

Centers give more of usual at Christmas

By Marv Knox
Editor

Kentucky Baptist ministry centers don't change their tune at Christmas. They just turn up the volume.

Every week of the year, ministry centers supported by Kentucky Baptists provide food, clothing and other necessities to some of the state's poorest families. But from Thanksgiving through Christmas, their work multiplies.

An informal survey of Christian social ministries workers last week revealed bustling activity, from urban housing projects to rural mountain "hollers."

Volunteers and staff members prepared about 225 food baskets at Jefferson Street Baptist Center near downtown Louisville, reported Director Steve Golden. The baskets are providing Christmas meals for families ranging from two to seven members.

Two weeks ago, Jeff Street Center created a toy store for the community. Parents were able to buy children's presents discounted at least 80 percent. They could buy two gifts per child for a total of \$2.

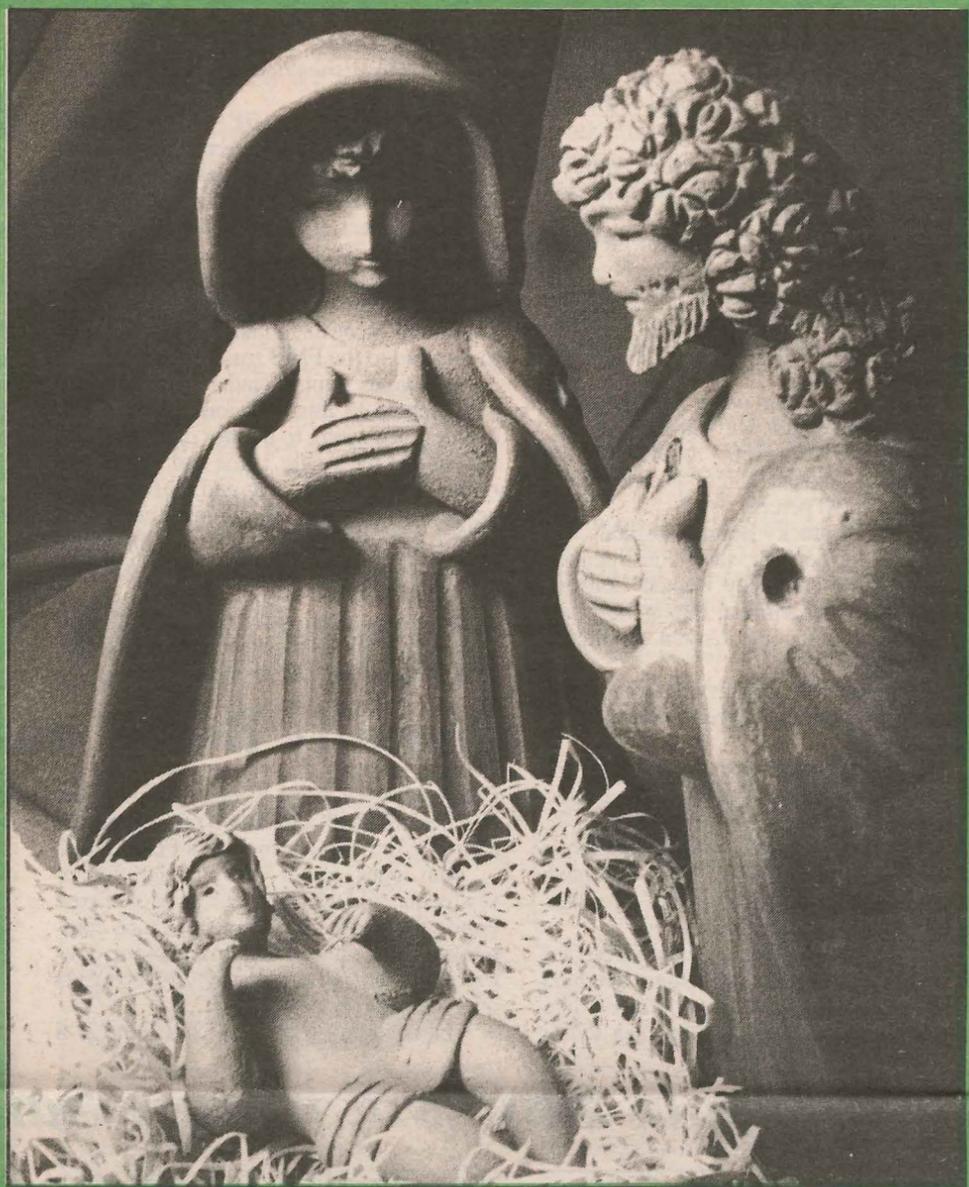
"The toy sale gives parents dignity," Golden noted. "Parents actually buy the presents for their children. The discount is a help and a supplement, but it is not a hand-out."

Baptist Center in Owensboro sponsored a Christmas program Dec. 19. Guests included the 35-40 women who regularly attend Thursday craft/sewing/Bible study/meal sessions, along with the members of

continued on page 9, "Christmas means ..."

'For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord'

— Luke 2:11



Notice: Due to the Christmas holidays, the Western Recorder will not publish a Dec. 31 issue. The next issue will be dated Jan. 7 and will look different than in the past. Beginning with that issue, the Recorder will have a new design.

Cuban pastor's Christmas Day radio sermon a first in 28 years

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—A Cuban Baptist pastor's Christmas day sermon was to be the first evangelical message heard on Cuban radio in 28 years, according to the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

Raul Suarez, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist church in Marianao, Cuba, was scheduled to preach the sermon on Cuban radio Dec. 25, a rarity since the Castro revolution in 1959.

Suarez has been involved in long-term dialogue with the government of Fidel Castro, according to Ken Sehested, executive

director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship based in Memphis, Tenn.

"There's no question that the Cuban government's view of the Christian community is changing," Sehested said.

A Cuban Baptist representative to the Baptist World Alliance, Elmer Labastida Alfonse, said Cuban Baptists are grateful for new freedoms for Christians in Cuba.

"Cuban Christians have been struggling for three decades to witness to our Lord Jesus Christ as we share day-to-day respon-

sibilities in the construction of a new social order," Alfonse said. "The hard work, honesty, faithfulness and joy of Christians has won a hearing."

"We only ask for your prayers that we might be faithful disciples if new opportunities open up for witness and service. This is a decisive decade and we feel the Lord is preparing the way for a spiritual awakening throughout the land."

In part of his message, Suarez was to say, "All is not lost; the forces of evil can win

significant skirmishes, but they will definitely lose the final battle."

Further, he was to say, "For all our people, who have been facing a difficult and critical period because of the international factors of a double blockade—an embargo—we wish that everyone in the length and breadth of our land may hear and come to believe in a profound way the word which announces the glory of God upon our fields and cities because peace—shalom—and good will are coming."

CB radio witnesses give clear signal toward the gospel

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

HENDERSON—Electronic evangelism took a different channel when a Henderson couple used a CB radio to share their faith.

Frank DeClue, pastor of Ambassador Baptist Church in Henderson, baptized Dwight and Marsha Rideout earlier this month after they heard the gospel presented on the CB by church members Norman and Carolyn Conrad.

The Conrads, both in their 40s, are disabled and not able to get out as much as they would like. But Conrad said that doesn't stop them from talking about the many things Jesus Christ has done for them.

"These people showed you can witness from your home," DeClue said. "If you can't get out, there are other ways you can witness."

Conrad suffers from a back injury, diabetes and other health problems. Mrs. Con-

rad has a severe case of Lupus that prevents her from getting out of the house most of the time.

About a year ago, the couple started talking to the Rideouts on their CB at night. The Conrads have been avid CBers since 1975.

"We just started witnessing to them about the Lord Jesus Christ," Conrad explained,

"and now we have two new members added to our church."

"The conversation between us lasted close to a year, and then it kind of went from a casual conversation once in a while on the CB to me witnessing to them about the Lord and my wife doing the same. Then Brother DeClue and I went to their home and presented the Lord to them. They asked the Lord to come into their hearts and save them right there on the spot."

The Conrads often talk about God on the CB, he said, but this is the first time they have seen such dramatic results.

"Sometimes you get talked to rather

harshly," he explained. "We've been told to get that kind of stuff off the radio, that they didn't want to hear it."

The Conrads usually operate on channel 38 between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. Often, they converse with other family members and friends about what God is doing in their lives.

Conrad said he and his wife never know how many people are listening to their witness: "When you key the mike, you may be talking to one person or to 150. ... A lot of times a person will come in and make a comment on their own. They've just been listening to what we were saying."

Recently, the Conrads began CB radio conversations with yet another couple interested in the gospel. They hope these new friends will place their faith in Jesus Christ as well.

Talking on the CB "is one way I feel I can share the gospel," Conrad said. "I don't want to do it to be seen. I love the Lord and I tell people about the Lord Jesus Christ and what he can do for them."

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December 24, 1991

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Annuity Board has new benefits effective Jan. 1

Kentucky participants in the Annuity Board's comprehensive medical plans will receive a new benefit beginning Jan. 1.

With the addition of an "enhanced benefits network," participants will receive discounts when they use certain hospitals and health-care providers. In most cases, the difference will be a reduced deductible and reduced co-payment.

For example, when using a participating hospital, Kentuckians will cut their deductible in half—from \$500 to \$250 in the church plan—and cut their co-payment from 20 percent to 10 percent.

All four Kentucky Baptist hospitals will participate in the plan, said Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department. Baptist hospitals are located in Louisville, Corbin, Lexington and Paducah.

In addition, other Louisville-area hospitals will offer the enhanced benefits, Spencer said.

The enhanced benefits also will be available by using certain doctors in the Louisville area.

"These benefits are available to anyone in the plan," Spencer said. "You don't have to live in Louisville or the area of a particular provider to receive the benefits."

The changes should help contain costs for all participants in Annuity Board medical plans, even though not all participants live near participating providers, Spencer said.

Romanian union praises FMB decision

By Erich Bridges
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Baptist Union of Romania's general council has voiced its support of the defunding of the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, by trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Other European Baptist union leaders—many of whom opposed the defunding action—will meet in January to discuss how to respond to the FMB trustees' action.

Romanian Baptist leaders met Nov. 26 and "agreed to this decision" of the FMB trustees, according to a letter dated Dec. 10 and signed by Vasile Talos and Nic Gheorghita. Talos is president and Gheorghita is general secretary of the union, the largest Baptist group in Europe with 160,000 members, according to Baptist World Alliance statistics for 1988.

The letter was addressed to Paul Thibodeaux, FMB associate director for mission work in eastern Europe.

The Dec. 10 letter from Talos and Gheorghita said: "The Baptist Union of Romania had a grieving experience with (the Ruschlikon) seminary: one of our pastors, the only graduate from Ruschlikon, after his coming back to the country, had a negative influence in the Baptist Union of Bucharest and in some churches as well," the letter stated. "Eventually the church he ministered (to) asked him to resign for immorality."

The letter also said professors from Ruschlikon who taught in a Romanian Baptist seminary and churches "some years ago ... squeezed doubts in their lectures that the Bible is entirely the word of God. These experiences robbed the good reputation of the Ruschlikon seminary in Romania."

The FMB's Thibodeaux responded: "I don't think you can blame Ruschlikon for individual sins or immorality (of former students). ... The case that they cite I'm aware of, and I know of the problems, but in no way could one say that it was Ruschlikon's doing."

