

JULY 28, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 29

FOR THE RECORD

ACTS merger
Negotiations are underway between the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and VISN, the nation's largest interfaith cable network, that could lead to a partnership. See page 2.

Murray magic
Volunteers from First Baptist Church in Murray gladly got their hands dirty to clean up several areas around Campbellsville College. See page 3.

Editorial
When pausing to pray for world peace, remember that peace begins at home. See page 5.

New attraction
The newest building on the campus of Cumberland College isn't a dormitory or academic hall, but could impact the future of students just the same. See page 6.

HELP FOR FAMILIES Relationships

More stories on page 6:

- How the church can help bring healing
- Tips for dealing with difficult people
- Worship can bring families together

Kentucky ranks sixth in child poverty

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ABP)—Kentucky has the sixth-highest rate of child poverty among U.S. states, according to an analysis by the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D.C.

Nationwide, the number of American children living in poverty rose by more than 1 million during the decade of the 1980s, the organization reported.

The study, based on U.S. Census figures for 1980 and 1990, indicates 11.2 million children under 18 lived below the poverty level in 1990—an

increase of 1.1 million from 1980. That represents nearly one out of every five children under 18 nationwide.

During the decade, child-poverty rates rose in 33 of the 50 states, the report said.

In Kentucky, 229,530 children were living in poverty in 1990, the census data shows. That is a slight numerical decrease from the 229,822 children found living in poverty in 1980.

However, the total number of children living in Kentucky also decreased during the decade, meaning

the percentage of children living in poverty actually rose from 21.6 percent to 24.5 percent.

For the purpose of this study, children were determined to live in poverty if their families had incomes below the government-established poverty level. In 1990, that meant an income of less than \$9,885 for a family of three or less than \$12,675 for a family of four.

Contrary to popular perceptions, the majority of poor children in Kentucky live in two-parent families and are white, the Children's Defense Fund reported.

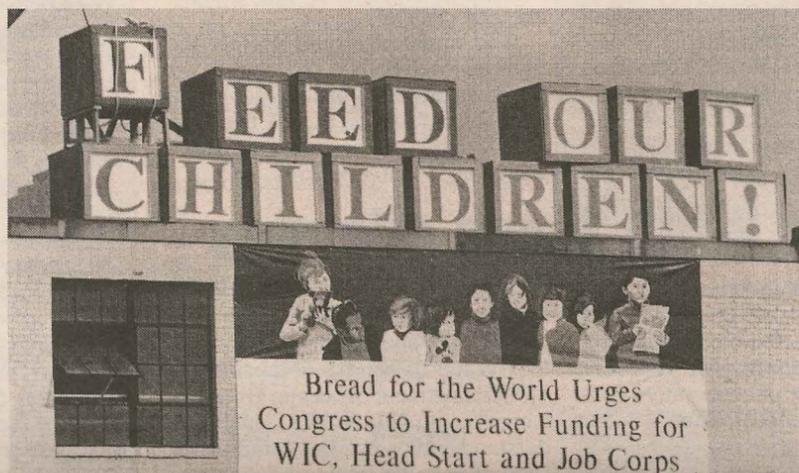
In fact, Kentucky has the second-highest poverty rate for white children of any state in America, exceeded only by Wisconsin. One of every four white children in Kentucky lives in poverty, according to the Children's Defense Fund.

Stella Ogata, a spokeswoman for the Children's Defense Fund, blamed the increasing poverty rates nationwide on the fact family earnings have not kept up with inflation, while the government has trimmed the budgets of income-support programs.

In addition to Kentucky, seven other states with the highest child-poverty rates are in the region where Southern Baptists are most numerous: Mississippi, Louisiana, West Virginia, Arkansas, Alabama, Texas and Oklahoma.

That fact should spur Baptists to

□ See Child poverty ..., page 6



SIGN OF THE TIMES Bread for the World, America's largest citizen's lobby against hunger, has placed this eye-catching display atop their building in Washington, D.C., to promote the Every Fifth Child Act, a measure that would increase government funding for three programs deemed highly successful in addressing domestic hunger. (Photo by Rick Reinhard)

SBC not dying, Hobbs asserts

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

COLUMBIA—The Southern Baptist Convention is not dying, despite the warnings issued by some Southern Baptists opposed to the denomination's current direction, Herschel Hobbs said in Kentucky last week.

Hobbs, regarded as the SBC's elder statesman, offered his assessment of the SBC during an interview at First Baptist Church in Columbia, where he was preaching a revival July 19-22.

Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla., and the oldest living former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He preached on the SBC's "Baptist Hour" radio program 18 years, chaired the committee which developed the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement, held numerous denominational posts, served on the SBC Peace Committee and has written 141 books.

While attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, he served as assistant pastor of Highland Baptist Church and later as pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church.

□ See Herschel Hobbs ..., page 9

Make peace with past, author tells troubled families

NASHVILLE (BP)—Dysfunctional families often treat problems like an elephant living in their house, a Baptist pastor said.

"They walk around it, clean up after it, but they never talk about it," said Tim Sledge, pastor of Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas.

While the "elephant" would be obvious to any visitors, the family simply ignores it, Sledge said.

Discouraging open talk about obvious problems is one of six characteristics of dysfunctional families Sledge outlined during a recent audio-taping session at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The 12 messages he delivered on dysfunctional families and co-dependency are being packaged in six audio cassettes and sold as a companion piece to his new LIFE Support Course, "Making Peace with Your Past," scheduled for release Oct. 1 by the discipleship training department.

Other characteristics of dysfunctional families, Sledge said, include:

- Focusing attention on an emotionally needy family member.
- Placing limits on the expres-

□ See Help for ..., page 7

Small-church teens are missions pioneers

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

BAGDAD—Some young pioneers are still going west.

Lisa Nimmo, 16, Shannon Nimmo, 14, and Ashley Newman, 15, became missions pioneers—the first representatives ever to go out from their small congregation of 80—when they volunteered to serve in Arizona this summer.

Beechridge Baptist Church in Bagdad, the girls' home church, supported them during their six-week term in Tucson, Ariz., where they worked under the direction of home missionary Ross Hanna.

"Our church has always been very mission-minded," said Greg Nimmo, pastor of Beechridge Church and father of two of the girls. "But this is the first time they've supported church members on a mission trip like this."

The girls said the summer's experience taught them the realities of mission work. "I found out that first, you've got to meet people's needs and show them you love them and get their trust, and then you can share the gospel with them," Newman explained.

From May 30 through July 8, the three girls joined 15 other student missionaries assisting Hanna with the Sharing Ministries program.

"We became known as the 'Kentucky Girls'" among the summer team, Lisa Nimmo said. "We liked that label."

After a week of orientation and preparation, the girls spent three



PICTURE PERFECT Preschoolers in Shannon Nimmo's day camp class at the Manzo Mission in Arizona pose with their coloring sheets of the day's Bible verse.

weeks leading children's day camps and one week leading youth camp. When not busy with camps, Hanna never failed to have something else for them to do, they said.

Newman said they were inspired to go to Tucson after hearing Hanna speak at their church's world mission conference last March. Before the evening was over, the girls had approached Hanna to find out what was required to become a part of this year's summer team.

"I was thrilled to death that they could go and participate in missions

hands-on like that," Pastor Nimmo said. The church, too, was overwhelmingly in favor of sending out the young missionaries, he added.

"We had a lot of support from the church from the beginning," Newman said.

"They paid for our plane tickets and even gave us spending money," Shannon Nimmo added.

As director of Sharing Ministries, Hanna supervises the work of three mission centers, preaches in multilingual services that include Hispanics

□ See Teens head west ..., page 9

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Census data** is available from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to help with church-starting and evangelism projects. The reports can be tailored to cities, counties, ZIP codes or census tracts. Contact Cathy Harper at the HMB's research department, (404) 898-7644.

■ **Christian reference** and study books to be sent to Southern Baptist missionaries and Baptist pastors in 52 countries are being collected by the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators' BookLink ministry. Packages of books should be shipped via parcel post at the fourth class book rate to Tom Booth, Route 1, Box 271, Aberdeen, Miss. 39730.

■ **Placing women** in combat positions would harm America's families, the executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission and 11 other people said in a recent letter to members of a presidential commission studying that issue. The group said allowing women in combat is a bad idea because of the possibility of women being killed or raped, the emotional stress on children separated from their mothers and the "inability of women to perform at similar levels as men in combat roles."

■ **Charles Trentham**, President Jimmy Carter's pastor at First Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., died July 22 in an auto accident. Trentham, 73, was pastor of the D.C. church from 1974-79.

■ **Correction:** Last week's story about Professor Paul Simmons testifying in Kentucky's first "right-to-die" case did not clearly state that there have been other cases where families sought to remove life support systems, even though the DeGrella case is the first of its kind to be heard in a Kentucky court.

ACTS may join with interfaith network

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—Negotiations are underway between ACTS, Southern Baptists' cable TV network, and VISN, the largest interfaith cable network, that would allow the two to share a cable TV channel while retaining their separate identities.

The deal, which network officials said could be finalized by the end of July, could eventually make the ACTS-VISN partnership the largest religious cable network in the country.

Under terms of the proposal, ACTS would use one-third of the channel's airtime, or eight hours a day, and VISN would use two-thirds, or 16 hours a day.

Each network would get portions of prime time and other daily time blocks.

"We're excited about the potential this combination represents for reaching all of America with programming

designed to enhance family values and teach the importance of a vital religious faith," said ACTS President Jack Johnson. "Our interest always has been to reach as many people as possible with the Christian message."

The 28 faith groups participating in VISN include Lutherans, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, United Methodists and other mainline Protestant denominations, as well as Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Jewish groups.

ACTS, which went on the air in 1984, claims access to 8 million cable TV households. VISN, launched in 1988, claims 12 million households. Since few local cable TV systems now carry both, the one-channel approach has a potential audience of about 20 million households.

Only Eternal Word Television Network, a Roman Catholic cable network reaching 23 million to 27 million homes, claims a wider reach. The Family Channel, televangelist Pat

Robertson's 50 million-subscriber network formerly called CBN, no longer promotes itself as a religious network.

The cable systems that carry ACTS are concentrated in the South and Southwest, while VISN's cable systems are focused in the North and Northeast.

Although the viewing potential makes the joint venture attractive, the driving force behind the proposal apparently is money.

Neither ACTS nor VISN has been large enough to attract major advertisers or other sources of income to their network, and both have labored under large debts incurred in launching their channels.

The proposal would protect the right of local Baptist churches to air their own programs on local cable systems, an arrangement that has won ACTS support from local churches and cable system operators.

O'Brien acknowledges WMU faces dilemma

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Woman's Missionary Union is in a quandary about how to fulfill its calling to promote missions, the head of the women's auxiliary admitted July 12.

