

AUGUST 4, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 30

FOR THE RECORD

FMB-WMU dialogue
Leaders of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union met to discuss WMU's relationship to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. See page 2.

Instant family
Pastor Larry York doubled the size of his family for three months as part of LaCenter Baptist Church's ministry to a family in need. See page 3.

Abortion message
David Miller, an Arkansas trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, preached against abortion in Kentucky last week and criticized a seminary professor. See page 3.

Editorial
The "bottom line" may not be enough when considering ministerial compensation. See page 5.

One woman's victory
An Ohio woman proved that one person can make a difference when she forced a radio station to stop airing a sexually suggestive message to teen-agers. See page 6.

15 Kentucky volunteers build bridge in Honduras

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

BALLARDSVILLE—Most churches talk about building symbolic bridges, but Ballardsville Baptist Church used wood and steel to construct the real thing this summer.

And while they were at it, the team of volunteer missionaries built a chap-

el and delivered educational supplies to the remote Honduras village of Esquipulas del Norte.

This nine-day project marked the 15th year for members of the Ballardsville church to travel to Honduras to assist Southern Baptist missionaries there. And it was the most difficult and dangerous assignment the group ever has undertaken, said Pas-

tor Mark Waters.

"A slight mistake, and any of us could have been crushed by the massive piers supporting the suspension cables," he explained. "The proximity of drug lords and deadly yellow-beard snakes increased the risk."

No one in the group had any experience in bridge-building, said Arnold Collins, project coordinator. But that

didn't stop them from taking the plans drawn by a Georgia engineer and completing the task, he explained.

The team consisted of 12 men and three women and included members from nearby Buckner Baptist Church and others with ties to the Ballardsville congregation.

They pitched a large revival tent in the village of 3,200 people, slept on cots and cooked meals under the tent and bathed in the river.

The suspension bridge they built connects two parts of the village, which has access to the rest of the world via one bumpy road. Without the bridge, people who live on the isolated side of the river could be trapped for weeks, said Jeep Whitehouse, one of the volunteers. "In the dry season, they can walk across, but in the rainy season, the river can run for 24 hours and rise seven to eight feet."

Further, only 10 Christians were living on the isolated side of the village—living sometimes a world away from the only other church in town, a Catholic chapel established in 1511.

"We hope the bridge might break down some barriers to Christianity," Collins said.

The bridge now spans 78 feet across the river and is supported by a large pier at either end. Setting those piers with no equipment heavier than a Toyota pickup was the most difficult part of the work, Collins said. One of the piers weighs 3,100 pounds, while the other weighs 2,400 pounds.

The bridge is constructed of wood and steel suspended from heavy cables. It is suitable for foot traffic and perhaps could accommodate donkeys and similar forms of animal transportation.

□ See Ballardsville ..., page 3



BRIDGE BUILDERS Kentucky volunteers, primarily from Ballardsville Baptist Church, construct a suspension bridge over the river that divides the village of Esquipulas del Norte, Honduras. The larger photograph shows workers extending the bridge over the river, while the inset shows the complete 78-foot span and the two piers that support the bridge. (Photos by Stephen Hamby and Bill Fischer)

Study finds pay for ministers up with inflation

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

The average salary of full-time ministers in Kentucky Baptist churches increased more than 9 percent in the past two years, a pace slightly ahead of inflation.

Meanwhile, the average salary of bivocational pastors increased 17 percent during the same period.

That's good news for Kentucky Baptist churches, according to Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department. Spencer and Guy Futral, director of the KBC's minister/church support division, recently released the statistics from their biennial survey on ministerial compensation.

The 9.8 percent increase in average salary for full-time pastors compares with a 9.4 percent inflation rate during the two-year period, Spencer noted. The 1992 average was \$28,181, including

□ See Study charts ..., page 9

Baptists excited by opportunities in China

By Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HONG KONG (BP)—In the rural town of Meixian, China, Erin Thomas teaches her students a new song.

To the tune of "Every Day with Jesus," singing fills the halls of Jia Ying University: "Every day in China is sweeter than the day before. Every day in China I love her more and more. Striving hard to serve her, helping her to bless the world. Every day in China is sweeter than the day before."

Thomas lives what she sings. Nearly two years ago, the Southern Baptist teacher crawled through a hole in the smoldering fuselage of a crashed plane strewn across the runway of a Chinese airport. A bungled hijacking attempt brought down the plane.

That October day in 1990, Thomas couldn't find her fellow passenger and teacher, Mary Anna Gilbert. Gilbert, who died in the crash, sacrificed her young life for the land and people she came to serve.

But after treatment for burns and a broken leg, Thomas returned last year to teach English at the southern China university.

Her song has become the theme for Southern Baptist teachers in class-

rooms across China. Hearing the words for the first time, many ask what Thomas loves most about China.

Her answer is always the same: the people.

When Southern Baptists reflect on China, many now think of 1.1 billion people—plus 46. The billion represents the Chinese masses. Most have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The 46 are Southern Baptist English teachers and language students in China sponsored by Cooperative Services International, Southern Baptists' humanitarian aid organization.

A mere 46 people can't possibly reach a billion people for Jesus Christ, CSI officials admit. But the teachers do have regular contact with about 6,000 university students every week, and students are the group most responsive to the gospel in China.

Most students never have met a Christian before. But the Baptist workers report many express interest

in Christianity after observing their lives, and nearly all grow to understand what it means to be a Christian.

Since its China work began in the mid-'80s, CSI has placed more than 300 Southern Baptist teachers and students in China. Only seven have been career-type personnel. The rest are

long-term volunteers, two-year workers or "tent-makers"—people who spread their faith while using their professional skills abroad.

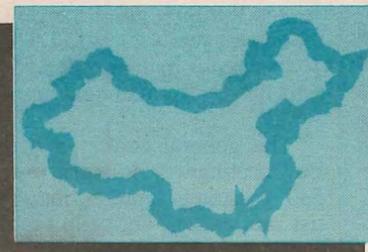
More than 100 other volunteers have worked in various short-term educational or medical assignments in China, including summer

English seminars, nursing workshops and other medical projects.

The Southern Baptists may never know the impact of their work in China, but these illustrations shed some light:

■ A Chinese student of teacher Connie Franke of Louisville heard she did something before eating each meal and wanted to know what it was.

□ See Volunteers ..., page 7



Lessons from China

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **G.W. Lankford** has been nominated as the new manager of Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center near Asheville, N.C. Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board will consider next week the nomination of the 48-year-old, who currently works as manager of the engineering, maintenance and construction section at the board's Nashville headquarters.

■ **Anita Bryant's** book, "A New Day," published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press, was number 18 in Bookstore Journal's August list of the nation's best-selling clothbound Christian books. The book has sold more than 40,000 copies.

■ **Four Southern Baptists** who are planning ministries related to the 1996 summer Olympics to be held in Atlanta are in Barcelona, Spain, to aid missionaries working there and gain insight for planning 1996 ministries. The team includes representatives from the Georgia Baptist Convention, Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board.

■ **The ACTS** network operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has completed agreements to share a single channel with the VISN interfaith network. The two networks will maintain their own identities and separate program times on the channel, to be launched Oct. 1 as "VISN-ACTS, The Faith and Values Channel."

FMB meets with WMU, agrees to Fellowship talks

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—The chairman of trustees for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board agreed to initiate a dialogue with leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship after a three-hour meeting between FMB leaders and representatives of Woman's Missionary Union.

Four FMB representatives and four WMU representatives met in Birmingham July 27 to discuss WMU's relationship with the Fellowship, which has asked WMU for help with its new missions program.

The session ended with FMB trustee chairman John Jackson agreeing to initiate a dialogue with leaders of the Fellowship, an organization of Southern Baptists formed in protest of the Southern Baptist Convention's cur-

rent leadership and direction.

Specifically, WMU leaders asked Jackson to underscore the FMB's willingness to appoint people as career missionaries who have been involved with the Fellowship.

There has been speculation that the Fellowship's decision to start its own missions program might drain support from the FMB's worldwide missions effort.

Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Fellowship, said he would be "startled" by a request from the FMB for dialogue but not opposed to it.

"Sure, we'll talk," Sherman told Associated Baptist Press. "We've got lots to talk about. We have things in common."

WMU leaders told the FMB representatives the Fellowship has asked

WMU to consider providing some missions education materials tailored for the Fellowship. However, the decision to produce those materials for the Fellowship has not been made, WMU leaders said.

And contrary to rumor, WMU has not been asked to initiate or promote a missions offering for the Fellowship, the WMU leaders said.

The meeting also included questions from WMU leaders about the replacement of FMB President Keith Parks, who will take early retirement Oct. 30 after a 38-year career in foreign missions. Parks cited philosophical differences with trustees in his retirement decision.

The WMU leaders urged that the appointment of a new president not be politically motivated. Instead, they

asked that FMB trustees seek someone with a history of career missionary service.

Representing the FMB in the dialogue were Parks, Jackson and trustees Karen Gilbert and Phyllis Randall. Gilbert is the board's recording secretary. Randall chairs the trustee human resources committee.

Representing WMU were national WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien, national President Carolyn Miller and board members Virginia Caughman of South Carolina and Gerry Dunkin of Texas.

The group agreed to continue the dialogue by sending representatives to each other's board meetings beginning with the WMU Executive Board meeting in January 1993 and the FMB trustee meeting in February 1993.

Lawyer says Foundation didn't breach trust

NASHVILLE—The Southern Baptist Foundation did not breach a trust in its handling of disputed funds related to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, according to James Guenther, general counsel to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

However, Abner McCall, the president emeritus of Baylor University, has responded that Guenther's assessment is wrong.

Guenther recently wrote to editors of state Baptist newspapers to address concerns raised about how the Foundation acted when requested to give the Joint Committee \$300,000 invested on their behalf more than 20 years ago. The SBC Christian Life Commission also laid claim to the fund, based on the rationale that they have assumed the SBC program assignment formerly given to the Joint Committee.

The Foundation asked the SBC

Executive Committee for counsel on what to do, and the Executive Committee declared they would distribute the funds themselves to other SBC causes. Messengers to this year's SBC annual meeting approved that action.

Noting "good Southern Baptists" disagree over what should have been done with the funds, Guenther said the Foundation acted responsibly.

"The debate produced a bogus issue: Did the Southern Baptist Foundation breach a trust?" he wrote. "There was no trust, and the money did not belong to the BJC. The money belonged to the SBC and was being banked with the Foundation awaiting the BJC's presentation of a plan" for a building.

"Those who suggest that this episode demonstrated that Southern Baptists could no longer trust the Southern Baptist Foundation and by implication the state foundations, and those who suggested that accounts in the

foundations established by trusts could somehow be finagled, did an injustice to the foundations and a grave disservice to those Southern Baptists who trust the foundations with their money," he said.

McCall responded in a letter to editors that "the only thing that is 'bogus' is the Executive Committee's claim to be biblical inerrantists."

"Mr. Guenther can offer no explanation for the Executive Committee's refusal to resolve this dispute in accordance with Scripture," McCall wrote. "The BJC offered to submit the matter to a panel of disinterested Christian arbitrators as suggested by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter six. Mr. Gunther's client refused."

Further, McCall charged that the Joint Committee fulfilled the necessary requirements to obtain the money by presenting a valid real estate contract for the purchase of an office building last September.

BWA council doubles relief assistance fund

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica (BP)—The Baptist World Alliance's general council approved a goal of more than doubling its worldwide relief and fellowship assistance fund during the council's July 4-12 meeting.

A \$4 million BWAid goal has been set for 1992-93, up 60 percent from the current year's goal of \$1.5 million. The increase includes \$2 million to fight hunger from drought in southern Africa.

