



**At the pole** Students at Campbell County High School in Northern Kentucky gather around the school flagpole for early-morning prayer Sept. 11. This effort, led by First Baptist Church of Highland Heights, was part of a nationwide emphasis called See You at the Pole. From Paducah to Highland Heights, Kentucky students met before classes to pray for their witness, their teachers and their nation.

## Estonian freedom is a miracle, student says

By Pat Cole  
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE—Estonian Baptist Tonu Lethsaar sees a free Estonia as both a blessing and challenge for churches in the Baltic republic.

"Independence is God's miracle," said Lethsaar, a new student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "I had always hoped we would be free. It came so quickly and easily and without bloodshed. God protected Estonia."

Churches in Estonia now have unprecedented freedom and are experiencing substantial growth, said Lethsaar, an associate

professor of psychology at Estonia's Tartu University.

"The challenge for us now is that a lot of people are coming to church as a reaction against communism. Some of them have no interest in Christianity."



Tom Lethsaar with wife, Tahti, and sons Henri and Lauri

Religious freedom has permitted New Age movements and a variety of occult practices to vie for the spiritual yearnings of the Estonian people, he said.

Lethsaar is studying pastoral care and psychology of religion this year at Southern Seminary. When he returns to Estonia, he will teach on the theological faculty at the university. His teaching load

will include psychology of religion and pastoral care, plus courses on the new religions recently introduced to Estonia.

He also will teach part time at the 2-year-old Baptist Theological Seminary in Tartu.

The university's theology department, which re-opened this year, was closed 50 years ago when the Soviet Union annexed the nation. "When I return, I will be the only professor of psychology of religion in Estonia or the Soviet Union," he said.

At the seminary, Lethsaar will join one full-time faculty member and several part-time faculty members who are Baptist pastors.

Most of the seminary faculty members have been educated in Germany, Switzerland or Finland. Estonian pastors were not allowed to travel abroad for theological training until the late 1970s.

"I believe God allowed them to study (abroad) so that they would be prepared to

*continued on page 3, "Soviet coup ..."*

## Soviet crisis puts FMB on Green Alert

By Art Toalston  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Communism's crash in the rapidly disintegrating Soviet Union has triggered the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's first "Green Alert" to seize missions opportunities amid social upheaval.

"The upheaval in the Soviet Union has world significance beyond all capacity to describe," FMB President Keith Parks said.

Green Alert procedures adopted last June signal response to key world events demanding more than the agency's normal procedures. A Green Alert is determined jointly by the agency's top administrators and trustee officers.

"We need to do as much as we can as quickly as we can," Parks said. Food shortages and severe economic woes could spawn more upheaval—and perhaps even a regime "that will close things down," he said.

"We don't know where it's going. Unless we react immediately, we may not be able to take advantage of the opportunities."

Uncertainty over Baptist work in the rapidly crumbling union also fuels the need for urgency, Parks said. "We don't know whether we will be working with one group of Baptists loosely knit together or ultimately with 15 (republic-level) Baptist groups."

Under Green Alert plans, the FMB can "cut through normal procedures" and embark on a rapid decision-making process involving money and personnel, Parks said. The Green Alert provides "a remarkable flexibility for an organization of this size."

At key junctures in history the board must avoid being "too cautious," he said. "If we go through the measured, normal process, we can't make funds or personnel available until after next year's budget."

As a first step the board named a seven-member task force to be chaired by Isam Ballenger, vice president for FMB work in Europe. The task force will work with Baptist leaders of all the emerging republics to determine urgent needs, such as intensive training of urgent leaders, or desktop publishing for Baptists to produce Christian materials in the midst of the country's turmoil, Parks said.

## Cults destroy families, Kentucky expert says

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

Cults often come calling when crisis opens the doors to Baptist homes, two experts say.

By offering new "family" relationships to replace troubled family relationships, cults prey on nominal Christians, say Paul Blizard, a Kentucky pastor and former Jehovah's Witness, and Tal Davis, associate director of interfaith witness with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

However, the family relationships offered by cults aren't all they're promised to be, the two men say.

Blizard, who was a third-generation Jehovah's Witness before becoming a Christian as an adult, knows firsthand the trauma

cults can inflict on families. Cults, he says bluntly, "kill families."

The pastor of First Baptist Church in Fairdale and his wife left the Witnesses after church officials tried to keep their 5-week-old daughter from receiving a needed blood transfusion. He and his wife were excommunicated, and no other family members attended the child's funeral when she died at age 6.

When one member of a Christian family takes interest in a cult, the whole family may become traumatized, Davis says. "It can be a devastating process, equal to the impact of drug-involvement or the death of a family member."

By nature, cults seek to involve their adherents so deeply in cult-related activities that they break off contact with former friends

and family members not in the cult, he explains.

For example, Baptist parents whose children become Mormons will not be allowed contact with their grandchildren. Converts to Jehovah's Witnesses are forbidden to have meaningful contact with family members who are not also Jehovah's Witnesses.

Baptists generally define a cult as a group that claims to be Christian yet deviates from essential Christian theology. Among groups classified as cults by the HMB's interfaith witness department are Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Worldwide Church of God, Christian Science and the Unification Church.

People of all ages and backgrounds join cults, says Blizard, who in the past did extensive counseling with families impacted by cult involvement. "It could be anybody—especially anybody that hits a bottoming out in their life, maybe a tragedy, or someone who is depressed.

"These people are open for cults to bring

*continued on page 6, "Cults claim ..."*

### Cults & The Family

- Why people join cults 6
- How to help 6

Street \_\_\_\_\_

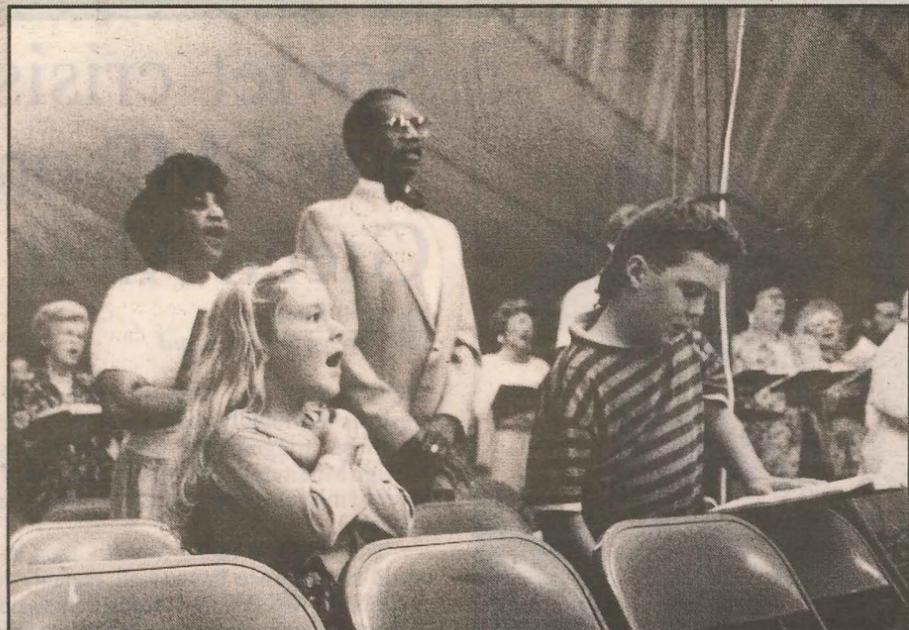
City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

September 17, 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.



**TENT REVIVAL**—Six-year-old Kelly Cook crosses her heart while people from three Owensboro churches join together for worship under a big tent. (Photo by Gary Emord-Netzley, Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer)

## 3 churches in tent on unity

OWENSBORO—A white woman stirred the cool night air with a cardboard fan bearing a picture of Martin Luther King Jr.

A black woman softly clapped along as the people around her sang, "Love Lifted Me."

A few seats away, a white man lifted a hand toward heaven.

Different races and religious traditions blended joyfully Aug. 18-23 under a yellow-and-white tent set up next to Crabtree Baptist Church in Owensboro. Crabtree, Fourth Street Baptist Church and West Fifth Street Church of God of Prophecy united to sponsor one of the state's more unusual tent meetings.

Pastors of the three churches said they chose the old-fashioned tent revival for the unified meeting because it provided a neutral, non-denominational setting.

Evangelist for the meeting was Lincoln Bingham, superintendent of missions for the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky and consultant with the Kentucky

Baptist Convention.

Bingham pulled worshipers into his sermon with a strong cadence. His voice went faster, slower, louder, softer. Frequently, Bingham shouted until his voice turned raspy.

"I was born in ethnicity, poverty and obscurity," he told the crowd one night. But God can overcome those barriers, he said.

The three churches did extensive preparation for the meeting, with a round-robin exchange of pulpits, joint prayer meetings for three weeks and joint visitation.

"This is the fulfillment of a dream," said Wallace Morris, pastor of Crabtree Avenue Baptist Church. "Both our church and our community have had so many problems in past years. I see a coming together, a blending this week that I have never seen before."

*This story was reported by Karen Owen of the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer and Bill Moore, Western Recorder state correspondent.*

## Race relations leader becomes church starter

By Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Emmanuel McCall remembers when Southern Baptists laughed at racial jokes. But it was no laughing matter when he needed security escorts to attend an all-white church.

In 1968, the same year Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, McCall became the first black elected to the staff of a Southern Baptist agency. This summer McCall left his post as Home Mission Board director of black church extension to become pastor of a new church in Atlanta.

Only the excitement of this new opportunity has drawn him away from denominational service, he says. He is taking on the role he has often encouraged others to pursue—pastor of a new church start targeted to reach blacks not being reached by traditional churches.

The highlight of his 23-year-career with the HMB is "the number of Southern Baptists who have taken racial inclusiveness as a concern and have done something about it," he says. "Our agencies now shun racial retardation."

"In the early years, people told racial jokes and everyone laughed," McCall says.

In a more recent incident, a speaker made a racial slur and 40 people walked out of the banquet.

McCall, 55, acknowledges many people gave up more than a meal to take a stand against prejudice.

"A legion of pastors preached one sermon (against racism) and got fired," McCall says. "If we have anything to celebrate, it's really due to those unnamed people."

Yet Southern Baptists still have room to grow in racial acceptance, McCall says, as he notes areas where people continue to laugh at prejudice.

"There are still some associations which are not ready to receive black churches into their fellowship. We need more black people on our national

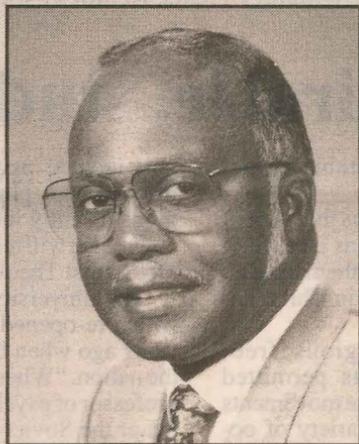
programs and on our boards and committees. We need to open doors so blacks can relate to more than just black churches."

Despite those goals for Southern Baptists, McCall says, "I sense that I've made my contribution. It's time for someone else to lead with a different perspective."

Christian Fellowship Baptist Church constituted May 26 with 448 charter members. It reached 500 members in August, and McCall plans to baptize 18 people in September.

"I don't know of anything that has captured my imagination as this has," says McCall, who began preaching at age 14.

"This will be a meaningful way for me to conclude my ministry. I don't see myself going anywhere else."



Emmanuel McCall

## Larnelle Harris set for Campbellsville

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Five-time Grammy winner and Louisville native Larnelle Harris will present a concert at Campbellsville College Oct. 3 at 8 p.m.

