

## Highview helps pastors with low views of self

By Bill Wolfe  
*Louisville Courier-Journal*

Where does a pastor go when he's lost his job, his house and much of his self-respect?

For more than a dozen fired ministers over the years, the answer has been Louisville's Highview Baptist Church.

In a groundbreaking program that began in 1973, Highview offers a roof and a fresh start to Southern Baptist pastors who have lost their jobs. They are allowed to move into a church-owned house and are assigned a title and unpaid church duties at Highview while they search for a paid pastorate.

Pastor William L. Hancock is credited

as a "trailblazer" for designing the program, said Norris Smith, a consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Highview program has been used as a model for other Southern Baptist ministries, but fewer than 10 Southern Baptist churches currently have such programs, Smith said.

It's "primarily an identity and self-esteem thing," said Hancock, who designed the program after learning of several cases where ministers were fired and left without housing or income.

Highview Baptist pays all the program's costs, which are limited to the expenses of the housing. Eight to 10 pastors ask for help from the Highview program each year—

about twice as many as when it started—but the church has limited housing and is unable to take in many

of the people who apply, Hancock said. The church owns five houses and tries to keep one in use for terminated pastors, although not all the pastors in the program move into a church-owned home, he said.

Ministers who have participated in the program say they appreciate the housing, but the job assignment is important, too. It allows ministers to re-establish their cre-

dentials and avoid the stigma of unemployment while searching for a job. And the love and acceptance of Highview's congregation help them cope with the trauma of dismissal.

The program helped turn things around for Bob Sharp, who lost his job at a Bowling Green, Ohio, church

in the early 1980s. Even before he left the church, Sharp had missed several paychecks because of declining contributions.

*continued on page 5, "A roof overhead ..."*

## FORCED TERMINATIONS

Page 5 Analysis:  
Church shepherds get CEOs' treatment

## Bandits can't steal enthusiasm for Brazil

By Marv Knox  
*Editor*

PADUCAH—J. Robert White got mugged on a beach in Rio de Janeiro, but the bandits didn't steal his enthusiasm for Brazil/Kentucky Baptist partnership missions.

Three knife-wielding teens stole cameras from White, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah, and his traveling companion, Kentucky Baptist partnership coordinator Calvin Wilkins of Middletown.

Rio was the last stop for White and Wilkins during a partnership missions trip, where they worked with Baptists in the Brazilian state of Espirito Santo. Rio is not in Espirito Santo, but is the Brazilian point of arrival and departure for many Kentucky Baptists.

"That was a scary experience," White said of the daylight robbery. "But that wouldn't hinder my desire to go back. ... You just have to be careful in Rio."

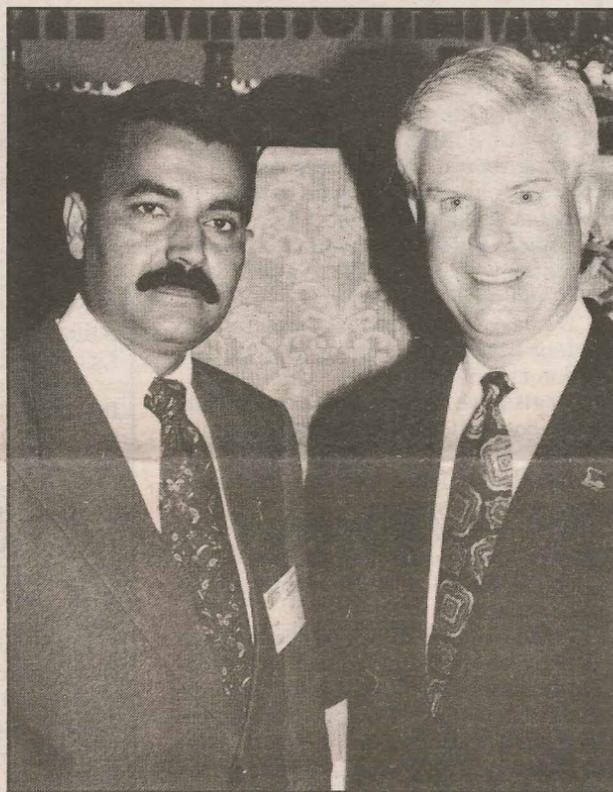
Except for the mugging, the trip was terrific, White reported. The Kentuckians attended the 75th annual meeting of the Espirito Santo Baptist convention. White preached on the meeting's theme, "Marching/Conquering."

White and Wilkins shared preaching assignments in a revival meeting, and White preached in another weekend revival.

"We also went into the interior for a two-day trip," White said. "We saw places where Kentucky Baptists have been building churches and renovating church facilities and where our mission groups have been to minister."

*'If they find a location for a church, the people will come in droves'*

**PARTNERSHIP BROTHERS**—Jose Borges (left), president of the Baptist convention in Espirito Santo, Brazil, and Kentucky Baptist Convention President J. Robert White shared the spotlight during Espirito Santo Baptists' 75th annual meeting. (Photo by Calvin Wilkins)



"It was a thrill to leave the paved road and travel several miles into the interior and come to a place where Kentucky Baptists helped renovate a building. We're reaching off the road and into many places. We go with the feeling that we want to help the Baptists, but we always leave with the feel-

ing we have received more from them."

They also visited San Pedro, the mountainside dump for Vitoria, the capital of Espirito Santo. A team of six Baptist student summer missionaries have spent their breaks from school ministering to children

*continued on page 3, "Brazil missions ..."*

## Early prayers set children's pattern for life

By Susan Todd Doyle  
*Woman's Missionary Union*

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Parents and preschool leaders can give an eternal gift to children by teaching them how to pray, said a national preschool magazine editor.

"By teaching a child to pray, we are setting the pattern for life," said Kathryn Kizer, editor of two Woman's Missionary Union publications, Start and Share.

"Prayer gives a child security and dependence on someone who can help for a lifetime. Even greater than money in a will is the ability to talk with God," Kizer said.

Teaching preschoolers to pray can be a natural process instead of a scary one, she said.

Kizer offered these tips:

- Teach children that God always hears prayers. "We don't want to give the misconception that he will always give us what we ask for," she said. "He knows what we need better than we do." Children can learn at an early age God sometimes says "no" or "wait," Kizer stressed.

- Preparation for prayer is important. Children often need directions to help them think through their prayers before beginning. "Discuss things for which you want to thank God," Kizer said. "Many times children will pray about the little things in life. We find ourselves praying about the big things of life, but God is concerned about all of life."

- Don't teach a misconception that a person has to be in a certain form to pray, she said, citing folding hands and kneeling as examples. "Teach them to know that they can talk to God walking down the street."

- Beware of memorized prayers. Although cute when said by children, they may lay the foundation for greater problems later in life. "It's important for children to start early telling God just exactly what they think," Kizer said.

- Children are imitators. If adults close their eyes to pray, children probably will too. They will understand the reason better if told that it will help them to just think about God and not the other children around them.

- Use simple words. "Don't expect a preschooler to pray like a second-grader," Kizer said. "There are words they just will not understand. 'In Jesus' name' has no meaning for preschoolers."

- Begin with a simple salutation, such as "Dear God."

- Keep the vocabulary simple.

- Use short sentences.

- Keep prayers short.

## 'Miss Missionary' no myth

By Donald D. Martin  
*SBC Foreign Mission Board*

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Single women interested in a foreign missionary career must cut through a haze of mythical qualifications before they ever tackle the mysteries of a foreign culture.

Some myths about mission requirements have persisted so long that people pass them on as hardened rules, said Wendy Norvelle, associate director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's personnel selection department.

Among the most persistent are myths that the FMB:

- Appoints single women only if they promise never to marry.
- Never appoints ordained women.
- Never allows women to work in evangelism assignments.
- Targets only married couples for career missions.

The mission personnel office stresses at mission conferences and meetings that such

statements are false.

To counter these myths, Norvelle gives this information:

- The FMB currently has 37 openings for females in evangelism and church development assignments.

- There are 20 female missionaries working in evangelism and church development as their primary assignment.

- Eight ordained women serve in the foreign missions force, although ordination was not required for their appointment.

- No one has to promise to remain single to be appointed a foreign missionary.

"As singles come through the application process, we do talk at length with them about their single identity and whether they're comfortable in serving overseas as a single person," Norvelle said. "We have a responsibility to make sure the people we send overseas aren't going to stay on the field one or two years and then resign."

"We do not have any age guideline (applied only to women)," she said. "It de-

*continued on page 6, "It's no myth ..."*

Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

August 13, 1991

Are you moving?

Please give us three weeks' advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address above, and send to:  
Western Recorder  
Box 43969  
Louisville, KY  
40253.

# Senate looks at McConnell's anti-pornography bill

By Tom Strode  
Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—An anti-pornography bill introduced by Sen. Mitch McConnell, a member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, was debated in a Senate hearing July 23.

If adopted as law, the Pornography Victims' Compensation Act would allow suits against producers and distributors of hard-core pornography by victims of sex crimes.

In testimony before the Judiciary Committee, representatives of booksellers, librarians, magazine distributors and video dealers said the bill would result in censorship and would not be practical. Witnesses from anti-obscenity, feminist and law-enforcement groups said pornographers should

be held responsible.

McConnell told the committee: "The pornography industry trades in the abuse, exploitation and degradation of women and children. Pornography is not an expression of speech; it is a business.

"This bill hits pornographers where it hurts them most—in their wallets.

"If we are to protect women and children from sexual predators, we must recognize that sex crimes do not occur in a cultural vacuum," McConnell said. "It is time to hold accountable those who are getting rich off the veritable how-to manuals and films for rapists and child abusers."

Critics of the bill questioned whether there is a link between sexually explicit material and sexual offenses.

"Under this act, I become a censor

charged with the responsibility of weighing the alleged harmfulness of 'sexually explicit' works," said Joyce Meskis, president of the American Booksellers Association. "It doesn't matter that I do not believe that there is a link between these works and sex crimes."

Defenders of the legislation cited research and law-enforcement statistics supporting a link between hard-core pornography and sexual assaults.

Deborah Daniels, United States attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, referred to what she called "uncontradicted findings," such as:

- "Exposure of normal, college-age men to violent, sexually explicit pornography tends to increase those viewers' acceptance of rape myths" (for example, that women

desire to be raped).

- "These same men were found to view a rape victim as significantly more worthless and her injuries as significantly less severe" than did a control group not viewing the pornographic films.

Page Mellish, president of Feminists Fighting Pornography, said such a link was a major finding in the 1986 report by the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, which cited:

- "A North Carolina State Police study that found 75 percent of the state's defendants in violent sexual assault cases had hard-core pornography in their homes or vehicles;

- "The FBI's finding that serial killers' most commonly shared trait was extreme pornography use."

## CLC determines restoration act won't promote abortion rights

By Herb Hollinger  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission will support the Religious Freedom Restoration Act after determining it "should not and need not advance an abortion rights agenda."

Determining whether the proposed legislation would enhance the chances of individuals seeking abortions as a religious free exercise right was the subject of several months of legal analysis, said CLC Executive Director Richard Land.

Following unsuccessful efforts in 1990, RFRA (H.R. 2797) was reintroduced in Congress June 26.

