

JULY 7, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 27

FOR THE RECORD

School talk

Cumberland College President James Taylor told Southern Baptist educators Baptist schools have many good qualities that need to be talked about more often. *See page 2.*

MissionsFest

Plans are underway for MissionsFest Kentucky, a statewide foreign missions celebration to be held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington in September. *See page 3.*

Education funding

President George Bush has proposed another plan to give federal money for families to enroll their children in religious schools. *See page 6.*

Volunteer race

The church is losing the race for enlisting volunteers to more successful secular recruiters, a Baptist leader claims. *See page 9*

Reminder: Don't be discouraged when you look longingly for your *Western Recorder* next week but never find it. There will be no paper published next week, one of two "skip" weeks during the year. The next issue will be dated July 21.

Students learn life lessons in Appalachia

By Marv Knox
Editor

BEREA—Seminary students from across the South and East have traded their ivory towers for mountain "hollers."

And, by their accounts, they're getting a life-changing education.

Forty-eight students from 17 denominations are participating in the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center's summer program.

They're spending weekdays studying on the campus of Berea College in Berea—examining the culture, religion, economics and politics of the region, which includes parts of 13 states from Mississippi to New York.

On weekends, they're moving out into the villages and onto the small family farms of Appalachia, getting a firsthand look at life in one of America's most culture-rich, money-poor regions.

The purpose of the program is "to introduce students to the possibility of ministry in the Appalachian region or to ministry in a multi-cultural, multi-denominational situation," said Bill Leonard, the center's academic dean for the

□ *See Students learn ..., page 3*

Court moves abortion fight to states

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court and Congress danced around the abortion debate last week, but bands of activists on both sides of the issue appeared to be tuning up for new fights in Kentucky and America's 49 other states.

Within a three-day span, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states have the right to restrict abortion but not outlaw it and two Congressional committees approved legislation that would require states to permit abortions with few restrictions.

The Supreme Court's action came in the long-awaited ruling on Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania vs. Casey. Congressional action related to the Freedom of Choice Act, which has been introduced in both the Senate and House as a means of making law out of the court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision.

The court stopped short of overturning Roe vs. Wade but cleared the way for states to restrict abortion with requirements such as waiting periods, parental consent for minors, increased clinic regulation and distribution of information on abortion alternatives.

Such restrictions have been favored by Kentucky lawmakers in the past but never made effective.

In 1986, Kentucky legislators passed a parental notification requirement for girls under 18 seeking abor-

tions. Before it could be implemented, that law was ruled unconstitutional by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. The court objected to requirements that girls obtain consent from both parents, if available, and that the consent be notarized.

A similar bill—cleansed of the requirements ruled out by the appeals court—was introduced in this year's General Assembly and passed by the House. However, Senate Democrats blocked a vote on the bill in committee, sparking a lawsuit that has yet to be settled.

Two other abortion bills passed by the House but avoided by the Senate would have required informed consent from women seeking abortions and increased health and safety regulations for abortion clinics. All three proposed bills appear to be within the scope of restrictions allowed by the Supreme Court's latest ruling.

A divided court narrowly reaffirmed the "essential holding" of Roe vs. Wade while also approving most provisions of Pennsylvania's restrictive abortion statute.

Four of the court's most conservative members said they would have reversed the landmark 1973 Roe decision that recognized abortion as a fundamental constitutional right.

But three Reagan-Bush appointees—Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony Kennedy and David Sout-

er—joined Justices Harry Blackmun and John Paul Stevens in forming a 5-4 majority to reaffirm a woman's right to choose an abortion in the early stages of pregnancy.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, joined by Justices Byron White, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, said Roe was "wrongly decided" and "it can be and should be overruled."

Further clarification of the court's position could come in legal challenges to strict abortion laws that have been passed in Louisiana, Utah and the American territory of Guam. However, each of these laws apparently would not meet the approval of the current court because they ban all abortions except under severely limited circumstances.

Meanwhile, Congress appears headed for a showdown with the Supreme Court over the leeway the Pennsylvania case has given states to restrict abortion.

The Freedom of Choice Act (S. 25, H.R. 25) passed the House Judiciary Committee June 30 and was approved by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee July 1.

The House version of 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 and health of the woman."

"The only responsible course is for Congress to act as soon as possible to

□ *See Abortion fight ..., page 7*

Worship opens church doors, author says

NASHVILLE (BP)—Worship has surpassed Sunday school as the "front door" to Southern Baptist churches, a worship consultant claims.

Unchurched people now are more likely to get their first exposure to church through worship than through Sunday school, said James White, leadership consultant for preaching and worship with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

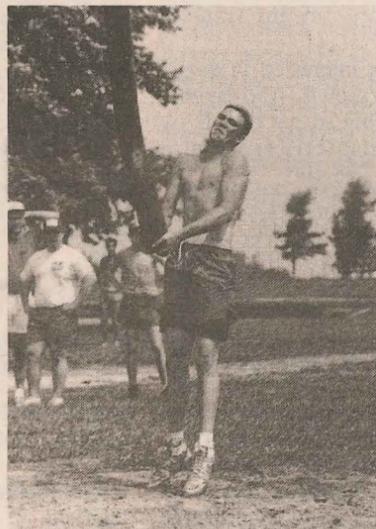
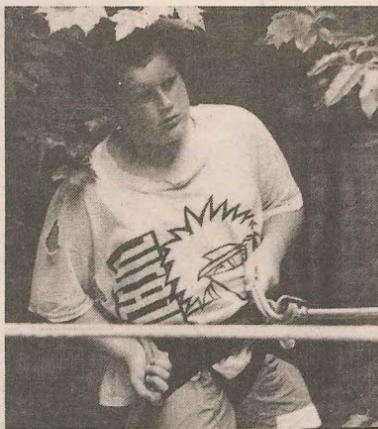
That finding—supported by data from the Southern Baptist Convention's annual statistical report—runs contrary to the denomination's long-standing practice of drawing people into churches through Sunday school and then into worship.

White cites these statistics to make his case: Southern Baptist churches reported an average worship attendance of 131 in 1991, while the average Sunday school attendance stood at 108.

"And the worship attendance numbers may be much higher because many churches don't include children and preschoolers in their figures, but they are almost always included in Sunday school attendance records," he added.

White also points to findings by California research executive George Barna that 50 percent of non-churched Americans are most interested in be-

□ *See Worship opens ..., page 2.*



SUMMER CAMP Residents of the Glen Dale campus of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children spent a week at camp June 15-19. This was the first camp experience for most of the children. The campers participated in a variety of competitive and confidence-building activities, as shown here racing to the water for a raft race, competing in a log-throwing contest and log-rolling contest and rappelling. Glen Dale's director, Buckley Carlin, said the camp "had a tremendous impact on the lives of young people." Around the campfire one night, each camper was asked to give one word to describe what they had experienced during the week, he explained. "I heard words like trust, hope, challenge, fulfillment." At week's end, three campers had decided to commit their lives to Jesus Christ, and five others had made spiritual decisions. The Campbellville College Singers led nightly devotions with the group and assisted with the camp.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Southern Africa's** worst drought in many years is the focus of relief efforts by the Baptist World Alliance's Baptist World Aid division. "Our hunger funds are low, and we appeal to the worldwide family of Baptists ... to help us support African Baptists in serving the hungry," said BWAid Director Paul Montacute. Contact Baptist World Aid, 6733 Curran St. McLean, Va. 22101.

■ **Everett Sneed**, 61, editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine for 20 years, died June 26 of a heart attack. Sneed had planned to retire Oct. 30, after his 62nd birthday Oct. 21.

■ **James Williams**, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, underwent quadruple arterial bypass surgery June 19 in Memphis. Doctors called the operation a success and expect full recovery within four to six weeks.

■ **Wallace Williams**, executive director of the Pennsylvania/South Jersey Baptist State Convention, has been named director of the proposed doctor of ministry program at Beeson Divinity School of Samford University. Williams was educated in Kentucky at Georgetown College, the University of Kentucky and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **The Family Worship Bible**, published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Holman division, won the Gold Medallion Award in the Bibles category from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association June 27.

Talk up Baptist schools, Taylor advises

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Baptist schools ought to talk more about their successes, Cumberland College President James Taylor told a gathering of his colleagues late last month.

Taylor, outgoing president of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, was among dozens of speakers addressing about 600 people at the Conference on Integrating Personal Faith and Professional Discipline in Birmingham, Ala.

"Too little is said about our Baptist colleges, universities and schools," Taylor said. "Too much is made of the exception and not enough made of the rule. ... Too much is taken for granted."

Taylor declared that "too many of our graduates are going into full-time Christian service for us to be quiet. Too much good is being accomplished."

Baptist schools "bring hope for the future," he added. "Our Baptist col-

leges provide a forum for faith for the future which helps us to deal with life's ambiguity."

Other speakers challenged educators to find ways to integrate their faith with their particular academic disciplines:

■ **Ernest Boyer**, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching: "I'm convinced that education simply cannot be divorced from values. A church-related school or college must above all help students not only get credentialed, but discover a divine meaning for their existence."

■ **George Marsden**, theologian from Duke University: Evangelical colleges should not feel "we have to catch up with the ideological procession" of major universities. "We have nothing to apologize for, intellectually, by relating our faith to our disciplines."

■ **Nathan Hatch**, vice president of graduate studies and research at Notre

Dame University: In a time of academic turmoil nationwide where institutions of higher education are under intense criticism, Christian schools have an opportunity to "articulate what may be the only coherent educational philosophy in the marketplace."

■ **Bob Agee**, president of Oklahoma Baptist University: "The painful reality is that merely putting a professor in the classroom who has appropriate academic credentials and who is an active member of a Christian church does not guarantee that Christian education is going to take place."