The general council's Montego Bay meeting was its largest ever, with 530 registrants representing 45 Baptist unions and conventions on six continents. The Baptist World Alliance represents an estimated 70 million people in 200 nations.

Racism worldwide was a key topic during the meeting, as the BWA's newly appointed Special Commission on Baptists Against Racism held its first meeting. The commission is to bring proposals for action to the general council's August 1993 meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The 25-member commission includes three Southern Baptists: Harold C. Bennett, outgoing president-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Con-

vention Executive Committee; Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission; and Russell Begay of Arlington, Texas, American Indian field staff member of the Home Mission Board.

BWA Vice President Cora Sparrow of California challenged the fellowship regarding racism, asking, "Are we playing church? Will we make pious pronouncements with pious cliches that say all the right things that require little of us?"

Washington pastor Wallace Smith defined racism as "an evil endeavor which locates the blessedness of God not in justice, mercy or righteousness but in the texture of one's hair, the thickness of one's lips and the color of one's skin."

Jamaica's prime minister, P.J. Patterson, praised Jamaican Baptists for their contributions to the island nation.

"Over two centuries of Baptist witness in Jamaica have brought profound moral changes in every area of national life," he said, noting three of Jamaica's seven foremost national heroes were Baptists. "They all met untimely deaths at the hand of the state," the prime minister added.

Resolutions passed by the general council:

■ Urged the 500th anniversary of the coming of Columbus and the Europeans to the Americas to be marked by "prayerful reflection and study and with actions of healing."

■ Urged Baptists to address environmental issues, "to continue to press upon governments the need for action in defense of tomorrow's world" and "to adopt responsible patterns of consumption and behavior which do not jeopardize the future of the created order."

■ Called for prayer for peace and human-rights efforts among the warring republics of the former country of Yugoslavia.

■ Rejoiced over the Jan. 16 peace accord between the government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and "the faithfulness and courage" of El Salvador's Baptists during the years of civil war.

■ Celebrated the founding of the Baptist Missionary Society 200 years ago in England, which provided impetus to William Carey's missions efforts and those of subsequent generations of evangelicals.

Patterson leads 6 to seminary

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—New President Paige Patterson returned to the academic well from which he sprung to find professors for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Patterson formerly was president of Criswell College in Dallas. Six of seven new Southeastern faculty members are following their former boss to the Wake Forest, N.C., school.

Daniel Akin, an adjunct professor of church history, also is being named dean of students, a permanent position. He holds degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and the University of Texas at Arlington.

The other new teachers will have one-year presidential appointments.

Keith Eitel, professor of missions, also will be an adviser to Patterson on accreditation and an assistant at the seminary's Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies. He was educated at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and the Faculte de Theologie Protestante in West Africa.

Scott Tatum, visiting professor of preaching and pastoral ministry, is a retired faculty member from Southwestern, where he earned two degrees.

Other new faculty members from Criswell College are:

■ Gerald Cowen, professor of pastoral theology, with master's and doctorate degrees in theology from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ Paul Carlisle, assistant professor of pastoral theology, has two graduate degrees from East Texas State University in Commerce.

■ David Lanier, associate professor of New Testament, has a master's from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and two Southwestern degrees.

■ Gary Galeotti, professor of Old Testament, has two Southwestern degrees.

Church's witness became family ministry project

By Pauline Stegall
State Correspondent

LA CENTER—Members of LaCenter Baptist Church fulfilled the biblical commands to feed the hungry, minister to the sick, clothe the naked and visit prisoners all in one giant mission project.

In the process, they led their entire community to assist in the effort.

It began when Fannie Barnette, with two other women, volunteered to witness to every home in the Western Kentucky town.

In the process, they found Angela Ringstaff living in a run-down house with five children. Les, 13, was her own. The other four were nieces and nephews left in her care: Michael, 11; Craig, 6; Tina, 5; and Mary Lou, 4.

The church provided clothing for the children, and Ringstaff allowed them to ride the bus to Sunday school.

Then on Dec. 13, police entered the home and found 30 pounds of marijuana in the attic. Ringstaff insisted it was not hers, but was arrested.

After serving six days, she was released on bail. The church then provided a bountiful Christmas, includ-

ing new clothes, toys and food.

Larry York, pastor of the LaCenter Church, went to court with Ringstaff nearly a dozen times. He was holding little Mary Lou in his arms as Ringstaff was sentenced to three years in prison.

Then as Ringstaff was taken from the courtroom, she turned to York and asked him if he would take the children. He said he would.

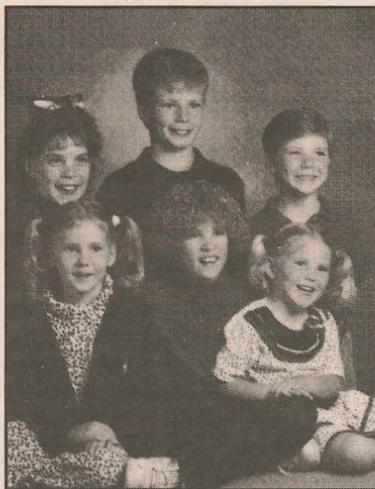
And so York and his wife, Vicki, became legal guardians of four children in addition to two of their own. (Ringstaff's own son had been sent to a relative.)

Rooms were reorganized. Furniture was moved. People loaned bunkbeds, brought clothing and supplied food. Local restaurants often sent food for the evening meal.

The Yorks adjusted their work schedules to accommodate the change. She works full time as minister of youth and education at the church.

At one point, the entire family of eight got the flu and remained confined to the house for days.

Eventually, Ringstaff was released on probation and took the children



BLENDED FAMILY For 71 days this year, Larry and Vicki York expanded their family from four to eight to help a woman their church befriended while she was in jail. The children of the temporarily blended family included (front): Tina, Jessica York and Mary Lou; and (back): Jennifer York, Michael and Craig.

back. But the Yorks didn't want to see the children taken back to their inadequate house.

So the church's Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood adopted the project of remodeling the house. At least \$10,000 worth of work was done on the house for about \$1,000 in expenses, York said.

A lumber company donated lumber to replace the flooring; a cabinet company donated cabinets; and a supply company sent bath fixtures. Other items such as appliances, paint and furniture also were donated. Women of the church made curtains and bought mini-blinds.

Ringstaff, who had made a profession of faith as a child but fallen away, was drawn back into the church. She now attends the LaCenter Church with her reunited family.

During her time in jail, she led some Bible studies, and on a recent Wednesday night she shared her testimony at church.

The two older boys also have professed faith in Jesus Christ.

The Yorks said they cannot take credit for the outcome of what they call their "71-day journey."

"When the Lord tells you to do something, you do it out of obedience," Mrs. York explained.

When a woman LaCenter Baptist Church befriended went to jail, Pastor Larry York and his wife, Vicki, took on her four children in addition to two of their own.

Seminary trustee raps abortion, Simmons & Clinton

LEXINGTON—Compromising preachers, conspiring politicians and complacent people are to blame for the "holocaust" of abortion, according to an Arkansas trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary who preached in Kentucky last week.

David Miller, director of missions for Little River Baptist Association in Heber Springs, Ark., was the keynote speaker for a "pro-life rally" at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington July 27. More than 800 people heard his 45-minute message.

Miller specifically took to task the Kentucky school where he serves as a trustee.

"It grieves me to tears that our oldest and dearest seminary in the Southern Baptist Convention does not take a (position) on abortion," he said. "Dr. Paul Simmons of Southern Seminary is speaking on behalf of the pro-choice stance of the Bible in his ethics class. Please pray for us on the board that he can find another place to teach."

Simmons, professor of Christian ethics, has faced opposition from conservative trustees because of his support of abortion rights. However, trustees have not been able to act quickly

to remove him, primarily because he is a tenured professor.

In April 1990, Southern's trustees passed a resolution opposing abortion except when the life of the mother is endangered. Miller proposed the resolution, which also encouraged faculty and staff to hold a similar viewpoint and called abortion "the greatest moral issue faced by Christians today."

Speaking last week, Miller said the argument in favor of abortion that scares him most is that a fetus "should be aborted if it is found to be handicapped or mentally deficient."

Referring to his own physical disability that confines him to a wheelchair, Miller said, "I'm glad my mother was not dependent upon Dr. Paul Simmons' ethics class at Southern Seminary."

Contacted by the Recorder for a response, Simmons said: "I defend David Miller's right to believe and express what he will about abortion. I wish he would grant me and others who disagree with him the same respect."

"It would also be nice if he would understand my views more precisely and represent them more accurately," Simmons added. "I do not recom-

mend abortions to women for any reason, but I do support those women and couples who decide to terminate a pregnancy rather than bring children with serious anomalies into the world.

"Miller is aware of the fact that I teach according to the seminary's Abstract of Principles and fulfill my contractual obligations," he concluded.

In addition to Simmons, Miller criticized other "compromising preachers" who are afraid to speak out against abortion.

"There was a time when pulpits shook with moral-valued preachers," he explained. "Those times are long gone. Today, pulpits are now silent because preachers are to remember the separation of church and state. Preachers who would like to speak out are afraid because they might have their tax-exempt status with the IRS removed."

"It would be better to lose that status than to lose status with God," Miller said.

However, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission said preaching against abortion could not endanger a church's tax-exempt status. The IRS has warned churches not to endorse polit-

ical candidates, but has not prohibited churches from speaking on moral issues, said CLC staffer Louis Moore.

Miller described abortion as "meanness, madness and murder."

He condemned public schools for promoting "safe sex" rather than abstinence.

Miller also criticized the governor of his own state, Bill Clinton, who is the Democratic nominee for U.S. president.

"Bill Clinton of the great state of Arkansas denied for 10 years he was ever with the pro-choice crowd," Miller charged. "Now, Bill Clinton is stumping on the pro-choice bandwagon. Conspiring politicians are with the meanness of abortion."

Finally, Miller said "complacent people" are to blame for the ready availability of abortion in America.

At the conclusion of his message, Miller called on Southern Baptists to pray for and minister to people contemplating abortion: "We should throw up our arms to these women who are pregnant and love them and show them the way of the Lord."

Reported by State Correspondent Marc Whitt and News Director Mark Wingfield

"There was a time when pulpits shook with moral-valued preachers. Those days are gone."
Southern Seminary trustee David Miller speaking against abortion in Lexington

Ballardsville volunteers build bridge & chapel in Honduras

Continued from page 1

The 25-foot-by-65-foot chapel was built on the isolated side of the village. It is made of cinder blocks, concrete and wood.

In previous years, the Kentuckians purchased Bibles to take with them to Honduras. But for the poor village they visited this year, the missionary asked them to bring school supplies and reading books instead.

"What good does it do to take Bibles if they can't read?" explained Bill Fischer of Buckner Church.

Dennis Mangum, also of Buckner and a teacher at South Oldham Middle School, gathered all kinds of additional school supplies, such as calculators, globes, world maps and a used duplicating machine.

But as much as the people of Honduras are helped by the annual mission trips, the people of Ballardsville Baptist Church are strengthened as well, team members said.

"It makes a big difference in our church," Whitehouse said, explaining that through the years at least 30 peo-

ple have participated. "Out of those 30 people, we've touched nearly every family in this church."

Waters said he promotes the Honduras trips—along with ongoing support of Oneida Baptist Institute and several other Kentucky ministries—as a means for every member to be involved in missions. "It's raised the self-esteem of the church," he said.

Both Ballardsville and Buckner are small congregations, he noted, and "sometimes people feel like we're just a small church, what can we do?"

"But our churches working together have done something few large churches could do," Waters said.

And working in a third-world country "helps us realize that all people are created in the image of God ... to work with them and learn to care about them," the pastor added.

Despite the enormity of this year's bridge-building project, the Kentucky volunteers still learned that lesson again, said Holly Fischer, one of the three women on the team. "It teaches you how big God is."

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MARV KNOX
Editor
MARK WINGFIELD
News Director
RAY L. HAYES
Business Manager
C. R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

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Balance the news

A major story was virtually ignored by the Western Recorder by giving it blurb status under "Baptist Bits."

This was not just a "bit" but a major news story of great interest to Kentucky Baptists. Newly elected Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper has hired Al Shackleford as editor of Mature Living magazine.

Shackleford stated, "I appreciate the confidence of Doug Anderson and Jimmy Draper in offering me the job." Draper said, "We are excited to have someone of Al's expertise and ability to minister to this strategic area of senior adults."

Al Shackleford was dismissed by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee

24 months ago. This move of reconciliation is one that should excite the hearts of conservatives and moderates alike. This was the "top story" in the Texas Baptist state newspaper June 24.

It troubles me that positive SBC stories seem to be ignored by the Recorder. Let's see more balance.

*Paul Blizard, pastor
First Baptist Church
Fairdale*

Thanks for Parks

I want to express praise to God and appreciation to Dr. Keith Parks for his outstanding leadership as president of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board. His "forced" retirement tells us that there were few of his caliber that were chosen to serve as trustees of the Foreign Mission Board in the past several years.

I deeply appreciate the fact that he had the courage to sound the alarm and make a serious attempt to alert Southern Baptists to the harm that has been and is being done by the in-fighting for power and control in the convention. I agree with him completely when he says, "We are killing our world-wide witness." Since he made no deals with the powers that be, I hope he will tell the rest of the story.

I also wish to express appreciation to the members and leadership of the Woman's Missionary Union for their

keen insights, their commendation of Dr. Parks, the establishment of the Keith Parks Scholarship Fund and their refusal to be brought under the control of the SBC. Keep up the good work! You are the one great bright spot and source of encouragement left amongst us!

*Ernest L. Martin, pastor
Calvary Baptist Church
Danville*

Why investigate?

Prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis, I tried to keep up with the initial work. In an issue of the Western Recorder, I noticed that a Mr. Larry Holly, a doctor from Texas, was sending 5,000 copies of material he had printed about the Masonic

lodge for the visitors to read and 5,000 copies of the same for messengers to read; plus a 58-page booklet. The messenger from our church told me he never saw any of the pamphlets and no book.

Why investigate the Masonic lodge when twice before the Home Mission Board's interfaith department has declined to offer an opinion?

Could it be that Mr. Holly is wanting a check on this organization in order to hide something he is guilty of? And furthermore, it appears Mr. Holly has received from some unknown source false information or perhaps he has tried to get membership in the Masonic lodge and was rejected. If this is true, then he can try again, but if he ever refused the Holy Spirit, then that is the last straw. I sometimes wonder if Mr. Holly is a Baptist.

I have been a Christian for 70 years and a Mason 47 years.

*Raymond O. Young
Morganfield*

Ignorant attack

Those who attack Masonry as satanic are misinformed or ignorant.

It is true references to Christ are largely absent from Masonic ceremonies and literature; most of its biblical references are based on Solomon, who lived 900 years before Christ. Some may dislike Masonry because of its secret rituals and member selec-

tion, but to associate Masonry with satanism is ludicrous.

Masonry was meeting needs long before development of the welfare state. My father died in 1931, leaving a widow and four small children. Kentucky Masons provided a haven for us at Masonic Widows and Orphans Home, where they cared for more than 300 youngsters and many widows. Physical, mental and spiritual needs were provided during my 12 years at the home. We had prayer before each meal, evening devotionals, Sunday school and services every Sunday. Students from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary were our Sunday school teachers. I was led to Christ by one of those students. When I left Masonic Home, Kentucky Masons assisted me in continuing my education at Berea College.

Masonry is God-centered and epitomized by James 1:27: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress."

We Southern Baptists would certainly be more Christ-like if we could get on with our mission of evangelism rather than alienate those with whom we disagree.

*H.E. Shadowen
Bowling Green*

Lest we forget

I was greatly surprised and relieved by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision reaffirming the ban on government-sponsored prayer in the public schools.

It is puzzling to me why so many evangelical Christians, including some Baptists, no longer revere the concept of separation of church and state, which has contributed so much to our heritage of religious freedom in this country.

No group during the Middle Ages suffered more grievously at the hands of despotic state churches than did the evangelical Christians of those times.

No group during the 216 years of our national pilgrimage has prospered more under the absolute religious freedom which we enjoy than have those evangelical Christians, including Baptists.

Perhaps some of us have forgotten that during the colonial period of ear-

ly America, Baptists, Quakers and Catholics suffered political and sometimes physical outrages because of their faith. Perhaps we have forgotten that the colony of Virginia once paid the salaries of Anglican ministers. Perhaps we have forgotten those who stood for long hours with their arms in the stocks because their religious doctrines were at variance with those of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

If the Christians who perished in the bonfires of the Inquisition can look down from on high and witness the folly of modern American Christians as they recklessly attempt to dismantle the wall of separation which has so greatly blessed them, those great saints surely must feel sadness unless, in the mercy of God, sadness cannot reach them there.

*James F. Ogden
Fort Thomas*

Nip it in the bud

Kentucky Baptist churches need to be fully aware that the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is not an auxiliary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. It is a divisive splinter organization identified with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, part of a new undeclared denomination within a denomination.

We were told (WR, June 30) the KBF is "planning eight regional membership meetings across the state this summer." We were told the KBF "intends to sponsor a luncheon for laypeople in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in November."

Eight summer membership meetings and the intended luncheon for laypeople in November should alert Kentucky Baptist churches to the imminent dangers of schism posed by the KBF.

Kentucky Baptist churches should nip the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship in the bud before it causes division and splits a large number of local churches. They should nip it in the bud before it further erodes the Cooperative Program. And the best way for the churches to nip the KBF in the bud is to have absolutely nothing to do with it.

*William R. Hagan
Taylorsville*

It's me again, Raggedy Ann

It's me again, Raggedy. She's gone out shopping and to exchange a few gifts.

I have known for several months that you and I would have to talk. I suppose I have been putting it off. I've been so busy with my own work and have just assumed we'd have plenty of time.

But now it's just a few days away. Too much of life is that way, Raggedy. You assume you have lots of time to do the things you want and need to do, but it seldom works out that way.

I've decided against listening to "Fiddler on the Roof"; you know, that "sunrise-sunset" section. I don't believe I can handle that just now.

I suppose I should be grateful for this final month she's with us at home before the marriage. I imagine it's been frustrating for you, too, Raggedy. She's in and out so much. I

guess we'll just take what we can get and be grateful for it. This time is precious, you know.

What do you think about Michael, Raggedy? I'm glad you like him, too. I hope he will be good to her; that they will be good for each other. The odds aren't good these days they will make it all the way.

Can it have been 20 years ago this summer that we and the Norman Lytles went camping together in Greece and Turkey? When Shawn, not quite 4, kicked over our table in a Greek restaurant?

Some events we never forget, do we, Raggedy?

Maybe the one I'll remember most is the one that just occurred. To quieten the flurry of pre-wedding activities, Alice, Shawn and I spent two nights at the lake.

We took two cars because I would need to go on to West Kentucky to preach on Sunday. I thought I'd be driving solo since the "girls" still had lots to prepare for.

But just as we were to leave, Shawn said she'd like to ride with me. A little thing, Raggedy, but oh how special!

She asked to play her tapes and I happen to like her taste in music. About midway between Louisville and E-town, she said, "I think you'll like the next song, Dad."

Presently the music and words of "Southland in the Springtime" filled the car. A few lines into it, she turned away and looked out the window on

her side of the car. I moved my head to look toward her; her quivering chin gave her away; her eyes hidden by her sun glasses.

I reached across, took her hand in mine, and said nothing. Neither she nor I could talk. We held hands and said nothing, blubbering like children. Several miles later, we talked about it.

The song; the tears, were her way of saying that she realized what this time in her life meant. She was really cutting loose; it would never again be quite the same.

That's the way it is, Raggedy. Now let's try to get hold of ourselves and keep a smile on our face through this happy occasion. You're lucky, Raggedy; your smile is painted on you, and you can't cry! Or can you?

(Shawn and Michael were married by her father Aug. 1.)

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

The 'bottom line' may not meet ministers' needs

If churches are going to do right by their ministers, they've got to look above the bottom line.

A new study examines how Kentucky Baptist churches pay their employees and reveals how those pay packages affect the ministers' bottom line. The good news is compensation seems to be keeping up with inflation. The bad news is insurance premiums and taxes are clobbering many ministers.

"Our churches are to be commended; they're staying just barely ahead of inflation," said Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department, who conducted the study with Guy Futral, director of the KBC minister/church support division.

During the past two years, compensation for full-time ministers has increased 9.8 percent, while inflation has climbed 9.4 percent, Spencer reported. Total compensation—which also includes protection coverages, such as medical benefits and retirement annuities—has grown 12.9 percent. Compensation for non-pastors was even with inflation.

Meanwhile, insurance premiums went up about 40 percent, Spencer added. So ministers who pay for their insurance from lump-sum amounts—or, to put it another way, ministers whose churches don't fund medical insurance separate from their consideration of compensation—have less available cash now than they did two years ago.

On top of that, ministers whose churches did not reimburse them for actual business expenses saw Uncle Sam take an unnecessary bite out of their pay, he noted. Accountable reimbursements for business expenses are not taxable, but expense allowances are.

Consequently, ministers in churches which view compensation only according to the bottom line—and which boil pay down to one lump-

sum amount—probably got hurt financially the last two years.

Futral illustrated: "A church that says, 'Here's our pay. ... Divide it up how you want,' probably forced its minister to opt out of some vital components of a solid pay package. Maybe he dropped annuity or cut back on insurance or could not claim travel expenses. It's better for a church to say up front, 'We will take care of your protection coverage and expenses.'"

Both Futral and Spencer commended Kentucky Baptist churches for making improvements in ministerial compensation. But they agreed more churches need to do more.

Their study revealed 22 percent of full-time pastors, 26 percent of full-time non-pastors and 18 percent of bivocational pastors receive lump-sum packages. Significant numbers do not have a system for accounting for expense reimbursements.

"Churches need to handle expenses separate from pay packages," Spencer insisted. "That's what it costs to do the job; ministers shouldn't be forced to finance the work and pay taxes on it, either."

And churches must make sure their protection packages—including life, medical and disability insurance, Social Security equivalency and retirement—are OK.

Futral and Spencer are available to help churches and ministers process this information and make sure compensation packages are fair to churches and ministers alike. Their address is Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433. Churches that want to look beyond the bottom line to ministers' overall welfare will study the new report and work with Spencer and Futral.

Marv Knox

Insurance premiums and taxes on business expenses may be pulling ministers' incomes way below the level of inflation.

Language missions 'ripe for harvest' across Kentucky

Kentucky's farmland will be ripe for harvest this summer and fall. But the biggest bounty could be in souls, not crops.

"Kentucky is expecting 10,000 migrant farm workers to come for this year's harvest," reported Tony Aja, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's ethnic/language consultant. "That's up from 3,500 in 1991."

The migrant workers primarily come from Mexico to work in Kentucky's tobacco fields. The largest concentrations will be in Henry and Shelby counties. "Statistics show that at least 10 percent of migrant farm workers stay in the area," Aja noted.

These visitors' presence presents Kentucky Baptists with a bountiful opportunity to minister to their needs and also to reach them for Christ, he said, citing recent successes by Henry County Baptist Association.

Another opportunity lies in ministry to refugees, Aja added: "We're getting refugees all over the place—Southeast Asians. ... There are more Cuban refugees coming, (and) Eastern Europeans are coming like crazy."

Add these challenges to other new language ministries in Kentucky, Aja

urged, like a new Korean ministry in Shively, a Spanish-speaking Bible study near Fort Campbell, new deaf work in Eastern Kentucky, growing Hispanic ministry in the St. Matthews area of Louisville and ongoing chaplaincy at Churchill Downs.

"The needs and challenges are great," he insisted. "We can minister within a culture or language. The idea is to divide and conquer"—focus on a specific group or need and minister in Jesus' name.

The latest census data reveal almost 51,000 ethnic Kentuckians from at least 27 races. Unfortunately, resources are limited, and the needs far exceed Kentucky Baptists' ability to meet them.

That's why Language Missions Day, which is Aug. 9 on the Southern Baptist calendar, is so important this year. Sunday will be a good time to pray for and think about the language missions needs in our state.

To see how your church can help meet those needs, contact Aja at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

Marv Knox

"The needs and challenges are great The idea is to divide and conquer."
Tony Aja

You can learn some pretty amazing things on summer vacation

Our summer vacation proved to be quite an educational experience.

We journeyed west to spend a few days with our family. And we had a great time, too. In-law conflicts are non-existent when you live 900-plus miles apart and only see each other sparingly.

But I learned three great lessons:

■ The Law of Chrono-Geo Expansion. Simply put, this means time and distance actually expand when two adults, two kids and a dog stay cramped in a compact car more than 1,800 miles.

Our journey totalled about 2,030 miles, but the final leg from Fulton to Louisville stretched out interminably. The more we drove, the farther away our driveway seemed.

"How much longer?" our girls asked at

least 942 times. I think they began to understand the concept of infinity.

■ The Law of Electro-Solar Waste Transmission. Or daytime TV is garbage.

Fortunately, our vacation schedule didn't allow time for watching much TV. Unfortunately, I walked past the set a few times. Daytime viewers have a choice between soap operas (in which Lucinda's boyfriend Rodney turns out to be her third cousin once-removed—an out-of-wedlock lovechild of Aunt Serena, the de-

partment-store heiress with amnesia, and an itinerant plumber who happened to be a German duke running from the Mafia) and talk shows (whose guests today are ungrateful daughters who have had their noses pierced, call their mothers porcupines and wear their father's boxer shorts to the mall).

Every time I saw a TV set, I thanked the Lord I've got a day job.

■ The Law of Original Grace. This is a spin-off of the Doctrine of Original Sin. It insists that while God did indeed punish Adam and Eve for eating the apple, God also did hu-

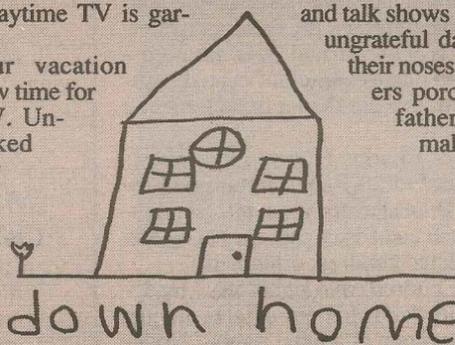
manity a big favor. God invented clothes.

I discovered this principle the day we took the girls and their cousins to one of those water parks, complete with wave pool, slides and artificial river.

People don't wear suits and ties or dresses to water parks. They wear bathing suits. And after standing in line with all manner of folk in all manner of near-disrobement, I decided that, despite kicking us out of the Garden of Eden, God did us a favor by insisting we wear clothes. About 99.44 percent of us look better covered up. If you don't believe me, stand in front of the mirror tomorrow when you hop out of the tub.

Like I said, our vacation was an educational experience. I'm sure glad to be back at work.

Marv Knox



One woman's fight forced station to change its tune

Judge rules life begins at conception

WICHITA, Kan. (EP)—In an unprecedented ruling, a Kansas state judge overturned the trespassing conviction of an anti-abortion protester July 21, saying testimony in the case proved that life begins at conception. Elizabeth Ann Tilson used the "necessity defense" in her case, which resulted from her arrest during Operation Rescue protests at Wichita abortion clinics last summer. Sedgwick County District Judge Paul Clark accepted Tilson's argument that blocking access to the clinic was necessary and justified because she believed humans were being murdered there. In her defense, Tilson called experts in obstetrics, gynecology and genetics, all of whom testified that life begins at conception.

"The scientific community is of the opinion that life begins at conception and harm is the result of termination of life under most circumstances," the judge said in his decision. Clark said his ruling was limited to Tilson's case, but some abortion opponents said it could lead other judges to examine the issue of when life begins. "This case is a rare event in judicial history," said Steven Graber, the Rutherford Institute attorney who handled Tilson's defense. "If this case is appealed and finds its way to the United States Supreme Court, it presents the most formidable challenges to Roe vs. Wade ever."

DAYTON, Ohio (EP)—One Christian woman in Dayton, Ohio, forced a radio station to change its tune after airing a sexually suggestive message and then taunting her for opposing it.

Arlene Howard's story was told in the June issue of AFA Journal, the magazine of the American Family Association, which cited her as an example of how one person can make a difference.

Howard's story began on a February night when she and her husband picked up their daughter from a junior high basketball game. As the daughter flipped through radio stations, she came across Z93 and heard a sexually suggestive message aimed at teens.

Howard said her first reaction was disbelief, but that soon gave way to anger.

The next morning, Howard called the station and asked to speak to the program director. She expressed her concerns to him then and in other conversations over a two-week period.

When her request for dropping the message was not accepted, she warned that her "social action committee" would contact the station's sponsors.

The program director said he still would keep airing the sexually suggestive message.

Two weeks later, Z93 turned Howard's complaints into a promotional campaign with 15 billboards

saying, "Beavercreek's Social Action Committee has declared Z93 morally unsafe, vice chairperson, Erlene Hummer."

On Monday, March 16, Howard began calling sponsors. Rally's Restaurant imposed a 60-day advertising boycott. Another company said they would request tapes of Z93's programming. A Chevrolet dealership pulled its ads.

On the same day, Howard contacted other big advertisers such as Kroger, Pizza Hut and McDonald's. Meanwhile, other members of the social action committee contacted other advertisers.

By that afternoon, Z93's general manager, Dave Macejko, called

Howard to apologize for the billboards and request a meeting, she said.

At that meeting the next day, Macejko apologized for the billboards but did not give Howard a firm commitment to pull the offensive messages.

Howard said she left the meeting unsatisfied and continued to urge people to contact the station.

Other advertisers complained, and finally McDonald's pressured the station to drop the messages.

Also, Z93 aired an apology to the Beavercreek Social Action Committee three times a day for two weeks and covered all the taunting billboards.

Court upholds abortion-pill ban; some in Congress angry

By Pam Parry
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court upheld a ban on importing the French abortion pill RU-486 into the U.S. July 17, once again pitting Congress against the nation's high court and the Bush administration.

The conflict emerged when Leona Benten tried to import the drug into the U.S. She wanted to use the drug to induce an abortion, but federal authorities confiscated it at the airport because RU-486 has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Benten filed suit in the District Court for the Eastern District of New York seeking immediate return of the drug. The District Court granted a temporary injunction providing for the drug's return.

However, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the injunction, and the Supreme Court denied

her application to vacate the appeals court's decision.

Although losing in the court system, Benten has found some support in Congress.

Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., introduced July 21 a resolution (H. Con. Res. 350) expressing the "sense" of Congress that the U.S. Customs Service should return the dosage of RU-486 seized from Benten. Even if passed, however, the resolution does not carry the force of law and is not expected to convince the Supreme Court to reverse its ruling.

Schroeder said her resolution complements a bill introduced in February 1991 by Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. Wyden's bill (H.R. 875) is designed to lift the import ban on RU-486. No hearings have been held on the bill.

Schroeder noted RU-486 is on the FDA list of 58 imported drugs banned from the U.S. even though it does not meet any of the established criteria for the list.

"The import ban on RU-486 is un-

fair and discriminatory," Schroeder said. "It is evident that this drug is on the list not because of any dangers, but because it has been decreed 'politically incorrect' by the Bush administration."

But Ben Mitchell, director of biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said the U.S. government should not allow use of RU-486.

"This is just another mode of killing unborn babies," Mitchell told Associated Baptist Press. "Whether it is approved by the FDA or not doesn't change the fact that morally it would be wrong to use the drug," he said.

Mitchell labeled Benten's attempt to import the drug "a contrived incident" which abortion-rights activists are using to push for legislation legalizing RU-486.

Child seeks to divorce parents

ORLANDO, Fla. (ABP)—A Florida judge ruled July 9 that an 11-year-old boy can seek a "divorce" from his natural parents so his foster family can adopt him.

According to the boy's attorney, the ruling represents the first time a court has recognized a child's "fundamental right" to pursue his own interests in a dependency case. The court ruled the child has the same constitutional right as an adult to protect his interests in court.

"The main thing that is being said here is that a child should be able to go to a judge and tell his side of story," said Jerri Blair, an attorney from Tavares, a small town in rural central Florida. Blair represents the Lake County boy, identified in court documents only as Gregory K.

Circuit Judge Thomas Kirk of Orlando did not rule on the child's suit seeking freedom from his parents, who allegedly abused and neglected Gregory for much of his life. But he cleared the way for the case to be heard and for the boy to pursue his request for adoption against his mother's wishes.

"It's unique because it is the first time a child has gone to court to try to

end his parental relationship," Blair said.

The ruling is touted as a major success by child-rights advocates. But others say it conflicts with the rights of parents.

"I don't think it's good for the principle of the integrity and autonomy of the family," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Whitehead said the judge's ruling is intended to make it easier for courts to override the rights of parents in raising children. Since state agencies are capable of protecting children's interests, Whitehead said, it is not necessary to change the child-custody system to give children a basis for filing lawsuits.

But Charles Hodges, vice president of Florida Baptist Family Services, a Baptist agency that provides residential and foster care for needy and neglected children, disagreed.

"Children have rights too," Hodges said, "and children's rights are just as important as adults' rights." Hodges said he supports a child's right to seek court action, even against the parents' wishes, "in a limited number of specialized cases."

Conference on Cults

August 31, First Baptist, Morehead
September 1, Grace Baptist, Pikeville
Both conferences start at 7 p.m.

Jehovah's Witnesses



Paul Blizard, Pastor
First Baptist, Fairdale
Former JW

Mormons



Jack Oliver, Pastor
Vine St. Baptist
Louisville

New Age



Mark Terry, Professor
Clear Creek Baptist Bible
College, Pineville

Occult



Charles Rice, Dean
Clear Creek Baptist Bible
College, Pineville

Special Note to Acteens: This is a possible StudiAct Requirement.

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

MISSIONS

One eye can't cry, but Neal sees China dream now

By Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

NANJING, China (BP)—Five years ago, Katie Neal was a walking time bomb.

A brain tumor grew off her hearing nerve and attached itself to facial nerves. Doctors said she would die; it was just a matter of time.

At 25 years of age, she had to plan her own funeral. The plans she had made as a teen-ager to go to China apparently would die with her.

But she didn't die and neither did her China dream.

It took Neal 12 years—and a near-death experience—but today she teaches at China Pharmaceutical University in Nanjing, China. She arrived there last year, the only American teacher at the school, through the auspices of Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization.

Sitting with friends around a table in Nanjing's YMCA, she sings "Amazing Grace."

Few people in the room know just how "sweet the sound" is to Katie Neal. They don't realize what this 31-year-old has been through. All they can see and hear are a warm smile and a beautiful singing voice.

"I'm healthy and attribute it all to God giving me everything, even the

use of my facial muscles," Neal says.

