

SEPTEMBER 8, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 35

## FOR THE RECORD

**Study questioned**

Larry Holly, the Texas physician who requested the Southern Baptist Convention study the teachings of the Masonic Lodge, says he doesn't have confidence in the person assigned by the Home Mission Board to do the study. However, the HMB says it will stay by the assignment. *See page 2.*

**BSU benefit concert**

Singer and songwriter Michael Card will perform a benefit concert for the Baptist Student Union of Western Kentucky University, where his music career got started. *See page 3.*

**CP year ends**

Kentucky Baptists ended their fiscal year with a slight increase in Cooperative Program contributions but short of the goal. *See page 3.*

**Family Forum**

Despite the headlines, not all teen-agers are engaged in illicit behavior. *See page 4.*

**Editorial**

Observe the week of prayer for state missions by praying, giving and going. *See page 5.*

**TV opinions**

Americans are most concerned about the amount of violence portrayed on television, a new poll finds. *See page 7.*



**AFTER ANDREW** Southern Baptists, including a group of 45 Kentucky Baptist Men, continued their disaster relief work in Florida and Louisiana last week in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. *See the story on page 9.* ■ **Top:** In South Florida, Gold Coaster trailer park sits in shambles after the storm, with the steeple of Florida City Baptist Church still peeking up in the background. ■ **Left:** A little girl clings to bags of military-style ready-to-eat meals distributed by Southern Baptists at a school in Homestead, Fla. ■ **Center:** A Baptist volunteer from North Carolina places bread on the tray of a resident from Cutler Ridge, Fla. This was one of 11 feeding sites set up in the region by Southern Baptists, who continue to feed up to 81,000 meals a day. ■ **Right:** With a banner overhead, a Baptist volunteer cuts limbs to start clearing debris from the grounds of First Baptist Church in Cutler Ridge. (BP photos by Paul Obregon)

## Georgetown grad waits on God after injury with Falcons

By Sarah Myers  
Georgetown College

GEORGETOWN—Bryan McKenzie is content to go where God leads him, even if it means away from his dream of playing professional football.

A 1990 graduate of Georgetown College, McKenzie received a debilitating shoulder injury last July during a pre-season practice, just three months after signing with the Atlanta Falcons.

McKenzie had been dreaming about a professional athletic career since his junior year at Georgetown. But the opportunity appeared to end before he was able to play in a single NFL game.

He refused to let the injury destroy his seemingly bright career, however, and endured a grueling surgery to reconstruct his damaged shoulder. His rehabilitation, including hours of physical therapy, kept him off the

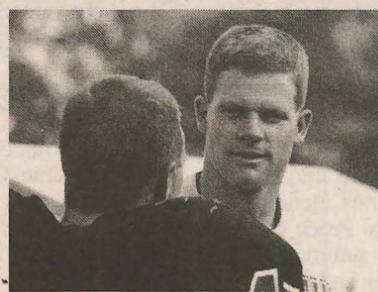
field and away from NFL scouts.

An NFL career is still a possibility, he says, but for now he is trying his hand as a linebacker coach for Georgetown—an opportunity he is sure God has given him.

"If God wants me in the NFL, he'll put me there," he explains. "But at least for this year I feel I can serve him best at Georgetown."

McKenzie already has found ways to serve God off the football field as well. He is resident director of the largest men's residence hall on campus and is the college's first Fellowship of Christian Athletes adviser. In addition, he plans to start a discipleship group with 10 students and train them to start their own discipleship groups the next semester.

"If each of the original 10 starts groups of only five people and each subsequent group does the same, we could have a major campus revival," he says. "I have a unique opportunity at Georgetown. I not only get to pre-



**REVERSE ROLES** Bryan McKenzie, once a Georgetown College football player, now guides players as a linebacker coach.

pare students to play on Saturday but to prepare them for the Lord's work as well."

Making the transition from player to coach may not be easy, he admits, because he still has trouble watching an NFL game.

"I want so badly to be out there playing. It is very difficult to stand on the sidelines or watch a game on television without feeling pangs of frustra-

## Kentuckians called to pray and give

By Mark Wingfield & Marv Knox  
News Director & Editor

The \$695,000 goal for this year's Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering should be only a beginning point for Baptist churches across the commonwealth, according to Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union President Delores Spears.

Churches across the state will observe the annual week of prayer for state missions next week, Sept. 13-20, and begin collecting the annual state missions offering.

Although the state offering doesn't have the high profile the national home and foreign missions offerings enjoy, it still is vitally important, Spears said.

"It may be more glamorous to look at foreign missions," she noted, "but the needs we have in our own state are great as well."

During her tenure as WMU president, Spears said, she has toured three areas of the state to see firsthand how the Eliza Broadus money is used. Each time she has come away excited about the mission work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Spears expressed appreciation to Kentucky Baptists for a good history of reaching the goals for their state missions offerings but issued a challenge to do even more. "We've been thrilled that we've been reaching our goals, but that is nothing compared to what we ought to do," she said.

That "ought to do" region represents a vast resource which is not doing all it can for missions, noted KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall.

Kentucky Baptist churches that do not contribute to the Eliza Broadus Offering or that contribute less than they ought represent "untapped potential," Marshall noted.

□ *See Kentucky called ..., page 3*

tration and disappointment.

"People thought I had it all together, but I didn't," he admits now of his injury. "I asked why and cried for months."

But he realizes now that even during the short time he was with the Falcons, playing football was not the most important thing in his life. "My relationship with Jesus Christ will always be what drives me," he says.

"Some of those guys had all the money, cars and girls they could ask for, yet they were still searching for fulfillment."

He also uses his injury to make a point to other college players: "There is a point when it is time to hang up the cleats, and all athletes need to be ready to answer the question, 'What then?'"

McKenzie's own future is not settled. But he would like to get a seminary degree and start a Christian sports camp for underprivileged children.

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **Trennis Henderson** has been elected editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, succeeding Everett Sneed, who died June 26. Henderson, 33, is a professional journalist and has been managing editor of Missouri Baptists' Word & Way since 1985. While a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he was a staff writer and advertising representative for the Western Recorder.

■ **Alumni of Camp Ridgecrest** for boys and Camp Crestridge for girls have organized Ridgecrest Camps Alumni & Friends, an independent, non-profit organization with a mission to "strengthen the work of the camps in their Christian ministry."

■ **"Formations"** Sunday school literature produced by the independent Baptist publisher Smyth & Helwys will be used by 850 churches this fall, the publisher reports. That is up from 500 church users last year and coincides with the introduction of a fully graded line of literature.

## Holly objects to Mason researcher; assignment stays

ATLANTA (BP)—Gary Leazer will continue to lead the Home Mission Board's study of Freemasonry despite a call for his replacement, HMB President Larry Lewis said.

Leazer's objectivity had been questioned by Larry Holly, the Texas physician who brought to the Southern Baptist Convention a request for the study to be done.

Lewis explained that messengers to the 1992 SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis were clear: "We have no choice as to who will do the study. The convention directed the interfaith witness department to do the study. As director of the interfaith witness department, he (Leazer) is responsible for leading that study and assuming that it is done in a fair and thorough

manner.

In a nine-page letter to Lewis, Holly called for Leazer to be removed as director of the study, claiming Leazer is prejudiced toward those opposed to Freemasonry.

Or, Holly suggested, Lewis should establish "an official Home Mission Board liaison committee to review and critique the study" or ask the SBC Executive Committee to prepare a report "to balance" the HMB interfaith witness department's study.

Holly took issue with parts of a letter he obtained written by Leazer to an unnamed non-Southern Baptist.

According to Holly, Leazer wrote in the letter that he was getting pressure from "anti-Masons" who "don't want a scholarly study."

In the letter, Holly said, Leazer also noted his report would have to examine how the Masonic Lodge has changed in recent years and the writings of modern-day Masons.

Holly particularly objected to Leazer's statement about looking at recent Masonic writers, claiming that even a current, widely used Masonic altar Bible retains the occultic essence of Freemasonry as depicted by such Masonic notables as Albert Pike.

Holly also objected to the reference about critics not wanting a scholarly study.

"Dr. Lewis, please ask your staff to spare me the condescension that I 'do not want a scholarly study!'" Holly wrote. "I want an honest study. Scholarship, properly exercised, will

condemn the Masonic Lodge."

Holly also took personal offense at Leazer's use of the term "anti-Mason."

Holly wrote that he believes he is a friend of Masons and is "pro-truth" rather than "anti-Mason."

Lewis, however, said he does not share Holly's belief that a report directed by Leazer would be compromised.

He said Leazer is researching the study with the aid of the interfaith witness department staff, not preparing the report alone.

Lewis added that the report will be reviewed by others—and be approved by the HMB's trustees—before it goes to the 1993 annual meeting in Houston.

## ATS head says schools aren't penalized for theology

By Pat Cole  
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Educational standards—not theological stances—matter most to the agency that accredits the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries and about 200 other schools, the agency's director said.

The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada does not penalize an institution for being either too conservative or too liberal, said James Waits during a visit to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"That would violate our own fundamental principle of association," he said. "This is a group of free schools joining voluntarily into association with one another for peer institutional

relationships."

Southern Baptist interest in accreditation has increased in recent years as controversies swirled around control of seminary governing boards by conservative trustees. Changes at two seminaries prompted ATS investigations.

Earlier this year, ATS placed Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., on probation for two years. ATS representatives also made a "focused visit" to Southern Seminary in 1990. The visiting team, however, later said many trustee actions that prompted the visit had been corrected and recommended ATS take no official action toward the school.

Waits would not comment about specific situations regarding seminar-

ies. However, he said schools generally run afoul of accrediting agencies when they fail to follow due processes outlined in their own mission statements. "They become subject to surging ideas or politics or some personal idiosyncrasy, and then their mission gets skewed and their procedures and processes get skewed," he said. "The purpose of accreditation is to make sure there is due process consistent with pre-set standards of procedure."

ATS probably comprises the most pluralistic and theologically diverse religious organization in North America, Waits claimed. "ATS tries to be respectful of those traditions and tries to be very clear about allowing an individual institution to formulate its own mission statement which grows out of its theology and its confession-

al stance," he said, noting ATS members range from very conservative seminaries to the most liberal university-based divinity schools.

Waits tries to emphasize the role of theological education in the life of the church, he said: "Naturally, there ought to be a close relationship between the church and the seminary, but ... there are bound to be tensions between ordinary church life and theological education, because theological education is sort of bound to be on the cutting edge of where church life ought to go."

Consequently, he added, theological educators offer a critique of the church "not out of love for antagonism but love for the church and ambition for the church that it be relevant to our day."