Its purpose, sponsors say, is to provide a remedy to the Supreme Court's decision last year in Oregon Employment Division vs. Smith. The court ruled the government does not have to prove it has a "compelling interest" to restrict religious practice.

RFRA is intended to return the understanding of the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to its status before Smith, when religious freedom was protected unless there was a compelling state interest

that overrode it.

Some pro-life groups have contended RFRA will restore religious freedoms while extending abortion rights. This has created a dilemma for groups which favor religious liberty but stand against abortion.

Southern Baptists are committed to religious liberty and abhor the "Smith" decision, Land said.

"We have concluded that the dangers to religious liberty are clear and present. The solution urgently demands a carefully tailored legislative remedy. Southern Baptists are also committed to the sanctity of human life and abhor the Roe vs. Wade decision," Land said in a letter to Rep. Stephen J. Solarz, a RFRA sponsor.

"We refuse to rank religious liberty as a higher or lower value than the sanctity of human life. Each value is fundamental and non-negotiable."

Debate over the RFRA has been a sore spot between Land and James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The Joint Committee, which until recently was Southern Baptists' sole voice in Washington, had previously announced support for RFRA.

## Annuity assets grew \$1 million a day; \$100 million to be paid out this year

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Assets of the Annuity Board grew by more than \$1 million a day for the first six months of 1991, trustees of the Southern Baptist agency were told during their summer meeting.

For the first time in a single year, the Annuity Board anticipates paying \$100 million in retirement benefits this year, President Paul Powell also said.

Member contributions in the first half of 1991 were strong, said treasurer Harold Richardson. More than \$92.5 million flowed into individual retirement income accounts for approximately 67,000 members, a 4 percent increase in contributions over the first six months of 1990.

Earnings for the first two quarters of this year were \$164.3 million. Richardson reported total assets of \$3.19 billion on June 30, a 9.5 percent increase over the previous year.

Earnings credited to fixed fund accounts continued on target for the estimated 8.8 percent for 1991. The balanced fund earned 6.9 percent (non-annualized) in the first six months, and the variable fund earned 8.8 percent (non-annualized) for the same period. The short-term fund earned 3.01 percent (non-annualized).

Richardson reported \$52.1 million in

retirement benefits paid to more than 21,000 annuitants during the first six months of 1991.

The relief committee considered 48 requests for aid, of which 32 were approved.

Prior to the trustee meeting, the Annuity Board announced it has "limited exposure" to an insurance company that recently experienced heavy losses. The Annuity Board has two guaranteed investment contracts with Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. of New Jersey, which recently was placed in receivership to protect against further losses.

In light of negative publicity, investors in the company withdrew an estimated \$1 million that created a "run on the bank" scenario.

Annuity Board spokesman Thomas Miller said approximately 1.6 percent of the board's fixed fund account is exposed to the Mutual Benefit situation, for a total of \$21.3 million.

"The Mutual Benefit Life problem will have no effect whatsoever on the Annuity Board's ability to meet every benefit check obligation," he said.

"The annuitant fund, from which benefits are paid, has no investment in Mutual Benefit Life."

## Bulgarian visits Kentucky, says pastors need training

Theological training for Bulgarian Baptist pastors and lay leaders is a pressing need, Theodore Angelov, president of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria, said during a July 25 visit to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The communist government's prohibition against formal theological education has left Bulgarian Baptists without trained leadership, he told a gathering of faculty and staff.

Earlier this year, Southern Seminary President Roy Honeycutt taught some of the first formal theological courses offered in Bulgaria in more than 40 years. The seminary has pledged to send additional professors to the country to teach short-term courses.

Angelov also visited the SBC Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., while in the United States. He was elected to lead the Baptist

union in May during its first meeting in more than 40 years. The union now encompasses 1,500 members in 26 congregations.

Angelov voiced appreciation for the first four Southern Baptist representatives now stationed in Bulgaria: Bill and June Wardlaw, Spencer Stith and Lybia Pyon.

Southern Baptists also have provided start-up money for a church construction loan fund for Bulgarian Baptists.

Freedom will not strip Bulgarian Baptists of a faith made strong by decades of persecution, Angelov said. "It's not because our faith has been so great that we survived, but because the Lord has been so great. (The communists) wanted to make an end of the churches. They wanted to make the country as atheistic as Albania. But they didn't succeed."

He recounted how his father, a pastor who was imprisoned for eight years, once was thrown back into his prison cell, barely able to move after incessant interrogations and prolonged food deprivation. "I'm at my end," he muttered. "I can go no further."

The pastor then heard someone ask, "Why are you saying this?" He turned and saw a man—a man he assumed was a communist agent posing as a prisoner. Angelov asked the man to leave him alone,

but the man continued his questions: "Why are you saying that you can go no further? Do you not know that I am your Lord and I am with you and I will be with you?"

When Angelov looked again where the man had been standing, he saw no one.

The pastor was so noticeably invigorated by the encounter that a guard took him to a major who had been interrogating him. Angered by the pastor's newfound energy, the major asked, "Where did you get food? How did you have energy?"

"I have energy from my God," Angelov replied.

Pulling his pistol, the major said, "Where is your God? I'll kill him. Do you not know that I am your God?"

The elder Angelov pointed to his chest and said, "My God is in my heart."

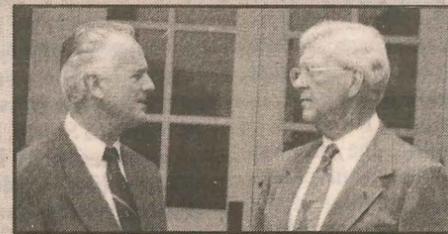
The response so infuriated the major that other officers had to restrain him.

With freedom in Bulgaria, "there is a big interest in the gospel," Angelov said. "Although we are a small union, our churches are full with new people who are searching. We have new believers, among them many young people."

The country's economic crisis also has spurred people to seek God in the face of hardship, Angelov said. "The shops were empty (last winter), so empty as we never have seen them before. People had to stand in long lines whenever there was something to buy."

For Baptists in Bulgaria, as well as Romania and the Soviet Union, the winter crisis was eased by thousands of parcels of rice, flour, sugar, powdered milk and other supplies sent by Baptists in Western Europe. The parcels were distributed once or twice a month to Baptist families and others attending churches, the elderly and orphanages.

The food parcels demonstrated "what it means to belong to a big Baptist family all over the world," Angelov said. In the orphanages, church youths presented special programs as they delivered the packages. "For the first time, the orphans heard that Jesus loves them."



**BULGARIAN VISIT**—Southern Seminary President Roy Honeycutt (right) greets Theodore Angelov, president of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria. (Southern Seminary photo by Tony Aja)

—Reported by Art Toalston of the Foreign Mission Board and Pat Cole of Southern Seminary

# Summer missionaries find fun on the Son team

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

ONEIDA—Nearing the end of their 10-week, 5,000-mile trek across Kentucky, members of the Son Celebration summer missions team said they'd gladly do it all again.

"This may be the happiest 10 weeks of my life," said Jon Lucas, a Northern Kentucky University student from Verona.

"I would give up my summer again," said Stacy Liggett, a Murray State University student from Dixon. "Just making one kid smile makes it all worthwhile."

"I'd like to do this every summer," added Chad Abney, a University of Kentucky student from Mount Vernon.

Lucas, Liggett and Abney are three of the six members of Son Celebration, a touring musical group comprise of students from Kentucky's Baptist campus ministries. Four other Son teams have crisscrossed the state this summer, ministering through sports, creative arts, drama and revivals.

In all, 73 student summer missionaries were appointed through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's student work department. Another 30 were appointed directly by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Kentucky appointees served in Brazil, Australia, Thailand and across the United States.

Son Celebration performed about 30 concerts across the state this summer, in addition to serving as program staff for youth camps at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assemblies.

Being selected for Son Celebration was the fulfillment of long-time dreams for several of this year's team members.

When he was a youth attending summer camp, Abney admired Son team members. "I wanted to give back to these youth some of what I received," he said.

Joy Wallace, a Cumberland College student from Cold Spring, said she had been

encouraged to keep singing by a Son Celebration member one summer. "I wanted the chance to encourage other people," she explained.

Now that the roles are reversed, Wallace said, she realizes she bears a tremendous responsibility. "These kids really do look up to you as role models. I pray for humility."



SON CELEBRATION—Members of Son Celebration are Rob Roy, Chad Abney, Angela Hudgin, Stacy Liggett, Joy Wallace and Jon Lucas. (WR photo by Mark Wingfield)

In addition to humility, Son Celebration members learned other lessons this summer—like how to deal with people and how to trust God for their needs.

"I've learned to have empathy for other people," Wallace said. "You deal with these kids, and they have so many problems. I'm learning to let God love through me."

"This summer I'm realizing a lot of things that I've heard before," said Rob Roy, a Cumberland College student from LaGrange. "It's all becoming real to me."

"I realize God is always there to talk to. I'm trying to put things I've learned into practice."

The students also said they were learning God will supply their needs even when they bypass normal summer jobs for ministry opportunities.

"I was really worried about the money part," said Angela Hudgin, a Murray State University student from Hopkinsville. "There were a lot things I needed to pay for. But I just knew it would work out, and so far it looks pretty good."

Traveling together in a van and spending so much time together has taught other lessons as well. "There are times you rub each other the wrong way, but it all evens out," Roy said.

A good sense of humor has helped. Up until the last week of the tour, male team members were still trying to convince Liggett she needed to change the air in the van's tires.

"We have a lot of fun together," Liggett said, almost convinced the maintenance advice was a prank.

## State CP could record first annual downturn

By Marv Knox  
Editor

Unless it takes in record receipts this month, Kentucky Baptists' unified budget will suffer its first annual downturn since the Great Depression.

The Kentucky Cooperative Program's fiscal year ends Aug. 31. August income must total \$1,827,303—an all-time record for a single month—to reach last year's \$1,718,788 total.

The budget goal—\$17,894,462—seems almost out of sight. Year-to-date receipts totalled \$15,291,485 at the end of July. August receipts would have to exceed \$2.6 million for the Cooperative Program to reach the goal.

The Kentucky Cooperative Program has fallen short of its goal five of the past six

years. But it has not failed to reach the previous year's total in five decades.

The budget woes reflect difficult economic circumstances across the commonwealth, said William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"This has not been a good financial year for many Kentucky Baptist churches," Marshall noted. "Thus, it would be a little ludicrous to assume our state convention budget would not be impacted."

"I'd like to see us at least equal our Cooperative Program gifts of last year. Even that will require a \$1.8 million August. Still, that would leave us \$775,674—4.3 percent—under budget."

Despite the budget difficulties, Marshall expressed appreciation for Kentucky Baptists: "In times like these, how can I be

anything but grateful for what we do receive? We'll manage, and so will those many other ministries which receive allocations from these receipts."

"It just won't be as easy. But maybe that's not all bad."

Churches must be certain to get their August contributions delivered to the Kentucky Baptist Convention on time for them to be counted in the 1990-91 fiscal year, said Barry Allen, director of the KBC business division.

"We will count anything received on the first working day of September (Sept. 3) that was postmarked Aug. 31 or earlier," Allen said.

