

FOR THE RECORD

Statistical report
Data from the 1991 Uniform Church Letter reveals Kentucky Baptists held a steady pace in baptisms last year. See page 3.

Evangelism conference
Plans are in place for Kentucky Baptists' annual evangelism conference to be held next week in Bowling Green. See page 3.

Home again
Kentucky native Jeroline Baker comes home after 30 years of ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. See page 8.

Muslim prayer
The U.S. Senate made history Feb. 6 when for the first time a Muslim gave the chamber's invocation. See page 9.



ALBANIAN FAMILY This young woman (left) and her sister-in-law (right) are members of an Albanian family visited last month by a Baptist team during a survey trip there. Southern Baptist missionary Paul Thibodeaux met the younger woman's husband in Vienna when he came to a Baptist church asking for help in being reunited with his family. The husband had become a Christian in Romania while studying at the university there. While in Albania, Thibodeaux and the Baptist delegation won government permission to establish an office in Tirana, the capital city, to coordinate future aid and ministry. Southern Baptists are helping donate flour in an effort to keep the country from running out of bread. See story on page 6. (BP photo by Keith Parker)

FAITH FAMILY FINANCES

- Money and marriage 1
- Actions speak louder than words 5
- Lord of your money 7
- Should families give credit to cards? 7

Money messes cause many marital mixups

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

The wedding vow to love for richer or poorer isn't a stumbling block for most couples, Robert C. Ward contends.

But figuring out how to manage family money—whether richer or poorer—can become a major battleground, he said.

Finances are a common source of marital discord, said Ward, a frequent seminar leader on family financial planning. The reason for most money fights is not money shortage but fuzzy goals, confusion and disorganization, he adds.

Ward served as chief of budget affairs with the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources from 1980 to 1988. He now works as a consultant and is a member of Russell Cave Baptist Church in Lexington.

"I believe initially love reigns supreme, and when two parties within a marriage start encountering problems with managing their finances, the marriage tends to start breaking down," Ward said.

□ See Money ..., page 7

Parks' tenure not settled; retreat scheduled

RICHMOND, Va.—The future of Keith Parks as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board was not decided last week but could be determined at a retreat scheduled for March 19-20 in Texas.

Despite widespread speculation that tensions between Parks and FMB trustees would come to a head last week, trustees avoided confrontation during their Feb. 10-12 meeting in Richmond, Va.

A special meeting with Parks called at the beginning of last week's regular board meeting apparently did not include discussions about Parks' tenure. However, on the last day of the trustee meeting, Parks asked for a clarification of trustees' intentions.

"The question I believe missionaries, staff and Southern Baptists deserve to have answered is: 'What will be the tenure of the current president?'" Parks said in the Feb. 12 session.

The veteran missionary also warned trustees that Southern Baptists' 12-year theological and political conflict has "brought change and crisis to our world mission program." The resulting distrust "is contributing to an erosion of sound management that is reaching critical proportions," he said.

"I am simply asking if I have the option of exerting positive leadership



FMB Kentucky pastor Bill Hancock (right), chairman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's trustees, joins FMB President Keith Parks in addressing a special session of trustees Feb. 10. (BP photo by Sandy King)

and trying to fulfill the vision I believe God gave me until 1995," Parks said. "If not, I then urge the board to move as quickly as possible to change leadership."

During the ensuing discussion, some trustees agreed they must act immediately to assure Baptists of their support for Parks and missions. Others argued for a delay so Parks could address his own willingness to work cooperatively with trustees.

Trustee Jack Bledsoe of Fordyce, Ark., urged the board to affirm Parks: "We are in deep water and we've got to decide if we're going to sink or swim."

He asked trustees to "go on record assuring the president of our prayer-

Poll: Religion has answers, not influence

PRINCETON, N.J. (ABP)—Americans think religion is losing its influence but still has answers for today's problems, the Gallup Organization reports.

A new Gallup study published by the Princeton Religion Research Center shows that 57 percent of the adults surveyed believe religion's impact on society is decreasing. Another one-third said religious influence is increasing, while 9 percent were undecided.

Just five years ago, 49 percent of respondents thought religious influence on society was increasing.

However, 59 percent said religion can answer all or most of today's problems, while only 22 percent said religion is outdated and 19 percent held no opinion.

Religion is viewed as most relevant by blacks (79 percent), Southerners (73 percent) and women (65 percent). Protestants (67 percent) showed more confidence than Catholics (55 percent).

In another survey, the Princeton center noted that many white, "born-again" Christians in Louisiana supported David Duke, the former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, in his unsuccessful bid for governor. Duke, who identifies himself as a Christian, garnered 62 percent of the vote from white Protestants and 52 percent from Catholics, the survey found.

In contrast, only 3 percent of black Protestants and 9 percent of black Catholics said they voted for Duke.

ful, personal and combined support of his leadership" through 1995.

Kentucky trustee Bill Hall of Danville moved to replace Bledsoe's motion with a substitute delaying response to Parks' question until the board's April 6-8 meeting.

However, trustees ultimately accepted a suggestion from Mike Goodwin of Festus, Mo., to modify Hall's substitute motion and hold a retreat prior to the April meeting.

"We need a format and a time that will allow us to get together for one reason, one purpose, one single agenda," Goodwin said. "The question put before us deserves that opportunity."

Only about eight trustees voted against postponement.

Trustees asked—and trustee Chairman Bill Hancock agreed—that the March retreat be closed to all but board members. Bill Sutton of McAllen, Texas, urged the meeting to be held outside Richmond to avoid coverage by the city's newspaper reporters. Trustees frequently criticize reports of their meetings carried by Richmond's two newspapers.

Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, expressed hope Parks, trustees and staff members can come out of the retreat with a consensus on how to handle disagreements and build future relationships.

□ See Question of Parks' ..., page 2

Trustees deny 'global agenda,' claim misrepresentation

By Greg Warner & Robert Dilday
Associated Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last week denied they have a "global agenda" to advance their view of theological orthodoxy.

In a special meeting Feb. 10, trustees said they were misrepresented in a Jan. 7 news conference during which two top FMB administrators charged that the "political" agenda of trustees has taken priority over the cause of world missions at the FMB.

"This board of trustees does not have a fundamentalist mission agenda for the world," FMB Chairman Bill Hancock said.

At the January news conference, Isam Ballenger and Keith Parks announced plans to take early retirement in protest of board policy pertaining to Europe.

After spending two hours behind closed doors, trustees spent most of a one-hour open session discussing the

public disclosure of a letter to Hancock from trustee Ron Wilson of Thousand Oaks, Calif.

The letter, which was written last May and was in the hands of news media in early January, was cited by Parks in the Jan. 7 news conference as evidence of the trustees' new "global ambition."

"There was not one single item in that letter that was ... implemented by the chairman," Hancock said. "Those who have maligned my character by choosing to circulate that letter have been less than aboveboard in integrity and ethics."

Trustee Bill Blanchard of Tennessee said the fact Wilson's suggestions were not put into place is evidence the trustees don't have a global agenda. "Of the seven (Wilson) recommendations, none was followed," Blanchard said. "That's hardly a basis for a global agenda."

Wilson's May letter outlined a variety of trustee concerns and suggested at least seven actions be taken:

- Confront "liberalism" on the mission field by first making an issue of the theology taught at the Baptist seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland—specifically the Virgin Birth.

- Last October trustees cut all FMB funding for the seminary amid charges of liberalism. In January, Phil Roberts, a professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with close ties to Wilson, distributed a 1985 letter from three Ruschlikon professors that allegedly casts doubt on their belief in the Virgin Birth.

- Change the missionary-appointment procedure by involving trustees earlier in the process and giving them approval of candidate consultants.

- One month later, in June 1991, the board approved a motion to allow trustees "the opportunity to meet and interview the (missionary) candidates personally before the appointment process..." In December, trustees changed policy to require board approval of candidate consultants.

- Clarify board policies as a way to

keep FMB administrators from using policy to "justify their actions." A trustee committee was appointed prior to Wilson's letter and is studying policy.

- Appoint "conservative" trustees to the board's Europe committee. Hancock's committee appointments were announced one month later, but none of the trustees suggested by Wilson were appointed to the committee.

- Convene the full board early during the trustees' three-day agenda instead of only at the end of the meeting. The Feb. 10 full board meeting, called by Hancock, was a rare departure from the normal schedule.

- Place the FMB's public-affairs staff under the jurisdiction of the office of communications rather than directly under Parks' supervision as it now stands. An attempt to make that change last year was resisted by Parks, and trustees did not force the issue.

- Initiate the changes in June 1991. Few of the changes were initiated immediately. Some still are under study.

Overseas baptisms increased in 1991

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist foreign missionaries and their national partners baptized more people in 1991 than ever before.

A record 233,334 baptisms in 1991 reversed a decline in 1990, when baptisms fell by 8.4 percent. This was the third year since 1987 that worldwide baptisms set a new record.

Other signs of healthy expansion last year:

- Missionaries and overseas Baptists started 1,576 new churches, a 6.5 percent advance.

- The number of overseas churches related to FMB work increased from 24,122 to 27,932, an advance of 15.8 percent.

- Overseas Baptist church membership grew by about 12 percent from 2.6 million to nearly 3 million.

- Preaching points, the early stage in forming a church, numbered 22,736, an 11 percent increase.

Hewett says missionaries considering switch

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (ABP)—"Scores" of dissatisfied Southern Baptist missionaries around the world have contacted the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship asking if they can switch over to Fellowship sponsorship and support, according to John Hewett.

"I get letters and phone calls every day from missionaries sick to death of what the Foreign Mission Board trustees are doing," said Hewett, the Fellowship's moderator and pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C. "Their morale is at rock bottom."

The Fellowship's coordinating council voted Jan. 11 to offer employment to missionaries in Europe after

the FMB's top two administrators for the region left in protest of recent trustee actions.

The FMB has 3,926 missionaries working in 122 countries. One missionary couple in Romania already has resigned over FMB policy in Europe. An FMB spokeswoman said no others are known to be leaving because of the Fellowship's offer, but she said "there are rumors" of others.

Those who have contacted the Fellowship "are not 'liberals' who deny the Scriptures," Hewett said. "They are God-called Christian ministers, servants who have dedicated their very lives to incarnational evangelism and missions a long way from home."

