

FOR THE RECORD

Talks postponed
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Ears to see
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Laypeople key to church starting, strategist says

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

PRINCETON—Laypeople must catch a vision for starting unique new churches if Kentucky Baptists are to grow, J. Bill Jones says.

Jones, church starter strategist with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, acknowledges pastors are crucial in starting churches, but quickly admits few pastors have time for the kind of church starting that needs to be done all across Kentucky.

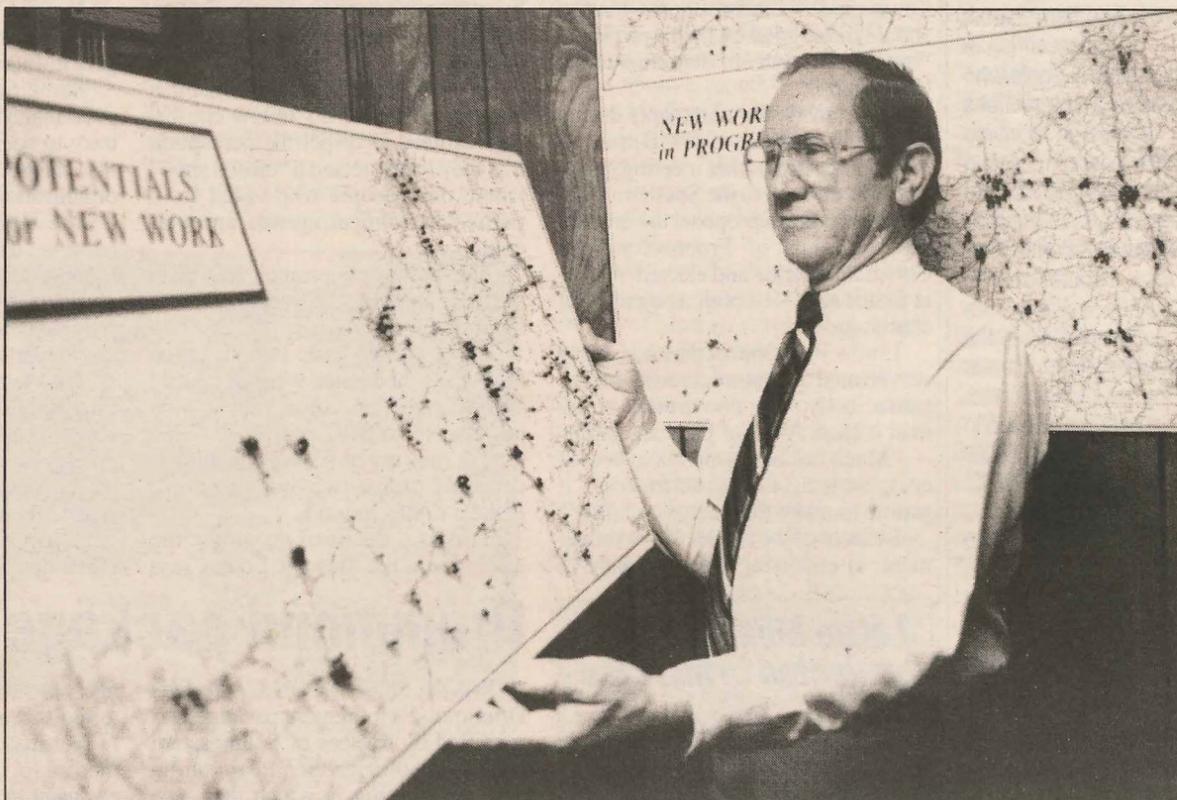
Further, laypeople often get a better reception than pastors in the areas Jones is most concerned about reaching, he explains.

Jones' primary emphasis in Western Kentucky is starting churches in multi-housing units. A multi-housing unit is any residence where more than one family lives in close proximity—places like apartments, condominiums and trailer parks.

National statistics show that people who live in their own houses are much more likely to attend church than are residents of multi-housing units, Jones says.

Multi-housing residents "are the ones being neglected by the churches," he says, citing findings that about 96 percent of all multi-housing resi-

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POINTS OF NEED Ken Forman, associate director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department, holds a map he has developed to show the 210 sites across Kentucky where new churches could be started immediately. Another chart on the wall shows the 357 sites where new ministries have been started in recent years. March 22 is Start-a-Church Commitment Sunday in the Southern Baptist Convention. Forman said he hopes Kentucky Baptists will seriously consider the challenge.

Ministry keeps Paris church in stitches

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

PARIS—A women's group at Central Baptist Church in Paris is keeping hundreds of Kentuckians in stitches.

The Willing Hands Quilters meet weekly to piece, stitch and sew squares of fabric into colorful quilts. In the past five years they have produced about 350 quilts, and all but one have been given away.

The quilts are scattered all over the state. Students at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Oneida Baptist Institute, individuals in hospitals and nursing homes, and fire victims all have been recipients of Willing Hands quilts.

In January, 10 quilts were delivered to the Baptist Youth Ranch, a long-term residential treatment facility for boys ages 13-16.

Treatment Director Bob Milburn said the boys were pleased with the

quilts: "The boys themselves take visitors on tours of our facilities. Everyone always gets comments on how pretty the quilts are."

Milburn says this ministry also "really speaks to the boys. For them to see perfect strangers come in with a gift like that helps them to open up to the outside world."

The last quilts completed were presented to the Baptist Youth Shelter at Morehead March 10.

Under the direction of Ruth Pittman, the quilting group was organized in 1987 to make a quilt commemorating the 100th anniversary of Woman's Missionary Union. Twenty-one women and one male honorary WMU member started on the squares. Even the young members of Mission Friends joined the work to add a few stitches.

That quilt has long been completed and hung in the church. But the needles and fabric never were tucked away.

"We liked it so much, we wanted to keep working together," Pittman said.

The WMU president at the time saw an opportunity to combine fellowship and quilting skills with an effort to meet needs in Kentucky, Pittman said. So a group of seven to 13 people began meeting each Monday at the church, establishing a tradition that is still going five years later.

"We all bring a sack lunch and come to the fellowship hall about 10," Pittman said. "Usually, someone brings a dessert, too. It's a wonderful fellowship time."

Eight women working together can put out four quilts in a day.

All the material for the quilts is donated by the group and by church members.

Of course, the time and talent is donated too, but the Willing Hands Quilters are glad to offer it, Pittman said: "That's what church is all about ... people helping people."

Inter-generational focus suggested to build family

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas (BP)—Churches could create a better sense of family by fostering inter-generational activities, a denominational specialist said.

Few Southern Baptist churches provide opportunities for senior adults, young adults, youth and children to study the Bible together, said Don Mattingly, a manager in the church recreation department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Churches fail to see the potential of creating programs that pair senior adults with youth and children or single mothers with childless couples, and the result is a lost ministry, Mattingly said.

"The bigger the church, the more we seem to get separated," he said. "A family drives into the parking lot on Sunday mornings and goes in four different directions. They don't see each other until they get in the car to go home."

"Sometimes, if they are like my family, they even take two cars to church."

"Now if you just expand on that concept, how often do youth get to be with senior adults?" Mattingly asked. "Not very often."

Churches should not only find ways to promote families worshipping together, but they should find ways to link different age and lifestyle groups together, he

□ See Mix generations ..., page 8

Cumberland & Georgetown in national tourney

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Two Kentucky Baptist schools will compete in the NAIA Division I men's basketball championship in Kansas City, Mo., this week.

Georgetown College and Cumberland College both will compete among 32 teams playing March 17-23 in Kemper Arena. However, due to the arrangement of the tournament bracket, the two Kentucky schools will not play each other unless they meet for the championship game

March 23.

Cumberland beat Georgetown 74-67 March 11 to win the NAIA District 32 championship and go to the national tournament. Georgetown will play in the national championship games as an at-large selection.

The defeat by Cumberland was Georgetown's only loss for the season. Cumberland enters the tournament with a 23-8 season record.

Cumberland was scheduled to begin tournament play at 9 a.m. March 17 against Taylor University of Upland, Ind. Georgetown's first match was set for 10:45 a.m. March 17

against Lewis-Clark State College of Lewiston, Idaho.

Meanwhile, players from Kentucky Baptist schools dominate the NAIA All-District 32 men's basketball team with seven of the 10 players. Named to the all-district team are Allen McCowan, Russell Chadwell and Mark Tandy of Georgetown; El-nardo Givens and Benji Frazier of Cumberland; Greg Floyd and Sammy Watene of Campbellsville College.

Also, McCowan of Georgetown was named District 32 Player of the Year. Georgetown's coach, Jim Reid, was named Coach of the Year.

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Hotel rooms** are still available for the June 9-11 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis. People who made early reservations should be receiving confirmation notices in the mail, said Richard Rosenbaum of the SBC Executive Committee. Also, a shuttle service will be available from outlying hotels to the Hoosier Dome. Passes for the shuttle service may be purchased in advance by calling (800) 972-8952.

■ **Vice President Dan Quayle** and his wife, Marilyn, attended worship at First Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., March 8. They were accompanied by Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman and his wife, Jodie. Jon Stubblefield, former pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, is pastor of the Louisiana church.

■ **Isam Ballenger**, who resigned from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in protest of trustee actions earlier this year, will be nominated as a professor of missions and world religions at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, a new seminary started by Southern Baptist moderates. The school's trustees will vote on the recommendation April 6-7.

■ **The Southern Baptist Alliance** voted to change its name during a March 5-7 meeting in Charlotte, N.C. The new name will be Alliance of Baptists, deleting the original reference to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Larry Lewis: Turn rhetoric into reality

ATLANTA (ABP)—Saying it is time to turn "rhetoric" into "reality," Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis said Southern Baptist leaders should make good on their promise to "broaden the tent" of denominational leadership.

Lewis made the comments during the spring meeting of HMB trustees in Atlanta. Also at that meeting, trustees referred back to the Southern Baptist Convention a proposal to compare the teachings of Freemasonry to Christian doctrine and elected Virginia pastor Ken Hemphill as director of church growth.

Linda Principe of Brandenburg was elected assistant secretary for the trustee body. The new trustee chairman is Brad Allen of Duncan, Okla.

"Much has been said about broadening the tent," Lewis told trustees. "It is time to make that rhetoric reality."

Leaders of the conservative movement, in endorsing the candidacy of

current Southern Baptist Convention president Morris Chapman two years ago, promised to "broaden the tent" by appointing moderates who believe in inerrancy to denominational leadership roles.

Lewis, who considers himself a conservative, said his fellow conservatives need to dispel the perception that they have created a "closed shop" where only people who voted for a particular political agenda are welcome.

The issue of inerrancy has been settled in the SBC, he said, and now is the time for healing.

Lewis noted some people argue that when moderates were in control of the convention, conservatives were not elected to SBC positions. "That may or may not be so, but one thing is certainly true—two wrongs don't make a right," he said.

Trustees declined to study the teachings of the Masonic Lodge, say-

ing it is not the HMB's responsibility to issue statements concerning a fraternal order.

Instead, trustees asked that the matter be addressed by SBC messengers in Indianapolis June 9-11.

Some Southern Baptists have argued that Masonic teachings are contrary to sound Christian doctrine and that the secret society is a religious organization.

The HMB's interfaith witness department issues position papers on religions, sects and cults. But that department's job is to study established religions, not fraternal organizations, said department head Gary Leazer.

The election of Hemphill, pastor of First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., to a new position as director of church growth is contingent upon approval by the SBC Sunday School Board in April. Hemphill will coordinate church growth efforts by both the HMB and Sunday School Board.

Lottie Moon receipts projected to increase

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Despite economic recession and denominational squabbles, projections show Southern Baptists gave more last year to the Lottie Moon offering for foreign missions than ever before.

The projections, based on a survey of selected state Baptist conventions, show the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will receive \$81.75 million—a 3 percent increase over 1990. In past years, the survey seldom has varied from actual receipts by more than a percentage point.

The projected total will fall short of the \$84 million goal.

However, the increase in total receipts will avert dramatic budget cuts FMB leaders had feared might result from reprisals against FMB trustees decision last fall to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Drummond package modified

WAKE FOREST, N.C.—Lewis Drummond's retirement package was modified by trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary during a spring meeting in which they also approved a public relations campaign announcing the "Dawning of a New Day" at the embattled school.

Drummond announced his retirement as seminary president in January after a four-hour closed-door session with the trustee executive committee. He will leave June 30.

Trustees approved a departure package that gives Drummond \$107,250 in cash; ownership of his seminary car, valued at \$8,000; and a provision for him to remove up to \$27,000 of furnishings from the seminary president's home, an amount said to equal his personal contribution to recent renovations.

Omitted from the final package was a seven-month paid sabbatical leave and the honorary title of chancellor he had requested.

Responding to criticism from some trustees that the retirement pack-

age was "excessive," Drummond retorted that it was due compensation: "I feel that these last four years I've made a lot of sacrifices and the trustees want to express gratitude and appreciation for what has transpired."

Drummond stated that his major contribution has been "to turn the seminary to a more conservative direction."

During the meeting, trustees also adopted a "faculty profile" which defines general characteristics sought in all elected faculty members.

The profile specifies that in addition to subscribing to the seminary's doctrinal "Articles of Faith" and being guided by the Baptist Faith and Message statement, future faculty members will "teach the Bible as the inspired and infallible Word of God, a perfect treasure of divine instruction, with God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter."

Reported by Todd Deaton through Associated Baptist Press and Herb Hollinger through Baptist Press

Dean quits as New Orleans plans to offer undergrad degrees

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—In an unprecedented move, trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary voted to launch an undergraduate baccalaureate program for older students.

The seminary's academic dean, Joe Cothen, resigned in a dispute with President Landrum Leavell over instituting the new degree program.

The addition makes New Orleans the only Southern Baptist seminary to offer bachelor-level degrees. Leaders insist the new program is designed for a yet-unreached market, offering bachelor of arts and bachelor of general studies degrees to students age 25 or older who have not completed college-level degrees.

"This will be designed primarily for those people already in the pastorate who want to further their education but do not have a baccalaureate degree," Leavell said.

"What we're trying to do is fill a void," said Jimmy Dukes, director of

the seminary's School of Christian Training, which will offer the new degrees.

State Baptist colleges "in the main are not reaching these older students," the proposal to trustees noted.

Nevertheless, the new degree program marks "a departure from the historic mission of Southern Baptist seminaries," noted Larry McSwain, provost at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The proposal raises the issue of "Southern Baptist Convention support for college-level theological education" during a period when the SBC's unified budget, the Cooperative Program, is under stress, McSwain told the Western Recorder. "That's an issue I assume the SBC Executive Committee will have to face and study."

Southern Seminary's Boyce Bible School offers diplomas, but the Louisville school has no plans to offer

bachelor's degrees, McSwain said.

"We don't believe it's our mission to be in competition with state convention-supported colleges and universities. Our Boyce program is Bible-focused. We don't want to use Southern Baptist Cooperative Program money to teach math, science and other general studies. We're in the Bible-teaching business at Southern Seminary."

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, one of New Orleans Seminary's accrediting agencies, must approve the new school, but Dukes said the seminary expects to have approval in time to launch the 126-credit-hour program this fall.

The seminary's other accrediting agency, the Association of Theological Schools, has told the seminary it must dismantle its School of Christian Training by 1996.

However, the seminary has received recent indication that ATS

Europeans delay talks with FMB

HAMBURG, Germany (ABP)—The executive committee of the European Baptist Federation has postponed talks with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board until trustees determine whether Keith Parks will remain as FMB president.

Meanwhile, Romanian Baptists, accused of endorsing the FMB's defunding of a Swiss seminary in exchange for FMB money for their own schools, say they won't take the \$20,000 offered them by the FMB.

FMB trustees have scheduled a private two-day meeting with Parks March 19-20 to discuss his future. Parks said in February that his tenure is in doubt because of trustee actions that have "brought change and crisis to our world mission program."

Trustees appointed a six-person committee in February to try to patch relations with European Baptists. There had been suggestions the meeting would take place this month.

However, Karl-Heinz Walter, general secretary of the European Federation, said there is too much potential for major shifts within the FMB before the April trustee meeting.

Romanian officials notified the FMB they would not accept \$20,000 from the FMB "because of the misunderstanding raised around this subject."

Trustees had allocated to Romania part of the \$365,000 withdrawn from the Baptist seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

"If the Foreign Mission Board decides to support financially the Baptist churches in Romania and their institutes from other funds than those appropriated to Ruschlikon initially, we would gladly accept any help," wrote the union's president, Vasile Talos, and general secretary, Nic Gheorghita.

leaders may have changed their minds about that directive, Dukes said. He insisted ATS has no concern with the school as long as it remains separate from the seminary's graduate-level operation.

Dukes told trustees that faculty response to the baccalaureate proposal has been "generally good," but "some concern" has been voiced.

Those concerns apparently contributed to Cothen's sudden resignation.

"The president wanted me to give approval on short notice to the baccalaureate degree," Cothen said in an interview with the Louisiana Baptist Message. "I felt I could not do it."

Cothen, 65, will leave his duties immediately but will receive full pay and benefits until July 31, when his resignation becomes official.

Billy Smith, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, was elected the new academic dean.

Hopkinsville couple has vision for medical missions

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

HOPKINSVILLE—Ophthalmologist William Rowlett uses his ears to help people see.

Because this eye doctor also is a ham radio operator, he is better able to talk with Southern Baptist missionaries on the field in preparation for bringing medical aid to their area.

Since 1967, Rowlett and his wife, Marilyn, have volunteered for 17 short-term mission trips. The members of First Baptist Church in Hopkinsville offer medical attention for diseases of the eye and spiritual attention for disturbances of the heart.

Whether traveling to Zambia or Haiti or Brazil, one of the most important things about the trip is preparation, Rowlett said. "You can't forget anything. We plan about four to six months in advance."

They talk to missionaries in advance via ham radio to plan what supplies, eyeglasses and medicine they need to take with them.

"You sense the frustration of doctors who are on the field without enough drugs and supplies. In some places, there is no eye work at all, and people are going blind when their

problems could easily be corrected," Rowlett said.

These needs have inspired the Rowletts to volunteer year after year to share their time and possessions with others less fortunate.

"It's more natural than anything else," he said. "It's one small way for us to say, 'Thank you, Lord.'"

On each trip, the Rowletts set up temporary clinics in hospitals, grain bins, bamboo huts, churches and even

under shade trees.

Remembering the couple's first trip, to Ghana in 1967, Rowlett acknowledged the work is not easy.

"On our first trip, we thought we were going to do great things for the Lord," Rowlett explained. But when they arrived in Ghana, they were overwhelmed by the language barrier and the advanced eye diseases they found.

"We realized then that we weren't capable of doing great things for the

Lord; he'd have to use what little we could offer."

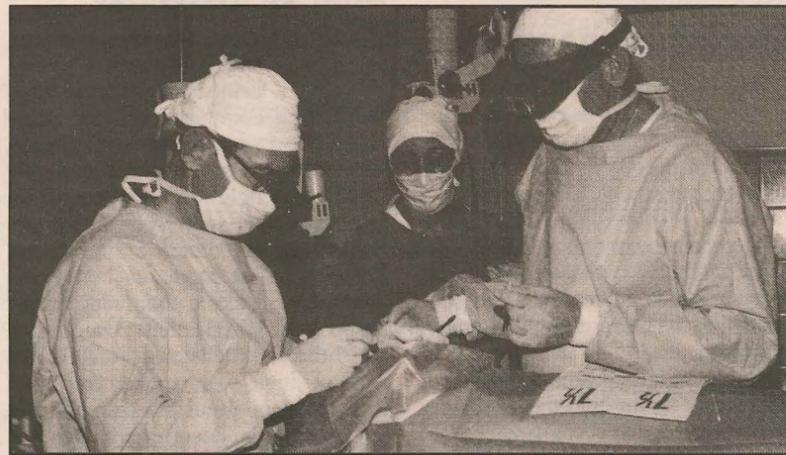
That "little bit" the Rowletts offer most recently meant conducting 40 surgeries and seeing about 700 patients in Nigeria last October. They stayed about a month working at the Baptist Medical Centre in Ogbomoso, treating patients and fitting hundreds of eyeglasses. They also trained staff doctors in more modern medical treatments and visited in churches and nearby villages.

Rowlett credits "wonderful" Royal Ambassador leaders at First Baptist Church of Murray, where he grew up, for his heart for missions.

Rowlett said he never makes these trips without his wife. She has a nursing degree and works alongside her husband as surgical assistant.

Everywhere they have gone, the couple has found that even with the language barrier there are opportunities to witness and worship.

"They're surprised to hear a doctor speak about spiritual matters, but they are very receptive," Rowlett said. "Everywhere you go, you find lots of faithful Christians. We could still feel at one with them in worship, even when we couldn't understand the language."



CLOSER LOOK Hopkinsville doctor William Rowlett (left) performs surgery on a man in Brazil with the assistance of his wife, Marilyn, and Morris Nacke, a Louisville doctor.

At mid-year, state CP shows increase but still off goal

By Marv Knox
Editor

Halfway through its fiscal year, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget has experienced a 2.2 percent growth rate.

But the Cooperative Program still may wind up \$900,000 below its \$17.9 million goal when the KBC's budget year ends Aug. 31.

After six months of the 1991-92 fiscal year, the Cooperative Program received \$8,322,384. That amount is \$177,344—or 2.2 percent—ahead of receipts for the same period last year.

However, gifts are \$624,847—or 7.0 percent—below the midpoint of the \$17,894,462 annual goal.

During the past six years, receipts for the first half of the fiscal year represented an average of 48.9 percent of the years' totals. If this year's six-month income represents 49 percent of the total, the Cooperative Program

will receive \$16,984,457—slightly more than \$900,000 below the goal.

But the shortfall might not be that much, reported KBC Business Manager Barry Allen: "If our pattern were to follow last year's pattern of giving—where we received a much greater proportion of Cooperative Program receipts in the last six months—we would be in the \$500,000 range below budget."

Kentucky's Cooperative Program is part of a Southern Baptist Convention budget of the same name. The Cooperative Program begins in local churches, where members give their offerings. Churches pass a portion of their receipts to state conventions, which pass a portion to the SBC.

Of the KBC's Cooperative Program receipts, 62.058 percent remains in the state and 37.942 percent goes to the SBC.

During the past two years, some Kentucky Baptist churches have by-

passed parts of the Cooperative Program. This fiscal year, 34 churches have designated their money for the KBC, and two congregations have sent their funds directly to the SBC, around Kentucky causes.

"The longer we go, the more we see increased giving to KBC causes only," Allen said. The six-month total for funds designated to the KBC is \$167,544, an increase of \$30,387 over designations for the same period last year.

"If you factor that into the state portion (62.058 percent) of Cooperative Program, the receipts to state causes have increased 4 percent over last year," he said.

Despite a possible shortfall, the increase in Kentucky giving is a positive sign, said KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall.

"Kentucky Baptists continue to amaze me," Marshall noted. "In spite of economic stress and continuing be-

wilderment with the SBC controversy, our churches have increased Cooperative Program gifts over the prior year.

"It would be nice to suggest that this may mean we have 'hit bottom' and are heading upward. However, most folks realize there are just too many variables to come to that conclusion. All of the factors which contribute to Cooperative Program growth are unstable.

"But the fact we are 2.2 percent ahead of the previous year in total Cooperative Program giving and 4 percent ahead in receipts for Kentucky Baptist causes deserves a hearty word of appreciation from all of us whose ministries are supported fully or in part by the Cooperative Program," Marshall said.

"Kentucky Baptists have demonstrated they can be counted on for missions, even when circumstances are unfavorable."

Laypeople needed to start new multi-housing congregations

Continued from page 1
dents are unchurched.

Laypeople with a vision for making a difference in their communities will be the key to reaching this segment of the population, Jones believes. "They can be reached, but somebody's got to care."

And for anyone who thinks multi-housing ministry is only an issue for Baptists in urban areas like Louisville and Lexington, Jones says think again.

"Every town has some sort of government housing complex," he advises. "There are three here in Princeton."

In addition, most towns have mobile-home parks and apartments, he says.

The reason many Baptists may not think multi-housing units are in their towns is because they don't look for them, Jones explains.

And citing statistics alone will not move people to action, he adds: "You can talk all day long about how many lost people there are, but unless the Holy Spirit opens your eyes, you're not going to see them."

Despite the large number of Baptists in Kentucky, in most of the state's communities "you don't even have to take a survey" to realize plenty of people don't go to anyone's church, he says.

One of the challenges of multi-housing ministries is that multi-housing residents often represent different social, cultural and racial backgrounds

than the average Kentucky Baptist, Jones explains. Despite some churches' best intentions, multi-housing residents may not feel comfortable there.

Compassionate ministries are good ways to open the door in multi-housing units, Jones says. "When they learn that you care, they know Jesus cares."

Further, taking the church to the people is the biblical way of church starting, he adds. "This is the way Jesus did it. He went where the people were. He didn't say, 'Come to the temple.'"

In many cases, establishing congregations in multi-housing will require Kentucky Baptists to accommodate a non-traditional view of what constitutes a church, Jones says.

"In the mentality of the average church, unless you can have 25-30 people, it's not worth it," he explains. But successful multi-housing ministries may attract only a small number of families.

The difference, Jones says, is that some people who might never attend worship at a traditional church might attend worship or Bible study in a neighbor's home.

Ministries to neglected people groups can take various forms, Jones explains.

To make a difference, laypeople "don't have to be as well-educated and capable of leadership as they might think," Jones points out. "The most important thing is a love for Jesus Christ and a burden for souls."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Kentucky author** Wendell Berry will be the keynote speaker at a March 23-25 conference at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary titled "Poets, Preachers and Politicians: God's Hope for Mother Earth?" For information, contact the seminary's office of continuing education at (502) 897-4315.

■ **Randall Rains**, formerly of Mayfield, has been named a candidate consultant with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Rains and his wife, Betty, have been missionaries to Bangladesh since 1983. In his new role, Rains will interview missionary applicants from the midwestern region of the United States.

■ **Campbellsville College** will host a spring preview day for high school juniors and seniors and others interested in enrolling as students March 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m. The day's activities include entertainment, campus tours, academic and financial aid advisement, a free luncheon and a free baseball game. For information, call (502) 789-5220.

For information on church starting or multi-housing ministries, contact the KBC's direct missions department at (502) 244-2461.

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

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Study our camps

I wish to comment on the discussion surrounding the future of Cedar-moore and Jonathan Creek conference centers.

I would like to propose that a special study group be appointed to undertake a thorough study and develop some recommendations that the Kentucky Baptist Convention can consider.

This special body could be composed of people from the following categories: church staff and laity; representatives from state music, education, age-group and recreation associations; agencies and institutions who have the knowledge, expertise and practical experience in the areas of finance, management, capital funds, facilities and operations, legal matters, staff and programming, marketing and promotion. Let them call upon resources within and outside our denominational life to gather information from others with assembly operations and prepare a list of options.

This special body would explore subjects such as:

■ What is the future of our current approach to ministry with these assemblies?

■ What other directions or alternatives are open to us in the future?

■ What future improvements and capital expenditures will we have to provide to develop these options?

■ What kind of organization and structure will we need to give direction in the development of our future work?

■ How will the funds be secured to underwrite the costs of these options?

■ What increased use can we reasonably expect from our Baptist constituency and other groups?

■ Do we market these facilities to

non-Baptist groups or to non-church groups?

■ What are the options if we decide to dispose of the facilities and properties?

These questions may have already been addressed by the appropriate leaders and groups. I look forward to their report and recommendations. If research and study is still underway, I believe it would be desirable to invite responses and suggestions from across the state convention.

Paul Robinson
Bowling Green

Enough is enough

My letter deals with the editorial on the exclusion proposal that the Southern Baptist Executive Committee is drafting (WR, Feb. 25). You made the statement, "This editorial is not about homosexuality," and that is my point of disagreement. It most certainly was about homosexuality, and I feel you attempted to cover the problem under the blanket of local-church autonomy.

Being a lifelong Southern Baptist, I hold very strongly to the autonomy of the local New Testament church. When the church I pastor and am a member of can no longer govern ourselves, that is when I will cease to be a Southern Baptist. I am for and support local-church autonomy.

But any church which condones and promotes homosexuality is by New Testament standards and practice no longer a true blood-bought New Testament church. It is ridiculous to compare the vile sin of sodomy with a minister of music violating copyright laws. What a sad day for the Southern Baptist Convention and the cause of Christ when this question would even be discussed, much less

homosexuality approved of.

Enough is enough! Homosexuality is the only sin recorded in the history of mankind which caused the destruction of an entire city. Let us pray God would give us the backbone to get back to calling black as black, white as white, sin as sin, and stop defending the perverts and reprobates of this world.

Joel C. Frizzell, pastor
Mercer Missionary Baptist Church
Central City

Bind up divisions

I am writing in response to "Sexuality stand could hurt churches," (WR, Feb. 25). It saddens my heart to hear the lack of compassion of the SBC Executive Committee and of others who profess to be Christian.

Many people who condemn and reject gay men and lesbians read the Bible with a selective literalism. When the Bible condemns homosexuality, it is speaking about rape, prostitution, incest and cruelty, which also are sinful for the heterosexual. There is not a single word spoken from the lips of Jesus about homosexuality. Sexual sins can occur in both heterosexual and homosexual relationships. On the other hand, so can love, tenderness and commitment.

I didn't just wake up one morning and decide to be homosexual. Just so I can read and hear comments of persecution and bigotry? No thanks!

Lesbian is who I am, not what I am. I am a real, live human being who struggles with what it means to become more like Jesus. I am also of Southern Baptist upbringing. I have a personal relationship with God and attempt to reach out to those around me who are less fortunate.

As Christians, it should be our pri-

mary focus to reach out to "the least of these" (Matthew 25) in our communities. Instead, there are those who would rather waste time pointing fingers and excluding. God does not call us to condemn each other but to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34).

My prayer is that people will realize that we are all on a shared journey, and that we must bind up divisions that the world often creates.

Name withheld by request

Don't bless sin

I want to say that this editorial (WR, Feb. 25) is offensive to me, and I trust to the majority of Southern Baptists in the state of Kentucky.

The sins that are enumerated in this editorial regarding "some" churches whose members are "pro-abortion"; an adulterous pastor; members who drink alcohol; dance; gossip; slander; etc. etc. are certainly not condoned in any Southern Baptist church of which I am aware. There is a vast difference in "some" members sinning, which we all do, and in condoning sin and putting our stamp of approval on it.

And yes, I would say if a Southern Baptist church openly promoted drinking among its members; openly approved of slander; openly approved of adultery—or openly approved of homosexuality—they should be excluded from fellowship.

Regarding the quote in this editorial from John 8:7, the conclusion of this event is where Jesus said to the woman, "Go now, and leave your life of sin" (John 8:11).

It will be a sad day when any Southern Baptist church openly puts its blessings upon sin.

Bob Lawrence
Hopkinsville

Institutions get bill of health

Kentucky Baptists' agencies, institutions, auxiliary, commission and state mission board are financially healthy and worthy of continued and increased support by Kentucky Baptists.

This was the opinion of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's audit workgroup, which met earlier this year. The workgroup expressed com-

mendation and appreciation to the boards and administrations of all KBC entities for the positive ways in which they were providing sound leadership.

An audit workgroup from the KBC Executive Board meets annually to review the financial statements of all KBC entities. These financial statements reflect their financial conditions and the results of their opera-

tions. This annual process is another way the KBC and its affiliated entities provide accountability for the millions of dollars given each year to convention causes.

The workgroup reviewed audits for Campbellsville College, Georgetown College, Cumberland College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Baptist Healthcare System, the Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation

and the KBC mission program funds. Each audit was reviewed according to adopted procedure.

Members of the audit workgroup are Tanya Berry, Port Royal; Gary Hughes, Maysville; Michael Thomason, Glasgow; Jerry Tooley, Henderson; Ron Williams, Lewisport; Russ Taylor, Manchester; and R.J. Spivey, Richmond.

Mark Boes, chairman
KBC Audit Workgroup
Cecilia

My (very) old Kentucky home

In case you have forgotten the significance of 1992, just ask yourself what year Kentucky became a state.

Having discovered it was in 1792, does that give you a hint? That's right, my old Kentucky friends, we celebrate our bicentennial this year.

There were Baptist preachers here before 1792, two associations and at least 24 churches. And the fact that we were here early has a great deal to do with the fact that today approximately one out of three Kentuckians is a Baptist of one kind or another. Remarkable when you consider that in 1840 only one of 15 Kentuckians was a Baptist!

Anyway, to help us think about our Kentucky Bicentennial, I've selected a few "tidbits" of historical interest. I can't vouch for their accuracy, but I can refer you to the booklet "Kentucky TidBits," from which I got the information.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

■ More than 20,000 people attended the great church-camp meeting in Bourbon County in 1801.

■ One of the world's largest railroad freight-switch yards is located at Russell in Boyd County.

■ The radio was invented by Kentuckian Nathan B. Stubblefield of Murray in 1892, three years before Marconi.

■ The oldest U.S. golf course still

in use was built by English investors at Middlesboro in 1895.

■ Kentucky Lake is the largest man-made body of water in the world, with 2,700 miles of shoreline. But it is not Kentucky's largest. Contradiction? No, because some of Kentucky Lake is in Tennessee. Actually, Cumberland Lake is the largest man-made body of water in Kentucky.

■ The first packaging of garden seeds was by the Shakers of Kentucky during the 1840s and 1850s.

■ The first Sunday school, or church school, was started in Frankfort as the "Female Sabbath School."

■ The national best-seller list for 1903 revealed that of the year's Top 10 books, five were written by Kentuckians.

■ Paducah is the only city in Kentucky named for an Indian. George Rogers Clark's brother, William, founded the city and named it for his

Chickasaw friend, Chief Paduke.

■ The greatest earthquake recorded in North America centered around Fulton County in 1872, by which Reelfoot Lake was created.

■ Somers High School had three football players on the same team who made All-America on the same college team. The players were Bo McMillin, Red Roberts and Red Weaver. The college was Centre in Danville.

■ President Herbert Hoover was staying at Louisville's Brown Hotel the week of the great stock market crash in October 1929.

■ The Mountain Laurel Festival in Pineville is Kentucky's oldest festival, held every spring since 1931.

Our old Kentucky home is getting older, but she is still the best state of all!

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

You can be a partner in Baptist mission work

Kentucky Baptists' partners need help this year.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention participates in "partnership arrangements" with Baptists in four geographical areas: the state of Espirito Santo in Brazil, Ohio, Utah and Idaho, and Eastern Kentucky.

The partnerships enable Kentucky Baptists to build relationships and work with other Baptists to advance the Kingdom of God.

Calvin Wilkins, the KBC's partnership coordinator, recently outlined some of this year's top partnership needs:

■ **Brazil.** "We're really coming along fine in Brazil," Wilkins said. "We're seeing a tremendous surge this year with response from volunteers."

Still needed are volunteers to help with church-construction projects. Dates for those trips are April 30-May 13, Sept. 17-30 and Oct. 29-Nov. 11. Churches and associations that cannot send volunteers can help with the projects by sending money ahead of the construction teams, so the Brazilians can buy the materials for the churches. An entire building can be financed for \$6,000.

Financial help also is needed for a music project that is to be staffed by members of the Baptist Student Union at Kentucky State University, set for June 8-25, Wilkins said.

The Brazilian partnership concludes at the end of this year. "We're hoping to end with a big push for evangelism," Wilkins reported. He's looking for volunteers for 20 revival teams to minister across Espirito Santo Nov. 19-Dec. 2.

■ **Ohio.** "We're primarily focused on trying to get new churches started in Ohio," Wilkins said. "We're asking for co-sponsors—Kentucky churches or associations that will make at least two-year commitments to help start these churches. This hasn't taken off real well with our people."

A Kentucky sponsor would provide financial, spiritual and prayer support. It also could help by sending community survey teams and volunteers to do telemarketing. And it might participate in pulpit exchanges with the new Ohio congregation. "We'd like to build relationships," Wilkins said, "and we hope they would grow into long-range partnerships over the years."

This already has happened to some extent, he added: "We have had a number of churches in Kentucky that have gone back (to Ohio) year after year."

■ **Utah-Idaho.** Kentucky Baptists' newest partnership matured last year, when 175 volunteers journeyed westward to do mission projects.

This partnership has developed primarily between Kentucky Baptist associations and associations in the Utah-Idaho convention, Wilkins said. Kentuckians interested in serving "out west" should contact their local directors of associational missions or Wilkins.

■ **Eastern Kentucky.** This partnership is more in need of places to serve than volunteers to go there. "Every request that has come in, we've already assigned to a church group," Wilkins said. "We have more volunteers than assignments."

So, Wilkins is looking for both Eastern Kentucky churches with mission needs and other Kentucky churches that can meet them. This partnership has been popular across Kentucky, particularly because of its availability, he said. Church youth groups and other volunteers with limited time and/or funds still can plug in and meet needs.

To volunteer or receive more information about Kentucky Baptists' partnership missions ministries, contact Wilkins at: Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253; phone (502) 244-6462.

Marv Knox

We're partners with Baptists in Brazil, Ohio, Utah-Idaho and Eastern Kentucky.

Baptists must face gift-of-life, death-with-dignity questions

Janet Adkins ended her life with the assistance of Jack Kevorkian June 4, 1990. She was diagnosed with early-stage Alzheimer's and used a simple device that allowed her to administer a lethal injection to herself after Kevorkian, a physician, had placed an intravenous line in her arm.

Adkins, 54, earlier had contacted Kevorkian, asking for assistance in dying. After she died, he notified authorities.

This case focused attention on one difficult dimension of medical care for people with chronic or terminal illnesses. It opened up the question of whether the "right" to refuse treatment extends to the "right" to choose when one dies. It also raised questions about the role of the medical profession in

helping people die.

Subsequent cases and litigation have intensified these questions.

Where should Christians begin their moral exploration of these issues?

Traditionally, we have begun with the affirmations

found throughout Scripture that life is a gift from God. These affirmations have provided the foundation for the moral prohibition against suicide.

At the same time, Christian moral thinkers have affirmed that the duty to preserve life is not an ultimate obligation. The honor accorded Christian martyrs is the clearest example of the limits of our duty to preserve life. Are there circumstances under which our duty to defend and to preserve the gift of life is overshadowed by a deeper

good?

At one end of the debate are questions of when the preservation of life becomes the elongation of dying, which our faith encourages us to face without fear. At the other end of the debate are questions about the obligations of physicians who have historically seen the dictum "do no harm" as a first principle of medicine.

The American Medical Association has condemned Kevorkian's participation in the suicide of Adkins. The AMA also has condemned physician participation in execution by lethal injection.

Many fear that physician participation in assisting suicide will erode public trust in the profession of medicine and might open the door to other forms of euthanasia, even without patient permission.

Others fear physician insistence upon extraordinary measures at the end of life. These individuals seek to gain more control over treatments given them at the end of life.

The recent passage of the Patient Self-Determination Act by Congress shows the depth of public perception that individuals were losing control of their ability to decide what kind of medical treatment they ultimately will receive.

Baptists need to engage these discussions, both privately and publicly. Health-care dilemmas will continue to confront us. How does our vision of faithful discipleship help us sort through complex questions of the gift of life and death with dignity?

Mark Jensen, associate Baptist Center for Ethics Knoxville, Tenn.

Is the duty to preserve life ever overshadowed by a deeper good?

GUEST EDITORIAL

'I'm not responsible' starts in childhood, echoes for decades

"I'm not responsible!" Uh-oh. Not that. Not an absolute, total denial of blame, fault, guilt. "I'm not responsible."

I expect to hear those words from politicians, especially in an election year. They also jump from the mouths of 17-year-old kids in fast-food joints, who hand me the wrong bag of burgers. And they even spring from people who answer toll-free 800 telephone numbers typed on warranty cards of over-priced stuff we buy.

But "I'm not responsible" surprised me when it popped from the lips of Molly, our youngest daughter.

Not that I think she's incapable of such a retort. The biography of her five young years might be titled "Mischievous My Middle Name." She creates her share of chaos

and ducks her share of blame. She's more than happy to sneak away from home-made pastas and let her older sister be the fall girl.

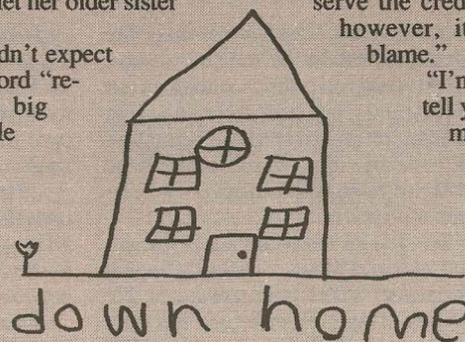
It's just that I didn't expect her to know the word "responsible." It's a big word for such a little kid. Four syllables. I'm not sure Mr. Rogers, or Big Bird, or Lambchop use a word that long when they talk to the preschool set.

"Responsible" is indeed a big word—for young children, senior citizens and everyone in-between.

It's a word heavy with accountability and obligation. On happy days, it says, "I deserve the credit." Most of the time, however, it means, "I take the blame."

"I'm not responsible." To tell you the truth, I don't remember what parental peril threatened Molly so much she felt compelled to put up that eternal three-word force-field. If she's like most of us (which she is), she'll pull out that phrase of

protection time and again throughout her lifetime.



Officials urge Christians to speak on good & bad

By Louis Moore
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—United States Senators Albert Gore, D-Tenn., and Trent Lott, R-Miss., and Senate Chaplain Richard C. Halverson all urged Southern Baptists attending a Congressional Breakfast to continue to make their voices heard in the nation's capitol.

Gore urged Southern Baptists to continue to be active in the areas of health labels on alcohol beverage advertising and the environment.

Lott emphasized the need for Christians to express themselves through the ballot box in the election of "Bible-believing Christians" to public posts.

He also called for more Southern Baptists to step forward and run for public office.

Lott also seemed to endorse a constitutional amendment for prayer in public schools. "Wouldn't it be nice if we could open our schools with prayer as we open the Senate with prayer?" he said.

Halverson said Christians need to become interested in a wider array of public issues beyond just the tradition-

al concerns of abortion and school prayer.

Both Lott and Halverson said Christians need to learn to write their congressional representatives when they are pleased with how they have voted as well as when they are angry about certain votes.

Gore, Lott and Halverson all spoke at a Congressional Prayer Breakfast held during the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's annual seminar in Washington.

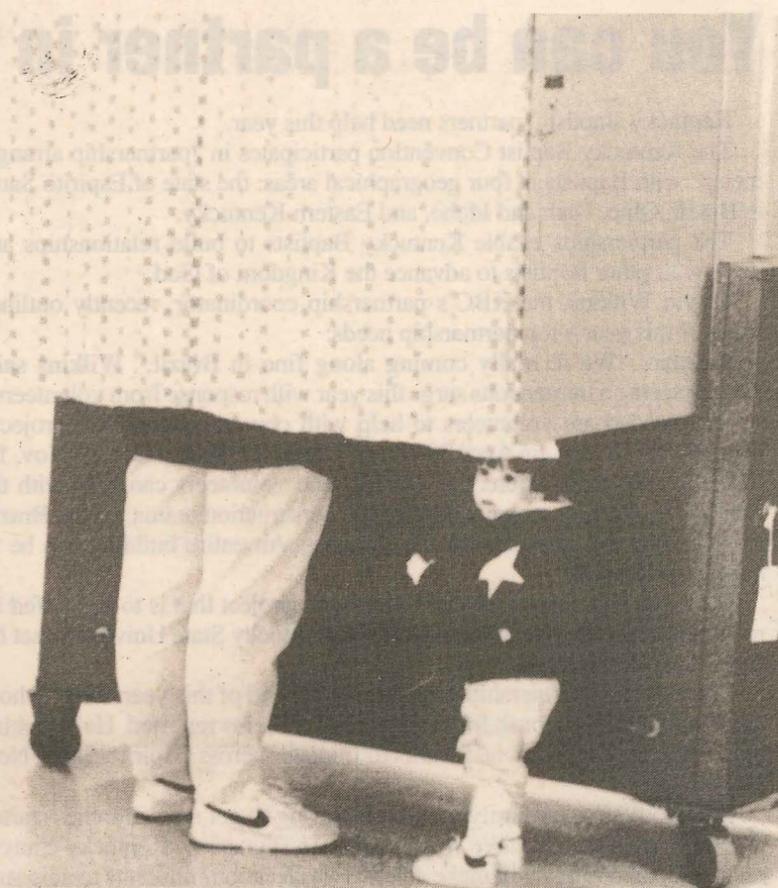
"The greatest single reason for the failure of our social order has been the prayerlessness of the people of God," Halverson said.

"In most churches today, I just don't hear prayers for the president, the vice president, the senators, the representatives, the judges or any other political leaders.

"Most of the phone calls and mail the congressmen receive from Christians is angry," he said.

"The only issues we ever hear from them on is prayer in public schools and abortion.

"These leaders just don't hear from Christians on other issues and they certainly don't hear enough the words, 'We're praying for you.'"



FAMILY VOTE In Pittsburg, 2-year-old Josh Bowman peeks out from under a voting booth curtain while his mother votes. Elected officials speaking at the Christian Life Commission annual seminar encouraged Christians to express their convictions through the electoral process. (RNS photo)

Speakers call for new look at church-state separation

WASHINGTON (BP)—Reverence for the wall of separation between church and state leaves an erroneous impression that morality and religious values should not pass from churches to government, a law professor told a group of Southern Baptists.

At the same meeting in Washington, Beverly LaHaye, president of Concerned Women for America, said despite what "secular humanists and atheists" say, religion and politics have mixed since the birth of America.

Both LaHaye and Lynn Buzzard, professor of law at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., spoke to the annual seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission March 2-4.

"It's a good thing that early American Christians believed in having an influence on society," LaHaye said. "Had they not, there may not be an America today—certainly not the

same America you and I are privileged to live in.

"Over the past three decades we've seen our nation turn away from the principles on which our nation was founded. Now it is up to us, as Christians, to restore those principles.

Buzzard said the First Amendment does not use the phrase "separation of church and state" but instead says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

But the phrase "separation of church and state"—coined by Thomas Jefferson—is almost an invocation at any conference on church and state today, he said. "Many Baptists are fond of this phrase and use it in a kind of invocational way, particularly those who at times chide conservatives for slogans about inerrancy, and yet they themselves genuflect before the wall, wailing lest the wall be breached in some way."

Buzzard said he believes there are improper and proper uses of the "separation" defense.

Proper uses, he said, include:

■ "Any context in which government appropriates the holy for itself, when it becomes the possessor and the guardian of the faith."

■ "When government misuses religion ... whenever the state takes the place of God."

■ When religion is used for political purposes. "There will always be a temptation on the part of any political faction ... to attempt to ally themselves with some religious faction in order to get their publicity and to get their support. This is a fraud. It is a misuse of religion."

On the other hand, there are situations in which calling for separation of church and state produces serious problems and distortions, Buzzard said.

"The dominance of the slogan it-

self is a distortion," he said. "Anyone who suggests that the framers of the Constitution intended a separation of church and state in the form in which it is often today advocated is either ignorant or dishonest," he said. "The framers did not intend that."

Buzzard said distortion also occurs when separation of church and state is used to divide all aspects of the sacred and secular. "It has been used to separate not simply institutions of church and state, but to encourage and advocate the separation of religion and society, and also moral viewpoints and culture so that it becomes a sword which cuts asunder the body politic, rooting out and separating public life from its moral and spiritual roots."

Americans are paying the price for constructing the wall of separation of church and state so tightly that it keeps morals and religious values out of government and secular life, Buzzard said.

Right values needed to set America straight, Bennett says

By Tom Strode
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—Only right values, not larger governmental programs, will turn American society in the correct direction, former Secretary of Education William Bennett told a group of Southern Baptists.

"It is much more important what ideas, what values are out and abroad in the mainstream than anything any government can do," Bennett said. "Government, for all the good they may do, ... cannot undo" wrong ideas.

Bennett said the battle over cultural values "will be the debate in the

next 10 years," and religion is the "great cultural divide" on such issues.

"Anybody in politics who does not understand first and foremost that man is a moral and spiritual being will not have any idea how to address the most important problems," he explained.

Bennett spoke March 2 at the annual seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. He served during the last decade not only as secretary of the Department of Education but as the drug czar and chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Bennett addressed three social ills

and identified wrong ideas he believes led to each problem:

■ **Drugs.** The wrong idea leading to increased drug use was "Do your own thing. If it feels good, do it," he said.

"There is no more perfect 'Do your own thing' thing than drugs, because when you start to do them, soon that is the only thing you will be doing," he warned.

■ **Education.** Bennett cited a concept of the late '60s and early '70s as the source of education trouble: "There is no right curriculum."

Moral relativism is the "most disastrous teaching" in recent decades,

he said. "We can spend money, dollar after dollar, program after program, but unless we get that idea back that says there are things that are right and wrong and there are things children should learn, we will not fix American education."

The problem is not that conservative religious views are not being advanced in the schools, he said, but that those views are "the only views singled out for contempt."

■ **Family.** The wrong thinking that led to the demise of the family is the idea that family is only one option for a proper societal structure, Bennett said.

CHRISTIANS & CITIZENS
Christian Life Commission
Annual Seminar

LaHaye said despite what "secular humanists and atheists" say, religion and politics have mixed since the birth of America.

The battle over cultural values will be the debate in the next 10 years, Bennett said.

GOVERNMENT

House bill would legislate pro-abortion position

By Pam Parry
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—If the U.S. Supreme Court rules against a legal right to an abortion, will Congress step in and restore it?

A House subcommittee explored this question and more at a hearing on a broad abortion-rights bill that supporters said simply would codify Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 ruling recognizing a woman's right to privacy in abortion decisions.

However, opponents of the Freedom of Choice Act of 1991 (H.R. 25) said the bill goes beyond the rights

bestowed in Roe.

The one-page bill, sponsored by Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., says that "a state may not restrict the right of a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy before fetal viability; or at any time, if such termination is necessary to protect the life or health of the woman."

Fetal viability is the point at which doctors believe a fetus would be able to live outside the womb.

Edwards, chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, said "the bill's language has been written specifically to track the language in the Roe vs. Wade deci-

sion.

"The significance of this bill needs little explanation to either side," Edwards continued. "By agreeing to hear the case Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania vs. Casey, the Supreme Court has moved closer to overturning or severely limiting Roe vs. Wade. Both sides agree that this case calls on the court to address the scope of constitutional protection for abortion rights."

Six witnesses—including one woman and a Bush administration representative—testified before the subcommittee.

Timothy Flanigan, a representative

of the U.S. Department of Justice, said the administration strongly opposes H.R. 25 as a matter of policy. The bill "would enact a federal statutory regime of abortion regulation that leaves the states with substantially less regulatory authority than they now have under Roe and its successor cases," Flanigan said.

"We are opposed as a matter of federalism to the attempt to dictate consensus on this issue through the mechanism of federal legislation," Flanigan said. "Absent a constitutional amendment, the question of abortion rights should, in our view, be left to the states."

D.C. DIGEST

■ **A Virginia school's** claim that its free-exercise rights were violated by enforcement of local zoning and fire regulations will not be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. The court turned down a request to rule on claims by the Fairfax Christian School that its rights were violated when enforcement of local zoning and fire regulations prevented the school from locating at sites of its choice in Fairfax County.

■ **The Senate Finance Committee** approved a tax package March 3 that would temporarily repeal taxation of appreciated property to charitable institutions. A similar measure already passed the House.

■ **Public advocacy** by religious organizations could be burdened if a Senate bill introduced Feb. 27 becomes law. The Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1992 (S 2279) would require lobbyists—including churches and religious organizations—to register and report an array of information about their activities. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has opposed this proposed legislation.

Columnist says churches lack proper influence

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

WASHINGTON (BP)—Government will continue to be dysfunctional as long as American churches are dysfunctional, syndicated newspaper columnist Cal Thomas said.

Thomas spoke to about 300 Southern Baptists attending the annual seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Washington.

Thomas said opinion polls show Americans' satisfaction with government has reached an all-time low. The reason for dissatisfaction and frustration, he suggested, is "government no longer is fulfilling the function for which it was created."

Thomas said the function of government as stated in the Declaration of Independence is to secure the rights God has endowed.

The modern church lacks the power to properly influence government, Thomas asserted: "The failure to believe God's word as sufficient and complete is one of two major factors I believe is responsible for the lack of power in the modern church."

He cited biblical illiteracy as the second factor, citing a recent Gallup Poll finding only 11 percent of Americans read their Bibles daily.

"Biblical illiteracy has led to ignorance which has led to apostasy which has led to open rebellion against God and his word." The church is dysfunctional because "it is fooling around doing a bunch of other things, denying what God has said."

Add that to government which is not fulfilling its original purpose and the result is we are living in "an increasingly dysfunctional time," he continued.

There is hope, however, Thomas said. "If we can get the church back on track, we'll have the real power. Then, hopefully, and with the Lord's leadership, we can revive and reform government and get it back on its original track."

White House drops church-reporting plan

By Larry Chesser
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A top Treasury Department official says the Bush administration has abandoned its proposal to require churches to report to the Internal Revenue Service donors who give more than \$500 annually.

Desiree Tucker-Sorini, assistant secretary for public affairs for the private sector, told Associated Baptist Press the department is continuing to consider ways to improve tax compliance among taxpayers who claim charitable gift deductions but is looking

at alternatives to the reporting requirement. If the administration pursues a plan requiring charitable organizations to report donors, churches would be excluded, she said.

Treasury officials said the reporting requirement, part of the administration's 1993 budget package, was proposed to help the IRS catch taxpayers who overstate the amount of their charitable gifts.

Tucker-Sorini's comments came after the administration sent confusing signals about the proposal. Fred Goldberg, assistant secretary for tax policy, assured representatives of religious and other non-profit organiza-

tions that the church-reporting proposal was off the table on the same day White House Chief of Staff Samuel Skinner told The New York Times it remained under consideration.

In response, Goldberg drafted a letter clearly stating the administration would not pursue the reporting requirement for churches, according to Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel Oliver Thomas. He said Goldberg read the letter to him and described it as a "good, strong letter that makes it clear any reporting requirement for non-profits would not apply to churches, synagogues and other religious institutions."

Henry calls for religious liberty worldwide

By Louis Moore
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—Southern Baptist theologian Carl F.H. Henry has called on all evangelical Christians to champion religious freedom worldwide.

The end to communism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union does not eliminate all the restraints imposed on religious freedom worldwide, he said at the annual seminar of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"In view of the lifting of restrictions on Christianity by Soviet sphere nations, the repressive treatment of Christian minorities by Islamic nations and by communist mainline China becomes glaringly conspicuous," Henry said. "Despite the pride of the West in the technological achievements of modernity, religious intolerance and persecution remain a besetting evil of much of the contemporary world."

Henry singled out Saudi Arabia as a prime example of religious intolerance, but also fired verbal shots at Turkey, Egypt, Israel, China and the American secular culture.

During the Washington seminar, CLC Executive Director Richard Land presented Henry with the agency's Distinguished Service Award for his work over several decades on behalf of Christian ethics. Henry was founding editor of Christianity Today and is a prolific writer and noted theologian.

Henry said Saudi Arabia "not only refuses to approve of basic religious liberties, but it also withholds from

Christians even the dhimma, or protection, of the ongoing practice of Christianity.

"Something is terribly amiss when 500,000 men and women fight a war for liberty and freedom while at the same time they themselves are denied the very thing they are fighting for—the basic principle of freedom, including religious liberty even for American workers living within Saudi Arabian borders," he said.

"Religious intolerance lies at the very heart of the conflict between Israeli and Arab and Islamic neighbors, between Shiite and Sunni Iraq, between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland, between Muslims and Jews and Muslims and Christians in Lebanon, between various sects in the old Soviet empire, between Allied Forces and Saudis."

He said Saudi Arabia is a good place for all Americans to drive home the point to the world that other nations must develop authentic concepts of religious liberty.

"Saudi Arabia is a good place to begin since Muslims at least enjoy re-

ligious tolerance in New York, London, and in many other countries of the world," he said. "Foreign workers in Saudi Arabia, both civilian and military, must be free to worship God in good conscience. They must be allowed to possess Bibles, to display religious symbols, and to meet at congregations for worship."

"It is time that the United States link military and/or economic aid—exempting only emergency humanitarian assistance—with insistence on the right of all foreign workers residing in Saudi Arabia to openly practice their religious faith without harassment, persecution and punishment."

On Egypt, Henry said, "More Christians live in Egypt—an estimated 10 million—than in any other country in the Middle East. Yet Christian converts from Islam who publicly profess their newfound faith have been arrested, tortured and imprisoned in an effort to persuade them to recant. Human rights agencies estimate more than 200 persons remain imprisoned because of their Christian faith."

CLC trustees hear warning on human gene project

WASHINGTON (BP)—A multi-billion dollar, 15-year effort to map human genetic material could eclipse abortion as the major concern in medical ethics, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees were warned.

"The Human Genome Project has implications for every facet of our lives," said Ben Mitchell, director of biomedical and life issues.

While the project could lead to cures for Huntington's Disease, cystic fibrosis, muscular dys-

trophy and Parkinson's Disease, it also opens new opportunities for abuse, he warned. "For every promise of benefit to humanity, there is an equally distressing potential for abuse."

The project could establish "new forms of racial and ethnic discrimination," Mitchell said. "Now we can know for certain who is in our gene pool, and that information could be used against us. We don't have a very bright history of the use of this kind of information."

Church shines though city fades

Roy Boatwright dies at 80

FRANKFORT—Roy Boatwright, former director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday school department and recently retired director of missions for Franklin Baptist Association, died March 9 of apparent heart failure. Funeral services were held at Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort March 12. Just a week before his death, Boatwright had been honored at a retirement reception at Crestwood Church. He had served as associational director of missions since 1980. Boatwright, 80, came to Kentucky from Missouri in 1952 to direct the KBC Sunday school department—a post he held until 1976. Later he served as interim pastor of two congregations and was founding pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green. He is survived by his wife, Ella Faye, and daughter, Annalu. Boatwright's first wife, Goldie Mae, died in 1971.

Clear Creek librarian dies

PINEVILLE—Carolyn Brooks, director of library services at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, was killed in a car accident March 5. Brooks had worked at Clear Creek since 1981. She previously served as a librarian for the Pineville City Schools. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Pineville, where she taught Sunday school and led an Acteen group. Services were held at First Baptist Church. Brooks is survived by her husband, Milton, and two children.

FALMOUTH—Even though the lights of the city died out, the candle at Falmouth Baptist Church has shone for 200 years.

As the church celebrates its bicentennial this year, members are recalling a history full of unusual events.

The first members of what was originally called the Baptist Church at the Forks of the Licking faced confrontation from hostile Indians. They had been traveling 60 dangerous miles to attend services at Bryant's Station Church in Fayette County. The Falmouth Church was formed to provide a worship center closer to home.

Forty-six pastors, a tornado and several name changes later, the church is still ministering.

"The congregation is very excited about our celebration," said Pastor George Naylor. "They have a great deal of pride and ownership in their heritage." Much of that pride, however, came from hard work.

In 1929, for instance, the church found itself in tremendous debt. A group of women in the church came to the rescue by preparing dinners and selling them to the Rotary Club to pay off the debt.

More recent difficulties involve the change in the community, which has died out.

Bicentennial festivities began with a huge birthday cake. Other activities planned include a historical pageant in May, homecoming June 28 and a tent revival in September.

Camp fund

Each year as spring blooms into summer, excitement on campus grows to new heights. Thanks to the camp fund sponsored by our Women's Advisory Board, boys and girls who never have been to camp before gear up for their first camping expedition.

Summer becomes a time when dreams come true and a time when everyone's a winner. This year, the youth at Spring Meadows will have the opportunity to join with hundreds of other youth here in Louisville to work on low-income housing renovations and repairs through World Changers, sponsored through the Brotherhood Commission.

At Glen Dale, youth who never have been to camp will have the thrill of learning new games and crafts, caring for animals through the 4-H program and making new friends. Children who never have won anything or felt like they were champions will win ribbons in the State Fair. The ribbons will serve to remind them that they are capable of caring for another and themselves, that they, too, can experience the joy of pouring their hearts and souls into a project that means

Mix generations to create family, expert says

Continued from page 1

said. Mattingly suggested several ways churches could provide inter-generational programming through fellowships, crafts, service and sports.

Fellowship ideas included bake-offs, men-and-boys' barbecues, fashion shows displaying clothing representing generations from the 1920s to 1990s, multigenerational camping and fellowship dinners that include four family units hosting each other

over a four-month period.

"The purpose of the fellowships is to figure out ways to get everybody together and help them get to know each other," Mattingly said. "For example, in the fellowship dinners, by just being inside someone's home, you know more about him or her."

Craft ideas include senior adults teaching younger adults how to quilt, can, garden or do woodwork, he said.

Under service ministry, Mattingly suggested church members with special skills offer coupons to fellow members for a service rendered free of charge. Those services could especially come in handy for senior adults who might only need a light bulb changed or a ride to church, he said.

Senior adults, in turn, could offer to tutor youths in reading or other educational areas, Mattingly said.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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NEEDED: Interim Music Director. Contact Northside Baptist Church, 159 Pendleton St., Winchester, Ky. 40391, or call (606) 744-2792.

NEEDED: A Woodford County church seeks a director to supervise and administer a startup preschool day-care. Send resumé and salary history to: Preschool Director, c/o Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

something to them.

To provide these opportunities, we must raise \$60 per child. That \$60 stretches to create so many positive memories for each child. These memories can be as simple as catching fireflies or singing around a campfire. And then there are experiences like our challenging rope course that teaches valuable team-building and relationship skills.

Our camp fund is a way for churches to give as much as they feel able to give to make it possible for one or several children to go to summer camp.

Spring is barely here, but now is the time to build up the camp fund.

Thank you for making summers special for our children. If you'd like more information on projects that provide easy ways to help brighten a child's life, call our development office at (800) 456-1386. And thank you for giving our children another chance at happy summertime memories.

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

Paid Column



**GA IS GREAT!
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So say members of Girls in Action at New Castle First Baptist Church in Henry County. The missions organization for girls in grades 1 through 6, began in May 1991 with 8 members. "GA is an outreach for the unchurched girls in our area," says GA leader, Nadine Hudson. Today with a membership of 21, the GAs learn about missions and are involved in mission action projects such as ministering to migrants in their association.

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PREACHING

Hymns can preach, prof tells pastors

LOUISVILLE—Pastors can communicate the gospel effectively through the poetry of a hymn as well as the prose of a sermon, a hymnologist said.

Hymn writing should be reclaimed by pastors as a method of expressing theological truths, said Paul Richardson, associate professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"People retain hymns better than sermons," he said. "Hymns have form, rhyme and memorable ideas. They are also undergirded by a tune."

Most current Baptist hymn writers are either church musicians or laypeople, Richardson said. This stands in contrast to previous generations when Baptist pastors such as Samuel Stennett ("On Jordan's Stormy Banks") and Robert Robinson ("Come Thou Font of Every Blessing") also were accomplished hymn writers.

The reflections of thoughtful pastors could strengthen the theological underpinnings of modern hymnody, he said: "This is a way for pastors to help congregations remember the theological and biblical concepts they preach."

Hymns need not be published in order for them to be useful, Richardson said. "There is value in writing hymns and singing hymns that may never be sung outside a particular congregation," he explained. "Hymn writing is a way to connect people with a message."

Criswell answers questions from students

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

MAYFIELD—Ordaining divorced men is sometimes acceptable but seldom practical, America lacks moral stamina, and Southern Baptist moderates are a "dead group," W.A. Criswell said in Kentucky March 6.

Criswell, longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, spent nearly two hours answering questions from students of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College and pastors attending the school's first annual Criswell Preaching Series.

The legendary 83-year-old pastor spoke to a variety of subjects, ranging from the future of Southern Baptist institutions to the future of America. However, the majority of questions he answered related to the work of the local church and the pastorate.

Here are highlights of his comments:

■ On America. "I think the United States is facing an ultimate bankruptcy. We have already mortgaged our children and our children's children. I do not think America has the inner moral stamina to face the future."

■ On the Southern Baptist Convention controversy. "It's going to continue because of the deep-seated cleavage between us who are Bible-believing and those half-infidels. In time, they'll gradually move out and be non-committal to anything. They're that way anyway."

■ On missions ventures by SBC moderates. Criswell said moderates talk about their commitment to missions only to "bolster up their ego." In reality, he said, moderates are "a dead group. They are dead every way you can measure it."

■ On Southern Baptist colleges. Criswell said he has lost hope for the theological integrity of traditional Baptist colleges. "I've washed my hands of them. You're not going to get Baylor back. ... There's not a thing you can do about it; it's gone."

The alternative, he said, is to support schools like Mid-Continent and Criswell College in Dallas. He specifically chided the three Kentucky Baptist Convention schools—Georgetown, Cumberland and Campbellsville—saying they train only a fraction of the ministerial students trained by "fundamental, Bible-believing, Christ-honoring" schools like Mid-Continent and Criswell College.

■ On divorce. Criswell said he personally has no problem with divorced men serving as pastors or deacons, if there were good reasons for the divorce. However, he said he discourages divorced men from becoming pastors because of inevitable church conflict. First Baptist of Dallas does not ordain divorced men, he said.

■ On church conflict. Criswell said he had to learn the hard way how to deal with conflicts. "When I was young, I used to confront a situation just like that," he said. "What I do now is carefully pray for God to give me wisdom to go around it."

■ On the Bible. "The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired word of God," he said. "There are no mistakes in it. If we had the original manuscripts, every one of them would be inspired."

■ On how to start churches among ethnic groups. "There's no difference in them and us," Criswell said. "You have to do it personally, heart-to-heart, home-to-home, family-to-family. It's the same anywhere."

■ On evangelism programs. Criswell said his church has emphasized weekly Sunday school visitation as a primary means of evangelistic outreach. However, he commended programs such as Continuous Witness Training and Evangelism Explosion. Whatever means is used, it should involve consistent door-to-door visits or telephone visits, he said.

■ On a pastor's devotional time. Criswell said he has blocked out every morning for study and prayer. He advised all pastors to do the same.

■ On pastoral delegation. "No matter who the preacher is, he can only put his arms around so many people," Criswell said. He suggested that a church grows like a tree—by extending its rings from the outside rather than by having all new growth attached to the central core.

■ On unmarried pastors. Criswell said he thinks it is fine for unmarried men to serve as pastors. "Paul boasted of the fact he didn't have to wag around a wife," he quipped. "Some of the greatest preachers of all time never married."

■ On sermon illustrations. Criswell explained that he files every sermon he preaches by Scripture reference and does not hesitate to reuse illustrations after five years or more. "There are people who will remember you gave that illustration five years ago, 10 years ago, but they will be one in 10,000."

■ On sermon introductions. "The most effective way for me to introduce a sermon is scripturally," he said. "Just start off with the Bible. I do that all the time."

■ On sermon preparation. "I am at it everlastingly," Criswell said, explaining he starts working on next week's sermon each Monday morning and attempts to finish by Friday.

■ On planning sermons. Criswell said he constantly preaches a sermon series in his church. Even a poor preacher who preaches a series will do better than a gifted preacher who does not, he said.

■ On pastoral tenure. "It takes time to build a church," he said. "It takes time to know the people. For a pastor to stay at a church a brief time is so tragic and contradictory to the will of God." On the other hand, he said, a pastor can stay too long at a church by not being sensitive to God's will.

Preachers are God's gift, Criswell says

MAYFIELD—Preachers are God's gift to the church, W.A. Criswell said.

Criswell, longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, spoke March 6 to students of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield as well as pastors from Western Kentucky and surrounding states. He was the inaugural speaker for the college's Criswell Preaching Series.

"The riches of Christ are not to be found in buildings or monetary strength," he said, "but in God-called preachers. The New Testament church moves on the feet of those who preach the good news. The whole kingdom of God is placed in our hands. If people are saved, it is because we deliver to them the message of God."

The pastor's assignment from God is to preach truth, Criswell said. He told the students and pastors they should always offer an invitation for decisions when they preach: "Let the preacher preach for a verdict like a lawyer before a jury."

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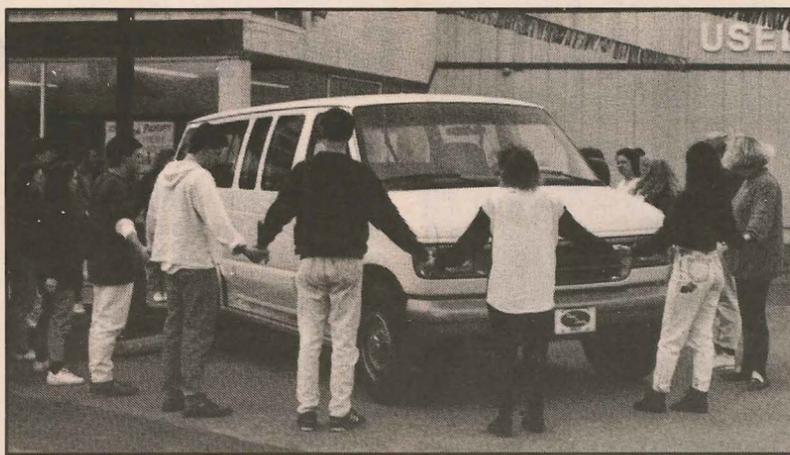
Three Kentuckians are featured in new posters produced by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. The "Southern Baptist Celebrator" posters are sent periodically to churches nationwide to illustrate positive things Baptists have accomplished. Kentuckian Gladys Hopewell is featured among 10 missionaries who have been killed while serving on foreign fields. Hopewell was strangled in her apartment in Taiwan in 1973. Michael Saunders, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Ashland, and C.B. Rezek, pastor of Putney Missionary Baptist Church in Putney, are featured on a poster honoring bivocational ministers.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BLACKFORD**—Pete Hedgepath is serving Blackford Church as pastor. Wilbur Collins, pastor of the church for 26 years, retired and is available for supply.
 ■ **CENTERTOWN**—Eddie Price, pastor of Waltons Creek Church, resigned to accept a call from a church in North Carolina.
 ■ **DRY RIDGE**—Dry Ridge Church celebrates its 175 anniversary this month.
 ■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—Pilgrims Rest Missionary Church has paid off its note for an addition to the church.
 ■ **HICKORY**—Wallace Smith is serving Viola Missionary Church as pastor.
 ■ **HODGENVILLE**—Pleasant Grove Church called Kenneth Udy as pastor.
 ■ **KEAVY**—Antioch Missionary Church called Frank Peters as pastor.
 ■ **LEXINGTON**—Tatesbrook Church called Mike Brady as pastor. He had been serving Second Church in Greenville as associate.
 ■ **LIBERTY**—Chestnut Grove Church called John Routh as pastor. Creston Missionary Church called Don Lambert as pastor.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church presents its 11th annual musical-drama production "The Living Scenes of Easter" April 15-18 at 8 p.m. Tickets are free and can be or-

dered by calling the church at (502) 368-5806.
 ■ **MORGANFIELD**—Woodland Church called John Moore as pastor.
 ■ **MT. WASHINGTON**—First Church called David Watts as minister of music. He formerly served Ninth & O Church in Louisville as associate minister of music.
 ■ **UNIONTOWN**—William Harley Wilson retired after 12 years of service at Uniontown Church. He has moved to Peachtree City, Ga. Calvary Church called Carl Brothers as pastor.
 ■ **WHITESBURG**—Roger Sexton is serving Colson Mission as pastor. Mary Wrye, former minister of education at First Church, was ordained to the ministry by Prescott Memorial Church in Memphis, Tenn.
 ■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Burney Lambdin is serving Big Cane Creek Missionary Church as pastor. Lee Mahan is serving Young's Creek Missionary Church as pastor.
 ■ **WILMORE**—Mt. Freedom Church ordained Roger Garrison as a deacon. Merel Lunsford was recognized for 40 years as a Sunday School teacher.

MISSIONARY UPDATE
 ■ **Mark and Stacey Pennington**, Baptist representatives to Mexico, are on furlough at 514 East Main Street, Georgetown, Ky. 40324.



NEW VAN Cumberland College students form a prayer chain as they give thanks for a new 1992 Ford van donated to the school by a Pennsylvania couple Feb. 24. The 15-passenger van will be used by Love in Action, an organization that involves students in ministry to children and adults of Southeastern Kentucky and Northern Tennessee.

3 Kentuckians assigned overseas

RICHMOND, Va.—Three Kentuckians have been assigned to overseas ministry positions through International Service Corps, an arm of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Betty Evans, a native of Insull, will serve as a mission archivist in Kenya for six months. She is a retired missionary to Tanzania and Kenya and is a graduate of Cumberland College and Western Kentucky University. Ric and Kelly Hale will serve in Central Asia for two years, he as an

instructor in university education and she as an English-language worker. The Hales are members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. He is a system analyst with Ashland Oil Co.; she is a consultant dietitian at Charter Ridge Hospital. International Service Corps is a means for Southern Baptist laypeople and clergy to serve overseas in a variety of assignments lasting from six months to two years. For more information, contact the Foreign Mission Board at (800) 999-3113.

Wedding bells ring at Oneida

Mary Nancy Wilson was very pleased this afternoon. She has been in her eternal home for nearly 15 years and is one of those heavenly witnesses surrounding us that the Bible speaks of. There were several hundred living witnesses in our chapel March 7 to see Tim Freer and Cindy Wise become husband and wife. I felt strongly that Miss Wilson was very much a part of all that happened today. I could almost see her smiling.

Had Mary Nancy Wilson not felt the call of God to Oneida in 1959-64 and again in 1972-77, there would have been no wedding today. Her dearest friend from childhood was Edith O'Dell, who became Mrs. A.H. Freer. This dear lady, now 84, was present to see one of her 16 grandchildren, Tim, make his wedding vows while his identical twin, Tony, stood behind him as best man. Tim came to Oneida in 1986 after his high school graduation for a year of Bible study and to meet other requirements. He stayed on to render valuable service assisting our dean of students these past five years, and working in transportation. It was grandmother Freer's friendship and respect for Mary Nancy Wilson, and Miss Wilson's years of service at OBI, that kept Oneida in the Freer family's mind. That directly led to Tim's coming to study here nine years later and to his wedding day six years after that.

What marvelous things happen when we allow ourselves to be used of God. When I received the call six years ago about Tim's coming, I immediately remembered the friendship of Miss Wilson and grandmother Freer, and thus I also became a link in God's unfolding purpose.

Three years ago, I was again the unknowing link leading to the wedding, as Cindy Wise came to our campus from Nebraska as an assistant dean of girls. She never had seen Oneida and I never

had met her. Cindy was the first person to my knowledge ever hired sight unseen at Oneida. While an assistant dean of women at Murray State University, she had accepted the Lord. Her matron of honor in the wedding was the one who led her to Jesus. Her first pastor, Greg Earwood of Murray First Baptist Church, helped Oneida pastor Joel Rackley perform the ceremony.

Before an illness of her mother caused Cindy to leave Murray and return home, she had felt the call of God to Oneida. Ray Brownfield, a retired bank vice president, was doing a year of volunteer service with his wife at Oneida and was back in his Murray home church giving a testimony. His words about Oneida touched Cindy's heart.

Yes, the wedding was beautiful in every respect, and the reception afterward. Hundreds of our students and staff, alumni, families of both bride and groom, and their friends from other places all made it a touching occasion.

We use whatever happens on our campus to teach our girls and boys. Well over half saw their first Christian wedding ceremony. They were instructed in proper dress and behavior before, during, and after the service. I was not disappointed in a single one.

Waiting to congratulate the newly married couple, I joshed with some of our middle school boys resplendent in their suits and ties. "With the preachers here and you guys looking so nice, I'm going to gather up ten of our girls, and go ahead and marry you fellows off." They each grinned at me sheepishly. One little fellow though, knowing my penchant for doing things on the spot, got a worried look and gravely informed me, "I don't believe I'm old enough."

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Help furnish our preschool building

Construction continues on a 2,600-square-foot preschool building. This facility will provide space for the care of our students' children ages 6 months to kindergarten. We hope to expand our services to include children from the community. Quality Christian day care is a need in our area. This also will provide jobs for student wives.

We're fortunate to have the carpentry on this building donated by residents of the Bell County Forestry Camp. They have a certified carpentry class, using this as a teaching project.

We need your help in furnishing the building with equipment and educational tools:

- 10 sm. wooden chairs, natural finish \$20
- 6 blue stackable plastic chairs \$10
- 2 48"-round tables \$124
- 2 adult rocking chairs \$111
- 1 first-quality molded plastic/wooden high chair \$124
- 4 full-length mirrors (non-breakable) \$60
- 4 sets of bumper pads \$30
- 5 wall clocks \$20
- 2 radio/cassette players \$30
- 2 dust busters \$30
- 3 flannel boards \$20
- 3 timers (not kitchen type) \$12
- 5 medium-size trash cans with swinging lids \$20
- 1 playpen with padded rails and bottom \$80

- 2 cribs \$150
- 1 water table on legs (30"x18"x8") \$105
- 1 stove (range & oven) \$325
- 1 6-cubic-foot refrigerator ... \$170
- 1 television with adjustable portable stand \$200
- 1 VCR \$150
- 1 apartment-size washer/dryer set \$400
- 5 bulletin boards \$112
- 4 12'x9' area carpet/rugs \$100
- 1 porch swing \$50
- 2 sets of wooden home living props \$325

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Items that could be part of a student construction project include: ironing board, folding screen, refrigerator, chest of drawers, doll chair, house cleaning set.

Some of these may be in your home and are not being used. We will be glad to receive quality used merchandise. In most cases a cash gift will enable us to buy at a discount, maintain consistent quality, save cost and time.

We're planning to have the facility completed and furnished by Aug. 1. The fall term begins Aug. 17. Everything needs to be ready by that date. Pray about helping us complete this needed facility

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

Paid Column

Layman writes commentary on Titus

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

GREER, S.C. (BP)—Although he holds two graduate degrees in theology, Hayne Griffin never has felt called by God to use that training in a ministerial career.

However, the 44-year-old vice president and merchandising manager for a furniture store chain said God did call him to use his education to write a new commentary on the book of Titus.

"I've often been asked why, with my educational background, I am not a preacher, minister of education or some other kind of church staff member," Griffin said. "But I never felt called to be a preacher or minister. I do feel, though, that this project is part of God's calling for my life."

The project he speaks of is "The New American Commentary," currently being published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Griffin is the only layman writing for the 40-volume series. His commentary on Titus will be released in April as part of a combined volume on the pastoral epistles.

Griffin holds the master of divini-

ty degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., and a doctorate in New Testament exegesis and biblical criticism from the University of Aberdeen in Aberdeen, Scotland.

But when first asked to write for the commentary series, he was concerned whether he could make a legitimate contribution: "I had not been engaged in academic biblical studies as a student or teacher for quite a few years."

Realizing the project was an excellent opportunity to use his theological training, Griffin committed himself to "sharpening up some old tools" and accepted the assignment as a challenge.

He wrote the bulk of the manuscript in five months—working most mornings from 5:30 to 8 a.m. Many of his days off from work also were spent closed off in his basement study, diligently working through piles of articles and books on Titus he had collected from various libraries and reading through rough drafts with his wife, Virginia, whom he described as a "serious Bible student and teacher herself" and "a wonderful theological editor."

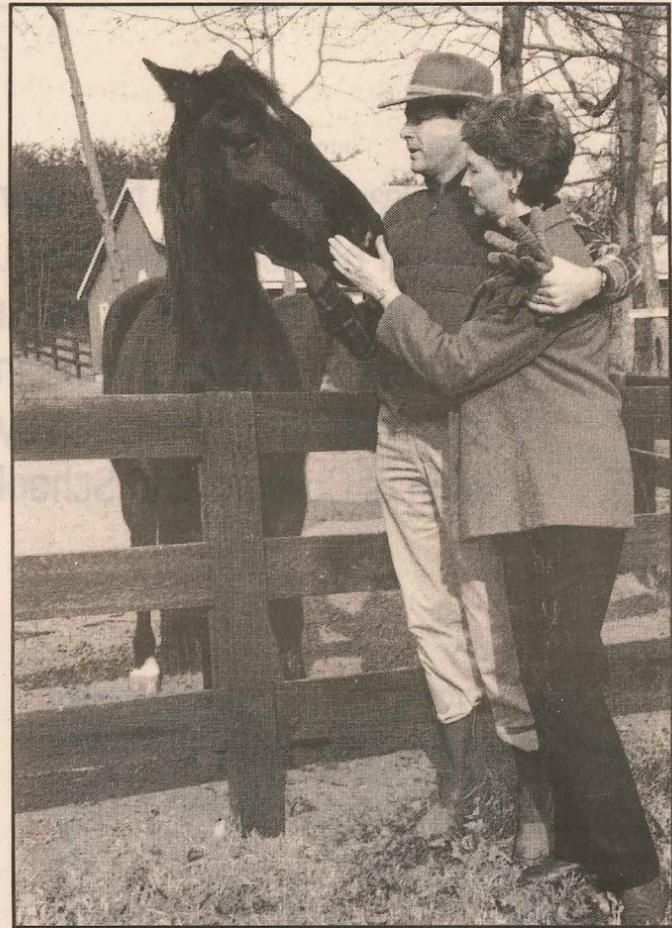
"It was technical and difficult at times, but I really enjoyed getting into it," Griffin said. "Titus is a small book but it is packed with basic Christian doctrine and relevant teaching for today's church."

Among the most interesting issues dealt with in pastoral epistles, Griffin said, are the qualifications for elders—an office that is receiving increased attention among some Southern Baptists—and Paul's admonition that sound faith must be based on sound doctrine.

Griffin said he came away from the project with an even firmer conviction that "our whole motivation to serve the Lord has got to come from the knowledge of what God has done for us by his grace through his Son, Jesus Christ."

While not everyone can attend college and seminary, Griffin said, all Christians are responsible for learning and applying biblical truths and doctrine taught throughout Scripture.

"Baptists have often been criticized for being theologically shallow," he said. "Through our teaching, we need to make sure that a foundation of correct theology is constantly being laid."



HORSE SENSE Hayne and Virginia Griffin pea horse on their farm near Greer, S.C. Griffin, vice president of a furniture store chain, is the only layman serving as a contributing writer for "The New American Commentary" published by Broadman Press. (BP photo by Chip Alford)

God's love lasts longer than baseball fame, pitcher says

By Ferrell Foster
Illinois Baptist

HAVANA, Ill. (BP)—The fame of major league baseball fades, but the joy of knowing Jesus Christ lasts forever, Bill Sampen says.

As a pitcher with the Montreal Expos, Sampen and his wife, Amy, are living a life many people dream about.

But there is more to the Sampens than baseball. Both are Christians seeking to live for Jesus Christ in a high-profile world full of secular pressures. They are members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church near Kilbourne, Ill.

"The feeling I got when I made my debut, when I got my first win, when I got my first save, and each win after that, ... it disappeared after the game," Sampen said.

But his salvation through Jesus Christ is different, the pitcher said. "That's the only thing I have that will last."

Money and extensive travel schedules offer strong temptations to professional athletes, Sampen said. But he and his wife work hard to maintain a lifestyle that matches the faith they profess.

"You're having thousands and thousands of people watch your every move out there," he said. "If you're going to take a stand for Christ, then you need to keep that in mind. They're watching you. And that's a great challenge."

Money wasn't always a temptation, Mrs. Sampen explained, because during five years in the minor leagues he made "zilcho money."

But now that their financial prospects are rising, the Sampens said they are trying to keep level heads.

They rent a small house with a basement in Havana, Ill. It doesn't look like a place where a major league ballplayer would live.

Sampen said as long as he's play-

ing major league baseball, he doesn't want to buy a house until they can pay for it outright.

They live in Havana only about four months each year. Currently, they are in West Palm Beach, Fla., for spring training. Then, it will be north to Montreal.

Mrs. Sampen goes with her husband to each place. But when he goes on road trips during the season, she can't always travel. The team allows spouses only one road trip each year on the team's chartered plane.

Some ballplayers live on the wild side during road trips, Sampen admitted, but he attempts to occupy his time with positive things.

"Professional athletics probably has the most conducive hours to do all the things you shouldn't do and the most opportunities," Sampen said. "We're on the road for, normally, around a week. You're in big cities. There's all kinds of things to do and

most of them aren't very positive."

Sampen and some other Christian players have an alternative after games.

While others hit the bars or pick up women, the Christian teammates find their own, more wholesome fun. They also meet for morning Bible study.

"We try to spend as much time together as we can," Sampen said. "We're close, a pretty solid group."

Sampen said he also thinks about God even when on the mound. "I just want to make sure I'm approaching my business in the right way," he said.

"I want to do everything I can," he said. "And I don't think I'll do that unless God is there with me, because I get in the way. That doesn't mean he's going to help me win, but that's really not what I'm looking for."

"I guess I just believe that if I approach it the right way often enough, I'll get my share of wins."

God's protection better than guards, Peruvian official says

By Jim Newton & David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—Although terrorist groups are a constant threat to his life, Peruvian vice president Carlos Garcia said he depends more on the security of God than on the security guards who try to protect him.

Garcia is a former Baptist pastor and one of the few evangelical Christians elected to public office in South America. He was elected Peru's second vice president last year.

"The lives of political leaders in my country are in constant danger," Garcia said. Peruvian evangelicals

also are under threat of terrorist attacks from such guerrilla groups as the Shining Path, which he said has formed "a diabolical alliance with drug traffickers."

"About 400 Christian evangelicals have been assassinated by this group in the last seven years," he said. "Among them, about 35 to 40 pastors have been killed."

An estimated 25,000 terrorist-related deaths have been recorded in Peru in the past 11 years.

Shining Path, whose members embrace Maoist principles, and Tupac Amaru, a group that advocates a Castro-style revolution, blast evangelicals as "agents of American im-

perialism," Garcia said.

However, the new slate of elected leaders in Peru has given Peruvian evangelicals a high visibility, Garcia said.

He told about plans to distribute more than 1 million Bibles and New Testaments this year in Peru. He said he had been successful in getting written permission from Peru's minister of education to distribute 6 million Spanish-language copies of the "Harmony of the Gospel" and "The Book of Life" to students enrolled in Peru's public schools.

Garcia said the emphasis on Bible reading and distribution marks the first time evangelicals and Cath-

olics in Peru have formed a committee to work together on a project. The committee is urging all Peruvians to read the Bible for 15 minutes each day and to read the Bible through in one year.

"In my country," Garcia said, "there is a tremendous crisis. The primary source of the problem is spiritual. The people are looking for something beyond themselves. God is opening the door to say to them, 'There is hope.'"

He urged Baptists in the United States to pray for the people of Peru. "Without spiritual change, no change in any country is permanent," he said.

CLEAR CREEK

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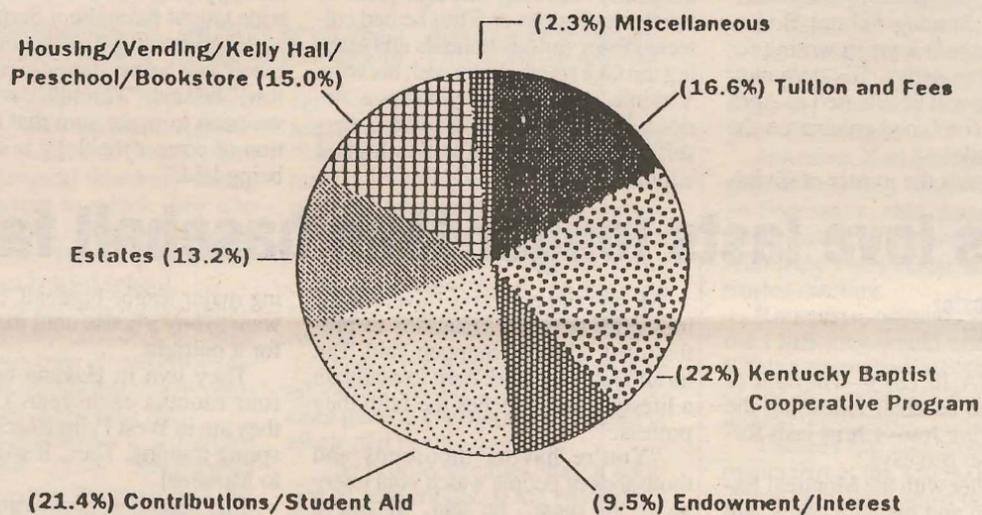


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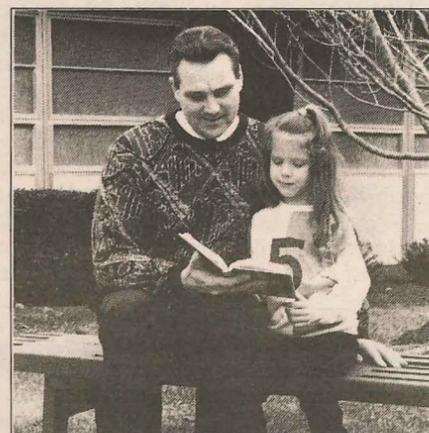


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