

## FOR THE RECORD

**Pressler opposed**  
Conservative leaders in the SBC have asked Paul Pressler to decline his nomination as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board. *See page 2.*

**Presidential profile**  
The search committee seeking a new president for the SBC Foreign Mission Board has released a profile of the candidate they hope to find. *See page 2.*

**Love & loss**  
The loss of infant twins turned ministry roles inside out for a Kentucky pastor and his wife. *See page 3.*

**Editorial**  
Looking for a candidate? Consider qualities of character, vision, courage, sense and faith. *See page 5.*

**Gay protests**  
Two weeks after homosexual activists disrupted Easter services at a Chicago church, the church building was defaced with graffiti. Also, singer Anita Bryant was confronted by members of a militant homosexual group at a Baptist Book Store in Houston. *See page 7.*

## Kentucky churches have names for all imaginations

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

Just name it and some Kentucky Baptist churches will claim it.

From Sunnyside to Hurricane, Summitt Hills to Big Rock Bottom, Cash Creek to Hardmoney, Muddy Gap to Clear Springs, Kentucky Baptist church names paint a colorful spectrum rich in history.

For example, Cash Creek Baptist Church in Henderson is one truly "rich" in history.

Pastor Chris Platt explained the church was established in 1864 near Old Cash Creek. The creek is dried up now, he said, but the church is going strong.

Platt said the name "Cash Creek" is still appropriate for two reasons.

"Our church is strong in tradition and very mission-minded; 26.5 percent of our budget goes to missions," he said.

In addition, Platt said there are active oil wells on the church property, maintained by Charles Crafton, a deacon at the church.

Some churches have opted for biblically based church names.

Herschel Morgan, pastor of Bethabara Baptist Church in Philpot, said his church's name came from John 1:28.

"There's a lot of speculation about how it all actually started," Morgan said of the 167-year-old church. "It began as a mission of Panther Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, and the best we can make out, it was called Bethabara because it was located be-

tween the forks of Panther Creek."

The King James Version of the Bible cites Bethabara as the place beyond the Jordan River where John was baptizing.

Ambassador Baptist Church in Henderson also was named for Scripture. Orville Phillips, minister of music, said a charter member of the church heard a pastor preach a sermon about being ambassadors for Christ, and it stuck with him.

"The church was constituted in April of 1989 with the name this man had suggested," he said. Phillips said the church also has a theme song, "The King's Business," which uses the word ambassador.

Mary Cynthia Holsclaw, a member of Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, traced the history of

her church's name to a verse from Luke: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Industry and trade sometimes play a role in determining church names.

Ralph Mills, trustee of the property of Greasy Creek Baptist Church in Greensburg, said the church is located in an area that used to be a tanning yard a long time ago. "They used water out of the creek, which gave the creek its name," he said. "We took our name from the creek when the church was built in 1854."

Old Steam Missionary Baptist Church in Wurtland also took its name from industry. Tiny Withrow, a member of the church, said the Old Steam community got its name from  *See Kentucky churches ..., page 9*

## Kentuckians form links of prayer alert

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

Four o'clock in the morning may be too early for doughnuts, but not for prayer and coffee in one Kentucky Baptist church.

That's the time Dry Ridge Baptist Church in Dry Ridge has committed to pray for spiritual awakening in America. Dry Ridge Church and 63 other Kentucky Baptist congregations have joined churches nationwide in the Watchmen National Prayer Alert.

The prayer alert is a year-long emphasis sponsored by the Sunday School Board and initiated by Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman.

Through this effort to pray "around the clock," churches have committed to a one-hour period each week to pray for spiritual awakening. The watch is transferred through telephone calls from one church to the next every hour.

Mary Poe is director of the Woman's Missionary Union and coordinator of the prayer alert at Dry Ridge. "Four o'clock is too early for doughnuts, but they like the coffee," she said.

"We feel like we've really sacrificed by getting up that early," she added. "It reminds us of the real need for prayer. Besides, we really enjoy the spiritual fellowship."

Members come to the church building at 4 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. On other Tuesdays, members pray in their homes.

Twenty-two members of Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville also pray at 4 a.m., but their part of the watch falls on Thursdays.

Pastor Ferrill Gardner and his wife, Lou Rae, join in the early-morning prayer times. Gardner said it's not too bad getting up at 4 a.m., but is sometimes harder to go back to sleep.

Still, he said it is well worth the effort: "These people who get up at 4 in the morning are serious about it."  *See Kentucky churches ..., page 3*



**FOOD FOR ALBANIA** An Albanian woman clutches her bread ration as other hungry people crowd around a state-run bakery in Tirana, Albania. The European nation of 3.3 million people once was considered the most atheistic country in the world. Communism has been overthrown there, and new churches are beginning to spring up. Southern Baptists, along with Canadian Baptists and the Baptist World Alliance, have sent 270 tons of flour to be used for bread, a food staple in the country. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board plans to send its first missionaries to Albania later this year. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

## Missionaries going to once-atheist Albania

By Mike Creswell  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

**TIRANA, Albania (BP)**—Baptists are poised to begin ministry in Albania, once said to be the most atheistic country in the world.

The European country of 3.3 million people formerly remained aloof from Western, Soviet and Chinese influence and banned all religions. But its strict communist regime finally has fallen domino-style like those in other Eastern European countries.

In March, Albanians voted for democracy. On April 9, Sali Berisha, a heart surgeon, was elected Albania's first non-communist president.

Southern Baptists expect to send their first missionaries to Albania later this year. But a Scottish Baptist missionary couple already has located a residence in Tirana and will be moving there this spring with two small children. Chris and Mairi Burnett, both physicians, are missionaries

with the Baptist Missionary Society of England.

Cooperating with the European Baptist Federation, the Burnetts will help coordinate work by Baptists throughout the country in a wide range of ministries. Karl-Heinz Walter, the federation's general secretary, said he hopes coordination of all Baptist aid and evangelistic outreach in Albania by the federation will help maximize ministry by different Baptist groups and reduce friction and overlap.

Extensive contacts with a wide range of Albanian government officials have been made cooperatively by Walter; John Keith, Eastern Europe representative for the Canadian Baptist Federation; and Paul Thibodeaux, Eastern Europe administrator for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Walter, Keith and the Burnetts visited Tirana in April to meet government representatives and secure an

apartment—a difficult task in a city with a housing shortage. Harald Edvardsen, a Norwegian Baptist pastor and electrician, is in Tirana to renovate the apartment. He had to get supplies and equipment from Italy since little is available in Albania.

Albania needs all the help it can get. Decades of isolationist communism have left it with virtually no economic system. Unemployment reportedly hovers at 80 percent. Virtually all factories have closed. A year ago, one American dollar exchanged for 10 leks, the national currency. By mid-April the black market rate was 90 leks for \$1.

Rioting broke out in several locations before the March elections. Order has been restored by police and soldiers throughout Tirana, although gunfire is still heard at night in the city. Theft is rampant.

The first half of a shipment of 270 tons of flour sent by Southern Baptist  *See Missionaries entering ..., page 6*

Moving? See page 4 (0519)

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **Greenville Baptist Association** has become the first association in South Carolina to elect a black moderator. Earl Lewers, pastor of Open Heart Baptist Church said he is "concerned about souls, not race."

■ **Ray Clendenen**, chairman of the Old Testament and Hebrew department at Criswell College in Dallas, was elected general editor of *The New American Commentary* by trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Named associate general editors are his predecessor, David Dockery of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, along with Ken Matthews of Samford University in Birmingham.

■ **A Southern Baptist relief worker** was killed and another was injured in Diyarbakir, Turkey, May 11 when the taxi they were riding in collided with a minibus. Chiquita "Chickie" Hood, 29, of Birmingham, Ala., and the taxi driver died. Todd Bennett, 24, of Boon, N.C., was taken to a hospital and released the next day.

■ **Dan Quayle**, vice president of the United States, has confirmed he will address messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention June 9 in Indianapolis. For security reasons, messengers and guests must be seated in the Hoosier Dome by 8 a.m. for Quayle's 8:50 a.m. speech.

■ **Child care** for bed babies through kindergarteners is still available for messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis. Pre-registration requests should be sent immediately to Shirley Bearce at 164 Congress Court, Mooresville, Ind. 46158.

## Conservative leaders oppose Pressler's nomination

By Greg Warner  
*Associated Baptist Press*

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—The most powerful leaders in the Southern Baptist conservative movement are joining forces to keep one of their most prominent colleagues—Houston judge Paul Pressler—from becoming a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board.

Pressler, one of two architects of the movement that has held sway in the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979, was nominated to the missions agency by the SBC Committee on Nominations, which will bring its report to the annual SBC meeting June 9-11 for approval.

But some of the people Pressler has helped elect to leadership in the SBC during the past 13 years now say his election to the FMB would be too controversial and reflect badly on the movement Pressler founded.

Pressler, 62, recently completed seven years' service on the powerful SBC Executive Committee.

Leaders of the movement say giving Pressler another position of power so soon runs counter to their professed intention to "broaden the tent" of leadership in the SBC and smacks of the cronyism they assign to moderates who controlled the SBC prior to 1979.

In a conference telephone call that included former SBC presidents Adrian Rogers, Jerry Vines, Jimmy Draper, Morris Chapman and presidential hopeful Ed Young, Pressler

was urged to decline the FMB nomination, according to Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe, who also participated.

"There were a number of men who are close friends with Judge Pressler and we told him whatever he decided we would support him in it, but our counsel was we didn't think it was wise," said Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., who served with Pressler on the Executive Committee.

Although Pressler did not indicate he would withdraw, Wolfe explained, but "said he would pray about it."

If Pressler doesn't decline the nomination, a motion to replace him is expected on the floor of the Southern Baptist Convention next month.

One person who might make the motion is the FMB's outgoing trustee chairman, Bill Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

"I'm willing to do it," Hancock told the Virginia Religious Herald.

Hancock said he was asked to nominate a layman from Texas for Pressler's position, one of nine spots reserved for Texans on the 89-member FMB. Hancock said the substitute nomination should properly be made by a Texan, but he added: "I haven't made up my mind not to do it."

Pressler could be replaced by a majority vote on the floor of next month's convention. But SBC messengers in past years have seldom approved challenges to the Committee on Nominations' report.

Bobby Boyles, chairman of the committee and pastor of First Baptist Church in Moore, Okla., defended the choice of Pressler in comments to Baptist Press: "Judge Pressler is a man who loves God with all his heart and has a tremendous heart for missions."

Pressler's nomination was offered by committee member Stan Coffey, a fellow Texan who served with Pressler on the Executive Committee.

If elected, Pressler could serve two four-year terms on the FMB. Coupled with his seven years on the Executive Committee, he could spend 15 years on Southern Baptists' two most strategic boards.

That's too much, other conservative leaders say.

Hancock said he has "the highest regard for Paul Pressler and for his commitment and his leadership" in turning the SBC in a conservative direction.

"But it concerns me that conservatives would project an image of control," Hancock said, "and that the same people are recycling from one board or agency to another without giving opportunities for other laymen and ministers, both men and women, to be involved in the process of leadership."

"For that reason, I think any of us who have served on boards and agencies need to remove ourselves from consideration from serving on other boards and agencies."

Pressler declined to discuss his nomination with Associated Baptist

Press.

Despite the unprecedented behind-the-scenes campaign to derail Pressler's nomination, most conservative leaders are reluctant to talk about it on the record.

"They're all afraid of him," said one Texan, who spoke on the condition his name not be used.

Pressler's nomination is not the only one likely to bring charges of cronyism and control. Other examples from this year's nominations:

■ Missouri pastor Gerald Davidson, who previously served two terms as a trustee of Golden Gate Theological Seminary, is nominated to a four-year term on the Home Mission Board.

■ Ralph Pulley, a member of First Baptist Church of Dallas and a 10-year trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1977-1987), is nominated to return to Southwestern's trustees for another five-year term, replacing fellow church member Bill Grubbs.

■ David Allen, pastor of Audelia Road Baptist Church in Garland, Texas, is being nominated to Southwestern's board, despite the fact a layman from his church, William Cutrer, was elected as a trustee last year.

■ Paige Patterson's father-in-law, retired pastor Charles Kelley of Beaumont, Texas, is being nominated as a trustee of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Patterson is another architect of the conservative movement.

## FMB search committee releases profile

DALLAS (ABP)—The committee seeking a new president for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has decided career missionary experience is preferable for the position but not essential.

The 15-member committee released a profile it will use in its search for a successor to Keith Parks, who will retire in October. The document, adopted during the committee's first meeting May 7-8 in Dallas, loosely follows the profile used when Parks was hired in 1979.

Both documents say the candidate should demonstrate a broad knowledge and understanding of missions, preferably including missionary service.

The last three FMB presidents—

Theron Rankin, Baker James Caithen and Keith Parks—all were career missionaries. However, the six men who preceded them were not. Also:

■ While the 1979 committee sought a president with "compassion for the lost," the 1992 committee said the president should evidence "active commitment to personal ... soul-winning."

■ While both committees targeted a president "theologically in the mainstream of Southern Baptist life," the 1992 committee eliminated the 1979 requirement that the president have "an appreciation of the rationale behind differing doctrinal opinions."

■ Also added to the 1992 profile is a stipulation the president be "committed to the Cooperative Program

and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as the historic and primary sources of funding" the FMB's work.

The search committee has set two more meetings. The first is June 10 in Indianapolis, Ind., prior the Southern Baptist Convention, during which the committee will review input from FMB missionaries and other Southern Baptists. The second is June 22 in El Paso, Texas, during the regular meeting of FMB trustees.

The committee has asked interested Southern Baptists to mail comments, recommendations and biographical data of potential candidates to Chairman Joel Gregory, FMB Presidential Search Committee, 1707 San Jacinto, Dallas, Texas 75201 or fax them Gregory at (214) 969-7757.

## CLC trustee quits after anonymous letter sent

By Art Toalston  
*Baptist Press*

NASHVILLE (BP)—A Christian Life Commission member telephoned his resignation to the Southern Baptist agency May 11 after concerns about his corporation's application for a liquor license were raised in an anonymous letter to the convention's Executive Committee.

The CLC commissioner, J.T. Williams, told Baptist Press, however, he was resigning because he has become a Democratic candidate for Georgia's state senate and wants to avoid any conflict of interest between his candidacy and his role on the CLC.

Williams acknowledged that Killeam Properties, which he leads as chief executive officer, serves alcoholic beverages at a golf course clubhouse it operates in Tallahassee, Fla., but said it is not "bar-and-saloon operation" but a "family country club."

The anonymous letter to the SBC Executive Committee included an article from an Atlanta-area newspaper quoting Williams as saying, "We probably will ask for a mixed drink license," for a golf course clubhouse at Stockbridge, Ga., near Atlanta.

"I would never want to embarrass the (Southern Baptist) Convention or the Christian Life Commission," Williams told Baptist Press.

Serving alcoholic beverages is "a common industry standard" in golf course community clubhouses, Williams said. He said he is Killeam's largest shareholder but not its majority shareholder.

As chief executive officer, he said, he is able to instruct the clubhouses to discourage "heavy drinking" but has no authority to take unilateral actions regarding the sale of alcohol.

CLC chairman Hal Lane, Greenwood, S.C., said he telephoned Williams May 8 to verify assertions in the anonymous letter. Lane said he also noted he would need to release a statement concerning the CLC's position on abstinence.

## Patterson elected; alumni head quits

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP)—Paige Patterson was elected president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary May 14.

Trustees of the embattled seminary elected Patterson by a 24 to one vote. He will begin his new duties June 15.

The president of the seminary's national alumni association announced his resignation in protest immediately after Patterson's election.

Leon Smith of Gastonia, N.C., said trustees "have chosen to ignore the voice of the vast majority of more than 7,000 alumni" of the seminary in choosing Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas and a key leader in the conservative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979.

Smith said trustees voted to elect Patterson "despite a resolution which was presented by the national alumni board asking the trustees not to choose someone closely identified with the takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention."

"We knew Dr. Patterson would be a controversial choice, but we thought the positives outweighed the negatives," said Roger Ellsworth, a pastor from Benton, Ill., and chairman of the seminary trustees.

## Loss of infant twins turns ministry roles inside out

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

### How to help

When a parent loses a child, whether it's because of a miscarriage, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or a car accident, church members usually are at a loss for words. They don't know what to say or are afraid to say the wrong thing.

But not saying anything because of that fear is the wrong thing to do.

Bruce Underhill, pastor of Barren Run Baptist Church in Sonora, offers some advice to help grieving parents:

■ If you don't know what to say, tell them so. Tell them you love them, will pray for them, and listen to them if they want to share their sadness.

■ Keep in touch. Call and ask how they're coping or doing that day. Listen.

■ Don't offer false assurances of knowing how they feel or assure them that God will give them another baby. Even if you've lost a child, which would offer hope if you share it, you don't know how they feel. And another child will never replace the one they lost.

■ Offer to take one or both out to lunch, shopping or invite them to your home for a meal.

■ Say the deceased child's name. "We don't want you to forget them," said Underhill's wife, Peggy.

■ Don't hesitate to mention the child, afraid you'll "stir up" painful memories. "That's all we think about anyway," said Mrs. Underhill.

■ Remember birthdays of the dead child and anniversaries of the child's death. The parents will appreciate you thinking of them on a sad day they won't ever forget.

■ Pray for them and with them.

By Suzanne Darland  
State Correspondent

SONORA—It was Easter week, a time of new beginnings. They had come home to central Kentucky after being church-starters in Iowa.

Bruce Underhill had begun a new pastorate at Barren Run Baptist Church near Sonora only two weeks before, and his wife, Peggy, was pregnant, for the first time, with twins.

Yet, the births and subsequent deaths of the premature infants turned ministry roles inside out at the church just as surely as it turned the young couple's world upside down.

Struck by the grief of their new pastor and his wife, the small church sprang into action. Mrs. Underhill had been ironing curtains when she went into labor; someone finished ironing and hung them up. Many of the gestures seemed insignificant. But they spoke volumes of the love they offered, and helped the couple cope. "Just asking: 'How's Joshua? How are you coping today?'" meant so much," recalled Mrs. Underhill.

Only two weeks after they moved onto the church field, she unexpectedly went into labor. She was six months pregnant with twins in an otherwise uneventful pregnancy. She located her husband and they hurriedly began the hour-long drive to Norton Hospital in Louisville, renowned for its high-risk infant care. They stopped at Hardin Memorial Hospital in Elizabethtown to be sure she could make it to Louisville. She couldn't. Boys, each weighing about a pound and a half, were born within 45 minutes.

After a brief glimpse and touch, the fragile infants were rushed to Kosair Hospital in Louisville. Aside from being small, the major problem premature babies have is undeveloped lungs. The twin who was born second, Shawn, developed a form of emphysema and died two days after he was born, on Good Friday, 1990.

Underhill preached Easter Sunday despite the death, saying it was "therapeutic" to proclaim God's word.

Then nine months, 46 blood trans-

fusions and three surgeries later, twin Joshua died, not before taking his parents on a rollercoaster of emotions. He never came home from the hospital.

Life for the couple during that nine months was emotionally draining. They made the hour-long drive to the hospital four or five times a week. They couldn't hold Joshua until he was two months old; they didn't take out his feeding tube to let him drink from a bottle until he was five months old. Some days were better; by September he'd gained four pounds and looked like he'd reached a turning point. Other days were worse; they saw baby after baby go off the ventilator at four weeks and go home at 10 weeks. Theirs remained.

"I was lucky I got the laundry done some days," recalled Mrs. Underhill. "I dreaded calling in in the morning, and I dreaded calling in at night. Things changed so quickly."

And still church members kept caring. They drove her up on days Underhill couldn't go, so she wouldn't face a long drive home. They watched hours of video tapes of Joshua, "the only way we could bring him home." They hugged the couple and prayed for them.

"We probably bonded with people a lot more quickly than if we'd been here a year or more before this happened," Underhill reflected. "They continued in their leadership roles instead of sitting back because the new pastor was here," his wife added.

By November, Joshua's health began a permanent decline. The day came when doctors were no longer optimistic about Joshua's chances for survival. "Where there's life, there's hope at first," Underhill recalled, "but later there was no use in continuing to try and keep him alive."

Nine days before he died on Jan.

30 last year, Joshua finally rewarded his parents with a long-awaited smile. He was nine months old. They recorded a full 20 minutes on video of Joshua smiling, cooing and laughing.

Both babies' funerals were held at Barren Run Church; both are buried in the cemetery between the sanctuary and the parsonage. A headstone is engraved with a quote from Dr. Seuss' *Horton Hears a Who*, "A person's a person no matter how small." The house is filled with remembrances: photographs, footprints, a baby book carefully filled with hospital records and snips of hair.

The couple said they've learned how loving God is. Though they often anticipated Joshua's death and dreaded it, when it came, "God gave us the grace when we needed it; when it actually happened," Underhill said. "Not before."

Their faith has been strengthened and their resolve about going to heaven stronger, they added.

They are more sensitive to others who face crisis.

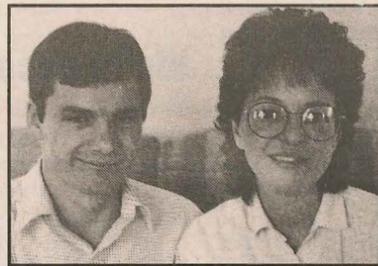
"You never get over it; you just get used to it," he said. He receives compliments on how he handles funerals. He's been there.

"We're more sensitive about Mother's Day," he continued. "I ask mothers whose babies are in heaven to stand, too."

Mrs. Underhill said she got lots of hugs last Mother's Day, having lost both of the boys. The couple wondered whether they were still parents, without a baby to show for it.

But the story has a happy ending. The day after that Mother's Day, she found out she was pregnant, and after an uneventful pregnancy, a healthy Lydia was born last Dec. 27.

"When a baby is born healthy, you don't ask, 'Why me?'" Underhill said. "You take for granted healthy."



Bruce & Peggy Underhill

## Kentucky churches form links in national prayer alert

Continued from page 1

This [prayer alert] can accomplish work that nothing else can."

Other Kentucky churches have different times and different ways of participating in the prayer alert.

Robert Johnson, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Murray, said that after he asked for volunteers to pray at 10 a.m. on Fridays, about 22 church members made commitments.

"We did not set up a particular place to pray," Johnson said. "We have some who are at work and others who are in school."