Hewett acknowledged the Fellowship would gladly hire Southern Baptists' No. 1 missionary—embattled

FMB President Keith Parks—if he becomes available. Parks and his trustees will meet privately in March to determine if he has a future with the agency.

"If we're going to offer to employ missionaries who no longer can work with the Foreign Mission Board, it certainly stands to reason that we would make the same kind of offer to missionary executives," Hewett explained.

Hewett repeated his challenge for disgruntled Southern Baptists to send their missions money to the Fellowship.

In January, the Fellowship received \$732,000 in contributions—about twice the monthly average for 1991. Hewett said the year-to-date total as of Feb. 10 was about \$1 million.

Funds reallocated

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Foreign Mission Board trustees have allocated \$365,000 they eliminated from a Swiss seminary's budget.

The largest single amount—\$100,000—will go to a Bible school set to open in Sofia, Bulgaria, next month. Existing seminaries in Moscow, in Kiev and Odessa in Ukraine, and in Estonia each will receive \$50,000. Latvia's seminary will get \$45,000. Two seminaries in Romania—one in Bucharest established by the nation's Baptist union in 1920s and another in Oradea founded by Second Baptist Church—each will receive \$10,000.

Question of Parks' tenure not settled; retreat set for March

Continued from page 1

"It's a time to come together and crystallize our commitments," added Hancock, who said he would prefer not to comment further until after the retreat.

Trustee Paige Patterson of Dallas said Parks is not indispensable for the board to accomplish its mission.

Patterson confirmed that he and other trustee leaders discussed how to resolve the dispute in a conference call a week prior to the February meeting. That set the tone for the Feb. 10 session, he said.

"If our purpose was to fire Dr. Parks, we could have done that," he added. "We have the votes to do it. But that's not our objective. Our objective is genuine cooperation."

Last August, trustees affirmed a proposal Parks submitted for leading the FMB through major world challenges until 1995. However, Parks' tenure soon came into question when he opposed trustees' vote last October to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

His future was clouded further by trustee dissatisfaction with his presence at a Jan. 7 news conference in

which two top staff members announced their early retirements.

That led trustee Chairman Hancock to call the Feb. 10 session with Parks in advance of the previously scheduled board meeting.

Parks and trustees avoided a showdown at the Feb. 10 meeting and at a closed meeting of the chairman's council which preceded it. But in committee sessions the next day, trustees continued to express anger about the news conference.

In the board's strategy committee, the president reportedly asked for clarification of his status. After candid discussion, the committee adopted no specific reply. The additional delay may have sparked Parks' decision to put the question in a more public setting the next morning.

"I just felt everybody seems to be in such uncertainty that in all fairness it needed to be said," Parks said.

Parks told trustees he was troubled by an apparent shift in missions policy and philosophy.

The shift is based partly on "serious misperceptions," he said. "Some trustees have alleged that there are

missionaries and staff who are 'neo-orthodox' and do not believe the Bible. ... In my 46 years of preaching, no one has ever accused me of not believing the Bible. The missionaries, staff and our international Baptist partners believe, live and preach God's word as much as any of their critics."

Changes also have occurred in the "indigenous principle," which he called central to the board's missions philosophy.

That principle means "we seek to remove our American, Southern Baptist culture, present the simple gospel and watch the Holy Spirit develop churches and conventions that are 'at home' in their country," he explained.

"It appears to me that a shift has occurred when this board is expecting theological conformity from those who receive Southern Baptist money," he continued. "I am as concerned about correct biblical belief as anyone is, but to use money to produce it is not the biblical nor Baptist way."

Parks also cited a "basic lack of trust in me and many of the staff and missionaries."

Due to this lack of trust, he said, "a number of trustees now go directly to staff and missionaries" and get involved in administrative matters.

"This would be serious in any organization," he said. "But it is disastrous in the Foreign Mission Board, given the scope, geographic spread, cultural diversity, missionary personalities and involvement of national leaders. This administrative staff cannot function properly under those circumstances."

Some trustees have felt Parks has not returned the affirmation they have given him in the past. He replied that one of his weaknesses is "not to offer praise as much as I should" because he never wants to be considered "insincere or manipulative."

However, Parks especially credited Hancock for his "tireless effort" and for enduring "criticism and misunderstanding" as the board has faced controversy in recent months.

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

Annual statistics show steady pace in baptisms

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Kentucky Baptist churches held a steady pace in baptisms and posted slight increases in Sunday school enrollment and church membership, statistics from the 1991 Uniform Church Letter reveal.

The UCL is an annual survey of statistical data requested from churches nationwide by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Sunday School Board researchers compile the data to measure growth of certain aspects of church life.

On a national scale, the number of Southern Baptist churches topped 38,000 last year with an increase of 247 churches—the largest one-year gain since 1988. The total number of Southern Baptist Convention churches now stands at 38,221.

Here is a breakdown of 1991 UCL statistics for Kentucky in eight key areas:

■ **Baptisms: 16,970**, down 57, or 0.3 percent, from the 1990 total of 17,027.

What appears to be a negative report actually is good news, said Bill Jaggers, director of the KBC's evangelism department. The reason: 1991 was the year after a major emphasis on revivals called "Here's Hope: Jesus cares for you."

"After you've had an emphasis such as Here's Hope, there's usually a precipitous drop in the number of baptisms the following year," Jaggers explained. "That just has not happened. It was a great year for us."

■ **Resident church members: 556,763**, up 5,657, or 1 percent, from the 1990 total of 551,106.

■ **Total church members:**

771,935, up 185, or 0.02 percent, from the 1990 total of 771,750.

Resident church members differ from total church members in that they are church members who currently live close enough to the church to attend. Total church members includes non-resident members such as those who have died or moved without being removed from church rolls.

The fact that Kentucky's resident membership numbers increased more than total church membership numbers is positive, said Vernon Cole, director of the KBC's church growth and administration division, because it means Kentucky churches reached more people than they lost track of.

■ **Sunday school enrollment: 370,785**, up 2,584, or 0.7 percent, from the 1990 total of 368,201.

This increase means Kentucky Baptist churches are enrolling new people in Sunday school and learning not to drop inactive members from their rolls, said Chip Miller, KBC Sunday school department director.

Miller said he is especially encouraged to see the level of Sunday school growth is closely related to the percentage increase in resident church members. Normally, only about 50 percent of new church members enroll in Sunday school, he explained. Last year's figures indicate about 70 percent of new church members enrolled in Sunday school.

■ **Discipleship training participation: 85,111**, down 5,700, or 6.3 percent, from the 1990 total of 90,811.

This decrease is explained by a change in reporting systems the year before last, said Doug Strader, KBC discipleship training director. For the previous year's UCL report, Strader and his staff worked to inform church-

es about the change and how to report their statistics accurately.

"We didn't put as much emphasis on it this year, so I think people let it slide," he explained. "Actually, interest in discipleship training across the state is up. We're encouraged by that."

■ **Church music enrollment: 90,062**, down 224, or 0.02 percent, from the 1990 total of 90,286.

Incomplete reporting from churches is the reason for this decline, said Jim Cordell, KBC music department director: "We've had an increase in music enrollment in Kentucky for the past 25 years. The fact that these numbers are down is probably indicative of the fact that not all churches have reported their enrollment. I really don't feel like there has been a drop in the enrollment. I think it's strictly in the reporting."

■ **Woman's Missionary Union enrollment: 59,782**, down 358, or 0.6 percent, from the 1990 total of 60,140.

Inaccurate reporting also was cited by state WMU Director Delores Gilliland. "We have worked on training our women to better record the statistics, but too often they have no input" in filling out the UCL report, she said. "We know many new WMU organizations have been started this year. What we see happening is not reflected in these statistics."

■ **Brotherhood enrollment: 25,376**, down 505, or 1.95 percent, from the 1990 total of 25,881.

Bob Simpkins, state Brotherhood director, echoed Gilliland's concern. "We suffer greatly from the statistics of the UCL," he said, "in that we promote mission education and mission action and the UCL records only mission education."

1991 KBC statistical summary

■ **Baptisms: 16,970**

Down 57 or 0.3 percent from the 1990 total of 17,027
Nationally: Up 3 percent to 396,668

■ **Resident church members: 556,763**

Up 5,657 or 1 percent from the 1990 total of 551,106
Nationally: Up 1.7 percent to 10.75 million

■ **Total church members: 771,935**

Up 185 or 0.02 percent from the 1990 total of 771,750
Nationally: Up 1.3 percent to 15.23 million

■ **Sunday school enrollment: 370,785**

Up 2,584 or 0.7 percent from the 1990 total of 368,201
Nationally: Up 2.2 percent to 8.18 million

■ **Discipleship training enrollment: 85,111**

Down 5,700 or 6.3 percent from the 1990 total of 90,811
Nationally: Down 0.17 percent to 2.2 million

■ **Church music enrollment: 90,062**

Down 224 or 0.02 percent from the 1990 total of 90,286
Nationally: Up 2.1 percent to 1.88 million

■ **WMU enrollment: 59,782**

Down 358 or 0.6 percent from the 1990 total of 60,140
Nationally: Up 0.2 percent to 1.2 million

■ **Brotherhood enrollment: 25,376**

Down 505 or 1.95 percent from the 1990 total of 25,881
Nationally: Up 1.3 percent to 601,694

Churches often mistakenly report only the number of men in attendance at the last Brotherhood meeting of the year, he said, which fails to include the number of men who have participated in meetings and ministry throughout the year.

The UCL report is "at least 5,000-10,000 people off," he said. "We're in the most active period of Brotherhood involvement in Kentucky history."

Stewart urges bivocs to 'catch the wave'

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—No one would mistake Kentucky pastor Chuck Stewart for a surfer, but his imagery was unmistakable: "If bivocationalism is the wave of the future, those of us engaged in bivocational ministry today should be catching the crest of that wave."

Stewart met with other officers and directors of the National Council on Bivocational Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas, to hammer out strategies for strengthening and supporting bivocational ministries across the Southern Baptist Convention. Stewart is current president of the council and pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland.

One goal they set is to increase representation of bivocational ministers on denominational boards and on programs of state and national meetings.

Another priority is matching bivocational ministers with both ministry and marketplace opportunities.

The group also plans to encourage development of resources and training opportunities for bivocational ministers.

