

FOR THE RECORD

Court rules against state-sponsored school prayer

Alcoholics for Christ
Bullitt Lick Baptist Church in Shepherdsville has begun the first Kentucky chapter of a group that offers support for recovering alcoholics with an explicit Christian basis. See page 3.

Candidates' faith
Likely presidential candidates George Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot all are described as church-going Christians. See page 7.

Olympic summer
Flatwoods Baptist Church has made the impossible possible for an "Olympic summer" emphasis. See page 8.

WASHINGTON (ABP)—School-sponsored prayers by clergy at public school commencement ceremonies are unconstitutional, a sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court declared June 24.

The 5-4 ruling upheld lower court rulings against the Providence, R.I., school district's practice of including clergy-delivered invocations and benedictions at the ceremonies.

The high court declined the request by the U.S. Justice Department to use the case, *Lee vs. Weisman*, to reconsider the three-part test formulated in 1971 to weigh establishment clause violations. That test, announced in *Lemon vs. Kurtzman* and known as the Lemon test, requires government practices to have a secular purpose, neither advance nor inhibit religion and avoid excessive entanglement between government and religion.

Writing for the majority, Associate

Justice Anthony Kennedy said the commencement prayer policy violated the First Amendment's ban against a state establishment of religion because the prayers involved were state-directed and coercive.

Kennedy was joined by Associate Justices Harry Blackmun, John Paul Stevens, Sandra Day O'Connor and David Souter.

In a strongly worded dissent, Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, joined by Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Associate Justices Byron White and Clarence Thomas, accused the majority of ignoring "a tradition that is as old as public-school graduation ceremonies themselves, and that is a component of an even more longstanding tradition of nonsectarian prayer to God at public celebrations generally."

The Providence policy was challenged by Deborah Weisman, a stu-

dent at Nathan Bishop Middle School, and her father, Daniel Weisman.

In affirming lower court rulings that sided with the Weismans, the high court majority called government's involvement in the religious exercises "pervasive, to the point of creating a state-sponsored and state-directed religious exercise in a public school." School officials decided, the majority said, that prayers would be included in the ceremony and who would deliver the prayers and then "directed and controlled the content of the prayer" by issuing guidelines and advising the minister that the prayers should be non-sectarian.

Citing the high court's landmark 1962 and 1963 decisions barring state-sponsored religious exercises in public schools, the majority noted that "prayer exercises in public schools carry a particular risk of indirect coercion. The concern may not be limited to the context of schools, but it is most pronounced there."

Kennedy and the majority rejected

claims that no coercion is involved because attendance at the ceremony was not required to receive a diploma.

"The undeniable fact is that the school district's supervision and control of a high school graduation ceremony places public pressure, as well as peer pressure on attending students to stand as a group, or at least, maintain respectful silence during the invocation and benediction," Kennedy wrote. "This pressure, though subtle and indirect, can be as real as any overt compulsion."

The level of school involvement, Kennedy wrote, "made it clear that the graduation prayers bore the imprint of the State and thus put school-age children who objected in an untenable position."

In his dissent, Scalia argued that direct coercion, not merely subtle and indirect pressure, is required to violate the First Amendment's establishment clause when the religious activity involved is non-sectarian.

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FMB role brought Hancock highs & lows

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Bill Hancock enjoyed the highest highs and endured the lowest lows of his ministry during his tenure on the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, was an FMB trustee from 1984 until he rotated off the board this summer. He served the last two years as chairman.

On one hand, Hancock enjoyed his participation in the missions enterprise immensely. He witnessed some of the greatest strides in missions expansion and innovation the church has seen.

"The greatest joy in my life is being a pastor," he noted, "but the greatest experience of my life was being on the Foreign Mission Board."

On the other hand, however, Hancock was chairman for two of the board's most tumultuous years. Trustees created a storm of controversy last fall, when they cut funding for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Then, this spring, board President Keith Parks announced his retirement—three years earlier than planned—due to "philosophical differences" with trustees.

"By the end of my tenure as chairman, I was viewed by both sides (SBC conservatives and moderates) as contributing to the problem," Hancock described. "I felt like a person with the plague. Nobody on either side wanted to get close to me."

Looking back, Hancock said much of the recent agony and conflict could have been avoided.

"For example, Ruschlikon could have been handled better had we met with the European Baptists beforehand and negotiated," he explained. He would have preferred to give the school a grant for the \$365,000 that already had been pledged and then negotiate plans to "work out the future" of relationships between the board and the seminary.

"There were things happening on both sides that were not on top of the

table," he added. Seminary officials launched a U.S. development campaign without notifying the board, and FMB trustees acted impatiently and in confrontation with FMB staff.

"That was the most painful thing we did in my eight years," he said, noting the problem between the board and seminary had been recurring since 1975 and "had not been dealt with responsibly by trustees or staff."

Although the timing and methods were wrong, Hancock admitted, he added: "We did the right thing. ... That will be proven in the future, by the use of missions money, by offerings, by the work."

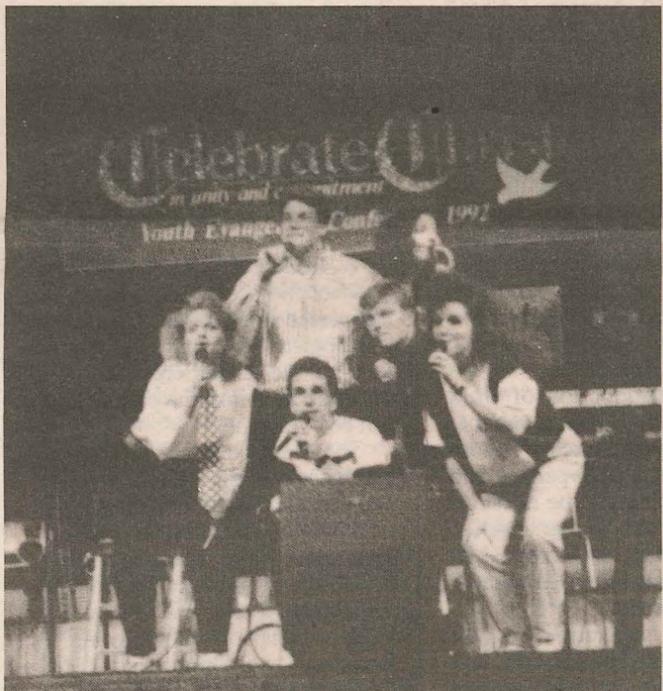
The issue of Parks' retirement also was painful, and Hancock said he wished the missions leader had decided to remain as president through 1995.

"My experience of working with Dr. Parks was tremendously good," he recalled. "I learned from him and appreciate his heart for missions and



Bill Hancock

See Tenure as FMB ..., page 9



YOUTH CELEBRATION Members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Son Celebration student missions team perform for a crowd of 5,000 teen-agers attending the annual youth evangelism conference in Frankfort. Son Celebration members pictured are Jon Lucas, Sherry Roy, Angela Hudgin, Keith Griesser, Deena Mullins and David Buckner. See story on page 3. (Photo by Pat Cole)

One in four Americans has left childhood faith, poll finds

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

PRINCETON, N.J.—Nearly one-fourth of American adults have left the church of their childhood for another denomination or faith, the Gallup Organization reports.

Southern Baptist churches appear to benefit from this trend more than they are hurt by it.

Only 5 percent of people who said they had changed faiths left Southern Baptist churches for another faith. But 10 percent of those who said they had converted moved into Southern Baptist churches.

Overall, denomination-switching appears to benefit Protestant churches more than Catholic churches. While 81 percent of converts landed in Protestant churches, only 9 percent moved into Roman Catholic churches.

Also, 45 percent of those who have switched said they left a Protestant denomination while 18 percent said they left the Roman Catholic church.

Among Protestants, smaller denominations taken as a whole are most likely to get switchers, followed by Methodists, Presbyterians and Southern Baptists.

Methodists also are the most likely to lose members who change faiths,

the poll found. A total of 15 percent of those who said they had left the faith of their childhood exited the Methodist church, compared to 6 percent who said they used to be Presbyterians, 3 percent who used to be Lutherans, 5 percent who used to be Southern Baptists and 6 percent who were some other form of Baptist.

The most common reason for changing denominations is marriage, accounting for 26 percent of switches.

Other top reasons are:

- A preference for the religious beliefs of the new church, 14 percent.
- Moved or found a more conveniently located church, 11 percent.

■ Influence of friends, relatives or children, 10 percent.

■ Disliked the religious beliefs of the former church, 7 percent.

■ Had a religious experience with God, 5 percent.

The Gallup poll also found that Americans who have changed faiths or denominations are more likely to say religion is "very important" in their lives (71 percent) than people who have not changed faiths (58 percent).

The research was conducted in April 1992 through telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of adults 18 years and older.

Moving? See page 4 (0630)

Sunday School Board announces staff restructuring

NASHVILLE (BP)—Nine people have been named to direct divisions and departments and the retirement of eight longtime employees has been announced in a broad restructuring of

staff at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

A new organizational structure and nominations to nine of 18 positions that report directly to vice presidents of the board's four operational areas were affirmed June 25 by the trustee executive committee and general administration committee.

President Jimmy Draper announced the changes to employees June 26. Official approval awaits action by the full trustee board, which meets Aug. 17-19.

As part of the restructuring, Draper also announced the retirement of eight long-tenured employees from middle- and upper-level management positions. Some reportedly chose the transition time to retire while others were asked to retire.

Employees retiring are Dessel Aderholt, 62, director of publishing analysis; Martin Bradley, 64, director of the corporate planning and research department; Andy Dodson, 53, director of the distribution services division; Jimmy Edwards, 54, vice president for marketing and distribution; Johnnie Godwin, 55, vice president for general publishing; Bill Graham, 57, director of the book

store division; Ken McAnear, 58, director of Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center; and David Turner, 56, director of business development planning.

Draper announced three nominations for division director posts: Harry Piland, 63, director of the Sunday school division for 14 years, will become director of church growth and Sunday school; Roy Edgemon, 57, director of the discipleship training department since 1978, will become director of discipleship and family development; and Roland Maddox, 55, owner and president of a Memphis, Tenn.-based real estate development and sales company and a former trustee of the board, will direct the newly created church program support division.

The newly created marketing research department will be directed by Doug Anderson, 47, director of the family ministry department since 1982. Jim Shull, 51, director of the procurement and administrative services department, will lead the production services department.

Four department directors will continue in their current positions: Van Simpson, 49, director of the information systems department; Rich-

ard Bell, 53, director of the property management department; Steve Lawrence, 48, director of the human resources department; and Larry Haslam, 52, director of Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Both current employees and outsiders will be considered for the remaining division and department director positions, Draper said. Also, additional structural changes likely will be made as vice presidents work with division and department directors in their areas, he told employees.

Draper said the restructuring reduces both the number of levels of management and the number of positions at middle and upper levels. "While I am convinced reducing management levels and positions is the best approach for the long-term future of the Sunday School Board, these personnel decisions are extremely difficult in the short term," he explained.

The new structure is headed by Draper and four vice presidents of operational areas—Michael Arrington, corporate services; Gene Mims, church growth and programs; Charles Wilson, trade and retail markets; and E.V. King, finance and administration.

New Sunday School Board Structure

Under a staff restructuring announced by President Jimmy Draper, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board will have four operational units headed by vice presidents. Those units and their responsibilities are:

Corporate services

- Communications
- Marketing research
- Strategic planning
- Information systems
- Glorieta conference center
- Ridgecrest conference center

Church growth & programs

- Church growth & Sunday school
- Discipleship & family development
- Worship & church music
- Church program support
- Hispanic, language and black church development units

Finance & administration

- Business & finance
- Production services
- Property management
- Distribution
- Human resources

Trade & retail markets

- Book stores
- Direct marketing
- Trade publishing

Controversy put Bennett to test in top post

By Art Toalston
Baptist Press



APPRECIATION Harold C. Bennett, retiring president-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and his wife, Phyllis, are greeted by messengers to this year's annual meeting Indianapolis. (BP photo by Paul Brock)

NASHVILLE (BP)—"I love Southern Baptists. I love Jesus Christ," Harold C. Bennett said when he stepped into the role of president-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in 1979.

Those loves remained strong during Bennett's 13-year tenure—but they were put to the test by a sweeping transition toward deeper conservatism within the SBC.

Bennett is to retire Oct. 1 but remain with the Executive Committee until Dec. 31 to assist president-treasurer-elect Morris Chapman, who began work with the SBC coordinating body June 15.

Despite the years of change, marked by controversy across the SBC and deeply divided votes at annual conventions, Bennett is cited for keeping a steady course.

"My commitment," he said, "has been to be fair and to work with all our constituency."

Jimmy Draper, SBC president from 1982-84 and current president of the SBC Sunday School Board, said Bennett "worked very well with the conservative leadership as well as the moderate leadership in this time of

transition. I think he's given us stability in these 13 years."

During his two terms as SBC president, Draper said he received good counsel from Bennett. "But he wouldn't force it on me. He always made suggestions for me to consider. I felt he wanted me to succeed."

As president-treasurer, Bennett is the Executive Committee's chief staff assistant in its role of coordinating SBC affairs between annual convention sessions, distributing and accounting for Southern Baptists' giving through the \$140-million Cooperative Program unified budget and spearheading SBC public relations.

Bennett and the 21-member Executive Committee staff he directs also provide staff support and background materials needed by other SBC committees as well as making the vast array of arrangements necessary for each year's convention meeting.

Bennett received early experience in Kentucky, serving as chaplain at the Kentucky State Reformatory and Kentucky Woman's Prison while studying toward a master of divinity degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville in the 1950s.

Aside from the controversy of the past 13 years, Bennett said, he finds

many accomplishments of the SBC during his tenure to be thankful for.

He specifically cited progress toward Bold Mission Thrust global evangelism goals and completion of an \$8 million, seven-story office building in Nashville housing the Executive Committee and six other SBC entities.

Since the introduction of Bold Mission Thrust in 1976, the number of Southern Baptist churches nationwide has increased by 9 percent and the number of church-type missions has increased 181 percent. Also, church membership has increased 18 percent and Sunday school enrollment has grown 10 percent.

Gifts to the Cooperative Program have nearly doubled in that time, and the number of foreign missionaries has increased 48 percent while the number of home missionaries grew 98 percent.

"The report of Bold Mission Thrust for the period 1976-1991," Bennett said, "is cause for thanksgiving to God for his blessings."

Bennett also has a deeply personal stake in Bold Mission Thrust. His daughter Cynthia and her husband, Paul Howard, are new Southern Baptist missionaries to the African country of Swaziland.

2nd Kazakh festival planned for this summer

DZHAMBUL, Kazakhstan (BP)—Southern Baptists will work with about 100 Christians from Switzerland, Germany and Italy this summer to conduct the first Swiss-Kazakh Festival in Dzhambul, Kazakhstan.

The festival, planned for July 18-Aug. 2, is being modeled after the Kazakh-American festival last summer in Alma-Ata, capital of the newly independent central Asian republic. More than 300 Southern Baptists rep-

resenting a variety of fields traveled to Kazakhstan to share their professional expertise, culture and faith with the Kazakh people.

"We hope the people coming will get to know something of the Kazakhs—their country and culture—and to see whether they could work here long term," said Gunter Heini, a German coordinating the festival. "For the Kazakhs, we hope they will enjoy getting to know people from another country and

that the festival will create spiritual interest among them."

Opportunities also exist for Southern Baptists to help with the start of a chicken farm and hatching factory in the region. People interested in volunteering time or know-how can contact Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization that relates to the Central Asian Foundation, at Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

ATS also places Southeastern on 2-year probation

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—A second accrediting agency has placed Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary on probation, but the school's new president said he thinks the problems can be overcome.

The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada placed the seminary on probation for two years. President-elect Paige Patterson received the communication from ATS last week—his second week of transition with outgoing President Lewis Drummond.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools already has placed the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary on probation.

Both accrediting agencies have cited turmoil created by major changes at the school since 1987, especially an attempt by trustees to change the way faculty members are hired without first changing the school's governing documents.

However, Patterson said he was pleased to note that ATS provided explicit continued approval of the seminary's degree programs during the period of probation.

The new president said he does not believe either accreditation agency has requested anything of the seminary that is unconscionable: "Every expectation which has been stated is reasonable and able to be accomplished by the school within the two years granted."

Meeting the requirements of the accrediting agencies is the "priority position for the immediate future," Patterson said.

Beware of sin's lasting consequences, teens told

Top churches honored

Ten churches were recognized as leaders in youth baptisms during the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention youth evangelism conference. Churches recognized for the most youth baptisms in 1991 are:

- Oneida, 92.
- Providence, Franklin, 40.
- Mount Zion, West Paducah, 39.
- Mill Creek, Radcliff, 36.
- Highview, Louisville, 31.
- First, Richmond, 30.
- Camp Pleasant, Frankfort, 25.
- Emmanuel, Mayfield, 23.
- Kelly Street, Harlan, 23.
- Porter Memorial, Lexington, 21.
- First, Belfry, 21.

By Pat Cole
State Correspondent

FRANKFORT—Choices made today can produce consequences that last a lifetime, a pastor told about 5,000 teen-agers attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual youth evangelism conference.

"Do not confuse in your mind God's cleansing you from sin, and God eradicating the consequences of your sin," said Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga. "God does not eradicate the consequences of your sins. Unfortunately a lot of people have gotten this confused."

Reighard was the primary speaker for the June 19-20 conference at the Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center in Frankfort.

A total of 150 youths made professions of faith in Jesus Christ during the conference, and another 238 registered rededications or other spiritual decisions.

The Bible is the only guide for making life's decisions that is totally reliable, Reighard said: "I happen to believe this Bible is the truth of God. ... This book does not change with the values and mores of society."

Reighard told the youths to trust the Bible more than the influence of their friends and the yearnings of their hearts. "If you do what your heart tells you to do all the time, you are going to be in a world of hurt," he said.

The heart's accuracy is like that of a wristwatch, he said: "In order for the heart to be right, it's got to be set right."

Reighard encouraged the teens to consider the potential impact of their decisions on themselves and others. Most importantly, he said, every decision should be evaluated with the question, "What would Jesus do?"

During his closing address, Reighard stressed that faith in Jesus Christ provides a unique type of hope that nobody else can give. "You can

live without almost anything, but you can't live without hope," he said.

Joining Reighard on the program were ventriloquist Mark McClintock of Louisville, the contemporary Christian musical groups Truth of Mobile, Ala., and Beyond of Louisville and Kentucky Baptist Student Union ministry teams Son Share and Son Celebration.

The conference, which annually draws more people than any other KBC event, has a two-fold purpose, said Bill Jagers, director of the KBC evangelism department: "We want to encourage Christian kids to share their faith, and we also want to see lost kids come to the Lord."

"I think this shows that God is moving among the young people of this state, and it's also happening in other states," added Kevin Shrum, youth consultant in the evangelism department. "A lot of the great revivals of the past have begun with youth, and I hope this will have a ripple effect."

Need for lay ministry cited at state Fellowship meeting

By Marv Knox
Editor

SHEPHERDSVILLE—Laypeople must be involved in ministry, participants at the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship's annual meeting were reminded.

"There is a real need to have laypeople actively involved in what's going on," insisted Carolyn Hale, associate pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown and chairperson of the new KBF laity committee.

"We want to equip laypeople for ministry in our churches," Hale said. "We need to get people involved at local, associational and state levels, to do the work of the Kingdom."

The laity committee plans to encourage laypeople to do ministry, and also to share ideas about unique mission projects and ministries that can be done through local churches, she reported.

In addition to the laity committee, the KBF intends to sponsor a luncheon for laypeople in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in November, said KBF President Jim Holladay, pastor of East Baptist Church in Louisville. The organization also holds its meetings on Saturdays, so laypeople can attend.

Although the KBF is identified with the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship on a national scale, the

June 20 meeting at First Baptist Church of Shepherdsville basically had a non-political tone.

"We have not felt the heat of the Southern Baptist Convention controversy per se as many other states have," Holladay told 90-plus participants. "It is our hope that no matter what happens in the SBC, that Kentucky Baptists can continue to stand and work together."

"It is our goal that the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship can facilitate this. We want to be a model for others."

Kentucky Baptist Convention President Glenn Mollette struck a similar theme, focusing on the last word in the organization's name, "fellowship."

"Kentucky Baptists seem to be able to get along, work out our problems and fellowship with each other," said Mollette, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville.

A key to such a positive relationship is working together, he explained: "Our greatest fellowship comes when we are united in a common task. ... We've lost our fellowship in the Southern Baptist Convention because we've taken our minds off what we're to be doing."

Kentucky Baptists also must decide they will love each other, even if they disagree on national issues, Mollette added. And they must reflect "the light of Christ."

"We're living in a world that's dark," he said. "And yet we wrestle among ourselves while the world is going to hell without Christ. We can't control the national convention, but locally and in Kentucky we can keep the light of God's love glowing. Let's keep our fellowship going."

Participants also heard a report from John Womble, director of development for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

"The Baptist Joint Committee's cash flow is the worst it's ever been," Womble said. His words came less than two weeks after the SBC voted to sever all ties with the Washington-based religious liberty organization and rejected a Joint Committee request for binding arbitration to determine ownership of a \$300,000 endowment that had been held by the Southern Baptist Foundation in the Joint Committee's name for more than two decades.

While numerous churches, some state conventions and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship continue to support the Joint Committee, the interest off the \$300,000 endowment had been used to pay the rent on the agency's office, Womble explained. "For the first time, we're considering staff cuts, and some of us voluntarily took pay cuts."

The Joint Committee has not decided if it will sue to recover the \$300,000, he said. Laying that issue

aside, he noted: "It's time to move on. ... The concept of religious liberty and separation of church and state must never be abandoned."

In other matters, the KBF:
■ Elected officers. In addition to Holladay, they are Jo Garnett of Danville, vice president; Linda Barnes of Louisville, secretary; and Frank Hatfield of Shepherdsville, treasurer.

The only contested election was for president. The incumbent Holladay bested Carmen Sharp of Louisville on a show-of-hands vote.

■ Approved 17 new members of the KBF board of directors, with terms to last through 1995.

They are Larry Kemp, Cadiz; Jim Abernathy, Latonia; Allen Meadors, Mt. Sterling; Larry Burcham, Winchester; John Barnett, Bagdad; Scott Orr, Campbellsburg; Bob Fox, Centertown; Linda Barnes, Louisville; Linda Judge McRae, Lexington; Kay Trisler, Harrodsburg; Anne Smith, Louisville; Amy Mears, Louisville; Geneva Muntz, Paris; Gil Fauber, Fort Thomas; Oran Faris, Frankfort; Marsha Hopper, Frankfort and Jean Stewart, Paris.

■ Learned the next KBF meeting will be Aug. 29 at Central Baptist Church in Lexington, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The organization also is planning eight regional membership meetings across the state this summer.

Bullitt Lick offers spiritual food through Alcoholics for Christ

By Denise Day Spencer
State Correspondent

SHEPHERDSVILLE—"When I went to A.A. I found a home, but when I went to A.C. I found the kitchen. It's where I can get fed."

That's the assessment of Rob Newman, one of five members in the new Alcoholics for Christ program at Bullitt Lick Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.

In September, the church group will become the first chartered Alcoholics for Christ group in Kentucky.

Alcoholics for Christ—or A.C. as participants call it—began in 1985 in Royal Oak, Mich. Pat Chinn, a member of the Bullitt Lick Church, brought the program to Kentucky after seeing an advertisement at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

Chinn showed the materials to his pastor, Michael Spencer, who had been wanting to start a ministry to alcoholics.

"I was looking for a Christian ministry to alcoholics that would build on the foundation of A.A. but would be explicitly biblical in its approach,"

Spencer said.

A.C. is open to alcoholics and abusers of any other substances as well as family members of substance abusers. Each meeting includes Bible study and discussion.

Scripture study focuses on the traditional 12 steps of A.A., Chinn explained, but explicitly states that the "higher power" is "the Triune God."

Chinn, who still attends A.A. meetings, said he finds it sadly ironic that many people in A.A. never grasp the Christian faith upon which that group

was founded. "There are a lot of people in A.A. who are hungry. They talk about faith, but you can't have faith without the Author of faith."

Although not affiliated with A.A., members of A.C. are encouraged to keep attending their A.A. support groups, Chinn said. "I go there to carry the message I have."

Bullitt Lick's A.C. group has grown from two members to five, and Chinn hopes for additional growth. But he also hopes to spark spiritual renewal in A.A., he said.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **J. Richard Carlton** has been named executive director of the Pawling Heritage Society at Georgetown College. Robert Mills, Georgetown's president emeritus, and his wife, Millie, have been named co-chairs. As executive director, Carlton will oversee the school's planned giving program. He has been vice president for development since 1982.

■ **Swiss New Testament** scholar Eduard Schweizer will be the Bible teacher for the fourth annual Pastors' School at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville Aug. 3-7. Schweizer, professor emeritus at the University of Zurich, will lead studies related to the Sermon on the Mount, the subject of Southern Baptists' 1993 January Bible study. For information, call (502) 897-4315.

■ **Cumberland College** has received a \$100,000 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations of Jacksonville, Fla., toward the library expansion project.

■ **Cumberland College** basketball coach Randy Vernon received a plaque and game ball from representatives of ARA Campus Dining Services to commemorate Cumberland's participation in the 1992 NAIA men's national basketball championship. ARA Campus Dining Services has been the sponsor of the national tournament since 1987.

■ **Correction:** The schedule listed in last week's Recorder for the Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir contained an error. The July 19 performance will be at 10:40 a.m. at First Baptist Church in London, not Somerset.

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

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Strike a child?

Recently I heard a radio sermon by a pastor who admonished, "When you paddle your child, just give him six or seven cracks, not more than eight or nine."

I wondered if he had considered just who might be listening to his message on that day. Could it be a person who was overly suggestible? A person who might be inebriated? A person who was already upset by circumstances he or she felt the need to get out of his/her system at that moment? A person who had a history of child abuse? An immature, uncaring, irresponsible, outraged individual who could not be trusted?

It also came to mind, if a child did need correction at that moment, or perhaps later, what was the condition of that child? His health? His view of himself and his value and worth? His trust in the responsible party? His guaranteed improvement as a result of another beating? His bodily fitness? His nutritional requirements? His medical history? His reasons for whatever transgression of which he was assumed guilty? His future behavior toward others smaller than himself? The effect on him mentally and emotionally as a result of being struck on his body by a much stronger, larger person in control? His helplessness and frustration and fearful intimidation? His likely persuasion that hitting, striking, paddling was the only resort when somebody crosses him?

I thought there were laws protecting youngsters from bodily harm. Can you imagine Jesus striking a little child?

*Edith-George Oldham
Louisville*

Don't unite

I do not understand how John Guest (who plans a fall crusade in Louisville) can yoke up with those who teach heresy. His headquarters told me those converted in his meetings would be channeled into each of the churches who lent financial support.

Are we accountable to God for a new convert and for their children? Christ said, "Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded." Did Christ ever mention purgatory or did he ever pray to Mary or teach anyone else to? These doctrines are not perverted, they are manufactured.

Guest's headquarters told me they excluded the participation of the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses because they taught false doctrine. Is some false doctrine superior to others?

How much falsehood makes a doctrine false? How many apples have to rot to spoil the whole lot?

Christ rebuked the Pergamum church for tolerating false teaching and said it had caused them to be a stumbling block. It's a hurdle the unsaved cannot jump.

It has been Satan's ploy since Eden to combine truth and error. A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down. He's using the issue of racial unity as well to bring this about. It matters not the color of a man, but it does matter what he believes.

All of this is moving toward the one-world church. The cry of Satan is "unite." That cannot happen without compromise. Would God have us compromise what he has said? That question has already been answered by every true believer.

*Joyce Paul
Louisville*

Booze & business

The June 13 edition of the Courier-Journal in Louisville carried a report of a new employer entering a wet territory. What the article did not say is very important. This new employer just left one wet territory, Paducah, for another wet territory, Madisonville. The largest employer in Madisonville closed its operation after the territory became wet.

If it's fair to suggest one came because of alcohol, is it not fair to suggest one left because of alcohol? Of course not.

We must know that alcohol sales had very little impact on either decision, and it is very irresponsible and tragic that any economic development authority would push alcohol availability as a reason to locate business in any community. It's like telling a business leader, "I can guarantee you employee problems and lost production if you will bring your business to our wet community."

The argument that alcohol brings economic success is a foolish one. Facts show that from January through November 1991, 936 jobs were lost due to plant closings in dry territories and that 1,660 jobs were lost due to plant closings in wet territories. Outside of the metropolitan areas of Northern Kentucky, Lexington and Louisville, 18 new or expanded industries located in wet territories and 15 located in dry territories.

The final analysis is that industry does not locate in either wet or dry areas because of legal alcohol and that because alcohol is available does not ensure that the business will remain in the community.

*Claude M. Witt, executive director
Temperance League of Kentucky
Louisville*

In the 'struggle'

Concerning your report and editorial following the SBC's egregious actions against gay and lesbian Baptists and local Baptist churches (WR, June 16):

Honesty is not "a group for homosexual Christians." Honesty is a group of Southern Baptists advocating equal rights for gay, lesbian and bisexual people. That advocacy is exercised both within our churches and within social structures separate from our churches. Our membership is open to Baptists of all sexual-orientation identities. We have heterosexual members, and we welcome more.

Readers would have benefited from other aspects of my conversation with Mark Wingfield. In particular, I strongly challenged both your paper and other Baptist institutions for the abject failure of Baptists to engage open Bible study concerning sexuality issues. The problem is not lack of printer's ink or page space. The problem is a crippling fear among Baptist leaders that any move to discuss the issue openly will be met by punitive action from people who demand condemnation without due process. Both the cowardice and the intimidation are the true moral failures in our churches, denomination and agencies.

We know that some Baptists who have been exposed only to traditional sources of teaching, training and experience are "struggling" with this issue. We offer information and dialogue as a counter weight to traditional bias. As long as we are members of our churches, however, we will not be excluded from the "struggle," nor will we allow presumptive condemnations to proceed unnoted.

Like a mustard seed, God's government grows.

*Quinn Chipley
Louisville*

BAPTIST FORUM

Real worship

W.T. Conner wrote that the first business of the church is worship. Think about that. Worshiping Christ as Lord is at the center of everything the church does. Everything we do should center around our worship of Christ.

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

SBC '92: Unreported events

Apparently a number of people didn't like what Dr. Keith Parks said in his final address to the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

Alice and I watched one former SBC president and his wife get up and leave less than halfway into Dr. Parks' message. We counted another hundred or more follow through the same exit.

It should not be surprising that this would be so. His remarks were straight-forward and clearly targeted as a warning to Southern Baptists that the controversy has taken precedence over our mission together.

There are those who will say that Dr. Parks took his last opportunity as

Why do you worship? Is it to follow through on a program? Is it just to say you have worship? Is it to get God to do something for you?

The real purpose of worship is because Jesus is Lord. He is God. Our worship should be carried out for his sake and not for our own. When true worship happens, the church wor-

ships Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We show that we accept his lordship over us.

Is that happening in your worship? Next Sunday morning in Bible study, will we accept his lordship over us? When we meet in the sanctuary, when services are beginning, during the time of singing praises, during the message, when we stand for the invitation, when the Holy Spirit speaks, will we accept his lordship over us? What about Sun-

more negative and confrontive. However, he declined to do so.

But that fits this missionary leader with more than 36 years' experience. If anything, he restrained himself. He may tell his story his own way someday. He has made no deals which would seal his lips.

On Tuesday of the convention, his daughter, Eloise, planned an early dinner to celebrate Keith and Helen Jean's 40th wedding anniversary. Alice and I were invited.

Twelve of us sat at a long table at the rear of a Chinese restaurant. All of us selected the \$6.99 buffet, and two of the MK's (missionary kids) went back for thirds, at least.

As we were winding down to get to home missions night in the Hoosier Dome, Eloise asked each of us to share something special that we remembered about Keith and Helen Jean. Then they responded to each of

day night? Wednesday?

The voice of God has been lost in the clatter of machinery, the bustle of organizing, the hustle of making the church's schedule fit the world's schedule. The church must hear the voice of God!

It will happen when he is accepted as Lord of all.

*Kent Workman, pastor
Second Baptist Church
Hopkinsville*

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

a shot at the current SBC leadership. There are others who believe he used his last report to the Southern Baptist Convention as a prophetic warning that foreign missions is becoming a victim of this controversy.

Alice and I heard his report to the end; we read a manuscript several days later, and we viewed it again on our VCR (copies available upon request). I can see that it would be especially difficult to accept by persons who prefer to keep only the "best face" showing.

However, anyone who has been keeping up with foreign missions these past six months would know that there was much more he could have said—even

Don't let the court stop your prayer for schools

How did you feel when you heard the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled prayers by clergy at public school commencement exercises are unconstitutional?

The court's 5-4 decision in the Lee vs. Weisman case spoke to issues at the heart of some of our most intense emotions—faith, children, schools, public morals and free speech, to name the most obvious.

Furthermore, the whole topic of prayer at school events—especially commencement exercises and ball games—puts many Baptists in a quandary that dates back to our own days in school.

Historically, most of us have supported Thomas Jefferson's notion that a "wall of separation" should be maintained between church and state. It strikes a balance between the free-exercise and establishment clauses of the First Amendment. We have affirmed the twin principles: Government must leave citizens free to practice their faith without interference, but government also must not establish religious practice or favor one faith over another.

To be authentic, we believe, faith must be free and uncoerced, and government has no business telling us how to conduct our spiritual lives.

But practically, many Baptists—particularly those of us who grew up in the South—have lived most of our lives in communities dominated by non-Catholic Christians, with Baptists most numerous among them. We heard Baptist, Methodist or Presbyterian prayers at our sporting events, PTA meetings and graduation exercises. We usually could agree with every word that was prayed. And the most "exotic" prayers came from the Church of Christ minister or an Assembly of God layman.

We never felt threatened by the prayers that were offered on our behalf at school functions. What's more, many of our communities were so homogeneous the prayers didn't overly offend anyone.

Given that context, we seldom view the school-prayer issue through the eyes of someone from the minority.

Can you imagine how you would feel if you lived in rural Nevada and a Mormon said the prayer at your child's graduation? How about a Muslim in Los Angeles, a Jew in Brooklyn or a Shinto in Honolulu? Baptists in these places are the tiny minorities. If the attitude toward school prayers from our Southern past prevailed, Baptist children would hear these "foreign" prayers. Minority living isn't always pleasant.

We also fail to view the issue through the eyes of school officials.

When it comes to prayer, school administrators—at least those in urban and multi-cultural areas—operate in an arena where they're sure to offend someone. If they simply pick a person to pray and that person prays an authentic prayer of faith, it will run counter to the beliefs of minorities and dissenters. If they proscribe prayers or guidelines for prayers, they risk being coercive or non-committal, either of which is revulsive to people of strong beliefs.

Finally, we fail to view the issue through the eyes of God.

The rabbi who prayed the prayer that launched the Lee vs. Weisman case, Leslie Gutterman, had been given a pamphlet by school officials, describing how the prayer should be crafted. Such pandering to pluralism reduces a conversation with God to the lowest-common denominator. What does God Almighty think about prayers addressed "To Whom it May Concern"? If you've been in a pluralistic setting and listened to a politically correct person pray, you've heard such a prayer. Watered-down, lackluster and wimpy. Did God, or anybody else for that matter, experience any spiritual movement from that exercise?

Baptists are divided over the Supreme Court's decision in the Lee vs. Weisman case.

Many of us, who are concerned about the moral decline of our nation, see this as another defeat for Judeo-Christian values and the right to freely exercise religious beliefs. But many of us, who fear government encroachment into private religious practice and who worry about the tyranny of the majority over the minority, see the decision as a victory for free religion and minority rights.

The truth probably lies somewhere in-between.

It will be spelled out more clearly as other legal cases—built on different laws, policies and practices than those which shaped Lee vs. Weisman—reach the courts. Some school officials will respond directly to this case and shut down all prayers at school functions. Some, noting provisions of the Equal Access Act, will allow student-initiated, student-led, student-structured prayers at such events. Some will test their current policies in the courts.

Regardless of the outcomes, Baptists and other Christians still can bombard our schools with prayer:

■ Christian teachers, administrators and students can pray within the walls of schools every day. No one can take away an individual's right to pray. Students may not create disturbances, but they can pray.

■ Christian parents can pray for their children, their children's teachers and their children's classmates. They can pray for them as they send the youngsters off to school and greet them in the afternoon. They can pray as they sit down to help with homework. They can pray as they attend school events. They can pray when they tuck their children in bed at night.

■ All Christians can pray for our schools. We can pray when we see children on buses. We can pray when we meet teachers in the market. We can pray when we go to ball games and band concerts. We can pray when we drive by school buildings.

The Supreme Court may have banned clergy-led prayers at school functions, but it did not—it cannot—stop prayer for our schools. And these fervent, righteous prayers of believing people can affect more change in our schools than untold hours of hosed-down, sanitized, innocuous, inoffensive plabum prayers.

Marv Knox

The Supreme Court may have banned clergy-led prayers at school functions, but it did not--it cannot--stop prayer for our schools.

A bittersweet week serves up birthdays, goodbyes & surprises

Last week was a time of birthdays.

Our friend Libby, who's moving to Mississippi, celebrated her arrival into this world. I won't disclose her age, even though her 4-year-old, Clare, announced it to everyone in Target.

And our friend Brent, who lives in Memphis, crossed a milestone. He'd brain me if I told you how old he is, but Bible scholars say his magic number used to mean "a long, long time."

Libby's birthday came first. It was bittersweet, because it fell just a week before movers were to begin packing their belongings for the journey south. She's the kind who is comfortable with her age, lets friends poke good-natured fun at her and turns her big event into a time for loved ones to celebrate life—hers, and theirs.

Brent's birthday came next, but I was the one who got the surprise. He came barging into my office Friday afternoon, full of spit and bluster, dragging most of his family, part of mine and another great friend, Nancy, all behind. We knew they were to be as close as Nashville, where they were selling their home we all loved, but we never expected them to come on up to Kentucky for the weekend. Ta-da!

Libby, Loyd and Clare don't know Brent, Jackie, Alayna and Andrea, but both

families have impacted the Knox clan mightily. They didn't meet last week, either. But they made the days memorable for us, as we hooted at the birthday celebrants, reveled in their company and agonized over being apart.

Two birthdays, imminent separation, surprise reunion. Too much in one week.

The birthdays reminded us we can't dam up the river of time. It flows forever, carrying us down from the spring of our birth, into the canyons of youth, across the plains of maturity and into the sea of eternity.

The impending goodbye struck pain to our hearts. These good people sustain and encourage us. Life these past two years has got on more fully because of their care and company. Part of us will move to Mississippi this week, as they pile in the car and drive away.

But that surprise reunion also reunited us with hope and courage. Time and distance do not separate the hearts of true friends. They never will.

"Dear God: Thank you for the gift of friendship. Thanks, even, for the pain of separation, which clearly reminds us how deeply we have loved and have been loved. And thanks for the reunions, which promise glory for the Grand Reunion we one day will share."

Marv Knox



Case highlights difference in CLC & Joint Committee

"The Court has confused secularism with religious pluralism."

Richard Land of the SBC Christian Life Commission

"Watered-down, lowest-common-denominator, state-sponsored religion is worse than worthless."

James Dunn of the Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON—Differences between the Baptist Joint Committee and Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission came into clearer focus as spokesmen for each agency responded to the U.S. Supreme Court's June 24 decision barring prayers by clergy at public school graduation ceremonies.

Southern Baptist conservatives, who now control the denomination's political process, long had criticized the Baptist Joint Committee for its stand against government-sponsored school prayer. Because of that and other concerns, the SBC recently cut its longstanding ties with the religious-liberty coalition and gave a new religious liberty assignment to the denomination's Christian Life Commission.

As the Supreme Court considered the Lee vs. Weisman case, the CLC used its new position to do what the Joint Committee never would—publicly take up the fight for school-sponsored prayer. The CLC filed a brief asking the court to uphold the Providence, R.I., school district's commencement prayers and adopt a new standard that would allow government to sponsor religious practice as long as coercion is not involved.

The Baptist Joint Committee joined a coalition in a brief urging the court to maintain the principle of government

neutrality embodied in the so-called Lemon test. That brief opposed the school-sponsored prayer found in the Lee vs. Weisman case but not every conceivable type of school prayer.

Not surprisingly, the high court's 5-4 decision once again prohibiting government-sponsored prayers in public schools drew sharply different appraisals from the two agencies.

Spokesmen for the Baptist Joint Committee generally were pleased with the decision, claiming "watered-down, lowest-common-denominator, state-sponsored religion is worse than worthless." Spokesmen for the CLC criticized the decision as "outrageous" and further evidence of America's slide into secularism.

At issue was more than the constitutionality of the Providence district's commencement prayer practice. The U.S. Justice Department had asked the high court to replace its strict standard for deciding establishment clause cases with a more lenient coercion standard, similar to the one endorsed by the CLC brief.

The existing standard embodied in the Lemon test requires government practices to have a secular purpose, neither advance nor inhibit religion and avoid excessive entanglement with reli-

gion.

But the high court majority declined to reconsider the Lemon standard, and instead based its decision on the precedents set in the landmark 1962 and 1963 decisions that banned state-sponsored religious exercises in public schools.

"I sympathize with those who see in this decision the awesome specter of religion being banned from public life," said James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee. "However, I cannot imagine why anyone would defend rituals that divide, trivialize and balkanize. I don't hanker to protect and perpetuate 'non-religious prayers.' What an oxymoron."

Oliver Thomas, Joint Committee general counsel, said the court's ruling "should not be interpreted as mandating a naked public square or banning religion from public life. The court has simply reiterated that it is none of the business of government to sponsor and promote religious exercises in public schools."

CLC Executive Director Richard Land called the high court's decision "outrageous" and said it "is one more giant step in the encroachment of the secular state upon a religiously pluralistic society. Once again, the Court has confused secularism with reli-

gious pluralism."

Land pledged to "continue to fight for the freedom for religious expression guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution until we prevail."

But spokesmen for both agencies pointed to constructive responses Baptists could make to the decision.

"I hope pastors, priests and rabbis will see the ruling as a positive development, an opportunity for public witness," Dunn said. "We can advance ecumenical cooperation, promote voluntary baccalaureate services, celebrate shared values and demonstrate the faith we profess. The Baptist Joint Committee will try to lead the way."

Although disappointed with the decision, CLC General Counsel Michael Whitehead said Baptists should realize the decision is limited to the specific facts of the Providence case.

"School officials made the decision to have prayer, made the invitation to the rabbi and otherwise controlled the prayer and the program," he said. "This case does not prohibit student-initiated, student-led prayers or religious expression, at commencements or other school functions."

Written by News Director Mark Wingfield with information provided by the Baptist Joint Committee and CLC

SUPER SATURDAY



5 LOCATIONS:

- August 1
Princeton, FBC
- August 8
Owensboro, FBC
- August 15
Latonia, Latonia BC
- August 22
Lexington,
Porter Memorial BC
- August 29
Somerset, FBC

Comprehensive Training for All Church Leaders

Leadership Conferences

Church Music

- Volunteer Music Directors
- Full-time Music Directors
- Teaching Preschool Choir:
Methods & Materials
- Teaching Older Children's Choir:
Methods & Materials
- Teaching Younger Children's Choir:
Methods & Materials
- Teaching Combination Choir:
Methods & Materials

Discipleship Training

- Discipleship Training: General Officers
- Adult Discipleship Training
- Youth Discipleship Training
- Children Discipleship Training
- Preschool Discipleship Training

Pastors

- Directions for Vision

Sunday School

- Building Blocks for Effective Sunday Schools
- Cradle Roll Outreach
- Teaching Adults the Bible
- Teaching Youth the Bible
- Teaching Children the Bible
- Teaching Preschoolers the Bible
- Outreach Supermarket (Aug. 1, 15, 22, 29)
- Outreach Leaders (Aug. 8)
- Bus Outreach (Aug. 8, 22)
- Homebound Sunday School Ministry (Aug. 29)

Conference Schedule

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 General Session
- 9:45 Leadership Conferences*
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:00 Special Interest Conference 1*
- 2:00 Special Interest Conference 2*

The Leadership Conferences offer training in your area of expertise or responsibility. The Special Interest Conferences offer training and information for application to many areas of ministry, responsibility and skills development.

Conference Fees

A program fee of \$10 per person covers the cost of lunch and literature or materials used in the conferences.

An \$8 program fee is offered to those whose registration is received by the Church Growth & Administration office one week prior to the event. Each pre-registered person will receive a \$2 coupon on the day of the event. This is redeemable on the day of the conference at the Baptist Book Store located in the exhibits area.

Confirmation of registration will be mailed to church address and will include accommodation suggestions and a map.

To register, contact the Church Growth & Administration office, KBC, (502) 245-4101.

Candidates described as church-going Christians

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Despite their political differences, George Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot have one thing in common: All are identified as church-going Christians.

A cover story in the June 15 issue of USA Today said most Sundays find Bush in one of four churches: First Congregational Church or St. Anne's Church in Kennebunkport, Maine; St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston; or St. John's Episcopal Church across from the White House.

John Harper, rector at St. John's, described Bush as a devout parishioner: "He grew up in an American church-going family, and I think worship is important to him." Claude Payne, minister at St. Martin's, added

he believes the president's faith is "not a veneer" and is "very deep."

In a 1988 book about his life, Bush acknowledged he resists public discussion of his faith but said it sustained him when his 3-year-old daughter, Robin, died of leukemia in 1953. "In a moment like that, all you have is God," he wrote.

Bill Clinton made a public profession of faith as a 9-year-old and is a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., where he regularly sings in the choir.

Clinton's wife, Hillary, was raised in a Methodist family and attends First United Methodist Church in Little Rock.

Clinton said worshipping in different churches makes the couple's spir-

itual life "richer."

Further, he said, the commitment to separate churches should be a positive rather than a negative since voters want candidates with religious convictions "as long as they're not paraded around in some hypocritical or self-serving way."

Biographies of Ross Perot make little mention of religion, but he and his wife, Margot, belong to Highland Park Presbyterian Church, a wealthy, conservative congregation in Dallas.

In an interview with TV Guide, Perot said he believes religion is a private matter: "I'm not one of those guys who opens a meeting with prayer. When I run into a guy like that, I just button up my wallet because he's gonna pick it for the Lord."



HELPING HANDS Naina Yeltsin (right), wife of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, joins U.S. First Lady Barbara Bush in preparing sandwiches for the homeless at Martha's Table, a relief agency funded by religious and civic groups in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Yeltsin accompanied her husband on his trip to the U.S. earlier this month. (RNS photo)

Controversial abortion bill clears House subcommittee

WASHINGTON—An abortion-rights bill critics have called the "freedom to kill bill" moved one step closer to passage June 18 by clearing the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

The subcommittee passed the Freedom of Choice Act (H.R. 25) by a 5-3 vote after defeating six amendments that would have added restrictions to the bill.

The bill is expected to be considered soon by both the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Labor

and Human Resources Committee.

Subcommittee Chairman Don Edwards, D-Calif., said the bill originally was introduced in 1989 in response to the Supreme Court's Webster decision that severely undercut the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

"After that decision, the American public recognized that the Supreme Court could no longer be counted on to protect a woman's fundamental right to choose," said Edwards, the bill's chief sponsor.

Edwards said the bill has been carefully drafted to codify the court's ruling in Roe. In Roe, Edwards said, the court held a woman has a right to choose to terminate a pregnancy up until viability—the point at which a fetus can live outside the womb.

But Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., disagreed, saying H.R. 25 would go well beyond Roe to enact "abortion on demand throughout pregnancy."

The bill says: "A state may not restrict the right of a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy—(1) before

fetal viability; or (2) at any time, if such termination is necessary to protect the life or health of the woman."

Some bill opponents say the language is too broad and could allow post-viability abortions for nearly any reason.

Hyde said he offered the six amendments—all of which failed—to "illustrate the extreme nature of the legislation."

His amendments would have added restrictions such as parental consent, spousal notification and a prohibition against protecting the right to abortion solely on the basis of sex-selection.

"This legislation is the most radical pro-abortion legislation Congress has ever considered," said James A. Smith, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission director of government relations.

"Our assertion that this bill should be called 'the freedom to kill bill' is validated by the subcommittee's action to turn away every amendment which would limit the bill's scope, even the amendment relating to sex-selection abortions," Smith said.

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

Court will rehear Operation Rescue case

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court has postponed until its next session a decision on whether an 1871 law may be used to prohibit sit-ins by protesters at abortion clinics.

Without explanation, the court asked to rehear arguments in *Bray vs. Alexandria Women's Health Clinic* in its fall session. That means a decision likely won't be handed down until after the November presidential election.

Organizations favoring abortion accused the court of playing politics with the case. "We've predicted all

along that the Supreme Court is going to do George Bush's bidding," charged Kim Gandy of the National Organization for Women.

But Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, said the order probably means that the court is split 4-4.

Justice Clarence Thomas had not been sworn in when the court heard oral arguments in the case Oct. 16, 1991. However, a decision to rehear the case might give Thomas the deciding vote.

"The lower courts have given

conflicting rulings on this issue, and the Supreme Court no doubt recognized the need to establish a clear precedent," Johnson said.

In a ruling upheld by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a federal district court granted a permanent injunction barring Operation Rescue's blockade of abortion clinics in Northern Virginia. The court held that Operation Rescue violated an 1871 civil rights law by conspiring to deprive women of their right to interstate travel.

Compiled from Evangelical Press and Associated Baptist Press reports

Restoration Act passes House subcommittee

By Pam Parry
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Religious Freedom Restoration Act moved one step closer to passage June 24 by gaining approval of the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

The subcommittee approved H.R. 2797 by a 5-3 vote after defeating five attempts to amend the bill.

RFRA would restore the strict "compelling interest" standard the U.S. Supreme Court formerly required government to meet before restricting free exercise of religion. That test permitted government to restrict religious exercise only to further a compelling governmental interest and if the least-restrictive means of safeguarding that interest had been employed.

The high standard, articulated by

the Supreme Court in 1963, virtually was abandoned in its Oregon Employment Division vs. Smith decision in April 1990. The Smith decision stated that government need not justify burdens on religious practice unless the law is aimed at religion.

A broad coalition of more than 50 religious and civil liberties groups, headed by the Baptist Joint Committee, has worked for two years to reinstate the protection lost in Smith, but has faced opposition by some anti-abortion groups, primarily the U.S. Catholic Conference and the National Right to Life Committee. These groups contend that RFRA would advance abortion rights.

Other anti-abortion groups, such as the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and the National Association of Evangelicals, support RFRA because they say the bill is

abortion-neutral.

During subcommittee consideration of the bill, three exemptions favored by the Catholic conference were offered as amendments by Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill.

Although the abortion issue sparked debate during hearings and consideration of the bill, the subcommittee seemed virtually unanimous in its disdain for the Smith decision.

However, Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., argued that RFRA was not only a bad bill, but that Smith was a good decision. McCollum said that Justice Antonin Scalia's majority opinion was "intelligent" and has been misunderstood.

Oliver Thomas, chairman of the Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion and general counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee, said McCollum is the first congressman he had heard compliment the Scalia opinion.

Court rules against graduation prayers

Continued from page 1

The Justice Department had asked the high court to replace the Lemon standard with a new test that would permit government involvement in religion as long as coercion is not present.

Kennedy said the court need not reconsider the Lemon decision because the courts' earlier school prayer decisions "compel the holding" that the Providence practice is unconstitutional.

Scalia argued that in basing its ruling on the earlier decisions, the court "demonstrates the irrelevance of Lemon by essentially ignoring it, ... and the interment of that case may be one happy byproduct of the court's otherwise lamentable decision."

Robertson withdraws UPI offer

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (EP)—Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson has withdrawn his \$6 million offer to buy the bankrupt United Press International news service.

"We have concluded there are not sufficient synergies with our existing and planned operations to justify the significant investment that would have to be made to operate UPI at the standards of performance which we aspire to maintain," he said. Robertson did express interest in purchasing some individual elements of UPI's operation, but no deals have been worked out.

CHURCHES

HELPS

■ **Church growth** and evangelism will be the topic of a national conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board this summer. The School of Evangelism and Church Growth will be offered at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina Aug. 31-Sept. 3. For information, call the HMB at (800) 634-2462.

■ **Single adult** Labor Day conferences sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board will be held Sept. 4-7 at Glorieta, N.M., Ridgecrest, N.C., St. Louis, Mo., and San Diego, Calif. The conferences are designed for singles of all ages and backgrounds. For information, call (615) 251-2277.

■ **Predominantly black** Southern Baptist congregations may request individualized church growth consultations from the black church extension division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Associate division Director Michael Cox trained with church growth consultant Lyle Schaller in preparation for the two- and three-day consultations. For details, contact Cox at (404) 898-7415.

■ **"Celebrate the Family"** is the theme for a family enrichment conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board near Orlando, Fla., July 27-29. The conference will provide opportunities for recreation, worship, drama, music and fellowship among family members from children to grandparents. For information, call (615) 251-2277.

Church takes on impossible with 'Olympic summer'

FLATWOODS—The impossible has become possible during an "Olympic summer" at Flatwoods Baptist Church.

Pastor Ken Holden preached a New Year's sermon titled "Be Careful What You Say is Impossible for 1992." And now, even he is surprised to see what once would have been impossible for his small church become possible.

From the congregation of about 170 active members, six men will go to Brazil this summer, 23 adults will attend a week-long Sunday school leadership conference, two summer interns have been hired, and plans are in place to begin two Sunday schools and a non-traditional worship hour in September.

All these activities are grouped under the theme of an "Olympic summer."

"When I think of the Olympics, I think of the very best, and hard work and excellence," Holden said. "We've challenged ourselves to believe that we can accomplish these things."

"If you had told me in January when I preached that sermon that six people from our church would be going to Brazil, I would have said it was impossible."

And the other summer events are just as significant, he added.

"Last year for the first time in more than 20 years, we had someone attend Sunday school week at Ridgecrest. This year, more than 20 adults are signed up to go."

Church members also have shown support for the youth interns, Joe Jenkins, a student at the University of Louisville, and Stacy Liggett, a student at Murray State University. The church budget allowed for modest salaries, but members pitched in to help with room and board.

Parkway completes building with steeple

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

HODGENVILLE—Placement of a new steeple and gold cross brought the crowning touch to four months of hard work by members of Parkway Baptist Church in Hodgenville.

As a crane lifted the steeple and cross above the congregation's new building, a few members gathered around and gazed heavenward.

"This is the finale," said Claudine McCugh, who helped paint the building and brought lunch to other workers every day during the four-month construction period. "It just looked like a little building out here until now."

About seven members did the majority of the construction work on the facility, with a group of Baptist Builders from Louisville getting the building un-

der roof during a one-week stay.

One church member dug the footers; others did electrical work, carpentry and painting.

"We became a very close group," said Michael O'Bryant, church treasurer and chairman of deacons. "We learned about individual tempers and temperaments. We managed to agree and disagree and still have unity."

Another benefit of the build-it-yourself churchhouse was a savings of \$50,000 to \$75,000, he added.

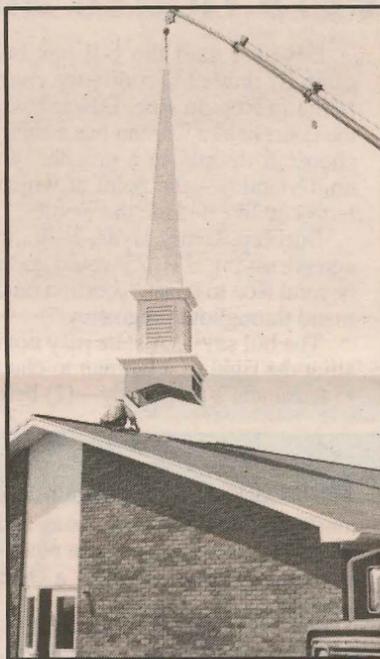
The congregation formed little more than a year ago, with 22 members from First Baptist Church in Hodgenville.

Pastor Michael Sharp, a 20-year-old

Campbellsville College student, called the 44-member congregation pioneers. "They've blazed a trail in establishing new work. This is a hard-working group that's given many hours."

That hard work also has translated to church growth, he explained. Sharp commends the congregation for conscientious efforts to attract unchurched people to church.

Two means of outreach have included an informal worship time one Sunday night each quarter and the offer of garden space for low-income families. With a 25-acre parcel, church members decided there was plenty of land to till and offer as space for family vegetable gardens.



CROWNING TOUCH Placement of a steeple and cross atop the new building of Parkway Baptist Church in Hodgenville was the crowning touch to four months of hard work, according to church members who donated their time and skill to construct the facility. (Photo by Suzanne Darland)

KENTUCKY

SEPT. 11-13, 1992

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Campus fun and lessons for life

Last week, about 60 children from Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Glen Dale campus had an opportunity to join together in new challenges and fun during Camp Week 1992. The week included Water Olympics and archery, crafts and rappelling, canoeing and a low ropes adventure recreation course and times for spiritual growth and reflection.

Through all of the activities and fun, they learned new lessons about life, friendship and teamwork. When one of the girls thought she couldn't make it rappelling down the cliff on her own, the others circled around and gave her the encouragement she needed to hear.

On the low ropes, each obstacle required the youth to work together to find creative solutions that involved each participant. Through this experience, the children learn that there are problems in life that can best be solved through cooperation and joint effort. Another challenge for the children came as each cottage spent a night on Home Island. This was also a special time for each cottage to spend quality time talking and laughing

together, building support for one another.

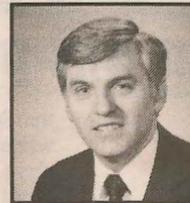
As I hear the stories about these children experiencing life to the fullest and learning new lessons from their involvement, I am challenged to renew our efforts as Baptists in Kentucky to make times like camp available to these children, each one precious in His sight. Many have asked me how they might make a difference and contribute to the welfare of these children who have not had many people to take the time to show that they really care. I believe there are many ways to show the love of Christ to them.

We begin by welcoming them as Christ

has welcomed us. And we love them as He has loved us. And then, through all the trials and turmoil in their young lives, we remain committed to them and involved with them. If your church would like to accept the challenge of commitment and involvement, I'm sure your experience will hold lessons to treasure for a lifetime.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

REC◆SHOP '92

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MISSIONS

FMB names vice president

EL PASO, Texas (ABP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board elected a new vice president last week and declared they do not have the kind of "global agenda" his predecessor suggested in taking early retirement.

Meeting in El Paso, the board also appointed 34 new missionaries and approved a statement of cooperation with European Baptists.

Sam James was named regional vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, replacing Isam Ballenger. Ballenger resigned last January to protest the trustees' decision to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

James, the board's area director for East Asia since 1985, has served with the FMB 30 years.

In response to charges by Ballenger that FMB trustees have a "global agenda" to export the Southern Baptist controversy, trustees adopted a statement claiming, "We have only one global agenda, and that is evangelism that results in churches."

Trustees also affirmed the right of all national Baptist bodies to work with other mission entities without jeopardizing their partnership with the FMB. That would include the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization formed by

Baptists who oppose the control of SBC agencies by conservatives.

However, trustees adopted a statement expressing concern that the support of Woman's Missionary Union "not be diluted by relationships between WMU and a non-Southern Baptist or quasi Southern Baptist mission agency."

The Fellowship has asked WMU to support its missionaries as well as FMB missionaries, but no decision has been announced by WMU leaders.

The FMB president and three trustees were asked to arrange a dialogue with their WMU leaders to discuss concerns about WMU's potential support of the Fellowship missionaries.

In other action, trustees:

■ Approved principles of the Dordrecht Statement adopted last January by European Baptists. The statement specifies that partnerships between European Baptists and missionaries from other countries must be based upon mutual respect, spiritual freedom, moral integrity, reciprocal sharing and genuine consultation.

■ Authorized the opening of foreign missions work in Aruba, an island off the northwest coast of Venezuela. It will be the 126th country in which Southern Baptists maintain missionaries.

Tenure as FMB chairman gave Hancock ups & downs

Continued from page 1

his contributions to the Southern Baptist cause and enterprise."

A sore spot for trustees, however, was Parks' practice of keeping his intentions—such as his decision to retire this fall—to himself until a dramatic final announcement, Hancock added: "Dr. Parks could have helped himself if he had communicated more effectively. I'm baffled, what with his communication and administrative skills. That hurt with a whole lot of trustees."

"In view of the environment in the convention, some were suspicious that he was up to something. He wasn't at all. That's just his manner."

Despite the pain of conflict with Parks and the president's impending departure, Hancock said he "saw God move in ways to bring reconciliation that could enable Dr. Parks to stay."

"In February, the media expected Dr. Parks to be fired, and God dissolved the tension. ... We found out in the course of the meeting Dr. Parks was not reading it as we were reading it, and he asked for a vote of affirmation. We were confused—spiritually and administratively."

"We did not want to interfere with what God was doing. We were preparing to have him (Parks) stay through 1995, but we could not respond in a matter of a few minutes."

A month later, at a special prayer retreat for trustees, Parks and top FMB staff, Parks announced his decision to retire in October. And even though he wished Parks wouldn't step down, Hancock said that retreat was a high spiritual experience. Trustees, staff and other Southern Baptists were divided over whether they wanted Parks to leave or stay, but the spiritual

aura of that meeting helped participants find peace with Parks' decision, he reported.

"The Spirit of God came upon that meeting," he explained. "I've never been broken by God more than I was in that meeting."

Now, Southern Baptists and their Foreign Mission Board must look to the future, Hancock stressed, adding he is optimistic about what he sees.

"The FMB family is dedicated and committed to what Southern Baptists want to do," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, the board is healthy and doing well. The new president will inherit the best missionaries, staff and trustees."

He credited "the confidence and faith of the churches" in making the board strong.

The "miracles of missionaries" also add to that strength, he said: "Our bread and butter is the missionary out in the field. I found them going beyond the call of duty, worthy of our trust and support."

The stateside staff is another factor, he added. "I have nothing but commendations for our executive and support staff. ... Southern Baptists have no reason to fear (the upcoming transition). The critical aspects of our mission enterprise—expertise, commitment and experience—will not be disrupted."

And the trustees, despite their detractors, are an asset, he said: "I didn't find a person who came on the trustee board whose commitment was not for supporting the principles established by the FMB for doing missions. Trustees are comparable to the type person we're seeing in the secular world—inquisitive, wanting to be involved, supportive. ... Neither the staff nor the missionaries could do the job they are doing without the support of trustees."

Hancock predicted tensions between FMB administration and trustees will diminish with the arrival of a new president. But differences in philosophy between board presidents and trustees are not new, he added, noting Parks' predecessor, Baker James Cauthen, disagreed with trustees over the function of volunteers in missions.

"Whoever the new president might be, anyone with vision and a board of trustees on the cutting edge of missions will find differences of opinion," he said. Those tensions can be a healthy byproduct of aggressive concern for spreading the gospel, he added.

"I would hope the new president would be a person who could step in and build on what has been and is being done by the staff and not make radical changes," Hancock noted.

"I would hope the new president could communicate his dreams and vision to the staff and Southern Baptists with such zeal and conviction we would exceed the remaining Bold Mission Thrust goals by the year 2000, and that his personality would maintain unity between missionaries, staff and trustees and create trust from Southern Baptists in our foreign missions enterprise."



"As far as I'm concerned, the board is healthy and doing well. The new president will inherit the best missionaries, staff and trustees."

Former Foreign Mission Board trustee Chairman Bill Hancock, shown here with FMB President Keith Parks at a February news conference

Christian Appalachian Project
presents Father Ralph Beiting and his

Riverboat Revival

June 26 Point Pleasant, WV	July 3 Warsaw, KY
June 27 Ashland, KY	July 4 Carrollton, KY
June 28 Portsmouth, OH	July 6 Louisville, KY
June 29 Maysville, KY	July 7 New Albany, IN
June 30 Cincinnati, OH	July 8 Derby, IN
July 1 Newport, KY	July 10 Evansville, IN
	July 12 Owensboro, KY

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
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- Preaching by Fr. Beiting and local ministers
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The Christian Appalachian Project, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to providing relief and assistance to the people of the Appalachian region. We are working to improve the lives of all people in the region.

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NEEDED: Music Director. Are you interested in working with a small choir on Sunday morning and evening with choir practice immediately following? Salary plus travel expense. Church in Valley Station needs you. Call (502) 937-3568 or (502) 935-6272.

SEEKING: Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, is seeking full-time child care center director. Salary commensurate with experience. Resumé to: Jim Cobban, WSBC, 220 W. St. Catherine, Louisville, Ky. 40203.

FOR SALE: Broadcast video equipment (1) Sony DXC 3000A (1 yr. old); (1) Sony DXC 325 (1 yr. old); and other items. For a complete list and prices of equipment, call Tony Drake at (502) 636-5576.

NEEDED: Church pianist, salaried. If interested, please call or write First Baptist Church, 47 South Main, Walton, Ky. 41094; Phone: (606) 485-4191.

WANTED: First Baptist, Frankfort, seeks a minister to youth and children. Send resumé to: Dr. Mark Hopper, P.O. Drawer Q, Frankfort, Ky. 40602.

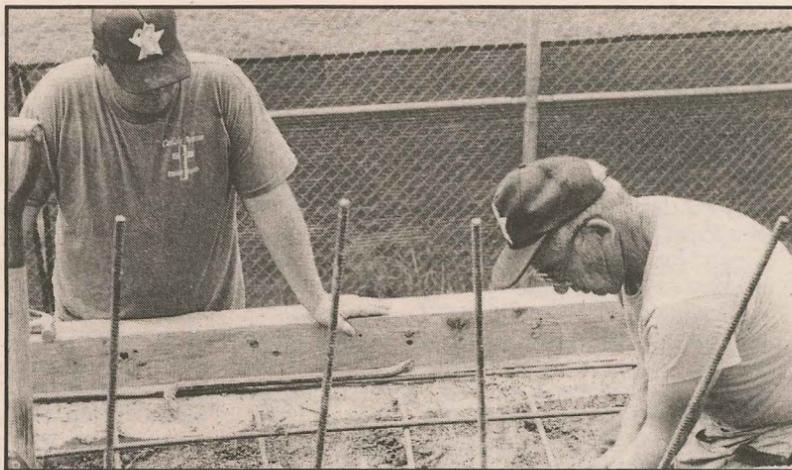
KENTUCKY KERNELS

The Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program has Kentucky roots. The national unified budget adopted in 1925 is similar to the model adopted by Kentucky Baptists in 1915, which in turn was based on a model developed at First Baptist Church in Murray. A historical marker at that church commemorates Kentucky's contribution to the Cooperative Program.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BENTON**—Lakeview Church called **Ron Melton** as pastor. **Omar Jenkins** served as interim pastor.
 ■ **BOWLING GREEN**—**Clyde Gordon** retired June 7 as pastor of Andrew Church after 61 years in the ministry.
Gene Willett is serving as pastor of Halls Chapel Church.
 Richlandville Church called **Kenneth Whitaker** as pastor.
 ■ **CENTERFIELD**—Centerfield Church called **Bill Jagers** as interim pastor.
 ■ **COLUMBIA COUNTY**—Christian Comedian **Jerry Clower** will be appearing at the main track at the Columbia-Adair County Jaycees Fair July 9 at 7 p.m.
 ■ **CROFTON**—Fruit Hill Church

called **Ralph T. McConnell Sr.** as pastor. McConnell retires July 31 as director of missions after 15 years of service in Christian County Association.
 ■ **GHENT**—Ghent Church ordained **Don Hensley, Howard Thompson** and **Scott Thompson** as deacons June 7. Former Pastor **Ben Baird** brought the ordination message.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Penile Church ordained **Louise Williams** as deacon on June 14.
 ■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Eastern Gate Church called **Mark Vincent** as minister of youth.
 ■ **SPRINGFIELD**—Springfield Church called **Ken Graham** as pastor. Graham previously served Midleton Church in Franklin as pastor.



FREE SEATS Baseball fans at Campbellsville College will benefit from new seating next season thanks to the contributions of Jim Bradbury (right) and Al Breeden and other members of Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville. Church members donated labor and funds to install the new seating. (Photo by Joan McKinney)

Walnut Street calls Robert Long as pastor

LOUISVILLE—Robert Long has been called as pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. Long, currently pastor of First Baptist Church in Brunswick, Ga., will succeed Kenneth Chafin, who retired last fall from the pastorate of Kentucky's largest Baptist church. Walnut Street's members called Long June 21 upon the recommendation of their pastor search committee. He will begin his new job July 26.

Both Long and his wife, Judy, are former Kentuckians. She is a Dawson Springs native, and he is from Symsonia. Long, 37, earned a bachelor's degree from Murray State University and master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. His former Kentucky pastorates include First Baptist Church of Clinton and Baltimore Baptist Church in Mayfield.

Redden retires from Red River post

FRENCHBURG—Ray Redden, director of missions for Red River Baptist Association since 1985, retired in April due to failing health. Redden, who considers Lexington his home, worked many years in sales and eventually bought a business in Frenchburg in 1970. In 1985, leaders of Red River Association almost decided to dissolve the association's work, Redden said. Instead, they "allowed me the privilege to help continue this effort because it is needed so much." In his letter of resignation, Redden

said his "crowning experience" as director of missions was to represent the association on a mission trip to Kenya. He also cited association-sponsored conference trips to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, the introduction of the ACTS television ministry and high attendance at associational meetings as signs of growth during his tenure. Redden was ordained to the ministry in 1986, after accepting the call to serve as pastor of Campton Baptist Church in Campton.

Student got 'More chances than I deserve'

An Oneida graduate, Chando Mapoma, has been elected president of the Morehead State University Student Government Association. This means he is automatically a member of the Board of Regents with the same responsibilities as every other trustee, each of which is appointed by Kentucky's governor.

Chando came to us from a very active Baptist family in Zambia. His father is a professor in the national university of that African nation. His two older brothers graduated from OBI before him. Each of them came to us on full scholarship.

A sophomore when he came to us, Chando was very active on our academic team. He and his OBI teammates were chosen the most outstanding delegation his senior year in the Kentucky United Nations Youth Assembly.

Also, he was active on our mock trial team that came in third in the state that year. He had roles in six plays and was stage manager for three others while at Oneida. He also found time to letter on our varsity soccer, tennis, swimming and track teams. He was a good piano student as well.

Chando wrote us his freshman year at the university: "At Oneida, I was given rules and told to do my best. I let down a lot of the staff, but they stayed behind me. I was given more chances than I deserved. I learned that to make it one must have motivation. Oneida gave me that motivation and confidence to do my best."

In a recent letter he wrote: "I was considered the underdog to be elected student president. For the past two decades the one elected has been a member of a fraternity or sorority, and I am not. Also, being an African in eastern Kentucky, many people automatically assumed there was no chance. I did have to put up with some racist remarks, some dirty tactics, and just plain lies. The

Lord helped keep my head above the water. I spent so much time in the Baptist Student Union's prayer room there should have been a bed and bathroom added. Beginning my prayers with 'Well, it's me again' At my lowest moment and 10 minutes late to a night class, a girl told me that a friend had been to Oneida and you all had sent your regards. You don't know what that did for me. I was overjoyed.

"I thought of my time at Oneida and how hard it was to keep my room clean to avoid licks. I remembered having to read five novels for advanced placement English including 'War and Peace.' I remembered running for what seemed like forever just to get on the track team. I remember getting to class on time to avoid the 'board' of education, and not getting to evening study hall on time and meeting the dean ready to hear me sing 'You Light Up My Life.'

"All the discipline drilled into me has made me a more responsible adult. I find myself better prepared than the average person in college. People are always commenting on how clean I keep my room, or how I always follow through on anything put before me to do. I smile and think of Oneida.

"I owe everything I have to the Lord who has blessed me. My knowing that is primarily because of you, my family at Oneida.

"Everyone here knows I went to school at Oneida. I tell them about it all the time."

This came recently from Mt. Sterling: "My granddaughter had a wonderful year at Oneida. Your staff and contacts with other students helped her 'find herself.' It gave her self-confidence and a desire to achieve. I can't say enough good things, and recommend it to others."

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Needs being met at Clear Creek

Scripture declares God supplies all our need. It happens at Clear Creek. Construction of the bridge to Kelly Hall required running the campus phone lines under the creek and relocating the service box. Three days after the line was cut, a volunteer team from Owensboro arrived. In the group was a South Central Bell employee very familiar with our problem. Phone service has resumed.

Two years ago we began remodeling the stone cottages on Bear Trail and Holly Hill. Built in the late '40s and early '50s, most of them need new plumbing and bath fixtures. The Lord sent us master plumber Keith Withrow from Owensboro.

When I see the maze of electrical conduit in the attic of the new preschool building, I'm grateful for Kentucky students Charles Dixon

and Sam Huff. Dixon anticipates appointment as a foreign missionary.

Harrodsburg native Cleo Goodlett operated a vinyl siding business before the Lord called him to preach. He has installed siding on a faculty residence. Goodlett also operates a bulldozer we have rented to cut a road into a new housing village and to prepare the site for construction of six duplexes.

Our campus has much natural beauty, but landscaper Farrell Green has made it more beautiful. He oper-

ated his own landscape business in Chattanooga for 12 years before enrolling at Clear Creek.

Alumnus David Lyons taught Henderson County student Tom Cummings how to split logs for a rail fence. Cummings split enough logs to make a fence beside the creek and leading to the prayer chapel.

Marty Roberts does wood-working on the equipment left from the old furniture factory. A children's book cabinet in the library was a recent project.

Johnny Skeans left his 16-wheeler and diesel mechanic work when he came to Clear Creek from Maytown. He has stayed busy repairing campus vehicles.

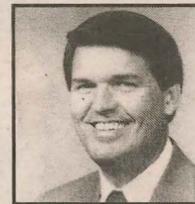
Students and spouses staff most of our offices, the Family Life Center, and preschool center. These student

workshops help meet our need and provide needed jobs in an area of high unemployment.

One need remains—a resident campus nurse. RN Jane Dawson moved to Ohio where her husband has become pastor. This would be an ideal position for a volunteer. The college will furnish housing and most meals. Who will be the person God uses to meet this need?

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Paid Column

PUBLISHING

Scripture distribution reaches all-time record

NEW YORK—Last year, Bible societies throughout the world distributed more than 83 million Bibles, New Testaments and portions of Scripture, according to a report released by the American Bible Society.

The distribution count represented a gain of 16 percent over 1990 distribution totals, which had been a record.

When Scripture selections—publications that contain less than one book of the Bible—were included, the distribution total passed the 640 million mark, the report said.

The American Bible Society distributed 2.2 million Bibles in the United States, it added.

"There is hardly any area in the world left where the Scriptures are not only welcome but are being greeted with open hands and hearts," said ABS President Eugene Habecker.

The United Bible Societies report showed that 18.3 million Bibles and 13.5 million New Testaments were sold or given away. Some countries, such as Ethiopia and Congo, doubled their distribution of Bibles.

"Growth is heartening to any business, but it is particularly encouraging when such growth means people are learning more about God or discovering him for the first time," said UBS General Secretary John Erickson.

The latest report shows that Scriptures distributed as a consequence of the political changes in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union accounted for a 27.4 percent

increase in the Europe-Middle East region.

The Bible societies funded the supply of more than 1.5 million Bibles and New Testaments and almost 1 million Scripture portions in the former Soviet Union.

One Bible society representative told a story from the streets of Moscow that illustrates the demand for Scriptures there. "The taxi driver told us to forget the fare—a Bible would be enough," the representative recounted. "He explained that there was a revival in Russia, and although he himself was not a church-going man, he felt everyone must find their way to God."

In other areas, Scripture distribution was recorded for the first time in decades in Albania, Mongolia and Cuba.

Albania was the last communist country in Europe to collapse, and 22,000 Scriptures were supplied to Albanian churches for distribution. More than 250,000 New Testaments were distributed in Romania, a 164 percent increase over the previous year.

The Mongolian New Testament first was published in 1990, and 2,680 copies were distributed in 1991. Latest reports indicate more than 200 Christians live in the country.

Scriptures also were more widely available in Iraq, where the government allowed importation of more than 30,000 Bibles and New Testaments, and 31,839 Scripture portions.

The Asia-Pacific region showed a



gain of 18.3 percent, particularly in New Testaments and the societies' "New Reader" Scripture portions.

Both the Americas and Africa experienced increases of more than 9 percent each.

Among other notable gains, the

Bible Society of Korea distributed more than 2 million Bibles, the Amity Press in China printed more than 1 million Bibles and New Testaments, and Brazilian Christians distributed 1.2 million Bibles, an increase of 400,000.

FERVENT PRAYER Russian women pray during a worship service at Moscow Baptist Church this spring. Christians in the former Soviet Union have been buoyed by the influx of Scriptures into their country. Last year, Bible societies shipped more than 1.5 million Bibles and New Testaments and almost 1 million Scriptures there. (Photo by RNS/Reuters)

Bible societies set aside differences to spread God's word

READING, England (EP)—Seventeen major Bible societies have set aside turf battles and internal disputes in order to do a better job of translating the Bible and distributing Scriptures around the world.

Meeting at the United Bible Societies general office in Reading, England, the organizations agreed on how to follow up on the languages that are most in need of Scripture translation and made further plans for a joint distribution project in Ethiopia.

"History is being made here," said Lars Dunberg of the International Bible Society, which merged with Living Bibles International this spring. "This meeting couldn't have happened five years ago, when some of our organizations weren't even talking to each other. Now we have become friends."

The group agreed to call itself the Forum of Bible Agencies and to continue to meet regularly and share information.

The goal of the meetings will be to coordinate ministries, avoid duplication and plan cooperative work. The Forum will be divided into two tracks, one for translation and another for distribution.

The degree of openness among the groups—which had a less-than-perfect track record of cooperation—was impressive, participants said. Several of them noted some of the organizations' external changes paved the way for cooperation.

"When you consider the massive task facing the church in making Scriptures available in hundreds of languages, our supporters will not tolerate any duplication of effort," said John Bendor-

Samuel of Wycliffe Bible Translators. "They demand good stewardship."

Added John Erickson, general secretary of the United Bible Societies: "The 'New Europe' showed us just how urgent the task of Bible translation and distribution actually is. If we do not cooperate, we not only waste the resources God has given us, we do a disservice to the churches and Christians, indeed even the non-Christians, in those countries where Scriptures are so desperately needed."

During one session, the agencies examined a list of languages which are spoken by more than 500,000 peo-

ple but which do not have an adequate translation of the Bible. They decided which organizations will investigate the specific Scripture needs of people who speak those languages.

That agreement came as a result of a meeting of translation agencies in Dallas last fall. Participants in the Dallas meeting agreed to secure translation of Scripture for all languages with more than 500,000 speakers and to assess needs of all languages with more than 250,000 speakers.

The assignment of languages to the agencies could prove to be one of the most significant decisions in decades for

accelerating the translation of the Bible, participants said. The assignment of languages to agencies is to be carried out in close consultation with churches and Bible agencies in the affected countries.

On another front, the distribution agencies developed plans for a joint Scripture-distribution effort in Ethiopia. The project could become a model for similar joint projects in other countries, planners said.

"This represents a firm commitment to work together in response to the tremendous enthusiasm of Ethiopian churches," said Willis Trimmer, executive vice president of The Bible League, who noted the timing comes on the heels of the overthrow of Ethiopia's Marxist government.

The meeting in England was the third in a series that arose from the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization Congress in the Philippines in 1989.

Participants were:

- Bibles International
- Bibles to All
- Evangel Bible Translators
- Every Home for Christ
- Institute for Bible Translation
- International Bible Society
- Lutheran Bible Translators
- Open Doors
- Pioneer Bible Translators
- Scripture Gift Mission
- Scripture Union
- The Bible League
- United Bible Societies
- Vida
- WEC International
- World Gospel Crusades
- Wycliffe Bible Translators

Board seeks niche in competitive market

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board is trying to find its niche in the religious academic market by making its books more "student-friendly."

A new Old Testament survey written by Taylor University professor Paul House is an example.

House has stacks of Old Testament textbooks in his office at the Upland, Ind., school. But the problem is they're written for scholars, not students, he said: "A lot of the surveys focus on history, background, dates, criticism and then very lightly on the text. I think that's backward."

So, House wrote a book that helps readers understand the plot, major and minor characters and major events of the Old Testament books.

"I wanted to help my students see

the practicality of the (Old Testament) writings," he explained. "If you can get the students excited about the literature itself, that begins a lifelong process of reading and exploring the text for themselves."

House's concept gels with a new attitude at the Sunday School Board, said Trent Butler, manager of the board's Bibles and textbooks section.

"We have several different audiences, ... (and) we are trying to make each of our writers aware of the need of writing for a specific audience," Butler noted.

We really want to reshape the curriculum of theological education," he said.

"We need to make sure the content of our textbooks both informs students and provides practical help."

Called to Serve

During the summer of 1992, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union will sponsor six weeks of GA and Acteens Camp at Cedar

Crest near Bagdad, Kentucky, and three weeks at Jonathan Creek near Hardin, Kentucky. The camping program for members of Girls in

Action and Acteens, stresses missions and spiritual awareness. Pictured below are individuals serving on these two camp staffs.

Cedar Crest

Holly Beverly
Louisville, Counselor
Karin Bookley
Fort Thomas, Counselor
Kelly Bookley
Fort Thomas, Counselor
Melanie Bramlette
Pleasureville, Counselor
Evie Cash
Versailles, Assistant Director
Beth Dunn
Louisville, Director



Jennifer Franklin
Lawrenceburg, Assistant Counselor
Robin Goben
Mt. Washington, Assistant Counselor
Amy Goode
Prospect, Assistant Counselor
Tracy Gullion
New Albany, Indiana, Unit Leader
Shana Harper
Walton, Counselor
Katherine Houston
Louisville, Assistant Counselor



Keri Hutchison
Louisville, Counselor
Angela Irvin
Dry Ridge, Counselor
Daria Matherly
Taylorsville, Counselor
Heather Mayer
Louisville, Counselor
Christy McCane
Burlington, Counselor
Stephanie Nation
Frankfort, Assistant Counselor



Nancy Noe
Paint Lick, Assistant Counselor
Pamela O'Nan
Frankfort, Assistant Counselor
Jenny Spurlock
Richmond, Assistant Counselor
Heather Vineyard
Nicholasville, Assistant Counselor
Kristina Van Meter
Harpersville, New York, Lifeguard
Carla Wainscott
Dry Ridge, Unit Leader



Jane Weru
Kenya, Assistant Counselor
Darie Wilson
Hopkinsville, Unit Leader



Jonathan Creek

Left to right
Beth England, Center, Unit Leader
Joyce Paris, Sturgis, Program Director
Tammy Seay, Sturgis, Recreation Director
Carla Taylor, Murray, Program Director
Lisa McCarty, Savannah, Tenn., Unit Leader
Penny Akers, Barlow, Acteens Camp Director
Jennifer King, Louisville, Unit Leader
Wendy Dever, Louisville, GA Camp Director
Stacey Durbin, Sturgis, Unit Leader