As to professors from Ruschlikon teach-

ing unbiblically in Romania, "We've never heard that until this day," Thibodeaux said.

He suggested the decision could be "closely linked" to the Romanians' hopes for more financial support for their own two seminaries. He said he had been told by Romanian Baptist leader Josif Ton that Ton hopes to raise \$2 million from Southern Baptists for each of the two Romanian Baptist schools.

In the wake of the FMB trustees' action on Ruschlikon, other European unions indicated they would discuss reaction during an already-scheduled meeting in mid-January.

Already, British Baptist leader David Coffey has told FMB officials that Southern Baptist missionaries Gary and Delores Bishop—now on furlough—would be welcomed back but that no new missionaries would be requested.

Calls and letters continued to come in to FMB offices about the defunding action. By Dec. 18 the board had received 593 letters on the issue—521 opposing the defunding and 72 favoring it.

Annuity Board announces restructure of Fixed Fund

DALLAS (BP)—The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has announced a long-term restructuring of its Fixed Fund.

John Jones, senior vice president for investments, said the restructuring of the Fixed Fund will gradually replace insurance company-issued guaranteed investment contracts with short-term maturity investments over the next six years.

The accounting of the Fixed Fund will

move from book value to market value, Jones said, but members will not see the kind of earnings fluctuation experienced in the Variable or Balanced Fund.

The range estimate for earnings of 7.50 to 8.50 percent for 1992 is less than the 1991 pre-announced 8.8 percent, Jones said.

"Fixed income investments are earning less because interest rates are down," he said. "So there should be no surprise to any-

one that we expect conservative investments to earn less this year."

While some pension funds have all their guaranteed investment contracts with one insurance company, the Annuity Board has diversified its fund among 19 of "America's strongest insurance companies," Jones said. "We are being proactive to lessen our exposure to the risks in today's insurance industry."

Indianapolis SBC will feature Sandi Patti & Bill Gaither concerts

around the sbc

Contemporary Christian singer Sandi Patti and songwriter Bill Gaither's vocal band and trio will sing during the 1992 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis June 9-11.

Dan Quayle, vice president of the United States, has been invited to speak during the convention's opening session, but has not yet confirmed his acceptance. Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta, will deliver the convention's closing message.

Sandi Patti is scheduled for a concert after the Wednesday evening Foreign Mission Board report. Gaither and his group will start the Tuesday afternoon session with a concert.

HMB elects black extension leader. Willie McPherson was elected director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's black church extension division by the agency's trustees. McPherson, previously associate director of the department, succeeds Emmanuel McCall, who left to start a church in the Atlanta area.

Southern receives art. A series of 13 paintings by Lexington artist Gloria Thomas has been donated to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville by Tom and Clara Dupree of Lexington. The paintings depict scenes from the biblical book of Revelation and will hang permanently in the mezzanine and landing of Norton Hall.

Student evangelism groups formed. A National Evangelism Task Force and multiple State Evangelism Task Forces will be formed early next year to ensure evangelism remains a priority among Baptist college students, according to Brad Gray, student ministry consultant with the Southern Baptist

Sunday School Board. The national group will include two representatives from each state convention appointed by the state director of student ministry.

CLC group visits Soviet republic. A delegation headed by Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, has returned from the Soviet republic of Georgia where they promoted religious freedom.



DEMONSTRATION—Rodney Vincent, Margaret King and Lillian Nichols of First Baptist Church in Madisonville watch a demonstration of Church Information System computer software by Mike Overcash, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Information System. The Kentuckians attended a group meeting of CIS users to learn more about the products. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

Patterson declines Liberty. Paige Patterson, the embattled president of Criswell College in Dallas and a leader of the conservative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, has declined an offer to become president of Jerry Falwell's seminary in Lynchburg, Va. Patterson said there continue to be "philosophical differences" between him and Criswell College trustees, but he does not want to move outside the SBC to work at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, an independent school. "I believe I should remain and work within our Southern Baptist Zion," he said.

Indiana & Oklahoma partners. Southern Baptists in Indiana and Oklahoma have approved an agreement that will link the two state conventions in missions and ministry activities. Oklahoma Baptist University began offering ministerial training in Indiana last January.

Chapman asks for input. Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman has asked for recommendations for four committees he will appoint prior to the SBC's annual meeting in Indianapolis in June. Those committees are the committee on committees, resolutions committee, credentials committee and tellers committee. Recommendation forms are available from Martha Gaddis, SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

Foundation undecided on BJCPA. Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foundation in December affirmed an earlier decision of the agency's executive committee to ask the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee "for instruction" on distribution of nearly \$400,000 in funds originally set aside for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs but now sought by the SBC Christian Life Commission. The Executive Committee is expected to give advice on the matter in February.

Cook to Oklahoma church. Gary Cook, vice president for church programs and services at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has resigned to accept the pastorate of the 6,600-member First Baptist Church of Lawton, Okla.

Furman committee named. Former South Carolina convention president Gregory Horton has appointed a seven-member committee to pursue a declaratory judgment on the legality of Furman University's action in 1990 to make its board of trustees self-perpetuating. Horton, a layman, said each committee member has agreed to "do everything possible" to avert a court battle. However, Furman President John E. Johns said the committee is "composed primarily of fundamentalists who are openly hostile to Furman."

Proclaimers needed. The world needs more proclaimers and fewer "peddlers" of the gospel, Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, told graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary during commencement ceremonies Dec. 13. Peddlers of the gospel build up their own egos instead of proclaiming the message of Christ, Lotz said. "The peddler of the word is always talking about himself—how many souls he was won, how many members in his church, how many cassettes he sent out, how many TV broadcasts, how much money he makes. ... He sings 'How Great I Am' instead of 'How Great Thou Art.'"

Southwestern reaccredited. Two accrediting agencies have renewed accreditation for the next 10 years to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Both the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools have renewed their endorsement of the Fort Worth, Texas, seminary.

'Invaders' penetrate hearts of Kentucky construction team

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

A group of homeless people called "invaders" staked a claim on the hearts of Kentucky Baptist volunteers working in Brazil last month.

During the Nov. 14-27 Kentucky partnership missions project in Vitoria, Espírito Santo, the "invaders" surrounded the site of a church under construction as they staked out small parcels of land made available by the government.

"These people just came and built small tents on this property," explained John Samsil, a volunteer from Rosebower Baptist Church in Reidland. "Sometimes it was a tent, sometimes it was palm leaves stretched over sticks."

The would-be landowners had to remain with their makeshift huts 24 hours a day to prevent other people from claiming the parcels of land. People poured into the area every day the Kentucky volunteers worked on building a new church nearby.

"When we first saw it, there were maybe 500 people in this area, but before the week

was out, there were probably 2,000," Samsil explained.

Steve Rust, a volunteer from Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff, said the scene was "like watching a World Vision television program and looking around and seeing that you're right in the middle of it."

"I've never seen such poverty before in my life," said Rust, a captain in the U.S. Army. "I will never forget a little boy and little girl sitting in a bush with a sheet over the top and that was their home."

Although the Kentucky volunteers were doing hard manual labor every day, they gave up most of their lunches to feed the families moving in around them.

When they learned the pastor of the local church was taking their leftovers to the homeless, they began eating only a small amount and leaving most of the food as leftovers.

"Appetites just went away," Rust said. "We couldn't eat much knowing where the leftover food was going."

The team of Kentucky volunteers had been invited to build a church to serve another population living in small houses near-

by. However, with the onslaught of newcomers, there already is a need for another church, they said.

Kentucky Baptist volunteer groups are scheduled to make at least 22 trips to Brazil next year, including nine trips with church construction teams.

Verne Webb, a member of Horse Creek Baptist Church in Manchester, said she was apprehensive about leaving her 13-year-old daughter for two weeks, but found a tremendous peace in her mission work.

"The thing that touched me was the warmth, the loving, the acceptance of the Brazilian people and their commitment to church," she said. "We can learn a lot from them. They're dedicated to church. It's the center of their lives."

Webb, a state social worker and church Woman's Missionary Union director, said she developed a deeper love for missions through the experience.

She and other volunteers led Bible schools for children and did personal evangelism while the construction team worked. "We had 40 in Bible school the first day, 80 the second and 150 the third day," Webb re-

called.

Rust took a set of puppets, a "boom box" sound system and a puppet stage to use while there and to leave for the Brazilian churches to use in the future. To get his home congregation involved, he allowed members of Stithton Church to "adopt" puppets for donations of \$15 to \$40.

"I feel like I'm a totally new person," Rust said. "I felt like a babe in the Lord when I was down there. And when I came back I didn't feel like I'm a huge missionary, but the Lord has let me grow. I had to depend on him."

The volunteers said they gladly would return to Brazil for more mission work.

Samsil, who has been to Brazil twice now, is a full-time construction volunteer and plans to participate in as many of next year's trips as he can secure funding for. Rust is making plans to go on another partnership missions project sometime in the future.

"I hope we left as good an impression on the Brazilians as they did on us," Webb added. "I made friends there I'll never forget. I would love to go back."



INVADERS—Two Brazilian "invaders" sit in their makeshift home near the site where Kentucky Baptist volunteers built a new church recently. The homeless residents of Vitoria, Espírito Santo, staked claims on vacant land in hopes of gaining a permanent residence. (Photo by John Samsil)

Volunteers needed for 1992 Brazil projects

If you can swing a hammer, take a blood pressure or teach basic English, Calvin Wilkins has an offer for you.

Wilkins, director of Kentucky Baptists' partnership missions program, is seeking additional volunteers for 22 mission trips to Brazil next year. This will be the last year of Kentucky Baptists' official partnership with Brazilian Baptists.

The most urgent needs are for nine construction/evangelism teams and four medical teams slated for two-week trips throughout the year. Also, volunteers are needed for a five-week English-teaching project in the summer.

Volunteers must:

- Be at least 17 years old. (Volunteers

over 70 years old must have medical clearance from a physician.)

- Be active members of Kentucky Baptist Convention churches.

• Provide written testimonies with their applications and be willing to share their faith.

- Participate in a one-day orientation session before departure.

The cost for most team members is \$1,695, which includes airfare, insurance, visa, meals and lodging. Volunteers usually are housed in hotels, although the summer English teachers will stay with local families. For information, contact Wilkins at the Kentucky Baptist Building: (502) 245-4101.

Historical Commission studies its future, elects officers

The Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission heard a preliminary long-range planning report and re-elected its chairman during its December meeting in Middletown.

Commissioners also set a location and tentative date for the commission's second church history workshop and agreed on the amount the organization will seek from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 1992-93 unified budget.

The future-planning report was developed by four KBC Executive Board staff members who work closely with the Historical Commission: Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall, Executive Associate Jim Hawkins, Business Manager Barry Allen and Archivist Doris Yeiser.

The staff members have been working on ways "to develop a plan to give prominence and stability to the ministry" of the commission, Allen reported.

They recently met with Charles Deweese, associate executive director of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, about ways the Kentucky and Southern Baptist commissions could complement each other and ways to heighten awareness of historical resources in Kentucky, Allen added.

Tentative plans call for an initial focus on strengthening the Kentucky commission's archival services.

Later emphases would highlight consulting services, promotion and development of historical resources, and accountability of the commission.

When the staff completes its study, a planning retreat involving staff, commissioners and perhaps other people interested in Kentucky Baptist history will be held, Allen said.

In other business, the commission:

- Re-elected Ronnie Forrest, pastor of Mt.

Pleasant Baptist Church in Lewisburg, as chairman. Other officers are Wayne Hayes, pastor of Beechmont Baptist Church in Louisville, vice chairman; Pauline Stegall, a layperson from Salem, secretary; and Allen, treasurer.

• Voted to conduct the commission's next church history workshop at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly near Hardin.

The April workshop will help Kentucky Baptists record their churches' histories and provide ideas for celebrating historical milestones in the churches.

• Agreed to ask for \$7,300 from the KBC budget to fund the work of the commission in the 1992-93 fiscal year. The amount is the same as both the 1990-91 and 1991-92 budgets.

The commission's next meeting will be July 17-18, 1992, at Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville.

Robin Jimmerson, state pastor, dies Dec. 18 of cancer

CAMPBELLSBURG—Robin Jimmerson, pastor of Campbellsburg Baptist Church, died Dec. 18 after a long battle with cancer.

Jimmerson, 36, served the Campbellsburg church since 1986. A memorial service was held at the church Dec. 20, after burial in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville.

Previously, he was associate pastor for ministries at First Baptist Church of Chamblee, Ga., and pastor of Markland Baptist Church in Markland, Ind. He also had served as a pastoral intern at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, summer missionary to Germany and as a summer youth minister at Brookwood Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

Jimmerson served as Christian life director for Henry County Baptist Association and preached the association's annual sermon in 1988.

A native of Albertville, Ala., he earned the bachelor of arts degree from Samford University in Birmingham. Jimmerson also earned the master of divinity, master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Jimmerson is survived by his mother Marie, of Douglas, Ala.; wife, Sharon, son Daniel, and daughter, Emily, of Campbellsburg; and a brother, Terry, of Boaz, Ala.

The family requests that memorials be made to a trust fund for his children in care of Richard Carnes, 12415 Brightfield Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40243.

Mays Lick Church surprises treasurer with tree of \$50 bills

By Connie Bull
Staff Writer

MAYS LICK—Elizabeth Watson was surprised this holiday season to find her church displaying not a Christmas tree, but a money tree—in her honor.

To celebrate Watson's 50 years of continuous service as church treasurer, members of Mays Lick Baptist Church in Mays Lick decorated a money tree with 50 fifty-dollar bills.

Pastor David Cheek said the event was promoted under the guise of the church's

202nd anniversary. Cheek admitted it was hard to keep money a secret around such an exacting financial secretary and treasurer.

"She has been the best financial secretary I've worked with during my years in the pastorate," Cheek said. "And the local bank made the same statement—she was always balanced right to the penny."

Watson was baptized at Mays Lick Church on her 16th birthday. She began to fill in occasionally for the previous treasurer when illness interrupted the normal routine. The church asked her to become treasurer in 1942.

Teaching herself the ropes as she went, Watson remembers many times when "the offering was very slim. The Lord just took us from week to week, fulfilling our needs."

Watson and her husband, the late George Watson, had one daughter, Dora Jean, who died in 1963. The Watsons then raised their two granddaughters.

Through the years, Watson has served with 15 of the church's 43 pastors, taught Sunday school for 60 years in the intermediate, junior and adult women's classes and has been present at the 150th, 175th and 200th anniversaries of Mays Lick Church.

The wait is over; anticipate a surprise

editorial

Marv Knox

"And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.'" (Luke 2:10-11, KJV)

Imagine the angel of the Lord with a booming, robust TV-announcer's voice: "This is the day you've been waiting for! The Messiah your great-great granddaddy told you about finally has come. A baby. Over in Bethlehem. In a manger. With the goats and oxen. He's the Lord of Hosts. Go! See!"

Don't you know those shepherds were surprised? They'd been scrambling over the Judean hillsides all day, trying to keep the sheep together and out of danger. Finally, after nightfall, all they wanted was a warm fire and some shut-eye.

But no. God Almighty had other plans for them. They were to be the recipients of the good news of the Messiah's birth. "No sleep tonight, boys; we've got to go see this newborn king."

The story of Jesus' birth is full of wonderful paradox. Shepherds hardly were the type who sat by the fire, playing bridge and talking about the imminent advent of the Holy One. The thought probably hadn't crossed their minds much since the youngest's bar mitzvah. But their people, the Jews, had been expecting the Messiah for centuries. Waiting and hoping.

Americans of the '90s certainly can appreciate what waiting feels like. The release of hostages in Lebanon brought that to mind just a few weeks ago. Didn't you feel a wave of relief and excitement when Peggy Say ran across the tarmac to hug her brother, Terry Anderson? They both had waited

almost seven years for that moment.

Some of our waits don't end with that much fanfare. Anybody who didn't finish Christmas shopping by the day before Thanksgiving had to wait—in traffic at congested street corners, in mall parking lots, at checkout counters. Of course, children feel as if they're waiting an eternity, hoping against hopes their wish lists will be filled.

We wait to grow up, wait for children to be born, wait on children, wait on aging relatives, wait to get a job, wait for a better job, wait to retire, wait to die. Hurry up and wait.

So, we should be good at waiting. But one of the wonderful things about God is that God's logic is not ours. At the end of our wait, we get surprised.

Imagine the surprise of generations of Jewish scholars. The Messiah wasn't a political ruler; he was a baby boy who would deliver the souls of the whole world.

We still don't get the point. We plan out what we want and expect God to fill out our wish lists. It should be so easy!

Preacher/teacher/writer John Killinger tells the story of Dennis Benson, who wanted a live kangaroo one Christmas during his youth. Young Dennis cried when his parents gave him a wire recorder, an early forerunner of a tape player. But the tears of his youth turned to fulfillment. His fascination with that recorder led to a career as a leading expert on church media.

Sometimes, like the Jews and Dennis Benson, we cry when God does not meet our expectations. We wonder if the wait was worth the time it took.

In this season, we recall that the wait for a Messiah is over. Yet even we who know him still wait for Christ's present leadership in our lives.

This week, as we celebrate the shepherd's surprise, let us anticipate the startling surprises God has for us in the new year.

May they be as blessed as ever.

Partnership produces renewed vision for missions

partners with Lottie

fourth of a 4-part series

At a family Christmas gathering a few years ago my aunt said, "Carolyn, I believe we will live to see your childhood dream come true."

I asked, "Which one of my dreams?"

And she replied, "Your dream of being a missionary to China."

I said, "Edith, I am too old."

And she responded, "Not a career missionary, but for a short term of missions."

An elementary school social studies class, acquaintance with a retired missionary of another denomination and, perhaps more importantly, studies of Lottie Moon in GAs had inspired my childhood thinking toward this worthy aspiration.

But life circumstances and other visions caused me to sense God's call in other fields of service, so I have yet to go to China.

However, I have had the wonderful opportunity for short-term missions in Brazil. Last summer, by the grace of God, who restored my health; the contributions of members of Leitchfield First Baptist Church, who paid part of my expenses; and the partnership missions program of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, who organized the missions opportunity, I experienced foreign missions.

It was far more than I ever could have dreamed. I prayed that God would give me the wisdom to recognize and the courage to seize every opportunity he gave me to witness and minister. Those opportunities were so numerous, and the encouragement of Vitoria missionaries Tony and Karen Gray was so uplifting that my fears were dispelled as I felt God's leadership. The group with whom I served, Kentucky Baptist ministers of music and their wives, blessed me immeasurably.

Perhaps the greatest by-product of all is the vision of missions I have gained from this experience. Distributing tracts in Vitoria gave me the inspiration to pass out

tracts at the Leitchfield flea market. One-on-one witnessing in a foreign language taught me that witnessing to someone who speaks English can be an easier job. I feel joy that the colorful hard plastic dishes and stainless flatware that other members of my church and I bought for the Baptist orphanage in Vitoria is on its way.

We are in the process of trying to acquire sewing machines and typewriters for that orphanage and would welcome help from any who are reading this article. I am praying today for Pat Richey, a nurse in our church who is serving in Vitoria as I write.

A month ago, as I stood in the new Campus Center Complex at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and looked into the face of that famous painting of Lottie Moon, I renewed my long-ago commitment to support missions through my prayers, my giving and my teaching.

And—if God be willing—I want to serve him in Lottie Moon's China.

Carolyn M. Smith
Leitchfield

Maybe we need to view season through kids' eyes

down home

Fortunately, tiny children see exactly what they want to see.

An older visitor to the mall watched a department-store Santa with his beard askew. She observed a tired-looking man in a too-big suit who probably sells tires or fries donuts most of the year. Full of Girl Scout bluster, she bragged that she might yank his beard off.

But the smaller kids could hardly contain themselves: They fidgeted as they waited in line to tell St. Nick what they really, really want for Christmas. Their faces beamed as moms and dads pulled out cameras and captured those moments for the family album. They clutched the candy canes Santa gave them and bounded off his lap, certain they had delivered their messages to the one who will deliver the goods.

Another Santa glows near our house. He's smack in the middle of the gaudiest yard in the subdivision. Those people must have three tons of plastic and 2 zillion lights strewn across their lot. Kinda makes Las Vegas look dull. And Santa looks more like Porky Pig than Kris Kringle. (Something about that nose just isn't right.)

Still, Molly demands that we drive past the garish display every evening when we're out. She sees grandeur and splendor and Rudolph. And she wonders why our yard can't look that great.

She would've loved the manger scene in the baptistry of our church in Nashville a few years back.

The creche was '60s Plastic Realism. The Virgin Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus looked strangely like the late pop singer Karen Carpenter, country humorist Ray Stevens and an incarnate slice of Lemon Meringue Pie.

The fake Holy Family disturbed the sensibilities of some of our aesthetically attuned members. But the kids loved it. Especially the Baby Jesus. Maybe they just didn't have enough experience with lemon meringue pie to see the similarities.

But maybe that's the problem with adults at Christmas. We're too sophisticated. We've been around the ol' Christmas tree a time or two, so nothing's new now.

For instance, I heard these people on the radio arguing about Christmas Muzak in department stores. They feel the powers that be are trying to soften them up to get them to buy more stuff. So, they can't enjoy great crooners like Bing Crosby and Nat King Cole for fretting over subliminal suggestion.

Adults need a dose of childlike wonder at Christmas time. Unfortunately, we're too busy, smart or tired to notice the terrific things kids spot a mile off. And if we can't appreciate a hard-working Santa, do you think we've given enough thought to Jesus?

—Marv Knox

western recorder

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'I Heard the Bells' tolls for peace, good will

a christmas carol

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" in 1864, when the War between the States was nearing an end. The significance of the phrase "peace on earth, good will to men," when the North and the South were at war must have gripped his mind.

The angels' song of peace and good will is the sole message of the carol. No other elements of the Christmas story are men-

tioned directly or even by implication.

There is no reference to the birth of Christ, to Mary, Joseph, the manger, Bethlehem, the shepherds, the Wise Men, the angel or the heavenly host—just the song they sang.

Longfellow writes in the first person singular, and in a very personal way makes known his feelings, his thoughts, his responses. The verb tense is the immediate present—now!

Peace and good will are dealt with not just as something heard by frightened shepherds long ago on Judean hills, but as some-

thing strangely missing now. The reality of strife denies the presence of peace, and human hatred "mocks the song" of good will to mankind.

