is increasing in the Southern Baptist Convention, but not as quickly as the need for dual-career ministers, according to several SBC officials.

"The image of bivocational ministers is being lifted," said Dale Holloway, bivocational ministries consultant at the SBC Home Mission Board. "We're making progress, but it's much too slow."

Holloway contends one reason for the hesitancy of some Southern Baptists to embrace bivocational ministers is a misunderstanding of background and training.

"Many people still see bivocational pastors as non-professional, eighth-grade dropouts, but that just isn't true," Holloway said. A denominational survey showed 37 percent of the 10,000 Southern Baptist bivocational pastors have 17 years or more of formal education. In addition, 38 percent were employed in secular jobs classified as "professional or managerial."

Churches led by bivocational pastors

also tend to do well in baptism ratios, Sunday school enrollment and attendance, Holloway said. For every 100 church members led by a bivocational pastor, a survey showed 4.3 people were baptized, 77.8 percent were enrolled in Sunday school and 45.6 percent attended regularly. For the same number led by a full-time pastor, 4.1 people were baptized, 76.9 percent were enrolled in Sunday school and 43.3 percent attended regularly.

As education efforts continue, Holloway said, acceptance of bivocational ministry is increasing among seminary students, full-time ministers and church members.

A small but increasing number of students at SBC colleges and seminaries are preparing for careers in both the secular and ministerial arenas, said David Bunch, assistant vice president for church extension at the Home Mission Board.

Conferences on bivocational ministry are being held on the associational, state and national levels, and an SBC organization for bivocational ministers was formed last December. Convention agencies and

institutions, state conventions and local associations also are including bivocational ministry as part of their strategies.

In addition to bivocational pastors, about 32,000 ministers of music are part time, volunteer or bivocational, as are thousands of ministers of education, youth, children and other church staff members.

Bunch cited several reasons for the slowly growing acceptance of bivocational ministry. Sagging economies and population shifts in some areas have left many Baptist churches unable to pay the salary of a full-time pastor. These churches are finding their needs can be met by bivocational ministers, Bunch said.

Another factor is the feeling among some ministers that bivocational ministry provides greater financial security, Bunch said. Other ministers simply have other job skills they want to keep in use.

The contribution of bivocational ministers is vital to Southern Baptist church planting efforts, Bunch said.

"We have very heavy usage of bivocational pastors in Vermont, New Hamp-

shire, Maine and Rhode Island," said Tom Moncrief, missions division director for the Baptist Convention of New England. "Our associate director of missions in Rhode Island is attempting to approach church planting with bivocational ministry as his main strategy."

D.G. McCoury, a former pastoral leadership consultant in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, said: "I've met some guys who start a church as a bivocational pastor, get the church to call someone else as pastor and then go somewhere else and start another church. They really feel that this is their calling."

Despite the needs in newer convention areas, bivocational pastors are concentrated in the South. For example, more than 50 percent of pastors in Alabama are bivocational, according to Holloway.

"We're hoping some bivocational ministers will see this as a challenge," Holloway said.

"There is a desperate need for church planters in the East, West and North." (BP)

# Baptist pastor juggles church, family, 3 jobs, school

by Charles Willis

The small Midwestern town of Ava, Mo., and the endless stretches of telephone poles and cable that once characterized Jeff Alcorn's life are hundreds of miles away now, but the setting for a life-changing decision always will be engraved in his mind.

Alcorn, a long-time member of First Southern Baptist Church in Ava, had a lot of time to think as he climbed telephone poles, many times to make repairs in sub-zero temperatures.

Sometimes his thoughts turned to what God wanted him to do with his life.

"I had taken a MasterLife course," Alcorn recalled during a drive between his secular job in Rock Springs, Wyo., and the church he now serves as pastor in Superior, Wyo. "I came to feel God had something different for me. And during those times of thinking about God's will for my life, I would conclude if this (work as a lineman) is all there is for me until retirement, my life will be wasted."

As a result, Alcorn began preparation for ministry by taking a seminary extension course, and in the fall of 1985, he and his wife, Wendy, entered Southwest Baptist University at Bolivar, Mo.

She earned a degree in religious education, and he majored in Christian ministries. She graduated in May 1990, and he will graduate next year.

The first journey from Ava to Superior was a vacation trip, a part of which the Alcorns had agreed they would devote to missions ministry.