## HMB seeks recent college grads

ATLANTA (BP)—Dec. 15 is the deadline for applications for US-2 missionaries, a missions program offered to college graduates age 30 or younger by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Serving in all 50 states, US-2 missionaries work on home mission fields for two years. Assignments include resort and innovative ministries, church and community ministries, new church extension, language church exten-

sion, student work, evangelism and internationals/seamen ministries.

During the two-year terms, US-2ers receive a small stipend as well as housing, meals, insurance and travel expenses.

To request information concerning US-2 missions, write Missionary Personnel, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601, or call (800) HMB-VOLS.

## Kentuckians attend peace conference

MANAGUA, Nicaragua—Four Kentuckians were among 200 people from 35 countries attending the International Baptist Peace Conference in Nicaragua this summer.

Glen Stassen and David Mueller of Louisville, along with Bill and Jean Moore of Owensboro, attended the meeting.

Three students from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville also attended.

The conference presented a "peacemaker award" to Gustavo Parajon, pastor of First Baptist Church in Managua and one of four people who served on Nicaragua's National Commission on Reconciliation, which worked to bring a peaceful settlement

to the nation's civil war.

Daniel Ortega, former president of Nicaragua, also addressed the group.

Conference participants issued a statement of concern about what they called a growing gap between North and South and between wealthier and poorer nations.

"The same impulse that drove Europeans from their own shores in search of conquest is now incarnate in the new colonization of the poor countries of the South by the industrialized nations of the North," the statement said.

The statement calls this a "spiritual struggle, a struggle involving idolatry, a conflict requiring all to choose whom we will serve."

## CP down; Fellowship gifts up

August gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget dropped nearly 8 percent below receipts for August 1991, while July contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship climbed 55 percent over the same period last year.

The Cooperative Program received \$11,210,624 last month, a decline of 7.85 percent from August 1991.

The Fellowship took in \$512,226 in July, marking the fourth consecutive month the 1-year-old moderate organization has received more than one-half million dollars.

The Cooperative Program's decrease hurts, said Harold C. Bennett, president of the SBC Executive Committee, which receives the funds.

"The Foreign Mission Board received \$477,000 less from the Cooperative Program in August than it would have received," he said. "Also, the Home Mission Board's income was reduced by \$186,600, and our six seminaries by almost \$194,000."

With only September remaining in the SBC fiscal year, year-to-date Cooperative Program receipts are 1.2 percent behind last year. As of Aug. 31, the budget received \$127,842,615, compared to \$129,399,470 last year.

The annual goal is \$140,712,282. Although its totals are much smaller, the Fellowship's budget gains have

been proportionately large.

Through July, the latest month for which statistics are available, contributions to the Fellowship increased 68 percent over the first seven months of 1991.

That increase places the organization on target to surpass its 1992 projection of \$6.6 million in contributions. Last year, the Fellowship took in \$4.5 million.

The July receipts were "a good bit better than anyone expected," noted Coordinator Cecil Sherman.

He noted contributors to the Fellowship are asking that an ever-larger portion of the gifts be used to support the Fellowship's own ministries, not traditional Southern Baptist organizations.

In the past, as much as three-fourths of the money contributed through the Fellowship was designated for SBC causes. That portion has dropped to about half in recent months, as more churches and individuals earmark their contributions for Fellowship causes.

Sherman noted 653 churches have contributed to the Fellowship this year. The largest group comes from North Carolina (104), with almost as many from Texas (98). Forty-six Kentucky churches contributed.

Information for this story was contributed by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press.

## Kentucky called to pray & give

Continued from page 1

For example, only 100 KBC churches—or about 4 percent of the total—provided 35 percent of the Eliza Broadus Offering last year, he said.

Moreover, only about 52 percent of Kentucky Baptist churches—1,151 out of 2,230—contributed anything to the offering last year.

Consequently, the potential for new contributions or larger gifts is strong this year, he said.

This year's offering provides partial funding to meet a variety of those needs, including:

- Salaries and benefits for missionaries who work in the state.

- Funds for student summer missionaries to work in some areas, a supplement to the funding raised by college students throughout the year.

- Interracial ministries, such as the Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville, and a number of language missions efforts.

- An ongoing ministry to international students, including an annual retreat.

- Christmas gifts sent to Kentucky-born foreign missionaries and their children.

- A van for use at the Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Marrowbone.

- Resort ministries at Land Between the Lakes.

- The Infant Resource Project in Louisville, which provides baby food and supplies to help low-income mothers care for their children.

## God sings through us, songwriter says

■ Singer/songwriter Michael Card will present a benefit concert for the Baptist Student Union at Western Kentucky University Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Van Meter Auditorium on the Bowling Green campus. General admission tickets are \$8. For further information, call (502) 781-3185.

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

The Christian's life is a song God is singing through him or her, according to singer and songwriter Michael Card.

Card, who has written contemporary Christian classics such as "El Shaddai," returns this month to Kentucky, the place where he heard a new song God wanted to sing through him, he said.

As a student at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Card discovered his gift as a songwriter and began his professional music career.

"One reason I really feel a special call to be playing on campuses—and we'll be on a number of campuses during this tour—is because I believe it is during that period of your life that most people who make really serious decisions for Christ are impacted.

"College age is an important time to speak to people," he explained. "You're away from home, you're sort of deciding on your own what you're going to be and what your stand is going to be."

The Bowling Green concert is the first stop on a 50-city tour featuring the music from his latest recording, "The Word: Recapturing the Imagination." The album, part three of an Old Testament trilogy, focuses on the prophets.

He spent a year studying the prophets before writing the songs. One of his most basic conclusions was that "God sings through the prophets," he said.

"God all through the Bible is speaking through visions that basically are songs," he explained. "The thing that excites me is to realize that God is still speaking to me in those ways, that my life is a song that God is sort of singing. He's singing to me, through me."

Card also realized there's more to understanding the prophets than translating locusts into B-52s and the pope into the anti-Christ, he said.

Like most people, Card said, he struggled to understand the prophets. "My focus was on what God is trying to do through the prophets. ... I think I just asked myself why God speaks the way he speaks."

Finally, Card said, "I realized that when God speaks to us, he is trying to recapture our imagination."

Imagination is the eyes of the heart, he explained. "The Bible speaks to your imagination because it is the imagination that reaches both your heart and your mind.

"When John in Revelation 21 talks about God standing at the door and knocking, I think that door is the imagination. When the vision starts, John says, 'I beheld a door was open in heaven,' and I wonder if that door wasn't a door that was in John, the door of his imagination."

To look only for predictions of future events in the prophets is to miss the point, Card said. "The prophets are about listening to God, about being recaptured by God. The point is not waiting to see if all those things come true. The point is changing your heart now."

Card's latest songs—like most of his earlier work—contain thoughtful texts that challenge listeners to delve further into the Bible.

"Ultimately, I want the music to be a vehicle back to Scripture," he said. "If people just listen to my songs and get their ideas from that, they've lost and I've lost."

This emphasis on biblical music has a direct relation to Card's education and experience in Kentucky.

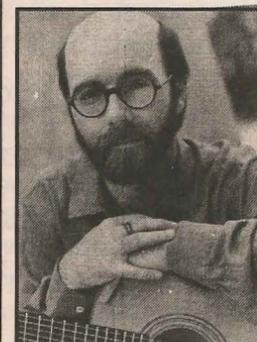
He entered the biblical studies program at WKU with plans to teach Bible courses on a secular campus. But while living in Bowling Green, the Nashville native was given opportunities to write and sing his own songs.

He had been involved in music for years, raised the son of a classical violinist and jazz trombonist. But he also had strong ties to theology and sacred music.

One of his grandfathers, Fred Brown, was pastor of First Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., and served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1933. His other grandfather, George Card, once served as minister of music at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville and later worked for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, where he compiled two hymnals, "Songs of Faith" and "Abiding Songs."

At Western, Card met professor William Lane, who asked the young student to write some songs to go along with his weekly sermons at Cecilia Memorial Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green.

"I ended up doing that for six years," he recalled. "And every week people would say, 'I really like this' or 'I didn't understand that' ... and unbeknownst to me, I was being trained to be a songwriter."



**PROPHETIC VOICE** Michael Card says a yearlong study of biblical prophets in preparation for writing his most recent songs helped him understand the message of the prophets is that God wants to recapture the imagination of his people.

## State CP ends year on par with '91 but below budget goal

By Marv Knox  
Editor

Kentucky Baptists' Cooperative Program unified budget closed its fiscal year weakly, finishing almost dead even with last year and nearly \$900,000 under its goal.

The Kentucky Cooperative Program received \$17,004,967 during the 1991-92 fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31. That amount is just \$7,017 (less than one-tenth of 1 percent) above the \$16,997,950 total received last year.

The unified budget missed this year's \$17,894,462 operating goal by \$889,495 (5 percent).

August receipts didn't help the cause much.

Churches contributed \$1,378,175 during the final month of the fiscal year, making it the weakest August since 1987. The funding program needed more than \$2 million in August to reach its goal.

The Cooperative Program provides major funding for Kentucky Baptist Convention causes and helps support Southern Baptist ministries worldwide. The receipts are divided, with 62.058 percent staying in Kentucky and 37.942 percent going to Southern Baptist Convention enter-

prises.

Kentucky causes got a boost this year, due to a sharp increase in contributions designated exclusively for use in Kentucky.

Kentucky-only designations totaled \$355,676. That represents a gain of \$117,994 (50 percent) over the \$237,682 in Kentucky-only designations received last year.

The Kentucky-only designations were provided by about 40 churches. They have expressed their displeasure with the national convention by designating their gifts to the KBC and to selected national agencies. Since the Kentucky money is designated, it is not considered part of the Cooperative Program.

But when that money is taken into account, funds available for use in Kentucky actually increased by \$259,692 (2.4 percent).

"I'm grateful we exceeded last year, though barely," William W. Marshall, the KBC's executive secretary-treasurer, said of the overall year-end report.

"The most disappointing result of the receipts is that we as administrators cannot responsibly recommend any increase in the overall Cooperative Program budget for 1993-94," he added.

Just last week, Marshall presented the KBC Executive Board's business and finance committee with a 1993-94 Cooperative Program goal that is identical to the goal for the new fiscal year that began Sept. 1. It totals \$17,337,909 and is 3 percent below the 1991-92 goal.

"Even with a 3 percent cut in the total operating budget this year, we still will need to achieve a 2 percent growth in Cooperative Program giving just to achieve our new budget," Marshall noted.

"Generally I'm an optimistic person, but there are absolutely no signs that Cooperative Program gifts will increase."

That's part of a larger problem, noted Barry Allen, the KBC's business manager and primary budget planner.

"Personal incomes are declining and have been since 1979," Allen noted, citing a recent national study. "Because of that, Americans are now spending their savings just to carry on their normal lifestyles, with long-term negative implications."

