

JUNE 23, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 25

FOR THE RECORD

Send names

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is seeking a successor to President Keith Parks and is looking for nominations. See page 2.

Double duty

Kentucky Baptist student Kim Haun is being "double-teamed." She's a summer missionary with assignments in Virginia and Spain. See page 3.

"I think ..."

Kentuckians voice their opinions on a variety of current issues as they sound off in Baptist Forum. See page 4.

Editorial

Christian Citizenship Sunday provides a good time to think about the privileges—and responsibilities—of liberty. See page 5.

Daddy Dearest

A new poll describes what Americans think about their fathers. Opinions are mixed. See page 6.

Judges decide

A church-related school lost its bid to tell its story to the U.S. Supreme Court. See page 7.

Wall of Fame

164 Kentucky Baptist Sunday school teachers were honored in a unique display of Christian commitment. See page 8.

In our own backyard: A 'marginal' mission field

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—Marginal members of Protestant churches in the United States are both the fastest-growing category of church member and a true mission field, according to two researchers conducting a national study.

The researchers' preliminary findings were presented at the 15th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship this month in Indianapolis.

Kirk Hadaway of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Penny Marler, faculty associate at Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Conn., are conducting the national study of marginal members. Both Hadaway and Marler are Southern Baptists.

Between 15 million and 20 million Americans are classified as marginal members of Protestant churches, meaning they consider themselves church members but attend church less than once a month.

The gap between the number of people who call themselves church members and the number of members reported by churches has increased by 15 million since 1965, Hadaway said. And the gap between people who claim a Protestant identity and actual church membership has grown by 25 million, to 30 million in the last 27 years.

Despite their poor attendance and low involvement in programs and ministries of their churches, many marginal members feel a strong identification with their churches, according to the study.

"We found members who joined a

church but haven't been in 20 years who would be upset if they found out they had been dropped" from the membership rolls, Marler said.

From the first phase of their research they have identified four distinct categories of marginal members, Marler said:

■ **Traditionalists.** The largest group of marginals, these people are older, conservative, tend to be Southerners, grew up in the church, are very spiritual and are in poor health themselves or taking care of someone who is ill. "Traditionalists seem to be separated from the church primarily by logistics. What it would take to reach traditionalists is more creative programming" by churches, Marler said.

■ **Liberals.** These are middle-age people who describe themselves as "very religious," are old-line Protes-

tants and consider church involvement optional. "Their children are going to church less than they went to church. Their children are going to end up being lifelong marginals," Marler predicted.

■ **Critics.** These are older baby boomers who grew up in a church, are liberal in their theology and have become critical of the institutional church for a variety of reasons. "It will take loving attention and nurture to reach critics," Marler said.

■ **Lifelong marginals.** This group includes baby boomers and younger adults, Northerners, cultural liberals and other who have a vague sense that the church is a good thing. "Lifelong marginals would probably have to have a conversion experience. They need discipleship and aggressive outreach," Marler said.



TAKE AIM Roger Kappasser of Louisville prepares to fire away in the Coffee Can Toss, one of eight events featured in the second annual Philippian Games at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville this month. The games are based on Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." The games, which featured contestants from 12 churches, allow special needs people the opportunity to push themselves toward victory and attain their best with encouragement from others, games planners said. In addition to the contests, the day's events featured musical sing-alongs, clowns, prayer and concessions. (WR photo by Jim Robinson)

Personalities unlock relationships, author says

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN—An understanding of personalities can provide the key to better marriages, stronger families and healthier churches, author Florence Littauer insists.

Littauer, who has written more than 20 self-help books, was the keynote speaker for the first DaySpring conference for women at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

People are born with one or more basic personality types, Littauer told 475 conference participants: sanguine, or popular; choleric, or powerful; phlegmatic, or peaceful; and melancholy, or thinker.

Couples often marry opposite personality types, looking for a mate who has strengths to compensate for personal weaknesses, she reported. For example, a sanguine—outgoing, optimistic, life-of-the-party—is attractive to a withdrawn melancholy. And a sanguine is

attracted to someone who "has a clock ticking in his head," because the popular personality has little concept of time.

"But you marry for strengths and go home with weaknesses," Littauer said. After the honeymoon, the sanguine's fun-loving personality irritates the deep-thinking melancholy, and the melancholy's perfectionism drives a scattered sanguine into a tizzy.

To compensate, couples need to understand and accept these differences, she insisted. "I ask God to help me get what I need" emotionally from God, she said, "instead of looking for it from others."

Turning to parenting, Littauer said moms and dads who can identify their child's personality type can better get on with raising the youngster "in the way he should go," instead of forcing him into their own mold.

A choleric child, for instance, thrives on control of the situation and likes to be appreciated for accomplishments, even more than other

types of children.

Wise parents who can understand such a personality trait can learn to give the child appropriate responses, rather than responding with their own automatic personality responses, she said.

Older children can be helped to understand their own personalities so they can accept their strengths and minimize their weaknesses, she added.

In adult life, personality types affect church leadership and direction, Littauer stressed. Sanguines have fun at fellowships; choleric push people away because they tell others what to do; melancholics get depressed because things are not perfect; and phlegmatics say, "It all seems all right to me!"

But the Body of Christ allows for diversity to work together, she said, urging the women to celebrate their strengths and look for strengths in others.

"Accept yourselves," she advised. "And accept others like they are. Don't try and change them to be like you."

Population crisis left off agenda at Earth Summit

By Kathy Palen
Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Experts agree: Humankind is using resources and dumping waste at rates the earth cannot sustain.

During the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, representatives from around the globe attempted to find ways their nations can work together to halt the assault on the environment.

But absent from the summit's myriad discussions and debates was the topic of population control, noted Kentuckian Glen Stassen, a professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

That absence came despite new forecasts of dramatic increases in the world's population.

Recent figures from the United Nations Population Fund predict the world's population, now 5.4 billion, will top 11.6 billion by the year 2150.

In light of such projections about population growth and its effects on the earth, the topic is too controversial to be discussed at gatherings such as the Earth Summit. Why?

"The controversy comes first of all from those religions that believe we should simply allow nature to do what it will do," said Stassen.

A second factor, he added, is the "polarized debate" over abortion. That debate fuels fear that population control will lead to more abortions.

While the abortion debate has overshadowed population concerns on a policy level, Stassen said the issue of population control is less controversial at the people level.

"The research is really clear that when contraceptives are made available with education, □ See Population crisis ..., page 7

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Al Shackleford**, former director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Press news service, has accepted the editorship of *Mature Living*, a magazine published by the SBC Sunday School Board. Shackleford and BP News Editor Dan Martin were fired without charge 23 months ago; SBC Executive Committee members, who operate the news service, indicated they wanted BP leaders more sympathetic to the convention's conservative cause.

■ **Baptist state papers** could face a 50 percent postal-rate increase if Congress fails to delay the rate hike. A House revenue bill includes a shield against a non-profit postal hike in 1993, but it must be passed both by the House and Senate. If the postal increase protection is not passed, the rate increase will take effect Oct. 1.

■ **Applications are being accepted** for Woman's Missionary Union Second Century Fund grants in three categories: to develop missions organizations abroad, to enhance WMU leadership development in the U.S., or to foster missions education among seminary students and faculty. Applications are available by writing WMU, Box 830010, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010 or calling (205) 991-4026.

FMB searchers seek more names

By Robert O'Brien
SBC Foreign Mission Board

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—The committee searching for a new Southern Baptist Baptist Foreign Mission Board president has received 31 names and would like more, reported Chairman Joel Gregory, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas.

The committee, which met this month in Indianapolis, urges missionaries and other Southern Baptists to continue sending names and background material on candidates to succeed FMB President Keith Parks, Gregory said.

Parks, 64, will retire Oct. 30 after a 38-year career in foreign missions, including almost 13 years as president. He cited philosophical differences with trustees in his retirement decision.

Responding to rumors that some candidates have an inside track for the job, Gregory said: "No choice has been made, not even a preliminary choice. All 15 people on this commit-

tee have no agenda. No decision has been made. The field of active candidates has not even been narrowed and probably won't be until late summer or early fall."

The committee has met twice and had one conference call. It is to meet this week in El Paso, Texas, the site of the Foreign Mission Board's June trustee meeting.

In developing a profile for Parks' successor, the search committee reviewed the 1978 profile developed by the committee seeking a successor to Baker James Cauthen, whom Parks succeeded Jan. 1, 1980.

While it has been changed, the new profile parallels the 1978 document closely—including a statement that the new president should have an "unquestioned commitment to foreign missions (and) a ... broad knowledge and understanding of missions ... preferably including missionary service."

Many observers, including Parks,

have said missionary experience is essential for the board's president to understand the complex context and needs of missions today. Names circulated as possible successors to Parks have included several leaders with no missionary experience.

"The language in the new profile on preferable missionary service was adopted exactly from the 1978 profile," Gregory said. "While not closing out anyone God may lead us to, we stated that missionary service was preferable."

Gregory said the "predominant number of the 31 names received thus far are present or former career missionaries."

Interested Southern Baptists should mail comments, recommendations and biographical data on potential candidates to Joel Gregory, chairman, FMB presidential search committee, 1707 San Jacinto, Dallas, Texas 75201 or transmit them via fax to (214) 969-7757.

IRS investigating Lewis Drummond

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP)—The Internal Revenue Service is investigating financial dealings between Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and its retiring president, Lewis Drummond.

An IRS agent met June 15 with Drummond and Paul Fletcher, the school's vice president for internal affairs.

Fletcher and trustee Chairman Roger Ellsworth said the IRS inquiry concerns Drummond's personal finances and not the seminary's. Drummond could not be reached for comment.

The IRS reportedly is looking at Drummond's agreement with trustees to repay a debt to the school, as well as his wife's travel expenses. Drummond will retire June 30.



KENTUCKY WRITERS Four Kentuckians attended the 1992 writers' conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. They are (clockwise, from top left) Debbie Lloyd, Upton; Dawn Richerson, Louisville; Jeroline Baker, Frankfort; and Allison Becker, Louisville. (WMU photo)

Racism 'silence' criticized

By Lacy Thompson & Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—A crop of 15 resolutions approved during the Southern Baptist Convention covered topics ranging from euthanasia to the Boy Scouts but included nothing on the racial tension that has gripped the nation in recent weeks.

That omission disappointed Southern Baptist ethicists.

Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, said one of his biggest disappointments from the recent convention was the absence of a statement against racism. "Given our past, I'm not sure that we can speak too often on that," he said.

Robert Parham, director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville, said the SBC's "thundering silence" on the race issue showed "a failure of moral vision."

But Al Mohler of Atlanta, chairman of this year's committee on resolutions, said the committee chose not to act on the issue because members felt they could not improve on a 1989 resolution in which the SBC condemned racism.

However, Phil Strickland, executive director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, said a fresh statement was needed, "particularly in this time of tension."

In late April, violence erupted nationwide when a jury acquitted four Los Angeles policemen of unlawfully beating black motorist Rodney King.

In ensuing days, Baptist groups responded with words and actions:

■ Leaders of the Baptist World Alliance announced former President Jimmy Carter would head up a special commission to study the causes of racism, the biblical answer to racism and what Baptists can do to help defeat racism.

■ Land called for people to fulfill their Christian and civic duty in working to eradicate the "cancer of racism."

■ Members of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship adopted their first-ever resolution, repenting of "historic complicity" in perpetuating the sin of slavery and pledging to work for the eradication of racism.

But the SBC did not address racism because it could not improve upon the 1989 resolution, which said Southern Baptists opposed racism and repented of "any past bigotry," Mohler said.

Binkley votes to reconsider statement on homosexuality

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (ABP)—One church ousted from the Southern Baptist Convention for condoning homosexuality has backed away slightly from its position, at least temporarily, while the other church has registered a "parting concern" about the SBC's action.