Yet, there is evidence of the poet's faith and hope in the strong affirmation expressed in the final stanza: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep." The truths Longfellow expressed in the carol have not dimmed across 127 years.

William J. Reynolds
Professor of church music
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Fort Worth, Texas

baptist forum

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

Editorial displeasing

I am writing to express my displeasure with your editorial Nov. 26, "Who's hostage: Ruschlikon or Lottie?"

I feel that it is unfair to say the "rank and file Southern Baptists have been left out of the decision." We are also left out of the decisions of the board of directors of the Western Recorder; however, I feel that those we have elected to serve are capable of making the right decisions for the good of the Western Recorder. Likewise, I feel that the board of the Foreign Mission Board is earnestly seeking God's will for the promulgation of the gospel, and we who may not have all of the facts should not be critical of their decisions. Rather, we should seek to learn the facts and support our fellow Christians in spirit and prayer.

I for one think it is time to change our focus in view of the providential changes occurring in Europe and seek more efficient and effective ways of presenting the gospel to the newly opened countries. I am not privy to all reasons for defunding the seminary, but I have the utmost confidence in the judgment of the current board. I only wish that we could put petty politics and name-calling aside and get on with the mission.

I believe that Bro. Bill Hancock deserves our support and prayers not as an afterthought, but in direct supplication daily as we try to understand how he has prayerfully agonized over and tried to implement the decisions of the board.

Terrell D. Mays
Elizabethtown

Mature faith

"Baptist teens more mature in faith, less open to ethnics" (WR, Dec. 3, P.1). This paradox creates a biblical impossibility.

The term "mature Christian," regardless of age, implies commitment to Jesus Christ and everything he stood for.

The Son of God chose to be born in a Jewish stable, within the Roman Empire. His genealogy includes Canaanites and Moabites—ethnic groups. Jesus spoke Aramaic, Hebrew and probably Greek. One cannot help speculating on his skin color.

He ministered to Samaritans, Roman citizens, as well as to his own Jewish brethren. His teachings are universal in concept and application. He died for the world, and sent his followers to go "into all the nations."

Then, can a believer be a mature Christian but "less open to ethnics"?

Of course not.

But Southern Baptist teen-agers, according to the article, are still prejudiced against

minorities and non-Anglos.

If children learn by "modeling," then their parents fail in preparing them to live and minister in an ever-increasing multi-cultural society. It is an indictment on the parents.

As a matter of fact, it is an indictment on the church.

These children probably equate true Christianity with Southern-style, monolithic, white Anglo-Saxon culture. And they will continue to do so as long as 11 o'clock Sunday morning remains the most segregated hour in the world.

A fifth imperative for the model suggested by the article might include that children should be taught to accept, affirm and learn from other cultures and races.

Children receive faith and practice from parents and church. The Bible teaches inclusiveness and tolerance, regardless of race, culture or social status. The church must model the reality of the Kingdom of God for sinful society to see and experience.

Tony Aja
KBC ethnic-language consultant
Middletown

No ax to grind

I have been a Kentucky Baptist since 1935 and during WWII was called to the gospel ministry. I have tried to be faithful to the Lord and our Baptist work, having served on the Kentucky Baptist Executive Board four terms and 17 years in eastern Kentucky in volunteer, local and county missions.

I find our people greatly distressed by churches either conservative or liberal diverting funds from our Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program. These churches had been led by pastors through the years, teaching them not to designate tithes. These people still feel the Cooperative Program is our best channel for taking care of our work.

We find it difficult that the very ones whose ministries and livelihood are supported by the Cooperative Program are the ones now encouraging or agreeing with diverting funds or alternate giving.

Groups in our convention have always had influence in directing funds and percentages to agencies. Even in this, we were encouraged to follow the majority voice in our convention.

The ones who stand for traditional Baptist belief as we were taught are described as troublemakers and the liberal group as peacemakers. If this is true, I feel the peacemakers can help our state and convention by being a real healing force. Many of us feel we have had enough divisive issues. None of us surely want to hold back the Lord's

work by failing to work together (a good Baptist word; let's return to its good usage).

Our prayer is that Southern Baptists get back to the business of soul-winning, evangelism, accepting biblical authority and the cause of missions around a needy world that is responding to the gospel, if only we carry faithfully this message of redemption and love to them. Doors are now open that have been closed for so long.

Guy M. Deane, pastor
Central Baptist Church
Hawesville

Glory has departed

As the W.O. Carver professor of missions and world religions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, I must protest against the high-handed arrogance of the trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, meted out on our fellow European Baptists.

The censorious manner in which the Ruschlikon Seminary has been defunded at this time constitutes a breach of common trust among those whose word was once their bond.

It is a shame when elected Southern Baptist leaders resort to theological blackmail against European Baptists, manipulating control of economic power. The verbal assassination of Glenn Hinson only adds to the "Ichabod" on our Southern Baptist witness, brought on by the defenders of biblical inerrancy.

The glory has departed, and we no longer have a reputable name among world Baptists. The judgment the trustees have brought upon themselves in this inglorious act is the sound of the death-knell to freedom of conscience in their biblical inerrancy and their fundamentalist theology.

For those trustees who voted for the continuance of funding of Ruschlikon seminary, I must express admiration and pride.

John N. Jonsson
Louisville

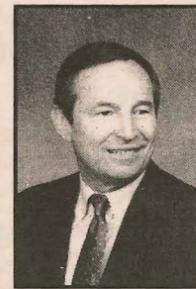
Hear the message

Thank you for publishing the account of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board / Ruschlikon seminary saga.

I would like to congratulate Chairman Bill Hancock and those courageous trustees who have voted to stop funding the "liberal" Ruschlikon seminary. They have, again, clearly told the world what religious fundamentalism means, with its perpetuation of bigotrous policies as they, like at home, strive for domination. Their clinically canned inerrant "gospel," known for a long time by many foreigners and recipients of FMB control, is one of imperialist "missionary" exploitation purported to be in the spirit and name of Christ. This transparent and naked violence against the personhood, conscience and dignity of European Baptists is despicable. Shame!

Congratulations to Ruschlikon for not bowing to immoral financial blackmail. Beware, Eastern Europe. Hear, as at home, the real "message" before it is too late.

Brian Gurney
Louisville



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

on mission together

Are Baptists ecumenical?

We live in a time when words can become immediate flags of emotion. For starters, how about "liberal," "fundamentalist," "inerrant," "pro-choice," "pro-life." Like it or not, most Baptists have some impressions when those words appear in print or are spoken verbally.

Another that has aroused feelings through the years is the word "ecumenical."

If Southern Baptists are serious about reaching the world for Christ, the meaning of "ecumenical" will need to be re-interpreted.

In his column dated November 1991, Denton Lotz, general secretary for the Baptist World Alliance, offers some helpful insights into that emotional word.

"Ecumenical" is a word which frightens some Baptist leaders. The very use of the word brings letters of protest and warnings about a "super church," "liberal politics," etc. "Ecumenical," however, is a good word. It means "the whole inhabited world." Baptists want to evangelize the whole inhabited world and we know that we cannot do it alone. When it comes to mission and evangelism, Baptists are of all groups very ecumenical.

We saw this at the European Baptist meetings in Varna, Bulgaria. The Methodist Church which had been turned into a theater by the Communists in 1945 recently was returned to the Methodists. The problem was there were no Methodists in Varna. Therefore, Bulgarian Methodists asked a deacon from the First Baptist Church if he would serve as pastor. With joy the Baptist deacon told how he had evangelized and led 46 men and women to Christ. He baptized them in the Black Sea and they now form the nucleus of the new Methodist Church in Varna. Now that is real ecumenism! The Methodist bishop told our Baptist deacon, "That is the right way, keep baptizing the new believers!"

Baptists are sometimes wary of the ecumenical movement because it seems to have become very political, but we tend to identify the ecumenical movement with only one aspect of the larger ecumenical world, i.e., the World Council of Churches. The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization is very ecumenical. It includes most major denominations from around the world. Billy Graham's evangelistic crusades are probably more ecumenical than many establishment ecumenical movements.

During this Decade of Evangelism, the Seoul Covenant calls upon all Baptists "to pray and work with other Christians in this vital task!" Let's be ecumenical Baptists, evangelizing the whole inhabited world to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Georgia Baptists oppose lottery with little hope

ATLANTA (RNS)—Southern Baptists and United Methodists in Georgia are gearing up for a battle they know they are almost certain to lose—opposing a state lottery proposal that will come before voters next year.

The anti-lottery campaign is expected to be ineffective not only because the measure has strong support from Gov. Zell Miller—a United Methodist—but because experience has shown such lotteries are virtually unbeatable when they come before voters.

In every recent case in which lotteries have come before voters in a state, the practice has been approved.

Martin Marty, professor of church history at the University of Chicago and a watcher of religious influence, compared efforts by religious groups to outlaw lotteries to the futile attempts to make Prohibition stick in the 1920s.

"Somebody once observed that as soon as the middle class takes up a moral cause and makes it its own, you will not get churchly opposition to it in any significant way," he said.

Marty noted that Southern Baptists and United Methodists are the only religious groups heavily involved in opposing lotteries. And since the middle-class members of these churches often purchase lottery tickets, official church stands fail to sway even their own members.

"We've got a huge task, and I'm realistic enough to know it would seem like a hopeless task," said J. Emmett Henderson, executive director of the Georgia Council for Moral and Civic Concerns.

The most recent defeat for lottery opponents came in Texas, where Southern Baptists and United Methodists mounted strong opposition to a state-run lottery. Voters approved a lottery by nearly a 2-1 margin.

Some religious leaders believe a major reason for the success of lottery proposals is their appeal not only to the poor but to middle-class voters, who seem them as a legitimate way to make money. In many cases, voters have been persuaded that state-supported gambling would produce funds for education and social services.

NEA funds explicit artists after Congress renews support

WASHINGTON (EP)—Shortly after Congress renewed funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, the NEA awarded grants to two sexually explicit artists who are suing the agency for cancelling grants last year.

In granting money to the NEA this year, Congress narrowly defeated amendments that would have forbidden funding of sexually explicit or otherwise offensive art.

After the final vote, NEA Chairman John Frohnmayr announced the approval of two \$8,000 grants to Tim Miller and Holly Hughes.

Hughes, a lesbian, says her work "challenges assumptions about identity and gender." Miller, a homosexual, calls himself a "cultural provocateur." Both are known for performing in the nude and making provocative comments about sex and homosexual activity.

In announcing the grants, Frohnmayr said he was pleased Congress had rejected an effort to prohibit the NEA's funding of "patently offensive works of art."

Congress to debate religious liberty, education

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Religious freedom and government funding of religious education are two topics slated for debate when Congress reconvenes Jan. 3.

Both the House and Senate are poised to consider education bills that are alternatives to President George Bush's "choice" plan, which would provide vouchers for parents to send their children to public, private and parochial schools. Bush outlined his proposal as part of an "America 2000" education-reform plan.

The House Committee on Education and Labor voted 26-12 to approve a bill (H.R. 3320) Oct. 17 that would allow states to select from a range of federally funded options, including choice programs for private

and public schools. A state could spend money on choice programs if the state's constitution permits it. Bush's plan includes more aggressive voucher provisions, allocating funds that could only be used for voucher programs.

