

FOR THE RECORD

Fellowship executive
Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, has been elected the first coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. *See page 2.*

Campbellsville second
Campbellsville College ranks second among all Southern Baptist colleges in percentage increase in enrollment this year. *See page 2.*

Parochial aid
The Kentucky Baptist Public Affairs Committee has written a letter urging state lawmakers to oppose use of government money to support private and parochial education. *See page 3.*

Editorial
Gov. Brereton Jones does about-face on lottery-advertising promise. *See page 5.*

Down home
Farewell to a faithful friend, Kentucky pastor Robin Jimmerson. *See page 5.*

Hancock explanation
Bill Hancock, chairman of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, has released a 10-page letter explaining trustee actions concerning the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. *See page 9.*

FMB European administrators resign in protest

RICHMOND, Va.—Southern Baptists' two top administrators of mission work in Europe resigned Jan. 7, claiming they can no longer work with conservative trustees of the Foreign Mission Board.

The next day, a Richmond newspaper reported that FMB President Keith Parks might be on his way out as well.

Isam Ballenger, vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Keith Parker, area director for Europe, detailed plans to take early retirement in a Jan. 7 press conference laced with unusually frank charges against trustees.

Parker is a former Kentucky pas-

tor, having served churches at Worthville and Gray Fork. He is a graduate of Berea College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ballenger and Parker originally set their retirement dates for May 31 and July 1, respectively. However, three days after their announcements, the FMB announced the two will leave Jan. 31 under an agreement negotiated with trustee leaders Bill Hancock and Steve Hardy.

Hancock, trustee chairman and pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, said Ballenger's and Parker's "volatile language" in opposition to trustees led to the change.

Hardy, chairman of the trustee

committee for Europe, said, "In the business world, if someone leaves and they leave criticizing the organization, they normally leave immediately."

Unless altered by trustees in February, the new agreement allows the men to serve as consultants in February and receive full salary and benefits through their previously announced departure dates.

Ballenger and Parker have been key leaders in the FMB's European strategy, which has been at the center of controversy since October.

The announcements follow a bruising three-month debate across the Southern Baptist Convention and the European Baptist Federation con-

cerning funding for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

FMB trustees voted 35-28 Oct. 9 to eliminate a \$365,000 contribution to the institution, which some allege teaches liberal theology. They reaffirmed the action Dec. 11 by a vote of 54-27.

Baptist leaders in most European countries denounced the action, which they said will jeopardize future relations between Baptists on the two continents. Several European leaders accused FMB trustees of exporting the SBC's 12-year-old controversy to Europe by requiring Baptists on that continent to contribute to the institution. *See Two key ..., page 8*

Life issues impact young & old alike, Kentuckians say

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

A Christian concern for sanctity of life should extend from the unborn to the ill and the elderly, five Kentucky Baptists said.

This Sunday, Southern Baptists across America will discuss life issues as they observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, sponsored by the Christian Life Commission.

Although abortion is likely to be the most frequently discussed topic, it will not be the only life issue discussed, according to opinions of the five Kentuckians interviewed by the Western Recorder. They listed at least six contemporary issues related to

sanctity of life: abortion, euthanasia, fetal tissue donations, organ donation, perinatal care and health care.

How Christians respond to these diverse issues will vary, explained Gary Bennett, director of pastoral care at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah.

"There's not one response a Christian could take and apply across the board to all these issues," he said. "There may be some guiding principles we need to use as a standard. For me, that standard is that life is sacred, that life

is something given to us by God. We have a responsibility to be good stewards of what we do with that gift."

Paul Simmons, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said the term "sanctity of life" is widely misunderstood from a theological perspective.

Simmons explained that a biblical concern for human life must not focus solely on biology: "Jesus made it very clear that life cannot be reduced to the vital functions. The

way we serve God and the commitments we make to the will of God are what make life holy. The experience of a living God in our lives helps us understand how sacred our lives are before God," he said.

Such a relationship with God requires Christians to think and make individual decisions about difficult issues, Simmons said.

Here is an overview of some of the issues Christians may face:

■ Abortion.

Abortion and euthanasia are the two issues at the forefront of Christian ethics, said Jerry Hopkins, pastor of Reidland Baptist Church in Paducah and Kentucky's trustee on the Christian Life Commission. *See Sanctity ..., page 6*

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House & owner changed through ministry

By Marv Knox
Editor

LACENTER—Neighborly concern and elbow grease teamed up to produce two baptisms at First Baptist Church of LaCenter.

During a revival meeting, the church's Woman's Missionary Union director, Imogene Warren, became burdened about her neighbor, Jean Ann Northington, reported Pastor Larry York.

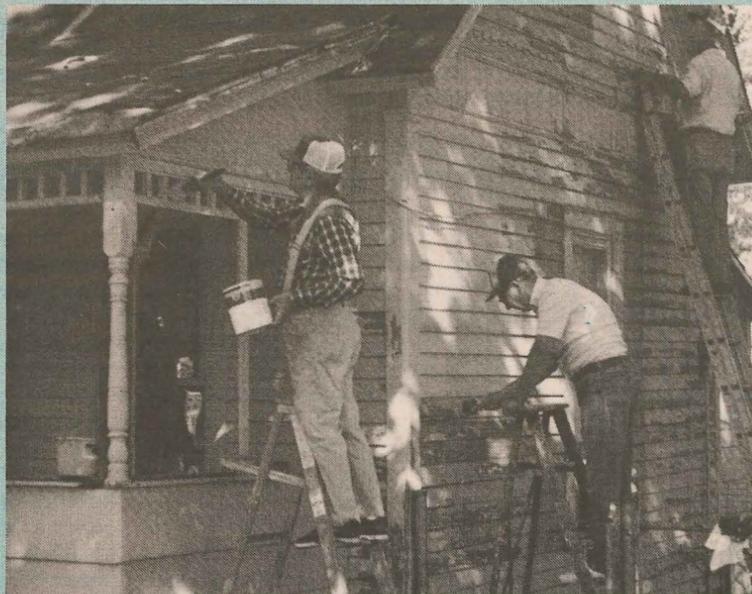
"I shared with Mrs. Warren about how to present the plan of salvation," York recalled. "She then went to her neighbor, shared the gospel, and the woman prayed to receive Christ as her Savior."

Northington was prohibited from making a public profession of faith at the church because her job at a local nursing home required her to work on Sundays, he said.

But Warren would not be stopped from seeing Northington grow in her faith. She took the adult version of "Survival Kit for New Christians" to her neighbor's home every Monday and taught her new Christian sister to grow in the faith.

Several months later, members of the church's Brotherhood organization applied the elbow grease, York reported.

"Because of economic conditions, (Northington) had been unable to properly care for her home,"



ELBOW GREASE Members of the Brotherhood organization at First Baptist Church of LaCenter apply a fresh coat of paint to the home of Jean Ann Northcutt. Not long afterward, Northcutt and her nephew were baptized at the church.

he said. "Mrs. Warren suggested that this would be a good project for our Brotherhood. So, our men did some repair work and painted her home."

"This made such an impact ... that she made a special effort to come to church. The Sunday she came to church, she made her profession of faith public in our morning worship service, and I baptized her that evening."

But that wasn't the end of the developments, York added. "The following week, I had the privilege of leading her nephew, Marshall Northington, who lives with her, to the Lord and baptizing him."

Now, Mrs. Northington attends Sunday school, discipleship training and worship services every Sunday except when she has to work, York said.

Georgetown's Donley named Coach of Year

GEORGETOWN—Coach Kevin Donley, who guided Georgetown College to win the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II football championship, has been named Coach of the Year by the NAIA Football Coaches Association.

Also, the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame has awarded Georgetown's team the Theodore Roosevelt Bowl. The trophy was presented Jan. 8 in Anaheim, Calif.

Georgetown defeated Pacific Lutheran University 28-20 Dec. 21 to win the NAIA championship. This was Georgetown's first national football championship, earned in the centennial year of football at the Kentucky Baptist school.

In his 10 seasons at Georgetown, Donley has compiled a 67-36-1 overall record for a .649 winning percentage.

"We've always been a little afraid to talk about winning the national championship before because it seemed like an unrealistic goal," Donley said.

"But this year we started talking about it. We put it on our goal sheets, and it was our ultimate goal. We had a group of kids with a tremendous work ethic who really believed they could win a national championship," he said.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **The Cooperative Program**, Southern Baptists' conventionwide ministry budget, suffered a 5.51 percent drop in December. The national CP received \$10,575,202 last month, a decline of more than \$600,000 from December 1990.

■ **North Carolina** has become the first Southern Baptist state convention to allocate funds directly to the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland. The North Carolina Baptist Convention gave the seminary \$28,750 in December.

■ **The first three students** to complete their theological degree requirements through the Northeast Baptist School of Ministry were honored at a celebration service in Northboro, Mass. The degrees are conferred by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ **South Carolina** Baptists and Furman University are seeking a new relationship. Last year, the university took steps to distance itself from the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and the SCBC later voted to sue to stop Furman's action. Now, the convention committee created to study the issue has voted to seek reconciliation rather than a suit. Meanwhile, a group of Baptists in the state is threatening to go to court to keep the convention from using churches' contributions to pay for a suit.

Fellowship elects Cecil Sherman 1st coordinator

DALLAS—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's coordinating council has elected Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, as the first full-time coordinator of the moderate group.

The Fellowship also moved to hire Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe who no longer want to work for the Foreign Mission Board. This decision comes on the heels of a three-month controversy over Southern Baptist mission work in Europe.

The Fellowship's 82-member council met Jan. 9 in Dallas and unanimously approved a coordinator's salary and benefits package for Sherman not to exceed \$100,000. Sherman has not yet given a definitive answer, but said he is "inclined" to take the position.

The new coordinator will have an office in Atlanta.

Sherman, 64, moved to Broadway in 1984 after 20 years as pastor of

First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C. He previously was pastor of churches in Texas and Georgia and a staff member of the Texas Baptist evangelism division.

Jim Slatton, chairman of the search committee, described Sherman as "a leading spirit in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship." Sherman was a founder of the Southern Baptist Forum, Baptists Today newspaper, the Southern Baptist Alliance and Baptists Committed to the SBC. He also was a member of the Southern Baptist Peace Committee, which sought a solution to the convention's theological/political controversy.

The decision to support Baptist missionaries in Europe is a natural one, said John Hewett, moderator of the Fellowship. "Given what the Foreign Mission Board did in Europe, if we had not acted the way we acted, we don't have a reason to exist," he said, referring to FMB trustees' de-

funding of the Baptist seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Council members said they were throwing a lifeline to Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe, many of whom are rumored to be uncertain of their own futures after the FMB's two top administrators for the region resigned in protest.

It is unclear how much the fledgling Fellowship will be able to spend on the initiative and which projects and missionaries they would like to adopt.

Neither is it certain Southern Baptist missionaries will leave the FMB to link up with the Fellowship, although council members said they have heard from some who are ready.

The Fellowship is nowhere near ready to adopt the entire Southern Baptist mission force in Europe, which represents a multimillion-dollar annual investment for the FMB. The Fellowship had planned to spend

only about \$1 million on all its global mission enterprises in 1992.

Fellowship leaders predicted the FMB's European debacle and their own initiative on the continent will inspire hundreds of Southern Baptist churches to shift their allegiance—and financial support—to the Fellowship.

Hewett denied that hiring missionaries was an indication the Fellowship is a new denomination.