Jackson keynote for evangelism conference

Kentucky Baptists will be encouraged to "embrace God's word" by sharing the gospel during the state evangelism conference Feb. 24-25.

The conference begins at 2 p.m. Feb. 24 and runs through the next evening. All sessions will be held at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

An additional session will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 26 on the topic of ministering to people with AIDS. That session, and a brief portion of the evangelism conference on the same topic, will be led by Chip and Nancy Miller. Miller is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's

Sunday school department. The Millers' son, Stephen, died of AIDS in 1989.

Keynote speaker for the two-day conference is Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz. Jackson's church consistently ranks among the top Baptist churches nationwide in evangelism. He will speak Monday evening, Tuesday morning and Tuesday evening.

Conference music will be led by vocational music evangelist Alan Celoria of Jackson, Miss. Other creative portions of the program will feature Paul and Nicole Johnson, dramatists from Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Eliza Broadus gifts headed toward goal, WMU told

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's Executive Committee heard reports about the 1991 Eliza Broadus state missions offering and laid plans for the 1992 offering during their Feb. 12 meeting in Louisville.

Receipts for the 1991 Eliza Broadus offering totaled \$632,063 as of Jan. 31, reported Barry Allen, business division director with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. That represents a 3.5 percent increase over the amount received by the same time last year.

However, attaining the goal of \$650,000 will require getting another \$17,937, he noted.

Allen also told the women that receipts for the 1991 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions are running about 13 percent ahead of the same time last year. As of Jan. 31, the KBC had received \$2.1 million for the special offering, compared to \$1.88 million at the same time last year.

The Executive Committee set a goal of \$695,000 for the 1992 Eliza Broadus offering and voted to use the

Other program personalities include Jim McKinley, missionary to Bangladesh, Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Dick Lincoln, pastor of Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C.; Emmett Johnson, director of renewal for American Baptist Churches USA;

Jewell Nelson, KBC Sunday school department associate; Jim Powell, vocational evangelist from Owensboro; Arnold Turner Jr., vocational evangelist from Prestonburg; and David Proffitt, pastor of Licking River Baptist Church in Salyersville.

theme "People to People" to promote the offering.

Maribeth Hambrick of Georgetown reported Kentuckians have contributed \$4,716 to the Second Century endowment fund administered by WMU's national office. Also, Kentucky WMU's Heritage Fund has received donations of \$2,046, she said.

Hambrick reminded the group both funds represent "a wonderful way to give money in memory of people." A new video is available from the state office about the Second Century fund, she said.

WESTERN RECORDER

Box 43969
Louisville, Ky. 40253
(ISSN 0043-4132)

MARV KNOX
Editor

MARK WINGFIELD
News Director

RAY L. HAYES
Business Manager

C. R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

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

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 250 words and may be edited for length.

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

Directors: Greg Earwood, Murray, chairman; Don Mantooth, Morehead, vice chairman; Kay Trisler, Harrodsburg, secretary; Richard Bridges, Bowling Green; Bill Crosby, Erlanger; Tom Curry, Louisville; Denzel Dukes, Paducah; Glenn Durham, Harlan; Garnett Hulette, Frankfort; Isaac McDonald, Elizabethtown; Karen Owen Phelps, Owensboro; John Searcy, Franklin.

Baptists should 'bear the marks' of devotion to Christ

Last year's KBC evangelism conference was inspiring and uplifting. Bill Marshall gave the opening prayer and used the following quote:

"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; not so much to be understood, as to understand; not so much to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we awake to eternal life."

These words were written by a

Catholic monk named Francis of Assisi who lived A.D. 1182-1226. Francis turned his back on possessions and lived in poverty among ordinary people. His primary concern was to reach people of the growing cities with the gospel.

Several legends have arisen around this man and his ministry. I want to mention only one: Late in his life, Francis retired to a hermitage on Monte Alvernia. Here, it is said, he received the "stigmata."

Legend states that, because of his great devotion and love for Jesus, Francis was given the representations of the wounds of Christ: the nail prints of Jesus in Francis' hands and feet. Although there is desire to dismiss the

account as myth, one should realize that behind many legends is often a seed of truth. Francis probably did show in some physical way the price of his commitment to Christ.

The Apostle Paul said, "I bear on my body the marks (stigmata) of Jesus" (Gal. 6:17b).

One could literally see the price of Paul's commitment to Jesus in his body. He bore the scars of persecutions, pains, poverty, pressures and preaching as a sign of his devotion to Christ.

Dear friends, as confessing followers of Jesus Christ, there should be signs of that commitment in us. We may not have scars or bruises, but the marks of our commitment to Jesus

Christ should be visible. If we will prayerfully seek peace, love, pardon, hope, light, joy, consoling, understanding, giving and pardoning, we will begin to bear the sign of our commitment to Jesus.

May our commitment to Christ be visible as we gather in Bowling Green for the 1992 KBC evangelism conference next week: A new commitment to the Lord, a renewed love for our families, a rejuvenated devotion to our church and ministers, a rekindled passion for the salvation of souls can all be part of our own "stigmata" of the Lord.

*Perry G. Brackin, pastor
West Baptist Church
Hickman*

Beware the snake

The article on prime-time TV and Christianity (WR, Jan. 28) shows how easily the main point can be missed.

Premium stations have more than 200 movie listings per week. Of those that are rated, two-thirds or more are loaded with violent language, violence and adulterous/pornographic scenes.

An astonishing fraction of these movies also focus on, or use, occult images and concepts. Movies about satanic figures such as Freddie and Jason, werewolves, witches, hell, demons, evil spells, comedic exorcisms, etc., are very frequent.

Science fiction is a convenient vehicle, having little to do with science. In addition, MTV and its clones display and advertise hour after hour of por-

nographic rock-music videos with occult images.

The demonic occult is the religion of movies, both TV and theater. Hollywood's standard scenes of evil or stupid Christians vs. "heroic" non-believers are expected. Other standard malevolent practices follow as directly, even casual fornication and drugs.

Premium stations are almost the rule in households. When TV is used for up to 40 hours per week, it is children's teacher as much or more time

as for public schools.

The snake is on the screens every day: morning, afternoon, evening and night, in obvious or subtle form. And a single pernicious cult, free of all restraint, should not have ready, unchallenged access to our children and young people. Subtly it cumulatively distorts and masters the attitudes of families, churches, schools and communities.

*L.V. Spencer
Hopkinsville*

BAPTIST FORUM

Keith Parks: A friend's perspective

This series of articles consists of personal reflections of an almost 30-year friendship with R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

While most of the content is biographical, I make no claims as a biographer.

Keith Parks will someday tell his own story, and, indeed, he has a story to tell.

For now, however, I will tell his story my way, admittedly as a friend whose life has been made richer for having known him.

I don't remember in which town or motel room we were staying together that night early in 1964. I only recall that we talked late, after a long day's work with missionary candidates. But it was in that room that our friendship took root.

He was on an extended, two-year furlough from Indonesia; I had just left a pastorate in Roanoke, Va. Both of us were now working with the personnel department of the Foreign Mission Board. He would return to Indonesia two years later; I would remain in personnel until our appointment as missionaries in 1969.

He worked the "western" territory, and I handled the "central." A friendly competition grew among all of us in personnel. He had the advantage of having Southwestern Seminary in his territory. It was by far the largest seminary; more missionaries furloughed there; more candidates came from there. I occasionally reminded him of proportion, but he seemed especially to enjoy those meetings when the largest number of candidates were Southwestern grads.

Through the years, after he, Helen Jean and their four children returned to the field, his name frequently was mentioned in the testimonies of missionary candidates. In those days, of course, Dr. Baker James Cauthen's name was mentioned most. A missionary candidate had heard him at Ridgecrest; or Glorieta; or seminary chapel; or at a Student Missions Conference. But it was obvious, by candidate testimony, that the Lord was using this young missionary from Indonesia.

Dr. Cauthen and the Foreign Mission Board also believed he was "special." For in June of 1968, he was elected area director for Southeast Asia, returning to Richmond permanently.

They bought a home at 3905 Wythe Ave. and have lived there ever since. We lived only six blocks apart. Sometime during this period, we began having Christmases and/or Thanksgivings together; just before we were appointed to the Middle East in 1969. We resumed the custom when I returned to a staff position in 1976. Our children still mention this as something very special.

Their children are grown and "gone" now—Randall and Nancy in Cairo; Kent and Erika in Indonesia; Eloise in a pastoral care program; Stan and Kay completing his Ph.D. and planning a missionary career to one of the unreached people groups of the world.

I wonder what they must be thinking and feeling now, as their father faces the relentless criticism of a board that increasingly refuses to ac-

cept his leadership.

When Keith buried his dear mother last year, he knew she was ready to go, and he was able to rejoice in her going. He mentioned to me on an occasion afterward that he was grateful the Lord had spared her from knowing what was happening to him.

I first met Mrs. Bob Parks in the '60s while on a side trip with Keith during some candidate interviews.

We drove into this sleepy, little Arkansas town late one fall afternoon. I remember reminding him that the lay of the land around Danville, Ark., reminded me of home in Kentucky.

It was a modest frame house surrounded by a few acres of land. Though Bob Parks had died years before, as we walked around the place, Keith reminisced about his father. He could size up the value of horses and cattle better than anyone around. Among the things of his father Keith had kept was a short-handled post-hole digger, with one handle slightly shorter than the other. I borrowed them when I put in our fence on Hanoover Street in the '60s. I knew they were special to Keith.

Mother Parks laid out a country breakfast next morning that would make Cracker Barrel look on with envy. Those were the days when we weren't watching cholesterol, salt, etc. My own grandmother lived to 93, and she ate a hearty country breakfast every day. I suppose if she had eaten cereal, grapefruit, black coffee and dry toast, she might have lived to 95. I miss some things about the "good old days."

I remember that Mom Parks asked Keith to read the Bible; we read the missionary prayer calendar; and I was asked to say the blessing.

When we said goodbye, I knew I had a new friend. Our family paid her a visit in 1977 on our way to Glorieta,

and we exchanged Christmas cards until she had to close up house and move from Danville to live with her daughter in Texas.

No doubt the Parks' modest lifestyle reflects two sets of parents who would have found any form of extravagance unsuitable for them. In all our years with Keith and Helen Jean, we have noticed that their only extravagance is in their stewardship of life and resources.

