

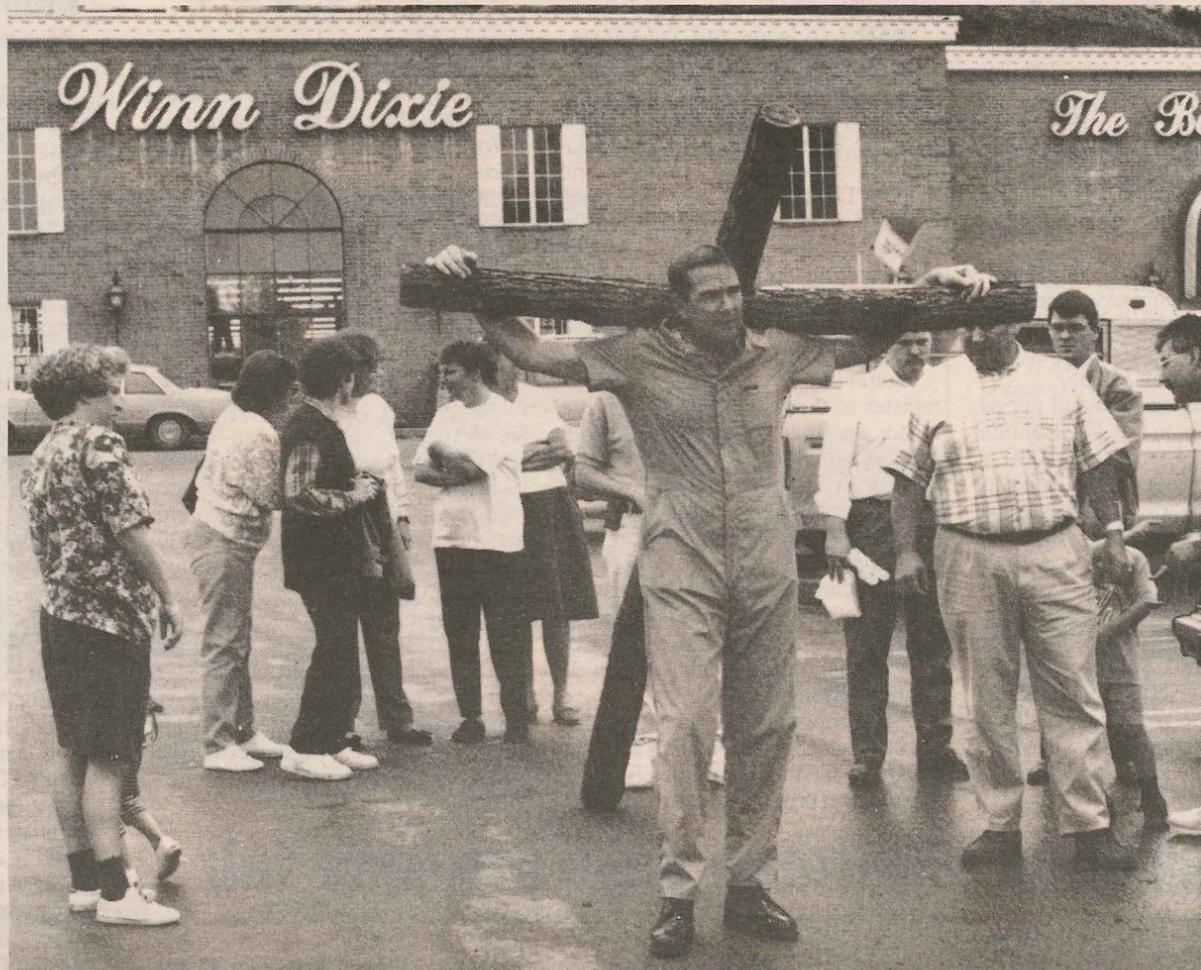
FOR THE RECORD

SBC registration
Secretary gives registration reminders for the 18,000 people expected to attend the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis next month. See page 2.

Homecoming
About 1,500 people returned to Oneida Baptist Institute for the school's annual homecoming weekend. See page 3.

Editorials
Southern Seminary does a highwire act, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship defines its focus. See page 5.

BSU action
Baptist students from Northern Kentucky University traded books for blisters during a spring break mission project. See page 10.



CROSS WALK Rollin Bradshaw, pastor of Lytleton Baptist Church, begins the cross walk of Booneville Baptist Association in the parking lot of a Manchester grocery store. Baptists in the association carried the cross two miles through town on Good Friday to remind residents of the message of the Easter season. See story on page 3.

Leaders urge students to know details

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—A parachurch group soliciting students on Kentucky's university campuses uses questionable fund-raising and enlistment techniques, Southern Baptist student leaders have warned.

Encounter with Christ, a nonprofit religious and educational organization based in Cary, N.C., has been on college campuses in Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, North and South Carolina and Indiana recruiting students for a "Summer Mission Outreach" during the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

However, Baptist campus ministers who have witnessed the group's practices expressed concerns. And some students have become disillusioned with the organization's claims.

Wyndee Holbrook, campus minister at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, said she regrets Encounter with Christ representatives were ever let on campus.

"I'm advising my students to be wary of them," she said. "I've had some students say they have been very pushy in their tactics."

Monica Inman, a freshman at Cumberland College, said she decided to participate in Encounter's summer outreach after talking with a representative on her campus earlier this month. However, she changed her mind after becoming disillusioned with the group's fund-raising techniques.

"The organizational meeting I went to lasted four hours and the whole thing was about fund-raising," Inman said. "They wanted us to come up with 30 sponsors and after the meeting was over Mrs. Ortega pushed for us to go to the Holiday Inn to start calling" potential sponsors.

Inman referred to Carolyn Ortega, co-founder and trustee of Encounter with Christ.

Inman said she decided to back out of involvement with the ministry after receiving a call after midnight from

Trustees honor Honeycutt, discuss faculty

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—In three days of meetings that sometimes lasted into the wee hours of the morning, trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary honored Roy Honeycutt on his 10th anniversary as president, elected six new faculty members and debated concerns about two current faculty members.

During their annual meeting on the seminary's Louisville campus, trustees announced plans to name the new campus center building for Roy and June Honeycutt as an anniversary gift.

Trustees joined faculty and staff in honoring the Honeycutts during a special chapel service and at a banquet.

The April 27-29 meeting took on the pace of a marathon as trustees dealt with a packed agenda during their last annual meeting. Beginning in the fall, the full trustee board will meet for business twice a year.

During this session, trustees:

■ Approved six new faculty members, including David Dockery, who earlier had been named dean of the school of theology. However, the six were approved after two lengthy de-

bates about the role of women in ministry.

■ Reported they found no charges for dismissal of Professor Molly Marshall based on criticisms submitted about two lectures she delivered earlier this year at Averett College in Virginia.

■ Named a subcommittee to gather data about possible charges against Professor Paul Simmons, who has aggravated some trustees by espousing an abortion rights position.

■ Declined to deal with a resolution intended to speak strongly against using feminine pronouns in reference to God.

■ Adopted 12 resolutions commending the service of Honeycutt, □ See Trustees honor ..., page 8

More on pages 8 & 9

- Honeycutt celebrates 10th anniversary
- Trustees discuss Simmons & Marshall
- Trustees debate views of prospective faculty members

Fellowship meeting draws 6,000; missions dominates action

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—Missions took the spotlight at last week's meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, but still lurking in the shadows was the question of whether the group is becoming a new Baptist convention.

The Fellowship's three-day general assembly, held April 30-May 2 in Fort Worth, Texas, attracted about 6,000 people to its largest session.

The one-year-old Fellowship was formed by Southern Baptist moderates unhappy with new denomination-

al leadership put in place by Southern Baptist conservatives since 1979.

At this year's meeting, Hardy Clemmons, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., was chosen moderator-elect and will serve as moderator in 1994. Patricia Ayers of Austin, Texas, who has served as moderator-elect this year, will succeed John Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C., as moderator.

Although many of the Fellowship speakers addressed the emerging identity of the organization, the pri-

mary focus of the meeting was on missions, which Fellowship leaders hope will become a rallying cry to attract disgruntled Southern Baptists to the Fellowship.

To support the organization's recent decision to launch an aggressive missions program in Europe, Fellowship participants:

■ Adopted a statement to guide its global-missions program.

■ Approved an annual offering to fund missions.

■ Heard reports on mission projects already funded, and welcomed its first four "missioners"—former Southern Baptist missionaries John David and Jo Ann Hopper of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, and Charles and Kathie Tho-

mas of Romania.

■ Endorsed a five-point statement of principles for mission "partnership"—drafted by European Baptists but rejected by the SBC Foreign Mission Board—which is expected to open the door for the Fellowship to send missionaries to Europe at a time when Southern Baptist missionaries are increasingly unwelcome.

■ Heard a prediction that the Fellowship's three giving plans will attract contributions totaling \$6.6 million in 1992, of which \$5 million will be designated for traditional Southern Baptist Convention causes and \$1.5 million will be spent on Fellowship projects.

■ Endorsed a plan to spend \$2.5

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Orville Griffin**, a native of Georgetown, has been elected executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. The 60-year-old graduate of Georgetown College succeeds Tal Bonham, who died.

■ **Lewis Drummond**, retiring president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina, has been named the first Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Samford University's Beeson School of Divinity in Birmingham, Ala.

■ **Ken Hemphill** was affirmed April 23 by the trustee executive committee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to become director of church growth, a new position jointly funded with the Home Mission Board. Hemphill previously had been approved by HMB trustees and will begin work Aug. 1.

■ **South Carolina** Baptists will convene in a special session May 15 in Columbia to vote on whether to sever ties with Furman University, an action recommended by the convention's general board as a solution to threatened legal action between the convention and the university.

■ **Ray Clendenen**, chairman of the Old Testament and Hebrew department at Criswell College in Dallas, has been nominated to become general editor of *The New American Commentary* at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The current editor, David Dockery, has been named dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Dockery and Ken Mathews of Samford University will serve as associate editors.

18,000 expected for Indianapolis SBC

By Herb Hollinger
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—About 18,000 messengers are expected to register for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis June 9-11, Registration Secretary Lee Porter predicts.

Porter has logged an impressive record in predicting messenger registration since 1978, including a prediction last year in Atlanta of 22,500 with actual registration of 23,465.

With spouses, visitors and guests, total attendance at the 1992 annual meeting could approach 23,000 to 25,000, SBC officials said. Most of the motels and hotels near downtown are full, although there are still rooms available in the outer loop area of Indiana's capital city.

The convention's largest attendance was in Dallas in 1985 when 45,519 registered, followed by the 1986 Atlanta convention with 40,987 messengers. The meeting usually is much smaller in attendance when held outside the Bible Belt area between Texas and the east coast.

Registration for this year's convention will open at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 7, and 8 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, June 8-9. The registration area is near the front entrance to the Indianapolis Convention Center and Hoosier Dome, in the "500" ballroom.

"We want to help messengers to register and that can be facilitated with them having their messenger cards completely filled out," Porter said. "If they do that, we will register them in less than five minutes."

Porter suggested people try not to register at the opening each day but rather an hour later to keep from standing in line.

"Each church needs to secure their messenger cards by writing their state convention office and getting the cards they are entitled to," Porter said.

Each church is entitled to messengers according to membership or by giving to "convention causes," Porter said. Actual requirements are printed on the messenger cards.

"It is important that each messenger be elected by their church and that they have their card completely filled out and then bring that card to the con-

vention," Porter said.

If messengers do not have cards, they will have to secure a statement from their church and will have to go before the credentials committee, Porter said.

"Churches should elect only their required messengers; alternate messengers do not register," Porter said. Churches often have problems when alternate messengers try to register and they exceed their allotted number of messengers. It becomes embarrassing to the church and their regular messengers if alternate messengers are elected, he said.

"Every messenger must be elected, including the pastor; no one is automatically a messenger ... not denominational workers or missionaries. Every messenger must be elected by a cooperating church," Porter said.

"Missions can only be represented through their sponsoring church, and churches had to give (financially) last year to come to this year's convention," Porter said. For more information about the registration procedure, Porter may be reached at (904) 785-8596.

Mohler named resolutions chair

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman has named members of the 1992 resolutions committee to serve during the denomination's annual meeting in Indianapolis June 9-11.

The committee is composed of 10 members, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee.

Chapman named Al Mohler, editor of the *Georgia Christian Index*, committee chairman.

Executive Committee members are Julian Motley, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church, Durham, N.C.; Joe Reynolds, attorney and member of Second Baptist Church, Houston; and Rex Terry, attorney and member of First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark.

Other members are: Curt Dodd, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston; Gary Frost, pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church, Youngstown, Ohio; Charles Jackson Sr., insurance executive and member of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.; Jo Ann Miller, educator and member of First Baptist Church, De Soto, Mo.; Ben Watts, merchant and member of First Baptist Church, Columbia, Miss.; and Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Proposed resolutions should be sent in advance to the committee in care of the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St. #750, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

Nominations chairman says process fair

NASHVILLE (BP)—The chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention committee on nominations said he feels "even greater confidence in the way our Southern Baptist system works" as the 68-member committee released its 1992 nominees for trustees or directors of SBC-related agencies and institutions.

The nominees must be approved by messengers to the annual meeting in Indianapolis June 9-11.

Chairman Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Baptist Church in Moore, Okla., also defended the nomination of Paul

Pressler to the Foreign Mission Board. Pressler, a Texas appeals court judge, has been a key leader of the SBC conservative movement.

"Judge Pressler is a man who loves God with all his heart and has a tremendous heart for missions," Boyles said. "He has served tirelessly for years to the best of his ability in our denomination. I respect him for his commitment to the word of God."

Boyles said his experience as committee on nominations chairman "has confirmed in my mind, in my heart that we have the best denominational

system the world has ever known. It is fair, it is equitable in representation. And the agencies and boards receive the best each convention has to offer."

Describing the committee's nominees as "Bible-believing," Boyles said, "In Southern Baptist life, the majority rules. We are electing Bible-believing presidents and thus Bible-believing people. Through this system, the majority of grass-roots Southern Baptists have input. And it is a very positive thing the majority of Southern Baptists are moving toward a Bible-believing base."

Price says his election would set new trend

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—If Nelson Price is elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention next month, "it will be a new precedent in that the president will not be chosen before the convention this year but at the convention," he told students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Price, one of three announced candidates for president at the June 9-11 convention in Indianapolis, is pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

At the invitation of seminary President Landrum Leavell, Price spoke recently in chapel and talked a few minutes about his nomination for president before delivering his mes-

sage on discipleship.

"Reputedly for some years a very small group proud of the Southern Baptist Convention chose an individual who would be their candidate for the presidency and almost inevitably that person emerged as the president," Price explained.

"Those who did that had for some time said there's got to be a day when we get away from that and it becomes an open convention and persons can be nominated without that individual being chosen in advance of the convention."

Price said he believes leaders of the SBC's conservative movement are sincere in wanting to depart from methods used in past years. He also

said he believes there is no official conservative candidate this year.

"I am an unashamed conservative," he said. "That's our basic heritage and that's our root. We're committed to the book and to the Lord of the book."

After the chapel address, Price said privately, "It is my prayer our conservative movement is so strong we no longer need a coalition candidate. If we can, and we can, elect a president without using the method of the last few years, we will prove we are a movement and not a party."

"Thus we will demonstrate a unique strength and further validate the breadth of our credible cause," Price said.

Walnut Street honored during national ACTS awards

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Walnut Street Baptist Church of Louisville was among honorees at the seventh annual awards ceremony of the American Christian Television System April 23.

The Louisville ACTS affiliate received recognition for outstanding achievement in the category of public service announcements for its 30-sec-

ond message titled "Time With God."

Local affiliates from seven states were honored during the ceremonies at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

ACTS of Wichita Falls, Texas, took top honors as affiliate of the year and also received recognition in the Christian message promotional announcement category for its 30-sec-

ond spot, "Eclipse," featuring scenes from the 1991 solar eclipse.

ACTS is a satellite-delivered, 24-hour-a-day television programming service operated by the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. ACTS currently provides inspirational programming to 600 affiliates with more than 24 million potential viewers.



FOOD LINE Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission form a line behind Douglas Beggs (in suit), vice president for program services, to load 36-pound food boxes bound for the Commonwealth of Independent States through Project Brotherhood. Each of the boxes, supplied by churches in the Shelby Baptist Association in Tennessee, contains a month's worth of staple items for a family of four. Southern Baptists nationwide are participating in the project. (Photo by David Nester)

1,500 return for Oneida Institute's homecoming

By Mary Royals Driskill
State Correspondent

ONEIDA—More than 1,500 friends and alumni of Oneida Baptist Institute gathered on the campus April

25 for annual homecoming festivities, including a five-school track and field meet, a tennis tournament, a student musical production, class reunions and dedication of the Hugh L. Spurlock Carillon.

The weekend was full of emotion and a few surprises.

One returning graduate was surprised to learn her roommate was not dead, as she thought. Fifty-year reunion classmates Mrs. Ramsey, 82,

from Breckinridge County, and her roommate from Oneida days, Mrs. Weeden from New York, had a happy reunion during the homecoming.

Several members of the class of 1927 were on campus to honor their classmate, Hugh Spurlock, and to dedicate the new chapel carillon in his honor.

Spurlock was honored for his years of service as Oneida's principal and math teacher from 1932-47. Spurlock was responsible for bringing electric power to 90 percent of rural Kentucky homes during his service with Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperative.

"When I was a student at Oneida," Spurlock said, "we studied by coal-oil lamps. That's why I became so interested in trying to electrify the rural areas."

Comparing class sizes was one measure of seeing how Oneida has grown. Bev Stewart, a 1942 graduate from Fairfield, Ohio, said there were only 16 in his class. There are approximately 70 students in this year's class.

But class size isn't all that's changed in 50 years, Stewart said. "I fired the furnace, night and day. I also rang the school bell. I don't think they do that anymore."

Some things never change about Oneida, a mountain school for grades six through 12 supported in part by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"If it weren't for Oneida, I never would have graduated from high school," Stewart said. "Oneida taught me the value of an education. I'd like to come back here someday and donate my time."

That feeling is shared by many other Oneida alumni, including 60 people out of 125 currently serving on Oneida's faculty and staff.

Myrtle Cook, class of 1960, is the school guidance counselor. She took a \$17,000 cut in pay to accept the position. "I always wanted to come back and work," she said. "The financial part has never been a big thing."

"It was a dream come true. You get wrapped up in the school. It's a giving of what has been given to you. It's serving God."

Gratitude and loyalty also brought Bobby White back to Oneida, where he now serves as assistant dean in the boys' dorm.

"Oneida was the place that turned my life around," White said, explaining he had been a school drop-out, a drug addict and headed for nowhere when he came to Oneida.

Even the school's current president, Barkley Moore, is an alumnus. He came to the school in 1972 as an interim president. "They still haven't found one," he quipped.

Moore was honored during homecoming for his 20 years of service.

Oneida students performed the musical "Oklahoma" Thursday through Saturday nights during homecoming for alumni and friends who returned to campus early.

Oneida boys placed first in the homecoming meet, and Oneida girls placed third.

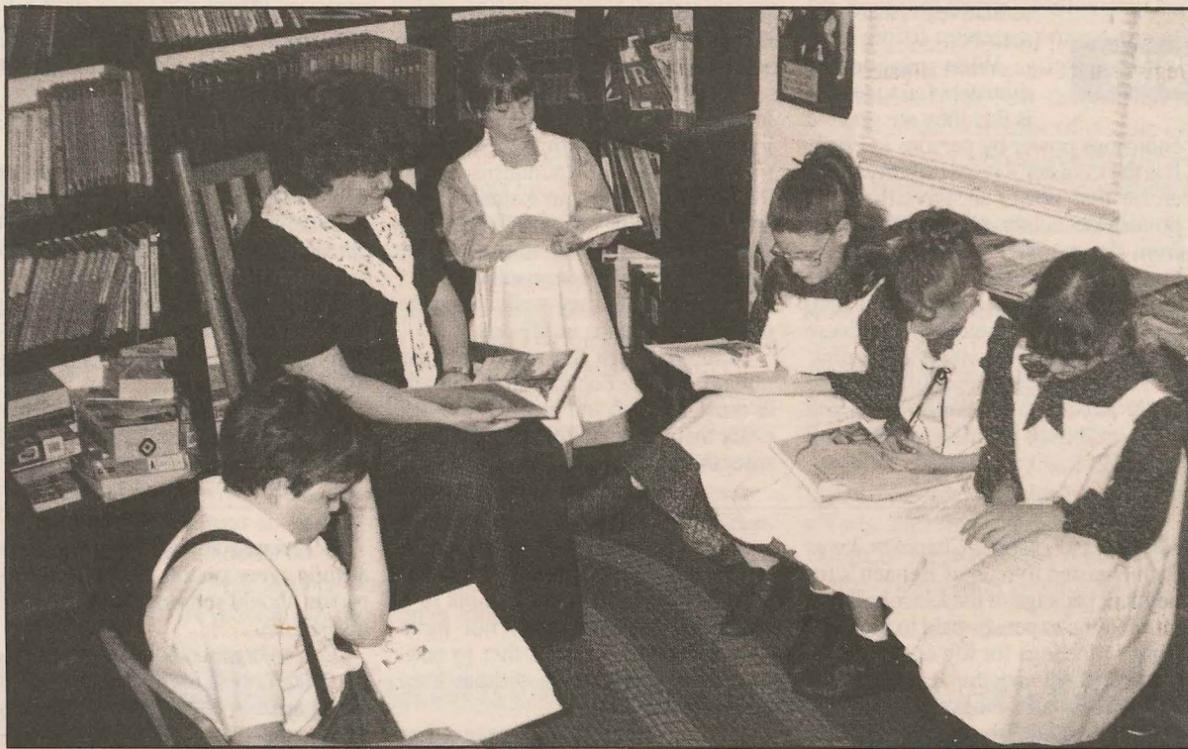
Oneida junior Jimmy Black was voted most valuable athlete in the meet. In tennis, Oneida beat Harlan but lost to Clay County.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Michael Blackwell**, president of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, will be the featured speaker at Georgetown College's baccalaureate service at 8 p.m. May 8 in John L. Hill Chapel.

■ **Kenneth Mahanes**, pastor of Far Hills Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio, is featured speaker for the annual alumni conference of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College Aug. 3-4. Mahanes is a graduate of Southern Seminary and Georgetown College. Reservations for the conference should be made directly with the college.

■ **Charles Sullivan**, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, will deliver the commencement address for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in ceremonies at Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro at 7:30 p.m. May 8.



ONE-ROOM SCHOOL Oneida Baptist Institute has the only operating one-room school in Kentucky, according to President Barkley Moore. The school is used for elementary-age children of Oneida's faculty and staff. Oneida's normal curriculum serves grades six through 12. The one-room schoolhouse was donated by the Clay County Board of Education and rebuilt on Oneida's campus in 1980. Here, teacher Jennifer Coffey and a group of students demonstrate how the school functions for guests during Oneida's homecoming. Perhaps the most noticeable change in the old-fashioned school is the presence of a computer which students use for projects in math, science, reading and English. No indoor plumbing has been brought to the schoolhouse, though. Students must walk to the building next door. (Photos by Mary Royals Driskill)



Booneville Baptists carry cross as witness

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

MANCHESTER—Traffic in Manchester stopped for the cross-walk of Baptists on Good Friday.

Six pastors, joined by numerous church members in Booneville Baptist Association, took turns carrying a large wooden cross on a two-mile trek from a shopping center to the county courthouse.

"We were sending a visible message to the community, saying simply that Christ carried his cross for each of us," said Johnny Adamson, pastor of Pleasant Run Baptist Church in Manchester.

Bill Nichols, associational director

of missions, said he noticed some drivers pulled over or stopped out of respect as the police-escorted group processed through town.

Participants described the experience as "exhilarating," "moving" and "humbling."

"Having lifted it with two other people in the parking lot, I didn't think the cross seemed that heavy," Adamson said. "But when it was put on my shoulder alone, I really felt the weight of it."

Rollin Bradshaw, pastor of Lyttleton Baptist Church, said he considered the walk a worship experience: "It was a time to reflect on what took place and rethink our commitment to the Lord."

"This was not a 'look what we're doing' kind of thing. It was done to show others 'this is what Christ did for you,'" Adamson added.

A musician from one of the churches led them in singing hymns about the cross as they walked.

When the walk was completed at the courthouse Friday afternoon, Ken Bolin, pastor of Manchester Baptist Church, led a brief worship service. Nichols said about 70 people attended, despite the rain.

"Carrying that cross was the most humbling experience I've had in a long time," Bradshaw concluded. "It would have been an honor to have been asked to carry Christ's cross up that hill for him."

Small church gets younger with influx of teens

STURGIS—The membership of Dekoven Baptist Church in Sturgis is growing younger.

In March, 27 teen-agers made professions of faith during spring revival services. Until then, the congregation averaged about 85 people of all ages in Sunday school.

Pastor Jerry Seay credits youth of the church for bringing their friends.

"Everybody's on a mountaintop. We believe this is just a stepping-

stone," Seay said. "Our God is a God of miracles, and he's doing great things at Dekoven."

Evangelist for the revival was Royce Pile, director of missions for Ohio Valley Association.

Seay noted that youth find strength in numbers: "When they all go to Pizza Hut and take up half the restaurant, they can be a positive pressure rather than feel negative pressure from the world.

"Some of the church members were a little afraid we would become a social club with all the young people," Seay said. "But our older people are willing to work with the younger people, and give their time. That's how the ministry is able to work."

"The love the young people feel when they walk through the door is what draws them in. We don't ask them what their reputation is, we just love them."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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

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Churches must take precautions to avoid abuse

More and more people, mostly women, are beginning to tell stories about becoming sexually involved with their ministers after going to them for help in a personal crisis.

The end result of these relationships is almost always shame, broken relationships and confusion.

Our churches must begin to deal with this reality.

Churches must move pro-actively to protect members and to assist their staff in structuring ministry in ways that minimize the likelihood of these painful abuses.

How can pastoral sexual abuse happen?

The answers are not simple, but one thing is clear: It happens more easily and more frequently than we have wanted to admit.

People seek their ministers in very

vulnerable states, looking for someone to care for and bless them. Sometimes they find a minister who is as lonely, frustrated and vulnerable as they are. The intimacy of a caring pastoral relationship may become very seductive to pastor and member.

What many lonely ministers fail to realize is that they are granted enormous power by persons in crisis. It is the minister's responsibility to exercise that power in ways that will protect the vulnerable member, even from the member's own destructive patterns. Furthermore, lonely ministers often fail to recognize that they are not above temptation to misuse their office for personal gratification.

Ministers need more training and better structures for consultation and accountability in their counseling ministry.

Too many pastors are doing too much counseling in isolation: isolation from peer feedback; isolation from training and resources; and isolation from structures of accountability. Ministers need more training in recognizing anger and disappointment disguised as sexuality—in themselves and others.

What few studies have been done indicate that professionals of all kinds, including ministers, are more likely to transgress ethical boundaries when they are functioning in isolation.

As important as confidentiality is to pastor and member, ministers must develop networks of consultation and accountability as they walk alongside vulnerable persons in life crises.

Churches must also undergird their ministers in their counseling. Churches must insist on and provide resources for their staff. Churches might consider the following actions:

■ Ask the ministerial staff about how, when and where counseling takes place in order to maximize safety for both minister and member.

■ Provide funds for ministers to receive consultative services from trained counselors.

■ Form a support committee of professionals within the church for the sake of accountability.

To do less than take pro-active initiatives is to court disaster.

Pastoral power is a sacred trust. Its exploitation is a tragedy for ministers, members and congregations. When abuses occur, firm and compassionate intervention is needed.

Congregations must step in and provide the protection from exploitation to which persons in crisis are entitled.

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

VIEWPOINT

Stop this waste

I have been thinking of writing to the Western Recorder to see if you can help me find my identity.

I've been reading in most all of the SBC publications about four kinds of Christians, like the church at Corinth. There are the fundamentalists, the conservatives, the moderates and the liberals, if I have been reading correctly. Could you publish some official guidelines on each of the four factions of our convention, so I can find out which one I am?

I have been a Kentucky Baptist for nearly 34 years. I have been a supporter, yea, a staunch backer, of the Cooperative Program. I believe it to be the greatest missionary program in the entire world.

However, in the March 31 issue of the Recorder, I read Editor Emeritus C.R. Daley's viewpoint, and I have been greatly disturbed ever since.

Maybe I've been too ignorant or naive, but I didn't know about the six-figure salary of Harold Bennett and

his successor, Morris Chapman. I was flabbergasted to read of Bennett's retirement package of the Lincoln Town Car and the expenses paid to the SBC annual meetings for life and the Baptist World Alliance for several years.

I was equally shocked to find that we Cooperative Program-giving Baptists are paying a Church of Christ minister to be our "parliamentarian," much less several thousand dollars every anniversary of the convention.

I heartily agree with C.R. Daley: It is indeed time to rise up and put a stop to this kind of waste of dollars that should be used for missions.

William L. Cook, pastor Aberdeen Missionary Baptist Church Aberdeen

A sad message

The article concerning a parliamentarian from another denomination to conduct Southern Baptist Convention business at Indianapolis in June (WR, April 7) sends a sad message to Southern Baptists.

George Seever Butler

Stay unspotted

The Southern Baptist Convention is studying the question of whether Freemasonry is an anti-Christian cult.

Is Freemasonry a religion? This is a study every pastor, deacon and layperson should seriously look into and investigate.

Can an organization that has a temple, altar, holy of holies, supreme pontiff, chaplains, deacons, and demands its members to call the leader worshipful master really claim not to be a religion?

There are many testimonies available in Christian bookstores by ex-Masons and a video, "The Question of Freemasonry," which exposes this false religion. This may be one of the most important resolutions on the floor at the Southern Baptist Convention voted on in Indianapolis.

The teachings of the Masonic lodge are as close as you can get to Gnostic teachings.

Is there no one to contend for the faith we have in Jesus? Pastors, be courageous, and ask yourself, "Does this lodge give glory to Jesus?"

A challenge goes out to the bride of Christ: Keep yourself unspotted from the world until the Lord comes back for us.

J. Wrobel Harrodsburg

BAPTIST FORUM

Not an ordinary mountain

Just a few miles before the "Welcome to Tennessee" sign on Interstate 75 lies Cumberland College, with the largest full-time day student enrollment of any private college in our state.

A visitor to the campus today could hardly appreciate the school's humble beginnings just over 100 years ago. In fact, over these past nine years the renovation of older facilities and the construction of new buildings is little short of miraculous. I say "miraculous" because it has taken millions of dollars to bring all of this about while managing an almost \$16 million operating budget. It is obvious that Dr. James Taylor has been

able effectively to convey his dream to the right people, at the right time, with the right resources.

Events so, because so many of the students require financial assistance, it is nip and tuck each year just to make budget. It is not unusual to need a half million dollars annually to provide the financial assistance to needy students. This is not money for "free rides," mind you, but primarily to pay for the work scholarships provided these students.

I was there in mid-April as speaker for the spring banquet of the Ministry Training Organization. About 50 pre-ministry students were present, together with another dozen

or so guests, including President Taylor. I was pleasantly surprised by the size of the student group, given their many pressures so close to the end of the semester. I was greatly impressed with those whom I met before and after the banquet. And it reinforced my appreciation for the role of the Baptist liberal arts college in the preparation for ministry of college students. At our three senior liberal arts colleges are approximately 300 students who have indicated some sense of the Lord's leadership in their lives toward Christian ministry. That translates into a major contribution to the Kingdom of God! However, the contribution goes much further.

I enjoyed breakfast the next morning with two of the religion department faculty, Bob Dunston and Kenny Faught, the latter a Cumberland graduate and experienced pastor recently returned to serve at his old alma mater.

As we talked, I experienced in these two young professors a genuine excitement about what they are doing. For at Cumberland College, every student must take the basic survey courses of Old Testament and New Testament. That means that each student in this Baptist college would have the opportunity over an extended period to hear the story of the Gospel unfolding from "creation" through the emergence and experiences of the early church. And I felt these two professors could make it come alive!

I left Williamsburg with two distinct impressions: Our liberal arts Baptist colleges are worth every dollar churches provide. And I was made glad, once again, that I attended a Baptist college. For it was there I met Alice and made my commitment to Christian ministry.

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

Baptism replaces exodus as Fellowship symbol

Two sets of sermons illustrate how the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has developed during the past 12 months. Last year, two major messages focused on the Children of Israel's exodus from slavery in Egypt. This year, two prominent sermons focused on baptism.

The exodus sermons fit their time. Moderate Southern Baptists still were less than a year past crushing political defeat, less than a year from realizing they could not retake their convention. The flight from Egypt—a story of bondage, sadness, loss and uncertainty—seemed a fitting metaphor for a people in grief. They felt like a persecuted minority, and they had launched out into a wilderness en route to an uncertain Promised Land.

This year, however, baptism fit Fellowship Baptists' mood. They had another year to distance themselves from political loss in the Southern Baptist Convention, a year of healing and progress. Baptism, with its emphasis on newness of life, seemed more appropriate for a people beginning to look forward to the future. They know they're still relatively small in number, but baptism reminds them they're still part of a larger body of Christ.

Baptism and the exodus are similar symbols. They reflect death, pain and grief; they also point to brighter tomorrows on the journey with God. The exodus is more stark and foreboding. You can't think about it without remembering the Israelites' bondage, and everyone knows it led to 40 years in the wilderness. Baptism, on the other hand, precedes celebration. It speaks to death and burial with Christ, but it highlights the glory of resurrection.

If those four sermons accurately reflected their days—and hallway conversation both years indicated they did—then the Fellowship has changed its focus in the past year. Rather than looking back in anguish, many Fellowship Baptists are scanning the horizon in anticipation. (Obviously, some

still wish the SBC controversy would evaporate so they could go back, just as some last year already were prepared to move on.) Time and collective momentum have carried them forward.

Among other things, the Fellowship this past year has hired missionaries in Europe; employed a full-time coordinator; collected millions of dollars for Southern Baptist, Fellowship and other moderate Baptist causes; adopted a global missions program guide and partnership principles; promoted three giving plans; and decided to conduct an annual missions offering. It has been helping new schools and fledgling ministry agencies get started.

These are activities of people who are looking ahead, not planning to give up. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is here to stay, just as born-again baptized Baptists stay within the flock.

Consequently, many people are wondering: Will the Fellowship be a new denomination? That's not the right question. We live in a post-denominational age, when most denominations are crumbling, not growing. A better question would be: How will the Fellowship function? If the Fellowship succeeds, it's likely to remain a loose confederation of like-minded Baptists who want to share resources, tackle a smorgasbord of ministries and get together for worship and, yes, fellowship.

That's an agenda already within the grasp of the Fellowship. New Fellowship Coordinator Cecil Sherman and state Fellowship leaders across the country will encourage other Baptists to make it their agenda, too. Their efforts, and the ongoing reaction of Baptists to developments within the Southern Baptist Convention, will determine which biblical metaphor describes next year's general assembly.

Marv Knox

Baptism and the exodus are similar symbols. They reflect death, pain and grief; they also point to brighter tomorrows on the journey with God.

Will Southern Seminary stay balanced on the highwire?

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary resembles an acrobat attempting to cross a highwire—with a sprained ankle and a damaged balancing pole on a trembling wire.

Operating a seminary always has been a balancing act. Distrusting Baptists have thrown tomatoes of criticism, trying to knock down the academic acrobats. Winds of financial instability and student unrest have swayed the wire. Most recently, angry Baptists—both those upset that Southern Seminary left the platform of its past and those impatient that it has not arrived at the platform of its future—very nearly severed the wire.

Faculty and trustees, with the help of President Roy Honeycutt, patched the wire a year ago, splicing it with a covenant renewal agreement. The splice curved the wire, sending the Louisville school in a more rightward direction, but it kept the balancing act up there.

The seminary almost came crash-

ing down last week:

■ The balancing pole nearly broke off at one end.

The most extreme trustees came down hard on the right. Some asked potential professors inappropriate personal questions, such as if they had been abused as children. They demanded new professors agree "100 percent" with their views. One even scoffed at the idea of professors writing books, and one ridiculed a professor over her decision to use her maiden name.

■ The sprained ankle—throbbing pain of faculty attacked by the most aggressive trustees—just about collapsed. Some professors, who were angry at the way those trustees treated Professor Molly Marshall, drafted a private statement to trustee officers that apparently excoriated them. Top administrators and trustee leaders wept in fear that the covenant was about to unravel. Upon reflection, the faculty conceded the most hostile ac-

tions were limited to a few trustees, and they rescinded their statement.

■ All the while, the highwire trembled.

Many alumni have been yanking on its anchor cords, lambasting the school for departing from its heritage. And many critics also have been tugging, rebuking the seminary for not already being more conservative.

But Southern Seminary prolonged its balancing act last week. Trustees elected a syllabus of professors, one reputedly world-class. And despite pain and anger, trustees and faculty did not sever the covenant.

Right now, nobody is fully pleased with the show up there on that highwire.

Many alumni and other Baptists who have loved the school and the education it has provided are unhappy with recent changes. They must remember the seminary remains viable—with a still-strong faculty, solid administrators and eager students—

even if it's not the same.

Many critics want more change, at a faster pace. They need to realize their philosophy has prevailed in the Southern Baptist Convention and controls its institutions, including the seminary. The biggest threat to their eventual success is their own intemperate action now. Their trustees must show good faith by being good trustees—policy makers and not administrators.

And the faculty and administration must work to regain their balance. They must focus on the steps ahead—particularly creating enriching classroom experiences and assimilating new professors into their troupe. They cannot afford the distraction of side-long glances at extreme trustees or volatile critics.

Will Southern Seminary arrive intact at the new platform? Or will it slip and crash to the ground? It cannot turn back. We wait with baited breath.

Marv Knox

The seminary's academic highwire act almost came crashing down.

Straight from Deep Mama: What your mother wants you to know

Deep Mama, my super-secret source on motherhood, appeared in front of the car as I pulled out from the drive-in window of a handy fast-food joint.

She got in the front seat and started munching on my french fries.

"You really ought to stop eating this greasy food," she warned.

Deep Mama can't stop thinking like a mother, even when she's lecturing someone almost her own age.

"You know why I want to talk, don't you?" Deep Mama asked.

My mind raced while she stuck a straw in my iced tea. "Well, uh ..."

"Goodness!" she fairly hissed. "Sometimes, I think you men are all alike. Think, you ungrateful son."

"Oh, yeah. It's almost Mother's Day!

So, what's on your mind?" I asked as she unwrapped my burger and I drove back around to the drive-in window.

"I think I know what the preacher felt like on Easter Sunday," she said.

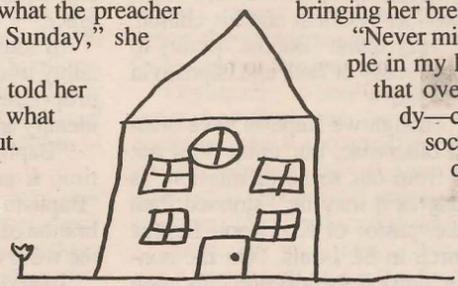
My puzzled look told her I didn't have a clue what she was talking about.

"Don't be such a doofus," she admonished. "Preachers have to be nice to all those people who only show up on Easter, acting like they're doing God a favor by going to church on the day his Son rose up from the grave.

"Just like a mother has to act excited on the day when those little projectiles of her pain pretend they're doing her a favor by bringing her breakfast in bed.

"Never mind that these short people in my house—not to mention that oversized kid, their daddy—can't even pick up their socks, much less feed the dog, wash the dishes or say 'please' and 'thank you' any other day of the year."

Deep Mama was on a roll. She didn't even stop talking when the kid taking my money for the second time in 15 minutes shouted, "Cha-ching!"



down home

Fellowship introduces its first four 'missioners'

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship welcomed its first four mission personnel, all of whom will serve in Europe, and laid the groundwork for a greatly expanded missions program during the organization's general assembly April 30-May 2 in Fort Worth, Texas.

One evening session of the three-day meeting was billed as a "global missions celebration" and featured reports from the mission field—both overseas and at home—and sermons on the role missions will play in the new Fellowship.

All four of the new "missioners," as the Fellowship prefers to call them, are former Southern Baptist missionaries who resigned recently in protest of changes in the Foreign Mission Board's strategy for Europe.

John David Hopper will continue

as president of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, but now under sponsorship of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship rather than the FMB. His wife, missionary Jo Ann Hopper, also works in the seminary's administration.

The Fellowship assumed their support May 1, making them the first mission personnel on the field.

Charles and Kathie Thomas, who last fall became Southern Baptists' first missionaries to Romania in half a century, will return to Europe, and perhaps to Romania, later this year under Fellowship sponsorship. They will go on the CBF payroll June 1.

A total of 20 "missioners" will be on the field by January 1993, Fellowship participants were told. Most are expected to be resigning FMB missionaries, such as John Deal, who will serve as field administrator for the European initiative.

Thomas brought greetings from

Baptists in Romania and France, the two countries where he spent most of his 17 years as an FMB missionary.

He donned an Atlanta Braves baseball cap to make a point about the image of Americans and missionaries in Europe: "Too many people go to Europe with their theological baseball cap on and say, 'We are the best. We are the biggest. You must do things our way.'"

Trading the baseball cap for the traditional fur hat worn in Romania, Thomas said stateside Baptists who want to minister to people overseas must learn to respect them and their differences, "so that Jesus in me can become Jesus in them. This is the way that Southern Baptists have done missions in the past."

Also at the Fort Worth meeting, the Fellowship heard an offer of mission partnership from the American Baptist Churches. "We want to be cooperative Baptists too," ABC executive Daniel Weiss told the group. "We

eagerly welcome any efforts to that end."

Linda Bridges, assistant professor of New Testament at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Va.) preached one of two sermons for the missions service. She said the Fellowship's identity is caught in the delicate balance between reverence for the past and revision for the future.

For Baptists, she said, the "essence of being is mission." A former missionary in Taiwan, she recounted Southern Baptists' proud tradition of missions.

"The Fellowship is revising this special tradition so that women, laypeople and small churches can have a part and so that new mission methods and objectives can be used," Bridges said.

She said the "connecting link" in the delicate balance between reverence and revision is not denominational structures or doctrinal purity but "a genuine concern for people."

Kentuckians elect Cobb & Kemp

FORT WORTH, Texas—About 120 Kentucky Baptists attended the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's general assembly in Fort Worth last week.

The Kentuckians met during a caucus time at Broadway Baptist Church, and nominated Reba Cobb, a member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, to a full three-year term on the Fellowship's coordinating council. Cobb was elected to the council last year and served out the first staggered term on the

new group.

The Bluegrass Baptists also elected Larry Kemp, a member of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz, to the fellowship's nominating committee. In addition to Cobb and Kemp, the other Kentuckians on the coordinating council are Jimmy Gentry, pastor of Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro, and Carolyn Hale, associate pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown.

The group voted to have the next Kentucky Baptist Fellowship meeting Saturday, June 20, at 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Shepherdsville.

Speakers look forward more than backward this year

By Marv Knox
Editor

FORT WORTH, Texas—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship peered ahead more than it looked back during its third annual meeting.

"Presence and Promise" was the theme for the Fellowship's general assembly in Fort Worth. And, except for a few wistful glances, speakers kept their focus on the future.

Previous meetings had been different: In 1990, about 3,000 moderates gathered in Atlanta shortly after a crushing political defeat at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, and their tone reflected their pain. Even last year—when 6,000 of them went back to Atlanta and officially formed the Fellowship—speakers often compared the group to the Children of Israel, who fled Egyptian slavery into the wilderness.

But this year, themes of hope, commitment and an identity borne of missions dominated sermons.

"My brothers and sisters, we've been writing the early chapters of our story," said Fellowship Moderator John Hewett. "We have given birth to something fresh and new. We know this: We are not yet where we ought to be, and we are not yet where we shall be. But thanks be to God, we are not where we used to be.

"We are learning to live in hope—wild hope in the living God."

To live in hope "is to live by faith, trusting a gracious God to finish what was started," said Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C.

Hewett cited a long list of initiatives he said indicate Cooperative Baptists have said yes to that hope: support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington and the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland; independence of Baylor University in Waco, Texas; the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va.; support for missionaries in Europe and projects from Idaho to India; support for Chris-

tian ethics and a free press.

"Wild hope tended from strength—this is the distinguishing characteristic of the Fellowship," Hewett insisted. "It is the powerful force which drew us here. It is the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. It is the launch of faith."

Tending that hope also calls for "clear, hard thinking," courage and recommitment to missions and evangelism, stressed Fellowship Coordinator Cecil Sherman of Atlanta.

Clear thinking will be needed to separate hope from wishful thinking and threatening messages from reality, Sherman said. Courage will fuel

commitment, and missions will enable the Fellowship to be an extension of God into the world, he added.

"We're going to design a mission system that you can throw your whole heart into," he promised. "The question is: Will you commit?"

That commitment demands an "ethic of cooperation," stressed incoming Moderator Patricia Ayres.

"Does not an ethic of cooperation provide the foundation for the atmosphere in which we work together, the pattern by which our various committees and groups will interrelate, the heart of our mission philosophy we have espoused and the standard of our

relationship with other groups?" asked Ayres of Austin, Texas.

"So let us be on with our task," Ayres urged. "To those who have never heard, we bring the transforming good news of Jesus Christ. With a hurting world we share the strong hope of the gospel: for the victims of tyranny and injustice, a God of justice, mercy and love; for those who suffer hunger, sickness or displacement, a Lord of compassion; for the lonely and fearful, a Comforter to strengthen and uphold. To those ... who feel alienated and disenfranchised, we offer a joyful and enabling fellowship of cooperation."

Baptism is Baptists' sign of unity, preachers say

By Marv Knox
Editor

FORT WORTH, Texas—Baptism remains Baptists' sign of unity, participants at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's general assembly were told.

"Baptism (is the) most unifying distinctive of the people called Baptists," said Bill Leonard, professor of church history at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. "Believers' baptism by immersion was the essence of historic Baptist identity.

"Baptism is an event and a theology which unites us with each other, as well as to Christ and his church. The very name 'Baptist' points to the centrality of faith and baptism in our ... life."

"Though we Baptists have often said otherwise, our unity does not rise from our sense of mission, as strong as it may be," stressed Paul Duke, pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church in St. Louis. "On the contrary, unity is the gift that falls upon us. ... Unity is grace, and it falls on us and covers us like the dew.

"This is what happened to us all in our baptism," Duke explained. "What a sign of unity we got when

the waters of baptism washed over us. Some of us were young, some of us old, some rural, some urban, some brown, some white, some male, some female. But didn't we all get wet?"

"We Baptists did it the sloppy way, the whole way. We got sopping wet all over. It messed up our hair and soaked through our underwear.

"For all the happy differences and all the unhappy differences of our separate lives, we all were covered in the same water, drenched all over in the same watery sign of the same Christ, same blood, same death and resurrection, same big family of grace."

In today's "moments of uncertainty and transition," Baptists appropriately return to baptism for identity and unity, Leonard stressed.

"Baptism does not create salvation, it accompanies it," he said. "Baptism ... is an act of faith, a celebration of grace and an enactment of the word of God."

In addition, "to be baptized is to put on Christ," Leonard noted, quoting the Apostle Paul. "We not only believe in Jesus, but also identify with him and his way of living in the world. ... We are the Christ-bearers

of our world, carrying Christ with us out there, where he already is and where we belong."

Baptism also is a symbol of liberation in Christ, Leonard said. "It is the promise of freedom to all who believe. ... This liberating gospel compels us to go out from here to confront issues of race and gender, worship and spirituality, witness and mission, sin and salvation—scary stuff."

Ultimately, baptism tells Baptists who they really are, he added.

"There are difficult days ahead for all Southern Baptists, whatever their political, ideological, theological or regional differences," he noted. "But as we look past multiple identities to a new future of mission and ministry, we dare not fail to remember who we really are.

"For beyond all the qualifiers which identify the kind of Baptists we are or wish to be, we must never forget that the word 'baptist' itself is merely an adjective. In baptism, we are one people bound to all the church by such powerful images as body of Christ, communion of saints, family of faith, people of God. We are the community of the baptized."

BAPTISTS

L.A. verdict prompts statement on Baptists & racism

By Marv Knox
Editor

FORT WORTH, Texas—As echoes of racial violence rebounded across the nation, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship confessed, repented and rejected the racism participants claimed has persisted in their parent denomination for almost 150 years.

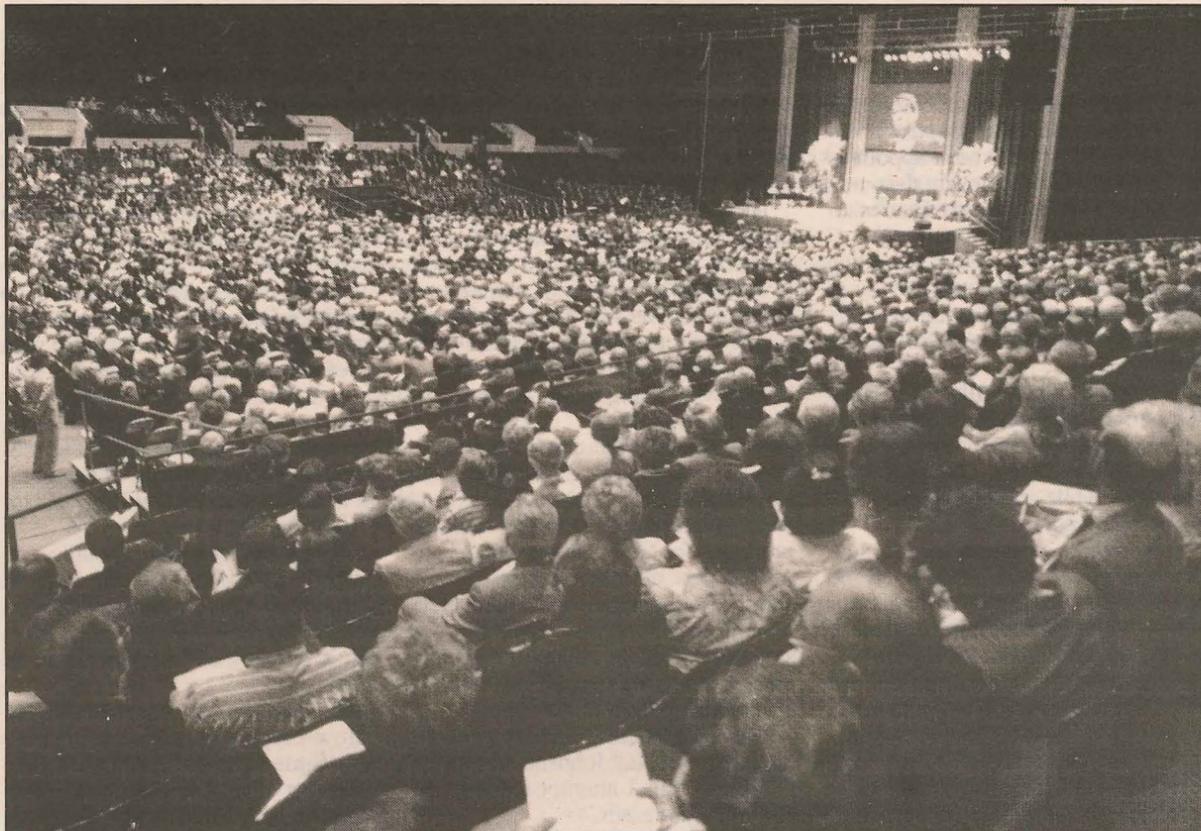
Participants in the Fellowship's general assembly in Fort Worth set aside their previous agreement to avoid resolutions in order to repudiate racism in America. They did so on a split vote, but most of their debate hinged on whether they should deal with resolutions, not whether they agreed with the statement before them.

That statement claimed the not-guilty verdicts handed down to the Los Angeles police officers who beat Rodney King "have called into question the fundamental integrity of the American system of justice and provoked a wave of violence in cities across the nation."

The Southern Baptist Convention was created partly to protect slavery in the South, the statement said: "The sins ... of slavery committed by our Southern Baptist ancestors remain spiritual blights on the relationship between African-Americans and Caucasian-Americans to the present generation."

Participants in the Fellowship meeting, "whose roots are in the Southern Baptist Convention, do publicly confess and repent of our historic complicity in condoning and perpetuating the sin of slavery before and during the Civil War and ... apologize to all African-Americans for that sin," the statement added.

"We reject forthrightly the racism which has persisted throughout our history as Southern Baptists, even to this present day. Furthermore, we pledge our prayers and active efforts to work for the eradication of every vestige of racism in our nation and in our churches."



FELLOWSHIP CROWD About 6,000 people attended the general assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Fort Worth, Texas, last week. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

By their vote, participants also admitted the Fellowship is "too white, too middle-class and too insulated from the seething racial problems confronting our society."

They promised to pray for healing and offered themselves "as instruments of Christ's reconciling peace."

The statement passed by a slim margin after participants debated whether they should single out an issue for comment in a resolution.

Moderator John Hewett of Asheville, N.C., earlier said the Fellowship's administrative committee had decided proposed resolutions—on sexuality and environmental concerns—would be referred to the appropriate committees for review.

But he ruled Tim Turnham of Silver Spring, Md., could offer the statement for consideration.

Several participants argued against any resolutions. Only Charles Hurst of Tyler, Texas, spoke negatively to the substance of the measure. "I cannot apologize for the sins of my forebears," he said, explaining he could only apologize for not being more active in racial reconciliation today.

Walter Shurden of Macon, Ga., urged passage of the statement. It addressed "the most pressing issue before our nation," he said, calling the statement "an effort to say to our nation, and churches, and Baptists where this body stands on this issue."

After the meeting adjourned, new

moderator Patricia Ayres of Austin, Texas, said, "The heart of that resolution is something we can't help but heartily endorse." The division of the vote reflected differences of opinion "over process, not substance," she said.

Fellowship Coordinator Cecil Sherman of Atlanta concurred, even though he acknowledged "there is guilt in all of us."

"In my more honest moments, I find racism in myself," he admitted. "I purge it when I discover it, and then I think it's done, ... and then I have to do it all over again."

With the issue of racism so much on Americans' minds, he said, "it required us to respond."

"The sins ... of slavery committed by our Southern Baptist ancestors remain spiritual blights on the relationship between African-Americans and Caucasian-Americans to the present generation."

From a statement on racism adopted by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Fellowship meets in Fort Worth with emphasis on missions

Continued from page 1

million on global missions in 1993, with the European initiative claiming half the total and the other half divided among ministries targeting urban areas, "unreached" people groups, internationals in the United States and CBF administration.

■ Revised its "regular" or entry-level giving plan to fund not only Southern Baptist causes but Fellowship projects as well.

Fellowship leaders faced straight on the persistent question whether such definitive actions indicate the Fellowship is on its way to becoming a new convention or denomination.

"I believe this is a permanent entity," Hewett said. He told a news conference the Fellowship is an "enduring" organization but "whether it will take the shape Baptists usually call a convention is yet to be revealed."

Hewett said talk of the Fellowship becoming a denomination is "inappropriate," since all Baptist groups are considered part of the Baptist denom-

ination. "We are not going to be anything other than Baptist," he insisted.

Hewett said the Fellowship has no intention of recreating the structure and bureaucracy of the Southern Baptist Convention. He added the Fellowship will continue to allow participating churches to channel money to SBC causes "as long as churches continue to want to."

Approximately 950 churches contribute to the Fellowship, according to the Fellowship's finance committee. About 350 churches have the CBF in their budgets, while another 600 send designated gifts from individual church members.

Hewett, who presided over this year's meeting, read a letter of greeting from the most famous Southern Baptist, evangelist Billy Graham, during the assembly's opening session.

"It is my prayer that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will make a significant contribution to renewal in the churches and a renewed emphasis on evangelism and foreign missions,"

Graham wrote.

"While situations and culture may change, the gospel ... has not changed," the letter said in part. "The Bible is still the authoritative word of God. The Cross and the Resurrection are central in our message, and the need for repentance and faith is just the same in order to find heaven."

Hewett later told reporters he asked Graham, a personal friend, to write the letter to affirm publicly "what he has said privately."

Organizers of the assembly expressed pleasure with the tone of the meeting, which included large- and small-group business sessions, several worship services, 25 training institutes and 75 topical workshops.

However, most had counted on more people attending the first-ever Fellowship meeting west of the Mississippi River. Approximately 4,500 people registered for the assembly, while approximately 6,000 registered for meeting last year in Atlanta. An offering of \$98,000 taken during this

year's meeting fell short of meeting expenses.

Unlike annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention, participants are not required to register, and neither registration nor church endorsement is required to vote at Fellowship meetings.

Hewett acknowledged the Fellowship has a stronger following east of the Mississippi, particularly in the Southeast. "Baptists still have a problem with that river," he said.

During a session focusing on missions, Fellowship participants greeted Keith Parks, retiring president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, with an extended standing ovation. Parks announced recently he will retire earlier than planned because of philosophical differences with trustees.

Although Parks has been mentioned as a candidate to head the Fellowship's missions effort, he said he was attending the assembly as a private citizen.

"It is my prayer that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will make a significant contribution to renewal in the churches and a renewed emphasis on evangelism and foreign missions."

Part of a statement from Billy Graham read at the assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Trustees consider concerns with Simmons & Marshall

"The votes are there. But there is the issue of the covenant we have made with the faculty and with the seminary."

Trustee Rick White explaining why he wants to follow due process in considering charges against Professor Paul Simmons

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—A subcommittee of trustees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has been appointed to "examine all the relevant data concerning charges against Professor Paul Simmons."

Trustees also approved spending an unspecified amount of money to obtain a second legal opinion about how they can deal with Simmons' employment.

Chairman Wayne Allen of Tennessee said trustees were not conducting a formal investigation but were "finding out if we have a problem" with Simmons while attempting to follow proper procedure.

Meanwhile, trustees on the academic personnel committee found "no charges for dismissal" of Professor Molly Marshall based on criticisms made by Austin Jones, a Virginia pastor. However, the committee did ask seminary administration to "pursue areas of clarification" from two lectures Marshall gave at Averett College in Danville, Va., earlier this year.

Marshall, associate professor of Christian theology, and Simmons, professor of Christian ethics, have been frequent targets of criticism by some trustees.

At the outset of the April 27-29 meeting of Southern Seminary's trustees, the academic personnel committee met to address concerns about both professors.

Simmons has been criticized frequently for his views in favor of abortion rights.

Jones and a group of conservative pastors from Virginia had said Marshall taught heresy during the lectures at Averett.

Rick White, chairman of the academic personnel committee, said the committee studied a transcript of Marshall's lectures and found "no charges for dismissal" based on Jones' accusation.

Specifically, White said, the committee found Marshall did not say Christianity is an insult to women, that the gospel has been unkind to women and that the gospel is a deformed image of God.

However, he also noted the committee raised other issues after studying Marshall's lecture that seminary administration should clarify.

That report did not set well with several trustees.

Tim Piland of Virginia asked how the committee's transcript was obtained.

White answered that Marshall provided a tape of the lecture and the tape had been transcribed by seminary staff.

Piland said he had driven to Averett College to listen to the tape since the school would not release it. "I'm here to testify I believe she did say those things," he said.

Allen then asked Piland and trustee Fred Caffey of Virginia to meet with the academic affairs committee that night and report back to the board.

The next day, both White and Piland said they did not question the integrity of the transcript provided to the committee and would stand by the

committee's original report.

Chairman Allen later told reporters the committee's remaining concerns were simply a request for clarification of technical theological language. "She's not in jeopardy of losing her job," he said.

On the third day of the meeting, trustee Jerry Johnson of Colorado presented a resolution he had submitted to the board's resolutions committee. Johnson said he was concerned there might be a perception that trustees "are in favor of the more radical feminist view of using feminine language in reference to God."

He implied reference to Marshall's speech at Averett in explaining a rationale for the resolution, saying, "Any professor who uses feminine pronouns for God is out of hand."

The text of Johnson's resolution simply said trustees reaffirmed their commitment to Article 3 of the Abstract of Principles which says, in part, that God reveals himself as "Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Debate ensued, including a charge by one trustee that Johnson was using a "thinly veiled attempt to warn or censure a professor."

Ultimately, trustees voted to postpone indefinitely consideration of the resolution.

Discussion about Simmons occurred on the first day of the trustee meeting and resulted in a closed meeting that lasted more than an hour.

White appointed six trustees to the subcommittee gathering information about Simmons: Gary Taylor of Missouri, chairman; John Allen of Mississippi; Kenneth Cademartori of Maryland; Morris Denman of Florida; Carroll Karkalits of Louisiana; and Bob Wagner of Illinois.

White told trustees the recommendation was designed to meet three criteria: to protect Simmons' academic freedom, to be clear about correct process, and to guard the board's fiduciary responsibility. The latter was an apparent reference to guarding against legal action from Simmons if he were dismissed improperly.

White admitted he understands the frustration trustees have felt because they could not deal with Simmons as quickly as they would like. Although the conservative majority on the board has the votes to do what they want, White said, it is wise to move cautiously and slowly.

Johnson then moved that Simmons be given a sabbatical leave beginning Aug. 1, 1992. Simmons has just returned to the classroom from a sabbatical leave.

Trustees engaged in a lengthy discussion about whether Johnson's motion was in order and whether it would have to be dealt with in executive session.

A motion was made that the board suspend its normal rules and deal with the personnel matter in open session. However, the two-thirds majority vote needed to keep the session open failed, with 24 voting for open session and 28 voting for closed session.

During the debate on this point, White again cautioned the board to act with "restraint, with wisdom, with forthrightness ... considering the impact on our entire seminary commu-

nity."

"The votes are there," he said, but "there is the issue of the covenant we have made with the faculty and with the seminary."

Trustees spent more than an hour in executive session. Afterward, Chairman Allen told reporters the motion to place Simmons on sabbatic leave failed.

Provost Larry McSwain said he could not discuss details of the session but that the committee's original plan to refer the Simmons matter to a subcommittee was "de facto approved."

In an interview after the vote, Johnson explained he made the motion to get Simmons out of the classroom while trustees conduct their investigation.

"I feel Dr. Simmons shouldn't be teaching in the classroom," he said. "It is standard operating procedure anywhere in the world when somebody is being investigated to put them on leave."

Johnson said he wants trustees to follow proper procedure in dealing with Simmons, and that could take time. "At best, it will be a full year until the board makes any decision. We want to follow due process."

Johnson said he wants Simmons to have a chance to say what he really does believe, but it is time for trustees to "put up or shut up."

Trustees previously had asked the seminary's attorney, Joseph Stopher, to advise them on the legal limitations of Simmons' employment.

Although trustees did not publicly discuss Stopher's counsel, it reported-

ly was not what trustees anxious to dismiss Simmons wanted to hear.

One trustee asked Chairman Allen what the cost of the second legal opinion might be. "Are we talking about \$10,000 or \$25,000?" asked Steve Anderson of Tennessee.

"Yes," Allen replied. "We're looking for the wisest, best counsel available, and we don't know what that costs."

Anderson then told Allen, "You seem to say you don't know what it's going to cost. You could be talking about \$50,000."

Anderson said trustees should "not spend our money foolishly," noting the seminary has been battling decreasing revenue for several years.

Rising health-care costs and decreasing revenue from the SBC Cooperative Program have crimped the school's budget, forcing administrators to cut about \$600,000 from the budget in the past two years.

A seminary official said the school already has spent about \$10,000 on the first legal opinion.

However, a second opinion likely would be more expensive since another attorney would not have an ongoing relationship with the seminary and would probably be a specialist in contract law.

White encouraged the board "not to overreact" to the request for funds. Trustees then approved the unspecified expenditure, with only four dissenting votes.

Simmons was out of town immediately after the board meeting and could not be reached for comment.

Trustees honor Honeycutt

Continued from page 1

trustees whose terms are ending, retiring faculty members and Keith Parks, who will retire as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in October. A 13th resolution offers a disclaimer that board actions should not be viewed to support women serving as deacons and pastors.

■ Approved a 1992-93 budget of \$15.86 million, including a 3 percent salary increase for faculty and staff and a \$75 increase in student matriculation fees.

■ Approved formation of a task committee to be appointed by the president for the purpose of rewriting the seminary's mission statement.

■ Re-elected the current slate of trustee officers, including Wayne Allen of Tennessee as chairman, Larry Adams of Oklahoma as first vice chairman, Charles Carter of Georgia as second vice chairman and John Hicks of Kentucky as secretary.

The meeting ended on a peculiar note as Rick White, chairman of the academic personnel committee, asked for a point of personal privilege to address the body in executive session.

After about 30 minutes of closed session, the press and other visitors reentered the room to find some trustees and administrators in tears, obviously struck with emotion.

Many of those trustee leaders and administrators had met with the academic personnel committee the previous two nights until as late as 2 a.m.

and were suffering from lack of sleep. However, any further cause for the unusual display of emotion went largely unexplained.

Neither the board chairman nor a seminary spokesman would explain what had transpired, and no statement was offered to the press.

The Western Recorder learned that the seminary's faculty association met the day before and took an action apparently critical of something the trustees had done in their opening session. That action had been communicated to Allen and White, apparently prompting the tearful session.

Gerald Keown, president of the faculty association, confirmed the faculty had taken an action that was "perceived as inflammatory by the trustees." However, he said that action was taken "on the basis of some rhetoric that was occurring Monday evening" and was rescinded after the trustee meeting ended Wednesday.

Keown said the action was rescinded "because of the positive consequence of what happened" later in the meeting.

"Overall, faculty response to the trustee meeting was very positive," he said. "The things that happened on the positive side far outweigh the things that happened on the negative side."

"We still have a number of concerns, some related to colleagues who are under fire, but our hope is that we can maintain dialogue and come to some positive resolution," he added.

Six elected to faculty after debate on women

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—A desire to hire “men who are 100 percent correct” rather than “95 percent correct” threatened the election of six faculty members at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary April 27-29.

A majority of trustees approved the candidates after lengthy debates over whether new faculty members must oppose the concept of women serving as deacons and pastors.

However, before adjourning, trustees adopted a hastily written resolution explaining “no action of this board should be construed as endorsement of women to the role of pastor or deacon.”

That resolution was offered by John Allen of Mississippi, who said he was “concerned simply about perceptions.”

Trustee David Miller of Arkansas raised the issue during debate on faculty nominations already approved by the board’s own academic personnel committee.

“This board of trustees will be perceived by the larger family of Southern Baptists as endorsing women deacons,” Miller said. “That violates my conscience, and I’m opposed to it.”

In an appeal to the chairman of the academic personnel committee, Miller said, “I urge you to find men who are consistent on every point” of concern to trustees. “Why should we be satisfied with men who are 95 percent correct when there are hundreds of men who are 100 percent correct?”

Miller initially raised the question during the nomination of Jack Cunningham to a position as associate professor of Christian education. Cunningham currently serves on the staff of the SBC’s Seminary Extension program in Nashville. He holds degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Mid-America Baptist Seminary and Central Baptist College in Arkansas.

Cunningham and two other prospective faculty members had been interviewed the night before in a four-hour academic personnel committee meeting.

The nominees were questioned in depth about specific issues such as women in ministry, homosexuality, abortion and views of biblical authority. Trustees reportedly asked pointed questions such as whether the candidate had been abused as a child and whether the candidate believed it sinful for a person to entertain the thought of a homosexual act.

After this interview process, all the candidates were endorsed by the committee.

In the subsequent plenary session, the full board readily approved granting a position with tenure to David Dockery, who previously had been named dean of the school of theology and elected to a non-tenured position.

Trustees then elected James Chancellor professor of Christian missions and world religions with no discussion. Chancellor holds degrees from Duke University, Southern Seminary, the University of Nebraska and Bellevue College in Nebraska. He currently serves as dean of arts and sciences

at Colorado Christian University in Littleton.

Cunningham’s nomination came next, prompting Miller’s question.

Cunningham was not present to answer questions. However, members of the committee explained Cunningham had said he viewed women’s service as a local church matter. When pressed further, they reported, he said his view of the Bible would not prevent a woman from serving as a deacon, although he wasn’t certain about a woman serving as a pastor.

Miller then asked for Cunningham’s nomination to be referred back to the academic affairs committee, describing women deacons as an “aberrant view of Scripture” practiced by “less than one-tenth of 1 percent of Southern Baptist churches.”

After spirited debate, trustees voted down Miller’s motion to refer.

Before the vote on hiring Cunningham, trustee Don Graham of Alabama asked if voting for Cunningham was “tantamount to saying we approve of the ordination of women as deacons.”

Rick White, chairman of the academic personnel committee, responded he didn’t think that was the case. He noted the interview process by trustees is now “the longest in the history of this seminary.”

Further, White said, approving faculty members “does not mean there’s unanimity on every issue.”

Trustees—almost all describing themselves as conservatives—argued both sides of the women’s issue. Some argued that allowing women to serve as deacons and pastors is not inconsistent with being an evangelical conservative.

Ultimately, Cunningham was elected by a 32-9 vote.

But at that point, members of the academic personnel committee said they felt compelled to report that both Chancellor and Dockery hold similar views to Cunningham on women serving as deacons.

More discussion ensued, and then a motion to reconsider Chancellor’s election failed. A subsequent motion to reconsider Dockery’s election died for lack of a second.

Trustees then moved to consider the nomination of Timothy Weber as professor of church history. Weber is professor of church history at Denver Seminary, a Conservative Baptist school. He earned the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Chicago, with Martin Marty as his mentor, and completed earlier degrees at Fuller Theological Seminary and the University of California.

During discussion, a member of the academic personnel committee reported Weber “is 100 percent in favor of women in ministry as a deacon and pastor.”

Trustee Graham responded to the board, “I appeal to you. We cannot establish this precedent. We’re going to invite men to come in here and teach contrary to Scripture.”

Committee Chairman White replied, “I am an inerrantist from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet, and I would be delighted to share fellowship with this man and invite students to sit under him.”

Before the vote on Weber, semi-

nary Provost Larry McSwain addressed the board. He said Weber told the committee he had come to his view on women “out of his study of the inerrant word of God” and explained “verse by verse and woman by woman” how he came to that position.

“If you don’t want the finest, most conservative scholar in church history on the faculty, then vote negatively,” McSwain said. He described Weber as “the best qualified candidate you will ever have a chance to elect to this faculty” and said not electing him would be “a great injustice” committed without regard to the seminary’s Abstract of Principles.

After McSwain’s plea, trustees approved Weber with only four dissenting votes.

However, the issue surfaced the next day when the academic personnel committee presented two additional faculty nominations.

James Nogalski was elected assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation, and Charles Scalise was elected assistant professor of church history.

Nogalski currently is an adjunct professor at Anderson College, Erskine College and Lander College, all

in South Carolina. He holds degrees from the University of Zurich, Baptist Theological Seminary of Ruschlikon, Switzerland, Southern Seminary and Samford University.

Scalise already has been teaching at Southern. He holds degrees from Southern, Yale Divinity School and Princeton University.

After hearing that these two men also would not oppose women serving as deacons or pastors, Miller reiterated his concerns from the day before.

After additional discussion, both candidates were elected with a few negative votes cast.

At the conclusion of the trustee meeting, Chairman Wayne Allen of Tennessee told reporters the discussion about women’s roles was not a serious break within the board.

“Frankly, some of us were shocked that people with the same high view of Scripture we have hold these views,” he explained. “A long-held position among nearly all of us was challenged.”

Allen said he had not changed his position opposing women serving as deacons and pastors but was willing to learn from the newly elected faculty members.

“Why should we be satisfied with men who are 95 percent correct when there are hundreds of men who are 100 percent correct?”
David Miller



ANNIVERSARY Roy and June Honeycutt smile during a celebration honoring Honeycutt’s 10th anniversary as president of Southern Seminary.

Honeycutt marks 10 years with vision for future

LOUISVILLE (BP)—A decade of guiding Southern Baptist Theological Seminary through the stormy waters of denominational discord has not dampened President Roy Honeycutt’s vision for the future.

“I want to be a part of the continual shaping and development of this institution through what I think will be the ‘feathering out’ of this crisis in the Southern Baptist Convention,” said Honeycutt, eighth president of Southern Baptists’ oldest institution. “I use the term ‘feathering out’ intentionally because I don’t think it will end on a certain date on the calendar but I think it will become less intensive.”

Honeycutt made the comments in an interview prior to the April 28 celebration of his 10th anniversary as seminary president.

“One of the most prominent things in my 10 years as president is that we have negotiated 10 years of denominational controversy,” he said. “There are still problems to confront, but the institution is still together and we’re still doing, I think, quality education.”

Yet Honeycutt’s presidency has not just been about institutional survival, he said. During his tenure, the seminary has tripled its endowment, constructed the largest capital project in its history and achieved record enrollments. It also has

expanded continuing education offerings and curriculum, including the opening of the Carver School of Church Social Work.

“None of (the achievements) are mine alone,” he said. “All have been a shared role. I’m indebted to many people for what has happened.”

The seminary will face the future guided by a “more consciously stated conservatism,” Honeycutt said. But the seminary’s future has challenges and opportunities beyond the school’s theological posture, he added.

Slow growth experienced by the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, the denomination’s unified giving plan, has forced the seminary to take more initiative to secure its financial future, he said. “Endowment is a slow way to do that but is the only certain way.”

Honeycutt looks forward to seeing the seminary secure the \$5 million necessary to complete the final phase of its campus center. The first two phases of the complex, which include health and recreation facilities, a post office, book store and student-related offices, opened in 1990 at a cost of \$12 million.

As an expression of appreciation for his leadership, trustees announced last week they would name the campus center complex for Honeycutt and his wife, June.

STUDENTS

Student team finds fertile field & hard work on trip

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS—Baptist students on mission from Northern Kentucky University planted seeds in rocky ground and fertile soil.

Although rocky ground made hard work of digging post holes at the Freeda Harris Baptist Center where the students worked, the gospel message fell on fertile soil, students said.

The Baptist Student Union of Northern Kentucky University sent 11 students and their campus minister on a spring break mission trip.

The Freeda Harris Center is a weekday ministry program in Look-

out that helps meet physical and spiritual needs of families in the Eastern Kentucky mountains. Home missionaries Greg and Alice Whitetree direct the center's work and organize most of the activities that go on throughout the year.

Students staffed the after-school program at the center, conducted Big A clubs and a teen club, shared dramatic musical presentations and led in church services and programs at local schools, said Rachelle Rollins, co-coordinator of the trip. In addition, the students repaired picnic tables, painted and built a fence.

Digging fence-post holes through rocky ground around the center gave

the students a chance to "wear some blisters," said Tom Schiffer, a first-year student on the mission team.

"It was a pretty good experience all around. I wish we could do more of this type of work," Schiffer said.

"It not only gives us a chance to get away from the school environment, but it also helped us get to know each other better and enjoy working at a different pace for a while."

That different pace included sleeping on the floor, taking turns cooking, and climbing a mountain together, Rollins said.

After recent trips to Mexico and Ohio, students decided this year to share their message closer to home.

"They could have gone to more glamorous places than Eastern Kentucky," said Bill Ellis, campus minister. "But the group chose to see the needs around here and begin to meet them."

The Whitetrees said they are grateful for student volunteers and depend on their work to keep the center open.

"During the spring and fall, BSU groups are a great asset to our ministry," Whitetree said.

"The group from Northern Kentucky is the most successful BSU group we've had come."

"The kids are still talking about them and wishing they would come back," he said.

Leaders wary of group soliciting on Kentucky campuses

Continued from page 1

Mrs. Ortega, who wanted to know how she was progressing on her fund-raising.

According to Ortega, Encounter is asking students who agree to go on the mission trip to Spain to secure 30 sponsors, each of whom would give an initial donation of \$135. All of those funds would be used to pay the students' trip expenses, she said.

The sponsors also are asked to give an additional \$300 during the next year (\$25 a month). Of the \$750, 20 percent is to go to Encounter with Christ for "administrative costs and business expenses," Ortega said, with the remaining funds being distributed to students on a monthly basis.

The ministry has no national office; the nine-member staff operates out of their homes.

Further, a promotional flyer published by the organization contains false information, according to Barry Sneed, a youth specialist in the South-

ern Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship training department.

Sneed's picture and title is printed on the flyer, and he is listed as a professor and speaker for the event. But Sneed said he has no plans to attend or participate and never gave his permission for Encounter with Christ to use his picture for promotional purposes.

"They called me three or four months ago and asked if I would be interested in participating in the program," Sneed said. "I told them it might be something I would be interested in but that I would like to know more about what it was and who they were."

Ortega said the use of Sneed's name was "a misunderstanding."

In addition to Sneed, Encounter with Christ also has used the name of Brad Gray, a consultant in the Sunday School Board's student ministry department, in their recruiting efforts. Gray said he also never gave his en-

dorsement to the project.

Encounter with Christ has run into problems before by claiming Southern Baptist ties without permission. Two years ago the organization was working in Ocean City, Md.

"I liked the people OK but I was not very pleased with their fund-raising," said Terry Davis, pastor of Ocean City Baptist Church. "They were sending kids out on the boardwalk and asking for money. When

people would ask what church they were with, they would tell them they were with us. I had that stopped right away."

Ortega insists the problems all have been the result of misunderstandings and poor administration. "We've made about 20 mistakes we wouldn't make again," she said, adding she has assured Sneed and Gray their names will no longer be used in recruiting efforts.

Blisters replaced books as the students worked at the Freeda Harris Center.

20 percent of the funds students raise goes to the organization for administrative costs.

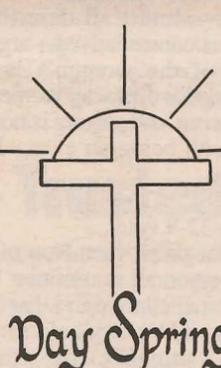
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Florence is a popular guest on TV and radio programs (with an average of 100 appearances annually). You probably have seen or heard her as a frequent guest on The 700 Club, Heritage Today, Chicago's Channel 38, *Let's Live*, 100 Huntley Street, TBN's Joy, The Minirth-Meier Clinic, *Truths That Transform* and *Focus On The Family*. Florence has a daily radio program, ACCENT ON LIFE, that is heard on many stations throughout the USA.

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Protesters arrested at Easter service in Chicago

By Ferrell Foster
Illinois Baptist

CHICAGO (BP)—Police arrested six people identified with radical homosexual groups after they allegedly tried to disrupt an Easter Sunday worship service at Armitage Baptist Church in Chicago.

The six were charged with disorderly conduct and released from custody the same day, according to

police records.

Police were called when ushers spotted eight people identified with "Act Up" and "Queer Nation" as they entered the 9:30 a.m. service, said Dave Lilligren, administrative pastor at the church.

Armitage members recognized the eight from contacts during protests at a nearby abortion clinic. The homosexuals also wore buttons and handed out pamphlets identifying themselves

with the two groups.

The eight seated themselves in pairs. "I would say they had a plan," building superintendent Dan Schustek said. "They placed themselves strategically around the auditorium."

Five minutes into pastor Charles Lyons' sermon, two of them walked to the front of the auditorium "to disrupt the preaching," according to a release from the church.

Last year, church leaders made

plans for dealing with such a disruption, Lilligren said. So when Lyons saw the two coming forward, he stepped back, pointed to the band, and the congregation began singing "rousing gospel songs."

Four ushers walked quickly down the aisle and seized the pair before they had a chance to speak, Schustek said.

Lyons resumed his sermon, and five minutes later a woman stood and blew a whistle. The congregation stood again and began to sing. By that time police had arrived and the woman and her partner were led from the service.

After the sermon, two more activists were arrested as they attempted to place condoms in an offering plate as it was passed, Lilligren said.

The other two then stood and left. Lilligren said the six were not arrested because they are homosexuals.

"We did not escort these people from our service because of who they were, rather because they were disrupting a worship service. And we would do the same for anybody."

Armitage has not been active in opposing homosexuality outside the church, Lilligren said, but the homosexual groups apparently targeted the church because of its opposition to abortion.

Music association gives Dove Awards

NASHVILLE (EP)—Sandi Patti, Amy Grant and Michael English were the big winners at the Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards presentation last month.

Awards included:

■ Song of the year: "Place in This World," co-written by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith.

■ Inspirational recorded song of the year: "For All the World," Sandi Patti.

■ Contemporary recorded song of the year: "Home Free," Wayne Watson.

■ Artist of the year: Amy Grant.

■ Female vocalist of the year: Sandi Patti.

■ Male vocalist of the year: Michael English.

■ Songwriter of the year: Steven Curtis Chapman.

■ Group of the year: BeBe and CeCe Winans.

■ Contemporary album of the year: "For the Sake of the Call," Steve Curtis Chapman.

NEWS NOTES

■ **Chaplains** are still being recruited by the U.S. Navy, despite cuts in U.S. military personnel. Because the Navy trimmed its ranks much earlier than the Army and Air Force, it must now replace retirees and other departures while the other two branches are still trying to downsize, said Father Joseph Lamonde, senior recruiter for the naval chaplain corps.

■ **Two newspaper editors** fired for participating in abortion protests have won a settlement with owners of the Fairfield Ledger, a 5,000-circulation daily newspaper in Fairfield, Iowa. Feature editor Terry Lambertsen and news editor John Kennedy were fired after they assumed leadership roles in Jefferson County Right to Life. In announcing the settlement out of court, the newspaper admitted unconstitutionally infringing on the religious beliefs of its employees.

■ **May 7** has been suggested by the American Family Association as a day for Christians to gather at city halls across the country and pray for moral renewal in America. The "Meet at City Hall" emphasis has been endorsed by Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. Organizers hope thousands of Christians will go to their local city halls to pray from 12:20 to 12:40 p.m.

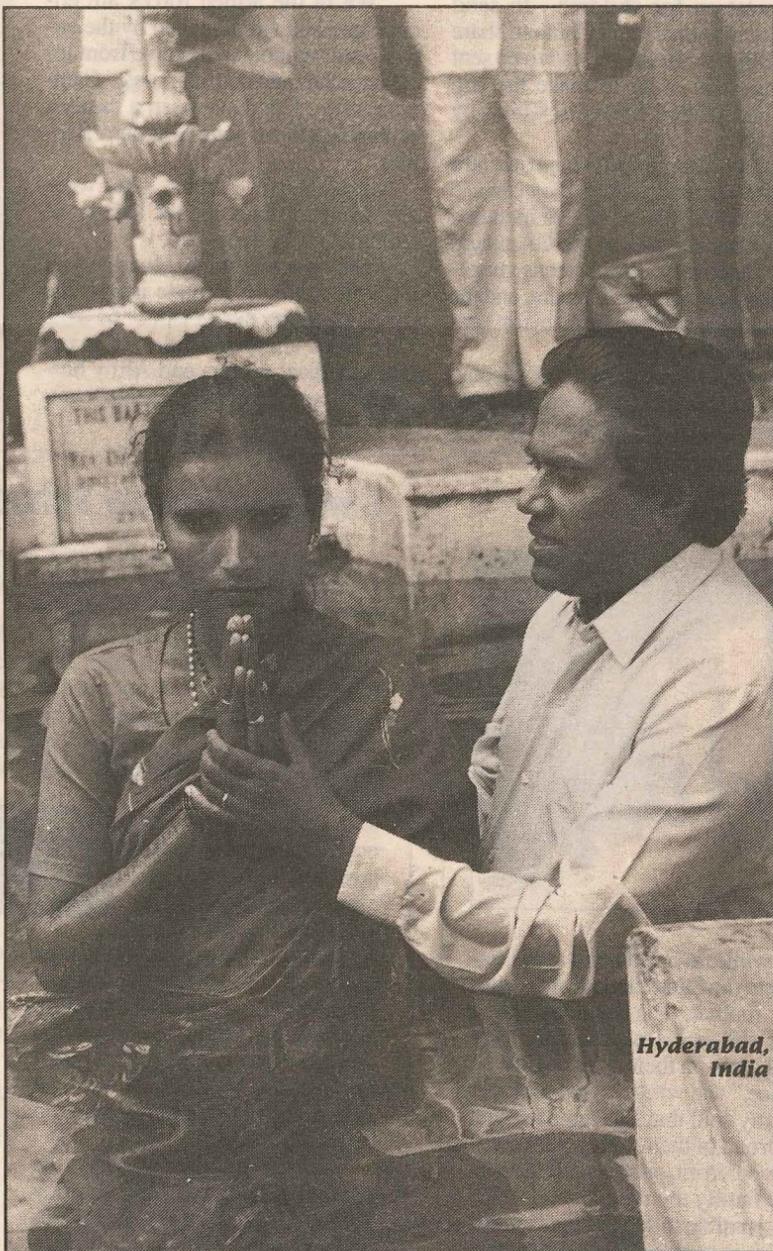
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Campbellsville offers master's program

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville College will begin its first master's degree program in August by offering the master of arts degree in curriculum and instruction.

The degree for teachers will stress collaboration with the school districts from which teachers are drawn, said President Kenneth Winters.

"This is a very innovative program—one that is structured to help teachers and school systems address curriculum and instruction changes required by the Kentucky Education Reform Act," he explained.

James Howard, chairman of the education division and professor of education, said the structure will allow

teams and individuals from primary, middle and secondary schools to design strategies to meet the unique concerns of their schools.

Campbellsville College is located 90 miles from the nearest graduate center in higher education. The college is adjacent to the state's fifth congressional district, which ranks last in the nation in percentage of students who complete high school and last in percentage of college graduates among the total adult population.

Howard said the college has been granted interim approval for the program by the Kentucky Department of Education's Professional Standards Board. Approval was given with the

stipulation that Campbellsville College must meet the requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. That approval is anticipated in June, Howard said.

After a one year period, there will be a comprehensive review of the program by the college and the Department of Education.

Winters said the college will add three new professors with doctoral degrees in the appropriate areas.

Representatives of Campbellsville College will visit area schools in May to explain the new degree program.

For more information, contact Howard at the college, Box 1313, Campbellsville, Ky. 42718.

Longtime teacher endows Georgetown chair in education

GEORGETOWN—A longtime Kentucky teacher has provided funds to establish the Marjorie Bauer Stafford Chair of Education at Georgetown College.

Mrs. Stafford is a member of First Baptist Church in Carrollton. A 1937 graduate of Georgetown College, she taught 43 years at the Locust School in Carroll County.

"This generous gift to Georgetown College will add a new dimension to our already distinguished department of education," said President William Crouch. "In this historic decade of education reform in Kentucky, Mrs. Stafford, in her lifelong love for education and Georgetown College, has provided us with the support to assure we will continue the best education for Kentucky's future teachers."

Mrs. Stafford explained that Georgetown College "has been in my vocabulary since I was 2 years old. That was when my brother Bill and my cousin Lillian enrolled as freshmen at the college."

In 1978, Mrs. Stafford endowed the Bauer Scholarship at Georgetown in memory of her brothers and cousin.

She also has endowed an agricultural scholarship at the University of Kentucky in memory of her late husband, Elmer Stanley "Shucks" Stafford.

Partnership missions needs

- Van for a church in Deshler, Ohio.
 - Mission teams to serve in Ohio churches, including some construction projects.
 - Money for construction of four chapels in Espirito Santo, Brazil, at a cost of about \$6,000 each.
 - Interim pastor to serve a church in Twin Falls, Idaho, for two to three months.
 - Youth team to lead vacation Bible school in Wellington, Utah.
 - Volunteer for multi-housing ministry in Salt Lake City.
- For more information or to offer assistance, contact Calvin Wilkins, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433, (502) 244-6462.

GAs send 10,000 Bibles and \$13,000 to chaplain

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Walter Reed Army Medical Center is 10,000 Bibles richer thanks to a group of Southern Baptist grade-school girls. Not to mention \$13,000 the girls sent to purchase additional Bibles.

Members of Girls in Action, the missions organization for girls in grades one through six sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, first heard about the need for Bibles last summer by chaplain Paul Dodd of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He was one of the Home Mission Board-designated recipients for the 1991 "Christmas in August" collection.

Christmas in August is a tradition which began in the early 1920s as a

way for Sunbeam Bands—the name at the time of the WMU-sponsored organization for children—to send gifts to missionaries in China to share with children. Packages had to be sent in August in order to make the trip from the United States to China by December.

Today, home missionaries are asked to list items which they can use in their work. Their lists are included in the August issues of the GA magazine, Discovery, the Acteens magazine for teen-age girls, Accent, and the Mission Friends magazine for preschool leaders, Start.

Barbara Massey, editor of Discovery magazine for GAs, received a letter from Maj. Gen. Richard Cameron

of Walter Reed Army Medical Center expressing thanks for the gifts.

"We in the armed forces are encouraged and strengthened by the enthusiastic support we receive from local churches and communities," Cameron said. "You have been a catalyst of that support among Southern Baptists."

Christmas in August gifts were sent from 25 states and the District of Columbia, Cameron said.

"The overwhelming generosity of Girls in Action has made it possible for us to 'share the wealth,'" he said. "We have shipped Bibles to many other medical centers and Army hospitals throughout the continental United States."

Remember the children on Mother's Day

Mothers are special. This is the time of year when we recognize our mothers and honor them. But for many of our children, Mother's Day brings back painful memories. Some have never known a mother. Others come to our campuses with a history of abuse or neglect from their mothers.

Last year on Mother's Day, one of the youth on our Glen Dale campus left church hurting from this reality in his own life. Bob Coons, the pastor of Gilead Baptist Church, spends a great deal of time and effort ministering to the special needs of our youth, and he remembers the scene vividly. A young man met him at the back door after the morning service. "My day was just fine" he said to Dr. Coons, "until you reminded me it was Mother's Day." That got him thinking, and he vowed to make a special effort to reach out to the children in our care. Now, Dr. Coons has become friend and confidant, spiritual guide and pastor to many of our children.

Many of you across Kentucky understand this child's pain. Not long ago, I received a letter that touched on this subject. "I know how you feel," the gentleman wrote in response to the story of one of our children who was abandoned by his mother. "My mother died when I was 15," he continued. "I was like you. I felt like I was in a deep hole, but I gave my heart to God when I was 12. I care about these children."

Enclosed with the letter was a generous gift that, together with others like it, will help that hurting child to find the love of God through the ministries offered through Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

When three siblings came to our Spring

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Meadows campus while their mother was in prison, family specialist Ann Santora made trips with them to visit their mother. The mother wrote a letter to Ann after she sent a photograph. "My girls have a special glow on their faces, a glow of happiness and peace," she wrote. "That look put a warm feeling in my soul that I haven't felt in a long time. I'm so proud of them." Now the mother has been released from prison, and Ann is working to see the family reunited.

It is not always possible to see families reunited. In these cases, it is especially important that we show the children they are loved. Mother's and Father's Day are holidays when we honor those we love. Through the Honor and Memorial Gift program at KBHC, you can give a gift to honor your parents and help a child who is hurting. Thank you for remembering the children at this special time of year.

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

Paid Column

Consider Sunday School Charity Fund

Every day more and more individuals without money or insurance to pay for services come to the four Baptist hospitals in Kentucky seeking medical care. Our Baptist hospitals do not refuse medical care to anyone. The amount of money the government will provide has decreased very rapidly over the past few years. If they do not have the money and government has cut its assistance, then who will bear the cost?

Jesus in Matthew 25:34-46 tells us that when we do for the sick and needy around us we do it unto him. We have just celebrated Easter, the greatest victory in Christian history. Because he lives we too can live. Until his return we must do his work.

Please consider giving this Mother's Day to the Sunday School Charity Fund. As a Kentucky pastor for 35 years and as a director of Baptist Healthcare Systems Inc., I know that every dollar you give is used to assist those in need. None of it is used for administrative purposes. I have personally known individuals who have been helped by the gifts of love received each year through this offering. The availability of these funds is truly a helpful resource when pastors are confront-

ed with needs from their congregations and communities.

The vision statement of Baptist Healthcare Systems says very clearly what we as Baptists are seeking to achieve through the ministries of our hospitals: "We are the provider of choice for a value-driven continuum of healthcare services through a Christ-centered, not-for-profit healthcare system undergirded by a commitment to quality which meets the changing needs of patients, physicians, employees, employers and communities it serves in the region encompassing Kentucky."

Show your love for God and those in need by giving generously to the Sunday School Charity Fund through your church or by mailing your gift directly to the Baptist Healthcare Foundation, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207.

Bill Cubine is seminary pastor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

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.

Paid Column

EVANGELISM

Churches do more in evangelism when task assigned

ATLANTA (BP)—If no one in a church has the specific responsibility for evangelism, evangelism probably won't be done, a Southern Baptist leader reports.

Keith Walker, associate director of evangelism and church growth with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, surveyed 1,200 churches last year and found more than 500 had someone functioning as a minister of evangelism.

"Without someone with that particular responsibility, a comprehensive program for evangelism generally does not take place," he found.

To provide support for evangelism leaders in local churches, Walker has

organized a network of ministers of evangelism that will have its first meeting in Indianapolis June 10. The breakfast is open to anyone who has responsibility for a church's evangelism program, whether they are a paid staff member or laity.

For more information about the group or to register for the meeting, contact Walker at 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601 or (404) 898-7736.

Southern Baptist churches take different approaches to the assignment of evangelism oversight:

■ David Rice is minister of evangelism and single adults at Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla. Rice

said his evangelism responsibilities are two-fold—to develop and oversee programs such as Continuing Witness Training for church members and to develop new strategies for evangelism, such as community cook-outs and apartment ministries.

■ Layman Bobby Heath coordinates the evangelism program for Adamsville Baptist Church in Goldsboro, N.C. He receives all prospect cards and assigns them to people trained in Evangelism Explosion. Heath also enlists prayer teams and phone teams to contact prospects.

■ Walt DeJager, minister of evangelism at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Duluth, Ga., said one of his main

responsibilities is reminding fellow church staff members that evangelism should be an aspect of everything they do.

■ Debby Murrell, associate minister in adults and evangelism at First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., said, "I let Sunday school be my hub and everything else spin off that." She also stresses "creative ministry programming" such as marriage readiness classes, welcome ministries to the community's newcomers, seminars for people who are unemployed and a support group for people whose spouse is unemployed.

These evangelism leaders said an evangelism coordinator is important because people do not habitually attend church or revival meetings like they once did.

"Evangelism in the 1990s is much more relational," Rice said. "The day of putting an ad in the paper and saying 'ya'll come' won't work anymore."

Rice said one drawback to having a paid evangelism coordinator is that church members may think the church has a "hired gun" to relieve them of responsibility for evangelism.

"I'm not hired to do the work of an evangelist," Rice said. "That is a mandate and responsibility all of us have."

Evangelical Lutherans plan new approach

CHICAGO (EP)—Altar calls, evangelistic crusades and seeker groups have not usually been considered part of Lutheranism, but that may be changing. The division for outreach of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has announced plans to develop regional megachurches to reach people, especially Baby Boomers, who are looking for something different than traditional Lutheran churches. The churches will be designed to attract large numbers of the unchurched with contemporary forms of worship, programs in spiritual formation and with groups to deal with dysfunctional areas of life.

"There is a grassroots movement toward renewal of the church and members committed to make changes to be relevant to those they love," said Malcolm Minnick Jr., executive director of the outreach division. "Graying mothers are saying, 'I really want my congregation to be vital because I want my children and grandchildren to be Christians, and right now they aren't.'"

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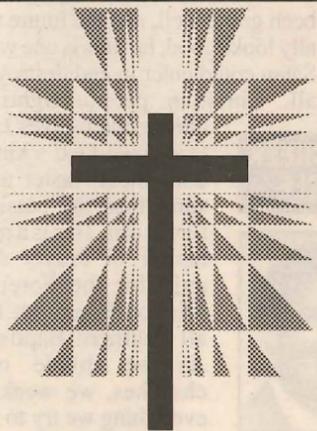
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The fund has only one purpose: to provide assistance

to individuals facing a financial crisis because of medical expenses. The requests for financial assistance are received by Baptist pastors throughout the state as well as the chaplains serving within the four Baptist hospitals.

Providing a financial helping hand to these individuals is an ambitious goal. But one we can achieve with your help.

This Mother's Day, May 10, please support the Sunday School Charity Fund at your Baptist church.

For more information on the fund, contact Baptist Healthcare Foundation at 502-896-5003. Churches that would like a supply of envelopes for this special Sunday School Charity offering should also contact the Foundation.

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

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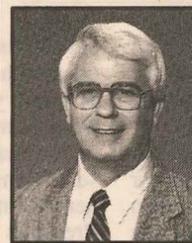
FOR SALE: LaserMaster 19" hi-res desktop publishing monitor, video controller and laser printer controller, \$1,495. Includes 135 scaleable fonts, drivers, special-effects software, documentation, installation and training. (502) 244-1685.

FOR SALE: Pews, fronts, altar rails 12 & 15.5 ft., padded seats, good condition. Call church (502) 451-9343 M-F.

BUY OR SELL: Watkins products, vanilla, pepper, liniment, salves, extracts, household cleaning supplies. David and Amy Shannon (606) 273-5241 or 1-800-782-4971.

NEEDED: Full-time director of music and youth. Total package begins at \$18,500 to \$25,000 depending on experience. Send resumé to Fred Livingood, Waco Baptist Church, P.O. Box 130, Waco, Ky. 40385.

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KENTUCKY KERNELS

Kentucky's aging trend is consistent with national patterns, according to data from the 1990 Census. In 1990, Kentucky's median age was 33, up from 29 in 1980. Nationally, the median age in 1990 was 32, up from 30 in 1980.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BENTON**—New Zion Church ordained **Tim King** to the ministry. He is pastor of Victory Church in Murray.

■ **BURNSIDE**—Jeff Baird is pastor at Jasper Bend church.

■ **LEITCHFIELD**—First Church ordained **Tim Lucas** to the ministry.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethlehem Church ordained **David Headley** to the ministry and called him as minister of music, drama and family ministry.

■ **IRVINE**—Beech Grove Church called **James Overbee** as pastor.

Greenbriar Church called **Russell Johnson** as pastor.

George Grubbs, longtime Kentucky pastor, died of heart failure April 21 at age 91. He retired in 1983 after serving as pastor of several churches, including two terms at Ivo-

ry Hill Church, and also working as a state mission board employee. He is survived by his wife, Lucy, one daughter and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

■ **MURRAY**—Bill Miller is serving Sugar Creek Church as pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Sorgho Church called **Norbitt Pruden** as pastor.

■ **RADCLIFF**—Stithton Church ordained **Greg Qualls** to the ministry. He is pastor at Cedar Hill Church in Owenton.

■ **WARSAW**—**John Bailey** is serving First Church as pastor. He previously served First Church in Burnside.

CORRECTION: Jesse Stricker is serving as interim pastor rather than pastor of Covington Church in Westport, as stated in the April 14 issue of the Recorder.



GROUNDBREAKING Trustees of Cumberland College, along with special guests Charles Smiddy, Helen Thomas and Mayor Marcella Mountjoy, break ground for the new Charles Smiddy Learning Resource Center on the school's Williamsburg campus. The new facility will be an expansion of the Norma Hagan Library and will include computer rooms, stack areas and an instructional media area. Smiddy is vice president of the White Lily Foods Co. in Knoxville, Tenn. He also serves as president of SMS Enterprises Inc. and CNE Enterprises Inc. of Atlanta. Thomas, White House correspondent for United Press International, received the honorary doctor of laws degree during convocation ceremonies the same day.

Southern Seminary plans first homecoming for alumni before SBC

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will host its first homecoming festival for the school's alumni on the weekend preceding the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

The June 6-7 event will offer alumni opportunities to renew acquaintances with former classmates and professors, tour the seminary's new \$12 million campus center and participate in an alumni worship service. The weekend also will feature a "town meeting" with seminary President

Roy Honeycutt.

Several of the seminary's retired faculty will be returning to campus for the event, including Henlee Barnette, Findley Edge, Forrest Heeren, Estill Jones and Robert Proctor. Senior professors Wayne Oates and Wayne Ward will be present as will former seminary President Duke McCall and former SBC Presidents Herschel Hobbs and Wayne Dehoney.

A reunion choir, directed by Richard Lin, senior professor of church music, will sing at the Sunday wor-

ship service.

On Saturday, current faculty will be recognized at an appreciation service. Howard Cobble, pastor of Sevens Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown and president of the seminary's Kentucky alumni association, requests alumni to bring gifts of appreciation.

Cobble said two types of gifts will be presented: a collection of alumni remembrances of faculty past and present and a monetary gift. Both written remembrances and monetary

gifts for the faculty appreciation fund may be sent in advance to the seminary's alumni relations office.

Registration for the weekend, which includes a picnic lunch and a continental breakfast, is \$15 per adult; \$5 per child under 14; and \$35 maximum per family.

Tickets may be purchased by sending a check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to "Homecoming Festival," c/o alumni relations, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky. 40280.

Homecoming bring precious memories that linger

Alpha Decker was born the oldest of 10 children in Breckenridge County. Even before the Great Depression, times were hard. She finished the eighth grade in her early teen-age years. A high school was miles away, and there were no school buses. So it seemed her education was ended.

In 1938, with the country having been in the worst economic slump of our history for nine years, Alpha came to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky to share the gospel message along the creek beds and in the hollows. While serving the Lord she heard of a school that never turns one away because of money.

Though 28 years of age, she enrolled in the ninth grade, her classmates all about half her age. In that day it took all day to get from Oneida 20 miles distant. Comparatively speaking, her Kentucky home was farther away from Oneida than California is today. She had no funds. She only got to see her family once a year.

Being older, she helped supervise the work of her younger schoolmates. She continued to be a humble but dedicated Christian witness. She comforted many, years younger than herself, when they were homesick or just needed someone to talk to.

She graduated in 1942 with 15 other classmates. (Thirteen would be back 50 years later for their golden anniversary.) The nation had been thrust from depression into the worst war the world had ever seen. Theirs was the first class after Pearl Harbor. Alpha was now 32 years old. She and her roommate of two years, Edith Huter, were within two-tenths of a point of each other, and Alpha had the honor of giving the valedictory address.

Alpha returned to her childhood home and soon married Sam Ramsey.

Wife, mother, homemaker, always a constant and devoted servant of Christ, faithful in the church, Alpha was the first to arrive on our campus for the 1992 homecoming and the 50th anniversary of her class. A sister had flown from Virginia to accompany her on this odyssey back to the scene of school days passed too soon, those hours of work, sport, of glee which had "lingered long in memory," in the words of the Oneida school song. Now 82 years of age, frail of body, walking with a large wooden cane, wearing a bonnet that was the fashion of my grandmother's generation, she arrived keen of mind, her memory excellent.

Another white-haired lady approached us. It was Edith Huter who had just arrived in a large camper from New York state. After 50 years, their embrace and joy gave me a glimpse of what heaven will be like one day.

The following day these two ladies shared with our students at the daily chapel service. Both their testimonies were powerful with Alpha closing, in the quavering voice of many years lived, singing a version of "Precious Memories" she and Edith wrote their graduation year: "Precious memories, golden visions, sent from somewhere to the soul, How they linger ever near us, of our high school day unfold, Precious teachers, loving classmates..." She broke down in mid-sentence, tottered to embrace me in my platform chair, a thundering ovation, one of those special moments that even the youngest child present will remember.

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

A plea from the foreign mission field

As former foreign missionaries, my wife and I have the utmost respect and appreciation for Keith Parks and the Foreign Mission Board. I was hopeful Parks would continue, but I trust the leadership of the Lord in his life. I heard the news of his retirement while reading the latest issue of Commission magazine. If the Lord willed, I would sign up again today.

Next spring, Clear Creek resumes a missionary-in-residence program. We look forward to having James and Dorothy Ditty from South Africa. They will teach and be available for work in area churches.

In 1995, Kentuckians Jim and Jenny Musen will be with us. Jim recently wrote, "When we started our association in 1982, we had eight churches and preaching points and 250 members. We set goals for the year 2000 of 100 churches and preaching points and 5,000 members. We now have 46 churches and preaching points, almost halfway toward reaching our goals. We request your prayers for this work, for the pastors, lay leaders, and the churches, for leadership training programs and for outreach in the churches.

"I was surprised to hear of Dr.

Parks' retirement announcement for October. We have felt no pressure one way or the other from the trustees. We pray this fight doesn't tear apart the work so many have spent a lifetime building.

"Our work here in Kenya has been going well, and the future really looks good, but this is one way Satan could enter in and destroy it all. Christian people fighting among themselves can tear down God's kingdom much faster and surer than the outside forces can. This is a real matter of prayer not only for the Foreign Mission Board but for all Southern Baptists. As we divide our churches, we weaken everything we try to do in God's name."

Would not the joy of our Lord be complete, as Paul wrote, if Southern Baptists again became "of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord?" Is it possible for us to look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others? Only with the mind of Christ and obedience even unto death will Christ be exalted, and then knees around the world will bow at his feet. That will glorify the Father.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Paid Column

Panel says deal with sexuality in abortion debate

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Convention

DALLAS (ABP)—Before Christians can respond redemptively to all parties concerned in abortions, the church must first deal maturely with the subject of sexuality, a panel of experts told the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The commission and its board of consultants discussed abortion-related issues as part of the process of drafting a new position paper on the issue.

"It is certainly possible in the near future that Roe vs. Wade will be partially, if not completely, overturned by the Supreme Court," said Phil Strickland, director of the Texas CLC. "If so, decisions that have previously been made at the national level will increasingly be made at the state level. It is time for the commission to take another look at the issue."

While not ignoring the public-policy aspects of the abortion debate, Strickland noted: "If abortions were outlawed tomorrow, it would not mean an end to abortions, only an end to legal abortions. The ultimate decisions about abortions are not made in the courts and legislatures, but by individual women and the pastors and others who counsel them."