A U.S. Department of Labor survey revealed 80 percent of Americans were paid less last year than they were in 1979, when incomes are adjusted for inflation, Allen reported.



To make matters worse, only 16 states suffered steeper wage declines than Kentucky, which saw inflation-adjusted earnings fall 18.3 percent.

"Given everything going on in the world—politically, denominationally, economically and culturally—our 1991-92 receipts were good," Allen said.

Marshall sounded a similar theme: "By comparison to other states—which have been impacted by the (SBC) controversy and the economy—we are faced with less-radical financial conditions than many state conventions.

"I'm just sorry for Kentucky Baptists that both these realities exist and impact our missions funding."

**GOOD TIMING** Kentucky's Cooperative Program got a boost Aug. 31, when pastors of the two largest-contributing churches brought year-end checks to the Baptist Building. Howard Cobble (left) of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown presents a check to KBC Business Manager Barry Allen, and J. Robert White (right) of First Baptist Church of Paducah presents a check to KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall. Neither knew the other was coming to Louisville.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

**MARV KNOX**  
Editor

**MARK WINGFIELD**  
News Director

**RAY L. HAYES**  
Business Manager

**C. R. DALEY**  
Editor Emeritus

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

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

**To subscribe:** Send \$9.54 (\$10 outside U.S.) for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$7.50 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

**To register change of address:** Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

**To give news tips:** Call (502) 244-6472 or write the editor or news director.

**To submit a letter:** Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 250 words and may be edited for length.

**To place an advertisement:** Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

**Directors:** Greg Earwood, Murray, chairman; Don Mantooth, Morehead, vice chairman; Kay Trisler, Harrodsburg, secretary; Richard Bridges, Bowling Green; Bill Crosby, Erlanger; Tom Curry, Louisville; Denzel Dukes, Paducah; Glenn Durham, Harlan; Garnett Hulette, Frankfort; Isaac McDonald, Elizabethtown; Karen Owen Phelps, Owensboro; John Searcy, Franklin.

## Hear what really is being said

Have you ever misunderstood what someone said? I know I have, and that can be an embarrassing situation. Moreover, it can be a hurtful experience as well.

Robbins Sims, associate pastor at Fairhope United Methodist Church, misunderstood something that was said between two church members.

After the Sunday morning service,

he heard one member say to the other, "I sure did enjoy that hell fire this morning."

### MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

Dr. Sims was a bit surprised to hear these two members discussing the pastor's sermon in such a manner. It was totally out of character for these two men. Finally, he figured out what actually was said, "I sure did enjoy the bell choir this morning."

It is vitally important to get our

communication lines straight. How easy it is for husbands, wives, children, friends and church members to misunderstand and not figure out what was really said or meant.

People carry a burden of hurt and anger with them, not realizing it was caused by misunderstanding. As Dr. Sims said, "Whether listening to the word of God or the words of others, we need to be as certain as possible that what we hear is what is really being said."

*Joel Jones, pastor  
Jeffersonton Baptist Church  
Jeffersonton*

## Wrong reading

Quinn Chiple's study on Leviticus 18:22 (WR, Aug. 11) is eisegesis—reading into a biblical text what we want to find instead of ascertaining what the text actually says.

Interpreting with honesty would reveal the context of Leviticus 18:22 is not worship, but proscribed sexual relations. Verse 22 is in a list of regulations (vv. 6-23) which forbid sexual relations with one's mother, sister, brother's wife, wife's sister, animals. It is ludicrous to contend all these

forbidden relations were connected to worship. Moreover, since men initiated sexual relations in patriarchal society, it makes sense that the proscription of homosexual activity would be directed towards men.

Incorporating the New Testament context (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10) reveals homosexual relations for either gender are disapproved by God.

It is equally ludicrous to contend that "toevah" always refers to merely "ceremonial offense." A simple perusal of a concordance indicates all

kinds of evil are "toevah" (NIV—"detestable") to God. Leviticus 18:22 condemns all homosexual behavior.

I would encourage all, particularly those of "Honesty," to read Richard B. Hayes' "Relations Natural and Unnatural: A Response to John Boswell's Exegesis of Romans 1" (The Journal of Religious Ethics, 14 (1986), 184-215). Hays' conclusion is clear: "We must forthrightly recognize that in Romans 1 Paul portrays homosexual activity as a vivid and shameful sign

of humanity's confusion and rebellion against God; then we must form our moral choices soberly in the light of that portrayal."

*Michael W. Nicholson  
Louisville*

### BAPTIST FORUM

## Standing up

This letter is prompted by a letter from Janice Bodinof (WR, Aug. 18). I have always been a person that has stood for what was right. Long after everybody else was seated, I've been standing for a long time. I am 85.

I am standing for the Masons. I was shocked at the letter. Can you

imagine a letter like that? I think it was the most untruthful and degrading I have read.

Both of my grandparents were Masons—my mother's father and my father's father. There are a lot of Masons in my family. I belong to the Eastern Star.

Some of the best Christians I have known were Masons. If God made them any better than they were, he made them for himself, he didn't make them for this sinful world.

What is this person's objective? Does she want the Baptists to turn out of their churches all the Masons?

The Masons' order was founded on the Bible. And all the good they do. I think she would have been wise to have prayed, "Lord, help me to keep my mouth shut until I know what I am talking about."

The Masons have been around a long time before her time and will be around a long time after she has checked out. Whatever, my prayer is, "God bless all the Masons and their wonderful order and have mercy on the writer for handling the truth so recklessly."

*Mary E. Stewart  
Frankfort*

## A helping ministry is born

During a recent meeting I had with several eastern Kentucky directors of missions, I learned of a new ministry provided by the Mt. Zion Baptist Association.

Impressed with the idea, I asked their missions director, Janus Jones, to put the story into writing for my column:

"In the fall of 1990 my secretary and I began collecting leftovers from yard sales to sell here in the basement of the associational building. We began this project in order to collect funds to buy a computer for use in the office. The project was very successful. We discovered that we were able to have a ministry at the same time. People in need of clothing were proud to come and buy at the 25-cent sale. We were getting hundreds of dollars worth of used clothing to those who needed it each month. We were nearing our goal to purchase the computer in December of 1991. We wanted the ministry to continue.

"I approached the youth director in

the association, Keith Decker, about the project. The other youth leaders (we call them district youth officers) were in favor of the project. We opened the ministry in the basement of the associational building.

"We soon discovered that not only were we able to get items left over from the yard sales, but that other church groups, especially senior citizens, were anxious to help us. Before the winter was over we were forced to move to larger rented facilities.

"This ministry has grown beyond our wildest dream. We have received help from hundreds of individuals, almost all the area churches, and seventeen different agencies, locally and outside the area. We have been aided by hundreds of volunteers and interested individuals.

"Ministry has been the name of the game. We have given away 36 tons of bananas, seven and a quarter tons of potatoes, 8,800 gallons of stain, 20 cases of shampoo, 25 cases of cook-

ies, 30 cases of salt, 10 tons of books, 1,200 boxes of clothing, and many tons of wonderboard.

"We have ministered to hundreds of families. We have given clothing to 216 families, helped 96 families who lost their homes to fire, found baby formula for two families in need, and ministered where God gave us opportunity.

"Not everything at CedaRidge is given away. Some is sold in order to support the ministry. Most clothing items are 25 cents. Other good used items are sold at a reasonable cost. We have placed 100 used appliances, 200 bicycles and a variety of other items. All this has been done for the glory of God. Our ministry is open to the public six days a week.

"Not only have we received help from other agencies, we have given freely to them as well. Many of our items are distributed through other local agencies.

"CedaRidge ministry is a door that God opened for us. We will keep this door open as long as he continues to bless."

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

### ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



## FAMILY FORUM: TEEN-AGERS

### No cocoons

By Wade Rowatt

More teens get into more trouble these days. No, we just hear more about it than in the past. The debate about teen-age problems spills into our homes through television talk shows, radio news and magazine surveys.

If the research doesn't lie, more teens have problems; the crises occur sooner; and family support declines each year. More youth have sex, get pregnant and have babies. Drinking is up; hard drug use is down only slightly; arrests are growing; fights with parents erupt more frequently.

But wait, there are still many great teen-agers across Kentucky and the United States. They are leaders at school, church, their clubs and organizations. They volunteer for mission service projects, tutor children, visit nursing homes and stand up for their values. They get along well with their parents.

One must be careful not to condemn all young persons just because a group has big problems. While the news media calls for parents to wake up to the awful truth, I want to add: "Yes, but look around at that group of super teens who still maintain high values, stay in school, respect their parents and get involved with their church. Their faith grows as they live it out."

OK, let's admit that some teens have big problems, some parents are in turmoil, some pastors are traumatized by adolescents in crises, but today's young people have a lot of good qualities.

The transition from childhood into adulthood has always created stress. Growing up in the '90s isn't any easier. Like a caterpillar changing into a butterfly, children grow into adults. Unfortunately, only the caterpillar gets to change in a cocoon. Teen-agers go through puberty and adjust to a new body right out in the open world. We can see their struggles. Most are doing the best they can. They don't plan to get into trouble. They need more support and understanding. They want someone to listen and to care.

This column will address the problems and possibilities of today's space-age teen-agers.

*Wade Rowatt is professor of psychology of religion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.*

■ Send your questions about children, teens, marriage, singles or aging to "Family Forum," Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

## Support Kentucky Baptist missions: Pray, give, go

How do you make a difference in the lives of people on the mission fields?

Three factors stand out:

First, you pray. Intercession on behalf of missions ministries is a long-standing tradition among Baptists. Time and time again, missionaries report how they have been buoyed by the knowledge Baptists were praying for them and for the people with whom they work. Prayer is a central theme in the earliest missionary journals and in the most recent letters from missionary friends.

Second, you give. Our missions gifts multiply as they join the stream of gifts coming from other dedicated Baptists. They send missionaries to work and provide supplies when they get there. They make the efforts possible, and when gifts are strong, they help the ministries grow and prosper. Conversely, a shortage of funds forces a retreat from significant challenges standing before God's people.

Third, you go. Career missionaries and committed volunteers make the difference on mission fields. Christianity is a people-intensive enterprise. The cause of Christ always needs more Christians ministering in the shops, fields, markets, offices and neighborhoods, among folk who have not embraced Christ as their Savior.

Next week will be a special time to think about these missions ideas. Kentucky Baptists celebrate the week of prayer for state missions Sept. 13-20. We'll also begin collecting the 1992 Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering, with a goal of \$695,000.