The Cooperative Program books normally close the last day of the month. But the KBC allows the one-day extension at the close of the fiscal year, Allen noted.

## Brazil missions project impresses KBC president

continued from page 1

whose meals come from dumptrucks.

"The six summer missionaries there are doing a wonderful job," White said.

He offered similar words of praise for Espirito Santo Baptists: "They have a wonderful spirit, and they are loving people. They express their love through many embraces and words of affection. We could learn from them."

Brazilian Baptists are strong as well as affectionate, he added. "They are well organized and have a strong program of ministry in their churches. A lot of them are surpassing us in social ministry."

"In the church I visited the last Sunday night of the trip, the pastor has a commitment to start a new church every two years and to start a new congregation, or preaching point, every year. I was really challenged by that."

"Their philosophy is to grow by starting new churches. They have targeted 40 points where they want to start new churches. The

### Volunteers needed for Brazil projects

- Oct. 3-16 construction/evangelism
  - Oct. 17-30 deacon training seminars
  - Oct. 31-Nov. 13 medical project
  - Nov. 14-27 construction/evangelism
- Contact Calvin Wilkins, P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, Ky. 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101.

people are there; if they find a location for a church, the people will come in droves."

And that's a point where more Kentucky Baptists can plug into the partnership with Espirito Santo Baptists, White said. "A beautiful sanctuary and educational space can be started for \$6,500," he explained. "I'd like to see us concentrate on building new churches. This will take gifts of money and also helping hands—people who will pitch in and do construction. We could

leave a mark on Brazil that would last forever."

Kentuckians also can help Brazilians by providing doctors, dentists and nurses who can hold medical/dental clinics in the churches, he said. "There are too many medical needs for the physicians present to meet," he reported.

White also praised the three Southern Baptist missionary couples working in Espirito Santo—Sarah and Kent Faris, Angie and Don Finley, and Tony and Karen Gray.

"These are attractive missionaries," he said. They are full of life. They have merged beautifully with the culture, and the people of Espirito Santo love them to death. ... I've worked with a lot of the missionaries, and they are the best I've ever seen."

White also praised Wilkins: "Calvin is doing a tremendous job as director of our partnership missions. I was impressed with the affection the people there feel for him. He knows the work and what needs to be done."

## Weather watchers would speed work in disaster relief

By Suzanne Darland  
State Correspondent

HODGENVILLE—Do you keep up with the Weather Channel or listen to the weather band on the radio? Watch the sky for thunderstorms brewing? Have a backyard rain gauge?

Bob Simpkins wants to talk to you. The director of the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood department is assembling a team of weather spotters across the state.

"Our people are out there," he told a group of 80 at the annual disaster relief rally. "It's just a matter of getting them organized."

The statewide network could speed the response of mobile disaster relief units to help with flood, tornado or other emergencies, Simpkins said. For the past seven years, Kentucky Baptists' disaster relief program has provided food and wielded chainsaws to clean up 11 natural disasters—including floods, tornadoes, a hurricane and an ice storm.

About 750 people, 200 of them women, are on the callup list in Simpkins' office. All have been trained in disaster response, and many have received CPR and first aid training. With the weather spotter program, teams could reach sites within six to eight hours, Simpkins said.

Larry Koch, state disaster relief coordinator and pastor of Lowell Avenue Baptist Church in Campbellsville, called this work missions in action that helps him be a "doer of the Word."

"When you're involved in peoples' lives, there's always a unique opportunity to share the gospel," he explained. "They want to know why we're there."

For information on the weather spotting team or disaster relief ministries, contact Simpkins at the Kentucky Baptist Convention building.

# We need the Baptist Center for Ethics

## editorial

Marv Knox

Can our world get any more complicated?

- Doctors, scientists and lawmakers debate the validity of using human fetal tissue in medical experiments.

- Police officers in mainstream America find themselves arresting friends and family members who block abortion clinics. Other police beat the daylight out of motorists.

- Normal human minds strain to imagine the numbers of dollars "lost" by their greedy neighbors (well, these guys really live in much fancier neighborhoods) who ran the savings and loan industry into oblivion.

- Amiable backyard banter turns heated as friends debate U.S. involvement in a war in the desert. Was it a battle for principle or petroleum? Did the troops stop too soon? Should they have "terminated" Saddam?

- Official Washington cools itself with breezes of scandal—the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the 1980 "October Surprise" and Iran-contra.

- Children die for lack of food. Others survive, but malnourishment cripples their bodies and stunts their brains.

- In newsrooms of leading papers, veteran reporters lose their jobs because they plagiarized others' articles.

- Closer to home: a family down the street falls apart because drugs demonize a daughter; a father loses his job when he's caught stealing parts from the shop; a "friendly" co-worker rapes a trusting young woman; the community's leading employer doubles as the county's leading polluter; AIDS kills another bright young man; and a pre-teen boy turns the TV to "Live Sex from Sweden."

The list continues. Just open your newspaper, turn to your church's prayer list or listen to your neighbor. Complex ethical problems, moral failure and a crisis of conscience dog our every step.

That's why Baptists need the new Baptist Center for Ethics. BCE—created this summer by Baptists concerned about the moral issues that plague our world—has been designed to help Baptists think constructively about the ethical decisions they must make as global citizens.

The center has been launched on a fragile budget. Director Robert Parham, a six-year veteran of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission with an earned doctorate in ethics, is the sole employee. But he will be joined by a battalion of volunteers: at least 13 associates, all trained in ethics/public policy issues; 21 members of a board of directors, who will set policy and give primary direction to the center; and an advisory council of pastors, former denominational workers and laypeople, who will help raise funds and provide other support.

Parham and the associates will be the key to the center's success. The associates include five Southern Baptist Convention seminary professors, five professors from other schools and three pastors. Their specialties span the spectrum of ethical issues. They will write and speak on behalf

of the center, providing valuable information and ideas.

The center will create controversy before it issues its first position paper. It has been created by moderate Southern Baptists, and it will seek affiliation with the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Parham and three associates worked for the Christian Life Commission, hired there before the commission came under conservatives' control. Some observers already have said the new center will compete with the CLC.

But arguments about who started the Baptist Center for Ethics and its emerging relationship with the Christian Life Commission are beside the point. The truth is, Christians face too many ethical dilemmas to worry about turf.

Take the CLC's track record for the past year as an example. CLC news stories published in Baptist Press from Aug. 1, 1990, through July 31, 1991, provide an indicator of the agency's focus for the year. The commission produced 65 stories. Forty-nine of them dealt with ethical issues, with the balance distributed between information about commission operations (9) and its new religious liberty assignment (7).

Of the 49 articles that dealt with ethics, 71.42 percent of them addressed just two topics. Homosexuality/obscenity—linked together primarily in stories about the National Endowment for the Arts and television programming—received the most attention. It was the focus of 18 stories, or 36.73 percent of the share. Abortion came in second, with 17 stories, or 34.69 percent of the total.

The other stories were divided between euthanasia (1), the Gulf War (3), AIDS (2), the environment (4), alcohol (1), race relations (1), family (1) and gambling (1).

The numbers don't necessarily add up to a criticism of the commission. CLC Executive Director Richard Land and commission trustees have said repeatedly they believe abortion is the No. 1 issue facing American society. Consequently, they believe it deserves all the attention the commission has given it, and more. They have expressed similar concerns about the nation's moral climate, as judged by National Endowment for the Arts grants, and they believe the homosexuality/obscenity emphasis merits considerable energy.

Unfortunately, we do not live in a two-issue world. Other ethical concerns need thorough treatment. The attention gauged by two articles on AIDS is insufficient; the same goes for race, alcohol, family life and other concerns.

That's why Baptists need more help. The Christian Life Commission, like any institution, has limited resources. Its leaders have set their priorities, and that has determined the agency's focus. Leaders of the Baptist Center for Ethics promise to focus on a broader range of issues: personal morality and integrity, racial reconciliation, substance abuse, family life, health care, medical ethics, the environment.

Baptists must avoid the pitfalls of an ethics turf war. The CLC will focus most of its energies on abortion and obscenity, and the BCE can help all of us deal constructively with a wide range of issues.

## I didn't think about the swing until it crashed

### down home

The porch swing broke.

Fortunately, nobody got hurt, only startled. The girls had crawled up beside me, and we were gliding away, just before the pop-boom. After we picked ourselves up and they quit crying and my heart stopped pounding, we were fine.

Joanna said she heard it coming, but too late. She picked up a "pop" just before the "boom." The girls and I felt what she heard, about the time our bottoms fell two feet and all six legs flew who-knows-where.

Our mini-catastrophe ended in seconds. Our lives weren't changed or anything. But for a few weeks (I'm the world's slowest handyman), if we wanted to eat ice cream, we had to sit still to do it. No swinging and eating.

Actually, the whole swing didn't break. The hook at the top—the hook that holds the chain that holds the swing—snapped. My neighbor Steve said the steel in the hook wasn't strong enough, and he's probably right. We needed stronger-steel hooks, and that's what we got.

In the meantime, I missed that swing. Not as bad as I would miss eating supper, or taking hot showers, or hugging my children. But I missed it, anyway.

Ours is a special swing. My father-in-law, Jim Jarchow, made it by hand, out in his woodshop. It hangs on our back porch as a symbol of love. Like lots of folks who can actually do things, Dad expresses his affection by deed, not word. He gave his baby daughter a big "I love you" when he rolled into our driveway with that swing in the back of his truck.

Almost every porch swing has a story. And when you sit out in a swing, with the ceiling fan spinning and a glass of tea sweating and kids playing in the yard, you sort of slow down time. You can't work while you're swinging, so you have to talk, or read the paper, or think, or even put your brain in neutral and listen to the crickets.

A swing also is a good place to pray, especially for family and friends. You start by thinking about how you wish they could be there, swinging and talking with you. Pretty soon, you're thinking about what you like about them and how you love them. By then, it's just as easy to tell God those thoughts and to ask him to make the people you love feel as happy and secure as you do in that swing. That's not a three-hours-that-changed-the-world prayer, just a quiet visit with God.

Our porch swing broke, and now I'm sort of glad. I didn't realize how much pleasure it brought us until it wasn't out there, waiting for us. But that's the way of life and simple pleasures. Too often, we don't notice them until they're gone.

—Marv Knox

## western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

MARV KNOX, Editor  
MARK WINGFIELD, News Director  
RAY L. HAYES, Business Manager  
C. R. DALEY, Editor Emeritus

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

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

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

Advertising: Rates available upon request (502-244-6470). Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space.

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

# Church shepherds get CEOs' treatment

## analysis

By Bill Wolfe  
Louisville Courier-Journal

Things seemed to be going well at North Eaton Baptist Church in 1985, recalls Frank Kuriger. Membership was nudging upward at the 600-member congregation in Grafton, Ohio, where Kuriger had served for 20 years. The pastor, then 61, loved his church and felt loved in return.

Then the church leaders dropped a bombshell.

"I just went to a deacons' meeting Oct. 6. They said they wanted me to leave," the minister said. No specific complaints were raised against Kuriger, but some members told him they wanted a younger pastor.

