

FEBRUARY 25, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 8

FOR THE RECORD

Chapman elected
Morris Chapman was elected president-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee last week. See page 2.

Life investors
Buckley and Sue Carlin have made a career out of investing in the lives of children. See page 3.

Editorial
A proposed constitutional amendment could hurt the Southern Baptist Convention. See page 5.

Help wanted
Volunteers are needed for Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Ohio Baptists. See page 8.

Tax talk
The Bush administration wants the IRS to require churches to report charitable contributions. Another proposal would eliminate taxation on charitable gifts of appreciated property. See page 9.

Kentuckians cooperate to support home missions

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA—Supporting missions is a subject close to home for Kentucky Baptists.

Of the 4,922 Southern Baptist home missionaries serving across the nation, 65 work in the Bluegrass state. They are examples of cooperative efforts between state conventions and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Kentucky Baptists will join Baptists nationwide in focusing on domestic missions during the annual Week of Prayer for Home Missions March 1-8. The week of prayer coincides with collection of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions.

When Baptists give to the Annie Armstrong offering and the Coopera-

tive Program, they support home missionaries close to home and across the nation. But the reason that support is essential may be different than most people realize.

Even many longtime Baptists assume that home missionaries, like foreign missionaries, are supported entirely by the mission board. In reality, only 115 home missionaries nationwide receive 100 percent of their support from the HMB.

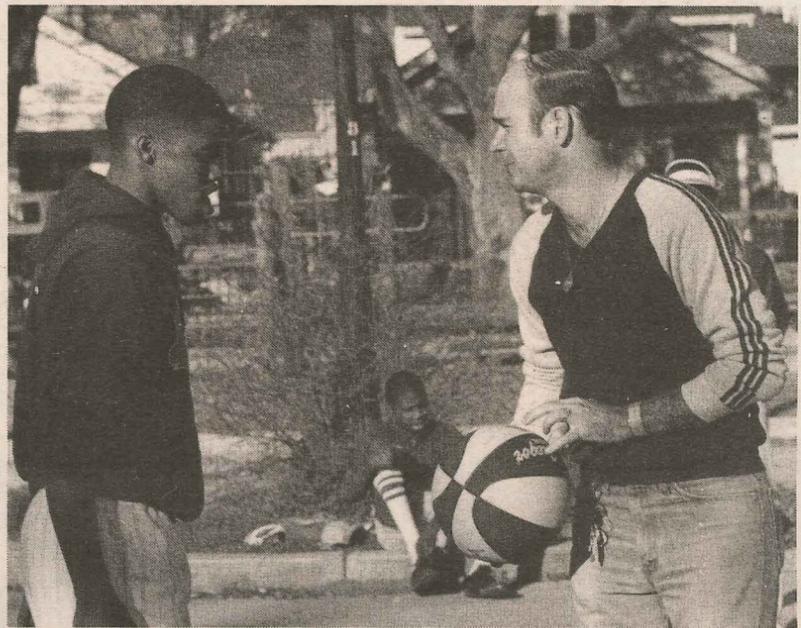
By supplementing the funding of state conventions, the HMB is able to stretch its dollars further and avoid duplication, explains Jack Meredith, HMB planning and budgeting coordinator.

In 1959, the Southern Baptist Convention instructed the HMB to develop a "single uniform mission program" to prevent duplication of min-
□ See Offering ..., page 7

CLOSE TO HOME

Week of Prayer for Home Missions

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MISSIONS ON THE BALL Sports activities are a drawing card at Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Orleans. Larry Miguez (right) says athletic programs can double attendance at Bible studies. Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering provide essential support for Miguez and 4,921 other home missionaries. (Photo by Paul Obregon)

Eight-member church tops in baptism ratio

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

SHARPSBURG—With only eight members, Sharpsburg Baptist Church recorded the highest per capita baptism ratio in the Kentucky Baptist Convention last year.

Eighty-year-old Pastor Charles Thompson said the church could have done even better if they had indoor plumbing.

The Sharpsburg church baptized four people last year—not a large amount by most standards, but amazing for a 150-year-old church that had more members in the cemetery than in the pews on Sunday mornings.

When Thompson and his wife came to the pastorate about a year ago, they began services with one other person—the church organist. The two other members of the congregation were working out of state.

Since that time, the church has picked up several members and experienced a successful summer ministry,

including a vacation Bible school that drew about 75 children.

"Right now, we're trying to pick up from the winter slump," Thompson explained. "It's very hard trying to revive an old church."

However, Thompson sees only possibilities. He and his wife recently moved to Bethel, a community four miles away from the church. Living nearby already has increased potential for ministry, he said.

The church pays him a small amount, which is supplemented by modest retirement benefits.

"I have every reason to believe this move we made to live here was the right thing," he said. "God has called me to this place or I wouldn't have come. I know this is a viable work."

Although larger churches might think he's too old for a pastorate, Thompson said he isn't through working for God. "I'm 80 years old and I am not burned out, brother. I'm not

too old for God."

Sharpsburg is a rural community of 350 people with no other Baptist church, Thompson said. There is only one other Baptist church in Bath County.

So in addition to revitalizing the 150-year-old church, Thompson has plans to start a new ministry in Bethel. He is convinced starting a new unit will add to the growth of the existing church.

In the meantime, Thompson said he hopes his fellow Baptists would see the potential he sees in the small community. He is seeking volunteers to install plumbing in the church and to upgrade the electrical system which currently draws only 15 amps.

Regardless, Thompson said he is there to stay: "I'm here as a pastor to serve this community. They need something that's going to have some depth to it, some continuity."

■ A listing of Kentucky's top 10 churches in total baptisms and per capita baptisms appears on page 6.

Words make the music for George Beverly Shea

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Although he is beloved by Christians worldwide as a singer, George Beverly Shea says attention to words has been his theme.

Shea, 83, presented two concerts at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville Feb. 15-16. He was accompanied by Don Hustad, senior professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Although these concerts weren't billed as an anniversary event, they marked 50 years of making music together for the two men. They first met in 1942 at a Chicago radio station owned by Moody Bible Institute and went on to work with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Shea has stayed with the Graham organization since 1947. Hustad left the crusade team in 1967.

Although the duo has performed at crusades and rallies in Kentucky before, this was their first full concert together in the state, Hustad said.

Shea, perhaps best known for his rendition of "How Great Thou Art," said he realizes the world of sacred music has changed dramatically during his lifetime. "I'd be foolish to try to change with it," he admitted.

However, Shea said he appreciates many modern aspects of music ministry. When asked for advice from contemporary singers, "I say to them, make sure they've got good words and let them hear it," he said.

Hustad, who has accompanied Shea off and on for the past 50 years,

said most of the songs Shea sings were popular 30 to 50 years ago. "These are old, tired songs, but they come alive when he sings them."

The songs have impact, Hustad said, because Shea "is so word conscious. The word is the most important thing to him."

Shea admits some singers sacrifice words for a beautiful tone, but he uses vocal technique as a tool to frame the words. "We must get the message across," he explained.

Motive also is important for aspiring Christian singers, Shea counseled, predicting that those who get into the business only for fame soon will fall away.

"Go ye into all the world and sing the gospel is not to sell records," he said.

Sexuality stance could hurt churches

By Marv Knox
Editor

NASHVILLE—The Southern Baptist Convention has taken steps toward excluding churches that affirm homosexuality.

The SBC Executive Committee voted Feb. 18 to initiate work on two motions to keep churches that have taken pro-homosexual stands from participating in the SBC's annual meetings.

If approved, the motions would reverse 140 years of precedent. Historically, the SBC has looked only at financial support for convention causes as the basis for determining who participates in annual meetings.

The motions came in response to pending decisions by two North Carolina congregations. Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh is to decide whether it will bless the union of two gay men. Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill may license to the ministry a homosexual divinity student.

The Executive Committee passed a resolution—a non-binding statement of belief—critical of the churches' pending actions. It also referred two motions—binding procedures that could lead to convention action—to smaller committees.

The resolution "acknowledges the impending apostasy of two North Carolina churches," said David Button, a layperson from Canton, N.Y.

The resolution cites the Executive Committee's view that "the Bible says that God regards homosexuality as a gross perversion and unquestioned sin." It claims "the nation and world are watch-
□ See Sexuality ..., page 2

BAPTISTS

Sexuality issues could become test for SBC inclusion

Continued from page 1

ing" how denominations respond to homosexuality, and notes the SBC "has repeatedly stated its abhorrence of homosexuality" in six resolutions in 16 years.

It also calls upon "Baptists to pray that the Holy Spirit will admonish and enlighten these churches" and "that their members will have sufficient grace to know and do that which is right in the eyes of Almighty God and in accord with his inerrant word."

The resolution drew limited opposition. Committee members who dissented did not disagree with its theological interpretation, but with the committee's involvement in the issue.

The two motions were presented to add "teeth" to the resolution, said their author, T.C. Pinckney, a layperson from Alexandria, Va.

One motion initiates the process of amending the SBC constitution and bylaws to exclude participation of members from "churches endorsing homosexuality."

The other motion would ask the convention to instruct its credentials committee not to seat messengers from such churches at the 1992 annual meeting in Indianapolis. It also would instruct SBC entities not to receive donations from such churches.

As with the resolution, committee members who debated the motions

did not argue about theology.

Both motions are to be studied and returned to the Executive Committee for its June meeting immediately preceding the SBC annual meeting.

Meanwhile, the two churches have yet to settle the issues before them, their pastors said.

Pullen Memorial did not "throw down the gauntlet" over the issue, as some Executive Committee members charged, said Mahan Siler of Pullen Memorial. "I was responding as a pastor to a request from a church member who wanted the support of his Christian friends and faith community for them to live out a faithful, monogamous commitment to each other."

Binkley Memorial Pastor Linda Jordan expressed concern about the change in the way Baptists might determine denominational membership.

"One of the things that has made Baptists great and historically significant has been the autonomy of the local congregation and the cooperative nature of churches to work together," she said. "The Executive Committee's action would virtually change both of those by making your stand on homosexuality a litmus test for being seated at an SBC annual meeting."

"The issue is: Who is going to be the moral watchkeeper on the moral flaws of who comes to Southern Baptist meetings," Jordan added.



MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

Morris Chapman, last week elected president-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, was cited by his nominators as a pastor with a missions vision. He has participated in numerous overseas missions ventures, including the 1990 Kenya Coastal Crusade. (BP photo by Stretch Ledford)

Chapman elected Executive Committee head

By Marv Knox
Editor

NASHVILLE (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee elected Morris Chapman as its fifth president and treasurer.

Chapman, 51, is pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, and will complete his second one-year term as SBC president when the convention meets in Indianapolis in June.

Chapman will become Executive Committee president/treasurer-elect June 15 and will succeed Harold C. Bennett Oct. 1, the day after Bennett's retirement. The Executive Committee acts on behalf of the convention between its annual meetings, and it coordinates the programs and much of the funding of convention causes.

Chapman will be paid \$120,000 per year, which includes a housing allowance, plus business expenses. That amount is less than Bennett's salary, but is prudent in light of tight convention finances, search committee Chairman Julian Motley said.

The nomination of Chapman was announced by Motley, a pastor from Durham, N.C. He told the Executive Committee, "The search committee believes God has raised up Morris H. Chapman and called and equipped him" for "a unique opportunity to give positive leadership to the Executive Committee."