In October of 1968, Alice was "heavy" with Shawn. I was preaching somewhere not far away when the "call" came for Alice. It was Keith whom she called, and when I arrived at home, Edna Frances Dawkins was there with the other two and told me to hurry to St. Mary's.

She had not yet delivered. Keith and I sat there together, this special friend and I, waiting for Shawn's arrival. That's why she is kind of special to "Uncle Keith," and that's why she has asked him to participate in her wedding this summer.

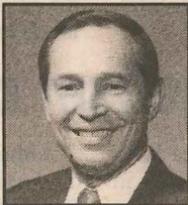
During the year before we were appointed to the Middle East, our family friendship deepened. They volunteered to keep a few things for us in their attic. Little did we know that we would be working together again, seven years later.

These were our early years at the board with Keith. He was comparably young for an area director, but his bright mind, compassionate heart and almost limitless energy made it difficult for anyone, including Dr. Cauthen, to think of this man as average.

It was just the beginning. There would be further phases of experience and growth before the Lord would single out this leader to succeed the remarkable Dr. Baker James Cauthen.

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

EDITORIALS

Does your checkbook muffle your witness?

"What you do speaks so loudly I cannot hear a word you're saying."

For many Christian families, the sounds of checks ripping out of checkbooks and credit cards sliding through scanners make a thunderous racket. Small wonder the world does not hear claims of commitment to Christ.

The stories on faith, family and finances in this week's Western Recorder illustrate the point clearly. Financial planning consultants Thomas Seel and Bob Ward stay busy helping Christian families get out of financial jams.

The pattern of family financial chaos repeats itself endlessly: Buy a bigger house and a longer car than you can afford. Then fill the house with fine furniture and fancy clothes. And don't forget to take a fun vacation.

Can't pay cash? Put it on credit card. Can't pay Visa? Get a cash advance from MasterCard. In over your head? Refinance. Play now; pay later.

Lost in the shuffle is a sense of Christian stewardship. Seel contends that's true because Christians have lost a sense of the lordship of Christ.

We easily move Jesus from the center of our lives. Even the best among us. Pure motives get in the way. We want to provide our families with things we did not have. We love them and want them to have all they "deserve." We're even willing to work hard to make sure they get it.

Hoodwinked by the flashy messages from Madison Avenue, we equate our love with the things we can buy for the people we love. So, we love our families to debt.

We're not so generous with the Lord; however.

Last year, Kentucky Baptist churches' receipts totaled \$196,777,096. Those churches had 556,763 resident members. Some of the money came from interest earned on investments, receipts from dinners and other routes outside of offering plates. But even if we were generous and said all the money came from contributions, it would only average \$353.43 per member.

Assume that's a tithe. Do you believe Kentucky Baptists' per capita income is \$3,534.30? We may be poor, but we're not that bad off.

Most Kentucky Baptists aren't giving anywhere near a tithe of their income.

We may think money is a lousy barometer of spirituality. But Jesus was the one who said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). We may think that's a crude analogy, but it's true.

Imagine the impact Kentucky Baptists could have if our commitment to Christ matched our commitment to our garages, dens and clothes closets. Imagine what would happen if Christ were the lord of our checkbooks, not just the focus of our Sunday mornings.

Our witness to our communities would be louder than our voices ever could proclaim.

Marv Knox

How you spend your money can shape your Christian witness.

Decision on Parks will shape missions for generations

These are perilous times for Baptists.

Throughout the years of our controversy, many among us have voiced the maxim, "Foreign missions is the glue that binds us together." Now that glue may be losing its gripping power.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board held one of its most important meetings last week. It will be superseded by meetings to be held in the next two months.

Rumors rocketed throughout the convention leading up to last week's meeting of FMB trustees. Although board President Keith Parks, who turns 65 this fall, had worked out an arrangement to stay in office through 1995, that agreement appeared to be in jeopardy. Some trustees were furious at Parks, particularly because he allowed two resigning staffers, Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker, to hold a news conference to say why (extreme frustration with trustee actions) they were taking early retirement. Consequently, many outsiders expected the meeting to be Parks' last.

The week started fairly quietly.

Monday, Parks met behind closed doors for two hours with trustee leaders, and his tenure reportedly was not discussed. Then the full board voted unanimously to reaffirm their mission principles and affirm "our willingness to be led by our president." Tuesday, Parks came under fire in numerous committee meetings, and Monday's calm seemed to be unraveling.

Wednesday, Parks confronted the trustees. "The question I believe missionaries, staff and Southern Baptists deserve to have answered is: 'What will be the tenure of the current president?'" he told them.

Parks' question wasn't specifically a request for a vote of confidence—"I am simply asking if I have the option of exerting positive leadership and trying to fulfill the vision I believe God gave me until 1995," he said—yet it

had the same effect.

Trustees voted not to answer Parks' question right away. Instead, they will hold a special retreat in March to focus exclusively on the issue. That meeting is expected to lead to a resolution by the board's April meeting.

An important facet of this episode is the interpretation of what the trustees' conflict with Parks means.

Several trustees who have criticized him have been quick to point out that Parks is not irreplaceable. Parks probably would agree; that value only can be placed upon God. Still, this conflict is bigger than a showdown between a CEO and trustees. Parks is just one individual, but he represents a philosophy of missions, principles of cooperation and continuity with our heritage.

So, when the trustees make a decision about Keith Parks, they will make more than a decision about one employee. They will be choosing a course for the future. Many Southern Baptists—no one can guess the number just now—will go with Keith Parks, because they trust him and believe about missions as he does.

Leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship have said they would hire him in a heartbeat. Their ranks would swell if they do, and that would diminish support now going to the FMB.

The board's trustees will make the biggest decision of their lives sometime in the next two months. If a majority fully believe the board needs to take a new course, they should vote accordingly. If a majority hope to achieve reconciliation and attempt to pursue Parks' dream, they should vote to keep him. Their decision will affect how all of us do missions for the rest of our lives.

Marv Knox

This is bigger than a showdown with a CEO. It's about our philosophy of missions.

The kid knows classical music (Don't ask where she heard it)

The kid eating an Eggo across the table started humming classical music.

"Da-da-da-dum. Da-da-da-dum. Da-da-di-dum. Dum."

I stopped chewing my crunchy-oat, high-fiber, anti-sog cereal. Just wanted to hear her clearly.

Sure enough, Lindsay was chomping down instant waffles to the tune of Beethoven's "Fifth Symphony."

I must admit I was impressed. The "Fifth" doesn't quite rank up there with "Smoky Mountain Breakdown" or "Walkin' the Floor." But it's good. Especially from a second grader at breakfast.

"Hey, where'd you learn Beethoven's 'Fifth Symphony?'" I asked.

Lindsay's future mysteriously appeared on my orange juice glass.

Singing classical music at breakfast in elementary school has to be the beginning to an auspicious career. Someday, I'll have to rent a tux for her debut at the Metropolitan Opera. And when she hits the really big time, she'll sing the National Anthem at the Super Bowl and get us free tickets.

Molly, Lindsay's little sister, hums and sings all the time. She knows all the words to "I Thought He Walked on Water," a Top 10 hit for Randy Travis. She's working on George Strait's "Lovesick Blues,"

and will have it down when she learns to yodel.

But Lindsay isn't a big singer. And she sure doesn't come by the classical stuff genetically. The "da-da-da-dum" moved me to ponder highbrowness.

Lindsay just ate another bite of Eggo, doused in peanut butter and syrup.

"So, where did you learn that song?" I asked again.

"Oh, that," Lindsay finally responded. "I think I heard it on Loony Toons."

Maybe Nickelodeon."



Baptists sending flour to Albania; churches opening

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP)—A united Baptist effort will send \$100,000 worth of flour to Albania this month to help the troubled country meet an urgent food shortage.

Also, Albanians are flocking back to churches and mosques as they reopen, reported a team of Baptist leaders who visited in January.

The Baptist leaders won government permission to establish an office in Tirana, the capital, to coordinate future aid and ministry in the country of 3.2 million people. They will assemble a list of needs and seek personnel and funds to meet them.

Baptist cooperation will be a key element of the plan. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will give \$50,000, and \$25,000 each will come from the Canadian Baptist Federation and the Baptist World Alliance.

Currently, emergency shipments of flour are helping the impoverished country stay just a few days ahead of running completely out of bread, a staple food in Albania. Still locked into communist-style centralized production, the country needs 2,700 tons of wheat daily to produce bread.

Decades of communist mismanagement and the revolution to regain democracy have wrecked Albania's economy. "Our country is worse than

many, if not most, African countries in terms of the economy," one government official told the Baptist team.

Baptist agencies will send missionaries and volunteers to have a continuing presence in what was one of the most closed countries in Europe. The Foreign Mission Board has sought missionaries for Albania for more than two years, anticipating they could eventually serve there.

Until recently, Albanian leaders bragged they had "the world's most atheistic state." But anti-communist riots broke out in 1990, when the last statues of Lenin still standing in Eastern Europe were pulled down by mobs.

Albania has the highest infant mor-

tality rate in Europe. Pharmacies have almost no drugs. Oxcarts and donkeys greatly outnumber automobiles. Even owning an automobile was outlawed until about a year ago. People travel on foot, on bicycles or on small animal-drawn carts. International telephone calls became possible only in 1990.

The communist government closed 2,169 mosques, churches and convents in 1967 and ordered them destroyed or converted to secular use. But now those places of worship are reopening.

Albania's first Protestant church was established in Tirana last July after a week-long evangelistic campaign.

Pastors frustrated, Barna says

GLENDALE, Calif. (EP)—A majority of pastors believes Jesus Christ would rate American churches as having little positive impact on souls or society, the Barna Research Group reports.

Pollster George Barna surveyed U.S. pastors about how they think Jesus would assess the effectiveness of American churches. His findings:

- Less than one-half of 1 percent thought Jesus would say churches are highly effective.

- Another 43 percent said churches are doing a "respectable" job.

- The largest group, 53 percent, said Jesus would rate churches as having little positive impact.

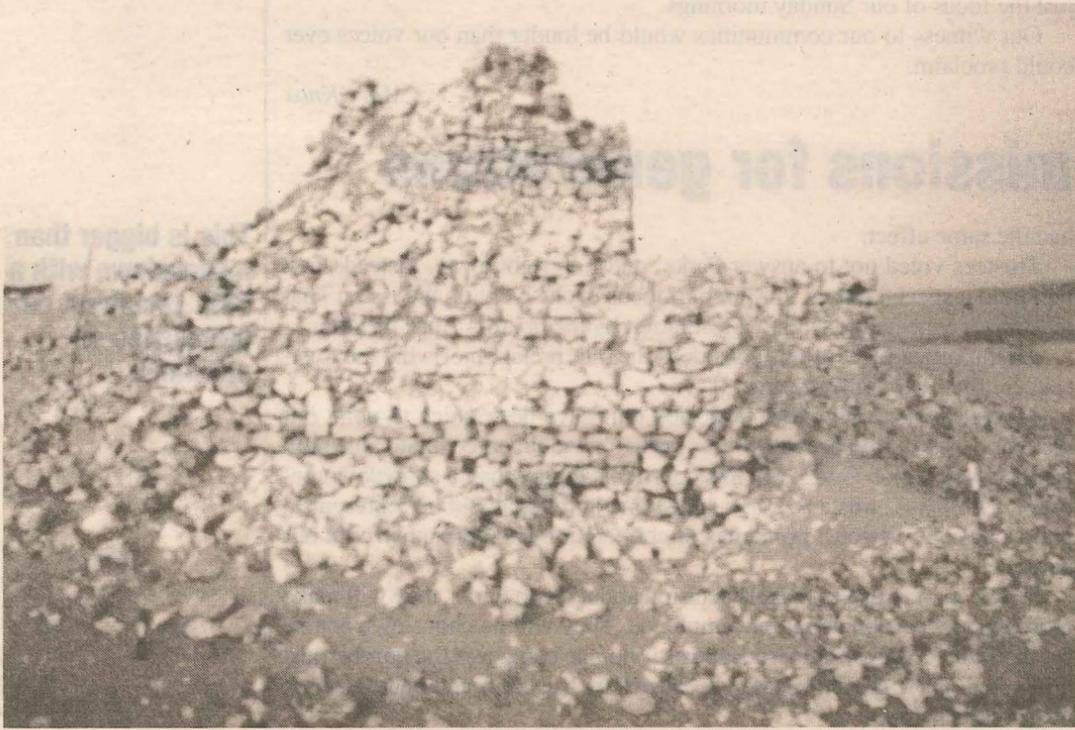
- The remaining 3 percent rated the church as failing miserably.

Barna said while some pastors are fulfilled in their roles, others are frustrated. A nationwide emphasis on church growth might contribute to that frustration, he suggested.

"More than \$25 billion is spent in this country every year by churches, with much emphasis upon reaching the unchurched and non-Christians," he explained. "Yet we still see that more than 80 percent of all church growth that occurs in the U.S. is transfer growth—people moving from one church to another, instead of unchurched people coming into church."

"This frustrates pastors in a number of ways. Some get frustrated because their idea of success is a large church. Unfortunately, they feel that leading a small church means they're doing something wrong."

"Others feel intense pressure to grow from various sources: their denomination, their congregation, or even other pastors," he continued. "Others are frustrated because they see how badly people in their community need what the church has to offer but they don't really know how to reach those people effectively."



PATHS FOUND Guided by ancient maps and sharp-eyed surveys from space, archeologists have discovered a lost city deep in the sands of Arabia, and they are virtually sure it is Ubar—a city long thought to be a key trading post for products such as frankincense and myrrh. With the help of images provided by the space shuttle Challenger, scientists see evidence of ancient caravan routes, which could be the tracks followed by the wise men on their way to the manger in Bethlehem. (RNS photo)

Quayle links fall of communism to religious faith

WASHINGTON (EP)—Vice President Dan Quayle, speaking at the National Prayer Breakfast, linked the world's rejection of communism to religious faith.

"For the most dramatic events in our lifetime—the rebirth of nations long covered by darkness, the reunion of East and West upon their shared heritage—this was not done by the force of arms. It was brought by force of faith," Quayle said at the annual gathering of religious leaders in Washington.

Though lauding the end of the cold war, Quayle's speech included a note of warning: "Even at this season of rejoicing, there is still danger. People of faith should not ignore it."

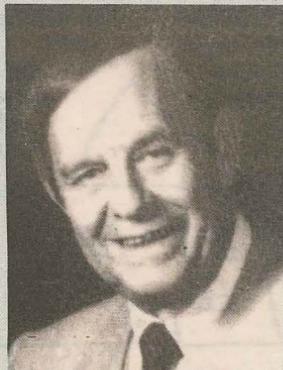
Quayle said the totalitarian governments of this century were based on "an emptiness of the spirit that, by denying humanity's creator denied human limits and human dignity as well."

He urged Americans to be "people of hope" and to remain "determined that this time around the world will be built on faith, family and freedom."

COOPERATING WITH CHRIST IN THE CITIES CONFERENCE

MARCH 16 & 17, 1992

Erlanger Baptist Church - Erlanger, Kentucky



Rev. James H. Currin
Executive Director-Treasurer
New England Baptist Convention



Rev. Ron Fellemente
Pastor
Gardenside Baptist Church
Lexington, Kentucky

SPONSORED BY
ELKHORN, LONG RUN AND NORTHERN KENTUCKY ASSOCIATIONS
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
HOME MISSION BOARD

Lordship of Christ called key to financial change

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Should Christian families manage their money differently than other families?

Absolutely, says Thomas Seel, a certified financial planner and Baptist layman.

"As you're accumulating wealth as a Christian, you have to recognize one thing: None of it is yours," said Seel, who is the investment officer for an \$820 million charitable foundation and a frequent seminar leader on family finances.

"When the average person brings money in, he pays bills and if there's any left, he saves it. But the Christian has to flip that around. First, he should give to God, then to savings and then to pay bills. That is nothing less than what God expects."

While the biblical principle of giving to God frequently is discussed, the idea of paying oneself through savings is not such a common theme, Seel explained.

One key reason for placing a prior-

ity on saving is to prepare for the future, he said: "I don't believe we should expect the government to take care of us. We've got to be responsible for ourselves."

Some might ask, "How can you possibly justify hoarding wealth and saving it when there are so many needs?" he explained. "That's why you give to God first. If you put God first, then it's up to you either to spend the rest now or save it for the future."

In his work as a financial consultant, Seel advises families to set aside a minimum of \$15,000 in liquid assets in case of disability or unemployment. This should take priority over purchasing a house, he tells young couples.

"The key to finances is common sense and flexibility," he explained, and getting tied up in a mortgage before establishing a solid financial reserve is neither sensible nor flexible.

The bottom line on successful family financial management is practicing the lordship of Christ, Seel said. "If Christians practiced the lordship of Christ, they would have little or no debt."

They also would exemplify a genuine commitment to helping others with the resources God has given, he explained.

Christians must learn to stop living so much for today, Seel said. "Today's society tells us if at 24 you don't have a higher standard

of living than your parents, you're a failure."

But that sets unrealistic expectations, Seel continued.

These opinions are shared by Robert C. Ward, a seminar leader on family finances and former chief of budget affairs with Kentucky's Cabinet for Human Resources.

"Conscientious families soon

discover that their relationships to the kingdom of God definitely affect their economic decisions," Ward said. "When Christ is Lord, you rule your money. When money is lord, your money rules you."

Money management cannot be separated from a family's commitment to Christian living, Ward said. "Money is so essential in our economy that money management often affects our Christian witness. Mismanagement may reduce or even prevent effective witness."

Christians have a responsibility to consider the social ramifications of their lifestyles and investments, Seel suggested. But in his work as a financial counselor, "a lot of the Christians I talk to, all they want is return on their investment. They're not interested in social responsibility."

Ultimately, how Christians manage their money affects how they live out their faith. "The most important job in this world is to share Jesus with others," Seel said, but that goal won't be right until the lordship and money issues are settled.



Four important financial questions

- Are your home and belongings insured to at least 80 percent of their replacement value?
- Will your life insurance provide your family at least three times your annual income?
- Does your debt load, excluding mortgage, equal more than 20 percent of your net income?
- Do you have the equivalent of at least three months of income in a liquid savings account in case of emergencies?

Source: Robert C. Ward

Plastic meltdown gives budget boost

Families could energize their finances if the plastic in their wallets experienced meltdown, two financial planners said.

Robert Ward and Thomas Seel, two leaders of seminars on Christian family financial planning, agree that credit cards are a major source of financial burden in America.

"Every family should get a pair of scissors tomorrow morning and start whacking down to one card for petroleum and one card for family expenses," Ward advises. But that one card for family expense should be paid in full every month "except if you're in the hospital or your grandmother is dying."

Seel agrees: "If you can't comfortably pay it off every month, it's too big."

Credit card spending can become an addiction "just like any other sin," he contends.

The Bible doesn't prohibit debt, Seel says, but it does say not to be in bondage. "We're debtors from day one," he adds. "We're all in debt to God."

There's nothing wrong with having credit cards if a family can use them with restraint, Ward counsels. An additional solution is to keep extra credit cards locked away for use only in emergencies, he added.

If restraint is not possible, the alternative is the old-fashioned shoebox or envelope system of money management, he suggests. Under this plan, when the paycheck comes, cash is distributed into envelopes or boxes for certain categories of expenses. When the money is gone from the box, nothing else is bought until the next payday.

Money messes cause many marital mixups

Continued from page 1

One-half of all couples seeking marital counseling report severe problems with money, he explained, but only 6 percent are in trouble because of inadequate income.

He believes most couples get in financial trouble because they have unrealistic expectations about money or because they use money emotionally—either as a weapon or as compensation for inadequacies.

"You have very limited resources normally within a family," he explained. "The family's appetite for luxuries often is much greater than their resources. Therefore, if family goals are not definitive, there is no way you can avoid red ink."

Every family should have a mutu-

ally agreed upon plan for handling finances, Ward suggested.

A good place to begin is to gather every family member around the kitchen table and let them express what they most want beyond the family's basic needs, he said. The family should then prioritize those desires and decide which ones are realistic to attain.

"Determine the most important things your family can afford, and for anything else, just say no," he advised. "In the future, if you can't afford it, keep walking."

Ward has created a worksheet to help with the details of Christian family financial planning that is sold through the Louisville Baptist Book Store.