Kuriger was stunned. The church agreed to keep him on for one more month, but after that, he would lose the parsonage where he and his wife lived, their \$22,000-a-year income and their health insurance.

He joined the swelling ranks of what religion researchers euphemistically call "involuntarily terminated" pastors—ministers who have been fired or pressured by congregations to leave the pulpit.

Kuriger was relatively lucky. He got help from a program for terminated ministers run by a Louisville church, and he eventually found another job in Hammond, Ind. Many fired ministers have nowhere to turn, and yet experts say such terminations are coming more frequently in virtually all religious bodies—even those where a denominational office or bishop has partial or final say on clergy placement.

Even in churches where a congregation cannot officially fire the pastor, it can work to have him transferred or force him out by withholding contributions, signing petitions and "being generally annoying and disruptive," said Speed Leas, senior consultant with the Alban Institute, a Washington, D.C., organization that mediates church conflicts.

The trend toward firing is especially prominent in autonomous churches, such as the Southern Baptist Convention's 38,000 congregations, each of which has total control over the hiring and firing of its pastors.

A 1988 study by the convention's Sunday School Board found that 116 congregations fired their pastors each month—a 28 percent increase over a similar study in 1984.

The problem is less extensive, but still significant, in other major Protestant churches, Leas said.

Leas' 1980 study of Episcopalians, Presbyterians and the United Church of Christ showed that—not counting ministers dismissed for moral turpitude—1 percent of those churches terminate their pastors each

year. That is less than a third of the Southern Baptist termination rate, but still "something to be concerned about," he said.

Leas, who is updating his research, said, "My impressions are that probably there is more activity (in firings) going on now."

Experts cite assorted reasons for the terminations, including incompetence, power struggles with lay leaders and conflicting goals for the church.

One reason that especially troubles religious leaders is a changing view of the minister's role. The traditional concept of a pastor as a servant of God called to lead and minister to the congregation is giving way to the view of pastor as chief executive officer—employed to achieve profits and church growth.

"If the congregation isn't growing in numbers and dollars and productivity, the model in our country is to fire the CEO," said Guy Futral, director of the minister-

a guaranteed job appointment for each minister. But most other denominations "are woefully lacking" in any security for pastors, Leas said.

Many denominations, including Southern Baptists and Presbyterians, have systems to help the pastor look for a new job, but that's often not an easy task. Even if the minister's firing was no fault of his own, other churches may perceive him as damaged goods.

The problem is acute for older ministers, Smith said, because many churches prefer to hire pastors 35 to 45 years old. Ernest White, director of the Dehoney Center, said half of all fired pastors leave the ministry for secular work.

As they search for new jobs, fired pastors may also be struggling with painful feelings.

"When you come out of a situation like that, you're very angry and bitter," said Bob

Sharp, who lost his job with a Bowling Green, Ohio, Southern Baptist church in the early 1980s. Sharp said his emphasis on bringing in new members angered some long-time members, who did not want to share authority with the newcomers.

Gary Givan, who was fired as pastor of a Breckinridge County Southern

Baptist church in February, said: "You put your life into this. Everything that is a part of you is wrapped up" in a ministry. Givan said he was caught in a power struggle between two church factions and wound up alienating both sides.

Some pastors "are so broken that they really do need some rehabilitation before they're ready to take on another church," said Roy Oswald, a consultant at the Alban Institute.

Givan, who is now pastor at a small church in Hardin County, said he, his wife and their 11-year-old son had counseling for the trauma, and "even now I have a tendency toward feeling like I'm a failure."

Kentucky Baptists began offering an annual three-day conference in 1984 that allowed fired pastors to work through their emotions. The conference proved so popular that it was expanded to twice a year by 1986, Futral said, and now serves up to 32 pastors annually. The Kentucky convention also provides financial assistance to Baptist pastors who have been terminated.

Such programs are few, said Oswald. The Indiana convention, for example, helps with job placement but has no financial aid or conferences for fired clergy.

Oswald and other researchers believe some firings could be avoided if churches took more care in hiring to avoid a "mismatch," or if churches and their pastors sat down with outside mediators.

With such help, "more of the problems could be resolved before they became terminal," White said.

Copyright 1991 by Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Co. Reprinted with permission.

## A roof overhead helps pastors get back on their feet

continued from page 1

"I got to where I was really in bad shape, emotionally," said Sharp, who was 52 at the time and supporting a wife and two children. "We got to the place where we didn't have the money to eat on."

Sharp returned to his hometown of Louisville and spoke to Hancock, who invited him to stay at a church-owned house. "It was just an unbelievable thing," Sharp said.

After 18 months at Highview, Sharp was hired as associate pastor of Palm Avenue

church relations department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

While it may be easier for clergy to lose their jobs, a surplus of ordained ministers in many Protestant churches makes it increasingly difficult for them to find new jobs.

For example, in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) "there's a kind of gridlock," with about 600 positions open and about 2,200 people seeking new positions at any one time, said Joseph O'Neill, principal research scientist at Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J.

There are nearly two ordained ministers for every Southern Baptist congregation in the country, said Norris Smith, a consultant with the Sunday School Board. That makes it easy for churches simply to discard problem pastors, he said.

Some churches, Smith said, continually hire and fire pastors. Larry L. McSwain, provost at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and co-author of a book on church conflicts, calls such churches "killer congregations. The minister becomes a scapegoat for the problems of the church."

Termination can be surprising and swift. In a study by the Dehoney Center for the Study of the Local Church—an arm of Southern Seminary—about 65 percent of the terminated said they had no warning; a third said their severance was immediate.

In many cases, the fired pastor is left in financial and emotional crisis. In Leas' study, most terminated pastors got at least three months' salary, but some got no severance pay. Ministers are ineligible for government unemployment insurance.

The United Methodist Church provides

Baptist Church in Tampa, Fla. He is now pastor of the church, which has about 150 members.

Another Highview success story is Frank Kuriger, who stayed in a church house from November 1985 through December 1986 after he lost his job at a Grafton, Ohio, church.

Hancock's offer of housing was a tremendous relief, Kuriger said. He still had no source of income, but "when I had a roof over my head, I didn't worry about it any-

more."

Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville offered Kuriger a temporary job visiting prospective members. He held that post for about a year, then was named pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Hammond, Ind., which has a congregation of about 1,125. Kuriger, now 67, worked at Hammond until he retired from full-time pastoral work last summer.

Copyright 1991 by Courier-Journal and Louisville Times Co. Reprinted with permission.



## on mission together

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

## A matter of heart

While Baptists will differ on what they believe to be the "neediest" or "most difficult" mission field in America, Kentucky Baptists may be certain that they have chosen recently to be in partnership with one of them!

The state convention of Utah-Idaho, which stretches about twice as long as Kentucky is wide, clearly epitomizes one of Southern Baptists' most challenging fields. A widely scattered and diverse population, couched within the antagonistic heartland of Mormonism, mission workers there need all the help they can get. And I make no secret of the joy and pride (if you will permit) I feel as I become more and more aware of the generous hearts of Kentucky Baptists in this partnership.

Several projects have been designed and scheduled which will involve some of our staff, a number of BSU students, and other specialists. Also several groups of volunteers have gone from select churches and associations.

But the most exciting and promising development of this partnership is in the linking up of several Kentucky Baptist associations with associations in the two-state convention.

These are not one-shot efforts. Rather, they represent a long term commitment of people, resources and prayer support.

In this way, Kentucky associations will have a continuing and very personal hands-on role in home missions. Further, and what may be unique, our overall goal is to link-up every Utah-Idaho association with a Kentucky association.

Remarkably, that is almost a reality already! Calvin Wilkins, partnership coordinator, expects soon to be able to announce that the link-ups are complete.

One of the "tender" realities in this is that one of our smallest associations, Henry County, became the first to formalize a link-up, reflecting the fact that size of association is less a factor than heart. We are grateful to Henry County Association and to Director of Missions Pam Cobb for being "first."

We commend the following associations and directors of missions for their leadership in this significant partnership effort. They are listed below with their Utah-Idaho partner:

- Henry County (Pam Cobb)—Silver Lake, Idaho (James Myers)
- Long Run (Russell Bennett)—Salt Lake, Utah (Ken Chadwick)
- Northern Kentucky (Randy Jones)—Treasure Valley and Whispering Pines, Idaho (Jim Myers and Louis Demster)
- Blood River (Terry Sills)—Eastern Idaho (Earl Jackson)
- Warren (Frank Dorris)—Golden Spike, Utah (Earl Jackson)
- Boones Creek (Mack Presley), Pulas-ki (David Aker), Shelby County (Gene Milby), South District (Bill Willham) are all in negotiating stages with potential partners.

Partnership missions, "Kentucky style," has brought to Kentucky Baptist life a new way of serving God together. And I'm glad.

## It's no myth: FMB appoints single female missionaries

continued from page 1

pends on a person's maturity ... and if they are content with singleness.

"We also give close scrutiny to a couple's marriage and communication to make sure it can withstand the pressures of a new culture. This is probably scrutinized more closely than single identity."

Southern Baptist mission history offers numerous examples of single women who have developed powerful ministries, said Clark Scanlon, director of the FMB's research and planning office.

In addition to Lottie Moon, who worked as a missionary in northern China for nearly 40 years before her death in 1912, Scanlon cited modern-day examples such as Frances Crawford, a medical missionary who has worked in Colombia, Gaza and now Honduras.

"I can still see her in some of the remote villages she had to ride to on horseback," Scanlon said. "I've seen her after a full day's work take out her violin and play concert-quality music for a congregation."

Single females represent 5.8 percent of the Southern Baptist foreign mission force, or 228 of 3,905 missionaries in the latest count. That percentage is slightly lower than the percentage of single female members in Southern Baptist churches, but is higher than the percentage of single women in the home missions force.

### Truth cruel without grace, Oglesby says

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—To have a reconciling ministry, Southern Baptist chaplains were told they must model both grace and truth.

"The truth is impossible to bear without grace," William Oglesby told 215 people attending a seminar for chaplains and their spouses at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Oglesby, professor emeritus of pastoral counseling at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., said telling people the truth about their physical, mental or spiritual condition is heartless unless the truth is accompanied by grace.

On the other hand, he said the message of grace is irrelevant without truth.

Oglesby cited the example of the woman about to be stoned because she was caught in adultery as an instance of Jesus demonstrating both grace and truth.

The first step in the reconciliation process is to "see beyond the problem to the person. Get beyond the obvious to the significant," Oglesby said.

Socially unacceptable behaviors, he said, are usually "the expression of something going on inside." He challenged chaplains to be willing to cross social barriers to become ministers of reconciliation.

Of 5,155 Southern Baptist home missionaries, 221—or 4.3 percent—are single women. In a recent survey of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board found single adult females who have never been married account for 8.8 percent of Southern Baptist church membership.

Once appointed foreign missionaries, single women often find a number of advantages to living overseas without a mate or family, said Cherry Faile, 37, a single missionary who works in public health in Nalerigu, Ghana.