■ **Arthur Walker Jr.**, executive director of the Education Commission: "If Baptist faculties successfully integrate faith and discipline, we will emphasize the distinctiveness of Baptist institutions and will challenge our constituency. ... We will assure a future generation of Baptists who understand who we are and also the need for projecting their heritage to future generations."

State papers might avoid '93 postal hike

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A steep postal-rate hike for state Baptist newspapers and other non-profit mailers could be averted for fiscal 1993 if an appropriations bill approved June 25 by a House committee clears the U.S. Congress.

The House Appropriations Committee approved a spending bill for the U.S. Postal Service, providing only \$200 million of the \$482 million needed for the non-profit mail subsidy, known as revenue forgone.

Revenue forgone reimburses the

postal service for the non-profit mailers' share of overhead expenses. Non-profit rates reflect only the cost of handling that class of mail.

The \$282 million shortfall could mean a 50 percent rate hike for state Baptist newspapers like the Western Recorder, but the committee approved an additional proposal to shield non-profit mailers from a rate increase for 1993.

The proposal stipulates the postal service, rather than non-profit mailers, would pick up the \$282 million dif-

ference in the amount needed and the amount appropriated.

Neal Denton, executive director of the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, said the alliance "welcomes the safety net" but stressed that non-profit mailers "need a permanent solution" from the Senate.

If the appropriations bill is approved by the House, it will then be sent to the Senate for consideration. If Congress does not approve protection for non-profit mailers, a postal rate hike could go into effect Oct. 1.

Worship opens church door

Continued from page 1

coming involved with a church through a Sunday worship service.

White said he isn't "knocking" the importance of Sunday school but he believes Southern Baptists must begin to pay more attention to how they are conducting worship and whether they are sensitive to the unchurched.

"When it comes to worship services, our whole mindset has been geared toward the believer. That means we are geared more toward transfer growth.

"But I'm not interested in that. I want conversion growth. And the only way we are going to get that is by making our worship services appeal to the unchurched," he said.

In his new book, "Opening the Front Door: Worship and Church Growth," recently released by Convention Press, White discusses the link between church growth and worship services that are "non-churched friendly."

He says today's growing churches:

■ **Target their worship services** toward a particular audience. Worship cannot be "culturally neutral," White said. Instead, churches must "target" an area in their city's or community's population, discover their cultural context and then "present the gospel in the most compelling form to the non-churched and non-Christian individual."

■ **Take their physical surroundings/**

appearance seriously. Growing churches pay attention to cleanliness, lighting, seating, sound systems, temperature, space and parking, he said.

■ **Commit to quality** through worship that strives to be excellent, professional, organized, contemporary and reliable.

■ **Understand atmosphere.** Growing churches "create a celebrative, friendly, relaxed, positive and expectant atmosphere," he explained.

■ **Make visitors feel welcome.** This is done, he said, by referring to them as "guests," avoiding "spiritual buzz-talk" and offering them anonymity during the service.

■ **Offer variety in worship.** This can include effective use of media, drama, special emphases and events and multiple speakers and leaders, he said.

■ **Schedule worship services** at convenient times for members and guests.

While White has spent the last year and a half sharing his opinions on worship and church growth at seminars and conferences across the country, he soon will get a chance to try the "non-churched friendly" model on the field.

He recently announced plans to leave the Sunday School Board July 31 and become the founding pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, N.C.

New materials developed for newlywed class

NASHVILLE—A 26-session Bible study for newlyweds that can help create new Sunday school units, serve as an evangelistic tool or coordinate with premarital counseling will be available from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board for use in October.

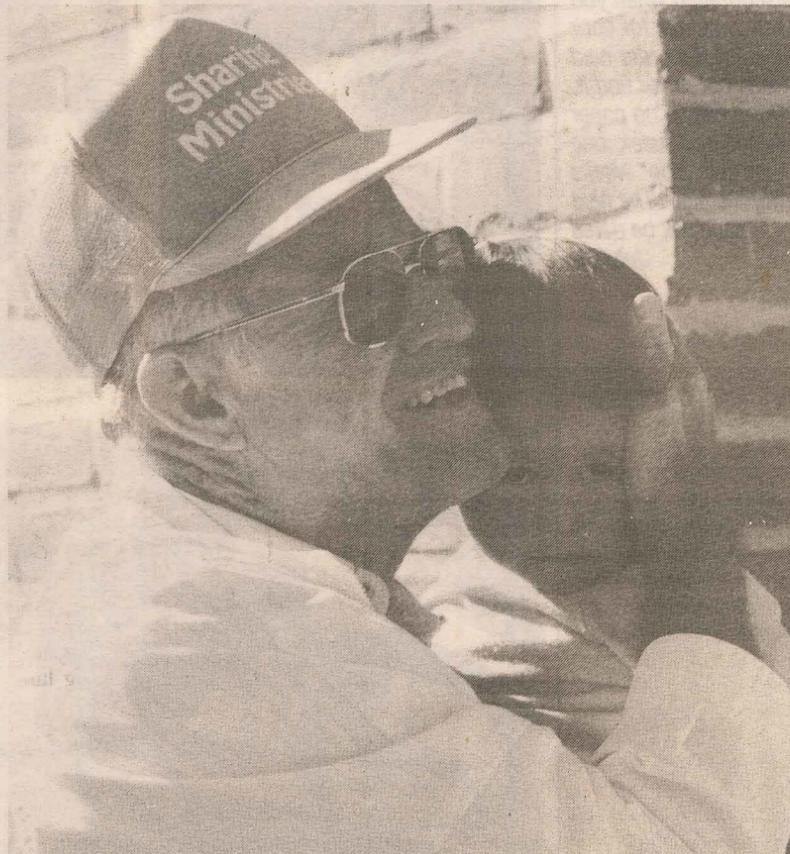
The topical study can be used for an alternative Sunday morning Bible study or as a weekday study, explained David Apple, adult consultant in the board's Sunday school division.

If the study is used on Sunday mornings, Apple recommends that a newlywed class be created for the six-month study. "That group could stay together as a class and then move into the regular dated curriculum," he suggested.

"The point is to involve newlyweds in Bible study. This may be an opportunity to discover other newlyweds who are not attending church."

The study deals with subjects such as understanding the biblical foundation of marriage, communication, financial management, conflicts and spiritual development.

Because the newlywed Bible study material was developed on a fast track, it will not be listed on the October order form, Apple said. The material will be available in book stores and from the board's customer service center: (800) 458-2772.



OPEN ARMS Southern Baptist home missionary Ross Hanna embraces an orphan who lives at the Happy Ranch Orphanage in Agua Prieta, Mexico. With the help of volunteers, Hanna works along the U.S.-Mexico border near Tucson, Ariz. Every Saturday for the past five years, he has taken food, clothing and other supplies across the border to the orphanage. He and Baptist volunteers also have provided beds and indoor plumbing for the desolate facility. Hanna is one of 4,900 home missionaries supported by Southern Baptist churches nationwide. (Photo by Paul Obregon)

Kentucky MissionsFest set for Lexington in fall

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Kentucky Baptists are planning to celebrate foreign missions, and everyone is invited.

MissionsFest, a missions extravaganza featuring missionary testimonies, workshops and worship, is planned for Sept. 11-12 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

The event also will include one of Keith Parks' last public addresses as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Parks, who retires Oct. 30, will be the keynote speaker and will host a Saturday pizza supper for college students and youth.

"Kentucky Baptists will be honored to hear and visit with Dr. Keith

Parks just a few weeks prior to his retirement," said William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"MissionsFest is particularly beamed to youth," he added. "With a serious decline of career missionary appointments in recent years, it is hoped that many of our youth will experience the Lord's leadership and call to career overseas service."

MissionsFest kicks off Sept. 11 with registration and a "global walkaround" exhibit area opening at 5 p.m. The 7:30 p.m. session will include a flag processional, missionary testimonies, music by the Kentucky Baptist Chorale, Kentucky Baptist Singing Women and Kentucky Baptist Instrumental Ensemble.

Events resume Sept. 12 with a morning convocation where Parks will talk about missions as the Bible's central theme.

More than two dozen special-interest workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon. Topics include "The Family in Missions," "New Directions in Missions," "Praying for Missions and Missionaries" and "Innovative Options in Overseas Missions Involvement."

Saturday's lunch will be served by the Kentucky Baptist Men's disaster relief unit.

The evening session at 6:30 p.m. will feature more missionary testimonies, special music by the combined choirs of Kentucky's Baptist Student Unions and a message by Parks with

a call for personal commitments.

A MissionsFest day camp will be offered on Saturday for boys and girls who will be in grades one through six next fall. Pre-registration is required for the day camp, and registration will close Aug. 1 or when capacity is reached.

To pre-register for the day camp, send \$5 per child along with their names to MissionsFest Day Camp, Kentucky WMU, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433. Further details are printed in the current issue of Kentucky Notes, WMU's statewide newsletter.

There is no registration fee for MissionsFest, but groups and families are asked to pre-register if possible. For further information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101.

MissionsFest will include missions messages by Keith Parks, missionary testimonies, dozens of workshops and two worship celebrations.

Award no joke for Cumberland student comic

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG—It's no riddle why Cumberland College's resident stand-up comic is winning serious awards.

Andrew Abbott, a mathematics education student at Cumberland College and aspiring comedian, doesn't joke about being one of 10 young people in the country to receive the 1992 National Youth Leader Award.

The award is sponsored by Religious Heritage of America, a nonprofit, interfaith organization seeking to demonstrate the vitality of America's religious heritage and adherence to Judeo-Christian principles.

"Andy is a dedicated barrel of fun," said Wyndee Holbrook, campus minister at Cumberland College. "He is a totally sold-out, committed person."

Holbrook said she nominated Abbott because of his leadership in the Baptist Student Union as well as his involvement in school, church and community activities.

"He is very respected and appreciated by the faculty and administration here," she said. "His No. 1 asset is his ability to love everybody. He's real good at making friendships with international students and at making everybody feel welcomed."

Candidates nominated for the award are examined for outstanding service and commitment to their church, school and community and for demonstration of honesty, integrity and religious values.

A member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville, Abbott was active there before pursuing studies at Cumberland. But a serious commitment to follow Jesus Christ was prompted by the genuine spirit of students at Cumberland College, he said.

He became involved in the BSU and has been elected president for his upcoming senior year.

Students learn life lessons in Appalachia

Continued from page 1

summer and head of the religion department at Samford University.

Thirteen participants are students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, where Leonard taught church history until January. They recently set aside their books to talk about their experiences.

"We've had the opportunity to be with people from diverse backgrounds," explained Lea Alexander of Bamberg, S.C. "My truth is one facet of truth; we can combine our perceptions. And we can expose and work through our preconceptions of both this region and people from other denominations."

"It's also a chance to deal with rural issues," added Stacey Buford of Chattanooga, Tenn. "In seminary, we often focus on urban problems, and the rural area almost is ignored."

But ignoring the region is impossible for students in the center's summer program. The weekend visits bring Appalachians "up close and personal."

Students break into small groups to study Appalachian farming, small churches or community action, Leonard explained. They also examine those issues from the inside, living with Appalachian families for at least 10 days.

Even students who weren't sure about how that placement would work said they've fit into the local society.

"I was apprehensive about what I could do. My background is media," confessed Rick Forest of Clarksville, Tenn. "But I wound up at Appalshop, a non-profit media collection that helps document and explain the region."

David Dillard of New Castle, Del., said he feels comfortable working with Save Our Cumberland Mountains, "a grassroots organization that works on everything from landfills to companies moving to Mexico and leaving large

numbers of people unemployed."

Aside from the "work" of the field placement, the students learn from their weekend hosts, noted Buford. "We sit and listen to people's story and hear where they are," she explained. "Rather than come in with our seminary training and talk to them, we listen."

"One thing that has impressed me is that you go back into these hollers and find people like gems," reported David McNair of Kannapolis, N.C. "They have so much to offer. They're committed to the land, the people and their communities."

"They're not dummies," he said, apologizing for citing a stereotype often attached to Appalachian people.

"The people are strong," confirmed Terri Farless of Ft. Valley, Ga. "I sat with a family through a thunder storm and saw their faith."

"I was surprised to see how much Appalachian people are doing" for their communities, said Jon Buford of Birmingham, Ala. "There are many grassroots organizations helping people. It's something you don't see elsewhere."

And what students see in Appalachia is not just the past and present, but also the future, Leonard said. "The culture is in transition because of the changes in the larger culture—the M-TVing or Wal-Martization of America."

So, the focus of the study "is not just about ministry in Appalachia, but ministry in changing communities and a changing region," stressed Brian Cole of Hayti, Mo. "It's something we will deal with wherever we minister."

Such a focus on ministry in Appalachia has helped the students see the role of the church through new eyes.

"Churches can be a hindrance," admitted Farless. "We need to learn from grassroots movements. For example,



women who exhibit tremendous skills in their communities can't use those skills in churches. And churches sometimes perpetuate the status quo instead of speaking out against the systematic evils in their communities."

"Even if we don't come back to Appalachia, we're taking with us the issues and the people," added Forest. "It will make us more sensitive to the areas—the people, the issues, the needs—where we do serve."

Leonard called the Appalachian Ministries Education Resource Center "a new way to network" among ministers. It allows ministry students to learn from each other and from resources unique to a particular region, he said, and it allows them to understand ministry from a perspective that is broader than the confines of one denomination.

In addition to the summer program, the center conducts winter travel seminars. It operates from Berea during the summer and from Charleston, W.Va., from August through May.

The center was launched in 1985. It is affiliated with 37 seminaries representing 17 denominations.

APPALACHIAN SUMMER
Participants in the Appalachian Ministries Education Resource Center's summer program with ties to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary are (front row) Terri Farless, Patty Villarreal, Stephanie Leonard, Jay Cline, Lea Alexander; (second row) Bill Leonard, Jana Mayfield, Trina Thomas, Rick Forest; (third row) Jon Buford, Geoff Monteith, David McNair; (back row) David Dillard, Stacy Buford, Brian Cole.

Southern revises schedule to aid commuters

LOUISVILLE—A new class schedule designed to accommodate commuter students will begin at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary this fall.

With the new schedule, it will be possible for a student to take a full-time load by commuting to the Louisville campus twice a week, said Robert Hughes, director of professional studies.

The seminary will begin offering three-credit-hour courses that meet twice weekly and will expand the number of three-credit-hour classes that meet once weekly.

Courses that meet twice weekly will convene on Mondays and Fridays for a 75-minute period. Once-a-week classes will meet on Mondays or Fridays for a three-hour period, including a 30-minute break.

In addition, classes that meet three days a week will be scheduled to accommodate students who leave Louisville on weekends to serve churches outside the city, Hughes said. These classes will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for 50-minute periods.

The fall semester begins Aug. 31. For registration information, contact the admissions office at (502) 897-4617.

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

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How old is 'old enough' for baptism?

When is one old enough? At what age should a child be baptized?

This is a question with which I have struggled throughout my ministry.

I have known churches that set an arbitrary age, usually 12, but some as late as 16.

When I began my ministry in Texas 38 years ago, 12 was popular with many evangelical churches, undoubtedly because of Jewish practices and the biblical reference in Luke 2:41-52. This was the so-called "age of accountability" when a child was suddenly responsible for her or his sins.

The problem is that some 9-year-olds are more mature than some 12-year-olds.

In our violent society, some rather terrible criminal acts are committed by pre-teens and young children.

Child-development experts tell us that character is shaped when a child is quite young. Children develop at various paces. Home and church environment make a difference. A child who has been reared in a Christian home and in Sunday school and worship all of her or his life will often make an early decision to follow Christ and be baptized.

Even in Christian families, children respond differently, and there is no "correct" age.

A friend of mine told me that one of his children was baptized at 9, the other at 17. The early decision-maker has given more evidence of serious commitment to the Lord and the church than the one who waited, my friend said.

My wife, who is one of the finest Christians I know, was baptized at age 6.

My early thought on this subject and pastoral practice was dictated by a fear of practicing paedo-baptism—child or infant baptism.

More recently, I have become more concerned about rejecting or delaying a child reared in the faith and the church and wanting to respond to the teaching and preaching of home and church heard and demonstrated from the cradle. This concern has led me to a couple of pastoral conclusions on the subject.

First, no matter what age we respond to the invitation, we begin a pilgrimage and must grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At 9 or 90, one does not begin the journey as a mature believer or disci-

ple. At whatever age, we give as much of ourselves as we understand to as much of God as we understand at that time.

Secondly, the church must nurture the new Christian.

A younger convert is certainly prone to greater sensitivity and requires special attention. We must never assume our responsibility as the people of God ends with baptism. The metaphor of spiritual birth should be treated more seriously. Every baptism is a challenge and responsibility for the communion of faith, but young people and children require special effort to instruct, nurture and model.

Finally, only God knows for sure, and we must trust God's grace.

I do not believe we should "pressure" children to make decisions.

We should teach children about the love of God and the way of salvation. We should model the grace of God in our dealings with children. No child should become a teen-ager without having heard the plan of salvation.

Once is rarely enough for anyone at any age.

Keep telling the story!

*Raymond Bailey, pastor
Lyndon Baptist Church
Louisville*

No leftovers

Folks react in different ways to leftovers. If it is a food you particularly enjoy, a few leftovers are not so bad. However, we would not like the same leftovers time and time again.

What is the portion of your financial income which you give to the Lord? What comes off the top? Do you first give at least 10 percent (a tithe) of your income to the church, or does God get what is left over?

God provides us with enough material blessings to meet all our needs plus some extra for occasional luxuries. That doesn't mean that we won't run short on cash or that we always have more money than we need.

Sometimes, our personal funds get a little close. It is in those times that we need to make certain the Lord doesn't get the leftovers.

We are told, "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of thine increase" (Proverbs 3:9). We should prayerfully consider whether we are honoring the Lord with our "first fruits" or dishonoring God with our "leftovers."

*Bill Shoulta, pastor
Melbourne Heights Baptist Church
Louisville*

Who monitors?

I read the Western Recorder (June 16) and was dismayed to read this paragraph, "An estimated 200 people walked out on the veteran missionary's message (Dr. Parks), including Adrian Rogers, former Southern Baptist Convention president and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn."

The article goes on to say, "Rogers and other leaders of the 13-year-old effort to move the SBC to a more conservative direction were visibly angered by Parks' comments."

I am astounded! Who are the monitors that check such things and make such counts? And beyond that, who are these most gifted people who can

read the thoughts and intents of people's hearts?

The truth is I desperately wanted to stay but had a commitment that I could not break. I was disappointed that Dr. Parks didn't get up sooner to speak. In last year's missionary commitment service, my wife and I were at the front committing our lives to

whatever call God may have on them.

As for whomever it is that judges whether someone is angry or not, I suggest that they read Matthew 7:1. The utter absurdity of someone attributing anger to an individual without interviewing that individual should be apparent to every thinking person.

*Adrian Rogers, pastor
Bellevue Baptist Church
Memphis, Tenn.*

BAPTIST FORUM

Too far

The U.S. Supreme Court decrees it unconstitutional to ask God's blessing on the graduates during graduation exercises in the government school. Surprisingly, even the Louisville Courier-Journal declared, "This is going too far."

Indeed it is. Is there no limit to the frantic and frenetic endeavor to ban all recognition and reverence for God from the government school? A letter from Donald Ingwerson, superintendent of the Jefferson County Public Schools, informs me that legal counsel advises that posting the national motto, "In God We Trust," in a school cannot be allowed due to the "constitutional challenge" it would involve!

We have hit bottom in the subversion and negation of the moral and

spiritual foundations of America's history and heritage. We have betrayed the birthright of children institutionalized in the government school.

Belatedly, the Kentucky legislature has decreed, "There shall be no content-based censorship of American history or heritage in the commonwealth based on religious references in writings, documents and records."

Let us hope that there are still a few teachers with the courage and character to display our nation's motto on their classroom walls and to explain its origin and meaning to their pupils. But the court has made it clear, of course, that they must never say, "God bless you" to children! That is now unconstitutional.

*Sam B. Peavey
Louisville*

SBC '92: Some unreported events

Since I am not a Mason and would not have been among those who feel that this is an issue deserving of priority, I have refrained until now from any comment concerning the issue.

However, recent letters and calls suggest that it is expedient to speak to the matter.

The issue: Dr. Larry Holly, a physician and SBC messenger from Texas, introduced a motion in Indianapolis calling for a study of Freemasonry.

The matter had been referred earlier to the Home Mission Board by the SBC Executive Committee and twice the Home Mission Board trustees had refused to study the matter.

Following the vote this time to "in-

struct" the Home Mission Board to study Freemasonry, HMB President Larry Lewis openly and publicly stated: "I am disappointed in the decision."

He reasoned: "Any position we take—either pro Masons or against Masons or neutral—will generate a certain amount of fire and wrath and thus hurt missions."

The motion-maker, Holly, has written a 58-page booklet on Freemasonry. In his book, Holly contends that the Masonic lodge's true purpose is the worship of Satan who is the god of the lodge. He states he is not

opposed to Masons being church members but believes they should not be allowed in positions of leadership.

Baptist Press carried the results of

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

a VIEWpoll indicating that 14 percent of Southern Baptist pastors interviewed were or had been members of the Masonic lodge.

At this writing, it is obvious that Masons in Kentucky are just now discovering this action by the Southern Baptist Convention. Many, of course, are of other denominations and will hear of it through public press and, ultimately, through communication from the Masonic organization. The impact of this decision in communities in our state is yet to be felt. The potential for anger toward Southern Baptists is apparent.

One of the letters received here was from a deacon and treasurer of a cooperating Kentucky Baptist church. He is also a Mason, deeply offended by the SBC action.

Subsequent calls from others have made the assumption that the Kentucky Baptist Convention either par-

ticipated in or supports this action. Many folks do not understand polity and the autonomous relationship of the state convention with the Southern Baptist Convention.

There are approximately 80,000 Masons in Kentucky. Multiply that by the number in their families and relatives, and one must assume this issue impacts about a half million people in our state alone.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention has not taken this action, nor can it be assumed that the majority of Kentucky Baptists agree with this action taken by the Southern Baptist Convention. It certainly did not originate here.

It is clear, more and more, that Baptist autonomy is emerging as one of the most crucial issues in the future of Kentucky Baptist life.

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

What can we do about abortion in our nation?

Whose life is it, anyway?

That question marks the axis of the swirling abortion controversy: Is a fetus merely an extension of a woman's body until it attains "viability"? Or does a baby's life begin when father's sperm penetrates mother's egg?

If the first position is true, then a woman's own rights must hold sway, no matter what anyone else thinks. If a fetus is no more or less a part of her body than any other tissue, then she should have complete control. Constitutionally protected principles of freedom, self-determination and privacy safeguard her privilege.

But if the baby growing inside her womb is an individual from the moment of conception, then its right to life and its freedom to be born must be protected. Logically, a woman should have no right to abort this baby, for human beings historically have agreed killing an innocent life is a worse evil than others, even rape, incest and deformity.

If either of these positions makes you angry, welcome to the poles of the nation's most hostile debate. If both of them make you uncomfortable, welcome to the extremes of the nation's most anguishing dilemma. If you're confused and frustrated, you're not alone.

The Supreme Court's latest abortion decision didn't help matters. Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania vs. Casey, a 168-page ruling handed down last week, only made pro-life and pro-choice activists angry. It affirmed the constitutional right to an abortion while allowing states to make abortions harder to get. The case ignited an explosion on Capitol Hill, setting up a pre-election showdown between Congress and President Bush: He will veto its Freedom of Choice Act, and everyone will try to harvest votes from the fetal issue.

Supreme Court justices, congresspeople and presidents tend to make us mad. Why must they taunt America into such a gut-wrenching debate? Politics takes on an ugly tone, even in the supposedly non-political high court. The truth, however, is that our elected and appointed leaders merely reflect

"we, the people." We're divided over abortion, even in our churches. Our leaders cannot achieve consensus on this issue because we won't let them. One voter writes a pro-choice letter, which is countered by a pro-life letter. The din of a pro-life rally equalizes the clatter of a pro-choice parade.

Whether we like it or not, the issue ultimately will be determined in the solitude of American voting booths. Supreme Court nominees will be selected by the president we elect and confirmed by the senators we place in office. Abortion laws will be written by the women and men we send to Washington, Frankfort and 49 other state capitals. Pro-life and pro-choice activists tell us we must base all our votes on the candidates' positions on this single issue.

In a simpler world, we would look to ministers, physicians and ethicists to help us determine when life begins and to decide how to handle the agonizing scenarios of abortion and other biomedical issues. But because we live under the rule of law, politicians make those decisions for us. Some study the problems and follow their own convictions; some make choices based on public-opinion polls and the next election. The process forces us to seek political solutions to a moral problem.

Aside from voting our consciences, what can we do? Baptists and other Americans who believe abortion is wrong can take several non-political pro-life steps:

- Launch a campaign to persuade people life is valuable. Explain in positive terms why women should not abort babies for convenience.
- Educate young people about sex—both the mechanics of reproduction and the Christian ideal of marriage.
- Provide a nationwide network of support—both for women with unwanted pregnancies and women trying to raise children without adequate resources.
- Step up and streamline adoption services. Link children who might have been aborted with families who want them and love them.

Marv Knox

Baptists don't have to sit on our hands while politicians settle the abortion issue. We can take steps to help.

Convention trip leads to appreciation for Baptist roots

Having just returned from the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, and having had time to reflect on the events of that meeting, I am more appreciative of my traditional Southern Baptist roots.

As Baptists and as Southern Baptists, we have had a tradition of freedom, openness and tolerance for differing ideas and viewpoints. We have been a people united in our calling and passion for missions, taking the message of Christ to the world. And we have been a people of diversity who have celebrated our uniqueness while remaining one in Christ. That has been our heritage.

VIEWPOINT

But I fear Southern Baptists have turned their backs on such a heritage. Over the past decade, Southern Baptists have been asked to sacrifice freedom for control as a group of men have effectively orchestrated and implemented a takeover of the SBC. This takeover has resulted in an alienation of many loyal Baptists who have been told basically that their beliefs aren't good enough and that their denomination has no place of service for them. Political maneuvering has replaced sensitivity to the Spirit of the Lord. The passion for missions has given way to the passion of party politics and the successful election of an "acceptable" candidate. Persons on all sides

of the struggle have been assigned labels that do not always fit, but which always serve to divide us further.

It is Satan at his best, causing us to major on the minors, therefore losing sight of the marvelous call of Christ to go and tell.

Some have asked, "What should we do in response to all of this?"

The answer is found in one of our cherished Baptist traditions, the autonomy of the local church. Basically, what this means is that no one can tell us as a fellowship what we must or must not do. We are free to be led by the Holy Spirit, to make decisions and choices guided by his hand instead of by an association, state or national convention. In short, we will continue

to be a local Baptist church, meeting together in worship, praying together in seeking God's direction for our church, and going out to minister to all persons whose lives we have an opportunity to touch for the Savior.

In the next few months, and probably years, we will evaluate our relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention and to other Baptist entities such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. But most of all, let us be a people who listen to the voice of God, following wherever he leads, cherishing our heritage of faith and freedom in Christ!

Jim Abernathy, pastor
Latonia Baptist Church
Covington

Southern Baptist heritage boasts traditions of freedom, missions and diversity.

My neighbor Steve is quite a handyman, but I'm all thumbs

My neighbor Steve drives me nuts. Actually, he's a nice guy. Great father, attentive husband, generous friend. He and Jodi have had us in their home, and they've sat around our dinner table. Our children play together almost every day, and I trust him completely.

Steve's considerate, too. He doesn't run the lawnmower too early. He smokes, but never in the house. Keeps his car washed and his dog in his own yard.

But he's got this obnoxious habit that makes me crazy: He fixes things.

Not horse races or basketball games. That's "fixing" things.

Steve fixes things around his house. Last summer, he closed in his patio. Not with two-by-fours and screen, like the folks who

used to own our home did. But with bricks and storm windows and the sweetest ceiling fan you ever saw.

Almost every time we talk I start by saying, "Steve, what are you fixing this time?"

He never lets me down.

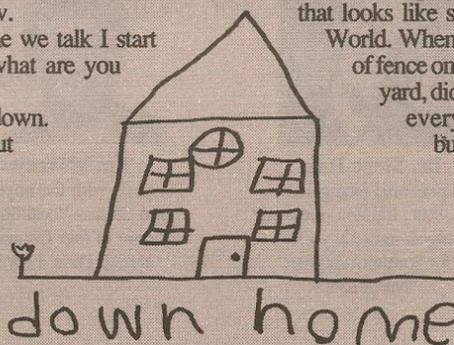
"Oh, I think I'll tear out the hall carpet and put down oak parquet." "Well, I thought I'd build a mulch bed around the pine trees by the back fence." "We're going to re-do the kitchen. Thought we'd take down some cabinets, put in a new sink and lay down a new

counter top."

He built a "playhouse" in the back yard that looks like something out of Disney World. When he put up a new section of fence on the north side of the front yard, did he add a simple gate like everyone else? Noooo. He built a trellis. Jodi will have roses climbing all over it as sure as I'm typing here.

All this handy-dandy construction is hard on a guy who thinks Tinker Toys are complicated.

Reminds me of the Peanuts cartoon where the kids are watching the clouds.



Schroeder observes Beethoven composing his "Ninth Symphony." Lucy spies Lincoln delivering the Gettysburg Address. Charley Brown sees a doggie and a ducky.

So, next to Steve, I feel like the Charlie Brown of the toolbox set. My wife even paints better than I do. Maybe Lindsay and Molly will learn to mix cement and lay brick. Then we'll have what it takes to build a garage.

When Steve finished his trellis, I felt sort of low and shared my concern with a friend.

"The Lord provides us all with different gifts and abilities," he comforted.

"Yeah. What's mine?" I asked.

"Wellllll," he said as his eyes darted frantically around our place. "You sure do keep your grass cut short!"

Marv Knox

BRIEFS

■ **Congress failed to** override President George Bush's veto of legislation that would have removed a ban on medical research using fetal tissue from induced abortions. The Reagan administration imposed the ban in 1988, and Bush has maintained it, claiming such research would encourage abortions. Opponents claim the ban has hindered promising research in treatment of Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and other genetic disorders.

■ **A hate-crimes law** enacted by the city of St. Paul, Minn., was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court June 22. Writing for the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia said the ordinance discriminates on the basis of speech content and viewpoint: "The First Amendment does not permit St. Paul to impose special prohibitions on speakers who express views on disfavored subjects."

■ **Fees charged for** events such as parades and marches cannot be based on the whims of local government officials, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 18. The court struck down a Forsyth County, Ga., ordinance that charged up to \$1,000 per day for events such as parades and marches as a means of curtailing the activities of controversial groups.

'GI Bills for Children' would fund religious schools

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Bush administration has put a new name on its educational "choice" proposal that previously was rejected by Congress.

Newly proposed "GI Bills for Children" would provide \$500 million in fiscal 1993 for \$1,000 scholarships to help low- and middle-income families send their children to public, private and religious schools of their choice.

The administration has not identified who would qualify as "low-income" and "middle-income" families or where the \$500 million would be found in the government's budget.

A previous Bush proposal for federal funds to private and religious schools was rejected by the Senate and a House education committee earlier this year. But Education Secretary Lamar Alexander said the new plan is more sophisticated, likening it to a 1992 automobile next to the Model T.

Alexander said the plan borrows a popular concept, the GI Bill, which he said gave World War II veterans opportunity and consumer power to help create the best colleges and universities in the world.

Concerns that the plan violates the constitutional principle of church-

state separation are not valid, Bush said. "This is aid to the families, not aid to institutions. And, again, if you set the clock back to the creation of that original GI Bill, no one told the GIs that they couldn't go to SMU or Notre Dame or Yeshiva or Howard."

A Baptist church-state specialist said the administration is relying on dubious precedents to speculate that the court might now approve a choice plan.

"The GI Bill and Pell Grants are different," said Brent Walker, associate general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee. "Federal assistance to post-secondary education has his-

torically been treated differently from aid to pervasively sectarian primary and secondary schools."

Because parochial schools do not and cannot separate their educational purpose from their religious mission, tax support for them violates constitutional principles, he added.

The White House mailed documents to the media to illustrate the amount of money that could be channeled into local schools if those communities applied for and received the grants. For example, Hardin County schools could receive \$8.1 million and Jefferson County schools could receive \$62.4 million.

Court allows airport literature distribution, not solicitation

By Larry Chesser
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Government officials may ban in-person solicitation of funds but not distribution of literature in airport terminals, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 26.

At issue were bans on both activities that transportation officials sought to impose at the New York City area's three major airports. The regulations were challenged by members of the Hare Krishna faith.

The court voted 6-3 to uphold the ban on solicitation imposed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, while voting 5-4 to strike the

port authority's ban on the distribution and sale of literature.

The case hinged on whether airport terminals are considered public forums where free-speech activities can be restricted only for compelling reasons.

Five justices, led by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, held that airport terminals are not public forums and local officials needed to show only that their regulations were reasonable and not designed to suppress a particular viewpoint.

Rehnquist, joined by justices By-

ron White, Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, held that the regulation imposed by New York airport officials "reasonably limits solicitation."

The majority concluded it is reasonable to find that solicitation activity may be disruptive for airport customers.

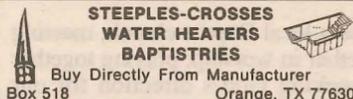
While joining the Rehnquist-led majority in holding that airport terminals are not public forums and that New York's solicitation ban is reasonable and constitutional, O'Connor joined the court's four other members—Anthony

Kennedy, Harry Blackmun, David Souter and John Paul Stevens—in holding that the ban on literature distribution is unconstitutional.

O'Connor said that "while the difficulties posed by solicitation in a non-public forum are sufficiently obvious ... the same is not necessarily true for leafletting."

Rehnquist, White, Scalia and Thomas dissented from the decision to uphold distribution of literature, noting that "leafletting presents risks of congestion similar to those posed by solicitation."

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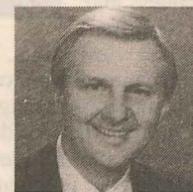
Dr. Johnny Hunt
Pastor of First Baptist, Woodstock, Georgia—the nation's 27th fastest growing church



Dr. Ronnie Floyd
Pastor of First Baptist, Springdale, Arkansas—the state's leader in church growth



Rev. David Lino
Pastor of Forest Cove Baptist, Kingwood, Texas—known for innovativeness in church growth



Dr. Len Turner
Pastor of Calvary Baptist Temple, Savannah, Georgia—a church that has doubled almost every phase of ministry in five years



Dr. Steve Hale
Vocational Evangelist, Evansville, Indiana—presently serving as national president for Southern Baptist Evangelists



Jim Murray
Formerly with the Imperials and Gaither Vocal Band, winner of four Grammys and 15 Dove Awards



Johnny Hall
Has been a featured soloist at Billy Graham crusades

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CLC blasts abortion ruling; others call for prevention

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission blasted the U.S. Supreme Court for last week's decision on the Pennsylvania abortion case, while other Baptists called for greater efforts to stop the demand for abortions.

"Pro-life America is increasingly weary" with the court for not overturning the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion, said CLC Executive Director Richard Land.

He compared the court to a child walking on the high-diving board for the first time: "They tip-toe out to the end of the board, looking cautiously from side to side, sometimes even curling their toes over the end of the board and gingerly bouncing up and down, but they just can't summon the nerve to jump. Now three justices are crawling back down the ladder. It's well past time to take the plunge."

Further, Land said the court's ruling to strike down a spouse-notification pro-

vision in the Pennsylvania law is "an anti-marriage, anti-family decision, not to mention blatantly anti-male."

"Under state laws, a wife can't even sell a used car owned with her husband without getting his signed consent," added CLC General Counsel Michael Whitehead. "Surely state laws should be able to ask a wife to inform her husband before she takes the life of a child they co-generated."

The court "stumbled backward" by reaffirming Roe vs. Wade and not at least weakening that ruling's protections for abortion, Whitehead said.

CLC Trustee Nancy Schaefer, an anti-abortion activist from Atlanta, said it is time for abortion foes to take the gloves off in their fight to abolish the practice.

"I think the time may have come for pictures of babies being aborted to be shown openly and publicly, so everyone can see how their heads are crushed and how their bodies are torn

apart limb by limb," she said.

When graphic pictures of the Vietnam War began appearing on the evening news, Schaefer said, public opinion turned against the war effort.

Meanwhile, other Baptists said Christians need to intensify their efforts to prevent the perceived need for abortions.

"Our society does not place enough value on human life," said Ray Higgins, ethics professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He said competition between a woman's right to privacy and the value of all human life are out of balance in America, as evidenced by the high number of abortions performed as a means of birth control.

"But abortion is only one issue that illustrates we do not place a high enough value on human life," Higgins continued. Public policy on gun control, health care, criminal justice and

war all reflect the value Americans place on life, he said.

"Laws are one means for reducing the number of abortions but not the only means," he continued. "Christians need to be addressing the causes of abortion and working on the front end rather than seeing legislation as the solution to the abortion problem."

Sylvia Boothe, who directs the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's work in abortion alternatives, agreed Christians cannot rely on a legislative solution to abortion.

Boothe, who helps churches set up crisis-pregnancy centers, said the recent court decision "probably will increase our opportunity to reach women who are in crisis."

The court's approval of Pennsylvania's 24-hour waiting period particularly will aid her cause, she said. "A lot of abortion decisions are made in panic. ... I think 24 hours can really make a difference."

"Abortion is only one issue that illustrates we do not place a high enough value on human life."

Southern Baptist ethicist Ray Higgins

What the court upheld

WASHINGTON—In votes ranging from 7-2 to 9-0, the Supreme Court upheld these provisions in Pennsylvania's abortion law:

■ An informed-consent statute that requires a physician to provide, among other things, information about the abortion procedure, the health risks of abortion and childbirth, and the "probable gestational age of the unborn child" at least 24 hours before an abortion is performed.

■ A parental-consent provision that requires the informed consent of a parent or guardian for an abortion performed on a woman under 18, unless a judge elects to bypass this requirement.

■ A reporting provision that requires abortion providers to report the facility's name and address, the identification of physicians performing abortions and other specific information about each abortion performed. It also requires quarterly reports showing the number of abortions performed according to trimester.

■ A provision that overrides other parts of the law to permit an immediate abortion in certain medical emergencies.

The only part of the Pennsylvania law to be struck down was its provision requiring a married woman to notify her spouse before obtaining an abortion.

Abortion fight sent to states

Continued from page 1

pass the Freedom of Choice Act and restore to all the women of America what the Supreme Court today has taken from them," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., had an even stronger warning: "It is urgent that we pass our legislation immediately. It is literally a matter of life or death for thousands of American women."

However, Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., called the court's ruling a rejection of the extremism of the abortion industry and a victory for mothers and their children.

The ruling "continues the incremental progress we have made over the past two decades in re-establishing basic protections for the weakest and most vulnerable among us—unborn babies," he said.

The Pennsylvania restrictions upheld by the court are "modest safeguards," he said, suggesting the harsh reaction of his congressional colleagues to the ruling demonstrates the radical nature of abortion-rights activists: "That the pro-abortion side is going ballistic over this ruling underscores just how extreme and radical they are."

Congress has the votes to approve the Freedom of Choice Act, but lawmakers apparently do not have the needed two-thirds majority to override a veto by President George Bush.

That fact and the Supreme Court's division place an even greater spotlight on this year's presidential election.

Both abortion-rights activists and anti-abortion activists claim each candidate's abortion views are a critical test for election.

The next Supreme Court appointee apparently holds the key to the future of Roe vs. Wade.

That fact was not lost on Justice Harry Blackmun, author of the 1973 decision.

After harshly criticizing the anti-abortion views of Justices Rehnquist and Scalia, Blackmun said that in one sense, the June 29 ruling "is worlds apart from that of the chief justice and Justice Scalia. And yet, in another sense, the distance between the two approaches is short—the distance is but a single vote.

"I am 83 years old. I cannot remain on this court forever, and when I do step down, the confirmation process for my successor well may focus on the issue before us today. That, I regret, may be exactly where the choice between the two worlds will be made."

Written by News Director Mark Wingfield with reporting by Larry Chesser and Pam Parry through Associated Baptist Press

"I am 83 years old. I cannot remain on this court forever, and when I do step down, the confirmation process for my successor well may focus on the issue before us today."

Justice Harry Blackmun, author of the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision, explaining that four of the court's nine justices would like to overturn Roe

All-State Youth Choir

You are invited to hear the 1992 Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir in concert. This is a 78-voice auditioned high school choir from Kentucky Baptist churches from all over the state.

Concerts

- Wednesday, July 15 7:00 p.m. ... First Baptist, Williamsburg, Ky.
- Thursday, July 16 7:00 p.m. ... First Baptist, Hazard, Ky.
- Friday, July 17 11:00 a.m. ... Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky.
7:00 p.m. ... Lexington Ave. Baptist, Danville, Ky.
- Sunday, July 19 10:40 a.m. ... First Baptist, London, Ky.

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*Samford University
Birmingham, Alabama*

Guest Accompanist: **Dr. Ron Boud**

*Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
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RECOGNITION OF KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

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

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

We need your help to gather the following information:

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

Please forward this information as quickly as possible to:

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

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

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

Hope

Baptist Healthcare Foundation's guest author this month is Gary Bennett. He is director of the pastoral care department at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah.

The late Dr. L.D. Johnson, Baptist pastor and writer, wrote:

"People can endure pain, poverty, hunger, oppression and a multitude of other assaults upon human dignity, but they cannot live long without hope. Hope is indispensable to life and health. Dark despair, unrelieved by hope's light, will make you sick. Stare too long into the blackness and you lose the capacity to look at the light."

He then asked the question, "Is hope then a mere accommodation in order to remain sane?" No, hope is much more than that. In Scripture, hope always expresses a certainty. It is that certainty expressed by Paul in 2 Timothy 1:12: "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

For Paul, hope was founded on a relationship. It was his relationship with Christ. For many of us today, he is our hope as well. That does not mean we will always feel good about everything that happens to us. A cancer patient said to me one day that hope had nothing

to do with feelings. If hope depended on how she felt, she would seldom feel any hope because most of the time she felt lousy.

For her, hope was the reality deep within that affirmed God would never leave her alone.

Hope is not a promise that nothing bad will ever happen. It is not a promise that our lives will always be easy. It is simply a calm assurance that God is faithful to keep his promises. For me, hope is the assurance that God is still active in his creation.

Our hope is certain because it is founded in the one who is faithful. The Bible never speaks of hope as anything but a certainty. It is never a naive assumption that problems will never come. Neither is it magic which will cure all ills. Dr. Johnson said of hope: "It is what is left after the test of fire, the pure metal after the dregs have been burned out." This is our hope, our certainty. After having gone through the fire, we will find that God was with us all the time.

Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Healthcare System or Baptist Healthcare Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., president of Baptist Healthcare Foundation, Corporate Complex, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207 (502) 896-5003.

Paid Column

Child Care Days at Spring Meadows

August 1, 1992, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Come see the difference you make through your Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. At Spring Meadows, Child Care Days is our way of saying thanks and showing you firsthand what you are doing for children who have experienced the pain of abuse, neglect and abandonment. There will be something for everyone. The morning will include:

- ▲ Campus tours
- ▲ Display
- ▲ World Changers Update
- ▲ Fun, Food and Fellowship



Residents at Spring Meadows will be on campus to share what a difference you've made.



Alumni gather to share memories of their time at Spring Meadows.

Homecoming

August 1, 1992, 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

All of us know how it feels to come back home after a long time away from family and friends. Each year, Spring Meadows opens its campus to all those who have called it home in the past.

They come from across Kentucky and even other states to the place that many of them first found a helping hand or a smiling face. Spring Meadows was a haven...a place of healing love...home.

If you or someone you love grew up at Spring Meadows, we invite you back August 1 for our Homecoming celebration followed by a special banquet honoring former director J.D. Herndon.

J.D. Herndon Banquet

Honoring a Special Person in Our Ministry Together

August 1, 1992, 5:00 p.m.

J.D. Herndon served as director of the Spring Meadows Children's Home from August, 1959 through August, 1969. Those years spanned a decade of growth and change at Spring Meadows.

J.D. was known for his love of and interaction with the children.

We want all of you who remember J.D. Herndon and his lasting

contribution to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and the Spring Meadows campus to be a part of our celebration. Come be our guests for this special time together.

Please clip the coupon below and mail it to us by July 20. Join us as we remember the past and celebrate our future of ministry to Kentucky's families and children.

I Want to Be a Part of Honoring J.D. Herndon at Spring Meadows

August 1, 1992
Cooke Hall, Spring Meadows Campus
5:00-6:30 p.m.

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Mail this coupon to:
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Attn: J.D. Herndon Banquet
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, KY 40243

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VOLUNTEERS

Church losing race to enlist volunteers, DOMs warned

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—The secular world is beating the church in the race for volunteers.

Associational directors of missions heard that warning from Reginald McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, during their annual meeting recently in Indianapolis.

"We are in a competitive market for the time and talent of qualified volunteers," McDonough said. Cutbacks in government funding, along with increasing population and social needs, have led to increasing dependence on volunteer service, he explained.

"An estimated 400 volunteer clearinghouses have been established around the nation. Each of these agencies wants to recruit the very best volunteers. They continually seek ways to make their volunteer programs more attractive. Churches and associations cannot rest on their laurels and expect persons to volunteer out of duty," he said.

The idea that baby boomers and people with full-time jobs won't volunteer is a myth, McDonough said. "Sixty-two percent of the 25-34 age group volunteered in 1989, according to Gallup, up from 54 percent in 1987. ... Our challenge is how to enlist and effectively utilize boomers in our programs."

Also, 72 percent of part-time employees and 50 percent of full-time employees reported they give volunteer service, he said.

"The motivation of today's volunteers goes beyond a sense of call and altruism," McDonough explained. "Today's volunteers do so to make new friends, learn new skills or even to get a job now or in the future. College students find volunteer service adds to the attractiveness of their resume."

"While we must be careful not to cheapen the call to Christian service, I see no reason why we should not structure our volunteer service ... (so) persons

can meet multiple needs. By helping persons develop or improve their knowledge and skill, we may make a valuable contribution to their life."

For churches and church-related organizations seeking volunteers, McDonough offer these suggestions:

■ **Be organized.** "Today's volunteers do not have patience with poor management. They consider their time and skill as important contributions. Professional leaders who do not arrive on time or who fail to have needed supplies on site are considered a personal affront."

■ **Be specific.** "The day of 'Y'all come!' is over. ... Today's volunteers want well-defined parameters."

■ **Target specific groups for specific jobs.** For long-term projects, target people who can give larger amounts of time, he said. And for short-term projects, enlist people who want to be involved but have little time to give.

■ **Offer flexibility and choices.**

■ **Offer adequate support services.** McDonough cited child care, parking, modern machinery, adequate space, food service and adequate supplies as items to consider.

Midshipmen raise churches

WILMINGTON, Del. (BP)—When Baptist students at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., put down their manuals and textbooks to pick up hammers and nails, something remarkable happens.

A church. That has been the experience of four Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware congregations the last five years since the Baptist Student Union at the academy began sending volunteer teams for construction of church buildings. Dick Bumpass, BSU director at the academy, said the group's annual spring break construction project is a way for midshipmen, whose schedules do not allow them to participate in traditional BSU summer missions ventures, a chance to learn about and support missions.

"I am a very strong believer in missions," Bumpass said. The construction teams have proven effective at helping Baptist midshipmen "understand what it takes to build a church," he added. That, of course, involves more than miter cuts and spackling. Team spirit, fellowship and cooperation are as important to the project's success as is a solid foundation, he said.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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ment (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.

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.

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

FOR SALE: Broadcast video equip-

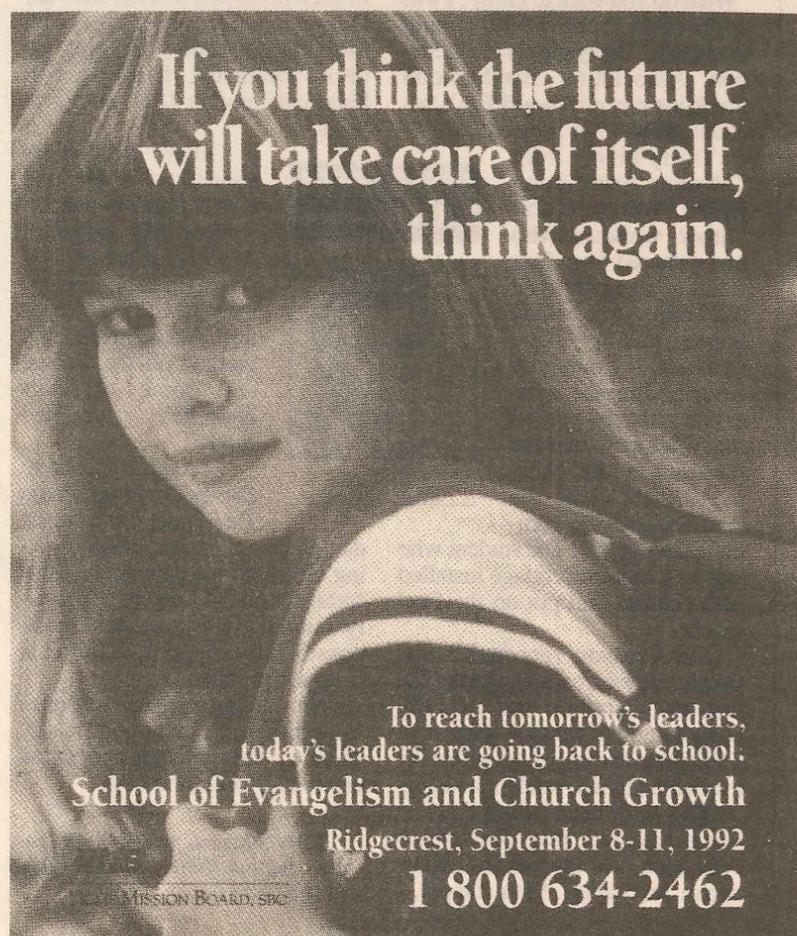
"Surely the Lord is in this place...."
Genesis 28:16b



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No registration fee. For more information, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention, (502) 245-4101.

KENTUCKY KERNELS

The greatest revival in Kentucky history was the Great Frontier Revival of 1800-1803. The revival began in Logan County under the "sin and hellfire" preaching of James McGready, a Presbyterian. Baptists initially refused to participate in the meeting, but after a few months, revival spontaneously broke out among Baptists. Baptist membership tripled from 5,119 in 1800 to 15,495 in 1803. Source: *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Tim Mitchell resigned as music director of Main Street Church to pursue a master's degree at Georgetown College. The church is seeking a minister of music and/or education. Call Pastor Calvin Perry, (606) 635-5725.
 ■ **ASHLAND**—First Church dedicated its renovated educational building in an afternoon service June 28.
 ■ **BURLINGTON**—Kerry Spencer is pastor of East Bend Church.
 ■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church dedi-

cated its new 410-seat sanctuary in an afternoon service and reception attended by about 350 people.
 ■ **CORBIN**—Central Church dedicated its new church building last month.
 ■ **DANVILLE**—Lexington Avenue Church called Tim Noel as pastor. He moved from Hillcrest Church in Mobile, Ala.
 ■ **FORDSVILLE**—George Craig is pastor of Friendship Church. He was ordained July 5 at Poplar Grove

Retirement celebration set for Nelson at Owensboro First

OWENSBORO—First Baptist Church will celebrate the ministry and retirement of Pastor David Nelson Sunday, July 26.

Nelson has been pastor of the Owensboro congregation since Jan. 1, 1962. Since then, 2,866 people have joined the church, and it has baptized 1,080. The church has collected \$4.2 million in mission gifts and channeled more than \$2.6 million through the convention's Cooperative Program budget.

In addition to First Baptist of Owensboro, Nelson has been pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, 1956-61, and Vine Street Baptist Chapel in Louisville, 1949-55.

Nelson was president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and moderator of the KBC Executive Board in 1965-66. He has been a trustee of Kentucky Southern College, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Campbellsville College, the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board and Georgetown College. He has been moderator of Long Run and Daviess-McLean Baptist associations and member of the SVC Committee on Committees.

He is a graduate of Samford University and earned two degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Church in Lewisport.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Bobby Brooks, pastor of Bellepoint Church for 10 years, was awarded the doctor of theology degree from Faith Baptist Bible College in Homer, Alaska.

■ **LEXINGTON**—First Church called Chip Miller as interim pastor. Miller is Sunday school director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Chapel Park Church will dedicate its new sanctuary July 12 at 3 p.m. Ed Boyd, pastor, has recovered from surgery.

The Appalachian Riverboat Revival, an interdenominational celebration of

Appalachia, will be at Cox's Park July 6 beginning at 6 p.m. Mark Ross, pastor of Pleasant Grove Church in Shepherdsville, is guest preacher.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Larry Washburn is serving as business administrator and Alan Yates as dean of students at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

■ **MIDDLESBORO**—Nenette Measels resigned as associate minister of First Church to become associate campus minister at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—Charles White has resigned as pastor of First Church.

■ **MT. STERLING**—The Sons of Liberty were special guests at the dedication services for Spring Street Church's new sanctuary.

■ **MURRAY**—First Church ordained Fred Ashby and Keith York as deacons.

■ **PADUCAH**—Ray Henderson is pastor of Washington Street Church.

MISSIONARY UPDATE:

■ Charles and Carrie Hedrick, missionary associates to Nigeria, are in the States. They may be reached at Box 639, Mount Vernon, Ky. 40456.

■ Paula Settle, from Owensboro, is on furlough from Togo at Campbell University in North Carolina. She may be contacted at Box 1029, Buies Creek, N.C. 27506.

Picking up the pieces

"How much I enjoyed my visit back to Oneida. I am much impressed with how Oneida has grown in the past 10 years. Being at Oneida was the best thing that could have happened to my sister and me.

"I met a lot of new people. I even learned to trust some of them. Trusting people before I went to Oneida had been very difficult. I was really backward when I came to Oneida. By the time the year was up, I was doing about anything I wanted to do.

"Getting into the sport of fencing was the thing I enjoyed the most. It was something different. It was really a challenge. I was disappointed to learn that you no longer have that sport for lack of a coach.

"I can never thank my church enough for sending me and my sister to Oneida. My husband and I have been married for six good years and have a beautiful daughter. We are expecting another child.

"We both work and are very active in our church. I know if another child would want to go to Oneida from our church, it would not hesitate. Pray that my husband and I will always raise our children in God's will and always have them in church. I want my children to have the Christian home my sister and I never had. Thanks again to all the teachers and staff that helped me along the way. It has made a difference in my life. Thank you, Mr. Moore, for accepting my sister and me when we came. Love in Christ."

The above letter made my day. How I rejoice how the Lord has worked in this young life as well as that of her sister. Each is happily married today. One is a college graduate. Both have satisfying jobs. Most of all, they are living Christian lives.

I remember vividly when they came to us. They were in pitiful shape. They had been removed from their home for their physical safety. They had been terribly abused emotionally. I praise God that we were given the privilege of helping them.

Most of our summer school students and staff are away for a nine-day midsummer break. With 223 students for the summer session, and 33 teachers, a lot of learning has been going on. There have been a minimum of discipline problems.

Two of the Sams sisters came to visit this week. There were 10 children and most of them lived in our dorms. One of them was here 50 years ago, and I remember the younger one from my own school days 40 years ago. Both are grandmothers, one living in Ohio and the other in Chicago. We spent hours together seeing everything. There is only one building left from their school days, about 19 they had not seen and new housing for 100 more staff than was here when they were.

The next day the Elmore sisters showed up from Bowling Green. They came here 39 years ago for two years. It was their first visit back. One is a widow with three grandchildren, and the other has four. One of them was my classmate. We spent many hours together, looking around the campus and reminiscing.

There is not a day goes by that some former student does not come to visit, telephone or write. That is one of the joys of service here. It is such experiences that help ease the many daily heartaches and disappointments.

Ours is a very difficult daily task. The responsibility, minute by minute, for these hundreds of young lives, is nearly overwhelming at times. No one that works here can do so very long without the undergirding power of prayer, and knowing that we are lifted up by so many daily to God's throne. Those we work with are no longer children nor yet are they adults. Today's young people are faced with so many temptations, and have so many problems. Some are of their own making. Many are simply victims. Either way, we must help them pick up the pieces.

