

FOR THE RECORD

Exhibitors exit
Several SBC agencies have withdrawn plans to have exhibits at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, citing a desire not to appear to endorse the group of Baptist moderates. *See page 2.*

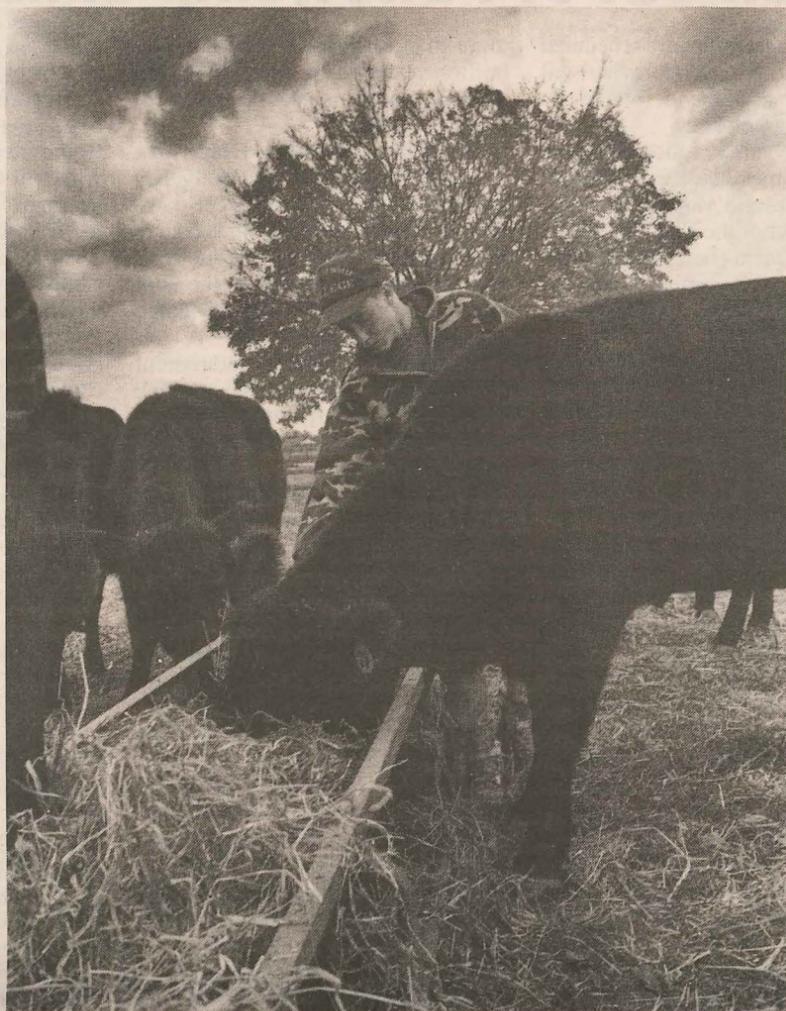
International family
Grace pastor Herb Case and his wife have adopted an international family. *See page 3.*

Editorial
By avoiding a controversial vote on three abortion bills, Kentucky's senators demonstrated what's wrong with America's legislative process. *See page 5.*

RA evangelism
One question in an RA manual led to five people becoming Christians in Liberty. *See page 8.*

MISSION to Japan

Americans know a lot about Japanese and cars, but less about Japanese and the gospel. *See page 7.*



FEEDING TIME A resident of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Glen Dale campus tends a registered Angus bull on the campus near Elizabethtown. Through a 4-H program, child care leaders attempt to build self-esteem in residents. The 4-H program fits caring for animals into overall therapy for children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect. Three leaders of Glen Dale's 4-H program recently completed the family community leadership training program offered by the University of Kentucky and the Cooperative Extension Service. They received training in how to hone leadership skills, gain access to the public policy process and influence decisions about issues that affect families and their communities.

'Awesome' needs cited for Project Brotherhood

KHABAROVSK, Russia—"The need is awesome," the leader of a Brotherhood assessment team said after surveying opportunities for Baptist ministries in the far east of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Jim Furgerson led an eight-member team to survey possible ministries for Project Brotherhood, which the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission is coordinating at the request of the Baptist World Alliance. Furgerson is a staff member with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.

Kentucky Baptists have been asked to provide boxes of food, volunteer workers and prayer support for Project Brotherhood.

Bob Simpkins, state Brotherhood director, said a statewide prayer chain is being organized to undergird the massive relief project. Randall Rains, a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Greensburg, is coordinating the prayer chain.

Simpkins said Rains hopes to enlist a contact person in each association who will in turn enlist a contact person in every church in the association. With this system in place, prayer requests and updates can be transmitted quickly across the state, Simpkins explained.

Simpkins said he already has heard from several churches planning to contribute boxes of food for the project. Details on how to prepare food boxes were reported in the March 24 issue of the Recorder and also are available from the state con-

vention offices.

"Anything we do will relieve the situation," Furgerson said after returning to the U.S. from the survey trip.

For example, food is readily available at the bazaar in Khabarovsk, which is akin to an American farmers' market, Furgerson said. But for most Russian families in the region, the \$20-\$30 per month salary they receive doesn't keep up with new free-market prices.

Preliminary assessment plans call for two containers of food boxes to be distributed through Khabarovsk Baptist Church. This shipment would contain about 2,000 boxes of basic foodstuffs, each weighing 36 pounds.

Food distribution is a short-term solution to the problem, Furgerson said, but involves English teachers who also can lead Bible studies. "We've discovered an open door with a local college that could lead to the establishment of student work similar to BSU in the United States," he said.

Other needs include training, medical assistance, church buildings and church buses.

The first phase of Project Brotherhood is the distribution of 570 tons of USDA surplus food in Moscow beginning in mid-April.

For more information about how to participate in Project Brotherhood, contact Simpkins at the Kentucky Baptist Convention: (502) 245-4101.

Reported by Jim Burton of the SBC Brotherhood Commission through Baptist Press and by Mark Wingfield of the Western Recorder.

Anger is God's gift to be used correctly, singles told

By Jim Robinson
State Correspondent

CAVE CITY—Contrary to popular belief, God has called Christians to be angry and to express that anger appropriately, a professor told Kentucky Baptist single adults.

Walter Jackson, professor of Christian ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, addressed the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual single adult retreat in Cave City.

He reminded the group that anger is part of the original equipment God gave humans at creation.

Many people are raised with the idea that a good Christian never gets angry, Jackson said. But he explained that anger, expressed appropriately rather than ragefully, can be healthy.

"Anger often travels in bad company, such as hitting and shouting, but we need to see it as a gift from God," he said. "Sin is the misuse of God's good gifts, and anger certainly can be misused."

After reading from Psalm 22 and Ephesians 4, Jackson encouraged Christians to handle anger with a four-step approach:

- Accept anger as a gift from God.
- Admit there is anger in your life.
- Aim anger at the correct cause.
- Express anger constructively.

'Spiritual covenant' would help relationships

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE—Relationships between pastors and congregations would be strengthened if they developed "spiritual covenants" with each other, participants at a recent Southern Baptist conference on minister and congregation bonding concluded.

A total of 58 pastors and laypeople from seven states reached that consensus during the meeting sponsored by the Dehoney Center for the Study of the Local Church at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

While not a legal document, a spiritual covenant should spell out expect-

tations for both the pastor and the congregation, said Ernest White, director of the Dehoney Center. People abide by a spiritual covenant out of a sense of commitment rather than obligation, he said.

"There should be mutual commitment instead of using it to force people to do things they don't want to do," said White, professor of church administration and leadership at Southern Seminary.

Conferece participants were selected from churches where a healthy relationship exists between the pastor and congregation. These congregations and pastors were identified last year during Southern Seminary's

study on quality in ministry funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc.

During the conference, pastors and church members concluded that ministers and congregations must be sensitive to issues of compatibility during the pastor-selection process. "The needs of the church and the strengths of the pastor must fit each other," White explained.

Trust and communication also were cited as essential elements of good relationships. "Churches and pastors can be open with each other and they need to be able to voice expectations," White noted. "The ability to address problems when they arise is crucial."

Moving? See page 4 (0407)

Healthcare System joins Brazil effort

By Marv Knox
Editor

A journey back to its "spiritual roots" is leading Baptist Healthcare System to Brazil.

BHS will send a medical missions team to the Brazilian state of Espirito Santo this summer, as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership with Baptists there.

But the trip really began months ago, said Gary Bennett, a chaplain at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah.

BHS President Ed Vaughn "talked to some of the chaplains about involving us in giving the hospitals direction toward the spiritual care of persons," Bennett reported. That prompted chaplains and BHS trustees to begin "trying to look at ways we could move the hospitals in a direction of getting back to our roots and the spiritual aspect of our care."

A trustee suggested the healthcare system sponsor a medical mission trip. That led Bennett, who has chaired the committee to coordinate the trip, to look at the Brazil-Kentucky partnership.

□ See BHS sending ..., page 9

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary** students leading spring break revivals in new areas of Baptist work saw 256 people make professions of faith in Jesus Christ. From the school's Fort Worth, Texas, campus, students fanned out to assist 165 churches in 26 states.

■ **Temp Sparkman**, professor of religious education and church administration at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., has resigned, citing "personal reasons." The 60-year-old professor was granted medical leave, but the seminary declined to disclose the nature of his illness.

■ **Cooperative Program** gifts received by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in March dropped more than 7 percent over the same period last year, and designated gifts dropped 22 percent. However, total gifts to date in this fiscal year remain more than \$1 million ahead of last year.

■ **The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs** has offered to use "Christian conciliation" to settle a dispute over \$300,000 on deposit with the Southern Baptist Foundation. The offer for binding arbitration was presented in an April 2 letter to the attorney of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

■ **Negotiations** between Furman University and the South Carolina Baptist Convention have reached an impasse, leading state convention officials to say they will "take the necessary legal steps" to retain control of the Baptist-affiliated school. The April 2 announcement increased the likelihood that the convention will file suit against the school.

SBC agencies back out of Fellowship exhibit plans

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—A behind-the-scenes campaign led by top Southern Baptist officials has persuaded almost all Southern Baptist agencies not to have exhibits at the upcoming assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Within a period of three days last week, seven of the eight Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions that earlier had committed to sponsor exhibits at the Fellowship meeting cancelled those plans.

As of April 2, the Annuity Board was the only remaining SBC agency on the list of exhibitors. But Annuity Board President Paul Powell told Associated Baptist Press he may still reverse his agency's decision.

Meanwhile, Woman's Missionary Union, an SBC auxiliary, indicated it will participate in the Fellowship assembly, set for April 30-May 2 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Gone from the list of 45 original exhibitors, however, are the Sunday School Board, Radio and Television Commission, Brotherhood Commission and four Southern Baptist seminaries—Southern, Southwestern, New Orleans and Midwestern.

The SBC agencies were scheduled to join a variety of vendors that will display their goods and services to Fellowship participants.

The cancellations followed phone calls and fax messages between SBC agency leaders and Morris Chapman, president-elect of the SBC Executive Committee, David Hankins, chairman of the Executive Committee, and Jimmy Draper, president of the Sunday School Board.

In recent months, SBC leaders have bristled at attempts by the Fellowship to convince churches to divert contributions from the Cooperative Program, the SBC's traditional means of funding its work, to the Fellowship's own mission efforts.