The Senate bill (S. 2), approved in committee Nov. 13 by a voice vote, would allow choice programs only for public schools.

Congress also will consider two religious-freedom bills (H.R. 2797, H.R. 4040), which were introduced in the House June 26 and Nov. 26. Both bills are designed to restore free-exercise protections abandoned in a 1990 Supreme Court decision that allows government to restrict religious freedom for almost any reason as long as religion is not

singled out for adverse treatment.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (H.R. 2797) simply would restore the compelling-interest test that government must meet before restricting religious practice. The Religious Freedom Act of 1991 (H.R. 4040) would add exemptions to ensure the legislation neither creates a religiously based right to abortion nor affects churches' tax status or ability to participate in government programs.

The Baptist Joint Committee and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission have joined with more than 40 civil liberties groups in a broad-based coalition supporting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the version without those special guarantees.

Congress ends year with no pro-abortion legislation

WASHINGTON—Under threat of another presidential veto, Congress scuttled a measure Nov. 27 that would have lifted certain abortion restrictions overseas.

With that action, Congress adjourned having enacted no pro-abortion legislation in 1991—mainly because of the threat of veto from President George Bush.

The National Right to Life Committee commended Bush for using his veto power in a "steadfast defense of pro-life policies."

In the hardest-fought abortion battle of the session, Bush vetoed a bill which would have removed a ban on abortion counseling at federally funded clinics. The House sustained his veto by a 12-vote margin.

The last abortion battle of the session involved a "dire emergency" spending bill

(H.J. Res. 157), which was approved by both the House and Senate after dropping an amendment that would have allowed military women and dependents to have abortions on bases overseas.

The Senate had adopted the amendment on abortion Nov. 22, but Bush threatened to veto the measure. The amendment was designed to counter a 1988 U.S. Department of Defense policy forbidding abortions at military treatment facilities overseas.

According to a 1988 Defense Department memorandum outlining the policy, the practice of performing abortions on military bases—although paid for by the patient—could "suggest insensitivity to the spirit of the Congressional-enacted policy of withholding government involvement in the pro-

vision of abortions."

Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., a chief sponsor of the amendment, said the amendment would provide "service women and military dependents the same rights that every other citizen of this country has."

"We do not, when we recruit people, say to them: Remember that when you leave these shores, you also leave your rights behind," he continued.

Congress has pushed six bills attempting to nullify or amend abortion restrictions and Bush has promised to veto any measure that does so. The president has not had any of his 24 vetoes overridden.

Reported by Evangelical Press Service and Pam Parry of the Baptist Joint Committee through Associated Baptist Press

Gambling aspects deleted from bill

By Tom Strode
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—Legislation halting the spread of one form of gambling while at the same time legalizing another failed in the United States Senate on the day Congress adjourned for the year.

Part of a crime bill passed by the House but not by the Senate would have stopped the expansion of state-sponsored sports lotteries and other games based on sporting events, but it also would have permitted gambling on U.S. cruise ships.

Both gambling provisions in the crime bill also are free-standing bills and could be passed separately at a later date.

The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (S. 474) would prohibit states from sponsoring or licensing sports gambling. It would not affect forms of sports gambling already legal in Delaware, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and South Dakota. It also excludes the sport of jai-alai.

James Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, testified in favor of the bill before a Senate subcommittee in June.

"The government should not be in the business of giving approbation to or attempting to profit from gambling," Smith said. "This should be especially true of America's sports enterprises in light of the high degree of interest of children."

The other bill, the U.S.-Flag Cruise Ship Competitiveness Act (H.R. 3282), was passed by the House Nov. 23 and, like the sports gambling bill, was included in the crime bill in a conference committee. It would allow U.S. flagships to have gambling on board if the vessel's principal purpose is not as a gambling establishment. The bill will permit gambling on "voyages to nowhere" if the state from which the ship is operating has not passed a law prohibiting gambling or such excursions.

1st Annual Mill Creek Gospel Jubilee



Jim Shaw, pastor
Mill Creek Baptist Church



Joe Mobley, founder
Crusade for Christ



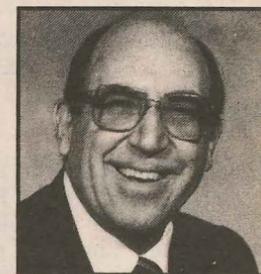
Bill Jagers, director
KBC Evangelism



Bill Hancock, pastor
Highview Baptist Church



Jimmy Draper, president
Sunday School Board



LaVerne Butler, president
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Purpose: To help support our Kentucky evangelists in their God-called ministries

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Electronic tract tells gospel via microchip

TORONTO, Canada (RNS)—A new electronic tract the size of a credit card could revolutionize Christian evangelism, the representative of an Israel-based manufacturing firm says.

Allan McGuirl, a representative of Galcom International in Canada, said the high-tech tract called Megavoice could "turn the world around."

Megavoice is produced by Galcom International, which is based in Israel and committed to supporting the state of Israel by providing jobs and distributing Israel-made products to the world.

The device was designed by the Tiberias-based Galtronics firm, whose founder is a American Christian with a concern for the spiritual condition of the Jewish nation.

Megavoice is a tract based on sound rather than sight. It can be distributed in regions of the world not penetrated by the gospel — areas restricted not by political or religious barriers but by the barrier of illiteracy.

"I've been involved in ministry for years," McGuirl said, "and I've been told one-third of the world is non-literate."

But Megavoice can transcend this barrier, he said. Each credit-card size tract carries a recorded message burned into an aspirin-size microchip. Tracts can be programmed in any language with up to 30 minutes of information.

The unit is powered by a tiny battery that will last about one year. Three buttons operate the device: one starts the message, another stops it and the other continues the

message where it left off.

Megavoice units already are being produced with gospel messages in Russian, Mandarin, Arabic, Amharic, Swahili and English.

One drawback to widespread use may be economic. Each Megavoice unit costs about \$6, compared to a cost of less than \$1 for most traditional tracts or paperback Bibles.

However, with Megavoice, the message of the gospel can be shared with entire language groups who do not have the Bible in their own language, McGuirl said.

This new technology could be a fulfillment of a biblical prophecy that "the rocks will cry out," McGuirl said. Megavoice is made of silicon chips, which are made out of sand, which is ground up rocks.

German Baptists to oppose attacks on immigrants

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HAMBURG, Germany (BP)—German Baptists will mount a campaign in 1992 to counter a rising tide of Nazi-inspired nationalism and attacks against immigrants that have swept Germany and other parts of Europe in recent months.

"This is something we find very important—that we as Christians show we are peacemakers and that we struggle against this fighting against the foreigners who come to our country," said Hans Guderian, German Baptists' home missions secretary.

The emphasis will be part of the German Baptist Union's yearlong home missions promotion. Missions conferences will feature participants from many ethnic and racial backgrounds. German Baptists have an extensive ministry to refugees.

"We will strengthen work with refugees from whatever country and background," Guderian said.

Almost 5 million foreigners live in Germany, a country with 79.5 million people. Several hundred thousand immigrants have moved into Germany in recent years and as many as 2 million more are expected.

More than 30,000 asylum seekers entered Germany in October alone, most of them fleeing the war in Yugoslavia. Many of the newcomers are ethnic Germans from the former Soviet Union.

Guderian estimates 40,000 of these ethnic Germans come from Baptist or Mennonite backgrounds.

The newcomers have organized several hundred churches in Germany. "They form their own organizations because they have their own culture and background," he said. "Often they don't speak German so very well because they have been in the Russian-language culture. ... Our long-range goal (is) to help them integrate into normal church life in Germany."

The attacks against foreigners pose a challenge for Baptists, Guderian said, although no Baptist facilities or personnel have been attacked thus far.

Unsettled economic conditions and a flood of immigrants associated with the fall of communism have caused a backlash against immigrants and led to political victories by extremist right-wing forces in several countries.

World crises call society to examine values, pastor says

By Terri Lackey
Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—An uncertain economy, high crime rate, threat of AIDS, massive drug use and soaring costs of health care all translate into a national crisis that calls society to examine its values, a pastor said.

"I believe our culture is desperately searching for answers, and at the same time they are putting the family first," Bill Blackburn, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Kerrville, Texas, told state family ministry leaders in December.

"I believe our society is responding to the national crisis by asking questions the church can answer," Blackburn said.

He said the baby boom generation is fascinated with life after death, and he maintained the church can answer their questions of "What is the meaning of life?"; "What is important?"; "What happens after you die?"

Social interpreters are predicting a return to "traditional" values, Blackburn said. "They see the '90s being a time when people value their family more than money. In bad economic times, people really discover what is important."

He suggested family ministry leaders look for innovative ways to respond to the trend and minister to the family.

One innovative way to minister to families is through support groups, according to Doug Anderson, director of the Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

According to a recent news magazine survey, more than 15 million people participate in one of 500,000 support groups nationwide, Anderson said.

"The number of organizations providing such self-help groups has quadrupled in the past 10 years," he said. "Support groups provide a ready-made entry point ... to impact our entire nation in the areas of healing ministries, evangelistic outreach and spiritual awakening."

The Sunday School Board's family ministry department will release a new LIFE course in October 1992, "Making Peace with Your Past," a 12-week program that speaks to people who grew up in dysfunctional families.

National training for the Lay Institute for Equipping Course will be held during summer conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers.

Another support group resource, "Meeting Needs Through Support Groups," published through Woman's Missionary Union, will be released in the summer of 1992. This product deals with developing support groups for people who are children of alcoholics, have AIDS, are family members of people with AIDS, incest survivors and parents of teen-agers.



HISTORIC SITE BURNS—A Dec. 10 fire destroyed the building which stood on the site of the historic O'Brien's Opera House in downtown Birmingham, Ala. The Southern Baptist Convention was meeting in the opera house when messengers voted to establish the Sunday School Board in 1891. During the Sunday School Board's centennial last year, a marker was laid in the sidewalk in front of the building. The original opera house was demolished in 1915 and replaced in the early 1920s with this building, which housed shops, offices and a cafe. (WMU photo by Dan Bryan)

Bivocationalists honor Kentuckians

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)—A Kentucky teacher has been named the exemplary bivocational pastor in a new work area for the Southern Baptist Convention this year.

Ric Frazier, pastor of First Southern Baptist Chapel of South Point, Ohio, was recognized by the Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers' Association. Frazier teaches in Ashland, Ky., and his church is a mission of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland.

Rose Hill's pastor, Charles Stewart, was elected president of the National Council on Bivocational Ministries, which convened prior to the annual meeting of the Bivocational Ministers' Association in Raleigh, N.C.

The council Stewart will lead is made up of associational, state and national staff members committed to supporting bivocationalism.

The ministers' association is made up entirely of pastors and other church staff members who are bivocational.

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, addressed the bivocational ministers during the meeting

and said economics will make bivocationalism the wave of the future.

Lewis called the use of bivocational ministers one of the HMB's "chief strategies."

Work group recommendations received by the national council included:

- A proposal for publication and distribution of an annual resource piece for bivocational ministers.

- Support for the new bivocational resource center at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

- A suggested survey to identify the felt needs of bivocational ministers.

- An encouragement of state and local bivocational fellowship groups.

- A call for broader involvement by bivocational ministers in the key decision-making processes of state and national conventions.

- A request for associational leaders to provide orientation and mentoring opportunities for new bivocational ministers.

Other bivocational ministers honored for their exemplary work include Winston Skinner of Luthersville, Ga., Brent Fletcher of Glendora, Calif., and Jim Harrell of Miami.

Stop making album churches in CD world

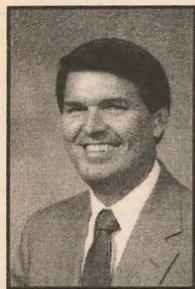
WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)—Building album churches in a compact disc world is a temptation Southern Baptists must shun, an evangelist said.

Charles Kelley, evangelism professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, issued that challenge to Southern Baptist evangelism leaders meeting in Williamsburg, Va.

"The need for good music has not changed, but the package has," Kelley explained. "People like CDs because the music is presented with less distortion. They offer the purest way to hear the music."

Likewise, Kelley said Southern Baptists need to look for new ways to present the gospel in the purest way.

"We may have to pray, 'Show me the difference between New Testament evangelism and the evangelism I like,'" he suggested. "We must present a gospel that is not distorted by culture, even Southern Baptist culture."



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

clear creek chronicle

Stuff and sew

For 25 years Mrs. Virginia Ryle has taught the Dorcas class of Elsmere Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association. Twenty-one of those years the class has made stuffed animals for Clear Creek's preschool children. One of the group said, "Call us the Stuff and Sew class. We have bought more socks from local stores than probably anybody in town."

Although new children are on campus every four years, they have repeated an animal only three times. The class has made dolls, clowns, caterpillars, frogs, Humpty Dumpty, and furry puppets. Mrs. Ryle said, "We're careful to make something that will not hurt the little ones and a toy that is washable." One year they worked overtime to produce 105 animals.

Accompanying Mrs. Ryle to campus were Gwen Vallandingham, Vivian Moore, Cindy Still, Anita Roberts and these four teen-agers: Waverly Hall, Sandy and Sarah Still and D'anne Roberts.

Mrs. Roberts hopes the younger generation will keep the project going. Her granddaughter Waverly Hall has caught the mission vision and leads Mission Friends.

The Elsmere Church has 17 ladies enrolled in WMU, directed by Mrs. Ryle. Six months ago the women decided to sponsor RAs and now have 12 boys enrolled. The Girls' Auxiliary enrolls 20, and Mission Friends has 16. Sharon Smith, the wife of the pastor, recently started a night Baptist Women group.

The Dorcas class also assists Cumberland College student Chris Moyo from Zimbabwe. They met him at Clear Creek where he started ministry training.

Corbin native Michael Smith, a product of Central Church, has pastored Elsmere three years. He noted, "Anita Roberts has been commissioned by the church as a missionary to the back side of Turfway Race Track. The working women's WMU group supplies needs such as toiletries, blankets and gifts."

The church gives 8 percent through the Cooperative Program and 3 percent to the association.

The Elsmere Church has never had a Clear Creek pastor. Former member Elmer Herron introduced the ladies to Clear Creek. Through the years they have communicated with former academic office secretary Mrs. Leroy Peterson who has 20 of the animals they have made. She hopes the new preschool center will have a display case for them.

The members of this Sunday school class have certainly lived up to their biblical name. For Christmas 1991, a stuffed rabbit depicts Christ's love for our families and the encouragement of a Kentucky Baptist church.

Thank you Dorcas class.

Pastor fights cancer, says prayer helps

By Connie Bull
Staff Writer

DREYFUS—Longtime Kentucky pastor Ralph Redden has overcome a battle with cancer.

"Last winter it didn't look so good," said the retired pastor's wife, Ann. "But we recently went to a lung specialist for a check-up, and they were just really thrilled with his health."

Redden first developed a persistent bad cold last fall. When he went to the doctor, an X-ray showed a mass in his lung, which was diagnosed as inoperable cancer treatable only with radiation.

During the months of treatment, Redden continued supply preaching and visiting other cancer patients in hospitals. Redden said he was comforted by Psalm 63:6-7: "When I think of thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the watches of the night ... thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of thy wings I sing for joy."

Redden and his wife attribute the healing to prayer.

"We got letters from all over," Mrs. Redden said. "We received one from friends in Florida who wrote that they didn't know what was wrong, but had felt the need to pray for Ralph. Now that's the work of the Holy Spirit."

The Reddens are members at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Dreyfus, where Neal Prather is pastor. Prather said a prayer chain was initiated throughout the church on behalf of Redden. The church also collected a love offering to defray the expense of the treatments.

"We as a church were brought together in Christian love," Prather said.

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Eric Rust, seminary professor, dies at 81

LOUISVILLE—Eric Charles Rust, emeritus professor of Christian philosophy at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died of a heart attack Dec. 14 in Louisville. He was 81.

Rust, a native of Gravesend, England, joined the seminary faculty in 1953 as professor of Christian apologetics. He became professor of Christian philosophy in 1958 and was named senior professor in 1975 and emeritus professor in 1979.

He also taught at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., from 1952-53 and at Rawdon Baptist College at the University of Leeds, England, from 1946-52. Prior to his teaching career, Rust was pastor of three Baptist churches in England.

Rust earned degrees in mathematics and atomic physics from the Royal College of Science at London University. He received theological training at Regent's Park College and St. Catherine's College at Oxford University. Much of his work addressed the relationship between science and faith.

He was the author of 14 books, including "Nature and Man in Biblical Thought," "Science and Faith," "Evolutionary Philosophies and Contemporary Theology" and "Religion, Revelation and Reason."

Rust is survived by his wife, Helen, two daughters and a son. The family requests that memorial gifts go to the "Dr. Eric Charles Rust Scholarship Fund" in care of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

Woman's Missionary Union



The WMU of First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, found a way to involve the total church in mission action. Woman's Missionary Union sponsored the project; the Church Council approved it.



Each month, a different Sunday School department brought various canned goods to fill a wheel barrow. The food items were then given to Henderson House, a mission of the church, which distributed them to those in need. The WMU director said: "It was surprising to see how much was collected. The total church was involved. Many needs were met."

For more information about how your church can be involved in mission action, contact: Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253, or call (502) 245-4101.

ESPIRITO SANTO PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS PROJECTS FOR 1992



Contact:
Calvin Wilkins, Partnership Coordinator
P.O. Box 43433; Louisville, KY 40253-0433
Telephone (502) 245-4101



DATE	#	TYPE	KENTUCKY VOLUNTEERS
MARCH 5-18	92800	Construction/Evangelism	12 volunteers
	92801	Medical Project (MD's, Dentists, Nurses, Aides)	12 volunteers
APRIL 9-22	92802	Construction/Evangelism	12 volunteers
	92803	WMU Project	2 volunteers
	30-5/13 92804	Construction/Evangelism	12 volunteers
MAY 25-7/25	92805	BSU Project	6 volunteers
	25-7/1 92806	English Teaching	6 volunteers
JUNE 8-25	92807	Music Project (choir from KSU)	15 volunteers
	8-21 92808	Medical Project	12 volunteers
	15-7/1 92809	Campus Ministry Training Clinics	7 volunteers
	18-7/1 92810	Construction/Evangelism	12 volunteers
	JULY 1-30	92812	College Student Project
9-22 92813		Construction/Evangelism	12 volunteers
15-18 92814		Convention Speaker to E.S.	2 volunteers
26-8/12 92815		Music Project	2 volunteers
AUGUST 6-19	92816	Construction/Evangelism	12 volunteers
	20-9/2 92817	Medical Project	12 volunteers
SEPTEMBER 17-30	92818	Construction/Evangelism	12 volunteers
OCTOBER 8-21	92819	Discipleship/Sunday School Trng.	2 volunteers
	29-11/11 92820	Construction/Evangelism	12 volunteers
NOVEMBER 19-12/2	92821	Medical Project	12 volunteers

The number of volunteers listed for the Medical and Construction Projects is the minimum number of volunteers needed for those projects. Dates listed are departure and arrival dates.

Kentuckians graduate from Southern Seminary & Boyce

LOUISVILLE—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce Bible School in Louisville awarded degrees to 219 students, including at least 24 Kentuckians, during commencement exercises Dec. 13.

Southern Seminary awarded degrees

from its schools of theology, Christian education, church music and church social work. Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, was commencement speaker.

Boyce Bible School, a division of South-

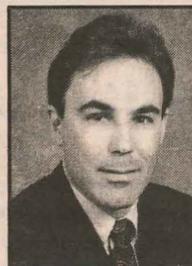
ern Seminary, awarded diplomas and certificates in its program for students without college degrees. Seminary Provost Larry McSwain addressed the Boyce commencement.

Southern Seminary and Boyce Bible

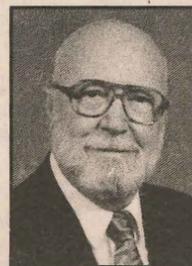
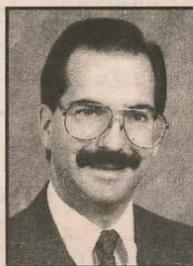
School graduates from Kentucky are listed with the degrees received and each person's hometown or place of service in the state. This list represents Kentuckians who provided biographical information to the seminary and had a seminary photograph taken.



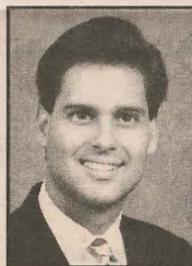
Conda Delite Abbott, master of divinity, Fort Thomas and Burlington
Thomas Baker, master of divinity, Louisville
Mark Baldauff, master of divinity, Louisville
Peter Bingham, master of arts in Christian education, Taylor Mill and Covington
Steven Bratcher, master of divinity, Clarkson and Leitchfield
Ronald Allen Clark, diploma in Christian ministry, PeWee Valley



Ellen Clay, diploma in Christian ministry, Louisville
Ken Cummins, master of divinity, Princeton and Buffalo
Ritchie Curtis, master of divinity, Edgewood, Fort Mitchell and Corbin
Stephanie Donovan, master of divinity in Christian education, Olive Hill
Stafford Durham, doctor of philosophy, Louisville
David Fletcher, master of arts in Christian education, Danville and Junction City



Julie Fuson, master of divinity, Frankfort
Gerald Harris, master of arts in Christian education, Louisville
Victor Harrison, master of church music, Hopkinsville
Leslie Kendrick, doctor of philosophy, Louisville
Linda Rose Mulford, master of divinity, Bowling Green
Thomas William Pittman, diploma in Christian ministry, Louisville



Leslie Puckett, master of arts in Christian education, Winchester
Gerald Sharon, doctor of ministry, Fort Thomas
Mark Sickling, master of divinity in Christian education, Calvert City
Mark Slaughter, master of divinity in church music, Owensboro
Beverly Williams, diploma in Christian ministry, Shepherdsville
Roderick Williams, master of divinity, Louisville

Christmas means lots more of the same at Baptist ministry centers

continued from page 1

their families, said David Marlow, Christian social ministries director for Daviess-McLean Baptist Association.

The center provided the families with food baskets, as well as blankets and clothing. "Everybody's going to get one or two gifts, plus some food," Marlow said.

At Freeda Harris Center in Lookout, volunteers have helped distribute mountains of food, clothing and toys in recent weeks, noted Director Greg Whitetree.