Carpenter's Apprentice, a group of Campbellsville College alumni and current students, will open the concert in the school's Powell Athletic Center.

Harris is a member of Maple Grove Baptist Church in Louisville, where he is a deacon.

Currently, his song "Mighty Spirit" is featured in a nationwide television campaign for the Points of Light Foundation.

The song "I Miss My Time with You" won Harris the 1988 Dove Award for songwriter of the year and song of the year. He has won eight Dove awards and a Stellar award for excellence in the black gospel field.

He recently recorded his first "live" album at Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in New York City.

Concert tickets are available at the door for \$7.50, or \$5 each when purchased for groups of 10 or more. For information, call

## Volunteer well-drillers needed for Kurdish project

Well-drilling specialists are needed to provide clean water for 10 villages in Iraq where 35,000 Kurdish refugees have settled.

Specialists should be skilled in operating a rotary drilling rig with mud pumps and in repairing water systems, said Tim Brendle, who heads the Persian Gulf response unit of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"The need is urgent," he said. Minimum commitments of three weeks are needed from volunteers, and a series of specialists may be needed for up to six months. Volunteers should contact the FMB at (800) 999-3113.

■ **Georgia to lay off chaplains.** All of the 31 full-time chaplains in Georgia state hospitals, mental institutions and juvenile centers and 25 of 43 chaplains in the state department of corrections face layoffs due to budget cutbacks. Gov. Zell Miller proposes using volunteers and contract chaplains to offer religious services in state institutions. Baptist leaders have charged the budget crisis may be overstated to promote a proposed state-run lottery the governor favors.

### around the sbc

■ **Blakenship to head Genevox.** Mark Blakenship, composer and arranger of Christian music, will become director of Genevox Music Group Oct. 1. He succeeds Fes Robertson, who is retiring. Genevox is the music publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

■ **Fellowship seeks director.** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has formed a committee to search for an executive director. Recommendations should be sent to committee chairman James Slatton at River Road Baptist Church, Ridge and River Road, Richmond, Va. 23229.

■ **FBC Jacksonville to build.** First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., has announced plans to build a \$15.6 million auditorium to seat 9,000 people. The project will be paid for in cash. Members began saving for the new building in 1987, said Homer Lindsay Jr., who is co-pastor with former Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines. The structure will cover an entire city block

adjacent to the current 3,500-seat sanctuary, which was built in 1976.

■ **Irwin dies.** Southern Baptist astronaut James Irwin, remembered for his Scripture quote during an Apollo moon trip, died Aug. 9 of an apparent heart attack. "My life will never be the same because I saw earth as God must see it," Irwin said at a prayer breakfast in 1981. In 1982, he led an expedition to Mount Ararat in Turkey in search for the remains of Noah's Ark.

■ **Former president's wife dies.** Floy Williams Ferguson, wife of the fourth president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Sept. 9 in Marshall, Texas. J. Howard Williams was Southwestern's president from 1953 until his death in 1958.

■ **'Crossover India' planned.** Southern Baptists will send volunteers to India in 1992 and 1993 as part of "Crossover India," a partnership evangelism project suggested by Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman. The event also will mark the 200th anniversary of William Carey's arrival in India. For information, contact the FMB at (800) 999-3113.

## Love is racism's cure, dean tells students

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Love is the only cure for racism on America's college campuses, an educator told students at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

"How can you treat someone badly when you are loving them as Christ has told us to love one another?" asked Thelma Douglass, assistant dean of students at the University of Houston. "The closer you grow to Christ, the more you see man as a person and not as a race."

To explain racism, Douglass used the acrostic s-i-n, which she said stands for self, ignorance and natural man.

Of self, she said, "When we turn everything inward toward ourselves and our race we are not reaching out like God wants us to do."

Ignorance, she said, perpetuates racism. "In the Bible God says my people die because of a lack of knowledge. We need to take time to investigate, research and learn about other races and cultures."

Of "natural man," Douglass said those without Christ "do not know the ways of God, so they often act in the opposite way that God intends."

# Kentuckians strengthen churches in Trinidad



**'Partnership missions ... is the greatest thing that ever happened in Southern Baptist life'**

— C.C. Brasher, KBC first vice president

**Trinidadian children—200 to 300 in all—line up for a vacation Bible school conducted by Kentucky Baptist volunteers in cooperation with local Baptists. Eleven Kentuckians spent two weeks in Trinidad this summer performing a variety of missions tasks.**

By Pauline Stegall  
State Correspondent

BENTON—"Partnership missions and the involving of lay people are the greatest things that ever happened in Southern Baptist life," C.C. Brasher said after returning from a partnership missions trip to Trinidad this summer.

Brasher, pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton and first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was co-director of the crusade with Duane Holland, pastor of Hickory Baptist Church in Graves County.

Eleven Kentucky Baptists from six counties formed the mission team.

Former Kentuckian Joe Pat Winchester, now a missionary in Trinidad, told the team they accomplished in two weeks what missionaries had not been able to do in two years.

Volunteers led services in 12 churches as well as on the streets, in vacant lots and in tents. In all, 5,440 people attended, 769 recorded professions of faith and 826 re-committed to the Christian faith. An additional 23 professions of faith have been made in follow-up ministries since the team returned to America.

Six of the churches where crusades were held were on the verge of closing. Atten-

dance increased dramatically at each location, in some cases up to 600 percent.

Language was not a barrier for the Kentuckians because Trinidadians speak British English. However, the volunteers encountered barriers of Hinduism, witchcraft and voodoo.

Brasher testified that in one of the crusades, a demon-possessed woman was converted. The woman, who came to the service with her husband, began kicking the seat in front of her during the sermon. Five or six people fell off the seat, Brasher said.

The next day, the pastor told Brasher the woman was known to be demon-possessed. "Our people will wait for you to tell them what to do," the pastor instructed Brasher. "Just stop and ask everyone to pray."

The next night, the woman returned and did the same thing. Brasher stopped preaching and said, "This woman has a demon. I know of only one greater power—Jesus Christ. I am calling the church to prayer. We are going to pray until we have an answer."

The congregation prayed aloud. After several minutes, the woman got up and said she had been saved, Brasher related.

Brasher and Holland are recruiting volunteers for another trip to Trinidad in 1993. They are looking especially for a surgeon, a medical doctor and a dentist.

## Soviet coup didn't stop family's travel to Southern Seminary

continued from page 1

teach at the seminary," said Lethsaar, noting Estonian Baptists are in need of trained leadership. "Our greatest need is to build up the seminary," he said.

"Our future is our seminary."

The future of Estonia and the rest of the Soviet Union appeared shaky at best immediately prior to Lethsaar's planned departure for America Aug. 23. Just five days before, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was overthrown in a coup.

Lethsaar and his wife, Tahti, had just completed an all-night bus ride to St. Pe-

tersburg (then Leningrad) to secure the family's visas when a taxi driver informed them Gorbachev had been ousted a few hours earlier.

Though unsure about the government's future, the Lethsaars remained confident they would be leaving for the U.S.

"We had prayed for this so long," he said. "We had a real peace about it."

The Lethsaars returned to Estonia with their visas. Sensing there might be uncertainty in the U.S. about their travel plans, they immediately informed the seminary through a fax message that they had re-

ceived their visas.

Despite the threat of closed borders, the Lethsaars and their two sons, Henri, 6, and Lauri, 4, began preparing to leave. Their church prayed fervently for the nation and the Lethsaars' journey.

By the time of the Lethsaars' departure, Gorbachev had returned to power and the Soviet tanks began pulling back from Estonian streets.

During the tense days of the coup, Lethsaar said Estonian Christians clung to their faith.

"Difficult times do not disturb our faith,"

he said. "The believers pray and we have good fellowship. The difficult times are good for our faith. It gets stronger in those times."

Lethsaar is grateful to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the seminary for making his study opportunity available.

"I feel like I have a great privilege and a great responsibility to use my learning in Louisville to teach in Estonia," he said. "All of my previous education has been secular. Having professors who pray before class and who talk about the Bible is new for me."

## Graham's N.J. crusade draws 10,000 more than Springsteen concert

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.—Evangelist Billy Graham attracted 10,000 more people to hear the gospel in the Brendan Byrne Arena than singer Bruce Springsteen drew to create the stadium's previous record.

A standing-room-only crowd gathered more than an hour before Graham's crusade began Sept. 6. In the end, 31,300 people overflowed from the arena into an outdoor annex and into the parking lot.

The previous record for attendance was

held by Springsteen, a New Jersey native, who drew a concert crowd of 20,000 at the arena.

For the crusade, 8,500 chairs were set up outside the arena in front of a 20-by-28 foot JumboTron video screen, like the one used in Times Square.

During the five-day event, an average of 1,800 people made commitments to Christ each night.

The crusade brought together blacks,

whites, Hispanics, Koreans, Chinese and others of diverse backgrounds. Every night from the platform, Graham urged the audience to go out of their way to meet someone of a different race.

He preached about peace, love and unity among all God's people.

"I didn't ask to be born white," he said. "You didn't ask to be born black or brown or whatever color skin you have. You were made in the image of God. God created you

and God has a purpose for you and he loves you, whoever you are."

More than 650 churches representing 40 denominations participated in planning the crusade.

The crusade also sponsored a food drive which collected 18.5 tons of non-perishable goods for the needy.

Graham is scheduled to preach on the Great Lawn of New York City's Central Park Sept. 22 beginning at 4 p.m. local time.

## Baptist Hospitals Inc. has new name

LOUISVILLE—Baptist Hospitals Inc. has changed its name to Baptist Healthcare System.

The system provides administrative and financial services, risk management, legal counsel and computer services to Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah, Baptist Hospital East in Louisville, Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington and Baptist Regional Medical Center in Corbin.

The new name has been designed to communicate the healthcare system's mission and commitment to its patients, physicians and communities, said BHS President Edgar Vaughn.

"Baptist Healthcare System more accurately defines who we are—one of the largest not-for-profit healthcare systems in Kentucky," Vaughn said. It also indicates

the 1,376-bed system provides care outside hospital rooms, including home healthcare and outpatient diagnostic clinics.

The emphasis of the system's new identity program is on the word "Baptist," which incorporates an abstract image of a cross into new corporate and hospital logos, Vaughn said.

The logos reinforce

the system's Christ-centered approach to healthcare with a high degree of technology, he said.

**BAPTIST  
HEALTHCARE  
SYSTEM**



**Show set for ABC** "The Streets," a Southern Baptist-produced television documentary about America's inner cities, will air nationally over ABC-TV Sept. 22. Actor Paul Winfield (center) hosts the hour-long program, which was filmed in Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and New York City. Shown conferring with Winfield on location in Los Angeles are Bob Thornton and Bernie Hargis of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. Although the broadcast's national kickoff is set for Sept. 22, some stations will air the documentary later. Check local listings for specific times.

# Christian love must overpower racism

## editorial

Marv Knox

Police called it "wilding."

Four African American youths went on a rampage, they said, randomly beating and robbing 21 white people. Not in East Los Angeles, nor the South Side of Chicago. Not in a Washington crack district. Not someplace else. Right here in Kentucky; in Louisville. Nearby, four black people reported being chased and threatened by three whites.

This Kentucky version of racial ugliness mirrors nastiness elsewhere. "Wilding" beat its way into the American vocabulary when a gang of black youths mugged and raped a white jogger in New York City's Central Park. More recently, Brooklyn blacks and Jews turned hostile after a Jewish motorist struck and killed a black child. And who can forget the unsettling video images of white police officers beating an African American driver on an L.A. freeway?

Even when racism puts down its tire tool or billy club, it picks up a megaphone. Louisiana politician David Duke stirred a national cauldron by pouring racist venom into his political stew. On the other side, Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan's rotten bigotry has poisoned the minds of thousands of young African American men.

But racism rages beyond rural backroads and urban ghettos. It stalks the halls of power. Witness the Supreme Court nomination of Clarence Thomas, a prominent black

man who rose from Deep South poverty. A news commentator last week correctly noted that Southern senators—all white, by the way—would be branded racist if they opposed Thomas, no matter how they assessed his judicial ability.

More than a decade ago, Baptist preacher/author Will Campbell branded racism an equal-opportunity destroyer. Ku Klux Klan members and the blacks they beat all are victims. Its poison cripples white lives as surely as it burns crosses on black lawns and beats black "boys."

Fortunately, black and white Baptists in Kentucky have been searching for an antidote to racism. Black and white Baptists in Lexington have held several joint worship services. An article on page 2 of this issue of the Western Recorder describes a similar service in Owensboro. Next month, black and white Baptists from across Kentucky will gather in Lexington for a cooperative evangelism clinic.

These gatherings move us toward healing. Shared worship binds old wounds like no other medicine. But we need to go further: Our churches and associations must sponsor fellowship and dialogue meetings, opportunities for black and white Baptists to build friendships and share dreams. Our representatives must stand together against all forms of racism in our communities. Our people must refuse to let the racial myths of culture hide the reality of our common bond as people who follow Christ.

Together, black and white Christians can prove love casts out hate, understanding overcomes ignorance and peace defeats violence.

## 'Middle Age': Not quite as old as it used to be

### down home

"See your doctor, Daddy!"

Daughters really know how to hurt a guy. In unison, they chime, "See your doctor, Daddy!" Out loud. To my face. Giggling and pointing at my dome, which shines a little brighter every morning.

An awful commercial prompts their harassment. You've seen it—the one where this guy has a conversation with hairy and bald versions of himself.

Hairy argues that he should see his doctor about some sort of new scalp fertilizer. Hair will make him more virile, sexy, manly. Baldy, who also sports about 15 extra pounds under his belt, whines limply that being bald won't be so bad. After about 20 seconds of three-way schizophrenia, an announcer comes on: "If you suffer from premature hair loss, see your doctor."

That's when children whose diapers I've changed and noses I've wiped move in for the kill: "See your doctor, Daddy!"

Bring them into the world, buy them Barbie dolls, feed them popcorn shrimp, and that's the thanks I get. "See your doctor, Daddy!"

Actually, their laughter makes the mockery bearable. They'd love me if my head looked like a cue ball. Anyway, what's more fun than a little joke at old Dad's expense?

This month, "old" seems to be the word of choice. Unfortunately, "premature hair loss" is only part of the problem.

I had a birthday. Not just any birthday. It's the birthday I determined (in the arbitrary, presumptuous stupidity of my youth) to be the beginning of the dreaded Middle Age.

A 15-year-old can figure it all out: You're a kid at birth, a teen-ager until age 13, an adult at 18 (21 in some states), middle-aged at 35, old at 55.

You don't need to be told 35 isn't as old as it was 20 years ago.

Jeans still feel better than a jumpsuit. Country still beats the fire out of elevator music. We haven't bought our first bottle of Geritol.

That's not to say getting older doesn't have its own rewards:

- I've been kissing the same green-eyed red-head for 15 autumns.
- Two pint-sized doll-babies greet me at the door when I get home in the afternoon.
- I'm almost done with acne.
- Freedom, love, faith, fidelity and hope mean much, much more.
- My parents are smarter, and I no longer have to worry about impressing girls.

If that's what it's all about, middle age isn't so bad. With hair, or without.

— Marv Knox

## baptist forum

### Thanks, Eliza

Kentucky's first Acteens Activators Abroad team recently returned from a 10-day volunteer mission trip to Calgary, Canada, which would not have been possible without funds from the Eliza Broadus state missions offering.

After a week of Bible camp, we witnessed 11 boys and girls make professions of faith in Christ and one girl make a public commitment to full-time mission service, in addition to the life-changing commitments we made ourselves.

I just want to say thank you for the Eliza Broadus state missions offering.

Peggy Ballou, leader  
Acteens Activators Abroad  
Corbin

### Shining light

The May 15-16 Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union missions tour to the beautiful eastern Kentucky mountains was an eye-opening experience.

As we visited mission points such as

Nada, located in the Red River Gorge, we were impressed by the dedication of faithful volunteers who help make the work possible. As Don and Doris Henry shared with us the various programs and activities Nada Mission offers, we wondered how the work could be done from a trailer which is parked on a recently purchased two-acre lot. The mission is truly a "shining light" in the little community of Snakey Hollow. A building is desperately needed, as well as playground equipment. The needs are great.

We can and do have a part in state missions by praying, going as volunteers, but, especially during the month of September, by giving to the Eliza Broadus state missions offering.

I challenge you to give as never before. Double or even triple the amount you gave last year. The Lord will honor your gift.

Virginia Drake  
WMU executive board  
Bardstown

### Godless America

In 1917, the communists came to power in Russia and changed the country's name to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Part of the process involved in the name change was an attempt to eradicate any traces of God and Christianity within their new society. Churches were destroyed, Bibles burned

and Christians murdered, all in an attempt to create a society that depended upon itself for success rather than upon God. Thus, they were often referred to as "godless communists," as godless Russia.

Seven-plus decades later, the Soviet nation is on the brink of chaos. Their system has failed. It is enlightening that as they try to make changes within their society and their government that they are trying to put God back into both their society and their government. This seems to say that they recognize the importance of God and Christian principles to a nation, that without God a nation cannot survive.

Our forefathers recognized this before our country ever became a nation. Our country's foundation rests firmly upon God and Christian principles. Our society and our government were based on Christianity. However, things have changed. While the Russians are busy trying to put God back into their society and their government, America has been busy the last few years (1962-63 onward) chipping away at our godly heritage. People have been busy driving God and Christian principles out of our society and our government. When the process is complete and we become known as "godless America," I wonder what our new name will be.

Stanley Reedy  
Goshen

## western recorder

Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253

(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, Louisville, Ky. 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$9.54 (\$10 outside U.S.) for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$7.50 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6472 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter to the editor: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words.

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

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 Hulet, Frankfort; Don Mantooh, Morehead; Isaac McDonald, Hodgenville; Karen Owen Phelps, Owensboro; John Searcy, Franklin.

# TV sends God up to 'rerun heaven'

By Gayle White  
The Atlanta Constitution

Bart Simpson bows his spiked orange head to pray. Around the dinner table, blue-haired mother Marge, balding father Homer, self-righteous Lisa and pacifier-sucking Maggie wait for him to recite the blessing.

"Dear God," he says, "we paid for all this stuff ourselves, so thanks for nothing."

The Simpsons may be the most religious family on prime-time television. Despite the irreverence, the Fox network's animated characters have been shown discussing Sunday school lessons and attending church-sponsored counseling.

More than 90 percent of the American population claims to believe in God, but the average viewer in a top-10 television market, who watches about 40 hours of television every week, rarely hears a whisper of a prayer. In contrast, viewers are exposed to an estimated 14,000 sexual references in a year's worth of television viewing.

There's no indication that this fall's prime-time lineup, with its record number of situation comedies—55—will be any different. Network executives are reluctant even to discuss religion's role on television.

God apparently is not ready for prime time.

"It's not that religion is treated as bad or irrelevant. It's not treated at all," said Robert Lichter, co-author of "Watching America," a new book about 30 years of American television.

A recent survey indicates that three-fourths of the Christians in the United States attend church at least once a month, but television families are rarely seen filling the prime-time pews.

Even the all-American Huxtables on "The Cosby Show" (NBC)—hailed as the most wholesome television family since "Father Knows Best"—rarely mention church, much less go there.

"I'm sure great care is taken in portraying religion, so as not to offend anyone," said ABC publicist Jeff DeRome. "That's probably why you don't see much of it."

When Jewish characters are featured—such as on ABC's short-lived "Chicken Soup"—their religion is treated more as a matter of ethnic identity than one of spirituality.

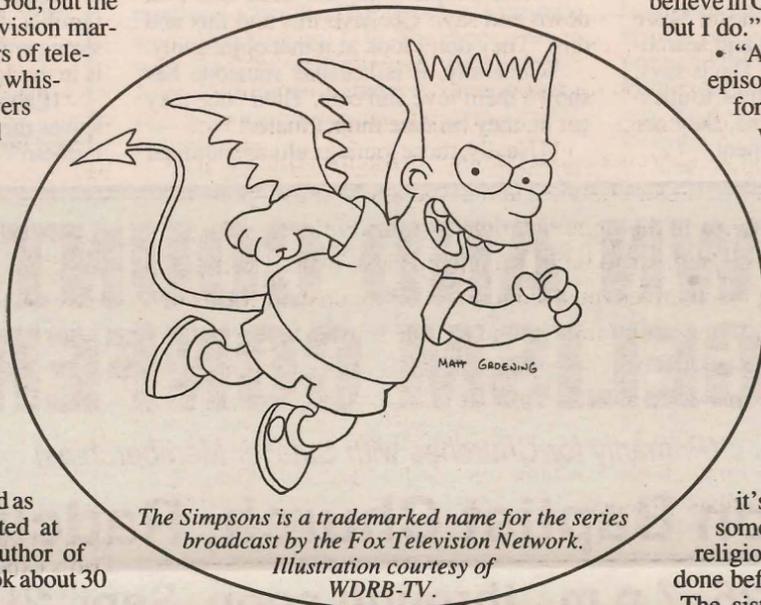
"You don't get families where both parents are Jewish and they deal with important issues of Judaism," said Rabbi Arnold Goodman of the Ahavath Achim synagogue in Atlanta. "We're waiting to see a portrayal of a 'normal' Jewish family on television."

Religion once was treated with greater respect.

Lichter, founder of the Center for Media and Public Affairs in Washington, defines several stages of prime-time religion:

- The Golden Age. During the 1950s and early 1960s, the Andersons went to Sunday school ("Father Knows Best"), Andy and Barney sang in the Mayberry church choir ("The Andy Griffith Show") and television pointedly endorsed mainstream religious values.

- The Social Revolution. In the social upheaval of the period that followed, television writers and producers were more likely to use religious figures as mavericks to challenge the status quo—such as a Catholic priest who harbored Vietnam deserters on "The Bold Ones."



- The Righteous Right. In the 1980s, religious figures were often portrayed as narrow-minded, judgmental and materialistic. A "Twilight Zone" episode about an evangelical minister with the authority to assign people to hell was typical of television's portrayal of conservative Christians.

- The Vanishing. More recently religion has all but disappeared from prime time. Recent series with religious themes, such as NBC's "Sister Kate" or ABC's "Have Faith," used religion as a backdrop. ABC's "Father Dowling"—without his collar—could be "Matlock."

Sandra Crawford, editor of TV Etc., a magazine of the conservative Media Research Center, said the entertainment industry ducks opportunities to treat religion constructively.

Of "Amen," a defunct NBC comedy series starring Sherman Hemsley as a deacon, she said, "Change a few titles and it could easily have taken place in a post office."

Norman Lear's CBS comedy series "Sunday Dinner" created controversy because a character regularly addressed prayers to

An occasional trip to Sunday school and periodic visits to church will not do it. Outside influences are too great. Only a miracle of God's grace will overcome parental negligence.

Before your child can become a follower of Christ, he or she must be able to grasp and accept the basic truths of the Christian faith. Does your child understand that sin results in separation from God? One cannot be saved until he or she is aware of lostness. Does your child know who Jesus is? That he died, was buried and rose again? Has your child come to the time of repentance of a former way of life, and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

The age at which children understand these basic truths will vary from child to child. Much will depend on the nature of the

"Chief." But in subsequent episodes, religious references diminished.

"By and large, I think prime time is giving us a very negative portrayal of the Christian faith in particular and most religion in general," said Randall Murphree, who has monitored television for the American Family Association for eight years.

There are, of course, exceptions from recent seasons:

- "Designing Women" (CBS). Mary Jo meets a good-looking bachelor who turns out to be a minister, but she finds—surprise!—he's a fun date anyway.

- "thirtysomething" (ABC). After his wife and child survive an automobile accident, Michael rediscovers his own Jewish faith. "I believe in God," he says. "I didn't think I did, but I do."

- "American Dreamer" (NBC). An episode is devoted to a struggle of faith for main character Tom Nash, whose wife was killed in a terrorist attack. The town's new Episcopal minister—a woman—tells him, "I believe that when she was caught in that explosion, God's heart was the first to break."

"We got a ton of personal letters from people who appreciated seeing religion portrayed on television in a realistic way," producer Bruce Helford says.

Helford, who is Jewish, says it's important to him "to see if there's some way within a show to deal with religion in a way we haven't seen it done before."

The sister of an "American Dreamer" writer is an Episcopal priest, Helford said. "What writers write about is what they live."

That may be a major reason for the dearth of realistic religion on television.

A 1983 survey by the Center for Media and Public Affairs published in Public Opinion magazine showed that among 104 Hollywood decision makers, only 7 percent characterized themselves as "regular churchgoers." Almost half listed "none" when asked their religion.

Religion "is not a part of their lives, and they don't make it part of their characters' lives," said Elizabeth Thoman, a Catholic nun and founder of Media and Values, a 15-year-old educational newsletter about the media.

This attitude toward religion by people who shaped much of the culture of the last decade is taking a heavy toll, she said.

"If we don't see it in our popular culture, we tend to privatize religion as something that doesn't have anything to do with our day-to-day life," she said. "That's very dangerous. We have ignored the kind of questions that give our life meaning and purpose, individually and as a community."

child, the stage of maturity, the capacity to grasp concepts and make decisions.

Much will depend on the family atmosphere. How often is your child in Bible study or has been active in discipleship training? How often has your child been to worship services? When did your child last see a baptismal service? Or sit through a decision service?

For these reasons, no specific age can be set for a child's conversion. Yet parents are the primary teachers of religion. How are you doing in your home? Will you allow the church to help? Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the father, but by me."

Gayle Toole, pastor  
Edgewood Baptist Church  
Nicholasville



on  
mission  
together

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

## Big ones, little ones, and all in between

"Mega" churches seem to be here to stay, and they are growing. At least, that's the consensus of those who are "church watchers," secular and religious.

They are still the object of suspicion by many; "entertainment Christianity," some call it. Advocates and critics not withstanding, the people flocking to these new churches, and many of those "flocking" are from other denominations, including Baptists. It isn't as unusual as it used to be to discover that a once-active Baptist family has joined the "Northwest Happy Church." They do seem to have something that some folks want.

I visited a little Baptist church one Sunday this summer when I had a cancellation of a prior commitment. Alice and I were in the central part of our state. No "mega" church, this one, with 46 in Sunday School and about the same number in worship, I guessed. Lots of white hair but also a balance of children and youth. Judging from the tombstones in the graveyard outside, the church has been burying people there for over 100 years and they haven't all died yet.

These folks were doing things "their" way; it was uniquely "their" liturgy and I noted that after the offering when the men returned from the back of the church, they stopped and put the collection amount on the board before returning to their seats.

A few folks sat in the choir, but there was no special music.

Some of them may have watched earlier television programs before church; maybe this seemed a little "dull" after the Crystal Cathedral. And I imagine most of those folks there were fully aware that their young pastor was no Robert Schuler. But they did listen, and he had something to say.

From time to time I suppose they will get bored, maybe complacent. But my guess is that some will remain. A few new ones will come, and the little church by the side of an off-the-main-stream road will probably be there until Jesus comes again.

Sometimes when people fret about "mega" churches, I think they might benefit from a tour of Kentucky Baptist churches. From that they might conclude that there is room for "mega" churches. For sure, there are lots of little ones out there "doing church" as best they know how...and there sure are lots of folks who don't go to any church—"mega" or little or middle size!

It is obvious that world Christianity, which includes Southern Baptists, is going through a "mega" change and some of us are discovering the difficulty of trying to be a bridge from where we are to where we are going.

## ministerially speaking

### Childhood salvation

The subject of children and conversion continually confronts our families. Will our children have a faith of their own? That depends.

When Christian parents fail to provide a religious atmosphere in the home, a godward dimension to their lives and an opportunity for their children to grow in faith, more and more of the responsibility for their moral behavior is thrown back on parents themselves.

## How to help: communicate

Maintaining communication is the key to helping family members or friends lured into cults, Tal Davis and Paul Blizard say.

Davis is associate director of interfaith witness with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. Blizard is pastor of First Baptist Church in Fairdale and a former Jehovah's Witness.

"The most important element in a family's response is to maintain the level of communication with the person," Davis says. "Don't do or say something that would totally alienate the person from the family."

"Maintain communication so that at some point if the person becomes disillusioned or wants to get out, they're going to have a way."

Getting accurate information is another key step, Blizard adds. "Get accurate information from an objective source to the individual. The literature they're going to be bombarded with is biased."

"Expose the true nature of the group before they get penetrated. If you have a friend or family member who is dabbling, they need information right away."

Well-meaning family members must be careful not to reinforce what Blizard calls "the martyr complex." Most cults teach that they are being persecuted by the rest of society.

"Reinforcing the idea that they're being persecuted can further entrench them in the group," he says.

In the end, prayer is the best weapon against cults, both men believe. "I can teach techniques and counsel, but ultimately it has to be the guidance of the Holy Spirit to pull them out," Blizard says.

### Other tips:

- Look for opportunities for the person to come home; try to get him or her out of the cult environment as much as possible.
- Talk calmly about the theological issues, but don't make this the only topic of conversation.
- Be respectful and courteous and always let the person feel like a part of the family.

Both the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the HMB offer assistance for understanding cults. Bill Jagers, director of the KBC's evangelism office, leads Kentucky's interfaith witness program. Also, several interfaith witness associates around the state have been trained in specific topics and are available for seminars and some counseling.

The HMB has produced a series of Belief Bulletins which highlight the doctrines and history of other religions. These publications are available from Jagers' office or through the HMB's customer service center at (800) 634-2462.

## Why people join cults

- Search for ultimate meaning in life.
- Need for love and acceptance.
- Family breakdown or conflict.
- Dissatisfaction with established religion.
- Financial hardships.
- Fear of personal decision-making.
- Adolescent rebellion and parental conflict.
- Social relationships, such as marriage.
- Utopian idealism.
- Search for the perfect family.

From Tal Davis, SBC Home Mission Board

## Cults claim to meet unfilled social needs

*continued from page 1*

their beliefs in and say, 'We've got an answer for this.'"

Davis adds that people joining cults often do so in reaction to difficult family relationships. "They're looking for a substitute family, and many times these groups will meet that need."

"At certain junctures, families will break down. It is at those junctures that cults have the most impact. That's when people are looking for answers and are open to change."

If any age group is most vulnerable, it is the late-teens to early-20s, both Davis and Blizard report.

"Cult groups are going to target young people," Blizard says, "because the cults have instant black-and-white answers for all the great philosophical questions of life."

People between the ages of 18 and 24 are leaving behind their childhood and searching for their own set of values, Davis says. "They're starting to question values, to question life in general. At that time, they are most vulnerable to cult recruitment."

Because of this searching, this is also the time in life when many people become Christians, Davis notes.

Recently, more middle-age and older adults have been drawn into cults, he says. "One reason may be that when people get to that age in life—with their children grown or becoming widowed—they're looking for people who will meet the needs they have."

When churches fail to meet social needs or to train their members in the Christian faith, they leave the door open to cults, Davis says.

"In many cases, when someone in a Baptist church does not perceive that the church is meeting their needs, a cult may come along and meet those relational needs," he says.

"Most people who join cults don't sit down and say, 'I believe this and this and this.' They don't look at it that objectively."

"Generally, it is because someone has shown them love and care. Then once they get in, they become indoctrinated."

"Usually, those joining cults are nominal

in their faith and don't know the Bible well," Blizard adds. "A strong Baptist with a good theological base won't be roped in."

"This is the downfall of a lot of our churches. We don't train people in the basics of theology, in issues such as the trinity and the deity of God."

The more involved a person becomes in a cult, the more families will become estranged, Blizard says.

"Cults isolate families. They say: 'We are your new family. Your old family doesn't have the kind of love we can provide.'"

Davis says cults often use family as a public relations tool but don't provide all they promise. "Many of these groups portray an image of wholesome family, but the image often doesn't match the reality."

"Jehovah's Witnesses talk about strong families. The problem is the families are strong only as long as everyone in the family is in the Jehovah's Witnesses."

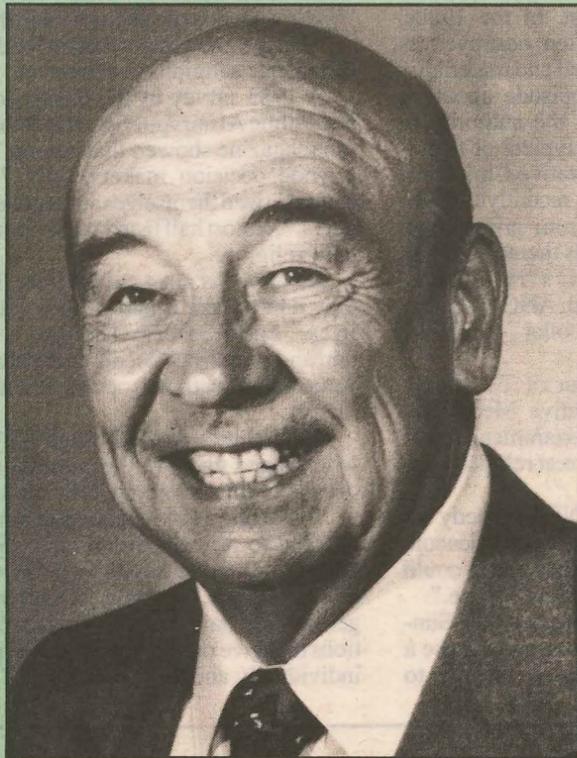
"If there's any dissension or anybody leaves the group, that breaks up the family. It doesn't strengthen the family at all."

# TOWN AND COUNTRY EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

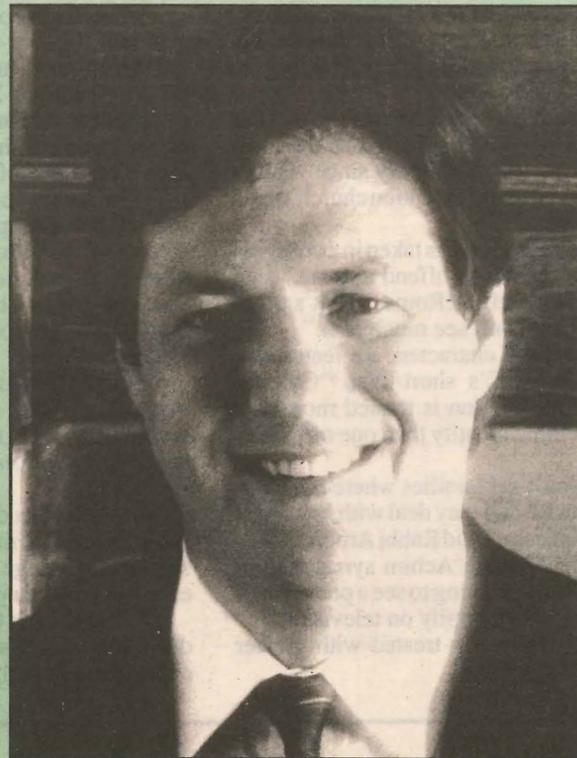
*(Primarily for Churches with Smaller Memberships)*

**Stithton 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

# CLC wants money given to Joint Committee in '64

NASHVILLE—Money given in the past to Baptist causes has become a new focal point of the 12-year-old conflict between Southern Baptist moderates and conservatives.

At stake: Who will control a fund begun 27 years ago on behalf of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs?

The Baptist Joint Committee has fallen out of favor with the denomination's new conservative ruling majority, who have duplicated its assignments with—and given its annual funding to—the Christian Life Commission.

Until recently, the Joint Committee received nearly \$400,000 a year through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget for missions, education and various ministries.

Most observers thought the Joint Committee was dealt its most crippling blow in June when Southern Baptist Convention messengers withdrew the remaining \$50,000 the agency was to receive through the SBC Cooperative Program.

But last week, trustees of the Christian Life Commission unanimously asked for more. They want \$380,000 in an account set aside for the Joint Committee in 1964, plus the \$535,000 in interest the Joint Committee has withdrawn through the years.

Originally, the money was allocated to purchase a building for the Joint Committee in Washington, D.C. The money never was used for that purpose, although the Joint Committee withdrew interest earnings from the fund to pay rent on its Capitol Hill office.

This apparently was done with approval of Porter Routh, who then was leading the SBC Executive Committee. In a letter dated June 14, 1968, Routh authorized the South-

ern Baptist Foundation to give the Joint Committee earnings from the fund in 1969.

However, confusion exists over whether that was intended to be a one-time practice or a permanent procedure.

The Foundation, which administers the fund, apparently has misplaced the original documents that describe how the money was to be used.

The account was established using a \$300,000 allocation from a capital needs budget approved by the SBC in Atlantic City in 1964. Due to the way the SBC related to the Joint Committee, the allocation was made to the SBC Public Affairs Committee on behalf of the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee historically has been a cooperative effort between several Baptist bodies, although Southern Baptists provided the most funding. Members of the Public Affairs Committee served as Southern Baptist representatives on the Joint Committee's board.

The Public Affairs Committee was merged into the board of the Christian Life Commission at the same time funding was withdrawn from the Joint Committee.

CLC trustees claim they are the rightful owners of the fund now that Southern Baptists have all but terminated their official relationship with the Joint Committee.

"The Southern Baptist Convention has expressed by a great, great majority vote that the Baptist Joint Committee not receive any money," said one trustee.

But the Joint Committee contends it owns the money because it was given before the SBC defunded the Joint Committee.

"They cut our budget and now they are trying to pilfer our account," charged Joint Committee General Counsel Oliver Thomas. "We're not going to let them do that."

Both agencies now say they are ready to use the money to buy office space in the nation's capital.

The issue will be presented to the SBC Executive Committee when it meets this week in Nashville. If the issue is not settled there, it may be destined for court.

*Written by Mark Wingfield of the Western*

*Recorder staff. Reported by Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press, Herb Hollinger of Baptist Press and Louis Moore of the Christian Life Commission.*

## Evangelizing the Hard to Reach

### 5 Reasons You Should Attend the Ninth Congress on Evangelism

1. **Learn** from Rick Warren how to start a church without a building.
2. **Update** on the mighty expansion of ethnic congregations in the USA by Oscar Romo, the undisputed leader of language missions among Southern Baptists.
3. **Hear** from Taylor Field how to evangelize a difficult area of New York City.
4. **Receive** insights from Tillie Burgin about how to approach dwellers in multifamily housing with the Gospel.
5. **Be inspired** by the commitment of a pastor, Charles Roesel, in integrating ministry with evangelism.

#### PROGRAM PERSONNEL

**Oscar Romo** is the Director of the Language Church Extension Division of the Home Mission Board, SBC.

**Rick Warren** is the founding pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, California.

**Tillie Burgin** is the Minister of Missions of the First Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas.

**Taylor Field** is pastor director of the East Seventh Baptist Church in the lower East side of Manhattan.

**Charles L. Roesel** is the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Leesburg, Florida.

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2, 1991



Sponsored by the Billy Graham Center for World Evangelism  
David F. D'Amico  
Director

For more information call toll free 1-800-626-5525, ext. 4315  
502-897-4011 (in Ky. only)

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Louisville, Kentucky

## CLC hires one trustee, eyes adopting another's work

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Trustees of Southern Baptists' ethics agency last week elected one of their own to a staff position and discussed the possibility of assuming or duplicating a ministry begun by another trustee.

Ben Mitchell, 36, was elected director of

biomedical and life issues to replace Robert Parham, who left to begin the new Baptist Center for Ethics.

Mitchell has served on the agency's board of directors since 1986.

If adopted, a proposal to assume the family-concerns ministry of trustee Nancy

Schaefer could directly involve the Christian Life Commission in local churches for the first time.

Trustees formed a task force to study the idea.

Family Concerns Inc., which Schaefer heads, is most noted for its opposition to gay rights and feminism and its support for what it calls traditional family values. The non-profit corporation was begun by Schaefer at First Baptist Church of Atlanta as a way of duplicating that congregation's own family ministry in other churches.

Schaefer's plan, which she introduced as a motion at the June Southern Baptist Convention, calls for a new family-concerns division of the CLC to instruct local church members in establishing family-concerns ministries.

The proposal, which has long-range implications for the CLC's work, would require a change in the SBC-approved program assignment of the moral-concerns agency, as well as a major infusion of money.

Those factors gave Executive Director Richard Land and some trustees pause.

The proposal entails "a direct relationship (with churches) that our program statement would not allow," Land said. "We are not to work directly with churches."

The CLC's program statement says the agency must work through established moral-concerns groups at the state-convention level where they exist. Where such groups don't exist, the CLC can only provide printed material to churches.

The restrictions "are carefully worked-out treaties" intended to prevent competition and duplication with other agencies and state conventions, Land said.

Land suggested the CLC seek to coordinate its efforts with those already in place. "Let's try to find a way to get done what we want to get done and not worry about how it gets done," he said.

"It will cost at least \$5 million to \$10 million to even come close to doing what this asks for," said trustee Jay Strack of Dallas.

"This is atomic-bomb, nuclear-fission type of material we are dealing with," said Chairman Hal Lane of Greenwood, S.C., "because this is something we have never done before."

Members of the task force are Schaefer, Lane, Strack, Marilyn Simmons of Little Rock, Ark., and James Richards of Baton Rouge, La.

## GEORGETOWN

C O L L E G E

presents its Thirteenth Annual

## YOUTH CHOIR DAY

for

Middle School and High School Youth  
Saturday, October 19, 1991

Participants will experience...

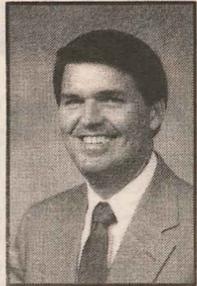
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Tours                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet President Bill Crouch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sectional Rehearsals              | <input type="checkbox"/> Talk With Music Faculty    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch on Campus                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing with College Chorale  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perform in a Large Festival Choir |   |

For more information, write or call:

Mr. Steve Cook  
Georgetown College  
400 East College Street  
Georgetown, KY 40324-1696

Phone: (502) 863-8041

"Liberal Arts in the Christian Climate Since 1829"



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

# clear creek chronicle

## Eric

Four-year-old Eric Reece likes cars. He was a familiar sight on campus during the summer driving his battery-powered jeep, a gift from parents and Harlan County grandmother. He would park in the visitor space in front of the Aldridge Building, always leaving room for a guest. From a window booth at Symon's Drive-In, Eric saw my daughter and me get out of the school Chevrolet. He said to his mother, "Dr. Whittaker drives a Cadowac."

Eric loves to fish. He caught his first fish in the Harmony Heights pond. Shortly afterward, his foot slipped on the soft bank, and he fell head-first into the pond. With mother drying him off, he kept saying, "Mommy, I'm drowning!" After the shock, he was ready for more fishing.

Mark and Mary Ann Reece frequently hear comments from campus friends about how much their son has changed in the year they have been at Clear Creek. Eric was born with cerebral palsy, and last year he was walking on his knees. Last month, he pulled up on his own from the middle of the floor. He was so excited. His grandmother called, and he said over the phone, "Watch me do this new trick, Grandma!"

A significant contribution to Eric's progress has been the campus family environment, the many children, and the campus preschool. His mother noted "He loves the preschool. He is lonesome without kids. For him the more the better."

"In Ohio Eric was mainly around adults. At Clear Creek, he watched the other active children and saw there was more than walking on his knees."

Therapy and medical help come from Shriner's Hospital, Lexington. Eric has had leg braces for almost a year and normally wears them six to eight hours a day. With development of his leg muscles his braces will need to be stretched. The doctor is "amazed at his progress."

The Reeces moved to campus in August 1990. Mrs. Reece soon secured a job in the development office as a public relations secretary. Husband Mark looks forward to service in religious education with a special emphasis on church growth. Mark, a Harlan County native, met Mary Ann in 1983 when he moved to Dayton for employment. The Baptist church they attended was pastored by 1970 Clear Creek alumnus David Deck.

David reminisces, "We were unsure how we could cope moving from home. We felt our backbone was gone. That was regained at Clear Creek. The family togetherness, genuine concern and prayer support from all the campus family has meant so much."

When the Reeces graduate, Eric will surely deserve a ride in a "Cadowac."

### 9 Day Tour HOLY LAND

Join Wayne Dehoney, Wayne Ward, other Kentucky pastors visiting Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Calvary, Gethsemane.

Departing  
Dec. 26, Dec. 30, Jan. 6

On-site Services  
Evening Bible Studies  
Led by Outstanding Kentucky  
Pastors, Bible Teachers

Write or call for a brochure/details.

BibleLand Travel  
1204 S. 3rd, Louisville, KY 40203  
1-800-325-6708

## Clarence Jordan Award Banquet

Thursday, October 10, 6:30 p.m.  
Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville  
Speaker: Rev. Russell Awkard, Pastor  
New Zion Baptist Church

Honoring: Dr. Glen Stassen

This award is presented annually by the Long Run Association Christian Life Committee to an individual who demonstrates outstanding commitment to applying Christian faith to practice.

Cost: \$6.75 per person. Make reservations by Oct. 3. Send to Jordan Banquet, 310 Bonner Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40207.

# Accommodations

## 1991 KBC Annual Meeting - Lexington

The 154th Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting is November 12-13 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. **Make your reservations early!**

**Please Note:** The Executive Office of the KBC Executive Board makes every effort to advise Convention messengers concerning good lodging at a variety of prices in any host city. Messengers should be aware, however, that lodging other than that listed may be available. Also, individuals are expected to exercise personal discretion in the selection of appropriate accommodations. Telephone a hotel if you have specific questions about its services or policies.

All listings are for  
Lexington.

Rates available on  
reservations made  
through October 26,  
1991. Tell reservations  
clerk you are  
attending the  
Kentucky Baptist  
Convention.

Add 11.3% tax  
to rates

R=Restaurant

All 800 telephone  
numbers are toll  
free.

Best Western Regency (R) 2241 Elkhorn Road, 40205 \$35.00 1 person \$41.00 2 persons \$6.00 each additional person Complimentary continental breakfast	606/293-2202 800/528-1234	Knights Inn-East 2250 Elkhorn Road, 40505 \$34.00 1-4 persons	606/299-8481
Campbell House Inn (R) 1375 Harrodsburg Road, 40504 \$44.00 1 person \$49.00 2-4 persons	606/255-4281 800/432-9254	Park Inn International (R) 925 Newtown Pike, 40511 \$26.00 1 or 2 persons	606/252-6656 800/354-9048
Continental Inn (R) 801 New Circle Road NE, 40505 \$39.00 1-4 persons	606/299-5281 800/432-9388	Quality Inn Northwest (R) 1050 Newtown Pike, 40511 \$33.50 1 person \$45.50 2 persons	606/233-0561 800/221-2222
Courtyard by Marriott (R) 775 Newtown Court, 40511 \$55.00 1-4 persons	606/254-1247 800/321-2211	Radisson Plaza Lexington (R) 369 West Vine Street, 40507-1636 \$50.00 1-4 persons	606/231-9000 800/333-3333
Greenleaf Inn 2280 Nicholasville Road, 40503 \$39.00 1 person \$48.00 2 persons, 2 beds	606/277-1191 800/432-9027	Red Roof Inn South 2651 Wilhite Drive, 40503 \$34.95 1 bed, 1-2 persons \$37.95 1 bed, 2-4 persons	606/277-9400 800/843-7663
Hampton Inn 2251 Elkhorn Road, 40505 \$43.00 1-4 persons Complimentary continental breakfast	606/299-2613 800/426-7866	Shoney's Inn-Lexington 2753 Richmond Road, 40509 \$45.00 1-4 persons	606/269-4999 800/222-2222
Hilton Suites of Lexington Green (R) 3195 Nicholasville Road, 40503 \$60.00 1-2 persons \$70.00 3-4 persons	606/271-4000 800/445-8667	The Springs Inn (R) 2020 Harrodsburg Road, 40503 \$45.00 1-4 persons	606/277-5751 800/432-0775
Holiday Inn South (R) 5532 Athens-Booneville Road, 40509 \$45.00 1-4 persons	606/263-5241 800/465-4329	Super 8 Motel 2351 Buena Vista Drive, 40505 \$29.88 1 person, 1 bed \$41.88 4 persons, 2 beds	606/299-6241
Hyatt Regency Lexington (R) 400 West Vine Street, 40507 \$53.00 1-4 persons	606/253-1234 800/233-1234	Travelodge 1987 North Broadway, 40505 \$32.00 1-4 persons	606/299-1202 800/333-9843

## christian education

**CUMBERLAND COLLEGE:** For the 14th year, the Cumberland College Upsilon-Upsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta has received the Best Chapter award for schools with enrollments of less than 2,500. The chapter received \$250 for the purchase of books as a reward. ... Homecoming will be Sept. 20-21. A breakfast will be held Saturday at 9:45 am honoring the class of 1941. The Homecoming Banquet will be Saturday evening at 6 p.m. in the T.J. Roberts Dining Hall. Tickets may be reserved by sending \$10 per ticket to: banquet tickets, office of alumni affairs, College Station Box 7190, Williamsburg, Ky. 40769. ... New personnel include: **Rachel Alley**, assistant athletic trainer; **Donald Burris**, biology; **John Cornwell**, military science; **Jolly Kay Faught**, English; **Jonathan Ramey**, mathematics; **Russell Weedman**, art; **Julie Tan**, chemistry; **Steve Allen**, admissions counselor; **Dan Chapman**, **Verlon Grady**, **Todd Shepard**, and **Ray D'Attivao**, supervisors in maintenance and food services. New assignments are: **Anna Beth Brooks**, psychology; **Tina Hall**, career counseling and placement secretary; **Debbie Harp**, career counseling and placement; and **Lynn Huff**, director of student services. ... Appalachian Ministries summer staff helped volunteer church groups build five houses for families in the Appalachian area. ... For the second year the college was honored by the John Templeton Foundation for promoting development of moral character and intellect among students. The college was named to honor rolls for free enterprise teaching and character-building colleges.

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE:** **David Purchia** of Indianapolis was elected student body president. Vice president-elect is **David Evans** of Corbin.

**GEORGETOWN COLLEGE:** Senior **Russ Lemons** of Glendale, Ky., has been

elected secretary of the treasury for the 1991-92 United States Intercollegiate Congress in Washington, D.C. **Lemons** will meet with U.S. Secretary of Education **Lamar Alexander** in September, and will later appear with three other college students in a promotional video with President **George Bush**. ... Senior **Tammie Renee Faulkner** has been appointed to an internship in the public relations office. She is the daughter of **Courtland** and **Wandolene Faulkner** of Stanton. ... "Three Pieces" for six trumpets by **F.G.A. Dauverner** and edited by **H.M. Lewis**, professor of music and chairman of the Department of Music, has been published by the Triplo Press of Oxford, Ohio. ... **Sonny Burnette**, assistant professor of music, is an arranger for the new Assembly of God instrumental hymnal, which is to be published by Gospel Publishing House. **Burnette** will have an original work for saxophone and piano published in September by Roncorp Publications of Cherry Hill, N.J. ... **Tony Whitfield**, associate professor of music, has been elected president of the Kentucky-American Choral Directors Association for

### Campbellsville enrollment up 18 percent

**CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Enrollment at Campbellsville College increased 18 percent this fall over last year, bringing total enrollment above the 1,000 mark for only the third time in the school's history.

Previous highs were recorded in 1966 with 1,079 students enrolled and in 1967 with 1,029 enrolled.

Enrollment last fall was 857.

President **Ken Winters** said the increase has prompted quick expansion of teaching space. Four classrooms on the first floor of **Druen Hall** have been remodeled, additional dormitory rooms have been furnished and parking capacity has been doubled.

In addition, the old gym has been renovated into a student activities center with

1991-92. ... **Jack Donovan**, director of campus safety, has been named director of the Scott County Disaster and Emergency Services. ... **Marc Whitt**, public relations director, has been named co-chair of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education-Kentucky program committee.

**CAMPBELLSVILLE COLLEGE:** An art exhibit by **Laura Lee Cundiff** of Versailles is scheduled for Sept. 16-Oct. 4 in the Gosser Fine Arts Center Gallery.

**MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY:** Two students with Kentucky ties recently received academic scholarships from MBTS for the 1991-92 academic year. **Robert Carruthers**, recipient of the Ray B. Zimmerman Scholarship, is a native of Illinois. He is the son of **Cloide Carruthers Jr.** of Danville, Ky., and is a 1981 graduate of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, Mayfield, Ky. **Irys Jeanne Harris** Scholarship recipient, **Randall Gaskey**, is a native of Indiana and a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist College in Pineville, Ky.

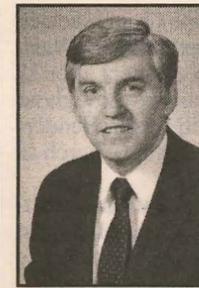
space for student gatherings, a game room, television and some indoor sports.

**Winters** attributes this year's increased enrollment to additional recruiting efforts, strong programs and good facilities.

This fall marks the beginning of a new communications major headed by **Tim Hart**, assistant professor of communications and director of television services.

This is also the first year for the college's soccer team, coached by **Steve Bedingfield**, and cross-country team, coached by **Bill Bennett**.

**Campbellsville** also offers classes at the Marion Adjustment Center, Bell County Forestry Unit, Fruit of the Loom and at several area high schools.



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

## homes for children

### Strategic issues

In early October the top management team of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children along with our board chairman, **Dr. Herbert Booth**, will meet for a two-day session to begin a process of looking at our plans for the next five years. As part of that process, I have asked our staff to provide me with a list of major issues that we can begin to prioritize.

Though the list is quite extensive, I can see some key issues which seem to emerge from the lists.

A major one is the question of staffing. How can we provide more training to people who admittedly have a difficult job? How can we select staff who have the abilities to really make a difference in the lives of our children?

There is a recognition that caring for troubled children takes real skill and some unique qualities.

Another strategic question focuses on how we can intensify our current programs to meet the needs of the children coming into care.

Do we need to add more specialized staff? Do we need to develop more programs like the Youth Ranch which focus on caring for the more damaged child? Do we need to reduce capacities in our cottages so children can have more individual attention?

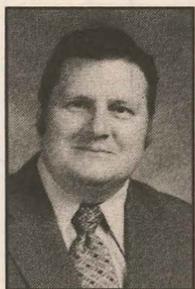
This past year the number of requests for service increased by almost 200—from 1,140 in 1990 to 1,324 in 1991. Do we need to consider expanding the number of locations and the amount of services we have available? If we expand, where do we locate? What kind of programs do we provide? How do we fund new, even more costly programs?

Another strategic theme which is suggested is that we need to consider developing new types of programs which serve children and families through such services as Christian counseling.

Do we need to consider a whole new service area such as service to the elderly person?

Whatever service we deliver, staff have suggested that we need to consider ways of better evaluating the results we obtain. In addition it is recommended that we become an accredited agency.

As you can see, there are a lot of issues facing the management staff and board of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children as we look to the future.



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

## oneida journal

### God's flowing blessings

Every week physical improvements are being made at Oneida. There are always new things to be seen.

In recent columns I have detailed many improvements; here are some more.

Approximately 13 years ago our boys helped clear about two acres on the mountain behind our chapel building. They cut out underbrush and dead trees, grubbed out honeysuckle vines, cut weeds, and dug out some old fence posts and rusty barbed wire. Having done all that, they then dug a zig-zag walking path from the bottom of the mountain to the top. That was quite an effort with pick and shovel. Then old railroad ties were laid along the new trail to keep the hill from washing.

My father, working as a volunteer, then laid beautiful stone steps leading into the walking trail. The base stone was the old hearthstone from the first staff house built at Oneida in 1903. The beautiful walking trail was named in honor of **Ethan** and **Lean Allen**, next door neighbors of our campus family for over 50 years. The trail leads from our chapel entrance to the top of Cemetery Hill where 319 former students, staff members and trustees have been laid to rest over the past 90 years. An American flag flies daily at the top of the path.

One has a beautiful panoramic view of the four valleys surrounding the campus hill and the three rivers that come together to make the South Fork of the Kentucky River which flows northward. It is a beautiful and sacred spot.

Some of our young people and visiting volunteers worked several weeks on the Allen trail. The railroad ties along the trail were half-rotten. The workers replaced all of them with smaller, specially-treated poles, held in the ground by iron pikes. These poles define the trail and will keep the hill from washing for years to come. Our boys also worked many hours carrying two five-gallon buckets of gravel at a time to regrade the path from the bottom to the top.

Several of our men and available volunteers have been busy building three large rooms on three of our staff houses. Over the past 16 years, we have added new housing for 115 to 120 staff members as our program has grown. We could use more right now.

Volunteers from Florida tore out one of the five bathrooms in 80-year-old **Anderson Hall** and built a new on the existing joists and studs. Recently we received a special offering from Downtown Baptist

Church, Orlando, to pay for all the materials that were used in that project.

How very wonderful are our many friends who come annually to work several days or weeks helping in construction projects. Often besides their labor, they give thousands of dollars for materials. Folks from **Ballardsville Baptist** do manual labor here each year and donate thousands as they did the week before school opened.

Another very noticeable improvement was the installation some weeks ago of a very powerful fan in one hallway window on each floor of several of our dorms. There are about two inches of space under each individual room doorway. The new fan on each floor is powerful enough to draw air from all the open windows of each room, sucking it under the doors and through the hallways. The constant breeze in each building has lowered the temperatures approximately 15 degrees in these unair-conditioned dorms.

Today only our three older dorms, the older of our two gyms, and our oldest building, used as a guest house, are not air-conditioned. With such an active summer school program enrolling a total of 261 students, we have worked step by step to air-condition every classroom in 10 buildings, our two dining rooms and kitchen, our second gym, our chapel, library, offices, and all staff housing. It is as important to work efficiently to have air-conditioning in the summer as it is to have heat in the winter.

This year we scheduled our students by computer for the first time. In recent years we have computerized all our mailings, bookkeeping, grade and record keeping, report cards, etc.

We thank God and our friends for making it all possible.

# mountains to the mississippi

■ **HENDERSON**—Airline Church hosted a reception honoring **Lester and Idella Nash** Sept. 8, marking Nash's retirement after 35 years of ministry in six churches throughout Kentucky. The Nashes will live in Henderson and he will remain at Airline Church as pastor emeritus.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Edgar Vaughn**, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Hospitals Inc., has been elected to the house of delegates of the American Hospital Association for a three-year term.

Walnut Street Church welcomed **Scott Fitzsimmons** as director of the college and career department.

■ **PERRYVILLE**—Perryville Church welcomed **Dan McClelland** as minister of music.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Salem Church called **Bill Scritchfield** as minister of music and youth.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—**Earl Bell** will serve as interim pastor of Springfield Church effective Sept. 29.

**MISSIONARY UPDATE:**

■ **Tonita Tackett**, missionary to Brazil, is on furlough at 7304 Rainbow Drive, Louisville, Ky. 40272.

■ **Jeffrey and Susan Vann**, Baptist representatives to Jordan, are on the field at Box 1, Ajloun, Jordan.

■ **Larry and Peggy Wakefield**, Baptist representatives to Mexico, are on furlough at 378 S. Greensburg Street, Hodgenville, Ky. 42748.

■ **Carlton and Cornelia Walker**, missionaries to Japan, on the field at 1-5-25 Fukuzumi 3-jo, Toyohira-ku, Sapporo 062, Japan.

■ **Charles and Carolyn Warford**, missionary associates in Germany, are on the field at Auf der Heide 56, 2860 Osterholz-Scharmbeck, Federal Republic of Germany.

■ **Karen Wright**, furloughing missionary to Chile, will be available for speaking engagements through January 1992, and may be contacted at (502) 239-5615; 7704 Fegenbush Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40228.

**classified ads**

**FOR SALE:** 1979 Chevrolet church minibus, inspected and priced to sell; New Hope Baptist Church, Cadiz, Ky. Phone: 502-3609. 9-10-4T

**FOR RENT:** 2 Bedroom, 2 bath condo for rent, Sanibel Island, Fla. Tennis courts, large pool, screened porch, VCR, bikes. Best beach on the island. Call 502-895-8752. 9-17-4T

**NEEDED:** Part-time minister of music and part-time minister of youth. Approximately 15 hours weekly. Send resumé to Youngers Creek Baptist Church, 251 Youngers Creek Road, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701 or call 502-737-8676. 9-17-2T

**RECOGNITION:** Have you or your teacher taught Sunday school for more than 25 years? If so, contact the Kentucky Baptist Sunday School Department today at 502-245-4101 for recognition at "Celebrate The Bible: Kentucky" program. 9-10-5T

**FOR SALE:** 25-30 Solid oak church pews with padded seats. Medium-dark oak stain. Price: \$150 each. Pews are different lengths from 8' to 14'. Can be seen at Sedalia Baptist Church. Call 502-328-8523, 502-328-8171 or 502-328-8205. 9-17-4T

**AUTHORS WANTED BY NEW YORK PUBLISHER**

Leading subsidy book publisher seeks manuscripts of all types: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, scholarly and juvenile works, etc. New authors welcomed. Send for free, illustrated 32-page brochure H-101 Vantage Press, 516 W. 34 St., New York, N.Y. 10001

**EXPERIENCE ALASKA!**

Join Eldred & Marjorie Taylor on a 12-day Princess Cruise Tour

May 3 - June 10, 1992

Visit: Ketchikan, Juneau, Skayway, Fairbanks, Denal. National Park and Anchorage.

Experience Alaska by Air, Luxury Ship, Dome Train and Motor-coach

Write or Call Today: Eldred & Marjorie Taylor  
129 Tanglewood Trail, Louisville, Ky. 40223  
502-426-2397

**Enroll early for \$150 discount**



*Celebrate*

**THE BIBLE: KENTUCKY**  
Oct. 27, 1991  
6:30 p.m. EST  
Severns Valley Baptist Church  
Elizabethtown

**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.

*Take advantage now of special discount rates - up to 65%!*

**C**hurch and associational leaders: When planning the site for your next retreat, seminar or fellowship, consider two of Kentucky Baptists' greatest resources--Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

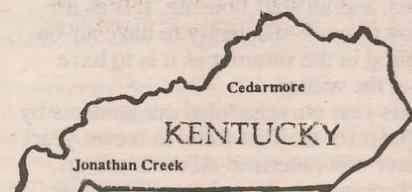
Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, located 50 miles northeast of Louisville in Shelby County, has over 1,300 acres of rolling hills and secluded setting. Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly is nestled along the shores of Kentucky Lake in west Kentucky. Enjoy good Kentucky home cooking and hospitality in relaxed Christian atmospheres!

Discount rates are effective for events scheduled between December 1991 - March 1992

For more helpful information contact:

Harold Barnes  
Manager  
Cedarmore Baptist Assembly  
P. O. Box 37  
Bagdad, KY 40003 (502) 747-8911

Deward Hurst  
Manager  
Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly  
Route 1, Box 418  
Hardin, KY 42048 (502) 354-8355



**Louisville Real Evangelism Conference**

**Place:** Highview Baptist Church  
**Date:** October 23-25, 1991  
Morning Services - 9:30 a.m.

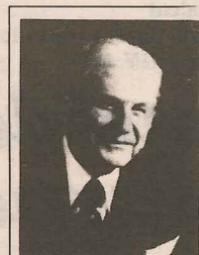
**Featuring:**



**Bailey Smith**  
Wednesday - 7:00 P.M.



**Ardian Rogers**  
Thursday - 6:30 P.M.



**W.A. Criswell**  
Friday - 6:30 P.M.

**Also Speaking:**

- Rick Amato
- Junior Hill
- Bill Stafford
- Tom Elliff
- LaVerne Butler

**Musicians:**

- Highview Choir
- Speck Family
- Ninth & O Choir
- The Talleys
- Greater Vision

7711 Fegenbush Lane  
Louisville, Kentucky 40228  
**William L. Hancock, Pastor**  
(502) 239-7711

# Children of Chernobyl treated with hope in U.S.

By Wendy Hollingsworth  
Home Mission Board

SOUTH WINDSOR, Conn. (BP)—Fifteen survivors of the Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear disaster received a hearty dose of hope this summer through a Southern Baptist congregation in Connecticut.

The 80-member Connecticut River Valley Fellowship in South Windsor, Conn., hosted 13 Soviet children and two chaperons for six weeks. The trip was arranged through First Baptist Church of Mogilev, a city in the Soviet Union's Byelorussian republic. It was jointly sponsored by Mogilev businessmen and Soviet government.

Most of the children are from Mogilev, which is 156 miles north of the Chernobyl disaster site. When the nuclear reactor exploded in 1986, winds blew radioactive material over surrounding cities, including Mogilev.

Since the disaster, children are no longer allowed to play outside. Foods such as blueberries and mushrooms from the forest are forbidden. The citizens of Mogilev avoid unnecessary exposure to the sun in order

not to exacerbate their already high levels of radiation.

In the United States, the Soviets visited Washington, D.C., Virginia Beach, Va., and New York City. Local business leaders donated free passes for go-cart rides, miniature golf and video games, T-shirts, jeans and tennis shoes.

But the group's trip was more than fun and games. The stay in Connecticut offered hope because studies show residual levels of radiation decline by about 25 percent if exposed individuals are removed from the contaminated area for a month to six weeks.

The trip also offered the visitors the hope found in Jesus Christ.

"There has been a lot of propaganda against Baptists from the government," said Allison Culpepper, member of the Connecticut church. "Before they came to America, some of the kids were told that we sacrificed our children during the morning service."

Chaperon Gueorgui Tchekhovski said the largest Protestant movement in Mogilev is the Baptist church. However, there are only three Baptist churches in the city of

500,000. They have a combined membership of 800.

The Connecticut congregation tried various approaches to minister to the children during their visit. Children's Bibles printed in Russian were distributed to the group.

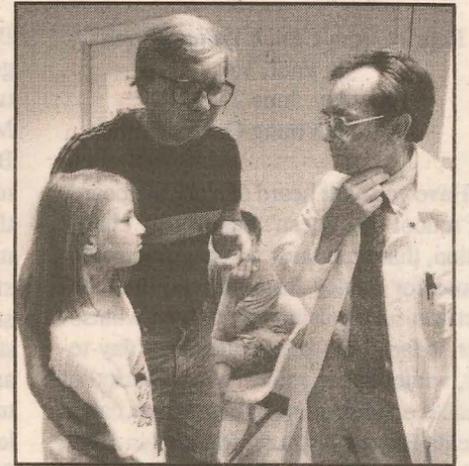
Culpepper asked Natasha Zaikina, a confident 15-year-old who wants to become a translator, if she had been reading her Bible. Natasha answered in broken English, "Yes, I have read it all."

Pastor Richard Culpepper remembers when the girl first came. "Natasha was so hard at first. But I've seen her change since she's been here. She told me she was open to God's word now."

In spite of the language barrier, Elizaveta Terechtchenko, one of the chaperons and a journalist with a democratic newspaper in Mogilev, made a profession of faith. She plans to be baptized after returning home.

Some of the children who did not attend church in Mogilev before the trip to America said they will attend regularly after they go home.

"I didn't know the story of God's love was so believable," Natasha said.



**FREE EXAM**—Ioulia Tchekhovski, left, talks with Frederick Barrien, a physician at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Conn. The girl and her father, Gueorgui, were among 15 victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident who received assistance from a Baptist congregation in Connecticut this summer. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

## Russian student leaves Moscow in spite of coup

By Connie Davis  
Tennessee Baptist and Reflector

NASHVILLE (BP)—Moscow was just as she had been warned—its downtown streets were filled with armored tanks and dissenters.

Alia Dzhiembaeva and her father were in Moscow to see her off for a year of study directed by her new Baptist friends in the United States. Her father had decided it was less dangerous for them to be in Moscow during last week's coup than it was for Alia to stay in the country.

A Baptist friend, Tennessean Harry Rowland, whom she met during the Kazakh-American cultural exchange held in the republic of Kazakhstan June 21-July 7, arranged her exchange program. Dzhiembaeva served as an interpreter for the exchange, which was developed by Southern Baptists through the Central Asian Foundation, a non-profit corporation that directs Christian aid.

However, her father feared her American friends, and her appearances in meetings and on TV with them, might place her under the suspicion of new Soviet leaders. He had been ambivalent about her plans to study in the U.S. but quickly changed his mind after the news of the coup.

"He wanted me to be safe. Many people were worried about our future when the army came to power," she explained.

Because of her father's persistence in the face of little information and his influence as a chemist at the Academy of Sciences in Kazakhstan, on Tuesday morning they caught the last flight out of Alma-Ata after the coup.

In Moscow, information was even at a higher premium. Except for one TV and

radio channel directed by the coup leaders, word of mouth and unauthorized information were the only sources of news.

Housed downtown in the Kazakh Embassy and forced to move about the city to complete paperwork for her trip, Dzhiem-

baeva saw the crowds, mostly young people and students, gathering to protest.

"The soldiers were not impolite to us," she said.

On Thursday she and her father waited about two hours to cross a street jammed by

*"My father remembered the Stalinist period when people just disappeared. Sometimes it was because they had friends that were foreigners. I had many friends who were Americans."*

- Alia Dzhiembaeva

The same crowds that flooded Red Square to protest the military coup earlier in the week celebrate the return of reform forces in the Soviet Union Aug. 22. St. Basil Cathedral is in the background. (RNS photo)



## Czech Baptists renewing heritage after Soviet repression

By Art Toalston  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—To survive communist repression, Czechoslovakia's Baptists sacrificed their heritage.

Now, "We are restoring Baptist identity," declared a Czech Baptist official.

"We have to show our people what it is to be a Baptist," said Pavel Vychopan, general secretary of the Baptist Union in Czechoslovakia, during a July 15-17 visit to Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board

headquarters in Richmond, Va.

Czech Baptists number about 4,000 in 33 churches and 100 preaching stations. To replant Baptist roots, the union will open a college-level school in September. The school will offer about 30 students courses in biblical and Baptist studies, youth and children's ministry and social work.

The FMB provided \$85,000 of the \$95,000 needed to purchase a building for the school in the city of Olomouc. In addition, Southern Baptists' first workers, Robert and Marsha Ford, arrived in Czech-

oslovakia in late July.

In 1948, atheism took aim at Christianity when the communists rose to power and soon enacted a sweeping and repressive law against churches.

"Baptists were one of the few churches that refused the law," Vychopan recounted, "because it did not reflect some of our key principles" such as separation of church and state and democratic rule within congregations.

"We were heavily attacked by the communists," he said. "Almost half of our pas-

tanks leaving downtown, which they assumed were going to a battle. They then heard the news of the failed coup.

Everyone was "shocked," she said, when Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin and an emergency session of the Russian parliament appeared on TV exposing the junta and its leaders.

On the way to the airport on Thursday evening, she saw fireworks lighting the sky to celebrate the end of the coup. Arriving the evening before her scheduled Friday morning flight because of the curfew, they found crowds that didn't allow them seating room.

The fact she was able to leave was a "miracle," Dzhiembaeva said. She referred not only to the political barriers, but logistic barriers, noting many people wait two years for an airline ticket to the U.S.

The efforts of Rowland, associate pastor at Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, allowed her departure, which was "so un-Soviet," she explained.

"God has had his hand in this in a lot of ways," said Rowland, who noted the biggest hurdle was initiating the process because a student exchange is still an uncommon procedure in the Soviet Union. The Ministry of Education usually has a three-month waiting period and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requires a 21-day delay for issuing exchange permits, he added. Then she had to get an airline ticket.

Rowland and his wife spent about 30 hours trying to make contact with the Dzhiembaeva family during the coup. Another miracle allowed them to make phone contact twice, he reported.

He and his family, with assistance from Woodmont Church, will sponsor Dzhiembaeva for a year while she studies at Belmont College in Nashville.

tors were imprisoned. Some even died in prison, and we realized that we would not survive. Therefore we sacrificed these principles and accepted the law in 1953."

Counting the onslaught of World War II followed by communism, he added, "Our union has been almost five decades in isolation."

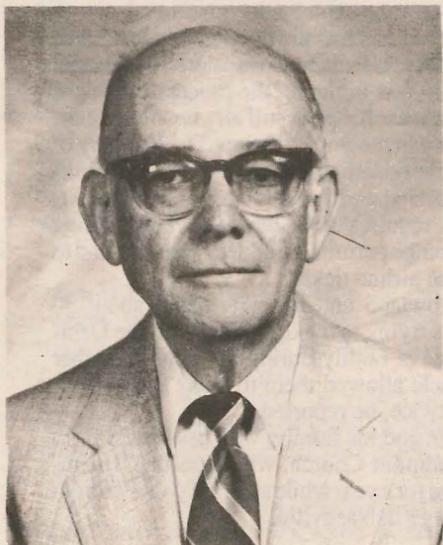
For Czech Baptists, the challenge now, according to Vychopan, is "to come out of the isolation, to get rid of the fears we collected in so many decades, to preach the gospel outside our buildings."

## A Unique Institution

Reprint from *Clinch Valley Times*,  
St. Paul, VA,  
Thursday, June 27, 1991  
by Ann Young Gregory

Have you ever heard of a private boarding school that doesn't necessarily charge tuition, that maintains no on-going solicitations for money from alumni, that conducts no fund-raising campaigns whatsoever, in fact, but that operates from day-to-day, winter and summer, over a period of decades on faith alone? There is one, called Oneida Baptist Institute, founded in 1899, and as far as I know, it's unique. Although I'm an enthusiastic--some might even say aggressive--believer in public schools, I'm nevertheless impressed with this particular school and its dedication to its mission.

Because an uncle of Allen's (James A. Boswell) had died unexpectedly last week, Allen and I went to the tiny Clay County community of Oneida (pronounced O nee' da) in the eastern Kentucky mountains on Saturday to attend his funeral. The uncle, an ordained Baptist minister, had been the assistant to the president of Oneida Baptist Institute for the past 17 years, and, consequently, many school-related people participated in the funeral, and many others attended it. The school, in fact, invited all the members of the family as well as others who were at the service to have lunch at one of the dining rooms in its cafeteria facility. At the luncheon, we were pleased to be able to meet and chat with school officials, family friends and members of the community who had been so fond of Allen's uncle. (We were particularly delighted to see and visit for a few minutes with Jennifer Kilgore Coffey, one of our St. Paul girls, who, like her husband, teaches at the school.)



James A. Boswell  
Assistant to the President  
Oneida Baptist Institute  
1974-1991  
Deceased June 18, 1991

Although everyone connected with the school is its enthusiastic supporter, the person who would have to be designated the school's official cheerleader and super P.R. man is its president, Dr. Barkley Moore, a graduate of Oneida himself. We talked to

Dr. Moore for quite a while, and began to get a notion of what Oneida Baptist Institute is all about. The private school is, Dr. Moore told us, supported in part by the Baptist Church, but that's just the beginning. The boarding school includes sixth through twelfth grades, and has an enrollment of over 500 students from a number of states as well as foreign countries, with 200 students enrolled during the summer. No student, Dr. Moore said, is ever turned away just because he or she isn't able to pay tuition. Neither, he said, is the school "selective" in requiring that all of its students fit any particular molds--rich kids, poor kids, bright kids, average kids, "good" kids, "at-risk" kids, problem kids--they have them all. Oneida accepts any child that is physically, mentally and emotionally ready to be away from home. The school is fully accredited; in fact, its curriculum and teacher qualifications exceed most of the standards required for accreditation in Kentucky.

When we asked where the money comes from to maintain the impressive physical plant which includes a number of buildings on the school's beautiful campus, as well as the extensive faculty (four foreign languages, for example, are offered to students), Dr. Moore said it's impossible to pin it down. "We get a lot of \$5, \$10, \$25 contributions. You might have noticed," he said, "that there are people's names on some of our buildings and special rooms." We have noticed, and thought that the buildings were probably named for benefactors who provided the funds for their construction. Not so, said Dr. Moore, "Our buildings are named for people who have provided service to this school." He told us that one of the chapels on the campus is named in honor of a black woman who appeared on the campus many years ago saying that she would like to have work as a cook. During that particular time, he told us, the county was not integrated, and blacks were not welcome. The school, however, took her in with open arms, and she stayed for years, cooking for hundreds of people three times a day, seven days a week. "She," Dr. Moore said, "served this school and its children, and the chapel is named in her honor."

When we asked him how such a financial system can possibly work, the irrepressible Dr. Moore said, "It's very simple. We do the will of God, and he provides." He continued, "Some people say they wonder how we know what the will of God is, but it's right there in the Bible--we're to teach his word and do his work," and he emphasized that students at Oneida Baptist Institute attend chapel daily. "The Bible says part of God's work is feeding the hungry, taking in the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick. . . People at Oneida Baptist Institute have been lovingly doing all these things for 92 years, and God takes care of us." The school provides housing for its teachers, but pays them very small salaries by today's standards. He told us about the elderly man who refused to retire, and who, at the end of the day, goes through the school's trash to find discarded clothing which he takes home, washes and then puts

back into useful condition for students who may not have as much as some of the others.

One of the stories we especially liked was one about a time when a new building was desperately needed. "The Baptists were already providing so much for us that year," he said, "that I went to the Methodists and asked what they could do for us. They were so astonished that a Baptist would ask them for a building that they gave it to us." Dr. Moore emphasized to us, however, that the building incident was one of the very few times that he has ever asked anybody for anything for the school.

It's an amazing place, this Oneida Baptist Institute. With no big endowments, no alumni campaigns for money, no high-powered fund-raising drives, never knowing on any given day where 80% of its financial support will materialize, it nevertheless continues, year after year, to attract sufficient means to maintain and constantly improve its impressive campus, provide scholarships for many, and provide a superior faculty and staff for its diverse student body. It's an operation of faith, and seeing it made us understand why Allen's uncle had been so content to dedicate such a large segment of his life to its work.

### Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars of Equipment Added as Oneida Begins 92nd Year

Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky's only Baptist boarding school serving grades 6-12, has begun its 92nd academic year.

The opening enrollment is 533 girls and boys with a staff of 123 working with them.

21 new IBM compatible computers were bought for the high school lab as the year opened and the ones replaced are being used in the middle school classrooms.

A designated gift made possible the installation of a satellite dish with televisions in every classroom in eight buildings connected by cable. This gives access to much satellite programming and each TV has a VCR allowing for other educational films.

Shortly before the year began Oneida received a large gift of science equipment including a neutron spectrometer.

Six new pianos have been added to the piano lab making a total of 13 pianos. Last year 82 differing students practiced piano five hours weekly under a teacher's supervision.

As the new year began five new 15-passenger vans were bought.

The school has purchased new booklockers replacing those used for 26 years.

Oneida has purchased all new typewriters for its business department.

A new sound system has been installed in the chapel for the daily services, concerts, and other programs.

### Charles & Katherine Damrel Celebrating 50th Wedding Anniversary October 5th



Charles and Katherine Damrel  
standing in front of  
Oneida Baptist Church

Charles and Katherine Damrel will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday, October 5th.

The Damrels moved to the Oneida community in 1948 and for 38 years Charles worked with the natural gas pumping station in "Pump Hollow" that distributed natural gas for a 100 mile radius of Oneida. Charles held varying positions of increasing responsibility and was the Field Supervisor the last 13 years of his working career. During all these years Katherine was a fulltime wife and mother.

Both Damrels were very active in the Oneida Baptist Church. You could count on their being present when the doors opened unless providentially hindered. Charles served as church treasurer, clerk, Training Union Director, deacon. Sometimes he was serving in at least two of these capacities at the same time. He was chairman of the deacons for eight years. Mrs. Damrel taught Sunday School every Sunday for most of those years and was very active in the Woman's Missionary Union in varying capacities.

They were friends to Oneida's boys and girls for 38 years and once even took one of them into their home to live.

All four of the Damrel children graduated from Oneida Baptist Institute. Oldest Thomas finished in 1961, has six children, and has lived in California many years but is relocating to Lexington. Carol '63 has two children, living in Georgetown, but about to relocate with husband's employer, IBM, to New York. Mike '65 has two children and lives in Lexington. Linda '67 has one son and lives in Florida.

In retirement the Damrels live near Beattyville in Lee County. Their mailing address is: 11712 Highway 399, Beattyville, KY 41311.