"There were just two things I asked the Lord to give back to me. One was my singing voice because I missed singing. I told God I'd always use it to glorify him. The other was to have my left eye blink again. If the eye doesn't blink, it dries out. I had to use salve, which meant I couldn't see."

She's deaf in her left ear. The left side of her face has slight paralysis. She can't lift her left eyebrow, and that eye "still doesn't cry," she says.

But tears fill the eyes of many people who hear her story.

When she was stricken with the tumor, surgeons

called it inoperable but recommended surgery anyway. They gave her even odds for dying on the operating table. If she survived she probably would spend the rest of her life as a "vegetable," she said.

The doctors, Neal's family and her friends counted on one thing: She's a fighter.

She came out of surgery a mess. She couldn't walk or talk or smile. Movements she retained were extremely slow. Through weeks of agonizing therapy, Neal learned to walk all over again. She learned to talk again after the life-support tube stuck down her throat had bruised the vocal cords. Her smile came back after tumor-damaged nerves on the left side

of her face initially rendered it cock-eyed.

Neal fought back and learned to live again. Within four months, the special education teacher returned to work in Ontario, Calif.

But just when she thought she was making progress, Neal went for a routine post-operative checkup and discovered her brain was hemorrhaging. She needed more surgery.

She went through therapy a second time, returning to work eight weeks later. The doctor scheduled her next checkup in three years.

Today Neal considers herself a walking miracle.

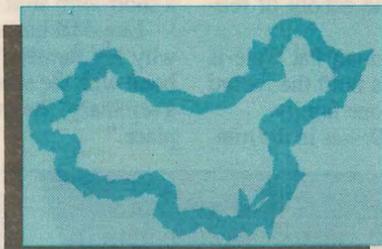
She tells everyone who will listen that her life is a testimony to God.

She says there's no doubt she's

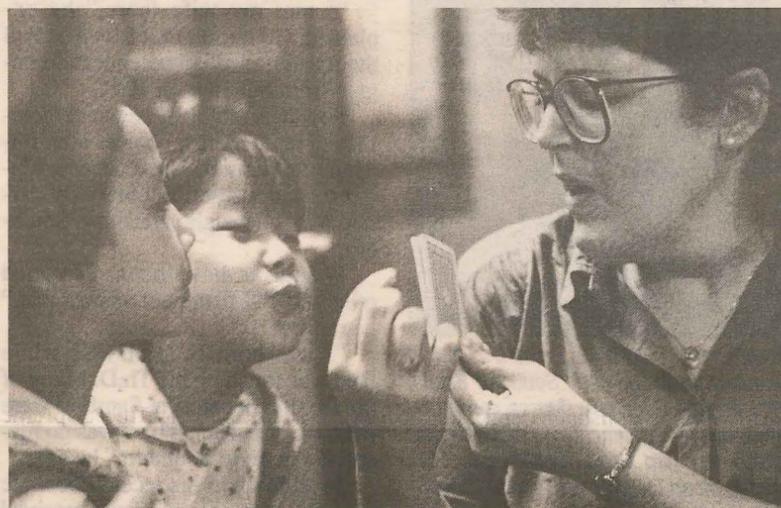
supposed to be in China. "Even when I walked through those first days of culture shock, I constantly was assured of God's purpose in me being here," she explained. "I knew I couldn't leave because he called me."

"Every major step of my life I've always received promises in Scripture, what I call 'life verses.' The one for China is Isaiah 42:6-7: 'I will hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you ... as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out ... those who dwell in darkness.' I really believe he's called me to be a light to this nation."

A few years ago it looked like she wouldn't see China at all. But now Katie Neal says she's beginning to see China through God's eyes.



Lessons from China



FUN TIME Southern Baptist teacher Katie Neal fascinates two children in China with a card trick. Five years ago, Neal had a brain tumor, and it seemed she never would realize her dream of going to China. But today she teaches at China Pharmaceutical University in Nanjing and shares her faith with all who will listen. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Chinese students have a friend in 72-year-old 'Mama Sue'

NANJING, China (BP)—Charles came to Sue Todd's apartment in China wearing a tattered peasant's coat.

The Chinese student wanted to go to church, but he hoped the Southern Baptist teacher from Windsor, N.C., wouldn't be embarrassed to be seen with him dressed like that. Todd told him God doesn't care what people wear to church; he's more concerned

about what's on the inside.

But to reassure him, Todd pulled a blazer out of her closet.

"He was so proud," Todd recalls. "He pressed. He stretched. He'd never had one before."

Later she bought material and had a suit made for him. He had never had a decent pair of shoes either, so she bought him a pair.

The silver-haired Todd, 72, is in her third year in China where she teaches English at Southeast China University in Nanjing. The school's foreign language department named her its "outstanding teacher" two years in a row.

But "Mama Sue" is even more popular among her Chinese students for her willingness to open her small

apartment—and her heart—to them.

"I take time to talk with anyone who comes to my room," Todd says. "The students need this. They need a sounding board with someone who cares. They tell me their problems, their goals ... It really keeps me busy. But that's exactly why I came to China. I feel a sense of urgency because of my age."

Volunteers develop love for China

Continued from page 1

Franke's explanation of prayer led to other questions about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Several students gathered around to listen to her explanations.

Joe and Earlene Strother of Ruston, La., were discouraged when they left China after a one-year stint. They didn't know one person who had become a Christian through their work, but decided to continue contact with more than 40 of their students. Three years later, one-fourth of them are now Christians.

Chinese school administrators added a course to Grady Lackey's teaching load called "The Bible as Literature." That gave the Lubbock, Texas, native opportunities to explain principles of the Christian faith. His students asked so many questions it was often difficult for him to complete lectures.

After a stint in China, every Southern Baptist worker talks about the many opportunities to share faith. They answer countless questions, privately and in small groups: what they believe, why they believe it, how they worship God, how they pray, how to live a Christian life.

The teaching program allows Southern Baptists to serve China and the church from a humanitarian, Christian perspective, said Jack Shelby, the organization's Hong Kong-based administrator. Shelby instructs CSI personnel to serve Christ, first by being the most effective teachers and students they can be. The "lifestyle" witness begins there and branches out, he explained.

That approach has won many friends in China over the past five years, Shelby said, and those friends, in turn, have opened many opportunities for Southern Baptists in China.



SUNDAY IN CHINA Sue Todd (right front), one of many Southern Baptist volunteers serving as teachers in China, worships at St. Paul's Church in Nanjing with Charlie Wilson, educational resources coordinator for Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization that sponsors the teachers. The 72-year-old woman has been named "outstanding teacher" at Southeast China University two years in a row. After graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville in 1985, Wilson helped train the first group of American teachers that went to China. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

China openings plentiful

Cooperative Services International isn't looking for a few good people for work in China; it's looking for a lot.

The Southern Baptist aid agency has requested more than 100 teachers and language students for China this fall. Qualified people may serve in a number of capacities:

■ Summer teams. Volunteers are needed to lead training courses for English teachers from Chinese middle schools and universities.

■ Longer-term volunteers. Southern Baptists interested in working in China for periods of six months to three years should contact Glenn Prescott or Pat Parrish at (804) 254-9418.

■ Career personnel. CSI also has openings for people who want to work in China longer than three years. Career applicants should contact CSI's Richmond office at (804) 353-0151. CSI seeks experienced elementary, junior and senior high school teachers, university English teachers or others with degrees in English, English as a second language or English literature.

Seminary studies take family to the ninth degree

By William Perkins Jr.
Mississippi Baptist Record

STARKVILLE, Miss. (BP)—You could say the Lloyd family of Starkville, Miss., measures their loyalty to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary by degrees—nine degrees to be exact.

It all started back in 1926, when Richard Lloyd Sr. received his bachelor of theology degree from the Louisville seminary. The most recent family graduate is his grandson, Richard Lloyd III, who received the doctor of philosophy degree there this spring

and is pastor of Upton Baptist Church in Upton.

In between, family members have received seven other Southern degrees, according to R. Raymond Lloyd Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Starkville.

"Dad came from Pennsylvania to attend the seminary because of the strength and biblical nature of the institution. There is a high spiritual quality and fine quality of theological education at Southern Seminary," he said.

Lloyd Jr. carried on the tradition by attaining the bachelor of divinity degree in 1953 and the doctor of theology degree in 1960, but he may have had more interests as a student than just making good grades.

"I met my wife there," he explained. Gretta Johnson Lloyd earned the master of religious education degree from Southern in 1954.

So when Lloyd III began contemplating his seminary choices after finishing at Samford University in Alabama, one institution obviously carried a lot of weight. He chose Southern.

Would he have been disowned otherwise? "I better not answer that," he replied.

"I was born in Louisville while Dad was finishing his Th.D. Many of the faculty members at Samford were from the seminary. There was no reason not to go to Southern," he said.

In addition to his recent doctorate from Southern, Lloyd III also received

the master of divinity degree there in 1983 and master of theology degree in 1985.

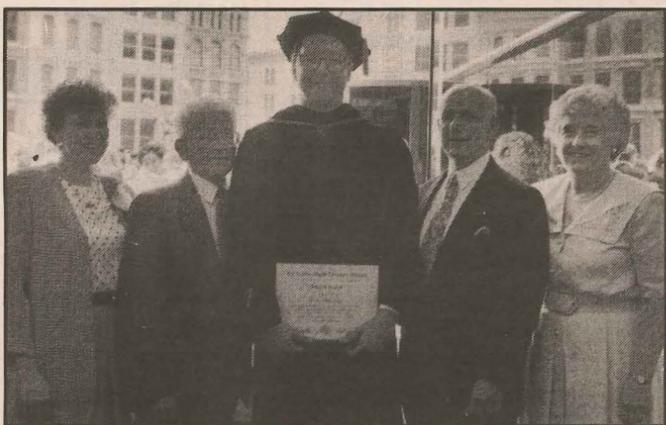
Not to be outdone, Debra Heard Lloyd, wife of Lloyd III, received the master of divinity degree in religious education in 1983 and the doctor of education degree in 1990, both from Southern. She now serves as an adjunct professor in the school of religious education.

Seminary spokesman Pat Cole is confident the Lloyds hold the record for most degrees in one family.

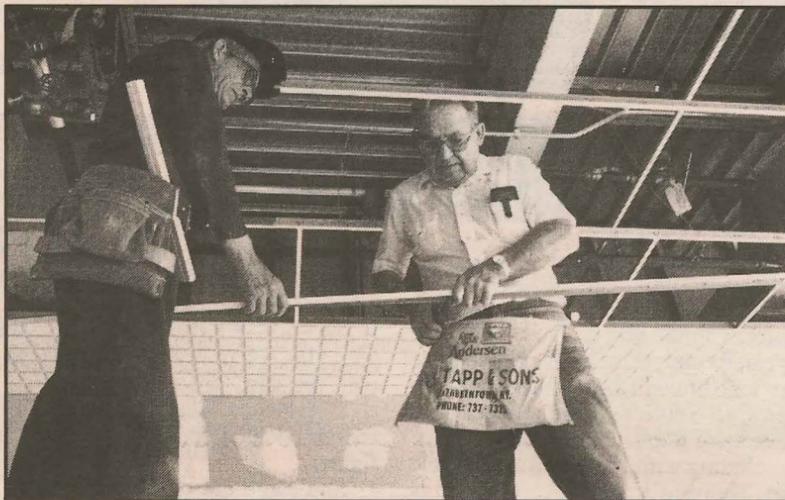
Lloyd Sr., now 90, was in the min-

istry 65 years and now lives with his son in Starkville. Lloyd Jr. was recently honored on his 20th anniversary as pastor of the Starkville church. Gretta Lloyd has been a special instructor at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomosho, Nigeria, and will return there in January along with her husband, who also will serve a short-term stint on the faculty.

Lloyd III has a simple explanation why his family feels such a special bond with the school. "It is more than a seminary," he said. "It is a cherished place."



FAMILY OF DEGREES Richard Lloyd III (center) holds the ninth Southern Baptist Theological Seminary degree earned by the Lloyd family. Other Lloyd graduates are Deborah Heard Lloyd, Richard Lloyd Sr., R. Raymond Lloyd Jr. and Gretta Johnson Lloyd. (Photo by Tom McDonald)



RAISING THE ROOF Tom Napier (left) and Ed Hodges, members of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, install ceiling tiles as part of the campus restoration project at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Severns Valley was the first church to send a volunteer team to help with the restoration, a three-year program designed to address \$8 million in deferred maintenance needs.

Jones to speak at Campbellville conference

CAMPBELLVILLE—Peter Rhea Jones will be the featured speaker for Campbellville College's biblical studies program Aug. 13-14.

The program will focus on the Sermon on the Mount. The public is invited to attend at no cost.

The biblical studies program honors the memory of longtime Campbellville professor Paul Horner and his wife, Lillian.

Jones, pastor of First Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., previously served churches in Middletown and Henderson. He is a former professor of New Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

For more information about the program, contact John Hurtgen at (502) 789-5029 or Tommy Johnson at (502) 789-5227.

Speaking of children ...

Many times I am asked by members of churches I visit questions like, "What kind of child is at Spring Meadows or Glen Dale?" or, "What do you do about keeping families together?" These are questions best answered through speaking engagements set up through our speakers bureau.

At Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, we view education as an important part of our role in serving the Baptist community and in helping children and families across our state. We're committed to meeting the needs of churches and church groups as best we can.

Perhaps a situation in your community has prompted a flurry of questions about the nature of abuse or neglect. "What exactly is it?" people are asking. What a golden opportunity for your church to provide a speaker from our agency to address a group from your church and community on the topic.

Perhaps you are aware that Kentucky has a very high teenage pregnancy rate. A speaker from our First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Service would be happy to talk frankly with your youth group and parents about the

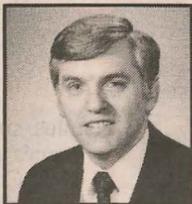
risks and sensible ways to avoid those risks. We have speakers trained to talk about will planning, memorial gifts and gift annuities as well. Your church could consider setting up a special seminar for senior adults. Just call us with the date you have in mind, the topic you'd like addressed and the location of the event, and we'll be there if at all possible.

Recently, Ann Santora, a family specialist at our Spring Meadows campus, has spoken to church groups about parenting skills. Ann and others like her are available to talk about the children. We can tell you about the special needs of boys at our Baptist Youth Ranch or what our

college students will need this fall. Maybe your group would like a general overview of what Baptists are doing for children and how you can be involved in our efforts. This fall is an ideal time to have a speaker talk about our Thanksgiving offering. Whatever your specific needs, we're here to work with you. Call us today at (800) 456-1386.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

Do you ask the right questions?

It seems to me every time I meet someone for the first time I'm asked the same series of questions. "Where do you live?" "Are you from around here?" "Where did you go to school?" "Do you have any children?" "What do you do for a living?"

There is a theory that these questions are asked for several reasons. First, most people want to find out as much as they can about you—the stranger.

Second, some people have a driving force to know everyone else's business. One of their hobbies is asking these questions and then classifying people in various social categories—hometown folks, with or without kids, level of income, and so on.

Third, some people ask these questions because they are really trying to get to know you. They are people oriented. Their main concern is making you feel comfortable.

Even if they have the best intentions when asking these questions, they can make the person being asked the questions very uncomfortable. So the next time you meet someone for the first time, think about the questions you ask them and think about what motivates you to ask those questions.

You might want to tell them you're glad to meet them and look

forward to getting to know them even better. Then ask them "What would you like to talk about that makes you feel most comfortable?"

The point is, don't sound like an investigative reporter! Give your new acquaintance the opportunity to discuss the subject that is important to them. Let them know by offering to help them choose the conversation's subject, that you truly have a genuine interest in them.

Baptist Healthcare Foundation has a genuine interest in helping the over 2,000 patients and their families that come in contact with the four hospitals of Baptist Healthcare System everyday. We are constantly questioning the hospitals about their needs and how the Foundation can help meet those needs. In turn, the Foundation asks people, companies and other foundations if they can help satisfy those needs. Why do we ask those questions? Because we want to inform others about how they assist the ministries of our Lord in providing Christian healthcare.

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

Paid Column

RESEARCH

Study charts average salaries for Kentucky ministers

Continued from page 1
salary and housing only.

The average salary of full-time non-pastor ministers increased 9.5 percent, Spencer said. Their 1992 average for salary and housing was \$29,468.

Specific average salaries in this category include \$32,094 for full-time music ministers, \$23,757 for music and youth ministers, \$32,485 for combination education and associate pastor positions, \$28,976 for education ministers and \$26,840 for combination education and youth positions.

The average compensation for bivocational pastors was \$9,858.

Spencer and Futral generate their report using information voluntarily provided by Kentucky Baptist ministers. A total of 327 full-time pastors responded to their 1992 survey, while 147 non-pastor ministers responded and 116 bivocational pastors participated.

The two men use the statistics as they work with ministers, churches, search committees and others who seek their counsel. With this database, they can produce customized reports based on a church's size, budget, region and other variables.

Spencer said this year's survey found a "significant improvement in

the way churches are handling compensation packages."

For example, the number of churches handling staff expenses on an accountable reimbursement basis increased to 48 percent this year from 34 percent two years ago, he noted.

Both Spencer and Futral believe churches should calculate ministerial compensation on salary and housing allowance alone. Benefits such as retirement, Social Security, insurance, book allowances and travel allowances should be provided, but should not be considered part of the minister's salary, they contend.

Other findings from this year's

compensation survey include:

■ 94.5 percent of churches provide some annuity contribution for full-time pastors, while 91.2 percent provide it for other full-time ministers.

■ Only 50 percent of bivocational pastors receive annuity contributions from their churches.

■ 84.7 percent of churches provide medical insurance for full-time pastors, while 87.8 percent provide it for other full-time ministers and 21.6 percent provide it for bivocational pastors.

■ Full-time pastors surveyed receive an average of 2.5 weeks for vacation and 2.3 weeks for revivals and conferences. Other full-time ministers receive an average of 2.5 weeks for vacation and 2 weeks for revivals and conferences. Bivocational pastors receive an average of 2.1 weeks for vacation and 2.3 weeks for revivals and conferences.

■ The pastors and other full-time staff members surveyed have been at their current churches an average of six years, while bivocational pastors surveyed have been at their current churches an average of 5.2 years.

A printed copy of the compensation report is available from the KBC minister/church relations office, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

Five steps to setting ministerial salaries

Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department, offers churches a five-step suggestion for determining ministerial compensation:

■ Determine how ministry-related expenses will be covered. Spencer strongly advocates a system whereby the church reimburses the minister for actual expenses rather than providing the minister a lump sum for expenses as part of the salary.

■ Determine protection coverages. Churches need clear policies on who pays what part of protection coverages such as retirement, Social Security and life, medical and disability insurance, he said.

■ Determine amount of compensation. Spencer advises churches to consider the biblical basis for adequate financial support, family needs, cost of living and the minister's skills, education and experience.

■ Determine costs for protection coverages based on decisions made in step two.

■ Total and re-examine the entire package.

Accommodations

MissionsFest - September 11-12 - Lexington



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

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

All listings are for Lexington.

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

Add 11.3% tax to rates

R=Restaurant

All 800 telephone numbers are toll free.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Poems, lyrics. Christian music composer seeks scripturally based words for new songs. Please send inquiries to: Composer, P.O. Box 51, Prospect, Ky. 40059.

WANTED: Complete set of Broadman commentaries. Call (502) 828-2240 collect; ask for Jerry.

NEEDED: Organist, immediate, services & practices, salary good. Facilities for lessons. Personnel, Box 924, Shepherdsville, Ky. 40165.

WANTED: Part-time Youth Minister. Must be Southern Baptist; prefer person with or working toward college education, musically inclined, with Discipleship Training experience. Send resumé: Youth Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 327, Kuttawa, Ky. 42055.

WANTED: Single Adult Minister. Large church, worship attendance 2,400, Sunday school attendance 2,200, single adult enrollment 1,000 plus, single adult attendance 270. Resumes welcomed—application essential. Contact Pat Thompson (602) 297-7238 or write: Casas Adobes Baptist Church, 2131 W. Ina Road, Tucson, AZ 85741.

PEWS

NEW & USED (800) 366-1716

Overholzer

Mormonism is a cult misleading many. We offer a one-year free subscription to a publication that can help you. Write Utah Missions, Inc., P.O. Box 348, Marlow, OK 73055 or call toll-free 1-800-654-3992. A ministry of HMB, SBC.

KENTUCKY KERNELS

J.M. Frost, the founder and first secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board, hailed from Kentucky. Frost was born in Georgetown Feb. 10, 1848, graduated from Georgetown College, and served two Kentucky churches as pastor: First Church, Maysville, and Calvary Church, Lexington. He is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, and one of the Sunday School Board's buildings in Nashville is named in his memory.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BENTON**—First Church called **James Ellison Jr.** as pastor.
 Zion's Cause Church called **Frank Pasteur** as interim music director.
 Sharpe Church called **Herschel Spears** of Buchanan, Tenn., as pastor.
 ■ **COX'S CREEK**—Cox's Creek Church began revival services Aug. 2 with **Landen Hadley** as guest evangelist.
 ■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—**Rick Long** is youth pastor at First Church.
 ■ **LEBANON**—**Oliver Hawkins** is serving as interim director of missions for Central Association.
 ■ **LONDON**—**Paul Fredrick** re-

signed as pastor of Mt. Zion Church.
Harold Hedrick resigned as pastor of Slate Hill Church.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Bill Baird** resigned as pastor of Minors Lane Church.
Carman Sharp is serving as interim pastor at Buechel Park Church.
 Lynn Acres Church celebrates its 41st anniversary Aug. 9.
 ■ **MADISONVILLE**—**Bob Morrison** is serving Little Bethel Association as director of missions.
 ■ **MARION**—**A.C. Hodge** resigned as pastor of Union Church.
 ■ **MURRAY**—**Sinking Spring**

Bagdad organist keeps on going for more than 60 years

By **Melanie Childers**
 Staff Writer

BAGDAD—Mary Nilles could give the Eveready bunny a run for his musical drumsticks. The 86-year-old organist has outlasted four organs at her church and still keeps going and going.

During an appreciation dinner for church officers July 19, Indian Fork Baptist Church in Bagdad honored Nilles for more than 60 years of service as church organist and pianist.

Nilles, a Kentucky native and long-time member of Indian Fork Church, said she counts her years as a

church musician by the different instruments she has played there.

"I started out on an old pump organ," she said. "When the church bought a piano, I played that until we got the spinnet organ. Of course now we use an electronic one."

Kevin Head, pastor of Indian Fork Church, said even Nilles herself couldn't remember the exact number of years she had served. But all agreed it is somewhere between 62 and 65 years.

Head described Nilles as an energetic, happy and warm person with a friendly smile and a lot of strength.

"For the past year, we have been without a pianist, so she has carried the

Church called **Dwayne Barrow** as music director.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church ordained five as deacons: **Rick Murphy, Larry Jett, Dave Croft, Richard Byrd and Bob Dreher.**

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Harmony Church voted to withdraw fellowship from Allen Association.

■ **SMITHFIELD**—Friends and former members of Smithfield Church are invited Aug. 16 for the church's 190th anniversary celebration.