In the course of their visit to Wyoming, Alcorn was asked to preach twice at Superior Baptist Church.

"I thought, 'Who in the world would



**ONE JOB**—Carpentry is but one job that bivocational Pastor Jeff Alcorn of Superior, Wyo., uses to support his family. Alcorn also grinds optical lenses, and he's one of a growing number of Baptist bivocational ministers (Photo by Jim Veneman)

move to this place?" he reflected with a grin. Admittedly, Superior, population 250, would not qualify as a popular vacation spot, much less a promising place to put down roots. Now almost a ghost town, the

former mining site has been reduced to a post office, a town hall and two bars.

"The congregation, meeting in a building formerly used by a Pentecostal church, had been without a pastor for a couple of

weeks," Alcorn recalled.

"The people were warm, so much so that it offset the barrenness of the countryside."

That warmth eventually led Alcorn to accept a call to lead the 20-member church.

Now a pastor, optical technician, carpenter, student, husband and father of three, Alcorn looks back at the evolution of his life from telephone lineman to pastor and recalls: "God told Abraham, 'Get up and go where I tell you to go.' I feel called to be pastor of a church and to ministry first and foremost. You go into the future remembering how God has led you in the past."

Alcorn supports his family, for the most part, by grinding lenses for an optical company and by doing carpentry work. Mrs. Alcorn provides preschool and after-school care to supplement their income.

The church also provides the Alcorns with a modest salary.

To fulfill all the roles in his life, Alcorn schedules every day, including time with his family to read, watch a rented movie together or just to run errands and window shop.

"I feel badly about having to work a job and not being theirs (the church members') all through the week," he said. "But we see the spiritual needs, and we know if we weren't doing this, we'd miss out on the blessings from the contact with these people."

Believing that much of his ministry is outside the church building, Alcorn makes ministry a part of his work and his studies.

"We have a love for the people," he insisted. "And there is enough work for a pastor here on a daily basis for a long time."

"My prayer every day is that God will lead me into contact with whomever I need to meet." (BP)

# Tentmakers spread bivocational support over ministry needs

by Mark Wingfield

Mission Service Corps can be the link between ministers willing to serve bivocationally and ministries needing bivocational workers, a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board leader said.

Through a program called Tentmakers, Mission Service Corps joins ministry needs with ministry potential, said Mike Riggins, associate director of the board's long-term volunteer department.

Tentmakers are bivocational ministers

who serve as home missionaries under appointment of Mission Service Corps. MSC is the board's program for adult volunteers who serve more than one-year terms. Adults serving less than one year are assigned through the Christian Service Corps program.

Mission Service Corps began as a means for volunteers to serve in missions by raising their own support through donations from others. Tentmakers are volunteers who fund their ministries by working at least part-time at secular jobs.

"The Tentmaker program is not the only way of accomplishing bivocational ministry, but there are some benefits," Riggins said.

Those benefits include board resources and training, placement assistance, a supervisory support system, limited travel assistance for job interviews, emergency funds and additional prayer support, he said.

During a recent Mission Service Corps conference on Tentmaker ministries, representatives from 18 states interviewed 65 seminary students as potential Tentmakers.

Of more than 1,300 Mission Service Corps volunteers currently in service, 38 percent are involved in Tentmaker ministries.

The board publishes a quarterly list of tentmaker needs. Positions listed include church planters, pastors, social workers, associational staffers and resort ministers.

Individuals interested in becoming Tentmakers, or churches and associations needing tentmakers, call the board's toll-free volunteer hotline: (800) HMB-VOLS. (BP)

# Summer break: More than a good time for KBHC youth

Each summer, youth at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children keep busy with camps, trips, crafts, projects, games and other activities. But they learn more than just how to have a good time.

Youth at Glen Dale Children's Home are preparing for the annual summer camp held at the home. Scheduled for the second week of June, this year's camp will have the

theme, "Against All Odds." Youth will participate not only in outdoor games and activities but also in Bible study and prayer. They will develop relationships with each other and with

staff.

Youth at Spring Meadows Children's Home will attend camps away from the home, including Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.

One Spring Meadows group plans to travel to Birmingham, Ala. to participate in a mission project. They will help construct low-income housing for needy people.

Spring Meadows recently began a Creative Ministries Team for residents. Youth will learn different types of ministries, including puppetry, clowning and drama.

*Anyone interested in supporting summer activities for young people in Kentucky Baptist Homes should contact*

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



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