The Fellowship received \$4.5 million from churches and individuals in 1991. Almost three-fourths of the money—at least \$3.3 million—went to support traditional Southern Baptist agencies.

The Fellowship also adopted a mission statement which says, "Our purpose is to lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to carry out the Great Commission by an inclusive global mission in which all Baptists can participate."

Campbellsville among leaders

By Tim Fields
SBC Education Commission

NASHVILLE (BP)—Kentucky's Campbellsville College was a growth leader among Southern Baptist colleges and universities last fall, according to figures compiled by the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Overall, Southern Baptist schools showed an increase in fall enrollment for the 10th consecutive year.

A total of 113,262 students attended the schools during the fall semester. That is a 2.4 percent increase over the 1990 total, 110,605.

Enrollment figures include full- and part-time students in college credit courses. Statistics were released to the commission by each school.

A compilation of the figures shows 33 of the 53 colleges and universities had increases in enrollment, ranging from 22.7 percent to 0.3 percent.

Campbellsville College in Camp-

bellsville ranked second in percentage growth, with a 21.7 percent gain, to 1,003 students.

Bluefield (Va.) College had the largest percentage increase for the second consecutive year, with 22.7 percent.

Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., had the largest numerical increase, with 780 more students. Dallas Baptist University in Dallas was second, with a 302-student gain.

The commission also released enrollment information on Kentucky Baptists' three other schools. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville enrolled 145 students, up 4.3 percent. Cumberland College in Williamsburg had 1,673 students, down 7.6 percent, and Georgetown College in Georgetown had 1,547 students, down 3 percent.

The last time overall enrollment in Southern Baptist colleges and universities decreased was in 1981.



PASSING THE PLATE Mary Dan Kuhnle (center), director of Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center, presents a souvenir plate to JoAnne Yoder (left), a social worker at the home, in appreciation for her work in counseling expectant mothers. Operation of the home recently was transferred from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home, and the home was relocated from New Orleans to Tallulah, La. Carolyn Davis (right), administrative assistant at the home, assisted Kuhnle with the presentations.

Texas Baptist sustained by faith during captivity

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Convention

DALLAS (BP)—Though he was deprived of food and water for five days, blindfolded, bound, stripped and interrogated during a month-long imprisonment in Baghdad, Jim Aduddell said he was sustained by prayer and his personal faith in Jesus Christ.

"I knew everything was going to turn out all right. I knew Jesus was working things out according to his perfect way. It's just that sometimes our time frame and his don't coincide," said Aduddell, a member of Forest Cove Baptist Church in Kingwood, Texas.

"I'll tell you this—I made it through because of one person, and that's Jesus Christ."

Aduddell, who works with a Houston-based engineering consulting firm, was arrested Dec. 6 while traveling in the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, about 45 miles from Kuwait City. The Texan and two companions were surveying

the area before bidding on an explosive ordnance disposal job.

When a sandstorm hit about noon that day, Aduddell and his partners became disoriented. After wandering for a time, they came across a guard's post but were unable to determine if it was flying a Kuwaiti flag.

Only when they were within earshot of the station did they discover it was Iraqi.

"We put our vehicle in reverse, but about that time soldiers ran out after us. They kept us for an hour and a half there, then took us to Basra, and then it was on to Baghdad," Aduddell said.

During the first week they were held, Aduddell and his companions were unsure of the charges against them. However, after about two weeks they discovered the Iraqis believed them to be military saboteurs.

For 10 days, the prisoners were blindfolded, handcuffed and intensely interrogated for 10 hours a day. During five days when they were denied food and water, the three men survived on a single orange.

"We were held one place for 19 days where it was so cold we could hardly stand it.

"They took all our clothes—stripped us naked—and it was so cold that when you'd breathe out the mist, it would look like you were blowing smoke from a cigarette," Aduddell said.

Just when his morale had dipped to an all-time low, Aduddell heard the voice of children and saw the children's feet through a three-inch crack under his cell's solid steel door.

"It was an assurance to me that God was still working, even there. He had worked things out to let those kids in to visit their parents. It was a good time in the middle of a very bad time for me," he said.

Eventually, the case against Aduddell and his partners came to trial in Baghdad.

After appearing before three judges in a packed courtroom, the captives learned on Jan. 3 all charges against them had been dropped, provided they left Iraq within 72 hours.

Texans organize for shift to right

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—More than 200 Texas Baptists met Jan. 7 to map strategy to take political control of the state convention for conservatives, a leader of the group said.

The group formed the Conservative Fellowship, which plans to have chapters throughout Texas.

One of its goals, he said, would be to return Baylor University to the control of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and to elect conservatives as officers of the state convention.

Moderates now are in control of the state convention, which claims 2.5 million members.

Texas conservatives suffered a setback at last November's state convention when Baptists approved a plan that released Baylor from official control of the state organization.

Seminary evangelism class puts feet to lessons

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE—A Southern Baptist Theological Seminary class found open doors to learning and witnessing through a local church's visitation program.

Evangelism professor Ron Johnson and 28 students in his personal evangelism class joined members of Shively Baptist Church in an evening of sharing the gospel.

About half the class never had gone visiting with the intent of directly sharing the gospel, Johnson said. "The students had to bear witness to persons they did not know. The goal was to be a caring witness and not just fulfill a course requirement."

Shively provided a good opportunity since it has an ongoing visitation program and several members who have completed Continuing Witness Training, Johnson said. Seminarians, who have taken CWT with their course, were paired with church members for the visitation.

"All of the students had a positive experience," Johnson said. "No one came back saying, 'I'll never do that again.' Some were surprised at the receptivity (of people they visited). Some were surprised at the difficulty of getting from the front door to the living room."

Michael Duff, a theology student from Columbus, Miss., said he was helped by the focused nature of the visits. "Instead of just going to visit,

you must have the other goal of finding out about spiritual matters in a person's life," he said.

Fran Stuart, a theology student from Derry, N.H., said the experience was "very valuable" in helping integrate her own faith with a presentation of the gospel.

"I needed a grasp on how to share my faith," she said. "There is an eternal significance about sharing your faith in Christ."

The one family she and her partner were able to visit talked "honestly and openly" about their search for God, she said. "They thought it was so important that people came over from the church to see them."

"Some people need to be visited in their homes and confronted with the

gospel in their homes," Johnson explained. "People are more comfortable in their homes, and they need to have the gospel presented to them in a loving way in familiar surroundings."

Shively Pastor Gary Hollingsworth said home visitation "gives a personal touch" to outreach efforts. "It is very instrumental in creating a mindset of care and ministry for others," he said.

The visitation program helped spawn significant growth for Shively during the past year, said Hollingsworth, a doctor of ministry student at Southern. Average Sunday school attendance climbed from 508 in 1990 to 621 in 1991. During the same period, the number of baptisms has increased from 12 to 54.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **William Kaufman** has been named pastor emeritus by Valley Station Baptist Church in Valley Station. Kaufman previously served as Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood director, pastor of East Baptist Church in Louisville. He was pastor at Valley Station for 15 years. An architect before entering pastoral ministry, Kaufman planned and built most of the existing Valley Station Church facilities.

■ **Nancy Futral**, wife of Kentucky Baptist minister/church support division Director Guy Futral, sustained serious head injuries in a bicycle accident near their Pewee Valley home Jan. 9. She is being treated at Humana Hospital-University in Louisville.

Kentucky volunteers help Ohio church in mission projects

By Connie Bull
Staff Writer

XENIA, Ohio—In the past six months, 87 people have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ at Arrowbrook Baptist Church in Xenia, Ohio—largely through the ministry of Kentucky Baptist volunteers.

That's the assessment of Arrowbrook's pastor, Charles Anderson.

Kentucky volunteers joined Baptists from North Carolina and Tennessee to assist the Ohio church.

Kentucky's West Union Baptist Association supplied funds for a summer youth minister for 10 weeks. The position was filled by John Hodge, a member of Bellview Baptist Church in Paducah.

Anderson said the internship was fruitful, noting the youth vacation Bible school program resulted in more professions of faith than ever before.

Nine adults from Highland Baptist Church of Shelbyville donated their vacation time to conduct a children's music week at Arrowbrook. The event

was headed by Alan Clark, minister of education and music.

The main feature of the music week was a musical which the first through sixth graders began learning on Monday and presented the next Sunday.

Bill Ray, assistant pastoral administrator of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, took a family missions team of 27 to do VBS, an Olympic Fun Fest and Baptist Builder action at the Ohio church.

Ray explained the family mission

team program seeks to locate families who are willing to go together to do VBS. The idea is "to involve entire families in mission experience—just like missionaries have to do."

Ray hopes to return in 1992 to "broaden the scope of missions for our families. It's an attractive way to present the gospel."

In a church which averages 60 to 75 in Sunday school, the VBS enrollment of 250 and average attendance of 200 was a success, Anderson said. There were 59 professions of faith.

FRAMED Volunteers from Blood River Baptist Builders pause during construction of a sanctuary for East Marshall Baptist Church in Marshall County. Construction began Dec. 2 and should be completed in time for Easter services. Blood River Baptist Builders has a team of 40 volunteers. "Our work is to the glory of God," said the group's leader, Tal Fannin. "New churches represent new work; new work means new converts; and that's what it's all about."

Undesignated state CP contributions up but still below goal

By Marv Knox
Editor

Kentucky Baptists' unified budget showed a gain in December, but receipts still fell far below the goal.

Meanwhile, gifts designated exclusively for the Kentucky Baptist Convention continue to ease the shortfall.

The Cooperative Program unified budget is split between Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist causes.

The KBC keeps 62.058 percent of undesignated receipts and passes 37.942 to the national convention.

Since the KBC fiscal year began in September, 33 Kentucky Baptist churches ave given \$107,089 designated for KBC use only. That includes \$28,769 given last month.

Statewide undesignated Cooperative Program receipts for December were \$1,351,335. That represents an increase of \$163,213, or 13.7 percent,

over receipts for December 1990.

December contributions brought total undesignated Kentucky Cooperative Program receipts to \$5,151,301 at the end of four months of the fiscal year—a gain of \$93,744, or 1.9 percent, over the same period a year ago.

Still, that is \$813,520, or 13.6 percent, below the pace needed to meet the \$17,894,462 annual budget goal.

The strong December was good news, "in light of the fact we will be

competing this month with a \$1.8 million January in 1991," said William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"The big frustration is that we continue to be below budget," added Barry Allen, KBC business manager. "Our projection is that we will be more than \$1 million below the Cooperative Program budget at the end of the year."

PAC letter opposes parochial vouchers

By Marv Knox
Editor

The Kentucky Baptist Public Affairs Committee has written a letter urging state lawmakers to oppose use of government money to support private and parochial education.

The seven-member committee drafted the letter—which will be sent to all members of the Kentucky General Assembly—during a called meeting in Louisville last week.

The action was prompted by an announcement that the Kentucky League for Educational Alternatives, a group comprised primarily of Catholic parents, will ask the General Assembly to approve a pilot project to provide educational vouchers for eighth-graders who attend private schools in Jefferson County.

The pilot would provide vouchers worth \$2,500 for every eighth-grader in the county. But only parents whose children attend private schools would get the vouchers to apply toward tuition.

Parents whose children attend pub-

lic schools would not get any compensation.

The Public Affairs Committee's letter to the General Assembly notes the committee "represents 780,000 Kentuckians who historically have opposed use of public funds for parochial or private education."

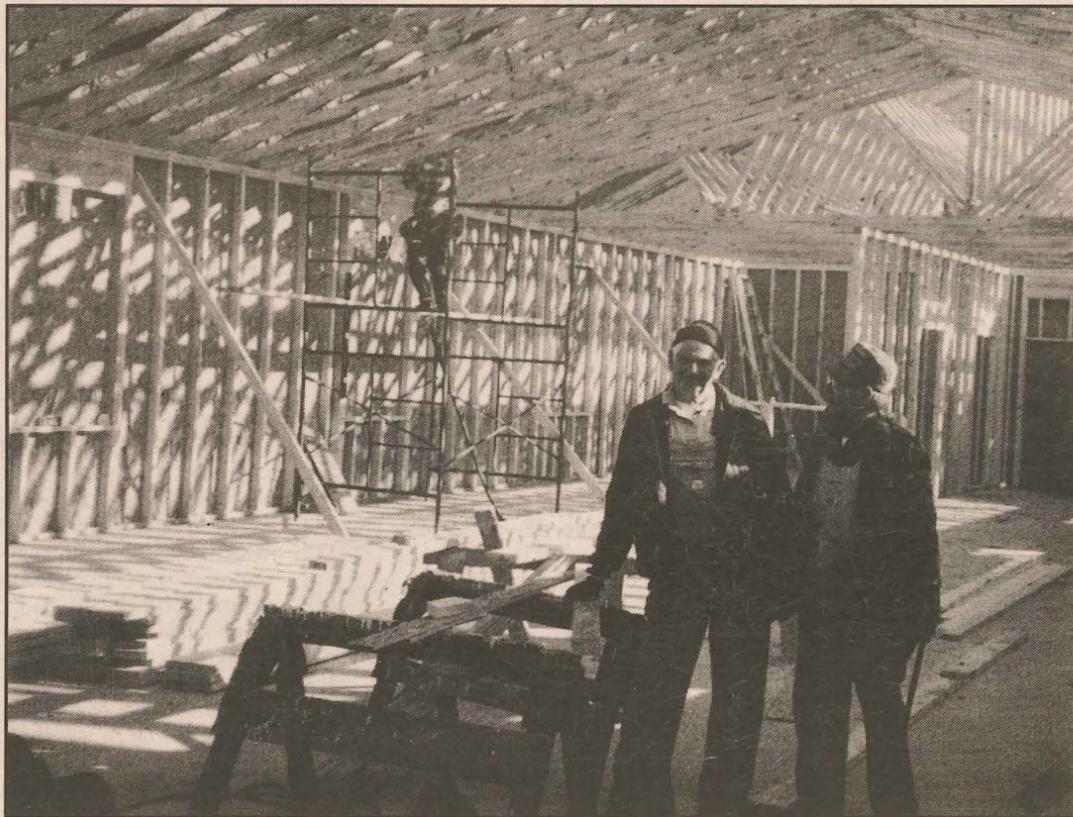
The letter adds: "We hope you will join us in viewing such a (voucher) system as a violation of the historic principle of separation of church and state. The Kentucky Baptist convention repeatedly has expressed its opposition to such use of public funds."

The letter stresses three other factors for opposing a voucher system:

■ "It would exacerbate the budget shortfall expected during coming fiscal years.

■ "It would restrict the effective fulfillment of the Kentucky Education Reform Act.

■ "The Jefferson County proposal would increase tensions between rural and urban Kentuckians, and it would not provide a legitimate example of statewide application of such a program."



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Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.—Jude 3

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Christians called to cherish and preserve the sanctity of life

God's inheritance must not be denied

The psalmist proclaims, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Psalm 127:3).

The word translated "heritage" means an inheritance and is used of land or possessions (Exodus 23:30; Numbers 18:20, 23-24). It is also the word for a river or a fountain, symbolic of productivity and water as a life source. "Reward" underscores the concept that children are an undeserved blessing bestowed by God.

Other biblical passages reveal God's involvement in the conception and birth of children. Eve proclaimed God's assistance in the birth of her child (Genesis 4:1), and Jacob told Rachel that children were given by God, not man (Genesis 30:1-2, Genesis 33:5). Isaiah spoke of "the children whom the Lord hath given me" (Isaiah 8:18).

God's involvement in human conception is, if anything, even more explicitly revealed in passages such as Jeremiah's revelation from God: "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee" (Jeremiah 1:5).

God's detailed preparation, planning and participation in the specific personal attributes of particular individuals are revealed in the psalmist's description of being "knit ... together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13).

Children are indeed a blessing and an inheritance from the Lord. When we allow the wholesale abortion of our children, we follow the terrible and tragic example of the prodigal son who "wasted his substance with riotous living" (Luke 15:13).

Webster's dictionary defines "prodigal" as "given to reckless extravagance" and "using up one's means." When we abort our unborn children, we kill individual human beings for each of whom God had a place and a purpose. We sacrifice our

children to the false gods of career and convenience.

Through the wholesale slaughter of our unborn children, we not only bring down God's judgment upon us for our callous disregard of human life, we also deny ourselves the great blessings God has prepared to bestow upon us and our world through our children.

In our killing of approximately 1.5 million children every year by abortion, have we aborted the girl God had planned to discover the cure for cancer? Have we destroyed the boy God planned to find a cure for AIDS? Have we snuffed out the life of that one that God had gifted and prepared to lead us safely through some future crisis? Have we aborted the one God intended to be the world's next great evangelist and soul winner?

In terms of sheer numbers, we have aborted approximately 30 million American babies since 1973. The oldest of these babies would now be in their freshman year of college or joining the work force with a full lifetime of productivity before them. The economic and social costs of abortion are staggering and will seriously impact our ability to bear the medical and other retirement costs of the baby boom generation's elderly years.

The horrible consequences of abortion will negatively impact us all for the rest of our lives. We must stop this national nightmare. We must bear witness to human life's sanctity. We must protect our children.

We must call our people to repentance that we might claim our Father's promise, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

*Richard Land, executive director
SBC Christian Life Commission
Nashville*

Simplistic thinking also endangers life

An enemy soldier. A criminal. A comatose patient. A starving child. A pregnant woman. An unborn baby.

What is common to them all?

Each is created by God in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Each is valued greatly, because life is God's gift.

This gift is in peril through practices like abortion, the death penalty, mercy killings, health care rationing, starvation, war and suicide.

This gift is undervalued through attitudes like prejudice, greed, convenience, disinterest, materialism and narcissism.

Yet five simplistic ways of thinking about the sanctity of human life endanger life just as much as practices and attitudes:

■ One simplistic perspective creates misleading choices.

It says that either God approves the taking of human life in abortion and

euthanasia, but opposes the taking of human life in capital punishment and war; or God approves the taking of human life in capital punishment and war, but opposes the taking of human life in abortion and euthanasia.

A genuine pro-life ethic rejects such a false approach. It offers two options, however.

The idealistic option says it is always wrong and never right to take human life.

The realistic option maintains it may sometimes be permissible to take human life because tragic circumstances are unavoidable in our fallen world.

■ A second simplistic approach treats physical life as the highest value.

It is not the highest. God's will is absolute.

The Bible certainly points this out. In the Old Testament, God's people

took human life for specific reasons. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ gave up his life for a greater value than physical life.

■ A third simplistic view forces a false choice between God's sovereignty and humankind's responsibility.

"Just leave it in God's hands" and "only God can give and take life" are statements about God's sovereignty. "I've got to make the decision" is a statement which emphasizes human responsibility.

True wisdom, guided by the Holy Spirit, discerns how God is at work and how God wants Christians to be at work in people's life-and-death struggles.

■ A fourth simplistic approach makes people choose between the sanctity of life and the quality of life.

Yet very few people, if any, want to live at all cost regardless of their condition.

Also, those who believe, as many do, that it is permissible to take lives to defend lives make a quality-of-life decision.

■ A fifth simplistic approach stands against something and not for something. Christians should be for those things which protect and enhance life, while we should oppose those things which threaten human life.

A death-row prison cell. A nursing home. An intensive care unit. A famine-plagued area. The ghetto. The womb. The battlefield.

What is common to them all? They are locations where life hangs in the balance.

Challenged by the whole gospel toward a genuinely pro-life ethic, Christians must protect and enhance human life through life-preserving ministries and public policy initiatives. We must seek ways to value human life across the continuum of human life in all its contexts and to provide opportunities for all to receive eternal life (John 10:10).

*Ray Higgins, associate
Baptist Center for Ethics
Fort Worth, Texas*

'The horrible consequences of abortion will negatively impact us all for the rest of our lives. We must stop this national nightmare.'

Richard Land

'Christians should be for those things which protect and enhance life, while we should oppose those things which threaten human life.'

Ray Higgins

Pastor and church prove old is not dead

Ben A. Baird has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Hazard since the summer of 1984. He will retire early this year.

With his permission, I am sharing his review of an almost eight-year ministry there.

Because it is one of Kentucky Baptists' older, "middle-sized" churches, it illustrates what can happen in a church with steady and patient leadership.

"We pursued long-range planning vigorously for more than a year, asking all kinds of questions, and not always happy with the answers. The planning led us to believe

that the church needed to make a new and significant thrust into our community. To do this we would need improved facilities, greater financial support, and above all a greater commitment from all God's people.

"First Baptist then supported a building program which resulted in the renovation of the entire educational facilities. This was done at a cost of about \$300,000 and was dedicated debt-free in 1988.

"We set out to create a more caring fellowship. We expanded our jail ministry and have had several saved as a result. We have instituted a home-

bound ministry for those unable to attend and expanded our ministry to expectant and new-born families.

"We enlarged our Sunday school organization and have grown 40 percent since 1984, with a strong emphasis with young adults. Our enrollment has moved from 363 to 531.

"From 1984 to 1991, we baptized 150 persons. We also received 152 by membership transfer. Including losses by death and transfers, our membership has grown from 1,219 to 1,374.

"Our total receipts have grown from \$176,481 to \$252,274. Our mission giving has almost doubled, and our gifts through the Cooperative Program grew from \$23,262 in 1984 to \$42,042 in 1991.

"First Baptist has developed plans to build a new parsonage and to reno-

vate the existing one for a residence to house the minister of music.

"The church is in harmony and debt-free."

Ben Baird would be mortified if any reader of this perceived it as a "brag sheet." And I would owe him and First Baptist an apology if this column portrayed them in such a light.

What is of utmost significance here is:

■ An older, middle-sized community church can still grow numerically and spiritually.

■ Long-range planning does make a difference.

Thanks, Ben and First Baptist, for your hopeful example as so many of us begin a "new" year in "old" places.

William W. Marshall is executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

Jones' about-face on lottery ads is 'ill-advised'

Gov. Brereton Jones apparently is making a U-turn on his campaign promise to reduce lottery advertising in Kentucky.

Jones claimed "it would be ill-advised" to cut lottery advertising, saying an upturn in lottery proceeds is providing money the state government badly needs. He made his comments on the "Newsmakers" program produced by WKYT-TV in Lexington early this month. They were picked up by other media, including the Courier-Journal in Louisville.

Jones' words run counter to his campaign promise to reduce the amount of money the state spends promoting the lottery.

The week before his election last November, Jones was asked by the Western Recorder: "Would you support a reduction in state-funded lottery advertising, even if it meant a potential loss in lottery revenue? If so, to what degree?"

Jones responded: "I believe it is inappropriate for the state to spend more promoting the lottery than it does promoting tourism and travel in Kentucky. Our administration will work with the General Assembly and the lottery corporation to reduce promotional spending for the lottery and to redirect those funds to tourism advertising."

The governor's latest comments came amid reports that the Kentucky lottery—with a 71 percent increase in sales over 1990—was the fastest-growing lottery in the nation. 1991 sales of \$343.1 million are expected to provide \$85.8 million to the state.

Those figures turn heads. Still, Jones and lottery supporters make a mistake if they assume the lottery is the best way to raise money for the state's budget.

Investment in tourism and travel—which the governor advocated when he sought his office—would generate "cleaner" money: Increased revenue from tourism would not be picked from the pockets of poor people, as is a disproportionate amount of lottery money. A broader range of businesses would benefit from tourism than the grocery and convenience stores that sell lottery tickets. And the government would be investing in a positive, progressive industry, not state-supported gambling.

Gov. Jones has been in office barely a month. To use his term, he "would be ill-advised" to break faith with voters who expected him to reduce lottery advertising.

Marv Knox

Gov. Jones should stick to his campaign promise. Lottery ads are bad for Kentuckians.

Brain-drain saps vital experience from SBC institutions

This week's news includes reports of three more high-level resignations at Southern Baptist agencies.

The Foreign Mission Board lost its top leaders of work in Europe—Isam Ballenger, vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Keith Parker, area director for Europe. Lloyd Household, assistant vice president for communications, will leave the Sunday School Board.

These three join at least three other untimely departures from Southern Baptist institutions in recent weeks. Gary Cook, vice president for church programs and services at the Sunday School Board, left for an Oklahoma pastorate. John Jonsson, professor of world religions, and Bill Leonard, professor of church history, left Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville for jobs at Baptist state universities.

None of them resigned with joy and eager anticipation. Ballenger and Parker said they must quit because they cannot represent conservative trustees' "global agenda" of theological orthodoxy. Cook and Household's roles at the Sunday School Board were diminished by a tier of executive vice presidents put in place by the board's new administration. Jonsson and Leonard indicated their future effectiveness at Southern Seminary had been thwarted by the increasingly conservative posture of the school's trustees.

These are but the latest half-dozen exiles from active leadership in

Southern Baptist denominational life. Obviously, many people who have supported the conservative agenda in the convention are rejoicing. They hope and pray more departures will follow soon. But many friends and colleagues of these six workers weep for their personal loss and grieve over the loss to their institutions.

Theology and convention politics aside, such early departures inflict a brain-drain upon our institutions. These six workers served a total of 122 years at their institutions. They may be replaced by younger, vigorous people, but the loss of their wisdom and experience will create a vacuum.

The most glaring example of large-scale experience loss is Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, whose accreditation was put on probation in December. A host of administrators and faculty left the school after radical changes made by trustees in October 1987. The trustees then filled those vacancies with inexperienced, ill-prepared administrators and untested teachers. The results have been devastating.

The recent early departures of veteran denominational workers and the probation of Southeastern Seminary should raise warning flags to trustees of Southern Baptist institutions: No matter how pure your motives, if you deplete your human resources, you may strangle the organizations you are committed to protect.

Marv Knox

The early loss of institutional leaders weakens the effectiveness of Southern Baptist causes.

Fond farewell to a faithful, courageous friend, Robin Jimmerson

Dear Robin,

This is a hard letter to write. First, because my emotions still are on edge. And second, because I don't know how to write a letter to a friend who's already gone to heaven. (I'm sure if you can read this now, you'll get a hoot out of my quandary.)

At any rate, I want to say thanks for being my friend and for sharing your life with me. Our friendship was all in the future when the doctors discovered your cancer 14 months ago. We were young and had our lives ahead of us. We just knew we'd have time to get our families together and be friends for many years—after you finished your doctorate at Southern Seminary and I got my first year or two at the Recorder under my belt.

But all that changed when they found the tumors. Suddenly, the future was now. And

almost as suddenly—13 agonizing months later—your future was over, and you left a host of family and friends behind.

To tell you the truth, I'm still mad. Not at you, of course. You didn't do anything to deserve the ugly disease that stole your body. But I may want to ask God a few questions when I join you someday!

The Apostle Paul wrote that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

Well, you were called, and you followed that call—through three graduate degrees

and to five churches. Maybe you understand now, but I'm still wondering what "good" your death has done. Sharon has to raise Daniel and Emily without you. Campbellsburg Baptist Church has to find a new pastor.

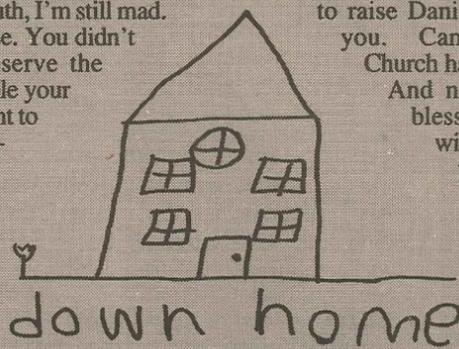
And none of us who were blessed to call you friend will fill the empty place you fit. Maybe human logic is too limited, but it seems everyone who knew and loved you would be a lot better off if you never got sick in the first place.

Ranting and raving won't bring you back, will it? So, I've been trying to redeem these horrible feelings by remembering all

the good that preceded your death. You were a committed husband and father, and you left a legacy of love for your family. You were a compassionate, gifted minister, and all the churches you served are richer. You were a generous friend, and you left many of us with fond memories.

I'll always be grateful for the way you opened your life to me this past year. Most people would have shut new friends out, but you welcomed me to your home and let me walk along on your last journey. Like your friend David Sapp said, I've "memorized" you—the way you ministered with integrity, encouraged your friends and faced death with hope and courage. That memory will be an eternal flame to keep our friendship warm until we meet again.

Your friend,
Marv



State attorney general joins brief in abortion case

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

FRANKFORT—Kentucky's new attorney general last week called on the United States Supreme Court to rule quickly on a Pennsylvania case that could overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

Attorney General Chris Gorman joined officials from Louisiana, North Dakota, Utah and Guam in a brief asking the Supreme Court to hear a case known as Planned Parenthood v. Casey.

The court was to discuss whether to accept the Pennsylvania case last Friday, Jan. 10, but their decision had not been made public by the time the Western Recorder went to press.

Ed Lynch, a spokesman for the attorney general, said Gorman joined the brief "so he can properly advise the Kentucky legislature if and when an abortion-related bill is drafted.

"The bottom line is to clarify the issue, to let the legislature," Lynch said. "All parties agree that the federal law in this area is in a state of flux."

Kentucky's most recent abortion-related legislation, a 1986 parental consent law, has been struck down by a federal court ruling.

There is widespread belief—both among those favoring abortion and those opposing abortion—that ruling on the Pennsylvania case could be the Supreme Court's opportunity to revisit Roe v. Wade, the ruling that legalized abortion in America.

"Most people expect the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade when given a clear case on the constitutional right to privacy," explained Michael Whitehead, counsel for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "This is not that case. What the court will do in this case is inch its way back toward a reversal of Roe by upholding more and more restrictions ... on abortion."

The case in question stems from a Planned Parenthood appeal of the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court's ruling on Pennsylvania's Abortion Control Act. Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania filed a petition Nov. 7, 1991, seeking a Supreme Court review of the case.

Pennsylvania's attorney general also appealed to the Supreme Court for a decision Dec. 9.

The Circuit Court decision announced Oct. 21, 1991, upheld most, but not all, of the Abortion Control Act. The Circuit Court found that key

provisions of the act, including parental consent and a 24-hour waiting period to ensure informed consent, are constitutional.

However, Circuit Court judges split on whether a spousal notification provision was constitutional.

In its original form, the act required physicians at least 24 hours before an abortion to explain the nature of the procedure, gestation and alternatives, the probable gestation age of the unborn child and the medical risks of carrying the pregnancy to term.

Should the Supreme Court agree to hear the case, the earliest possible date

for a hearing would be in April, and a decision could come months later.

The interesting thing about this case, Whitehead said, is that people on both sides of the abortion debate are pushing the court to hear it.

"The ACLU and others are urging the court to take this case even though they know they will lose," he said. "My speculation is why they want the court to hear it because the ACLU and Planned Parenthood want to fight in this pro-choice congress for a freedom of choice act and figure what they lose in court they will regain in Congress."

The interesting thing about this case, Whitehead said, is that people on both sides of the abortion debate are pushing the court to hear it.

Land & others praise Bush for vetos

WASHINGTON (BP)—Evangelical Christian leaders, including the executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, thanked President George Bush during a recent ceremony for using his authority to protect federal policies against abortion.

Richard Land, CLC executive director, was among six evangelical representatives present in the Oval Office when the president

signed a proclamation designating Jan. 19 as National Sanctity of Human Life Day.

"This is an excellent example of the President's prerogative to use his office ... to define issues, set priorities and focus agendas," Land said.

The group expressed appreciation to Bush for blocking congressional attempts to overturn anti-abortion regulations, Land said.

Sanctity of life issues include abortion, euthanasia

Continued from page 1

tian Life Commission. Those two issues relate to the same question at both ends of the lifecycle, he and others said.

"What do we do when a person can't speak, can't decide for themselves? Who speaks for the unborn, the unconscious, the incoherent, the helpless?" he asked.

Abortion has become a major issue because American society "does not reverence God," Hopkins said, and therefore "does not reverence human life."

"How we treat children—even unborn children—is a test of what we value," he said, adding that Americans have "sacrificed their unborn ba-

bies on the altar of materialism and pleasure and convenience."

America needs to "repent for the 30 million babies we've aborted since 1973," he suggested. But Christians must lead the way with constructive, compassionate ministry, he added.

Kentucky Baptists have done this through the work of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, crisis pregnancy centers and adoption, Hopkins said. "We have a lot of godly people across the state who have been willing to adopt children and care for them," he said. "I think sometimes that's been overlooked in the debate about abor-

tion."

Another thing that has been overlooked in the debate about abortion is meaningful dialogue, said Gerard Howell, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Lexington. "Neither side is really hearing the other, and both sides have something to say."

■ Euthanasia.

Bennett said the issue he confronts most as a hospital chaplain is counseling families forced to decide whether to keep loved ones alive on life-support systems.

Kentucky law now allows people to write "living wills" that explain their wishes should such a situation occur, he explained, but most people have not done so.

"The important thing is for people to talk in their families," Bennett said. "Whether or not a person writes a living will, ... they still need to be talking in their families, letting their families know what their wishes are."

For family members to face such a decision at a moment of crisis is more traumatic, he said.

Mary Harrison, associate chaplain at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington, agreed: "Families on a one-on-one basis need to be talking about what their definition of life is and what their wishes are about the end of their lives."

■ Fetal tissue and organ donations.

Organ donation was not widely perceived as an ethical issue until recently, Bennett explained. However, as new avenues of donation are combined with prolonged life-support systems, decisions about organ donations have become more complex.

Perhaps nowhere is this more con-

troversial than in the use of fetal tissue for research and transplantation—a rapidly developing science.

■ Perinatal care.

"We can deliver live babies of a 24- to 25-week pregnancy," said Harrison of Central Baptist Hospital, which has a large obstetrical unit.

Ethical questions arise when those babies have little chance of survival apart from life-support systems, she said. In these cases, Christians face the issue of "what technology can do versus what is helpful and compassionate."

■ Health care.

America's health care crisis is creating a new form of life issue that affects an even larger population, Howell said.

"The health issue is going to be the biggest thing on the horizon," he said. "Americans' income and insurance is not matching the increased cost of hospitalization."

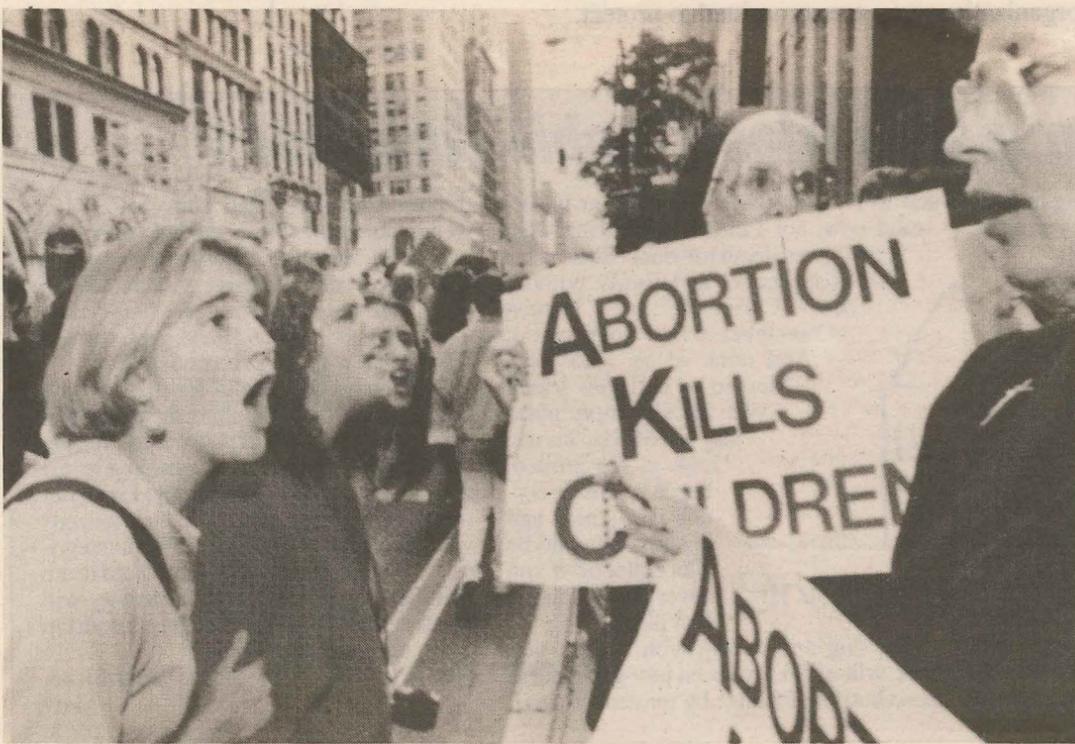
Determining whether to prolong life through technology becomes an unnecessary discussion when families cannot afford to pay for even basic health care, he explained.

Regardless of the specific issue considered, the bottom line may be getting Christians to think about life issues in advance.

"We need to think about the implications of sanctity of human life issues," Hopkins said. "For most of us, until these issues hit us real personally, ... we don't think much about it."

As for action, Christians must not be so overwhelmed by the big picture that they fail to act on the smallest things, Howell said. "We need to focus on that which is appropriate for us. We may have to say, 'I can't do everything, but I consider the health care issue significant and I'm going to work on it.'"

ABORTION PROTESTS
Nuns hold signs proclaiming "Abortion Kills Children" during a demonstration on Fifth Avenue in New York City while abortion advocates confront the demonstrators. (RNS photo)



Crisis pregnancy centers offer abortion alternatives

RICHMOND—A new crisis pregnancy center in Madison County is among dozens of ministries Southern Baptists have begun in recent years to promote alternatives to abortion.

Since its opening last March, the Madison County Crisis Pregnancy Center has witnessed the birth of at least seven babies whose mothers changed their minds about abortion, said Director Connie Hubbard.

In all, the center has seen 109 clients in its first 10 months of operation.

The crisis pregnancy center is an idea promoted by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, where Sylvia Boothe directs an office for alternatives to abortion ministries.

Generally, young women come to crisis pregnancy centers to find the answer to one question: Am I pregnant, she said. Before they leave, they

have the answer or a good indication and have received counseling.

"Crisis pregnancy centers are usually located in a neutral setting outside the church building," Boothe explained. "They offer free pregnancy tests and confidentiality."

In the past two years, the HMB has trained leaders for 30 crisis pregnancy centers nationwide. Boothe projects Southern Baptists will open at least 10 new centers each year.

Most are sponsored by churches or associations. The HMB does not provide funding for centers.

The Madison County center, located in Richmond, is funded solely by contributions from area churches, said Hubbard, the only paid employee.

The center is a good investment for Christians who want to make a positive contribution to stopping abortion, she said. "Crisis pregnancy centers nationwide have demonstrated that as you compassionately identify with the woman, offering friendship and assistance as long as she needs them, she will in 80 to 85 percent of the cases turn from abortion."

Richmond is a strategic location for a crisis pregnancy center because two universities are located nearby, she said. "Eastern Kentucky University has had two girls within the last year that had babies by themselves

and then disposed of those babies, one in a garbage dump and one in a trash can outside the dorm.

"To me, that shows some need for help. And the number of clients we've had indicates the need."

The average age of the center's clients is 18, Hubbard said.

"These girls usually are not going to go to their pastors," she explained. "Many times they're not even going to go back to their churches. They feel like church people are going to condemn them. And in many cases that has been true.

"We feel like the church needs to reach out and show acceptance of them as people. I don't remember ever reading in the Bible that Jesus used condemnation to bring people to repentance. He used love and help."

The best outcome of the ministry is that women who come for pregnancy tests often make spiritual commitments, too, Hubbard said.

The average annual cost of running a basic crisis pregnancy center is \$25,000-\$30,000, Boothe said. Getting started can take up to 18 months.

For information, contact Boothe at (800) 962-0851.

Reported by News Director Mark Wingfield, State Correspondent Jane Taylor Howell and Ferrell Foster of the Illinois Baptist.

For information on starting a crisis pregnancy ministry, contact Sylvia Boothe at the Home Mission Board: (800) 962-0851.

Kentucky crisis pregnancy centers

This is a listing of some crisis pregnancy centers in Kentucky that are supported by Baptist churches or associations. The Western Recorder provides this list not as an endorsement of any center but as a service to our readers.

- **Compassionate Alternatives**, 3618 Church St., Covington, Ky. 41015, (606) 431-0011.
- **Alpha Alternatives**, 1910 S. Virginia St. #205A, Hopkinsville, Ky. 42240, (502) 885-3820.
- **Alternative Pregnancy Center**, 4006 Preston Highway, Louisville, Ky. 40291, (502) 367-2313.

- **Life House Crisis Pregnancy Center**, 1506 Chestnut St., Murray, Ky. 42071, (502) 753-0700.
- **Alternatives Inc.**, 13 Court St., Prestonburg, Ky. 41653, (606) 886-2025.
- **Madison County Crisis Pregnancy Center**, 316 Geri Lane, Richmond, Ky. 40475, (606) 624-2181.
- **Abortion Intervention Ministries**, 416 E. Mount Vernon, Somerset, Ky. 42501, (606) 678-0335.
- **Agape**, 212 E. Main St., Whitesburg, Ky. 41858, (606) 633-3005.

First Step counselors help birth mothers & adoptive parents

By Dawn Richerson
Homes for Children

LOUISVILLE—At 17, Carol's worst nightmare came true.

When she discovered she was pregnant, everything changed. Frightened and alone, Carol finally got up the courage to call her pastor, who put her in touch with the First Step Counseling and Adoption Service of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

When Carol called First Step, a pregnancy counselor arranged to meet her in her hometown nearly three hours away. When they met the next day, Carol said she began to hope ev-

erything would work out.

After talking through her choices and receiving professional counseling, Carol decided to place her baby with adoptive parents who had waited nine years for a child. Her baby boy, Jonathan, now has a bright future, and Carol is looking forward to college.

The First Step program offers positive choices for teen-agers like Carol, said Kathy Baucom, who became coordinator of the program last October. "A pregnancy counselor works with each client to help them explore the positive choices of parenting and adoption."

Post-pregnancy counseling also is

available.

If a woman chooses adoption, a First Step counselor works with the birth mother and prospective parents to make both feel good about the process. These activities range from exchanging pictures and letters to arranging meetings between the birth mother and family, although identifying information is not exchanged.

Prospective adoptive parents are required to complete a home study before placement. The First Step program also features support after the adoption is finalized. Birth mothers may continue to receive pictures and updates about their children.

"I try to be an advocate for both the birth mother and the adoptive couple," Baucom said.

When adoptive babies are born, they live in a "Rainbow Home" for about two weeks. Four couples and one single woman now open their homes for this transitional period. Some also care for teen-age mothers during pregnancy and after childbirth.

Baucom said churches can assist First Step by referring potential clients, sponsoring baby showers, providing gift items and financial contributions or volunteering to serve as Rainbow Home hosts. For information, call (800) 928-5242.



Rainbow Home parents Gerald and Donna Peake care for a newborn child.

One woman's story: Guilt held her hostage for 18 years after illegal abortion

By Ferrell Foster
Illinois Baptist

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (ABP)—She was 18 and just out of high school, a committed Christian and active Southern Baptist. She was single. And she was pregnant.

It was the early 1970s, before abortion was legal in the United States. But Jane (not her real name) had one anyway.

"I was raised in a Christian home," she began in telling her story. "We were at church every time the doors were open."

After breaking up with a long-term boyfriend, Jane began to see another man on the rebound. Sex became a part of the new relationship even though "I had been taught better," she said.

She went to church each Sunday night and felt convicted that what she was doing was wrong, "but then on Friday night it would happen again."

She became pregnant, but her parents didn't know.

The baby's father refused to help her, saying he had to go to college and make a life for himself. But her old boyfriend provided the name of a girl he said could help find an abortion.

"My strongest feelings were letting my parents down and my church," she said. "I had seen the judgmental attitudes, criticism, all that came from 'Christians.' And although I had felt love, I didn't feel an unconditional love."

She concluded an abortion was the solution to her problem.

Jane contacted the girl her old boyfriend told her about, and arrangements were made. Shortly before Christmas, she and the contact drove to a Belleville, Ill., neighborhood for the abortion. She told her parents she was going Christmas shopping.

They pulled up at "a grandma kind of home." The woman who performed the abortion was "your stereotyped grandma," Jane recalled. She took the young woman into the bathroom and used a clothes hang-

er to perform the procedure, which took about 10 or 15 minutes.

But it didn't work. So Jane went through it again.

Three days later, she developed a fever and finally told her parents. "They were very calm about it, nothing like I expected," Jane said. "They were so concerned about me at that point."

Jane's parents took her to the hospital emergency room.

"After that came the guilt," she said. "I felt guilty because I had not handled it in what I thought was a mature manner."

Shortly afterward, "abortion started becoming a big issue of right and wrong," Jane recalled. She told of pain in seeing the "baby killer" signs of protesters.

It was about 18 years before she forgave herself, Jane said. During those years, she thought about the abortion almost daily. "The guilt was just phenomenal. I can't even find anything to relate to it."

Peace finally came when "the Lord

spoke to me in a vision," she said. "It was very, very, very real."

Through that experience, Jane said, she realized she had to let go of her past mistakes and move on.

"I felt like I had lost a thousand pounds. I felt like I could float around the room," she said. "It was a tremendous healing, and I've never felt that guilt since. But that's not to say I haven't felt the sadness."

After that experience, Jane saw the doctor who had treated her at the hospital. She told him she had married, and the doctor asked if she had adopted any children.

When she explained she had given birth to children herself, Jane recalled he replied, "You couldn't have had children, you were so scarred up inside."

"So it was like the Lord was opening windows and doors everywhere for me to see I had made a mistake and I would always walk with a limp, you might say, but he has the power to turn things around and blesses in spite of ourselves."

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Billy Graham** underwent outpatient surgery on his left foot Jan. 3 at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The evangelist's doctors told him his 1991 schedule was too busy. Graham said he plans to cut back and devote more time this year to his family and memoirs. Crusades are planned for Philadelphia, Portland, and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

■ **Joel DeHart**, an American aid worker detained for nearly six months in a rebel-controlled part of Afghanistan, was freed Jan. 4. DeHart, 34, had been serving as translator for veterinarian William Lewis, a Southern Baptist missions volunteer who was training Afghans in animal inoculation. DeHart was reported to be in good condition. Lewis had been released Oct. 20.

■ **Clint Ashley**, president of Canadian Southern Seminary in Alberta, has been elected director of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's Northwest campus in Portland. Ashley, 52, has been president of the Canadian seminary since it opened in 1986.

■ **Lloyd Householder**, assistant vice president for communications at the Baptist Sunday School Board, has announced his retirement for Feb. 1. Householder, 62, is a 32-year employee of the board and serves as chief of the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press. He currently serves as president of the Baptist Public Relations Association.

Two key FMB administrators resign in protest

Continued from page 1

ment to adhere to certain conservative doctrines.

"The events of October and December 1991 brought clearly into focus the chasm between the trustees and me," Ballenger, 56, said at the press conference. "They concluded that I was not serving the conservative interests of the trustees.

"That is true," he continued. "I have never considered this to be my calling. With the clear signal that the so-called 'conservative resurgence' within the Southern Baptist Convention is also to be an agenda for the global mission effort, I can no longer represent the board at home or overseas."

The trustee action violates biblically based missions principles, Ballenger charged.

"I think the Bible teaches us to give to the world without having to govern, to donate without having to dominate, to cooperate with Baptists of other lands without questioning their credentials, as if we were the measure by which others are to be evaluated," he said.

Parker, 55, defended SBC missionaries in Europe by saying, "All our missionaries and staff are deeply committed to the word of God and to theological integrity, as are our European colleagues. They serve in Christ's name and through their lives and ministries to influence and persuade others. They do not control by money and power. ...

"There is much power in money, especially Western dollars," Parker

added. "Now the control attached to the use of that money, to be decided according to 'theological orthodoxy,' is a major shift (from past FMB practice)."

European Baptists cannot be forced into agreement with their Southern Baptist counterparts, Parker acknowledged. However, financially strapped Baptist unions may have little option but to accept Southern Baptist money and the doctrinal strings attached to it, he said.

Ballenger and Parker were the key FMB staff people involved in handling the Ruschlikon seminary dispute, and both have been targets of trustee criticism as a result.

The SBC's theological shift to the right since 1979 has radically changed the concerns of trustees serving the FMB, the two said.

While in previous years FMB trustees represented the "best Southern Baptists had to offer," a different agenda has taken hold, Ballenger said. "It is an agenda I cannot serve."

Parker said that as a result of the 12-year theological conflict, a "political agenda within the SBC has overtaken most of our work to the near exclusion of mission."

Parks expressed "sadness and regret" at the resignations. "Losing them at this crucial time of opportunity—especially to lose both simultaneously—is an incalculable loss to our mission cause," he said.

Parks said discussions of his own future as FMB president will "intensify" in light of the resignations. Con-

servative sources told Associated Baptist Press and the Richmond News-Leader that trustees will speed up the establishment of a search committee to replace Parks.

Parks, who will turn 65 in October, has said he wants to remain as president until 1995 and that changing administrative leadership before then would jeopardize meeting key goals. Trustees initially agreed to that request last October.

However, most observers now believe Parks' future with the board is tenuous.

But Hancock told Baptist Press he believes Parks should be allowed to remain as president until he chooses

to retire.

Meanwhile, confusion over where the FMB stands with European Baptists continues to increase.

Prior to announcing his resignation, area director Parker said in a letter to European missionaries that he has put a "temporary hold" on all missionary personnel requests for Europe until new agreements are negotiated with each Baptist union.

Southern Baptists currently have about 290 missionaries in Europe.

Reported by Robert Dilday of the Virginia Religious Herald through Associated Baptist Press and Robert O'Brien of the FMB through Baptist Press.

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Bringing hope to children

Last May, a young girl named Hope came to our Dixon shelter for girls. Before coming to us, Hope had been shuffled between various relatives.

Because of a kidney ailment that requires special medical attention, she had already been denied care by all of the other child care services in this state. Our shelter was perhaps the last hope for this 16-year old to receive the gifts of food, shelter and clothing along with the love and attention so many her age take for granted.

Without the concern of Western Region Coordinator Bill Heaton and his staff, Hope would have had nowhere else to turn. When an emergency medical situation developed shortly after her arrival, the Dixon staff joined together to ease Hope's transition from the hospital back to the shelter. They arranged for her to see a doctor in Madisonville and made sure she would have the quality care she needed and deserved. Recently, Bill Heaton put aside other work and personally made the trip to Hopkinsville to pick up some medication she needed.

The Dixon staff has continued

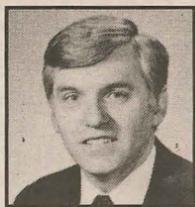
to encourage Hope in the dreams she has for her future. Hope takes great pride in her schoolwork and has accepted Dixon as a home away from home. Hope has begun to feel the warmth and acceptance of Kentucky Baptists, extended to her through the care of our Dixon staff.

Like Hope, many children need to feel your arms of love to believe they can dare to believe in themselves again. Through Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children you help keep hope alive for the children.

As you pause to reflect on the hope you have for this new year, I hope you will realize what a difference you can make in a child's life today. With your prayers and commitment to helping Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children reach our mission of serving children in need, we will be able to give more children the gift of hope for the days ahead. Love "always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (1 Cor. 13:7)

Curtis Mooney is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Middletown, Ky. 40243.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

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Hancock releases letter on FMB trustee actions

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Disagreement with Glenn Hinson's theology was only one of many reasons Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees voted to defund the Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, according to trustee chairman Bill Hancock.

The naming of Hinson—a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville—to a short-term teaching assignment at Ruschlikon was the latest in a long line of events trustees cite to support their vote. Some trustees believe Hinson holds views more liberal than what Southern Baptists approve.

Trustees directed Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, to write an open letter to Southern Baptists explaining their position.

Hancock's 10-page letter, titled "A Report on Ruschlikon," is dated Jan. 3. Almost 40,000 copies were being mailed Jan. 9-10, with a few remaining to be mailed Jan. 13.

The letters are going to all Southern Baptist pastors, state conventions and state Baptist newspapers, as well as people who contacted the FMB or

trustees about the action, Hancock said. FMB missionaries also will receive copies.

In his letter, Hancock reviews the historical, financial and theological aspects of the Ruschlikon seminary from the trustees' perspective.

Here is a summary of the major points Hancock presents:

■ **Commitments.** The seminary was begun by Southern Baptist missionaries in 1949 in an effort to unify European Baptists in the wake of two world wars, Hancock explains. The FMB deeded the seminary to the European Baptist Federation in 1988, agreeing to continue major financial support (about a third of the seminary budget) through 1992, with decreasing support extending until 2008.

"The property was given with the strong impression that the Ruschlikon president (Southern Baptist missionary John David Hopper) was committed to move the seminary in a more conservative theological direction and to lead the seminary to be more aggressive in evangelism and church planting," Hancock says.

He acknowledges some people

"have charged the trustees with violating a trust to fund Ruschlikon through 1992." But he repeated the trustees' understanding that seminary president Hopper had pledged in 1988 to "move the seminary toward a more conservative theological position."

■ **Finances.** Problems have persisted as the seminary struggles to continue operation in an extremely expensive Swiss economy and in a facility needing major renovation, Hancock notes. Supporting the 48 full-time students enrolled in the seminary last fall cost Southern Baptists \$15,937 per student in Cooperative Program funds, compared to an average of \$2,474 per student at the six Southern Baptist seminaries in the United States, he reports.

■ **Theological concerns.** Hancock outlines a list of theological concerns trustees have about Ruschlikon, its president and faculty members, including the degree of their commitment to evangelism, church growth and conservative theology, their perceived tolerance of theologians who question Christ's virgin birth and resurrection, their appointment of Glenn

Hinson to a teaching post, and the charge by Romanian Baptists that professors from Ruschlikon planted "doubts in their lectures that the Bible is entirely the word of God."

■ **Fund raising.** Hancock also renews his charge that Ruschlikon violated the FMB's indigenous principle by undertaking independent fund-raising efforts in the United States without informing trustees.

■ **Impasse.** Hancock concludes the letter by reviewing the December dialogue between trustees, FMB staff, Ruschlikon leaders and European Baptist representatives. The decision concerning Ruschlikon "might have been different," Hancock says, if any of the participants—trustees, staff, European Baptist leaders or seminary leaders—had been willing to compromise.

"Whatever the developments in the future, I can stand before God and Southern Baptists and declare I did my best to resolve this issue," he writes. "However, it was an impossible assignment when there was no movement toward reconciliation by the parties involved."

Trustee's letter outlined plan for changes in Europe

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—The growing breach between Baptists in the United States and Europe may have been planned in advance by some Foreign Mission Board trustees and not merely the result of a dispute over a Swiss seminary.

A letter written by a trustee last May—five months before the FMB defunded the seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland—outlines a plan to correct "liberalism and the mistakes of Europe" by severing ties with European Baptists and dealing instead "with different people."

The letter, dated May 3, 1991, was written by trustee Ron Wilson, who serves on the FMB committee overseeing work in Europe, and sent to FMB chairman Bill Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. It is unclear how Wilson's letter was made public, but by early January, copies had been acquired by some trustees, FMB staff members and

members of the press.

Since the letter was written, several key elements of its strategy have been adopted by trustees, including the defunding of the Ruschlikon seminary, funding of a conservative seminary in Romania, and policy changes that give trustees more control of the appointment of missionaries.

"The things mentioned in that letter are the things being done right now," said FMB President Keith Parks. "I would say the agenda is being followed pretty well."

However, both Wilson and Hancock said the letter had no impact on those decisions.

"I assure you, I don't have that kind of influence on this board," said Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Thousand Oaks, Calif. He pointed out other suggestions in the letter were ignored by the chairman and trustees.

"It didn't influence me one ounce," Hancock agreed, although he declined

to say more about the letter or how it came into public circulation.

But Keith Parker, who resigned Jan. 7 as the FMB's area director for Europe, said Wilson's letter demonstrates the trustees' "global ambition" to enforce conservative views on Baptists overseas.

Wilson's letter states: "If we cannot address liberalism and the mistakes of Europe, we will never be able to address liberalism and other problems in other parts of the world."

Wilson's letter says the FMB should abandon established relationships with elected European Baptist leaders and work instead with more conservative Baptists.

Funding the Romanian seminary—a conservative, independent school in Oradea—demonstrates the authority of trustees and sends an encouraging message to "the conservative leadership of Western Europe" and to "the non-compromised leadership of Eastern Europe," Wilson wrote. Funds for the Oradea school were later authorized.

Critics have accused FMB trustees of "exporting" the SBC's 12-year-old controversy to Europe.

But, Wilson wrote, the denominational controversy "has already been exported overseas" during the last 25

years by FMB leaders "who allowed missionaries to be sent who were neo-orthodox in their theology."

"Sooner or later we must address the theological difficulties on the field in the same way that we addressed it here in the States," he continued. "Ultimately, we have got to ask people what it is you believe and what it is you are going to be teaching."

The place to start, Wilson said last May, is at the Ruschlikon seminary, which many trustees consider liberal and voted to defund in October.

The second target, Wilson said, should be the appointment process for new missionaries. He offered four possible changes, one of which was approved by trustees in December. Trustees now must approve candidate consultants, staff members who screen candidates and shepherd them through the appointment process.

Wilson said Jan. 7 that the disclosure of his letter should provide no revelations to anyone who knows his opinions. "I've been suggesting something be done with Ruschlikon for years," he said.

Reported by Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press with Mark Wingfield and Marv Knox of the Western Recorder and Robert Dilday of the Virginia Religious Herald.

Educating 48 students at Ruschlikon cost Southern Baptists \$15,937 per student last year, compared to \$2,474 per student at SBC seminaries in the U.S.

'Sooner or later we must address the theological difficulties on the (mission) field in the same way that we addressed it here in the States.'
FMB trustee Ron Wilson in a letter to trustee chairman Bill Hancock

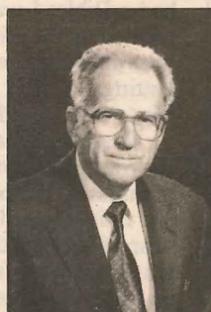
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KENTUCKY KERNELS

Squire Boone, brother of famous explorer Daniel Boone, generally is considered the first Baptist preacher to come to Kentucky. However, "the first recorded Baptist preaching done in Kentucky was by Thomas Tinsley and William Hickman at Harrodstown in the spring of 1776, about four years after the appearance of Squire Boone and five years before a Baptist church was planted in Kentucky." from "A History of Baptists in Kentucky," by Frank M. Masters

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Dale Adkins, minister of activities and senior adults at First Baptist of Bowling Green, has accepted a faculty position with Western Illinois University.

■ **William Dick**, former co-pastor of Hillvue Church, has been called as minister to adults by South Main Baptist Church of Houston.

■ **CORBIN**—Eugene Hamilton is serving Greenland Church as interim pastor. He is the retired pastor of North Benson Church in Franklin.

■ **GRAVEL SWITCH**—Charles Thomas is serving Gravel Switch Church as pastor. He is a student at Southern Seminary.

■ **GRAY**—Jesse Edward Jackson, 70, died Oct. 28, 1991. Jackson served three Kentucky Baptist churches: Poplar Grove Church and Horse

Creek Church in Corbin as pastor and Calvary Church in Corbin as interim pastor. Born in Oliver Springs, Tenn., he was a graduate of Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy in Seymour, Tenn.; Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.; and Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Tenn. He is survived by his wife, the former Helen Brakebill of Maryville, Tenn., and five children.

■ **IRVINE**—Gary Conner is serving Valley View Mission as pastor.

■ **Calvary Church** called Bob Young as youth minister.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Richard Burns, former choir and band director at Oneida Baptist Institute, is now serving Ashland Avenue Church as associate pastor and music director.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Pam Washburn,

former minister of youth at Deer Park Church, has resigned to accept a position with Hospice of Louisville.

■ **Dee Deming, Drew Dixon, Bob Irvine and Sharon Watkins** were ordained as deacons by Broadway Church.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—John Ashby, director of missions for Little Bethel Association, has announced his retirement. The association plans a retirement celebration March 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the associational office, 445 Thompson Ave. All are welcome.

■ **PARIS**—Spears Mill Church called Daniel McCrosky as pastor. He previously served Memorial Baptist Church in Hot Springs, Ark.

■ **UNION**—Beaver Lick Church raised a mile of pennies for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. A mile of pennies is \$844.80, and the church exceeded its mile goal with a total of \$925.

Walters gives thanks on Miracle Sunday at London church

By Beth Wyatt
State Correspondent

LONDON—"You didn't get me yet," Jan Walters told the local funeral director on Miracle Sunday at Calvary Baptist Church in London Dec. 29.

Walters, church organist and wife of pastor David Walters, was driving a car that was hit by a train Nov. 27. The church hosted Miracle Sunday to express appreciation to local rescue and health care workers.

"I can never thank all those who prayed," she told church members, family and guests. "People from the church filled the waiting rooms at the hospital while others met at the church to pray."

Just one week before the accident, a rescue worker had been trained to land a helicopter between wires and obstacles like those found at the crash site, Walters explained. Because a worker at a nearby feed store called 911 promptly when he witnessed the accident, rescue workers arrived at the

scene within minutes.

Walters lost one finger, suffered a broken nose and facial lacerations and experienced "mammoth soreness" as a result of the accident.

The train's conductor and crew sent her flowers and a note saying they knew she had spiritual help to survive.

"I believe I am here today because you fine people prayed and did all you could to keep me alive," she told the congregation. "I trust Christ will be glorified through my life whether in life or death."

Six Kentuckians assigned by ISC

RICHMOND, Va.—Six Kentuckians have been assigned by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to work overseas through International Service Corps.

Richard and Valerie Allen will work in student evangelism in Spain for two years. He is from Somerset and earned the bachelor of arts degree from Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. Mrs. Allen is from Hickman and earned an associate degree in nursing from Cumberland College in Williamsburg and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Eastern Kentucky University.

Todd and Karen Helm will serve as English-language workers in Guinea for two years. Both are recent graduates of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. They are members of Buechel Park Baptist Church in Louisville.

Bill and Lois Hendricks will serve in theological education in Switzerland for seven months. Hendricks is professor of Christian theology at Southern Seminary. They are members of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

A spectacular day

Our students and staff returned from Christmas vacation and had class for two days before New Year's Eve. On New Year's Eve, we watched a movie. After this the crowd split with some going to the new gym to play billiards, ping pong, foos ball, air hockey, lift weights or play basketball. Many enjoyed just sitting and talking with one another.

In the meantime, many others were at the church—still beautifully decorated from Christmas—for a candlelight Watch Capoe. Near the end of the service, Marlyn Capo, a former OBI teacher, arrived. She has a beautiful voice and was called on to sing immediately. Other former staff members were back to share in the service.

After midnight, everyone met in the two dining rooms for a post-midnight meal with the knowledge that they could sleep in three hours later New Year's Day.

Oneida had classes on New Year's Day 1900. So it was fitting that 92 years later we had classes on New Year's Day, starting with 4th period.

We had our daily chapel and remembered the text of the sermon preached at Oneida's first chapel service: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Also the words of the hymn "Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross" rang out as it did that first chapel day.

We had former students, former staff and other friends in the service. Some had just come by not knowing we were having school! They were here from New York, Iowa, Tennessee, Ohio, etc. Tom Jenkin, former OBI teacher and coach for five years, and now a missionary in Brazil, preached. He came especially for this from a visit to his father in Pennsylvania.

Perhaps we were the only school in the United States that had school New Year's Day. Certainly we were one of the very few. You might think we had a bunch of sullen and rebellious students and staff moping around. The opposite was the case. Everyone seemed to have a great time. There was a wonderful spirit, indeed there were moments of tremendous inspiration. I quote from a letter written by a former staff member who was back to share with the Oneida family.

"January 1, 1992, was simply spectacular! I witnessed no fanfare, nothing of fireworks, no grand display. Not in the early hours in the dining room and with friends, not in the interim across the campus. ... The spectacular nature of the day was rather in the expressed sum of the multiple small events that filled the hours. Coffee and sausage and biscuits with Ada and Archie (two of our longtime cooks). ... Exchanges with 'early bird' students who were revealing in the day's special late schedule. ... The refreshment of Capo's voice (singing) and manner. ... The joy of sharing Linda Gritton's (coordinator of our middle school program with

140 students) report of the Lord's strengthening and guiding through the not-so-easy times with the middle school responsibility. ... Hearing how one foreign student had reached out during chapel to comfort a faculty member quietly weeping from the inspiration of the very centerpiece of the day, a sure demonstration of the essence of Oneida, your timely exercise of leadership, executed with that sort of clarity birthed solely of simplicity, your pointing us to the cross, the centerpiece of all that is Christian. In all, a spectacular day!"

Barkley Moore is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Mother Arnett

Kathryn Arnett's childhood was in the poorest hills of East Tennessee. At age 14, she and two siblings were taken to a Virginia mining camp; her mother died two years later. Missionary Anna M. Lewis heard about these orphans and decided to take them in. As far as food was concerned, it didn't seem much different. "We starved like we had," Arnett recalls.

Things began to change when evangelist Billy Sunday and singer Homer Rodeheaver came to nearby Norton, Va. Rodeheaver and a personal worker named Mrs. Asher held a service in the school house Arnett attended.

"Mrs. Asher gave the message, and during the invitation I accepted Jesus. I'd never had a Bible; I was impressed by the missionaries reading from the Bible and getting on their knees to pray," Mrs. Arnett vividly remembers.

Mrs. Lewis made arrangements for young Kathryn to attend a Baptist mission school. In five years, she finished grade school and one year of high school. The principal taught the girls how to set a table and use silverware, which would be used when Kathryn worked one summer in New York keeping five children of a millionaire. While in boarding school, Arnett was bap-

tized, along with 86 others.

In 1935, Kathryn married Harold Arnett, and for 43 years they worked in the hills near Gage in Breathitt County. They did it all, including "making coffins and burying the dead because there wasn't any undertaker." It was a "faith mission work"—the family making ends meet from farming.

In 1978 the two of them moved to Jackson, and two weeks later tragedy struck. Her grandson, Stephen, was killed in a robbery. Memorial gifts established a scholarship at First Baptist, Fairborn, Ohio, where Mrs. Arnett's daughter, Shirley, is a member. Clear Creek students have been helped by the scholarship. Now 86, Mrs. Arnett notes, "We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds our future in his hands."

As I prepared to leave her home, Mrs. Arnett gave me an envelope with a gift for "our good work. Now don't tell me not to give this; I learned a long time ago not to deprive a person of the blessing of giving."

At the door she added, "Now, I've got me a son." My mother would be pleased, Mother Arnett!

Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Paid Column

MISSIONS

Pastor began Mormon ministry in self defense

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

MARLOW, Okla. (BP)—Out of self defense, John L. Smith began a study of Mormonism that changed the direction of his life and ministry.

Forty years ago, the Oklahoma native moved to Clearfield, Utah, to become pastor of a new Southern Baptist church and found himself in the midst of a Mormon stronghold.

As Mormon missionaries tried to convert him to their faith, Smith started an intensive study of Mormon beliefs that prompted him to dedicate the rest of his career to exposing the theology of the cult.

Last year as he faced plans for retirement, Smith transferred his ministry to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, trusting the HMB to continue his career objective.

One of Smith's first attempts to reveal beliefs of Mormonism was in 1954 when he and his late wife, Inez, began publishing a newspaper with a mimeograph machine from the basement of their home. "The Evangel" is now printed nine times a year with a circulation of 33,000 in all 50 states and 60 countries.