Members of Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, N.C., voted 151-24 June 14 to rescind a statement affirming homosexuality until they have more time to consider it. Binkley's pastor said the move is not related to the church's ouster by the SBC and will not affect its decision to license a gay divinity student to preach—the action that first drew SBC ire.

Meanwhile, Mahan Siler, pastor of Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh, N.C., said he is concerned that by expelling Binkley and Pullen Southern Baptists "are making as a condition

for cooperation in Christian ministry a particular position in regard to homosexuality."

The SBC's action discounts the fact homosexuality is an issue over which "devout, learned Baptists disagree," Siler said in an open letter to Southern Baptists. "In the face of this complex issue, dogmatism is unwarranted."

Binkley's decision to rescind its earlier statement on discrimination against homosexuals is a matter of procedure, said Pastor Linda Jordan.

Binkley's members met April 5 to decide whether or not to license Duke divinity student John Blevins to the gospel ministry, Jordan said, and not to adopt a statement on homosexuality.

The statement was submitted by a church member for approval during the April 5 debate. The vote to rescind

the statement, Jordan said, will give church members more time to consider the issue.

Since the April vote, seven of 20 deacons have quit in protest.

It is unclear if Binkley's action will have any effect on its standing with the SBC, which urged the churches to "respond to the teachings of the holy Scripture by rescinding their actions."

In his open letter, Siler said the cost for Pullen to deal with the homosexual issue "has been higher than most of us expected." But he said he does not regret the church's decision earlier this year to bless the "union" of two homosexual men.

Siler also lamented what he called the lack of a climate of respectful debate over differences. "I hope, within the Baptist tradition of dissent, you will support safe places for continu-

ing dialogue in the common search for the mind of Christ," he wrote.

In response to Siler's letter, an SBC official defended the convention's action. "Pullen prescribes affirmation for 'committed' and 'monogamous' homosexual relationships; Southern Baptists prescribe repentance and redemption," said Mark Coppenger, vice president for convention relations of the SBC Executive Committee.

"It is not enough to say that some have strong homosexual tendencies. For Ephesians 2:1-3 teaches that we have all been beset with unholy tendencies," Coppenger added. "We must turn to God in Christ for deliverance. This is true for homosexuals, just as it was for the rest of us."

Baptist Press Editor Art Toalston also contributed to this story.

Olympics mean 'double team' for Kentuckian

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

RICHMOND—Summer missionary Kim Haun doesn't mind being double-teamed.

After receiving invitations to join a migrant missions team in Virginia and an Olympic ministries team in Barcelona, Spain, Haun decided two jobs are better than one.

From June 15 to July 7 she and three others are ministering to migrants along the east coast of Virginia. After a week to rest, she will leave July 16 for 3 1/2 weeks of ministry to Olympic fans in Barcelona.

The senior public relations major studying at Eastern Kentucky University said she enjoys being active in the Baptist Student Union and is looking to a possible career in missions.

"The Virginia project is something I did last year through the Kentucky BSU," Haun said. Her experience in-

cluded helping lead worship services, caring for children, providing transportation for the migrants and translating for them in the English-speaking community.

"Basically we just meet their needs," said Haun, who speaks Spanish.

Haun's supervisor, Jessie Gillespie, requested that Haun return to work with the migrants again this summer, even when plans for Barcelona would cut her time in Virginia in half.

Haun and Linda Young, a Spanish major at Georgetown College, were the two Kentucky students selected to join the 30-member Baptist Student Union team at the site of the summer Olympics in Barcelona.

Haun applied at the last minute and felt inadequate compared to others with more expertise. Yet from the time she heard about the job, she hoped to be selected.

"I really feel this is God's will,"

she said.

Both students were asked to raise a portion of the cost of the trip, and Haun said she has that part "pretty much licked." Many people at First Baptist Church in Hazard, where she is a member, have helped with the expenses, she reported.

Unlike the weeks in Virginia, Haun admits to being "a little bit in the dark" about what to expect in Barcelona. The team will meet the week before the Olympic games begin, to prepare creative drama and musical presentations, she said: "A lot of it will be done on the streets and in the Olympic village. This is a global missions opportunity."

"It's going to be very different," Haun said about the two areas of ministry. "In Virginia, a lot of the people are very poor, and they are moving to support their families. (Athletes and fans) in Barcelona are world travelers. They're wealthier and may not think they're as desperate for the love of



BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ The entire football team and coaching staff of Japan's Komazawa University will be studying the sport with Coach Kevin Donley and his staff at Georgetown College this summer. The delegation of 30 Japanese will participate in one of four football camps scheduled at Georgetown this summer. Space still is available for the high school camp, June 28-July 1, and the junior high camp, July 29-Aug. 1. Call (502) 863-8062 or (502) 866-8116.

■ A golf tournament for Kentucky Baptist ministers is scheduled for Aug. 6-7 at Pine Valley Country Club in Elizabethtown. The registration fee of \$42 covers green fees, riding carts and trophies. Wyman Copass, director of the sixth annual tournament, said the event is open to all ministers, active and retired, and golfers of all abilities. For registration information, contact Copass at 1238 Durrett Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40213, (502) 366-1434.

■ Booneville Baptist Association's executive committee passed a resolution April 2 stating its opposition to "any activity promoting the advancement and acceptance of homosexual activity" and announcing its intention to "sever all ties with any church that condones and promotes" homosexuality.

■ Beauford Sanders, baseball coach at Campbellsville College, has been named coach of the year for NAA District 32. Sanders finished his second season as Campbellsville's head coach with a 26-20 record, leading the team to the Western Division championship.

Volunteers don't let age keep them home

By Pauline Stegall
State Correspondent

MAYFIELD—Age hasn't tied Anne Parrish Markham and Roberta Bridges Chumley to rocking chairs.

"The Lord has been so good to me, I feel I must serve him as long as I can," said Markham, 86, who recently returned from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She and Chumley of Greenville spent two months cataloging books in the Brazilian Baptist seminary's library there.

They have teamed up before: Markham, a retired college English teacher, catalogs books; Chumley, a retired jeweler, prepares work cards.

Both seasoned travelers, they were undaunted by their austere quarters in

Brazil. Their small room contained two hard beds, two chairs and a table, Markham said. But after missionaries honored the pair with a household shower, they spruced up their short-term home.

Markham and Chumley got to know many of the seminary students during their time in Rio. Resting on their porch, they often would be joined by young people. Some spoke only Portuguese and were anxious to improve their English.

That was a familiar pattern for Markham, a veteran volunteer. Since she retired at age 72, she has cataloged three libraries in Guatemala, three in Kenya and others in Jamaica and Australia.

In her many trips, Markham never

has experienced illness or injury. "The Lord has taken good care of me," she claimed.

She's been invited to go to Bolivia and catalog a library on computer. "I may go," she said, "but I don't do computers. I may have to go to Murray State and take a course."

Such work and dedication is appreciated by missionaries, said Jerry Key, a missionary at the Brazilian seminary. "We praise God for the lives of these two devoted servants of the Lord," he said.

CATALOGERS Anne Parrish Markham (standing) of Mayfield and Roberta Bridges Chumley of Greenville spent two months cataloging books in a Brazilian Baptist seminary library.



All-State Youth Choir to tour

The 1992 Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir will rehearse and tour July 12-19.

The 78-voice high school choir was selected by auditions held statewide earlier this year.

The choir will meet for a retreat at Cumberland College July 12-16. The retreat will feature rehearsals, worship, recreation and fellowship. Worship will be led by Bob Browning, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset.

Following the retreat, the choir will perform five concerts:

■ Wednesday, July 15, 7 p.m., First

Baptist Church of Williamsburg.

■ Thursday, July 16, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church of Hazard.

■ Friday, July 17, 11 a.m., Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida.

■ Friday, July 17, 7 p.m., Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville.

■ Sunday, July 19, 10:40 a.m., First Baptist Church, Somerset.

Admission to all concerts is free.

Tim Banks, professor of conducting at Samford University, will be guest conductor. Ron Boud, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, will accompany.

Cumberland hosts ministers' families

WILLIAMSBURG—Cumberland College will host a summer conference for pastors, church staff members and their families.

The July 20-22 event on the school's Williamsburg campus will feature D.L. Lowrie, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, David Perkins, pastor of First Baptist Church in Gonzales, La., and Bruce and Brenda Jackson, musicians with an emphasis on family ministry.

Housing and meals are available on campus, along with recreational activities such as swimming, bowling, basketball and racquetball. An optional golf scramble also will be held.

Cost for the three-day event is \$25 for one person or \$35 for a family of up to four members. Registration deadline is June 26.

For registration information, contact Alan Coppock at (606) 549-2200, extension 4255.

'Storehouse' funds funhouse

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

MAY'S LICK—May's Lick Baptist Church is sold on a new family life center.

Buying into a plan of sacrificial giving, some members sold personal property, and one couple even took out a loan to help the church collect the first \$50,000 in less than 2 1/2 months.

"We're not a big church, and we're not a big-money church," Pastor David Cheek said of the 360-member congregation. "But I knew that with faith in the Lord, we could get \$50,000."

The idea for a new facility came "like a vision" in January, Cheek said. He shared the vision with the church and issued a faith challenge.

"Doors kind of opened miraculously," he said. After the church agreed to begin plans for a new activities center, a building fund was established.

The motion to build stipulated the first \$50,000 must be in the

building fund by May 31, Cheek said: "People responded with one accord. They were wanting it to happen, and believing it could happen."

Donations ranged from \$5 to \$4,000 and were not collected by campaigns or fund-raisers, "but by storehouse tithing and giving," he said.

Until May 31, though, the fund was still \$7,000 short of the \$50,000 beginning goal, but \$10,000 was received.

The church plans to use the family life center as a ministry tool to reach entire families. Though the church has a strong youth ministry, Cheek said, it is a myth that activity centers are helpful only for reaching youth.

Total cost for the facility is about \$250,000. The remainder will be collected just as the first \$50,000, he noted: "We'll continue on faith to receive money as in the past. As people see the vision becoming a reality, they'll be willing to give more."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

MARV KNOX
Editor

MARK WINGFIELD
News Director

RAY L. HAYES
Business Manager

C. R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

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

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

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6472 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 250 words and may be edited for length.

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Greg Earwood, Murray, chairman; Don Mantooth, Morehead, vice chairman; Kay Trisler, Harrodsburg, secretary; Richard Bridges, Bowling Green; Bill Crosby, Erlanger; Tom Curry, Louisville; Denzel Dukes, Paducah; Glenn Durham, Harlan; Garnett Hulette, Frankfort; Isaac McDonald, Elizabethtown; Karen Owen Phelps, Owensboro; John Searcy, Franklin.

Cure injustice

The members of the peacemaking class at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary join in response to the unjust verdict concerning the Rodney King travesty. We denounce the jury's verdict to acquit the officers and view it as an example of unjust and racist systems that plague our nation.

As witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ, we condemn this verdict on grounds of righteousness, justice and human dignity.

Violence sparked by this case is a symptom of disease. This problem is not only directed towards African-Americans, but also other ethnic groups, women and the economically oppressed. Our institution's

silence is shocking in respect to this recent perversion of justice. In confessing our participation in cycles of racism, hopelessness and violence, we apologize and repent.

Recognizing the past cannot be changed, let us dedicate ourselves to the task of pointing out injustice and developing a cure.

As a transforming initiative, we encourage the seminary to promote cultural sensitivity by requiring all students to enroll in a race-relations course. We applaud efforts, such as those by the Organization of Student Social Workers, in addressing the United States Justice Department's responsibility to promote equal justice for all in our legal system.

We encourage you to join with us in prayer and action as we strive to put an end to poverty, oppression and racism in our land.

We make these statements in the same spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ who himself was not silent in the face of adversity.

*Drew Bennett, class member
Louisville*

The last straw

The June 2 Western Recorder was without the inconsistent propaganda from the so-called Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (a contradiction in its very title).

I have no support for a group who will not get in or out, think conven-

tions are out-dated, yet hang on and use every unethical and sometimes unChristian method to promote their beliefs. I think they are saying, "We want to call the shots, but can't exist without the help of the Southern Baptist Convention." They want to send out missionaries, but want to tell our Southern Baptist pastors to lead their members to be given a choice, and have them support the CBF along with our regular Cooperative Program and special mission offerings.

We already have a choice. It is a plan that has been in effect for many years, and I do not like to see it discredited.

If the CBF has a better plan, let them organize and support it. I don't like to have people meddle and criticize who can't operate without outside help.

But the last straw was "Fellowship meets with WMU, wants missions support" (WR, May 26).

Of course they do! The CBF would not think it out of character to break up the relationship between the WMU and the SBC, which has for 104 years been outstanding in worldwide missions. Again, the new coordinator for CBF is saying: "We would like to send out a few missionaries. Come on now and pay the bill for us, we'll take the credit."

*Edna L. Meadors
Pine Knot*

Gnosticism today

Recently Newsweek magazine made public Harold Bloom, professor of humanities at Yale, whose new book, "The American Religion," ranks moderates among Southern Baptists as being gnostics.

Immediately, I read Giovanni Filorano's book "A History of Gnosticism," after which I decided I would not have a gnostic be even a chaplain for my doghouse.

I consider Harold Bloom's statement a serious charge which moderates should immediately deny if false. Otherwise, the Southern Baptist Convention should sever any relationship with the moderates.

Bloom has great admiration for E.Y. Mullins' "Axioms of Religion."

Mere axioms give no direct place to the new birth, Incarnation of Christ or authority of the Bible. Gnostics believe in a hierarchy of demons in the spirit world, one of which created the natural universe.

Bloom believes this and enthrones the rational mind as Supreme, calling the fundamental Southern Baptists "know nothings."

Bloom is correct in that they are determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified, that the new birth, discipleship and maturity in Christ comes not through the rational mind but the inner man by placing Scripture passages into the inner man, where they become related to the Holy Spirit, who permanently resides therein.

It is up to moderates to declare themselves.

Harold Bloom has forced it upon them.

*Homer Wm. Smith
Louisville*

Appoint a pope

It seems all that is going on in the SBC is fighting and condemning one another.

I am worried about the direction our SBC is taking.

I have read an article that the SBC may take a stand against the Masonic lodge.

Don't they have anything better to do?

My Bible teaches Christ gave a great commission to go into all the world teaching and baptizing those who believe—teaching the things Christ himself taught.

Jesus did not criticize others or condemn them; he loved them and offered salvation to them if they would accept it.

The religious leaders of his day did not accept his teachings. Could we have some of those today?

People that say Masons worship Satan had better study their history again. The Masons profess principles of brotherly love, charity and mutual aid. This is more than some Baptists do.

It seems we have some people in the SBC that want to be the most popular, prominent and highest-paid person in the SBC. What about their love

for their fellow man?

Why don't we get back to helping one another, loving one another, and be concerned about the lost?

If we continue as we are going now, why not just appoint a pope and let him control each church and each individual, telling them what to believe and what they can and cannot do. Should we do this or read and study our Bibles and let Jesus lead us?

*Chrystelle Stayton
Melber*

Prophet Carter

On May 22, prophet Jimmy Carter told Southern Seminary's graduating class what ministers should be telling their congregations and what candidates for public office should be telling the electorate ("Carter calls graduates to help the poor," WR, June 2).

Since Carter's presidency, our country has had only presidents who have catered to the rich at the expense of the poor.

To our detriment, Carter's successors pitted the haves against the have-nots, whites against blacks, rural areas and suburbs against the cities. As a result, the rich are richer, the poor are poorer, and America is on the brink of racial unrest.

God instituted government for our good. Even though separation of church and state serves us best, our Christian faith should greatly influence who we elect to public office.

We must elect leaders who are committed to doing justice for the poor. They can change the structural economic injustice that threatens to destroy us. If capitalism doesn't become more compassionate and more community oriented, it is doomed to the same fate that befell godless communism. If America isn't adequately meeting the needs of the poor, capitalism is failing.

Nothing pleases the Creator more than church and government which compassionately meet the needs of the least, the last and the lost. Jimmy Carter is a good example of one who by words and deeds exemplifies Christian citizenship.

More importantly, he's a citizen of the Kingdom.

*Paul Whiteley Sr.
Louisville*

Big hearts under a big sky

A Kentuckian hardly expects a light snow storm in the middle of June or to see mountains still capped with snow. That is, unless that Kentuckian happens to be in and around Salt Lake City that time of year.

So it was for three of us June 13-17, having gone there to evaluate our nearly-three year partnership with the Utah-Idaho Convention. We divided these days almost equally in planning, evaluation and visiting one of the more remote areas of eastern Utah.

Calvin Wilkins, Benton Williams and I fanned out on Sunday to preach at Soda Springs, Idaho, Provo and Salt Lake City, Utah, accompanied by convention staff members Clyde Billingsly, Bruce Gardner, and Lavoid

Robertson.

The ninety-plus churches and just over 50 missions number about the size of Long Run Association, but minister among 2.2 million people in an area about twice as large as Kentucky.

With a church enrollment of roughly 20,000, Utah-Idaho Baptists number only one for each 120 persons in the two-state convention. Kentucky Baptists number, by contrast, one out of five of Kentucky's population. One could suggest that Kentucky has been "evangelized" when compared with Utah-Idaho.

Kentucky Baptists have 2,300 churches with which to "evangelize," to say nothing of the significant financial resources to support our local church efforts.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

dle East. This, too, is one of God's hard places.

Pastor Winn Ferris and I visited for a while after the services, already past ten o'clock. He expressed tearful gratitude for this team of volunteers who had come at their own expense, some using their "vacation" days. It was not just for what this West Kentucky Association team was doing, but for the deeper reality that there were some fellow Baptists who really cared about them enough to become involved personally—even if for just a little while.

Our Kentucky sky is never as big as the one in Utah. And I looked up at this big sky full of stars outside this little Baptist church and felt within my heart that what Kentucky Baptists are doing in Utah-Idaho is something bigger than we are. And that it pleased the God of the universe.

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

Christian citizenship: Freedom & responsibility

Boris Yeltsin came to the United States last week, proclaiming the power of freedom has defeated the tyranny of communism.

Admittedly, Yeltsin came with his hand out, seeking money to finance his reforms. We would expect him to say what Americans want to hear. But that didn't blunt the validity of his message.

"The experience of the past decades has taught us: Communism has no human face. Freedom and communism are incompatible," he declared. "It is in Russia that the future of freedom in the 21st century is being decided. ...

"There is no people on this earth who could be harmed by the air of freedom."

The corollary to Yeltsin's remarks—that the stifling fumes of totalitarianism choke the life out of people—also is true. Recent history of the Russians and other former Soviets bears this out. Their struggle for freedom was borne by the force of a final, desperate gasp. And when they tasted that sweet air of freedom, when it filled their lungs and coursed through their veins, they found the power to break the choke-hold of repression and stand free.

Christians, of all people, ought to appreciate this gasp for freedom. And Baptists, of all Christians, ought to appreciate it even more.

Freedom is part of our theology. The Scriptures clearly tell us God created people in order to have relationship with them. For that relationship to be valid, God necessarily gave us the freedom to choose to accept or reject God's offer of love and friendship. If God had not granted us that freedom of choice, we would have been little more than robots, and any relationship with God would have been bogus. So instead, God created us free, with the awful, fearful power to choose to love God or not.

Baptists celebrate this freedom through the twin doctrines of the priesthood of every believer and the autonomy of the local congregation. We believe each Christian is an individual "priest"—capable of

relating directly to God, with no need for an intermediary. Taken a step further, we believe a congregation of believers should have the corporate freedom to decide its own affairs—before God and in the presence of the community.

The logic of these doctrines undergirds a basic principle of democracy: Every citizen-member has a right to help determine the course of the institution, whether it is a church, a professional society, a nation.

As Christian citizens, we do not assume every other citizen must be a Christian to participate in the affairs of government. Indeed, early Baptists were outsiders to the governing process in England and knew firsthand the pain of repression which an unholy marriage of church and state can inflict upon the minority. Consequently, Baptists who were on hand for the birth of our nation worked hard to ensure the rights of citizenship were extended to all Americans.

Taken altogether, Baptists enjoy a divine, denominational and national birthright of freedom. Divine, because God gave us freedom to choose. Denominational, because Baptists have celebrated and practiced that freedom, as individuals, congregations and conventions. National, because our forebears established government that honors individual liberty and died to secure and perpetuate that freedom.

With such freedom comes responsibility. We must handle our freedom carefully and with reverence. That means exercising freedom by staying informed about the issues that affect our world, nation and communities; by voting; by participating in the governmental process. It means working to preserve freedom by being responsible world and national citizens. It also means working to preserve and extend freedom to all who seek it themselves.

This Sunday is Christian Citizenship Day on the Southern Baptist calendar. It will be a good day to thank God for the freedom we enjoy and a good day to recommit ourselves to be responsible citizens in a free land.

Marv Knox

Baptists, of all people, ought to appreciate the value, and responsibility, of freedom.

Make 'salty citizens': Register church members to vote

Are members of your church equipped to be "salty citizens"?

For American Christians to be "salty citizens" (Matthew 5:13), we should pray for our leaders to be good (1 Timothy 2:2) and then "put feet" to our prayers by electing good leaders.

The first step in being a "salty citizen" is to vote. Churches should not tell people for whom to vote, but churches have the responsibility to exhort members to vote in every elec-

tion. Churches do not violate church-state separation and do not risk their tax exemption by urging and helping members to be able to say, "I pray, and I vote."

Citizens must register in order to vote. Your church can sponsor a non-partisan voter registration campaign. Here are some tips:

■ Conduct a non-partisan voter registration survey. Ask members to indicate on a card or bulletin insert if they are registered to vote. The number of "no" answers becomes the

goal—every eligible member registered to vote.

■ Set up a voter registration table in your church lobby. Your county voter registrar can tell you what you need to do.

■ Get enough voter registration cards for your unregistered members, plus enough for future members and newly eligible voters.

■ Publicize how and where to complete absentee ballots, so that members out of town on election day will be able to vote.

■ Be sure to help homebound or

invalid members with registration, access to the polls and/or absentee ballots.

■ Every citizen who is age 18 or older may vote. Conduct a special emphasis in your high school and college departments.

■ Provide voter registration information for new members who recently have moved into your community.

Vote, Christian. It is you right; it is your responsibility.

Michael Whitehead, general counsel
SBC Christian Life Commission
Washington

Churches can help members be good citizens by promoting voter registration.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Good manners or not, humming is the sound of happiness

We enjoy enlightened dinner discussions in our home.

"Mama, if singing at the table is bad manners, what about humming?"

Hmmm. Where is Amy Vanderbilt when you need her?

"And Mama, what could be wrong with it anyway? Humming means you're happy."

Try refuting that logic with a mouthful of broccoli. The kid has a point.

Of course, I'm not objective about this, either. I'm a hummer.

If I were a budding sociologist, psychologist or any other -ologist, I'd do my doctoral dissertation on humming. Lots of questions stand out:

■ What makes hummers hum? Even some "musically impaired" folks are num-

bered among the hummers. It's not exactly a fine expression of high art.

■ Are hummers happier than non-hummers? Logic says yes. Normal people don't go around humming Mozart's "Requiem" or any number of ethnic dirges.

■ How does a hummer pick a tune to hum? Usually, hum tunes are like itches—they just get stuck there. But why does one particular tune stick?

■ Did humming play a role in his-

tory? Can't you imagine John Kennedy driving Nikita Krushchev batty, humming

"Stars and Stripes Forever" over and over while they were on the hotline talking about the Cuban Missile Crisis?

Humming should be a topic ministers bring up in pre-marital counseling. But I'm not sure how it would work. For example,

two non-hummers can marry and do fine, if they survive the boredom. A hummer can marry a non-hummer, as long as the non-hummer is long-suffering. But what about two hummers? On the sur-

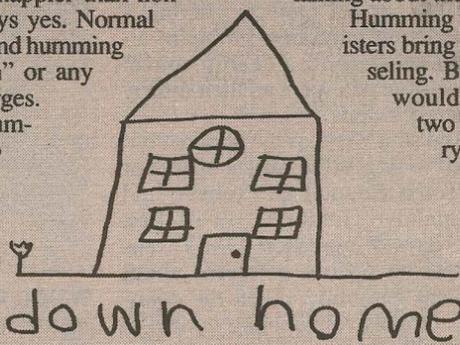
face, that sounds OK, but what if they hum competing tunes? They could have 50 years

of dueling larynxes, just like the dueling banjo scene in the movie "Deliverance."

We have two hummers and two non-hummers in our family. One adult and one kid on each side of the vocal/nasal septum. So far, our humming hasn't provoked domestic disaster. But then again, neither of us hummers has gotten stuck on "The Candyman" or "When the Roll is Called up Yonder." (It's a great hymn, but when you take out the lyrics, it's as monotonous as a sermon on the names of the sons of the 12 Hebrew children.)

As for me and at least half my house, we prefer to think of humming as making a "joyful noise unto the Lord." The hum of a happy Christian—on tune or not—must be pleasing to God's ears.

Marv Knox



BRIEFS

■ **Americans who object to military service as a matter of conscience should not be forced to support the military with their tax money, religious leaders told a House subcommittee holding hearings on the Peace Tax Fund Bill (H.R. 1870).** The bill would allow conscientious objectors to designate their taxes to a fund used for non-military purposes.

■ **Obscenity charges against a North Carolina mail-order company were struck down by a federal appeals court, which ruled the prosecution was improper because its real objective was to prevent the distribution of sexually explicit material that is not obscene.** Crusaders against pornography said the decision could make it more difficult to prosecute pornography cases in the future. The decision of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals came in a case involving Philip D. Harvey, president of the North Carolina-based Adam & Eve business.

■ **Congressional opposition to federal funding of private and religious schools was solidified in a recent action by the House Education and Labor Committee, which defeated two attempts to substitute "educational choice" provisions in a school-reform bill.** However, Rep. Richard Armey, R-Texas, said he plans to take the battle to the House floor.

Poll finds conflicting opinions on American fathers

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP)—Most fathers care enough about their children but need to become more involved with them, according to a new Gallup poll.

A report on the poll was released in Minneapolis May 18 during a conference on fathering sponsored by the National Center for Fathering.

While the poll produced many contradictory messages, it is an accurate reflection of how Americans think things are rather than the way things really are, interpreters said at the meeting.

For example, the audience greeted with audible skepticism a finding that

fathers said they talk with their children an average of 2.3 hours per day. Mothers reported a similar estimate of 2.0 hours per day for fathers' conversations with their children.

That number should not be interpreted to mean fathers actually spend that much time each day in meaningful conversation with their children, said Ken Canfield, executive director of the National Center for Fathering.

Emerson Eggerichs, a pastor from East Lansing, Mich., who led a workshop during the conference, said parents seem to be calling any time spent with their children "talking." While

the figure seems obviously inflated, that in itself could reveal something about Americans' perceptions of fatherhood, he said.

The survey also found that 70 percent of those polled believe "the most significant family problem facing America is the physical absence of the father." Further, 96 percent agreed that fathers need to be more involved in their children's education.

However, a majority were willing to give fathers credit for good intentions. About 75 percent said fathers "do care enough about their children" and "most fathers are doing a good job in provid-

ing for their families financially."

Fathers participating in the poll rated themselves more highly than mothers rated them in terms of how often they encourage their children. While 81 percent of fathers said they encourage their children frequently, only 65 percent of mothers said their children frequently receive encouragement from their fathers.

The poll also found 60 percent of American adults believe "most people have unresolved problems with their fathers, yet 70 percent used positive words to describe their own relationships with their fathers."

Republicans debate importance of abortion in election

SALT LAKE CITY (EP)—Opposition to abortion has been a key ingredient in the Republican Party's success in the past three presidential elections, a spokeswoman for the National Right to Life Committee told the Republican Party's platform committee.

Abortion is a hot topic among Republicans in this election year. At platform committee hearings in Salt Lake City May 26, Republicans both for and against abortion make their views known.

Carol Long of the National Right to Life Committee suggested that

changing the party's position would be counterproductive: "Abortion is the one issue that has caused millions of Democrats and independents to vote Republican in the last three presidential elections."

But Mary Dent Crisp, head of the Republican Coalition for Choice, countered: "Don't threaten us, don't appeal to us with the same old party loyalty play to silence us. We will not be gagged."

Phyllis Schlafly, chairwoman of the Republican National Coalition for Life, told the committee a 1988 ABC news exit poll found abortion to be the

most important issue for one-third of the nation's voters. Of that third, she said, 57 percent voted for George Bush because he opposes abortion.

The party platform both in 1984 and 1988 called for guaranteeing unborn children "a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed." On the other hand, the Democratic Party platform called reproductive "choice" a fundamental right that should be guaranteed regardless of a woman's ability to pay for an abortion.

Ann Stone, chairwoman of Republicans for Choice, said she hopes to force a floor vote on the abortion

plank at the Republican convention. That could happen only if 25 percent of the platform committee ask for it or if a majority of delegates from at least six states call for a vote.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey is urging his Democratic Party to change its position on abortion.

Casey appeared before the Democratic platform committee May 18 in Cleveland. He told the group the Democratic Party's stand favoring abortion is "wrong in principle and out of the mainstream of our party's historic commitment to protecting the powerless."

Church called unfair to gays

CHICAGO (BP)—The Chicago Commission on Human Relations has begun an investigation of Armitage Baptist Church as the result of complaints that it discriminated against three homosexual men and women.

Craig Teichen, Tamara Fraser and William Susinka filed separate complaints regarding a disturbance at the church Easter Sunday that led to the arrest of seven people identified with the homosexual activist group Queer Nation and a gay newspaper.

Armitage Pastor Charles Lyons called the complaints "baseless and heterophobic silliness."

Teichen charges he and the others were thrown out of the church and the police were called "due to our sexual orientation and perceived disability"—the latter referring to AIDS.

Lyons, however, offered his own response in a telephone interview: "We knew who they were and we welcomed them in. We have practicing homosexuals attend our services regularly and we have people testing HIV positive attending regularly, and in neither case are they denied access to the services of this church, much less ejected."

Lyons said the people were ejected because they were being disruptive. Teichen could not be reached by telephone.

The complaint "demonstrates the vulnerability we have under today's laws," Lyons said. "We were minding our own business on our own property. They invade us, they attempt to disrupt us, ... we have them arrested and the complaints are lodged against us. Unbelievable."

Gambling hotline used first day

DALLAS (ABP)—A compulsive-gambling hotline, launched the same day as the Texas lottery, averaged about 100 calls a day during its first three days of operation.

"The fact that the opening of the state lottery was followed by a significant number of calls to a toll-free number for compulsive gamblers offers a clear view of the sickness that is being created and fostered by a state-run numbers game," said Weston Ware, citizenship associate with the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

At 6 a.m. on Friday, May 29, the first Texas lottery tickets were sold. Within three minutes, someone had turned over his lottery ticket and dialed the toll-free number printed on the back.

Within 15 minutes, a compulsive

gambler used the hotline to locate a local Gamblers Anonymous meeting.

Within half an hour, a teen-ager called to say her mother, who had a pre-existing gambling problem, already had been to a nearby convenience store and spent all their money on lottery tickets.

And so it went, as the phones continued to ring at the Dallas offices of the Texas Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling. In its first three days of operation, 290 Texans expressing serious concerns about problem gambling called the council's compulsive-gambling hotline at (800) 742-0443.

The council and its hotline were created by lottery legislation passed by the Texas Legislature as a concession to anti-gambling activists.



WORLD AT HOME Mission Service Corps volunteer Ray Mungo gazes at a cargo ship docked at Tampa Bay, where seamen know the Southern Baptist not only as a chaplain but as a lasting friend. Mungo and his wife, Joann, minister to sailors from all over the world at Florida's largest port. Almost all the visitors are interested in receiving Bibles in their own languages, the Mungos report. By ministering along the docks, the Mungos have led 150 people to profess faith in Jesus Christ and have made friends with people from 90 countries. (BP photo by Ken Touchton)

Church-related school loses request for appeal

By Larry Chesser
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to review a lower court's ruling that federal labor laws may be applied to non-teaching employees of church-affiliated schools.

The case involved a directive from the National Labor Relations Board, which ordered a Sonoma, Calif., school to bargain with a social-services union. The Supreme Court's order left standing a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that affirmed the labor board's directive.

The National Labor Relations Board acted after a group of non-teaching employees at the school, including child-care workers, recreation assistants, cooks, cooks' helpers and maintenance workers, voted for union representation.

Officials at Hanna Boys Center, a Roman Catholic-operated facility for troubled boys between the ages of 9 and 15, challenged the NLRB decision.

Hanna officials argued that a previous Supreme Court decision had excluded church-operated schools as entire units, not just teachers, from the scope of federal labor laws. The federal appeals court disagreed, stating that the

exemption announced by the high court in *NLRB vs. Catholic Bishop of Chicago* in 1979 applied only to teachers.

School officials also contended that Hanna's child-care workers were similar to teachers, but the appeals court concluded that all employees in the group, "including the child-care workers, are secular employees with no teaching function."

The appeals court also held that the application of labor laws did not violate either the establishment clause or free-exercise clause of the First Amendment.

The appeals court also concluded that enforcement of federal labor laws

"will not interfere with the exercise of religious beliefs of anyone at Hanna."

Brent Walker, associate general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee, said it is not surprising that the high court declined the case and that the decision "as a whole" is not inconsistent with previous court rulings.

Walker nonetheless said he is troubled by the application of labor law provisions to child-care workers. "They apparently had some teaching duties and pastoral responsibilities," he said, "and this residential school seemed to be more pervasively sectarian than the 9th Circuit was willing to acknowledge."

Judge strikes 'decency' rule

LOS ANGELES (EP)—A federal judge in Los Angeles has ruled that a law requiring the National Endowment for the Arts to "take into consideration general standards of decency" when making grants is unconstitutional. Judge Wallace Tashima said the law violated the first and fifth amendments to the U.S. Constitution because it was vague and broadly worded.

The "decency standard" emerged two years ago as a compromise that ended a congressional debate over extending the life of the NEA. The law does not restrict the type of art that can be produced, only the type the NEA can fund. Tashima's ruling clears the way for a trial in a lawsuit brought by performance artists who seek federal grants denied them two years ago.

Population crisis left off Earth Summit's agenda

Continued from page 1

people in all kinds of countries will use them," he explained. "Furthermore, when basic economic needs are met, the people have fewer babies."

Robert Parham, director of the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics, noted population control also is a controversial topic for some Christians, who consider any population control as a mask for abortion, while others are angered by the use of federal funds for family planning.

"Despite the objections of some Christians, the issue of population growth must be put on the table for

discussion," Parham said, noting the world's population has more than doubled since 1900.

Christians should be concerned not only about the rate of increase, Parham said, but where it is. "Most of the growth will take place in the impoverished world of the subcontinent of India, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, where a greater number of people now live in poverty, suffer from malnutrition and lose children in the early years of life."

Population growth in developing countries places increasing pressure on the fragile environment, Parham said.

To illustrate, he cited the flooding in Bangladesh and the loss of cropland in Sahel that have resulted from deforestation that, in turn, has resulted from the demand for firewood among a growing population.

"Flooding and farming on marginal land adversely affect food production," he said. "Population growth, environmental deterioration and declining crop yields form a vicious cycle of harm."

"Christians must recognize that unless the rate of population growth slows, the quality of human life will deteriorate dramatically and the death rate will become even more cruel. We

must develop an ethic which is pro-life for all of human life, as well as life's support system."

How can population growth be slowed? Stassen suggests:

- The United States should return to its policy of funding international efforts to do population control.

- The United States should return to serious energy conservation.

- The United States should help poor countries meet the people's basic needs.

- Move the extremes of the abortion debate to the middle, to depolarize the issue.

- Believe progress is realistic.

Court OKs Jesus display

CHICAGO (EP)—In a unanimous decision, the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower-court ruling that banned the display of religious paintings in a public park.

The case arose when the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on behalf of an anonymous woman who objected to the display of 16 paintings depicting various scenes from the life of Christ.

The paintings traditionally were displayed during the Christmas season in a park in Ottawa, Ill. The display was provided by the Ottawa Jaycees, a private civic group, and carried a disclaimer saying it was not sponsored by the city.

The suit argued that displaying religious paintings even temporarily in a city-owned park violated the "separation of church and state."

In 1989, federal district Judge Milton Shadur banned the display. On rehearing, the 11 judges of the appeals court overruled Shadur, asserting the lower court's action "placed an impermissible burden on free speech, which must be removed."

"This is the first decision by a full court of appeals in the country on the issue of private religious speech in a public forum," said Joel Chefitz, an attorney who defended the display. "This issue has divided various panels and now has been decided unanimously in favor of private speech in a public forum, regardless of the religious content."

"All groups, whether religious or political, have a right of free expression," added George Hupp Jr., attorney for the Ottawa Freedom Association, which now owns the display.

Senate booes sports gambling

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Senate passed legislation to halt the spread of sports gambling by a vote of 88-5 early this month.

The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act prohibits the authorization and operation of sports lotteries and other forms of sports gambling by states in which such games were not permitted before Oct. 2, 1991.

It also bans sports gambling on Indian lands.

Forms of sports gambling were legal before Oct. 2, 1991, in Nevada, Oregon, Delaware, Montana and North Dakota. Some of the 32 states with lotteries have been looking at legalizing sports lotteries and other forms of sports gambling.

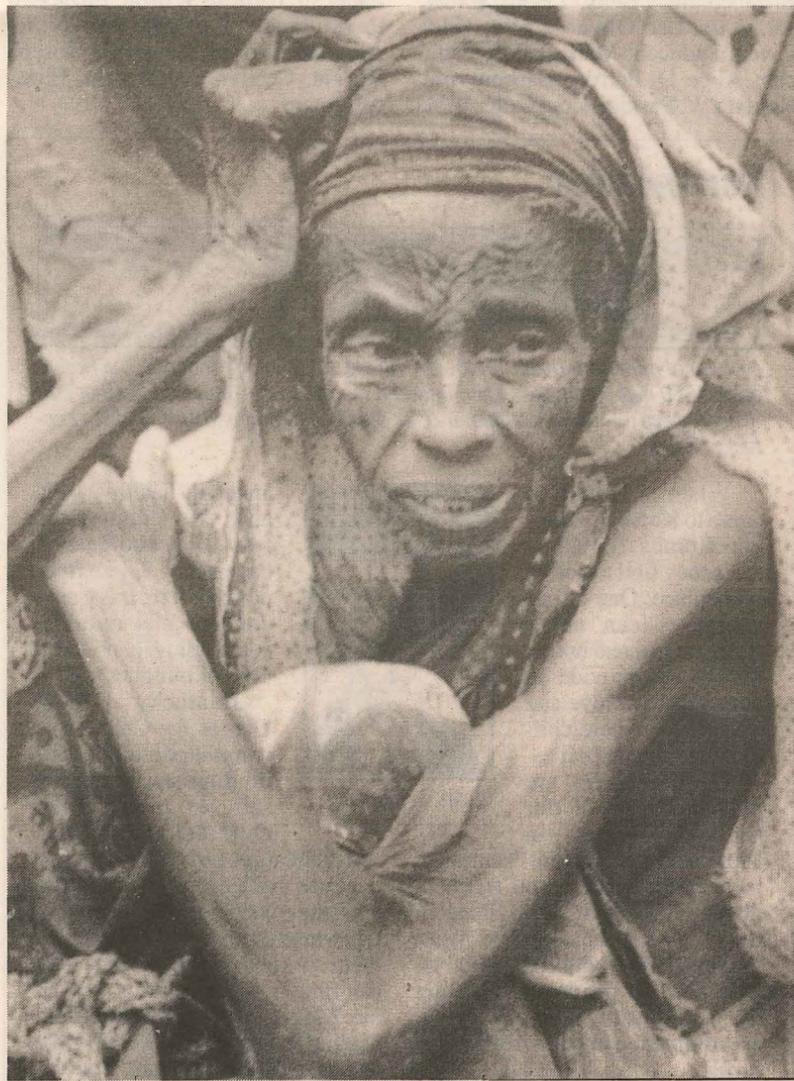
"I understand that many states see sports gambling as a quick fix for bud-

getary shortfalls, but there are other far less-destructive ways to generate additional revenue," said Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., the bill's sponsor.

"I cringe when I think of the possibility of the Phoenix Suns or Phoenix Cardinals winning but at the same time being booed because they didn't beat the point spread."

James Smith, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission director of government relations, testified in support of the bill last year before a Senate subcommittee.

A companion bill was approved by the House as part of a crime bill last year, but the legislation failed to gain support in the Senate. Supporters hope DeConcini's bill now will pass the House as a separate piece of legislation.



FACE OF STARVATION An elderly woman in the Ethiopian Dolo refugee camp, near the Somalia border, faces starvation. But she is not alone. About 20 people die of hunger every day in the squalid camp. It is home to about 145,000 Somali refugees, who fled bloody clan warfare in their country, and to about 200,000 former Ethiopian refugees, who fled civil war but arrived to find nothing but hardship. Several church groups, including the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, have battled hunger in the region. (RNS photo/Reuters)

Kentucky Bible teachers honored on Wall of Fame

Veteran volunteer cites 6 guidelines for good times

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—A veteran volunteer laid down six commandments for working with volunteers when he spoke to Southern Baptist directors of missions prior to the convention's annual meeting this month.

Jim Pierce, director of lay ministries for the Greater Boston Baptist Association and a 10-year volunteer himself, said volunteers need:

- Clear goals for their ministry, so they know how they fit into the scheme of things.

- A good experience, so they feel their time has been well-spent.

- To look back on a project and say, "I did that; I was a part of that."

- They need to get the credit for their work.

- To help design their ministry. This gives them ownership in their project and momentum to carry through.
- A feeling that their contributions have helped extend the Kingdom of God.
- Encouragement to discover and use all the gifts God has given them. Volunteers often do not realize until they are challenged that they have skills they never have used before.

INDIANAPOLIS—Kentuckians claim 164 places on the Sunday School Teachers Wall of Fame displayed by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Indianapolis this month.

During the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Indianapolis, the Sunday School Board honored 2,059 people for long-term service in Bible teaching local churches.

Kentuckians among the honorees include: Catherine Adams, Paducah; Wilbur Albertson, Somerset; Mary D. Allison, Elizabethtown; Frances Ashlock, Elizabethtown; R. Perkins Atherton, Paducah; Rose Baker, Barbourville; Rudy Barnett, Murray; Doris A. Barton, Louisville; T.L. Beckham, Winchester; Rose Lee Bennett, Louisville;

Frank Black, Elizabethtown; Christine Blevins, Olive Hill; Mildred Brainard, Somerset; Frank Ford Broadus Jr., Louisville; Lucille Bell Brown, Paducah; Richard B. Brown, Paducah; Alvis K. Bryant, Barbourville; Maudie Burchett, Eddyville; Irene Burdette, Louisville; Julia Burnett, Paducah; Gladys Carrier, Somerset; Clevis Don Carter, Barbourville; Darla Faulkner Carter, Barbourville; James E. Coffey, Barbourville; Marjorie M. Coffey, Barbourville; Jan Correll, Somerset;

Naoma Cowan, Winchester; Elwin Crabtree, Elizabethtown; Ruth Crider, Murray; Massie Crutcher, Elizabethtown; Elizabeth Curry, Elizabethtown; Yvonne Davis, Elizabethtown; Emma Day, Elizabethtown; Lullie Mae Dowell, Elizabethtown; Howard Downing, Louisville; Juanita Downing, Louisville; Charles Dunn, Louisville; Pauline B. Dunn, Louisville; Gertie Elliot, Barbourville; Tommy Elliot, Barbourville;

William E. Ennis, Muldraugh; Betty Erp, Somerset; Christine Eubank, Elizabethtown; Clara Eubank, Elizabethtown; Clyde Eubank, Elizabethtown; Wilma Ewing, Louisville; Lida Fitzpatrick, Somerset; Larry Norris Fletcher, Ashland; Sudie Frazier, Barbourville; Christine Fuqua, Paducah; Lillian M. Gambrell, Louisville; Frank Garcia, Elizabethtown; Elizabeth Gardner, Elizabethtown; John Gardner, Elizabethtown; Rose M. Gault, Louisville; Hallie Stone Gomer, Franklin; Virginia Fort Graber, Ashland;

Mildred C. Griffiee, Brandenburg; Sharon Hall, Elizabethtown; Ruby Hammond, Cadiz; Daisy H. Hampton, Barbourville; Evelyn Harris, Olive Hill; Mae Harris, Elizabethtown; Gertrude Hensley, Waddy; Grover Hensley, Waddy; Anna Mae Higgason, Elizabethtown; William Higgason, Elizabethtown; Charles D. Hillman, Paducah; Ruth Holm, Paducah; Elizabeth Howard, Buffalo; Virginia Hurst, Morgantown; Geneva Hurt, Murray; C.E. Hutchinson, Somerset; Allene Isham, Elizabethtown; Verna Jagggers, Elizabethtown;

Vella Johnston, Alexandria; Arko Jones, Paducah; Elizabeth Jones, Paducah; Juanita Jones, Paducah; Ollie Cole Jones, Barbourville; Kruger King, Paducah; Jewell Ladd, Somerset; Wallace Lakes, McKee; Margaret Lancaster, Cadiz; Les Langley, Elizabethtown; Jerome Lawson, Elizabethtown; Henry Lewis, Elizabethtown; Ruth Hope Lessley, Paducah; Omega Machen, Olive Hill; George C. Major, Cadiz; Mickey Malcolm, Somerset; Anna Mann, Elizabethtown; Dale Mayhugh, Eddyville; Adah Mays, Elizabethtown; Eunice McCarty, Eddyville;

Anna Mae McCubbin, Elizabethtown; Betty McGarvey, Paducah; Marilyn McGinnis, Paducah; Wilma McLellan, Bowling Green; Manervia McVey, Barbourville; Eufaula McWaters, Cadiz; E. Catherine Miller, Louisville; Helen Miller, Elizabethtown; Angie K. Miracle, Barbourville; Elizabeth Mitchell, Greensburg; Ed Moore, Barbourville; Margaret M. Moore, Barbourville; Douglas Mortensen, Elizabethtown; Gil Niceley, Elizabethtown; Cornelia Nicholson, Elizabethtown; Betty O'Hern, Somerset; Anna Lee Oliver, Cadiz; Hilda Owen, Paducah; Mark Padon, Paducah; Alice D. Parrott, Barbourville; Roberta W. Paskitti, Louisville; Viola

Patton, Paducah; Dessie Perkins Peddicord, Brooksville; Isabelle Peters, Louisville;

Margaret Pierman, Cold Spring; Anna Laura Towater Pope, Barbourville; Russell Pope, Barbourville; Geneva Propes, Hodgenville; Clifford Reed, Hodgenville; Lorraine Renfro, Louisville; Virginia Riggs, Louisville; H. Warren Robbins, Barbourville; Anna Lois Sexton, Eddyville; Doshia Shaw, Paducah; Thelma Shelburne, Shepherdsville; Leroy Shewmaker, Elizabethtown; Louise Dawson Shrum, Lewisburg; Bob Sisk, Princeton;

Ruby Gilbert Slusher, Barbourville; Aileen Smith, Olive Hill; Ida K. Smith, Louisville; Ruth Snider, Anchorage; Ethel Stamper, Paducah; Beatrice E. Tallent, Paducah; Mary Taul, Elizabethtown; Hiram Taylor, Louisville; Jean Taylor, Cadiz; Evelyn Teague, Barbourville; Dallas Thompson, Eddyville; Gertrude Thompson, LaGrange; Mrs. Sidney Thompson, Eddyville;

Vera May Travis, Cadiz; Lucille Turner, Somerset; Mildred Tutt, Murray; Sam Underwood, Buffalo; Jean Vincent, Louisville; Grace Voorhees, Barbourville; Justine Ward, Elizabethtown; Ed Wetterer, Elizabethtown; Anna White, Lexington; Beulena Mae White, Lexington; Damon Williams, Elizabethtown; Viola Williams, Barbourville; Paul Willoughby, Paducah; Clifford Wilson, Elizabethtown; Opal Winfield, Louisville; Alma M. Worful, Louisville; Joseph Wright, Cecilia; Sue Wright, Elizabethtown.

Joy tops happiness, widow says

INDIANAPOLIS—Joy is stronger than happiness, a surviving widow told wives of Southern Baptist evangelists.

Marthe Beasley, widow of evangelist Manley Beasley, has found joy amidst hard times that even include a bout with cancer, she said during a luncheon during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting this month.

Beasley, who said she now ministers "to women who are hurting," described her own hardships—handling her husband's 20-year struggle with terminal illness, his death two years ago and the challenge of raising children while he was away conducting evangelistic meetings.

While happiness is based on people, places and things, joy is better because it is based on following Jesus Christ, she said.

On the other hand, she added, sin

in a Christian's life brings unhappiness.

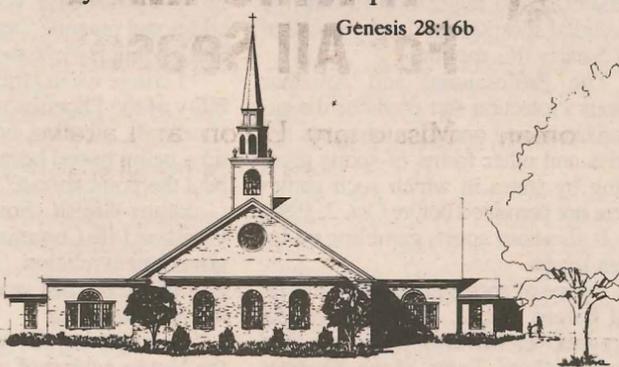
Circumstances should not determine how much joy is in a person's heart, she stressed. Christians sometimes face struggles that can provide opportunities for spiritual growth, not sadness and depression, she explained.

Too much "sunshine" makes a "desert," Beasley told the group. "You think you want sunshine all the time, but you have to have rain and storms to make the beautiful flowers and trees."

Being Spirit-filled helps a woman be a better wife and mother, she insisted, stressing that quality is important in making a good home—"a haven and a castle"—for the family.

And although the husband is the "head of the household," Beasley said, the wife is "the neck that turns the head."

"Surely the Lord is in this place...."
Genesis 28:16b



Danzinger-Byrd
Architect - Construction Manager
307 New Venture Drive Louisville, Kentucky
502-361-0171



Homeplaces



A group of girls from Dixon Temporary Shelter enjoy an afternoon at The Homeplace-1850 near Kentucky's Land Between the Lakes. The girls find another sort of homeplace through the temporary care provided through KBHC's Western Kentucky shelter.

When children come to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, they find a kind of homeplace. One of our campuses can never compare to a real home, but we can provide an atmosphere of love and acceptance where children can feel at home.

Children who are placed at one of our shelters, located in Morehead and Dixon, Kentucky, have often experienced frequent disruption in their lives. Some of them have been shuffled from home to home with little adult supervision or guidance. Coming into a more structured, yet caring, environment can prove difficult at times.

The child-caring staff on each campus make a special effort to make children coming into care feel that this will be a place where they can laugh and cry, express

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

anger in healthy ways and talk about their fears. For children who have not had these freedoms before, it is a new concept that requires some adjustment and a time of building trust.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is committed, on the part of Baptists like yourself, to giving each child the kind of personal attention and care it takes to begin to bridge the gap between what has been in their lives and what might be. We want each of them to know the hope that they can find in the everlasting love of our Maker, extended through the healing hands you make possible through our care. Thank you for your part.

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

Paid Column

Focus on prayer, Stanley exhorts

By Brenda J. Sanders
Midwestern Baptist Seminary

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—“Devote yourselves to prayer,” Charles Stanley urged Southern Baptists during the closing moments of their 1992 annual meeting.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta, said devotion to prayer is the key to discovering God’s will and vision for every person.

Any person of God who is devoted to prayer “will be able to overcome every single obstacle in life and will

have no limitations in life, except those which God sets,” he said.

“If you and I learn to draw from within, not from without, seeking the mind of God, the Spirit of God who lives inside of us will release in you and through you every single thing you need to become and to do what God has called you to do.”

He identified a problem Christians face: “We limit what God can do in our lives by judging ourselves by the past or comparing ourselves with other people. We look back instead of looking up to God. ...

“What God does in your life really has nothing to do with your education, your eloquence, your ability or talent, but it does have a great deal to do with your devotion to Christ and to prayer,” he said.

“Prayer is the key to getting God’s vision for your life. Once you have that sense of direction, everything in you begins to churn. You become more creative; God begins to show you how to do things you would never figure out yourself. Prayer is the answer to every facet of the life of the man of God.”



NATIONAL EXPOSURE
Amy Goode (left), a member of Westport Road Baptist Church and one of six national Acteens advisory panelists, served as a page at the Southern Baptist Convention and Woman’s Missionary Union annual meetings in Indianapolis this month. “It’s been a wonderful experience. ... I’ve learned a lot about the SBC,” she said toward the end of the week. She enjoyed a break with Marti Solomon (right), national Acteens director for the WMU. (WR photo)

SBC hurt itself, ousted Dunn says

By Marv Knox
Editor

INDIANAPOLIS—The Southern Baptist Convention “suffered the larger loss” when the SBC voted not to give \$300,000 in disputed endowment to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, claimed James Dunn, the Joint Committee’s executive director.

The SBC rejected a Joint Committee request for binding arbitration to determine ownership of the 28-year-old endowment this month in Indianapolis. It also voted to sever all ties with the religious liberty organization.

“The convention lost a large measure of her reputation as a biblical people by refusing Christian conciliation,” Dunn claimed.

“The credibility of the Southern Baptist Foundation is under a dark cloud of doubt because of its refusal to honor the intentions of the 1964 convention.

“Most damaging, the SBC deliberately and finally moved away from the historic hallmark of Baptists—belief in the separation of church and state as necessary for religious liberty.”

Will exclusion be expanded? Wait & see

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

INDIANAPOLIS (ABP)—Southern Baptists will have to “wait and see” if their decision to exclude churches that affirm homosexuality indicates the convention will exert more influence over local churches.

“It depends on if this sets a precedent or is a one-time action,” said Bill Leonard, chairman of the religion department at Samford University and formerly a church history professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Earlier this month, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention approved the first reading of a constitutional change that would exclude any church that approves homosexuality.

The decision marks the first time a moral issue has been used to limit membership in the 147-year-old SBC.

The constitution previously only looked at financial contributions in determining church participation.

The SBC action was directed at two North Carolina churches which took actions affirming homosexuality this year.

Leonard and other historians agree the SBC is well within its rights to determine limits for participation.

But that power existed without the constitutional amendment. In fact, SBC messengers ousted the two churches before amending the constitution. If the amendment wasn’t necessary, some ask, was it wise?

Some observers say the action departs from the traditional relationship between the SBC and churches and opens wide the door for exclusion.

“It is hard to overestimate the significance of this change,” said Jim Guenther, the SBC’s attorney. Although the SBC always has had the power of exclusion, “the convention has never thought an issue was so important as to look to the faith and order of a church.”

Will the SBC exclude churches for other causes?

Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, said that prospect is “highly unlikely,” since it took the denomination almost 150 to exercise its exclusionary power.

Possible targets of future SBC action could be churches that favor abortion rights or women’s ordination.

“We’ll have to wait and see,” what happens next, Leonard said. “If it does become a precedent, heaven only knows where we will go. ... Which sins are important enough?”

The potential is for the convention to make national decisions and pass them down to churches, he added.

If that happens, expect to hear a cry of “foul” from advocates of local-church autonomy.

So far at least, Southern Baptists have not crossed that line, said Land. Just as the two Carolina churches were free to affirm homosexuality, so was the SBC free to withdraw fellowship, he said. “No one has tried to interfere with local-church polity.”

Church evangelism leaders form network

INDIANAPOLIS—Evangelism leaders in Southern Baptist churches organized a network during an initial conference this month, held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The Ministers of Evangelism Network—MOENET—will provide resources, method updates and fellowship opportunities for evangelism leaders in churches, said Keith Walker, coordinator of the conference and associate director of the SBC Home Mission Board’s church growth department.

MOENET hopes to provide a newsletter, directory, workshops and job-placement assistance, Walker said.

“Churches must have a vision for reaching people in their community and make it a priority,” urged Darrell Robinson, the board’s vice president for evangelism.

The basic principles for reaching people are exalting the Savior, equipping the saints and evangelizing the sinner, Robinson said.

For more information about MOENET, contact Walker at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St., NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367.

REC◆SHOP '92

A Recreation Workshop for Lay Leaders

Sponsored by the Church Recreation Dept. of the Baptist Sunday School Board

JULY 24-25, 1992
LOUISVILLE, KY

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

REC◆SHOP is open to any church from any denomination.

Cost: \$35 per person.

For Information: Call 615-251-3848 or 251-2712,
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (CST) Mon. - Fri.

Give us 24 hours—
we'll give you more ideas than you can use!



A WMU MAN For All Seasons



Woman’s Missionary Union at Lakewood Baptist Church, Louisville, has a MAN for all seasons: MISSIONS AWARENESS NIGHT is the first Wednesday of each month. Dinner is served from 6-6:45, followed by a missionary speaker, presentations on cults, missions games, etc. A variety of activities is used to involve the entire church in missions education. Begun in 1990, MISSIONS AWARENESS NIGHT is a churchwide missions event sponsored by the WMU, Peggy Hicks, director.

KENTUCKY KERNELS

The Kentucky Baptist Building, located on Shelbyville Road in eastern Jefferson County, near Middletown, was completed in June 1957 at a cost of \$425,000. Previous offices had been located at various sites in downtown Louisville. The Baptist Building houses offices for the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and the Western Recorder.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—First Church called **David Mefford** as assistant to the pastor, in the area of pastoral care.
 ■ **BRANDENBURG**—**Russ Adkisson**, coordinator of lay-led revivals, has openings for July, September, October and November. He also is looking for help in 25 lay-led revivals in Arizona in January. Contact him at (502) 422-4047.
 ■ **BREMEN**—Mt. Pisgah Church ordained **Terry Fortner** to the ministry.
 ■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Mt. Roberts Church called **Jerry Lasefield** as pastor.

■ **CARLISLE**—Irvingville Church called **Tom Moore** as pastor. Moore served as interim pastor at the church.
 ■ **COLUMBIA**—**Herschel Hobbs** will lead a study of the book of Revelation at Columbia Church July 19-22. Sessions will be Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday through Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., Central time.
 Bethany Church called **William Karnes** as pastor.
 ■ **CORBIN**—Horse Creek Church called **Tim Hobart Mills** as pastor.
 ■ **CUMBERLAND**—Dione Church called **Luke Day** as pastor.
 ■ **FLAT LICK**—Concord Church



RA UNIVERSITY Seven Kentucky Baptists attended Royal Ambassador University, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, in Memphis, Tenn. They are (from left) John Phelps of Louisville, Jerry Vittioe of Jeffersontown, Jerry Stewart of Princeton, Linda Stewart of Princeton, Al Wells of Louisville, Donna Reddick of Louisville and Gwendolyn Lee of Grand Rivers.

called **Tim Johnson** as pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—**Ross and Jennifer Rainwater** are serving at Calvary Church as music and youth directors.
 ■ **HEIDELBERG**—**Arlon Davis** resigned as pastor of Heidelberg Church.
 ■ **LAGRANGE**—**Henry Beach** resigned as pastor of LaGrange Heights Church effective June 21. He is retiring after 58 years in the active ministry.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Acres Church celebrated the bicentennial of the Kentucky Commonwealth with an "Old-fashioned Day" observance May 31.
 ■ **MARTIN**—First Church called

Russell Taylor as pastor. Taylor previously served as pastor of Pleasant Point Church in Manchester.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—**Van McQueen** is serving First Church as interim minister of music.
 ■ **MT. WASHINGTON**—First Church ordained **David Watts** to the ministry May 24. Watts serves the church as minister of music.
 ■ **OWINGSVILLE**—Owingsville Church celebrated its 45th anniversary June 21. **Robert Jones**, of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was guest preacher in the morning worship, which was followed by dinner on the grounds and an afternoon gospel sing and dedicatory service for the sanctuary renovations.

■ **PENROD**—Penrod Church called **Steve Rutherford** as pastor.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—**Michael Spencer**, pastor of Bullitt Lick Church, has resigned to become chaplain at Oneida Baptist Institute in Oneida.

■ **WESTPORT**—**Frank Martin** is completing nine months as interim social worker at Westport Church and plans to enter the chaplaincy.

■ **WINCHESTER**—**Curtis Griffis** has resigned as associate pastor in education at Central Church. He has accepted the position of director of evangelism, church administration and Brotherhood with the Colorado Baptist General Convention.

New Hope Church called **John David Cravens** as pastor.

■ **WORTHINGTON**—**Terry Browning** resigned as pastor of Everman Missionary Church.

Georgetown unveils 'clean' Washington

GEORGETOWN—Georgetown College's restored 1815 portrait of George Washington was unveiled in commemoration of Scott County's bicentennial this week.

The portrait is part of Georgetown College's permanent art collection. Jim McCormick, chairman of the college's art department, headed the restoration project. It was funded by the Kentucky Bicentennial Commission and friends, at a cost of almost \$20,000.

The portrait was painted by Asa Park of Lexington. Georgetown College has housed the painting since 1845. It eventually will be on permanent display in a Washington Room in the school's Giddings Hall.

Nearly in a time warp

Recently, a wonderful letter came to us with a donation from an out-of-state family who enrolled its son at Oneida. They wrote:

"We are writing to express our appreciation of your hospitality. We felt as though we were nearly in a time warp! Values and principles were expressed that we never hear anymore. We are sure we made the right decision in bringing our child to Oneida. We pray he will realize this also.

"We know where you stand. Oneida is the chance of a lifetime for many young people. We fervently hope they avail themselves of their opportunity.

"One of the things that calmed my heart was to hear you say that there is no big psychological emphasis at Oneida. Everywhere I turned to read, study and learn of what was out there to help us, I would run into the urgency for "psychological counseling" or "psychological evaluation," and none of it has helped very much. I even took a course at my church which I evaluated as nothing more than a thinly disguised 'New Age' approach. I was dismayed because I had read some warnings how 'New Age' has invaded even conservative churches, mainly through an over-emphasis on psychology.

"Our son has become a maverick to our family lineage that held to honorable principles, upright living and hard work. My wonderful grandparents taught my father to work, and he never rebelled against it. His hard work has helped bring us some of the comforts that we—including my son—enjoy today.

"Yes, we greatly enjoyed our day at Oneida, the wholesome, tasty dinner, and the peace we enjoyed of knowing our son is in the hands of people who know children and can deal with the

expertise that we, who are too close to the problem, could not manage. We feel great confidence in your staff, in all we saw and heard. You folks, if anyone, will bring out the positive qualities of our son that have been recessive for some time.

"The campus and the beautiful surroundings of the mountains also impressed us. Before we left we saw the first smile of our son in a long time, and a favorable response."

It is wonderful to get a letter like this. Of course, we get some not so kind as well. What is even more wonderful is that this young man was one of the highest risk situations we have dealt with. We accept each one, however, knowing that each is God's very own creation and that Jesus, knowing their sins ahead of time, thought each worthy to die for. It is our great privilege to receive each one in faith, to show each the love of Christ, and to share his gospel.

We cannot guarantee any parent or child that the student will succeed here. We can only guarantee that we are going to try very hard and pray that they will be responsive. With the

blessing of the Holy Spirit, many are won to the Lord here, and with that new perspective, many lives are changed and salvaged.

This fact makes Oneida's ongoing ministry possible without any recruitment other than answering the phone and mail, and showing folks around when they come. Folks are attracted to donate and to serve for a fraction of normal salaries because of Oneida's success with so many.

The young man is now honor roll status, still here, still smiling, and growing "in favor with God and man."

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Indianapolis encouragement

Downtown Indianapolis has changed for the better since my summer visits as a teen-ager. Too bad the SBC shuttle wasn't as efficient as the 1955 city bus.

I am not much help to folk who ask, "How was the convention?" I spent much of my time with our exhibit greeting alumni, friends and prospective students. Many came by to affirm us, and nearly 50 alumni and friends ventured out to our Tuesday dinner. Fourteen classes were represented. Kentuckians Emory and Romona Kinslow, 1969 graduates from White Plains, brought their daughter who was born at Clear Creek. She is now an Indianapolis schoolteacher.

A pastor's wife came and told us an endowment had been established with the North Carolina Baptist Foundation in honor of her Louisville mother. "When I asked her who she wanted to help, 'Clear Creek' was her quick response. 'We thank God for your work.'"

Clear Creek's emphasis on faith and missions often bears fruit in the life of our children. 1979 graduates Vestal and Alteena Meece from Ottawa Church shared the news about their son and daughter-in-law's upcoming appointment as SBC missionaries to Mongolia.

Dr. David Meece and his wife, Laura, will "help reshape the nation's health department." While in college, David took Russian. His mother said, "Son, you'll never need that." David told her, "German isn't available, and I need a language." Recently, David commented, "The Lord knew better than we did." Pray for this new work. A church started in October

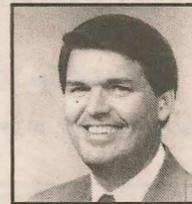
already has attendance above 100. The Meeces will start new Bible studies along with medical work.

Gary Rose attended Clear Creek only a year, but his ministry continues to be influenced. He especially remembers an Isaiah class taught by Dr. Bob Fitts. "Tell Julia McCall hello, she really encouraged me." Such frequent comments encourage all of us.

The Indianapolis Southern Baptist Convention encouraged me to keep faith with our mission. The results make it worthwhile. Pray with us for the Lord's leadership with the 10 prospective students we met. We hope in a few years some of them will visit our exhibit and tell us the results of coming to Clear Creek.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Paid Column

MISSIONS

Tricked by father, woman affirms Christ on death bed

By Craig Bird
SBC Foreign Mission Board

ENTEBBE, Uganda (BP)—Her father's promise of salvation from AIDS successfully tempted Mary to recant Christianity.

But her dying breaths were spent calling the name of Jesus—destroying the father's effort to protect the pure Islamic family name and creating an impact in her community.

Southern Baptist missionary Meg Hesch was Mary's employer, friend, spiritual guide, discipler and nurse.

At many critical points, Mary's story also was the missionary's story. The young woman came to work for Hesch and her husband, Roger, in late 1987. Just before Easter 1988, Mary expressed a desire for a relationship with Jesus.

"Once I started reading the Bible and found out who Jesus really is, there was a clear choice," she told Hesch. "Other Muslims had told me what they thought Christianity was, but once I knew the truth about Jesus, I knew what to do. It wasn't an easy choice, but it was a clear choice."

Mary "grew like a weed spiritually," Hesch remembered. "She was so eager to know how she should live, she spent every spare moment in her room reading the Bible. She memorized Scripture copiously."

That summer she began to get sick. Every two or three weeks, she got a fever for a day or two, accompanied by nausea or weakness. In November, she developed skin rashes and weakness, and the "bad days" were much more frequent. By the end of December, she was bedridden.

Hesch was aware of the horrifying rate of growth in HIV-infected people in Uganda, and she was experienced in sharing a Bible-based AIDS counseling tract. But she didn't draw the

correct conclusion about Mary's illness easily. She remembers thinking it was ironic she didn't know anyone personally who had AIDS when so many suffered from it.

But in late 1988 while helping prepare a request for Foreign Mission Board funding of an AIDS clinic, the revelation staggered her.

"That's what Mary has!" she screamed internally. "Why her, God? She's only 20 years old! It hurts to see so young a disciple nipped in the bud of her Christianity."

After medical tests confirmed AIDS, Mary pounded Hesch with questions about how such a thing could happen to a Christian. Wasn't she a child of God? She didn't try to hide her sexual history. But since she hadn't had sex in four years, she insisted the test results were in error.

Meanwhile, her employer-turned-nurse assured her: "Yes, God still loves you. It's just this virus has been in your bloodstream all these years and it's now making you sick."

By now the two women had more than swapped their original roles. Mary vomited constantly and needed help bathing and changing her clothes.

As her strength failed, Mary's questions increasingly centered on heaven. "Will we dig (have a garden) in heaven? Will we eat matoke (bananas)?" Together the women explored Bible passages and discussed what they meant in the Ugandan culture and language.

Then Mary developed terrible pains in her head and legs, nausea and dizziness. She could no longer read her beloved Bible and ultimately couldn't even remember verses she had memorized so eagerly.

"But she could still talk to Jesus," Hesch said. "She had two recurring visions. In one she saw brilliant flowers shifting and moving. She loved

flowers and, before she got sick, kept our house full of fresh bouquets. I'm convinced she was thinking about heaven and, since the most beautiful things she knew were flowers, got a glimpse of a heaven full of that beauty.

"The other vision came as she prayed. A figure—dressed in brilliant white—came into her room with extended hands saying, 'Mary, come with me.' I can only conclude that Jesus, in his love for Mary, came to comfort her."

In March the Heschs took Mary home. Mary's father was polite to the missionaries but summoned a witch doctor as soon as they left. When Mary refused treatment because of her Christian convictions, the family chased her from the property. Next the missionaries took her to a Catholic hospital near her home.

"That was neutral ground," Hesch explained. "We knew if we had any confrontations with her family, it would be there instead of at our home. Plus it was a hospital with godly sisters who could offer her spiritual counsel." But after a few days, Mary's brother came, caused a commotion among the staff and forcibly removed Mary to his home.

The following day, Mary's father finally visited his dying daughter. He told her a cure for AIDS had just been discovered. He said if Mary would recant her heresy and return to Islam, he would take her across Lake Victoria to Mwanza, Tanzania, to buy the cure.

She agreed, but the next day she heard the truth. "There's no cure," he admitted. "You will die. But now I can give you a Muslim burial."

Earlier he had said if Mary didn't die a Muslim he couldn't be buried with honor himself since he would no longer be head of a purely Islamic

clan.

When the Heschs visited, they were heartened to see Mary's family treating the near-helpless patient with love. But they were devastated when they asked to read the Bible and pray with her.

"No," her family said. "She has changed."

Mary, "looking like a zombie, lifeless with her eyes glazed and speaking in a monotone said, 'I've come out from within salvation.'"

Hesch, unaware of the father's deception, "grieved more than ever because Satan had gained the upper hand. I think Mary felt like Peter after he denied Jesus three times. The only thing I could think to do was whisper softly as I hugged her, 'Jesus knows his own sheep, Mary. Goodbye.'"

A few days later, Mary died. "I was pretty empty for the next several weeks," Hesch admitted. "I thought she had been buried with Muslim rites, that her testimony had been ruined and God had been defeated in that village."

But that wasn't the case.

"Her sister came to our home while we were gone and told some church members what had happened," Hesch explained. "The last day Mary started calling out our names and the names of other Christian friends. Over and over she cried, 'Jesus, forgive me; Jesus, forgive me.'"

Her father got extremely angry, but his older sister hushed him, saying: "She's dying. If she knows the way to God, she may know better than we do."

Since she obviously couldn't be buried as a Muslim, the family bathed Mary's body, put her in a grave and covered her with dirt.

The village was aghast. Mary had not abandoned Christianity after all. She had gone back to Jesus before she went to be with him.

"Other Muslims had told me what they thought Christianity was, but once I knew the truth about Jesus, I knew what to do."

Mary, a Ugandan convert to Christianity

MUSLIMS Shabbir Kassamje discusses a passage in the Koran, the holy book of Islam. Kassamje, who owns a hardware store with his brother, is a friend of Southern Baptist missionaries in Malindi, Kenya. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Muslims & Christians don't know each other

By Craig Bird
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MOMBASA, Kenya (BP)—Despite centuries of conflict between Christians and Muslims, the two groups share one thing in common: Both think they know the other, but neither really does.

"One of the big problems is that each group believes false things about each other," said Miyawa Abuyeka, youth chairman of Timbwani Baptist Church in Mombasa, Kenya.

"For example, most African Christians think the reason Muslims don't eat pork is because pigs roamed around the grave of Muhammad—but that's false. It's a dietary law just like among Jews," he said.

And most Christians in the United States likely equate "Muslim" with what they see on the nightly news—and are likely to have no idea what a Muslim believes.

Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that people who call themselves Muslim are just as diverse as people who call themselves Christian, explained Charles Bedenbaugh, a Southern Baptist missionary in Tanzania for 31 years before he died last

year from cancer.

The two major divisions among Muslims are Sunni and Shiite—a split that developed soon after the death of Muhammad over how the mantle of spiritual leadership should fall. The Sunni sect is the largest, but the Shiite sect is the one most recognized by Americans. The Iranian government is led by Shiites. Saudi Arabia is dominated by Sunnis.

Within, alongside and perhaps outside these two major divisions are uncounted sects focused on different verses of the Koran or defending differing interpretations of key verses.

Among the handful of blanket statements true about Islamic beliefs:

- There's one sovereign God.
- God's final revelation was the Koran.

■ Islam is the only true faith.

■ Salvation is earned by good works and following the Koranic teachings.

■ Angels are God's messengers, and evil spirits oppose them.

■ A pilgrimage to Mecca, if you can afford it, is mandatory.

But there are many other things that most Muslims hold to be true:

- Jesus was born to a virgin named

Mary, lived a perfect life and ascended into heaven without dying. (A substitute died on the cross, they say).

■ At judgment Jesus will return to declare the fate of all mankind but Muhammad will be there to speak on behalf of Muslims.

■ The "comforter" Jesus said would be sent by God was the prophet Muhammad.

■ There's no security of salvation until the final judgment. A Christian who says he is saved will be accused of insulting the power of God.

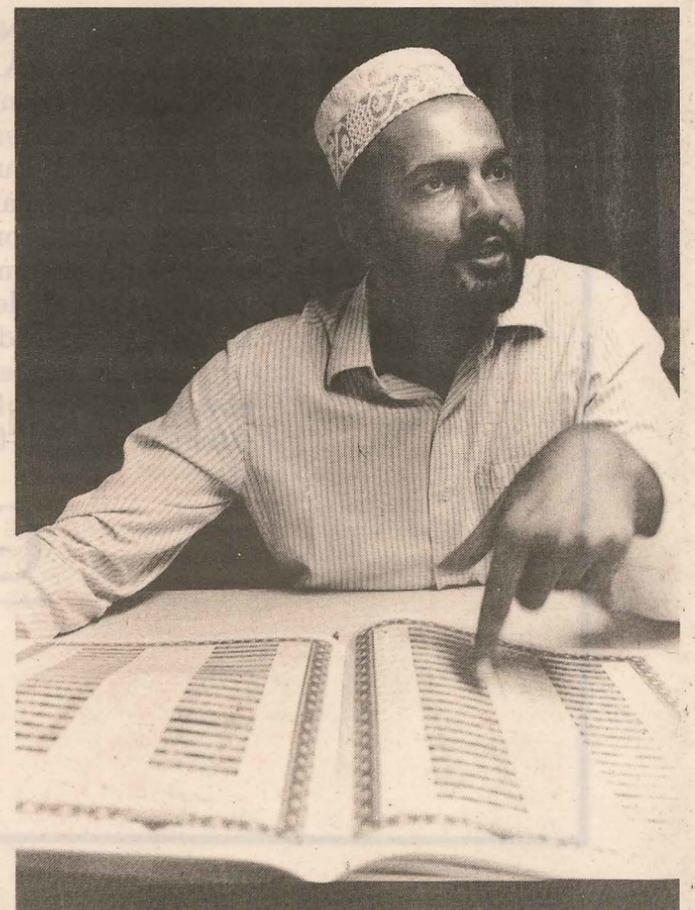
■ Sin is in things—eating pork, having a photograph or a statue in your home (idol worship)—and not in attitudes. Fear is an acceptable motivation to serve Allah as well as love.

■ Muslims should be moral and not lie, cheat, drink or abuse drugs.

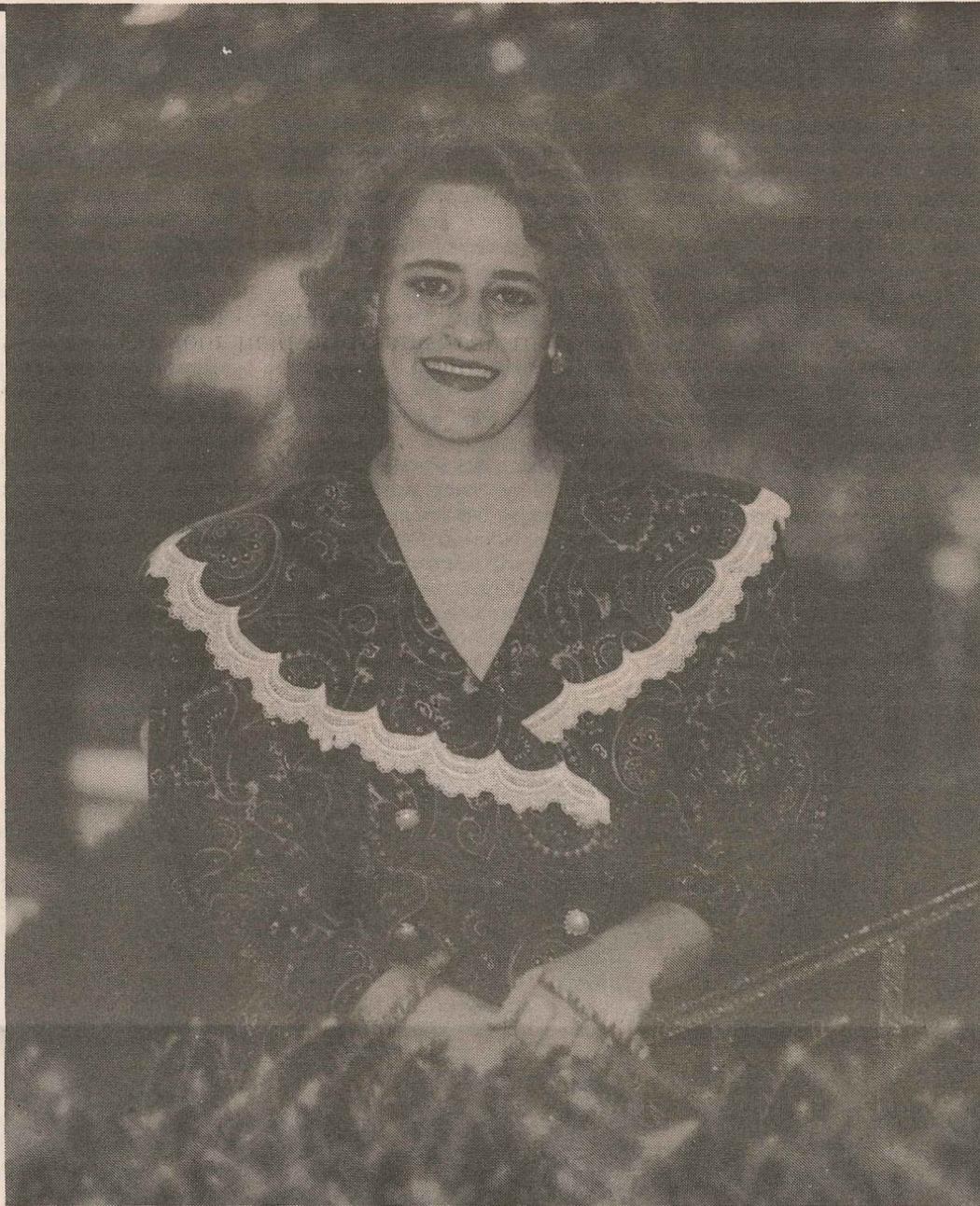
■ An evil figure, much like the antichrist of Revelation, will lead a reign of terror toward the end of time but will be defeated.

■ Women should be protected and modest. Some sects prohibit women from wearing the veil, shawl and robes so familiar on American television. Others require it.

■ Most Muslim sects do not believe in or practice evangelism.



GEORGETOWN



Mechelle's *field* of dreams

MECHELLE LANGSTON: Georgetown College Summa Cum Laude graduate, Class of 1992; B.A., History/Political Science; Carl R. Fields History Award; Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges; Alpha Lambda Delta Senior Honor; Fulbright Scholar; Dreamer . . .

Since her early teens, Mechelle Langston, of Elizabethtown, had a dream. Her dream was to learn as much as she could about the Arabic culture and to one day do research in this field in the Middle East. Mechelle's dream has come true. In May, this Summa Cum Laude Georgetown College graduate was named a Fulbright Scholar to the University of Jordan in Amman.

Special students are attracted to special colleges. For information on how to find your field of dreams, call the Georgetown College Admissions Office at the toll-free number below.

GEORGETOWN

C O L L E G E

Georgetown, Kentucky

(800) 788-9985