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Virginia Baptists restore 1951 cottage

"Mac Lee, Bradley Street Baptist Church, Bristol, May, 1951" was written on a 2x4 wall stud uncovered last month during renovation of a Holly Hill student cottage. One of the original Virginia builders had signed his work. Contact with Bradley Street's retired pastor, E.W. Ely, revealed Mr. Lee was "unavailable to talk—he's already in heaven." Bro. Ely added, "What do you want to know? I was co-foreman of the crew that built the house." Sixty guests at a Lebanon Association Brotherhood breakfast recently heard Ely's account of the 1951 project.

Thirty-nine from Lebanon Association joined "700 or so volunteer workers who had gathered from four states to take part in an old-time, one-day house raising" (Joe Creason, Louisville Courier-Journal writer). By the afternoon the Virginians had the house under roof. Nineteen others came the next Saturday to complete the interior. The student who was to live in the cottage installed bath fixtures and put on the final touches.

Joe Creason reported 1,100 people were on campus during the one-day marathon and virtually completed 19 houses valued at \$100,000. The project doubled the available married-student housing.

Ties with the original builders were restored last year when Abingdon, Va., layman H.C. Kiser spoke in chapel. After chapel, I

showed the cottage to Kiser and his wife. He took the challenge and directed efforts to raise \$5,000 in funds and supplies. Workers from several churches came during two weeks and completed a new roof, replaced rotting floor supports, installed a new kitchen, utility room and half bath. This enabled the cottage to have an extra bedroom. Members of Euclid Avenue Church in Bristol, Marion and Paul Dugger, built kitchen cabinets with materials donated by a Bristol furniture company. The also will build cabinets for four more cottages.

Other volunteers added vinyl siding and a back porch entrance.

The Old Lebanon Association has divided since 1951, and volunteers from New Lebanon Association also worked on the cottage and some of their churches. donated funds.

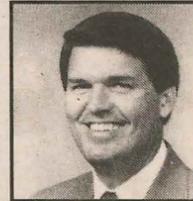
Second-year student family David and Laura Dean and their three

daughters are excited about moving back into the new house. This cottage is one of four we will totally renovate this summer, made possible by Baptist volunteers from seven states.

We will have homes adequate for another 40 years of ministry training. Then another generation can return for remodeling.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Paid Column

Faith & love sustained POW when escapes failed

By James Dotson
Georgia Christian Index

CLARKESVILLE, Ga. (BP)—As a prisoner of war in Vietnam, Ben Purcell formulated elaborate escape plans as a way of retaining sanity during his five years in solitary confinement.

But two failed efforts made further success unlikely.

So he turned to craftsmanship. Aluminum toothpaste tubes were one of his few raw materials, and a favorite project was a miniature communion set. The set joined a small bamboo cross in his barren room as symbols of his sustaining faith in Jesus Christ.

"Each month I would set the table with a few grains of rice and with a crust of bread and some water," Purcell explained. "Whenever I thought I was being hammered on too much, I would look at the cross and say, 'Someone suffered a lot more than you'll ever have to suffer.'"

Now a retired U.S. Army colonel and operator of a 10-acre Christmas tree farm near Clarkesville, Purcell said it was that faith—combined with a persistent hope of impending free-

dom and love of his wife, Anne—that sustained him during the captivity from 1968 to 1973.

"It's sort of like the Scripture: Faith, hope and love, and the greatest was love. That was the strongest motivating force I had, to survive and come home," Purcell said.

Their stories—his in the prison camps and hers at home—are detailed in "Love and Duty," a book released earlier this year by St. Martin's Press.

Purcell, a lifelong Baptist, is an active layman and deacon at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville, Ga., where he made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ at age 10.

It was Jan. 30, 1968, when shots fired at a helicopter over Vietnam forced Purcell to experience the war from a new perspective. In a few short minutes, his status changed from that of a lieutenant colonel in a comfortable command position to that of a prisoner of war in a country that did not recognize even the minimum standards of the Geneva Convention.

His capture began a five-year struggle made all the worse because of a fellow prisoner's false state-

ment—under severe duress—that Purcell was an important Army general who had been on the cover of Time magazine. He was not that important, but he did turn out to be the highest-ranking American officer captured during the war.

The pressure on Purcell grew only worse as he acquired a reputation as a master of escape. In his first attempt, he made it to Hanoi after an ingenious plan that included building a small drill from stiff wire that allowed him eventually to cut a hole in his cell door.

After his second escape, camp officials built an additional guard tower with a view directly into his cell 24 hours a day.

A regular feature of his captivity was the interrogation sessions in which his captors tried to "refirm" his thinking.

Rather than outright torture, however, one of the primary motivations was simple: If he would confess to "crimes against the Vietnamese people" they would allow him contact with other Americans. He refused, and he remained alone.

"My mind is made up," he told one of his primary interrogators. "I no

longer have any fear or anxiety for my welfare. I know who holds the keys to my release from this prison, and it isn't you."

The book also tells how Anne Purcell struggled with the frustration of being an "MIA wife."

During most of the period, she and their five children lived in Columbus, Ga., and attended Southside Baptist Church.

Eventually she became a vocal advocate for the POW/MIA cause, even to the point of the entire family going to the Paris peace talks to plead for the release of prisoners.

In March 1973 the long wait ended, the couple was reunited and Purcell went on to complete seven more years of military service before retiring in 1980 as a colonel. His last assignment was as a professor of military science at North Georgia College in Dahlonega where he and Anne met as students in 1949.

Their book is scheduled to be condensed in the December issue of Readers' Digest, and an article based on the book also is expected to run in Guideposts magazine next year.

"Whenever I thought I was being hammered on too much, I would look at the cross and say, 'Someone suffered a lot more than you'll ever have to suffer.'"

Faith can be scary, author says

ALEXANDRIA, La. (ABP)—Faith is anything but safe, according to Lutheran minister and author Walter Wangerin.

In fact, Wangerin said, a relationship with God can be downright scary at times. That's because human beings tend to be afraid of what they cannot control. Wangerin explained in an interview with the Baptist Message of Louisiana.

People respond to this fear by trying to make faith into a noun—something fixed—so that "we can pick it up and hold it in our hand," Wangerin said.

But faith, the author said, involves launching into a relationship with God and giving up control at the same time.

"Whenever we stand before the God who made us and redeemed us, and whenever we leap into relationship with that God, there really is a

sense of dying to ourselves," he said. "And that dying is literally the giving up of control."

It is in "uncontrolled" relationship with God that people find direction in life, Wangerin said.

The 48-year-old Indiana author has written "The Book of the Dun Cow," "The Book of Sorrows" and "Ragman and Other Cries of Faith," all of which have received writing awards.

Wangerin reminds people that the Bible teaches God can be found in the oddest places and the most unlikely people: "Very often we don't see God in others because we choose to divide humans into those who are like us and those who are unlike us. ... Those like us are where we expect to see God. But my experience has been God usually bursts forth from where I didn't expect him."



Despite 12-year wait, man knew God called him to Russia

By Trennis Henderson
Missouri Word & Way

MOSCOW (BP)—Leonid Brezhnev was in office, the Soviet Union was a superpower and the Cold War was in full force when God called Mel Skinner as a missionary to Russia.

But the prospects of Skinner being able to fulfill that call looked scant.

Twelve years later, Boris Yeltsin is in office, the Soviet Union no longer exists, the Cold War is history and Mel Skinner is in Moscow as a Southern Baptist missionary.

"Twelve years ago, God specifically called me to be a church planter in Moscow," Skinner recounted. "Since then, God has been very faithful to keep that call before me."

And Skinner has been faithful in his response. "Every decision I've

made since then was based on what God had called me to do," he said.

Skinner said he needed the 12-year lead time in order to be ready when the opportunity to move to Russia finally came. During those years, he completed duty in the U.S. Air Force and earned degrees from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

And while serving as pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Stuttgart, Germany, he gained the two years of ministry experience required for appointment by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Skinners were appointed as FMB missionaries last summer and moved to Moscow in January with their 1-year-old daughter, Sarah. They currently are studying Russian under

the guidance of tutor Julia Solovjova, a Russian Christian.

He already had experienced "a couple of breakthroughs," getting to share Russian-language tracts with people he has met and even being invited into the home of a Russian man he met at the market.

"My vision is planting multiplying churches—churches that will plant other churches," he explained. "The city of Moscow has 9 million people in it. If there were 1,000 churches in Moscow with 1,000 people each, that is only 10 percent of the population."

"In the city of Moscow proper, there are apartment buildings after apartment buildings after apartment buildings," he said. "Every one of those needs an evangelistic Bible study with the purpose of starting new churches."

In addition to studying Russian and planning future ministry strategy, Skinner also has spent some time assisting Southern Baptist volunteers who have been part of the Project Brotherhood food distribution effort in Moscow.

The one thing that distinguishes Skinner from the other Southern Baptist relief workers that they soon will return to the comfortable, familiar surroundings of the United States; he will not.

"The Russian people 'don't understand why I would be here,'" he noted. "So many of them want to move to America. They can't understand why anyone would walk away from America to live here."

Skinner's general response to incredulous Muscovites is, "I have moved here with my family and we want to live here the rest of our lives and tell people about God."

NOT TOO OLD Although she is 96 and blind, Alice Triplett continues to teach a Bible study class she organized at Maple Lawn Nursing Home in Palmyra, Mo. She saw a need for the class when she moved to the nursing home. She uses a sound system so everyone in the group can hear. Triplett has been teaching since she was 16 years old. (BP photo by Jeff Holder)

Don't believe the Recorder's back page is a good deal for your church newsletter?

About half the subscribers to the Western Recorder won't see the page you're reading right now. The reason: They're reading their church newsletters on this back page.

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Beattyville Baptist Church, Beattyville
Liberty Baptist Church, Russell Springs
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Gilead Baptist Church, Glendale
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Pigeon Fork Baptist Church, Waddy
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