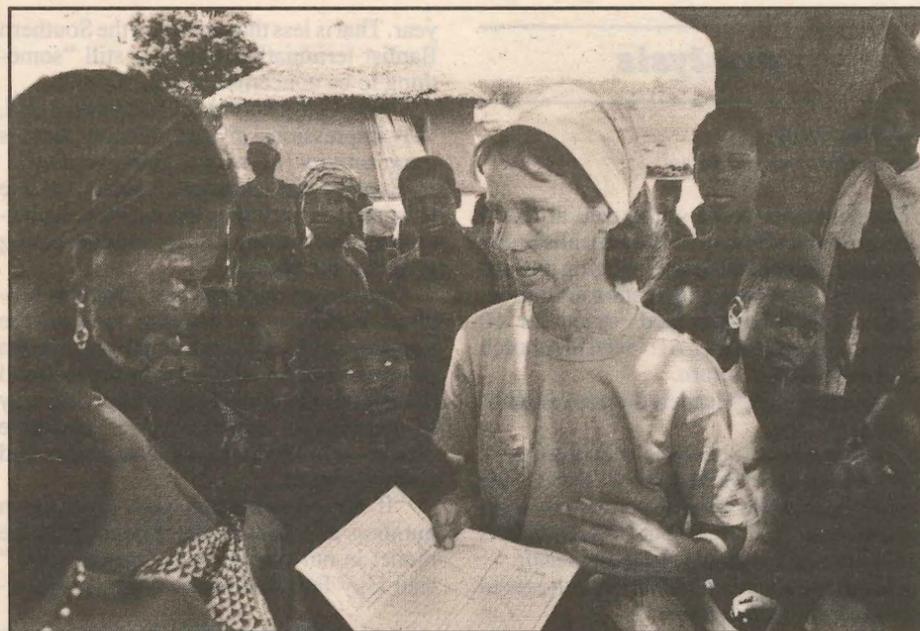
"There are a lot of freedoms I have that a married missionary couple doesn't have," she said. "In just getting to know people, you can do it a lot better if you're single because your time is more your own."

"You don't have that constant pull, that feeling that you should be spending more time with your family. I think the best way to get to know people is to live among them. I haven't lived up to that yet, but I plan to move into a village. I think for a family, this would be a lot more difficult and in some cases impossible, depending on how well your children cope."

Faile and two other health care workers plan to live for about a year in Zandua, a northern Ghana village near Nalerigu, then move to a new village the next year. Faile believes living in Zandua will make it easier to convey her health and evangelistic messages, as well as establish informal relationships with local people so ideas may move freely both ways.

She also has not encountered problems in being a woman taking a leadership role with local Christians.

"I'm leading a class for church leaders," she said. "They're all men. We have some Bible study, but it's based on getting together to talk, strengthening each other and



**SINGLE ADVANTAGE**—Cherry Faile, a single missionary in Nalerigu, Ghana, explains to a Ghanaian mother the medical records of the woman's child. Faile believes being single is an advantage in her work. "You don't have that constant pull, that feeling that you should be spending more time with your family." (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

praying. Some of the problems we talk about are difficult matters for mature Christians, yet I don't see any problems that they're all men."

Although many overseas cultures expect women to be married and not to be leaders, Faile's assignment is not isolated. For example, Southern Baptist mission organizations in Brazil, Hong Kong and Venezuela have openings for qualified females

in general evangelism, single or married.

However, some missionary evangelist positions are not open to women. Each Southern Baptist mission organization overseas sets some requirements for its positions based on its understanding of particular cultural and societal sensitivities. In some countries, missionaries believe local attitudes and customs dictate the gender of a requested missionary.

### LOW COST LEVEL PREMIUM LIFE INSURANCE

Permanent Term Policy  
Examples of Monthly Premiums  
Male, Non-Smoker

AGE	\$50,000	\$100,000
40	\$22	\$37
45	29	52
50	40	74
55	55	104
60	79	152
65	114	221
70	167	327

Premiums and death benefits remain level for the life of the insured. Company rated A+ (Superior). Issue to age 80. Female rates lower.

LIFE INSURANCE SAVERS  
The Term Specialists

1-800-424-TERM

Which of these three are you ...  
A good neighbor, a priest or a Levite?

Plan to attend a

## KBC Brotherhood Leadership Nosey Neighbors Workshop

September 16-27, 1991

7:00 p.m. (local time)

### Date Location

- 16 First Baptist Church, Shelbyville
- 17 Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington
- 19 First Baptist Church, Paintsville
- 20 First Baptist Church, Hazard
- 23 Lebanon Baptist Church, Lebanon
- 24 Eastwood Baptist Church, Eastwood
- 26 First Baptist Church, Central City
- 27 First Baptist Church, Mayfield

For more information contact: Bob Simpkins, KBC Brotherhood Dept., Middletown, Ky., 502-245-4101

You are invited to attend the 200th Anniversary  
of  
**Campbellsville Baptist Church**

420 North Central Avenue  
Campbellsville, Kentucky

Dr. James E. Jones, Pastor

Saturday and Sunday, August 24 and 25, 1991

Special Services: Saturday, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

# Baptists called pew-sitters, not faith-sharers

By Karen Benson  
Woman's Missionary Union

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Southern Baptists have gotten so lax in sharing their faith with non-Christians that daily witnessing is hardly practiced by most church-goers, a lay evangelism leader said.

That concern, along with challenges to get serious about soul-winning, came from seminar leaders Doyle Pennington and Dell Scoper during Woman's Missionary Union week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"We come in on Sundays, sit in our pews and do all we're supposed to do in church. But we cannot connect with what we're supposed to do Monday through Saturday," said Pennington, of the Home Mission Board's lay evangelism department.

"If Sunday became a reporting-in time on what we've done for God during the week, I wonder how that would affect our churches," he said.

"I don't think Southern Baptists fully understand that each is called to witness in his or her marketplace."

Pennington defined marketplace ministry as "the laos—or all the people of God, ordained and unordained—witnessing and ministering in their marketplaces, work places or their dominant spheres of life or involvement.

"It's going to take all Christians exercising their gifts and their calling to win this world for Christ," he said.

Yet, "concern for the lost is not a focal point" among Southern Baptists, said Scoper, an associational WMU director from Laurel, Miss.

Today, it takes an average of 43 Southern Baptists to win one person to Christ, she said.

"God has planted you and me exactly where we are for a reason—and that reason is to share Christ," Scoper said.

Just as a gardener wears a hat, Christians should "make sure we are covered with

God's grace," she said.

"We need to be willing to get our hands dirty," she added, holding up gardener's gloves.

A trowel symbolizes "being willing to dig into circumstances and cut away some time," she said.

A watering can illustrates that Christians need to "give the seed just the right amount of water it needs," without "drowning" non-Christians with too much too soon, she said.

Christians must identify the reasons they're not witnessing, Scoper said, suggesting fear, uncomfortableness and idolatry as reasons.

"We are idolaters, right down to the wire," she admonished. "We put families, husband, wife, children—even our church and our denomination—before God."

Personal witnessing is simply "sharing Christ with another person and giving that person a chance to confess Christ," Scoper said.

# Secretaries gather for training, voting

By Beth Wyatt  
State Correspondent

WILLIAMSBURG—Forty-five Kentucky Baptist secretaries met at Cumberland College for their fifth annual retreat July 25-27.

Sarah Farmer of the Baptist Sunday School Board and retired Kentucky Baptist Convention staffer Bill Rogers taught two modules for secretaries working on certification.

"Many secretaries cannot afford the time or money to be away from their offices for an entire week," Farmer explained. "Kentucky, along with other states, has begun offering the modules during their annual retreat, thus enabling many secretaries to be certified that previously could not have achieved this goal."

During the retreat, the Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association approved a scholarship fund.

Scholarships will assist students enrolled in church secretary degree programs or students with a parent employed in a clerical or office support staff position with a church, institution, agency or organization. The student is to be enrolled at Campbellsville, Clear Creek, Cumberland or Georgetown College.

New officers installed are Luci Parr of Morehead, president; Savonnia Taylor of Louisville, president-elect; Carolyn Grace of Hopkinsville, recording secretary; Vickie Edwards of Flatwoods, membership secretary; Jean Bowden of Versailles, treasurer; Grace Bristow of Owensboro, newsletter editor; and Pam Lyon of Hopkinsville, historian.

Regional representatives are Kathleen Quakenbush of Benton, Southwest; Angelea Bryant of Jamestown, Southeast and South Central; Rhetta Thompson of Owensboro, Western; Carol Taylor of Louisville, Central; Cathy Crossfield of Versailles, North Central; and Becky Dodson of Morehead, Northeastern.

# TOWN AND COUNTRY EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

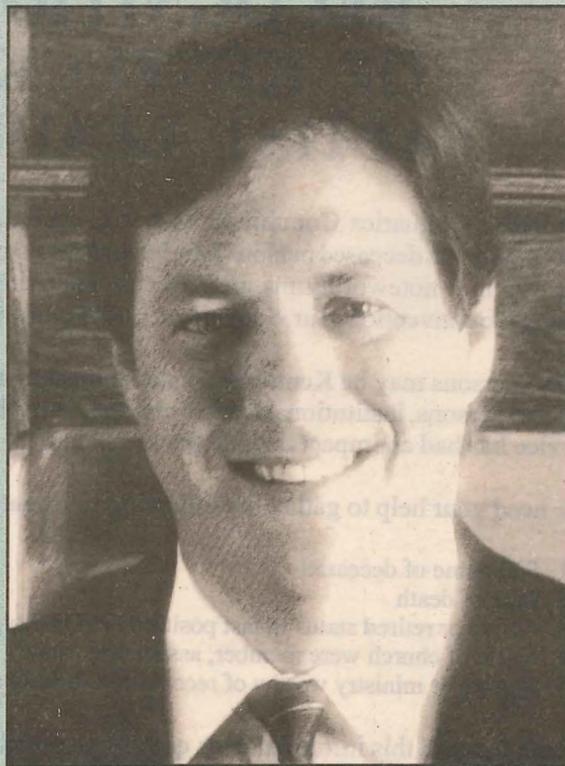
(Primarily for Churches with Smaller Memberships)

Stithon Baptist Church, Radcliff, Ky.

Sept. 26, 7 p.m., through noon, Sept. 28, 1991



Jack Stanton, Preacher



Squire Parsons, Vocalist

Also

## Conferences on the "Nuts & Bolts" of How Churches Reach People

- "Building Witnessing Relationships" ..... Jack Smith
- "How to Prepare Evangelistic Sermons" ..... Jay Brown
- "Lifestyle Evangelism" ..... Mary Lou Crutcher
- "One-Day Witnessing Workshop" ..... Ron Barker
- "Prospect Discovery" ..... Ken Carter
- "Worship and Special Events in Reaching People" ..... Jim Gennoe

Sponsored by the Office for Evangelism, KBC and the Evangelism Section, HMB

## Clarification

A headline in the Aug. 6 Western Recorder caused confusion among some readers. "Gilyard ousted by scandal; Patterson didn't act" introduced a story on Texas pastor Darrell Gilyard, who lost his church amid charges of sexual misconduct.

Some readers thought the Recorder implied that Gilyard's mentor, Paige Patterson, never acted upon Gilyard's misdeeds. The story said Patterson did indeed confront the young pastor July 9, after declining to act on some complaints.