Providence Baptist Church in Franklin also opted for members to "pray individually, wherever they are" at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, Pastor Steve Curtis said. Eight to 20 people regularly participate in this "natural extension" of the church's prayer ministry, Curtis said.

Younger's Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethtown runs its leg of the

race from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Fridays. Three WMU members meet in the church sanctuary to pray.

"We've tried several approaches," said Norma Holcomb, WMU director. "Usually we begin by reading the church's prayer list and concerns from the missions prayer line. We read Scripture, and then sometimes we have open prayer. Other times we just pray silently."

Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville chose to participate in the chain through the efforts of one representative. Wanda Grassman keeps her calendar clear every Monday at 2 p.m. so she can be the link in the chain for her church.

"It kind of links everyone together, and gives us all one purpose and one goal to reach toward," she said. "For me, it's been like a new vision—a goal and an inspiration."

Liberty Avenue Baptist Church in Berea has a 5 a.m. timeslot. "We have

several volunteers who pray—even some who are traveling to work at 5 in the morning—and we're adding to that list," said Pastor Byron Ellington.

Many Kentucky churches have found the prayer alert fits into their total church ministry.

"We've had three Prayer Life courses at our church and are thinking of an all-over intercessory prayer ministry," said Ken Lypton, minister of discipleship and outreach at Little Flock Baptist Church. "The prayer alert has set the stage for spiritual revival in churches, communities and in the United States."

Johnson said Grace Baptist Church is moving toward an ongoing prayer ministry through use of a church prayer room with specific requests in a journal.

Rosa Fox, a member of Younger's Creek Baptist Church who participates in the prayer alert, believes prayer is vital.

"I believe in prayer. I do daily Bible reading and have my own prayer time, but I also like to join others in that effort," she said. "My prayer is that the Lord will see fit to bring others into our churches."

Fellow church member Holcomb agreed, saying prayer is important not only to get people back in church and focus on spiritual awakening, but also because "we don't often take time to humble ourselves before God during the day."

"We really look for the Lord to move here in the States just as he has overseas said Johnson of Grace Baptist Church in Murray. "We've already seen more urgency about praying for spiritual renewal."

Ellington, of Liberty Avenue Baptist Church in Berea, emphasized the power of the prayer chain: "When we pray, we know that our prayers are six to eight churches deep. We're all lifting up prayers together."

■ **Wyman Copass**, pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville, was elected second vice chairman of the board of trustees for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

■ **Elizabeth Mechelle Langston**, a 1992 graduate of Georgetown College from Elizabethtown, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to study Arabic in Jordan. This is the second year a Georgetown College graduating senior has been awarded a Fulbright grant.

■ **Willa Dean Harston** of Scottsville received the diploma in educational ministries from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute in a service May 10 at Rocky Springs Baptist Church. The Independent Study Institute is the correspondence arm of Seminary Extension, operated by the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

■ **The Western Recorder** earned two recognitions in the annual awards competition of the Baptist Public Relations Association. An editorial written by Editor Marv Knox about last year's Southern Baptist Convention meeting received a first-place award in the editorial category. A series written by Knox and News Director Mark Wingfield on Baptist giving trends received a second-place award in the investigative/interpretive writing category.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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## No compromise

I believe that the Baptist Faith and Message is being sacrificed in order to fill our buildings and not the kingdom of heaven.

The Bible teaches me there is but one baptism by which one can become a member of the church, the visible body of Christ. This is to be a believer's baptism (Mark 16:16). He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Baptism is symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. This baptism is to be by immersion (Matthew 3:16, Acts 9:39). For a Baptist church to claim any immersion biblical is denying the words of Jesus that salvation is by any means other than by grace through faith.

The Christian Church under the Campbellite teachings say one must be baptized to be saved and enter the kingdom of heaven; this they do by immersion. I would direct our attention to Luke 23:42-43.

Any Southern Baptist church that receives members by alien baptism should be immediately excommunicated from the convention and local association.

There is no room for compromise in the word of God.

*Neal Prather, pastor  
Bethlehem Baptist Church  
Dreyfus*

## Thank you

It was nine months ago when we arrived to Louisville. Time is going fast, and we will leave the U.S. June 1 and go back to Estonia. The purpose of our being here was to study at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and prepare for teaching and working in our country.

My wife, Tahti, took some classes in music and children's Sunday school. She has several plans of how to continue work in our church. It is a great experience to see organization and methods of working in American churches.

I spent most of my time in the library, preparing my lessons in psychology of religion and pastoral care. I had also the privilege to take some

wonderful classes in these subjects. Beginning Sept. 1, I will teach at Tartu University and at Baptist Theological Seminary in Estonia. This knowledge and information I take to my home country was supplied here.

We want to express our thank-you to Southern Seminary for all possibilities we have had here. As well, we appreciate all helpful Americans praying for us, giving us rides, inviting us, teaching us and supporting us in many different ways.

The United States will stay in our memories as a country of smiling people and devoted Christians, a country of cars, TVs, lawyers and large distances.

*Tonu Lehtsaar  
Louisville & Estonia*

## We're accountable

I do not know whether I am conservative, liberal, middle-of-the-road or fundamentalist. I believe in salvation by grace through Jesus Christ. I am against abortion and believe God is not pleased with homosexuality. I believe in the true and living God who said, "I will have no other Gods before me."

I keep hearing things like, "The convention is on the verge of splitting." It already has. I get mail from many groups who say they do not want to be part of any split, but they urge me to lead my people to support their particular causes. (Our mission gifts amount to 22 percent of our gross income.)

There are two groups within the convention who have set up idols of theology and philosophy and spend more time worshipping them than spreading the good news. We speak of "brotherhood" when we are engaged in the most sordid of "ecclesiastical politics."

Because of the political situation in Europe, countries have been opened up to the teachings of Christ as has not been known for many years. Instead of taking advantage of this great thing God has done, we, over 15 million Southern Baptists, spend our time and resources fighting among ourselves. We are closing instead of opening seminaries and firing instead of enlisting. I certainly do not have the privi-

lege nor awesome responsibility to judge my fellow man, but this I know: We will all be held accountable before God.

We would do well to read Genesis 35:2.

*George T. Waddle, pastor  
West Side Baptist Church  
Berea*

## 100% what?

I had to laugh when I read of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Trustee David Miller's admonition: "Why should we be satisfied with men who are 95 percent correct when there are hundreds of men who are 100 percent correct?"

Such a statement is incredibly arrogant. How can anyone claim to possess 100 percent correctness in anything, much less in theological matters. As our pastor pointed out in a sermon regarding God's unsearchable judgments and our inability to know his mind, God's paths are beyond man's tracing out. Oh, sure, we can discern the broad strokes of his plan, but it seems Trustee Miller and other fundamentalists claim to have exact, precise, microscopic, even "100 percent correctness" regarding God's will and ways.

Can it be we actually have attained a state of affairs in which our trustees have become infallible interpreters of the will of God? In their quest for "100 percent correct men" (and make no mistake, they do mean "men") these political appointees have moved beyond infallibility of the Bible to infallibility of their interpretation of the Bible. I wonder how many of these "power brokers" can actually read the Greek New Testament? I'd say it's a neat trick to be able to interpret infallibly something they can't even read. To do that would require correctness exceeding 100 percent.

Stand by for the next wave of (pseudo) orthodoxy. I predict we will soon see living examples of "men" who claim fundamental correctness at 110, 120, even 150 percent levels.

*Gary L. Millsap  
Louisville*

## Help for women

Thank you for the domestic violence coverage (WR, April 28). It

made a significant contribution to informing the public.

All of us must raise the awareness of this widespread problem. Here are some facts:

■ A Harris Poll concluded 10 percent of married women in Kentucky have been victims of family violence at least once in the last year.

■ A U.S. woman is more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped or killed by a male partner than any other assailant.

■ At least 3 million to 4 million American women are beaten each year by a husband or boyfriend.

■ One-third of police calls are related to spouse abuse.

■ In 1991, 71 domestic homicides occurred in Kentucky.

■ One of every 12 women is battered while she is pregnant.

■ Twenty percent of emergency room visits by women are attributed to beatings.

The Center for Women and Families in Louisville houses a 70-bed Spouse Abuse Shelter and a R.A.P.E. Relief Center. We serve a 14-county area and are open 24 hours a day to receive calls from victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

We encourage people to call us in Louisville at (502) 581-7200 and in Shelbyville at (502) 633-7800. Collect calls are accepted.

Our shelter is the third-largest in the nation and will serve over 800 women and their children this year. We stand ready to help women in crisis.

*Reba S. Cobb, executive director  
Center for Women & Families  
Louisville*

## Sign, please

Editor's Note: All letters to the editor must be signed in order to be considered for publication.

However, we reserve the right to withhold a writer's name, on request.

Two other notes about letters:

■ Letters must be no longer than 250 words.

■ Letters from out of state, except for letters from missionaries, are not considered for publication. This policy allows Kentucky Baptists the greatest access to the Baptist Forum section.

*Marv Knox*

## A troubling in the night

Past our usual "lights out" time of around 11:30, we had been out with friends and the clock had moved well beyond midnight before I finally turned out my overhead bed light.

At 3:05 a.m., according to our luminated bedside clock, I was awakened by an intruder. He was under our bed. When I raised my head from the pillow to get a more accurate fix on his location, he became still.

I lay there, wide awake by then, waiting for the next sound. It came soon. However one may wish to describe the sound of a cricket, I have no decent word in my vocabulary to describe it when it comes in the midst of sleep.

It is a hopeless feeling in the middle of the night; almost as hopeless as during those nights in Shelbyville when our black lab, Strock, would tree a possum in our back yard. One night I had to kill the possum before he would stop barking.

I had to kill the possum before he would stop barking.

Actually, on the night before, another cricket had been at it, but it was just under my night table and I got him before we had fallen off to sleep.

However, this cricket was somewhere on the floor about the middle of our king-size bed. I didn't even try.

I turned one ear against the pillow and pulled the cover over the other. Still the sound persisted,

stopping only for a few minutes when I bounced the bed with my body.

I considered going down to the tool box in the garage for the putty ear-plugs my son had given me a few days before. But I decided that if I exerted myself that much, I wouldn't get back to sleep.

Sometime after 3:20 a.m., I finally fell off to sleep again. By morning, the "cricking," or whatever you call it, had stopped. But I knew that cricket was still there somewhere; waiting until night. And I knew I couldn't handle many nights like that.

In a way, as I have reflected on this, it's the way I feel about the strife and struggle in the Southern Baptist Convention.

It interferes with our mission; it saps our emotional energy. Just when you hope things may be getting "quiet" or "better," the "cricking" starts again.

I am not going to presume that all we need to do is "find the cricket and kill it." But I am lamenting the fact that this "cricket" may sooner or later take away our vital energy.

In the meantime, like losing sleep, it makes us all grouchy with one another.

I'll take care of the cricket at my house, you can count on it! However, I can't exterminate the "cricket" under our Southern Baptist bed. Problem is, the partners in the bed no longer hug and snuggle.

Really then, I think it's fair to say that the problem is with the bed partners ... not the "cricket."

If they could find a mutually agreeable way to snuggle, or even hold hands again, they would solve the "cricket" problem in a hurry!

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

## ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

## Demand character, vision, courage, sense & faith

Are you going to vote next week?

Kentucky's primary election is Tuesday, May 26. If we follow the lead of most post-Super Tuesday states, many—maybe a majority—of Kentucky voters will sit this election out.

The reasons are as plenteous as the voters, but apathy seems to be paramount. And it's hard to blame the folks who "vote" by staying at home.

To begin with, the presidential nominations practically are a done deal. Barring a cataclysm, George Bush and Bill Clinton will carry the banners for their parties. The only real suspense this year is whether Ross Perot is going to get enough signatures to show up on ballots in all 50 states next fall.

Second, expectations are low. People don't think the choice they make in the polling booth will change their lives. Candidate A might differ from Candidate B on some issues, but by the time the winner rumbles with Congress, wrangles with the courts, fusses over the opinion polls and lets inertia grab him by the tie, he probably won't get much done.

Third, the whole issue seems far-removed. After the president deals with global problems and politics, he doesn't have much time for Joe and Jane Voter. Why bother with a president when the economic and ethical decisions you make in everyday living have a greater impact on the whole world?

Fourth, expectations are low. If this sounds redundant, it's because they're really, really low.

So, how will American voters go about choosing a president? A study conducted by the Barna Research Group in Glendale, Calif., revealed a range of issues voters will examine when they pick a president. (See "Crime concerns evangelicals most," WR, May 12, page 7.) Those issues include crime, enforcement of drug laws, the economy, public education, health care, abortion, welfare policies, defense spending, environmental policy and women's rights.

Researcher George Barna's data is interesting. It particularly contrasts the perspectives of evangelical Christians and non-evangelicals. It helps us understand how our worldview shapes what we seek in our political leaders.

The issues Barna studied represent the most pressing concerns of our world. They are specific and well-defined and important. But they are not comprehensive. We need a way to examine other less-tangible qualities which can determine presidential ability. Five come readily to mind:

■ **Character.** This is more than a question of marital fidelity or parental wisdom. Does the candidate have a well-defined sense of values that will provide the foundation for making vital decisions? Does the candidate understand that ethics are more than public opinion and the fine print on a contract? Will the candidate function the same in a closed room as before television cameras? Can the candidate withstand the closest scrutiny and emerge uncompromised and able to say, "Follow me"?

■ **The "vision thing."** Does the candidate know where our country and the world need to go in the next two decades? Does the candidate

care more about the issues than the voters' opinions about the candidate's opinion on the issues? A refreshingly perceptive candidate would fire the pollsters and hire experts to study the world's pressing concerns and offer solutions.

■ **Courage.** Is the candidate brave enough to fly in the face of public opinion in order to do the right thing? Will the candidate risk re-election in order to be just and fair? Can the candidate buck the party bureaucrats and special-interest insiders? Will the candidate risk personal financial loss rather than become the victim of rich PACs?

■ **Common sense.** Can the candidate put together an administration that can function with Congress and the courts? Can the candidate design programs that will be effective on the farm, in the city, out in the suburbs? Can the candidate lead all of us to understand the practicality of living within our means—as a nation as well as individuals? Can the candidate figure out what works—and do it?

■ **Faith.** This is a ticklish area for Baptists, who have believed in and fought for separation of church and state. We would not expect a president to coerce the people to accept his personal religious beliefs. But we can expect the candidate to be a person of faith: Who trusts God to provide insight and wisdom beyond human capacity. Who tries to see the world through Creator eyes, loving the unlovely and seeking to redeem the vicious. Who seeks what's best for all, not just a special few.

Don't expect those traits to show up on any party's platform. They won't be the criteria of the power brokers. Still, we have a right to demand character, vision, courage, common sense and faith from our leaders.

Marv Knox

## Support your association

Church historian Bill Leonard offers a prediction that should be encouraging to Baptist associations.

"Churches will give greater attention to local and regional alignments ...," Leonard said in a report on Southern religion in the year 2002, published in *The Alabama Baptist*.

A corollary—"denominations will be forced to re-form and reorder their structure, identity and activity at every level"—also impacts associations.

Christians, like others in society, understand that personalized and localized ministry and outreach work best in our changing world. That's good news for associations, which exist at the local level to enable Baptists to do collectively what they can't do individually.

The challenge is to dream the right dreams and pool the necessary resources to meet the needs.

This is Associational Emphasis Week. Pray for and support your local association.

Marv Knox

**American voters are apathetic partly because our leaders have taught us not to expect much.**

**Associations can be on the cutting edge of ministry in the midst of change.**

## You don't have to soar in space to know how an astronaut feels

There we were—in the kitchen, fixing breakfast—when a sense of déjà vu overcame me.

The morning news was beaming from the TV, and Katie Couric was talking to some astro-physicist about the space shuttle Endeavour. Its crew had spent two days trying to rope a messed-up (scientists don't use technical terms like "messed up," but that's the name for it) satellite.

An engineer also was explaining how difficult it is to snap a hydraulic-powered, gravity-defying, anti-floating-off-into-space doo-hicky onto the back of a satellite. He sounded a little more high-tech, but it reminded me of what the plumber says when he tells you he can't fix your toilet until next Monday.

Then they showed the astronaut, Pierre

Thuot. Out in space, standing on something that looked like a tractor seat attached to a light pole. He had this big metal gripper, and he was trying to poke it into the back of the satellite.

He couldn't make it work. The widget wouldn't fit into the wodget.

And that's when the amazing sensation set in. "I know how that guy feels; I've been there before," I told myself.

Like nearly every boy my age, I grew up with NASA and the space program. My kiddie shampoo came in a bottle

that looked like the Gemini rocket. Besides cowboys, my heroes have always been astronauts. My folks let me stay up late to watch Neil Armstrong take "one giant leap for mankind" on the moon.

I always wanted to go into space. If they sold tickets, if I could afford one and if my insurance would cover me (three mighty big if's), I'd go before you could count down from 10.

But since I've never been in space, I don't know what it really feels like to be an astronaut. However, watching that

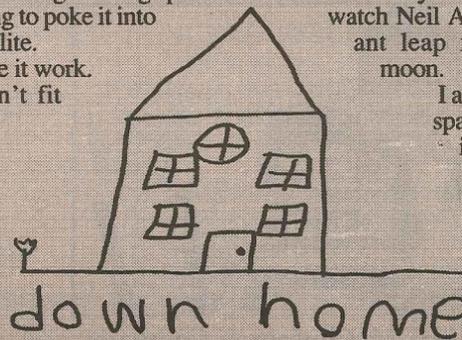
fellow up there try to hook the satellite, I recognized what one astronaut felt: Sheer frustration.

You don't need zero-gravity and a three-bezillion-dollar space suit to recognize the emotion that comes when things don't work right.

Any parent who ever read the words "some assembly required" knows what that astronaut was going through. "Flap A" never, never fits in "Slot B."

So next Christmas Eve, when your kids' toys don't fit together, pretend you're enjoying the emotions of an astronaut. Then thank the good Lord that (1) you've got both feet on the ground and (2) the piece of junk you're working on doesn't cost billions of bucks.

Marv Knox



## Missionaries entering world's most atheistic nation

### Albania at a glance

- Population: 3.3 million.
- Location: Between Greece and Yugoslavia.
- Cars were illegal and impossibly costly until last year.
- Shoppers say milk has not been available at any price for two years.
- Meat is expensive when available and of inferior quality. "You don't know if you're buying lamb or donkey," one shopper explained.
- Albania has Europe's highest infant mortality rate: 40 of every 1,000 babies die before their first birthday.
- Despite its recent history as an atheistic country, Albania was one of the first countries in which there were converts to Christianity in the first century A.D. In those days Albania was known as Illyria. The Apostle Paul preached at the port city of Durres.

Continued from page 1

tists, Canadian Baptists and the Baptist World Alliance arrived April 8 at the state-operated bakery just outside Tirana. The rest was expected by month's end. The European Baptist Federation also has promised to send urgently needed medical supplies.

Baptists are far from being the first Christian workers in Albania.

A group called the Albanian Encouragement Project is an umbrella organization helping coordinate the work of 25 mission groups, including Campus Crusade for Christ, Youth With a Mission, Operation Mobilization, Trans World Radio and numerous Europe-based groups.

### Thieves didn't stop shipment of Baptist flour

TIRANA, Albania (BP)—Gunmen failed to hijack a Baptist shipment of flour sent to ease food shortages in Albania when delivery drivers refused to hand it over.

Drivers of five 18-wheel trucks carrying the flour said three men stopped their convoy soon after they crossed into Albania from Yugoslavia in April. One of the would-be hijackers aimed a pistol at the lead truck driver and demanded keys to the vehicles.

But the Albanian driver refused to hand over the keys, telling the gunman to shoot if he wanted to. The hijackers said they were so impressed with the driver's bravery they let the convoy proceed.

The trucks, filled with 142 tons of flour provided by Baptists, arrived safely at a bakery in Tirana, Albania's capital city.

The flour originally was to arrive by ship at an Albanian port city near Tirana. But crowded shipping schedules caused the trucks to be unloaded in Yugoslavia. The trucks were delayed five days in the city of Titograd, awaiting paperwork and other clearances to be processed.

The shipment represented about half of \$100,000 worth of flour—270 tons in all—to be sent from a supplier in Italy. The rest was due to arrive later in April.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board provided \$50,000 of the total, the Canadian Baptist Federation contributed \$25,000 and the Baptist World Alliance gave \$25,000. Delivery of the flour was coordinated by the European Baptist Federation.

Albanian government representatives repeatedly expressed gratitude to Baptists for their assistance. They said the country needs 2,700 tons of flour daily to produce bread, a food staple in Albania. But their supplies have been just a few days ahead of running out in recent weeks.

The wheat flour was to be baked into loaves of bread and sold for 10 cents each through government bread distribution centers.

Albanians said the bread is inexpensive, even in their fractured economy. In Tirana citizens stand in long lines around the centers.

Youth With a Mission alone has 55 workers in Albania and Operation Mobilization has 15, according to Paul Murray, an Australian supported by the Assemblies of God who coordinates the Encouragement project.

But Christians aren't the only ones setting up shop in Albania. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and members of the Baha'i faith also have sent workers to Albania. Some Christian workers expect Muslims to make a strong effort to re-start the once-dominant Islamic faith in Albania.

Historically Albania was considered to be about 80 percent Muslim, with the rest of the population divided among Roman Catholic and Orthodox

churches. But two generations of Albanians have grown up with virtually no religious instruction.

All religion was banned in Albania for decades. In 1967 the government closed 2,169 mosques, churches and convents and ordered them destroyed or converted to secular use.

An Albanian physician of Muslim background waved away questions about religious faith. "My brain has been closed by 50 years of communist propaganda," he said.

The Mosque of Et-hem Bey on Skanderberg Square in central Tirana is now heavily attended for prayer times. Several Catholic and Orthodox church buildings in the city remain

standing, but appeared in poor condition. Leka Tasi, government secretary for the Orthodox church, said renovating the buildings is a key need.

Evangelical Christians in Albania number 300 at most, Murray said. A recent evangelistic crusade led by Swedish evangelist Ulf Ekman and his Word of Life Church was attended by 20,000 people. A church growing out of the effort now has about 100 members, according to an Ekman staff member.

Although it's been impossible for decades to send missionaries into Albania, Southern Baptists have provided \$30,000 annually for Albanian-language radio broadcasts.



### Smoky Mountain Passion Play and Damascus Road

At Townsend, Tennessee

June 5 — October 31, 1992 — 20th Anniversary Season

Special church discounts for groups of 15 or more. For reservations and information, write or call: Smoky Mountain Passion Play, Townsend, TN 37882 • Telephone (615) 448-2244 or (615) 984-4111.

### Plan to Attend the Youth Evangelism Conference '92

#### "Celebrate Christ"

June 19-20

Frankfort Civic Center

(Registration fee: \$3 per person)



TRUTH

#### FRIDAY EVENING

Theme: Celebrate Christ in Salvation

5:30\* Doors open to Civic Center—registration begins in the lobby for those not pre-registered

7:00\* Celebrate Christ Rally Begins

- Kevin Landgrave and BEYOND: Praise Music and Musical Inspiration
- Mark McClintock: Worship through Ventriloquism
- TRUTH: One of America's Premier Christian Music Groups
- Ike Reighard: Pastor and Youth Speaker

#### SATURDAY MORNING

Theme: Celebrate Christ in Living

9:00\* Registration in lobby of Civic Center

9:30\* Celebrate Christ Rally Continues

- Kevin Landgrave and BEYOND
- SonShare: BSU Drama Team
- TRUTH
- Ike Reighard

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Theme: Celebrate Christ in Witnessing

1:00\* Celebrate Christ Rally Challenge

- Kevin Landgrave and BEYOND
- SonCelebration: BSU Music Team
- TRUTH
- Ike Reighard

\* All listed times are Eastern Daylight Time



Mark McClintock & Company



Landgrave



Reighard

Sponsored by the Office for Evangelism • Kentucky Baptist Convention • Bill Jagers, Director

## Children's videos linked to Mormons

ATLANTA (BP)—Videos produced by Family Entertainment Network have direct links to Mormonism and are not appropriate for Christians seeking wholesome entertainment, claims the leader of a Mormon watchdog organization.

Mike Reynolds, director of Utah Missions Inc., says the videos introduce Mormon theology even though they are marketed as Christian material.

For example, lyrics from one of the videos say Jesus paid for sins as he sweat drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. The video also portrays the angel Gabriel telling Mary that her child will be the son of God but it obscures the teaching that Mary was a virgin.

The Mormon church is considered a Christian deviation group by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board interfaith witness department.

Two of the four owners of Family Entertainment Network are Mormons, Reynolds said, as are at least some of the artists and music writers for the videos.

## Chicago church defaced after protests

CHICAGO (BP)—Two weeks after radical homosexual groups attempted to disrupt Easter services at Armitage Baptist Church in Chicago, the church building was defaced with spray-painted slogans.

Pastor Charles Lyons said he believes the two incidents are related, the most recent event occurring on the court date set for seven people arrested in the Easter disturbance.

"When people are on your case over a period of time and threaten you, and then ... an act of violence is committed against you, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to get the connection," Lyons said.

The graffiti was painted in bright

red letters 18-24 inches tall and 25-30 feet long sometime during the night of May 6-7. The vandals wrote, "Your religion enslaves me" and "Prolife kills women" on the building.

"This is a hate crime committed by people who believe they alone are entitled to an opinion," Lyons asserted. "These are acts of intimidation and repression against the entire religious community."

No charges have been filed in the latest incident, the pastor said.

"No one's going to be charged because... the law enforcement people are not going to pursue it," Lyons stated. "In the scheme of things, if this was a black church and those were

racial slogans, they would be on it like flies; if this were a synagogue and they were Nazi slogans, they would be on it like flies.

"It's not on anybody's political agenda" to pursue hate crimes of this sort against a Baptist church, Lyons added.

As for the court case involving the Easter Sunday incident, a Chicago judge referred the church and defendants to a "center for conflict resolution" pending an Aug. 28 court date, said Dave Lilligren, administrative pastor at the church.

The judge's decision to refer the case to a mediator was done despite protests from prosecutors.

## Gay activists confront Anita Bryant on tour

HOUSTON (BP)—Homosexual activists confronted Christian singer-entertainer Anita Bryant at a Houston Baptist Book Store May 6 while she was signing copies of her new book, "A New Day."

The book was published recently by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press and has sold more than 27,000 copies in its first month on the market. The book deals with how Bryant put her

life back together after the collapse of her marriage and singing career 12 years ago.

The collapse was caused in part, she says, by a stand she took in the late 1970s against a Dade County, Fla., referendum that would have required the hiring of homosexuals as teachers in private religious schools.

Between six and eight members of the gay rights group Queer Nation showed up at the Houston store to protest Bryant's stand against homosexuality, according to Gini McIver, a sales supervisor who was working at the Houston store at the time of the confrontation.

"One of them came up to the

counter and bought one of Anita's books," McIver said. "He had on a Queer Nation T-shirt."

"He got in line with some of his friends and when he got up to her he asked her to autograph his copy. The next thing I heard was somebody yelling and later I found out he tore up the book and was throwing the pages at her."

The Houston Chronicle quoted the man, Brian Bradley, as saying to Bryant, "You're a vile person and anything but Christian," adding, "... you are getting nowhere with your hatred." He then "lightly tossed" pages of the book which landed on her arms and upper body, the newspaper said.

## New NEA head pledges change

WASHINGTON (EP)—The concerns of taxpayers and Congress will be taken into consideration in future grant-making decisions by the National Endowment for the Arts, the agency's new head told a House appropriations subcommittee May 5.

"If we find a proposal that does not have the widest audience ... even though it may have been done very sincerely and with the highest intentions, we just can't afford to fund that," Anne-Imelda Radice said.

Radice replaced John Frohnmayer, who was fired by the Bush administration Feb. 21 after three years as NEA head. Frohnmayer resisted critics who insisted that public money should not be used for art which outraged public morals. He said he did

not want to become a "decency czar."

Radice showed a willingness to veto grants for sexually explicit art. "The title 'decency czar' is a sad way to describe the role of the chairman of the arts endowment," she said. But she added, "When a decision has to be made by the chairman, the decision will be made."

Radice told the Washington Post she believes there is a difference between art depicting nudity and art depicting nakedness. Both the American public and Congress have said they don't think tax money should be used to fund art "when the obvious sexual nature, sexual message, is the only thing you see or the first thing you see or the overwhelming thing that you experience," she said.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**NEEDED:** Permanent, part-time music director. Salaried. Contact Garden Hills Baptist Church, 1601 Bloomington Road, Champaign, Ill. 61821 (217) 356-0891.

**FOR SALE:** LaserMaster 19" hi-res desktop publishing monitor, video controller and laser printer controller, \$1,495. Includes many extras. (502) 244-1685.

**NEEDED:** Full-time minister of outreach and youth. Send resumés to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 133, Sellersburg, Ind. 47172. Phone (812) 246-2563.

**AVAILABLE:** Roger Cowen, music evangelist. Call for booking revival and concert dates. Opening for summer and fall 1992. (502) 267-7247 leave message.

**ATTENTION:** If you are doing business with National Church Publications of Elizabethton, Tenn., please contact Jim Clontz, (502) 267-9108 evenings, (502) 245-4101 weekdays.

## Kentucky Alumni of Southern Seminary

**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE** to come home to Southern Seminary.

Remember what it was like? Singing together in Alumni Chapel. Taking classes from some of the greatest minds in theological education. Making friendships to last a lifetime.

You can relive some of those memorable times on Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7, during our first Homecoming Festival sponsored by the Alumni/ae Association.

Among the highlights:

- *Back by Popular Demand.* Reminisce with retired faculty such as Findley Edge, Wayne Oates, J. J. Owens, Wayne Ward and Forrest Heeren.
- *Picnic on the Grounds.* Lunch, hot air balloons and musical entertainment in the Josephus Bowl.
- *Town Meeting with Dr. Honeycutt.* Dialogue with the President about the future of SBTS.
- *Autograph Party.* Current and retired faculty will be on hand to autograph their books.
- *Faculty Appreciation Service.* A special alumni/ae tribute to our faculty, including presentation of a thanksgiving offering to faculty.
- *Worship Service.* Planned and led by alumni/ae in Alumni Chapel on Sunday morning.

**Registration** (including continental breakfast and picnic lunch):

\$15 per adult; \$5 per child, \$35 maximum per family

Children's day care and day camp available for additional fee; advance registration required.

Register today by calling 502-897-4700.

## BRIEFS

■ **The United Methodist General Conference** May 11 reaffirmed its 20-year stance that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. By a vote of 710-238, the denomination's top legislative assembly retained a 17-word phrase first heard in 1972 that has become the controversial keystone of the church's policy. In affirming the stance, delegates rejected the recommendation of a majority of a four-year study committee to delete the phrase because of the "lack of a common mind" in the church.

■ **The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** will consider a proposed social statement on human sexuality in 1995 rather than 1993. Church leaders cited requests from many sources to allow more time for study of the issue. The statement will address sexual abuse, homosexual relationships and sexual relations outside marriage.

■ **The American Bible Society** has produced a new Scripture booklet designed to bring comfort to families caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease. "God's Love for Us Is Sure and Strong" uses Scriptures to address questions such as "Why me?" "How can I cope?" and "Am I really doing enough?"

## Georgetown graduates 191

GEORGETOWN—Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson told the graduating class of Georgetown College to seek the challenges of a new era rather than be content with the world's social and political ills.

Abramson addressed 191 Georgetown graduates, their families and friends gathered May 9 on Giddings Lawn at the campus.

"These are confusing times," Abramson said. "Certainly, they are challenging times. Since this graduating class entered Georgetown College, the world does not look anything like it looked four years ago."

He cited the fall of communism, the surprise of war in the Persian Gulf, the recession, changes in education, the health care crisis and the environment as examples.

"The nation is asking one very big question: 'What's happening to this country?'" Abramson explained. "You can look at these times as depressing, a bummer, a downer. Or you can see them as I see them, as an opportunity, a challenge, as standing on the brink of a whole new era when we can remake the world into a better place."

The 1990s should serve as a "wake-up call" to society, he continued. "It's time to wake up and smell the coffee and go to work. Now we stand on the brink of a new millennium and a new age. It is being driven by scientific progress."

Abramson told the graduates they are the ones who can make this new age work. "Don't lose faith, don't lose heart, and never quit trying," he advised.

Also during the ceremonies, Georgetown President William Crouch conferred honorary degrees to Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; Margaret Hombeck Greene, president of the Kentucky Division of South Central Bell Telephone; and William Messner Jr., president emeritus of the Cincinnati Council on World Affairs.

Also during the ceremonies, Georgetown President William Crouch conferred honorary degrees to Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; Margaret Hombeck Greene, president of the Kentucky Division of South Central Bell Telephone; and William Messner Jr., president emeritus of the Cincinnati Council on World Affairs.

## Four Kentuckians to serve overseas

RICHMOND, Va.—Four Kentuckians have been assigned to work overseas through the International Service Corps unit of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

David and Ana D'Amico will serve for seven months in Spain, where he will teach seminary students. D'Amico is a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Mrs. D'Amico is

the owner of Intellex in Louisville. They are members of Walnut Street Baptist Church.

Tommy and Mary Elizabeth Halsell will serve for four months in Germany, where he will be an interim pastor.

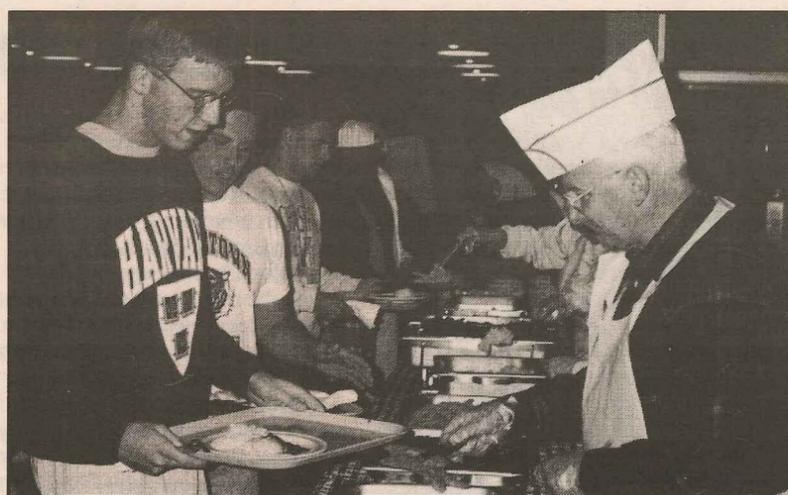
Halsell is assistant dean of Boyce Bible School in Louisville. They are members of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Louisville.

## WMU gives Can Do awards

Fifty-one Kentucky Baptist churches received "Can Do" awards from Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

The awards grew out of a year-long emphasis on starting new WMU organizations, said Dolores Gilliland, Kentucky WMU executive director. A total of 69 new organizations—such as Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Acteens, Baptist Young Women, Baptist Women—have been started, she said.

Churches recognized for new organizations are Second, Russellville; Lewisport; New Mount Carmel, New Concord; Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Ohio; Brush Grove, Willisburg; Island; Maceo; Third, Owensboro; Farmdale, Frankfort; Pleasant Ridge, Frankfort; Melber; Viola, Hickory; First, Morganfield; First, Flatwoods; First Southern Baptist Chapel, Greenup Association; First, Newcastle; Eminence; First, London; Blue Lick, Stanford; Second, Madisonville; East Cadiz; Hurricane, Cadiz; Cedar Creek, Louisville; Lakewood, Louisville; Westport Road, Louisville; Upton; First, Greenville; First, Central City; Cedar Grove, Shepherdsville; New Salem, Coxs Creek; Elsmere; Erlanger; Hartford; Repton Missionary, Marion; Immanuel, Pikeville; Lakeside Mission, Nancy; Pleasant View, Somerset; Hempridge, Waddy; Highland, Shelbyville; Waddy; Liberty, Campbellsville; Bethlehem, Cunningham; First, Clinton; First, Barlow; Calvary Missionary, Paducah; Highview, Paducah; First, Lone Oak; First, Paducah; Twelfth Street, Paducah; West End, Paducah.

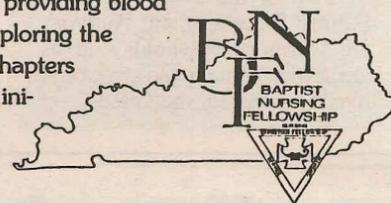


**BRAIN POWER** Joe Lewis, academic dean at Georgetown College, serves midnight brunch to study-worn students May 5. College administrators serve the end-of-semester meal at the beginning of final exam weeks in the fall and spring. (Photo by Marc Whitt)

## Missions Involvement—Nurses

Baptist Nursing Fellowship offers encouragement and opportunity for missions involvement for those in the nursing profession. Encouraging missionary nurses, praying for them and serving as volunteers on a short-term basis—these are part of Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

Local chapters of BNF find ways to meet needs in their own communities such as providing blood pressure checks. Several are exploring the parish nursing concept. Local chapters have organized or have had an initial meeting at Harrodsburg, Stanton, Somerset, Lewisport and Campbellsville.



Contact your Kentucky WMU office for ideas and suggestions: (502) 245-4101 · P.O. Box 43433 Middletown, Ky. 40253-0433

## RECOGNITION OF KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

The 1992 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 1991 through August 31, 1992.

These persons may be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has had an impact beyond the local church.

We need your help to gather the following information:

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of birth
3. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
4. Name of church where member, association, state
5. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information as quickly as possible to:

James E. Hill  
4727 L&N Turnpike  
Magnolia, Kentucky 42757

These obituary entries will be reported to the 1992 KBC annual meeting in Louisville. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

We are grateful to you.  
James E. Hill, 1991-92 Obituaries Report

## Memories to last a lifetime

When Juanita Wisman remembers her 6th grade year, she remembers Ramona. It was 1940, a difficult time for the country and for many families. Ramona was one of five siblings who went to school with Juanita and lived close by at Louisville Baptist Orphans Home, then located at 1st and St. Catherine Streets in Louisville. The group of siblings had come from Hodgenville after both parents died.

At first, Juanita remembers thinking of Ramona as "unusually sweet." Her bright red hair and talkative demeanor contributed to the aura of innocence surrounding Ramona.

Juanita asked her friend to visit her home several times, before she finally agreed to ask permission. The next day, after a pleasant visit, Juanita offered to walk with Ramona halfway home. When they rounded the corner and Ramona told her friend she lived in the orphanage with her brothers and sisters, Juanita couldn't believe it. Later she came to visit Ramona at her home—Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

"They took such good care of them," says Juanita. Impressed by

the attention and care each child received, Juanita and her family later invited all the brothers and sisters over for a meal.

Ramona, who by all accounts would have been alone in the world, was never alone. "She had a family just like me," Juanita says.

This sixth grade acquaintance had such an impact on Juanita Wisman's life that when a younger sister was born into Juanita's family, she chose to name it after her good friend Ramona.

But Juanita's connection with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children didn't end there. It continued on, after the home was relocated to its present site in Middletown (now the Spring Meadows campus).

Juanita and her husband have since sponsored a child for Christmas. They remain interested in Baptist childcare work.

"I will always have a love for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children," says Juanita, "Because I will always remember Ramona."

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

## HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

# CHURCHES

## Kentucky churches have names for all imaginations

Continued from page 1

an old iron-making furnace that used to have a prominent place in the area.

"All the grounds belonged to Iron Works," Withrow said. "So when we were established in 1895, we adopted the name of the community."

Coal companies have determined other church and community names. David Banks, pastor of Premium Baptist Church in Whitesburg, said for years their community simply was

identified by the dominant industry of the area. The name changed as new coal companies took over: Dalna, Hot Spot, Premium.

Though some people would like the name to revert back to Hot Spot, Banks didn't think the church would follow suit. He said Premium was a better church name than Hot Spot.

Even history buffs can learn a lesson or two from stories behind church names.

Ken Fendley, minister of music at Great Crossing Baptist Church in Georgetown, explained how the church got its name 208 years ago: "Back when the buffalo migrated across the country, they crossed the Elkhorn Creek right by the church."

Big Bone Baptist Church in Union was so named for its proximity to the Big Bone State Park, church member W.O. Hubbard said.

Hubbard explained that long ago,

the ancient Mastodon would get mired in the salt licks off the Ohio River and die. Bone fossils may be found there today.

Often, churches and their surrounding communities adopt the names of prominent figures within the community.

Teetersville Baptist Church and Teetersville community in Harlan, for example, were named after a Mr. Teeters, who used to run a store and the post office in town, said one church member.

Leslie Jewell, pastor of Fry Baptist Church in Greensburg, said that church has a rich history: "Two local men fought for Col. Fry in the Civil War, so the area was named after Fry. One of those soldiers, James Whitlock, gave the plot of land for our church to build on."

Iris Calhoun, member of Benedict Baptist Church in Dwale, said the church was named for D.W. Benedict, pastor of the church that established the mission in 1952.

Bandana Baptist Church in Bandana seems to be named for a somewhat less-prominent community figure. Church member Juanita Crice said the local explanation for the name was that it came from a peddler who regularly walked a five-mile stretch up the Ohio River with his wares wrapped in a bandana.

The town previously was called Skillet, for the pot the hobo left one time, Crice said.

Other Kentucky Baptist churches have names on common themes:

■ Cars: Fordsville Baptist Church and Chevrolet Baptist Church.

■ Nations: Egypt Baptist Church and Mexico Baptist Church.

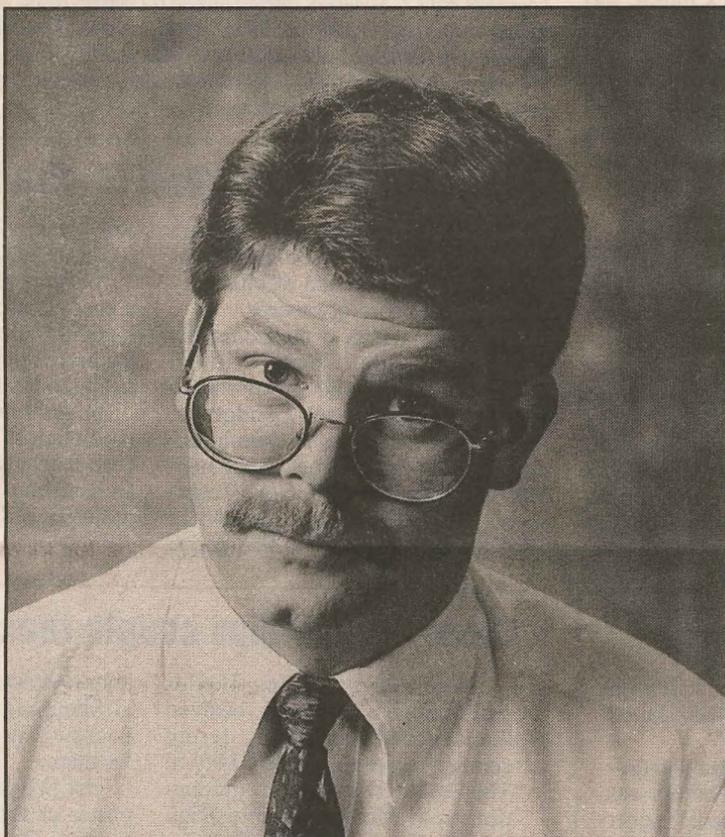
■ Colors: Black Jack Baptist Church, Blue Lick Baptist Church, Green Acres Baptist Church, Brownsville Baptist Church, Pink Ridge Missionary Baptist Church, Red Hill Baptist Church and Yellow Creek Baptist Church.

■ Fruits: Apple Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Plum Point Baptist Church, Cherry Corner Baptist Church, Grapevine Baptist Church and Fruit Hill Baptist Church.

■ Foreign words: Eureka Baptist Church and Koinonia Baptist Church.

■ Trees: Birch Lick Baptist Church, Oak Hill Baptist Church, Maple Grove Baptist Church and Pine Flat Baptist Church.

■ Purposes: Dedicated Baptist Church and Heavenbound Baptist Church.



## Extravagance among Christians may raise some eyebrows.

We are taught to be reasonable and restrained with possessions and money. To be extravagant is to be wasteful.

When Mary broke the jar of expensive perfume and poured the contents over Jesus' feet, Jesus used the incident to teach His audience about a different kind of extravagance: the extravagance of love.

Jesus praised Mary's loving extravagance as He does our generous prayers and offerings for reaching people and growing churches throughout America.

Your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will make a difference in the lives of millions of people reached by our home missionaries.

Although Easter has passed, it's not too late to offer a gift of extravagance to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. If you have already given, consider giving again to help meet the \$41 million goal.

Will you give extravagantly? The blessings are yours to claim.

A Time for  
**Extravagance**



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
National Goal \$41 Million

### A likeable name: New Mt. Pleasant

Anyone who wants to cover all the bases and choose a church name sure to please the most Kentuckians should pick New Mt. Pleasant.

Aside from the No. 1 choice of "First Baptist," those are the most frequently used words in names of Kentucky Baptist churches.

The most common name for a Kentucky Baptist church is something with the word "new" in it; Of the 99 churches with "new" in their names, 25 call themselves New Hope.

By comparison, only 15 Kentucky Baptist churches use the prefix "old" in their names.

Next in popularity are churches named after mountains: Mt. Nebo, Mt. Olivet, Mt. Zion. In all, 88 Kentucky Baptist churches carry such labels.

At least 56 churches want people to know they have something pleasant to offer or are located in a pleasant place. Common names are Pleasant Hope, Pleasant Valley, Pleasant Ridge.

Apparently, Kentucky Baptist churches are most likely to be found in the South and East parts of towns. There are 34 churches with "South" in their names, 31 with "East," 26 with "West" and 19 with North.

Other frequently used church names include Calvary (30), Bethel or Bethlehem (28), Liberty (21), Friendship (16), Union (15) Faith (14), Immanuel (14) Grace (12), Providence (12), Salem (12), Central (12), Macedonia (11), Highland (11), Hopewell (11), Fairview (11), Bethany (9), Emmanuel (9), Trinity (8), Concord (8), Corinth (8), Harmony (7), Victory (7), Antioch (7), Fellowship (7) and Good Hope (5).



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## KENTUCKY KERNELS

Elkhorn Baptist Association was the first Baptist association formed in Kentucky. The association was begun June 25, 1785, with five Regular Baptist churches represented.

Correction: Last week's Kentucky Kernel said the Kentucky Baptist Convention has received \$286 billion since 1925. That figure should be \$286 million.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **DAWSON SPRINGS**—David Fambrough has been called as pastor of First Church, having served eight years as pastor of First Church, Fredonia.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church called Michael Benham as minister of music and youth.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Isaac B. McDonald has completed a one-year interim pastorate at First Church, Dawson Springs. He is available for interim and pulpit supply and may be contacted at 412 Ridgecrest Rd., Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701; (502) 737-7731.

■ **KUTTAWA**—First Church held a note-burning ceremony, paying for construction of their new building in five years.

■ **LEITCHFIELD**—Jeff Jackson resigned as youth minister of First Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Harvey Richardson will retire after 16 years as pastor of Kenwood Church. A reception will be held in his honor June 14 from 2-4 p.m.

Sue Enoch has resigned as minister of childhood education at Crescent Hill Church to accept a similar position with Pelham Road Church in Greenville, S.C.

■ **MAGNOLIA**—Allen and Dolores Baugh, former directors of missions for Severns Valley Baptist Association, will be honored at Magnolia Church May 31 at 7:30 p.m. A reception will follow in the church fel-

lowship hall. Friends and former associates are invited to attend and/or send greetings, to Magnolia Baptist Church, 4727 L & N Turnpike, Magnolia, Ky. 42757.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Mid-Continent Baptist College recently held the Purchase Area Regional Ministers' Conference. New officers were elected and Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, spoke.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—Sara Spahr completes her term this month as interim minister of youth at First Church.

David Mears, former interim minister of music at First Church, has been called as pastor of Corinth Church in Vance, S.C.

■ **MORNINGVIEW**—Oak Island Church announces the graduation of their pastor, Wayne Whaley, from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

### MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **David and Cathy Brandon** have completed language study in France and arrived on the field. Their address is B.P. 2640, Bujumbura, Burundi.

■ **Nadine Lovan**, missionary to Ghana since 1958, has retired. She now resides at 940 Covington, Bowling Green, Ky. 42103.

■ **Jim and Betty McKinley**, missionaries to Bangladesh since 1958, also have retired. They may be addressed at 2903 Weissinger Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40241.



**RESOURCE DAY** Miss Kentucky, Sheri Plambeck, speaks to some of the 121 teen-agers attending the annual resource day sponsored by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in Louisville May 7. Speakers offered advice on employment, education, health and community resources. In addition, 38 exhibitors, ranging from Chick-Fil-A to the Center for Women and Families, were on hand to offer additional tips. The event is designed to provide resources that lead to successful independent living for teen-agers who have been part of the foster care system.

## Southern profs named to chairs, promoted

**LOUISVILLE**—Five professors at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have been named to chairs by action of the board of trustees.

Named to chairs at the Louisville school were John Dever, William Walker Brookes professor of church and community; Phil Landgrave, V.V. Cooke professor of church music; John Polhill, James Buchanan Harrison professor of New Testament; Thomas Smothers, Donald L. Williams professor of Old Testament;

and Marvin Tate, John R. Sampey professor of Old Testament.

Trustees also approved the promotions of church social work professor Patricia Bailey and Christian preaching professor Craig Loscalzo from assistant to associate professor.

In addition, trustees approved the promotion of Jon Rainbow, who has been teaching church social work as an assistant professor, to associate professor of Christian education.

## Homecoming leaves a warm afterglow

Days later we are still in the afterglow of a wonderful homecoming. The greatest thing about any homecoming is seeing old friends that one hasn't seen in many years, being together, warm fellowship. We had the largest group back ever.

A 1982 graduate came all the way from Canada, where he now lives, for the 10th anniversary of his class. The classes of 1942 and 1947, celebrating their 50th and 45th anniversaries, were back in nearly full strength after these many years. Folks came from as far away as California, New York, Florida, Iowa, Texas, Michigan, Missouri.

Our Craft House did a booming business, selling approximately \$2,500 worth. All this money goes to our student aid fund. Our juniors had a spring festival with many games, selling donated cakes baked by staff members, and grossed around \$1,000. About half of that was profit toward their senior trip next year to Washington and Colonial Williamsburg.

Our art and photography classes had a beautiful exhibit viewed by hundreds in our library. The dedication ceremonies for the new carillon in our chapel tower were inspiring, and the sound of the bells ringing old hymns at varying times is now a daily blessing. Our young people did three nights of wonderful performances of the musical "Oklahoma." We are selling videos of their splendid performance for \$5 each. The choir and band were excellent.

The following week our yearbooks arrived earlier than expected. We had a special assembly as yearbook honors were announced including Mister and Miss Oneida. Jim and Mary Ann Mallard received a standing ovation as the book was dedicated to them. They have been serving

seven years. Mrs. Mallard, grievously ill with brain cancer and confined to a wheelchair, shared the occasion.

Last Friday, our middle school choir and drama group did a splendid musical. All of this was memorized and beautifully performed. I never saw a group so young undertake such an ambitious production but they pulled it off in grand style. That evening we hosted over 500 athletes, managers and coaches of the seven schools of our athletic conference for dinner. Afterward our band played in our auditorium and team and individual awards were given to the seven schools.

I left with our choir at 9:30 a.m. Saturday for a weekend choir tour. We got back home just before 3 a.m. Monday, having covered 856 miles, singing four major concerts. The good people of Arlington Baptist several miles from the Missouri border fed us well that evening and folks from many churches of West Kentucky Association heard our choir sing. The people took us into their homes and fed us breakfast. Early Sunday we

were on our bus crossing the Mississippi River into Missouri, then a swing to Cairo, Ill., and back to First Baptist Church, Princeton, and a packed house for the morning service and a meal with them afterward.

That afternoon our choir sang various hymns for a very appreciative group at a nursing home in Kuttawa. That evening our choir sang to a large congregation representing at least 13 different churches at Dawson Baptist Church near Owensboro. They fed us afterward and we headed home for another busy school week.

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

### ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

## Clear Creek helps couple reach goals

West Liberty natives Charles and Marcia Evans both received their bachelor's degrees during commencement exercises May 8. They married soon after graduation from Morgan County High School. Chuck was not a Christian when they began to date. He remembers the night his life changed: "I was taking Marcia to Wednesday night service. We talked again about my salvation. I was ready that night. I pulled the car over to the side of the road and prayed to receive the Lord." They joined First Baptist Church, West Liberty.

Ten years after his conversion he was on the job as a strip mine heavy-equipment operator and looked down on the spot where he had been converted.

The Lord confirmed his calling to ministry. The night of his decision a man whom he and the pastor had worked with was converted.

They realized the need for additional training and Marcia secured information from several other schools. "Their emphasis was on singles with very little for families," she remarked. Chuck noted, "No one came close to offering the number of hours in Bible that Clear Creek has." After a campus trip with Pastor Philip Bar-

bour to deliver items for the annual Shopping Spree, they had no doubts Clear Creek was the place for them.

For two years Chuck was youth pastor at Lily Baptist Church in Corbin. The congregation ranked 10th in youth baptisms among Kentucky Baptist churches. After graduation they will move to the parsonage of Mannings Chapel Baptist Church, Newport, Tenn. Sunday school attendance averages 40, and 60 attend morning worship. The church also reaches out to the homeless.

When their youngest child, Jordan, goes to school, Marcia hopes to begin work on a teacher's certificate. They also have two daughters, Ashlee and Brittany. Marcia recalls, "I never thought I would go to college since we married young and had a family."

At Clear Creek it happens often. Chuck may want to go back and show his diploma to a negative teacher; he chose to listen to more positive influences and discovered Clear Creek fulfilled a promise, "We start where you are and help you reach your goals."

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



The Evans

Paid Column

## Pastor 'called' for new role in Sunday school

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)—A Phoenix pastor is now on the receiving end of a telephone ministry designed to reach people who cannot attend Sunday school.

First Southern Baptist Church of Phoenix, Ariz., has operated a telephone Sunday school class since 1978—and the newest member of the class is Gary Young, the pastor.

Young has had two rounds of chemotherapy after being diagnosed with lymphoma and has not been able to keep a full schedule at the church. But thanks to modern technology, he can keep in touch with members of his church while getting the rest he needs.

Every Sunday morning, a telephone operator calls each class member to stand by for a conference call. She then calls Tom Moore, the class teacher. After roll is taken, the class shares prayer requests and Moore leads the lesson.

Being a part of the class has been a blessing, Young said, and is much better than listening to radio or tapes.

"The great thing about it is that people talk back. It really is tremendous," he said.

In the beginning of the telephone ministry, Young said, the cost to the church was about \$5 per week. Since then the cost has risen to about \$55 per week. "But it was worth it because of the ministry to people," he said. "And it's still worth it."

Aside from a few technical difficulties (Cecil Stewart, the teacher when the ministry began, once had to teach from a phone booth), the class has run smoothly.

The teacher or another member of the class visits class members during the week and delivers quarterlies to them.

"I've taught Sunday school for a long time but never anything like this," Moore said. "I was a little apprehensive at first because there's no visible audience, but it is such a loving, caring group."

A ministry of this kind is vital to people who normally would be unable to attend Sunday school, Moore said. "It enables the church to minister to people who would get lost in the shuffle."

Needs in the class vary. Some, like one member with multiple sclerosis, are unable to attend church at all. Others, like Young, participate in the class at home and then are able to attend the regular worship service.

"(The class) helps them remain a vital part of the church—and they certainly are," Moore said.

After two rounds of chemotherapy, Young said, his tumor has shrunk more than 50 percent.

## Pastor puts out some fires, starts others

By Terri Lackey  
SBC Sunday School Board

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)—Earl Greene earns his living putting out fires. But he obeys his calling by starting them.

As deputy fire chief for the Clark County Fire Department, which services Las Vegas, Nev., Greene is in charge of the firefighters who answer daily calls to extinguish flames.

As pastor of Mount Charleston Baptist Church, 35 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Greene is in charge of starting fires in the hearts of his congregation.

Both jobs demand his 24-hour attention.

"I'm on call 24 hours a day—everyday—for both jobs," said the 41-year-old bivocational pastor. "Sometimes it gets tough. But it's a lot of fun."

Greene never expected his life would turn out as it did. He wanted to be a lawyer, but the tests proved too menacing. After graduating from college in Oklahoma in 1973, Greene's uncle suggested he move to Las Vegas to become a firefighter. The hours were such that he could also continue his education.

He then sent for the girl he met and fell in love with in college. They were married in Las Vegas in 1974.

Greene was not a Christian when they married but because Susan, his wife, was a Southern Baptist she suggested they attend First Southern Baptist Church of Las Vegas.

"I said, 'I ain't going to no South-

ern Baptist church.' But the little ole preacher came knocking on my door—he had wire-rim glasses and a Southern accent. I had all these questions prepared to ask him, and he did a pretty good job at answering them.

"He then asked me if there was any reason I wouldn't want to go to heaven when I died. I couldn't think of any, but I wasn't going to tell him that."

Although at the time he couldn't identify the feeling, Greene said he fell under conviction. The very next day he and his wife went to the church to speak with the pastor. Greene put his faith in Jesus Christ at age 23.

"I didn't know it until 10 years later, but that preacher had prepared his church for me being a member before I had even become a Christian. I was the first black member of that church.

"I went to that church, got baptized and that church asked me to be a Sunday school teacher. Then they asked me to become a deacon."

Just as suddenly as he became a Christian, Greene became a pastor.

He had given his testimony at a local rescue mission and someone who had heard him asked him to come to their church to preach while they found a full-time pastor.

He resisted but finally relented and was their interim pastor for three months until they called a long-term pastor.

Although Greene continued to preach on an interim basis, he said, "My wife did not want to be a preacher's wife.

"I told the Lord, 'If you want me

to be a preacher you're going to have to make some changes here or I'm going to lose my wife."

Greene said when he went five years ago to preach at Mount Charleston the congregation "was so different, so unusual" both he and his wife had the feeling that is where they would stay.

"When my wife came up to me and said, 'Earl, I think the Lord is calling us to this church,' I knew that was where we were supposed to be."

One member is a former Satanist "whose heart is now on fire for the Lord," Greene said.

Another is a former rock singer. Before that, she and her husband were in a motorcycle gang.

"We are not a normal Southern Baptist church," Greene said. "I am a black Southern Baptist preacher with an all-white congregation."

The church is located in a mountain resort area and sits adjacent to a riding stable. The location has brought numerous challenges—more than just the smell of horses and huge, buzzing flies, Greene said.

In 1989 someone pushed the piano and the pulpit together and set the trailer they used for worship on fire.

"It was totally destroyed, but God gave us one week of beautiful weather" during a season usually characterized by snow and freezing temperatures, Greene said. "We didn't miss any services."

About a year later, someone left \$5,000 in cash on the steps of the church. Green likes to think it was the person who set fire to the church."

**"I didn't know it until 10 years later, but that preacher had prepared his church for me being a member before I had even become a Christian. I was the first black member of that church."**

## Woman becomes foreign missionary at home

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Christine Liu isn't sure if she is a home missionary or a foreign missionary.

But regardless of the label, the results are the same—Chinese people are accepting Jesus Christ because of her witness.

Liu's ministry started while she was working at a Fort Worth company with business interests in mainland China. Her husband was an engineer with the same company.

"Part of my job was to take care of the Chinese engineers sent here for training," said Liu, a native of Taiwan. "The training periods were short and I could not see any fruit because I only had small contact with these people."

"I often asked the Lord why he put me in that type of situation, but through it I see God was teaching me the ways of the Chinese people and learning their way of thinking."

Liu, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said she had opportunities to lead some of the Chinese engineers to Christ even though they professed atheism. Slowly she began to see results.

One engineer converted as a result of her witness has maintained contact with the Liu family. However, Liu said fear of communist retaliation in China limits communication.

"When he comes to the United States for training he contacts us and visits with us," she said. "We can catch up on news and his walk with

the Lord during that time."

The Lius also are in Chinese work with University Baptist Church in Fort Worth as leaders of the international fellowship. Through the fellowship several Chinese graduate students have professed faith in Jesus Christ and three have committed to working with Chinese students.

Liu said her goal in ministry is to develop Chinese believers who can return home and spread the gospel.

"My goal is to not just have the quantity, but to have the discipleship and follow-up. I want these young people to learn solidly how to evangelize and disciple another person."

Liu found a need for ministry, not only among Chinese professionals training in the United States, but among Fort Worth's Chinese population as well.

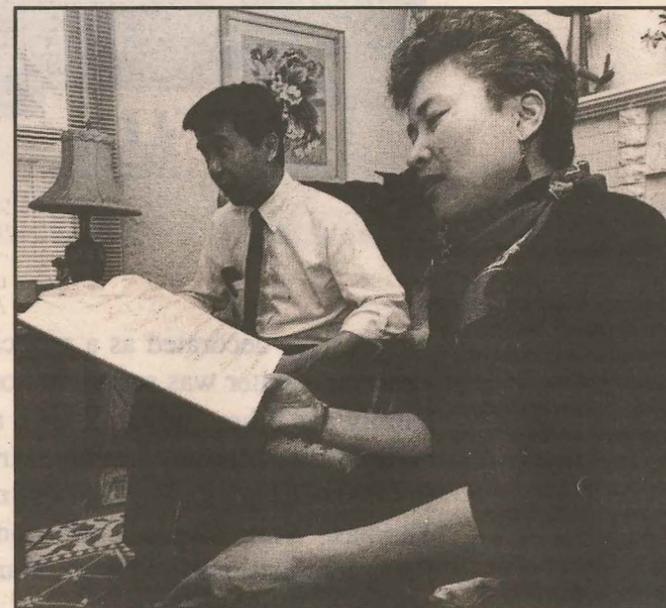
That need led her to start the Fort Worth Chinese School for children. The Saturday classes concentrated on the reading and writing skills of the Chinese language and supplemented the regular school work.

"My goal was not to just teach them the language because two to three hours a week is really not enough," she said. "The most important part of this program is to build up their identity. I'm trying to teach them to be proud of their culture and the good part of their roots."

Liu—who earned a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary in 1978—returned

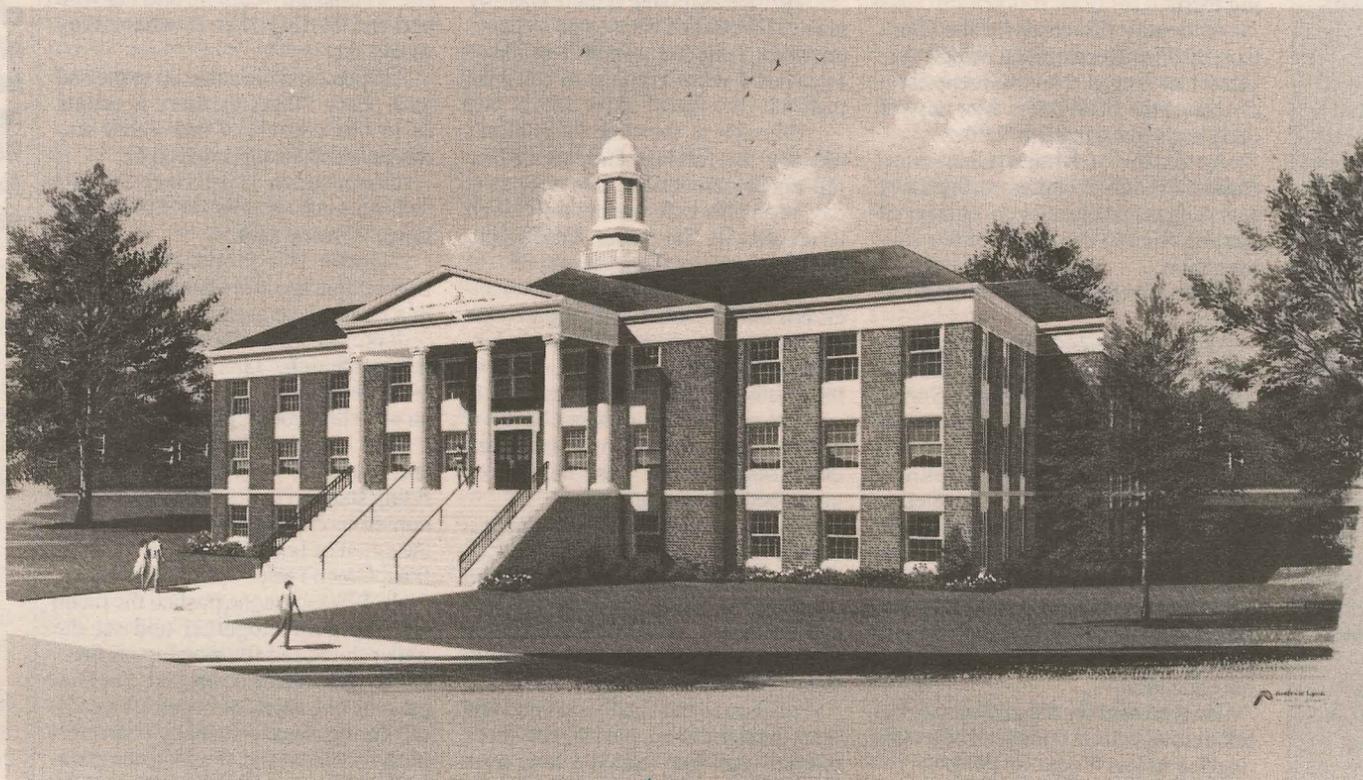
to get music training because she wanted to record a tape of familiar Chinese hymns.

She said the music tape will not only be a tool for evangelism but an encouragement to Chinese believers who don't have access to Christian music.



**SONG OF FAITH** Christine Liu leads a song as part of a home Bible study. Liu says the best way to reach Chinese people in America with the gospel is to make them feel welcome. She does that by leading home Bible studies with food, fellowship and singing. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

## Ground is Broken for Charles Smiddy Learning Resource Center



Shown is the architect's rendering of the college library after renovation and the addition of the **Charles Smiddy Learning Resource Center**. The Learning Center is an expansion of the college's Norma Hagan Library. When completed the Center will contain additional computer rooms, stack areas, and an instructional media area.



A cake decorated as a replica of the Smiddy Learning Center was served honoring the Smiddy Family and other guests. Shown are Mrs. Charles (Wilma Jean Marion) Smiddy, Mrs. S. D. Smiddy, (mother of Charles), Dr. Charles Smiddy, Dr. Helen Thomas, White House Correspondent for United Press International, and Mrs. Marcella Mountjoy, Mayor of Williamsburg.



Cumberland College trustees along with special guests, Dr. Charles Smiddy, Dr. Helen Thomas, and the Honorable Marcella Mountjoy participated in groundbreaking ceremonies on April 20, 1992, for the **Charles Smiddy Learning Resource Center**.

