

AUGUST 25, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 33

FOR THE RECORD

FMB interim
Trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board last week named Don Kammerdiener to serve as interim president after Keith Parks retires in October and until a successor is named. *See page 2.*

Phoenix project
A program of Jefferson Street Baptist Center in Louisville offers hope for homeless men who want to turn their lives around. *See page 3.*

Hough elected
Tony Hough has been named an associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department. *See page 3.*

Editorial
Individualism and single-issue politics threaten the fabric of our nation. *See page 5.*

Van ministry
An Elizabethtown church has found a revitalized van ministry is the road to church growth. *See page 8.*

'Super Saturday' offers tips for change

By Marv Knox and Mark Wingfield
Editor & News Director

LATONIA—Churches must learn how to present the changeless message of Christ to a rapidly changing culture, Vernon Cole told participants in "Super Saturday" church growth conferences across the state this month.

The conferences—held in Princeton, Owensboro, Latonia, Lexington and Somerset—are sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth and administration division. About 1,300 ministers and lay leaders are expected to have participated when the final Super Saturday concludes this week.

"The old French saying, 'The more things change, the more they stay the same,' is familiar," said Cole, the KBC's church growth and administration director. "That which stays the

same is the truth of the gospel—God exists, God speaks, people can understand and respond to what God is saying in Christ. (But) society has always, is now and will continue to change.

"Church leaders are called to discover the best way to communicate the message of Christ in the midst of continual societal change. Why? So more people will hear and respond to Christ and grow in his likeness."

And the best way to do that is by understanding change and developing a vision to carry the church through that change, Cole insisted.

Change is handled by understanding shifts in paradigms, the rules and regulations that define how people function and succeed, he said.

For example, old paradigms define values according to such factors as group identity, priority on stability, and money as the form of commodity. New paradigms see those same

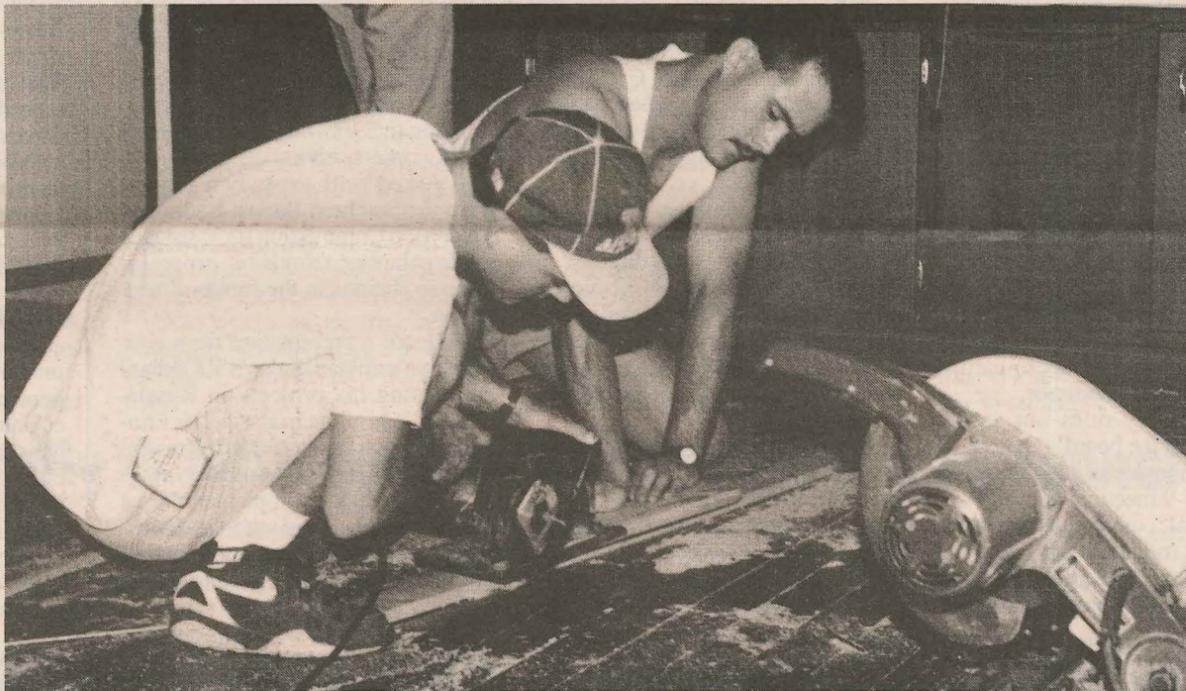
values according to individual identity, priority on change, and time and intellect as the most important commodities.

Similarly, paradigm shifts affect church life, Cole added, citing a long list of comparisons. Among the old vs. new paradigms: confrontational vs. relational evangelism, pastor and staff as enablers vs. initiators, Christian education graded by age vs. lifestyle, senior adults as caretakers vs. care givers, worship which is intellectual vs. experiential.

So, when does a church need to begin shifting its paradigms?

"The system you now have is designed for the results you are now getting," Cole responded. If the results are unsatisfactory, the system—the church's philosophy, programs and activities—need to be changed for better results.

□ See 'Super Saturday' ..., page 6



FAMILY MISSION Brothers Steve Smoot (left) and John Smoot reinforce a floor in the Baptist Student Union building on the campus of Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. The Smoots and 58 other people from Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort worked together this summer to remodel and paint the BSU. They also conducted seven mission vacation Bible schools and presented several choral concerts. The work group included retirees and families with small children. Pastor Robert Jackson said doing missions together creates a family mentality among church members. (Photo by Matthew Parrett courtesy of the Indiana Baptist)

Baptists share platform with Bush in Dallas

DALLAS (ABP)—On the heels of the Republican National Convention, four prominent Southern Baptists shared the platform with President George Bush at a Dallas event extolling the Republican candidate and the party's platform.

About 10,000 people attended the final session of a "Public Affairs Briefing" held at the Dallas County Convention Center Aug. 22, with Bush as the featured speaker.

Joining Bush on the platform were Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission; W.A. Criswell, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas; Joel Gregory, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas; and Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

The event was organized by a member of Rogers' church, Ed McAteer, who also is president of the Religious Roundtable. McAteer said Democratic candidates Bill Clinton and Al Gore were invited to speak at the event but declined.

A similar "National Affairs Briefing" in 1980 is generally credited with launching what became known as the Religious Right, a voting bloc which helped propel Ronald Reagan to the White House.

Immediately after this year's event, McAteer announced the formation of "Evangelical Leaders and Laymen for Bush/Quayle '92." McAteer told Associated Baptist Press "the Bush people" initiated launching the new organization.

Sources at the briefing said the Republicans are determined to minimize the impact of an all-

□ See Bush courts ..., page 2

Ethical behavior touches more than sex & money, experts say

By Kathy Palen
Freelance Writer

NASHVILLE (ABP)—By the time Mark Jensen sees ministers, often he can do no more than help them with "personal clean-up."

Many of the ministers who come to Jensen, a pastoral counselor at East Tennessee Baptist Hospital in Knoxville, do so after a breach of ministerial ethics—an extramarital affair, financial mismanagement or one of a host of other lapses.

"I often have to look at the issue of ministerial ethics from the more tragic end," said Jensen, who also serves as an associate of the Baptist Center for Ethics. "By the time I see ministers, there's often been some kind of tragic breach or lack of clarity. Because of that, I have some investment in saying to pastors, 'Let's think about this. How can you structure your ministry and your relationships in a way

that's best for you and best for the people you serve?'"

Although ministerial ethics involves the familiar—and often well publicized—issues of sexual behavior and financial accountability, the subject also encompasses many other ethical dilemmas that ministers face on a day-to-day basis, according to Jensen and other Southern Baptists who work with ministers.

Ministerial ethics includes such things as the relationship a minister has with the people he or she serves, the minister's own family relationships, how a minister goes to or leaves a church, whether the minister is ethical in preaching, how he or she relates

to other ministers, and how a minister uses his or her time on the job, said James Carter, director of the church-minister relations division of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

MINISTERIAL Ethics

More on page 7:

- Keep expectations clear
- Preaching poses ethical challenges
- Social action and ethics

Ministerial ethics boils down to a question of integrity, said Carter, who has co-authored the manuscript for a book on ministerial ethics with Joe Trull, a Christian ethics professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

When one of the large Baptist state conventions did a study on forced terminations of pastors, the data revealed a vast majority of the firings resulted from two types of ethical failings, reported Bob Dale, director of the Cen-

ter for Creative Leadership Development of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

The first category of terminations resulted from "interpersonal clumsiness," Dale said.

In these situations, he explained, ministers did not know how to build and maintain relationships with people. "They just did things that human beings who intend to stay together and work together wouldn't do to each other," he said.

The other major theme in the terminations was abuse of power, Dale said. In these cases, a minister took an authoritarian stand on an issue and began to push, but the minister encountered a group of laypeople or even a single key layperson who would not be pushed. An impasse developed, he explained, and eventually was broken by the power of the congregation.

□ See Ethical behavior ..., page 7

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Grace Baptist Church** of Evansville, Ind., will celebrate its 70th anniversary Sept. 6. The church, which has strong Kentucky ties, will host a basket dinner after the 10:30 a.m. worship and then have a 2 p.m. anniversary service.

■ **Robert Turner**, assistant vice president for church programs and services at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, will retire Sept. 1. Turner, 61, is a former Kentuckian and graduate of Bowling Green College of Commerce, now Western Kentucky University.

■ **Dates for the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention** are listed incorrectly in the 1990 SBC Annual and 1991 SBC Annual. The correct dates for the Houston meeting are June 15-17, 1993.

■ **Glorieta Baptist Conference Center** plans a reunion for former staffers Feb. 12-14, 1993. For details, write the conference center at Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535.

■ **Pastors are needed** in Alaska, Baptists gathered for their annual state convention in Kenai, Alaska, were told Aug. 4-5. Executive Director Bill Duncan said the state convention had a 64 percent turnover rate for pastors in the last two years, and nine of the convention's 61 churches currently are pastorless.

FMB trustees name interim president

By Robert Dilday
Virginia Religious Herald

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Approval of an interim president, an area director and 36 new missionaries topped the agenda of Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees Aug. 17-19.

The meeting also brought sometimes tense discussion as trustees expressed impatience with what they said was the board's slow response to new ministry opportunities in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

A number of trustees also appeared concerned by the impact of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and suspicious of FMB staff and missionaries who might be sympathetic to the organization of Baptist moderates.

Elected interim president was Don Kammerdiener, the FMB's executive vice president since 1990. He will assume the position Nov. 1 and serve until a successor is found for Keith Parks, who will retire as president Oct. 30 because of philosophical differences with trustees.

Kammerdiener is a 30-year veteran of foreign missions who moved to the Richmond office in 1980 after serving in Latin America.

Search committee Chairman Joel Gregory told trustees a recommendation for the presidency likely will not come before the end of the year.

Gregory said the panel is actively considering about 10 people, but interviews with candidates have not been conducted and the committee needs three to six months to narrow the list and select a nominee.

That probably rules out an announcement at the board's Oct. 12-14 meeting, although one could be made at the Dec. 7-9 meeting, he said.

In several committee sessions, some board members decried what they said was delay in appointing new missionaries and redeploying existing

ones to Eastern Europe. They also lamented the low number of requests from the field for more personnel and the alleged failure to utilize the growing number of American volunteers eager to participate in short-term mission trips there.

FMB staff members denied delay was motivated by any factor other than a desire to place only qualified people in a sensitive quarter of the globe. They also noted the few missionaries in the region have been inundated by volunteers and have been unable to both facilitate mission trips and carry out their own ministries.

Sam James, vice president for the board's work in Europe, told trustees he soon will assign a career missionary to work full time with volunteers in an effort to employ their services more effectively.

One factor fueling trustee frustration is suspicion that missionaries and administrators sympathetic to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship are holding up the process.

The Fellowship, which was formed in 1990 by Southern Baptists dissatisfied with the current direction of the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies, launched its own missions program in Europe in January and has hired eight former FMB missionaries.

Two FMB administrators—Isam Ballenger, vice president for Europe, and Keith Parker, area director for Europe—resigned earlier this year to protest trustee actions related to Europe. Both now work actively with the Fellowship, Ballenger as a consultant and Parker as coordinator for missions in Europe.

Just two weeks prior to the August trustee meeting, two more former Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe switched over to the Fellowship's work in Europe. John and Revonda Deal are the seventh and eighth "missioners" appointed by the

Fellowship.

Deal was assistant to the FMB area director for Europe.

In a tense meeting of the trustee committee which oversees FMB work in Europe, Paul Thibedeaux, a field administrator for Eastern Europe, was asked if he agreed with Ballenger's and Parker's charges that the board has a "global agenda" to enforce doctrinal uniformity.

In a sharp exchange with Thibedeaux, one trustee questioned the administrator's own commitment to the FMB and its trustees. Although reporters are allowed to attend such committee meetings, they do so under background rules that prohibit direct quotes.

During a later "Green Alert" report to all trustees, another trustee asked similar questions of Thibedeaux. Green Alert is the board's accelerated effort to send missions personnel and assistance to the former Soviet Union.

"Do you know if any European missionaries are considering joining the CBF?" trustee James Austin of Georgia asked Thibedeaux. "Will you personally affiliate with the CBF?"

In other action, trustees:

■ Appointed 36 new missionaries, bringing to 3,933 the total number of FMB workers serving overseas.

■ Asked staff to study a request from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission for assistance in distributing television programming to stations in the former Soviet Union.

■ Heard a presentation from conservative seminar leader Bill Gothard concerning his projects in Russia. Gothard's Institute in Basic Life Principles, which he says transforms rebellious teen-agers into model youths in a few weeks, is implementing its program in the public schools of Moscow and St. Petersburg at the invitation of government education officials, he said.

FMB to open doors for more volunteers

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board plans to open the door wider for short-term volunteers in Eastern Europe and will look for ways volunteers can play a more significant role elsewhere.

At FMB trustees' Aug. 17-19 meeting, Vice President Sam James said he will form a team of mission workers to coordinate volunteers in Eastern Europe. The workers, led by a career missionary, will plan projects with churches in the region and help volunteers when they come.

"This is a major step," James said. "I don't think we have done this kind of thing in any other area of the world. Never before have we had such an opportunity to utilize the tremendous potential of volunteers to strengthen our career missionary programs."

Volunteers' appetite for personal evangelism in the former Soviet Union has overwhelmed mission workers, James said. Thousands have visited for preaching and evangelism tours since communism crashed.

Volunteers have come so thick and fast, reports missionary George Lozuk in Moscow, that he's been able to do little else than plan and coordinate their visits.

FMB administrators reminded trustees many requests for volunteers and missionaries have gone unfulfilled in the former Soviet Union—especially openings in Muslim areas or outside major cities like St. Petersburg and Moscow. They asked trustees to encourage Southern Baptists to answer God's call to less popular places of service.

Sunday School Board trustees approve staff restructuring plan

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—A staff restructuring and plan to offer 191 employees early retirement were approved by trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board last week.

Meeting at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, trustees approved the one-time, voluntary, early retirement incentive program. The 191 eligible employees will have six weeks to decide whether to accept the offer.

Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper estimated the restructured organization will be complete by the end of 1992. He said it will position the board to: 1) simplify the organization; 2) be accountable for results; 3) become more service oriented; 4) produce higher quality products; 5) release products in a timely manner; and 6) become more customer sensitive.

Draper acknowledged change, including recent announcements of the retirements of nine employees

in middle- and upper-management positions, has heightened employee concern. But he emphasized he is optimistic about the future.

In other business, trustees approved several bylaw changes, including a reduction in the number of administrative positions requiring trustee election. As approved, only the president and vice presidents will be elected by trustees. For division directors, the president will circulate the resume of a nominee and allow 15 days for trustees to express opinions.

Trustees also approved a record operating budget of \$213.8 million for 1992-93. The budget is \$8.5 million, or 4.2 percent, above the 1991-92 budget and assumes a savings of at least \$1.6 million from the staff reorganization.

Financial reports for the first nine months of the board's fiscal year showed a total revenue of \$144.1 million, a 2.7 percent increase over last year.

Bush courts Baptists in Texas

Continued from page 1

Southern Baptist Democratic ticket by targeting Southern Baptists as a voting bloc. Both Clinton and Gore are members of Southern Baptist churches.

The Democratic Party's platform "left out three simple letters: G-O-D," Bush said. But the Republican platform is different, he explained. "We are proud to celebrate our country's Judeo-Christian heritage unrivaled in the world."

Bush cited an "erosion of the traditional moral and religious order" and stressed the importance of faith and family values. He reiterated his call for a voucher system granting "parental choice" in education, stressed his opposition to abortion and urged passage of a school prayer amendment.

Rogers praised Bush's commitment to "foundational principles that transcend politics" and that are "much stronger than any denominational label." He particularly praised Bush for supporting "the right of all free-born Americans to pray vocally in their own house—the church house, the state house and the school house."

Land urged conservative Chris-

tians to be politically active on an issues basis: "Don't vote your geographic location. Don't vote your denominational affiliation. Don't vote your pocketbook. Vote your values. Vote your convictions."

Land focused on abortion and homosexuality in his speech. "We are sacrificing our children before the idols of convenience, material well-being and social acceptance," he said.

He said the biblical definition of family is under attack and cited as evidence the growing acceptance of homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle.

Other speakers at the Dallas meeting included Jerry Falwell, pastor of Heritage Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va.; Patrick Buchanan, conservative commentator and unsuccessful presidential candidate; Oliver North, central figure of the Iran-Contra scandal; Phyllis Schlafly, chairwoman of the Republican National Coalition for Life; and Donald Willard, president of the American Family Association.

The president and First Lady Barbara Bush attended First Baptist Church in Dallas the next morning.

Phoenix helps homeless rise from ashes of defeat

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE—Like the mythological bird that rose from the ashes of ruin, the Phoenix Project at Louisville's Jefferson Street Baptist Center helps homeless men pick up the pieces of their lives.

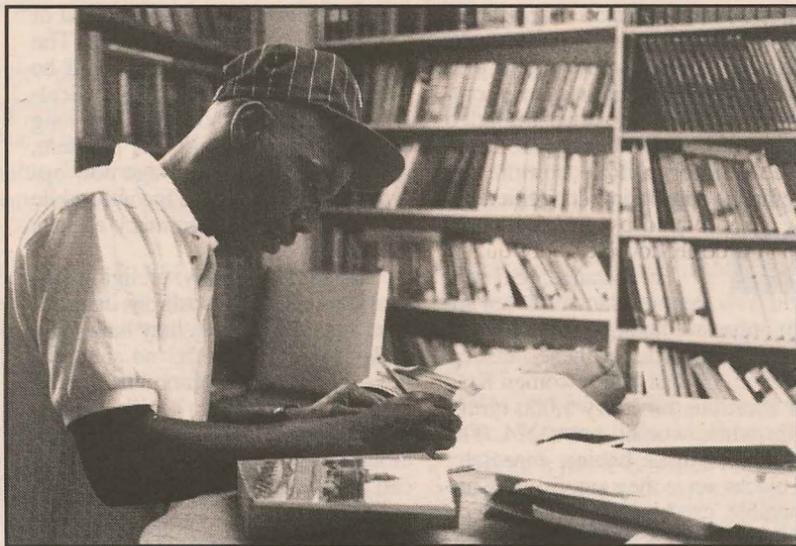
"We are trying to help homeless men get back on their feet and help them maintain healthy living by providing them a safe, dignified environment," said Paul Whiteley, director of the Phoenix Project. The project—funded by Long Run Baptist Association, the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board—takes its name from both the Egyptian myth and the Phoenix Hill community that surrounds the center.

It differs from emergency shelters where homeless people come for an overnight stay and leave the next morning. Phoenix Project residents move into the center for 18 months.

"One of the things that makes this program unique is that the residents all have private rooms, said Whiteley, who is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "That is not to be critical of programs that are not set up this way, but it diffuses a lot of potentially hostile situations if everybody has a place to go where they can be by themselves."

Whiteley, his wife Kate Sanders, and seminary students Greg Yost and Scott Waller, who work with Whiteley, live downstairs from Phoenix residents.

Chemical dependency is a com-



ROAD TO RECOVERY Kenny Boyd was on his way to Cleveland from Nashville, when he decided to get off in Louisville for no reason. He found his way to Jefferson Street Baptist Center, where he became part of the Phoenix Project that helps homeless men pick up the pieces of their lives. "It's just by the grace of God I ended up here," said Boyd, who now is a recovering substance abuser and working on his high school equivalency test. (Photo by Tom McDonald)

mon problem of the homeless, Whiteley said, adding that sometimes all residents are involved in alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs.

"It's just by the grace of God I ended up here," said Phoenix Project participant Kenny Boyd. "I was an alcoholic and an addict. I was living in that lost world. I was so embarrassed about myself that I didn't go around my family. I stayed out on the streets."

That sense of shame, he said, prompted him a year ago to hitch a ride from Nashville on a northbound truck.

"God must have been leading me to Louisville," he said. "I was on my way to Cleveland but I got off on Interstate 65 and just started walking around."

Boyd, 26, eventually found his way to the Jefferson Street Center, where he enrolled in the Phoenix Project last fall.

He currently is involved in a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program and is studying for his high school equivalency test. He wants to go to college and become a drug and alcohol abuse counselor.

"One day I want to get an apartment and bring my kids up here to visit and stay with me," he said. "That's my goal."

His two daughters, ages 5 and 6, live in Nashville with their mother.

Another Phoenix Project resident, David Hillman, 39, had been homeless for three years before moving to Jefferson Street in January.

"It's a stability and an environment that I know of existing in no other place, and I have been to a lot of places," said Hillman, an Illinois native who came to Louisville after living in Florida and Georgia.

Both Boyd and Hillman have become Christians since joining the Phoenix Project and have been baptized into the fellowship of Jefferson Street Baptist Chapel, where Whiteley and other Phoenix Project staffers are members.

Although Phoenix Project participants are not required to attend church, most go regularly, Whiteley said.

"This church gives me support, inspiration and courage that I can do it," Boyd said. "At times when I have problems, I can go to somebody in the church. They help to keep me going. I am not used to this. I was always the kind of person that would give up."

Hillman said he never had imagined becoming a Christian. Now, he said, his spiritual life fills a vacuum he hadn't known was there: "I study the Bible and the meanings behind the Bible. It's not that I just decided that I will read the Bible or I want to know this. It's just something you do. It's like breathing."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Keith Parks** and his wife, Helen Jean, will be guests of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union at a reception to be held at the Kentucky Baptist Building from 4-6 p.m. Sept. 13. Parks will retire in October as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The reception is open to all.

■ **Carl Herde** has been named vice president of finance and chief financial officer of Baptist Healthcare System. Herde, 32, has served as corporate controller since joining the system in 1984.

■ **Louie Mack**, retired Fayette County public school assistant superintendent and current member of Kentucky's House of Representatives, received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Georgetown College Aug. 15 during graduate commencement. The school awarded master of arts in education degrees to 96 candidates during the commencement.

■ **A youth "praise party"** sponsored by West Kentucky Baptist Association resulted in at least 25 spiritual commitments, including four professions of faith in Jesus Christ. About 1,000 people attended one of the four evening events, which included music, drama and creative ministry.

■ **Henlee Barnette**, Wayne Oates and Samuel Southard are the first senior research professors named by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The professorship is given to select retired faculty members who are engaged in specific writing or research projects.

Church, family & faith supported Miss Kentucky runner-up

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Miss Louisville Tina Miller is adding stars to her crown.

Selected as first runner-up during the Miss Kentucky Scholarship Pageant June 18-20 in Lexington, Miller attributes her success to an abiding faith in the Lord and a determination to be herself.

Miller, a recent graduate of Cumberland College, is a Louisville native and a member of Lyndon Baptist Church there. She said a Christian approach to pageant competitions makes a difference.

"Even through all the glamour and glitz, you have opportunities to share so much about yourself with other participants," she said. "Christians ought to be building others up," and that often is not the case in pageants

where women try so hard to lift themselves up, she added.

Miller said she has been able to share her faith in Jesus Christ with women she has met during her three-year pageant career.

That career began in 1990 when Miller was crowned Miss Cumberland Falls and was selected as one of the top 10 candidates in the Miss Kentucky competition.

The following year she described as "difficult." Entering the state pageant as Miss Gateway to the South, Miller said she felt pressure to conform to patterns set by other candidates. She was not selected as a finalist.

"Of course, everyone hopes to be Miss Kentucky," she said. "But I just needed to come back and do my best and wear what was 'me.' I had to do it the way I wanted to do it and the way the Lord wanted me to do it; then whether I won or not, I could walk away from it."

So this year Miller tried a different approach.

"I had a ball all week," she said. "I did my own hair and make-up. I felt most comfortable not trying to be someone else or please someone else. I knew I had been consistent."

Miller also decided to wear white this year. "White is my color—that's who I am. White gives a consistent, solid image. It's simple, yet striking."

The results were equally striking. Miller scored well on her interview, focusing on discrimination and education issues. She sang a solo from a Broadway musical. And she won the swimsuit competition, which she said had been her weakest area.

"I couldn't have done it without other people supporting me," Miller said. She described her parents, who are both deaf, as hard-working, goal-oriented Christian people who instilled those same values in her. "They are an inspiration to me."

Miller also received support from Ann Thrasher and other friends from Lyndon Baptist Church.

"Tina and her parents came to Lyndon when she was 1 year old," Thrasher said. "Her parents wanted Tina to be in a speaking, Christian environment."

Thrasher's commitment to the family also led her to learn sign language and become an interpreter for the deaf at the church. This spring, Thrasher organized two yard sales to help pay for Miller's pageant expenses.

Miller, who entered the pageant debt-free, said the effort was worth it: "It's so important to love yourself and be at peace with who you are. Confidence is knowing you have something to give that isn't by the world's standards."



Hough elected to KBC missions post

Tony Hough of Louisville has been named an associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department.

Hough, 42, currently is director of missions and ministries with Long Run Baptist Association, where he has served since 1989.

He was elected unanimously to the new position by the KBC's administrative committee Aug. 18. He will begin work with the KBC Sept. 1.

In this role, Hough will have statewide responsibility for language missions, church extension and church and community ministries. His position includes responsibilities previously handled by Ken

Forman, who is retiring.

Hough previously served as pastor of Lynn Acres Baptist Church in Louisville and Twin Cities Baptist Church in Manitowoc, Wisc. He has experience as a home missionary serving in Tennessee and Vermont. His most recent work with Long Run Association has been under appointment of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Ball State University and the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hough and his wife, Patty, are the parents of four girls.



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

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'Who is to say what God's solution might be?'

Attention was called to the absence of discussion of "population pollution" at the recent Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, despite predictions from the UN Population Fund that world population will more than double to 11.6 billion by the year 2150 (WR, June 23). With starvation rampant in much of the world—Somalia, Ethiopia, for instance—and abominable living (or dying) conditions throughout the Third World, one wonders at the admonition, "be fruitful and multiply."

In the United States, family planning, population control and abortion constitute religious and political dynamite (or suicide), but political correctness mitigates the bluntness justified in any discussion of these elements by the profoundness of the ramifications

of population pollution. Though the United States is being dragged to its economic knees by entitlement programs involving statutory non-discretionary spending, well-intended though they be, few voices are heard in the religio-political community voicing the appropriate statistics, conclusions and/or recommendations.

For instance, 63.7 percent of black children are born out of wedlock, as are 14.9 percent of whites. The pertinent statistics, however, are that black women have 635 abortions for every 1,000 births, while white women have 274. The majority of these babies, especially the blacks since they are virtually unadoptable, can be expected to live on welfare, thus exacerbating the national economic problem; but suppose

there were not that combined total of 455 abortions per 1,000 births. The negative economic impact could be increased by nearly half. Pragmatically, even with the abortions, how long can the nation support this problem, given total taxation average now approaching 40 percent of income, while the trend toward illegitimacy rockets upward?

The supreme irony: Religious institutions take rigid positions on problems regarding which they have little understanding and offer no solutions or possibility of compromise. Telling a 15-year-old carrying her illegitimate fetus to term is God's will is presumptuous, if not dishonest. No individual can delineate God's will for another, except perhaps within the context of the Ten Commandments. Has anyone ever wondered if the God who zapped

Jericho, Ananias and Sapphira could also prefer the termination of a pregnancy involving an ill-conceived, unwanted child likely to become a burden to society and perhaps live in a hell on earth?

This is not a defense of abortion, an abominable act. It is the suggestion that abortion, as is often the case with capital punishment, divorce or even suicide, while not an attractive or preferable exercise, may be the best. Who is to say what God's solution might be for the problems of nation and world?

In any case, in telling Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, God was talking to man-and-wife, whom he joined, not to adulterers and fornicators.

James L. Clark
Danville

VIEWPOINT

Don't help BJC

The executive board of Graves County Baptist Association has unanimously voted to express both disappointment and total disapproval of any actions taken by the Kentucky Baptist Convention toward providing funds for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

After repeated attempts by Southern Baptist Convention messengers to voice their objections to the directions being taken in recent years by the Baptist Joint Committee, and after total disregard by the Baptist Joint Committee for the actions expressed clearly by the messengers at numerous SBC meetings, there was no other alternative or recourse other than complete defunding by our convention.

Now the KBC is considering funding the Baptist Joint Committee anyway. If this is done, it will be contrary to the desires and prayerful concerns of a great number of Kentucky Baptists. Whether cooperative funds are used or funds which have accumulated over the years is really beside the point. All monies in possession of the

KBC which may be used in any way belong to all Kentucky Baptists!

We, the Graves County Baptist Association, believe to provide funds for the Baptist Joint Committee is wrong, morally and ethically. For years, we, as churches and associations, have been urged, and urged very strongly, not to attempt to circumvent Cooperative Program avenues by designating the monies we were giving.

Now this action, if it is taken, will be doing exactly what we were urged not to do! We most firmly oppose any attempts by our KBC to support the Baptist Joint Committee.

Graves County Baptist Association
Charles Simmons, missions director
Barry Hardison, moderator
J. Duane Holland, clerk

BAPTIST FORUM

Study needed

Upon reading recent letters to the contrary, I wish to express my support for the Southern Baptist Convention's motion to establish a process to examine the spiritual implications of Freemasonry. If Freemasonry is all that it claims to be, then Masons should wel-

come the opportunity to have Freemasonry's merits openly shared and its critics refuted.

Freemasonry is accused of violating Scripture in a number of areas. Included are the charges that Freemasonry validates religions which do not accept Jesus Christ, that it fosters belief in a "works-based" redemption of man as taught through Masonic ritual, that it binds its members by oath to one another causing the "unequal yoking" of Christians and unbelievers, that it requires its members to uphold fellow Masons in all disputes (murder and treason excepted), that it requires swearing oaths of secrecy secured with the Mason's life, and that it teaches its dogma in secrecy rather than openly as Christ taught.

These charges are very serious and, if true, have deep spiritual implications. For this reason, the Southern Baptist Convention has acted wisely to establish a process to examine Freemasonry. If Freemasonry is not compatible with biblical Christianity, then Southern Baptists need to know, so that they can avoid or even dissociate themselves from this organization.

M. Wilson
Louisville

He'll be there

A woman telephoned a friend. "How are you, dear?" she asked.

"Awful," came the reply. "My migraine is back, my feet are killing me, my back is breaking, the ironing is piling up, the house is a mess and the children are driving me crazy."

"Now you listen to me," said the friend. "You just go and lie down and rest. I'll be right over and cook lunch, get your ironing done, whisk up the house and watch the children while you rest. By the way, how is John?"

"John?" queried the complainer.

"Yes, John, your husband."

"My husband's name isn't John."

"Gracious," gasped the caller, "I must have the wrong number."

There was silence on the line. "Then you aren't going to come over?" asked the woman.

In the midst of our busy and hectic schedules, God's promise is that he will always be there with us.

Mark Hopper, pastor
First Baptist Church
Frankfort

Come November

Several weeks before the wedding, Alice, Shawn and I took some time together at the lake.

Having experienced the weddings of our two older children, Alice and I shared with Shawn that she could expect the final days before her marriage to be unusually stressful.

Later, when the stress points came, we were reminded of what had been said.

Grouchiness, upset stomach, tears—it all happened. But it was easier to bear because we expected it and we believed it would be temporary, and it was.

In my opinion, Kentucky Baptists are headed into a very stressful period of our life together. Some decisions will be made which

will impact all of us in very significant ways.

■ The election of a president of our United States. Anyone keeping up with this would acknowledge that our nation is deeply divided on some issues. The party platforms clearly enunciate those differences. In my opinion, the general population is dead serious about these issues and the "losers" will not easily accept defeat. Our nation is in serious trouble within itself; you can feel it in the air.

■ The election of a president of the Foreign Mission Board. Dr. Keith Parks will vacate his position in October. Whomever is selected to succeed him will likely be the most crucial of

all decisions thus far made by new SBC leadership. No one has the capacity to predict perfectly the results of this or that decision. However, how this one goes could well determine whether or not a "new" Baptist denomination is formally established.

■ The decision facing WMU/SBC whether or not to support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of SBC persons and churches disenchanted with SBC leadership, will have significant implications either way they decide.

■ There is a movement among some Kentucky Baptists to rescind this November the 1991 KBC action to provide funds to the Baptist Joint Committee. However it comes out, it will likely heighten even further the anxiety in our state convention over this issue.

Whether a nation, a denomination, a family or an individual, there are limits to the amount of stress that can

be managed before illness occurs.

I number among those who would suggest that those limits may have been reached in our nation and in our denomination.

Among the coping mechanisms individuals often choose is the withdrawal from involvement in those things which create stress for us. From my perspective in Baptist life, withdrawal is an increasing reality among us.

The next few months will be a high-stress period in Baptist life. Unlike the temporary stress of the few days before a wedding, these days ahead carry the potential for long-term brokenness.

As a Christian, I must seek the mind of Christ as I respond to whatever lies ahead.

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

Extreme individualism threatens national stability

Individualism and single-issue politics threaten to tear the fabric of our nation from seam to seam.

If you don't believe it, read a major daily newspaper or watch the national news for a week. Hard-line partisans grab the headlines, arguing opposite sides of a host of issues: Taxes. Abortion. The environment. Health care. Defense. Equal rights. Education. Name a topic, and somebody's trying to make it a litmus test for public office, national loyalty or true faith.

That's not to say those issues and others are not important. On the contrary, they're all extremely important. All of them impact human lives in deep and vital ways. But anyone who tells you a single issue is the only one that matters doesn't have the nation's—or your—complete interest at heart.

Yet the rhetoric gets hotter and hotter, especially as Election Day draws near. "I don't see how you can be a Baptist and support Issue X," an opponent of Issue X proclaims. Conversely, another voice declares the opposing view, in even stronger terms: "You're not a real Christian if you're not in favor of Issue X."

What's a body to do?

A conversation in Discipleship Training one Sunday night this summer illustrates the dilemma. "I don't know how to be a good citizen anymore," a young woman—wife, mother and part-time church secretary—confessed. All her life, she recalled, she had believed a certain way about one of the most pressing issues of our day. Now, however, that issue is about the only thing she has in common with one of our national political parties. "I don't know how to vote," she said. "If I go one way, I violate my conscience on this issue. But if I vote the other way, I turn my back on all these other beliefs and feelings. Maybe I'll sit this election out."

Skipping an election merely highlights the problem: "I can't figure out how to vote. I feel uncomfortable thinking about it. I think I'll just sit this one out." I-I-I. Me-Me-Me.

The person who refuses to study all the issues and vote is just as selfish and single-minded as the person who thinks the price of pork bellies should determine the next mayor, governor and president, as well as the fine print on every bill passed by the next session of Congress. The emphasis is on self. "I want to do it this way, and I'll do what I think is right. I'm going to do whatever gives me the greatest return in the shortest amount of time."

Ironically, but not surprisingly, a strength has become a weakness. Individualism propelled this nation to some of its greatest geographical, scientific, cultural and even economic advances. People who had the will and the self-confidence to succeed propelled our society to unparalleled success. But at its finest, that individualism never was isolated. The individuals understood they did not live alone; they realized the community must flourish for the individual to become successful.

Baptists, of all people, should appreciate this. We embrace the doc-

trine of the priesthood of every believer. We believe God created us to be our own priests, fully able to approach God on our own, with no need for another human priest or other intermediary. That's heady stuff for an individual. "I can communicate directly with God. I can talk directly to God and make my own decisions in consultation with God. I am independent of you."

Taken to an extreme, such an attitude can erode the corporate strength of our nation. Harold Bloom, an author, critic and university professor, touches on this theme in his new book, "The American Religion." He cites the work of sociologists Robert Bellah and Philip J. Lee to describe the polarizing effects of religious perspectives that continually emphasize the self or the individual. Authentic American spirituality, Bloom asserts, "seems always fated to make the believer, ultimately, a worse citizen, despite all the blatherings of our ideology."

Bloom's prose is abrasive and overstated, but it holds at least a kernel of truth. It begs some difficult questions: Has our emphasis on individual accountability been distorted by an over-emphasis (or misunderstanding) on individual freedom? Has that distortion contributed to the breakdown of society into a loose collection of 250 million individuals rather than a unified nation? Has America become so individualized and our national psyche so aware of the self that we cannot build a consensus for a collective vision? If not, can we even hope to overcome the problems that beset us, especially national debt and the legion plagues of class separation, among them jobs, housing, health care and education?

Baptists need not turn aside our doctrine of the priesthood of the believer. It has been a defining mark of Baptists since 1609 and has empowered us individually and collectively to attempt great things for God. Nevertheless, we must look beyond that singular doctrine to the congregational polity it nurtured—a faith practice that honors autonomy but also implements the finest elements of accountability and compromise, concern for the larger group and corporate vision. At our best—in our churches, if no longer in our national denomination—we understand how to set aside personal prerogatives for the good of the group.

That's a discipline needed in our nation today. Will we let the polarizing forces of abortion and AIDS and taxes and education and "growth" pull us into warring camps? Or will we re-learn the techniques of give-and-take which are necessary in a civilized society? As citizens, we must weed through the rhetoric and wade through the mud of nasty election-year politics. We must study all the issues and cast informed votes, based upon the overall good of society, not the narrow focus of our special interest or individual concern.

Then, we must hold our public officials to those same high standards. Don't let them get by with the cheap, easy or nasty way out. Make them look at the big picture. Force them to make hard choices based upon long-term goals, not short-term gain. Expect them to care about the America of tomorrow, not just the public-opinion poll of today.

Marv Knox

Has our emphasis on individual accountability been distorted by an over-emphasis on individual freedom? Has that distortion contributed to the breakdown of society into a loose coalition of 250 million individuals rather than a unified nation?

Excuse me, lady, but may I take your new car out for a spin tonight?

According to Great American Myth No. XXVII, manly men love sleek, sexy cars.

We've had this permanent infatuation with saucy convertibles and muscular roadsters for decades. The coolest guys always have the toughest cars, not to mention the hottest girls.

Country crooner George Jones describes this in a ballad with wry double-meaning: "She was hotter than a two-dollar pistol/The fastest thing around/Long and lean/Every young man's dream/She could turn every head in town."

When I was a kid, guys would take a normal car and soup it up: Jack up the front. Add mag wheels. Install a stereo that could knock the plate glass out of stores down on Main. Cars like that could turn shy boys into

gladiators. And if they let their cars do the talking, they could pick up "chicks."

Twenty years later, those same men are buying four-wheel drive off-road vehicles faster than manufacturers can deliver them. Never mind that they haven't seen a dirt road in 18 years, a real man has to have tough wheels. (Not to mention leather seats, tinted windows and a CD player.)

And if a middle-aged man's really into his second adolescence, he gets a sports car. Usually something with numbers or ini-

tials in its name. Most certainly with only two seats. Often with its own burglar alarm.

For most of my life, I've believed in this American male folklore. As a pre-

teen, I dreamed of the GTO Judge.

In high school, I coveted Russ Elledge's '63 Corvette. My heart skipped a beat when I saw my first Mazda Miata and almost stopped the first time I saw the new Acura coupe.

That's why my latest automobile infatuation is so embarrassing. I'm crazy

about a station wagon.

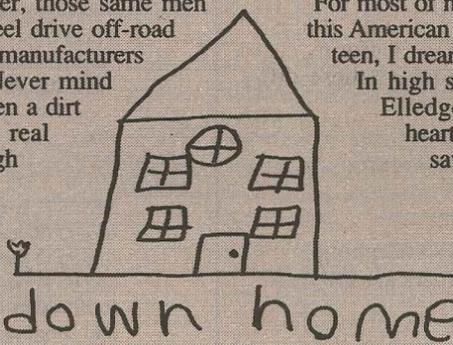
How could this have happened? I feel

like a neo-geezer or something. Real men like vehicles with two doors, not five. And they don't go for cars that look like a box with wheels.

Our friend Nancy has one of these cars, and it gives me palpitations. I've tried to figure out why: Not because it has leather seats with rear-end warmers. Not because it's bright red, nor even because it's got a sun roof. I think it's because of what Nancy's brother Gary (an auto-body mechanic par excellence) said: "This car is the safest thing on the road."

When your "precious cargo" is the family God gave you instead of somebody you picked up at the Dixie Dog, you look at cars in a whole new light.

Marv Knox



CHURCHES

'Super Saturday' offers training for multiple areas

Continued from page 1

And a key to making the shift is developing a new vision for the church, he said, noting, "Your vision statement is a reflection of your values."

Ultimately, he said, that brief statement should answer four questions: Who are we? What are we? Why do we exist? What does God expect us to do?

Cole's seminar was one of 18 leadership conferences offered at Latonia Baptist Church in Latonia during the third Super Saturday. The meeting also featured 33 special-interest conferences.

Highlights of some other sessions included:

■ **Part-time & volunteer music directors.** Providing functional church music and leading the congregation to participate in worship should be the goal of music ministers, said Jim Castlen, music professor at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Too many Baptists see the preacher, music leader and choir as actors, the congregation as an audience and God as prompter during worship, he said. But in proper worship, the actors should be the congregation, with the worship leaders as prompters and God as the audience, he explained.

"The people in the pew is where the action is supposed to be taking place," Castlen said.

Music leaders should provide variety in their selections but not to the point of disrupting unity, he added.

"Every Sunday should not be so different people are wondering what will come next," he said. "On the other hand, even though Baptists are not liturgical, we can create liturgies by doing everything the same way."

Providing functional church music means determining what types of music are appropriate for Sunday morning worship and what types are appropriate in other settings, Castlen said.

■ **Reaching boomers & singles.** The much-talked-about Baby Boomer generation is moving back toward church, but not all churches are ready to receive them, said David Apple of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Some methods Baptist churches have used most effectively, such as guilt motivation, do not work with boomers, he said. Also, boomers often perceive the church as guilty of false advertising by claiming to be a friendly, loving place but not showing love, he added.

Worship may be the way to attract boomers, Apple said, but Bible study is the way to keep them. And paying careful attention to children's ministries is a sure way to attract boomers, he said.

■ **Discovering spiritual gifts.** "A spiritual gift is a special attribute given by God through the Holy Spirit to all believers to be used in the context of the local church," said Doug Strader, KBC discipleship training director.

"If every member of the body (church) decided to discover, develop and use their spiritual gifts, every person would know his/her spiritual job description, and all members would be able to do their ministry in love, thus avoiding pride, envy and false

humility," Strader noted. Consequently, the church would mature and grow, and God would be glorified, he added.

The five steps to discovering spiritual gifts, Strader said, are explore the possibilities, experiment with as many as you can, examine your feelings, evaluate your effectiveness and expect confirmation from the church.

■ **Non-confronter's guide to evangelism.** Only 10 percent of all Chris-

tians are comfortable with a confrontational evangelism style, and many unchurched people are turned off by confrontation, said Billy Compton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington.

Compton introduced the book, "A Non-confronter's Guide to Leading a Person to Christ," as a new way to get laypeople involved in outreach. The book by Walter Bleecker suggests a simple set of questions anyone can use

to discuss spiritual matters with another person.

It also outlines ways to lead a person to faith in Jesus Christ without exerting pressure that would shut off further contact.

The book highlights the importance of planting spiritual seeds and cultivating them before a spiritual decision is made. "We really do need to realize that planting and cultivating precede harvesting," Compton said.

What's a Super Saturday?

What's super about "Super Saturdays"? Plenty, says Vernon Cole, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth and administration division. The KBC is sponsoring five "Super Saturday" training conferences across the state this month. They feature seminars produced by the four areas of church growth and administration—church music, discipleship training, stewardship and church music—plus the KBC office for evangelism.

The last of the five conferences will be held Aug. 29 at First Baptist Church in Somerset. "Super Saturday" fulfills a dream that began when I started in the pastorate almost 30 years ago," Cole said. "Our purpose is to help the local church do most of its leadership training at one time."

The one-stop leadership training promotes good stewardship of time, money and resources, he noted. It's also a morale-booster, because so many people come to one place at one time to do their training. Up to 1,300 ministers and lay leaders will participate in the five conferences, he said.

Training sessions run the gamut of church life, too.

Examples:

- Outreach supermarket.
- Five practical lessons in singing.
- Children's resources and rooms.
- Life-changing Bible study.
- Prayer ministry.
- Reaching senior adults and homebound.
- Using the autoharp with children.
- New members' class.
- Parenting by grace: Christian self-esteem.

Accommodations 1992 KBC Annual Meeting - Louisville

The 155th Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting is November 10-11 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Make your reservations early!

Please Note: The Executive Office of the KBC Executive Board makes every effort to advise Convention messengers concerning good lodging at a variety of prices in any host city. Messengers 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.

St. Matthews Baptist Church is located at 3515 Grandview Avenue, between Cannons Lane and Breckinridge Lane. The church has easy access to the I-64/Cannons Lane exit or Watterson Expressway (264)/Breckinridge Lane north exit.

All hotel listings are for Louisville.

Rates available on reservations made through October 26, 1992, unless otherwise specified. Tell reservations clerk you are attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Add 10.24% tax to rates.

R=Restaurant

All 800 telephone numbers are toll free.

Breckinridge Inn (R)
2800 Breckinridge Lane, 40220
(502) 456-5050

\$60.00 flat rate (1-4 persons)
Located off Watterson Expressway exit 18B south; 5 minute drive to church and restaurants.

Days Inn Louisville East
4621 Shelbyville Road, 40207
(502) 896-8871

\$40.00 single (1-2 persons)
\$46.00 double (2-4 persons)
Complimentary continental breakfast
Located in St. Matthews close to Watterson Expressway; easy access to malls and restaurants. 8-10 drive to church.

Holiday Inn Downtown (R)
120 West Broadway, 40202
(502) 582-2241; 1/800/626-1558

\$42.00 flat rate (1-4 persons)
Downtown location; 15 minute drive to church.

Holiday Inn Hurstbourne (R)*
1325 Hurstbourne Lane, 40222
(502) 426-2600

\$60.00 flat rate (1-4 persons)
Easy access to I-64, restaurants and shopping. 10 minute drive to church.

*Reservations needed by October 20.

Knights Inn
1850 Embassy Square Blvd., 40299
(502) 491-1040

\$32.95 (1 person, 1 bed)
\$39.95 (2 persons, 2 beds)
\$42.95 (3 persons, 2 beds)
\$45.95 (4 persons, 2 beds)
Easy access to I-64, restaurants and shopping. 10 minute drive to church.

Radisson Hotel Louisville East (R)
1903 Embassy Square Blvd., 40299-1824
(502) 499-6220

\$58.00 flat rate (1-4 persons)
Easy access to I-64, restaurants and shopping. 10 minute drive to church.

Ramada Inn-Brownsboro East (R)
4805 Brownsboro Road, 40207
(502) 893-2551; 1/800/228-2828

\$39.00 group rate (1-4 persons with king or double beds)
Easy access to Watterson Expressway; 10-12 minute drive to church.

Red Roof Inn
9330 Blairwood, 40222
1/800/874-9000

\$39.99 + tax (2-4 persons with double beds)
AM - Free coffee and newspaper
Easy access to I-64 (located off Hurstbourne north of I-64), restaurants and shopping. 10 minute drive to church.

The Hurstbourne Hotel and Conference Center (R)
9700 Bluegrass Parkway, 40299
(502) 491-4830; 1/800/289-1009

\$47.00 (1-4 persons)
Easy access to I-64, restaurants and shopping. 10 minute drive to church.

Jesus Christ
Our foundation, our focus, our future

Ethical traps avoided when expectations are clear

By Kathy Palen
Freelance Writer

NASHVILLE (ABP)—How can ministers avoid the ethical pitfalls that are trapping a growing number of their colleagues?

One way is for ministers and congregations to share the burden of ministerial ethics, according to Ray Higgins, an ethics professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

His opinion is shared by other Southern Baptists who work with troubled ministers.

"I think the best way to be proactive is for congregations and ministers to have very clear understandings with one another about what their expectations of one another are, and then to have ways to continue that conversation as their relationship goes along," said Mark Jensen, a pastoral counselor at East Tennessee Baptist Hospital in Knoxville.

Higgins, who along with Jensen is an associate of the Baptist Center for Ethics, urged congregations to be aware of their own value systems and moral qualities as they determine

what they expect in a minister. Church members need to discuss those expectations among themselves and with their ministers, he added, so that there is a common understanding.

Congregations, in fact, need to clarify what they expect from a minister before ever calling that person, suggested Bob Dale, director of the Center for Creative Leadership Development of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Likewise, ministers need to clarify their expectations of the congregations they serve, said James Carter, director of the church-minister relations division of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Dale emphasized that the joint process of covenant building will require a regular process of renegotiating. "In even the best relationship," he said, "there's always new information and new circumstances arising. An ongoing negotiation process is required so that the covenant is fresh, accurate and

alive."

Churches also can help their ministers deal with inevitable ethical dilemmas by providing a group to which the minister is accountable, Carter said. The group—whether it be a personnel committee, a church-pastor relations committee or the deacon body—should be one with which the minister can share and whose members, in turn, can share with the minister, he said.

Carter acknowledged that such a process of sharing can be difficult for the minister.

"It's difficult for pastors to share their vulnerability simply because many of them feel as though they have an image they have to uphold," he said. "Church people often put a pastor on a pedestal and expect him or her to be something other than human. I think it's important for ministers to understand and to accept their humanness and for churches to understand and accept the humanness of their minister."

Ministers continually face the difficult task of resolving the tension between being human and being the pastor, Higgins said.

"There is a sense in which, in the pastoral role, you have to be larger than life," he said. "What you've got to be careful about is making yourself so much larger than life that you don't present your real self to the congregation."

Ministers also should meet regularly with a group of other ministers from outside their own congregations, Higgins suggested. This group, he said, provides the opportunity to be "honest about one's own weaknesses, temptations and bloopers" and to receive feedback from other people.

Jensen proposed that ministers also develop a network of relationships with other professionals in and out of their community.

"Pastors have the most impossible job in the world," Jensen said. "They have to be generalists, so they can't know everything about fetal-tissue research and organ donation and everything else in between. But they need to be able to be in touch with people who do understand those issues."

MINISTERIAL Ethics

Preaching calls for ethics in truth-telling & storytelling

By Kathy Palen
Freelance Writer

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Because preaching is both storytelling and truth-telling, it poses ethical challenges for ministers, according to two Baptist preachers.

"We're storytellers, but we're telling the gospel story," said William Tillman, associate professor of ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Telling the gospel story in fresh ways taps the preacher's own reservoir of integrity and character formation, he said.

The challenge, Tillman said, is to find one's own sense of character and communication rather than adding to the story in an effort to entertain or even to manipulate.

Preaching also is truth-telling, said Stephen Shoemaker, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville. "You are honest with the truth—as honest as you can be as a fallible human being—so that you do not say things that may or may not be true in

the pulpit," he said.

Being honest includes treating resources fairly to avoid quoting people out of context or representing someone unfairly for your own advantage, Shoemaker said.

He said that whenever he quotes or tells a story about someone in a sermon, he tries to imagine the person is sitting in the congregation. "That helps keep me honest so that, to the best of my ability, I don't misrepresent them," he explained.

Another ethical rule Shoemaker said he employs is never to use a story about a church member without that person's permission. The rule also applies to his family members, he said, explaining that a preacher's family often can feel used or exposed in a sermon.

In addition, Tillman stressed the importance of not betraying confidences from the pulpit.

"In the fervor of the moment or for the sake of evoking a particular sentiment from the congregation, sometimes preachers will pull out conver-

sations that had best been left private," Tillman said. "Some preachers think they're rather skillful at hiding the details, but actually they end up betraying confidences and damaging the person who may be sitting there in the congregation."

When preachers tell stories that are not their own, Shoemaker said, they should say so. Preachers need to be strict about never telling a story "as if it happened to you when it has not happened to you," he said.

Preachers also need to give proper credit to the sources they use in their preaching, Tillman and Shoemaker agreed.

Preachers also face ethical challenges in their use of the Bible, Tillman and Shoemaker said.

Sometimes the Bible becomes a mere prop in the sermonic presentation of personal opinion, Tillman said. He warned against taking Scripture out of context or building a whole system of theological perspective on one phrase or verse from the Bible.

Shoemaker suggested several

ways to work on being honest with a text.

First, he said, it is helpful to spend time alone with the text apart from any kind of commentaries. Then, he added, it is helpful to consult multiple commentaries that are of different theological persuasions and from different times in history.

"What we should be doing in exegesis is round-table conversation with people who have gone before us, as well as with people who are around us now," Shoemaker said.

Shoemaker also suggested that preachers be honest with their congregations about their emotions. He said he usually does not preach on an issue if he is mad about it because "people can tell when you're mad and can feel bullied by the pulpit."

But, he added, "If you're having strong emotions—whether it's sadness or anger or whatever—it's important at times to tell people, 'This is the way I'm feeling.' That way, they're not getting the emotion indirectly."

Ethical behavior touches more than sex & money, experts say

Continued from page 1

"While the more gross immoralities of sexual misconduct or stealing money do happen, I think the broader issue in terms of ministerial ethics has to do with the way we value the people with whom we work," Dale said.

Ray Higgins, an ethics professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, in Fort Worth, Texas, identified several of the "big ethical issues" that ministers face:

■ Judging the quality of a ministry by its size and salary.

■ Becoming so married to the ministry that one's family is neglected.

■ Becoming so involved in people's lives that ministers either become sexually involved with them or

become too controlling and create an unhealthy dependency.

Higgins contends that each of the minister's tasks raises different kinds of ethical questions.

"For example," he said, "in counseling, the minister has to know the fine line between guiding a church member through their difficulties and making the decision for them. In leading the church, it involves being a leader and having a healthy sense of confidence, but at the same time being aware of one's own sinfulness and limits."

Dale argues that when power becomes an issue in a church, leadership is the area where ministerial ethics is most likely to be a problem: "The

minister—if he or she sets out to do it and sometimes even when they don't deliberately set out to do it—can create a little closed group, a clique, a cadre. And that group can sometimes hijack the church, which I think is an abuse of power."

One of the most difficult ethical dilemmas facing ministers is the tension between being a prophet and a pastor, Higgins said. It's the struggle between presenting the ideal and loving and accepting people who fall short of that ideal, he explained.

"Pastors can be so idealistic that they cut themselves off from actual ministry to people who know they have fallen short and gotten themselves in trouble and want help," he

Social issues demand ethics

Ministers face an ethical problem if they preach about social issues but fail to become personally involved, according to a Baptist who works to involve people in social action.

"It seems to me that there is a lack of integrity on the part of a minister who might preach racial justice but doesn't have any black friends or colleagues," said George Reed, director of the department of citizenship, education and world hunger of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

"The same question of integrity would apply to someone who is concerned about poverty and preaches about concern for the poor but is knocking down a big salary and living in a ritzy subdivision," he added.

Reed believes ministers should become aware of social issues facing their communities and then incorporate those concerns into their lives in a way that it is reflected throughout the week, not just on Sunday mornings.

Reed also cautioned about these ethical pitfalls:

■ Don't try to force everyone in the church to get on the bandwagon for the pastor's issue, and don't think less of the people within the church who choose not to become concerned or who come out on another side of the issue.

■ Be careful about the question of whether the pastor is representing the entire congregation when he or she becomes involved in a social issue.

■ Don't become so deeply involved in a particular social issue that pastoral responsibilities at the church are neglected.

CHURCHES

Lewis calls for Luke 14 churches

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—A convention of "Luke 14 churches" is the vision of Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis. "I want our churches to be not merely Baptist churches, not just New Testament churches, not only Bible churches but Luke 14 churches," Lewis said during the annual home missions conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. Luke 14 includes the parable of a man who prepared a feast but the invited guests refused to attend. The man then told his servant to invite people from all over town to the feast so that the house would be full. "God wants his house filled," Lewis said. "He is not pleased with empty buildings. He is not glorified with empty classrooms. Empty pews don't get saved. Empty chairs don't make decisions."

Christians should follow the parable's example of taking God's invitation to the people, Lewis said. He noted the servant in the parable was told to bring the poor, the crippled, the blind and lame. Lewis said Luke 14 churches are those which "break out of the church walls" to reach people and meet their needs. The servant also was told to bring people from the highways and along the hedges, he added, explaining that Luke 14 churches attract people from places such as shopping malls and sporting events.

McMillens mark 50 ministry years

CINCINNATI, Ohio—Longtime Kentucky pastor Ira McMillen Jr. and his wife, Jeanette, were honored for 50 years of ministry July 12.

The surprise celebration was held at Highland Avenue Baptist Church in Cincinnati, where McMillen currently serves as interim pastor.

The McMillens have served churches in Kentucky and Ohio since 1942, when he was ordained to the ministry by Versailles Baptist Church in Versailles and began his first pastorate at Gano Avenue Baptist Church in Georgetown.

Mrs. McMillen wrote a history of their ministry, which was read at the celebration.

John Wallace of Lexington, a longtime friend of the McMillens, preached in morning worship, where the celebration began. The service included congratulations from representatives of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, as well as the reading of congratulatory letters from President George Bush and Gov. Brereton Jones.

McMillen also received a citation from Georgetown College, where he earned a degree in 1941 before entering Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Van ministry drives Valley Creek's growth

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

ELIZABETHTOWN—After spinning its wheels in a stalled attempt to begin a new outreach program, Valley Creek Baptist Church has put its van ministry on the road again.

Pastor Steve Hill said the 15-passenger van might have been permanently parked or even sold had the church not shifted gears toward a more aggressive ministry.

"The van had just been sitting there; it was a liability, not an asset," he said.

But rather than selling the van as some suggested, the church built a ministry around it.

Hill said last October the church voted to call James Reed as part-time children's minister. A former pastor at Valley Creek Church, Reed had retired and moved back to the Elizabethtown area.

With the help of lay volunteers, Reed began a children's ministry. Hill said the van visitation program has been one of the most successful elements.

"For a children's ministry to be effective, you have to have visitation," he explained.

Church members began driving the Sunday route on Saturday mornings to talk with the children and their parents and tell them what time the van would come for them the next morning.

Hill credits one woman in the church, transportation director Debbie

Abell, for faithfully driving the van or finding and scheduling others to drive.

"She was wanting to do something for the Lord and she has always enjoyed driving the van," Hill said.

The church now has morning worship services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. on Sundays, but the focus on children, including a children's church, is at 11.

Valley Creek Church had its own children's camp this summer with 19 attending.

Also, a record high number of boys and girls—220—enrolled for vacation Bible school. Hill reported 27 children made decisions of faith in Jesus Christ during the school's evangelistic service.

Soon in need of a second vehicle to support the growing ministry, the church decided to buy a member's 12-passenger van. The owner surprised the church by donating it instead.

Both of those vans and a rented van transported 40 church members on their mission trip earlier this

month. Members of the team led backyard Bible clubs, conducted surveys, held evangelistic services and participated in a construction project in Reading, Pa. Hill said the trip would not have been possible without the vans.

A risk is involved when a church begins a new ministry, Hill admitted: "A van ministry is not cheap. It's an expensive venture and it requires a lot of commitment and dedication."

Even so, the risk is not without rewards. "I've baptized 67 people this year, and a large part of them were children" from the van ministry, Hill said. "Many families are being touched through our van ministry to children."

Hill now encourages other churches to look for ways to use their resources creatively.

"May this be a testimony to churches across our state to expand our ministries rather than abandoning them," the pastor said.

New beginnings

There is always a sense of new beginnings with the approach of fall. From kindergarten through college, the start of a new school year is an exciting, expectant time.

Many of you have children going off to college for the first time this year. Their feelings of hope and anticipation are likely mixed with ones of concern and anxiety. Moving away from home is a big step, and knowing you have a strong base of family support is important as you face new surroundings and new situations.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will have 15 young people in college this year. Unlike your children, most will not have a family to call when they are down. They won't have a home to go to for a weekend or holiday to unwind from the stress of classes.

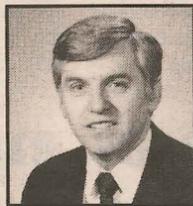
These students have grown up under the love and care of Kentucky Baptists through the children's home ministry. They are able to attend college because of the generosity of Baptists across the state.

For most of them, college was only a dream—you have made it a reality. One of our college students

sent us a letter to thank us for this support and to remind us how very important our continued love and prayers are to him. Let me share a portion of this letter with you:

"I am reminded every time I open a book in class, you made the purchase of that book possible. Although things can be difficult at times, your love and prayers help me keep trying. Knowing that someone believes in me makes each step a little easier. Thank you," Tim.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

College is an exciting, yet difficult time. Our students need encouragement and attention. Our College and Career program is one way we give our students this support.

You can be a vital part of this ministry by becoming a Resource Family. In this way, you can help provide the emotional support our students need so much.

If you would like to participate in this ministry, please call Scott Shouse at 502-585-1452 for more information. Please remember these students in your prayers.

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

Paid Column



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CHURCHES

Friendly church needs attention from parking lot to pew

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Although churches should be the friendliest places around, many don't realize how unfriendly they are to guests, according to a Southern Baptist growth consultant.

From the parking lot to the pew and every place in between, visitors are developing an impression of a church, said Jerri Herring, growth consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

But most churches "don't have any idea how bad of an impression they are leaving with visitors," she said.

From the lack of parking spaces to the decision about which door to enter, lack of greeters once inside and hospitality in the worship center, visitors are getting the impression they are not wanted in most churches, she explained.

Parking. While a church with limited parking may be unwilling to allocate a few of its premium parking spaces for visitors, those are the churches which most need designated visitor parking, Herring said.

Visitor parking spaces should be

some of the best spaces near an entrance to a visitor welcome center, she recommended.

Greeters. Curbside greeters should be outgoing people "who never met a stranger, not 'good ole boys' who will stand around and talk with each other," Herring said.

"When visitors pull up and see seven doors, how are they going to know which one is the quickest entrance to where they need to be?" she asked. Greeters can help with that problem as well as helping with diaper bags and with the children.

However, Herring cautioned that a greeter should never pick up a visitor's child without first asking for permission.

Welcome Centers. Although some churches have elaborate welcome centers, they do not have to be formal areas. "It may be as simple as three people standing at the door with clipboards," Herring advised.

Volunteers at the welcome center should fill out the forms, she suggested. To illustrate, Herring related an experience of trying to return a shirt

to a store while holding a crying grandchild. When the clerk demanded that she fill out the appropriate form, Herring said she refused.

"I realized we are doing the same thing to people at church," she said. "They stand there with a baby and diaper bag and two other children hanging on their legs and we ask them to fill out a visitor's form."

Greeters should take visitors to their Sunday school classes, taking youngest children first and parents last, she said.

Worship welcome. Once in the

worship center, visitors expect friendly greetings from those around them but likely will not want to be singled out as visitors, Herring said.

One way around this is for churches to request that everyone in the worship service register their attendance, she said. For example, a church might use a tab on the order of worship for each person to provide their name, address and phone number. Other information such as prayer requests and decisions could be marked on the tabs that would then be collected at the end of the service.

Church grows after giving again

HIALEAH, Fla. (BP)—For several years, Horeb Baptist Church in Hialeah, Fla., diverted Cooperative Program missions funds to cover the church's own budget needs.

Even so, the church's financial woes reached a point of "economic disaster," Pastor Edwin Diaz said.

Then, in reading the Bible, it "clearly reminded me that God's missions money could not be touched because it is the very center of his heart," Diaz recounted. In a worship service last October, Diaz asked for forgiveness and told the congregation that missions money was not the church's.

Diaz voiced conviction the first thing to be done with the weekly offering is to give a set percentage to the Cooperative Program, to associational missions and to Florida's state missions offering.

"Two weeks later God kept his promises and we met our budgetary needs and received even more," Diaz said. "But the blessings don't stop there. We were able to bring in a full-time music director, our 20-member choir has grown to 44-plus, baptisms have increased tremendously and close to 300 people are attending Sunday services."

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Large, suburban St. Louis area church seeking full-time Minister of Education. Send resumes to Jim Wheeler, First Baptist Church of Harvester, 4075 Hwy. 94 South, St. Charles, Mo. 63304.

SEEKING: Minister of youth and/or music for a south Lexington Southern Baptist church. Full and/or part-time positions being considered. Call (606) 272-6543 or submit resume stating educational, ministerial and other prior experience to Southern Heights Baptist Church, 3408 Clays Mill Road, Lexington, Ky. 40503.

AVAILABLE: Roger Cowen, music evangelist, taking revival and sacred concert dates for fall, '92. September dates available. Thirty-five years in the music ministry. Leave message (502) 267-7247.

NEEDED: Part-time cook, full-time secretary/receptionist for Glen Dale Children's Home. Call Lora Washer, (502) 369-7380.

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

AVAILABLE: All-season retreat facility; just off I-65 at Sonora, Ky. A Christian-owned and operated center. For information, call (502) 324-3036—Bud or Shirley.

WANTED: Minister of Youth and Children with a heart for missions, evangelism and discipleship. Send resume to Pastor Danny Davis, First Baptist Church, 222 South Broadway, Providence, Ky. 42450.

WANTED: Late-model mini-bus (21-25 passenger). Contact Stanford Baptist Church, (606) 365-2178.

FOR SALE: Hammond organ, excellent condition; great for church or home. (502) 245-6434.

POSITIONS: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will make faculty appointments during the academic year for the following positions. Nominations and applications are invited by Oct. 15, 1992. All faculty must be active members of a Baptist congregation and emphasize a conservative-evangelical theology. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. Send biographical information to: Search Committee Dean, Office of the Provost, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky. 40280.

New Testament: Associate or Full Professor, tenure track. MDiv. or equivalent, PhD., experience in teaching, scholarly publications in gospels literature essential.

Social Work: Assistant Professor, three-year, renewable contract, MSW and theological training essential, doctorate preferred. Social policy, gerontology interests desirable.

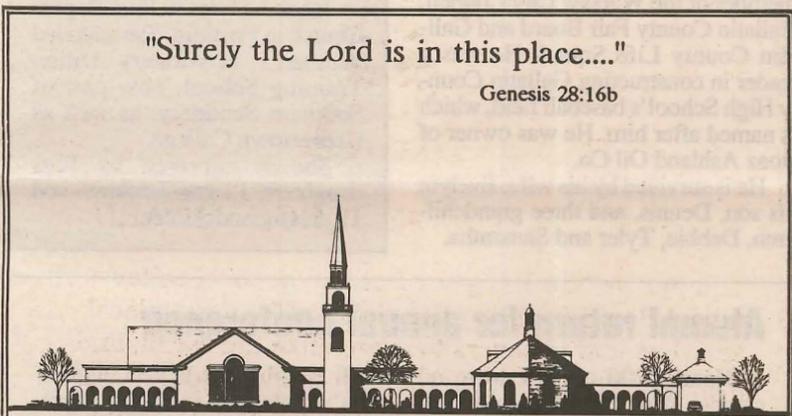
Church History: Assistant or Associate Professor, three-year, renewable contract. MDiv., completed PhD. essential. Specialization in Baptist history, racial ethnic Baptist studies or Patristics desired.

Christian Education/Church Administration: Associate or Full Professor, tenure track. Theological training, church administration experience and EdD. or PhD. in the discipline. Courses to be taught in administration theory, leadership and practical application. Experience and interest in church growth desirable.

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

Genesis 28:16b



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Kentucky Baptist Fellowship

Central Baptist Church, Lexington

(1644 Nicholasville Road)

Saturday, August 29 • 9:30-3:30 EDT



Worship

Cecil Sherman, *Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*
Bob DeFoor, *Harrodsburg Baptist Church*

Fellowship

Pre-session Coffee (9:00 a.m.)
Luncheon—available at the church for \$6.50

Registration for "A Gathering"

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1644 Nicholasville Road, Lexington, KY 40503
For more information, please call: (606) 278-2331

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Please check one of the following:

- I will attend and would like a lunch (\$6.50).
 I will attend but do not want a lunch.
 I cannot attend, but am interested in more information.

Breakout Sessions (choice of four from 20 areas)

- Global Missions—Cecil Sherman
- Ethics—Robert Parham
- Theological Education, Ruschlikon—David Rogers
- Smyth & Helwys Literature—Joyce Oliver/Mark McElroy
- Others include: Partners in Missions; Role of State Baptist Paper; Developing a Budget with Grassroots Participation; Women in Ministry; Role of Laity; Dreaming your Future (ministers under 35); Appalachian Ministry—Ecumenical Style; Gift-Based Social Ministry in the Local Church; Getting your Message Across; Denominational Relations Committee; and more.

PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Kentucky's population is projected to continue becoming older. The number of residents 65 years of age or older was 12.6 percent in the 1990 census, up from 11.2 percent in the 1980 census. This age group is projected to increase 4.2 percent this decade and comprise 13.2 percent of the population by the year 2000. By 2020, nearly 18 percent of the state's population is projected to fall in this category. Source: Kentucky State Data Center.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■**FRANKLIN**—Blackjack Church celebrated its 125th anniversary July 26 and has retired the debt on its fellowship and educational building.

A group of 35 from First Church participated in a week-long mission trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C.

■**GEORGETOWN**—Three Georgetown College alumni were elected officers of the alumni association: **Robert Mills** of Cincinnati, Ohio, president; **Brenda Kelly Fauber** of Dry Ridge, vice president; and **David Davila** of Georgetown, treasurer.

■**GLASGOW**—Immanuel Church will dedicate its new building Aug. 30 at 10:45 a.m. **Morris Chapman**, president-elect of the SBC Executive Committee, will preach. **Jewell Pruitt** is pastor of the 4-year-old church.

■**LONDON**—**Tommy Floyd** resigned as pastor of Jackson Memorial Church.

■**LOUISVILLE**—**Debbie Luttrell** resigned as children's director at Victory Memorial Church.

■**OWENSBORO**—**Donald Murray** has been named manager of the Baptist Book Store. Murray was pastor of Memorial Church in Jefferson City, Mo.

Hall Street Church called **Steven Granger** of Richland Church in Owenton as pastor.

Campers on Mission from Hall Street Church joined Indiana Campers on Mission to provide construction and maintenance work July 6-10 at

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

■**OWENTON**—**Randy Woods Sr.** resigned as pastor of Long Ridge Church to serve as pastor of Lando Church in Lando, S.C.

■**PADUCAH**—**Dan Koger** resigned as associate pastor/minister of education to serve as minister of Christian education at First Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.

■**PINEVILLE**—**Charles Jones** retired after 33 years as pastor of First Church and 45 years of ministry. He will continue to do interims, supply preaching and revivals.

■**SALEM**—**Charles Woody** resigned as pastor of Salem Church. He is available for supply and interim work.

■**SCOTTSVILLE**—The youth group from Scottsville Church participated

Gallatin County leader Boaz dies

WARSAW—**Tommy Boaz**, a longtime leader in Gallatin County and in Ten Mile Baptist Association, died this summer.

Boaz, 62, was a lifelong member of Pleasant Home Baptist Church, located near Glencoe.

He served his church as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, discipleship training leader and music leader.

He also served Ten Mile Association as Sunday school director, music leader, assistant moderator and moderator, and he worked on numerous associational committees.

in a mission trip to Gulfport, Miss., where they conducted backyard Bible clubs in multi-housing projects along the coast. "These youth and their leaders certainly made themselves a home in our hearts," said **Jim Dalrymple**, associate director of missions for Gulf Coast Baptist Association.

■**SHELBYVILLE**—**Gene Milby**, director of missions for the Shelby Baptist Association, has announced his retirement effective Sept. 30.

■**SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Bullitt Lick Church ordained **Dean Huff**, **Dodd Shepherd** and **David Hasty** as deacons.

Christi Rippetto resigned as music and singles director at Bullitt Lick Church to direct the Walnut Street Church's child care center in Louisville.

■**TAYLORSVILLE**—Ridgeview Mission was constituted as Ridgeview Church Aug. 2.

In addition, he was a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board and faithfully attended the KBC Evangelism Conference.

In the community, Boaz was a member of the Warsaw City Council, Gallatin County Fair Board and Gallatin County Life Squad. He was a leader in constructing Gallatin County High School's baseball field, which is named after him. He was owner of Boaz Ashland Oil Co.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn; his son, Dennis, and three grandchildren, Debbie, Tyler and Samantha.

Oldest missionary Jacob dies at 101

WEST POINT, Miss. (BP)—Simpson County native **Floy Jacob**, the oldest retired Southern Baptist foreign missionary, died Aug. 14, at 101 years of age.

Appointed a missionary in 1922, Jacob worked in China for 18 years. She directed a kindergarten, was acting principal of a girl's school and worked as a general evangelist in China's Shandong province.

On her way to China, Jacob married missionary **Robert Jacob** in Yokohama, Japan. They met while both were studying at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

In 1940, Jacob and her four children were forced to evacuate China because of fighting there during World War II. Her husband stayed in China but in 1941 was taken to a Japanese internment camp. He was released in 1943.

Jacob had ties to First Baptist Church in Franklin. She attended Woman's Missionary Union Training School, now part of Southern Seminary, as well as Georgetown College.

She is survived by four daughters, 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Used clothing and travel

It has been four-and-one-half years since I have written in this column about the need for used clothing. Do you have some you have been thinking of giving away?

If so, perhaps you could plan a visit with us, bringing the clothing as you come. With upward to 550 girls and boys to care for day and night, it is physically impossible for us to take staff away from their daily jobs to go all over Kentucky or other states to pick up things.

We do not need clothing that is worn out—we do not need rags. However, we can recycle good used clothing of different sizes for various ages.

Pack the clothing in plastic bags, if possible. They are much easier to handle than boxes. Much more clothing can be stored in a smaller space.

Of course, serving young people grades 6-12, our single greatest need is for that age group. But we also have more than 130 staff who work for low salary or as full-time volunteers without pay. Many get some or most of their clothing from what is donated to us. Many have small children under sixth grade level that also are clothed from our used clothing store. Our students, staff members and children are given what they need at no cost.

What students and staff do not need is sorted and sized and put into our used clothing facility called Friendship House. These articles are sold at very low prices to people in the area with all the income going into our Student Aid fund. So clothing gifts aid our students directly or indirectly in each instance.

Sheets, pillows, pillow cases, quilts, blankets and bedspreads always can be used. Many students arrive without such items and must be helped in this way. However, please don't go out

and buy such things for us. Instead, send us the money and what it would have cost to mail, ship or bring such things. With the money we can buy up to one-third more than you can with the same amount of money. How? We are non-profit and do not have to pay taxes. On each \$100 purchased, \$6 is saved. We buy wholesale and you generally must pay retail price. We buy in bulk and save even more that way.

If you cannot come to visit with us, you can mail to us or send by UPS (this is best). That is delivered into our office.

But we would love to have you come visit whether you have any used clothing to share or not. Everything is a deep green now, but soon the leaves will be turning many beautiful colors as autumn comes. How glorious are these mountains in such times!

Many people really like the wonderful craft items in our growing craft program. All who work there do so without pay. All the proceeds from their work go directly to our Student Aid fund.

Try to arrive before 10:30 a.m. (EST) on any school day and you can worship with us. You have never really seen Oneida until you have worshipped with our students and staff in their daily service.

When you come, plan to share a meal with us. We won't charge you a dime.

You are welcome to visit anytime. We have no one or two days designated as "open house." We are ready to be viewed day or night, any day of the year.

A trip to Oneida is a state, home and foreign mission experience at one time.

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Alumni return for annual conference

Nearly 200 alumni were on campus Aug. 3-4 for their annual reunion. Alumni president and Owensboro pastor **Gary Daugherty** presided over the sessions which blended missions, Bible study, music, preaching and fellowship.

Lincoln/Casey County director of missions and 1979 graduate **Stanley Stevenson** did two sessions on the January Bible Study on the Sermon of the Mount. Everyone was richly blessed by music professor **Jim Castlen's** presentation of conference music. His three messages in music challenged all to deeper commitment.

Conference preacher was **Kenneth Mahanes**, pastor of Far Hills Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio, a Kentuckian and graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary. He has served Far Hills since 1978. I appreciated his practical application and excellent illustrations.

Alumni came from 15 different states. Thirty-one different graduation classes were represented. **Gladys Fox**, wife of former staff member **Claude Fox**, took honors for the earliest class represented, 1949.

Alumni enjoyed fellowship with several former faculty and

staff, possibly the largest number who've attended in recent years. They included President Emeritus and Mrs. **D.M. Aldridge**; **Anna Starkey**, who directed Kelly Hall and taught English for 21 years; campus nurse **Evelyn Mottram**; Director of Campus Operations **John Holloway** and his wife, **Lucille**, who operated the bookstore; **Clara Barnett**, Kelly Hall director of five years; our recent campus nurse **Jane Dawson**; **Beth Wyatt**, president's secretary, and husband **Bob**, who worked buildings and grounds; **Drew Martin**, director of public relations; **Mrs. Claude Fox**; **Mrs. Lewis Lynch** whose husband taught New Testament; **Mrs. Ralph Duncan**, former secretary and whose husband was director of public relations and alumni.

Alumni were pleased with progress in their project of remodeling student cottages. Eight have been totally renovated. Alumni are helping raise \$100,000 to complete the remaining 19 cottages. Everyone present certainly had reason to do what the program cover said, "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

Paid Column

MISSIONS

Baptists compete for souls during summer Olympics

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BARCELONA, Spain (BP)—While the world's greatest athletes battled for Olympic gold this summer, scores of Baptists competed in a spiritual battle for souls.

These spiritual athletes smiled more than the sports stars but also did their share of grunting and sweating as they labored amid Spain's soaring summer temperatures.

For the "Reach Out '92" effort, an international team of nearly 100 Baptists ministered during the Olympics. The team included 10 Southern Baptist missionaries, about 30 Baptist Student Union workers from the United States, two dozen student volunteers from the United Kingdom, 25 Spanish workers and 10 from other Euro-

pean countries.

They were not alone. As many as 8,000 Christian workers from other denominations and church-related organizations came to Barcelona for the Olympics, estimated Southern Baptist missionary Fred Dallas of Fort Bragg, N.C., who coordinated Baptist efforts.

Track and field great Carl Lewis was the big draw in a special program Aug. 4 at the Palace of Music in Barcelona. More than 1,500 people packed the recital hall as Lewis and other star athletes told of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Because Baptists are little-known in Spain, local pastors appreciated the extra "muscle" to help introduce them and boost their image. At the Palace of Music program, flashbulbs fired and applause burst out as Lewis took the stage with Olympian Leroy Bur-

rell and others.

Active in Christian outreach since 1981, Lewis told the crowd the Lord is with him when he wins but also when he loses. When he loses, "that's when the Lord comes to me and says everything is going to be all right."

American track star Chandra Cheesborough admitted she began dabbling in cocaine during the same 1984 Olympics in which she won a gold medal. Soon she had a habit that cost \$10,000 a week, she said.

A rehabilitation center stay failed to cure her but she later was "scared straight" by something that happened to her, although she didn't elaborate.

"I had to be delivered from drugs," she said. "We need to know drugs are not an illness. It is sin. And we need to face it as sin."

Baptist students packed backpacks with lunch and evangelistic materials and pounded Barcelona's streets all day to spread their faith. Some performed music, drama, mime or sports to get an audience for their Christian testimonies.

They worked in a city decked out for the Olympics with flags and banners waving from every available window or post. Most flags represented Catalonia, the separatist-minded province where the city is located.

Baptist volunteers distributed thousands of colorful booklets explaining the gospel. One, called "Winning in Life," featured sports photographs to capitalize on the Olympics. It was jointly produced in 15 languages by the United Bible Societies and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Offerings taken this summer by students at Centrifuge programs sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board helped underwrite production costs.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Spain also worked with Spanish Baptists to produce a four-color brochure explaining who Baptists are.

Only two Baptist congregations worship in Barcelona, a city of 5 million people. And only about two dozen evangelical churches of any kind exist in the sprawling metropolis.

Gold-medal choir

BARCELONA, Spain (BP)—If they gave gold medals for Olympic music performances, First Baptist Church of Dallas would be a contender.

The church's 176-member chapel choir and orchestra gave 12 performances during a 13-day stay in Barcelona during the summer Olympics. By the time they left, local observers agreed their polished program had given a much-needed boost to Baptists' image in Spain, a country leery of evangelical Christianity because of centuries of Catholic tradition.

More than 200 singers, musicians, helpers and directors from First Baptist made the Barcelona trek on a chartered Boeing 757 jet. A year of planning went into the venture. Total cost of the trip reached \$200,000, said Jody Mazzola, minister of education.

The group performed a medley of American songs and Christian music Aug. 4 at the prestigious Palace of Music in downtown Barcelona before a standing-room-only crowd of more than 1,500. They shared the stage with a bevy of world-class athletes, including American speedster and long jumper Carl Lewis.

Larger halls could have been rented for less money, but the Palace of Music has an image of quality that Baptists in Spain need, said Southern Baptist missionary Fred Dallas, who helped plan the evening.

The group also performed at a former Roman Catholic seminary in the city of San Cugat del Valles, where Baptists hope to establish a church.

"The choir's performance has made a great opening for us in this community," said Roberto Velert, president of the Evangelical Baptist Union of Spain.



TESTIMONY Track superstar Carl Lewis speaks of his Christian faith at an Aug. 4 program sponsored by Baptists at the Palace of Music in Barcelona, Spain, during the summer Olympics. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

High school volunteers share gospel by building latrines

By Tim Yarbrough
SBC Brotherhood Commission

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico (BP)—A sanitary latrine can mean the difference between life and death for Maria Luisa.

Like the dozen or so residents of a row of squatter's homes in this section of Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, Maria sees a latrine built by Southern Baptist youth as a godsend.

"I'm very grateful for this group," the 19-year-old mother of two said of members of a World Changers crew working near her home. "Without them, I wouldn't have this service."

Maria, whose husband, Teodoro, 24, works odd jobs in crops and construction, is expecting another child in a few months.

"They have risked their lives by coming from so far away to help me," she said. "I'm sure their fathers and mothers are worried about them."

The crews working on latrines were among 55 youths and adults who participated in the first foreign World Changers missions project this summer.

World Changers, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, is a mission-action program for high school youth.

Maria Monesterio Barrera, a widow of six months, lives about 50 yards from the Luisa family at the opposite end of a row of homes constructed primarily of scrap wood, cardboard and tin.

Despite her age of more than 70 years, she started her own latrine with a shovel and pick. By the time Baptist youths arrived to start work, she had dug a hole three feet deep.

The importance of a clean latrine is obvious to her—her husband died of an infectious disease six months earlier.

In addition to completing 20 la-

trines for squatters, each family was presented with a New Testament. At a special worship service held on the final day of work, nearly all the community's adults accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.

"The people are so eager to hear the gospel," said Bracky Bickerstaff, 29, leader of a group of youth from Crabtree Valley Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. "I think building latrines opened the door for us to come talk to them about Christ. They saw us being willing to help them and do things for them."

In a remote mountain village more than 50 miles away, another World Changers crew worked to complete 13 latrines.

The area, known in Mexico as a "huizachal," or small mountain community, mostly has been forgotten by the government's social service agencies.

It's no wonder. On the first day of

work the vehicle carrying members of the work crew was unable to make the trip. Crew members had to walk five miles to get to the village.

After a week working in the village, grateful residents slaughtered two "cabritos," or baby goats, and prepared tortillas for a feast, said John Haste, Southern Baptist representative to Mexico.

The people so desperately wanted latrines built in their community that when gravel needed for concrete did not arrive, they began crushing rocks to make gravel, Haste said.

After New Testaments were distributed to families in the mountain village, the people were interested in starting a weekly Bible study, he said.

And as the World Changers crew prepared to leave the community, tears welled in the eyes of several villagers. "We thought everyone had forgotten us ... then you came," Haste quoted one as saying.

WORLD VIEW

■ A provincial governor of Thailand has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and planned to be baptized late last month. That decision certainly won't make him popular in the Buddhist-dominated society. "We've prayed for him for nearly 10 years," one missionary said. "Now he's going to see a lot of pressure for his decision, and he continues to need our prayers."

■ Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, has rejoined the Russian Orthodox Church, where he was baptized as an infant. During his rise through the ranks of communism, Yeltsin had abandoned his faith and declared himself an atheist. Yeltsin told reporters he has become a believing Christian who will serve "the Lord and the people."

■ Nepal's citizens may now voluntarily change their religion from Hinduism, but citizens may not "convert anyone to another religion." Previously, anyone who left the Hindu faith faced a jail term, fine and forced return to Hinduism. The stipulation against "converting" someone else carries a six-year prison term.

CUMBERLAND

Collection of Crosses Donated to Cumberland College

The Rev. Robert O. Williams has spent 30 years collecting 6,000 crosses. As the collection grew he prayed for the Lords' guidance so that others might view the crosses, and that the collection be beneficial to mankind. His brother, the Rev. Joe Priest Williams, told him of **Cumberland College's** new building (to be known as the **Cumberland Lodge and Museum**) which houses, among other items, collections that have been donated to the college.

Cumberland College held a warm spot in Williams' heart since his son, the Rev. Carl Prentice Williams, was graduated from the college just one year prior to his tragic death in 1981.

After visiting the area Robert Williams decided that though

others had expressed an interest in the collection, the location of **Cumberland's Lodge** on Interstate 75 and the room available in the new structure met the



need he had prayed about. He decided to give the entire collection to **Cumberland College** as a memorial to his son.

The collection is now in place. The crosses range in size from two inches to sculptures more than 6 feet tall. They were gathered from around the world and include crosses

made from sea shells, stone, wood, steel, ivory and rhinestones, to name a few.

As part of the gift to **Cumberland College**, Williams paid for

transportation and other costs in delivering the collection. He also provided special showcases made for the collection and helped set up the displays. And he's not finished yet! "I plan to continue to collect crosses and go to Cumberland once a month to help catalog them," he stated.

Dr. Jim Taylor, **Cumberland's** president praised Williams for his gift and said, "Not only will this help focus on our college's image as a Christian institution, but the students will benefit from being able to study the 6,000 crosses gathered from all over the world. In addition, scholarly research in theology can be done from the standpoint of the cross collection," he said.

PHASE I of the **Cumberland Lodge and Museum** opened on July 31, 1992, and is adjacent to Interstate 75 at Exit 11 in Whitley County. You're invited to stop by and see the cross collection whenever you're in the area.