**Visible Proof That You Did It Right** FREE CATALOG

Fiberglass baptistries, spires, crosses and lighting by the industry's leader

**Wiedemann Industries, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 677, Muscatine, IA 52761-0677  
Call 800-553-9664 toll free Iowa call 319-263-6642 collect



**Steeple & Baptistries**

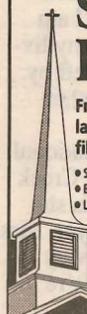
From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

Call or write for our free catalog

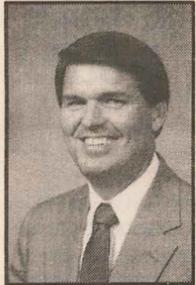
- Steeples
- Baptistries
- Lighted Wall Crosses
- Krinkglas® Windows
- Baptistry Heaters

1-800-527-1459  
P.O. Box 1340  
Henderson, TX 75653-1340

**FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED**



# mountains to the mississippi



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

## clear creek chronicle

### Going like Abraham

Call her Mrs. B., Mom, or Aunt B., and Mrs. Clara Barnett will answer. Since March, 1986, Mrs. Barnett had been supervisor of Kelly Hall, where infinite numbers of campus activities take place. She provided personal attention to students, faculty and staff who dine there, and greeted many visitors to the campus.

When Mrs. Barnett came to the position she succeeded her son, Jayson, student manager of Kelly Hall, who was about to graduate. Jay soon left for Southern Seminary and moved into the Louisville home his mother had recently vacated. Jay is married to Vicky Sullivan, a 1983 graduate and daughter of the Seibert Sullivans, 1976 graduates.

Mrs. Barnett, whose husband Ted died in 1980, quickly endeared herself to the campus and community who often sought her for advice. She prayed daily for students, their families and for countless others who brought prayer concerns to her. Mrs. B. soon became a familiar name at Clear Creek.

In December 1990 Mrs. Barnett was returning from Louisiana where she had gone to visit her son Jeff. He was transferred from Lakenheath, England, to England Air Force Base at Alexandria, La. "I thought it interesting he now lived near Pineville, La., and I live in Pineville, Ky.," Mrs. Barnett noted.

"On my way home," she continued, "I was listening to a taped sermon by someone I had never heard before. As a result of the message, God confirmed a call to become a full-time intercessor."

Mrs. Barnett felt so strongly God wanted her in a ministry of "closet intercessory prayer" that she asked him for guidance. She felt she must devote time to prayer and decided to return to her Louisville home. Interestingly, Jay, her son, had vacated the home to return to Clear Creek as director of admissions.

"This is an act of faith," she admitted. "I feel like Abraham going with God." Mrs. B. will spend mornings in Bible study and prayer. She will continue to pray for Clear Creek, family, friends and other ministries. "It will take faith, and I am trusting God for support. Half of my living needs comes from a pension left by my husband; I trust God for the other half."

On Aug. 5 and 6 during the National Alumni Conference, many Clear Creek alumni said farewell to Mrs. B. as she embarked on her ministry of prayer. Mrs. Barnett now resides at 6809 Norway Drive, Louisville, Ky. 40214. We're grateful she is praying for us.

*G. Maynard Head*  
Vice-President for Development

### Chafin to retire from Walnut Street

LOUISVILLE—Kenneth L. Chafin, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, will retire on his 65th birthday, Nov. 18.

Chafin has been pastor of the 6,400-member congregation since April 1988.

Chafin taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville twice: as the Billy Graham professor of evangelism, 1965-69; and as the Carl Bates professor of Christian preaching, 1984-88.

He was a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1957-65; evangelism director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, 1969-72; and pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, 1972-84. He had student pastorates in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

He is a trustee of Baptist Hospitals in Kentucky and has been trustee chairman for Southwestern Seminary and a trustee of

Houston Baptist University.

He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary and the University of New Mexico.

Chafin, who had heart bypass surgery in 1989, said health is not a factor in his retirement decision: "I'm feeling great, but there are things I want to do. The energy that being in better health has brought me has renewed a sense of stewardship of the things I've learned in 45 years of preaching and teaching."

Chafin, who has written four books, said he wants to focus on writing, both for adults and children.

He is married to the former Barbara Ann Burke, and they have three grown children.

Chafin said he and his wife will remain in Louisville and will maintain their membership at Walnut Street.

### In other news from mountains to the mississippi:

**PERSONNEL:** Pastors—**Bob Milburn**, director of the Baptist Youth Ranch, Elizabethtown, to First, Lewisport. ... **Chris Clark** from Wingo, Wingo, to Spring Hill, Clinton. ... **Carson Bevil** resigned Walnut Street, Owensboro.

Interim Pastors—**Paul Lee**, director of Kentucky Baptist Convention's media department, Louisville, to Central, Maysville. ... **Roy Machen** to Flemingsburg, Flem-

ingsburg.

Others—**Linda Judge-McRae** from campus minister at Lexington Community College, Lexington, to Calvary, Lexington, as minister to students. ... **Jeff Calvalcante** from interim minister to youth at Clifton, Louisville, to minister to youth, Clifton. ... **Gil Ronstadt** to Carlisle, Carlisle, as youth minister. ... **Michael Tobias** to Bethany, Louisville, as youth minister. ... **Rodney Norvell** from First, Corbin, as director of activities and youth, to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, as a student.

**ORDINATIONS:** Deacons—**Doug Grant** and **Steve Parke** of Waco, Waco. ... **Kenneth Dobson**, **Greg Ramage**, **Randall Ramage** and **Allen Smith** by Oak Grove, Paducah. ... **Mira Ball**, **Steve Davis**, **Barbara Hull**, **Alice Lynn Kerr**, **Tim Winchester** and **Jim Wombles** by Calvary, Lexington. ... **Kenneth Sexton** by Sorgho, Owensboro.

Ministry—**Loyde Jolly** by Sorgho, Owensboro. ... **Rodney Norvell** by First, Corbin. ... **Bill Dickens** by Ashland Avenue, Covington.

**CELEBRATION:** **Hughlan P. Richey** will observe 50 years in ministry Sunday, Aug. 25. A reception will be held 2:30-4:30 p.m. at First, Madisonville.

**CONGREGATIONS:** **Bethel**, Pine Knot, held vacation Bible school in June, resulting in four professions of faith in Christ. The church has baptized five people since March. ... **First**, Prospect, will host concerts by **Jimmy Smith**, Saturday, Aug. 17, at 3 p.m.; and **Walnut Street Baptist Church's** Anchor Choir, Sunday, Aug. 18, at 7 p.m.

**Homecomings**—**Caskey**, Hopkinsville, Aug. 18. ... **Pleasant Grove**, Manchester, Aug. 25. ... **Weaver**, London, Aug. 25. ... **Gethsemane**, Louisville, Sept. 8.

### —classified ads—

**FOR SALE:** 16" *NEC Monograph* desktop publishing monitor (1024x1024) with drivers for *PageMaker (Windows)*, *Ventura Publisher* and other programs. \$995—includes adapter. 502-244-1685. 8-6-3T

**NEEDED:** Christian service organization located in the Appalachian region of north eastern Kentucky needs spiritual person to serve as director of charitable distribution center. Our agency serves people in a three-county area for physical, spiritual and social needs. Grant writing and PR skills needed. Salary and benefits negotiable. Send resume and salary requirements by Sept. 1, 1991, to: 504 Skaggs Road, Morehead, KY 40352. 7-16-5T

**FOR SALE:** 1976 25-passenger bus; color white; asking \$3,000. Kevil Baptist Church, 502-462-3122. 8-6-4T

**CALL:** Willie Mack Green, please contact your mother through First Baptist Church, 201 St. Clair Street, Frankfort, Ky. 502-227-4528. 8-6-2T

**FULL-TIME POSITION:** Director of Daycare. Previous experience in Christian daycare a must. Danny Creech, 502-778-3016. 8-13-3T

**WANTED:** Church organist/accompanist. Attention: Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, 15001 Old Taylorsville Rd., Fishersville, KY 40023. 8-13-4T

**NEEDED:** Minister of Youth and Recreation; experience preferred. Send resume to: Rosemont Baptist Church, 556 Rosemont Garden, Lexington, KY 40503, Attn: Chairperson, Personnel Committee. 8-13-2T

**WHY PAY MORE  
FOR LIFE INSURANCE?**  
VERY LOW NON-SMOKER MONTHLY COST!

Age	Amount	Male	Female
35	\$100,000	\$10.30	\$ 9.30
45	\$100,000	\$13.30	\$13.30
55	\$100,000	\$25.30	\$16.30

**PLEASE CALL ROY NAPIER TOLL FREE**  
1-800-274-0776 9 a.m.-9 p.m. KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Kentucky Central Life, Lexington, Ky. Newlife graded premium life insurance from No. 76232. Above premiums are first year only. Premiums increase annually to age 85 and then remain level.

Call Today Christian Retreat Center  
RR 1, Box 145-A  
Bedford, KY 40006  
(502) 255-7676  
Call Today

**The Plantings**

## RECOGNITION OF KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

The KBC Obituaries Committee wishes to include in its 1991 report information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 1990, through August 31, 1991.

These persons may be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has had an impact beyond the local church.

We need your help to gather the following information:

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of death
3. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
4. Name of church were member, association, state
5. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information as quickly as possible to:

H. Dudley Moseley, Committee Chairperson  
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church  
Rt. 2  
Hodgenville, KY 42748

These obituary entries will be reported to the 1991 KBC annual meeting in Lexington. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

We are grateful to you.

H. Dudley Moseley, Chairman, 1990-91 Committee on Obituaries



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

## sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR AUGUST 18, 1991

Life and Work Series

### Motives for service

No other narrative of equal length contains a greater wealth of human interest and moral instruction than the one recorded in II Kings 5. Benhadad reigned in Damascus. This fierce enemy of the Israelites was a proud and remorseless tyrant. He trusted in his wealth, in his military and in his idols. Yet none of his possessions were

more precious than his faithful friend and commander-in-chief of his army, Naaman.

**II Kings 5:8.** The king of Israel had received a letter from the king of Syria asking him to cure Naaman of leprosy. When the king read the letter, he rent his clothes, because he knew that he did not have the power to accomplish such a task.

Elisha heard that the king rent his clothes and sent word saying, "Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? Let him come now to me, and he shall know there is a prophet in Israel."

**II Kings 5:15-16.** After Naaman received cleansing at the Jordan River, he returned to Elisha to show his gratitude. Now humble, Naaman left his state behind him and said, "Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant."

Naaman offered Elisha a present, but he refused. Elisha told him that God alone did the miracle and God alone should receive all of the glory.

**II Kings 5:20-22.** Gehazi, Elisha's servant, could not believe that his master did not take the gift. Gehazi headed after the Syrian. Naaman greeted him with shalom, which is peace. Gehazi said that Elisha had sent him to get one talent of silver and two changes of garments.

**II Kings 5:25-26.** When Gehazi returned, he went to see Elisha. Elisha asked him where he had gone, but Gehazi said he had been "no whither."

The prophet said that his spirit had gone with Gehazi and he knew what he had done. He told Gehazi that the leprosy of Naaman would come upon him and his seed.

### International Series

#### Vowing to keep God's law

The previous passage presented the account of a "firm covenant" in which the people of Judah pledged to obey certain ordinances relating to marriage, the sabbath and the temple offerings.

This passage describes the conclusion of Ezra's revival. However, Ezra's name is missing from the narrative. Nehemiah's name, on the other hand, is present. This suggests that the passage relates to his mission instead of Ezra's.

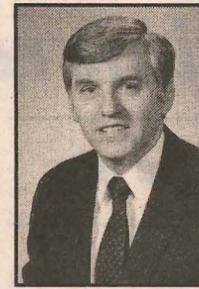
**Neh. 10:28-31.** The community joined in making vows to live by God's law. The leaders signed the document and "the rest of the people" accepted the vows as their own. They not only agreed to live by the law, but also to accept the penalties if they broke their vows.

The vows included:

1. Not to arrange any more marriages between "the people of the land" and the Judeans.
2. Not to buy wares on the sabbath from non-Jews. This vow also included a "holy day" when business transactions would be prohibited.

**Neh. 10:35-37.** The final part of the covenant included vows for the support of the temple:

1. The people agreed to pay a "third part of a shekel" annually.
2. Firewood for the great altar of sacrifice was needed, since the fire was supposed to burn perpetually.
3. The final pledge in the covenant was "to bring to the Levites the tithes of our ground."



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

## homes for children

### Serving Kentucky

One of the goals of our ministry is to serve the entire state of Kentucky. Our long term programs at Glen Dale, Spring Meadows and the Youth Ranch are all centrally located in the state. One would expect that at least on the far corners of the state we would serve fewer children.

Thanks to a new computer system, it is now quite easy to determine the answer to a number of questions including where do the children we serve come from. We found that in the past two years we have served more than 400 children. They come from 70 of Kentucky's 120 counties.

The largest number of children, 59, came from Jefferson County which is our home base. However we cared for children from all over the state. From the Jackson Purchase area in far western Kentucky, we had children from McCracken, Hickman, Graves and Calloway counties.

From the far eastern counties, we cared for 20 children from Boyd County, two from Greenup and two from Pike. From northern Kentucky, we served a total of 15 children from the counties of Boone, Campbell, Kenton and Grant.

Since our programs are located in the northern part of the state, we did have fewer counties in the southern part of the state. We had 12 children from Christian County to the west and a total of 11 youth from Whitley and Laurel counties to the east.

We had several counties where we served only one or two children. Some of the counties where we had larger totals include Fayette with 21, Daviess with 18, Warren with 14 and Hopkins with 13.

I was pleased to learn that our services reached as far as they did. I am sure that having outreach offices and emergency shelters out in the state accounts for many of the children who come to us.

It is my dream that we will be able to reach the entire state with our services. I believe that is going to involve the development of additional services so that we can serve children and their families near their own homes. Our staff and board will be exploring some new program options in the coming year which will help us do just that.



Barkley Moore  
President  
Oneida Baptist Institute  
Oneida, KY 40972

## oneida journal

### Giving of self

I was invited to be on NBC's Today Show in 1971 on the 10th anniversary of the Peace Corps. During that first decade I had served over six years as a Peace Corps volunteer, all in one location and longer than any other volunteer had served. Most served no more than two years. On that memorable day I was interviewed by Barbara Walters and Edwin Newman.

That was brought to mind five years ago when I was invited to speak on the 25th anniversary at the graveside of John F. Kennedy. I was so busy with my Oneida duties that I declined to go. They asked permission to share one of my experiences on that occasion. Of course, I was honored to have them do so.

The 30th anniversary of the Peace Corps was celebrated the first week of

August. Again I was unable to go because of too much to be done at Oneida. But I did get to see a news clip showing my former fellow volunteers marching from the Lincoln Memorial to Kennedy's grave. It all brought back a multitude of memories. That part of my life seems like only yesterday and a hundred years ago.

Living to serve others, whether full-time or part-time, is a wonderful way to live. I believe "volunteerism" is on the rise in the U.S. This greatly encourages me. That is a bright omen in the midst of much that is depressing in national trends.

We have many full-time volunteers who minister greatly at Oneida without salary or a very small stipend at most. Then we have others who come to serve regularly for short periods of time, several days or a week each month. Many others come for at least one week yearly.

One of the amazing things about these people who serve full-time or part-time as volunteers, getting no pay from us, is that many of them are among our most generous financial donors. Two years ago we had a special concert in honor of the full-time volunteers then serving at Oneida. Collectively that group had donated over \$70,000 in cash during the previous five years besides their full-time labor in our ministry to girls and boys.

Then I think of people like Bessie Lee Hacker. Bessie graduated from Oneida 51 years ago. She is a retired registered nurse anesthetist. She is a former president of her statewide association. She is a very competent and totally dedicated person. Her four high school years were lived in Oneida's girls dorm, and she worked every summer on campus while a student. She helped work with the garden products being preserved for winter use, cleaning, all the various things there were to do.

Bessie was on full scholarship-work-

ship. She says had it not been for Oneida she could never have gotten a high school education and gone on to her nursing career. She is one that has never forgotten. She has been a wonderful supporter of Oneida all of her adult life and has donated many thousands of dollars, as she continues to do in retirement. She has missed few alumni homecomings over the years, and has been back for many other special occasions or just to visit. Like thousands of other Oneidians, she thinks of it as coming "home." This summer she worked two weeks as a volunteer tutor in our Special Help program and was delighted with her experience as we were with her competent effort. She does much volunteer work in her home community.

Then there is Edna Bratton. Edna, herself a product of a mountain boarding school no longer operating, transferred her affections to Oneida years ago. Her two sons graduated from here. She worked five years as a volunteer teacher, receiving not a dollar of salary. During those years she was witness to the heroic efforts of our then volunteer gardener, David Spears Cooper. Cooper labored with pick, shovel and hoe for nine years between his 64th wedding anniversary day until he was 89 years old. The many flower beds Cooper dug and tended so lovingly are still places of beauty about our campus.

That is so because Edna, without saying a word to me or anyone, simply started coming several days every few weeks from her Lexington home to tend the flower beds out of respect for Cooper's memory and her love for Oneida's work. She is paid nothing. She pays for her gasoline for the 220-mile round-trip. As I write this, I realized for the first time that she is also paying for the bulbs and seeds for the beds. Besides her labor, she and her husband have made gifts totalling thousands of dollars.

# Objection raised to Salt Lake City as meeting site

## around the sbc

Utah Missions Inc., a ministry directed at Mormonism and recently incorporated into the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has called for the Southern Baptist Convention to rescind its decision to meet in Salt Lake City in 1998. Robert McKay, associate editor of *The Evangel*, a monthly publication of Utah Missions Inc., wrote, "There is no need to expose thousands of Southern Baptists to possible deception." Proportionately, very few Southern Baptists know enough about the LDS church to deal with an average Mormon, he said.

SBC officials quickly countered the criticism. "In choosing Salt Lake City, we show that we're serious about the bold in Bold Mission Thrust," said Mark Copenhaver, public relations vice president for the SBC Executive Committee.

### In other news around the SBC:

■ **Smith resigns Florida church.** Saying "a broken engagement is better than a bad marriage," Bailey Smith resigned from North Jacksonville Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., just three days before he was to assume the pastorate. Smith, an Atlanta-based evangelist and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will return to full-time evangelism, his vocation since 1985. In a letter to the church, Smith cited four reasons for the change of heart:

his health, his lack of "peace" about the decision, a "rediscovered" call to evangelism, and the Bible's confirmation of the role of the evangelist.

■ **WMU will enable women.** Woman's Missionary Union's goal is "to enable girls and women to realize that God calls them for very special services, that they have worth and value and, as the Scripture says, there's no difference between male and female," WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said in response to a question during the Jericho missions conference at Glorieta, N.M. "Their accountability to God is the same as that of men. We're going to continue to train little girls to listen to God's voice, to his call. We're going to keep pushing for opportunities for women to live out that call.

Speaking to such issues is difficult because "our denomination is so diverse," O'Brien remarked. "We have churches in our convention where women cannot even vote in business meetings, and we have churches with women pastors and everything in between. So to say anything related to women is to offend somebody."

■ **Nominations sought.** Nominations are being solicited for veteran Sunday school teachers to be featured in a Bible Teacher Wall of Fame during the 1992 National Convocation on the Bible in Nashville.

Nominees must have 25 years of experience, must witness, reach people for Sunday school, minister to others, participate regularly in worship and support the use of Southern Baptist literature. Recommenda-

tions should include a one-page letter signed by the pastor, minister of education or Sunday school director and including the nominee's address and phone number. Churches also must provide a 5-by-7 inch photo of the person.

Recommendations must be postmarked no later than Feb. 14, 1992, and mailed to the Baptist Sunday School Board, Recognition of Experienced Teachers, MSN 173A, 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234. (ABP, BP)



**HMB TRUSTEE**—Gary Southard (right), associate pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, greets Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis during Southard's first meeting as one of the agency's trustees. He was elected by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in June. (HMB photo)

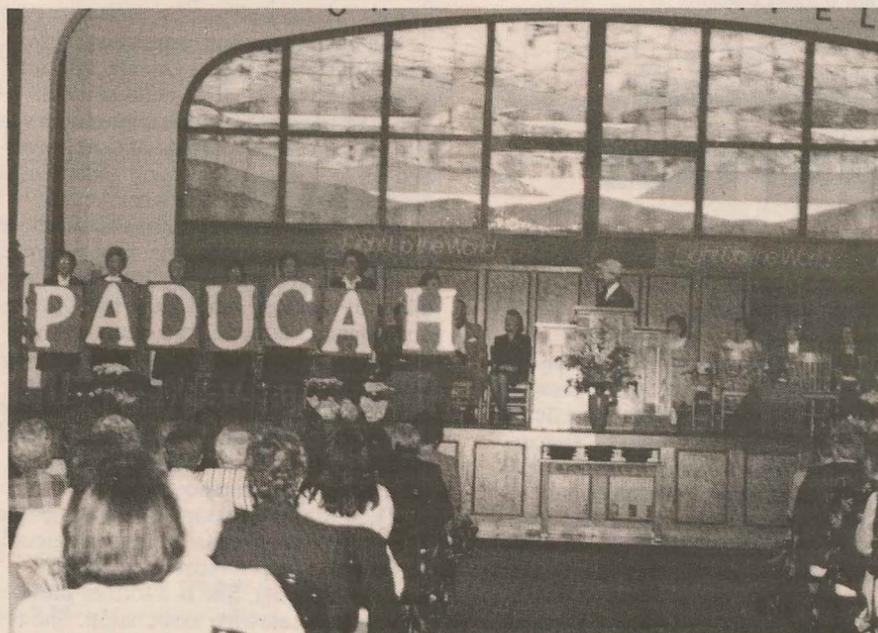
## PADUCAH FIRST BAPTIST REACHES ACROSS KENTUCKY



Dr. J. Robert White, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Paducah, and President of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, welcomed over 2,000 participants to the annual Kentucky Baptist Women's Missionary Union Meeting held on the Cumberland College campus this spring. White and members of his congregation invited those present to attend the 1992 gathering.