He suggests four attitudes as keys to successful family finances:

■ Mutual trust. This means couples should keep all their finances in the open with no secret accounts, he said. Neither partner should make major financial decisions without consulting the other.

■ Autonomy. While overall financial decisions should be made together, each spouse should have some amount of money for personal discretionary spending.

■ Fair dealing. "If good fortune smiles on one spouse, fair dealing

means the other should benefit," he explained. All family members should share fairly in the fruits of the family's labor.

■ Prosperity. It is better to feel prosperous than rich, Ward said, and any family can feel prosperous at any economic level: "I don't care how poor you are or how destitute, as long as you're optimistic and motivated and making some progress, you will eventually realize a piece of prosperity."

Above all else, families must have a financial plan, said Thomas Seel, a certified financial planner. "If you don't know where you're going, how are you going to know when you arrive?"

People who wouldn't think of running their businesses without a financial plan think nothing about not having a family financial plan, he lamented. "What business in America is successful without a business plan? How dare we think in family life we don't need a plan."

With the proper plan and attitude, financial problems need not pave the way to divorce court, Ward said. "Most problems of money in marriage can be dealt with, if both husband and wife recognize that difficulties often are not questions of dollars and cents but attitudes and emotions."

Live for tomorrow, not just for today

Americans—including Christians—live too much for today and not enough for tomorrow, Thomas Seel contends.

The desire to have everything today has contributed to increasing financial problems among American families, Seel says.

He advises families to reassess their lifestyles: "You've got to determine if you are living too high on the hog. Are you willing to count the cost, make God first and save for your future?"

As an illustration, Seel reports that American "yuppies" spend an average of \$250 more per month than they make.

This problem is compounded by a high divorce rate, he adds: "The average woman born after 1945 is statistically likely to have more husbands in her lifetime than children, meaning we don't stay together even in our accumulated debt."

Ten commandments of financial planning

1. Thou shalt husband thy resources and pay God and yourself first.
2. Thou shalt not invest without first setting goals.
3. Thou shalt diversify, diversify and diversify.
4. Render not unto taxes and inflation any more than thou legally must.
5. Thou shalt build on a solid foundation.
6. Thou shalt not have false expectations.
7. Thou shalt consider all forms of risk.
8. Thou shalt manage thy debt prudently.
9. Thou shalt keep thine heirs safe from adversity.
10. Thou shalt seek good counsel.

Source: Thomas Seel

Danger signals of finances out of control

- Regularly charging ordinary expenses such as groceries and lunches.
- Paying only the minimum amount due on credit cards.
- Using cash advances from one card to pay off monthly balances on other credit cards.
- Attempting to borrow money from friends and relatives.
- Regularly purchasing things on impulse.
- Getting past-due notices regularly in the mail.
- Depending on overtime to make ends meet each month.

Source: Banc One Corp., Columbus, Ohio

PEOPLE

Baker has seen maturing of children's work

By Matthew Brady
Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Kentucky native Jeroline Baker has seen a lot of child's play during three decades at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Baker, who recently retired as professor of childhood education and director of the campus children's center, now lives in Frankfort.

But her years in Texas allowed her to see children's education grow to maturity at Southwestern Seminary and across the Southern Baptist Convention, she said. In those 30 years, children's ministry has developed from a Sunday morning necessity into a viable weekday outreach tool in the local church, she explained.

As a college student in Kentucky, Baker recalled, she didn't know how to combine a desire to teach children with a call to the ministry.

"At that time the only thing I knew was I could preach or go to the mission field," she said. "I assumed it was the mission field—I didn't think God wanted me preaching."

The breakthrough came when a professor of education administration at Southwestern visited her college campus. For the first time, Baker heard about the role of children's ministers in the local church.

Baker graduated in 1954 from Georgetown College and taught third grade in Lexington.

After graduating from Southwest-



GROWING UP During three decades of teaching childhood education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Kentucky native Jeroline Baker has seen children's ministries grow to maturity among Southern Baptists. Here, she talks with a child in the campus children's center. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

ern in 1956, she returned to Kentucky and for the next six years taught elementary school, served on a church staff as an elementary director and finished her master's degree in elementary education at the University of Kentucky. In 1964, she was elected to the Southwestern faculty.

Baker said she plans to stay in-

volved in children's ministry through writing and leading workshops in Kentucky and surrounding states. But she also plans on taking time out to explore the state she was reluctant to leave 35 years ago.

"I'm looking forward to rediscovering Kentucky and kind of being a tourist again," she said.

Glen Dale campus appoints Isaacs

GLENDALE—Tim Isaacs has been named activities director at the Glen Dale campus of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Isaacs is a former resident of the Glen Dale campus and a 1991 graduate of Georgetown College.

He first came to Glen Dale in 1981 at the age of 14 and stayed until he graduated from East Hardin High School in 1986.

"When I lived here, the activity program was at its peak," he explained. "I want to bring back that excitement."

His task will be aided by the recent renovation of a the campus gymnasium by soldiers in Ft. Knox's Alpha Company.

Isaacs said he hopes to expand intramural sports to a year-round program. The campus currently has cageball in the fall, basketball in the winter and volleyball in the spring.

For information on ways churches can assist in the Glen Dale activities program, contact Isaacs at (502) 369-7380.

Education conference set for Georgetown

GEORGETOWN—Georgetown College will host a statewide education conference March 28 to address the topic "School Improvement: Sharing the Vision." The conference will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Cralle Student Center and Pawling Hall. It has been approved by the Kentucky Department of Education for six hours of conference credit.

A \$15 pre-registration fee is required by March 13 and should be sent to the graduate education office at 400 E. College St., Georgetown, Ky. 40324. For additional information, contact Joan Kitterman, dean of graduate education, at (502) 863-8176.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: LaserMaster 19" hi-res desktop publishing monitor, video controller and laser printer controller, \$1,495. Includes 135 scaleable fonts, drivers, special-effects software, documentation, installation and training. (502) 244-1685. 1-7-2T

PAPERBACK: Education and Common Sense. 128 pages. \$8 postpaid. June Baxter Rice, Rt. 87, Box 900, Paintsville, Ky. 42440. 2-11-2T

CONSTRUCTION: Stewart Quality Construction and Remodeling. Insured, family owned and operated. Small repairs welcome. Call (502) 964-3210. 2-18-1T

NEWSLETTERS: Save money on church newsletters, weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Contact Ray Hayes at (502) 244-6473. 2-18-1T

The greatest of these ...



At Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children we live by this principle. Without love, what we do for children means nothing. Whether it's teaching youth to believe in themselves and in the miracle of life through caring for goats on our Glen Dale campus or helping a teenage mother place her baby in the waiting arms of adoptive parents through the First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Service, our highest calling is to show the love of God to children and families who are hurting.

Youth in long-term residential care learn that love remains, despite all the hardships of life. The smiles on the faces of friends from our Spring Meadows campus in Middletown remind us all that love can reach beyond the deepest hurts and find its way into our lives.

Every time you offer a prayer for one of our children or a staff worker, you share a part in our ministry. Each time someone gives even a few pennies to our "Mile of Pennies" project, they help bring new hope to a child's life. Your gifts of love inspire us to continue our work.



HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Sharing your love with the children can be as simple as listening to their stories and sharing a word about what Kentucky Baptists are doing for neglected and abused children. If you'd like to know more about our ministry, call us. We'll be

happy to provide a speaker for your church. Call us at 1-800-456-1386 and take a step toward sharing your love with the children, youth and families served through Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

... is love.

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

Paid Column

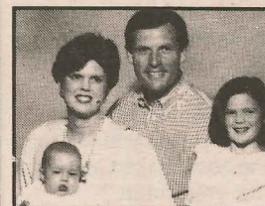
A&O CHURCH FURNITURE
4871 HARVEY RD. • P.O. BOX 1053
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

— PEW —
UPHOLSTERING

— SOLID OAK PEWS —
CARPET
STEEPLES
BAPTISTRIES
STAINED GLASS
CHURCH LIGHTING
PEW UPHOLSTERY / REFINISHING

Call Toll Free
1-(800)-523-9058
NC 1-(800)-222-7895
Local (919)-454-5145

Your Source For Complete Church Furnishings



Joni Parrent is the mother of Cody, 1, and Lauren, 7; the wife of Rob, U of L Director of Admissions; a children's choir leader, plays handbells and French horn AND is Baptist Young Women President at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville. She grew up in missions organizations and felt a need for adult missions involvement. She led in organizing BYW in the fall of 1991. Average attendance: 13!

Would young women in your church benefit from BYW? Are there needs in your area where young adults can make a difference? Contact us for information to help start BYW. Each NEW organization will receive a one-year FREE subscription to *Contempo*, the BYW magazine!

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, Ky. 40253-0433
(502) 245-4101



GOVERNMENT

Senate committee votes on tissue ban

WASHINGTON (BP)—A Senate committee has approved legislation lifting a White House-supported ban on federal funding of transplantation research using fetal tissue.

The Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D.-Mass., voted, 13-4, Feb. 5 in favor of a bill permitting federal funding of experimental fetal-tissue transplantation and establishing government guidelines.

The nearly four-year-old ban applies to fetal tissue from induced abortions. It does not prohibit federally sponsored research using tissue from ectopic pregnancies or miscarriages, Sullivan has said.

The ban was established in 1988. It was continued indefinitely in 1989 by Sullivan because of concern it would increase the number of abortions.

Promising, though unproven, results in curing such diseases as diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's have been reported by some researchers.

Bill wouldn't advance abortion, speakers say

By Tom Strode
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—Passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act will advance, not restrain, the fight to end abortion in America, an evangelical leader said during the recent National Religious Broadcasters Convention.

"I believe with all my heart we're going to end abortion in America but we're going to end it through the church," said Thomas Glessner, president of the Christian Action Council. "And if we're going to end it through the church, we've got to have religious freedom in this country."

"I've found there are many reasons people become motivated to be involved in the abortion issue, but the primary one I see is religious conviction," Glessner said. "And when we have religious freedom restricted in this country, there's no pro-life movement. It's gone."

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act is a bill intended to restore protection of the free exercise of religion in light of a Supreme Court decision last year that reinterpreted that provision.

Speakers addressed the concerns raised by such groups as the National Right to Life Committee and the United States Catholic Conference that

claims to a religious right to abortion would succeed under the proposed bill. Such claims cannot be prevented from being made but are highly unlikely to succeed, some lawyers said.