First Baptist of Wichita Falls has increased its giving to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget from 12 percent to 15 percent during Chapman's 13-year tenure, according to a video presentation the Executive Committee watched. It also noted he has baptized an average of more

than 160 people per year in Wichita Falls. Those numbers put the congregation in the top 1 percent of the SBC in both baptisms and Cooperative Program giving.

Chapman has demonstrated his personal commitment to the conservative direction of the SBC, the video added, noting several times his belief in biblical inerrancy.

The search committee's report to the full Executive Committee noted it received 11 nominations for the office and described the selection process as a "spiritual pilgrimage."

"We felt it our assignment and responsibility to find and to recommend a man who is fully committed to Christ and his word, who is gifted of God to do this kind of work and who would have a good opportunity to lead the Executive Committee," the report stated.

Moments before his election, Chapman told the Executive Committee, "If I know my heart, I want God's will—nothing more—to be accomplished."

Chapman said he hopes to "carry the convictions I have in my heart with ... the love of God. ... I can do no other than to stay by those things that I have in my heart. ..."

"My heart's desire is for Southern Baptists to keep on doing those things that have been proven over the years," he said, noting his responsibility is to "carry out the will of the majority and bring healing."

Chapman predicted promising days ahead for Southern Baptists. "I believe God will renew our nation through Southern Baptists," he said, "and if not beginning with Southern Baptists, then Southern Baptists will participate in it."

WMU asked to become agency

By Bob Allen
Baptist True Union

NASHVILLE (ABP)—The 104-year-old relationship between the Southern Baptist Convention and its auxiliary, the Woman's Missionary Union, has come under scrutiny of the SBC Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, meeting Feb. 17-19 in Nashville, considered a motion to invite the WMU to become an agency of the convention.

The WMU—unlike SBC boards, institutions and commissions, which are overseen by trustees elected by the convention—has been self-governing since its organization in 1888 as a women's auxiliary to promote missions in Southern Baptist churches. WMU receives no funds through the Cooperative Program, the convention's unified budget.

The motion, made during the meeting's closing session by Gibbie McMillan, a pastor from Baton Rouge, La., was referred to the Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee.

It evolved from suspicion ex-

pressed by Executive Committee members that WMU is posturing itself to extend its allegiance beyond the SBC to include the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The Fellowship is an alliance of moderate Southern Baptists that promotes budget options for churches waning in enthusiasm for traditional channels of support administered by SBC conservatives.

WMU representatives disputed the perception. Whatever affinity individual members of their executive board might express for the Fellowship, the WMU as an organization has endorsed only SBC missions efforts, they contended.

The occasion for the sharp exchange was discussion of a revised WMU program statement submitted for Executive Committee approval. Program statements define and limit the assignments of various agencies of the SBC. Though not required to do so, WMU has sought SBC adoption of program statements since the 1960s, both as a courtesy and to ensure WMU's style is consistent with similar documents for other denominational entities.

Proposal made on disputed funds

By Marv Knox
Editor

NASHVILLE (ABP)—A \$400,000 tug-of-war between the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs appears to be pulling in favor of the Christian Life Commission.

At issue is a fund given to the "Public Affairs Committee" in the 1960s. The account, held by the Southern Baptist Foundation, includes \$300,000 in principle and \$83,954.45 in interest.

The Joint Committee has earned \$568,384.63 in interest off the account since 1968 and has directed the Foundation's investment of the money since 1985. But last year the Christian Life Commission asked for the money, claiming it now is heir to the "Public Affairs Committee" mantle.

The SBC Executive Committee, which had authorized a special committee to study the issue, voted Feb. 18 to recommend the convention divide the account.

If approved at the 1992 SBC annu-

al meeting in Indianapolis, the convention would "disclaim any right to the interest accumulated on these funds on deposit" and ask the Foundation to give the accumulated interest to the Joint Committee.

But the \$300,000 principle would be reallocated "to convention causes as the Executive Committee deems appropriate." The CLC has asked for the fund to help buy an office in Washington.

Oliver Thomas, general counsel for the Joint Committee, declined to speculate whether the Joint Committee would accept the offer or sue for the full amount of the fund.

However, James Dunn, Joint Committee executive director, issued a statement saying "a dark cloud of doubt hangs over the integrity of all Southern Baptist foundations" because of the action.

"I personally know of only a few million dollars that will not be given to Baptist institutions because of this blatantly political decision," he said. "However, there is no way to measure the dollars that will be denied worthy Baptist causes."

Back at Glen Dale, Carlins invest in children's lives

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

GLENDALE—Buckley and Sue Carlin are in the business of investing in people.

For the past 11 years, the Carlins have lived and worked with troubled youths on the Glen Dale campus of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Carlin, a former resident at Glen Dale during the 1950s and director of the home since 1980, wholly believes in the teens and their potential.

The Glen Dale campus covers 588 acres in the open countryside 30 miles south of Fort Knox. The Carlins are responsible for the unique combination of intimacy and disciplined freedom radiating from the campus.

"We really believe that a child's life can be changed," Carlin said. "There is a high correlation between positive thinking and positive action."

Carlin's philosophy is illustrated by the "well-child model" adopted by the Glen Dale staff. This is the theory that a child will behave properly and with respect if he or she is treated properly and with respect.

Although most of the children coming to the home are from dysfunctional or abusive families, they are required to meet high expectations and learn to function in a disciplined environment focused on handling problems positively.

"We believe in owning, labeling and dealing with problems," Carlin said. "Glen Dale becomes a laboratory for developing life skills and dealing with these problems."

In their mid-50s now, the Carlins'

eyes dance with adventure as they speak of the wide range of activities they share with the youths—everything from grocery shopping to church services to volleyball. They bubble over with dreams of future expansion of the children's home and its ministries.

"We're not where we want to be yet," Carlin said. "Our goal is to keep Glen Dale a warm, open, loving place, and to work effectively with as many children as possible to bring them into the Kingdom."

Many teens do make Christian commitments during their stay at Glen Dale. All are given the positive experience of living in a disciplined but affirming Christian environment.

As one of Glen Dale's many success stories himself, Carlin has a natural kinship with the residents. In Mrs. Carlin's words, "He is their brother."

Growing up in a dysfunctional family in Owensboro, Carlin received little support or affirmation at home. At age 13, he found himself in trouble with the law and facing time in jail. During these years fraught with neglect and crisis, Carlin found hope in a single positive contact, Cub Scout leader Mrs. C.A. Robinson.

"Mrs. Robinson was the only person who believed in me," Carlin said. Because of her intervention, Carlin came to live at Glen Dale in 1949—a move that changed his life.

During the six years he spent as a resident at the children's home, Carlin made some major decisions, including a commitment to full-time Christian service during his senior year of high school.

He went to Georgetown College,

where he met Sue, whom he married in 1958. Both received degrees from Georgetown.

Carlin later earned a master's degree in social work from Ohio State University. He spent 17 years as director of treatment services for the Worthington (Ohio) Methodist Children's Home.

Then in 1980, the Carlins returned to lead the ministry of the Glen Dale campus.

Though the Carlins have little free time, and are sometimes hard-pressed to find as much time as they would like to spend with their own three children and three grandchildren, they have a great sense of fulfillment in their work.

"This move to Glen Dale was the fullest revelation of my commitment to full-time Christian ministry," he said. "It's kind of like finding diamonds in your own back yard."

Mrs. Carlin also brings a great deal of expertise to the work at Glen Dale. Raised in a rural community in Ohio, she was active in her home church and also in her local 4-H organization, through which she enjoyed showing horses and cattle.

After graduation from high school, she worked as an accountant for two years before entering Georgetown College.

"My roommate was a former Glen Dale resident, and we spent two of our spring vacations together as cooks at the children's home," she said, adding that every experience she had seemed to be preparing her for her future ministry.

Today, Mrs. Carlin directs the extensive work of the Homeland Station

4-H Club, in which all the Glen Dale residents are involved. She also conducts the Homeland Singers, the Glen Dale touring youth choir. The choir meets weekly and sings often in churches, schools and for special banquets.

In the last two years, Mrs. Carlin also has written and initiated a series of seminars for the high school seniors, to teach them practical skills such as cooking, finances and automobile repairs.

Despite these successful programs, Mrs. Carlin gets most excited about her work when she talks about the residents themselves.

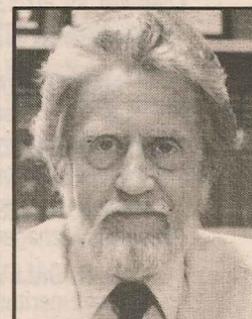
When most of the youths arrive at Glen Dale, they are despondent. Typically they come in with eyes downcast and are nonverbal and defensive, she said. Their hurt is evident.

"There's no greater feeling than to watch a person's entire countenance change—to see their eyes begin to sparkle as they gain self-confidence and find hope again," she said.

Mrs. Carlin's own eyes began to tear a little as she told about one boy who won a "privy race" at the Glendale Track Festival, sponsored by the Glendale community. It was the first time Robert had ever won anything. After the race, he ran to Mrs. Carlin, practically beaming.

"You know what, Mrs. Carlin?" he said. "We're gettin' to be a bunch of winners!"

Moments like these make the hard work worthwhile, her husband explained: "The work is spiritually, emotionally and physically draining. But stronger rewards could be found nowhere."



Buckley and Sue Carlin

Seminary Village under construction

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—An estimated \$7.7 million renovation project is under way on a 251-unit apartment complex that has served Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's married students since its acquisition 39 years ago.

In addition to cosmetic improvements, the village will receive electrical and plumbing upgrades, central heating and air conditioning, mechanical ventilation systems, new roofs and gutters, new bathroom fixtures and new appliances. The village grounds also will benefit from landscaping renovations, new sidewalks and curbs, drainage improvements and better lighting. Renovations are expected to be completed within 18 months.

The project will be financed with First National Bank of Louisville at no cost to the seminary. Affiliates of the bank and the seminary have formed a partnership which is now the owner of the village. The partnership will qualify for affordable housing and historic preservation federal tax credits.

The seminary will manage the village for the partnership. It also has an option to repurchase the vil-

lage from the partnership.

Although the bank's affiliate will receive tax benefits for its role in the project, the village will receive no direct government assistance, emphasized seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt.

"We have been careful not to blur the line of church-state separation with this financing arrangement," he said. "The fact that First National Bank's affiliate is receiving tax credits for its participation in the project is no different in that regard than from church members who deduct contributions to their congregations from their federal income tax."

To qualify for the partnership's tax arrangements, the village must be opened to other tenants, not just seminary students and their families. Elisabeth Lambert, the seminary's vice president for student services, said the school will screen applicants within the parameters of open housing laws.

Seminary Village was constructed in 1937 as Green Tree Manor Apartments, the first and only large-scale apartment complex in Louisville insured by the Federal Housing Administration. That distinction helped qualify it for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Baugh's resign Severns Valley

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

ELIZABETHTOWN—Allen and Delores Baugh, Kentucky's only husband-wife team serving as associational directors of missions, resigned their post at Severns Valley Baptist Association Feb. 14.

The resignations came after a group of pastors requested a meeting with Allen Baugh to discuss their concerns about his leadership.

The associational moderator attended a subsequent meeting with Baugh and a representative from the pastors' group.

In their resignation letter mailed to all pastors and executive board members in the association, the Baughs said they decided to resign rather than "cause further polarization."

Associational Moderator Odis Weaver said he became involved in discussions with the Baughs upon the request of a group of pastors who wanted to resolve some common concerns.

"It was a culmination of some concerns that had been present for a good while," said Weaver, pastor of Rineyville Baptist Church. "I was simply asked as moderator to come in and hear the concerns that were going to be expressed."

However, Baugh said he was not previously aware of discontent within

the association.

Concerns reportedly included Baugh's relationship with pastors in the association and his leadership style.

However, a negative recommendation Baugh gave for a pastor seeking another position apparently brought the matter to a head.

By all accounts, no concerns were raised about Mrs. Baugh.

The moderator said he entered the discussions with "every personal hope it could be worked through positively" and was surprised at the resignations.

"There never was the intent to have a change in leadership," Weaver said. "It was just an attempt to bring out into the open some concerns and hopefully be able to work through them."

To portray the conflict as pastors versus the directors of missions is not accurate, Weaver added.

The Baughs served the association bivocationally, supporting themselves with income from their farm. In 1988, they were recognized by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for the association's ministries. Last year, they were honored by their peers in Kentucky.

The association's executive board is scheduled to meet Feb. 28 to assess the situation and lay plans for the future.

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

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God can make life 'simple'

What is the main force that drives our lives? After much thought about this, I came up with the word "simplicity."

It seems in all that we do, we seek to "make things simple." When we work, we try to find the "simplest" way to accomplish the goal. When we go on a trip, we take the "simplest" route. It seems we are always seeking the "path of least resistance" to make things "simple."

As I work, as I am sure you do, I put jobs in priority to lessen the stress and make life "simple."

Starting a new church is not simple. It may appear that way to those passing through our efforts here at Green Hills, but the dynamics and complexities of people's desires, re-

sources, personalities, maturities, feelings, expectations, etc. are phenomenal. The fact that "it works" is only a tribute to God's will. As we continue to grow in complexity while, at the same time, seeking simplicity, let us try to remember the "ultimate simplicity" of Christ. He is the only thing that

matters and the only truth that counts.

How can the simplicity of Christ be summed up? Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Jesus summed up his message when he said in Matthew 7:12, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

I hope you will consider the complexities in your life right now and allow these simple Scriptures to help

you find ultimate solutions with God's help. Only he can make it simple. God's grace is available.

*Larry Nobles, pastor
Green Hills Baptist Church
Fisherville*

Go to 'practice'

Someone walks up to you at work, school or home and says, "Let's go to church." What is the first thing that comes to your mind?

Do you get excited? Maybe you feel guilt or begin to make up excuses as to why you cannot fulfill the simple thing of going to church.

I have heard people say, "You can be a Christian and not go to church."

True, going to church does not save one, because Jesus is the only one that can save. You say, "I belong to the church, but I just don't get anything out of it."

Now you will have to admit that there is something wrong with this

kind of thinking or reasoning.

What if I belonged to the UK basketball team here in Kentucky. But I never went to any of the practices or attended the games at home or away.

However, when it came to the final game of the NCAA, I showed up and demanded that I start and play the whole game.

You say, "Well, that would be unfair to everyone on the team and to the fans for you to do that!" or "That is the most stupid thing that I have ever heard of."

If you have truly been born again, saved, you will not forsake the assembling of yourself with other believers for practice each Sunday morning and evening, Wednesday prayer and Bible study, so that you will be ready to get into the game of winning people to Jesus Christ each day and disciple other Christians. Let's go to church!

*Barry Harmon, pastor
Hopewell Baptist Church
Harrodsburg*

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

Heresy curbs

The trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have taken upon themselves the responsibility of Holy Spirit as the guide to which professors must look to understand and interpret the word of God. (WR, Feb. 11). The trustees and their "someones" are the guardians of God's word, and only through them can God's truth be revealed to anyone at South-

ern Seminary, especially professors. After all, they were selected by the infallible group now in control of the Southern Baptist Convention. If it were not so tragic, it would be funny.

Trustees should implement two additional strategies to curb heresy:

■ Dr. (Roy) Honeycutt should instruct all professors that should "someone" ask a question about which the professor is not sure of the trustee-inspired answer, the professor

must answer, "I respectfully refuse to answer on the grounds it might incriminate me." The response could be understood by trustees that the professor's understanding is contrary to that of the trustees. Obviously, the only thing to do is fire such an individual.

■ Prior to employment of future employees have each (from president to custodians) write and sign an undated letter of resignation. It might be wise to require this for trustees, in the

unlikely event of a dissenter. Such letters could be used to remove those incapable of understanding the "trustee-revealed truth." This would eliminate many time-consuming trustees' meetings.

When are rank and file Southern Baptists going to wake up to this tragedy which has been perpetrated on us? Every indication is never!

*Herbert Wilson
Louisville*

Keith Parks: A friend's perspective (Part II)

With the rapid expansion of the Southern Baptist overseas missionary family and the increasing complexities in foreign missions, it was inevitable that the administration of this missionary enterprise would change.

By 1968, the Foreign Mission Board reconfigured into "divisions" of work, reducing the number of staff to whom Dr. Baker James Cauthen would relate directly. This change marked a significant turn in the way the board would administer its work. It was the beginning of a greater relinquishment of decision-making from the top.

Dr. Cauthen and the board selected J. Winston Crawley to head the newly created overseas division, leaving open Crawley's post as director for Asia.

Asia then was divided into two areas—east and southeast. And the board turned to R. Keith Parks to become the director for Southeast Asia.

As I recall, home office staff were delighted by his selection. His two years in the personnel department had endeared him to many of the board's employees. Of course, Alice and I were excited about having these special friends back in Richmond.

Laboring alongside such experienced "old timers" as Frank Means and Cornell Goerner, Parks was the youngest area director. Even the "newer" area directors were almost 10 years older than he.

He had helped us develop the Journeyman program in 1965, providing a meaningful two-year overseas ministry for young adults. Time proved this

program a significant context for later calling into career missions.

These were "Camelot" years for some of us. Excitement in the denomination; the explosion of missionary vocations. No controversy in the SBC; foreign mission nights at the SBC were remarkable spiritual experiences; chapels were overflowing on missionary day in the seminaries. Keith Parks was very much a part of all of this.

Our families grew closer following the Parks' return to staff and prior to our calling overseas. They agonized with us in our decision to leave staff for mission service. My own sense of "rightness" about the decision grew stronger during long talks with Keith.

We were on the field just over a year before it became necessary to return for a second round of surgery for Shawn. During the four months we remained for the surgery, we stayed in one of the small apartments attached to the Foreign Mission Board Building. The Parks' home, a block away, proved a refuge for this family of three children under nine. Those were very difficult days for us; a "binding" developed in our family systems which, to this day, remains strong.

The '60s truly were the "kinder, gentler" years at the board. These older leaders were almost venerate by those of us in the "younger bunch." There was time for us; perhaps over coffee; over a game of "forty-two" at one of their homes. We savored their experience and wisdom.

I was never sure that Dr. Cauthen

ever realized how much some of us looked up to him. He carried a big load, but only rarely did he show it. On the few occasions he shared with us some deeper concerns, we loved him all the more. He had "let us in."

Sometimes there were difficult board meetings; like the time he and Dr. T.A. Patterson, the Texas executive secretary, got into it. It was the talk of the halls for a few days. But it passed. Even Dr. Cauthen had his critics; some very critical. He was unflinching when he believed he was right. But Cauthen was a "forgiving" man; a man of "grace" as his years at the board would demonstrate time and time again.

Whether or not Cauthen's predecessor, Dr. Theron Rankin, carried the personal charisma of Cauthen I cannot say. I never knew him. But I do know that Baker James Cauthen wore the "mantle of the office" with deep devotion and added even greater stature to the office itself.

Among the "younger bunch" on staff were two who radiated special promise. One was Jesse C. Fletcher, mission support division director and by then author of his first book, "Bill Wallace of China." The other was R. Keith Parks. It was not surprising to me when, years later, both of these men would be on the short list of the search committee for Dr. Cauthen's successor.

When in 1975 Fletcher resigned from the board, Dr. Cauthen urged Keith Parks to consider assuming Fletcher's position as mission support director.

In one sense, it was a lateral move. But it was a move away from the overseas context in which Parks had spent over 20 years. Cauthen judged that Parks' overseas experience would

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

New exclusion proposal will damage the SBC

The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee will lead the convention down a dangerous path if it pushes through a constitutional amendment to exclude churches on the basis of homosexuality.

(Make no mistake: This editorial is not about homosexuality. The principle of excluding churches for one specific cause is much larger than the particular cause itself.)

The Executive Committee last week assigned two subgroups the responsibility of preparing recommendations that would keep members of churches that in any way affirm homosexuality from being seated as messengers to the SBC annual meeting. An article on the committee's action begins on page 1 of this week's Recorder.

The proposal to exclude pro-homosexual churches stems from recent actions by two North Carolina congregations. One is considering blessing the union of two gay men. The other is deciding if it will license a gay man to the ministry.

Committee members who argued for exclusion quoted from the third article of the SBC constitution. It says messengers to the annual meeting may come from "each church which is in friendly cooperation with this convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the convention's work." They said a church that affirms homosexuality is not "sympathetic with" the convention's purposes.

The committee's attorney, Jim Guenther of Nashville, noted the convention historically has interpreted the policy solely in terms of financial contributions. Committee President Harold Bennett told a workgroup he has no knowledge of the convention ever refusing to seat messengers on other grounds.

Historical precedent may be an important factor, especially in determining the legality of any sudden changes that would affect this year's annual meeting. Lawsuits aside, a restrictive policy could have dire consequences for the future of the SBC.

This spring, the focal issue is homosexuality. Next fall, it may be abor-

tion. In a year, it could be any of a variety of issues Baptists commonly call sin.

The Apostle Paul covered a range of behavior: "Do you not realize that people who do evil will never inherit the kingdom of God? Make no mistake—the sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, the self-indulgent, sodomites, thieves, misers, drunkards, slanderers and swindlers, none of these will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

So, if the convention specifies one particular practice now, what will it do later? And where will it go from there? Will a church be excluded if some of its members are pro-choice on abortion? What about messengers from a church whose pastor is caught in adultery but not fired? Would a church be excluded if any members were known to drink alcohol? Or dance? What about sins of the tongue, such as gossiping and slandering? Would a church with a member convicted of tax evasion fail to have its messengers seated? The list goes on: What if a minister of music illegally photocopies the choir's anthems? And if a couple from the singles' department moves in together without a marriage license? It's a tougher call, but what about churches whose members value their BMWs more than their tithes, their country club more than their Sunday school—is this not idolatry?

"If we're going to insist on a pure convention," one Kentucky pastor noted, "nobody will be there."

He's right. None of us is without sin. It's just that some of our sins are more comfortable than others.

Jesus warned about naming other people's sins. Once, he said this is like trying to remove a splinter from another person's eye when you've got a log in your own eye. To the crowd who wanted to execute an adulteress, he said, "Let him who is without sin among you cast the first stone."

If Southern Baptists start throwing stones at sinful brothers and sisters, we'll be a bloody mess. We would do well to follow Jesus' example: Lovingly reconcile ourselves to one another and graciously exhort one another to good works.

Marv Knox

If Southern Baptists start throwing stones at sinful brothers and sisters, we'll be a bloody mess.

Tax plan would force churches to report to Uncle Sam

How would you like to be the subject of a conversation between your church and Uncle Sam?

That's exactly what would happen if President Bush's latest tax plan is approved by Congress.