Three weeks ago, churches from Maryville, Tenn., sent an entire truckload of clothes. Tiny Town Baptist Church in Guthrie provided about 20 bicycles and scooters. Women from Central Baptist Church in Paris made quilts. Members of other churches brought turkeys and chickens and three tons of canned goods. Churches from Johnson City, Tenn., sent 200 Christmas toys. Women from Hellier Baptist Church in Hellier made Christmas baskets, complete with food, toys and Bibles.

Although the pace quickens during Christmas season, the type of ministry provided by the centers does not vary from the rest of the year.

"In the neighborhood where we are, the average family income is about \$6,400 per year," said Jefferson Street's Golden in Louisville. Consequently, the need for aid stretches far beyond Christmas.

The center operates a food pantry throughout the year, as well as a homeless shelter, a clothes closet and meal service for the homeless and senior citizens.

The Freeda Harris Center's Whitetree and Marlow of Owensboro repeat similar stories.

"We're here just about 365 days a year," Whitetree said. "It's an ongoing relationship. It's not a thing where we just give food

and clothing and presents at Christmas. You could see (members of) these families here at the center just about any day.

"If we do not have an ongoing ministry to an individual, then to give something only at Christmas is a waste of time. If we do not have an ongoing ministry to them, we are just trying to salve our consciences with our Christmas efforts."

Maintaining those efforts is more difficult now that the economy is bad.

"The economy has affected our ministry in a lot of little ways," Marlow noted. "It's too soon to tell if the churches are going to be able to give additional money or not."

Added Golden: "We depend on donations, and they are down. Our demand is increasing, and our resources are diminishing, so we have to turn some people down."



CHRISTMAS FEAST—Volunteers Ruth Adams (foreground) and Joanne Jones pack boxes of food for Louisville residents who live in the neighborhood near Jefferson Street Baptist Center. Baptist ministry centers across Kentucky helped hundreds of families have special meals, gifts and new clothing this Christmas season.

Ministry center directors' year-round wish list

Children make their wish lists for Santa at Christmas, but directors of Baptist ministry centers keep wish lists year 'round.

More than children's trinkets and baubles, these ministers' lists contain vital ingredients for the relief ministries of the centers—at Christmas and throughout the year.

Here are some items from the lists of Kentucky Baptist ministry center directors:

- Towels and washcloths.

- Seasonal clothing, especially winter coats.
- Socks and underwear.
- Personal care items, such as deodorant, soap, razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo.
- Laundry detergent.
- Cleaning supplies.
- Canned foods, including meats.
- Kool-aid.
- Craft items.
- Balls and games.



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

homes for children

Sounds of joy at Christmas

Last weekend a group of nine youth from Bellview Baptist Church in Paducah travelled three hours to our Spring Meadows campus in Middletown to share songs, skits and testimonies with our youth. After Michael Dixon, director at Spring Meadows, shared with the church about our work with abused and neglected youth, the J.O.Y. ensemble made up of younger youth decided they wanted to share some Christmas joy with our youth.

Their program, called "Sounds of Joy," brought togetherness and moments of joy to the children you care for through Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. You could feel the excitement in the air, see the joy breaking through on the children's faces and hear the laughter echoing in the room.

Events like this always remind me that this is what our mission is all about. As Kentucky Baptists, we can join our hearts in prayer and join our hands in action to spread love and joy and peace to all the children throughout all the year. Together, we can help troubled youth and abandoned children to see that they are precious in his sight.

As Donnie Wright, who volunteers his time to work with the J.O.Y. youth ensemble from Paducah, introduced the song "Here Comes a Miracle," perhaps one of our youth was thinking about the miracles that have happened in this place or the miracles that could happen. Donnie shared with these youth who have been abused, neglected and abandoned that miracles still happen. "We're getting ready to celebrate a miracle," he said. "What we sometimes overlook is that Jesus still works miracles today."

Do you believe in miracles? I do. I get excited when I begin to see the possibilities of changed lives. And I believe that with your help we can bring the sounds of joy back into the children's lives. Together, we can make a real difference. A miracle can happen.

This year, as your church choir or ensemble begins to sing the chorus of "Joy to the World!" or as you listen to the "Hallelujah Chorus" in Handel's "Messiah," pause for a moment and consider how you might bring to life the joy of Christmas in the coming year.



mountains to the mississippi

■ **AFLEX**—Aflex Church held a retirement reception for **Joe Smith**, honoring his 33 years of service.

■ **BOONEVILLE**—**Tom Patterson** has been called as pastor by Booneville First Church.

■ **BREMEN**—**Todd Gaddis** of Owensboro has been called as pastor by Mt. Pisgah Church.

■ **CARLISLE**—**Tom Moore** is serving as interim pastor of Irvingsville Church. **Russel Jones** previously served as pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—**James Abernathy** has been called as pastor by Latonia Church. He previously served as pastor of Central Church in Paris.

■ **FLEMINGSBURG**—**Roy Machen** has been called as pastor by Flemingsburg Church.

■ **FRANKFORT**—**Malcolm Lunceford** resigned as pastor of Immanuel Church on Oct. 16 but is remaining until Dec. 31 at the church's request. He will maintain his resi-

dence in the area and will be available for supply and interim opportunities.

■ **HENDERSON**—Eastview Church welcomed **Paul Bunger** as pastor.

Airline Church welcomed **Don Embry** as pastor.

■ **LEDBETTER**—Mint Springs Church ordained **Wayne Smith** into the gospel ministry.

■ **LEXINGTON**—**Richard Dwyer** has been called as minister of music by Calvary Church. He previously served the church as organist, minister of youth, minister of pastoral care and interim minister of single adults. **Kevin Raybuck** is now serving the church as part-time organist. **Marilyn Fightmaster**, currently serving as church pianist and pastor's secretary, has been added to the music staff as music assistant. The church also has called **Linda Judge-McRae** as minister to college adults.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Clyde and Lois Petty** observed their 60th wedding anniversary

Dec. 24. Petty and his family ministered in churches throughout Illinois, Colorado, Kentucky and Indiana. The Pettys are currently members of Southside Church. Petty retired from pastoral duties in 1969 but continues to do pulpit supply.

Auburndale Church welcomed **Charles Owens** as pastor, **Allen Sherwood** as minister of youth and education, **William Becker** as minister of music, and **Janice Houck** as organist.

Ludwig Villamizar, pastor of the Hispanic mission of St. Matthews Church, and his family will be returning this month to Venezuela. Villamizar and his wife, Helen, completed degrees from Southern Seminary. He will resume teaching responsibilities at the Venezuelan Baptist Seminary.

■ **VANZANT**—**Raleigh Matthews** of Falls of Rough died Dec. 1 at age 86. He served Macedonia Church as deacon and song leader for 50 years. His wife, Daisy, died only 19 days earlier at age 84.

Pulaski Association volunteers lead lay revival in Illinois

At least 30 people in Eldorado, Ill., professed faith in Jesus Christ as lay volunteers from Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee shared told residents what God has done for them.

Fifteen volunteers—including a delegation from Pulaski Baptist Association in Kentucky—worked side-by-side with members of First Baptist Church in Eldorado in "visiting the lost and simply sharing testimonies," said Bob Dickerson, pastor of the Illinois church.

"There was no preaching in this revival," he said. "The lay people just told what Jesus had done in their lives."

The visiting team members included an airline pilot, a young songwriter from Nash-

ville, a former banker, a retired college president, a retired truck driver and a retired insurance claims adjuster.

They helped in a door-to-door "claim a street" project encompassing a list of 150 names of prospects. Dickerson explained the church had "prayed for months that God would show us where he was working and allow us to join him there. Our goal was to simply invite them to receive Christ as their personal savior."

On Wednesday prior to the revival, the church members conducted a 24-hour prayer vigil to "prepare ourselves for what God was going to do," he said.

In the first service, 15 professions of faith were made with another 15 made even be-

fore the Saturday evening service. Some of the young people went out on the streets after services and led four others to profess faith in Jesus Christ, Dickerson said.

"Sunday, all heaven broke loose in the morning service," he explained, "with the altar filled with church members rededicating their lives to support the evangelistic efforts."

Eldorado First is working to disciple the new believers, assisted by more than 40 members who accepted Dickerson's invitation to take someone "under their wings and disciple them personally and lead them into the church fellowship."

Adapted from the Illinois Baptist



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Flu, flood and victory

Just before Thanksgiving break, we had nearly 130 ill at one time with the flu and many others before or after that peak.

In such times, the public schools shut down, but as a boarding school, we cannot do that. If 130 are sick that means 400 are still healthy. The healthy ones must have something to do, and the best thing to do is to continue teaching them.

But at the same time, those ill must be nursed back to health. Then they must be helped to "catch up" on their school work.

We fed 163 students, staff and guests on Thanksgiving day. The other 500 members of our Oneida family were away for four days. About 35 to 40 had the flu the following Monday.

By Tuesday our campus was surrounded by flood waters. Some of our staff and students had worked through the night getting our buses and other vehicles onto the high ground of the main campus. Also when there is flooding, we must move the contents of two of our workshops.

Many of our staff that live on the farm side of Goose Creek were cut off by the high waters. Three of them later made it

over in a boat, but some of the non-swimmers did not take a chance.

But we had our classes and daily chapel service as usual, for none of our classroom buildings or dorms were affected by high water.

On Monday and Tuesday, four varsity and middle school academic meets away from campus were cancelled, but our middle school basketball team made it to Knott County and back safely before any of the highway was flooded.

By Tuesday night the flood waters had receded enough for our girls to get to Red Bird, a Methodist boarding school, where our girls lost by two points.

Thursday, Dec. 5—We had a 50-minute memorial chapel service honoring Gov. Bert Combs whose death we had learned of the day before. Immediately after this I left for the burial of the former Oneida student and lifelong educator.

His wife, a 1937 graduate, and three daughters, all OBI grads, have been lifelong teachers. His son, who played on our ball team when I first worked at Oneida, is now the principal of Manchester Elementary School.

In the evening I went to speak to the London Kiwanis Club. At the same time, our farm manager and 11 of our boys left to pick up 16 tons of potatoes off a large truck in Laurel County. They were donated to us but had to be picked up immediately. That group got back to campus an hour after midnight.

In the meantime, our varsity basketball girls traveled to Jackson in Breathitt County and won 44-29 while our junior varsity girls lost.

Back on the main campus, four basketball games were played after school and in the evening. Our junior varsity boys defeated Leslie County 50-36 and then Harlan 51-38.

On the same night, the Leslie County freshmen beat us 58-36, and the Harlan Middle School had a 30-point win over us.

Just 100 feet away in our swimming pool, our OBI boys beat Monticello 52-18 in a swim meet, and our girls' team won 48-20.

While all these varying activities were going on, there was the usual nightly supervised study hall with about 300 attending, drama practice, academic team practice and band practice.

Friday, Dec. 6—We again had a memorial service at our daily chapel. This one was to remember Pearl Harbor where Shelby Treadway, OBI 1938, died 50 years ago, and to remember eight other Oneida boys who were later killed in the war.

In the evening the annual Booneville-Irvine Associations' Executive Board Christmas dinner was held in our beautifully decorated dining room. In the meantime, our boys' varsity basketball team traveled to Riverside in Breathitt County and won 86-64.