"Cooperative Baptist Fellowship promotional materials advocate bypassing existing Cooperative Program channels," Draper said in a memo faxed to all SBC agencies. "We want to avoid any misunderstanding that, by our presence, the board would be supporting any avenue of mission support that would erode the Cooperative Program."

Fellowship leaders point out, however, that most of the money their organization receives ends up in the same place anyway. Although normal SBC funding channels are bypassed,

more than three-fourths of the \$4.5 million received by the Fellowship last year was designated for Southern Baptist agencies.

In addition to his fax, Draper discussed the matter with several agency leaders by telephone in recent days. But one Executive Committee source said Chapman, who won't assume his new Executive Committee role until this summer, initiated the campaign and solicited Draper's help.

Chapman released a statement through Baptist Press April 3 in which he acknowledged talking with agency heads about the issue but denied exerting any pressure.

Powell of the Annuity Board said Chapman called him "to share his feelings about whether any of our agencies ought to be going to these meetings. It was his opinion that they should not."

Powell said he called Draper after receiving Draper's fax message, but Powell denied any knowledge of pressure tactics. "I don't know what has gone on behind the scenes," he said.

Executive Committee Chairman Hankins said he talked to some SBC agency heads about their participation in the Fellowship meeting. But he termed those conversations "fraternal" and noted they dealt more with

ideas and feelings than any concrete actions or reactions.

Reports circulating among some SBC agencies indicated Executive Committee leaders had threatened to withhold Cooperative Program budget funds from agencies represented at the Fellowship's meeting.

But Hankins downplayed the possibility of such a threat as "a matter of interpretation."

"The Executive Committee doesn't have any prerogatives—and I certainly don't have as chairman—to tell anybody what to do," he insisted.

Cecil Sherman, Fellowship coordinator, called the cancellations unfortunate. He suggested such "confrontational" tactics from SBC leaders are creating tension between the convention and the Fellowship, forcing agencies and churches to choose between the two.

"Our desire is for mutuality," Sherman said. "We are doing some things the Southern Baptist Convention is no longer doing, but we also will continue to do some things through the Southern Baptist Convention."

Additional reporting by Marv Knox and Mark Wingfield of the Western Recorder and Herb Hollinger of Baptist Press.

Largest donor deletes about \$30 million in will for FMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—An estimated \$30 million has been diverted away from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board by the agency's largest benefactor due to political and theological changes instituted by trustees.

J. Harwood Cochrane, a Richmond trucking executive who has given millions of dollars to the FMB, said he has written the FMB out of his will because he is "disenchanted" with the agency's direction under conservative trustees.

One source estimated the legacy due the board after the death of Cochrane and his wife could have been as high as \$30 million. Other sources said the amount was higher.

In an interview with Baptist Press, Cochrane refused to confirm dollar amounts but indicated he had left some money in his will for use by the board in overseas hunger relief. He said he will leave the bulk of his estate in other hands, which he declined to identify.

Cochrane, 79, and his wife, Louise, already have given the board about \$9 million in cash, stocks and

property over the years. Their gifts included a 233-acre tract in Rockville, Va., now the site of the board's Missionary Learning Center.

A member of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Richmond, Cochrane built his fortune with Overnite Transportation Co., which he founded and built into an industry leader before selling it to Union Pacific for \$1.2 billion in 1986. He came out of retirement last fall and founded another trucking company, Highway Express.

His decision became public shortly after FMB President Keith Parks announced he would retire due to philosophical differences between him and trustees.

But Cochrane said he made his final decision "six to nine months ago" to remove the FMB from his will. He had not intended to make it public, he said, but responded to specific questions from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, which first reported the story.

Cochrane, himself a former FMB trustee, said he is "very, very disappointed" about the direction of the board under its new conservative trustees.

"I've been hurt for four or five years now," he explained. "As I see it, they're trying to recycle everyone and make a fundamentalist out of them. I don't like it a bit."

Parks declined to comment on Cochrane's action but said the Baptist layman had not discussed it with him.

Trustee Chairman Bill Hancock of Louisville commended Cochrane for his support for missions over the years, but said, "Just as we trust God

to call out our missionaries, we must trust the Lord to provide the financial needs of the missions enterprise."

Hancock urged other Southern Baptists not to be too quick to take similar action. "Before Southern Baptists disinherit our foreign missions enterprise, I strongly appeal for them to pray and to inquire of present staff members in Richmond and be informed about what has happened and what's going on."

European talks with FMB 'on hold'

SWANWICK, England (ABP)—European Baptists will wait to see who replaces Keith Parks as president of the Foreign Mission Board before deciding if they can work with Southern Baptists on mission projects in Europe. "As far as the partnership with the Foreign Mission Board, everything is on hold," Karl-Heinz Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, told Associated Baptist Press March 26.

"We will wait," Walter said in a telephone interview. "There is no hurry. We will see who will be the next people in leadership."

Parks told trustees he will retire when he turns 65 in October — three years earlier than planned—because of "philosophical differences" with trustees over how to do missions. He said in February there had been a "drastic shift" in the trustees' mission philosophy, especially as it relates to Europe.

15 FMB missionaries resign from European posts in month

By Robert Dilday
Virginia Religious Herald

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Fifteen Southern Baptist missionaries serving in Europe have resigned this month, Foreign Mission Board officials confirmed April 2.

At least two of the missionaries, John and Revonda Deal, based in Switzerland, are citing recent actions by conservative FMB trustees as decisive in their resigning, said Winston

Crawley, interim vice president overseeing the FMB's work in Europe.

Crawley said health and other personal reasons led to the others' decisions, although he acknowledged in "two or three cases" opposition to the direction taken by the FMB may have been "background factors."

However, some FMB administrators said privately that dissatisfaction with the board's direction has played a more significant role in the resignations than is acknowledged publicly.

The FMB has been immersed in controversy since last October, when trustees slashed contributions to a seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The action led in January to the early retirements of the board's top Europe administrators, Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker. Last month, FMB President Keith Parks announced plans to retire in October because of "philosophical differences" with trustees.

Other resigning missionaries are

John and Celia Bane, Italy; Barry and Vicki Bates, Portugal; Robert and Debbie Cochran, Eastern Europe; Glenn and Camilla Dyer, Germany; John and Diane Haeger, Italy; Tom and Brenda Stallworth, Austria; and Kathie White, Scotland.

Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission personnel, said 15 resignations from one administrative area is unusual. "That's a higher than normal figure from an area the size of Europe," he noted.

Find strength in God, not self, singles told

By Jim Robinson
State Correspondent

CAVE CITY—Single adults can find strength in God more than in self, Harold Rowland told Kentucky Baptist singles.

Rowland, soon to become pastor of Kentucky's Fort Mitchell Baptist Church, was the keynote speaker at a singles retreat sponsored by the family ministry department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"We are taught as Americans to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps, to be self-made men and women," he noted.

However, Christians should view God as the ultimate source of power rather than relying on the things of this world, Rowland said. "The props of the world will not support the Christian, but reliance on Jesus Christ will."

He encouraged single adults to answer God's call as good soldiers who obey the commanding officer, as athletes who play by God's rules and as farmers who seek 24-hour-a-day relationships with Jesus Christ.

In a workshop on divorce recovery, Debbie Wald encouraged singles to let go of their divorces and let God work in their lives.

Wald, a single adult leader from Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, said the grief that follows divorce must be dealt with.

"To internalize the grief will kill you," she said. "To externalize it often brings about emotional and physical exhaustion."

A better choice, Wald said, is to actualize the grief and face up to the facts.

Wald also suggested single parents affirm to their children that they are still part of a family.

Further, single parents should develop lives of their own in order to help their children, she said, explaining that parents suffering from low self-esteem usually pass that on to their children.

About 250 people from 80 churches attended the event.

Kentucky family goes international

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

GRACEY—Pastor Herb Case doesn't get as many invitations for Sunday dinner as he used to.

At least not until the congregation finds room for four more places at their tables. Last November, Case and his wife, Karen, adopted four Costa Rican children.

Joining a 4-year-old Korean son who was adopted in 1988, Nidia, Jorge, Angelica and Angie considerably changed the dynamics at the parsonage of West Union Baptist Church in Gracey.

When announcing the adoptions, the pastor teased church members by asking who would be first to invite them all over for dinner. Like everything else, meals have taken on a new flavor at the Case household in the past several months.

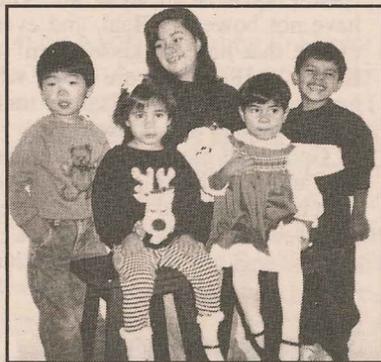
"At mealtimes, Karen cooks up a gob of food," Case said. "The little ones are pretty good eaters, but Nidia has had the hardest time getting used to unfamiliar food."

Nidia is the oldest of the children, whose ages range from 11 to 2.

Although they have no biological children, the Cases have a lot of parenting experience. For four years they were house parents at the Spring Meadows campus of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in Middletown. They also have served as foster parents.

The couple worked closely with Holt International Children's Services, an agency that seeks homes for homeless children overseas, to adopt 4-month-old Karl in March 1988.

When the Cases again considered



MULTICULTURAL FAMILY After two international adoptions, the family of Herb and Karen Case includes Karl, 4; Sarah, 4; Nidia, 11; Angie, 2; and Steven, 5. Case is pastor of West Union Baptist Church in Gracey.

adoption in 1990, they decided to look for one baby girl. But they were touched by the four Costa Rican siblings in need of a home.

"Our first response was 'No way, we can't do that,'" Case said. "But the more we thought about it, the more we felt that's what we should do."

The paperwork and preliminary adoption procedures took a great deal of time, but Case said they needed that time to prepare for such a big change.

"The response from the church and the community and our families was unbelievable," he said, explaining that much of the needed funds were raised by the church and by family members.

"The church really shocked me one night," Case said. "They asked if I needed some more room in my house, and proceeded to make plans to add 830 square feet to the parsonage."

A contractor from a mission ser-

vice group in North Carolina was enlisted to help with the project. Churches from North and South Carolina sent volunteer teams last summer to help build the additional room.

By November, Mrs. Case had been studying Spanish with a tutor, the car was traded for a van, and flight arrangements were finalized for the trip to Costa Rica.

Only Karl still had reservations. Case said his son told one church member "I'll share my toys, I'll share my room, I'll share Papa, but I won't share Mama."

But according to Case, Karl has done well with the adjustments.

When the family returned from Costa Rica, they found a well-stocked pantry and a big welcome home banner from the church.

"The church has been a great support," Case said. "Everyone has fallen in love with the children."

The language barrier has been the most difficult adjustment, he said. "Sometimes it's frustrating, because we can't sit down and have conversations with them yet."

"I kind of point and smile a lot. But our Spanish is getting better, and Nidia is already picking up a good deal of English."

Case called his wife a "natural" at handling the challenges and frustrations of being a mother of five multicultural children, although "there are days when even she is absolutely worn out."

Still, the Cases are happy with their unusual family. Through it all they said they have come to understand the Lord's providence in a new light: "We know how the Lord is 'seldom early, but never late.'"

Youth Ranch boys take a hike to help

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

ELIZABETHTOWN—Baptist Youth Ranch Director Bob Milburn told his residents to take a hike this week.