"It's enough to have religious freedom stated as a broad principle, and we'll fight the perversions case by case," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

After months of examination, the Christian Life Commission decided last summer the restoration act could be supported without a specific abortion clause. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs also supports the legislation.

Muslim prays in U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Senate witnessed history Feb. 6 when for the first time it heard a Muslim offer the invocation, the traditional opening of the chamber's proceedings. Imam Wallace Mohammed, a Muslim-American spokesman from Illinois, offered the prayer, asking God's blessings on America and its political leaders. "Grant to this nation that Americans continue to live as a prosperous nation of 'many in one' and as a people of faith taking pride in human decency, industry and service," he prayed.

Senate votes to restrict indecency on cable

By Tom Strode
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—The United States Senate recently voted to empower cable television companies to prohibit sexually explicit programming on leased-access and public-access channels.

The action came on The Cable Television Consumer Protection Act (Senate bill 12). Amendments by Sen. Jesse Helms, R.-N.C., and Sen.

Wyche Fowler, D.-Ga., altered a 1984 cable television law which left local operators powerless to prevent the telecast of all forms of sexually explicit material on their leased- and public-access channels. The bill, with these and other amendments, passed by a 73-18 vote.

Helms' amendment concerning leased-access channels permits a local cable company to ban a program it "reasonably believes describes or depicts sexual or excretory activities or

organs in a patently offensive manner as measured by contemporary community standards." This is the definition used by the Federal Communications Commission and upheld by the Supreme Court twice, Helms said.

If cable operators choose to telecast such material, the amendment requires them to place such programs on a channel separate from other leased-access channels and to block access to such a channel unless the cable subscriber requests it in writing.

DISCOVERY 92 YOUTH WEEK BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST

(Registration Deadline - March 1)

Dates and Youth Week Pastors

Cedarmore Baptist Assembly

- June 15-19 Ricky Vaughn, Calvary Baptist, Harrodsburg
- June 22-26 Ken Holden, First Baptist, Flatwoods
- June 29-July 3 Jim McKenzie, First Baptist, Hopkinsville
- July 6-10 Kevin Thomas, First Baptist, Carlisle
- July 13-17 Eddie Benton, First Baptist, Sturgis
- August 3-7 Steve Ayers, Hillvue Heights Baptist, Bowling Green

Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly

- July 13-17 Odel Beauchamp, Pleasant Grove Baptist, Owensboro
- July 20-24 Don Gowin, Green River Memorial Baptist, Campbellsville
- July 27-31 C. Wyman Copass, Farmdale Baptist, Louisville

For more information write or call:

Student Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention
Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253 (502) 244-6465

PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Kentucky ranks 41st among the 50 U.S. states in per capita personal income, the U.S. Department of Commerce reports. The average income per resident in Kentucky in 1989 was \$13,823. The average personal income for all Americans that year was \$17,592. Woodford County had the highest per capita personal income of any county in Kentucky—\$21,819. McCreary County had the lowest at \$6,834.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **ASHLAND**—Bailey Sadler is interim staff associate at First Church. Ted Keown is interim minister of music.

■ **GREENVILLE**—James Vincent is interim pastor at New Cypress.

■ **HAZARD**—Funeral services were held Jan. 23 for former pastor Wynn T. Barr, who served First Church from 1949-1959. A Kentucky pastor for nearly 30 years, he also served in London and Cynthiana. After retirement, he remained active in preaching and jail ministry. He was 80.

■ **HOLLAND**—Marvin Nichols is

pastor at Holland Church. He previously served Harmony Church in Scottsville.

■ **LEDBETTER**—Fellowship Church celebrated 20 years with Pastor David Rogers.

■ **LAGRANGE**—Kurt Caddy resigned from Dehaven Memorial Church as minister of youth to serve as a church planter in Springfield, Mo.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—During Founder's Day at Lyndon Church Feb. 16, Hugh Goldsby was named pastor emeritus.

Hugh McElrath, professor of church music at Southern Seminary,

recently became the third Baptist ever to be named a fellow of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.

■ **MT. WASHINGTON**—George Maddox and Barry Mann were ordained deacons of First Church Jan. 19.

■ **PADUCAH**—Carl Duck will serve Immanuel Church as interim pastor.

■ **SANDERS**—Cass Farrior is pastor at Sanders Church.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Ralph Boston, 1960 olympic gold medalist in the long jump competition, spoke for the Cumberland College convocation service Feb. 3.

Lone Oak honors Hensons on 20th

PADUCAH—Lone Oak First Baptist Church hosted a Hawaiian luau Feb. 2 to show appreciation for Pastor Willis Henson on his 20th anniversary with the church.



Henson and his wife, Bea, and their two children came to Paducah in 1972 from Humbolt, Tenn. Since that time, Lone Oak First Baptist Church has experi-

enced multi-dimensional growth. Church membership has doubled, two successful building programs have been completed, and a special benevolent fund has been established through which thousands of people are fed during the Christmas seasons.

Family members and several special guests were invited to join the congregation for the anniversary celebration.

After worship, church members met at the Executive Inn for a meal and fellowship time with the Hensons. The decor at the luncheon, a tropical blend of pineapples, leis, and palm trees, whispered a Hawaiian theme.

To conclude the afternoon fellowship, the Hensons were ceremoniously donned with leis and presented a trip to Hawaii.

"The weekend went far beyond what I had dreamed," Henson told the congregation afterward. "It was a very meaningful day."

Criswell at Mid-Continent

MAYFIELD—W.A. Criswell will preach at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College March 5-6 to inaugurate a new preaching series named for him.

Criswell, longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, will speak five times during the two-day conference at Northside Baptist Church in Mayfield.

Mid-Continent's annual evangelism conference will be held in conjunction with the preaching series March 5. Featured speaker for that event is David Miller, director of missions for Little Red River Baptist Association in Heber Springs, Ark.

For further information, contact the school at (502) 247-8521.



SINGING POLICEMEN Police Chaplain Tommy Howard and Police Captain Howard Rupard of the Lexington Police Department present a musical program to students at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville. The men sing together under the name "Howard and Howard." Tommy Howard told students his work as a chaplain presents numerous opportunities for ministry to police officers and their families.

Games won with four after players injured

Saturday, Feb. 8, found our campus in the afterglow of our varsity basketball team's exciting game in Rupp Arena four days before. Freshman coach Oliver Hawkins and seven players left campus at 6:30 a.m. to play four teams in a round-robin tournament in Barbourville.

Our boys won the first game. In the second game, our David Barkes, a mountain boy whose father also attended Oneida, and a Knox Central player butted heads violently. David was badly cut and bleeding.

Within two more minutes, two other OBI players were out of the game, one with a painful knee injury and the other with a badly twisted ankle. That left only four players with which to finish the game, and Oneida lost. The two boys were in such pain by this time that a doctor watching the game recommended they also be taken to the hospital.

It was now time for Oneida to play the third school, but the rules require five players. We could have been made to forfeit, but the opposing coach and referees agreed that we could play with only four players against the other team's five.

With two minutes to go before half-time of the third game, Oneida was leading 18-17 with only four players. Barkes returned from the hospital, having had four stitches, ran to the dressing room to put on his uniform and reentered the game. With five players again, and no subs, Oneida beat Middlesboro 51-39 and then Bell County 48-34.

While all this was going on, our wrestlers were in action in Lexington. Having won the state championship in Class A for the second year in a row, they were now in district competition.

Sophomore Tony Staats took third place in his class, defeating a higher-ranked opponent from powerful Sheldon Clark High School near Ashland, which now has won our district championship three years. OBI junior Louie Lagunsad and Sam Yoder each took fourth place in their respective weight classes. Sam is only an eighth grader and will be the youngest one to wrestle in the high school regional. We are grateful to Immanuel Baptist, Lexington, for letting our team sleep on the floor of their Family Life Center.

In the meantime, our swimmers and divers were competing in their regional tournament at Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond. OBI Coach Richard Coffey was voted Coach of the Year by the 21 other coaches, his second time to receive that honor. Five juniors qualified for the state tournament. Doug Crum will go in diving. Our four-man relay team is Jimmy Black, David Wagner, Scott Self and David Yoder.

Also on this eventful Saturday, Oneida hosted the four-hour ACT exam, and the all-day Governor's Cup Academic District. OBI was runnerup among the schools of three counties, and qualified a number to go on to the regional.

While our girls' varsity team played at Jackson County Saturday night, our boys' varsity returned from the state Class A tournament, having been away four days. As they entered the gym to put away their uniforms, they were startled to find a gym filled with OBI students, staff and parents. Though beaten in Rupp Arena, we welcomed them home as the champions we feel they are.

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

Paid Column

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Winter basketball league

From Jan. 28 to March 24, four men's basketball teams are involved in an intramural league in the Pomeroy Family Life Center. Forty-three play on the teams. Students are scorekeepers and run the clock. Two games are played each Tuesday night. Teams play two 20-minute halves. Team four has two adults and 11 seventh-12th graders. Second year Owensboro Northern Kentucky senior Wayne Whaley coaches team one. He observed, "This is a real good program. We need the recreation and the fellowship. Everyone has good sportsmanship. Occasionally a little temper will flare."

Academic Dean Mark Terry and freshman Jack Helton are court referees. Helton has refereed in church and independent leagues. He observed: "Refereeing is an art. It has to be learned. Each referee has his own style. Some are hams; others are straightfaced; some are technical. I'm a ham, once I get started." As Dr. Terry observed,

"The league is a good way to learn grace under pressure." Timekeeper Paul Rasmussen, first year student from Jackson, Tenn., noted, "There's lots of hacking wheezing."

It was Daryl Mullins' first time to play in many years. His wife, Sheila, observed from the stands. She was "scared about him playing. He's out of shape." When Daryl made his first basket, she stood and screamed with glee. Senior Rick Frazer was high scorer for the night with 29 points. He has been practicing and plays regularly with the youth at the Corbin church where he is youth minister.

The night the league started was one of the busiest at the Family Life Center. Other activities included Royal Ambassadors, Young Disciples youth group, ceramics class, swimming lessons, ladies' aerobics class, and individuals worked out in the weight room. Total attendance for the night was 144. FLC Director David Wade noted, "The enthusiasm has been high all day. It will be an exciting season."