WMU can no longer sidestep the effects of the Southern Baptist Convention controversy, Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien told about 200 people who took part in an hour-long dialogue session during Jericho: A Southern Baptist Missions Festival. The festival, which drew nearly 1,300 participants, was held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

O'Brien's response came after she and leaders from the convention's other four mission agencies were asked how Southern Baptists' debate over orthodoxy and changes in leadership positions have impacted missions outreach.

"For all these years, WMU has really tried to stay out of the controversy. We've seen it as a men's fight," said O'Brien, a former Southern Baptist

missionary in Indonesia.

WMU has become known through the years for its unwavering backing of Southern Baptist missionaries, promoting the value of cooperative missions in the denomination's local churches.

But so far, by its own choice, WMU has limited the focus of its mission education to the work of 9,000 missionaries assigned by the SBC's Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board.

The origin of a new group of Southern Baptists, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and its move to have its own overseas mission work, has heightened WMU's dilemma, O'Brien said.

WMU members are asking whether, for example, WMU will list only HMB and FMB missionaries on its widely distributed prayer calendar next year or whether it will include the Fellowship's missionaries and others.

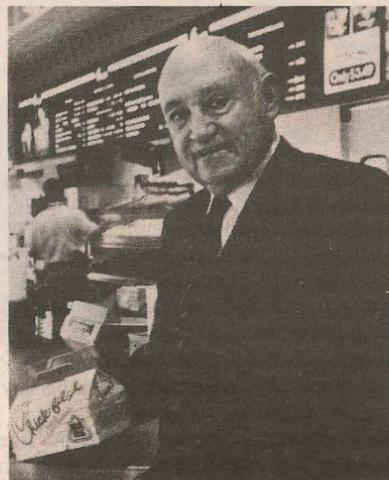
"As you know, we've had dialogues with the Fellowship," O'Brien

answered. "I don't know now. We'll have to decide by January."

At their June meeting, FMB trustees voted to send a delegation to WMU's national offices in Birmingham, Ala., to help WMU leaders understand how vital their undivided support is to the future of denominational missions.

"The things we are facing as a result of the controversy bring about much diversity," O'Brien said. "Through the years we've been able to support missions in every Southern Baptist church the same way. Now we're looking at how—and if—we can continue to serve all Southern Baptist churches."

"Our call is still to provide missions educational support for every Southern Baptist church," she said. "We recognize that to do anything different from what we've done in the past to meet those needs, we're going to have to pay some prices, and so we're looking at what those costs are to us."



RESPECTED FAITH When the readers of *Business Atlanta* were asked to choose their city's most-respected CEO, they bypassed high-profile executives like Ted Turner and chose fast-food chicken magnate Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-fil-A, and a Southern Baptist. Cathy has taught Sunday school for 30 years and believes succeeding in the chicken business is God's mission for his life. (RNS photo)

Racial issues threaten peace, ethicists say

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Convention

DALLAS (ABP)—From Eastern Europe to South Central Los Angeles, racial and ethnic tensions threaten world peace at both interpersonal and international levels, Baptist ethicists note.

In a post-Cold War world of improved relations between global superpowers, some people no longer see peacemaking as a priority. But Christians should seize the opportunity to turn their focus inward toward root causes of conflict—causes such as racism, said Joe Haag, associate with the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Southern Baptists will pause Aug. 2 to observe their annual Day of Prayer for World Peace—the first since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Haag said they might best use the time individually and corporately to confess racist attitudes.

"Racism is sin because it ignores the reconciliation Christ has brought us, rebuilding the dividing walls he has broken down," he said. "And it is sin because it mocks the power of Pentecost that made one people out of many nations."

Before Christians can become reconciled to people of other ethnic groups, they must recognize their own ethnocentricity as a form of idolatry, added Dan McGee, professor of religion at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

"Racism elevates ethnic identity to a kind of divine status and makes a kind of 'little religion' out of loyalty to one's ethnic group," said McGee, an associate with the Baptist Center for Ethics. "The clear teaching of the gospel is that only God is Lord. Our ethnicity is not."

Economic and social injustice often are outgrowths of racism and direct causes of conflict, Haag noted. "Unless there is a realization of jus-

Fellowship picks Parker for Europe

ATLANTA (ABP)—Kentucky native Keith Parker has been named coordinator for missions work in Europe by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Meanwhile, gifts to the Fellowship in June more than doubled receipts for the same month last year, officials reported. June receipts were \$507,897, a 118 percent increase over June 1991.



Parker, 56, will serve in essentially the same position he held with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board before he announced early retirement last January to protest changes in the FMB's missions philosophy and practice.

The 23-year missions veteran began part-time duties as the Fellowship's coordinator for Europe July 1. He served as the FMB's area director for Europe from 1987 to 1992.

Parker and his wife, Jonlyn, became the fifth and sixth mission personnel hired by the Fellowship, which created its own missions program last January.

Parker will operate from an office in Thalwil, Switzerland, to set up a basic organization in Europe to receive and work with any new missionaries who join the Fellowship.

Parker received the bachelor of arts degree from Berea College in Berea and the bachelor of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Mrs. Parker earned the bachelor of arts degree from Kentucky Southern College in Louisville and attended Ruschlikon seminary.

tice between people, there will be no real, lasting peace."

Ken Sehested, executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, underscored the linkage between economics, racism and peacemaking.

"Racism is fundamentally a spiritual issue. All issues of peace and justice are fundamentally spiritual. What one does with one's 'stuff' is a spiritual issue," he said. "It is an issue of security. What do we do with our material reality? Do we hoard it for ourselves or do we share it with the entire human community?"

Though improved relations between nations with nuclear capabilities lessen the likelihood of world war, ethnic tensions continue to be manifested in armed conflict from Bosnia to Belfast, he noted.

"It is not just a U.S. issue," Sehested said. "It is not just a black and white issue. In fact, racism is not even just an issue related to skin color."

Murray volunteers clean up at Campbellsville

By Joan McKinney
Campbellsville College

CAMPBELLVILLE—Ken Winters' usual attire as president of Campbellsville College is a suit and tie.

But the week of July 6, Winters came to work in his Campbellsville College T-shirt and jeans to help a group of 35 men and women from First Baptist Church in Murray clean up the campus.

Members of the group ranged from 16-year-olds to 80-year-old Owen Billington, a longtime friend of the college and former trustee.

"A lot of the men held office jobs, but everybody worked on the physical jobs at the college. There was no distinguishing between labor and office work," said Dan Shipley, a partner in Murray Insurance Co.

Shipley and his crew worked on demolishing the inside of Carter Hall, an unused building that is being refurbished. "It was a dirty, hot job, but it was real rewarding to see something done to prepare for renovation of the old building," he said.

The group also did cleaning and painting and tree planting, cutting and trimming. They painted the outside of the college's TV studio and the inside

of the Music Annex and commuter lounge. They built shelving, a table-top and a wall in the president's office and put upholstery on seats in four buildings.

Joetta Kelly painted a picture of a cheerleader on the wall of the Powell Athletic Center. She has painted several other figures in previous years.

This wasn't the first time Winters has worked with the Murray crew. He was a member of their church before taking the helm at Campbellsville in 1988.

Shipley said the volunteers have spent a portion of their summers working at Campbellsville ever since Winters became president.

But the Murray volunteers haven't been the only church group on campus this summer. Members of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown helped remodel classrooms, and members of Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville built new concrete bleachers for the baseball field.

"Campbellsville College is glad to work with any church groups who would like to help us fulfill our mission," Winters said. "Work crews are a way to show support of Christian education, and we value that support."



ON THE JOB Members of First Baptist Church in Murray working in Carter Hall at Campbellsville College include (front) Jonathan Bell, Campbellsville College President Ken Winters, Stephen Crouch, Duane Adams, Dan Shipley, (back) Ken Purcell, Freddie Algood, Larry Bell and Dwain Bell. (Photo by Jamie Mings)

Historical Society hears tips

LOUISVILLE—Advance planning and plenty of hard work can ensure a good anniversary celebration for any church, members of the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society were told July 17.

Meeting at Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville, the society heard tips from the committee that planned that church's recent bicentennial celebration.

Bicentennial events at Cedar Creek included starting a mission; publishing a history, pictorial directory, cookbook and wall calendar; presenting historical vignettes in worship; commissioning an anniversary anthem; presenting a historical pageant; hosting a homecoming; producing an anniversary plate; and securing congratulatory letters from elected officials.

Committee members said they started their work two years before the anniversary and still didn't have as much time as they would have liked.

Other suggestions they offered for a successful celebration included:

- Collecting ideas from all church members and boiling them down to a priority list of things to be done.

- Setting a budget and securing church approval for all projects.

- Assigning responsibility for each project to at least one person.

- Keeping the church's history up-to-date every year so it doesn't become an overwhelming task.

- Planning events especially for children and youth.

- Using video to record anniversary events and to interview older church members about their memories and experiences.

Also during the society's meeting, Ronnie Forrest of Lewisburg was re-elected president and Barry Allen of Louisville was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Jackson Lackey of Richmond was elected vice president.

Additional members elected to the society's executive committee are George Ramey of Williamsburg, Mabel Felts of Louisville and Hughlan Richey of Madisonville.

Professor writes of Satan's deceptions

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Some may scoff at the idea of a literal devil, but not Bob Hughes. He knows Satan exists. He talks with him regularly.

He doesn't have visions or face-to-face encounters with an evil being but he does hear Satanic "whispers" every day.

"Yes, I believe there is a literal adversary of all Christians, an enemy, a devil—Satan," the associate professor of communications at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary said.

Realizing everyone suffers from Satan's temptations, Hughes decided to write a book dealing with some of the devil's most common deceptions. The result is "Satan's Whispers, Breaking the Lies that Bind," released in July by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press.

WMU names Langley to Acteens post

Mary Ellen Langley of Elizabethtown has been named interim Acteens consultant for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Langley, 32, will work part time out of Kentucky WMU's Louisville office. She also teaches physical education and Spanish in Elizabethtown.

The interim Acteen consultant position was created by WMU's executive board after the resignation of Grace Powell, who had been the full-time Acteens consultant before moving out of state.

Dee Gilliland, state WMU director, said the board wanted to use an interim position because a task force currently is evaluating the overall staff structure of Kentucky WMU. Since that study could take as long as one year, she said, the board wanted to keep the work going without adding any permanent staff prematurely.

Gilliland praised Langley as someone well-suited to work with Kentucky Acteens: "She was an Acteen and she led Acteens in college. She is accustomed to working with girls that age, and she has wonderful missions experience."

Gilliland said Langley will be available for Acteens events in local churches and associations and for other speaking engagements.

Langley earned the bachelor of arts degree in physical education from Stetson University and the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is a member of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.



Langley

Cadiz marks 150th with 'solid rock' emphasis

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

CADIZ—Although the building is made of brick, 150-year old Cadiz Baptist Church is "rock solid."

During the church's 150th anniversary weekend July 3-5, members sang a new arrangement of an old hymn, "The Solid Rock" and focused on a series of celebration themes.

Pastor Harold Skaggs said the chapel was full Friday evening as the church celebrated its foundations by wearing the dress and listening to the music of the mid-1800s. Some members presented early church docu-

ments and shared historical vignettes.

Also, the sesquicentennial quilt, made by a group of women in the church as a replica of the rose window in the church's chapel, brought "spontaneous applause when it was unveiled Friday evening," Skaggs said.

Skaggs described Saturday as a "very exciting service" in which the church celebrated memories. Former staff members were invited to share humorous and meaningful experiences from their years of service.

The pastor said highlights of Sunday, when the church celebrated its horizons, included the premier presentation of a commissioned anthem,

a dinner on the grounds and a message by William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Skaggs said the congregation was "delighted" with the program planned by the anniversary committee, under Chairman Jim Wallace's leadership.

The commissioned arrangement of "The Solid Rock" was done by Anna Laura Page, prominent composer of sacred music.

Skaggs said the piece was requested "because it is our resting on Christ the Solid Rock that caused the church's ministry to prevail these many years."

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

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Even dirty little hands can help sow the Scripture

Even a rest stop on a trip in Brazil can be an unexpected opportunity for ministry.

The drive from Alagoas to Maceio takes a day, and any stopping needs to be planned. When Sarah examined the map, she decided that an upcoming town was marked as a tourist attraction and a pit stop. At the crossroads leading into Sao Miguel dos Campos, she spied a modern-looking bus station. Restrooms are often few and far apart for the average traveler.

After she had climbed the steps and disappeared, I thought I would just take a swing through the place.

My first impression was focused

on a youth holding an aluminum pan filled with fried meat pies and another younger boy leaning on the pillar. The smaller dirty boy had his eyes fixed on the pies rather than on the tall stranger. His pants appeared to be four sizes too big, and one of his feet already was tangled in a baggy leg.

"Go talk to that little boy; he's hungry," I sensed the Lord saying to me.

Approaching the boy, I asked him if he wanted to help me distribute some small booklets and earn a little money. I thought he nodded his approval, but he may have just been scared of me.

When I returned with two handfuls

of tracts, his little hands just couldn't manage them. So he made a cradle with his arms and hands, and into this basket of flesh I dropped my booklets. He was now completely bewildered as he hunched over his burden.

I tried to explain about the distribution, and he nodded approval. But while talking to him, a drunk came up and demanded a booklet. His muddled mind thought the booklets were a lottery ticket or premium.

With the boy loaded and having paid him 400 cruzeiros, or 12 cents, I left. Later, Sarah reported she saw a little dirty boy all hunched over, wandering around the bus station.

We went on into town, and when we stopped for gas, a tiny head appeared through the car window and asked: "Senhora, does the Senhor have any more little books? The taxi drivers took the rest of the tracts, and I don't have one to take home to my mother."

That's all it took to get me back into action. I gave him some more tracts and a 500 cruzeiro note. And I sent my little helper off with the prayer that the Lord would bless the Scripture sowed with dirty little hands.

*Kent Faris
Southern Baptist missionary
Vitoria, Espirito Santo, Brazil*

Forget Murphy

You have heard of Murphy's Law, "If anything can go wrong, it will!"

Is your daily life lived according to Murphy's Law? Do you blame every mishap which has happened to you on Murphy's Law? Do you grumble and complain about all these disturbing and disrupting events in your life? Do you find yourself becoming like one of the children of Israel who constantly grumbled and complained about everything to Moses?

You will have days when everything seems to go wrong. You may even be tempted to go back to bed and start all over again.

The Lord knew you would have days like that, and so he provided his grace and strength to see you through.

Jesus offers us a life of triumph over our circumstances and anticipation of how God will work in even the most insignificant events of our lives to transform us into his own image.

As you ask the Lord to bless your days, remember that he orders it for us as well. Your complaining is not against Murphy's Law but against the Lord. For the Bible states: "For it is God who worketh in you both to will

and to do his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings" (Philippians 2:13-14).

Live according to the Law of Abundant Life in Christ and not according to Murphy's Law. Don't let your circumstances defeat you.

Remember these words, found in the Bible, the next time you have the urge to complain: "Rejoice in the Lord

always, and again I say, rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).

*Jimmy Rowland, pastor
Gethsemane Baptist Church
Louisville*

Trust in God

Why are some people so negative? Did you hear about the farmer that had a neighbor that was negative, no matter what. If it was raining, the farmer would say to his neighbor, "Boy, look at it rain, God's sort of washing it clean."

"Yeah, but if it keeps up, it's gonna flood." Then the sun would come out and he'd say, "If it keeps that up, it's gonna just scorch the crops."

The farmer thought, "What am I gonna do to win this guy?" So he trained his dog to walk on water. He didn't tell his neighbor; he just took him duck hunting.

Boom! Boom! They brought these ducks out of the sky, and the farmer said to his dog, "Go get 'em."

The dog went across, picked them up, and hopped back in the boat, nothing wet except his paws.

The farmer said, "What do you think of that?"

The neighbor said, "He can't swim, can he?"

Negativism will dampen your spirits and rob you of your joy. In the church it will quench the Spirit of God and rob us all of joy. We serve the God of the positive, the God who can do the impossible. As we trust him in our faith, we will see problems as opportunities, impossibilities as probabilities. He who can do all things wants to do them in his church and through his people. Let's let him!

*Thomas Stokes, pastor
First Baptist Church
Whitesburg*

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

Disgusting motion

I am disgusted, surprised and truthfully have a somewhat bitter feeling as a result of the "motion as amended" which was passed by the Southern Baptist Convention messengers at Indianapolis this year, such motion in effect directing an investigation of Freemasonry.

I am a Southern Baptist and have been such for my entire life, as was my father and his ancestors, our membership being in the Campbellsville Baptist Church, Campbellsville, Ky. I have been a Mason for at least

40 years. I am proud to be a Mason, and I am sure that thousands of Kentuckians, many of whom are Southern Baptist ministers, have the same opin-

ion.

I realize than any and all at the convention have the right of free speech, but I do fault the convention for adopting or passing such motion. There is such a thing as biting the hand that feeds us. Freemasonry is a great fraternity and deserves praise and constructive criticism, not such shabby treatment as given by the said motion. Freemasonry is deeply religious but is not a religion, almighty God being the

foundation.

Let us think of the benevolence of the Masonic lodges and Freemasonry of the United States of America and other places. Such action by the convention is hard for me to comprehend.

One million of such motions or other anti-Masonry acts will not destroy Freemasonry. I thank God that we have Freemasonry.

*Fuller Harding
Campbellsville*

BAPTIST FORUM

Not exactly a candidate

Listening to the dreams and promises of the four candidates for president and vice president of our United States, I am grateful that the job to which I was called was not dependent upon any platform developed by a Baptist political party or any promises that I had to make to get elected.

There was no clamouring that "it's time for a change." My predecessor had done well, leaving a solid foundation upon which Kentucky Baptists could continue to serve the churches.

There was no budget deficit hanging over us; no "political cronies" to be "paid back."

If there was a "platform," it was a consensus to seek someone who

would provide leadership in missions and evangelism.

For these past nine years I hope I have kept faith with those on the search committee who based the job profile on a sampling from the Kentucky Baptist family.

Although I am not up for re-election and have no reason to campaign, my job is up for grabs every day even though my performance is formally evaluated only once each year. The more significant evaluation occurs out in the state—by the quality of ministry the staff and I provide or generate. The folks "out there" are the ones who put grades on our report cards.

Some areas of our ministry enjoy a

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

Pray for global peace, but initiate peace locally

You don't need to look hard to find hatred in our world: Genocide in what remains of Yugoslavia. Terrorism in Sicily. Despotism in Iraq. Drug-lord dominance in Colombia. Racial violence in South Africa.

Sunday, Aug. 2, is the Day of Prayer for World Peace on the Southern Baptist calendar, and we appropriately turn our attention to the globe's hot spots. This century's headlines have taught us to think of battles "over there." We've seen two wars end all wars in Europe, a police action in Korea and conflict in Vietnam, the Falklands, Grenada, Panama and the Persian Gulf.

American Christians naturally turn to prayer when we think about war and peace. For most of us, prayer has been the primary weapon in our peacemaking arsenal. That's because relatively few of us have been in positions to create world peace. Some have crouched in foxholes. A few have stood in war rooms, and a handful have sat around negotiating tables. But most of us have fallen to our knees in prayer. And if the truth is known, most of those prayers have been selfish—prayers asking God to bring "our boys" home safely.

Despite the natural tendency to think of world peace in terms of war and foreign combat, we don't need to look overseas to find examples of hostility and peace-breaking: Brutality and riots on the streets of Los Angeles. Racial "wilding" in New York and Louisville. Slaughter of sheriffs in rural Kentucky. Rape and murder in your town.

These acts of hatred and anger violate the peace as surely as war and combat. Taken together, they very well may break the peace on a scale equal to some of the globe's smaller wars. Seen specifically, each death or disability inflicted on a city street or in a home is as tragic as a casualty on a battlefield.

Ironically, we often feel further removed from stateside violence than we do from war. We feel connected to troops we send halfway around the world, but those people across town have nothing to do with us. Or do they?

Our prayers for world peace should extend to troubled homes in our own communities, neighborhoods torn by gang violence, companies and workers separated by strikes and layoffs, and even churches and denominations split by discord. Peace may seem most grand when it is seen globally, but it is most glorious when it is experienced locally.

On this Day of Prayer for World Peace, let us resolve that our prayers will be only the beginning of our efforts for peace—in our own communities as well as the global village. In addition to praying for peace, we can:

- Educate ourselves concerning issues which divide people and create conflict.
- Urge lawmakers to take steps that ensure peace, not violence and war.
- Support companies whose business practices are conducive to peace and harmony among people in both the work force and marketplace.
- Seek justice in laws and policies, so that discrimination does not divide people and fuel the fires of hatred.
- Support peacemaking groups, which work to heal communities and engender harmony.
- Live in the Spirit of Christ, remembering that Jesus' admonitions to turn the other cheek and walk the second mile urge us to take actions that will prevent hate into love and redeem broken relationships.

Marv Knox

Christians have a mandate to pray for world peace, but we must take steps to ensure that those prayers come true.

God's peace plan is the only strategy that really works

A bumper sticker several years ago read, "Visualize World Peace." In the 1970s, John Lennon sang, "Give peace a chance." Another song said, "Imagine there's no heaven ... no hell ... no war, ... and then the world will be as one." Neither idea worked, but God has a better idea.

God's plan is the only one that

GUEST EDITORIAL

really works. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to be the Prince of Peace. The angels announced his birth with a promise of peace on earth (Luke 2:14). At the start of his ministry, Jesus promised, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). Near the end of his ministry, Jesus said,

"My peace I give you, not as the world gives" (John 14:27). At his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, he lamented for the Jewish people, "Would that ... you knew the things that make for peace" (Luke 19:41).

So how does God plan to "make peace" in the world? One person at a time. There are over 5.5 billion of us on this planet. Modern warfare may have killed more people in this century than there were people living on the earth in Jesus' day. But God's plan remains the same.

When a person receives Jesus Christ by faith, Christ dwells in his or her heart (Revelation 3:20). Jesus died on the cross to pardon the sins of the

world. Every person who receives Christ can experience peace with God (Romans 5:1) and the power to live in a manner that pleases God (Romans 1:16).

A little girl, Holly, tried to assemble a big jigsaw puzzle of a world map. Each piece of the puzzle was shaped like a country. She studied the picture on the box top but still couldn't figure out how to get all the pieces in the right place. Finally, in hopeless frustration, she came to her father for help. Her dad turned the puzzle box over, revealing that it was a two-sided puzzle—the world map on one side and a picture of a man on the other. Holly and her dad turned all the puzzle pieces over and quickly put the pieces together to form the picture

of a man. Then they turned the puzzle over again, and the world map was perfectly in order.

"I see now, Dad!" Holly said. "When you get this one man put together, you are getting the world put together right, too!"

World peace comes one person at a time, as each person receives the Prince of Peace. A forgiven sinner is able to love and forgive other people—in the family, in the church, in the nation and in the world. A person loved by God will love every person he meets enough to want to share the powerful, peace-making gospel with every person on the planet.

Michael Whitehead, general counsel
SBC Christian Life Commission
Washington

How does God "make peace" in the world? One person at a time.

Deep Mama's cure for the summertime blues: Just live by faith

The phone woke me up. Early. "Have you seen the paper today?" asked the voice on the other end.

"Well, no, Deep Mama," I stammered. "I don't think the paperperson comes through our neighborhood before 5:30."

"You need to get out there and read your paper," demanded Deep Mama, my super-secret source on motherhood. "I just read the most wonderful item."

My brain buzzed to figure out what could have prompted Deep Mama to call so early. Maybe somebody's discovered a cure for cancer. Or maybe a mother of three preschoolers was named secretary of defense. She didn't give me long to think.

"Back-to-school," she chortled. "I saw a back-to-school sale ad!"

"But Deep Mama," I stammered, "that

can't be right. It's not even August."

"You journalists always worry about the facts," Deep Mama denounced.

"The number of weeks 'til school starts isn't what's important here."

"It's not?" I asked. Slumber buffered my noggin from her logic.

"No, silly," Deep Mama sighed.

"You remember the preacher's sermon, 'The Just Shall Live by Faith.' He

quoted the Apostle Paul, who quoted the Prophet Habakkuk. Well, I've just been liv-

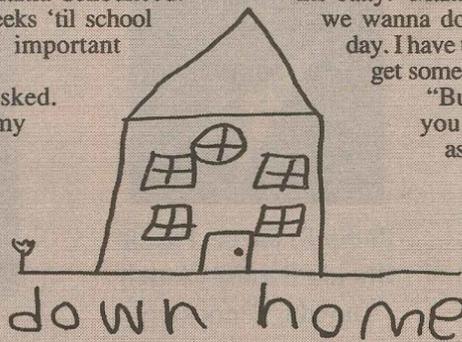
ing by faith since the Fourth of July.

"I swan, Bitsy and Junior are driving me batty: 'Mama, can we this? Mama, we wanna do that.' All day, every day. I have to go to the bathroom to get some peace and quiet!"

"But Deep Mama, didn't you take a vacation?" I asked, stupidly.

"We moved our household to a temporary location, if that's what you mean. Went to the beach, where J.R. slept, just like Saturday on the couch,

except no baseball on TV. I, however, had to keep Junior and Bitsy from becoming



Jaws' next lunch.

"I did enjoy the seafood," Deep Mama admitted, "but that's small consolation for having to slather down in sun-repellent and walk around with sand in your shorts all day."

"But what about camp?" I asked. "Didn't you get a break then?"

"Why do you think they call me Lottie Moon Jr.?" Deep Mama delivered. "They guilted me into being a sponsor, so I traded two for 12. We learned lots of Bible, but I got about 54 minutes of sleep the whole time."

"So, school's about to start!" I chirped, trying to sound optimistic.

"In just a month," Deep Mama decreed. "If I can just keep living by faith ..."

Marv Knox

Cumberland opens first phase of lodge & museum

Kentuckians find Kazakhs open to gospel

Four summer missionaries from Kentucky Baptist Student Unions are working in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

Mel Doughty, the campus minister accompanying the group, reports they have met with overwhelming openness to the gospel.

By the conclusion of their first 21-day camp, 60 of the 150 campers had professed faith in Jesus Christ.

Doughty reported three of the group's interpreters have committed their lives to Christ, as have the head of the camp and his assistant.

"I am learning to pray big and expect big results," said Kentucky BSU President Lisa Clifton. "My faith in God and what he can do is ever increasing."

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

WILLIAMSBURG—The newest building at Cumberland College isn't a dormitory or a stadium and doesn't house an academic department or the school library.

But if President James Taylor's vision comes true, it will be just as important in shaping the future for dozens of students each year.

The building is the Cumberland College Lodge, Museum and Center for Leadership Studies. Phase I of the \$6 million project opens July 31 and includes a life science museum, numerous collections, a crafts shop and displays about Appalachian life.

The next phase, scheduled to begin construction next year, will add a conference center, guest rooms and a restaurant.

Students will work in all areas of the center, learning business skills and earning scholarship credit at the same time.

The facility is located at exit 11 off Interstate 75 in Williamsburg, a prime location for tourist traffic and only a few blocks from the main campus.

"We wanted to do something that would not only help the college but also help Williamsburg," Taylor explained. And the center fulfills another goal of helping preserve the Appalachian culture, he added.

When complete, the center will provide jobs and practical business experience for about 70 students, he

said.

Those jobs will help students prepare for more than one vocation and will help build self-esteem, added Carolyn Byble, director of the new center.

Phase I is a 20,000-square-foot, two-story building. The first floor houses Henkelmann's Museum, a wildlife collection donated by Reinhold Henkelmann and his mother, Mary. The second floor houses a crafts shop where regional artists have items for sale, a number of collections donated to the museum, an Appalachian lifestyle display and the college archives.

The Henkelmann museum contains hundreds of animal specimens from the Arctic, U.S., Canada, Central America and Africa. All the animals were hunted and preserved by the Henkelmann family. Animals on display range from colorful birds to Polar Bears.

Items in the second floor museum include:

- A collection of more than 6,000 crosses donated by retired Baptist pastor Robert Williams.

- A nutcracker collection.

- Indian artifacts.

- Stamp collections.

- Coin collections.

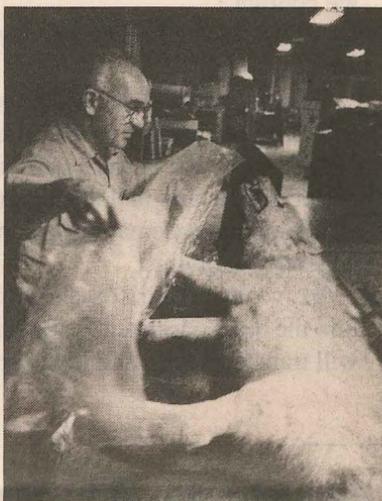
- Two collections of Ray Harm prints, totalling about 120 prints.

- A doll collection.

Byble said she would like to receive donations of other collections for the center. But she especially wants to find more items for the Appalachian lifestyle display, such as musical instruments and old clothing.

The museum will be open from noon until 8 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Admission is \$2.50 for adults or \$2 for children under 13 and adults 65 and older.

For further information or to arrange a group tour, call the college at (606) 549-2200, ext. 3333.



GETTING READY Reinhold Henkelmann uncrates an arctic wolf in preparation for the opening of his family's wildlife museum in the new Cumberland College Lodge, Museum and Center for Leadership Studies. At right, Carolyn Byble, director of the new facility, and student Tracee Byrd prepare the gift shop for the July 31 grand opening.

Child poverty on rise in state

Continued from page 1

action, said Robert Parham, director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville. "The 1990 U.S. Census figures remind us that the nation's Bible belt and child-poverty belt are the same belt," Parham said.

"Why is it that the most religious region in America has the highest percentage of children trapped in crippling poverty?" Parham asked. "The taproot answer is that too many Christians divorce their faith from public policy.

"If Baptists and other Christians do not start loving their neighbors through public-policy initiatives that care for the weakest members of our society, we will reap a whirlwind of social and spiritual judgment."

Bread for the World, the nation's largest citizen's lobby against hunger, has launched a campaign called "Every Fifth Child" to advocate better response to America's hungry children. The theme highlights the fact that nearly one out of five children in America live in poverty.

The organization's 45,000 members are calling on Congress to support a measure called the Every Fifth Child Act. "The bipartisan measure seeks funding increases for three cost-saving programs proven to reduce childhood hunger: the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Head Start and Job Corps," said spokeswoman Katherine Smith.

FALL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg

Friday, September 25, 7:00 p.m.

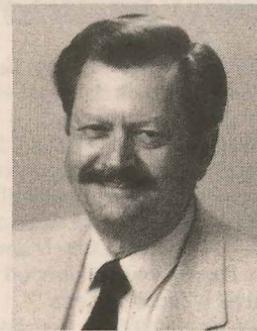
Saturday, September 26, 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.



Philip R. Kazee, Pastor
Oneida Baptist Church
Oneida, Tennessee



"Unity"
Louisville



Dale Holloway, Consultant
HMB, Mississippi

Sponsored by Office for Evangelism, KBC • Bill Jagers, Director

FAMILIES

Learn to deal with difficult people, author suggests

NASHVILLE (BP)—Not long ago, William Diehm sat down and made a list of different types of difficult people. He came up with 77.

"There is more stress in our world today than ever before," said Diehm, a 73-year-old retired clinical psychologist and pastor. "We live in a fast-paced world where people are constantly being pushed to be the best, in their education, in their business, in everything they do."

Not surprisingly, Diehm said, many people are finding it difficult to get along.

"Everyone is a difficult person at one time or another. We've all been manipulators, con-artists, hypersensitive or overly aggressive. The key is to recognize that in ourselves and in others and learn how to deal with it," he said.

Diehm himself began learning to deal with difficult people as a young boy. After contracting polio at age 5, he spent most of his childhood at St. Luke's Hospital for Crippled Children in Spokane, Wash. But instead of withdrawing from those who looked down on him or treated him "special," he decided to search for guidelines on how to deal with them more effectively.

As an eighth grade student he was introduced to two books that would provide the help he was looking for—the Bible and "How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie.

From the Bible he learned about God's love and how to become a Christian. From Carnegie's book he learned the art of making friends. Over the years he learned to combine biblical principles with practical rules and psychology to develop techniques for getting along with difficult people.

He shares those techniques in his new book, "How to Get Along With Difficult People," released in June by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press.

In the book, Diehm discusses more than 20 different types of difficult people, how to deal with them and how to avoid becoming one yourself. He also shares Scripture verses that deal with each type.

Some of the "difficult people" covered in the book include:

■ **Nitpickers**—people who look for faults, not achievement. They fail to recognize priorities, have a poor sense

of timing and often are unkind, cruel, tactless, impatient and judgmental.

In dealing with those who have "slipped into pettiness," Diehm suggests: 1) let them fuss; 2) if they are right, be quick to say so; 3) communicate in a friendly way; 4) appreciate the person, if not the nitpicking; 5) start a program of self-improvement; and 6) avoid letting people convert you to "little-ness."

■ **The Hypersensitive**—people who are always getting their feelings hurt.

To get along, Diehm suggests: 1) be quick to say, "I'm sorry," or "forgive me," but don't reward petulance by begging; 2) pay close attention to what they are saying; 3) don't gossip about people around them; 4) compliment them as liberally as possible; 5) leave them alone while they're having their "fit"; 6) don't overrespond to their overresponsiveness; 7) be sensitive but control your emotions.

■ **Complainers**—people who "get into the obnoxious habit of negative, griping complaints as their only means of acknowledging life's existence."

Ignoring or confronting complain-

ers won't work, Diehm contends. Instead, he suggests: 1) listening with sympathy, empathy and Christian understanding; 2) using hyperbole, irony, dramatization and exaggeration to indirectly teach the stupidity of complaining; 3) always speaking in terms of possible solutions; 4) setting an example by your own problem-solving techniques; and 5) making "endless comments" about things that are going right, people whom you like and blessings you have received.

Of all the types of difficult people covered in his book, Diehm said he personally has the most trouble getting along with the overly aggressive person.

"I guess I have trouble with them because I'm a little like that myself," he said. "Our own failings always bother us the most."

But whatever difficulty people encounter in their relationships with one another, Diehm said, there is always hope for a peaceful solution.

"Most problems with people can be solved by being honest, bringing wrong to light, loving wrongdoers and trying to teach them what is right," he said. "We can handle difficult people with Christian grace or Satanic ugliness. It's our choice."

"Most problems with people can be solved by being honest, bringing wrong to light, loving wrongdoers and trying to teach them what is right."

William Diehm, author of a new book on how to get along with difficult people

FAMILIES Relationships

Family worship can be brief

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Asked to narrow a list of five priorities to two, most Christians choose items related to faith and family.

However, most families spend little time together in any activity, almost none for family worship and Bible study.

"In a lot of families, we have left biblical instruction and teaching of Christian values to the churches," Cindy Waugh told participants in a conference on family Bible study and worship in the '90s. "It needs to start at home. The main responsibility should come from the parents."

Family worship at home should not be thought of as an hour-long worship service, said Waugh, a layperson from First Baptist Church of Franklin, Tenn. Times may be as brief as three minutes but no longer than 15, she suggested.

Common mistakes parents make which may lead to discontinuation of family worship, Waugh said, include trying to cover too much material, feeling guilty when they miss a day or two, choosing boring material or feeling every member must be present every day.

Ideally, Waugh said, family worship should include times in which older members share how they came to know Christ as their Savior.

In addition to family devotions, Waugh said, family worship may include seizing teachable moments with children and family activity times.

Help for troubled families increased church's outreach

Continued from page 1
sion of feelings.

■ **Permitting destructive roles** for the children.

■ **Failing to provide appropriate nurture** for children.

■ **Remaining closed to the outside world.**

Children from dysfunctional families learn to view feelings and emotions as "something to be controlled, not expressed," Sledge said. As a result, many later become involved in compulsive behaviors such as alcohol and drug abuse, sexual addictions, workaholicism and perfectionism.

"They develop a strong need to be in control of people, events and feelings," he explained. Their compulsions become "a way of denying the pain—a way of temporarily getting away from it."

Growing up in a dysfunctional family might be described as "growing up in a shame factory," said Sledge, who admitted he struggled with shame over his father's alcoholism.

Shame can lead to a fear of disclosure and close relationships with others, isolation and may eventually cause people to commit shameful acts on their own, he said.

The first steps to healing, Sledge said, are facing up to or "making peace" with one's past and realizing the journey toward recovery cannot be made alone.

Sledge found out just how powerful the strain of dysfunctional families can be when he produced a 1988 mailout announcing a sermon series aimed at adult children of alcoholics. That mailer resulted in 300 first-time visitors to Kingsland Baptist Church during the first three Sundays of the

series.

To conclude the series, Sledge announced the church would be starting a support group where people could talk through their childhood experiences, get in touch with the feelings and problems created by those experiences and move beyond them.

Enough people signed up for six groups.

That kind of response, Sledge believes, will be repeated in Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation that are willing to provide recovery help on a variety of issues—divorce, addictions, eating disorders, grief and others.

Now Kingsland Baptist Church is about to start its 40th support group and continually has a waiting list for its existing groups.

In the four years since beginning support groups for members and people in the community, the church has grown from an average of 600 in attendance to 900.

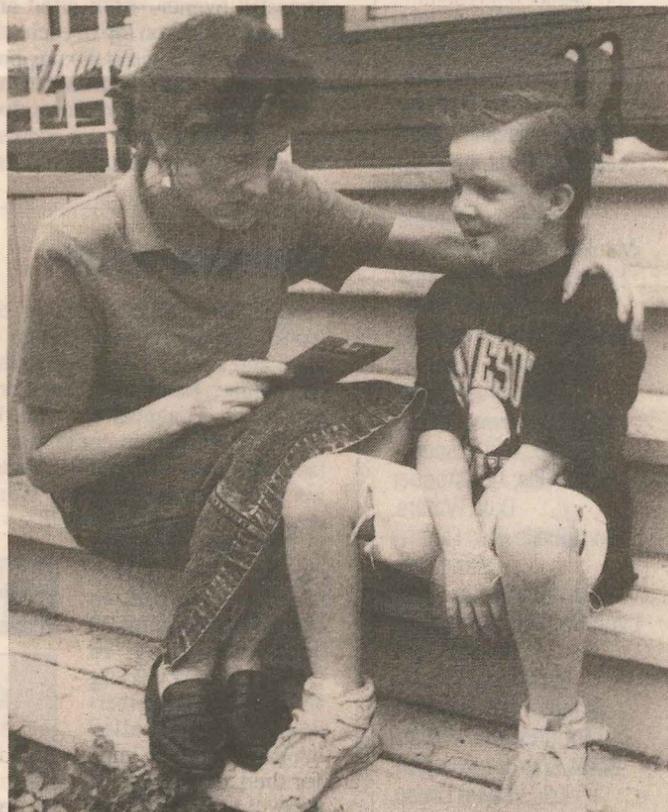
Help husbands, speaker says

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Many churches could grow 20 percent if they offered programs for husbands who do not attend with their wives, said a Southern Baptist speaker on family issues.

"Thirty-five percent of women in church are there without their husbands," said Harold Hime, associate director of the Home Mission Board's church and community ministries department.

Many husbands stop attending church with their wives, Hime said, because pastors teach "materials that are good but not essential."

Meanwhile husbands "are wonder-



ROLE MODEL Parents who provide support and nurture for their children, talk openly with them and help them express their feelings appropriately will foster healthy relationships rather than dysfunctional relationships that lead to crisis later in life, according to the author of a new resource book on dysfunctional families. (RNS photo)

Consultants trained in music, stewardship & Sunday school

Campbellsville awards Baptist scholarships

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville College has awarded Excellence in Action scholarships to 29 Kentuckians. The scholarships are given to Baptist students who are recent high school graduates and have demonstrated Christian commitment, service and leadership in their churches, schools and communities. Kentucky recipients include: Kimberlee Diane Pruitt, Greensburg; Jessica Ann Peniston, Bedford; Jerry Brad Kirby, Everts; Dawn Marie Lockard, Louisville; Cicely Eileen Maggard, Louisville; Laura Allison Clem, Elizabethtown; John Douglas DeFazio, Louisville; Jonathan Carter Rafferty, Campbellsville; Valerie Leigh Owens, Lebanon Junction; Mitchell Fielding Gaddis, Madisonville; Bethney Jo Foster, Russell Springs; Jason Lee Parker, Campbellsville; Tracy Lee Heistand, Lebanon; Jason Alan Keith, Elizabethtown; Joseph Hendrix Witherspoon, Louisville; Christopher Dale Waters, Campbellsville; Tammy Marie Cox, Campbellsville; Stacy Lynn Coulter, Springfield; Christian John Easterling, Liberty; Stephen Ray Bowling, Morningview; William Scott Soard, Lexington; Eric Wayne Cruse, Campbellsville; Kevin Dale Briggs, Horse Cave; Johnna Montgomery, Shelbyville; Kristal Suzanne Workman, Dawson Springs; Joshua Lee Lam, Madisonville; Carrie Ann Garrison, Louisville; Boyd Wayne Rexroat, Russell Springs; Vanessa Henson, Liberty.

The crisis that moves a church to call in an outside consultant may only be the symptom of larger problems, an expert in church conflict resolution told 26 consultants being trained to help Kentucky Baptist churches.

Tim Savage of LEAD Consultants in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, spent two days training new Kentucky Baptist Convention consultants who will assist churches in stewardship, Sunday school and church music.

Although the KBC church music department has used contract consultants in the past, the strategy is new for stewardship and Sunday school, two other components of the KBC church growth and administration division. The broadened concept was approved by the KBC Executive Board as a way to offer services statewide more economically.

"Usually, a church does not call you because a single thing has happened, but because a string of things has happened," Savage told the group.

For example, he urged them to be aware that problems in building a stable choir might be related to a lack of leadership in other areas of church life.

Stressful events—both good and bad—usually stack on top of each other in a church's life without being processed, he said. "Most churches do not provide structures within themselves to deal with this material as it occurs."

When a church reaches a crisis

point and calls for outside help, that is a healthy sign that progress can be made, Savage said.

The new KBC consultants are available to assist all churches across the state, whether facing a crisis or not. The consultants also have been trained by KBC staff in their particular areas of responsibility.

The stewardship consultants are Greg Earwood, Murray; Rick Robbins, Hardinsburg; Brad Johnson, Bowling Green; Gayle Toole, Nicholasville; Glen Mollette, Pikeville; Dan Garland, Henderson; Bill Simmons, Lexington; and Delores and Allen Baugh, Glendale.

The Sunday school consultants are Bill Booth, Morehead; Phil Bradley, Erlanger; Bobby Bragg, Paducah; Dan Bruce, Richmond; Glen Cummins, Lexington; Mike Harmon, Princeton; Paul Robinson, Bowling Green; John Saunders, Louisville; Rodney Vincent, Madisonville; and Robert White, Williamsburg.

The church music consultants and their specific specialities are June Bailey, preschool and children; Todd Dowdy, associational; Angie Harrington, keyboard; Eddie Howell, adult; Richard Suggs, handbell and instrumental; and Roger Walworth, youth.

To arrange for a KBC consultant to visit your church, contact the church growth and administration division at (502) 245-4101.

Changing worlds

Our Lord came to change the world. He brought a message of hope and salvation to a world that had neither. He changed the world not in some magical way, but by helping each person come face to face with their own reality. Today we go about changing the world one person at a time as well.

This past week our children at Spring Meadows helped to change the world for 22 households here in Louisville. Working with a national Brotherhood project called World Changers, they repaired the homes of these 22 families that were going to be evicted because of code violations. Many of these families were elderly and could not do the work themselves. The city of Louisville had money to pay for the materials, but not enough money to hire the work to be done. Our young people, along with some 200 volunteers from sister churches across the Southern Baptist Convention changed the worlds of these families.

Mike Dixon, director at Spring Meadows, served as chairperson and host for this project. Mike has had a busy summer making all of

the arrangements for lodging, meals, transportation, etc., while continuing to run the children's home. Though the worlds of 22 families were changed, in reality our children and the other volunteers who helped them were changed as well. As they reached out to others, they had the joy of giving of themselves. I have come to realize that that is one of the greatest joys of life.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

From letters and conversations with the people whose gifts make this child caring ministry possible, I know that their gifts bring them real joy. From the elderly widow on a fixed income who sends a few dollars each month because she believes in children to the busy executive who takes a day of his time to carefully determine how the new truck he is giving to Glen Dale needs to be built, thousands find great joy in changing the worlds of children. These are the cheerful givers Paul described in II Corinthians 9:7. Together, we change worlds.

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

Paid Column

Fire guts Iva Church near Bowling Green

BOWLING GREEN—Fire destroyed the 134-year-old building of Iva Baptist Church near Bowling Green July 1.

Investigators believe the blaze was set by an arsonist.

Anna Myrle Wilson, church treasurer and acting church clerk, said she was the last person to leave the building Tuesday night, June 30, after a vacation Bible school session. "I personally locked all the doors and closed the windows," she recalled.

But when the deputy sheriff arrived around 7:30 a.m. the next morning to check out the reported fire, she said, one of the windows and the front door were open.

A gas heater in the auditorium that had been disconnected overnight was a likely source of the fire, Wilson explained.

Police and insurance investiga-

tors are still working on the case.

The destroyed building included an auditorium with about 20 pews, piano, pulpit and other accessories. An adjoining fellowship hall doubled as Sunday school space.

"It wasn't a big deal, but it was ours," Wilson said.

The oldest part of the building dated to 1868, although the church was organized in 1812.

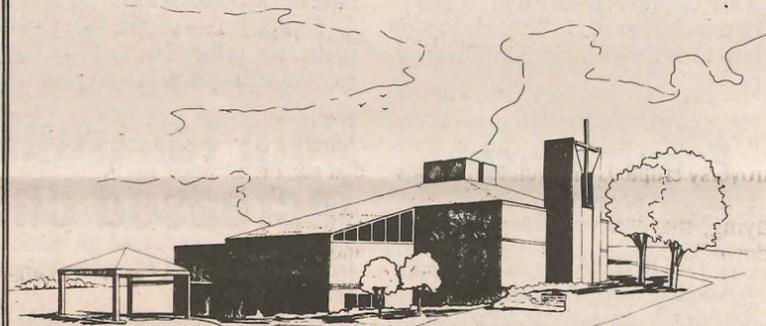
Currently, the church has about 70 members on roll with an average attendance of 20, Wilson said.

The small country church hopes to rebuild, she said. The Sunday after the fire, the congregation met on the church grounds.

Wilson said church members have no idea why someone would destroy their building. However, it could be related to problems with loiterers who sometimes drink in the parking lot, she said.

"Surely the Lord is in this place...."

Genesis 28:16b



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MISSION BOARD, SBC

Teens head west as missions pioneers

Continued from page 1

and Vietnamese, and distributes food and clothing to poverty-stricken people in the Tucson area and across the border into Mexico.

"Mr. Hanna is on top of everything," Newman said. "His motto was 'You wouldn't believe how many things you can do if you schedule it right.'"

Some of those things included door-to-door visitation, Saturday trips to Mexico to distribute food and other items, assisting in worship services and even pulling nails out of plywood, they said.

The girls said they learned that missionaries sometimes are asked to do unusual tasks.

"We ate Desert Storm food every day," Shannon Nimmo said, explaining that "tons" of ready-to-eat dinners left unused by the military during the Persian Gulf War had been shipped to

Hanna for use in his ministry.

"They were terrible, especially the individual packages," she added. "But Mr. Hanna said if it was good enough for our soldiers, it was good enough for us."

Newman said one of the biggest jobs was to sort through 14,000 pounds of clothing sent to Hanna from Kentucky Baptists in the Shelby County Association.

"They had to build a bin outside just to hold the clothes until there was room for it in the center," she said.

Shannon Nimmo said one of the most meaningful times for her was when she was able to help lead two girls at the youth camp to make professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Nimmo also enjoyed having her hands full with 31 preschoolers during one of the day camps in a poor area of Arizona.

After going door-to-door inviting

the children to day camp, the missionaries walked the children to the mission centers and then back home. They said it was an eye-opening experience to see how some people live.

"Sometimes they used metal tacked together to make a shelter, or lived in railroad cars, or whatever they could find," Newman said. "It made me realize how selfish I've been and how lucky I am that I have what I have."

Now that they have returned, the girls said some things will be different. "I want to be more open to sharing and talking with people," Lisa Nimmo said.

"I'm going to try to be able to teach little kids" at church, Shannon Nimmo said.

"I'm not afraid to witness to people anymore," Newman said. "I'm going to be more open about sharing my faith."

Young plans study on ethnic inclusion

HOUSTON (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young has announced plans to establish a multi-ethnic advisory committee to address ethnic diversity in the denomination.

One of the goals of the task force would be to develop a plan to increase ethnic representation on the boards and professional staffs of Southern Baptist agencies and institutions.

"Through evangelism and commitment to scriptural principles, Southern Baptists have become the most racially diverse denomination in America today," Young said. "Now, we need to identify ways to include our people of all colors in positions of leadership throughout the denomination."

BRIEFS

■ Gospel singer Sandi Patti filed for divorce from husband John Helvering June 9, citing "irretrievable breakdown" of the marriage, according to The CCM Update. A statement from the singer's spokeswoman said, "This relationship has been very painful. After much prayer and counsel, this decision has been reached. This is the last, regrettable option."

■ Christian comedian Mike Warnke's story of becoming a Christian after escaping the clutches of Satanism has been challenged by two investigative reporters. Jon Trott and Mike Hertenstein of the Christian magazine Cornerstone report they have found inconsistencies in Warnke's telling of his life story and "significant evidence contradicting his alleged satanic activity." However, both Warnke and the president of Word Inc., his publisher, have denied the accusations and say his testimony is true.

Herschel Hobbs visits Kentucky, says SBC isn't dying

Continued from page 1

The 84-year-old theologian said talk about the SBC dying reminds him of a letter he received years ago from W.A. Criswell, longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas and a well-known conservative leader. Writing long before the current controversy erupted, Criswell told Hobbs he was concerned that the SBC was dying, that "this old ship is going down."

Hobbs said he replied then that the SBC's ship wasn't sinking but just going through some troubled waters.

And the advice he gave Criswell then still applies to modern-day moderates who think the SBC is dying, he said: "If this ship does go down, I'm still going to be on board, bailing water until the last gurgle."

Hobbs' advice to Southern Baptist churches is to ignore the controversy that has raged since 1979.

"I tell churches wherever I go, 'This is a struggle up at the top. Go on and do the Lord's work and pay no attention to that,'" he said. "Southern Baptists are not up to their necks in this, but to their heads, and they're

drowning in it. The average layperson is disgusted."

As evidence the SBC is not dying, Hobbs cited the \$81 million received last year for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. "That doesn't sound to me like the Southern Baptist Convention is dead," he said, recalling when the annual offering goal was just \$7 million.

Instead of dying, the convention is going through a periodic "course correction," Hobbs asserted.

"This time, because of the politics, we're going to come back a little to the right of center, but it won't last long," he predicted.

Southern Baptists "turned the corner" on the controversy at the annual meeting in Indianapolis last month, Hobbs said, explaining he voted for Ed Young for SBC president and thinks brighter days lie ahead.

"I think Ed Young meant what he said when he said he wanted to turn this thing around," Hobbs explained.

In a three-way race for president, Young was the candidate favored by conservatives who began controlling the SBC in 1979.

Further, Hobbs cited division among conservatives over Houston Judge Paul Pressler's nomination as a Foreign Mission Board trustee as evidence of change. The fact that leading conservative pastors opposed Pressler's nomination indicates the group is not as "monolithic" as some thought, he said.

But tensions linger in the convention because of politics, he suggested.

The Peace Committee did what it was asked to do and offered a good report, which was adopted by the SBC in 1987, Hobbs explained. That report cited reasons for the conflict and called on both sides to stop their political efforts.

"All the agencies are living by that report that was adopted in St. Louis," he said. "But the two little warring parties are more or less ignoring it."

Also, the committee's recommendation that SBC leaders make balanced appointments to boards and agencies has not been heeded, he said.

Hobbs said he has the advantage of

a long view in making his optimistic assessment for the future. "I've lived long enough to see us go through several controversies, and I've always seen us come out stronger than we went in."

He has had a front-row seat to several other Southern Baptist fights, most notably the Elliott controversy.

When Hobbs was SBC president in 1962, conflict came to a head over the book, *The Message of Genesis*, written by Ralph Elliott. Critics accused Elliott, a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, of espousing a liberal slant on the first book of the Bible.

That conflict resulted in Elliott's firing from the seminary faculty and led to the 1963 adoption of the "Baptist Faith and Message."

Some historians see the Elliott controversy as the first tremor in the larger quake to rock the SBC in the 1980s. But Hobbs is confident the convention will survive its current "course correction" just as it did in the 1960s.

"There's some right and some wrong on both sides," he said of the current fight. "There are no white hats or black hats, but gray hats."

"The irony is that both groups have something the other needs," he said. Conservatives need to learn about discipleship from moderates, who need to learn about evangelism from conservatives, he said.

Amazingly, Hobbs has come through years of high-profile involvement in SBC conflicts with few serious critics and claims to have friends "in all strains of beliefs."

That has been possible, he said, because his beliefs are in the middle, "where old-time Southern Baptists have been and where they are now if they only knew the terms going around."

Hobbs said he doesn't like the labels that get put on people with different viewpoints. He explained that he doesn't want to be remembered either as a conservative or a moderate but as an "old-time Baptist."

"I want to be known as someone who believes the Bible and has done my best to understand it," he said.

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KENTUCKY KERNELS

Although Southern Baptists are the predominant religious body in Kentucky, dozens of other religious groups are represented in the state. For example, there are 13,596 adherents to Mormonism, 342 Amish, 137 Quakers, 5,129 Seventh Day Adventists and 14,810 Jews. Source: *Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990*

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BEDFORD**—Pleasant View Church called **David Julen** as pastor.
 ■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—**Terry Bright** resigned as pastor of Saloma Church.
 ■ **FRANKFORT**—North Benson Church called **Greg Burris** as pastor. A native of North Carolina, Burris is a recent graduate of Southern Seminary.
 ■ **FRANKLIN**—Fairview Baptist Mission, a mission of First Church, Franklin, was constituted as Fairview Church July 26. **Bruce Grubbs** of the SBC Sunday School Board was guest speaker.
 ■ **GEORGETOWN**—**Diedre Dean**, a senior Georgetown College recreation major from Franklin, has been named a 1992 Volvo tennis/scholar athlete. She also was named to the NAIA District 22 Division II women's basketball/scholar athlete team. Both awards are based on academic achievement and athletic ability.
 ■ **GREENVILLE**—Roland Memorial Church called **Carl Nelson** as pastor.
 ■ **HAMPTON**—**Jimmy Wring** is pastor of Hampton Church. He was ordained to the ministry July 26 at Pinckneyville Church in Salem.
 ■ **IVEL**—**Virginia Porter Campbell** died May 3 after a long illness. She was the wife of Cohen Campbell, retired pastor who served many years through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department.
 ■ **LEXINGTON**—Calvary Church

called **Linc Taylor** as minister of youth. He previously served as minister of youth/education at Mt. Gilead Church in Keller, Texas.
 ■ **LONDON**—**Roy Faulkner**, pastor at Everts First Baptist Church for 25 years, has been named director of missions for Laurel River Association.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethel Flock Church called **Jeff Thompson** as pastor. Thompson was ordained to the ministry July 26 at Lyndon Church.
Robert Hill, pastor of Cedar Creek Church, is retiring after 18 years of service.
 South Jefferson Church called **Eric Timerding** as minister of music. He previously served First Church, Barbourville.
 ■ **MARION**—Baker Church ordained **Tommy Chandler** as a deacon.
 ■ **PINEVILLE**—**Jackson Robertson**, professor of biblical interpretation at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, has been asked to write part of a doctrinal series for the discipleship training adult quarterly of the SBC Sunday School Board. The first topic, "creation," is slated for publication in the October 1992 issue.
 ■ **SOMERSET**—Flat Lick Church called **Carmel Hoskins** as pastor.
David Evans, a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, is pastor of Rock Lick Church.
 ■ **SOUTH CARROLLTON**—**W.R. Cook**, interim pastor at South Carrollton Church, has been called as pastor.



HMB TRUSTEE Mark Bond (left), pastor of Second Baptist Church in Princeton, greets Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, during his first meeting as a new HMB trustee. Bond was elected to a four-year term on the board by messengers to the June SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. (Photo by John Swain)

Boyce Bible School offers evening classes

LOUISVILLE—Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will again offer evening courses this fall for laypeople and bivocational ministers. The first term for the 1991-92 academic year begins Aug. 31. Courses meet one night each week from 7-9 p.m. and carry one hour of academic credit. The fee for each course is \$30, with a maximum of \$50 for students who take two or more courses per term. For information, call (502) 897-4693.

Woman traces preacher's influence

LOUISVILLE—Viola Berry discovered a Baptist preacher in the 1900s left more than a mark on her family. Benjamin Franklin Hagan must have been an influential preacher, Berry figures, because three generations later, his name is still part of her family. Berry, a member of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, said she began tracing her family roots this year to prepare a historical scrapbook for her brother, Lee Hagan Hundley. She became curious about the Hagan name after finding that her late father and grandfather, Lamar Hagan Hundley and Ben Hagan Hundley, shared the same middle name as her brother. Berry got a tip from a 90-year old woman whose husband remembered Hagan's legacy as an influential Baptist minister in the Severns Valley area.

After more researching and some help from the Severns Valley Baptist Association, Berry said she finally was able to confirm that the Hagans in her family were named after Benjamin Franklin Hagan, a circuit-riding preacher in the early 1900s. Berry said she would like to know what it was about Hagan that caused members of three generations in her family to share the preacher's name. "A minister never knows what kind of impact he's making on his congregation," she said.

Two changed lives

I am thinking of two of our boys today. Both are graduates of Oneida. Each of these boys had been "in the real world" some years before we ever knew them. Each had been homeless for many of their teen-age years. Each had lived on the street. One's mother died when he was 8 years old. The maternal grandparents had no contact with him for about eight years. The father took very little responsibility for this son through some very critical years. He was in varying placements in and out of Kentucky and was a "dropout," living by his own wits at age 16.

The other grew up in a very dysfunctional family. Raised basically without a father, the home situation was such that the boy fled to another state at age 13. It was not known if he were alive or dead for 49 weeks. Physically well developed at this age, he was able to get a job in a restaurant. No one then or later ever asked him his age. In fact they worked him for some days before even asking him his name. As you might imagine, he was paid much less than minimum wage.

At night he slept under a bridge, sometimes in a culvert. Other homeless people slept close by, each part of this loveless extended family. During this period, this boy became addicted to smoking pot and also used hard drugs.

After nearly a year of this type of living, he rejoined his family. But still into drugs, his attendance at school was rather sporadic. For a time he lived in a foreign country where his habit became even worse.

Returning to the U.S., he was befriended by an active Christian family. They brought him to us just a few days after he had asked Jesus into his life. We took him hoping that his salvation experience had been genuine. I had the privilege

of taking him back to the church where he had made his profession of faith and sharing in his baptism.

In the meantime, the boy I first wrote of had been here nearly a year. He was brought to us by a young man who had been expelled from Oneida two times. The boy did not have a penny. He had been on his own for quite some time. But we began to work with him. He, too, accepted Christ.

We watched each grow and develop. Each graduated with honors. One got a full scholarship and is in college. He taught art and photography while in our school and has tremendous ability and creativity. The other is in Marine Corps basic training. Both learned a lot of responsibility while at Oneida. Each has the qualities of a leader.

One writes, "I can't wait to get back and relive the memories. One of the things I look forward to most is getting back for church there. ... I'd like to thank everyone who is pulling and praying for me there at home. I can tell that God is with me every day. I knew it was going to be rough, and I couldn't make it without Jesus. I am especially grateful for the special relationship OBI helped me form with the Lord. You have no way of knowing how much you have helped me, and that is something I will never forget as long as I live."

The other writes from college: "At Oneida I was able to change the direction of my life completely. Whatever good comes from my life, I owe to Jesus and the chance Oneida gave me. I hope to hear from you. It's like you're a father."

Thanks, each of you who invested in these two lives and in many others.

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

What's it like to be a preacher, preacher?

As a preacher I have made thousands of visits and have tried to answer thousands of questions people asked me when I was welcomed into their homes.

A little boy about 10 years old asked me a question one day. His question was sincere and appeared to be just another simple question. But the answer from my heart to his was frustrating and complex. His question: "What's it like to be a preacher, preacher?"

What's it like to be a preacher? It's like so many other things in life and yet so unlike anything else. It's being loved and unloved, wanted and unwanted, understood and misunderstood. It's being looked upon with an awesome respect by some people and held in open contempt by others.

It's joy; it's sadness. It's briefly attending a little girl's birthday party because it's so important that "her preacher" be there, and then rushing off to conduct a funeral.

What's it like to be a preacher? It's sharing the delight of a couple whose business is prospering so well that before long they will be wealthy, and then stopping by another home the same day to make sure that couple has enough to eat until the husband gets a paycheck

from his new job.

What's it like to be a preacher? It's riding the hospital elevator and wondering how many times that square box has lifted me to another patient and how much or how little I've helped.

It's like having your ears used as a garbage can when someone empties his or her moral cesspool.

It's uniting a couple in marriage and when they are fed up with one another having them come back and ask you to help put the pieces of broken hearts and a broken home together again.

What's it like to be a preacher? It's going back to a church you pastored many years ago to help ordain some new deacons. When the service is over, one of the new deacons weeps

on your shoulder and declares, "Oh, preacher, if it hadn't been for you, I would still be a drunk."

If you think this message frustrating, well, that's what it's like to be a preacher. It's hope—hope that one day I'll hear the Lord say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

And I wouldn't swap it for anything in this world!

By Ralph Duncan, 1930-1992; 1961 graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Paid Column

CHURCHES

Ethnic congregations outnumber available pastors

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—More Southern Baptist ethnic churches are being started than there are pastors currently trained to lead them, say workers in language church development.

"There are many opportunities out in the field, but we just don't have enough ethnic leaders to respond," said David Terry, associate to the director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's language church extension division.

The number of SBC language churches increased 147 percent from 1980 to 1990, compared to a 6 percent increase for SBC churches of all types, Terry explained.

In 1991, 466 ethnic Southern Baptist churches were started, compared with 464 Anglo church starts and 79 black church starts.

Southern Baptists nationwide will celebrate their diverse constituency on Aug. 9, language missions day on the denominational calendar. But that celebration needs to include an appeal for calling out more pastors and providing adequate training for them, ethnic leaders said.

In Texas, about 200 of the state's 890 Hispanic churches are without pastors, said Jimmy Garcia, coordina-

tor for ethnic missions for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"The growth of congregations is outpacing our ability to provide leaders," said Joshua Grijalva, president of the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio, Texas.

Denominational leaders say the shortage of ethnic pastors nationwide can be attributed to a number of reasons, from inadequate financing to poor recruitment efforts.

Others say some ethnic Christians reject the call to pastoral ministry because it means giving up a more financially promising career elsewhere.

Oscar Romo, director of the HMB's language church extension division, noted that accepting a full-time ministry position in an ethnic congregation is sometimes akin to taking an oath of self-denial.

"We have to get people who are highly committed to what we do, whose commitment comes before their own well-being," he said.

A poor image of bivocational ministry among ethnics also contributes to the shortage.

More ethnic Christians might accept a call to serve God if they could combine it with their secular career, said José Hernandez, a director of ethnic leadership development in the HMB's language church extension

division.

"Traditionally, we have placed a limitation on God's calling" to be full-time, Hernández said. "When a dual ministry person can stand equal to a full-time ministry person, that's going to be a new day in Southern Baptist life."

Romo noted bivocational pastors often are less well-received in the community than their full-time counterparts.

"To many groups, this is the man of God, and God should be able to take care of him," Romo said. "That's why it's been very difficult to sell the idea of bivocational ministry."

Garcia said many small ethnic churches also lack trained pastors because they are reluctant to send leaders away to seminary.

"It's a matter of survival for some," he said. "When you have 60, 70, 80 in a church and one or two of your best leaders go, it makes a big difference."

To bridge the gap, Southern Baptist seminaries now sponsor ethnic leadership development centers, offering theological training in the language of those being trained, Terry said.

Meeting in associational offices or church classrooms, students can study without leaving their jobs and fami-



lies.

In 1991, 101 centers or branches trained 1,020 students in 13 languages.

BABY DEDICATION At the dedication of baby Hong Phuong, Tho Ngoc Dang is much more than pastor of Vietnamese Baptist Church in East Biloxi, Miss.; he is a trusted friend and part of the family. At this church and hundreds of other Baptist language churches, new immigrants often join together with people of similar cultural backgrounds as they begin making new lives for their families in America. (BP photo by Joe Clark)

Don't conform to the world's culture, Peretti cautions

DALLAS (BP)—The author of three of the country's best-selling Christian books says believers must be careful not to conform to the world in trying to make the gospel relevant to today's society.

Frank Peretti expressed concern over the "pop Christian culture" that has emerged in the United States the last few years.

"We Christians are raising our kids and walking our walk in the middle of a culture that is immersed in distractions, entertainment, amusement and the 'feel-good' things," said Peretti, whose novel, "This Present Darkness," has sold more than 2 million copies.

In seeking to present the gospel to a public with an ever-decreasing attention span, he said it is tempting for Christians to use "entertainment" or other worldly methods to reach the lost.

"The church looks at the world and says, 'We want to be relevant. What is the world doing?' Just once I'd like to hear the world say, 'Boy, I would like to do something really intelligent and effective. What's the church doing?'"

While he isn't against using contemporary methods to reach non-believers, Peretti said Christians need to "put on the brakes every once in a while and ask, 'Why are we doing this? Are we letting the world set the standard for us?'"

Churches must pay price to break 100: Chaney

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Small churches seeking to break the 100-member barrier must create a climate for growth, a Home Mission Board church growth specialist said.

Such churches often plateau because they are unwilling to pay the price for further growth, said Charles Chaney, HMB vice president for extension.

"We have churches today that are structured in a way that virtually makes growth impossible," he said.

Hemphill lists traps that stunt church growth

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Churches, like bonsai trees, are susceptible to stunted growth, according to church growth specialist Ken Hemphill.

The key to bonsai trees staying the same size is keep them in the same pot, said Hemphill, who recently was named by the Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board to be director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth.

Hemphill, author of "The Bonsai Theory of Church Growth," said many congregations remain trapped in "bonsai pots" that prevent them from growing more. Among those

"It's important pastors understand that part of their role is to be change agents."

Churches, however, must be willing to accept change, Chaney said, adding change can be disturbing and can draw resistance.

Among changes necessary for growth, Chaney said, is a willingness to open opportunities for leadership that have traditionally been dominated by long-time members.

Members also must be willing to be ministers instead of just expecting the preacher to meet all congregational needs, he said.

pots, he said, are:

■ **Space.** "When any portion of the (church) building is 80 percent filled, the church's natural growth will be inhibited and finally stopped." But churches can easily increase their available space without construction by offering multiple times for worship services and Bible classes, he said.

■ **Land.** Current parking trends show a maximum of 100 people park on one acre of land. Limited parking will mean limited access to the church and limited growth, Hemphill said.

■ **Organization.** Bible classes should offer sub-groups of 12 to 15 members each so visitors can feel wel-

"We spend a lot of time at seminaries training people to do what laypeople need to do anyway," he said. "When the congregation is the minister, the growth potential grows."

Chaney said small churches must be affirmed because they often are more effective at evangelism and leadership training than larger churches.

"You can't impact a culture without small congregations," he said. "If you don't have small churches that permeate all corners of a culture and a nation, your denomination's not going to grow."

come in an intimate environment and the church will not appear impersonal, Hemphill said.

■ **Leadership.** Research indicates one pastor can handle about 150 to 200 people, he said. Not that one person can't preach to a larger group, Hemphill said, but larger groups often want more activities than one person can effectively administer.

■ **Vision.** "Some people think they're in an impossible task to grow a church," Hemphill said. But pastors must keep their congregations in touch with the vision of the church so "pilgrims" don't become "settlers," he warned.

LifeAudit helps ministers assess strengths, weaknesses

NASHVILLE (BP)—Seminary Extension has developed a new program to help affirm ministers' strengths and identify areas of their life and ministry needing further growth.

The new LifeAudit program helps

ministers stay on the cutting edge in their vocations, said its author, Doran McCarty, executive director of Seminary Extension, a Nashville-based arm of Southern Baptists' six seminaries providing ministry education.

LifeAudit, which can be used in

pastor retreats, director of missions conferences and other association gatherings, helps ministers take a look at key aspects of life—family, friends, financial, recreational, educational and spiritual—to determine where enrichment is needed.

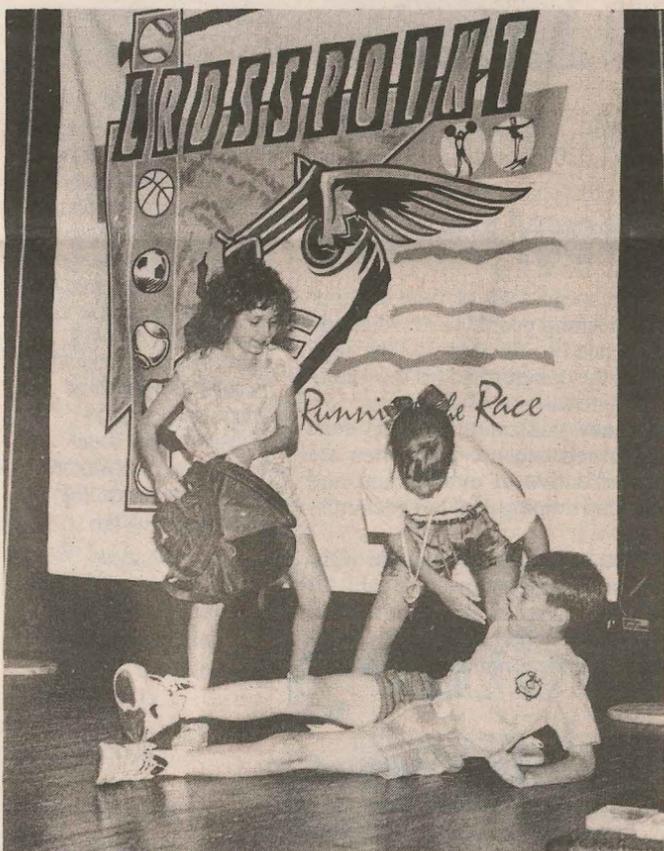
CAMPBELLSVILLE

"We are pleased at the number of groups who are using our campus as a place to conduct camps, retreats and workshops," said Dr. Kenneth W. Winters, president of Campbellsville College.

Camps, Camps, Camps!



CROSSPOINT STAFF MEMBER, Kristy Wallace, center, talks with John Pope of First Baptist Church in Mayfield and Megan Dunn.

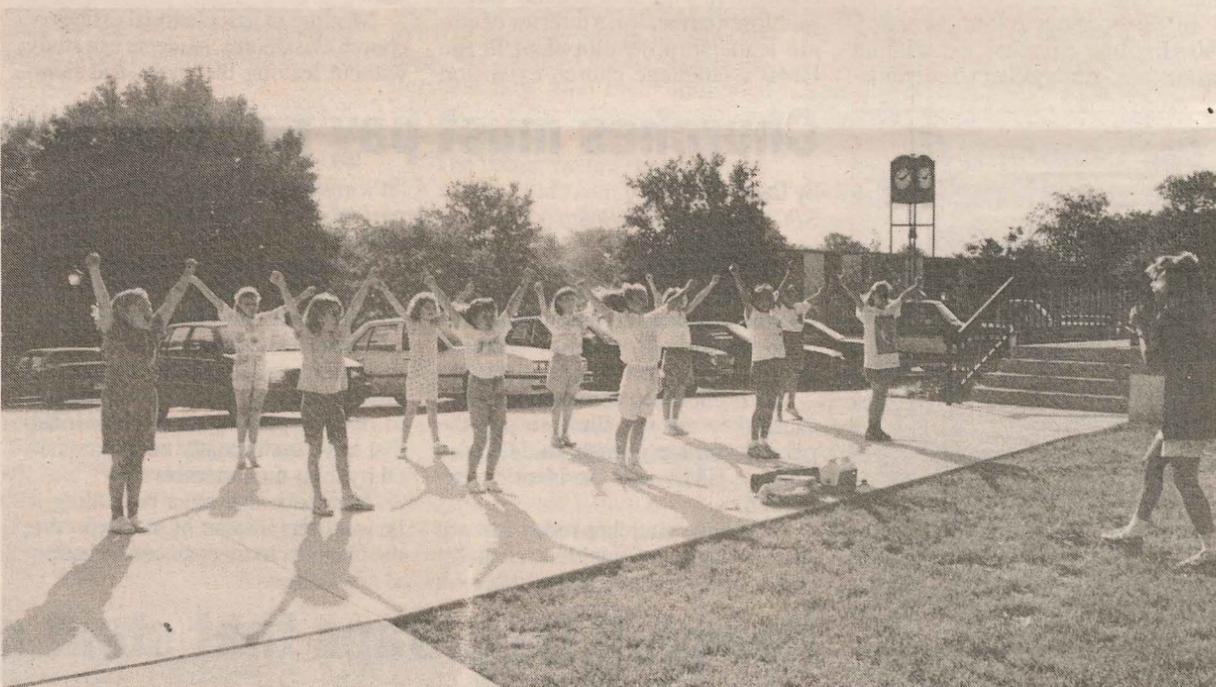


ABOVE, Suzanna Ritchie, a Crosspoint staff member, led some cheerleaders from all camps on campus.

AT TOP LEFT, Amber Steins and Emily Raines rob Alex Marshall of First Baptist Church, Owensboro, in a skit about the Good Samaritan.

AT BOTTOM LEFT, Millie Dickerson, left, of Second Baptist Church, Union City, Tenn., gives her "mom" Hillary Gardner of First Baptist Church, Owensboro, a report card with three "Cs" on it and gets yelled at. She gets reassurance that God loves her.

(Campbellsville College Photos by Jamie Mings)



Campbellsville College is bustling this summer with camps, camps and more camps.

About 3,000 persons will be on campus for the summer months until the fall semester begins Aug. 26. The camps are ranging from a Crosspoint Training Team, Central Kentucky Band Camp and Mary T. Meagher Swim Camp to Rick Bolus Blue-Chip Basketball Camp.

Several churches in Kentucky are involved in the camps, as are persons from all over the country. Campbellsville College's basketball and football teams are also having summer camps.

"We are pleased at the number of groups who are us-

ing our campus as a place to conduct camps, retreats and workshops," said Campbellsville College President Dr. Kenneth W. Winters.

"The significant number of groups taking advantage of our invitation allows us to economically use our facilities even during the summer months.

"We welcome inquiries regarding ways that we can better meet the needs of our state and region."

Winters also said that young people will "be more likely to select us or one of our sister institutions when choosing the place for their collegiate preparation."