Saturday, Dec. 7—Our marching band left for Lexington to participate in the televised Lexington Christmas parade for the sixth time. Out of scores of bands, Oneida's was the one shown in the evening news.

Our choir left in early afternoon, met the band at 3 p.m. in Lexington, picked up 16 of them and traveled to Greenville to sing concerts at First Baptist and Second Baptist on Sunday morning and evening respectively.

The two churches housed us in their homes, fed us four meals, treated us royally and we got back to Oneida at 2 a.m. Monday. While in Greenville we saw 1991 grad Robert Key and the fathers of two other former students perform in Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

While the choir was at Greenville, our boys' varsity basketball team beat Red Bird 62-47 for the Three Rivers Conference championship on Saturday. Also our varsity swim team went to Richmond and finished 12th out of 18 Kentucky and Tennessee teams competing in a meet at EKU.

Texas pastor celebrates 50 years serving one church

By Scott Collins
Southwestern Seminary

HOUSTON (BP)—It was August 1941.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was still three months away, and President Franklin Roosevelt was trying to keep the United States out of a world war.

The Yankee Clipper, Joe DiMaggio, was in the middle of a consecutive-game baseball hitting streak.

And on a hot and humid Sunday in Houston, a young seminary student named Travis Lamar Mathis accepted the call as pastor of Faith Memorial Baptist Church.

World War II came and went and DiMaggio's streak stopped at 56 games, but 50 years later, Mathis' streak as pastor of Faith Memorial is still going.

"My secret is being right with God and being faithful to doing the will and the work of God," Mathis said.

That faithfulness was recognized this year when church members honored their pastor with a 50th anniversary celebration. The theme they chose for the occasion was "A Witness of Faithfulness."

In a denomination where the average tenure of a pastor is about two years, Mathis' streak is extraordinary.

"I think the reason he has been able to stay is he genuinely loves people," said James Herrington, director of missions for Union Baptist Association in Houston. "That's not something that he gets paid to do. He really loves it."

That love for people is evident on Sunday mornings, when Mathis arrives early to meet and greet church members of all ages, including nearly 150 people (mostly children) who ride Faith Memorial's four buses every week.

The pastor's love for the church also has kept him there, he said. "I've had chances to leave, but the Lord wasn't in it."

Instead, he stayed—through the 1950s, when the church grew from 97 members to

2,800 and an average attendance of nearly 1,000, and through the 1960s and '70s, when the Denver-Harbor area surrounding the church became mostly Hispanic.

Rather than abandon the area, Mathis led his predominantly Anglo congregation to

reach out to their own mission field. Today, the congregation is a mixture of Hispanics, Anglos and African-Americans.

The acceptance of other races was not immediate for Faith Memorial. Mathis had to fight prejudice, but firmly declared, "We treat everybody

the same regardless of his or her color." Mathis believes evangelism and door-to-door visitation helped the church grow. During his tenure, the church has baptized 3,250 people.

"We go out and knock on doors and ring doorbells. We contact the people," he said. "By phone, by personal visit, we stay with

it. You've got to contact the people. That's your lifeline."

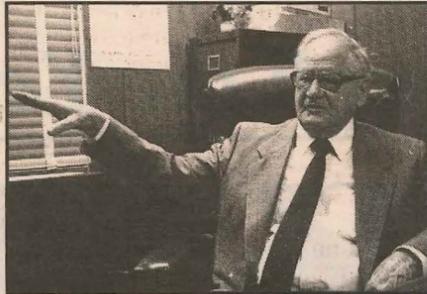
At 78, Mathis has learned some lessons of his own, he said. "When I came here, I was really strict. I was hard on everybody. Boy, they had to toe the line."

"We did not recognize divorced people. Anybody who was divorced could come and sit and listen, but they could not be workers. They could just come and warm a bench."

"I prayed about it, studied on it, and asked God's leadership, and the Lord revealed to me from the Bible that divorced people are human beings—they're souls who have gotten messed up by divorce. God wants me to reclaim them and to bring them back and let them live for God in spite of their divorce," he said.

"I've become more mellow, more considerate, more forgiving, more humble. I believe we have to salvage people. We have to pull them out of the fire, so to speak."

And while his approach to people has softened, Mathis' zeal for the ministry has remained, he said. "The people want me to stay as long as I can do the work, and I'm happy doing it."



Couple used gymnastics as springboard to spread the gospel

By Breena Kent Paine
New Orleans Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Dressed in a leotard and tights, with tears in her eyes, little gymnast Renee Hall found a new life in Christ because her gymnastics teacher believed in "body, mind, and Spirit."

Eric Sheaffer always had been up front with his faith, pointing his students toward Jesus' love, leading them in prayer during workouts and competitions, and even naming his gymnasium Maranatha Academy, from the Greek term for "Come, Lord."

Now 9-year-old Renee was the last one on her team to profess her faith in Jesus Christ, and she knew it.

"Renee would listen quietly as we talked about what Jesus had done in our lives and how someone else got saved," Sheaffer said. "Then one day, she was on the balance beam and I was leaning against the beam coaching her. All of a sudden, she said, 'Someday, Eric, I'm going to get saved.'"

"When she said the same thing later on, I

realized she wanted me to show her how," he said.

So Sheaffer took her outside and explained the plan of salvation to her, and Renee put her faith in Jesus.

Had it not been for God's intervention in his own life, Sheaffer would be concerning himself with beams of timber rather than balance beams right now. During his last semester of college, he had to decide whether to go into forestry, which he had spent five years training to do, or to teach gymnastics.

Then Sheaffer was offered a summer job at a girls' gymnastics camp in western Massachusetts, where most of the gymnasts were wealthy, Jewish girls from New York, and the four coaches under him were not Christians.

"That's when God moved in my life to use gymnastics as a ministry, because those three months I was there, I never heard the (name) Jesus Christ. I tried to witness, but my knowledge was so small; I just noticed the kids needed Christ. When that camp ended, I was broken."

He then accepted a job as director of a gymnastics school in Long Beach, Miss., where he taught for two years. "I was very open about my faith. It was a small town. Everyone knew where I stood," he said.

"We prayed and read Scripture before every workout. We dedicated our gymnastics team to the Lord, and got top honors in state championships. It caused quite a stir because we would join together and pray before competition. Everyone thought we were strange, but then we started winning."

As Sheaffer's wife, Jody, was a dance instructor, they decided to open their own business together in an old warehouse building in Pensacola, Fla.

"We started off right away with the fact that we were Christians, and named our business Maranatha Academy, with the motto 'Maranatha believes in body, mind and spirit.'"

By the third year they had 800 students in dance and gymnastics. Three years later, they built their own building, and then had to build yet another to accommodate their

booming business.

"Again our gymnastics team put God first, and again we had a powerful team," Sheaffer said. "At performances, at recitals, we would always have prayer first—sometimes giving testimony in front of 1,000 spectators."

"Even those who were not Christians began liking the idea of a moral atmosphere for their aspiring athletes. They wanted their children not only to develop physically but as individuals as well. That seemed to supersede any problems they had with Christianity," he said.

"It was the best business principle we could have ever had."

With that successful business principle learned, the Sheaffers recently left their Pensacola business and moved to New Orleans, where he is a student in the master of divinity program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Sheaffer believes he has received a new direction from God and is preparing for the pastorate.

Baptist elected first female president of national coaches' association



COACH—Kathy Holloway, a Southern Baptist layperson, gives instructions to her girls' basketball team at Tioga (La.) High School. Holloway is the first female elected president of the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

By Gary Griffith
Louisiana Baptist Message

LECOMPTE, La. (BP)—Kathy Holloway's game plan never included being a basketball coach. But after 20 years of teaching girls to "shoot the hoop," her colleagues say she has scored big as the first woman president of the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

Holloway is a member of First Baptist Church in LeCompte, La., and a coach at Tioga High School in Tioga, La.

Holloway has distinguished herself in high school coaching circles by directing two Tioga girls' basketball teams to second place finishes in state competition, leading Tioga teams to the state playoffs more than 10 times, coaching two high school All Americans and being elected the only woman president of the Louisiana High School Athletic Coaches Association.

Now she is serving as the first female president in the national association's 25-year history, elected by the organization's executive board.

Holloway said she has received much support and acceptance from fellow church members. "They even accept me in my war-mups," she quipped.

"Sometimes it's tough to drag yourself to church on Wednesday night after a day of school, a hard basketball practice and a quick supper. It's tough, but I'm always glad I did," she said.

In fact, Holloway says her church's support, Christian family and personal relationship with God keep her sane while dealing with the pressures of a job that can "drive you crazy."

"I couldn't deal with coaching or teaching if I weren't a Christian, because there are a lot of frustrations that go with losing ball games and the long hours it takes to coach and sponsor our pep squad and the things you have to deal with that you see in kids' lives like child abuse, drugs, no place to live, the whole sex issue. I don't think I could do what I do if I didn't have a higher power to take things to, a Christian family that supports me and a church family that accepts me for what I am."

Holloway said her Christian faith and ideals also influence the way she coaches and deals with students.

"My Christian beliefs help me know not to give up and throw anybody away or give up on them. Sometimes that might be your natural response to some situations and people, but Christ wouldn't do that," she said.

Follow the Miracles of Christmas Through the Year...

In 1991, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children cared for 551 children who needed to see the miracles of Christmas and feel the love and acceptance that so many of us take for granted at this time of year.

Thanks to your support, children like *Charles*, abandoned by his mother at 13 and left to survive on the streets, can find the love they've never known.

Because you care, *Karen*, sexually abused by her stepfather and rejected by her mother, is beginning to believe that her life matters.

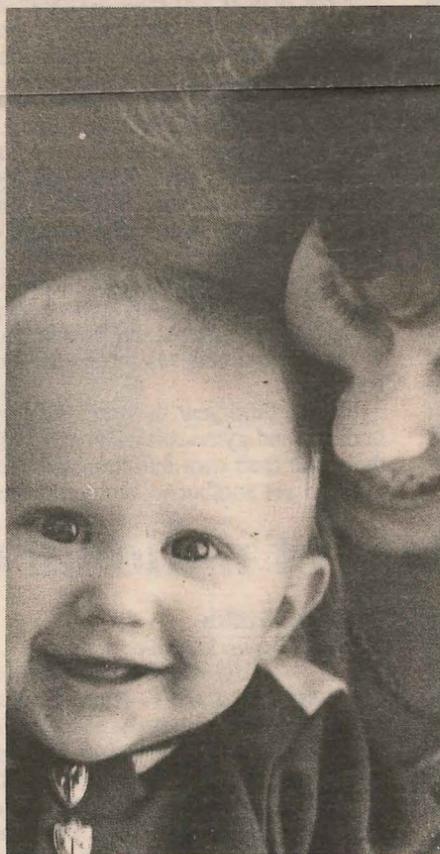
Before your gifts of love came into his life, *Jeffrey* never had time to see the miracles in Christmas. Sexually abused by his father and assaulted by his mother, he came to KBHC full of rage and confusion. But because you cared, Jeffrey found ways to work through his anger and share that gift with others.

In this special time of year, when we are filled with a spirit of peace and love and hope, accept our thanks for what you have done for us.

From *Charles* and *Karen* and *Jeffrey*, thank you. Thank you for making the magic of Christmas come alive all year round at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. And thank you for remembering us through your gifts of love. Together, we can make 1992 a year of miracles for the children.



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