Six of the 11 boys at the ranch took Milburn's challenge seriously and are walking 100 miles during their spring break.

The walk is an effort to help Tiffany Luttrell, an Owensboro kindergartener who has been diagnosed with leukemia.

The boys hope to raise \$1,000 in their 20-mile-a-day trek from Elizabethtown to Utica, where Luttrell goes to school. The money will be raised through donations made to a trust fund.

Luttrell's family has incurred a significant financial burden from weekly visits to Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville for treatments.

Accompanied by Milburn and another staff member, who is following the boys in a van, the hikers are spending some nights of their trip camping out at the Rough River State Park.

Also, meals are being provided by churches and others in the area.

The youth ranch—operated by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children—provides therapeutic care for teen-age boys with emotional and behavioral difficulties.

Milburn said the project is "a good, positive energy channel for the kids during spring break."

"These boys are giving up their spring break to make a difference in someone else's life," he said, and that will make a difference in their own lives.

Baptist family seeks help to provide a 'miracle for Mandy'

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

WHITE PLAINS—Baptists in Little Bethel Association are rallying behind a 19-month-old girl in need of a liver and small intestine transplant.

"A Miracle for Mandy" is the theme of the awareness and fund-raising effort launched on behalf of Amanda Jo Moore.

Both sets of the child's grandparents are members of Kentucky Baptist churches. C.J. and Robbie Moore are members of Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Morton's Gap. Jimmy and Linda Larkins are affiliated

with Concord Missionary Baptist Church in White Plains.

Amanda's parents, Steve and Kathy Moore, are native Kentuckians who currently live in Nashville. They are members of Brook Hollow Baptist Church there.

To date, about \$30,000 has been contributed to a trust fund for Amanda at a Madisonville bank, Robbie Moore said. Another trust fund has been established at a Nashville bank.

The family needs \$500,000 just to get on a donor list for the rare transplant procedure, Mrs. Moore said. The total cost could reach \$750,000.

Although insurance has covered

many expenses up to this point—including eight surgeries—it will not cover the transplant because the procedure is considered experimental, she explained.

Amanda's condition, diagnosed soon after birth, is called Necrotizing Enter-Colitis. Because this disease attacks the intestines, previous surgeries have removed all but 6 inches of Amanda's intestines.

The child does not have enough intestines left to process food properly, so she must be fed intravenously with a high protein solution which damages the liver.

So, Amanda's liver and intestines

must be replaced at the same time, Mrs. Moore explained. "They would not do one transplant without doing both."

Amanda's cause has received publicity throughout Southwestern Kentucky and the Middle Tennessee region.

The response "has been great," Mrs. Moore said. "It's picked us all up, especially my son and his wife. It's unreal how people are reaching out."

Contributions should be sent to the Mandy Moore trust fund at Farmers Bank, North Main Street, Madisonville, Ky. 42431.

BLUEGRASS BURGOO

■ **Helen Thomas**, White House bureau chief for United Press International, will speak at Cumberland College April 20. The Winchester native also will receive the honorary doctor of laws degree from Cumberland.

■ **Danny Jones**, a native of Germantown, has been named a consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department. He is the son of Orpha Jones of Germantown and the late Arthur Jones.

■ **Jeff Mosby**, a resident of the Glen Dale campus of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, has won the title as the best high school wrestler of his weight in Kentucky. The 119-lb. Mosby was to compete for the national title in Pittsburgh April 4-5.

■ **Georgetown College** senior Allen McCowan has been named to the NAIA All-America First basketball team. Georgetown student Russ Chadwell received an NAIA All-America honorable mention.

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

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Check the facts

I am responding to remarks made by W.A. Criswell (WR, March 17). I write as a graduate of Georgetown College, a 10-year trustee of Campbellsville College and for more than a decade a pastor in the community where Cumberland College is located.

Bro. Criswell stated that our three Kentucky Baptist senior colleges enroll only a fraction of the ministerial students enrolled at Mid-Continent or Criswell College.

While I disagree with his figures, I also disagree with his definition of students in ministry.

Even more troubling is his unwillingness to recognize almost 4,400 students enrolled in our Kentucky Baptist colleges who will become tomorrow's ministers, missionaries, Christian doctors, attorneys, dentists, pharmacists, school teachers, business and professional men and women. Many will become deacons, Sunday school teachers and lay leaders.

Dr. Criswell drew a false conclusion from a false assumption in his unbridled zeal to promote his two namesakes—Criswell College and the Criswell Lectureship—an understandable, but not permissible, mathematical error.

Kentucky Baptists have a rich heritage in our schools. I cannot sit idly by and allow statements which lack credibility to go unchallenged.

I do not believe a man of Dr. Criswell's stature would knowingly make adversarial statements which only have long-term counterproductive results, so I only wish he would check the facts before he makes accusations which are unsubstantiated.

*Harold S. Mauney, pastor
First Baptist Church
Williamsburg*

Faint not

This letter is a response to Romona Reynolds, who wrote a recent opinion article ("The field of opportunity is not open" for women ministers," WR, March 24):

As I read your letter, I was reminded of the prophet Elijah. He said, "... I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life to take it away" (1 Kings 19:14). He felt deserted, alone and frustrated, just as you feel.

God spoke to Elijah, however, and I hope that what the Lord said will be of some comfort to you. "Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him" (1 Kings 19:18). There are 7,000 who have not bowed to the Baals of tradition, of bigotry and of exclusion.

God's call is strong and demanding, and sometimes a Cross comes with it. The call and the Cross have a great reward: liberation. Faint not.

*Pete Sinclair
Louisville*

Thanks for help

I want to thank Claude Witt and the Temperance League of Kentucky. On March 18, I received a call informing me that an amendment had been attached to House Bill 753.

This amendment would allow counties with 25 miles of shoreline on one of our state lakes to have wet/dry precinct elections, even if the county is dry. Bro. Witt had been informed that day of this bill.

By receiving this information as soon as we did, we were able to inform all of our associational churches before services that night. This enabled us to call our representatives and make our voices heard.

I urge all of our churches to support the Temperance League with their finances and their prayers.

*Gary R. Pate, pastor
Hurricane Baptist Church
Cadiz*

Trampling Christ

Without dwelling on the sinfulness of homosexuality, Paul did that in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10:

If a religious body is damaged by taking a moral, biblical stand, hooray! Saying a thing is not sinful or making it legal doesn't change the fact, sin is still sin. I, and hopefully most informed Christians, will not buy the "new age" idea that there is no sin.

For an individual to sin, whatever the sin, (Paul mentioned several) is one thing. For a church to condone, and even encourage, that sin is an altogether different thing. I may have a child who uses drugs. I forgive that child; I pray for that child; but I won't encourage his habit.

The same Christ who forgave the woman found in adultery took a scourge and chased the money-changer sinners from the temple. For a church to condone sin in any form is for that church to trample under foot the very Christ they profess. We all sin, but a church must not condone that sin. The writer of Hebrews has much to say about going back on our commitment to Christ (Hebrews 10:26-31). For the SBC to admit such a church is to tar itself with the same brush.

*Everett Adams
Alexandria*

Don't exclude

As a young Southern Baptist, I am very concerned with the future of our denomination and its ability to minister to the world around us.

I am very disturbed by the recent arguments concerning the homosexual controversy in Raleigh, N.C. We are verbally attacking a sister church which is seeking to minister to a hurting world. We do not have to agree with people to love and accept them. It is easy to label a group of people as "sinners" or find Scripture to condemn their lifestyle, but it is difficult to love them. I believe Christ calls us to do the latter.

I am afraid our hate for the sin has turned into hate for the sinner.

I support the efforts of any church which seeks to reach out to those who are in need, heterosexual or not. To exclude homosexuals from the church or ordained ministry is to turn the family of God into a country club of Pharisees.

I pray that the SBC Executive Committee will not punish these churches for being a "light unto the world."

*Jud Hendrix
Louisville*

Don't condone sin

This is a reply to the person too ashamed to sign her name to the letter to the editor ("Bind up divisions," WR, March 17):

The Bible does speak out on homosexuals. Read Romans 1, especially verse 27.

Jesus the Son, God the Father and the Holy Spirit are all one, yet three

persons. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scriptures.

God created man and woman. They were told to populate the earth. This is God's plan. There is no other way to procreate. This should tell you something.

Yes, we can love the person through Jesus Christ, but we cannot condone his or her sin of being a homosexual or lesbian.

*Lucille C. Turner
Somerset*

Let's exclude ...

OK, let's exclude those North Carolina churches who by their actions condone homosexuality.

In 1993, let's exclude those churches who condone divorce by ordaining divorced people as pastors and deacons.

In 1994, let's exclude those churches who have pastors and/or deacons who are or have engaged in dishonest or shady business deals.

In 1995, let's examine the families of pastors and deacons and exclude those churches whose pastors' and deacons' spouses gossip and children misbehave.

If we keep at it diligently, by the year 2000 we should have a model convention—modeled after the Scribes and Pharisees, who kept every letter of the law but were condemned by Jesus because they lacked love.

We must never compromise our stand and should never cease to preach and teach against every sin, but we must ever be aware of Jesus' statement, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone." There is not a single church or individual in the Southern Baptist Convention that is eligible to cast that first vote to exclude a sister church or a fellow church member.

Excluding a church or an individual is pretending they do not exist and therefore washing our hands of them, but when we include them, we have the responsibility and opportunity of ministering and witnessing to them. Exclusion is shirking that responsibility and opportunity.

I say, let them stay, and pray for them!

*Ken Massey
Ghent*

The KBC's partnership spill-over

Kentucky Baptists take the back seat to no one when it comes to partnership missions! Among the more exciting developments has come the increasing direct involvement by Kentucky Baptist associations.

A March 24 letter to Partnership Coordinator Calvin Wilkins from Director of Missions Randy Jones of the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association is but one example:

"The Trinity Baptist Mission in Boise (Idaho) has a parcel of land, and the first unit building has been started. Costs for permits, landscaping, changes for zoning requirements, etc. caused the building costs to be higher than anticipated. Trinity's pastor, Rev. Gail

Graves, and former Director of Missions Louis Demster made it known to me that an additional \$16,000 was needed to complete and occupy the new building.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

"This request for a loan was shared with the association's finance committee. The association had an \$18,000 certificate of deposit that was maturing and available for use. The finance committee recommended that the NKBA executive board loan the Treasure Valley Southern Baptist Association \$16,000 for five years at a low interest rate.

"After much discussion, the executive board voted overwhelmingly in favor of loaning the Treasure Valley

Association \$16,000 for 54 months and charging no interest on the loan. Treasure Valley in turn will pass the loan on to the Trinity congregation. The legal papers were prepared in Idaho and Kentucky to facilitate this loan. The building site property stands as security for the loan.

"Northern Kentucky Baptists are pleased to be able to partner with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Also, included with this letter are names and addresses of the 26 folks who served on the simultaneous revival teams to Whispering Pines Association last October and the team that is presently in Treasure Valley Association.

"Also, the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association is printing and mailing a bi-monthly newsletter for the Whispering Pines/Silver Lake Associations. Our association also compiled and printed the annual minutes

for Whispering Pines. Barbara Willie, educational secretary (NKBA), prepared the minutes and the newsletters. Volunteers from various churches in the association fold the newsletters and put mailing labels on them for distribution in Idaho. Designated gifts from individuals and churches pay for the postage.

"Erlanger Baptist Church voted to send \$100 per month to the Cascade Baptist Church, Treasure Valley Southern Baptist Association, for the purchase of Sunday school literature. They will also be sending a team of four to six people this summer to help Cascade Baptist Church in vacation Bible school.

"Thank you for the work you do to coordinate our partnership efforts."

And the mission goes on!
William W. Marshall is executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

EDITORIALS

Politics chokes abortion bills, democratic process

Barring a miracle of resuscitation—and in this case, human will repeatedly has thwarted outside intervention—three important abortion bills died in the Kentucky General Assembly this session.

The Senate killed them. More precisely, partisan politics in the Senate strangled them. Just like it's slowly strangling the democratic process.

The House passed the three bills with strong approval March 3. They were:

House Bill 203, which would have required the state to regulate abortion clinics. It also would have required abortion facilities to make written agreements with acute-care hospitals and local ambulance services, to ensure adequate care for "patients with unforeseen complications related to an abortion facility procedure."

House Bill 479, known as the "parental-consent" bill, which would have required a girl under age 18 to provide the "informed written consent" of one parent or a judge to get an abortion.

House Bill 565, also called the "informed-consent" bill, which would have required a woman seeking an abortion to receive information about the procedure and the development of her fetus. It then would have required her to wait 24 hours before having the abortion.

Once they were approved by the House, the bills went to the Senate. President Pro Tem John "Eck" Rose, D-Winchester, assigned them to the Senate Judiciary Committee, where Chairman Kelsey Friend, D-Pikeville, is known for restricting the flow of legislation.

The procedure paid off. Friend's committee choked the bills, despite efforts to revive them in the closing days of the session.

Here's what happened:

■ Friend refused to allow his committee to consider the bills. Under normal circumstances, a bill dies without committee action because it does not get reported to the full body. Friend acknowledged he didn't want to force his colleagues to vote on the abortion bills, so he was doing them a favor by keeping the legislation off their desks.

■ Senate Republicans then tried to get the bills discharged from the committee to the Senate floor.

Section 46 of the Kentucky Constitution says a bill not reported by committee "may be called up by any member and be considered in the same manner it would have been considered if it had been reported." However, Rose refused to call the bills up for a vote.

Consequently, the bills' supporters tried to get the legislation called

up for a vote according to Senate Rule 48, which allows the full Senate to vote to bring bills out of committee. These efforts on each bill failed by identical 25-11 votes, with 11 Republicans voting to discharge, 25 Democrats voting against discharge and two Democrats abstaining.

■ Sens. Tim Philpot, R-Lexington, and David Williams, R-Burkesville, then took their battle to court. They sued their Senate colleagues, the Senate clerk and Lt. Gov. Paul Patton in an effort to force them to bring the bills to the Senate floor for a vote.

The suit failed in Franklin Circuit Court, and an appeal for immediate action failed in the state Court of Appeals. That court agreed to hear the case, but not until this week—after the Senate has closed out its regular business.

So, the bills are all but dead, choked by a rope of parliamentary procedure.

Some observers have claimed the last futile efforts by Republicans were partisan grand-standing, aimed at embarrassing the Democrats. Others have said the bloc votes by Democrats that stopped the discharge petitions were examples of partisan power-plays.

They're both right, but that's not the point. And an individual's position on each of the bills isn't the point, either.

This episode is pathetic simply because our lawmakers used parliamentary gobbledygook to prevent them from voting and taking a stand on difficult issues.

It's symbolic of an attitude in Washington as well as Frankfort: "I'm going to tell the people what they want to hear. And when I can't do that, I'm either going to change the subject or keep my mouth shut."

No wonder regular citizens are losing confidence in government. Most decisions seem to be made according to how they'll sell on election day or how they'll be received by powerful lobbies. Who cares about public policy and the common good?

The three abortion bills may or may not have been in the best interest of the citizens of Kentucky. They were endorsed from this page in March, but nobody ever accused the Recorder of having a corner on the wisdom market. Nevertheless, the citizens of Kentucky were deprived of reasonable debate and forthright decision-making on three important pieces of legislation.

The bills' supporters lost a tough fight. All of Kentucky lost a valuable piece of democracy.

Marv Knox

This episode is pathetic simply because our lawmakers used parliamentary gobbledygook to prevent them from voting and taking a stand on difficult issues.

Attend to 'personal appearance'

The lawyer was greatly surprised when the woman sitting across from him said, "I want a divorce." "On what grounds do you want to apply for divorce?" asked the lawyer. "Personal appearance," answered the woman. "Personal appearance!" exclaimed the lawyer.

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

"Yes, he hasn't shown up in two years."

Many church members have divorced themselves from the church, not in membership, but in personal appearance. Whatever the reason that church members are not attending, God's word reminds us "not to forsake the assembling of yourselves together as some have."

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then you are a believer in his church. Those who really are serious about Christianity will want to attend the worship services. That person will become involved in the work of the Kingdom of God.

Joel Jones, pastor
Jeffersontown Baptist Church
Jeffersontown

If I were Betsy, I wouldn't have a lot to do with me, either

Betsy isn't near the woman she once was.

She used to priss and strut and show her stuff. She was feisty and rambunctious. A playful sort. Always looking for a good time. She liked to have her back rubbed. And she loved for me to hold her close and squeeze her tight.

But tonight she prefers to sit alone, head down. She seems dejected and quiet. She doesn't care about her looks, and she hasn't given me a playful come-on sense I got home from the office.

Today was a hard day for her. And when I try to put myself in her place, I can understand her melancholy mood. I wouldn't want to have a lot to do with me, either.

It must be hard to know your woman-

hood has been stolen, even before you realize the full bloom of femininity.

Betsy underwent a medical procedure today. Her doctor called it a hysterectomy.

But where I come from, we'd say Betsy was spayed.

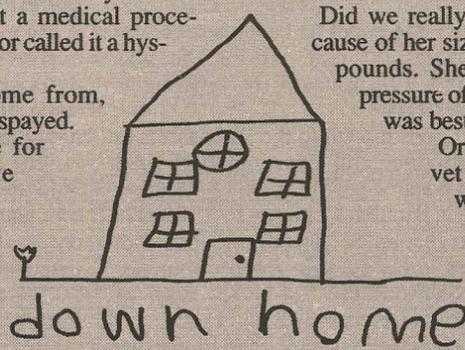
Now's the time for truth-telling: I've been wracked by self-doubt and anxiety all evening, watching her hobble around the house, quietly suffering the pains of her malady. I'd probably feel better if she'd cry; instead, she just looks up with big

brown eyes that could make putty of the hardest heart.

Did we really have Betsy fixed because of her size? She weighs just 4.6 pounds. She might die under the pressure of delivering a litter. This was best—for her, of course.

Or did we take her to the vet this morning because we wanted to avoid a long night of birthing babies sometime in the future?

God only knows. We've got our opinions, but Betsy probably has hers. I only hope she'll be as forgiving as she is cute. Maybe when her tum-



my stops hurting, or at least by the time the sutures stop itching. Then again, her affections may cost me a lifetime supply of Milk-Bones.

Our vet always has a cheerful disposition. She says Betsy will be just fine. I hear she even thinks Betsy will be able to fetch, play dead and shake hands when this is over.

That'd be great. She never could do those things before. Maybe she got a hypnotic suggestion while she was under the anesthesia. If she ever has gallstones removed, she might learn to read books and answer the phone.

But I'll settle for seeing her priss across the kitchen floor again.

Marv Knox

Supreme Court hears two religious liberty cases

Schuller leads coalition of megachurches

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. (EP)—Megachurch pastors led by televangelist Robert Schuller have launched a new church alliance because mainline denominations are a "spent resource," Schuller said. Churches United in Global Mission, with a membership of about 80 megachurches, hopes to be "an expanding network of Christian churches, from many denominations, uniting to share positively the message of Jesus Christ and his love for the world, seeking to address the needs of humanity and our environment." According to a report in Christianity Today, Schuller has begun using his "Hour of Power" television broadcast to promote member churches, encouraging new believers watching his show to attend a church affiliated with the new network. Although membership in the network is open to any church, annual dues of \$1,000 guarantee few smaller churches will join.

WASHINGTON—In two cases currently before the U.S. Supreme Court—one about airport solicitations and one about animal sacrifices—justices could more clearly define their stance on religious liberty.

The court heard oral arguments March 25 in a case involving a ban in New York City metropolitan airports on literature distribution and solicitation of contributions by the Hare Krishna sect, a branch of Hinduism. Two days earlier, the justices announced they would accept a case in which the city of Hialeah, Fla., has prohibited ceremonial animal sacrifices by practitioners of Santeria, a cultic religion also known as Lukumi.

Representatives of both the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission have said the cases

are crucial to assuring the First Amendment rights of all religions.

The outcome of these cases could clarify the court's direction on free exercise of religion after its much-criticized 1990 opinion in *Employment Division v. Smith*. In that case, the court abandoned a long-held test determining when government could restrict religious freedom. The *Smith* decision found government no longer had to prove in most cases it had a "compelling interest" as a reason for limiting free exercise of religion.

"We do not defend the religious merits of the practices of either the Krishnas or the Lukumis, but we defend the legal principle that government should not prohibit the free exercise of religion—even false religion," said Michael Whitehead, CLC general counsel.

"Baptists believe the best way to combat false religion is by proclaiming true religion, not by having government pass a law against a religious practice," Whitehead said. "Government should stay out of regulating behavior just because it is religious."

The key issue in the Florida case is not ritual sacrifice but the level of protection courts give free-exercise rights, said Brent Walker, associate general counsel with the Joint Committee.

"This is of concern to all religions," he said. "What the government is allowed to do to the most unpopular sect it will eventually be able to do to mainstream denominations."

Likewise, the airport solicitation case has important ramifications for determining what areas will be allowed as public forums for the discus-

sion of ideas.

"The modern air terminal is like the ancient city gate where commerce, speech and culture intermingle freely," said Oliver Thomas, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee.

"If there is a place where religious speech should be protected, it is in these places," he said.

Airports have legitimate concerns about the free flow of passengers, he said, but those concerns can be met by reasonable restrictions on the time, place and manner of solicitations, such as designating a booth inside terminals where literature distribution and solicitation is permitted.

Reported by Tom Strobe of the CLC through Baptist Press and Larry Chesser of the Baptist Joint Committee through Associated Baptist Press.

People of faith will forgive, Clinton says

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (EP)—Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, a Democratic contender for the presidency, told Newsweek magazine he believes religious people in America can forgive him for his shortcomings.

"It's a profoundly religious country," Clinton told Newsweek's Eleanor Clift.

"People believe in God. They believe in life after death. They believe in good and evil. They believe that each individual life is a struggle with cosmic dimensions.

"They also believe in redemption. That's why religious people are more likely to be both forgiving of and accepting of the comments I made on '60 Minutes,' because they understand that life is a process of growth and renewal."

Clinton was referring to a January television appearance in which he denied charges that he had an extra-marital affair with Gennifer Flowers but refused to say whether he ever had committed adultery.

Clinton is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, where he frequently sings in the choir.

However, his religious beliefs and practices have not been an issue in the campaign. He told Newsweek why he doesn't talk much about his spiritual life in public.