If you give your church more than \$500 per year, your church would be forced to provide the Internal Revenue Service with your name, Social Security number, the amount of your tithe and the circumstances under which your gifts were made, reported Brent Walker, associate general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"Under existing law, churches and related organizations are exempted from filing annual reports," said Walker, whose organization represents nine Baptist denominations in Washington.

"This new proposal represents a drastic departure from long-standing practice and opens the door to destructive governmental intrusion into church affairs and unwholesome entanglement between church and state."

The government claims it needs the new power in order to verify tax

claims, but it wants to step beyond its bounds, Walker added.

"If the IRS questions a deduction in the course of auditing a taxpayer, it can legitimately ask the church to corroborate the claim," he noted. "But this across-the-board reporting requirement on churches violates a confidential relationship with church members and requires churches to be the unwitting instrument of tax enforcement against individual contributors."

Walker's warning is on target. The administration's proposal would provide the government with yet another entangling hook into the fabric of the church.

Nobody likes tax cheats, but your church is not the trap to catch them.

This proposal already is before tax-writing committees in both houses of Congress. You can register your views on the plan by writing your representative and senators. The address for representatives is: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20515. The address for senators is: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510.

Marv Knox

A proposed law would force your church to tell the government how much you give.

The smoke alarm blitzed out, but our house didn't go up in flames

The battery went bad in one of our smoke detectors. At 2:13 a.m. A smidgen past midnight. When most folks sleep.

"Thweep-thweep," the alarm chirped, declaring the end of its strength. "Thweep-thweep." Really annoying.

A sound-asleep person's first reaction when a smoke detector goes off in the middle of the night is to try to figure out what the devil is going on. In my case, I guessed I was dreaming and tried to roll over and dream again.

Joanna (as usual) had a firmer grasp on the obvious. She instantly deduced what was happening. I did, too, when she put her foot on the back of my thigh and pushed toward my side of the bed.

The second thing a formerly asleep person does when a detector thweeps in the wee hours is smell for smoke.

"That's it!" some just-awaking nerves way up my nostrils shouted.

"No, stupid!" a more-alert part of my nervous system reminded. "You really need to wash the dog."

Once my nose and brain agreed the house was smoke-free, the search for the errant detector began.

If memory serves me, we've got three smoke alarms in our house. While listening for the next thweep-thweep, I checked the girls' rooms. Since they weren't hanging from the ceiling by their little fingernails, I ruled out the detector

between their doors.

"Where are those other blasted alarms?" I wondered. "Thweep-thweep" sent me staggering down the hall.

I was standing by the stairs to the basement, trying to remember where those detectors were hung, when the next thweep-thweep blasted, about eight inches from my left ear.

That was my wake-up call. But the problem with being awake was that I remembered how scared the girls would be if they woke up and

thought the house was on fire. Panicked to keep them from panicking, I tore at the

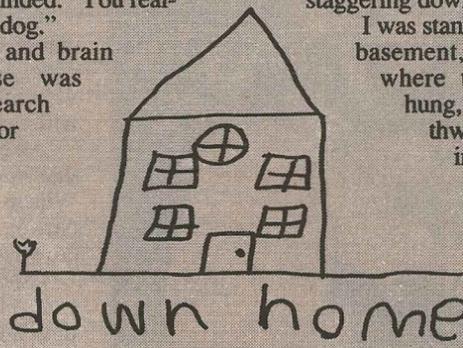
alarm.

"Thweep-thweep." The defiantly dying detector blew me a final razzberry, just before I yanked the old battery from its insides. No smoke, no flames; the only fire was in my heart, which had about equal parts blood and adrenaline.

"Crises never happen at convenient times," my friend Dan Martin often says. That's why smoke detectors go off in the middle of the night and you get the flu the day you absolutely can't miss work. Crises wouldn't be catastrophic if they happened when you could handle them.

To tell you the truth, I'm not sure what time I got back to sleep. But I think I finally nodded off right after I thanked the Lord the battery—and not our house—met its demise.

Marv Knox



EVANGELISM

KBC's top church in baptisms wore out baptistry

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

RADCLIFF—Mill Creek Baptist Church in Radcliff wore out its baptistry last year.

"We had water in our baptistry all the time," said James Shaw, pastor of the church which recorded the largest number of baptisms in the Kentucky Baptist Convention last year. "We had water in it so much, it wore out."

Mill Creek baptized 139 people last year—a dramatic increase from the 26 baptisms recorded the year before.

The reason, Shaw said, is not a program or plan but "a sovereign moving of the Spirit of God brought about by prayer and the preaching and application of God's word."

There has been no special emphasis on evangelism alone, Shaw said, just an emphasis on right relationships

with God. What resulted was not an evangelism program but "God's program," he added.

Evangelism became the byproduct of revival, Shaw said. "When the people of the church get right with the Lord, God draws people to that church."

"The real revival we've had in the last two years was the result of the church realizing that unless they had a fresh breath from the Lord, they were in real dire straits."

This turnaround should encourage other churches of all sizes and locations, Shaw explained. "We are a mile off the main highway. It says to me that God will bring a Holy Ghost revival to any church, anywhere if they are ready to receive it."

When Shaw was considering whether he should accept the call to serve the Mill Creek church, looking at the church statistics was not encour-

aging, he recalled. Yet he said he claimed the promise of Psalm 37:5—that God will bless those who commit their way to him.

During the time Shaw was dealing with the pastor search committee in 1990, the Mill Creek congregation was participating in Southern Baptists' nationwide "Here's Hope" revivals. The immediate results of that revival appeared disappointing, but the seeds sown blossomed later.

Shaw came as the church's pastor soon after the revival meeting, and 13 people made professions of faith on his first Sunday.

However, his arrival was not the cause of the revival that already had started, he confessed. Rather, it is the culmination of a series of events.

"Credit ought to be given to the previous pastor, Jim Dixon," he said. "So many times it is easy for us when we're in a harvest ministry to get all

the glory. I have to believe that some of the things he planted as spiritual seeds, I was able to come in and reap."

On top of that, the members of the congregation made themselves ready for spiritual renewal, he explained, and a competent staff assisted.

The greatest explanation for what people are calling the Mill Creek revival is that "people seriously sought the Lord," Shaw said. "Above all other things, the church was of one accord. I believe that is the key."

As the revival grew, it was not uncommon to hold baptismal services three times a week, Shaw said.

Area residents heard about what was going on and called on the church for spiritual guidance. During the height of preparation for the Persian Gulf War, soldiers from nearby Fort Knox often would call Shaw to say, "I'm going to Saudi in the morning, and I'm not saved. Could I come to your church and become a Christian?"

Shaw would call together members of the church for an impromptu worship and baptismal service.

And in Sunday morning worship, it became common to have 30- to 45-minute altar calls, he added. "People kept coming. The Lord impressed me not to stop with one or two verses, and then I noticed that most of the people came after the third verse. The Lord needs that time to work with them."

There has been no shortage of people in the congregation ready to respond to the gospel message, he said. "We claimed the second chapter of Acts that says when the church is the church, the Lord brings those who should be saved. We let the Lord lead our church and be in control of our church."

Top 10 churches in per capita baptisms

- 1 Sharpsburg (1:2)
- 2 Morning Star, Lexington (1:2.3)
- 3 Young's Chapel Missionary, Corbin (1:2.4)
- 4 Greater St. Paul, Mayfield (1:3.2)
- 5 Grove Center, Sturgis (1:3.3)
- 6 Macedonia Missionary (1:3.5)
- 7 Mount Eden, Shepherdsville (1:3.6)
- 8 Sinking Valley, Cannon (1:3.7)
- 9 Newtown, Pineville (1:3.8)
- 10 Shared among six churches with a 1:4 ratio: Hillview in Bowling Green, Glenwood in Eubank, Level Green in Corbin, New Hope Missionary in Elizabethtown, Cumberland in Somerset, East Marshall in Benton

Top 10 churches in total baptisms

- 1 Mill Creek, Radcliff, 139
- 2 Mount Zion, West Paducah, 132
- 3 Highview, Louisville, 124
- 4 Oneida, 101
- 5 Shared by Porter Memorial, Lexington, and Camp Pleasant, Frankfort, 89 each
- 7 Glendale, Bowling Green, 88
- 8 Rose Hill Missionary, Ashland, 73
- 9 First, Richmond, 71
- 10 Vine Grove, 69

Sinking Valley rises to top 10 with lay involvement

CANNON—Extensive lay involvement and weekly evangelistic visitation have been keys to the high baptism ratio achieved at Sinking Valley Baptist Church in Cannon, Pastor Vernon Morris said.

The rural church of 165 members baptized 45 converts last year, ranking eighth in per capita baptisms in the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Morris, a bivocational pastor who works full time in mining, said the church actually baptized more people than reported because the report had to be filed early and at least 13 others were baptized before the

church year ended.

"I don't hardly know how to explain it," Morris said. "About the only thing I can think of is I try to involve different people in the services. I try to involve everybody I can."

During the past year, 24 men from the church gathered for evangelistic visitation in teams of two every Tuesday night. The women of the church did the same thing on Thursday nights.

Further, Morris assigned each of the church's seven deacons responsibility for planning one week of a

seven-week evangelistic emphasis. "Each deacon was required to get at least one preacher and one group of singers from outside the church to come in," he explained. "Nobody else would know who was coming. It was a surprise."

"We probably had 20 to 30 baptisms in those seven weeks."

Morris said he also attempts to involve everyone he can in weekly worship—from the newest members to the oldest.

"We feel like if people come into the church and just sit there, they'll lose interest," he said.

Revivals draw the net, but other evangelism hooks needed

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Baptists who traditionally have used revival meetings to "draw the net" around evangelistic prospects are finding additional ways to be fishers of men.

Evangelism leaders are not willing to toss revival meetings overboard, but they acknowledge the need for new ways to reach non-Christians.

"In our complex society, revivals are just one evangelistic tool," says Richard Harris, mass evangelism director for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"Any pastor who uses revivals as his only evangelistic method is very unwise," Harris says. "Not to use revivals is equally unwise because they are proven evangelistic tools."

A key to attendance is giving a lot of church members a little bit of re-

sponsibility in revival preparation, Harris says. Members will come because they have made an investment in the services. Members will invite non-Christians if they believe the revival will meet their friends' needs.

But getting people to attend revival meetings may be most difficult in places where time is a limited resource.

Gene Wilson, director of missions in Calvary-Arrowhead Baptist Association near Los Angeles, says most workers in his area commute 90 minutes one way to the office and work at least 50 hours a week. They do not want to attend another meeting after work, he says.

Wilson says churches in his association have more success with "event evangelism" and with Christians developing witnessing relationships with non-Christians.

An example of "event evangelism" that has worked well in California, Wilson says, is neighborhood block parties. Music and food attract a crowd, and the gospel is shared.

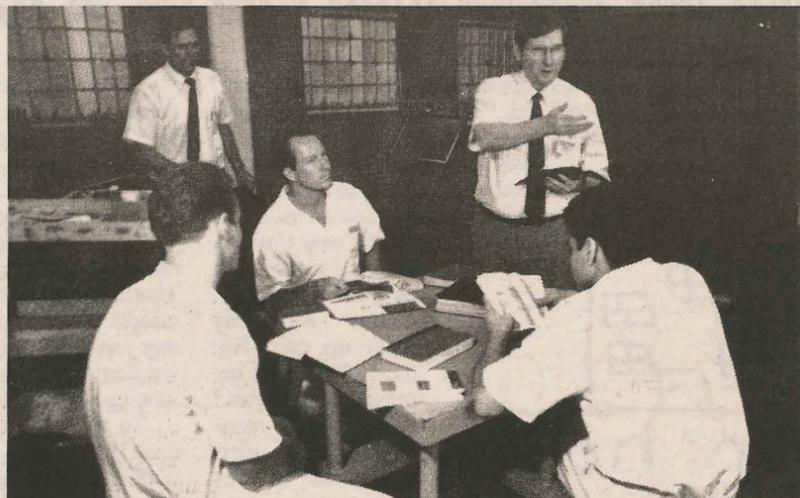
Other ministries frequently used in evangelism include seminars on families and money management, programs for youth after high school football games and Bible studies in the workplace.

Harris agrees revival meetings do not have to fit a stereotype: "We rec-

ommend that churches have two revivals a year but we don't mean they have to be two traditional revivals."

Whatever a church decides to do, preparation is the key, Harris says.

Every year, Southern Baptist churches hold more than 50,000 revival meetings that last four days or more. "A lot of those should never be conducted because people aren't prepared," he explains. "They have a bad experience and say they will never do that again."



PRISON EVANGELISM Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis leads a Bible study for inmates on death row in Texas. Standing at left is Chaplain Alex Taylor. Prison ministry is one of many evangelistic tools the HMB encourages churches to use in addition to traditional revivals. (BP photo by Ken Touchton)

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

In Espirito Santo, Brazil

Construction/Evangelism

April 30 - May 13, 1992

12 volunteers needed

English Teaching

May 25 - July 1, 1992

5 volunteers needed

KENTUCKY

If available contact:

Calvin C. Wilkins,
Partnership Coordinator
KBC 502-244-6462/245-4101

MISSIONS

Kentucky's language needs typical of offering's role

By Steve Barber
SBC Brotherhood Commission

LOUISVILLE—Tony Aja has needs only Southern Baptists can meet.

Many of those needs could be met with a higher level of giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, said Aja, a Southern Baptist home missionary who is a part-time ethnic/language consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"I would invest any additional money in social ministries," Aja said. "We're dealing with a lot of migrants and refugees, like Vietnamese, Cambodians, Hmong, Laotians and others, and we'd like to have a center for them in Louisville that would provide a lot more than just spiritual help.

"We need to be holistic in our approach to ministry by helping meet both their human and spiritual needs. They can see Christ in us when we help them in this way."

The 1992 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal is \$41 million. Since

1895, the offering has served as a source of funding for Southern Baptists' home missions ministries.

"I see the Annie Armstrong offering as part of the package—along with the Cooperative Program—that allows me to be a missionary," Aja said. "I simply would not be here without the offering."

Aja is one of more than 4,500 home missionaries attempting to extend the gospel in a nation where more people are not Christian than are Christians. The latest figures from the Home Mission Board's research department in Atlanta indicate that of 252 million Americans, 173 million do not profess a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"Alarming statistics tell us that millions of Americans have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ," said Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's

Missionary Union. "To me, that news is devastating, but not hopeless. If we pray and give as never before, miracles can happen across our land."

O'Brien added that Southern Baptists should look at the offering and the Week of Prayer for Home Missions as "a time for extravagance."

CLOSE TO HOME

Week of Prayer for Home Missions

"In this day and time, it seems we are already living up to this concept—fancy homes, fine cars, designer clothes," O'Brien said.

"However, as Christians, we need to focus on another kind of extravagance—extravagant praying and extravagant giving."

HMB President Larry Lewis echoed the theme of "giving extravagantly" in light of the need and the urgency of reaching the nation for Christ.

"At a time when the opportunity to proclaim 'Christ for our nation' has never been greater, last year for the first time since 1970, Southern Bap-

tists gave less to support home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering than we did the previous year," Lewis said.

"We need to make up this decrease with sacrificial, even extravagant giving, to home missions.

"Our goal is to start 1,500 new congregations each year by the end of the year 2000," he continued. "It cannot be done unless Southern Baptists respond with financial support."

James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, urged the men and boys of local churches to redouble their efforts in publicizing, praying for and giving to home missions.

"Supporting missions through praying and giving is as much a part of our Brotherhood age-level programs as direct mission action," Williams said. "Praying and giving are absolutely essential.

"Time is short, and the needs are so very great. But we can achieve it in God's mighty power and marvelous provision."

The Week of Prayer for Home Missions is March 1-8. The goal for this year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$41 million.

Miguez scores points with kids through sports in inner city

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

NEW ORLEANS—"When are you leaving?"

The question was more of an accusation than a search for information.

Having witnessed parades of people walk in and out of their lives, children in downtown New Orleans asked Larry Miguez when he was leaving in practically the same breath they said hello.

To their surprise, the home missionary has stayed for 17 years.

Miguez, director of the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Orleans, encountered the inner city as a student intern from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He graduated from the seminary but not the city.



Today, he is one of 4,922 Southern Baptist missionaries supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the cooperative mission gifts of churches nationwide.

The native of Port Arthur, Texas, says his community is typical of any mission with a downtown zip code.

More than 56,000 people representing 19 ethnic groups live in the seven blocks between the mission and the Mississippi River. The mission is four blocks from the second-largest housing project in the city. High school dropouts, illiteracy, poverty, crime and drug abuse are everyday problems.

Rather than retreating to the suburbs at the end of every work day, Miguez lives within a block of the mission.

"My idea of ministry is that it's not over at nine when you close the doors," Miguez says.

Miguez is the legal guardian for three boys from the community, including one who has lived with him for 11 years.

One of the boys staying with Miguez is a high school senior. His mother has been in jail for murder. Last fall, four of his brothers were incarcerated. He will be the first in his family to graduate from high school.

"We have a good group of young people who come to the mission," Miguez says. "Most of them make an attempt to get out of this environment, but it's very, very hard to change when you're living in a bad situation."

It also can be hard to be upbeat. "I just can't dwell on the magnitude of the problems," Miguez says. "There are too many needs and problems to think about it continuously."

Weekday programs for preschoolers through senior adults and church services on Sunday are available at the 42-year-old mission center. But by far the most popular activities are youth sports.

Softball, volleyball, basketball and track are the center's drawing cards. "When the sports programs are going, it can double our Bible study attendance," Miguez says.

The mission does not have a gym, so the weather sets the sports schedule.

While Miguez is indebted to Southern Baptists for their financial support, he says prayer enables him to stay in the inner city.

"I would have been out a long time ago without prayer support," he says. "If you want to be extra extravagant in mission support, pray another five minutes every day for your missionaries."



24-HOUR MISSIONARY Larry Miguez, director of the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission in New Orleans, surprised children in the mission's neighborhood when he moved into their community and stayed. Miguez says his idea of ministry is that "it's not over at nine when you close the doors." Here, he visits with teen-agers on the porch of a neighborhood house. (HMB photo by Paul Obregon)

Offering meets needs at home

Continued from page 1
istries by state conventions.

The result is the cooperative agreement, a document negotiated annually between the HMB and all 37 state conventions and four fellowships.

Among other things, cooperative agreements outline the financial support for missionaries in each state. For example, Kentucky's cooperative agreement for 1992 stipulates that home missions efforts in Kentucky will be supported 60 percent by the state convention and 40 percent by the HMB.

In states where Southern Baptist work is not as strong as it is in Kentucky, the HMB provides a greater percentage of support. For example, in New York the ratio of support is 6 percent from the state convention and

94 percent from the HMB.

Greater Annie Armstrong gifts from stronger state conventions help support weaker state conventions where money for statewide projects is more scarce.

Home missionaries serve in one of four categories: appointed, approved, Mission Service Corps and state administrative personnel.

In 1991, Kentucky had 24 career home missionaries. The state had 28 approved missionaries, a category for those who serve a limited amount of time. Four people on the KBC's state staff serve as home missionaries.

Additionally, nine Mission Service Corps volunteers work in Kentucky. Mission Service Corps is a national program for volunteers who serve one year or more.

This year it will cost \$161 per minute to fund the ministries of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

PEOPLE

Volunteers are needed to provide leadership for struggling churches and to assist in starting missions in 32 areas.

Volunteers needed for partnership with Ohio

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

If Kentucky Baptists could just see the needs for ministry in Ohio, Henry Johns is certain they would be willing to meet them.

Johns, Ohio's mission partnership coordinator, describes Ohio as one of the great mission fields of the world.

"Kentucky has a Baptist church for every 1,500 people in the state, while Ohio has a Baptist church for every 21,000 people," Johns said. "We need to generate more personnel exchange to provide more support for struggling Ohio churches, and to help them become self-supporting."

"Some existing churches are barely surviving. Some retired and bivocational pastors are serving without pay. These struggling churches need encouragement and hope. If we can get Kentucky people just to visit these situations ... the blessings will flow in both directions."

The most urgent need is for people, he said. Volunteers are needed to provide strong leadership to small

struggling churches and to assist in starting missions in 32 pioneer areas.

Kentucky has been engaged in a five-year partnership with Ohio Baptists since 1990. This is the third official effort to pair Kentucky's resources with Ohio's needs.

Current goals are to help start 10 new missions and help strengthen 50 existing churches or missions in Ohio each year. However, these goals require the help of willing volunteers, Johns said.

"The needs in Ohio are great, but until volunteers go and see these needs, they will not have a vision of the work that is to be done," said Calvin Wilkins, partnership missions coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Kentucky and Ohio long have participated in a natural partnership, stemming from the organization of the first Southern Baptist church in Ohio in 1931.

The opportunities are varied and plentiful, Wilkins said, and the need is great for Kentucky churches to co-sponsor Baptist work in Ohio.

But there also are many benefits to mission work, he said. While giving pastors and leaders in Ohio added hope and encouragement, "Kentuckians often develop a deeper appreciation for the ministry of their home churches. Participating in a partnership venture puts a new spark into the life of host churches as awareness of mission needs increases."

Charles Vochatzer, youth minister at First Baptist Church in Leitchfield, took a group of 13 last year to Zanesville, Ohio, for a week. During this time the group assisted in construction of an educational facility and also conducted backyard Bible clubs and surveys in the community.

Besides having their eyes opened to the non-traditional and experiencing a first-hand look at church work in a pioneer area, Vochatzer said the greatest benefit was that "seeing the dedication of the Ohioans sparked a renewal of our own commitment."

For more information about how to become involved in the Kentucky-Ohio partnership, contact Wilkins at the KBC, (502) 244-6462.

Ben Baird retires from Hazard church

HAZARD—Ben Baird retired as pastor of First Baptist Church in Hazard Feb. 23, concluding 42 years of pastoral ministry.

The church honored Baird and his wife, Velma, throughout the month. The celebration concluded Feb. 23 with a high attendance day in Sunday school and special worship service.

Baird has served the Hazard church since 1984. During that time, the church has baptized 150 people, as well as made significant gains in Sunday school attendance, church membership and missions giving.

Baird also led the church to renovate their educational facilities and expand their ministries. The church currently has a jail ministry, a homebound ministry, a ministry to families and a ministry to people in crisis.

"We set out to create a more caring fellowship," Baird explained. "Not only to care about one another, but also to care about the larger community, to care about hurting people, regardless of who they are or whose fault it is."

The Bairds have served Kentucky churches for 24 years. They also served churches in Tennessee for 15 years and in Virginia for two years. In retirement, the Bairds will live in London.

Scripture now available in 1,978 of world's languages

During 1991, the number of languages in which at least one book of the Bible has been translated rose to 1,978, according to the United Bible Societies.

Thirty-two new languages received at least one book of the Bible during 1991, the largest one-year increase since 1987. The number of lan-

guages with complete Bibles increased to 322, with the addition of two languages from Zaire, one from Guatemala and one from Yugoslavia.

More than 80 percent of the world's population has access to at least a portion of the Bible in a language they can understand. But illiteracy, geographical isolation, political

and social problems and the difficulty of grasping meaning in a language other than one's mother tongue makes this figure misleading, the American Bible Society reported.

There are between 3,000 and 6,000 known languages in the world. The United Bible Societies currently are involved in 608 language projects.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Twenty-two 15' pews; one 18' pew; one 12' pew. All pews are fully upholstered; we are asking \$175 each or you may make an offer. Any sale must be approved by White Lick Baptist Church. Call 925-4641 or 925-3641. 2-25-3T

PAPERBACK: *Education and Common Sense*. 128 pages. \$8 postpaid. June Baxter Rice, Rt. 87, Box 900, Paintsville, Ky. 41240. 2-25-1T

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The Birthday Fund

Remember how it was to have a birthday party as a kid? You were the center of attention for one whole day. Maybe as a teen-ager you got together with friends and just enjoyed having fun in the company of people who cared that you were alive. Chances are birthdays were a fun and happy time when you knew you were loved.

There are children who never have experienced a birthday party or had others gather to celebrate their special day. For some, birthdays were lonely days when the realization that things hadn't changed hit hard. Even for those who have families who celebrated with them, there are painful reminders that, for whatever reasons, that may not be possible this year.

During the month of February, the Women's Advisory Board of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children encourages Kentucky Baptists who would like to support the ministries of our agency to contribute whatever they can to a birthday fund for children in our temporary shelters, campus children and the Baptist Youth Ranch. Our goal is to raise \$15 for each child. The

fund must raise \$2,250 to provide each of our children with a celebration of his or her birthday.

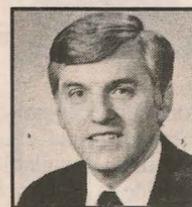
The birthday fund allows churches and individuals a way to reach the children through the year and provides a convenient way to bring happiness and love to one child on one day of the year. By participating, you can say to a child, "You are special. I am glad you are alive."

With your help, we can show each child that he is important. This year when our children blow out the candles, we want them to see that they have not been forgotten. We want to mark the day as a significant achievement and a cause for celebration.

Each child who comes to us grows in many ways from year to year because you care for them. Your gift will provide an opportunity for a child to dare to make a wish as he or she blows out the candles and looks forward to another year of growth.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

White House wants churches to report gifts to IRS

By Larry Chesser
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Bush administration wants to require churches and other tax-exempt organizations to report to the Internal Revenue Service the charitable contributions of donors who give more than \$500 annually.

The proposal, part of the administration's fiscal 1993 budget plan, is aimed at helping IRS catch taxpayers who inflate the amount of their deductible contributions.

Both the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission

oppose the plan.

"It is yet another ill-informed attempt of government officials who apparently have no depth of understanding regarding the dangers of church-state entanglement," said James Dunn, executive director of the Joint Committee. "It is more serious than a superficial reading would indicate because it represents a recurring pattern of willingness to use the churches for government's purposes. It is none of the business of religion to be a government agent."

Existing law requires most tax-exempt organizations that receive tax-deductible contributions to file annual reports (Form 990) identifying donors

who give \$5,000 or more in one year. Churches and their related organizations have been exempt from this requirement.

"That's the way it should be," said Brent Walker, associate general counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee. "This proposal opens the door even more for government to intrude into religious affairs and would result in unwholesome church-state entanglements."

Walker said the proposed reporting requirements, which the administration wants in place by July 1, also would create a record-keeping nightmare for churches.

"It would be awfully burdensome

for big and small churches alike," Walker said. "Any member who gives as little as \$10 a week will hit the \$500 figure. Multiply that by the millions of church members and you've got a monumental mass of red tape."

The administration's proposal would require churches and other tax-exempt organizations to determine whether the amount is potentially deductible as a charitable gift or whether it is non-deductible because it was received for goods and services—a requirement Walker said could put churches in a "dubious position."

According to the Treasury Department, the proposal is designed to remedy the problem IRS has in distinguishing between gifts to charities and payments to charities for goods and services, such as admission to entertainment events or purchases made at charity auctions.

Charities with annual gross receipts of less than \$25,000 would be exempt from the reporting requirements. The Treasury Department indicated IRS likely would revise its tax forms to require separate rather than aggregate reporting of charitable gifts.

The administration estimates the change would save the federal treasury \$100 million annually through 1996 and recover \$200 million in 1997. The administration would use the savings to offset the amounts it would lose in providing more favorable tax treatment for gifts of appreciated property and gifts by multinational corporations to charities.

The House Ways and Means Committee was to begin taking action on the administration's tax proposals Feb. 12. The Senate Finance Committee was to take up the proposals Feb. 25.

The proposal would require churches to report to the IRS charitable contributions of donors who give more than \$500 annually.

Expenses paid by churches could trip up ministers

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Ministers should be reminded of recent changes in U.S. tax laws that affect how they report expense allowances, advises Don Spencer.

Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Annuity Department, said although the changes are not new this year they still may not be understood.

The bottom line is this, he said: Expenses paid through an allowance or a non-accountable reimbursement arrangement are considered taxable income to a minister.

For example, if a church gives the pastor \$500 annually to purchase books regardless of how much he actually spends on books, that \$500 is taxable.

Even though such reimbursed ex-

penses are deductible, much of the deduction often is lost due to the way the tax forms are structured, he said. "Most ministers receiving expense allowances will have a tax liability on some of their expense money, and many ministers will pay taxes on the entire amount of expense allowance."

The best way to avoid this problem is to change the way churches pay ministers for ministry-related expenses, Spencer said. He advises churches to set up accountable reimbursement plans.

"If a minister accounts for all ministry-related mileage and other expenses and is reimbursed for actual expenses only, it is not necessary to report those amounts on one's tax return," he said.

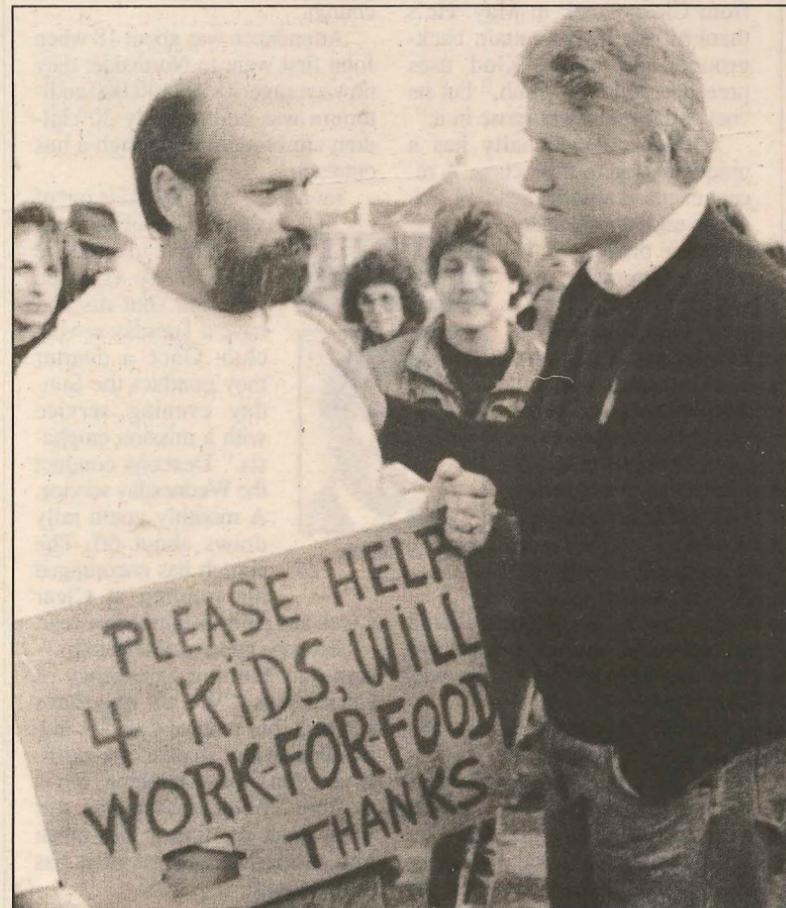
Further, if a church pays the standard mileage rate used by the IRS,

ministers are not required to calculate actual automobile expenses.

"An added benefit of a valid accountable reimbursement plan is the church's ability to see a true picture of the minister's cost to do the work of ministry," Spencer explained. "Too often, a church simply views the amounts allocated for expenses as part of a pay package."

"Ministry-related expenses should never be considered personal income," he emphasized. "They should be viewed as reimbursement for the cost incurred to perform one's ministry for the church."

Churches should consider reimbursing expenses in at least five categories, Spencer said: travel; conventions; conferences and continuing education; books, tapes and periodicals; and hospitality if appropriate.



MONEY TALKS Hard economic times and concern about taxes are major themes facing candidates in this year's presidential elections. Democratic contender Bill Clinton of Arkansas confronts Brian Burgoyne holding a sign indicating hard times in New Hampshire, site of the first presidential primary last week. (RNS photo)

Tax on property gifts under review

By Larry Chesser
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Some members of Congress and the Bush administration want to make it more attractive for Americans to donate gifts of appreciated property to charitable institutions.

They have proposed to do that by striking a 1986 tax provision that subjected donors of appreciated property to the alternative minimum tax. Appreciated property includes real estate, stocks and tangible items such as art and collectibles whose value rose after being acquired.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 subjected the appreciated portion of charitable gifts to the alternative minimum tax, a change that precipitated a decline in large gifts to universities, hospitals, museums and other charitable organizations.

But in 1991, after Congress temporarily exempted donations of tangible gifts such as artwork from the alternative minimum tax, gifts in this category skyrocketed.

In a Feb. 10 hearing, representatives of educational, arts and other charitable organizations asked the House Ways and Means Committee to make the exemption permanent and expand it to include all gifts of appreciated property.

Legislation to provide a permanent exclusion for all types of appreciated property has been sponsored by a bipartisan group of senators and representatives. Additionally, President George Bush's 1993 budget proposal also would exempt donations of appreciated property from the minimum tax.

The decline in large gifts due to the 1986 tax law change cuts across all types on charitable organizations, including Baptist institutions.

Houston businessman John Baugh, a member of the Baylor University board of regents, said the Texas Baptist institution is among many experiencing a decline in gifts because of the 1986 tax law. Baugh said he is aware of millions of dollars in gifts Baylor would receive if donors were able to make the contributions without being subject to the alternative minimum tax.

Baugh's description of Baylor's experience is typical of universities throughout the country, as testimony on behalf the American Council on Education before the House tax-writing panel showed.

Congressional taxwriters are just beginning the process of drafting a tax bill they hope to have on the president's desk by the March 20 deadline Bush set in his State of the Union address.

SPEAK OUT

Contact Kentucky legislators by calling (202) 224-3121 or the White House by calling (202) 456-1111. ZIP Code for the House of Representatives is 20515 and for the Senate is 20510.

The proposal would delete taxation of the appreciated portion of charitable gifts such as real estate, art and collectibles.

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Louisville remains the largest metropolitan area in Kentucky, but experienced a decrease in population over the past 10 years, according to data from the 1990 Census. The Louisville metropolitan statistical area (composed of seven counties) is home to 952,662 people, a 0.4 percent decrease from 1980. The metropolitan area showing the largest population gain in the 1990 Census was the Hopkinsville region, which registered a 12.8 percent increase for a total population of 169,439 in Christian County, Ky., and Montgomery County, Tenn.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **CAMBELLSVILLE**—Robinson Creek Church called **Herman Wilkins** as pastor.
 ■ **CLEARFIELD**—Clearfield Mission called **H.G. Pratt** as pastor. **Bert McBrayer** served as interim.
 ■ **CYNTHIANA**—Cynthia Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary July 12. Former staff members are asked to contact the church for detailed information by calling (606) 234-1575 collect.
 ■ **EDMONTON**—East Fork Church called **Lindel Shirley** as pastor.
Paul Hawkins is serving Price's Creek Church as pastor.
 ■ **FORDSVILLE**—Funeral services were held Feb. 8 for **Henry Hylton**, pastor of Friendship Church since 1977. He was born in Breckinridge County and also served Macedonia Church in Vanzant. He is survived by his wife, Viola, 10 children, 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Workers sought in two new work areas

Baptists in two new work areas of the United States are seeking Kentuckians to assist in their ministries. **Brent Ryland**, a home missionary serving Calvary Baptist Church in Keene, N.H., seeks people to serve alongside his family to help start a cell-group church. Volunteers must find their own means of support.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred, and two daughters.
 ■ **FRANKFORT**—**Ernest White** is interim pastor of Immanuel Church. Westview Church called **Thomas Sparks** as pastor. He comes from First Church, Bellebrook, Ohio.
 ■ **MT. STERLING**—**Raymond Smith**, former pastor of Kiddville Church, died Jan. 23 at age 87. He was born in Green County and served churches in Kentucky and Tennessee. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen, four children and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
 ■ **STANFORD**—**Todd Toole** is pastor of Stanford Church. He previously served Great Crossing Church in Georgetown.
 ■ **SUMMERSVILLE**—**Kenneth Kerr** is pastor at Allendale Missionary Church.

For information, contact Ryland at Box 45, Keene, N.H. 03431. Treasure Valley Baptist Association and Magic Valley Baptist Association in Idaho are seeking a director of missions to serve both associations. Resumes should be sent by March 31 to Calvary Baptist Church, 911 S. Cole Rd., Boise, Idaho 83709.

FMB appoints Buffalo couple missionaries

RICHMOND, Va.—Kenneth and Tammy Cummins were among 17 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Feb. 11 at Cool Spring Baptist Church in Mechanicsville, Va.

Cummins currently is pastor of Buffalo Baptist Church in Buffalo. He and his family will serve in Honduras starting and developing churches.

Cummins is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Cummins of Princeton. He considers Eddy Creek Baptist Church there his home church.

He received the bachelor of arts

degree from Murray State University and the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Cummins previously served as pastor of Woodburn Baptist Church in Woodburn and as general manager of WCVK Christian radio in Bowling Green.

Mrs. Cummins is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Girten of Morganfield. She also earned the

bachelor of arts degree from Murray State University.

The family will go to Rockville, Va., in April for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.



Historical Commission seeks entries

NASHVILLE—A Baptist history writing contest is being sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Historical Commission in preparation for the SBC's 150th anniversary in 1995.

First-place winners in four categories will receive \$200.

The categories are: (1) books dealing with the history of Southern Baptist institutions, people, issues and events; (2) histories of local churches

and associations; (3) unpublished manuscripts on the topic "The Spirit of Southern Baptists, 1845-1995"; (4) unpublished manuscripts by professional historians on the same topic as category three.

For an entry form or additional information, write to the Historical Commission at 901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville, Tenn. 37203-3630.

Oneida Mountaineers are champions in God's sight

Dan Davidson attended all his school years on the Oneida campus, graduating in the class of 1956. His stepmother, "Miss Imy," taught here 14 years and was a wonderful teacher, one of my favorites as an OBI schoolboy. During some of those years, Dan's father was the elected sheriff of Clay County.

Dan recently was featured on the nationally televised program "Top Cops" about one of his cases while a state policeman in Harlan.

I was a schoolmate of Dan's and was the manager of our Mountaineer basketball team Dan's senior year. Dan played forward, his number was 00, his nickname was "Warrior" and the 1956 yearbook prophecy saw him as a state policeman which he became. He received many commendations and national attention during his years of service, but remains the same humble man we knew as a teen-ager. Retired, he works privately as a detective and as a security consultant.

It was wonderful to receive the following letter from him recently: "I attended Oneida's basketball game in Rupp Arena on Feb. 5. I was so proud of the basketball team and the student body. I was very impressed with the talent of the team. I really liked the way they handled the ball and their unselfish attitude. Just a few breaks from the officials could have made the outcome different. The team certainly does not have anything to be ashamed of. As a matter of fact, they should be very proud that they have accomplished what they have."

"The conduct of the student body was outstanding. They were all real good sports. I was proud to tell my friend that attended the game with me that Oneida was my school."

Another significant letter that recently came to us reads: "I just wanted to drop this note thanking you for the opportunity of presenting the domestic and family violence/sexual abuse classes

to Mrs. Stidham's family living skills groups, and getting to know what Oneida is all about. The counselor with me was also impressed with what she saw. Mrs. Stidham's students were, without exception, very attentive and respectful and asked pertinent questions. Working with both private and public schools, I find myself amazed at the ability of a small, privately operated school to offer families and students a different approach to education. I have heard for years about Oneida, but I will now be in a much more favorable frame of mind. I plan on telling others that I was impressed with what I saw.

"By the way, the two of us sneaked in on your choir rehearsal. I was very impressed by their sound. It is seldom one hears a high school choir with such depth."

An Owensboro supporter sending \$324 writes: "The enclosed check represents income from my extra job for the months of December and January. I've dedicated all the income from this extra job to the work of Oneida."

A pastor writes: "Our church appreciates the work Oneida is doing. The members who came to visit were very impressed. Enclosed is a love gift we collected last Sunday. Perhaps the comments heard most often by those who made the visit were, 'They really make every penny count!' and 'God is using that place to change lives.'"

In the days after our trip to the state tourney, five of our staff and 50 of our students were moved to write letters to me. One, on scholarship with us for five years and nearing graduation, wrote: "I want to sincerely thank the people who made our trip to the All A Classic at Rupp Arena possible. We really enjoyed it and appreciate all the hard work that was done to prepare us for going to state. We did lose but we are champions in God's sight."

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Coal-mining preacher's time not wasted

"Daddy, you're not a preacher," 5-year-old Kim Gibbons told her father after hearing his first sermon. "You don't say 'huh' when you preach."

Fourteen years have elapsed and John Gibbons will graduate from Clear Creek in May. He's thankful for his mountain background and knows God uses preachers who say "huh," but he "never did see any purpose in it."

Gibbons occasionally has a unique reason to miss class. A recent excused absence read, "I was a mile underground and the cable broke." He is mine foreman for Gatliff Coal Co. Nineteen years in the mines have given him the first stages of black lung but also unique opportunities for witness.

A supervisor asked him to go fishing and Gibbons responded, "I'll go if you'll come to church." The man did and later became a Christian. A section mechanic talked with John about the Lord and the following Sunday was saved.

Bivocational ministry has mixed joy and stress. The company has been considerate to let him off for funerals, but five days a week he leaves for work at 1:30 in the afternoon and gets home for sleep about 1:30 a.m. His crew often works three or four miles underground and in a 40-inch shaft. "Sometimes I get a little sleep in

class," John said with a smile.

Northside Baptist Church in Middlesboro called John as pastor soon after his surrender to the ministry. He has been with them 10 years, the result of two calls separated by four years in another church.

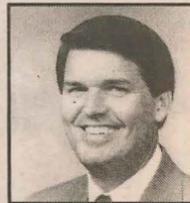
Attendance was about 18 when John first went to Northside; they now average 70. A \$140,000 auditorium was built. Nearly 30 children are brought in through a bus outreach.

John said, "Our WMU is out of sight. Without them we might have to close the doors. They visit the sick and shut-ins and have a Tuesday sewing club. Once a quarter they conduct the Sunday evening service with a mission emphasis." Deacons conduct the Wednesday service. A monthly youth rally draws about 60. The church has encouraged his training at Clear Creek and paid his tuition last year.

Gibbons appreciates the fellowship and learning experience of Clear Creek. "We not only have teachers, but men of God. I came to enhance and sharpen my skills. If you don't learn anything, life is wasted." Some classmates kid John about the time it has taken him to graduate. None of it has been wasted.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Paid Column

Church sees possibilities in transitional community

By David Wilkinson
Southern Seminary

ARLINGTON, Va. (BP)—On a wintry Sunday, three-congregations-in-one at First Baptist Church of Clarendon read Scripture and voice their gratitude in song and prayer—in three languages.

Once a quarter, deacons and pastors of Clarendon's Anglo, Hispanic and Vietnamese congregations lead a joint worship service highlighted by baptism and the Lord's Supper.

At the center of a 2.5-mile stretch of mushrooming commercial development, the Clarendon community struggles to make a comeback. Once among Washington, D.C.'s premier commercial districts, Clarendon tumbled into decline in the early 1960s. By 1970, the community was left for dead, its abandoned buildings casting ghostly shadows on what had been the proud downtown of a northern Virginia suburb.

Two decades later, Clarendon hopes to transform itself into a thriving urban village with an attractive blend of residential and commercial redevelopment.

For First Baptist Church of Clarendon, the seismic changes in the surrounding landscape have created a formidable challenge. Within a three-mile radius of the church lives a diverse and fluctuating population mix of hard-to-reach young professionals, senior adult residents, homeless people and a variety of ethnic groups.

The congregation operates with limited financial resources, the result of dramatic losses in membership in the wake of community transition. Membership peaked at 1,700 in the heydays of the 1950s and early 1960s. By the mid-1980s, however, the congregation had dwindled to fewer than 250 people dotting the 700-seat sanctuary for Sunday worship.

Pastor Timothy Townsend, 50, a

third-generation Southern Baptist minister, understands the problems facing the church. He came to Clarendon in 1986 with his eyes open to the realities—and the possibilities.

A lanky 6-footer, Townsend has an engaging smile and a relaxed style that puts new acquaintances at ease.

Although redevelopment will add new residents, "these are not people who move in and then show up for church the next Sunday," Townsend explains. "Most of them come from unchurched or non-Baptist backgrounds. They are secular and very hard to reach. Even so, you'd be surprised by how many show up on Sunday. I think that says people are searching for meaning."

To meet those needs, the church has created a strategic plan for evangelism, discipleship, worship and community ministries that analyzes the community and assesses the church's strengths and weaknesses. One strength is Clarendon's large, debt-free facility, and the church is determined to make maximum use of every square foot. The building is alive with activity seven days a week, much of it generated by the two growing language congregations.

When pastor Reyes Rodriguez came in 1983, the Hispanic congregation was a small, 24-member mission. Since then, membership has more than tripled, and about 130 people pack Clarendon's chapel each Sunday. In 1989, after 24 years as a mission, the congregation was constituted as the first Spanish-speaking Baptist church in Virginia.

The Vietnamese congregation meets on the third floor, using the same space for Sunday school and worship.

Pastor Peter Nguyen, a diminutive, soft-spoken father of four, came to the United States in 1975 after working in the American embassy in Vietnam. Like Rodriguez, Nguyen is grateful

for the "wonderful spirit" among the three Clarendon congregations.