■ **TOMPKINSVILLE**—Mill Creek Church called **Bill Combs** as pastor.

■ **WADDY**—Waddy Church invites all former members and their families to attend the church's 100th anniversary celebration Sept. 5-6.

Cumberland event helps ministers

WILLIAMSBURG—When ministers despair that they can't do all people expect of them, they should remember that Jesus understands and can help.

That was the message of D.L. Lowrie, secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, to about 120 ministers attending the first Pastors' Conference at Cumberland College July 20-22.

"All of us that are involved in ministry ... are aware that we don't have the keys to anything," Lowrie said.

"We're so frail, we're the poor in the spirit and those that mourn among the meek. But listen, friends, don't despair, Christ has the keys."

Lowrie challenged ministers to understand the difference between "church work" and the "work of the church." He urged them to lay aside the pressures of church growth and realize growth is what happens when the church does the work of the church.

Lowrie's wife, Alice, also encouraged ministers' wives, and David Perkins of Gonzales, La., presented an overview of the 1993 January Bible study.

A little slower pace

I gave myself three hours off this Wednesday morning. Knowing I had no scheduled appointments for the day, something that happens very rarely, I slept a bit extra and then watched the Olympics.

Our summer school session was over last Friday. Several hundred students left for a three-week break preparatory to our new term beginning Aug. 16.

On Sunday morning, 23 students and staff traveled five hours to share in the wedding of two of our staff at Goshen Church in Breckenridge County. I watched the bride grow up from a sixth grade child in our dorm. She was with us seven years before going on to college.

The groom's oldest aunt came to be a student in our school 54 years ago at the age of 28. Living too far from a high school, she had been out of school for many years until she heard of Oneida. She was the valedictorian of our 1942 class and was back a few months ago for her 50th class reunion. There are many "ties that bind" our Oneida family together.

Many other Oneidians met us at the church, and the ladies had prepared a wonderful meal for us. Lightning struck the transformer near the church an hour before the ceremony, cutting off the lights and air-conditioning. But a candlelight ceremony had been planned anyway. The church was packed with people standing while the wedding was performed to the clap of thunder. The Lord's Supper was a beautiful part of the memorable service.

One of our 1992 graduates, a boy with us six years, was at the service. Learning it was his 19th birthday, two of our boys and I took him to a nearby state park lodge for a birthday dinner. We drove to Marshall County and spent the night.

On Monday morning I spoke to the Blood River WMU associational meeting. This had

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

been planned for many months. As I prepared to leave Oneida for the wedding and the speaking, I learned of the death of an 84-year-old aunt, a member of Hazel Baptist Church. After speaking to the WMU, I went to her funeral and then to the little country cemetery where three generations of my father's family are buried. My students and I got back to Oneida in the wee hours of Tuesday morning.

I thought of the busy preceding days as I came late to the office after my sleep-in this morning.

I spent over two hours signing outgoing mail—one of my most pleasant tasks. It was especially enjoyable today. I was interrupted only twice. A beautiful mountain girl arrived with her father. I had never heard of them and did not know they were coming, but spent a very pleasant hour with them. They will be back this coming Sunday with a younger sister and the mother. The two girls plan to live in our dorm this year. For years they have been riding a school bus four hours daily over narrow curvy mountain roads.

Then a friend of our school came unexpectedly to visit from Auburn. His sister was a nurse, along with my mother, in the Oneida Mountain Hospital 40 years ago. I had met them on a previous visit about five years ago.

We have a wonderful group of men and women doing volunteer work this week from Turner Ridge Baptist in Pendleton County. They come every year to do whatever there is to do.

With the summer school students gone, about 30 of our girls and boys have returned from their summer vacation to work the three weeks before the fall term begins. They are busy in the gardens, on the farm, mowing and cleaning the buildings for the new school term.

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

Paid Column

Robert Oldham elected professor emeritus

After 46 years of ministry in the pastorate and teaching, Kentuckian Robert Oldham anticipates meaningful retirement service as emeritus professor of Bible and speech. He and Virginia have returned to Campbellsville, where they were newlywed students in 1947. Oldham will teach extension and summer classes for us and hopes to preach frequently.

After three years in the Marines, Oldham completed a degree at Campbellsville. Additional study followed at Western Kentucky and Southern Seminary. He served one year as an Air Force chaplain in the Korean War.

We prefer teachers with pastoral experience, and the Oldhams had 19 years in Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Michigan. His last Kentucky pastorate was Springfield First Baptist. Over 20 interim pastorates have come during his teaching career.

While in a Lansing, Michigan, pastorate, Oldham earned a master's degree in speech at Michigan State. The following year he moved into full-time teaching at Missouri Baptist College. From 1981-87, he was professor in the pastoral training department at Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

The Oldhams' five years at Clear Creek climaxed a lifelong interest in and support of our work.

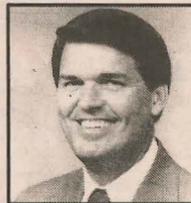
Students in his preaching and speech classes experienced an emphasis on adequate preparation and thorough organization. He often taught ethics, a course which one student said "really made me think about social traditions and their conflict with biblical standards." Some gave him the reputation of a difficult teacher. He rightly expects students to work hard. I share his feelings that procrastination and laziness undermine effective ministry. A physically fit minister is another Oldham emphasis, and he practices what he preaches.

Virginia Oldham operated our mail room. "By working the mail you get to know the campus family. I have enjoyed it all and will miss everyone," Mrs. Oldham said. This behind-the-scenes job is symbolic of her faithful life work as wife and mother. Their new home is halfway between son John and daughter Mary. Four grandchildren complete the family.

Proverbs 3:5-6 is Robert Oldham's life Scripture. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths." We are thankful the Lord directed the Oldhams our way.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Paid Column

Simple changes can increase life quality, Cooper says

By Ray Furr
SBC Annuity Board

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—Simple changes in lifestyle can increase quality of life, alter the aging process and save money, said Kenneth Cooper, director of the Aerobics Center in Dallas.

"It is not so much that we die than that we kill ourselves," Cooper, noted physician and fitness author, told the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference earlier this summer.

Cooper revealed results of a recent study comparing Southern Baptist ministers and other professionals. The ministers are younger but fatter and less active than their peers, he said.

"The three factors that increase aging the most are smoking, inactivity and obesity," he said.

Cooper cited a landmark study by the Cooper Institute for Aerobics that found if people moved from the lowest fitness category to the next level, death rates dropped 55 percent.

He told conferees they could improve their fitness level by simply walking, suggesting several acceptable walking routines: two miles in 30 minutes three times per week; two miles in 40 minutes four times per week; or two miles in 45 minutes five times a week.

On obesity, Cooper said Americans need to change their diets. "A 1 percent reduction in cholesterol can

reduce the risk of heart attacks by 2-4 percent."

Cooper said life expectancy is 74 years but research indicates only 62 of those years are useful.

"I've been running for 33 years, 12 to 15 miles per week. Being physically fit allows me to square off the aging curve. We need to wear out, not rust out.

"Southern Baptist health insurance premiums have increased 410 percent from 1980-89, and that cost is going to continue to increase," Cooper said, quoting statistics from the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. "Too much of our health-care dollars are spent on disease and not on health."

Cooper urged churches to follow

the lead of corporate America, setting up programs that emphasize disease prevention.

He said 65 percent of corporations have wellness programs but he knew of no churches that do. He cited statistics documenting that the businesses have seen decreases in health-care costs and absenteeism and an increase in productivity. Also, he said, corporations with good wellness programs are better able to recruit outstanding people and decrease employee turnover.

A wellness program should include programs in nutrition, exercise, stopping smoking, alcohol/drug abuse, stress management and regular physical examinations, Cooper said.

The three factors that increase aging the most, according to fitness expert Kenneth Cooper:
■ Smoking.
■ Inactivity.
■ Obesity.

First Place offers long-term solutions to weight loss

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Life-long lifestyle change—not short-term quick fixes—result in losing weight and keeping the pounds off, according to two leaders of a Christian health program.

"It has taken me since 1981 to change a lot of my attitudes about food," said Carole Lewis, national director of "First Place: A Christ-Centered Health Program" begun 11 years ago by First Baptist Church of Houston. Today, more than 1,000 churches in 35 states are using the program.

Lewis and Kay Smith, a First Place group leader from Roscoe, Texas, in-

troduced the program July 4-10 during the discipleship training leadership conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Materials for leading First Place support groups in churches are being released this summer in a cooperative venture between the Houston church and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Lewis described First Place as a spiritually based education program to teach participants to eat right, exercise and get enough rest.

"I am convinced that in God's word is everything we need for health," said Lewis, who enrolled in the first group conducted by the church. Her goal was to lose 20

pounds, pounds she had lost and gained numerous times in previous attempts.

"This is a plan to make people into balanced Christians. It's a wonderful way to live when Jesus Christ is in control. That's what we learn in First Place," Lewis said.

First Place participants enroll in 13-week group sessions that include weigh-ins, food facts, Scripture memorization, Bible study and prayer. Using a food-exchange program, optimum weight loss is one and one-half to two pounds per week.

In addition to Bible study and prayer, another unique feature of First Place is that group leaders and assistants maintain close personal contact

with members, including calling them when they miss meetings. Personal needs of members become prayer concerns of the group.

The First Place diet is low in fat and high in protein. Members are encouraged to eat fresh meat, fruit and vegetables rather than highly processed foods.

Currently, 500 people are enrolled in 20 First Place groups conducted by First Baptist in Houston. They meet at various times. One group of business people convenes at 6:15 a.m.

And about 250 of the participants are not affiliated with the church. "This can be a tremendous outreach program because people are interested in losing weight," Lewis said.

First Place is a church-based program for weight control developed at First Baptist Church in Houston and now promoted by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Learn to handle criticism creatively, Sullivan advises

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—The mark of a mature Christian is not whether he receives criticism but how well he handles criticism he receives, according to James L. Sullivan, former president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Christians are always vulnerable to criticism if their lives count for anything," Sullivan said in a recent address delivered at the agency's Nashville headquarters.

He said everyone is subject to criticism—even Jesus, who was the target of untrue charges that he was a drunk, a glutton and son of the devil.

"They tried to weaken him by criticism," Sullivan said.

As president of the Sunday School Board from 1953-75, Sullivan said, he sometimes found himself vulnerable to criticisms caused by typographical errors and other problems in the editing and printing processes.

He recalled having to stop the printing of a book when someone discovered the title, "Why I Believe in Immortality," instead was printed, "Why I Believe in Immorality."

In another instance a Sunday school lesson titled "Paul Pleads for a Slave" was distributed as "Paul Pleads for a Shave," he recalled.

"Most criticisms are sincerely given. It is well that we analyze them. It is well that we handle them in the best

way possible," Sullivan said.

When a person criticizes one or two things, the one criticized should listen and try to learn from it, he said. But "when someone criticizes everything, the problem is in them."

In many instances, Sullivan said, criticism "gets emotions so high that judgment ceases. People operate with their feelings instead of their brains.

"If we can get folks who disagree together and talk dispassionately, in many instances we'll find both sides are wrong. Folks ought to find the truth through dispassionate discussion."

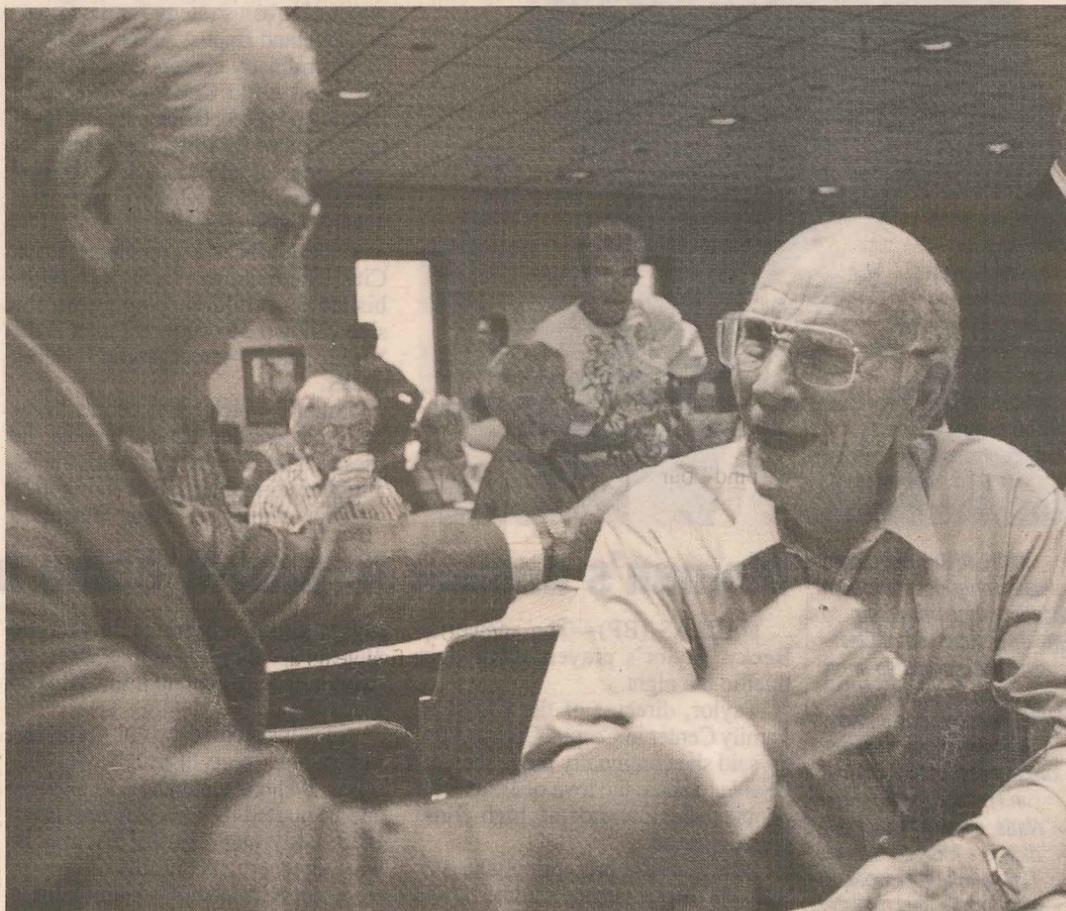
He also called for patience in dealing with criticism, reciting an experience years ago when, as a pastor, a woman called him daily to complain the basketball uniforms worn by girls at a local high school were immodest.

After many days of conversation that seemed to go nowhere, the woman said to Sullivan, "What if Jesus were to come again and catch those girls in those uniforms?"

Exasperated, Sullivan replied, "Madame, has it ever occurred to you that when he comes again, he may catch you in the bathtub?"

"I cut her off and now I had no contact," Sullivan said. "My job was to bring comfort, and I failed her. I failed my church and its mission.

"Most criticism is sincere. It can actually bring a blessing to our lives if we try to deliver excellence in everything we do," he said.



ATTITUDE Learning to handle criticism creatively is the mark of a mature Christian, according to James L. Sullivan (center), retired president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, shown here laughing with other retired employees of the publishing agency. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Concern of childhood friend led to prisoner's baptism

The concern of a childhood friend eventually led to Jeff Campbell's conversion, even though he was baptized wearing handcuffs.

By Stephanie Heading
Indiana Baptist

FLOYDS KNOB, Ind. (BP)—The life-changing power of Jesus, the undying love of a friend and the aid of the justice system all led to an unusual baptism service at First Southern Baptist Church of Floyds Knob, Ind.

Pastor David Wood baptized a handcuffed prisoner as church members and the prisoner's family and friends looked on.

However, the story of the prisoner, Jeff Campbell, began long before the baptism service. It began in the heart of Kevin Manning.

Manning and many of his family

became Christians and were baptized at the Floyds Knob church. After his conversion, Manning sensed a burden for Campbell, his boyhood friend. But Campbell was hostile toward anything to do with God.

"He threatened to pull a knife on me if I ever came over to visit," Pastor Wood said.

Things began to change last winter when Campbell was arrested during a drug bust. "Once he was in jail, he was willing to see me," Wood recounted. "I spent about an hour and a half with him and he accepted the Lord."

Campbell wanted to be baptized, so within the two weeks after his conversion experience, Wood made spe-

cial arrangements with the court for Campbell to be baptized at his church.

Church member Ron Schultz was a retired Louisville policeman, so a local judge made Schultz a special deputy. Schultz picked Campbell up at the jail, supervised him during the service and returned him to jail.

One of the stipulations for Campbell's release was that he remain in handcuffs throughout the service.

After his baptism, Campbell began writing to church members and working through the Survival Kit for New Christians. "I don't think Jeff had ever experienced as much love and acceptance as he felt at our church," Wood said.

Arrangements were made for Manning to visit Campbell in jail and encourage him as he studied the Survival Kit.

About two weeks after Campbell completed the Survival Kit, he was released from jail due to a bond reduction. And soon after his release all charges were dropped after the court learned the primary informant against Campbell was wanted on drug charges in another state.

In addition to Campbell finding Christ during his run-in with the law, his wife also became a Christian. Wood says the Campbells both are now active at the church and working to build a new life in Christ.

He offers hope in an area known for dope

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

CLEVELAND (BP)—David Fuller takes the stairs to the third floor apartment one flight at a time.

At each landing he stops and cautiously looks around the corner, praying his eyes don't innocently observe a drug deal and his feet don't accidentally trespass gang territory.

Safely at the right door, he knocks. A 12-year-old opens the door just

enough to see if Fuller is someone she should trust.

Fuller explains he is trying to help the family upgrade its status in the housing authority system to qualify for a better place to live.

The door opens far enough for Fuller to step inside the apartment where a television entertains five siblings. The 12-year-old, the oldest, explains Mom is "out."

Fuller leaves a note for the mother, then asks the 12-year-old if there is any food in the house. She says "uh-huh" while the other children shake their heads "no."

The oldest child has probably been taught to say the family has everything it needs so the children won't be taken from their mother, Fuller later explains. The younger children have yet to learn that lesson.

Children with absentee mothers are a chronic dilemma for Fuller, director of urban strategy for the Greater Cleveland Baptist Association.

His ministry centers around Brick City and Olde Cedar, two county housing projects. Brick City is Cleveland's center for drug abuse and violent crimes, Fuller says. It's the kind of neighborhood where murder is a leading cause of death.

Olde Cedar is a step above Brick City. The buildings have been refurbished but children playing on the sidewalk want to know if Fuller is the "candy man"—street jargon for drug dealer.

Fuller is quick to let people know he is not dealing drugs. Instead, he tries to help people "deal with the reality they find themselves living in."

That reality is clear during a

Wednesday night Bible study where participants share things that aren't garden-variety prayer concerns for most Baptist churches.

One woman asks for prayer for her cousin who is in the hospital after her boyfriend abused her. Another wants prayer for her uncle who is in jail with a gunshot wound. A mother asks for prayer for her 12-year-old son who was shot in the knees. A child simply prays for God to keep her mother safe.

In Olde Cedar, Fuller attempts to reach residents through a combination of seminars and food distribution.

Bi-weekly seminar topics range from buying nutritious food with food stamps to maintaining a drug-free home. People who attend get a voucher for \$50 worth of food at a store that is open twice a week.

The store is stocked with food Fuller purchases from the Cleveland Food Bank when he has the cash and the transportation.

One Monday in April, the food bank quit selling Fuller food because he had an unpaid balance of \$3,000. On Wednesday Fuller received an unexpected check that paid the bill.

The next week the van Fuller uses broke down. He and volunteers borrowed a car and a station wagon to transport food to the housing project.

At times the stress of working in an inner city with inadequate resources can be overwhelming, he says.

Then a woman asks Fuller to come to her apartment. He arrives and realizes she wants to make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

"People here need you. They're crying out for hope," Fuller says. "Why would you go anywhere else?"

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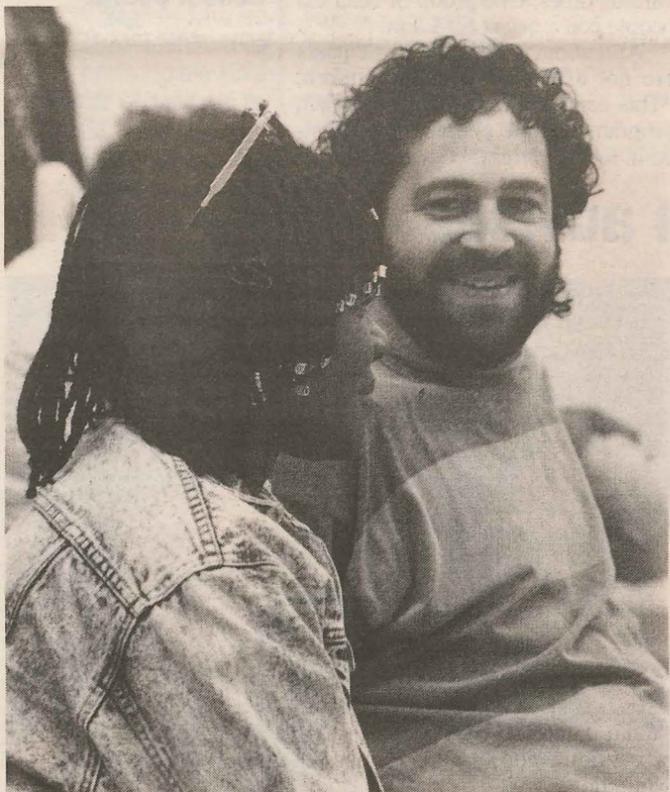
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HOPE AND HELP David Fuller (right) is a Southern Baptist home missionary to the down-and-out of Cleveland. He is assisted in his work by Shirley Watts (left), who became a Christian when Fuller reached out to her and her children in Fort Myers, Fla. Now Watts, a former crack addict, is a Mission Service Corps volunteer working with Fuller's new ministry in Cleveland. (BP photo by Sarah Zimmerman)

Woman's answer to prayer came as thief in night

DALLAS (BP)—The answer to Becky Taylor's prayers came as a thief in the night.

Taylor, director of the Christian Family Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, said she continually prays she will be able to share the love of Jesus with people in her low-income, high-crime neighborhood.

One morning last spring, she was awakened long before sunrise by the screeching and meowing of her cat. She soon realized it was in reaction to the presence of an intruder.

To her surprise, she found a young man undressing in her hallway. Rec-

ognizing him as Silas—a 34-year-old alcoholic—Taylor called him by name and demanded to know what he was doing.

Silas insisted he was at home and just wanted to go to bed. Taylor recognized that the man was incoherent and attributed it to his drinking problems. Only later did she discover he was high on crack cocaine.

Eventually, she persuaded Silas to leave her home, but not before he stole all of her bacon, eggs and bread as well as a kitchen radio.

Before long, Silas returned to Taylor's house with her radio in hand, of-

fering her an apology. Taylor, in turn, offered Silas a professional referral for his addiction problems and the grace of God's forgiveness, sharing with him the plan of salvation.

Three weeks later, Silas came back to show Taylor the church bulletin from Genesis Baptist Church in Corpus Christi, where his name was listed among those being baptized.

Taylor saw Silas' conversion as an answer to prayer. While the Christian Family Center had been successful in reaching isolated pockets of its neighborhood, it had not been able to penetrate the block where Silas lived.