"My religious background, I don't talk about it much because I was as a boy very moved by the story of the Pharisee standing on the street corner," he said. "I saw a lot of people that I thought were hypocrites in the very religious atmosphere that I grew up in, saying one thing and doing another."

However, Clinton said faith is "a very important part of my life."

He suggested that occasional straying from the narrow path could make him a better president because people don't want to vote for a candidate who never has done anything wrong.

Instead, he said, voters want someone who know what it's like to feel pain and loss and disappointment.

Abortion 'gag rule' modified but still restricts counsel

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration has partially revoked a regulation forbidding abortion counseling at federally funded family planning clinics.

However, the revised regulation should still have the effect desired by abortion opponents, said James Smith, a staff member with the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The new interpretation of the 1988 ban would allow doctors to discuss abortion with women who come to federally funded clinics. Other clinic workers, who see the bulk of the clients, still are forbidden to counsel women on abortions.

The Department of Health and Human Services distributed the new guidelines to its regional offices in a March 20 memorandum. The narrow exemption attempts to

address the pervasive criticism that the counseling ban interferes with the doctor-patient relationship, leading opponents to label the ban a "gag rule."

The counseling ban was implemented in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan and has been maintained by the Bush administration. The controversy surrounding the counseling restriction intensified in May 1991 when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the ban (*Rust vs. Sullivan*).

"We would have preferred that doctors also be prohibited from counseling for abortion," Smith said. "However, considering the fact that few doctors do the counseling at these clinics, this may have been a regrettably necessary compromise to win."

Planned Parenthood Federation

of America, which has received \$37 million annually in federal funds affected by the regulation, decried the rules.

"The narrow exception for physicians in the guidelines is of no use to millions of low-income women who depend on other medical professionals for their reproductive health care," said David John Andrews, Planned Parenthood's executive vice president.

"Planned Parenthood refuses to be an accomplice with the federal government in this outrageous, politically motivated ploy. Neither our clients' health nor our free speech is for sale," Andrews said.

Reported by Tom Strobe of the SBC Christian Life Commission through Baptist Press and Pam Parry of the Baptist Joint Committee through Associated Baptist Press.

Story catches up with parole-jumping preacher

By Art Toalston
Baptist Press

WEST RICHLAND, Wash. (BP)—A Southern Baptist congregation in this Washington town of 4,000 has been split in the wake of the pastor's arrest for violating parole for the murder of his second wife in Illinois.

Members of First Baptist Church in West Richland knew their pastor, Ed Lopes, 56, was a convicted murderer. But Lopes had told them he was a Mafia hit man whose life was changed by a death row encounter with Christ.

Lopes moved to the Richland area in south-central Washington in 1985 and became pastor of the 60-member West Richland church in 1988. He also recounted his reformation, with tears in his eyes, in Baptist churches throughout the Tri-Cities area of Richland, Kennewick and Pasco.

His fictitious life began to unravel after an interview with the local Tri-City Herald newspaper. The reporter, Wanda Briggs, checked into Lopes' story and learned from Illinois corrections officials he was a fugitive from

a 50- to 99-year sentence for murder. He also had been convicted of attempted murder in Illinois for stabbing, choking and leaving a girlfriend for dead. And he was a suspect in the death 25 years ago of a live-in girlfriend with a 6-month-old daughter in Massachusetts. Earlier, Lopes deserted his first wife, with whom he had four daughters.

Lopes was arrested in his office at the West Richland church Dec. 12. After initially denying the reporter's expose, he told church members the reporter was "God's instrument" to force him to tell the truth. Lopes is now married for the third time.

The arrest thrust the congregation onto the Associated Press wire and, in turn, into newspapers across the country as well as USA Today and People magazine and TV tabloid shows such as "Inside Edition," "A Current Affair" and "Hard Copy."

In February, Lopes' bail was revoked and he was returned to Illinois for a hearing before prison authorities, who gave him a three-month sentence for jumping parole. He could be released May 18.

Lopes told Illinois authorities he wants to return to Washington to lead a new, independent congregation that split off the church he had served.

"I knew in my own heart and my own mind I was not going to commit another felony," Lopes told a three-member Illinois prisoner review committee, according to a transcript.

He lied about being a Mafia hit man with 27 or 28 killings so people "would have respect for me," Lopes said, "and then I tried to live the lie. Then it became so difficult to tell them the truth because then I was afraid they would reject me."

Lopes' lies to the West Richland congregation include how he became a Christian with a Gideon Bible during a two-year stint on death row. The Tri-Cities Herald reported, however, that Illinois did not have the death penalty when Lopes was convicted in 1970.

Lopes also had said all 350 employees of the prison where he was incarcerated signed a petition supporting his parole.

"We can't do that," the newspaper quoted a prison official as replying.

MISSIONS

Japanese among world's least responsive to gospel

By Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

TOKYO (BP)—Lois Whaley thinks Baptist work in Japan has gotten a bad rap.

Whaley, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, has done a little math to prove her point. If Southern Baptists had grown at the rate of their Japanese counterparts since the end of World War II, she states, the entire Western Hemisphere would be Southern Baptist.

After the war, just 16 Baptist churches with 300 members struggled out of the state-established United Church of Japan. The Japan Baptist Convention now claims more than 30,000 members in 300 churches and mission congregations—a hundred-fold growth rate.

If the 6 million Southern Baptists in 1945 had grown at the same rate, 600 million people would call themselves Southern Baptists today.

Yet nobody—including Whaley, who now lives in Atlanta—thinks Christianity has found fertile ground in Japan. Everyone seems to agree Japan is among the world's least-responsive countries to the gospel.

Explanations abound. Some say Japan's homogenous society won't accept anything not distinctively Japanese. Others counter that materialism so pervades the national psyche that wealth is Japan's religion. A few even suggest the Japanese clan is a lost tribe of Israel. Still others insist Christianity is too new to Japan; Buddhism took 800 years to influence society.

Well-meaning explanations offer little comfort in the face of reality: Less than 1 percent of Japan's 123 million people embrace Christianity. Baptists total 3 percent of 1 million Japanese Christians.

Christian ranks grew quickly after the war, when Japanese reeled from humiliating defeat. But as the country earned economic superpower status, Christian growth stagnated while the general population boomed.

Missionaries are working. Japanese Christians are working. God is working. But the Japanese people aren't yet responding in large numbers. The status quo satisfies nobody, particularly missionaries.

After a two-year church growth study, the Southern Baptist mission organization in Japan adopted a strategy in 1988 that emphasizes church planting. The missionaries seized the pioneer-evangelism initiative in Japan, explaining to Japanese Baptists: That's why missionaries are sent—not to do denominational work but to preach the gospel and start churches.

"The difference is intent," explained Max Love, a missionary in Tokyo. "Before, our intent was to win people to the Lord and get them in church. It never went beyond that. Now we're saying it doesn't stop there; we're going to multiply witnessing, church-planting churches.

"It's not just arithmetic increase but geometric increase—to multiply not only the number of Christians but the number of witnessing Christians," he continued. "That's really the hope of Christianity in Japan."

The strategy says Baptists can't

rely solely on evangelists to plant churches. For instance, if a religious educator comes to Japan as a missionary, he knows up-front he also will assume a church-planting role.

Today, half the missionary force is directly responsible to start a church. Nearly eight in 10 missionaries are directly involved in evangelistic ministries.

The strategy calls on missionaries to present the gospel in a clear and concise manner—including an invitation to believe—to 100,000 Japanese by the year 2000. They also plan to start 100 churches over the next 10 years. The Japan Baptist Convention adopted a goal of 500 churches and 50,000 Baptists by the year 2000.

Only time will tell if the strategy will make a significant difference in Japan. Early results show it might. Last year, eight new churches joined the Japan Baptist Convention, compared to a recent average of two churches a year. Among those eight churches, two had organized and called a pastor within five years—unheard of in Japan.



BIBLE CLUB Southern Baptist missionary Barbara Darley teaches kids in a backyard Bible club in Fukuoka, Japan. Japan remains one of the world's least-responsive countries for the gospel, but ministries related to families often open doors. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

MISSION
to
Japan

Japanese layman successfully mixes faith & work

By Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

TOKYO (BP)—It's crunch time for Toshio Morita.

A blue-suited "shover" in white gloves herds Morita and other commuters into every square inch of a Tokyo-bound train.

Before sunrise every morning, this Japanese Baptist businessman sets out by bus for Yokohama train station. The "express" train gets him downtown in 80 minutes. A brisk six-block jaunt puts him through the front doors of Toto Ltd.'s international headquarters.

The entire trip takes two hours. At 6 p.m., he does it again in reverse.

Morita, customer service manager for a Toto subsidiary, just built a home in a new Yokohama housing development. Market value for the 1,000-square-foot house: \$800,000. Morita pays for it with his \$100,000-a-year salary.

Morita's commute is not considered far by Japanese standards. A typical trip is three hours one way.

This is the down side of Japan that produces a curious mix of Japanese self-satisfaction and frustration. Citizens give their country mixed reviews: Its world success in finance and technology brings pride, but exorbitant housing costs, forced social conformity and a living standard that allows few frills cause sometimes deadly stress.

A top-level executive, Morita is where most Japanese would like to be: He's made it.

He's also an excellent Christian example to employees: conscientious, honest, dependable. His disposition is calm, stoic, disciplined. All are values Japanese admire.

Morita often invites co-workers to the home he and his wife, Yuriko, designed—a "great room" layout

with living, dining and kitchen areas all in one large room.

They specifically built it this way as a house church. They feel God gave them the property and opportunity to start their housing development's first Baptist church. More than 300,000 people already live in the growing area.

Co-workers "understand why my house is built the way it is, a little different from the average Japanese home," says Morita, a member of Kawasaki Baptist Church. "We don't have a sofa in our living room. With Western furniture (taking up space), many people could not attend the meeting. So we just use cushions on the floor."

The 52-year-old Baptist layman plans to go into full-time Christian work when he retires at the customary age of 60.

Morita knows the house church approach works. When he was 35, Morita was led to faith in Christ by a colleague who attended such a church.

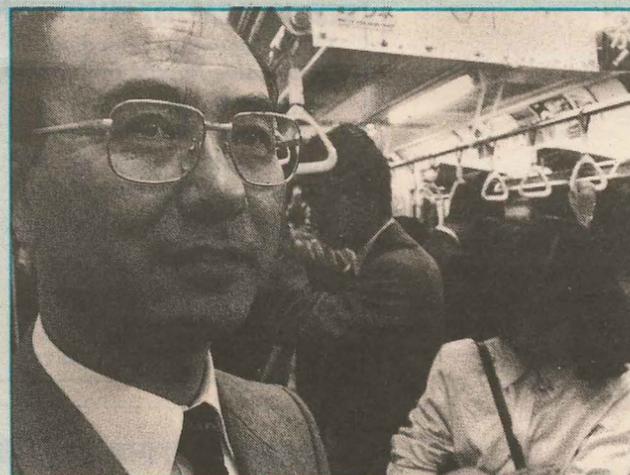
Although his family was Buddhist, Morita had some early exposure to Christianity. In World War II-devastated Japan, young Morita attended a school the Disciples of Christ operated near his home.

A bright student, Morita later graduated from prestigious Waseda University. In 1962 he joined Toto, a worldwide plumbing supply house.

Unlike her husband, Yuriko earlier had professed faith in Christ while a student at Baptists' Seinan Jo Gakuin school in Kitakyushu.