"To me, this is the way older churches in many urban areas can be reborn," Townsend says. "In a sense, it's church-starting with a different twist. Our church could never afford to start a mission at another location in this area, but we can help support two language missions right here in our own facilities.

"I'm convinced this is something we're going to have to face as Southern Baptists," he continues. "Do we start churches only in new areas where there is population growth or do we find ways to help churches in urban areas in the midst of transitional communities?"

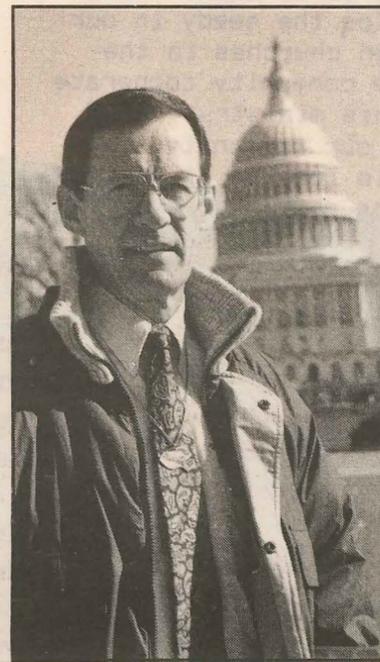
In its own changing neighborhood, Clarendon plans creative approaches to evangelism among an anticipated influx of young professionals. These include an expanded emphasis on young adult ministries, changes in worship style and plans for Bible studies in residences of church members in highrises.

At the same time, the church plans to continue ministries ranging from food distribution to child care. Every week, a coalition of church volunteers bag and distribute nearly 200 sacks of groceries to families referred by social service agencies. They also drive and make telephone calls for a program that delivers emergency food kits. Five days a week, the church provides sack lunches for homeless people. Each morning, rows of brown paper sack lunches line the counter in the church office, ready for distribution. Each Saturday morning, a clothing center located in the church distributes items to the needy.

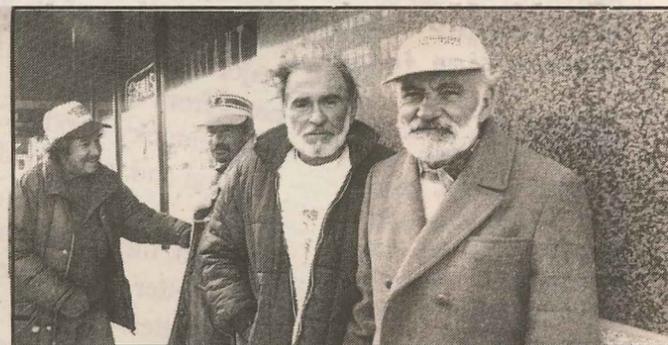
Another avenue of ministry at Clarendon has been the Child Development Center, a virtual United Nations of children. Begun 22 years ago, the day-care program provides for 142 children representing 25 nations and a

variety of cultures and religions.

Although Christian in philosophy and practice, the center pressures no one to join the church. "These children are going to remember some songs and stories they learned here," says Caron Clark, a former public schoolteacher and a seminary graduate. "We may not be the ones who see the results, but we're responsible for planting the seeds."



RENEWAL Pastor Tim Townsend (left) sees many possibilities for rejuvenating First Baptist Church of Clarendon, Va., through multiple ministries. One ministry offers food, clothing and shelter to the homeless. (BP photos by Paul Obregon)



Plan schedules ministry for time-conscious churchgoers

By Rebecca Carr
Missouri Word & Way

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)—Priscilla Cohoon's first encounter with Good Shepherd Ministries at Second Baptist Church in Liberty came in the form of a question: "Does your lawn need to be mowed?"

Indeed, Mrs. Cohoon's lawn needed mowing. Her husband was dying with cancer and she had been busy caring for their two young children.

The lawn mowing helped initiate a relationship Mrs. Cohoon described as a "life rope" which carried her through the period surrounding her husband's death last July. In addition to lawn care, Good Shepherd volunteers telephoned the Cohoons each week to offer support and assistance. Church members sat with her husband during his final weeks at home and continued to minister to Mrs. Cohoon after his death.

"Those months were a blur," she recalled, "but they are tied together with the love and compassion of Good Shepherd Ministries."

Good Shepherd Ministries, which

began January 1991, involved a commitment by 78 church members and couples to each devote four pre-scheduled days during the year to meet needs within their church family which the staff and deacons could not meet because of time constraints.

Tom Lankford, mission support committee chairman, envisioned the ministry in 1989. "Too few are doing too much within the typical church," he explained. "I realized that if several persons would be willing to give up a little time, we could considerably expand the scope of our church's ministry."

Lankford sought to develop a program to offer time-conscious laypeople a plan for ministry involvement to make optimum use of their free time. He remembered how his father, a small-town physician, cooperated with other physicians by taking calls for each other on weekends. "I wondered if this model would work in the church," Lankford noted.

It has worked. During the ministry's first year, its 78 participants made more than 3,900 ministry contacts, including more than 3,000

phone calls, 500 nursing home visits and 400 "acts of kindness."

"During the program's first year, the response was phenomenal," affirmed Pastor George "Dub" Steincross. "Many more volunteered than we ever anticipated."

Volunteers included physicians, attorneys, schoolteachers, college professors, college students, homemakers and retired people. Most volunteers scheduled holidays, vacation and summer days to serve.

By limiting involvement in the ministry to four days per person per year, the program prevents burnout and maintains enthusiasm; it provides opportunities for many people to minister without overextending anyone.

Everett Koehn, a physician, commented, "It's an exciting way to get persons involved in ministry, with the potential of having volunteers on call each day of the year."

Because ministry days can be scheduled on Saturdays or during vacation, families can serve together. Colleen Jones, an elementary teacher, said her children's participation enriched her family and provided new

topics for discussion. She recalled asking her children what they learned from working with Good Shepherd Ministries during the summer. She said they responded, "God wants us to help one another."

On a typical day, a Good Shepherd volunteer reports to the church at 9 a.m. and first checks the ministry calendar to see whose requests have been scheduled that day. After contacting those individuals, the volunteer phones church members celebrating birthdays and new births or who are ill or injured.

The volunteer then begins calling people listed in a ministry notebook to see if they have any needs that can be met during the day. A day of ministry might include running errands, providing transportation or assisting with house or yard work.

As Good Shepherd Ministries entered its second year, Priscilla Cohoon became one of its new volunteers.

"Through the darkness of my husband's illness," Mrs. Cohoon said, "I remember thinking if I can make it through this, I will get to help others as they have helped us."

By asking 78 people each to commit four days per year, the church has multiplied its compassionate ministries and avoided burnout.

THE ECHO

ERLANGER BAPTIST CHURCH
 127 Erlanger, Erlanger, Kentucky 41018
 Phone: (606) 727-2588

Dr. William E. Crosby, Jr., Pastor
 Rev. David M. Wallace, Minister of Education & Administration
 Dr. Philip E. Quinn, Minister of Music
 Rev. Todd A. Smith, Minister of Youth & Activities
 Rev. Tim Bender, Deaf Mission Pastor

March 1, 1992

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

ERLANGER-ELSMERE UNITED MINISTRIES
 This is referred to as EEUM. This organization helps the needy in our community. Eleven churches in the Erlanger-Elsmere community cooperate in supporting this ministry. EEUM is important to our community. We have food barrels located at various places around the community. They are placed in the homes of the needy. EEUM. They are very helpful. They provide food. EEUM.

HOME MISSIONS
 March 1 - A.M.
 March 4 - Book
 March 8 - Jer
 God

RANDY BLANKENSHIP
 Sunday evening serv
 ordination serv
 Blankenship. Th
 special time for

SINGLE ACTS OF KINDNESS
 The 3rd & 4th gra
 School class sent
 our shut-ins and
 recipients of the
 grateful! This ac
 of the many kind a
 that are done by t
 people of EBC.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
 By Letter: Lisa Cha
 28-4 High
 Highland
 441-7502

THOSE IN THE HOSPITAL
 St. E. South: Francis
 Walter Burris, Wm.
 St. Luke North: Hazel
 Joseph Chamberlain
 Shriners: John & Greg
 Bethesda Oak: Beatrice
 Mercy Anderson: Lynda
 Children's: Timmy Biddi

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:
 in the death of his grandfather.

MANY THANKS!
 Thanks to Bro. Bill and the EBC
 church, family for the visits, calls,
 cards, and especially prayers during
 my hospitalization and recuperation
 at home.

Uli Penn



March 1-8
 EBC OFFERING GOAL FOR ANNIE
 ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING: \$7,000

Dear Fellow Kentucky Baptist:

Erlanger Baptist Church has been delighted with our relationship to the Western Recorder. Every member of our congregation receives our church newsletter on the back page of the Western Recorder every week, and we think it's one of the best innovations we have made in recent years.

We're pleased with the Erlanger Baptist Church/Western Recorder arrangement for two major reasons:

First, the newsletter/newspaper combination enables our members to receive the entire scope of Baptist news every week. Our people read about every major development at Erlanger Baptist Church. But they also read about news from the foreign and home mission fields, the latest developments in the Kentucky Baptist Convention, events shaping the Southern Baptist Convention and trends and issues that impact church life in general.

Second, the arrangement is the most economical way for us to provide our newsletter to our people. We send them the Western Recorder—with our newsletter—for less than we could send them a newsletter alone. In these days of tight budgets, that's a major bonus.

We recommend the Western Recorder to your church. You won't regret printing your newsletter on the back page of Kentucky Baptists' weekly newspaper.

Bill Crosby, pastor
 Erlanger Baptist Church
 Erlanger

P.S.: For more information, call Editor Marv Knox or Business Manager Ray Hayes at (502) 244-6470.

440
 GRAND TOTAL! 721
 EVENING WORSHIP 215

Offering
 Weekly Requirement.....\$ 11,888.42
 Offering..... 9,880.91
 Find Us Faithful..... 2,278.35
 Other..... 500.00
 Total.....\$ 12,659.26
 FUF Goal.....\$472,036.50
 FUF Offering.....\$364,750.06



SKI TRIP

For YOUTH Grades 7-12
 Friday, Feb. 28
 Leave EBC at 10:30 pm
 For details, call
 Bro. Todd at 727-2588

ATTENTION!

NEW SINGLES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
 Beginning March 8
 9:45 a.m.
 For Ages 25-32
 Teacher Lawanna Jones
 Room: Education Bldg. #10

MULTIS S.S. TEACHER LESSON PREVIEW
 Wednesdays at 6:15-6:45 p.m.
 Room 20
 LEADER: Bro. David

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKER'S MEETING
 Sunday March 1
 5:00 p.m.
 Fellowship Hall

EBC WOMEN'S RETREAT
 Saturday, April 4
 our Calendar and watch for
 information.

ANG CHRISTMAS TREE STUFFED ANIMALS
 Pick yours up in the old S.S.
 today. After March 1 they
 given away.

"RAISING KIDS ALONE"
 FILM SERIES
 March 8, 15, 22, 29
 5:00-6:00 p.m.
 in Fellowship Hall

series is especially for
 parents and those interested
 in this up to the minute topic. Tell
 your friends who are single parents
 about it.



MOTHER'S DAY OUT DIRECTED NEEDED
 Applications for this paid position
 are being taken. Call Debbie Worley
 for details at 283-2244.