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

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

Paid Column

Memphis prison revival results in 261 conversions

By Steve Barber
SBC Brotherhood Commission

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—During a recent revival at Shelby County Correctional Center in Memphis, Tenn., 261 inmates professed faith in Jesus Christ and hundreds more came forward in rededication.

The effort was directed by Larry Creasman, a retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee from Hernando, Miss., and a member of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission's National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions.

Working under the leadership of the Shelby Baptist Association, Creasman and his associates in the fellowship help perform an ongoing ministry to more than 9,000 inmates in city, county, state and federal jails throughout the Memphis area, offering twice-weekly worship services, counseling and special holiday programs.

Creasman, a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, said the success of the "Victory in Jesus" revival was the product of this year-round ministry, with the addition of prayer, confession and plenty of advance planning.

The Shelby County Correctional Center complex is the largest county jail in the United States, with about 3,000 men and women inmates.

After a planning meeting with prison administrators, the Baptist volunteers decided to have two complete worship services at five different locations within the complex.

"So we had to locate five evangelists, five song leaders, five musicians or groups and a host of counselors," Creasman explained.

Those volunteers spanned the full theological and racial spectrum of Southern Baptist life in greater Memphis, he added. Evangelists ranged from Paul Caudill, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, to James Vail, a

student at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary.

"We had two white evangelists and three black, three white song leaders and two blacks and our counselors were almost evenly distributed between the races," Creasman said.

To drum up interest among inmates, organizers used mealtime announcements, posters throughout the prison compound, visitation in cell-blocks and "special interest clinics" on topics including how to read the Bible, marriage and family relationships and sports with a Christian emphasis.

"The opportunity for failure was tremendous, but it was a miracle how smoothly the revival worked out. And the results speak for themselves," Creasman said.

He urged others to consider prison ministry as an avenue for missions involvement, adding that concern for one's personal safety is misplaced fear.

"You can deal in a prison environment without fear because there's always security present. In fact, you're more protected in a prison these days than you are in the average shopping center parking lot," he said.

Creasman said the thrust of the Memphis prison ministry program is to "reach the lost and restore others to fellowship with the Lord and with other Christians."

The spiritual awakening and renewal, he believes, can make a difference on society at large.

"It costs about \$20,000 per year, on the average, just to house one inmate in this country and \$80,000 for just one prison bed. The economics of it are such that we can't keep building more prisons.

"But when you have a changed heart, you have a changed lifestyle," Creasman said.

"And if you get a man saved, he doesn't go back to jail. That's our feeling."

'If you get a man saved, he doesn't go back to jail.'

Seminarian planned to see Jesus, but gun shot blanks

By Scott Collins
Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—In one motion, the robber shoved a handgun to the back of Scott Crenshaw's head and fired twice. A third shot, this one to Crenshaw's back, came seconds later.

It was just what Crenshaw asked for.

"I told them I was a Christian and if I were to die, I would go straight to heaven," the 28-year-old student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary said. "I just kept looking at them. I looked at them straight in the eye and said, 'You'll have to shoot me in the back.'"

That's when Crenshaw turned his back on the two robbers and one of the men fired the gun. "All of a sudden I felt this unreal peace that told me I was not going to die," he said.

The next thing he remembers is the crack of the pistol. Grabbing the back of his head as he fell forward, Crenshaw was confused. He wasn't dead.

"I figured if they were going to kill me I wouldn't even hear the gun go off. I would just see Jesus," he said.

"But they shot me in the back of the head and I knew I wasn't dead. There was blood on my head but I only felt two huge bumps."

Those bumps were the extent of Crenshaw's injuries. The gun was loaded with blanks.

The robbers sped away in Crenshaw's car, leaving him on the street. Crenshaw ran to a nearby house and banged on the door. Inside, two other seminary students were studying for a test. They let Crenshaw in to call Fort Worth police.

"I went outside to wait for the police and I was not angry, mad or bitter," Crenshaw said. "I can honestly say there was an incredible peace that came over me and I actually started praying for (the robbers') salvation. I actually started crying for their salvation, that God would use what I said to them to minister to them."

It was that opportunity for personal evangelism that led Crenshaw to give the two men a ride from the convenience store where he met them. He had gone to the store to buy ice cream for his wife, who is pregnant with the couple's third child.

While in the store Crenshaw no-

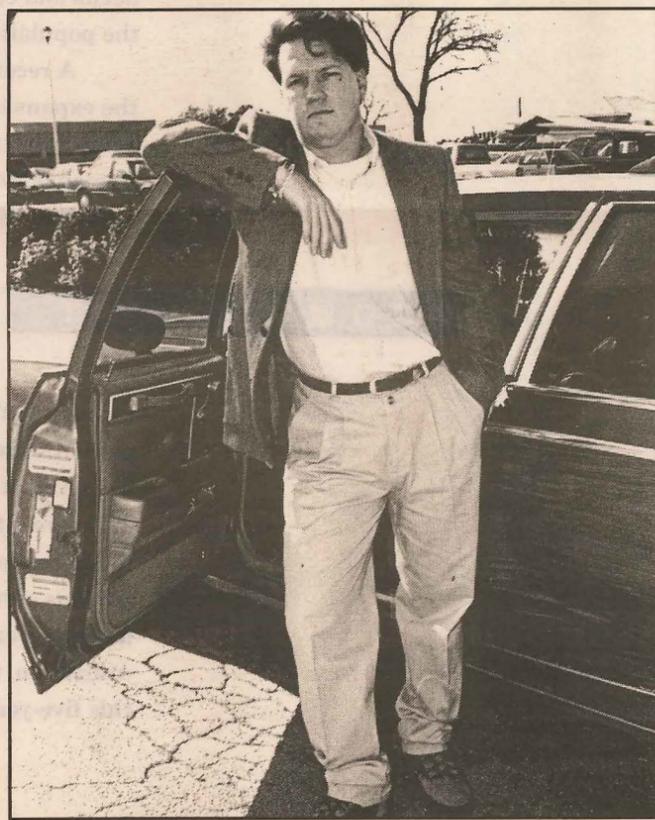
ticed the two men he described as "clean-cut." When they asked for a ride, Crenshaw saw an opportunity to share his faith in Jesus Christ.

After driving about three miles, they asked Crenshaw to pull over so they could get out. That's when the men "flung open the car doors and one of the guys got right in my face with a revolver."

When the robbers demanded his money, Crenshaw laughed and told them he was a seminary student and had no money. They ordered him to lie face down on the car seat and the next thing Crenshaw remembers is the sound of the gun.

While Crenshaw admits he has mixed emotions about his brush with death, one emotion remains: "Anytime I think about the incident, I start praying for those guys."

RECOVERED Seminary student Scott Crenshaw has recovered from his encounter with two robbers who shot at him as he attempted to share his Christian faith with them. He also has recovered his car, which they stole. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)



Soviet soldiers say, 'Let's not be enemies'

DORTMUND, Germany (EP)—Two Soviet military officers told 300 U.S. military personnel, "Let's never be enemies again," during a conference of Officers' Christian Fellowship near Dortmund, Germany.

The group was "deeply moved" by the testimony, said Paul Pettijohn, executive director.

The Soviet officers "publicly acknowledged that despite being our enemy for so many years, they were now being accepted so warmly at the conference. ... They made a public commitment to start a Christian military fellowship," Pettijohn said.

Pastor called to same church four times

By Gary Griffith
Louisiana Baptist Message

SIBLEY, La. (BP)—"Take Me Back and Try Me One More Time" means more than the title of an old country and western song to Virgil Groves.

The Baptist pastor affectionately uses the old tune to sum up his fourth call to the same pastorate—First Baptist Church of Sibley, La.

There are no records to prove it, but the 65-year-old pastor may have the state record for "repeat" pastorates, said James Carter, director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention's church-minister relations division.

"I've heard of a pastor who has served two churches two times and

some who have served one church twice, but I don't know of anyone else who has been called to serve in a church four times. It must be a record," Carter said.

Groves began his pastoral ministry in 1954 and has been pastor of 10 Southern Baptist churches in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. He also was pastor of Midway Baptist Church in Sarepta, La., twice.

He first accepted a full-time pastorate at First Baptist of Sibley in 1964, serving two years in the north Louisiana community. The church called him back in 1968, and he stayed five years. In 1983 Groves accepted the church's call for the third time and served until December 1989 when he retired.

For the fourth time, Groves and his wife, Georgia, moved back to Sibley in March 1991 to a part-time pastorate.

"Before we came back, the word was out that the church was going downhill and couldn't last. But the Lord knew different and I knew different," he said.

In the last 10 months, the church has recorded 26 additions, including 10 by baptism. Sunday school attendance has grown from an average of 15 to almost 50. And the church's resident membership now totals more than 90.

"God has blessed our ministry everywhere we've been," Groves said. "But he has always allowed us to return home to Sibley."

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE

At Baptist Healthcare System, we're committed to quality which meets the changing needs of patients, physicians, employees, employers and communities. That commitment is our working pledge to the people we serve and on whom the organization depends.

Our Baptist hospitals continually assess public demand for patient care services and respond accordingly, basing the start-up or expansion of services on the needs and convenience of the populations we serve.

A recent example was the expansion of the emergency room at Baptist Regional Medical Center in Corbin. From mid-1986

underwent a renovation project that doubled its size and increased its number of beds from nine to 16. As part of the renovation, a central monitoring system with "Space Lab PC" monitors was installed, allowing nurses to track the vital signs of up to seven patients from the nursing station. Also, several board-certified and board-eligible emergency medicine specialists were recruited by the department's medical director, resulting in an even higher level of "quality close to home" service to the community.

Baptist Hospital East in Louisville responded to patient needs by starting a cardiac surgery program and performing its first open-heart procedure in December 1991. The hospital also expanded its oncology program through construction of an on-campus radiation therapy center. These new services allow patients to receive a continuum of care and reduce the number of patient transfers to other facilities.

Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington added a multi-specialty physician group to serve women. The hospital also recently expanded its outpatient services by opening a pain management and rehabilitation clinic.



Our

COMMITMENT

To Patients

through 1991, the annual patient volume in this department increased by 37.5 percent, from 16,000 to approximately 22,000 persons served. To accommodate greater patient utilization, the ER unit at this five-year-old facility

"We believe that our patients' needs and expectations are our highest priority."

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM