

JULY 21, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 28

FOR THE RECORD

Literature gamble
Smyth & Helwys, the publishing agency formed as an alternative for Baptist churches, says it has invested nearly \$1 million in new graded Sunday school literature to be unveiled this fall. See page 2.

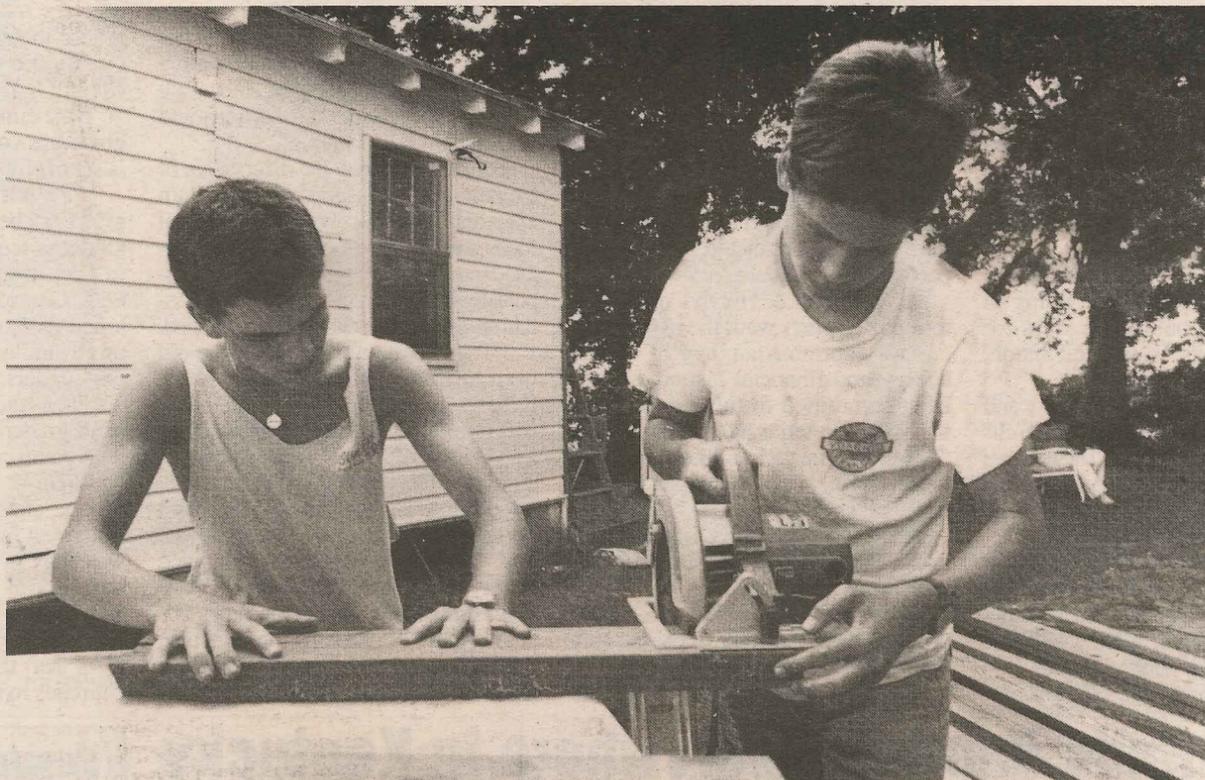
Retirement plans
The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has offered an early retirement package to 188 employees as part of a staff restructuring plan. See page 2.

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Restore religious liberty; pick up your phone. See page 5.

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■ Kentucky man changed by Russia trip
■ Kentucky food boxes sent



WORLD CHANGERS Mike Hendrix (left) of Shively Baptist Church in Louisville and Chris Hood of Stock Creek Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., work together to renovate a house in Beaufort, S.C., during a June 27-July 3 World Changers youth mission project. They were among 183 teen-agers and their leaders who worked on home construction projects for people who otherwise couldn't afford the repairs. World Changers is a coeducation missions education project for high school youths sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. This week, about 300 Baptist high schoolers from 13 states will work on World Changers projects in the Louisville area. (WMMU photo by Dan Bryan)

Southern Baptists predominant in Kentucky

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Southern Baptists are overwhelmingly the predominant religious group in Kentucky, according to an extensive demographic study of churches and church membership released July 7 in New York City.

The study, "Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990," was sponsored by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies with partial funding from the Lilly Endowment.

The study's data is based on results of the 1990 U.S. census and figures supplied by the 133 partici-

pating church bodies, including the Southern Baptist Convention.

Nationwide, Southern Baptists remain the largest non-Catholic religious group, with 18.9 million adherents, the study found. The study classifies adherents as members, their children and other regular participants.

Catholic adherents nationwide number 53.36 million.

In Kentucky, Southern Baptist adherents number 962,945, representing 26.1 percent of the state's population, the study found. Catholic adherents in Kentucky total 365,270 or 9.9 percent of the population.

United Methodists are the third-

largest religious group in Kentucky with 227,143 adherents or 6.2 percent of the total population. No other religious body represents more than 3 percent of the state's population.

Caldwell County has the highest percentage of Southern Baptist residents of any county in the state. Southern Baptists account for 80.2 percent of that county's population.

Southern Baptists represent more than half the population in 20 other counties: Ballard (60.1 percent), Bell (52.2), Butler (68.2), Caldwell (80.2), Carlisle (58), Fulton (57.3), Gallatin (51.5), Green (65.4), Hancock (54.5), Hickman (52.3), Knox (57.8), Larue

□ See Study finds ..., page 2

Democrats pin hopes on 2 Baptists

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—The Democratic Party picked two Southern Baptists as its presidential and vice presidential candidates last week, but Bill Clinton and Al Gore could face an uphill battle in wooing votes from members of their 15-million member denomination.

This apparently is the first time two Southern Baptists have run together on any presidential ticket.

Both Clinton, 46, and Gore, 44, make no secret of their Christian faith. Clinton is a longtime member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, where he sings in the choir when he is in town. Gore is a member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Crystal City, Va.

By selecting Clinton and Gore, the Democratic Party is beating a hasty retreat from its more liberal candidates who have been defeated in the past two elections since Jimmy Carter, a political moderate and a Southern Baptist, was defeated by Ronald Reagan.

But the Southern Baptist Convention has adopted an even more conservative stance during those years, evidenced by invitations to President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle to speak at the last two SBC annual meetings.

Specifically, Clinton and Gore are likely to face opposition from many Southern Baptists because of their endorsement of abortion rights. Southern Baptists nationwide generally are considered to disapprove of abortion, and messengers to five annual meetings since 1980 have passed resolutions opposing abortion except to save the life of the mother.

However, conservative leaders within the SBC said the Republican candidates shouldn't view that difference as a guarantee large numbers of Southern Baptists will vote Republican this year.

Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, which strongly opposes abortion, said he did not want to appear to endorse any candidate but issued a

□ See Clinton-Gore ticket ..., page 6

Author helps parents answer kids' questions about God

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

DALLAS (BP)—"How do I know God loves me?"

"Sometimes I feel ugly. How can I like myself the way God made me?"

"Does God really hear my prayers?"

According to author and lecturer Linda McGinn, these are just a few examples of the kind of questions children ask about God. And while most Christian parents are eager to provide helpful answers, many aren't sure how to explain the sometimes difficult concepts to their children, she said.

"Some adults just don't know how to relate to their children, to bring biblical concepts down to their level. And some just don't know the Bible very well themselves," said McGinn, a Presbyterian pastor's wife and mother of three.

"But it is so important that we, as

Christian parents, provide clear and accurate information about who God is and how he cares for each and every one of us. If we can communicate God's love to our children at an early age, it is something they will carry with them for the rest of their lives."

McGinn was first approached about providing help to parents while leading a women's Bible study in North Carolina. After conducting research for several months, she compiled a list of the 40 most-asked questions children have about God and how he relates to their lives.

She began developing practical, easy-to-explain answers based on Scripture verses and biblical principles. The result was the book, "The Bible Answers Questions Children Ask: A Resource for Caring Adults," released earlier this year by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press.

"I really wanted to write a book that parents could go to when their child asks a question they don't quite know how to answer," McGinn said. "For each of the 40 questions raised in the book, I give an adult response, a list of applicable Scripture verses and the implications the issue being raised may have for older children."

Based on her research, McGinn said children most often ask questions related to their feelings.

"They want to know if they have worth and if God loves them. It all relates to their sense of self-esteem. It is so important that parents show and explain God's love to their children," she said.

When answering children's questions, McGinn said timing also is very important.

"If possible, spend time with them the moment they ask that question because they may never ask it again. If

parents can stop and relate the word of God to their children's life experiences as they happen, they will begin to see that God is actively participating in their everyday lives."

When it isn't possible to provide an immediate answer, McGinn said parents should at least acknowledge the question and promise to talk later with the child about the issue.

Parents also should learn to be sensitive to the "question behind the question" sometimes asked by children, McGinn said.

"Sometimes a child is afraid to ask a question about a particular issue or they don't know how to verbalize what they are thinking, so they ask another related question. Determining what is really going on with your child requires taking time out to sit down and discuss issues. You really have to invest yourselves. Making the Bible real to them, that's what it's all about."

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Billy Graham** is in the early stages of Parkinson's disease. However, the 73-year-old evangelist will continue his normal activities, a statement from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association said.

■ **Crossover Indianapolis**, the evangelistic blitz held prior to this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, extended as far away from Indianapolis as Seymour, Ind., reports Stuart Cundiff of South Central Baptist Association. Volunteers from Kentucky and three other states helped lead revivals and conduct door-to-door witnessing, resulting in 57 prospects for the association's churches, he said.

■ **The Baptist World Alliance** has sent \$5,000 from its emergency-response fund to assist victims of recent racial violence in South Africa, the June 18 massacre of 18 people in the Boipatong.

■ **American Jews** have raised objections to plans for Southern Baptist churches to dedicate "wailing walls" this fall as part of a youth prayer emphasis. The wall would be a place where youths could place pictures of their friends in crises as a reminder for prayer, according to suggestions from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The American Jewish Committee called the idea a "manipulative use of Jewry's holiest site."

Publisher risks nearly \$1 million on new literature

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—More than a year of work and almost a million dollars will be at stake when Smyth & Helwys, Baptists' newest publishing house, unveils age-graded Sunday school literature this fall.

Smyth & Helwys began in the spring of 1990, intent on providing an alternative book-publishing press for "thinking Baptists," said Cecil Staton, founder and publisher.

"We assumed it would be slow and gradual. Everyone involved had full-time jobs," Staton recalled. "But then we started getting letters, phone calls and other contacts, all asking us to consider publishing Sunday school literature."

That led to a March 1991 meeting of Baptists who had been developing their own educational materials and the debut of Formations, Smyth & Helwys' Bible study materials for adults, last fall.

But beginning this September,

Formations is expanding to provide age-graded Sunday school curriculum for everyone from infants to adults.

Smyth & Helwys recently concluded a nationwide series of workshops designed to introduce church leaders to the new materials. The workshops—including one in Louisville July 10—attracted about 1,600 participants, Staton said.

Now Smyth & Helwys must wait to see if Baptists want the materials.

"An enormous amount of human energy and financial resources have been committed to this project over the last year and a half," Staton said. "Should we fail, it's unlikely any similar investment will be expended any time soon."

"We will spend \$1 million this year—90 percent of it on curriculum."

About 550 churches are using Smyth & Helwys materials, and 1,000 churches will be required to sustain the project, he estimated.

Despite popular opinion to the

contrary, Smyth & Helwys does not receive funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Staton said. "We are a free press and autonomous and will remain autonomous."

Staton said one of the distinctives of the new literature is a "core curriculum approach." With Scripture as the central focus, the literature includes material related to missions, church history and especially Baptist history, theology, Christian ethics and other issues, he explained.

"This is where we break the mold from anything out there. Baptists usually have broken down their study into program units, such as Bible study in Sunday school, church history and ethics in discipleship training, and so forth."

"We live in 1992; most folks don't go to church three times a week," he said. "Where are we going to get church history and missions and ethics if we don't study them Sunday mornings?"

The new Formations material also will be graded differently, said David Cassady, managing editor for Sunday

school materials and former minister of education at Buechel Park Baptist Church in Louisville.

For example, kindergarten and first grade are combined, and sixth grade is set off by itself.

"We put kindergarten with first grade, not because we want to rush the kindergartners, but because we want to keep from rushing the first graders," Cassady said. "Teachers know kindergartners and first graders think more similarly than do first and second graders."

"The same principle applies to sixth graders: They do not readily fit with youth any more than they fit with children."

The change in structure is risky, because it asks churches to change the way they organize part of their Sunday school programs, he acknowledged. "But the new breakdown is the best way for children to grow in faith. It is for them that we're asking churches to make these changes."

Study finds Baptists everywhere in Kentucky

Continued from page 1

(53.6), Livingston (56.4), Logan (53.7), Mercer (54.9), Muhlenberg (58), Ohio (55.3), Owen (74.2), Trigg (59.2) and Whitley (57.4).

However, in the state's most populous counties, Southern Baptists are not as predominant. For example, in Jefferson County, which includes Louisville, Southern Baptists represent only 17.1 percent of the population, compared to 23.5 percent for Catholics.

In Campbell and Kenton counties in the booming Northern Kentucky region, Southern Baptists also are outnumbered by Catholics. Campbell County residents are 13.8 percent Southern Baptist and 31.3 percent Catholic, while Kenton County residents are 12.2 percent Southern Baptist and 27 percent Catholic.

In Fayette County, which includes Lexington, Southern Baptists are still the largest single religious body, but by a smaller margin than statewide. Southern Baptists account for 14.7 percent of the county's population.

Southern Baptists are found in all of Kentucky's 120 counties, the study re-

ports. The same is not true nationally, with 591 of the 3,105 U.S. counties reporting no Southern Baptist churches.

However, the study found Southern Baptists lead all other religious groups in number of churches nationwide, with 37,922 congregations. United Methodists follow with 37,238 churches and then Catholics with 22,441.

Only United Methodists, Catholics and Assemblies of God churches are more geographically extended than Southern Baptists, noted Martin Bradley, a participant in the study and director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's research department.

Bradley said Southern Baptists are most dominant in numbers of adherents in Mississippi and Alabama, where about three of every 10 people are identified as Southern Baptists. They are strongly dominant in 10 other states: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia and Texas.

The study also found:

■ More than 70 percent of the population of six states are church-

Utah (80 percent), Rhode Island (77), North Dakota (76), Alabama (71), Louisiana (71) and Mississippi (70).

■ Four states have fewer than a third of the population on church rolls: Nevada, Oregon and Alaska, each with 32 percent, along with Washington, with 33 percent.

■ After Catholics and Southern Baptists, other bodies having the largest number of reported adherents are the United Methodist Church (11 million), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (5.2 million), Presbyterian Church (USA) (3.55 million), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (3.54 million), Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (2.6 million), Episcopal Church (2.45 million) and Assemblies of God (2.16 million).

■ Although exact figures were not available, estimates placed the number of adherents to black Baptist churches at 8.7 million, Jewish synagogues at 6 million and independent, non-charismatic churches at 1.2 million.

Additional reporting by Charles Willis of the SBC Sunday School Board through Baptist Press

HMB elects Martin, authorizes Masonry study

ATLANTA (BP)—Kentucky native Larry Martin, director of missions for the Greater Boston Baptist Association, unanimously was elected Home Mission Board vice president for ministry by HMB trustees last week.

In other action, trustees assigned a staff member to conduct a study of Freemasonry and authorized a recall of \$24 million in high-interest bonds held by the HMB's church loans division.

Martin assumes his responsibilities Sept. 1, succeeding Paul Adkins, who is retiring after 23 years with the HMB.

During Martin's nine years in Boston, the association tripled its number of churches and developed an extensive use of volunteers in ministry. In his new role, Martin will oversee chaplaincy, church and community ministries, special ministries and volunteers.

Trustees asked the director of the

HMB's interfaith witness department to take a three-month leave to produce a study comparing Masonic lodge teachings with Christian doctrine. The action comes in response to a directive from messengers to this year's SBC annual meeting that the HMB conduct such a study and report back next year.

Gary Leazer, director of the department since 1987, has a doctorate in philosophy of religion from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Officials of the church loans division said the high-interest bonds to be recalled are costing the HMB more than \$1 million a year.

The bonds, which were made available between 1985 and 1990, were issued to raise money for church loans, and have an average annual yield of 10.58 percent, said Bob Inlow, director of the church loans division.

Lower interest rates in the 1990s,

however, mean the high-return bonds are no longer a fiscally responsible way to raise money for loans, he said.

"The bonds were designed to be called at a time like this," Inlow said. "I doubt that many Southern Baptists would want us to pay 10.58 percent interest for church loan capital at a time when the money could only be loaned at 8 3/4 percent."

In other action, trustees requested permission to use money from Cooperative Program capital needs allocations for new HMB offices to be completed in 1995. The SBC Executive Committee must approve reallocation of the money.

The board sold its offices near downtown Atlanta for \$14.5 million in 1990, planning to use receipts from the sale to buy land and construct a new facility. But the cost of the new building is now estimated at \$16 million.

Sunday School Board offers retirement to 188

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—The president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board wants to offer early retirement to 188 employees—about a tenth of the work force—as part of a staff restructuring and downsizing.

Trustees will be asked next month to approve the plan, which will be offered to all employees who meet certain requirements of age and length of employment.

The trustees' executive committee already has consented to the plan, which is designed to cut costs and correct what board officials admit is an overstuffed and top-heavy administration.

E.V. King, vice president for finance and administration, said the board should gain "significant" savings from the smaller payroll, but he declined to say how much.

All board employees, not just the 188 eligible, were notified of the proposal in a July 7 letter from President Jimmy Draper.

In June, seven longtime Sunday School Board executives were forced to retire as part of the reorganization, receiving the same retirement offer now under consideration for other employees.

With 1,915 employees, including 1,318 at its Nashville headquarters, the Sunday School Board is the world's largest producer and distributor of Sunday school literature and other religious supplies.

To be eligible for the proposed plan, employees must be at least 52 years of age and must have worked at the board long enough to make their age and years of service total 77 years.

King would not disclose how much the packages are expected to cost the board. But he did say the benefits can be paid from the board's retirement trust fund "without any negative impact."

KENTUCKY



SUMMER MISSIONS Four members of the Sonburst creative ministries team practice their puppetry skills in preparation for programs in Kentucky Baptist churches and at summer youth camps. Puppeteers Curtis Barnes, Cherie Cruze, Tiffani Merrick and Mildred Hackley, along with Chris Hedges who is not shown, comprise the Sonburst team, one of five special emphasis teams sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's student missions department. The Son teams, as well as dozens of student summer missionaries serving individual assignments, are spread out across the state and beyond this summer. (Photo by Tom Smoot)

State CP picks up with high June receipts

By Marv Knox
Editor

Record June receipts pushed the Kentucky Baptist Cooperative Program's year-to-date total almost to the level it attained two years ago.

The Kentucky Cooperative Program received \$1,601,939 last month, a gain of more than \$411,000 over June 1991.

Those receipts—the second-best monthly total this year and the best-ever for a June—brought the Kentucky CP total to \$14,095,251 at the end of 10 months of the current fiscal year.

By contrast, the September-June Kentucky CP total was just shy of \$13.7 million last year and slightly more than \$14.1 million in 1990.

The Kentucky CP peaked at \$17,118,788 during the 1989-90 fiscal year and fell to \$16,997,950 last year.

The current goal is \$17,894,462. The total at the end of June leaves a balance of almost \$3.8 million to be collected in July and August, if Kentucky Baptists are to reach their goal.

But funds available for Kentucky Baptist Convention causes are not that far off, since money designated for use in the state has increased this year.

Kentucky-only funds totaled \$41,335 in June. That brought the year-to-date total for Kentucky-only designations to \$288,404, a gain of \$91,999 (46.8 percent) over the first 10 months of the 1990-91 fiscal year.

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

Some churches have expressed their displeasure with the national convention by designating their con-

tributions directly to the KBC and specific national agencies. Since the Kentucky money is designated, it is not considered part of the CP.

When the increase in Kentucky-only designations is added to the increase in Kentucky's portion of the CP, a combined gain of \$469,538 (5.5 percent) is available for Kentucky Baptist use this year, said KBC Business Manager Barry Allen.

Compared to the budget goal for the first 10 months of the year, the \$288,000 in Kentucky-only designations cut the Kentucky portion of the CP shortfall from \$506,000 to \$218,000.

Allen attributed the strong June showing to two factors: Some churches were "catching up" in their gifts to the CP. And the last day of May was a Sunday, so the June receipts showed an extra week of contributions to churches.

Professor testifies on right to die

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—A Baptist biomedical ethicist and seminary professor took the witness stand July 14 in Kentucky's first "right-to-die" court case.

Paul Simmons, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, served as an expert witness in the case of Martha Sue DeGrella before the Jefferson County Circuit Court.

A Catholic priest who teaches at Bellarmine College in Louisville also testified in the case.

Both Simmons and the priest, Fred Hendrickson, joined DeGrella's family in arguing that the feeding tube which has kept DeGrella alive for nine years should be disconnected. The family has said DeGrella would not have wanted her body maintained on life support systems.

DeGrella has remained comatose since she was beaten and burned in a 1983 assault. Doctors have said she has no hope of recovery.

DeGrella's mother filed a petition earlier this year requesting the withdrawal of life support. The comatose woman's ex-husband also has asked that she be allowed to die.

Although this is thought to be the first "right-to-die" case to be heard in a Kentucky court, it is not the first case where legal action has been involved, Simmons said.

Simmons said this is the first time he has testified in such a case as an expert witness. "The questions posed were about how a bioethicist would deal with a case like this," he explained. "We did get into questions of theology because one of my points was that the reason people disagree is because of religious commitments."

For example, he said, many Christians don't want their bodies to be artificially maintained because of their belief in the afterlife, Simmons said.

"I pointed out that from this religious perspective, many people regard the maintenance of vital signs ... as a kind of biological idolatry. What's important is spiritual life, not simply biological functioning."

"From that point of view, I said theologically, many people would regard Sue DeGrella to be as good as dead. There's no capacity there for response to God or any possibility for recovery of health."

But in testifying from the standpoint of a bioethicist, Simmons said, he also spoke to issues other than religion. One such issue is determining how medical decisions should be made when a person can't speak for herself, he explained.

"I argued that in medical circles and biomedical circles, the stress on autonomy typically translates into family responsibility for decision-making when the patient is no longer competent," he said. "I emphasized the prerogatives of the family in making judgments about the appropriate care."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **J.A. Boadi**, a professor at Ghana Baptist Seminary in West Africa, is available for supply preaching or mission studies in Kentucky Baptist churches this summer while serving as a visiting scholar at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Contact him at (502) 897-4777.

■ **Georgetown College** will receive a \$25,000 grant from the 3M Foundation to fund an innovative presidential mentorship program. The mentorship program, conceived by Georgetown President William Crouch, will provide a personal growth experience for 10 high school students in the second semester of their junior years.

■ **Cotton Ivy**, a humorist who has been called "the new Will Rogers," will be the featured entertainment for Campbellsville College's homecoming alumni banquet Oct. 9. Advance reservations are required, and may be secured by calling (502) 789-5211.

■ **A \$30,000 goal** has been set by Campbellsville College for a campaign to purchase uniforms, instruments and equipment for the school's new marching band. Interested donors should contact the school at (502) 789-5058 or (800) 264-6014.

Father-daughter team on mission

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Mission volunteer Clyde Pruitt is braving the Utah mission field with a Bible, a video camera and an 8-year-old daughter.

The Bible will assist Pruitt in preaching and personal witnessing; the video camera will help him record and share elements of Baptist work in Utah and Kentucky; and Robin, his daughter, will contribute to the mission work through singing songs she has learned.

"She's just the right age to start training in missions," Pruitt said of his daughter. "And it can also be a learning experience for her. I hope this will be the first of many mission trips she will take."

The Pruitts left July 11 for two weeks of preaching, witnessing and vacation Bible school in and around Brigham City, Utah. Pruitt said he also hopes to spend some time at a

local college helping build up the Baptist Student Union program there.

Elkhorn Baptist Church, where the family attends, commissioned the team for their work. This will be the first mission trip for both the Pruitts. "I don't know who's looking forward to it more," Pruitt admitted.

Robin Pruitt said she wasn't exactly sure where Utah was, but she was excited about going to "help Dad with the missionary work." She said her preacher taught her three songs that she will sing in worship services and during vacation Bible school.

Although an ordained Baptist preacher, Pruitt said right now the Lord has called him to minister through teaching. The teaching career makes possible a mission trip during summer months when school is out.

"This is something I would like to do at least every summer," he said, adding he hopes next time Becky, his wife, will be able to join them. He said they want to make their mission work a "family affair."

Book store opens Aug. 15 in Lexington

LEXINGTON—A new Baptist Book Store is scheduled to open in Lexington Aug. 15.

Located in Regency Square at 2323 Nicholasville Rd., the store will have 4,800 square feet of space and separate "shops" for gifts and music. The store also will include an area designed to entertain children while parents shop.

Dedication for the new store will be in late September, according to Bruce Munns of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, which operates the 63-store chain of book stores.

Kathy Matthews, manager of the Owensboro Baptist Book Store since 1988, will manage the new store.

Eugene Howard, financial secretary at the Owensboro store, will serve as acting manager there.



Matthews

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

To subscribe: Send \$9.54 (\$10 outside U.S.) for a one-year, individual subscription.

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Americans got bored with New Age & its old ideas

New Age spirituality, America's pop religion of the 1980s, may be on the decline.

According to one poll, only 28,000 Americans identified themselves as devotees, whereas as late as 1989, J. Gordon Melton of the Institute for the Study of American Religion estimated that 25 percent of the U.S. population was involved in some aspect of the New Age movement.

The truth lies somewhere in between. The level of participation in New Age spirituality, however, is difficult to gauge because of its elastic nature. New Age religion, as propagated by zealous practitioners in the 1980s, encompassed anything from astrology to crystals, from belief in UFOs to channeling with various ancient spirits.

A number of celebrities—Marsha Mason, Tina Turner and especially Shirley MacLaine, among many others—enthused about the benefits of meditation, the healing properties of crystals or the salutary advice offered by ancient masters. MacLaine's book, "Out on a Limb," became a kind of manifesto of the New Age movement.

In August 1987, an estimated 20,000 people participated in a "harmonic convergence" at various "sacred sites," from Central Park to Mount Shasta, Calif. The New Age even inspired (if that's the word) its own music—a kind of dreamy jazz that provides the sensation of drowning in a sea of marzipan.

There was, in fact, very little new about the New Age. Those looking for precursors found them in a variety of 19th century spiritualist movements, including Emma Curtis Hopkins and the New Thought movement, Helen Petrovna Blavatsky and Theosophy or even Emmanuel Swedenborg and Franz Anton Mesmer, an Austrian healer and showman from whom we derive the term "mesmerized."

The eclecticism of the New Age also made it a quintessentially American movement in that the overriding characteristic of American religiosity is its makeshift quality. Lacking strong denominational boundaries, liturgical rubrics or confessional standards, Americans always have taken liberty to fashion their own religious

beliefs and theological systems with little regard for internal contradictions or inconsistencies.

It comes as little surprise, therefore, that New Agers would, say, peruse astrology charts or attend a seminar on channeling during the week and then show up at a Presbyterian worship service on Sunday morning. As historians Jon Butler and David Hall have shown, even the earliest colonists combined beliefs in the occult with more "orthodox" Protestant doctrines.

Despite its apparent appeal, however, has the New Age finally run its course? I suspect so. No other religion more aptly fit the temper of the 1980s than the New Age, and not simply because Nancy Reagan consulted astrology charts and spiritual advisers.

For all its professed transcendence of earthly concerns, the New Age embodied nothing so clearly as it did individualism and materialism. While most religions at least claim to address an adherent's relationship with some higher being, New Age spirituality was almost entirely self-centered—exploring the ways that an individual can attain heal-

ing, self-actualization or inner harmony. Most religions offer some sense of community with like-minded believers, but the closest New Age came to community was a New Age bookstore.

Materialism? Check out those bookstores. Or you might opt to sign up for a seminar or workshop on New Age spirituality at several hundred dollars a pop. If you want a private audience with some fount of wisdom, a second mortgage might be in order.

In short, despite the contrary political view of some of its most visible proponents, New Age religion belongs alongside yuppies, Michael Milken and Ivan Boesky as yet another example of the self-aggrandizing tendencies of an entire decade.

Some cultural observers suggest that the '90s will be different, that ostentation and self-interest are fading now in favor of compassion and altruism. If so, I expect interest in New Age spirituality also will wane.

Now, if we can just get rid of that awful music ...

*Randall Balmer
Religious News Service, New York*

Who's the failure?

You ran a letter in Baptist Forum (WR, June 30) from a man who evidently sponsors a group named "Honesty," a group which advocates equal rights for homosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals in our Baptist churches.

I took extreme exception to his statement of "the abject failure of Baptists to engage open Bible study concerning sexuality issues."

Baptists have not failed to study these issues. Baptists have merely failed to knuckle under to pressures from those who advocate unscriptural sexual perversion. In fact, Baptists are leading the front to rightly divide the word of truth.

We are not uneducated, unenlightened nor "victims" of traditional teaching because we condemn sexual perversion. The Bible clearly condemns this behavior as sin. Sin has no

right to recognition and praise, in church or out. Sin is condemned over and over in God's word.

I am sick of radical perversionists trying to intimidate traditional moralists by insinuating that we're somehow not being given the entire Bible picture on these issues. The perversion advocate is in fact the one with absolutely no scriptural ground to stand on. Leviticus

18:22 clearly states that homosexual behavior is in God's eyes abominable. Webster defines abominable as "worthy of or causing disgust or hatred; detestable."

There it is—an open Bible study concerning a sexuality issue.

Maybe we're not the abject failures after all. Maybe the perversion advocates are.

*John Boley, pastor
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church
Boaz*

BAPTIST FORUM

What an irony

I can't believe the irony in what I read concerning the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship (WR, June 30). They must be out of touch with what is going on in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Their talk of "not feeling the heat of the Southern Baptist Convention controversy" and "standing and working together in Kentucky, no matter what happens to the SBC" is both ironical and ludicrous.

We have two special committees that are working right now because of what has happened in the SBC. We have churches that have quit giving to the Cooperative Program because of action of the SBC. The KBC itself is the result of the controversy. Three churches in our association have cut giving to the KBC to 1 percent because of KBC action concerning the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. If Kentucky continues its di-

rection, others have vowed to take similar action.

Yes, we are affected by the controversy.

I agree we can continue to work together in Kentucky if the moderates and liberals would quit trying to change things that have been working well for the majority.

But if putting the BJCPA in the budget and/or changing what qualifies as Cooperative Program money is part of the plan, then get ready for problems.

If the conservatives caused the controversy in the SBC, then the moderates/liberals are causing it in the KBC.

It's a shame these folks are doing exactly what they have accused and condemned others for doing.

Yes, it is really an irony.

*Clark A. Brown, pastor
Grapevine Baptist Church
Madisonville*

Taking a summer road

When I retire in 2021, I think I would like to be asked to be a full-time "church celebration go-er." That's right, I'd spend all my time traveling to those churches which are celebrating "homecoming" and "special events."

I could have done it this summer if there weren't these other things that had to be done. I cannot remember a summer when we have had more requests for KBC staff representation for such events. In fact, we have had many more requests than we could find representatives.

I have had an especially good time in West Kentucky this year. These special summer occasions have included Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Pleasant Ridge in Utica, Mt. Zion in Benton; Cadiz Bap-

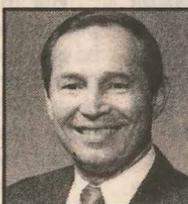
tist Church, and Owensboro First Baptist still to come.

I don't have to hear someone sing "My Old Kentucky Home" to get nostalgic about this state of mine. I still would rather be here, experiencing its seasons, than any other place in the world—and I've seen and lived in some fabulous places... like Beirut, before the war; Cyprus, the island of Aphrodite; the pyramids along the Nile; Paris, at night; China, Brazil, Chile, Kenya to name but a few.

Sure, there are some places I'd still like to see for the first time or revisit. The Lord permitting, I will. But I like it here in this place among these folks—especially Baptist folks.

This "Kentucky affection" came home to me again on one of those trips down to West Kentucky.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

I was headed for Cadiz to help them celebrate their 150th anniversary, more precisely called "sesquicentennial" by those who can pronounce it.

My family and I were in Owensboro to celebrate a surprise 80th birthday party for Alice's aunt, Ruth Williams, longtime member of Lewis Lane Baptist Church. I left the party early in the afternoon.

I got off the West Kentucky Parkway at Dawson Springs, tempted by highway 672 which meandered southward. For sure, I had not driven it before. Few others shared the road with me. But, realizing it was July 4, I reckoned most folks were already where they were going.

All along the way through hundreds of acres of corn and tobacco, I saw family groups gathered on front porches, under trees, out in the back—some sitting and some playing games, including croquet.

It was hot, but I rolled down the win-

dows anyway. The smell of hot summer—freshly cut grass, cow dung and one skunk took me back 50 years when I was young—at our annual 4th of July picnic on Elkhorn Creek at Church's Grove. Watermelon. Mamma. Daddy. All of us together.

Highway 672 ran out before I got to Cadiz. I drove through Cobb and Wallonia and several intersections with numbers not on my map. A fella could get lost down there.

I got to Cadiz in plenty of time to celebrate with them Saturday night and again Sunday morning. And I made it driving not more than 40 miles an hour on a Kentucky back road.

Maybe summers in Kentucky were made for us to slow down a little—so we don't miss some of the best part of Kentucky living. By the way, there is still a little bit of summer left.

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

Restore religious liberty; pick up your phone

We need to make some phone calls on behalf of religious freedom in the United States.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act has been approved by a subcommittee and awaits action by the full Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. The act was introduced in the U.S. Senate early this month.

Advocates say Christians can strengthen the bill's chances of passage—and protect the free exercise of religion—by urging their senators and representatives to sponsor and vote for the bill.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act has been marked up as H.R. 2797 in the House, where it has about 200 co-sponsors. It has been marked up as S. 2969 in the Senate and has 20 co-sponsors. So far, only one Kentucky lawmaker, Rep. Carroll Hubbard, has signed on as a co-sponsor.

RFRA has been drafted to restore the strict "compelling interest" standard that the U.S. Supreme Court once required government to meet before it could restrict religious liberty. The compelling interest test allowed government to limit the free exercise of religion—a right guaranteed by the First Amendment—only if government could demonstrate that it had a compelling interest to do so and only if it used the least-restrictive means of safeguarding that interest.

But the Supreme Court abandoned that high standard in its Oregon Employment Division vs. Smith decision in April 1990. That ruling allowed government to limit the religious freedoms of its citizens without proving that it had a compelling interest to do so.

Writing for the majority, Justice Antonin Scalia termed the compelling interest standard "a luxury we no longer can afford."

"With the stroke of a pen, the Supreme Court virtually removed religious freedom—our first freedom—from the Bill of Rights," contended Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., the act's chief House sponsor. "The court's reading of the First Amendment is out of step with the nation and with our historical commitment to religious liberty. The court's grievous and shortsighted error must not be permitted to stand unchallenged."

Since the Smith decision, 50-plus court decisions have been decided against individuals or groups which cited religious grounds for their actions.

An example is the case of John and Agnes Donahue, a devout Christian couple from California. Because they believe sexual intercourse outside of marriage is a mortal sin, they declined to rent an apartment to an unmarried couple. The couple sued the Donahues, claiming the landlords violated the California Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of marital status as well as other factors.

In the first round of ensuing legal battles, a court ordered the Donahues to rent their apartment to the couple and to pay more than \$7,000 in damages "for lost wages and emotional distress." In the next round, the California Court of Appeals sided with the Donahues, noting

the state of California itself routinely discriminates against unmarried couples, in such cases as unemployment benefits, wrongful death actions and even in housing on state college and university campuses. Unfortunately, the case is not closed. The California attorney general has appealed, asking the state's supreme court to throw out the state constitution's commitment to religious liberty and side with the U.S. Supreme Court's principle articulated by Scalia.

"Doesn't this violate the Donahues' constitutional right to the free exercise of religion?" you might ask," notes Oliver Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "Before the Supreme Court's decision in Smith, the answer probably would have been yes. But under today's pinched interpretation of the free exercise clause, the answer is almost certainly no. The Fair Housing Act does not impose special burdens on religion but rather applies to all Californians equally.

"Such laws, though they might infringe upon the rights of some to practice their religion, no longer can be challenged under the federal free exercise clause."

Shouldn't government be required to demonstrate a reasonable, compelling interest before it interferes with the religious beliefs and practices of its people? Reasonable people would think so, but the Supreme Court's Smith decision deems otherwise.

The precedent extends government intrusion beyond individuals and into the life of churches. "Without RFRA, churches have nothing to protect them from zoning, tax, anti-discrimination and other laws that are not specifically targeted at religion," Thomas warned.

RFRA provides appropriate legislative response to the Smith decision, particularly for the preservation of religious freedoms, said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who joined Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., as the chief co-sponsors of the Senate bill.

Added Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., another co-sponsor: "Freedom of religion is one of the many freedoms in this country that we often take for granted. One has only to look at the recent history of many nations to realize that no freedom should be taken for granted, especially not the freedom to worship. ... Our nation's very foundation was in part principled upon the desire to protect the individual ability to worship."

Both the Baptist Joint Committee and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission have joined a broad coalition of religious and civil-liberties groups to support the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

To get phone numbers for your representative and senators, you can call the Congress information line at (202) 224-3121.

You can write your representative and senators at:

- U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.
- U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Call or write immediately. Time is running out on the current session of Congress.

Marv Knox

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act has been drafted to restore the "compelling interest" standard that the U.S. Supreme Court once required government to meet before it could restrict religious liberty.

Without a family, this empty house sure doesn't feel like a home

The idea sounded great at the time. Joanna and the girls would head "out West" and get a bonus week with our family in Fort Worth. I could stay home and try to get caught up on work and chores. Then, when my vacation finally rolled around, I could join them.

No problem. The plan involved about 1,000 miles of extra driving for Joanna's dad and me, but, hey, our car gets good gas mileage. We could handle it. Easy.

By all accounts, everything is going great on their end. They've been to the pool. To Six Flags. To the pool. To the Berry family reunion. To the pool. To cousins' to play Nintendo until their eyes have rolled into the same socket. To our all-time favorite Mexican restaurant.

I've made good time on the work front, so I did some things a weekly deadline usually doesn't allow: Marketing. A little bit of planning. And (ugh) filing. Nasty jobs, but somebody has to do them.

The problem comes when I get home.

Betsy, our ball of fur and toenails, isn't there to scratch my britches and jump on my shoes. The back of Joanna's neck isn't anywhere to be found, waiting to be kissed. Lindsay's not

out in the yard with the neighbors. Molly's not back in her room with the Barbies or the Quints. It's just me.

Some people are meant to lead solitary lives. Like the painter from Tennessee who has lived as a hermit since 1927. And Simon Stylites, the early-church monk who lived out in the desert.

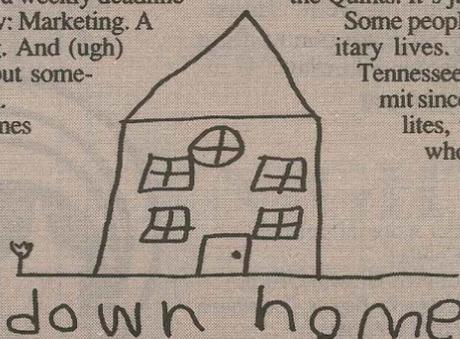
Not me, however. The closest I came to living alone was a 10-week summer internship near Austin, Texas. Beautiful place, the Hill Country. But I got mono. The doctor said it was a germ that caused

me to get sick, but I think I wore my immune system down by talking to myself. Sort of like the way you run your battery down when you leave the light inside your car on all night.

So, right now I'm memorizing how I feel. The house is all clean and picked up, just like I like it. (I inherited neatness from my mother's side of the family.) But, despite so much tidiness of things, this place just isn't much fun. At least when toys are all over the floor and dirty dishes fill the kitchen sink, you know somebody's around.

But all the women in my life have gone to Texas. Maybe I'll go talk to the guy driving the ice cream truck. I hear the clang of his bell down the street.

Marv Knox



Clinton-Gore ticket a first for Southern Baptists

"I remember once he was unable to get a taxi at the airport, and he walked a mile and a half to our church so that he could worship with his family."

Jack Turner, former pastor to vice presidential candidate Al Gore

Continued from page 1

warning to the Republican Party. "Gov. Clinton's choice of Sen. Gore as his running mate presents Southern Baptists with the unique phenomenon of a national ticket composed entirely of Southern Baptists—a prospect that will clearly have significant appeal," Land said. "It should certainly give pause to those, particularly in the Bush campaign, who have been tempted to take Southern Baptist voters for granted. I suspect that many Southern Baptists will require clear differences on substantive values issues to vote against two from their own denomination."

While lauding the president for his opposition to abortion, Land and other conservatives have expressed displeasure that the Bush administration has not done enough to promote "traditional family values," especially in opposition to homosexuality.

Southern Baptists won't vote Democratic "just because you have Southern Baptists on the ticket," suggested Nancy Ammerman, a Southern Baptist and professor of sociology at Emory University in Atlanta.

The Clinton-Gore ticket won't fare well at all with "that one-fourth to one-third of Southern Baptists that have had their political consciousness raised in a conservative direction," Ammerman said.

However, that conservative block may not be as large as some suspect, Ammerman continued. Her research has found that only 21 percent of Southern Baptists are "enthusiastic supporters of the entire conservative social agenda," which she identified in part as anti-abortion, pro-defense and against civil-rights protections for homosexuals.

The majority of Southern Baptists, 55 percent, agree more than they disagree with that agenda, according to her 1985 study, published in the journal *Review of Religious Research*. Meanwhile, 24 percent reject the agenda outright.

Ammerman said Clinton and Gore would line up with those rejecting the conservative agenda.

In an interview with Bill Moyers aired July 7 on PBS, Clinton identified himself as a moderate within the SBC's 13-year theological and political controversy.

"As you might imagine, I'm pretty much on the side of the moderates in the fight, and the thing that has always been special about our church at its best was its reasoned tolerance and its understanding of the real wall between church and state," Clinton told Moyers. "And all of that is at risk today in the interplay of forces."

Ed McAteer, a conservative Republican political activist and member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., claims Gore as a personal friend. Gore is a U.S. senator from Tennessee.

However, most Southern Baptists are more conservative than Clinton and Gore, said McAteer, who was instrumental in swaying Southern Baptist voters to the Republican party during Ronald Reagan's campaign and presidency.

And, he added, the so-called character questions that have dogged Clinton have hurt his candidacy among Southern Baptists, McAteer



BAPTIST CANDIDATES Bill Clinton and Al Gore, the Democratic Party candidates for U.S. president and vice president, wave to a crowd after announcing their partnership. (RNS photo)

said. But Gore's image as a family man should help the ticket, he added.

Gore's wife, Tipper, also is considered an asset with conservative voters. The couple led the fight in Congress

against pornography and violence in rock music lyrics, and Tipper Gore spoke on the topic at the SBC Christian Life Commission annual seminar in 1986.

Pastors who have known Clinton and Gore affirm both men as expressing genuine Christian commitment.

Brian Harbour, who served as Clinton's pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church from 1985 to 1990, said Clinton regularly attended worship and contributed financially to the church.

Contrary to the "Slick Willie" image of Clinton projected by his opponents, Harbour characterized Clinton as a man of deep faith with an abiding concern for the value of all people.

Likewise, Gore is a "theologically based, spiritually oriented person"

with a deep commitment to family values, said Jack Turner, who retired last year as pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Crystal City, Va.

The family always has faithfully attended worship services whenever they were in Washington, Turner said.

Gore often would arrange his travel schedule into Washington so that he could go directly from the airport to the church to meet his family for services, the pastor recalled. "I remember once he was unable to get a taxi at the airport, and he walked a mile and a half to our church so that he could worship with his family."

Written by News Director Mark Wingfield with reporting by Greg Warner, Larry Chesser and Ken Camp through Associated Baptist Press and Art Toalston through Baptist Press

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1992

MISSIONS

Jesus gives hope to Russian woman

KHABAROVSK, Russia (ABP)—To describe Lena Brest as an enthusiastic Christian is an understatement. Her personal commitment to Jesus Christ permeates her conversation and conduct.

"I am deeply convinced in my faith," she said. "I am determined to share the gospel. It's like a contagious disease. Every moment I have the need to speak about God."

Since becoming a Christian last year, the 36-year-old language teacher added, "I consider myself a happy woman."

But life was not always so good. Brest grew up in Russia, under the influence of decades of atheistic dogma.

"For all my life, I was seeking for God, but it was impossible to find a Bible and to read it," she said. "I believed deep in my heart that there must be a God, but my way to God was very difficult."

The rigors of maintaining a marriage and career and caring for three children in a country ravaged by poverty eventually took their toll. She became suicidal.

Her problems were compounded by her belief that there was nowhere she could turn for help. Even the local Baptist church in her hometown of Khabarovsk was seen as a place to fear and avoid. "There were many rumors about it, that they sacrifice their children and other terrible things," she explained.

Brest eventually discovered the happiness she was seeking through the witness of an American missionary. She faithfully attended the missionary's Bible study and soon accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior.

About the same time, a member of Khabarovsk Baptist Church began inviting Brest to attend church with her. "My soul is renewed when I sing songs and pray and listen to the sermons," she said.

Since becoming a Christian, her days of depression and suicidal thoughts have vanished, she declared. "Now I have no such feelings because I have my best friend. It is Jesus. In any situation, I can rely on him and he really helps me very much."

Kentucky man changed by Russia trip

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

MADISONVILLE—Ray Tucker went to Moscow to help change the lives of hungry Russian people, but his life is the one that got changed the most, he said.

"I'll never be the same," the Baptist layman explained just days after returning to Kentucky from participation in Project Brotherhood. Tucker repackaged bulk foods and helped distribute the family-sized portions as part of the project sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance and Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

"This trip opened my eyes," Tucker explained. "I can't get it off my mind. How do you explain that? I don't drive down the road that I don't see something and think, 'How could I get that working in Russia?'"

As he returns to his routine as a salesman in Madisonville, Tucker continually is thinking of additional ways to help the Russian people he met. And he wants to share his story with other Kentucky Baptists and their churches.

Already, he has arranged for a leg brace to be sent to a Russian woman he met who had nothing better than crude wood splints to ease her crippling condition.

Leg braces are only one example of the many medical treatments Americans have easy access to but most Russians have no hope of obtaining, he explained.

Tucker said he hopes to find a way to collect such items from Americans who no longer need them to send to Russians whose lives would be transformed by them.

Baptists have a long tradition of ministering to the disabled in Russia, he said. "The communists never acknowledged having crippled people. They always shunned them and kept them out of sight."

"Baptists existed in Russia during the time of communism by ministering to the handicapped and their families."

The 13-day visit to Moscow was filled with hard work, the member of Madisonville's First Baptist Church said. Baptist volunteers lived in a hotel with roaches and undrinkable water, but that was far superior to what many Russians live in every day, he explained.



ALLIES Ray Tucker, a layman from First Baptist Church in Madisonville, sits with a 96-year-old man and a young boy who are members of a Moscow Baptist church where Project Brotherhood volunteers distributed food to families.

"The days we went and made distribution to the families, it was heart-breaking. I cried for two weeks."

Despite the overwhelming needs the Russian families have, most gave something back to the volunteers in gratitude. "It never failed, before they left (the food distribution center) they would heat the water up, fix tea and feed us with homemade bread. In a couple of places, they had meals for us."

The Americans gave out of their abundance, Tucker noted, but the Russians gave back out of their poverty.

Although he was apprehensive about going at first, Tucker said he discovered the people he once considered America's arch-enemies are "very open, warm people."

And in faith, the Russian Christians put Americans to shame, he added: "I've never seen a stronger faith in my life. Those people are at a higher level than we'll ever be ourselves. I met a man who spent 34 years in Siberia because of his faith."

Tucker said he believes it is imperative for Americans to seize the window of opportunity now available in Russia. "If we don't keep positive things going into Russia while this door's open, what's going to happen? The first thing that will lead people to a rebellion is not getting enough to eat."

And while he contemplates what to

do next, Tucker said, he hopes the Russian people he met will understand how much he and other Christians care about them.

"It's like gathering food to feed the hungry at Christmastime, and in January you wonder what those people are doing now," he related. "Today we're taking them something to eat; the next time they get hungry they can at least think there were some American people we didn't know who cared enough to come over here and bring us some food."

But Tucker sincerely hopes it doesn't stop at that.

He's eager to find a way to go back and help some more. "I don't relax long that it doesn't come back to me that I need to do something," he said.



FOOD TO GO John Norman (right) of the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff, joins a truck driver in loading boxes of food Kentucky Baptists have prepared for Project Brotherhood, a relief effort in the Commonwealth of Independent States. A total of 56 boxes from Kentucky churches left the Baptist building July 5.

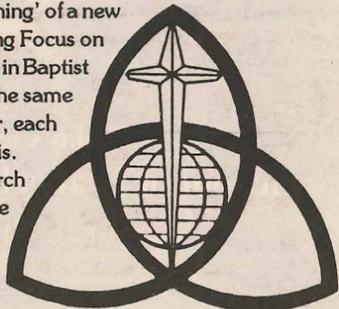
BROTHERHOOD
Project

Update

Happy Birthday!

A Birthday party at McDonalds—for adult women?? Women from First Baptist Church, Greenville had a "Birth-day" party and a new Baptist Women organization was born! WMU Director, Etta Butcher, said some church members wondered when they began promoting a "Birthing" at McDonalds. Women not in the existing Baptist Women had the 'birthing' of a new organization. Following the Sunday morning Focus on WMU emphasis, several expressed interest in Baptist Women. The new organization meets on the same night as Baptist Men. After a shared supper, each organization has its own missions emphasis.

Would this idea help others in your church become missions promoters? For free materials, contact Kentucky WMU Office, Box 43433, Louisville KY 40253-0433. Phone number (502) 244-6485



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Marriage seminar slated at Southern

LOUISVILLE—A Fall Festival of Marriage conference will be held for the first time on the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville Sept. 18-20. Fourteen such conferences will be sponsored nationwide this year by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Topics include better communications, sexuality, conflict resolution, coping with negative emotions, dealing with anger, the importance of friendship, hurting marriages, crisis management, remarriage and blended families, in-law relations, workaholicism and caring for aging parents. For registration information, call (615) 251-2294.

Former missionary Lloyd recovering

HENDERSON (BP)—Cancer patient and former missionary Kathy Lloyd has received encouraging news recently but is not clear of the disease's threat yet.

Lloyd and her husband, Skip, resigned as missionaries to South Korea after doctors predicted Kathy Lloyd had six months to two years to live. They currently reside in Henderson, where Skip Lloyd serves on the staff of First Baptist Church.

Preliminary tests have shown the cancer in Mrs. Lloyd's bones has been killed, and she was to return to St. Louis University Medical Center this month for further treatment.

Church picked up where insurance stopped

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

BARBOURVILLE—When insurance companies refused a claim for Debbie Gaddis, her church became an agent for a better policy.

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Barbourville collected more than \$58,000 to assist Gaddis, who is struggling against cancer.

Pastor Bill Wolfe said Gaddis was caught in a dilemma when her insurance company labeled "experimental" a bone marrow transplant doctors said she needed.

"After we found out about it, the church stayed after the service on Sunday night and voted to try to help out," Wolfe said.

The next step was to write a letter

explaining Gaddis' situation and need for financial assistance. The church mailed and hand-delivered the letters—more than 300 in all—to all their members, to churches of various denominations in the area and to local businesses.

More than \$58,000 was collected in six days.

Gaddis needed the medical procedure in April, but because of insurance delays she now will have to undergo

more treatments before the transplant can be attempted.

Wolfe said Gaddis is a prominent member of the church and community. Many know her as a legal secretary in a Knox County attorney's office.

"Her family's been stalwarts of the church," he said. "She's always there with a helping hand. Now she's just trusting the Lord to help her through this."

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New avenues of ministry

She lives in Harlan, Kentucky, and she is like many mothers around the state. You see, her daughter has graduated from high school, but is scared about her future and doesn't have much self-esteem.

This woman wrote to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to see if there might be an opportunity for her child to benefit from the Independent Living Services offered in the Jefferson County area.

"I would love for my daughter to have the books you use. I would pay anything for them," she wrote.

At KBHC, our commitment is to Baptists like this woman as well as to the children in our care. We have arranged to send our representatives to Harlan to teach independent living skills through a number of seminars in a weekend retreat setting.

KBHC wants to respond to the needs of people in ways that will help individuals and families to find real solutions to difficult situations in life. Sometimes that means sending a speaker to local churches to talk frankly about what abuse and neglect really mean. Other times, it means an

intensive training session with professionals. We have offered parent training classes to the community through our Spring Meadows campus. So many parents in today's world feel inadequate or unsure of how to deal with common, everyday concerns with their children.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

As we approach our 125th anniversary, we are excited to be exploring new avenues of ministry and outreach. We dream of the day when KBHC will offer statewide counseling services. We want to meet the needs of children who have serious emotional problems through treatment facilities like our Baptist Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown.

Above all, we want to meet hurting people where they are and help them begin their journey toward wholeness. We hope you will join with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in our efforts to be on mission together for Christ. Thank you for being a part of our ministry to families and children.

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

Paid Column

If you think the future will take care of itself, think again.

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KENTUCKY

Singers offer encouragement & witness in Alaska

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

MURRAY—Although the sun may never set there in some seasons, spiritual darkness prevails in Alaska, a group of Kentucky mission volunteers decided.

"Praise," a vocal ensemble from First Baptist Church in Murray, recently spent 10 days on a mission tour in what the group's director called one of the most secular states in the country.

"Not too many churches will consider Alaska when they plan their mission trips" because of the obvious distance involved, said Steve Littlefield, minister of music at First Baptist. "Yet

the area is full of needs."

Littlefield said the eight musical presentations during the tour were an effort to offer hope and encouragement to struggling churches in Alaska.

"During each of the presentations, we used choral numbers of different styles, as well as solos and testimonies, to move toward a time of commitment and invitation," Littlefield said.

He emphasized that the music provided a focus on recommitment as well as evangelism, in an effort to minister to faithful church members and also present the gospel message.

The auditioned ensemble is composed of students enrolled at Murray

State University who also are active at the church. The annual spring tour, Littlefield said, is one part of the group's ministry.

Lisa Ray, accompanist for the ensemble, said she discovered one piece of music was especially appropriate for Alaska: "When we sang 'The Majesty and Glory of Your Name,' and we could look out and see the grandeur and majesty of the Lord's creation in miles and miles of beautiful land untouched by human hands—that made a big impact on all of us."

Scottie Rice, another ensemble member, said although the crowds were sometimes small, the faith and

appreciation expressed by the Alaskans was great.

Serving as minister of music in Alaska for two years helped Littlefield know what to expect, he said, but the rest of the group was shocked.

"The kids got culture shock," he said. "I tried to prepare them. In Anchorage, with a population of about 250,000, only about 2 percent of the people claim church attendance anywhere."

Yet Littlefield said he believes the mission trip was a success. "We accomplished our mission to be encouragers and offer hope," which is something Alaskan Baptists desperately need, he said.

Kentucky teen speaks at Glorieta

GLORIETA, N.M.—Baptists are more prone to buy the Bible than to read it, Amy Terrell told participants in the discipleship training leadership conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

"The Bible is a special book that should have a vital place in the lives of Christians today," said Terrell, winner of the 1992 Kentucky youth speakers tournament, one of nine state winners who presented their speeches at the July 4-10 conference. She is a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Cadiz. Youth speakers tournaments are joint projects of Baptist state conventions and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Terrell said the Bible is called God's love letters to his children, the answer to life's needs and the drama of human life.

She said the Bible includes history, business principles, wisdom, poetry, major and minor prophets; it introduces people to Jesus and the Holy Spirit; it addresses issues of concern to churches today; it gives Christians a glimpse of life after death.

"The Bible is always open and waiting for you to discover for yourself it is more than an old book," Terrell said.

Hall named to Georgetown post

GEORGETOWN—Eugene Hall, associate dean for undergraduate studies and professor of communication arts at Georgetown College, has been named acting senior vice president and academic dean.

The academic dean post was last held by Joe Lewis, who has been named associate provost at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. The senior vice president post is a new position at Georgetown.

Hall has served at Georgetown three times since 1962, most recently since 1987 when he returned to Kentucky after teaching at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has taught at Louisiana College and Western Kentucky University and served as president of Oklahoma Baptist University.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

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

FOR SALE: 16 church pews, 9'-4" long, medium oak with brown padding, hymnal and pencil racks, good condition; \$170 each. Phone (502) 747-8341 after 5 p.m. or leave message.

SEEKING: Faith Baptist Church of Homer, Alaska, is actively seeking a full-time pastor. Candidates who feel God calling them to work in Alaska are asked to send a resumé and a video tape (both before Aug. 31) of a regular Sunday service, during which they preached a message, to: Faith Baptist Pulpit Committee, P.O. Box 1405, Homer, Alaska, 99603.

NEEDED: Secretary/bookkeeper. Skills: bookkeeping (general ledger and payroll), typing, computer/Word-Perfect aptitude, receptionist, filing, etc. 40 hours; some benefits. Call (502) 964-8165.

Accommodations

MissionsFest - September 11-12 - Lexington



All listings are for Lexington.

Rates available on reservations made through August 29, 1992 (unless specified by an asterisk). Tell reservations clerk you are attending the Kentucky Baptist MissionsFest.

Add 11.3% tax to rates

R=Restaurant

All 800 telephone numbers are toll free.

MissionsFest, an experience which informs and challenges Southern Baptists' participation in foreign missions, meets at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, September 11-12, 1992. Make your reservations early!

Please Note: The Kentucky Baptist Convention makes every effort to advise MissionsFest attendees concerning good lodging at a variety of prices. Attendees should be aware, however, that lodging other than that listed may be available. Also, individuals are expected to exercise personal discretion in the selection of appropriate accommodations. Telephone a hotel if you have specific questions about its services or policies.

Best Western Regency (R)* 2241 Elkhorn Road, 40205 \$33.00 1 person, 1 bed \$40.00 2 persons, 2 beds \$54.00 4 persons, 2 beds *Reservations due by August 21.	606/293-2202 800/528-1234	Knights Inn-East 2250 Elkhorn Road, 40505 \$32.00 1-4 persons Breakfast buffet included	606/299-8481
Campbell House Inn (R) 1375 Harrodsburg Road, 40504 \$55.00 1 person, 1 bed \$65.00 2 persons, 2 beds \$75.00 4 persons, 2 beds	606/255-4281 800/432-9254	Econo Lodge North (R) 925 Newtown Pike, 40511 \$30.00 1 person, 1 bed \$35.00 2 persons, 2 beds \$40.00 4 persons, 2 beds	606/252-6656 800/354-9048
Continental Inn (R) 801 New Circle Road NE, 40505 \$36.00 1 person, 1 bed \$42.00 2 persons, 2 beds \$42.00 4 persons, 2 beds	606/299-5281 800/432-9388	Quality Inn Northwest (R) 1050 Newtown Pike, 40511 \$42.50 2 persons, 2 beds	606/233-0561 800/221-2222
Courtyard by Marriott (R) 775 Newtown Court, 40511 \$74.00 1 person, 1 bed \$74.00 2 persons, 2 beds	606/254-1247 800/321-2211	Radisson Plaza Lexington (R) 369 West Vine Street, 40507-1636, 800/333-3333 \$65.00 1 person \$75.00 3 persons \$70.00 2 persons \$80.00 4 persons	606/231-9000
Greenleaf Inn 2280 Nicholasville Road, 40503 \$39.00 1 person \$48.00 2 persons, 2 beds	606/277-1191 800/432-9027	Red Roof Inn South 2651 Wilhite Drive, 40503 \$34.99 1 person, 1 bed \$44.99 2 person, 2 beds \$47.99 4 persons, 2 beds	606/277-9400 800/843-7663
Hampton Inn 2251 Elkhorn Road, 40505 \$45.00 Single \$50.00 2 beds, 2 persons \$50.00 4 persons, 2 beds	606/299-2613 800/426-7866	Shoney's Inn-Lexington 2753 Richmond Road, 40509 \$38.00 1 person, 1 bed \$42.00 2 persons, 2 beds	606/269-4999 800/222-2222
Hilton Suites of Lexington Green (R) 3195 Nicholasville Road, 40503 \$69.00 1 person, 1 bed \$75.00 2 persons, 2 beds \$79.00 4 persons, 2 beds Children stay free with parents	606/271-4000 800/445-8667	The Springs Inn (R) 2020 Harrodsburg Road, 40503 \$45.00 1 person, 1 king bed \$45.00 2 persons, 2 beds	606/277-5751 800/432-0775
Holiday Inn South (R) 5532 Athens-Booneville Road, 40509 \$49.00 1 - 4 persons	606/263-5241 800/465-4329	Super 8 Motel 2351 Buena Vista Drive, 40505 \$29.88 1 person, 1 bed; \$35.88 2 persons/beds \$37.88 4 persons, 2 beds	606/299-6241
		Travelodge 1987 North Broadway, 40505 \$39.00 1 person, 1 bed; \$44.00 2 persons/beds \$49.00 4 persons, 2 beds	606/299-1202 800/333-9843

KENTUCKY KERNELS

The lives of at least two U.S. presidents were influenced by Kentucky Baptists. While living between Hodgenville and Bardstow, Abraham Lincoln's family worshipped at Little Mount Baptist Church. Harry S. Truman's maternal grandmother and other relatives were members of Long Run Baptist Church in Jefferson County.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BEDFORD**—Andy Hicks resigned as pastor of Pleasant View Church to serve as pastor of Rainbow Church near Gadsden, Ala.
 ■ **BEAVER DAM**—A.C. Dockery has resigned as pastor of Slaty Creek Church to accept a ministry position in West Lafayette, Ohio.
 ■ **CAMPBELLSBURG**—Mark Bright resigned as pastor of Providence Church.
 ■ **CATLETTSBURG**—A Sunday school class at Oakland Avenue Church honored Mr. and Mrs. J. Sanford Damron on their 64th wedding anniversary with the purchase of 64 Gideon Bibles. The Damrons have been active leaders in the church since 1923.
 ■ **CENTERTOWN**—Central Grove Church ordained David Daugherty as a deacon.
 ■ **CORBIN**—Rick Hatley, former

minister of education at Central Church, now serves as director of the church development division for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists and as editor of the convention's newspaper.
 ■ **COXS CREEK**—Richard Shields will retire Aug. 9. He has served as pastor of Coxs Creek Church for 14 years.
 ■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church called Phillip Potratz, from Knob Nosger, Mo., as minister of education. The church also ordained Billy Carroll to the ministry.
 James Barnette resigned as pastor of Harrods Creek Church to accept a teaching position at Campbell University near Raleigh, N.C.
 ■ **FORDSVILLE**—East Fork Church called George Winchester as pastor.
 ■ **GEORGETOWN**—Kendra Redd,

a junior at Georgetown College, was chosen to join "Up With People," a non-profit organization that seeks peace among all nations through song, dance and community service. The group will travel more than 30,000 miles this year to share its ministry.
 ■ **GRAND RIVERS**—David Key resigned as pastor of Luka Church.
 ■ **HODGENVILLE**—Jimmy Thomas resigned after more than 40 years as music director of South Fork Church. The church designated July 19 as "Jimmy Thomas Day" in honor of his years of service.
 ■ **JACKSON, Tenn.**—Eldon Byrd, a native of Crutchfield, died July 12 after a long illness. Byrd was professor emeritus at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., where he taught since 1961 after beginning his teaching career at Bethel College in Hopkinsville.
 ■ **LOCKPORT, Ill.**—All former members of New Heights Church (formerly Lockport Missionary

Church) are invited to attend services during the church's 35th anniversary celebration September 13.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Tony Camp resigned as minister to youth at Broadway Church. He has accepted the position of youth and singles minister at First Church in St. Petersburg, Fla.
 Anthony Burns is serving Valley Station Church as minister of music. He previously served at the Siloam Church in Ninety-Six, S.C.
 ■ **MYRA**—Faith Baptist Mission is host church for the first deaf ministry in the Pike Baptist Association. Dave Hammond is pastor.
 ■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—The 75th anniversary celebration of Bardstow Junction Church will be Aug. 23 at 2 p.m. Former members and friends of the church are encouraged to attend and contribute information about its history.
 ■ **WHITESVILLE**—New Panther Creek Church called Pete Taylor as pastor.

DeHaven Memorial adds more options for Sunday school & worship

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LAGRANGE—DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church doesn't believe in too much of a good thing when it comes to Sunday school and worship.

Beginning Oct. 4, the church will implement a new Sunday morning format that will include three worship services and two options for Sunday school.

"Our sole objective in expanding

these ministry opportunities is to reach more people for Bible study, salvation and meaningful church membership," said Wesley Roy, minister of education and administration.

Roy said the church had been considering the possibility of some kind of expansion for about two years.

"The church is in the downtown area of LaGrange, and we have purchased all the land we can," he said. "We are now trying to find ways of better utilizing facilities and better

meeting the needs of more people." The church will continue to meet at 8:30 and 11 a.m. for worship and at 9:45 a.m. for Sunday school. In addition, some may prefer to attend the new 9:45 a.m. worship or the 11 a.m. Sunday school.

"It's very exciting for us," Roy said. "Oldham County is in the top three fastest-growing areas right now. Unfortunately, churches often are not keeping up with this kind of growth." Like most groups, Roy admitted

DeHaven Memorial has struggled some with the transition: "It requires a little bit of blind faith."

Some of the upcoming changes include a non-traditional division of class units in the 11 a.m. Sunday school and a sharing of the preaching responsibilities in the multiple worship services.

"The bottom line is, we're a medium-sized church trying to meet the needs of more people in a growing community by offering more options for Bible study and worship," Roy said.

Mary Ann Mallard lived victoriously

"She was a lovely person." This was the reaction of one of our longtime teachers to the news of the home-going of Mary Ann Mallard on July 1.

Mrs. Mallard and her husband, Jim, came to teach at Oneida in 1983. They took a \$28,000 cut in annual family income to serve.

She taught Spanish, was very capable, and had a great love for our students. She was a gracious lady, always smiling. She was neither a whiner nor a nagger. She was always positive in spirit and had the heart of a servant.

For three years she battled cancer. She continued her duties until she became too weak to do so. For over one and a half years she was confined to a wheelchair.

But Mrs. Mallard remained very much a part of Oneida life. Her devoted husband helped give new meaning to the marriage vow of faithfulness "in sickness and in health." Everyday, after teaching his own full schedule, he would dress Mrs. Mallard and push her wheelchair to a ball game, a concert or some other campus event. He often brought her to meals in the dining room or just to get out. On Sundays she was at nearly every worship service.

Mrs. Mallard lived over a year beyond what was thought medically possible. Her faith, the prayers of many, the tremendous devotion of her husband, the frequent loving visits of her four adult children—all added to the quality of her life. She suffered, but she did so with a smile, with patience and steadfastness.

Many of our students and staff helped in various ways. Our boys were always quick to help carry her wheelchair up and down stairs. Many sat with her for hours at a time.

All who witnessed these things, or had a direct part, got a further insight into the meaning of love.

Mary Ann Wilson was born in Plainview, Texas, 58 years ago. She grew up in ranch country, graduated from high school in 1951 and from Texas Tech four years later, majoring in Spanish and English.

During her college years she accepted Christ and was his devoted servant all the remaining days of her life.

On June 3, 1956, she and Jim were married.

Oldest son John is a career airman, now located in San Antonio. Tim and his wife, both outstanding musicians, live in New York City. Daughter Jamie and her husband, Bruce, live in Louisville and are the parents of two, Eric and Erin. Son Danny, after military service, is now attending college and working in a hospital in Crown Point, Ind. The children are all active Christians.

The Mallards felt the call to God's service at Oneida in September 1978. Their youngest child, Danny, was only an eighth-grader. They told me it

was their custom to get the children through high school, and then the children put themselves through college. They said when Danny finished high school, they would come for full-time service. They did.

Jim continues to serve and Mary Ann is at rest with Jesus. She is buried on the mountain overlooking our chapel. As the committal service was held, our carillon tolled her years of service.

The funeral was truly a worship experience. The congregation's singing of "Victory In Jesus" summed up Mary Ann Mallard's testimony.

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Murray & Sturgis volunteers on campus

Our family shared the good life in Christ with the people of Sturgis for six years and in Murray for seven years. We have enjoyed fellowship this summer with former members from those two churches who came to campus on volunteer work teams.

Murray First Baptist sent Perry Cavitt, Ray Clark, Randy Cunningham and Allen Russell. The crew worked on two Bear Trail cottages. A front porch overhang was installed on one house. The other received new sub-flooring and interior door and window trim. Kitchen cabinets were reset and the house was left ready for the painters.

Murray has a long tradition of volunteer missions, and we reminisced about former trips to Brazil. The team also ventured up a nearby hollow to advise a Methodist work team. Randy brought his 10-speed bicycle to maintain an exercise schedule and found our hills to be quite a challenge.

Coming from Sturgis were Pastor Eddie Benton, Minister of Music Kelly Beaver, Pete Brown, Gaylon Hepler, Phillip Holt, John Jenkins, Damon Moore and Paul White. This very versatile team met several key needs. Wiring and fixtures were installed in the new

preschool building, making it possible for us to begin sheetrock work. Electrical service for a remodeled student cottage and a faculty house also were completed. Two rooms of a faculty residence received wallpaper.

Included on the truckload of tools Pete Brown brought were chainsaws to help clear the site of a future housing area. Lumbermen had left many tree tops suitable for firewood. The Sturgis crew left enough stacked wood to nearly fill a 16-wheeler.

Rain took the crew out of the woods, but Pete Brown and Gaylon Hepler heard we needed a metal bed on our dump truck. They purchased the steel and built the bed in our maintenance building.

Pete donned rubber boots to work in the creek preparing the pier for the new Kelly Hall bridge. The forms were all constructed when a dirt embankment gave way and the work had to be redone the next day. A choice scene of volunteerism occurred when Pete poured water from his boots before he walked over to supper.

Thanks, men, for the hard work. Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Paid Column

New ministries targeted for river region

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—In a part of America where the standard of living sometimes resembles that of Third World countries, Southern Baptists along the Mississippi River hope several new ministries will improve life for residents and help spread the gospel.

Coordinators with the Mississippi River Ministry began last year trying to boost awareness of the region's needs after a U.S. government report suggested churches be involved in self-help efforts, said Tommy Goode, director of church and community ministries for the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

The area encompasses 4.3 million residents in 127 counties or parishes along or near the Mississippi River in Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi or Louisiana.

Among the government report's findings:

- 75 percent of employed delta residents lack basic reading skills and therefore can't be trained for technical jobs.

- About half the 792,000 rental housing units in the Delta region are dilapidated beyond repair.

- 15 counties have infant mortality rates higher than Chile, Cuba and Malaysia.

"There's an extraordinary—almost Third World—need for human assistance in this area," Goode said.

"You've got people who have been left behind," added Gary Farley, associate director of town and country missions with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Baptist volunteers could offer a range of services, from literacy missions and medical services to home weatherization and revitalization and food and clothing distribution, he said.

A weekend convocation in Memphis Aug. 7-8 will kick off new Baptist ministries as well as improve awareness of needs in the region, Goode said.

"The last two institutions left in a socio-economically deprived area are the schools and the churches," he said.

"The key is to give people hope and, I think, spiritual hope," Farley added. "It needs to be more than just shipping a bunch of clothes and food down there."

Goode said he hopes the ministry will coordinate the existing 2,375 Southern Baptist churches in the area with help from outside the Delta region.

Although the region is about 21 percent Southern Baptist, Goode compares the region to a pioneer mission field because "we're going to want to reach people groups we're not presently reaching through our churches."

Pastor proved himself in crisis ministry

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

KILLEEN, Texas (BP)—It only took a few days for Jimmy Towers to earn the credibility a new pastor usually spends months building among church members and people in the community.

But the pastor of First Baptist Church of Killeen, Texas, would not wish on anybody the tragic circumstances he, his congregation and the people of Killeen experienced last Oct. 16.

At noon that day, George Hennard went on a shooting spree in Luby's cafeteria, killing 23 people. Towers had been pastor of the largest church in town only six weeks.

The next hours and days were filled with ministry—to family members of the victims, survivors in the restaurant, police and paramedics.

"The paramedics (some of whom were church members) had to go into the carnage and pick up the bodies of their friends," Towers said.

As more than 3,000 media representatives from all over the world descended on the town of 70,000, Towers not only was interviewed countless times, he sought to minister to media personnel.

"I guess I took on the role of self-appointed minister to the media," Towers said. He drank coffee and talked with print, radio and television journalists. It

also fell to his lot to negotiate media representation at a prayer vigil two days after the shootings and a memorial service the next day.

This was not the first city-wide crisis for Killeen, which only a year earlier had sent 25,000 soldiers from nearby Fort Hood to Saudi Arabia.

"When people left to go to the desert, there was a sense of possibility they might not come back," Towers said. "When people left to go to Luby's for lunch, not coming back was the last thing on anyone's mind."

The people of Killeen lost their innocence Oct. 16, he said. Assumptions about where they could go and be safe were shattered.

However, 10 months later, Towers said the town has shown resilience and, for most people, life appears to have returned to normal.

"I see very few people go into restaurants and look for tables away from the windows," he said. "There was a lot of that at first."

Luby's reopened five months after the tragedy with the overwhelming support of most townspeople. Towers praised the company and its leaders for their sensitive decisions and contributions to a survivors' fund.

While those who died that day have not and will not be forgotten, "healing has taken place," Towers

said, noting many who were personally involved are still dealing with critical concerns and problems.

First Baptist Church will never be the same, believes Towers, who had immediate decisions to make after the shootings. A concert by the gospel pianist Dino was scheduled for that night.

Towers' first inclination was to cancel the concert until he learned the theme for the concert and the title of the artist's latest recording was "Peace in the Midst of a Storm."

The concert went on as scheduled. Dino contributed his honorarium to the survivors' fund. He gave free tapes to anyone who would take them to a survivor.

Because no members of First Baptist Church were among the dead, Towers believes the church focused outward, reaching out to people throughout the community, offering encouragement and touching lives.

"First Baptist Church rose to the occasion and did all that was required to put its arms around the hurting community," he said.

From the experience, Towers said he learned anew that "life is terminal. We need to be prepared to live life to the fullest while here but also be prepared for future events. We need to discover what we are trusting in. The things of this world are temporary."

"I see very few people go into restaurants and look for tables away from the windows. There was a lot of that at first."

Pastor Jimmy Towers describing how Killeen, Texas, has recovered from last October's massacre at a Luby's cafeteria

Reluctant volunteer became missionary

PHILADELPHIA (BP)—Gaynor Yancey watched a preschool girl in soiled underwear get on her hands and knees, lean into the street and drink from water floating along the curb.

It was Yancey's first day as a volunteer at Frankford Avenue Baptist Church in Philadelphia's inner city. She hoped it would be her last.

"I prayed six weeks for God to let me go back to Texas," she says.

But it was a prayer God didn't answer.

Yancey stayed in Philadelphia, supported herself by teaching school and worked to make the neighborhood a better place. She began a preschool program, using the children's mothers as teachers. The students learned, as did their mothers, many of whom had little formal education.

She led vacation Bible schools. When a priest in the poor English-Irish neighborhood told children not to attend, she made VBS more acceptable by changing the name to neighborhood recreation program. But the Bible content remained.

She began a food ministry, distributing bread, potatoes and anything else she could coax from local businesses.

And along the way, she became a home missionary. In 1973, Yancey was appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to do full-time ministry from the Frankford Avenue church.

By then, she had learned to love the inner city, despite seeing "things I had been sheltered from all my life."

In 1980, the Greater Philadelphia Baptist Association asked Yancey to become director of Christian social ministries. It was an opportunity to share her ministry philosophy with

churches in Philadelphia and its six surrounding counties.

Her philosophy is simple: "When it comes to ministry, let the church do it."

One example is El Shaddai Baptist Church, meeting in what once was a funeral home.

Each Tuesday, Pastor Joseph Thompson works with a transient congregation of street people, giving them food for the stomach and soul. After a brief service, those attending receive bread, butter and potatoes. Thompson calls this congregation his "Tuesday church," very different from Sunday worshippers but no less important.

"Some are homeless, some are prostitutes," Thompson says. "Some have not had a bath in a long time and their body odor comes to church with them." The important thing, he says, is that they do come.

Thompson's Tuesday church started from ministry. He was distributing bread outside the church when it began to rain, so he invited everyone inside. They had a worship service—and have had one every week since.

The association's budget supplements costs for the food ministry of El Shaddai and other churches in Philadelphia. But Yancey wants the local church, not the association, to be seen as the group that cares for the neighborhood.

The first step toward a successful ministry, Yancey believes, is helping churches assess needs in the communities.

A needs assessment for the area near Berachah Baptist Church in north Philadelphia showed hunger was a critical problem. Yancey and church members decided a hunger program should be the hub of ministry there, followed by classes in parenting, job skills, money management and literacy.



RELUCTANT VOLUNTEER Home missionary Gaynor Yancey began her ministry in Philadelphia as a volunteer, praying that God would let her go back to Texas. Instead, God multiplied her efforts, and she became director of Christian social ministries for the Greater Philadelphia Baptist Association. (BP photo)

Yancey taught at Berachah each Wednesday for three months, preparing members in evangelism skills, biblical bases for ministry, how to relate to people.

When churches need more training in how to minister, Yancey is available to teach. But her primary responsibilities are more abstract.

First, she helps church leaders catch a vision of what ministry is and what it can do for their churches and neighborhoods. Second, she helps church leaders prepare to meet local needs. Her third responsibility is to resource the ministry work. And, finally, she says, "I cheer them on."

Evangelism

The Fall Evangelism Conference at First Church, Prestonsburg

attempts to cater its weekend event to benefit the schedule

of working lay persons, full and bi-vocational ministers as well as students.

First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg, is the host site for the third annual Fall Evangelism Conference September 25-26.

"We have a long state and not everyone is able to attend the State Evangelism Conference in February," Bill Jagers, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Office for Evangelism, explained in reference to this weekend event. "This second conference can benefit full time church staff members, bi-vocational ministers, students and lay persons' schedules."

Conference program personnel include "Unity," a women's musical group from Louisville; D. M. Aldridge, former president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, and now affiliated with new work starts in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Direct Missions Department; Lynn Mitchell, Lexington, a retired bivocational music evangelist; P. R. Kazee, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oneida, Tennessee; Dale Holloway, Mississippi, a Home Mission Board bi-vocational consultant; Keith Winfree, Louisville, bi-vocational evangelist; Harry Hunter, Henderson, Home Mission Board Mission Corp volunteer; Kevin Shrum, pastor, Bedford Baptist Church and youth consultant, Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention; Dale Griffith, Ashland, Home Mission Board Mission Corp volunteer; and Mary Lou Crutcher, Louisville, special consultant, Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

FALL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg September 25-26, 1992

Friday, September 25 Program Agenda - 7:00 PM

Greetings	Host Pastor, Mike Taylor
Music Concert	"Unity"
Reach People - Start a Mission	D. M. Aldridge
Congregation Singing	Lynn Mitchell
Special Music	"Unity"
Message	P. R. Kazee
Congregational Song	Lynn Mitchell
Message	Dale Holloway
Benediction	James Smith

Saturday, September 26 Program Agenda - 9:00 AM

Scripture/Devotion	Keith Winfree
Prayer	
Congregational Song	Lynn Mitchell
Sermon	Dale Holloway
Conferences - 9:45 - 11:15 AM	
Associational Strategy for Evangelism	Bill Jagers
Church Strategy for Evangelism	Harry Hunter
Youth	Kevin Shrum
Witness Training	Dale Griffith
New Work	D. M. Aldridge
Bi-Vocational Ministry	Dale Holloway
Lifestyle Evangelism	Mary Lou Crutcher
11:20 Congregational Song	"Unity"
11:25 Special	P. R. Kazee
11:30 Message	Carl Boyd
Benediction	

Saturday Afternoon - 1:30 PM

Scripture/Prayer	
Congregational Singing	Lynn Mitchell
Concert	Lynn Mitchell and "Unity"
Sermon	Dale Holloway
Benediction	Charles Young

The two-day event has no pre-registration and no fee. Saturday lunch is on your own. Mailout promotions will be sent in August with another reminder in an early September Western Recorder issue.

For more information, contact the Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253, (502) 245-4101.