Next week's missions study will give Kentucky Baptists an overview of missions action across the commonwealth: We'll look at the "Love in

Action" ministry to people in the Appalachian Mountains and Christian ministry to adherents of New Age religion, as well as to Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. We'll learn about ministries to migrant farm workers in Henry County. We'll receive a report from the State Acteens Conference, a meeting of girls who participate in the Christmas missions education/action program. And we'll hear about the Christmas gifts the Eliza Broadus Offering provides for Kentuckians who now are foreign missionaries. These are but a fraction of the stories that illustrate how the Eliza Broadus Offering is spent, but they will give us insight into the importance of our state missions support.

That support this year is more important than ever. The Kentucky Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget just concluded its fiscal year \$889,495 below its \$17,894,462 goal. About 62 percent of that shortfall had been set aside for ministry in Kentucky. So, the Eliza Broadus Offering's \$485,000 earmarked for ministries across the state, as well as its \$210,000 targeted to support the state's Woman's Missionary Union, will play a vital role in the work of the convention in coming months.

Begin next week in prayer for Baptist missions in Kentucky.

Pray that God's strength, creativity, wisdom and perseverance will be supplied to all who minister in the Lord's name.

Pray that God will lead you to provide an appropriate financial contribution to help carry out the ministries we have committed to perform in our state.

Finally, pray that God will make your heart and mind open to what you and your church can do on behalf of Baptist missions in Kentucky.

Marv Knox

**Kentucky Baptists celebrate our week of prayer for state missions Sept. 13-20. We'll also begin collecting the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering, with a goal of \$695,000.**

## Small churches are beautiful & important in God's sight, too

We live in a time when the small church is losing its identity.

Super churches—those very large congregations with members numbering into the thousands—are making their presence known in every major metropolitan area.

These super-congregations have it all—the best preacher, the biggest music program, the incredible youth and singles programs.

When someone wants to go to a church that "meets their needs" the small church is being overlooked.

We need to remember that the small church is the backbone of American Christianity.

Those large congregations often

benefit greatly from the members they take in from other churches. The small church may never be the Jefferson Mall of Christianity, but that is not so bad. There is a real need for a Troutman's Store in every community—even where you live.

### VIEWPOINT

■ The small church will reach people who don't fit in the large church.

I promise you that most of the people in your community feel far more comfortable in a small church than in a super church—if you make the effort to make them feel wanted, that is.

■ The small church can reach out to those who will never come.

A clothing ministry, a nursing home ministry, a literacy ministry,

etc. are things a small church can do to say, "We care."

Many large churches center outreach around those who will come and join. The small church knows its mission field and can obey the Lord even if the people don't follow.

■ The small church can escape the need for more, bigger, louder.

The super churches get rolling and can't afford to stop. The choir can't afford to be out of tune. The preacher can't have an off day. The elaborate program must be more elaborate than ever.

The small church can do what it does and do it well for the right reasons.

It can even afford to be ordinary, trusting God uses less-than-the-best

most of the time.

■ The small church can make an impact for missions.

The super church mentality tends to be within itself. What they have going is exciting enough!

The small church can see its mission in the world of unreached people and unevangelized nations. A few hundred dollars from the small church can give a worldwide connection and satisfaction.

I'm not kicking the big church, just reminding small churches that they are important and beautiful in God's plan.

Don't forget!

Michael Spencer, chaplain  
Oneida Baptist Institute  
Oneida

**"We need to remember that the small church is the backbone of American Christianity."**

## The future is knocking, but I'm not ready to answer the door

The future stood on our front porch, knocking on our door.

Joanna gave me a little warning, but I still wasn't prepared for the moment. Not just then, at least.

It all began last week, when Jefferson County schools started their 1992-93 academic year. Monday morning dawned partly cloudy and unseasonably cool. Most of the neighborhood gathered down at the corner for the ceremonial arrival of the buses.

We enjoyed a festive air. Kids ran up and down the sidewalk in new sneakers. A mom or two joked about dancing in the street. One dad—not a Baptist—mentioned something about champagne.

Then we put our baby, Molly, on her

first bus for her first day of kindergarten. We were comforted that Lindsay, her big sister and a three-year veteran of schooling, sat beside her.

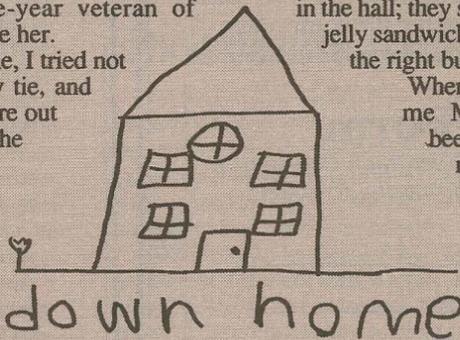
On the way home, I tried not to drip tears on my tie, and Joanna tried to figure out what she'd do with the first day both her kids officially headed off to school.

The morning passed quickly; that's the nature of newspaper offices. Molly called early in the afternoon and pronounced the launch of

her academic career a big success: Her teacher was nice; she got a real locker out in the hall; they served peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for snack; she got on the right bus home.

When I got home, Joanna told me Molly's report hadn't been complete. Some guy named Nicky followed my baby daughter home from school. They were in the same class and later spent the afternoon together, playing games and house, of all things. This fellow really assumes a lot.

He went away. I guess home for supper.



Whatever the reason, he wasn't gone long. I barely got my tie off before I heard a knock at the door. Nicky, all three feet of him, stood on our front porch. Expectantly.

"You must be Nicky," I said, trying to sound cheerful and authoritative at the same time.

He didn't say a word. Just looked up at me with huge, round eyes. At that moment, I knew I was seeing the future—other boys on my front porch, waiting to hoard her precious smiles and giggles, snatching them up faster than her Daddy can call her name.

"Molly's in the basement," I said, and he dotted off down the stairs.

Time is passing too quickly.

Marv Knox

## Break free of institutional slavery, Sherman advises

**"You've got lots of Baptist pastors who know more truth than they're telling, for if they do tell the truth, they'll get fired."**

*Cecil Sherman,  
Cooperative Baptist  
Fellowship coordinator*

By Marv Knox  
Editor

LEXINGTON—Christians must struggle continuously to break free of institutional slavery, Cecil Sherman told participants in a training meeting sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

About 250 people from across the state attended the Aug. 29 meeting at Central Baptist Church in Lexington.

"The Scripture is a call to freedom," said Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a national organization of moderate Southern Baptists disaffected by the conservative shift in their denomination.

But the Bible and church history tell an ongoing story of freedom and bondage, Sherman said. For example, the Hebrew people were freed from slavery in Egypt, only to become enslaved by religious law. Then Christians were freed from Jewish law, only to become entrapped in the hierarchy of the medieval Roman Catholic Church. And although Protestant reformers helped break that institutional bondage, "we've been creating institutions for the last 475 years," he said.

Time and time again, believers have followed "a pattern that begins in freedom and proceeds to enslavement," he stressed.

Sherman read about freedom from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians and said he felt the ancient apostle would send his audience three mes-

sages today:

■ "If you're going to sing songs about freedom and say litanies about freedom, why don't you examine free-church principles again?" Sherman asked.

That question forces a focus on two areas of Baptist life, he said.

First, "if you're really going to talk about local autonomy, then you're going to say we don't do theology at national conventions," he illustrated. In contrast, the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting has focused on doctrinal theology over much of the past decade, from resolutions on women in ministry in 1984 and the priesthood of the believer in 1988, to action this year against two churches because of their stands on homosexuality.

Second, the Baptist understanding of the doctrine of the priesthood of the individual believer denounces authoritarianism on the part of pastors, he added.

■ "Get in touch with truth-telling," Sherman urged.

"These days, we're not eaten up with the desire to tell the truth," he claimed. "In Baptist life today, truth-telling can get you in trouble."

An example, he said, is "telling the truth about certain parts of the (biblical) text."

"You've got lots of Baptist pastors who know more truth than they're telling, for if they do tell the truth, they'll get fired."

Consequently, they feel compelled to "protect the Bible," even though

translations differ on the wording of numerous passages, numbers cited in various texts are inconsistent and texts provide different accounts of the same event, he said.

Honest Christians should stop saying they believe in an "inerrant Bible," he stressed: "Protestant scholastics say they believe in an inerrant Bible—with eight exceptions. What if I said I had been faithful to my wife—with eight exceptions? ..."

"You say, 'You don't have a high regard for the Bible.' I have a higher regard than its defenders."

Sherman also called for truth-telling within the denomination, not the "spin-doctoring" of Baptist news.

■ "Determine to be free," Sherman urged.

That decision is more difficult than it sounds, he claimed, noting the quest for freedom often conflicts with the desire for security and personal ambition.

"The most baffling thing in this is where freedom and fear collide," he added. "At our seminaries, (fear of) what might happen has shut up more people than what actually will happen."

"Where are the people who can't be intimidated? ... Freedom is not what you talk about; it's a way you do. You are not pushed over by what

might happen. You are free.

"Do you answer to people or to God? In a sense, both, but there is an ordering principle that puts one over the other."

In another worship service, Harrodsburg pastor Robert DeFoor urged participants to seek God's approval, not the approval of other people.

"Lurking at every corner is the temptation just to be seen by others," said DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church. "On the flip side is the temptation not to do something in order not to be seen by others."

He quoted the Apostle Paul's admonition to Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God. ..."

"The main idea is to be approved of God," DeFoor said. "That concept helps us deal with the temptation to be seen by others ... or to relieve us of the fear of being seen by others. ... (It) is one of the most liberating concepts of Scripture. It frees us from other people's opinion."

Such a perspective provides a new perspective on life, he added: "It helps keep our minds on the main thing—'seek first the kingdom of God.' ... We're not in the business of trying to please others, reacting to others, fearing the reactions of others, but pleasing God."

### PENDERGRAPH CONFERENCE

Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly

Oct. 12-14, 1992

### "Fresh Vision for Long Term Ministry"

*Learn to avoid the downward spiral  
by identifying the support pillars*



**Brooks Faulker**  
Baptist Sunday  
School Board



**Lincoln Bingham**  
General Association  
of Baptists

#### Costs:

Lodging, meals and insurance for both days

2 per room ..... \$73

3 per room ..... \$71

#### Meals only

Breakfast ..... \$4.60

Lunch ..... \$4.95

Dinner ..... \$5.95

There will be a \$1 per day insurance fee for commuters  
Cancellations refundable up to two weeks prior to event

### Registration Form

Mail with a \$15 per person deposit to Pendergraph Conference,  
Jonathan Creek Assembly, Rt.1, Box 418, Hardin, KY 42048.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

KBC Family Ministry Department. John Lepper, director. (502) 245-4101

## Woman's Missionary Union of Kentucky

Cordially Invites All Baptists

to a Reception in Honor of

Dr. Keith Parks

Retiring President of the

Foreign Mission Board

and

Mrs. Helen Jean Parks

Sunday, September Thirteen

Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-two

Four to Six P.M.

Kentucky Baptist Building

10701 Shelbyville Road

Middletown, Kentucky

## RFK stadium OKs John 3:16 banners

WASHINGTON (EP)—Banners such as those boldly proclaiming "John 3:16" will be allowed inside RFK Stadium in Washington, according to an agreement between stadium officials and a man whose banner was torn down last January.

Edwin Thate Jr. placed a "John 3:16" banner on the railing at the 20-yard line during a Washington Redskins football game Jan. 4. The sign was removed by stadium officials at the request of Redskins officials.

Thate's case was taken to court by the Rutherford Institute.

The defendants agreed Aug. 18 to notify Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke and the D.C. police that such signs now will be permitted. Stadium officials also agreed to pay Thate \$3,500 in damages.

## TV violence concerns Americans most

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

GLENDALE, Calif.—Too much violence is the No. 1 concern Americans have about television programming, according to a new study by the Barna Research Group.

In the nationwide study of American adults, the Barna group found viewers more concerned about violence than sexual content, profanity and "non-traditional or liberal values."

However, viewers who expressed distaste for television content were less likely to say they would support boycotts of offensive programming's sponsors.

Only about one-fourth of Americans would support such a boycott for any of the issues, even though anywhere from 43 percent to 73 percent are upset by the issues.

Seventy-two percent of those surveyed said there is too much violence

on TV, and 76 percent said they think there is more violence on TV today than five years ago.

But only 28 percent said they would be likely to boycott sponsors of a program with "very high levels" of violence.

Americans' second concern about TV is the amount of sexual activity it presents. While 84 percent of those surveyed said sexual content has increased on TV in the past five years, only 65 percent said there is "too much sexual activity" on TV.

However, this issue generated the highest percentage of people willing to support a boycott of advertisers. Such a boycott likely would be supported by 30 percent of respondents.

The third-most-common concern registered was about profanity, with 57 percent saying they are concerned about the language used on TV.

The issue of "non-traditional" and "liberal" values portrayed on TV—a hot topic in the current presidential

election year—concerns fewer Americans than the violence, sexuality and profanity issues.

Only 43 percent of respondents agreed with the statement, "There are too many non-traditional or liberal values on TV."

However, a majority of 57 percent believe the portrayal of such values has increased in the last five years.

Overall, this year's television programming was labeled "excellent" by only 3 percent of respondents. Another 26 percent described it as "good," 36 percent said it is "fair," 13 percent said it is "not too good" and 19 percent said it is "poor."

Attitudes expressed on all these issues varied significantly by age groups. In every case, there was a 20-30 percentage point spread between the views of 18- to 34-year-olds and those older than 65. Respondents in the 35- to 64-year-old category fell at various points in between the two other groups.

## BRIEFS

■ **Ultrasound** videos of 8- to 12-week-old fetuses are being distributed to every member of Congress by Rep. Robert Dornan, R-Calif., and Shari Richard of Sound Wave Images. Richard previously testified before House and Senate subcommittees against the Freedom of Choice Act now pending in Congress. Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., refused to let her show the House subcommittee ultrasound clips from her video.

■ **Followers** of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi believe if they meditate long enough and hard enough, they can learn to hover and even fly. That might make them a natural choice to take over Chanute Air Force Base when it closes next year. But citizens of nearby Rantoul, Ill., aren't so sure they want members of the cult as neighbors. Maharishi International University has asked to use the 2,200-acre Air Force facility as a campus and site for mass meditations. Rantoul residents would prefer to develop the property for industrial, institutional, educational and recreational use.

■ **Word Inc.** has suspended its business relationship with comedian Mike Warnke after the Lexington Herald-Leader published articles detailing how his ministry's finances are handled. A few weeks earlier, investigative reporters from a Christian magazine claimed Warnke's story of being converted to Christianity from Satanism was suspicious. Warnke's testimonial book, "The Satan Seller," also has been removed from the shelves of Baptist Book Stores nationwide, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board reported.

## CLC favors tax-funded interpreter for parochial student

By Tom Strode  
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—The religious freedom of a hearing-impaired parochial school student is violated unless he is provided with a government-funded interpreter like other deaf children in public and nonreligious private schools, according to a friend-of-the-court brief joined by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The CLC joined the Christian Legal Society and five other groups in asking the U.S. Supreme Court to accept the case in its next term, which begins in October.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in May that a school dis-

trict would be guilty of establishing religion if it paid for an interpreter for James Zobrest, a student at a Catholic high school in Arizona. The court also said the free-exercise-of-religion rights of the student and his parents were violated, but the government's interest in preventing an establishment of religion overrode their religious liberty.

"In other words, the establishment clause means the opposite of the free exercise clause, and the establishment clause predominates where there is conflict," the brief says of the Ninth Circuit's opinion. "When a court finds a direct conflict between the clauses, ... that is a strong warning that one of the clauses has been misinterpreted."

Because the parents' choice of the

Catholic school was a private one, there is no violation of the separation of church and state, the CLC argues.

The CLC and others included in the brief "do not advocate indirect aid to religious schools," said Michael Whitehead, CLC general counsel. "The brief advocates equal access by tax-paying parents to public school services which are religiously neutral. Providing a sign interpreter is as religiously neutral as providing a hearing aid."

"If public school boards decide to pay for sign language interpreters for hearing-impaired students in public and private schools, there should be no discrimination against tax-paying parents who choose to use the interpreter's service at a religious school.

## Florida Baptists welcome Quayle

LAKELAND, Fla. (BP)—Just have a regular worship service, Vice President Dan Quayle's staff told Mike Hailey.

So Hailey, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lakeland, Fla., "preached a message just like I always preach," he said.

Quayle and his wife, Marilyn, worshiped with the Lakeland congregation before launching into an Aug. 23 campaign swing from the Tampa-St. Petersburg area to northern Florida.

Hailey said he stayed with plans to start a series on "How to Deal with

How You Feel," with a message on "The Battle of Bitterness."

A crowd of Bush-Quayle supporters—and a small contingent of AIDS protesters—gathered in front of the church. Several AIDS activists were escorted from the auditorium by Secret Service officers prior to the 9:30 service.

As Quayle stepped forward to greet the congregation, one undetected protester stood up, asked why the Bush administration had not done more to battle AIDS and was quickly removed from the auditorium.

## Christianity gaining in world influence

PASADENA, Calif. (EP)—Christianity is the world's fastest-growing religion, gaining new believers at a pace faster than the world's population is increasing, according to the Lausanne Statistics Task Force.

The task force, headed by David Barrett of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, reports that the ratio of non-Christians to Bible-believing Christians now stands at 6.8 to 1, the lowest ratio in history.

Barrett and his colleagues have gathered statistics on world popula-

tion, the number of people who do not claim to be Christians, the number who call themselves Christians, the number of Bible-believing Christians and the number of unreached people groups in the world in various years from A.D. 100 to 1992.

In A.D. 100, they report, there were 360 non-Christians for every Christian. In subsequent years, the ratio has been growing more favorable toward Christianity: 220-1 in 1000, 69-1 in 1500, 27-1 in 1900, 21-1 in 1950, 11-1 in 1980 and 6.8-1 in 1992.

## God isn't Republican or Democrat, religious leaders say in statement

WASHINGTON (ABP)—God is neither a Republican nor a Democrat, according to a statement issued Aug. 28 by a diverse group of U.S. religious leaders, including 17 Baptists.

The statement says religion has been abused as an issue in the current presidential campaign and notes, "Faith in God should unite us, not divide us."

The statement was prompted in part by President George Bush's recent remark to an evangelical audience that the Democrats had left God out of their party platform, explained James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee and an originator of the statement.

"God is neither Democrat nor Republican nor, for that matter, American," the statement says. "God transcends all national and political affiliations. God's precinct is the universe."

Noting the framers of the Constitution provided for no religious

test for public officials, the group also called on candidates to refrain from "further attacks based on religion."

The 50 signers include two former U.S. congressmen, the president of Habitat for Humanity, the founder of Bread for the World and pastors and denominational leaders from most religious groups in America.

Other Baptist signers include Charles Adams, president, Progressive National Baptist Convention; Jimmy Allen, former SBC president; Joan Campbell, NCC general secretary; Tony Campolo, professor of sociology, Eastern College, St. David's, Pa.; Grady Cothen, former president, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; Carolyn Crumpler, retired executive director, Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; Stan Hastey, executive director, Alliance of Baptists; and Daniel Weiss, general secretary, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

## Moores named to posts at Cumberland

**WILLIAMSBURG**—James and Rita Moore have joined the staff of Cumberland College, where he will be assistant to the president for church relations and she will be the admissions office supervisor. The Moores have served in various capacities at Georgetown College since 1969.

His roles included assistant professor of psychology, director of the student development center, acting dean and director of alumni affairs. Her work included loan clerk, executive secretary to the vice president for administration and finance and admissions secretary.



**YOUTH MISSIONS** Jason Smith, Derek Schuler and Brian Nation of Elk Creek Baptist Church in Taylorsville cut wood needed for a mission project they did in New Market, Tenn., this summer. The group, led by Associate Pastor Brad Bull, worked with the Appalachian Outreach program of Carson-Newman College. They helped rebuild a dilapidated trailer that is home to a family without adequate financial resources to make the repairs.

## Homecoming banquet honors Herndon

J.D. Herndon, former director of the Spring Meadows campus of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, was honored at a "homecoming" banquet Aug. 1.

The banquet featured presentation of the first "J.D. Herndon Award," which was given to Doris Rice of Taylorsville for her volunteer work with Homes for Children.

Alumni from the time Herndon served as director were on hand to

share their recollections of those years, 1959-1969.

Herndon Cottage on the Spring Meadows campus was named in honor of Herndon and his wife, who still visit the campus often.

After leaving Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Herndon served as director of missions in Christian County Baptist Association, Nelson County Baptist Association and Henry County Baptist Association.

## The needs are so great

Earlier this week I received a letter from Peggy Wallace, commissioner for the Department of Social Services, telling us that they had too many children on a waiting list for residential programs and asking us to consider accepting some of the children.

Audrey Puryear and I visited with Nelson Henson of Ms. Wallace's staff about the children. One of the children is a 12-year-old girl currently living in a psychiatric hospital. She had suffered from neglect and abuse and needs help just to learn basic living habits.

Others included a teen-ager who will not attend school. And the list goes on. All of the children needed some type of special help, but virtually all would have a chance with the right type of program.

We are trying to find a way of serving some of the children, but our problem is that we have no space in our current programs, and most of the children would need a program like our Youth Ranch, where we have only 11 beds.

Unfortunately, this situation is not an isolated one. In looking at the 12 months from July of 1991 to June of 1992, we received 1,224 requests for help. Because of space and program limitations, we could only accept 227 children into care. We had to say no to 997 children. I have a hard time turning a child away. I know the pain these children have endured, and I am in child care because I want to help. My first recourse is always to assume there must be something we can do.

I recently did a study of the numbers of children in out-of-home care in Kentucky. I was not able to get statistics on the total number of privately placed children. I was able to obtain infor-

mation on the total number of children placed by the Department of Social Services in children's homes and family foster homes.

In January of 1988, there were 2,873 children in such care. In May of 1992, that number had increased to 3,994. That is a 39-percent increase in the number of children in care in four years, which is a staggering number.

I also looked at the number of available foster homes and found that there are actually 100 less homes available today than there were four years ago. I now understand why we have seen a rapid increase in the number of children placed by the department.

In Kentucky, we are squeezing far more children into less and less space. Many children have no place to go, so they remain in less than the best situation until they reach a problem level where something just has to be done.

In a retreat this July, our board began considering this crisis. We are considering developing treatment family homes for some of the children and building small treatment programs like the Youth Ranch in some areas of the state where there are no such programs.

Growth requires resources of people and money. There are also concerns about the percentage of funding from various sources which our board must address. These are issues which the board will be considering over the next several months before an action plan is formulated.

Our mission is to help hurting children and families. We cannot ignore the cry for help from so many hurting children.

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

*Paid Column*

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN

## Fairview Church constitutes

**FRANKLIN**—Expectant mother churches sometimes have to wait to see the fruits of their labor.

"This has been a long pregnancy—but the day of delivery is finally come" for First Baptist Church in Franklin, said Bruce Grubbs of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Invited to speak at Fairview Baptist Church's constituting service in Franklin July 19, Grubbs used the image of a pregnant woman to illustrate the changing relationship between the two congregations.

As the mother church, First Church supported Fairview from the mission's inception in 1968. This summer, 24 years later, the mission was ready to stand on its own.

According to Patsy Andrews, the

church clerk, Fairview Mission grew out of a vacation Bible school held on Fairview Avenue in 1968. The church now has moved to West Madison Street and expanded its facilities. Charter members number 49.

J.C. Bigbee, pastor at Fairview for almost two years, said the congregation was ready to take steps to become self-supporting. "Our biggest challenge now is to remain faithful and committed ... to the work the Lord has called us to do," he said.

Dennis Plank, pastor of First Baptist Church, said the mother church is "enthused for the mission and feels it is in good shape to move forward." Plank said the church would be praying that God will bless the work of the new church.

## Pastor offers Bible-reading calendar

A Kentucky pastor has published a daily Bible-reading calendar, designed to provide a balanced plan for exploring the Scriptures.

The calendar highlights a chapter per day from each of five major Scripture divisions, said David Walters, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in London.

The sections are history, poetry,

prophecy, the gospels and Acts, and letters and Revelation.

"This balanced daily Bible-reading plan has never failed to meet my own spiritual needs," Walters said. It emphasizes "the meat of the word."

The calendars are free and available by writing to Walters at Calvary Baptist Church, 111 N. McWhorter St., London, Ky. 40741.

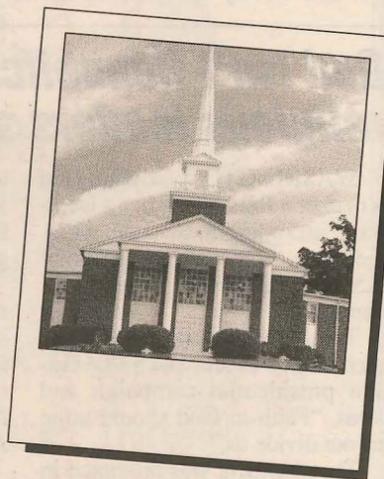
## It's not just another building. It's your church.

A church has different requirements than most other buildings an insurance company covers. It represents the shared commitment and sacrifice of many people. . . it's an invaluable emotional investment.

Church Mutual has specialized in insuring churches for nearly 100 years. Today we are the nation's largest insurer of churches, protecting over 5,800 Southern Baptist churches alone.

We know you can never forget the enduring importance of your church in the lives of your congregation. We take the critical step of getting to know your church firsthand to learn your unique needs and concerns.

To learn about the difference that our personalized, specialized expertise and competitive insurance coverage can mean to you and your congregation, write or call us at 1-800-542-3465.



### The Specialist

Church Mutual  
3000 Schuster Lane  
P.O. Box 357-S  
Merrill, WI 54452

# MINISTRY

## Baptists feed 800,000 meals to hurricane victims

MIAMI—At least 45 Kentucky volunteers are among a small army of Southern Baptists who have served more than 800,000 hot meals to victims of Hurricane Andrew in the past two weeks.

By the time the feeding and clean-up efforts end, as many as 200 Kentucky Baptists likely will be involved as volunteers, said Bob Simpkins, state Brotherhood director.

Simpkins is working out of Miami as national coordinator for Southern Baptist disaster relief crews in South Florida. Meanwhile, Kentucky's disaster relief crew is providing meals and clean-up service out of Wayside Baptist Church in Kendall, Fla.

Simpkins talked with the Western Recorder by phone from Red Cross headquarters in Miami last week. However, the other Kentucky volunteers were still working in an area with limited access to communication and could not be reached by the Recorder.

In Florida, 13 mass feeding units from 10 states have served up to 81,000 meals daily, Simpkins said. Meanwhile in Louisiana, nine units from six states prepared up to 18,000 meals a day, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission reported.

"There is no question that this is straining us at every seam to prove just exactly what we can do," Simpkins said. "At this moment every unit

is producing above what they thought they could do. The meal counts are still climbing."

Mobile feeding in Louisiana was projected to end Labor Day, but feeding in Florida could last a month.

Baptists definitely will be known in Florida after this relief effort, Simpkins predicted. "There's a pretty unilateral agreement among anybody who knows anything down here that we're carrying the bulk of the load" in feeding, he said. "The Red Cross has said they could not function without Southern Baptists."

Besides mobile feeding units, the Brotherhood Commission activated four mobile emergency child-care units in Louisiana while the Florida Baptist Convention operated their unit

in Miami. Staffed by certified child-care workers, volunteers keep children while their parents fill out forms at Disaster Assistance Centers.

"This is by far the most massive disaster response by the Brotherhood Commission to any natural disaster," said Jim Furgerson, Brotherhood Commission disaster relief director.

In 1989, volunteers fed an estimated 256,000 meals in 11 days in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo.

Days after Andrew, Baptist volunteers continued to find and care for people who had not eaten since the storm. In one instance, Simpkins said, Baptist volunteers found hundreds of illegal workers hiding in the debris of their homes, fearing they would be deported by immigration authorities.

### How to respond to Hurricane Andrew

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(BP)—Both the Florida and Louisiana Baptist conventions are receiving donations of non-perishable food, diapers, baby food, canned milk, powdered milk, feminine hygiene products, paper products and building supplies. Trained volunteers for clean-up and construction also are being recruited.

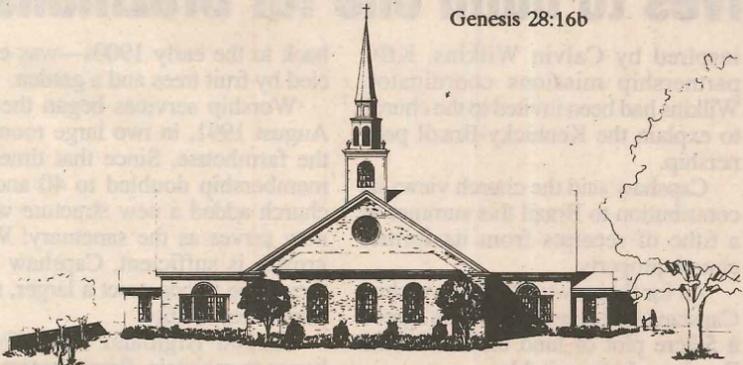
The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood office has called for all trained disaster relief volunteers to contact the Louisville office for possible assignment. Others interested in helping should contact the state Brotherhood office and provide an inventory of foods and itinerary of volunteers willing to go to Florida or Louisiana.

No items or volunteers should be sent until confirmation has been received that the goods or services are needed, according to the Brotherhood Commission. Monetary donations to the Baptist disaster relief effort should be sent to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104.

The Brotherhood Commission has established a 24-hour information and message line about the relief efforts, which may be reached by calling (901) 278-7839.

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

Genesis 28:16b



Danzinger-Byrd

Architect - Construction Manager

307 New Venture Drive

Louisville, Kentucky

502-361-0171



### CLASSIFIED ADS

**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.

**SEEKING:** The Search Committee of First Baptist, Pineville, Ky., seeks applications and resumés for pastor. Send information to Ernest Slusher, P.O. Box 623, Pineville, Ky. 40977.

**WANTED:** Minister to Children/Youth, part-time, approximately 25-30 hours per week. Contact Rev. C.M. Baker, Victory Memorial Baptist Church, 3805 Southern Parkway, Louisville, Ky. (502) 368-2521.

**SEEKING:** Telephone recruiters—earn Christmas money. Temporary, part-time positions; a.m. and p.m. shifts. No selling. Starts at 4.25/hr. Call Anne at (502) 587-8641.

**FOR SALE:** Baldwin organ, excellent condition; for church, home, other. Lexington. (606) 272-7944.

**SEEKING:** Growing church seeks part-time Youth/Music Minister. Salary and benefits negotiable. Send resumé to Central Baptist Church, P.O. Box 496, Lebanon, Ky. 40033, or call (502) 692-4333.

**NEEDED:** Part-time Music Minister needed. Lexington; phone (606) 293-1822 for additional information.

**SEEKING:** Full-time Youth/Education Minister; seminary graduate and/or experience. Send resumé or contact Dr. Tom Stokes, First Baptist Church, 317 Madison Street, Whitesburg, Ky. 41858.

## FALL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg

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

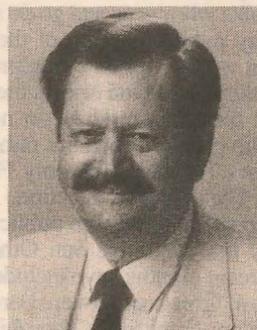
Saturday, September 26, 9:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.



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

"Unity"

Louisville



Dale Holloway, Consultant  
HMB, Mississippi

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

**LITTLE GIANT**  
STEEPLES-CROSSES  
WATER HEATERS  
BAPTISTRIES  
Buy Directly From Manufacturer  
Box 518 Orange, TX 77630  
1-800-231-6035

### AUTHORS WANTED BY NEW YORK PUBLISHER

Leading subsidy book publisher seeks manuscripts of all types: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, scholarly and juvenile works, etc. New authors welcomed. Send for free, illustrated 32-page brochure H-101 Vantage Press, 516 W. 34 St., New York, N.Y. 10001

### LIGHTING RENTAL-SALES

World Creative Lighting  
(812) 282-5477

**Steeple & Baptistries**  
From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products  
Call or write for our free catalog  
1-800-527-1459  
P.O. Box 1340  
Henderson, TX 75653-1340

• Steeple • Krinklglas®  
• Baptistries • Windows  
• Lighted Wall • Baptistries Heaters  
• Crosses

**FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED**

## KENTUCKY KERNELS

J.C. Penney, the namesake of the large retailing chain, was the grandson of a Kentucky Baptist preacher. Eli Penney was a Primitive Baptist preacher in Kentucky and Missouri. His son, James Cash Penney, was a Missouri farmer and preacher and the father of the well-known businessman.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **CANEYVILLE**—Caneyville Church ordained **Bruce Dowling**, **Charles Elder** and **Phillip Crume** as deacons. The church reported three professions of faith and 12 rededications from its Aug. 17-23 revival.  
 ■ **CORINTH**—**Edward Salerno** is pastor of Corinth Church.  
 ■ **CROPPER**—Cropper Church will hold revival Sept. 13-20. Services will be Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and weeknights at 7:30 p.m. A gospel sing and kick-off rally Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. will feature the Franklins and the Noblemen. **Steve Crumpler**, pastor, will be revival speaker.  
 ■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Association is seeking a new director of missions. Resumes may be sent to the search committee chair-

man, **Jim Hill**, 4727 L & N Turnpike, Magnolia, Ky. 42757.  
 ■ **FORDSVILLE**—Newton Springs Church called **Mason Beville** as pastor.  
 ■ **GRAND RIVERS**—**Max Anderson** is pastor of Iuka Church.  
 ■ **GREENSBURG**—**James Jones Jr.** is pastor of Pleasant Valley Church.  
 ■ **HAWESVILLE**—Hawesville Church called **Michael Wyatt** from North Richland Hills, Texas, as pastor. The church reported five professions of faith during a July 26-31 revival.  
 ■ **HAZARD**—First Church called **Dean Buchanan** as pastor. He previously served at Glenwood Church in Kingsport, Tenn.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Calvary Church ordained eight deacons Aug. 23.  
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Clifton Church called **James Holladay** as pastor, to begin Oct. 4. He has served as pastor of East Church in Louisville.  
 Kenwood Church called **Rolf Dorsey** as interim pastor and **Jeffrey Sammons** as interim music minister.  
**Andy Buckingham**, minister of youth at Midlane Park Church, will be ordained to the ministry Sept. 20.  
 ■ **OAK GROVE**—U-S 2 missionary **Rick Burnett** is serving as associate pastor at First Church.  
 ■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church called **Larry Van Hook** as minister of visitation/adults. He previously served as pastor of First Church, Englewood, Tenn.  
 Highview Church called **Sandy Rogers** as interim pastor.  
 Reidland Church called **Al Robin-**

son as interim pastor.  
**Ron Adams**, pastor of Twelfth Street Church, resigned to return to mission service in Venezuela.  
 ■ **SYMSONIA**—Clark's River Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Sundays, beginning Sept. 26 and concluding with Founders' Day Dec. 13. "Celebrating 125 years in Christ, 1867-1992: Preserving the past, building the future" is the theme for the event. Former members and friends are encouraged to attend.  
 ■ **WARFIELD**—Mt. Beulah Mission's 1984 van was destroyed during a recent storm. Another van is needed to continue the bus ministry. Anyone wishing to donate a van may contact Pastor **Joe Blevins**, Mt. Beulah Baptist Mission, Box 284, Warfield, Ky. 41267, (606) 395-6869.  
 ■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—**Henry Ellis** is pastor of Mt. Pisgah Church.

## After losing their home, church gives to build one for Brazilians

LOUISVILLE—After being displaced from their own home, a Louisville congregation gave \$6,000 to build a new home for a group of Brazilian Baptists.

Second Highland Park Baptist Church was thrown into a tailspin by Louisville's airport expansion program, said Roy Capshaw, chairman of deacons. But a change in directions and focus on missions has kept the 40-member church in flight.

The church was forced to sell its property to the city of Louisville in May 1990.

Although there was discussion

about whether to disband, the congregation decided to move and start again, Capshaw explained.

Only two years later, church members voted to donate \$6,000 to cover construction material costs for the building of a Brazilian chapel, part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership effort with Brazilian Baptists.

"We decided since we're in a mission setting ourselves, why not do something great for the Lord and see what happens," said Pastor Patrick Wrenn.

Wrenn said the congregation was

inspired by Calvin Wilkins, KBC partnership missions coordinator. Wilkins had been invited to the church to explain the Kentucky-Brazil partnership.

Capshaw said the church views its contribution to Brazil this summer as a tithe of receipts from its former church property.

As for their own place of worship, Capshaw said church members agreed a 5-acre plot of land on Seatonville Road would be suitable.

"We fell in love with the property," he said, explaining that an old farm house there—perhaps dating

back to the early 1900s—was encircled by fruit trees and a garden.

Worship services began there in August 1991, in two large rooms of the farmhouse. Since that time, the membership doubled to 40 and the church added a new structure which now serves as the sanctuary. When growth is sufficient, Capshaw said, they hope to construct a larger, more permanent facility.

Second Highland Park Church hopes to maintain direct contact with the Brazilian mission, which is to be built by a Kentucky construction team this summer or fall.

## Giving of self is true love

Ed Hodges, a retired maintenance supervisor at Fort Knox for 31 years, has been to Oneida seven times. Most recently he was accompanied for the second time by a grandson, Dan Taylor, age 14. Both came as a part of the Baptist Builders of Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown. Varying members of that group have come to our campus nine years to do a week of work in construction and maintenance projects.

This year Hodges supervised the rebuilding of the kitchen and dining area in Oneida's 30-year-old house where our farm manager and his wife live. New insulation was put between the studs and new wall-board hung. Beautiful new cabinets made by OBI's cabinetmaker, Tom Holmes, were put in place.

A 76-year-old retired mailman, Effrim Duvall, assisted by retired teacher George Chun, put stain on the new cabinets. Chun taught science at Oneida four years, 1964-68, before teaching 23 years at Fort Knox.

Franklin Jones, a retired auto salesman who also has plumbing experience, helped run new plumbing lines. Also, five new windows and a new door were installed. Garland Hawkins, pastor of Northside Baptist, a mission of Severns Valley, helped hang and finish the dry wall along with other work.

Electricians Bill Cofer and Bert Daugherty helped put in a new 200-amp service for the kitchen. Also, they ran wiring and conduit for a new 2,000-square-foot carpentry shop.

Bill Smith, a retired machinist who has been with the Baptist Builders every Oneida trip, supervised putting in speaker systems in our two older boys' dorms. This enables us to get our boys quickly to the office for phone calls or other business. Differing ones helped with this project,

but the two main workers assisting Smith were Delmer Babb, on his second OBI trip, and retired insurance agency owner Wayne Hays, here several times and co-chairman of the volunteer group.

Jerome Lawson, Lawrence Hall and Tom Napier hung gates in Oneida's new cattle feeding lot. Harold Bewley of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, a retired mechanic, worked with them. It was a first OBI trip for Lawson, a retired farm agent. Hall, retired owner of a guard rail factory, has helped us differing times. It was the second trip for Napier, retired owner of an auto parts shop.

Gerald Gamble, a retired school administrator of Hardin County, supervised the above men in re-roofing part of one of our buildings and several other projects.

Most folks who come and go do so without any public mention of their efforts. But we do express our appreciation to them, and God knows their effort and their heart. They do not work for the praise of men but rather out of a love for their Heavenly Father and his children. Theirs is love in action.

I always hesitate to speak of anyone publicly because of the many that we leave out. Other volunteer groups in recent months have included Ballardsville; Yellow Creek of Owensboro; Blood River Association; Frankfort's Thornhill; Owensboro's Hall Street; First Baptist Pikeville; Richpond of Bowling Green; First Baptist Richmond; Casky Church from Hopkinsville; Downtown Baptist of Orlando, Fla.; Ten Mile; Turner Ridge of Falmouth; First Baptist Latonia; and many others. They are in our minds and hearts.

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

*Paid Column*

## ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

## New students anticipate the future

Individuals called into Christian service in alumni churches always hear about Clear Creek. Sometimes the children of our graduates become recruiters, as former Louisville pastor Tom Melzoni did. Melzoni's father was reared in Harlan and after graduating pastored many years in Ohio. When Tom Melzoni moved to First Baptist Church, Hickory N.C., one of the youth workers was Mike Thomas.

Thomas' marriage at 18 brought him for the first time into a Christian family. He and Linda became involved in the church, and youth leadership brought a gradual realization of God's call.

Four years ago on a mission trip to a Philadelphia housing development, he first told the Lord, "Whatever it is, I'll try to do it," but did not fully surrender. Then the Lord gave him Proverbs 3:5-6. He realized he couldn't take someone where he had not been. With a commitment to achieve additional training, his new pastor asked Mike if he had heard of Clear Creek. He didn't know anything about us, but a visit to the school confirmed this was the place.

Linda operates our secretarial pool. Their son, Shaun, 11, attends

Harmony Elementary.

During the past two years the Lord has used Darrell and Cheryl Hammons to help baptize 23 youth at Miami Shores Church in Dayton, Ohio, where he was youth and education director. Their responsibilities also included parenting Nick, 6, and Kelsey, 2. Pastor Doug Surber, a 1986 alumnus, gave encouragement in their

search to know God's will. Darrell commented, "I wasn't open to it. I somewhat turned it over to God. I had a good job, a new car, bills to pay, and saw no way to make a move for ministry training. Within a week we received an offer to purchase our car that was too good to turn down." After a campus visit, Darrell's response to the Lord's

leadership became "well, maybe." They thought a move might come in another year. "I still offered excuses. We had a home that couldn't possibly be sold very soon. On the night I made my public commitment a member asked to buy our house. He paid the full price we needed without seeing the place. Everything worked out, and we arrive at Clear Creek."

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

## CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill D. Whittaker

*Paid Column*

# CHURCHES

## Calvin Miller teaches parables of church growth

By Toby Druin  
Texas Baptist Standard

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Calvin Miller teaches two parables to his students to illustrate church growth principles.

"One is the builder and the other is the bridegroom. Both, it seems to me, are involved in church growth," he explained.

Miller is professor of communications and ministry studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he joined the faculty last fall after 25 years as pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Omaha, Neb.

"The builder metaphor," Miller said, "deals with the numerical—almost an exponential—growth as the Spirit of God moves and the church draws new converts.

"The bridegroom metaphor ... talks about worship and adoration of Christ. I try to say to my students who are serving in rural parishes the probability of them following the builder parable of the kingdom is probably not too great in a rural Texas town. They are probably not going to build

the Crystal Cathedral, so the probability is they need to grow their people in other ways."

Those other ways, he said, could include a better understanding of Christianity and support of missions, including involving the congregation or some members in hands-on mission efforts.

In his 25 years in Omaha, Miller led his church from 10 members to 3,000 and baptized 2,000 people in an area where fewer than one-half of 1 percent are Southern Baptists.

Initial growth was accomplished by knocking on doors, he said, "soul-by-soul leading people to Christ until finally the church got big enough to have a congregation and an evangelism program. Then we jumped in on Evangelism Explosion, and on every Monday 60 to 80 of us went visiting."

Knocking on doors has been given a "bum rap" in recent years, Miller noted. But he said he believes it is still a valid way to reach people.

"I do think it is high time for the church in every area of growth to look for alternate forms—alternate forms of everything," he said. "I like the new salad bar Christianity which is so pop-

ular among the independents. Southern Baptists are doing a good job, but I hope we are light enough on our feet institutionally in the future to change and to look for other ways to do the very same thing—teaching the Bible and reaching people for Christ."

Worship is one of the keys to growth, Miller said.

"My great prayer is that Southern Baptists—those who haven't yet discovered it—will quickly understand that while we have been a Sunday school denomination for the last 100 years, the world—especially the adult part of it—is no longer drawn to church generally on the basis of a hunger for Sunday school programs. We need to bring people in and show them worship."

People will come to worship if it is on their "own terms," he said, cautioning against providing an "elitist" form of worship, especially in music.

"I think when somebody walks in the back of our church they will generally be trained on Willie Nelson or Dolly Parton, and we shouldn't throw too much Bach or Beethoven at them at first if we expect the church to grow.

"We are going to have to start where they are or they won't worship, and they won't come back. They will go to a Pentecostal church where they have a trap (drum) set."

Regardless of how the worship service is tailored, the key is presenting the gospel, Miller said, adding he fears many churches, especially megachurches, are cutting corners in that area.

"So many of the megachurches have grown big crowds at the sacrifice of incredibly important theology and in many cases have become huge community churches without strong theological stuff at the center," he said.

"My friend Eugene Peterson, who is Presbyterian, says the bigger the crowd the less truth is communicated. I think that is often the case—that sometimes when the crowd gets really big or when you finally have a satellite TV empire, you say virtually nothing.

"If you take the ole's and the rah's out of cable TV it gets pretty surface," Miller said, explaining he thinks preaching needs to return to strong biblical interpretation and application.

**Calvin Miller uses two parables to illustrate church growth principles: the builder and the bridegroom.**

## Speakers offer different views on program-based churches

By Chip Alford  
SBC Sunday School Board

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Is a program-based church ministry still an effective way to reach the unchurched, or are Southern Baptists using a 1950s methodology to reach a 1990s world?

Church leaders attending a conference in Glorieta, N.M., got "yes" answers to both questions.

In a "Growing Churches the Southern Baptist Way" seminar, D.G. McCoury, a part-time consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said he believes programs have been getting a bad rap lately.

"Southern Baptists have a proven history of the advantages of assigning church mission tasks to programs," he said. "Don't be anti-programs; programs help lift your church up."

He believes the hindrance to growth lies not in church programs but in how they are carried out.

"Our programs need to be vital, flexible, alive and changing according to the needs of the time," he said.

But James White, a former Sunday School Board consultant and current pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, N.C., took a different approach in a seminar titled "Future Trends: Understanding This Generation."

He said many Southern Baptist churches are operating from a 1950s mindset. "And what year is it? It's 1992!" White said.

He pointed out 70 percent of SBC churches are plateaued and declining, adding, "Don't tell me to do what we've always done because what we've always done isn't working."

A "methodological shift" in American churches is taking place, White said, from the use of Sunday schools

to home cell groups, from a program-based design for ministry to a gift-driven ministry structure, from a clergy-led ministry and lay-led administration to a lay-led ministry and a clergy-led administration and from traditional to contemporary worship services in music and preaching style.

White insists he is not "anti-Sunday school," adding the traditional Sunday morning Bible classes still work well in some areas. However, he believes much of Southern Baptist programming and worship formats don't appeal to today's unchurched and need to be changed, or at the very least, re-evaluated in light of today's culture.

Despite differences in their approach, McCoury and White agreed whatever changes in ministry structure are made to help a church grow shouldn't be made hastily.

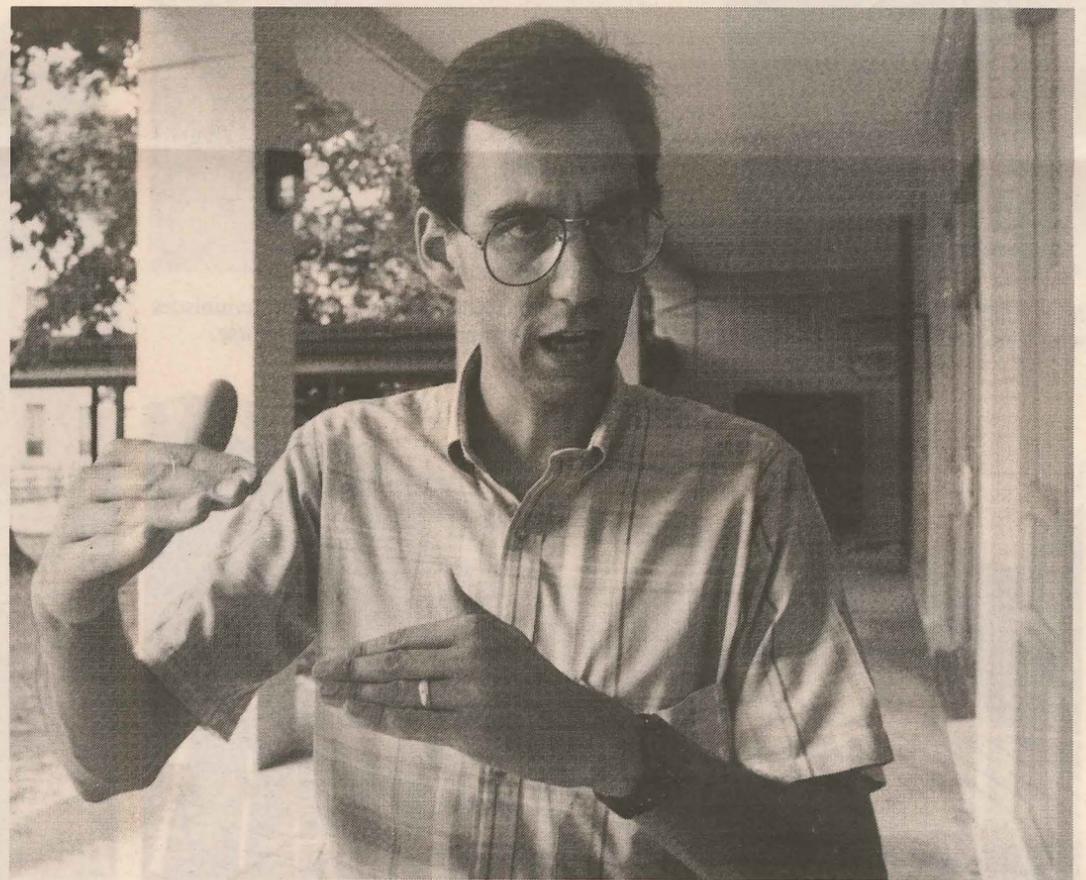
While pastors of plateaued or declining churches need to become change agents to experience church growth, they should be careful not to gamble too much as a risk-taker, McCoury said.

Many pastors get themselves in trouble as change agents because they begin their pastorate by saying, "We're going to change," he noted.

But a better approach, he suggested, would be to lead a plateaued or declining church in a "transition" to growth, building off the church's history and past successes.

Admitting some of his ideas are radical to some Southern Baptists, White urged people in his seminar against "going home and starting a revolution that you don't know how to ride out or don't have the patience to ride out."

"Don't overestimate what you can do in one year, but don't underestimate what you can do in 10."



## Youth leaders urged to set example

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Youth workers must develop their own spiritual lives because they can't lead teens in a direction they are not going themselves, according to a youth consultant.

If a youth worker is not involved in Bible study, memorization and personal quiet time, it is difficult to encourage youth to do those things, said Chuck Gartman, youth Sunday school consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

In addition to providing an example, a youth leader's quiet time is a hedge against burnout, Gartman also noted.

"Many Christians get burned out for common reasons of being in a rut, doing too much or being too busy," Gartman said.

"Most times, burnout can be cured by meeting with God daily, keeping on with a spiritual journey and maintaining worship."

"As a youth Sunday school leader, it is more important that you have a quiet time than when, where or how you do it," Gartman said.

The tools for his own early morning Bible study are a Bible; WorData 2 youth notebook; "encounter!" devotional guide; a pencil; and a cup of coffee, Gartman quipped.

**TESTIMONIAL** Mark Long, youth minister at First Baptist Church of Paducah, explains to a listener why he likes "Youth Extra," a new product of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "Youth Extra" provides teaching tips and current event tie-ins for youth teachers, who access the information via computer modem. "It brings the lesson to what is happening now," Long said while attending a Sunday school leadership conference at Ridgecrest, N.C. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

# CLEAR CREEK

## ALUMNI ANNUAL MEETING

Alumni from 14 states (Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, Virginia, Florida, Texas, Kansas, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi) came to Clear Creek Aug. 3-4 for the Alumni Conference. Dr. Kenneth Mahanes, pastor of Far Hills Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio, preached two challenging sermons.



Miss Anna Starkey (center), former English professor and Kelly Hall supervisor, reminisces with Mrs. Rebecca Whittaker (right) and Miss Evelyn Mottram, former campus nurse.



Former faculty and staff attended the conference and received a warm welcome. (L\_R) Front row: Evelyn Mottram, Anna Starkey, Nancy Lynch, Kay Aldridge. Second Row: Louise Duncan, Pauletta Dick, Louise Holloway, Jane Dawson, Gladys Fox. Third Row: Drew Martin, John Holloway, Joel Dick, D.M. Aldridge, Beth Wyatt, Bob Wyatt.



Alumni from Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and Ohio were on campus during the summer to remodel older student cottages. The 1992 alumni conference reaffirmed last year's vote to raise \$96,000 for this project.



Alumni saw volunteers working on student housing. The Brotherhood of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro recently put a duplex under roof in our new housing village.