After serving in Utah for 17 years, Smith began traveling across the na-

tion to educate people about Mormonism. Smith said he quit counting his speaking engagements when he had spoken 6,000 times in 43 states.

In 1972, Smith returned to Marlow, Okla., and founded the non-profit Utah Missions Inc. The organization became the base of his ministry and now includes one of the most extensive libraries about Mormonism outside of Utah.

In addition to "The Evangel," Utah Missions Inc. publishes "The Inner Circle," a monthly newspaper for the ministry's supporters.

Informing people about Mormonism is Utah Missions' main objective, Smith said. Mormons gain 300,000 converts a year, but Smith is convinced that people who know what Mormons believe are not likely to join the cult.

Smith, 71, said he decided to transfer Utah Missions to the Home Mission Board because he realized few independent works outlive their founders.

"We appreciate John L. Smith's generous gift of Utah Missions," said Gary Leazer, director of the HMB interfaith witness department. "Utah Missions is one of the best resources for help to understand and witness effectively to Mormons."

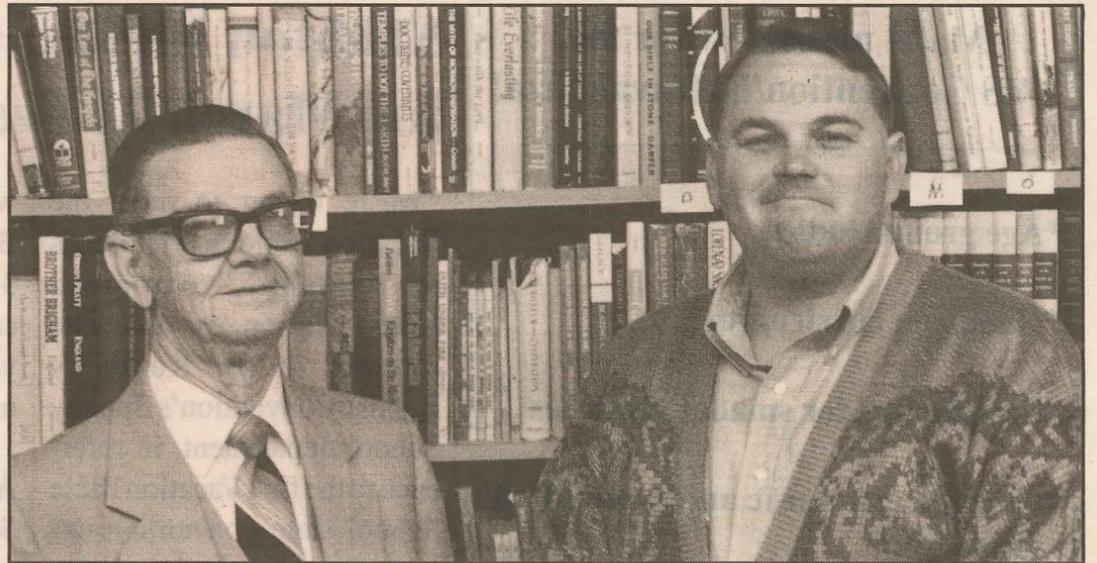
Though Smith continues to speak and write about Mormonism, he retired from Utah Missions Inc. when the ministry became a wholly-owned subsidiary of the HMB.

Utah Missions Inc. will continue to operate from Marlow, where Mike Reynolds is director. Reynolds moved from Hilo, Hawaii, where he was pas-

tor of Kinoole Baptist Church.

Reynolds said Utah Missions will continue to educate people about Mormonism.

"I liken Mormonism to telling a lie, then having to tell another lie to cover it up," Reynolds said. "The oldest lie in the world is that you will become a god, and that is the lie of Mormons."



PASSING THE MANTLE John L. Smith (left), founder of Utah Missions Inc., has given his ministry to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, where it will be directed by Mike Reynolds (right). The ministry's assets include one of the largest libraries on Mormonism existing outside Utah. (BP photo by Sarah Zimmerman)

Missionary returns to Yugoslavia despite dangers

By Kathy Fogg Berry
SBC Foreign Mission Board

GRAY, Ga. (BP)—As Swiss Air flight 121 crossed the Atlantic from Atlanta to Zurich Jan. 1, foreign mission representative Nela Horak Williams began her 19-hour journey home to civil war-torn Yugoslavia.

Despite repeated cautions to leave, this native Yugoslavian from Zagreb, capital of Croatia, chose to stay. She chose to return, too, following two weeks in the United States for Christmas with her children.

A single parent of three, Williams also chose to make this bittersweet return journey alone.

Her children—Tanja, 20, Kresimir, 18, and Ian, 13—remained in the United States attending school near their paternal grandparents. Williams' husband, Jim, died in a car accident in Yugoslavia in 1978.

Williams had met her husband while he was an exchange student from Georgia Tech University to the University of Zagreb. The daughter of

Josip Horak, former president of the Baptist Union of Yugoslavia, she is a graduate of the University of Zagreb and the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

After completing a furlough last summer, Williams returned to Yugoslavia without Tanja and Kresimir, who began attending stateside colleges. And when Yugoslavia's largest republic of Serbia aggressively opposed the republics of Slovenia and Croatia's declarations of independence on June 25, she painfully, and prematurely, emptied her nest further in September. She sent Ian to the United States, too.

"Now is really the time for missionaries to be here ... for credibility and for testimony," Williams says. "I see the Lord opening opportunities all the time."

With communism's demise within that country early in 1990, evangelistic endeavors flourished for the first time since World War II, she explains.

"Although it is at times dangerous—like when there are air raids—

the Lord has preserved us in all this," Williams says. "Since other people are suffering, I think I should be here also."

Williams, a third generation Yugoslavian Baptist, works alongside national Baptists. Her message of peace and her quiet ministry of presence kindles flickering hopes.

Since fighting began, much Yugoslavian Baptist mission work has been put on hold as Baptists try to help an ever-growing refugee population, Williams says. And much of her personal ministry now involves working with her church, Zagreb's 150-member First Baptist Church, as it assists the city's 500,000 refugees.

The church sponsors a humanitarian organization called My Neighbor which distributes clothes, food, medicine and diapers to refugees. Individual Christians, such as Williams, have taken refugees into their homes.

"It was hard for me in September without the children," she says, but explains that God helped her through her separation anxiety when an elder-

ly married couple from Novogradiska and college student siblings from Petrinja came to live with her. All four now have no other home.

"Since they've come," she adds, "we can be together and pray." The elderly couple are Catholic and the college students are Baptist.

Throughout the country, people of varying nationalities continue to worship God inside Baptist churches, Williams says. Former students in Novi Sad, where she cannot presently teach because of severe travel limitations, got word to Williams they are praying for her.

"I was moved when the students said they are all praying for me; they're all Serbs," said Williams, a Croat.

"All this we need to stress now when people are so divided and there are so many walls of hate. Many fine people who are involved on both sides are praying for each other and wishing good for each other," she asserts.

"In Christ, there is no Serb or Croat ... no east or west."



'Now is really the time for missionaries to be here ... for credibility and for testimony.'

Nela Williams, shown hugging her niece at the Atlanta airport before returning to minister in Yugoslavia

Baptist World Alliance delivers planeload of food to Moscow

By Wendy Ryan
Baptist World Alliance

WASHINGTON (BP)—Tears of joy and expressions of thankfulness greeted a planeload with 132,000 pounds of food when it arrived in Moscow Jan. 4.

This mission of mercy was the result of the joint efforts of the Leesburg (Va.) Baptist Church and the Baptist World Alliance through its division of Baptist World Aid.

Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid, made a 48-hour roundtrip

journey from Washington to Moscow to witness the arrival and the unloading of the food. Montacute also videotaped the unloading of the plane and interviewed Russian Baptists who were helping.

"I was crying when I saw the food," said one man named Alex from the Moscow Baptist church who worked until midnight to unload the food. Men from the Moscow Baptist church unloaded the 60-pound bags in a steady downpour of rain and snow.

"We thank the Lord for you and for what you have done to help Russian

Baptists in our extreme difficulties," Alex said. "God gave you the chance to help Russian people and you turned your hands to help us. God will give you more for this."

"I am so glad for this," said another young man named Vladimir. "I do not have milk and bread."

Sergei Rebrov, a pastor at Moscow Baptist Church, had been in the United States as a guest of Columbia Road Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va., when the Leesburg church received the offer of a plane if they could fill it with food for Baptists in Moscow.

"I can hardly believe it has really arrived," Rebrov said. "Now we will distribute to more than 40 churches and to orphans and other people in need."

Montacute also reported long lines for food and scarcity of food among the Russian Baptists he visited.

"They need food for this winter and for the next winter as well," Montacute said, "and we are working to provide this. Donations will be gladly received."

The BWA has supported Baptists in the former USSR since 1905.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CONVENTION/EXTRAVAGANZA: More than 500 expected to attend state's first VBS convention

**Make plans now for the
VBS Convention/Extravaganza!**

- *Age group studies
 - *Hands-on curriculum
 - *Specific tips for smaller churches
 - *Creative art, music and drama ideas for all ages
 - *Storytelling
 - *Children and salvation
 - *Bible Alive!
 - *Enlisting and involving adults
 - *VBS any time, any where, any age!
 - *Live Backyard Bible Clubs
 - *Growing churches through VBS
 - *Special Needs Ministry
 - *Visual-aids for non-artists
 - *Combine VBS and day camp
- ...and much more!

Stithon Baptist Church, Radcliff is host site for March 21 event

"We're trying to meet the Vacation Bible School needs of Kentucky," explained Jewell Nelson, an associate director in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday School department, in reference to the first Vacation Bible School state convention extravaganza scheduled for March 21 at Stithon Church, Radcliff. Over 500 people are expected to attend.

Brainstorming for the special event began a year ago when a select group of directors of missions, leaders and faculty from across Kentucky met to determine better ways to improve Vacation Bible School. The decision was made to attempt a convention comprised of a multitude of conferences with curriculum-based core teaching for VBS leaders of all ages from different sized local churches and associations.

"We can reach more prospects through VBS than revivals," Nelson stressed. "This ministry can be big if

we will allow it." Kentucky Baptists reached more than 35,000 prospects through Vacation Bible School and Backyard Bible Clubs in 1989, she noted.

Although the state Sunday School Department will still sponsor three traditional VBS clinics this spring, Nelson encourages interested leaders and church officers to attend either the state convention or clinics or even both.

The March 21 convention will have 28 projected units of teaching for VBS leaders, including classes for general officers, pastors, directors of missions, Backyard Bible Clubs and combined aged training for smaller churches. Regular group teaching will have curriculum based on specific ages from babies to senior adults. "If you want to learn fourth grade curriculum, go to the fourth grade class and learn hands on," Nelson stated.

VBS curriculum not only highlights Bible study and

Backyard Bible Club ministries but it also emphasizes the importance of the Cooperative Program and missions. In fact, VBS offerings should go to foreign and home mission causes.

Nelson also said convention faculty will encourage VBS leaders to consider scheduling the typical summer event during other times of the year or perhaps during different hours of the day. "Good Bible study is effective anytime you plan it," she emphasized. "Growing churches have growing Vacation Bible Schools."

A Baptist Book Store display will also be available for convention attendees.

VBS convention promotional brochures will be mailed in early 1992.

For more information, contact: Sunday School Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253, (502) 245-4101.

Regional VBS clinics: Paducah (west) - March 9; Corbin (southeast) - March 16 and Prestonburg (east) - April 14