After she married, however, Yuriko didn't go to church. But a Christian who lived in their housing unit invited the Moritas to a home Bible meeting. She attended; he didn't.

Contact with this Christian began to affect Morita. When the man invited them to a revival meeting, he



agreed to go. It was the first time he ever entered a church building. Five months later, he accepted Christ as Savior and was baptized.

It's not easy serving Christ in Japanese corporate life, where loyalty to the company takes priority. For Christians, the "loyalty" issue can produce a myriad of stresses.

Morita tries to play it down, but he's successfully balanced company and church. A product and beneficiary of Japanese society, he's proof it is possible to be Japanese and Christian at the same time. Morita is the only Christian most of his colleagues know personally.

And he's not just a Christian on Sundays. He has carved out a place for Christian faith in Toto's high-tech, freewheeling marketplace. Some fellow workers have accepted Christ through his influence.

"Everyone in the office knows I'm a Christian and they know I go to church," he says. "When new people come into the company I always tell them I'm a Christian, but usually they've already been told. If I do the work, my being a Christian is no problem."

CRUNCH Business executive Toshio Morita (left) braves the crowded Tokyo subway for an 80-minute trek to work, where he is known by co-workers as a conscientious worker and as one of the few Christians most ever have met. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

RAs & witness training lead to decisions at Liberty

One question printed in a Royal Ambassador manual led to five people becoming Christians at First Baptist Church in Liberty.

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LIBERTY—One question in a Royal Ambassadors study book led to five people becoming Christians at First Baptist Church in Liberty.

Royal Ambassadors is a Southern Baptist missions education program for boys.

Pastor Richard Easterling, who leads the church's RA group on Saturdays, was helping the boys work through part of the RA program called advancement steps. The first step of the procedure is a self-evaluation test, and the first question of the test asks whether the boy has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Two boys in Easterling's group indicated they did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The pastor explained the gospel in terms they could understand and then asked each boy if he would like to become a Christian.

Both boys said yes, although one was reluctant because of what his parents might say. So, Easterling led the one boy in a prayer of commitment. That boy made a public profession of his faith the next Sunday.

Two weeks later, the same group of boys met with the church's Acteens group to watch a witnessing video. This was a follow-up to a one-day witnessing workshop held for everyone in the church.

The boy who wanted to make a commitment earlier but didn't began to cry, and the Acteens leader went to talk with him. Before the evening was over, the Acteens teacher led the RA to make a commitment of his faith in Jesus Christ.

The pastor, who had been leading the Wednesday night prayer meeting during this time, got word of the boy's decision about the same time he encountered two girls who had been in the Acteens meeting.

One girl told the pastor her friend wasn't a Christian and needed to know what to do to get that settled. Easterling invited the two girls into his study, where he encouraged the first girl to use the "Eternal Life" tract to lead her friend to faith in Jesus Christ.

The pastor left those two girls alone in his office while he stepped outside to talk with the boy who had made a commitment that night. By the time he went back into the office, the girls were crying and hugging each other because one had led the other to faith in Jesus.

Easterling said there was a "tremendous revival atmosphere" in the church at that moment.

But the story doesn't end there. The next afternoon, Easterling went to visit the parents of the boy who had been reluctant to make a Christian commitment.

He discovered the boy already had told his parents everything that had

happened. And although the parents had been attending another church, they both realized they never had put their trust in Jesus Christ.

The adults were baptized in their own church, where they still attend, even though their son attends RAs at First Baptist Church.

The entire episode, which spanned a period of several weeks in February and March, illustrates the importance of missions education and of witnessing training, Easterling said.

"The RA involvement was a key to all this happening," he said. "God is at work in our church developing a mindset for reaching people for Jesus Christ."

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

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Lessons from my daughter

Baptist Healthcare Foundation's guest author this month is Bob Cunningham. Bob is associate chaplain at Baptist Hospital East, where he has served since 1982. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is a member in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and a clinical member in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.

A few weeks ago, Holly, my 8-month-old daughter, discovered her first tooth—at 3 o'clock in the morning. In clear and certain terms she informed my wife and me of her discovery. For the ensuing two and a half hours she demonstrated considerable ability in expressing her feelings.

As Holly sought to convey to us just how much she was hurting, I made a discovery of my own: how helpless one sometimes feels as a parent. During those times when my daughter is crying I want so desperately to take her pain away—to "make it all better."

I hold her, pat her gently on her back, hum to her, talk softly in her ear. All too often she continues to cry, tiny tears trickling down her cheeks. I do all one can do at such times. I continue to hold her and love her. I do so until, exhausted, she falls asleep on my shoulder.

**BAPTIST
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I find myself wondering if such moments afford a glimpse of what God feels for us.

So often we long for a God who will fix everything or change circumstances to suit us. Yet, I have come to believe in a God who holds us in our pain, be it physical or emotional. Or both. That God is one who simply holds us and loves us—until, much like my daughter, we rest in his care.

Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Healthcare System or Baptist Healthcare Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., president of Baptist Healthcare Foundation, Corporate Complex, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207 (502) 896-5003.

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No Small Sacrifice

It's Spring Break for many of the youth in our care. Across Kentucky, teenagers from more stable homes will be spending time with friends, heading for the beach or other recreation, and taking time out with families who care about their welfare.

What about the youth who have no family? Well, five boys at the Baptist Youth Ranch will spend their Spring Break walking 100 miles to raise money to help a child less fortunate than themselves. They've committed their time and their youthful energy to make a difference for 6-year-old Tiffany and her family.

Tiffany has leukemia and will need to undergo treatments for her illness for at least two years. The long trips from Owensboro to Louisville's Kosair Children's Hospital and the expense required to provide the best care for Tiffany has taken its toll on the family. To the group of teenage boys at the ranch, this gift is something they feel good about. They know that others along the way have given to them many times over.

This kind of attitude is noth-

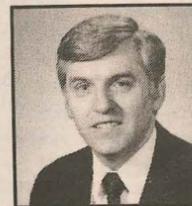
ing new on our campuses. This past Christmas, three girls saved their money to buy gifts for an Angel Tree child. This summer, Spring Meadows will host a group of teenagers from across the country and join together to repair houses in poorer neighborhoods as part of the World Changers program, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission.

Time and time again, these children who have suffered so much dip into their souls and find love for one another. Many of them learn to care for others and reach out in love while they are on one of our campuses at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Slowly, as they experience the love shown to them by Baptists across our state, they begin to believe in the power of Christ's love. Because of your gifts from the heart, the children in our care have the opportunity to learn by your example and to discover the miracles that change lives.

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

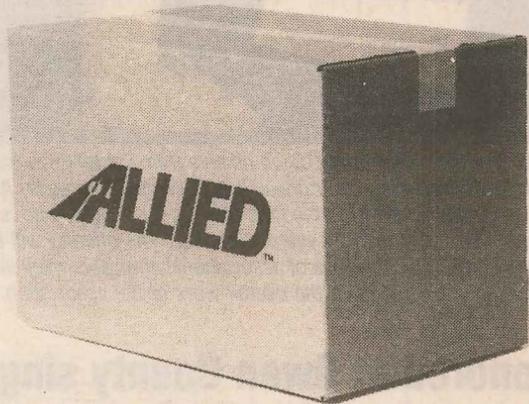
**HOMES FOR
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Curtis C. Mooney

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First, request a set of our comprehensive brochures for preschoolers & children, youth, and adults. Then, plan to attend one of our national workshops. The first occurs just before the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting, on April 30, at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. The Kentucky workshop will be on July 11 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Both workshops will feature age group and general conferences, and are from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

National Childlife Conference

Smyth & Helwys is hosting a conference on the Christian education of preschoolers and children. Quality speakers on childhood education and information about *Formations* for preschoolers and children will be part of the event. It occurs May 29-30, at Providence Baptist Church, in Charlotte, NC.

BHS sending team to Brazil

Continued from page 1

"We felt that would be the quickest way to get involved with that type of mission," Bennett said. "The structure is already there."

That feeling solidified last fall, when chaplains met with Ginger Collier, a missionary nurse assigned to Espirito Santo, who was in Kentucky on furlough.

The chaplains made a proposal for the mission trip, which was approved by BHS trustees last month.

BHS will pay all expenses for a team of 18 people to go to Brazil Aug. 20-Sept. 2. The team will include four physicians; a dentist; a pediatrician; an emergency room specialist; an ophthalmologist; four or five registered nurses; a pharmacist; a dental assistant; a chaplain; several health-related specialists, such as an occupational therapist, mental-health worker and others; a public relations person; and Bob Browning, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset and president of the KBC Pastors' Conference.

Most of the medical personnel will come from the healthcare system's four hospitals: in Corbin, Lexington, Louisville and Paducah.

"A part of our commitment is that we're not just doing healthcare for the money," Bennett said.

"The founding fathers of this system envisioned delivering healthcare

services with Christ at the center of everything we do," Vaughn added. "We would hope that our people reflect God's love and God's grace as they care for patients."

"A great deal of Christ's work here on earth had to do with the physical side of man. As we look at our own life issues, poor health brings us face-to-face with our mortality and causes us to move to the spiritual side of the ledger. It is there that we have the opportunity to witness."

And witnessing will be part of the trip to Brazil. Along with medicine, the team will dispense the gospel.

"We see it as part of our Christian commitment to our commission to send the gospel through the world," Bennett said. "We can go to Brazil to help those who are sick, which is part of Christ's commission to us to feed the hungry and heal the sick."

Calvin Wilkins, the KBC's partnership missions coordinator, said he is exceptionally pleased BHS will be involved in the Brazil partnership.

"This is a first, a real breakthrough," he said. "I think it will bring about better relationships between the hospitals and Kentucky Baptists."

This trip may be the first of annual overseas medical missions trips the healthcare system sponsors, Vaughn said, adding the system also might sponsor medical mission work inside Kentucky.

'We're not just doing healthcare for the money.'

Gary Bennett, chaplain at Western Baptist Hospital

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KENTUCKY KERNELS

In 28 Kentucky counties, residents age 17 and younger make up at least 28 percent of the population: Union, Hancock, Meade, Hardin, Bullitt, Nelson, Oldham, Gallatin, Boone, Grant, Pendleton, Elliott, Lawrence, Martin, Floyd, Magoffin, Wolfe, Powell, Breathitt, Knott, Letcher, Perry, Leslie, Harlan, Clay, Jackson, Knox and McCreary. (Source: Kentucky State Data Center)

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **ASHLAND**—Wilson Creek Missionary Church called **Charles Milam** as pastor.
 ■ **BEREA**—Galilee Church called **Steve Cole** as pastor.
 ■ **BOAZ**—Mt. Pisgah Church called **John Boley** as pastor.
 ■ **CARROLLTON**—Cove Hill Church ordained **David Warren, Bob Kindoll** and **Joe Kindoll** as deacons.
 ■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—First Church ordained **Phil Ranson, Gary Gray** and **Jeff Walters** as deacons.
 ■ **ELKTON**—Bellview Church ordained four as deacons: **David Bot-toms, Gary Faughn, Andy Pegram** and **David Turner**.
 ■ **FARMINGTON**—**R.J. Burpoe** resigned as pastor of Bell City Church and is available for supply.
 ■ **KEVIL**—**Phil Shelton** is serving Spring Bayou Church as minister of music.
 ■ **LAMERO**—Pleasant Run Church called **Bill Hammond** as pastor.
 ■ **LEWISPORT**—Chestnut Grove Church called **Bill Roberts** as pastor.
Bob Milburn has resigned as pastor of Lewisport Church. He is director of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's youth ranch at Elizabethtown.
 ■ **LONDON**—**Mark Sickling** is serving First Church as minister of education and youth.
 Slate Hill Church ordained **Bob Cornett** and **Bruce Reed** as deacons.
 ■ **MAYFIELD**—Sharon Church

called **Ron Hardison** as minister of music.
 ■ **OWENSBORO**—Crabtree Avenue Church ordained **James Stevens** as a deacon.
 ■ **PRINCETON**—Northside Church baptized 21 people after a one-day revival on March 15 with **Harold Hunter** as guest evangelist.
 ■ **PROVIDENCE**—First Church called **Danny Davis** as pastor.
 ■ **RICHMOND**—**Parcel Flannery** is serving Unity Church as interim pastor.
 ■ **SALYERSVILLE**—**Bobby Fel-bur** is serving Ivyton Church as full-time pastor.
 ■ **SEDALIA**—Lynville Church has called **David Gossum** as pastor. He previously served Mt. Pisgah Church in Boaz.
 ■ **SOMERSET**—Cumberland Church called **Dudley Bryant** as pastor.
Steve Hall of Nashville has been called as minister of music and youth at High Street Church.
 ■ **WICKLIFFE**—**Ray Malotte** resigned as pastor of Bethlehem Church in order to serve a church in Kennett, Mo.
MISSIONARY UPDATE
 ■ **Don and Sarah Duvall**, missionaries to Indonesia, are on the field at Kotak PO51, Kediri, 64102, Jatin, Indonesia. He is a native of Lexington; she has lived in Louisville and Georgetown.

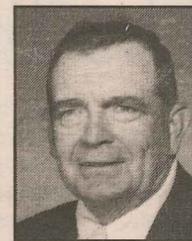


OFFERING NAMED Woman's Missionary Union officers from Laurel River Baptist Association present a banner introducing the "Annual Billie C. Wright Offering for Associational Missions." The associational WMU named the offering for Wright, who is retiring as director of missions after more than 14 years of service. The offering will be taken in conjunction with the annual observance of associational emphasis week in May. Gifts will be used to develop and strengthen the overall work of the association. (Photo by Beth Wyatt)

Minch honored at Owen County singing

Owen County Baptist Association honored the memory of its longtime music director, Roy Melvin Minch, at its traditional fifth-Sunday hymn sing March 29.
 Minch, who was the association's music director for 21 years, died early this year, said Director of Missions George Stack.
 Minch initiated the hymn sing, which is held every time a month has a fifth Sunday, Stack said.
 Last month's hymn sing, which was held at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in the Sweet Owen community, featured congregational singing as

well as 13 songs performed by groups or individuals. Twenty churches were represented, and 260 people attended.
 The Minch family received presentations from the association and from Jim Cordell, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's music director.
 Minch was associational church training director before he became music director.
 He was a member of Richland Baptist Church.
 He had been his church's music director for about 40 years, a deacon for 37 years and also church training and Sunday school director.



Every day is busy, and no day is dull

I have just returned from a 1,305-mile trip to Pennsylvania. There I spoke in churches five times in a 48-hour period.
 With me was Joe L. Burns, a '53 graduate of Oneida, who did volunteer service in his spare time for five years before retiring as a Kentucky highway engineer. Since retirement, J.L. has worked with us full time. We have two bulldozers which he operates. He also operates the school's backhoe and drives our tow truck as needed. He drives one of our two former Greyhound buses whenever the choir or band travels. Just last week he drove our seniors on the week-long trip to Washington and Colonial Williamsburg. This was his 11th year to make the trip. Oneida seniors have made such a trip annually since 1950.
 During this trip to Pennsylvania, J.L. and four Army buddies got to have a reunion for the first time in 30 years. They went through basic training together, lived two years in Germany, and returned to the U.S. on the same ship.
 Both J.L. and I got to have a reunion with Zane and Gale Fraker, who worked full time here from 1985 to 1992, and also their older daughter, Kathy, who served on our staff for five years. Younger daughter Lori, an '82 OBI graduate, and husband came down from Penn State. These folk all plan to attend our Oneida Homecoming Saturday, April 25.
 Prior to the Pennsylvania trip, I spoke four times in five days here in Kentucky while all of our students and most of our staff were away on spring break. I spoke at the Sunday morning service of Pleasant View Church near Somerset with a dinner afterward. The next night I spoke at an evangelism rally of East Lynn Association at

Holly Grove Church. On Wednesday I spoke at the funeral of OBI benefactor J.B. Henson which was held in Danville. Thursday night I spoke to the Lincoln County associational WMU meeting at Double Springs Church in Waynesburg.
 Between rushing hither and yon to speak, there are groups visiting daily on our campus. We are always glad to see people who care enough to come see our Lord's work with nearly 550 girls and boys. They boost our spirits, give us new courage, and go and tell others. It is largely by this word of mouth that students learn of our ministry, that prospective staff hear and are led to come and serve, and new supporters are enlisted to sustain the work financially.
 Between visitors and traveling, thousands of letters are received and answered monthly. Articles like this are written. I have no ghostwriters. If my name is on it, I have done the writing. I do a lot of student and guest tours, spend hours each day in student counseling and talking to parents. There is much administrative work to be done as we have hundreds of young people, day and night, to care for. I have 125 dedicated men and women here to assist in the daily and nightly teaching, feeding, supervising. Directing and reviewing their activities demands a certain part of every day and night.
 During our spring break, five of our maintenance and construction staff put in a new ceiling and new tile in much of our kitchen. They also added more lighting and painted the entire area. Those staff still here ate during the week in our home economics department.
 Every day is busy, and no day is dull!
Barkley Moore is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Alumnus offers a stitch in time

1962 alumnus Ray Carter is an artist in every sense of the word. A painter uses a brush and paint; Carter uses a needle and thread to create beautiful scenic pieces of needlepoint that depict the true likeness of his subjects. He doesn't use a pattern, nor does he draw his subjects on canvas before threading them. He draws with the thread, according to Carter's wife Vivian: "I don't know of anyone else who needlepoints this way."
 Carter said, "Oddly enough, I can't draw."
 Carter, one of 12 siblings, was introduced to needlepoint by his mother. "My mother didn't know I had an interest in needlepoint. Back then, if the other boys had known, they would have made fun of me," he said. Carter's talent didn't really materialize until about 10 years ago. He decided to try needlepoint when he saw a wall hanging his sister had made of a house, called 'The Homeplace.' After his first attempt, he realized he had a knack for it. Since then, he has created more than 70 pieces. One project can take 300 hours to complete.
 A five-year veteran of World War II, Carter could sell his craft, but chooses to give most of it to family and friends. "Needlepoint," he states, "is a hobby which isn't meant to be sold. It gives me pleasure to give my work away." Once,

however, a man gave him \$300 for one of his pieces.
 Carter takes pride in conserving history. For instance, he does family trees. "First, I needlepoint a tree and then put the names of all the family members on the branches," he explained. "Sometimes I put something significant about the family at the base of the tree. On one particular piece I threaded the house the grandparents were married in."
 "Once I did a piece of an old sawmill. No one remembered it except me and an elderly lady in town," he said. "The day the piece was finished she passed away." Memories live in the heart of Carter's work. Through his eyes, these pieces of the past will never be forgotten.
 Many of his pieces also reflect Carter's ministry. He has been a pastor in Virginia, Ohio and Michigan and now makes his home in Leitchfield. A great-grandfather, the retired Baptist minister often is commissioned to make special pieces. A framed tree of the Baptist Association of Kentucky and a banner of a tree of the Blood River Baptist Association were displayed at the 1987 Kentucky Baptist Convention in Louisville.
Dr. Maynard Head is vice president for development at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE

Paid Column

MISSIONS

Baptist aid sent despite local threats

By Craig Bird
SBC Foreign Mission Board

KERICHO, Kenya (BP)—The warning arrived in the dead of night: "We don't want to hurt you. You are free to go back where you belong."

The unwritten threat: "If you stay, we'll burn you out. If you fight back, we'll attack."

But the gospel, and humanitarian aid accompanying it, arrived in bright sunshine for 150 families in the Kericho District of western Kenya. They had stayed but not fought back when raiders came to burn their village. Although unharmed, they owned only the clothes they wore and a handful of items they had hidden in the woods.

They are just a few of more than 20,000 people displaced in the past year by ethnic clashes over land. The trouble exploded in late 1991 when tribes indigenous to Kenya's Rift Valley began demanding that other ethnic groups in their areas get out.

When Samson Kisia, chairman of the Baptist Convention of Kenya, got word from a Baptist pastor that the village of Kepkelion had been burned out, he contacted Southern Baptist missionaries in Kenya. The missionaries agreed to help provide relief supplies, then asked Kisia to handle the distribution.

Each of the 150 families received blankets, cornmeal (the basic food for Kenyans), cooking oil, plates and cups.

The project cost about \$3,000.

But Kisia, the local Baptist pastors and missionary Ben Hess had even more to give away: a testimony to the saving power of Jesus Christ and a witness of Christian love being impartial.

Almost all of the 150 families belonged either to the local Baptist church or a sect that considers itself Christian but teaches exclusion of groups outside its own fellowship.

The Baptist church had been spared a torching but the sect's building had been razed, probably "because they sing and preach and worship in Kikuyu (their tribal language) and all members are Kikuyu while the Baptist church services are in Swahili (the national language) and the membership includes several tribes," Kisia said.

The white-turbaned sect members were pleased but skeptical when Kisia announced the relief assistance would not be limited to Baptists. But the sect's pastor stood beside the Baptist pastor during the aid distribution to verify that each family being helped had indeed been burned out and was from the area. It was impossible to say which had more impact—the sermons the Baptist pastors preached or the fairness in distribution of the aid.

"We handed out everything in the open where everyone could see it," Kisia explained. "Kenyan Baptists believe Jesus' commandment to take care of the needy doesn't leave room for including needy Baptists and leaving other people out.



Korean church also offers English services

SILVER SPRING, Md. (BP)—First Korean Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Md., may be the first Korean Baptist church with an English-language mission.

The Korean church draws 3,000 members from a population of 70,000 Koreans in the Baltimore-Washington metro area. On any given Sunday, 1,800 people worship here.

But far from being a strictly Korean church, this congregation counts Anglos, Blacks and Hispanics among its membership. "This is a church for everybody," says Pastor Daniel Lee.

Koreans commute to the church from homes located miles away. But they also make special efforts to reach the non-Koreans who live nearest the church.

Each Tuesday evening, members scatter across the metro area for outreach to the predominantly Anglo

community surrounding the church.

In recent months, a number of Anglos have begun attending as a result of this door-to-door visitation.

While the two main Sunday services are in Korean, wireless receivers with headphones relay simultaneous English translation. And two English-language services—one for youth, another for adults—are held elsewhere in the building.

Called Covenant Chapel, the services are part of an autonomous mission with its own pastor—what Lee calls a church-within-a-church.

First Korean supplies a salary for the pastor and a place to meet. The budget and leadership, however, are in the hands of Covenant members. They are free to elect their own deacons, decide on their own program, make their own mistakes, Lee says.

The chapel began last March with

20 adults. More than 90 now attend. As many as 200 teen-agers attend the youth worship.

This meets the needs not only of Anglos who live nearby but of second- and third-generation Koreans, explains member John Kim. "By the second or third generation in this country, you're American. You don't speak Korean; cultural ties are tenuous."

Yet these Koreans often don't fit within Anglo-American society either, says Paul Park, Covenant's pastor. "They find that while they're not fully Korean, they're not fully American either."

Park sees his ministry as transitional, a balancing act attempting to serve an inclusive church—one that attracts non-Koreans while allowing Korean-Americans an arena for their own spirituality.

Missionaries now cross lines in South Africa

DURBAN, South Africa (BP)—Talks between Baptist groups in South Africa have eased strict working conditions for Southern Baptist missionaries there, yet tensions remain between South African Baptists.

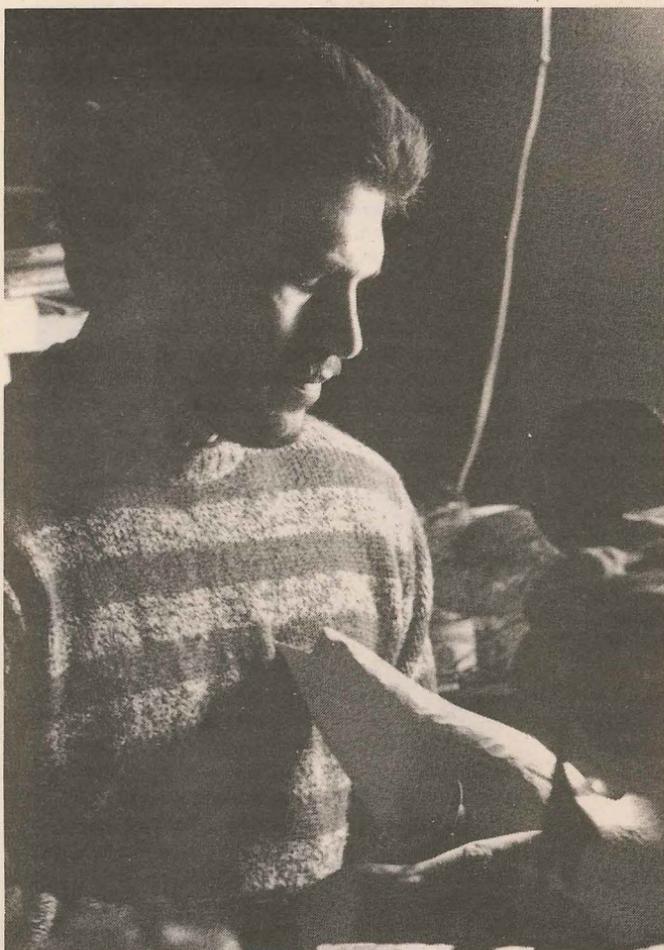
In the past, the predominantly white Baptist Union of Southern Africa and the predominantly black Baptist Convention of Southern Africa required Southern Baptist missionaries to declare which Baptist group they intended to work with.

This forced the missionaries to divide their efforts, some working with the older, more powerful union, while others worked exclusively with the smaller mainly black convention, which broke away from the union about three years ago.

However, union and convention representatives, meeting recently in Johannesburg, agreed to unshackle Southern Baptist missionaries and allow them to move freely between the two Baptist organizations.

The missionaries had become increasingly frustrated with their segregated system. It was clear their working relationships, however accommodating, were enforcing apartheid, said Mike Baber, chairman of the missionaries in the union. "We were perpetuating the country's divisions. We started asking, 'Please let us just work with all people of South Africa and not be identified as white missionaries or black missionaries. Let us be missionaries to all people.'"

FRIENDS Mission volunteers don't get paid in dollars, but Edna Whitehead (right) gets a big payoff from 8-year-old Erika in Chile as missionary Clara Brincefield looks on. Mrs. Whitehead, a mother of six and great-grandmother of five from Rives, Tenn., went to Chile with her husband, Frank, a veteran builder who participated in a church construction project there. When the volunteer group arrived at the building site, neighbor Erika appeared at the fence to look them over. She spotted Mrs. Whitehead and soon claimed a place by her side. Erika took her adopted grandmother home to meet her parents, who didn't attend any church, and the whole family was invited to attend the new mission church. Erika also came to vacation Bible school and got a new Bible from Mrs. Whitehead. (FMB photo)



CARVER Kerry Smith, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, believes his talent for duck carving might provide the support he needs to work bivocationally as a church planter. (Photo by Tony Aja)

Student carves support for ministry

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—A love for carving ducks and a love for starting churches may lead to a happy bivocational marriage for Kerry Smith.

Smith, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has distinguished himself as a world-class duck carver.

Last year, the part-time church planter strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention finished second in the novice division of the Ward World Championship in Ocean City, Md. About 3,000 carvers from several countries competed. Smith also has placed in competitions in California, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Virginia.

He said he is excited about the possibility of being a bivocational church planter and duck carver. "There's a future in bivocational ministries and church planting," observed Smith, who will graduate this summer. "That may be five or six years down the road for me. Right now, I'll be looking for a full-time position."

Prior to coming to seminary, Smith and his wife, Karen, helped establish new churches in Montana and South Carolina as Southern Baptist Home

Mission Board US-2 missionaries.

His interest in duck carving started when he spotted a beautiful duck in the window of a shop in Gatlinburg, Tenn., nearly 10 years ago. He became serious about taking up the hobby about five years later and began reading books and took a class.

Smith's talent quickly became apparent to himself and his friends. "Once I saw I could do it, the flood gates just opened," he said.

The market for his finely-crafted waterfowl has grown from just a few friends and acquaintances to collectors from several states. Each duck, depending on the size, takes from 150-400 hours to carve and sells for \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Smith is headed back to the world championships in April with plans to compete in a higher category of competition. Instead of the ribbons he brought home last year, this time he hopes to bring home prize money. He expects to spend more than 400 hours studying photographs, reading literature and carving his entry in the competition.

Smith's ducks originate from his basement workshop. He uses knives plus some mechanical sanding and carving equipment to carve the life-

like creations.

He incorporates his passion for detail in carving classes he's been teaching. He includes instruction on feather patterns, installing glass eyes and painting with oils.

Duck carving has progressed from a craft of making working decoys for hunters to more of an art form that is welcomed in the living rooms of collectors, he said. "It's like catching a moment of the outdoors and bringing it into your home."

Some duck carvers, he said, have produced ducks that have sold for as much as \$30,000.

Smith was an avid duck hunter when he was growing up in Griffin, Ga. He since has given up the sport completely, having sold his shotgun last year to pay for his backyard aviary—14 live ducks that serve as his models.

Observing the live birds "has really helped me capture their natural poses," he said. "It helps you capture the essence of each species."

Smith has at times had a year's worth of orders for his ducks. Currently, he has reduced his workload to about seven months of commitments so he can concentrate on competi-

Diplomat becomes ambassador for Christ

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

WASHINGTON (BP)—A former Guyanese foreign service officer to America is now using his diplomatic skills as an ambassador for Christ.

Cecil Mahendranath was appointed in December by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to minister to diplomats and foreign embassy personnel in Washington.

Most of his work is directed at helping families of embassy staff but can range from Christian counseling for a diplomat to fashion advice for an ambassador's wife.

"My whole idea is to penetrate into the embassies and offer whatever services we can in the name of Christ," he said.

Although diplomats and staff spend an average of three to four years in America, they often receive little help from their governments in getting established, he said.

Mahendranath said he felt a sense

of "total loss" when he and his wife, Shirley, arrived in New York in 1977 for his new job with the Guyana office at the United Nations.

During one of their first nights in America, the two of them were praying for a church home, fellowship and an opportunity for Christian service when the doorbell rang.

At their door was Avery Sayer, a Southern Baptist home missionary who invited them to a chapel service in their apartment complex.

"That is a way of how God answers prayer right away in some instances," Mahendranath said.

He credits God with several other minor miracles to prepare him for his new job.

Mahendranath said he was considering quitting his civil service job in Guyana to be a full-time Southern Baptist pastor before he learned about four openings in foreign service work. Although he had the least seniority of 34 applicants, he received one of the jobs.

Pastor and wife fulfill dream with youth home

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (BP)—As a 15-year-old, James Wood kept asking some tough questions that 22 years later have resulted in a new ministry to youth in East Tennessee.

Wood was a volunteer at a juvenile detention center in North Carolina where he led weekly Bible studies for the younger residents. In one situation, it struck him as odd that a teen with a truancy problem was housed in the same room with a murderer.

Why? he asked. The answer came back: Because there was no room in the nearby church-run children's home for the truant youth.

Wood was horrified at the answer. Afterward he prayed about what he

had just learned and eventually determined that, someday, God wanted him to have a home for children.

Years later when he met his wife, Susan, she told him of a similar commitment.

Today, their dreams are becoming a reality on a mountainside 12 miles from Gatlinburg, Tenn. There, on 104 acres of land in an area known as Wears Valley, the Woods are building Wears Valley Ranch.

The Woods envision Wears Valley Ranch as a home and school for 60 young people, first grade through high school, who have been impacted by the divorce and drug epidemic sweeping the country.

The average Guyanese foreign assignment lasts about three years, but Mahendranath was dispatched to New York and Washington offices for more than 13 years before resigning to do mission work last year.

During that time he was interim pastor at Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church in Washington and assisted Mario Acacia, his predecessor in embassy mission work. Acacia retired in 1989 and is now living in Canada.

Mahendranath's primary goal is to spread the gospel with as many people as possible, "be it an ambassador or perhaps a lower category of officer or the children."

Making just one contact in an embassy can make a big difference, he said. "Any one of these can become the head of a country. If we share the gospel with them and lead them to Christ, eventually it can influence a whole country."

"We cannot really limit God's power," he said. "If we win one person, we can win a whole nation."

The school/home is scheduled to open in August with eight residents. The Woods describe the home as something akin to a boarding school to make it easier for parents to send their children before they become wards of the state.

"Our ultimate goal is for families to stay together, but clearly there are cases where a time-out is needed, and we hope to be able to meet that need here," Wood explained.

In order to build Wears Valley Ranch, Wood resigned as pastor of an Atlanta church and moved his wife and three sons, ages 9 to 13, to the ranch site. His salary is underwritten by a small group of supporters.

These police partners also live together

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—The concept of partners working on the Oklahoma City Police Force has taken on a new meaning since Phyllis and Jack Poe became the first husband-and-wife police chaplains endorsed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Mrs. Poe has worked with her husband since he became police department chaplain in 1984.

With 950 police officers and 350 support personnel needing a chaplain's care, Mrs. Poe became more than her husband's secretary, side-kick and "gofer." Since she already was doing the work of a chaplain, Joe Williams, director of the state convention's chaplaincy office, encouraged her to be endorsed.

Her husband encouraged her—and had enough confidence in her ability that when he was called away as chaplain for the Oklahoma National Guard, he handed her his pager and she took all the calls.

One of the heartaches for Mrs. Poe is family breakups among officers.

"Law enforcement takes its toll on family situations," she said. "Officers have to turn off emotions to survive the streets. Then it's hard to go home and turn the emotions back on."

As a mother and grandmother, Mrs. Poe said she doesn't want to become cold and indifferent because of the environment in which she works.