Commission members discussed at length the proposed draft for a new position paper—or papers—on abortion. A completed statement, which may be released either in a single document or a series of brochures, should

be completed within several months.

Although discussion of the manuscript was conducted under background rules that preclude direct quotes, Strickland told Associated Baptist Press the emphasis was on preventing crisis pregnancies and promoting healthy Christian sexuality rather than precise public-policy formulas.

"The feeling expressed was that the commission could make its strongest impact by helping people develop a Christian view of sexuality and a Christian view of reverence for life and by helping to equip pastors to assist people in making responsible decisions about sexuality and abortion," he said.

Strickland said the commission will "continue to take a conservative posture" on public policy regarding abortions, supporting abortions only in "extreme circumstances." However, commissioners did not reach a clear definition of what constitutes "extreme circumstances."

Prior to considering any statement, the commission heard perspectives on the abortion issue from a panel of three men and two women who discussed the personal, spiritual, ethical, medical and societal ramifications of the abortion debate.

Baylor University professor Dan McGee said abortion is a critical issue in the United States today because it is inextricably tied to other key societal issues, such as the technological revolution in medicine, economic and

environmental matters related to the population crunch, and changing views regarding gender roles.

"We come out of a long history in which males owned the bodies of their women," said McGee, professor of ethics at the Waco, Texas, school. "The woman belonged to the man for purposes of sexual gratification and for childbearing—to provide him with children who could work the fields and carry on the family name. That's a very ancient tradition that only quite recently has been challenged in a significant way."

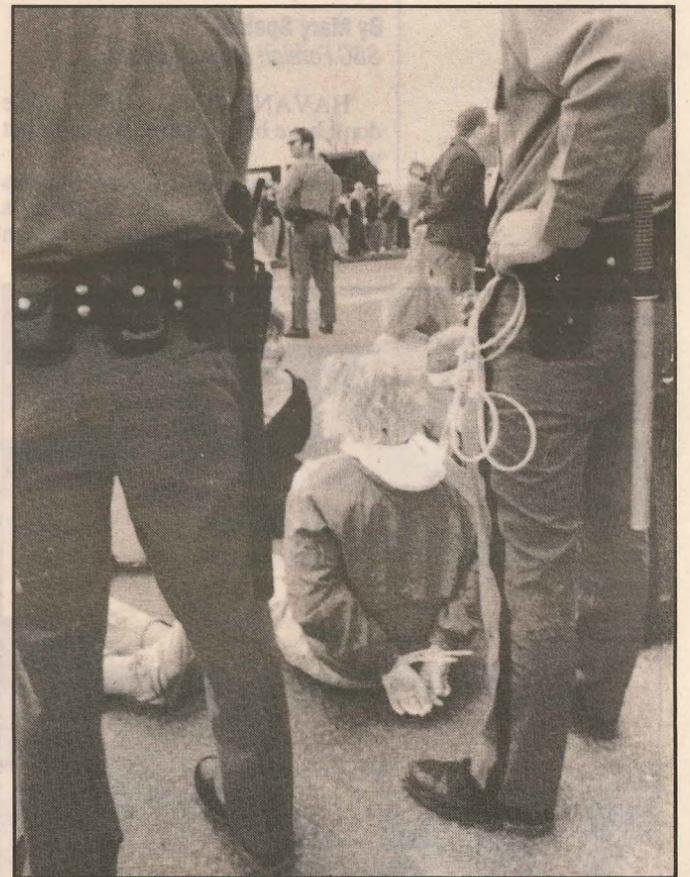
"It is important to understand the feelings of women when working on the abortion issue, recognizing why the right to control their reproductive cells is so central to their feeling of freedom," he said.

Brenda Wilson of Austin, Texas, recounted how guilt and fear of displeasing her father drove her to have an abortion at age 18.

"At that point, I would have done anything—legal or illegal—to dispense with the problem," she said, recalling how unthinkable it would have been to confront the truth in a home where sexuality was never discussed.

"The very same attitude that tells you it's wrong to have an abortion is the very same attitude that drove me to have one," she said. "I had to hide it at all costs. I didn't want to inconvenience anyone."

Travis Berry, longtime pastor and member of the institutional ethics committee at Baylor University Med-



ical Center in Dallas, said: "Abortion is an issue with pain on every side of it. So many glib answers are offered by people who don't have to deal with these problems. Glib and superficial answers just aren't enough."

ABORTION PROTEST Demonstrators outside an abortion clinic in Amherst, N.Y., sit handcuffed after being arrested for blocking entrance to the clinic. Hundreds of demonstrators—both for and against abortion—are staging rallies in metropolitan Buffalo, N.Y., this month. (RNS photo)

Respond redemptively to moral failure, counselors say

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—A pastor is accused of adultery. A Sunday school teacher is arrested for child molestation. A church clerk is found guilty of embezzlement. A deacon is caught soliciting sex from an undercover police officer.

When such unthinkable incidents occur, churches have the opportunity to respond with biblical, redemptive ministry, Southern Baptist counselors said. Often, however, churches react in indignation without offering any chance of restoration.

Joe Richardson, personnel counselor for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, referred to Matthew 18 as the guideline for handling such situations. Jesus admonishes Christians to talk to fellow Christians privately

before presenting the matter to the church body.

"What I find happening—and it's devastating—is that the order is almost inevitably reversed," Richardson said.

Often the person is excluded without an opportunity for restoration, added Huey Perry, director of chaplaincy for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

One of Perry's earliest pastoral experiences was being asked to visit a church member in jail. "I was terrified. I wasn't afraid of the jail, but this man had been in our worship the previous Sunday. I felt so awkward. I didn't know what to do or say."

Perry, who later became a prison chaplain, said one appropriate reaction is to pray for the accused and his family. He suggested making phone calls and sending notes to the family

without asking for an explanation of the situation.

Otherwise, Perry said, the offender's family members become victims as well.

In dealing with the perpetrator, Perry said it is essential to maintain balance between loving the sinner and hating the sin. "Many times I have said to someone, 'I really cannot endorse what you have done but I want to be here to minister to you.'"

With the congregation, the situation needs to be handled in a gentle yet firm fashion, said Richard Houston, HMB director of counseling services. "Most people are not going to be initially forgiving. Most will be indignant," he said.

Other initial reactions may be disappointment, a sense of betrayal, shock and anger, Houston said.

Consider the pastor involved in

adultery. Church members deny their pastor would do such a thing. Or they become angry—either at the pastor for committing adultery, at his mistress for allowing it to happen or at the pastor's spouse for supposedly not being a better wife.

If the pastor leaves, church members experience grief at the loss, whether they liked the pastor or not, Richardson said. He noted that "grief is a very normal process but it may take one to two years to resolve."

When the offender stays in the church, congregations need to help him "own responsibility and accept the consequences" for his actions, Richardson said.

Churches need to "get the person the help he needs but not let him deny the help," Houston said. "If he could have handled it by himself, he would have before it got to this point."

Broadcasters square off against anti-alcohol forces on bills

By Tom Strode
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—Warning messages in alcohol advertisements are counterproductive and will force sports programming off free television, a representative of the National Association of Broadcasters recently told a Senate subcommittee.

But a supporter of the legislation countered that the proposed health and safety warnings are a "very modest proposal."

Representatives of the alcohol, ad-

vertising and broadcasting industries squared off against health, anti-drug and education representatives in a hearing before the Consumer Subcommittee of the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. Their testimony concerned the Alcoholic Beverage Advertisement Act, Senate Bill 664.

The bill will require health and safety messages in all alcohol advertising on television and radio as well as newspapers, magazines and promotional materials.

"One thing is for certain," said

Wayne Vriesman, representing the National Association of Broadcasters. "If this law passes, the advertising of beer and wine on radio and television will dry up. No advertiser will spend money to buy time on radio or TV, of which a significant portion would be used to warn of the potential hazards of abuse. ... All it will mean is a broadcast industry which is stripped of an advertiser for a legal product, while the problem of alcohol abuse remains unaffected."

"These scare tactics are despicable demagoguery," said James Smith of

the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Consumers and the U.S. Congress should be offended our opponents would be so threatening about legislation which simply seeks the truth about the potential harmful effects of alcohol consumption."

Patricia Taylor, co-chair of the Coalition on Alcohol Advertising and Family Education, testified the bill is a modest solution in comparison to what other countries are doing about alcohol abuse. Beginning next year in France, alcohol advertising will be prohibited on TV and in movies.

Cuban Baptists find God provides in difficult times

By Mary Speidel
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HAVANA, Cuba (BP)— "We don't have but we have. We can't but we can."

That's how some Cuban Baptists describe Christian life in today's Cuba, according to a former Southern

Baptist missionary there.

"Cuban Baptists say that although life is difficult, although all they need (materially) is not available, God is providing," said Betty Law, a former missionary to Cuba under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Law, now vice president for the Americas at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, also was a foreign missionary in Spain.

"They're very inspirational," Law said of the Cuban believers. "To me (that's) one of their witnesses right now—the contrast of how they're looking to Christ for their all-sufficiency compared to Cubans who don't have Christ and that hope."

Law has returned to Cuba twice since she and her family left the country soon after the Cuban revolution brought Fidel Castro to power in 1959. Both trips have occurred since the HMB transferred responsibility for the western convention to the FMB in 1989.

When Castro came to power, the western convention claimed 84 churches, 176 mission congregations

and 8,561 members. The convention had "a strong, dynamic work," Law said, with excellent programs in Sunday school, church music, youth and student work and missions education. The convention also sponsored a seminary, a home for the aged and a Baptist camp, which continue to operate in Cuba.

In the years after the revolution, the western convention continued to grow, despite the fact that many Cuban Baptists left the country as socialism took hold. Since 1960, more than 100 pastors from the western convention have emigrated to the United States. Today 55 Baptist pastors minister through the convention's 106 churches.

Work in the western convention is "growing by leaps and bounds," said Ronald Wilson, FMB area director for Brazil and the Caribbean.

Convention statistics reflect that growth. Since 1989, baptisms have more than doubled, from 306 to 747. Total membership for 1991 was 6,784, up from the 1990 total of 6,199. About half of the current members are young people ages 16 to 24.

"To have maintained a steady growth during a period of great difficulty shows the strength of Cuban Baptist work," Law said. "It's an example of the type of work we would hope to have in every country when missionaries have to leave."

Baptist work in Cuba began in the late 1800s, when Cuban Alberto Diaz started a Baptist church after his con-

version in Key West, Fla. Initially, the HMB accepted responsibility for working with Cuban Baptists. A gradual transfer to the FMB was recommended in 1959.

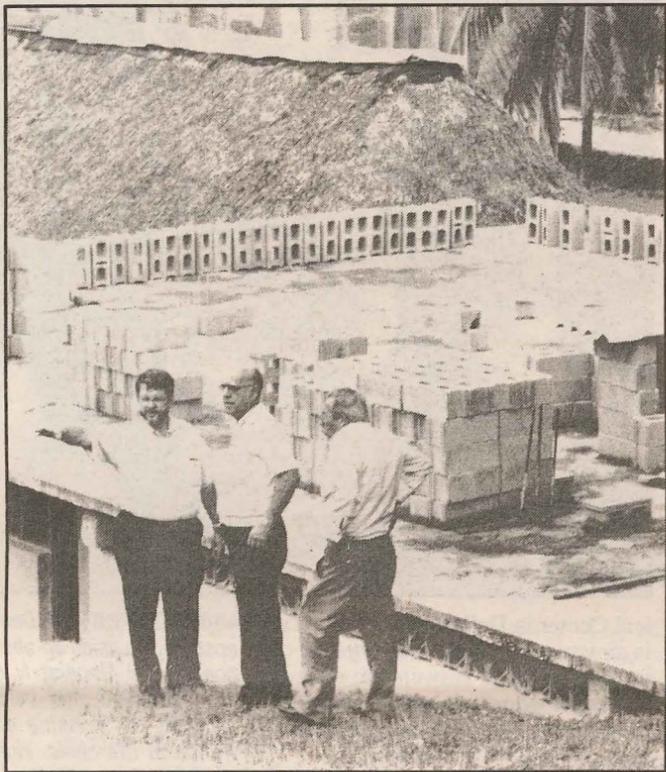
Oscar Romo, HMB director of language church extension, was a key figure in maintaining relationships with Cuban Baptists from the sensitive 1960s to 1989.

Today four Baptist conventions work in Cuba: the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba; Baptist Convention of Eastern Cuba, affiliated with American Baptists; the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba, a splinter group from the western convention affiliated with the Progressive National Baptist Convention in the United States; and the Free Will Baptist Convention.

Twenty-three students currently attend the western convention's seminary in Havana. The churches they represent are overflowing. Cuban Baptist churches are "packed every time the doors open," Wilson said. "There's standing room only."

Wilson observed a "powerful movement of God's Spirit" and "overwhelming openness" to the gospel during his most recent trips to Cuba. He and a group of FMB leaders were last there in late March.

Against that backdrop, Cuban Baptists are experiencing "a unique period of growth," Wilson said. "They are deeply committed Christians. I am impressed by the quality of Cuban Baptist leadership and their commitment to our Lord."



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS Cuban Baptist leaders show Ronald Wilson (left) progress on construction at a Baptist camp in Cuba's Yumuri Valley. Wilson, area director for Brazil and the Caribbean with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, spends much of his time building relationships with national leaders. (BP photo by John Cheyne)

Baptists help after Mexico blast

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (BP)—Baptists have set up a feeding station for rescue workers and displaced residents in the wake of gas explosions in Guadalajara that killed more than 200 people and injured 1,000 April 22.

Mexican Baptists and Southern Baptist representatives began the effort after consulting with local relief officials.

The station, which began operating April 24, is housed at Bethany Baptist Church near the explosion site. The church reportedly was not damaged in the explosions.

In addition, some medical personnel from the Mexican American Hospital have visited clinics in the area to offer their services and donate medical supplies. The hospital, which Southern Baptists helped begin in 1958, sent an ambulance to the blast

site to assist in rescue efforts throughout the day April 22.

Southern Baptist worker Larry Gay traveled to Guadalajara to help plan Baptist relief efforts. His presence freed Southern Baptist health workers living in Guadalajara to concentrate on meeting medical needs. Gay also took Baptist relief funds to meet emergency needs.

The series of gas blasts in the city's sewer system began the morning of April 22 and continued into the night in southeastern Guadalajara, Mexico's second-largest city. The explosions were caused by a liquid called hexane that leaked from a factory into the city's sewers.

No Southern Baptist representatives in Guadalajara were harmed by the explosions, but some Mexican Baptists had not heard from relatives living in the area as of April 23.

Horn of Africa act called victory

WASHINGTON—Bread for the World claimed victory April 21 when President Bush signed into law the Horn of Africa Recovery and Food Security Act.

The law directs the U.S. to increase grassroots development and peace-keeping efforts and renounces the use of military solutions in the region.

Bread for the World, an organization that leads Christians to express their convictions to government on hunger issues, claimed the act became law in part because of its campaign

supporting the act.

Christians and churches across America sent 100,000 letters to Congress calling for passage of the bill, said Bread for the World President David Beckmann.

"While the relief aid we have sent to the Horn of Africa is vital for saving lives, it does little to prevent future famines," Beckmann said.

"By passing this initiative, we have begun to address the militarization of the region, which has been the root cause of recurring mass famine.

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