Later this summer a group of volunteers from the church returned to the campus to assist in the Cumberland College Mountain Outreach program. This program has been named President George Bush's 220th Point of Light.

"This is a tremendous Christian Outreach to glorify Christ. It's our Brotherhood project and I think we should have more things like this," stated Charlie Joyner of First Baptist Church, Paducah, as he discussed the work of the group of church volunteers who helped construct a home for a family in Southeastern Kentucky.



A group of workers from First Baptist Church, Paducah, spent many long, hot hours this summer constructing a house for a family in Southeastern Kentucky as a part of Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach program.

# Korean woman helped more than 40,000 in Seoul

By Jamie Mathews  
Foreign Mission Board

SEOUL, South Korea (BP)—Pang Ho Sun doesn't give up. Ever.

That, and faith in God, have helped the 76-year-old Korean Baptist woman overcome personal tragedy, indifference, age and a culture where few women become leaders to make her dream of helping the needy a reality.

Her latest victory came in April. After fighting her way through years of bureaucratic red tape, Pang dedicated the new facilities of her River of Grace Foundation, built with Southern Baptist aid.

Through the foundation, Pang has given her later life to helping more than 40,000 young women escape the perils that can befall them in the metropolis of Seoul. Many Korean women leave the countryside for Seoul to earn money to send back to their families. Other women come to Seoul when they are pregnant and unwed, have run away from home or been forced to leave, or have nowhere else to go in hopes of finding work and a new life.

In cooperation with the Korean government, Pang has counseling booths set up at all railroad stations in Seoul to help women as they arrive in the city. Otherwise many will be approached by pimps who offer them a job, food and a place to stay. Before they realize it, they have fallen into the trap of prostitution.

Southern Baptists became involved with Pang at the request of missionaries in Seoul. Her programs for helping young women were beginning to expand beyond the run-down former factory building where they were housed. Southern Baptists have contributed \$215,000 to the River of Grace Foundation.

The foundation focuses on moving young Korean women to self-sufficiency and helping them feel positive about themselves as well as providing them with food, clothing and shelter. Programs include a day nursery for children of the women as well as com-

munity kids, a temporary shelter, aid for unmarried mothers and vocational training. The foundation hopes to begin computer and cosmetology classes as soon as funds become available. It already operates home fashion and sewing classes.

John Cheyne, who directs human needs ministries for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has worked with Pang for several years. Cheyne calls her "amazing."

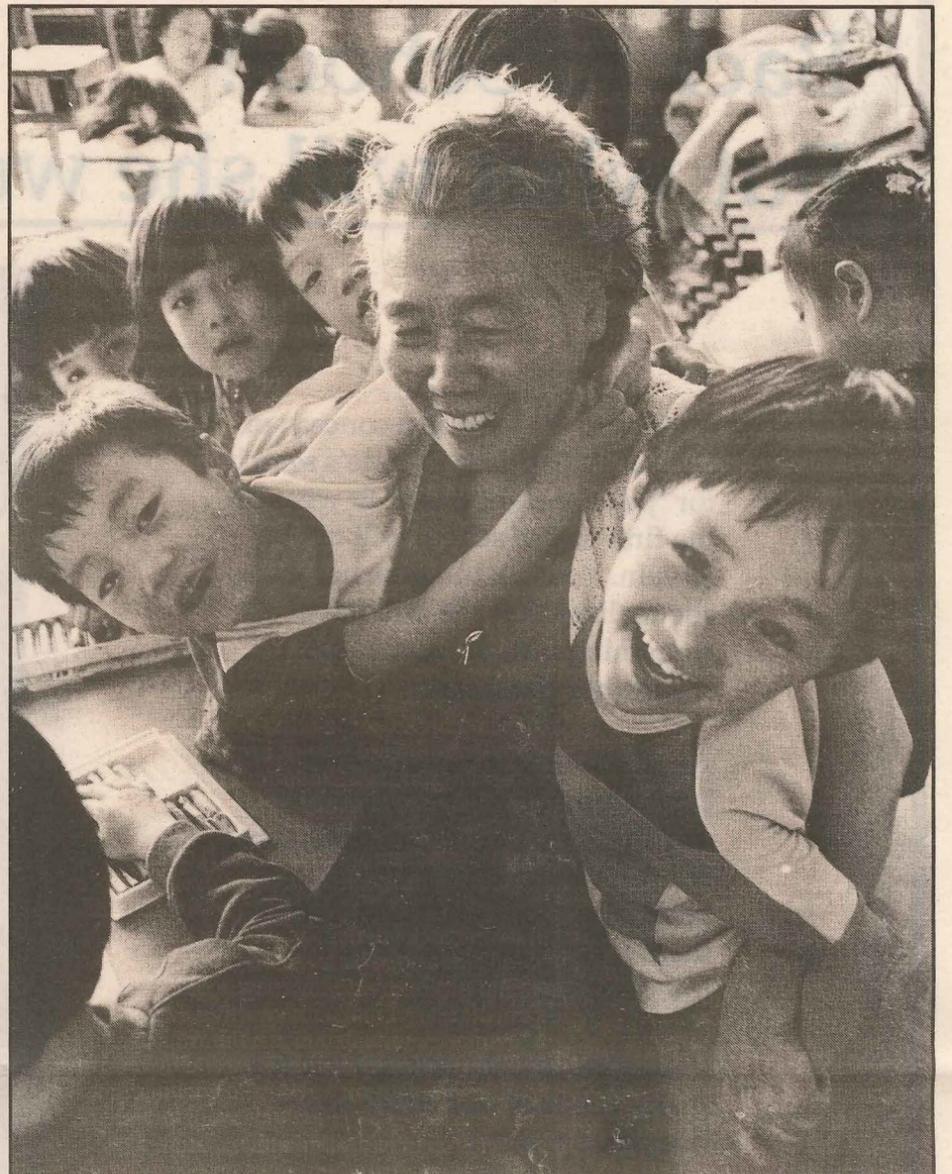
"Major miracles" occurred during the foundation's move to new quarters "when (the situation) looked like it was hopeless," he added.

It's a miracle the foundation exists at all. Pang single-handedly developed the ministry in South Korea, a society where women are not considered equal to men. Before that she organized the government's welfare department during a public service career that began when she aided Korean War refugees. She also helped start the Korean Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The unexpected death of her second son, whom she had "dedicated" to the Lord, drove Pang to despair. But her inner pain led her to a deeper faith. "I asked God, 'Why did you take him away from me?'" she recalled. In response, "I heard the question, 'How could you give your son to the Lord when you will not give yourself to him?'"

Her vision for helping needy women followed, and she pursued it despite the apathy of many around her, including Korean Christians. Cheyne believes her government background also helped in her recent struggle to relocate the center.

Although her building plans were acceptable for zoning restrictions, problems occurred with the scheduling of presentations, correctness of budgets, forms and other paper work. After going "back and forth, back and forth," said Cheyne, the battle was over and Pang had won. Between funds supplied from the Foreign Mission Board and money from sale of the old building, construction of the new facility was completed in the spring.



**TOUGH LOVE**—Pang Ho Sun (center) loves kids, like these in the day nursery at her River of Grace Foundation in Seoul, South Korea. The 76-year-old Korean woman is the founder of both the nation's welfare system and the Korean Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

## Buddhist priest becomes Baptist Sunday school teacher

By Deborah Aronson-Griffin  
N.C. Baptist Children's Homes

GREENSBORO, N.C.—In May 1986, a tiny boat filled with refugees slipped from the coast of Vietnam enroute to the Philippines. Aboard was Chot Van Mai, Buddhist priest for 36 years. In his search for a better life, Mai didn't realize this journey was part of a plan of a God he did not yet know.

In Vietnam, Mai was leader of four temples, each having a membership of more than 2,000. As he petitioned his god, it seemed his everyday needs were satisfied, but when tragedy struck, Buddha did not answer no matter how earnestly Mai prayed.

It was in America Mai heard about a living God who could answer his prayers. Eventually, this priest became a Baptist Sunday school teacher.

In 1987, Mai and his wife left the refugee camp in the Philippines to live in America. Buddhist Vietnamese in Greensboro, N.C., sponsored Mai to live there and start a Buddhist temple. But he came in contact with Hoa Duc Vo, pastor of the Vietnamese Baptist congregation in Greensboro.

Soon after the Mais' arrival, Vo, also a Vietnam refugee, came to see them. Hearing about the Buddhist priest who had moved to town, Vo worried Mai had come to Greensboro with intentions of starting a temple. He decided to intercept Mai and tell him about the gospel.

Vo had brought his family to the United States 16 years ago and has been pastor of the Greensboro congregation for four years.

Vo explained to Mai about the peace he could obtain through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Even though a priest, Mai was a very unhappy man. He had searched his whole life for a sense of peace, constantly living in fear and worry.

Because of Vo's frequent visits, Mai began to read the Bible—as well as he could—for he was nearly blind. Seeing mostly blurs, Mai had to reach out and feel his way around.

Mai talked with Vo about his concerns

about the after-life. The Buddhist priest was disturbed because in the Buddhist religion, life-after-death is so uncertain. Vo assured him when a person accepts Christ as his Savior, he will live forever with the Heavenly Father.

Mai also asked Vo to pray for his eyesight. Vo not only prayed his physical eyes would be cleared, but also his spiritual eyes would be opened to the gospel.

One day, while Mai strained to read his Bible, he read a story where Jesus healed the blind man. He recounts that when he believed this, a miracle happened. He began to see clearly. "How good this God must be," he thought.

Soon after, at age 56, the Buddhist priest accepted Christ and renounced Buddhism.

After 36 years of living the Buddhist life, he had to re-program his way of thinking. "At first," he says, "it was very difficult. But the Bible tells me Buddha is dead." He has put his old way of life in the past and now is involved in telling others about Christ. He especially reaches out to Vietnamese Buddhists in the area.

The former priest now teaches a Sunday school class at the Vietnamese Baptist congregation. He says it is a joy for him to teach the class, which has 10 to 15 members, age 55 and older. Because members are close to his age, 60, it is easy for him to communicate with them.

Mai's journey to the United States brought him freedom he never expected to find. His prayer now is that he can help those who are blind to Christ.



**EVANGELISM IN MOSCOW**—American professor Mark Finly baptizes in a lake near Moscow. The professor is associated with Andrews University, a Seventh-day Adventist college in Berrien Springs, Mich. The summer crusade demonstrates the new freedom to evangelize in the Soviet Union. (RNS photo/Reuters)

## Back to School! But what will she wear?

Thanks to the love and concern of Kentucky Baptists, Brenda's search for "just the right thing" to wear on the first day of school will not be in vain. You can imagine her joy as she realizes that she will have something nice to wear as she rejoins her classmates.

As all parents are aware, even basic clothing is expensive, and our children, like all children, need the confidence that comes from being adequately dressed. For them it is a matter of great importance!

Your gifts to help provide for the many needs of our children are deeply appreciated.

*Gifts to provide for school—and other needs of our children—may be sent to KBHC, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, KY 40243.*

*If you have questions about our ministry, you may call (502) 245-2101 or (toll-free) 1-800-456-1386.*



*Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children*

*Touching Lives*

