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FOR THE RECORD

Churches respond to L.A. rioting with ministries

By Mark Wyatt
California Southern Baptist

LOS ANGELES (BP)—Churches in California and across the nation are responding to the disastrous riots that left scores dead, hundreds injured and nearly \$1 billion in damage in Los Angeles.

At the same time, relief organizers such as Don Laing warn the violent aftermath of the Rodney King verdict could signal just the beginning of "a long, hot summer."

Laing is director of missions for Long Beach Harbor Baptist Association in Los Angeles. His association includes the area where some of the rioting occurred after four police officers were found not guilty of using excessive force to arrest King.

"There is no quick-fix for this," Laing said May 4, five days after the rioting began.

"We're trying to mobilize and get some things together," Laing said, describing relief efforts involving more than half the churches in his association.

New Mount Calvary Baptist Church, which has a weekly food distribution program, began a daily food distribution service after the riots. The church is working with neighboring churches and the community food bank to distribute food from the church parking lot.

Another Los Angeles church, New Mount Olive Baptist, distributed food to area residents Saturday after rioting began Wednesday night. On Sunday, a Korean Baptist church brought

enough food for New Mount Olive to feed 124 families.

To some observers, that act was especially meaningful since many Koreans and Korean-owned businesses were targeted by rioting mobs.

"It was a joy to see it operate," said Dorothy Steen, New Mount Olive member and secretary for Long Beach Harbor Baptist Association. Each of the families served Sunday has been added to the church's prospect list, she said.

Another church fed National Guard troops, Steen said.

Meanwhile, churches outside the area also began pitching in to provide relief. Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch received a special offering May 3 to pay for shipping more than 20 tons of meat from Sioux Falls,

Iowa, to the Los Angeles riot areas. Pastor Jess Moody said the 41,800 pounds of meat will be distributed by church groups in Los Angeles with innocent elderly victims of the riots "first on the list" to get the donated food.

Relief organizers have identified three major needs, Laing said:

■ Transportation. "Many of the people that were going around the corner to the local markets can't do it now. The markets are gone," Laing said. So churches like New Mount Calvary are coordinating transportation for needy residents.

■ Food. Laing said numerous churches in his association conducted food distributions Saturday and after worship Sunday.

□ See Churches respond ..., page 7

Homosexuality issues
North Carolina's Raleigh Baptist Association voted to disfellowship Pullen Memorial Baptist Church for its blessing of a marriage-like relationship between two homosexual men. Also, Louisiana Baptists will consider a measure to censure churches who endorse homosexuality.
See page 2.

Home again
Kentuckian Kathy Lloyd, who along with her husband resigned from foreign mission service due to bone cancer, is home in Henderson after treatment in St. Louis, Mo. See page 2.

Executive Board
The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board met last week and approved a plan to fund ministries for the 1992-93 fiscal year.
See page 3.

Editorial
Rodney King's haunting question—"Can we all get along?"—should inspire Christians to seek spiritual answers to racial conflict.
See page 5.

Evangelical vote
Abortion is not the top concern of evangelical voters, but is a greater concern to evangelicals than non-evangelicals, a new study finds. See page 7.



LET'S PRAY More than 500 Christians from the Louisville area marched to the Jefferson County courthouse last Thursday, May 7, to participate in the 1991 National Day of Prayer. The crowd heard a parade of preachers and community leaders cite a litany of moral ills, and they stopped several times to pray for their city, state and nation. More than two dozen such rallies were held across Kentucky. The day of prayer had been proclaimed by President George Bush, and thousands of Americans participated.

Executive Board to study Joint Committee funding

By Marv Knox
Editor

CEDARMORE—Kentucky Baptists took an initial step last week toward "finding a way through" the difficult task of helping fund the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The convention's Executive Board looked at a slate of options for providing funds for the Baptist Joint Committee, beginning next year.

The Baptist Joint Committee historically has represented nine Baptist conventions on religious liberty issues in Washington. But it has fallen into disfavor with Southern Baptist Convention conservatives, who faulted it for not supporting a school-prayer amendment and failing to enter into the national abortion debate.

In June 1991, the SBC voted to discontinue funding the Baptist Joint Committee. The following November, the Kentucky Baptist Convention passed a motion requesting the KBC

Executive Board "find a way to provide funds in the 1993-94 budget and subsequent budgets which will allow our convention to continue financial support" of the Joint Committee.

"Finding such a way presents the greatest challenge and greatest opportunity in the nine years I have been associated with this board," said KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall.

The challenge stems from Kentucky Baptists' divided opinions on the issue, Marshall said. Typically, KBC votes are near-unanimous, but the vote to provide money for the Baptist Joint Committee was 331-192.

He cited four opportunities that arise out of the situation: "to demonstrate we can work together.. to find the best way" to proceed; to show how "the majority can respect the rights of the minority and find a win-win situation"; to "demonstrate to (the convention) that we can be of great service

□ See Workgroup will study ..., page 3

Russian scientist receives Jesus & suitcase of clothes

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

MOSCOW (BP)—A letter written in a moment of desperation by a Russian scientist to a U.S. medical doctor he had never met led to the Russian's receipt of a suitcase of clothes and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"I address to you with unusual request in Russian crisis and big inflation now. My pay salary will not suffice even on nourishment for my family," wrote Anatoley Zhukov, a researcher in the lipid biochemistry unit of the Institute of Plant Physiology at the Moscow Academy of Sciences.

Zhukov addressed his letter to Dewey Dunn, a physician at Veterans Hospital in Nashville and an active member of the Baptist Medical

Dental Fellowship. Zhukov had Dunn's name as a result of Dunn's request for a copy of an article by Zhukov.

"Can't you and your colleagues render any food, money or old clothes (to provide) help for my family?" Zhukov continued. "If I can render to you some (time a turn), I ready fulfill it. Beforehand, thank you." When Dunn learned Nashvillian Pat Still would be leaving April 11 for Moscow, he packed a suitcase of warm clothes and medicines for Zhukov.

Through an interpreter, Still, a layman from Clearview Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn., contacted Zhukov April 20. The bespectacled, 47-year-old scientist arrived one hour later at the Rossiya Hotel.

Zhukov said his monthly salary of 1,700 rubles, along with his wife's income, supported them, their two children and his in-laws, with whom he shares a four-room flat. He also helps support two elderly women.

"For the last five years we cannot afford to buy any clothes at all," Zhukov said. Also, fruit is "beyond our means."

When Still asked Zhukov if he had been "born again," Zhukov replied, "I think all people of Russia are being reborn."

As Still explained being born again meant one had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Zhukov replied, "I wish I could be born again. I would like Jesus in my heart."

After Still outlined the plan of salvation, asked Zhukov to read John 3:16 from a Russian Bible and explained that a person must confess his sins and ask Christ to come into

his heart and give him the gift of salvation, Zhukov prayed and asked God for salvation.

"Let everything we have been talking about take place in my life," Zhukov said after concluding his prayer and wiping tears from his eyes.

Zhukov invited Still to return with him to the institute to see his lab. The two took turns carrying the suitcase to the subway station.

On the way, Zhukov asked, "How can I be baptized?"

Still told him about the Moscow Baptist Church, encouraged him to take his family there the next Sunday, gave him money for the subway and promised to return with a Bible.

Still and other Southern Baptists are working in the Commonwealth of Independent States as part of Project Brotherhood, a relief effort sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

BAPTIST BITS

■ Sunday school literature in Braille is now available from Park Avenue Baptist Church in Nashville. Lessons from the Southern Baptist Bible Book Study, Youth in Discovery, Bible Searchers and Preschool Bible Teacher are prepared and shipped weekly for a cost-recovery price of \$9.75 per quarter. Contact the church at 4301 Charlotte Ave., Nashville, Tenn. 37209.

■ Carolyn Hale, associate pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, was elected president of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry during the group's annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, April 30. Mary Zimmer of Louisville serves as membership chairman. Phil Christopher, pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, serves as the group's treasurer. Other officers are Terry Huneycutt of Carey, N.C., vice president, and Dixie Lea Petrey of Knoxville, Tenn., recording secretary.

■ Marlene Rickard is the first woman elected chairwoman of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission. Rickard is a history professor at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

■ The Cooperative Program hotline tested by the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission the first three months of this year will continue beyond the trial period. Callers to (800) 722-9407 receive information about the Cooperative Program, may express opinions or order promotional materials.

Sloan quits commentary post to protest new editor

WACO, Texas (ABP)—Robert Sloan, one of eight consulting editors for The New American Commentary, has resigned that role, claiming the new nominee for general editor is "a partisan choice" with little Southern Baptist background.

The 40-volume series is being published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to present an inerrantist view of Scripture.

The commentary's second general editor, David Dockery, recently left the Sunday School Board to become dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The first general editor was Michael Smith, who resigned in 1990 to accept a pastorate.

Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper has nominated Ray Clendenen of Criswell College in Dallas to succeed Dockery. The nomination was approved by the trustee executive committee April 23, and mail

ballots are currently being collected from the full board.

Sloan, professor of New Testament at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, was a New Testament consulting editor for the commentary. He also was writing the volume on Romans.

Sloan resigned from both duties April 29. He charged Clendenen's election "would promote division rather than healing in the Southern Baptist Convention."

Clendenen is chairman of the Old Testament and Hebrew department at Criswell College, where fellow contributing editor Paige Patterson is president. Clendenen holds degrees from Dropsie College of Hebrew and Cognate Learning in Philadelphia, Dallas Theological Seminary and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Sloan said he discussed his concerns about the general editorship earlier in a conference call with Draper and three other consulting editors—

Curtis Vaughan of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Richard Melick of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, and Duane Garrett of Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary.

Sloan said he questioned Draper's wisdom in choosing an editor whose entire education is from non-Southern Baptist schools.

As far back as 1987, the consulting editors had agreed one purpose of the commentary was to "showcase Baptist scholarship for the wider evangelical world," Sloan said.

Further, "an underlying purpose was to provide a source of healing for the denomination," he said. "We would not pick people based on partisanship."

Draper said he considered the concerns expressed by Sloan. "But we had to ask, 'Are these valid enough concerns that we need to back off this nomination?'" he explained.

Both Draper and Clendenen sug-

gested Sloan's charge of partisanship were apparently based on Clendenen's position at Criswell College, an independent Baptist school. Criswell President Paige Patterson has been a prominent conservative leader in the 13-year Southern Baptist controversy.

As for Sloan's suggestion that Clendenen does not represent Southern Baptist scholarship, Clendenen said: "It depends how you define Baptist scholarship. I am thoroughly a Baptist.... It would seem I would be somewhere in that area of Baptist scholarship."

Dockery said Sloan has made important contributions to the commentary and will be missed.

And although Clendenen is not well known among Southern Baptists, he is "a good scholar and he can handle this job well," Dockery said.

Reported by Ken Camp of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press

Association, state react to sexuality issue

The decision of a Raleigh, N.C., church to bless the marriage-like union of two homosexual men caused further repercussions across the Southern Baptist Convention last week.

A record number of messengers from North Carolina's Raleigh Baptist Association voted Pullen Memorial Baptist Church out of its fellowship by an 8-2 margin. The church performed the blessing of the homosexual union March 15.

Meanwhile, the Executive Board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention proposed severing its ties with any Louisiana churches that endorse "the active practice of homosexuality."

No Louisiana churches have taken actions similar to Pullen Memorial's, but the motion approved May 5 would prevent any churches that do from

sending messengers or making financial contributions to the state convention.

The proposal must still be approved by messengers to the Louisiana Baptist Convention in the fall.

A similar measure is expected to come before the North Carolina Baptist Convention's Executive Board May 19.

And the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention will recommend a similar policy for the national body during the annual meeting in Indianapolis next month.

In the standing-room-only meeting of Raleigh Baptist Association May 5, there were 568 votes to remove Pullen Memorial from the association's membership and 144 against—a 79.8 to 20.2 percentage.

Efforts to give representatives

from Pullen Memorial an opportunity to present their position failed. Two proposals—one providing them with 10 minutes, another for 15—were overwhelmingly voted down by the messengers.

"The termination of a 109-year relationship is painful," Pullen Memorial Pastor Mahan Siler told the Raleigh News & Observer after the vote.

Siler said he was not surprised by the outcome but did not know what would be the next step for Pullen. "As a church, we'll have to receive what actions happened and do what we think fits our vision of ministry," he said.

Reported by Gene Puckett of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder through Baptist Press and Lucy Thompson of the Louisiana Baptist Message through Associated Baptist Press

Kentucky missionary back home, feeling good

By Ferrell Foster
Illinois Baptist

HENDERSON—God is working a miracle in the life of former missionary Kathy Lloyd, who has been diagnosed with bone cancer. Whether or not it is a miracle of healing is still unknown, she said.

Lloyd reported last week that she no longer is in pain. And she and her husband, Skip, called it a miracle.

Lloyd's illness and her plea for others to take her place as foreign missionaries were reported in the April 21 issue of the Western Recorder. The Lloyds were missionaries in South Korea until health problems forced them to resign. Skip Lloyd is now minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church in Henderson.

At this stage in her treatment, doctors cannot take blood marker tests to check for cancer cells. They can only judge her condition by her symptoms, and her symptoms are good.

"I don't know if the miracle is healing or just the way God is working," Lloyd said in a telephone inter-

view. "I think it can be both or either."

Lloyd is back home in Henderson after 11 days of treatment at St. Louis University Medical Center.

Weeks of additional treatment still lie ahead.

In the meantime, telephone calls, post cards and letters are arriving at the Lloyd home telling of Southern Baptists' prayers and concern.

Despite the absence of pain right now, Lloyd said, she tells herself the cancer is still in her body in order to make sure she has willpower to continuing fighting if necessary.

The prayer support she has received is providing encouragement and making a difference, she said.

After a night of specific prayer at the annual meeting of Illinois Woman's Missionary Union, Lloyd surprised doctors in St. Louis the next morning by having a blood count sufficient to allow her to return home to Kentucky.

"They were not expecting it," she recalled. "I told them it was because I had several hundred women praying for me. ... Prayer sure has worked throughout all this."

Lloyd said she is making a giant stack out of the cards and letters she receives. "It's kind of like a thermometer that I can see the prayer support coming in."

Soon she will return to St. Louis for four to six weeks of additional treatment. She will be in "supervised isolation" to protect her from disease in case her immune system shuts down.

Lloyd encouraged Southern Baptists to keep praying, "believing that God is going to use this." She asked people to pray for her husband and two daughters. And she asked them to pray for mission work in Korea, where she said new missionaries are needed.

Correspondence may be sent to the Lloyds at 2553 Maclerie, Henderson, Ky. 42420.

Blood donations for Lloyd's upcoming treatment may be made at St. Louis University Medical Center's blood collection office. Any blood type is acceptable because only certain portions of the blood will be used. Donors should specify that they want to give blood for Kathy Lloyd.

No change asked in FMB news

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A subcommittee examining the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's news philosophy has opted to recommend no changes in current practices.

However, the panel acknowledged that a successor to President Keith Parks, who will retire in October, "will want to interact with trustees and staff in shaping his news philosophy," leaving the door open for possible future changes in policy or reinterpretations of current guidelines.

The FMB's longstanding news philosophy, as outlined by Parks, is a commitment to "openness, integrity, responsibility and professionalism."

The seven-member subcommittee, which met April 27-28 in Richmond, is composed of FMB trustees and staff.

Some trustees have expressed concern with the way FMB writers have handled recent controversial events. Although trustee scrutiny of FMB press operations is not new, it has increased since the board's elimination last October of budgeted funds for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Some trustees have maintained negative reaction to that decision could have been avoided if press reports had included additional information about the Swiss school and its past relationship to the FMB.

The subcommittee studying news practices released a two-paragraph statement which says they found "no problems with present news philosophy and guidelines."

However, the subcommittee acknowledged they had concerns about a January news conference at FMB headquarters in which two administrators resigned in protest of trustee actions.

KENTUCKY

Board addresses giving changes in '92-'93 budget

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

CEDARMORE—The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board addressed continuing changes in giving patterns last week by approving a 1992-93 KBC budget of \$19.28 million.

Executive Board members filled in the line items for a budget total approved last November by convention messengers.

Of the total, \$17.34 million is anticipated to be handled as gifts to the Cooperative Program unified budget. The CP total is a \$556,553 (3.1 percent) reduction from the current year's goal.

The overall budget calls for further reconfiguration of the Executive Board staff and for the first time includes a line item to show income sent as contributions to the KBC that bypass the national Cooperative Program.

The budget estimates the KBC will receive at least \$264,038 in "Kentucky only" funds sent by churches unhappy with the current direction of some national Southern Baptist Convention agencies. Under current guidelines, such contributions to the KBC's work do not count as Cooperative Program gifts since they may not be included in the percentage of receipts the KBC forwards to the SBC Executive Committee.

"Kentucky only" contributions have shown a marked increase in the current year. As of April 30, such designated contributions had increased 34 percent from the same time the previous year.

The 1992-93 budget shows a net decrease of \$130,941 in staff reductions and readjustments. That falls on the heels of \$124,700 in staff reduction savings this year.

In the two years, a total of seven Executive Board staff positions will have been eliminated and six others will have been reclassified.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall told the board he has tried to make staff reductions possible through attrition rather than layoffs.

Marshall said only one position—secretary to the mountain missions di-

rector—was eliminated with someone currently employed. That person, he said, had been given nearly a year's notice of the impending change.

Other positions eliminated in the 1992-93 budget include a vacant stewardship department director post, a Sunday school department associate position to be vacated with the retirement of Jack Palmer and a secretarial position to be vacated with the retirement of Ruth VanNatta.

Reclassified positions are for maintenance and food service staff at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore assemblies.

Stewardship responsibilities have been assigned to Doug Strader, discipleship training director. Strader also will use consultants to assist in this work. The restructuring will result in a \$32,072 budget reduction.

Likewise, some of the work currently assigned to the Sunday school associate will be done by consultants for a savings of \$23,727.

Although not included as a permanent change, a similar use of contract consultants was approved for a one-year period in the evangelism department. Three consultants will perform some of the duties previously carried by evangelism associate Billy Compton, who resigned to become pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington.

The evangelism consultants approved by the Executive Board's administrative committee are:

■ Harry Hunter, longtime Kentucky pastor currently working through Harry & Charlotte Hunter Prayer Ministries Inc. in Henderson, will serve as a consultant in witness training.

■ Mary Lou Crutcher, a licensed social worker and longtime minister's wife, will work as a consultant in lifestyle evangelism. She currently lives in Louisville.

■ Kevin Shrum, pastor of Bedford Baptist Church in Bedford, will serve as a consultant in youth evangelism.

The 1992-93 budget includes no salary increases for KBC staff. However, funds were set aside in December to allow a one-time salary supplement equal to 4 percent of each person's pay.

The overall reduction found in the

1992-93 budget was administered according to a "financial crisis plan" approved by the Executive Board in 1990. This plan called for proportionate reductions to the SBC, KBC educational institutions and Executive Board ministries to be implemented if giving fell below budget goals.

As a result of that action, the SBC will receive \$321,837 less from Kentucky next year than budgeted this year. Undesignated gifts to the KBC will be divided 37.304 percent to the SBC and 62.696 percent to the KBC.

The KBC's five educational institutions will receive a combined total that is \$98,241 less than this year's goal. Funding for Executive Board ministries will be reduced by \$165,652.

One of the largest increases in budgeted expenses for the next fiscal year is an additional \$275,000 necessary to maintain life, medical and disability insurance for KBC employees and missions personnel.

In other action, Executive Board members voted to:

■ Delay making a recommendation on the KBC's 1993-94 budget goal.

■ Extend the KBC's partnership missions venture with Brazil through December 1993.

■ Provide \$25,000 from overseas partnership funds to build a dormitory at an orphanage in Brazil.

■ Dedicate the program of the 1992 KBC annual meeting to the memory of Ross Figart, former mountain missions director who died last month.

■ Affirm the request of the KBC's three liberal arts colleges to add to their trustee boards eight members from out of state. This request will be considered by messengers to the state convention in November.

■ Elect three men to fill unexpired vacancies on the Executive Board—Bill Crosby of Erlanger, Oliver Moore of Russellville and John Johnson of Monticello.

■ Elect Vera Angel of Taylor Mill to fill an expired vacancy on the board of Georgetown College.

■ Raise camp rates at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore assemblies by \$2 per week.

■ Lower rates at Jonathan Creek during the off-season period of February through April.

Changing giving trends outlined

CEDARMORE—Budget challenges facing the Kentucky Baptist Convention are the result of changing giving trends, Barry Allen told members of the KBC's Executive Board last week.

Allen, director of the KBC business division, presented an analysis of trends related to the Cooperative Program unified budget. He did not attempt to explain why giving has changed, but focused on how it has changed.

Kentucky CP gifts last year fell below the previous year's total for the first time since 1932.

Using charts and graphs, Allen illustrated that last year's decrease was the culmination of a larger trend. Annual percentage growth in giving has been decreasing since the peak year of 1981, when gifts increased 14.1 percent over the year before, he said.

However, dealing with decreasing budgets has been a jolt to Baptist budget planners accustomed to 13 years of continuous growth in giving, Allen said.

From 1971 to 1983, annual receipts always exceeded budgets, he explained. "The Executive Board could not increase the budget at a fast enough pace to catch the receipts."

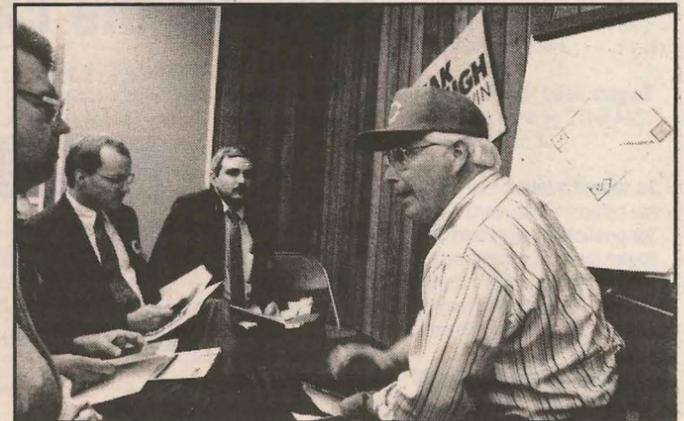
The last time KBC giving exceeded the budget was the 1986-87 fiscal year, when a 1 percent overage occurred.

On a larger scale, when growth in giving is charted by decades, the 1940s and 1970s represent the greatest gains, Allen said. Giving increased 293 percent from 1941 to 1951 and 163 percent from 1971 to 1981. That compares to a 59 percent growth rate in the 1980s.

Further, Allen explained, while the KBC was increasing the percentage of its receipts forwarded to worldwide SBC causes, local churches were decreasing the percentage of their receipts being forwarded to the KBC.

In 1982, Kentucky churches sent an average of 11.32 percent of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. By 1991 that amount had dropped to 10.85 percent.

But despite decreases, Kentucky Cooperative Program giving has kept pace with the Consumer Price Index for most of the past decade, Allen said.



Workgroup will study Joint Committee funding issue

Continued from page 1

during a time of great stress"; and to show "the Spirit of Christ calls for humility, servanthood and the greatest command, 'to love the Lord thy God, and thy neighbor as thyself.'"

Although the 1993-94 budget will not begin for more than a year, now is the time to begin working on a proposal, Marshall said: "By bringing this to you now, we get it out on the table. It's not behind doors in the hands of a few people; it's before this board. ... We're trying to take the potential for exploitation out of it."

Despite some members' desire not to give money to the Baptist Joint Committee, the Executive Board has a commission to act, he added. "We do not have the authority to tell the convention, 'No, we will not do this.'"

Marshall presented six possible options for supplying the funds:

■ Considering the Joint Committee money a "priority item," which would be taken off the top of Cooperative Program unified receipts, before they are allocated to other recipients.

■ Taking funds off the top of the portion of the Cooperative Program directed to the SBC.

■ Allocating the money from off the top of the portion of Cooperative Program funds directed to the KBC.

■ Establishing the Joint Committee as a line item in the Executive Board's budget.

■ Budgeting the money entirely from receipts designated for the KBC only.

■ Setting up an Executive Board endowment to provide Joint Commit-

tee funds off the interest. The endowment could be established with unused Executive Board funds and unrestricted interest earnings. Churches that do not wish to support the agency could request that their portion of the funds that went into the account be refunded by the Executive Board, and individuals or churches that want to support the Joint Committee even more could add to the endowment.

Marshall stressed the proposals were merely starting points for considering how the Executive Board could fulfill the convention's motion.

And he expressed hope for the future, noting, "I believe we can come up with something that we can, in a large measure, agree to."

The issue was referred to the Executive Board's business and finance

committee. That group discussed the matter briefly and tabled it until the committee's September meeting. The committee also voted to ask Chairman Mark Boes to name a five-member workgroup to study funding options and bring a report to the September meeting.

The workgroup will be comprised of a layperson, Coley Bradley of Paducah, and four pastors, Wayne Hayes of Louisville, Floyd Price of Ekron, Ron Rose of Gray Hawk and Michael Thomason of Glasgow.

"The goal of this workgroup is to find a way through this," said Boes, pastor of Cecilia Baptist Church in Cecilia. "Everybody is going to have to compromise. ... Let's both bend and build a bridge across which our family can travel."

PLAY BALL Chip Miller (right), the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday school director, talks about conversion as members of the KBC Executive Board's church growth and administration committee participate in a baseball "game" to study church growth. The baseball analogy compared first base to conversion, second to discipline, third to the discovery of spiritual gifts and home plate to the world. The Executive Board met last week. With Miller are Jack Studie of Mayfield, Tony Tench of Kuttawa and Mike Farmer of Murray.

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

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Cooperative Program has turned to 'rend its makers'

The hot breath of creedal conformity has driven Keith Parks from the Foreign Mission Board and is now threatening professors at Southern Seminary.

It was bound to happen. Denominations historically resort to creeds.

The Southern Baptist Convention might have been an exception. An extraordinary mission program was put in place by autonomous churches voluntarily cooperating. This phenomenon was described as God using "a rope of sand." With no requisite for creedal conformity, the aim was world missions.

The convention finally found a unifying principle: The Cooperative Program. It was a kind of federalism for the churches where each agreed to subordinate its power to a central au-

thority in the common affairs of world missions.

Perhaps the Cooperative Program was "a seed that carried its future in its bosom." In 1944, Friedrich Hayek published his book, "The Road To Serfdom." He outraged conventional wisdom by arguing that central economic planning inevitably leads to despotic government.

Now it appears that the Cooperative Program, gentle and beneficent for so long, is turning to rend its makers.

How could the Cooperative Program bring down the house on Baptists' heads?

First, Baptists became wealthy. The river of common monies from a trickle became a rushing, mighty stream. Receipts zoomed into mil-

lions. Secondly, this money began to buy high-rise bureaucracies and buildings to match. Personnel pyramided, with directors directing directors. A third player in the drama was the "gift obscuring the giver." It began to buy programs and move in directions somewhat afield from the Baptist consensus. Churches began to get the uneasy feeling they were losing control of themselves.

How is this bulging bureaucracy to be reined in? The best idea seemed to be to get control of the river of money.

Enter those who "see clearly what the apostle saw only through a glass darkly." They were alarmed by what they perceived to be a "drift" from traditional Baptist moorings. The river has been taken.

Returning to the significance of a

creed and to the figure of "a rope of sand," here are two opposing realities: Sand is a diversity, the particles unlike and separate. Diversity requires great maturity to retain focus and makes mind-control virtually impossible. But a creed is useful. Focus and mind-control can be enforced. Risks attendant to diversity are radically diminished.

Also, the art of mimicry and the sycophant's "Amen" supplant the fundamental Baptist principle of "the priesthood of the believer."

Therefore, it is understandable if the keepers of the "river," the ones who sit in the towers of the bureaus, should feel safer and more secure if all the underlings set their cerebral watches by the courthouse clock.

John C. Huffman
Louisville

OPINION

How can we fight each other?

I have prolonged writing this because I don't know all of the inner or outer workings of the SBC. But I am sure there are a lot of people in the same predicament.

When you see the letters "SBC," especially if you attend or are a member of a Baptist church, more than likely you associate them with "Southern Baptist Convention." It is getting to the point maybe we should change the name to "Some Baptists

Care."

I have always stated that I am a Christian first, saved by the grace of God. And I attend a Baptist church, of which I am a member and am proud to serve our Lord at this church.

I believe in the programs that have been established over the years by both men and women that had one purpose in life and that was serving the Lord. Through their enormous efforts and sufferings, they have

been blessed by the Lord.

It is getting to the point you either hear on the radio, television or read in the paper something that is going on within the ranks of our Southern Baptist Convention that is very disturbing to my heart!

How can Baptists say they love the Lord one minute and fuss and fight the next? Do Baptists ever examine their own selves? How can Baptists set an example when the leaders of our SBC are constantly in a power struggle to the point of pulling out and setting up a new group of Baptists.

Our Lord says we can't serve two

masters, the world and him. So how do we come to the conclusion that bickering and division within our ranks is the proper thing to do?

I will have to remind our leaders to look at God's word for their direction instead of their minds. It is my prayer that unity will be restored within the ranks of the SBC. If our leaders will read with the intent to obey, our lights would grow brighter instead of dimmer. Please examine 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 and see if you don't agree that God's word is still the same.

Jim Adams
Morganfield

VIEWPOINT

Time for the children

The opinions of James L. Clark on abortion (WR, April 28) cry for response. While I agree with some of his statements, I find the misapplication of Scripture appalling.

I would like to comment on two misapplications:

■ Deuteronomy 23:2. If we take this verse literally, we must accept all

of the original law, which calls for the death sentence in adultery. In addition, Deuteronomy 22:24 gives stoning as the execution for fornication, but Jesus stopped the stoning when he rescued the woman taken in adultery.

■ Hosea 9:11. Mr. Clark interprets the first part of this verse, "As for

Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird" to mean that its unborn child shall abort from the womb, but he fails to mention the rest of the verse, which states "no birth, no pregnancy, no conception." These words say to me, "Ephraim's glory shall fly away because there will be no conception."

I don't understand many things, and I wonder why God allows innocent ones to suffer, but one thing I know:

God has not ordained humans to

use abortion to solve or prevent problems.

As Christians, if we are to make any sense of life, we must remember we serve a God who is capable of running his world. Just as he gives life to the unborn child, only he should take that life.

Our Lord Jesus came to show us God as a forgiving, merciful Father. Jesus made time for the children. How can we refuse them?

Parthenia Culver
Burna

BAPTIST FORUM

The Baptist 'good hands' people

I was in Dallas two weeks ago, a guest of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The state executive secretaries were comfortably housed across the street in the Stoneleigh Hotel, a refurbished old-timer, reminiscent of Louisville's Seelbach Hotel.

The Baptist state editors had been their guests the two days prior. Both groups had been invited, at Annuity Board expense, for one of their periodic occasions for update and orientation. The considerable turnover in the two state leadership groups makes such occasions necessary. The specific areas of "annuity" and "medical insurance" are of significant interest to the church employees of our state who

participate in these Annuity Board programs.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention provides more than \$600,000 annually in support of the churches' annuity programs. Another larger amount is budgeted by the Executive Board to cover the costs of annuity and medical insurance for its employees and most of the associations' directors of missions. The fact is, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has a major financial investment in the ministry of the Annuity Board.

The two-day experience left me favorably impressed with their staff, their focus and their efficiency. Several of the employees I have known through the years; others were new to

me. Most were younger; all were gracious, including President Paul Powell, who was available in most of the sessions. Dr. Powell will be one of our convention speakers in November.

Their "focus" is fixed clearly on assisting all Annuity Board participants to prepare for an adequate retirement. That focus drives their decision making. As a "participant" who hopes one day to retire, I came away with no misgivings about how our contributions are being managed and with a more enlightened gratitude for those pioneers whose vision brought the Annuity Board into being.

Still, there are some haunting statistics which joltingly remind us of the inadequacy of preparation for many of our retired Baptist ministers and church employees. In 1988, the average monthly benefit paid to a Southern Baptist annuitant was \$253. By 1991, the average had increased to \$312, or only \$3,744 per year!

We still have a long way to go before an average church employee can retire with even a reasonably adequate annuity income.

This will happen only when active church employees are willing to discipline their incomes, however modest, to provide more of their pay for retirement investment, and when Baptist churches take far more seriously their financial responsibilities to those who serve them.

In the meantime, if any of my readers would like to make life a little easier for some of the retired Baptist workers in our state whose monthly annuity is under \$300, write or call me, and we'll help you help. You could make the rest of life a little easier for a church servant who suffers the indignity of poverty in the advanced years.

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

Churches can inoculate country against racism

"Can we all get along?"

Rodney King's forlorn plea sounded like a whimper amid the rage and fury of riots in Los Angeles, Atlanta, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Seattle and elsewhere. A Pandora's box of violence and mayhem had blown sky-high, and the victim of the beating that started it all asked the question millions felt. "Can we all get along?"

The answer is no. At least not until life changes drastically in these dis-United States. The not-guilty verdict handed down to those police who beat Rodney King did not cause the riots. It might have been the spark that lit the fuse, but Americans have been stuffing gunpowder in that tinder box for a long, long time.

People get mad when a jury makes a mistake. But they don't go on a rampage, kill 55 people and leave almost a billion dollars in damage over one lousy verdict. That rage has been fueled by years of poverty, injustice, prejudice, broken homes and, most of all, hopelessness.

We should have known this was coming. Maybe polite whites don't use the "N-word" for African Americans anymore, and our schools are somewhat integrated. But incidents such as the "wilding" in Louisville last summer and the white mob chasing a black man to his death on a Brooklyn freeway showed us racism is as brutal as ever.

So, what do we do? Our politicians will bludgeon each other this year, trying to tell us what they think we want to hear. Most of us aren't any smarter than Bush, Clinton or the next guy, and answers don't come easy. But you can bet we better do something.

The newspapers and airwaves already are clogged with debates about the role of government in all this. Certainly, government can do some things to help, just as it has done others to mess things up. If it has the will, government can help create a climate for peace and prosperity. It can bring justice to the judicial system, provide quality education for all, enable struggling families to get on their feet, urge communities to take more responsibility for the welfare of their citizens.

Business, too, can provide jobs, mentoring programs, capital investment in enterprise zones and community leadership. These are the best investments businesses can make; and if they fail to invest in our cities and neighborhoods, their other investments will be diminished.

Churches also must lead our country toward racial reconciliation. Prayer and joint black-white worship services are time-honored activities, but they're not enough. Churches can make a major contribution by providing forums for the races to talk—and listen—to each other. Most of us know very little about living in another's skin. We know less about how to empower and strengthen people whose only "fault" is pigmentation.

Political "spin doctors" have diagnosed America's moral disease. But at its source, this illness is spiritual, not political. By becoming places of interracial discourse and understanding, churches can become the inoculation centers for spiritual—as well as social and moral—healing in our land.

Marv Knox

Churches must provide a safe haven, a place where the races can listen to each other.

Russia provides an undreamed opportunity for missions

If the price of a loaf of bread increased from 20 cents to \$3 in one year while your salary remained the same, could you continue to live within your budget?

Or what if fuel prices quadrupled in one day?

Those are only two of the realities with which the people of Russia are struggling. Salaries that only months ago seemed adequate now barely pay the food bills. And inflation continues unabated.

I heard more talk of fear than freedom during two weeks in Moscow in April as part of Project Brotherhood.

The hunger that grips Moscow is not the kind of starvation that immobilized Ethiopia and the Sudan. Food is available. The crisis at hand is the ability to pay for it. Images such as a

line of people outside Moscow Baptist Church waiting for free chicken legs are etched in memory.

But another kind of hunger also exists in Moscow—a hunger for the gospel.

Many people almost seem to be waiting for someone to tell them about Jesus. Perhaps it is the new freedom to talk about faith or the desperation of their life circumstances. Two weeks is not enough time to understand the dynamics of life there.

But I saw people work their way through the crowds packed into Moscow Baptist Church to respond to the invitation of the gospel.

I saw a scientist tell my husband he wanted Jesus to come and live in his heart even before the plan of salvation had been fully outlined. I saw

the tears in his eyes as he prayed to receive Christ as his Savior.

I saw two young adults listen intently as they learned how to become Christians. Then they joined hands and prayed for eternal life in Christ.

That the fields are white unto harvest seems an understatement.

Project Brotherhood, which continues for several months, will provide both physical and spiritual food to hungry people.

Evangelical Christian groups are sending youth to the Commonwealth of Independent States to witness in the schools.

Southern Baptist volunteers traveling to Russia to start churches will have the joy of helping fellow believers, including many new converts, plant their lives and grow their faith.

That Billy Graham plans an evangelistic crusade in Moscow in October is certainly no accident in God's timing.

If Christian people in America do not go and give and pray that thousands, even millions, of Russian people will be touched with the gospel in the coming months, we will surely fail to walk through a door which God has opened wide.

Is it possible that the land of Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great, of Lenin and Stalin, of blood and battlefields, of Gorbachev and Yeltsin, could become one of the great Christian nations of the world? The opportunity, undreamed such a short time ago, lies before us. The people are waiting. Are we equal to the task?

Linda Lawson, director
News & information section
SBC Sunday School Board
Nashville

Russians stand in line to wait for chicken legs; they crowd their churches seeking the Bread of Life.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Why can't America's adults be as colorblind as our children?

Our dinnertable discussion turned to school. You know how these things go.

Parent: "So, how was school today?"

Child: "Fine."

Parent: "What did you do?"

Child: "The usual."

Parent: "What was that?"

Child: "Oh, nothing."

This particular conversation, however, was moving along wonderfully. The kids had enjoyed a great day, which at our house is defined as any day the class gets to do artwork more than math.

Somewhere in our talk, Lindsay said something about a piece of art made by Mohammed.

Mohammed. That's not a common name for little boys around here. Justin, Christopher or even Lee, maybe.

But not Mohammed.

"Who is this little boy?" I interrupted.

"Just a boy that sits over by the homeliving center," Lindsay answered.

"What's he look like?"

"Just about like everybody else, I guess," she said. "Only his eyes are real dark brown."

A couple of weeks later, during lunch at school, I learned that Mohammed is Iranian and hadn't been in the United States long. B.J., whose description at our house had been

"little and funny, with real curly hair," is black.

While I ate potato chips and helped little girls at my table open their juice boxes, I realized this daughter of mine never had described her classmates by the color of their skin. Color never ranked up there with funny, tall, short, glasses, nice or mean.

Don't think I think my kid's a saint. She's too much like her daddy to be anywhere

near it.

But her natural selectivity focused on

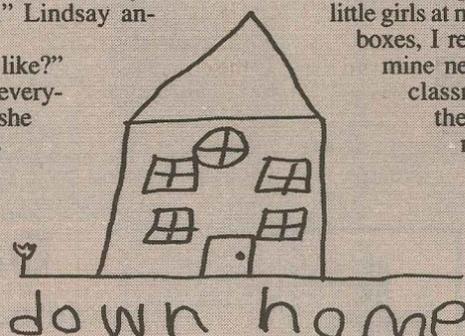
height, humor and optical ability, not the color of another child's skin.

Author Will Campbell says we're all racist; the struggle is to overcome bigotry. He fought the battle for civil rights, and he should know what he's talking about. Maybe we all are conditioned by the color of our skin, and the only real battle is to soften the hardness of our hearts.

But little children show how that's possible. Until we teach them differently, they notice age, height, wrinkles, glasses and hair, but not color. They respond to others based upon character and conduct, not pigmentation and power.

That's a good reason why Jesus said we need to be like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Marv Knox



MISSIONS

Complaint brings change for volunteers

By Mary Speidel
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A complaint filed against a short-term team of Southern Baptist volunteers to Brazil has increased government processing requirements for future Southern Baptist volunteers there.

Kentucky Baptists are among five Southern Baptist groups currently engaged in partnership missions projects with Brazilian Baptists. Others involved are South Carolina Baptists, North Carolina Baptists, Birmingham (Ala.) Baptist Association, and Texas Baptists.

Although government processing has increased, all planned partnership projects will continue, said Ronald Wilson, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board area director for Brazil and the Caribbean.

The FMB declined to identify the team of medical and construction volunteers whose work prompted the complaint. The team spent about 10 days this spring helping Brazilian Baptists conduct medical clinics and build churches.

After the volunteers had returned

home, an association of Brazilian physicians filed a petition with government officials protesting the team's activities. The association disapproved of the volunteers' working in Brazil on tourist visas.

After the complaint, Brazilian government officials denied visa renewals for a Southern Baptist volunteer couple unrelated to the team. The couple, also in Brazil on tourist visas, had been assisting Brazilian Baptists in another city. The couple will seek another volunteer assignment through the FMB outside Brazil.

After these incidents, government officials in Brazil easily could have said "no more volunteers," Wilson explained.

But instead, Brazilian officials have expressed a willingness to work with Southern Baptists, he added. "We have a very good history in Brazil of following the legal guidelines."

Brazilian officials have issued new procedures to follow to avoid further misunderstandings surrounding volunteers, Wilson said. The procedures require the FMB to provide a variety of information on volunteers and their activities well in advance of their ar-

rival in Brazil.

Some information requested by government officials includes the names and passport data of all volunteers, names of all organizations involved, volunteers' arrival and departure dates and specifics about their activities.

FMB leaders plan to abide by these new guidelines "to the letter," Wilson said. "We recognize that when we go as volunteers to other countries, we're the guests of the people there, so we want to fully abide by any information they request."

Wilson urged all Baptist volunteers to Brazil to do the same, whether they go independently or in conjunction with the FMB.

Last year 1,708 volunteers assisted Brazilian Baptists and missionaries in Brazil.

Volunteers are involved in a variety of activities in Brazil, but evangelism undergirds all they do.

During the recent project that drew criticism from some Brazilian physicians, Baptist volunteers helped lead evangelistic services where nearly 400 people accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.

8 missionaries leave Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (BP)—Eight Southern Baptist missionaries and three children joined nearly 300 Americans evacuated from Sierra Leone May 3 after a military coup.

The missionary families left Freetown, capital of the small west African nation, for nearby Senegal aboard a charter flight arranged by the U.S. Embassy in Sierra Leone.

Seven more missionaries and five children were scheduled to leave for Senegal May 4.

The U.S. State Department advised Americans May 2 to leave Sierra Leone after an April 29 military coup. The coup ousted President Joseph Momoh, who had led the country six years. Momoh fled to Guinea April 30.

Now ruling the country is the National Provisional Defense Council, which has named Capt. Valentine Strasser as head of state and minister of defense.

About 800 U.S. citizens were living in Sierra Leone, a former British colony.

The missionary families leaving the country will stay several days in Dakar, Senegal's capital, where they will meet with Bill Phillips, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board area director for west Africa.

After the meeting, some of the families are expected to stay in Dakar while some will travel on to other cities in west Africa.

The missionaries are expected to remain outside Sierra Leone several weeks until they feel it is safe to return.

SBC reception set for Parkses

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks and his wife, Helen Jean, will be guests of honor during a special reception June 10 at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis. The public reception is scheduled for 4-5:30 p.m. at the Capitol Ballroom in the Westin Hotel across Maryland Street from the Hoosier Dome and Convention Center, site of convention sessions. FMB officials anticipate up to 1,000 people will attend the reception. Parks has announced plans to retire as FMB president in October.

The Parkses were appointed missionaries to Indonesia in 1954. In 1968, trustees invited him to FMB headquarters in Richmond, Va., to direct mission work in Southeast Asia. He was elected to lead the entire foreign missions enterprise in 1979.

Brotherhood trustees approve campaign

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—A capital campaign to fund crisis and emergency ministry needs was approved by trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission April 24.

Resource Development Inc. of Springfield, Mo., has been hired to assist in planning and conducting the fund-raiser.

Donations will be placed in a program reserve fund, said Brotherhood Commission President James Williams. Investment earnings from the reserve fund will be used to meet ministry needs in the face of emergencies and disasters both in the U.S. and overseas.

Earnings also will be used to meet critical missions education needs at the Brotherhood Commission and in state convention Brotherhood departments related to program personnel, promotion, technology and development, Williams said.

He explained the campaign will "not interfere or compete for support with any of our missions offerings or

with the work of our state conventions."

During their meeting, trustees also heard reports from participants in a current emergency relief effort, Project Brotherhood.

In other action, trustees:

■ Authorized Williams to appoint a military task force to study the current status of ministry to military personnel. The action delayed launch of the commission's Full Armor magazine for military personnel until a rec-

ommendation is brought back to trustees in April 1993.

■ Received an initial report from a committee of staff and state Brotherhood leaders examining what modifications, if any, are needed for Pioneers and High School Baptist Young Men, the agency's missions program for young men in grades 7-12.

■ Approved a resolution in recognition of Keith and Helen Jean Parks' leadership with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Pastor remains as war closes church

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (BP)—A Baptist church here canceled services in April for the first time in its history as war raged in the city streets, but pastor Boris Kacarovica has insisted on staying to minister.

Kacarovica said he would remain in Sarajevo with his pregnant wife and three children despite the violence. Baptist leaders had urged him to leave, according to a report from Christian Information Service.

"We feel that our place is here in these difficult days. We want to be with the people we work with and minister to. Our pastoral calling and the future of our work in Sarajevo are at the heart of the matter," he said.

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National premiere set for Paducah

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Paducah is one of five U.S. cities where an NBC documentary produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission will premiere May 19.

The program, "New Pioneers," will begin airing on NBC television affiliates May 24. Dates and times vary by location.

The Kentucky premiere is scheduled for First Baptist Church in Paducah at 5:30 p.m., with a reception and brief program preceding the satellite broadcast.

Other premiere sites are in Montgomery, Ala.; Pensacola, Fla.; Alexandria, La.; and Fort Worth, Texas.

The program "focuses on the aging of America and the powerful impact retirees are making as volunteers in humanitarian causes," said Bob Thornton, RTVC vice president for television production.

Veteran actor Joseph Campanella is host for the documentary and will participate in the premiere.

Crime concerns evangelical voters most

GLENDALE, Calif. (EP)—Abortion is not the biggest political issue on the minds of evangelical Christian voters, but is of more concern to evangelicals than non-evangelicals.

That is one of several findings from a survey of registered voters nationwide conducted by the Barna Research Group of Glendale, Calif.

Evangelicals have a different political agenda than non-evangelicals, Barna reports, but that agenda is different than the way evangelicals have been stereotyped.

For the survey, registered voters were asked to indicate how important each of 15 issues would be in determining which presidential candidate they would be most likely to support.

Among those who describe themselves as evangelicals, the two most important issues were crime and the enforcement of drug laws. Nine out of 10 evangelicals said these are very important issues in their candidate selection process.

Third on the list was the economy (considered important by 81 percent), followed by public education (78 percent), health care (75 percent), abortion (75 percent) and welfare and unemployment policies (74 percent).

Voters who do not consider themselves evangelicals found a lesser de-

gree of agreement on their top concerns. They placed five issues at an almost equal level: public education (78 percent), drug law enforcement (77 percent), crime (76 percent), the economy (76 percent) and health care (75 percent).

Both evangelicals and non-evangelicals rated education, the economy and health care as priorities. However, only evangelicals ranked abortion and welfare policies of equal importance to the other issues.

The biggest gap between evangelicals and non-evangelicals is on the abortion issue. Seventy-five percent of evangelicals said a candidate's position on abortion is a critical factor in their vote, compared to just 53 percent of non-evangelicals.

Evangelicals also were more likely to cite separation of church and state as a critical issue. That was true for 64 percent of evangelicals but only 47 percent of non-evangelicals.

Non-evangelicals rated only one issue as more important than evangelicals said they would rate it. On military and defense spending, 53 percent of non-evangelicals said it is important while only 40 percent of evangelicals agreed.

Other differences between evangelicals and non-evangelicals are

found on environmental policy and women's rights. In both cases, evangelicals were less likely than non-evangelicals to portray these issues as important in candidate selection.

The survey results surprised George Barna, president of the Barna Research Group.

"There are certain issues on which you would expect the Christian population to take a leading role and to serve as benchmarks in their candidate selection," he said. "Environmental policy is one of those areas."

"The extraordinarily high level of concern demonstrated by evangelicals regarding crime and drug enforcement was also unexpected. This might be attributed to at least partially to the fact that evangelicals tend to be older adults. There is a well-known relationship between fear of crime and aging."

Among other findings:

■ 80 percent of evangelicals age 18 and older are registered to vote, compared to 70 percent of non-evangelicals.

■ Evangelicals are more likely than other adults to be registered as Republicans (40 percent vs. 27 percent).

■ However, more evangelicals are registered as Democrats than as Republicans (44 percent vs. 40 percent).

Top concerns of evangelical voters

- Crime
- Enforcement of drug laws
- Economy
- Public education
- Health care
- Abortion
- Welfare and unemployment policies

Churches respond with ministries after Los Angeles riots

Continued from page 1

Information. Relief organizers compiled a list of open grocery stores, gasoline stations and pharmacies, plus

businesses where residents can cash checks, Laing noted.

Greg Sumii, director of missions ministries for the California Southern

Baptist Convention, said he knows of no churches which received structural damage from the rioting. But he said many church members owned businesses destroyed by fires.

Don Hall, director of missions for Crescent Bay Baptist Association, said he had received messages of encouragement from across the nation. "We're getting a lot of prayer support, and I think that's important."

Hall first learned of the riots when relatives called to see if he was all right. Hall, who had been working late at home when the call came, said, "I looked out my window and I could see the smoke."

None of the 61 churches in Crescent Bay Association was damaged, Hall said, although fires burned within two blocks of some and "looting was right next door" to others.

And while efforts begin to rebuild affected areas of Los Angeles, concern lingers over what lies ahead. "Ev-

eryone was really shook over the (King) decision," Hall said. "I knew when they moved (the trial to Simi Valley) there was going to be a problem."

Hall recalled one pastor being particularly "disturbed and distraught" by the looting, including instances of adults encouraging children to take part. "How will we ever overcome that?" Hall said the pastor asked.

The difficulty, Sumii said, is that "this is so different from a natural disaster. The violence could break out at any time. It could start up again as soon as the (National Guard) troops leave."

Sumii said monetary donations are needed to fund Baptist ministries in the area. Donations should be designated "Emergency Assistance—Los Angeles" and made payable to California Southern Baptist Convention, 678 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, Calif. 93710.

Send donations for Baptist relief efforts in the aftermath of the Los Angeles riots to "Emergency Assistance—Los Angeles," California Southern Baptist Convention, 678 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, Calif. 93710.

Korean pastor appeals for forgiveness

By Mark Wyatt
California Southern Baptist

LOS ANGELES (BP)—Even those hit hardest by California's worst riots in history need to be forgiving, the pastor of a large Korean church in Los Angeles told worshippers the Sunday after the riots.

Sung Hun Park, pastor of Berendo Street Baptist Church, preached about the comfort of God May 3.

"Even though we are in a disastrous situation, God is with us," Park told 1,000 who gathered for worship as smoke from thousands of fires still hung in the air.

More than 20 families in the church lost their businesses when arsonists set them ablaze during several days of violence, Park said. Much of that violence was aimed at Korean business owners.

"I don't understand why the mobs attacked Koreatown," Park said. He referred to the L.A. area named for its large Korean population and many Korean-owned stores and offices.

There was no damage to church property, and Park said he was grateful no one from the Berendo Street congregation was injured.

"They just burned out everything. Now we encourage people to forgive. We want to begin again," Park said.

"Most of our people got encour-

aged" during the church's first worship service after the deadly destruction, Park said. "They are very mature people. I think they can handle their problems even though there will be some real difficulty."

Two days earlier the church had established an emergency committee to take reports from members and others in the community whose businesses were damaged or destroyed. Volunteers began helping victims fill out insurance forms and disaster loan applications. Others donated food and household goods.

On May 3 a special offering for victims of the fires netted \$12,000.

Park said the riots point out a truth even churches sometimes forget: "I don't think the problem is a political or social issue. The more important problem is a spiritual problem."

"We are not pointing our fingers at blacks or Hispanics," he said. "I told our congregation to pray to God for forgiveness of our sins, too. We should have been more intimate (in our) relationships" with other races and ethnic groups.

Even though attention inevitably will focus on the King verdict and other factors which led to the riots, Park said he plans to lead the Berendo Street church to look forward, not backward. "It really awakened us," Park said, "to the importance of relationships."



RIOTS Flames leap into the night from one of the thousands of buildings set on fire by rioters in Los Angeles after a jury found four police officers not guilty in the videotaped beating of Rodney King. (RNS photo)

KENTUCKY

April CP up but still short of goal

By Marv Knox
Editor

Record April receipts pushed the Kentucky Baptist Cooperative Program budget further ahead of last year's pace.

But the budget still is not up to speed to reach this year's goal.

The Kentucky Cooperative Program received \$1,743,960 last month, a gain of almost \$200,000, or 12.8 percent, over April 1991 receipts totalling \$1,545,913.

April's strength propelled the Cooperative Program to \$11,346,429—another record—for the first eight months of the 1991-92 fiscal year.

That amount, however, is \$583,211, or 4.9 percent, below the \$11,929,640 goal for fully funding the convention's budget for the eight-

month period.

September-April receipts for the past six years have averaged just under 65.5 percent of the annual Cooperative Program goal. If that holds true for this year, the CP will finish the year \$571,670 below its \$17,894,462 annual goal.

To make the budget goal, the Cooperative Program will need to average \$1,637,008 for each of the four months remaining in the fiscal year.

However, funds available for Kentucky Baptist causes are not that far off, since an increased amount of funds has been designated for use only by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Cooperative Program receipts are divided, with 62.058 percent staying in Kentucky and 37.942 percent going to support Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions.

Some churches have expressed their displeasure with the national convention by designating their contributions directly to the Kentucky

convention and specific national agencies. Since the Kentucky-only money technically is designated, it is not considered part of the Cooperative Program.

Kentucky-only receipts totaled \$30,038 in April.

Those gifts pushed that fund to \$224,108 for the eight-month period, a gain of \$57,015, or 34.1 percent, over the same time last year.

Consequently, the combination of Kentucky-only designations and Kentucky's share of the Cooperative Program is \$7,265,475—a gain of \$369,454, or 5.4 percent, over the September-April period last year.



GEORGETOWN GIFT Fassil Gabremariam (center), vice president of finance with GTE Telephone Operations, presents a check for \$9,100 to Tom Benberg, executive vice president of Georgetown College and Jennifer Johnson, Georgetown's senior vice president. The donation represented a matching gift from GTE to add to donations GTE employees made to the school.

Curry receives Georgetown award

GEORGETOWN—Gwen Curry, professor of English and chair of the English department at Georgetown College, received the school's Cawthome Excellence in Teaching Award April 27.

Curry received \$2,400 along with the college's most prestigious faculty honor, established by Don and Chris Cawthome of Georgetown.

Three retiring employees also were recognized: Merle Clemmons, professor of business administration; Darrell Curtis, manager of maintenance; and Kenneth Fendley, special consultant

to the president.

Georgetown faculty and staff honored for 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 years of service included: Curry, James Heizer, Ruth Heizer, Louis Polsgrove, John Blackburn, Frank Snyder, Jo Griffith, Dorothy Carpenter, William Cronin, Kevin Donley, Geneveve Draper, Michael Draper, William Goins, Christine Leverenz, Ora Lunceford, Ruby Peak, Brenda Power, Eva Proffitt, Jean Provost, Mary Richards, Geraldine Shaw, Floyd Shipley, Tony Whitfield and Frank Wiseman.

Torstrick retires from FMB

RICHMOND, Va.—Kentucky native Mel Torstrick will retire from the staff of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board June 1.

He and his wife, Shirley, are both from Louisville. Most recently, Torstrick has served as director of the missions ministries department in public affairs in the office of the president.

Torstrick previously served on the staff of Central Baptist Mission in Louisville, started the North 42nd Street Baptist Mission in Louisville and was pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Louisville. He also served as pastor of Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg.

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RUSSIA

Rock has no role in church, Russian Christians say

MOSCOW (EP)—Stop sending Christian rock music groups to Russia, the head of the Unregistered Union of Churches in Russia has asked of American Christians.

Peter Peters and Vasilij Ryzhuk, an elder in the union, wrote a letter that was printed in Christian Info News, a monthly Christian newspaper from British Columbia, Canada.

"For 30 years we have suffered intense persecution, and now freedom is bringing another great harm to our churches," they said. "The damage is coming from the Christians in America who are sending rock music and evangelists accompanied by rock bands.

"Our young people do not attend these meetings because we have all

committed not to participate in secular entertainment," they continued.

"We were in prison for 15 years and 11 years for Christ's sake. We were not allowed to have Christian music, but rock music was used as a weapon against us day and night to destroy our souls. We could only resist with much prayer and fasting.

"Now, we have a time of more openness, and we are no longer taken to prison. However, now it is Christians from America who damage our souls. We do not allow this music in our church, but they rent big stadiums and infect teen-agers and adults with their rock music."

The two writers said rock is "music from hell."

"We urge all Americans to stop

giving money for the organization of such concerts in Russia," they added. "We want only traditional Christian music in our churches."

Victor Branitski, a native Ukrainian who now works with the John Guest Evangelistic Team, said he agrees with the letter writers.

Branitski said rock music used in evangelism is confusing to the people of the former Soviet Union. When a Christian rock band performs there, the people do not understand the words and the rock format seems worldly to them.

"Rock music is offensive to brothers and sisters who, for decades, have been brought up in a different culture," he explained.

Jackie Sazenski, founder and pres-

ident of SALTeam Ministries, said rock music sometimes is a detriment to evangelism in Russia, but not always.

"We were in a church in St. Petersburg and we clapped to some choruses, and it was exceedingly offensive," she said. "We suffered a rebuke from the pastors. But in other settings, you become all things to all people so that you might win some."

When trying to evangelize college students who have turned to punk and hard rock, Sazenski said, Christian rock can be a powerful tool.

A pastor from St. Petersburg asked that Americans be patient with Christians in the Commonwealth of Independent States. "For 70 years we have not worshipped in joy," he said.

BWA helps Russian women

WASHINGTON (BP)—Baptist women in the former Soviet Union will have a new fully equipped office in Moscow, thanks to the Baptist World Alliance's women's department. The office will be a 10-minute drive from the present overcrowded offices of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, located in historic Moscow Central Baptist Church.

The BWA women's department also has funded the salary of an office director for a year, and plans are under way to provide requested training for new officers. This assistance was made possible by special contributions from Baptist churches, individuals and women's groups in North America and Mexico during the past 12 months, said women's department President Catherine Allen of Birmingham, Ala. The women's department of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists was organized in November 1990 when women from all the republics of the former Soviet Union met in Moscow.

Radio & TV Commission signs agreement with Russian TV

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The "magic box" of television offers a good way to impact the souls of residents in the former Soviet Union, a Russian broadcaster told officials of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

"I think we have a good chance to do a lot for our two countries and their relationship," said Valery Sarukha-

nov, vice president of the Russian state broadcasting company, Petersburg.

"Even though some people are Russian, some American, some English, some German, we're all TV viewers. And through this 'magic box' we can find a very good way to reach all peoples' souls in the world," he explained.

Sarukhanov spoke to trustees of the Southern Baptist broadcasting agency during their April meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. During that meeting, RTVC President Jack Johnson signed final contracts to place the Southern Baptist programs on Russian TV.

The programs will reach a potential audience of 110 million viewers, Sarukhanov said.

Although the RTVC is still emerging from serious financial troubles, Johnson said the agency must forge on with the new project because of the unprecedented opportunity.

"Our first two hours of pilot programs took 235 man hours to produce and cost \$38 a minute," he said. "We have committed funds to produce the

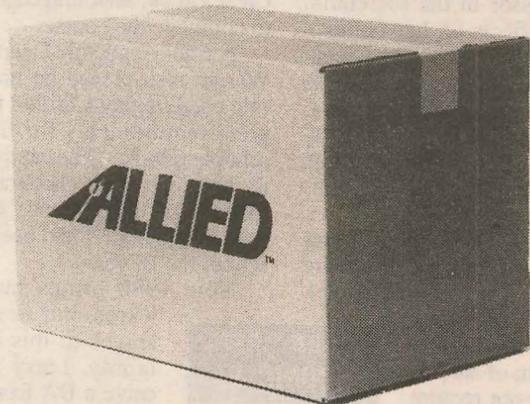
first 13 weeks by reducing other activities.

"We are praying that by that time, we will have a clear signal of additional support ... or clear directions of where to cut expenses. But to choose not to answer this Macedonian call is not an option."

In the face of what he termed staggering opportunities, Johnson pledged to continue exercising fiscal integrity and fidelity to the mission assigned by the convention.

"Seizing the Russian opportunity is not a departure from our mission, it is a continuation of our mandate from the beginning to use broadcast media to preach the gospel and support our churches and agencies as their broadcast resource," he said.

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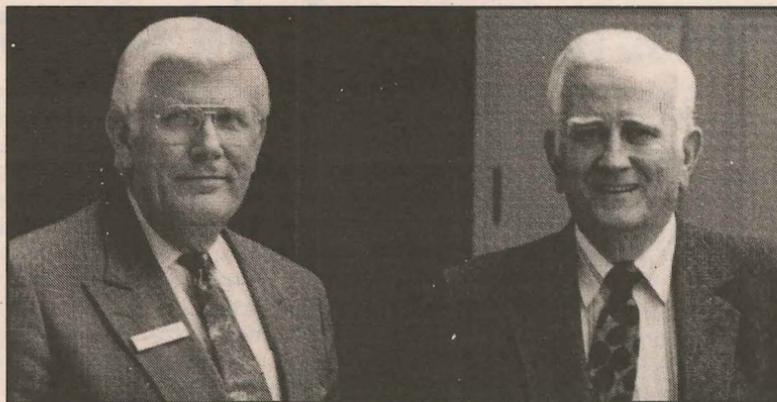
KENTUCKY KERNELS

Since the formation of the Cooperative Program unified budget in 1925, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has received a total of more than \$286 billion in donations from churches across the commonwealth.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BAILEYS SWITCH**—Pleasant Ridge Church called **Darrel Bargo** as assistant pastor.
 ■ **BURLINGTON**—Burlington Church called **J. Terry Wilder** as pastor. He previously served Sand Springs Church in Lawrenceburg.
 ■ **CANEYVILLE**—**Scott Parrish** resigned as pastor of Caneyville Church.
 ■ **CAWOOD**—Friendship Church called **Gary Craig Sr.** as pastor. He previously served at Yocum Creek Church in Evarts.
 ■ **EUBANK**—Bethel Church called **Jim McKinney** as pastor. He previously served Rock Lick Church in Somerset.
 ■ **FLAT LICK**—**Hurla Phillips** resigned as pastor of Concord Church.
 ■ **FLATWOODS**—First Church called **Jane Davis** as minister of music.
 ■ **FORDSVILLE**—**Johnny Daugherty** resigned as pastor of East Fork Church.
 Pleasant Grove called **Fount Richards Jr.** as pastor.
 ■ **FRANKFORT**—Immanuel Church called **Tim Richerson** as minister of music.
 ■ **GRAND RIVERS**—Calvary Church licensed **David McGowan** for the ministry. He is available for supply.
 ■ **HARTFORD**—Hartford Church called **Mark Eden** as minister of

youth and education.
 ■ **HELLIER**—**Berry Tackett**, former pastor of Hellier Church, died March 6 at age 34. A graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible Institute, he served several churches in Kentucky and Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Robin, and a daughter, Sylena Daun.
 ■ **HIMYAR**—**Michael Collins** resigned as pastor of Himyar Church.
 ■ **JELLICO, Tenn.**—**Danny Elliott** resigned as pastor of Oswego Church.
 ■ **LACIE**—Hopewell Church ordained **William E. Page** to the ministry.
 ■ **MANCHESTER**—**Russ Taylor** resigned as pastor of Pleasant Point Church.
 ■ **MIDDLESBORO**—**David Fletcher** resigned as pastor of Pine Grove Church.
 ■ **PIKEVILLE**—Mayflower Unity Church licensed **Phil Burke** to the ministry.
 ■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Church voted to license **Paul Sowders** to the ministry.
 ■ **WALKER**—Walker Church called **Homer Carnes** as interim pastor.
 ■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—**Janus Jones**, director of missions in the South Union and Mt. Zion associations, was recognized for 21 years of service.
 ■ **WINGO**—Little Bethel Church called **Cloys Bruce** as pastor.



NEW TRUSTEE James Pierce Jr. (left), pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, greets President Landrum Leavell during a recent meeting of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's trustees. This was Pierce's first meeting as a new trustee.

Kruschwitz named to seminary honor

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptist Verlin Kruschwitz is among four Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduates named Distinguished Alumni by the Louisville school this year.
 Kruschwitz was pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown from 1952 until his retirement in 1980. He also served St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; Nebo Baptist Church and Zion Baptist Church in Columbia. He currently teaches Old Testament at Southern's Boyce Bible School.
 Other honorees are Lloyd Householder, retired assistant vice president for communications at the Southern

Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville; Cecil Osborne, director of Yokefellows Inc., Millbrae, Calif., and former American Baptist pastor; and Marjean Patterson, executive director-treasurer of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.
 Kruschwitz and the three other honorees will be recognized at Southern's reunion for alumni and friends June 10 at the Hilton-at-the-Circle in Indianapolis. Tickets for the 1 p.m. luncheon are \$14.50 each and may be ordered by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to alumni relations, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky. 40280. After June 1, tickets will be \$18 each.

Giving of self

I was invited to be on NBC's Today Show in 1971 on the 10th anniversary of the Peace Corps. During that first decade I had served over six years as a Peace Corps volunteer, all in one location and longer than any other volunteer had served. Most served no more than two years. On that memorable day I was interviewed by Barbara Walters and Edwin Newman.

That was brought to mind five years ago when I was invited to speak on the 25th anniversary at the graveside of John F. Kennedy. I was so busy with my Oneida duties that I declined to go. They asked permission to share one of my experiences on that occasion. Of course, I was honored to have them do so.

The 30th anniversary of the Peace Corps was celebrated in August 1991. Again I was unable to go because of too much to be done at Oneida. But I did get to see a news clip showing my former fellow volunteers marching from the Lincoln Memorial to Kennedy's grave. It all brought back a multitude of memories. That part of my life seems like only yesterday and a hundred years ago.

Living to serve others, whether full-time or part-time, is a wonderful way to live. I believe volunteerism is on the rise in the U.S. This greatly encourages me. That is a bright omen in the midst of much that is depressing in national trends.

We have many full-time volunteers who minister greatly at Oneida without salary or a very small stipend at most. Then we have others who come to serve regularly for short periods of time, several days or a week each month. Many others come for at least one week yearly.

One of the amazing things about these people who serve as volunteers is that many of them are among our most generous financial donors.

Then I think of people like Bessie Lee Hack-

er. Bessie graduated from Oneida 51 years ago. She is a retired registered nurse anesthetist. She is a very competent and totally dedicated person. Her four high school years were lived in Oneida's girls dorm, and she worked every summer on campus while a student.

Bessie was on full scholarship-workshop. She says had it not been for Oneida she could never have gotten a high school education and gone on to her nursing career. She is one that has never forgotten. She has been a wonderful supporter of Oneida all of her adult life and has donated many thousands of dollars, as she continues to do in retirement.

Then there is Edna Bratton. Edna, herself a product of a mountain boarding school no longer operating, transferred her affections to Oneida years ago. Her two sons graduated from here. She worked five years as a volunteer teacher, receiving not a dollar of salary. During those years she was witness to the heroic efforts of our then volunteer gardener, David Spears Cooper. The many flower beds Cooper dug and tended so lovingly are still places of beauty about our campus.

That is so because Edna, without saying a word to me or anyone, simply started coming several days every few weeks from her Lexington home to tend the flower beds out of respect for Cooper's memory and her love for Oneida's work. She is paid nothing. She pays for her gasoline for the 220-mile round-trip. As I write this, I realized for the first time that she is also paying for the bulbs and seeds for the beds. Besides her labor, she and her husband have made gifts totalling thousands of dollars.

Reprinted from *WR*, Aug. 13, 1991

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

Paid Column

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Clear Creek becomes journey for Byingtons

As Carolyn Byington sits at her word processor in the secretarial pool, she reflects on her family's six-year journey at Clear Creek. The Dryden, Va., native came to Clear Creek with husband, Larry, and children Lisa, 17, and Shawna, 11, in 1986 to begin what would become an academic journey for the entire family.

Upon arrival on campus, Larry immediately began work toward his GED since he had not completed high school. Larry enrolled in the certificate program of studies which does not require a high school diploma. When he obtained the GED, Larry was accepted in the collegiate course of study, and although it took six years, he will graduate this year.

"My pastor, 1984 graduate Sherl Thomas, told me about Clear Creek the day I told him of my call to ministry," Larry recalls. Louis McCall, a retired faculty member, was also instrumental in Larry's decision to come to Clear Creek.

"When we came to Clear Creek," Carolyn remembers, "I needed one hour of credit to receive my high school diploma." She had learned that without a high school diploma a job was almost impossible to locate. The 11th grade history course seemed almost insurmountable. George

Sleeker, who tutors students at Clear Creek, encouraged Carolyn to complete the course.

Former Academic Dean Darlyns Warren also played an important role encouraging Carolyn to complete requirements for the high school diploma. "The campus family provided great encouragement to me to get the diploma," Carolyn stated, "although I had been out of school for 18 years."

Now 1992 brings many rewards and new challenges to this campus family. Larry will receive a BA from Clear Creek, Carolyn now holds a high school diploma from Lee County High School, and Lisa will receive a high school diploma from Bell County.

Larry said, "I feel I am better able to comprehend the Bible now and can learn more from it." He also added, "I feel led to a ministry in the Tazewell area now where I am employed at a local furniture manufacturer."

Graduation at Clear Creek is a time of rejoicing, reflecting and trusting the Lord. Please pray for the Byingtons and other graduates who are finding God's will for their lives.

Maynard Head is vice president for development, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

Paid Column

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Byington family

MISSIONS

Rural church grows despite pastor's doubts

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)—When John Hays graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1981, his classmates were called to churches with furnaces and padded pews.

Hays was called to a church with no running water and a two-seat outhouse.

He and his wife drove from the Louisville seminary to visit Jersey Baptist Church, 10 miles outside the interstate that circles Columbus, Ohio.

"As we drove, the road kept getting smaller and smaller. When we thought the road was going to disappear, we were in Jersey," Hays recalled.

He remembers telling his wife, "There's no way a church could grow here."

But just when Hays was convinced God was not calling him to Jersey, he found a shoe box with names of 100 prospects for the church. Then he began to believe maybe God could grow a church amid the cornfield.

Eleven years later, the church building still sits in the midst of a rural community. But it now has a furnace and running water in facilities built with volunteer labor and loans from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

And today, the church averages 500 in worship service and is sponsoring another church start.

One key to growth is committed lay leaders, Hays said. Another is a loving fellowship.

"Once you get people here, it is the bonding that keeps them. Church needs to be a place where people make friends and do something for the kingdom's sake."

The church has streamlined its organization through Sunday school, Hays said. When a person joins the church, he or she is automatically enrolled in Sunday school—where benevolence and outreach ministries as well as Bible study take place.

Names of people who visit on Sunday morning are given to church members immediately after the worship service. Church members visit the visitors after lunch.

On Monday, a letter is mailed to all the visitors. Then each one is visited by Hays or another staff member within the next week.

In addition, the congregation has implemented strategies to reach people who do not come to their church. The church works through the school system to provide shoes for needy children. Once a year, church volunteers offer a free oil and filter change to people who cannot afford basic car repairs. In the summer, the church coordinates a baseball clinic for area youth.

Mission Arlington grew by meeting needs

By Frank White
SBC Sunday School Board

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP)—Tillie Burgin didn't set out five years ago to start 120 Bible study groups supported with a food pantry, clothes closet, medical clinic, day shelter and other services.

She only tried to help one family and saw a need for a Bible study in one apartment complex.

But as a result, more than 2,000 people now attend weekly Bible studies and at least 400 people have become Christians.

Now, with a never-tiring effort, Burgin doesn't hesitate to say her goal is a Bible study in each of the 3,000 apartment complexes in Arlington, a community sandwiched between Dallas and Fort Worth.

Her success has produced a stream of people seeking advice on starting similar programs.

"You can't take the model, the method or program because that won't work," Burgin said. "Take the burden for reaching the lost and find ways to meet their needs. That works."

About 300 volunteers who participate in First Baptist Church of Arlington's Mission Arlington mirror Burgin's enthusiasm. When someone expresses interest in helping, she immediately assigns them a task.

As full-time director of Mission Arlington, Burgin supervises a staff of four and coordinates the work of volunteers who are primarily from First Baptist Church but also from 14 other churches in the community.

Initially, Burgin and others struggled to get into apartment complexes to hold Bible studies. Now, 16 locations are on a waiting list for Bible studies as soon as volunteer workers

are available, said Lauren Musgrave, new works coordinator.

Local interest in Mission Arlington increased significantly when the local police chief said he noted a decrease in crime and domestic problems in apartment complexes where Mission Arlington was involved.

"Apartment managers who had been resisting our Bible study groups suddenly were offering us apartment space to use," Musgrave said.

The Bible study locations range from an affluent business park to low-income apartments.

About 80 percent of the Bible studies are at the traditional 11 a.m. hour on Sunday. But Mission Arlington is alive and active throughout the week.

Early Saturday morning, Bible study volunteers begin arriving at the Mission Arlington office tucked in the corner of a church parking lot. There they find bread, food supplies and other items to take with them as they make visits in their assigned apartment complexes inviting people to Bible study the next day.

A group of youths from a nearby church may be assigned to organize the week's contributions to the clothes closet that has overtaken a small office building.

Another group may distribute flyers door-to-door in an apartment complex where a Bible study is to start the next morning.

Throughout the week, local doctors and nurses give their lunch hours to work in a makeshift clinic adjacent to the Mission Arlington office.

Countless other volunteers work through the week in the day shelter, the battered women's shelter, teaching English as a second language or other services where Mission Arlington has found needs.

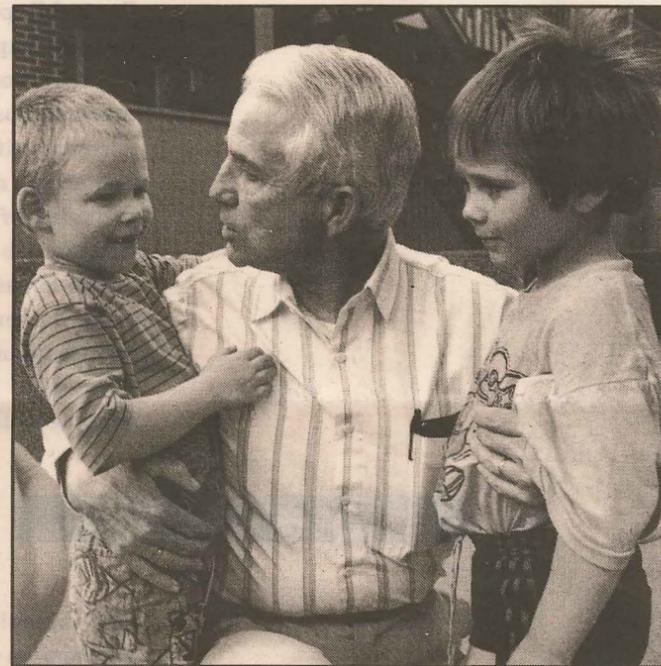
"Mission Arlington is first a Bible

study, but we figure out other ways so people can hear," Burgin said. "Folks don't hear until someone walks with them and helps them."

Although church leaders first anticipated the Bible studies providing prospects for the church, the groups have become their own congregations. Many will never become churches but may continue as separate congregations that meet needs of the people in the apartment communities, said Charles Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington.

"We have started little congregations," he said. "They meet for Bible study, they sing, they share the good news of Jesus Christ, they love each other, care for needs, pray for their sick and dying. They are church. They do church and Jesus Christ meets them there."

FRIENDLY VISIT Bob Burgin, principal of the 2,000-student Arlington High School, visits each Saturday and many evenings with families in Westwood Village, where he has directed a Bible study for five years. As he walks through the complex, children often stop their play to hug and talk with "Mr. Bob." Burgin's wife, Tillie, is director of Mission Arlington, the larger program of which this apartment Bible study is a part. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)



Former missionary reunited with orphans

By John Dart
Los Angeles Times

CALIMESA, Calif. (BP)—After 40 years of separation, four Arab-Americans held an emotional reunion with Kate Ellen Gruver, a Southern Baptist missionary who gave them a chance at life at an orphanage in post-World-War-II Nazareth.

Of the four, however, only Lorice Swanson was not told the reason for the gathering April 26 at the home of Diana and Ron Crouch about 20 miles west of Palm Springs, Calif.

Introduced inside the house to the unidentified, 79-year-old "guest of honor," Swanson politely said, "You look familiar."

"This is Aunt Katie," said Diana Crouch, a fellow orphan who located the retired missionary last fall through Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Swanson uttered a long "Aaahh!" Putting her hands to her face to cover tears that started flowing, she laid her head on the shoulders of the petite woman in the white, flower-print sweater and dress.

After exchanging rapid updates on each other's lives, Swanson said, "I'm so overwhelmed. I can't believe this!"

Gruver, who now lives in Decatur,

Ga., began the orphanage in 1945 with funding from members of WMU. After a dozen years working in Palestine and Israel as a foreign missionary, she left in 1952 and returned to the United States to work with Broadman Press and eventually the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. She had lost contact with nearly all of the 20 children at the home—even though many of them eventually made their way to North America.

Diana Crouch, whose Arab name was "Hadiya," last year sought information about her early years in Nazareth to share with her own two daughters.

Crouch wrote Eljee Bentley, WMU archivist in Birmingham, Ala., asking for information about the George W. Truett Home in which she was raised. Bentley sent Crouch an article about the home from a 1952 issue of the WMU magazine Royal Service. It told the story of a baby left on the doorstep of the home at Christmas.

Responding last November, Crouch wrote Bentley that she was the "Christmas baby" mentioned in the article.

"My heart was filled with beautiful memories while I read through the

pages," Crouch wrote. She said she would like to contact Gruver.

Gruver, at the reunion, recalled she got a phone call from a Diana Crouch but didn't have any idea who she was. When told she was "the Christmas baby," Gruver exclaimed, "I can't believe it!"

Also present for the reunion and a bountiful lunch of Middle Eastern dishes was:

■ "Ali," now Sam Elaine, who was the second boy admitted to the home. Brought to America after high school graduation by his father who lived in Brooklyn, Elaine owns a furniture store in Upland, Calif.

■ Aida Paine, a public school teacher in Phoenix, Ariz. Aida came to this country in 1969, working as a nurse's aide in Texas while studying education, then graduating in 1973 and marrying in 1975.

Of the four, the three women are involved in Baptist churches today: Crouch as a member of a Southern Baptist church in nearby Yucaipa; Swanson as the youth minister in an American Baptist Church in Upland, Calif.; and Paine as a mission-minded member of North Phoenix Baptist Church who saves used clothing to give to low-income children who attend a church-run preschool.

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE

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

Each Baptist facility – Baptist Hospital East, Baptist Regional Medical Center, Central Baptist Hospital and Western Baptist Hospital – dedicates considerable staff time and hospital resources to community outreach programs that make a difference in quality of life and health. Whether it's a women's health forum, a seminar series for seniors, or one of many support group sessions, these programs promote wellness and pro-

featured tours of the hospital's cardiac catheterization lab and several types of free cardiovascular screenings. Public response was so great that the program was extended into a week-long event to accommodate the more than 3,000 people who attended.

The Baptist hospitals often find creative ways to perform community service, sometimes stepping outside the traditional healthcare arena to do so – as demonstrated by Central Baptist Hospital's involvement with Habitat for Humanity.

Sometimes the work of a small group of Baptist healthcare personnel has a long-lasting, statewide impact. Baptist Healthcare has been an active partner in helping to set up a computer training program for disabled Kentuckians. And in another project, several Central Baptist employees gave input to a document requested by the Kentucky Department of Education to assist school districts and parents in serving children with special healthcare needs.

As community needs continually change, Baptist Healthcare System stands firm in its commitment to offer a continuum of care to meet those needs. We view it not only as a commitment but our responsibility.



Our COMMITMENT To The Community

vide valuable healthcare information and screenings at little or no cost.

For example, as one of the pre-eminent providers of cardiac care in its region, Western Baptist Hospital recently planned a one-day "heart expo." The program

"We believe it is our responsibility to contribute to the improvement of the general health and wellness of our community and environment through a continuum of care, effective community education and continuous quality improvement of our services."

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM