

FOR THE RECORD

Parks' future
Keith Parks told leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship he would be interested in leading their missions program if the Fellowship intends to remain Southern Baptist, recruit new missionaries and target the world's populations most isolated from the gospel. *See page 2.*

Letter sent
The pastor who sent out a letter prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting endorsing conservative candidates says it was not an attempt to take control of the convention. *See page 3.*

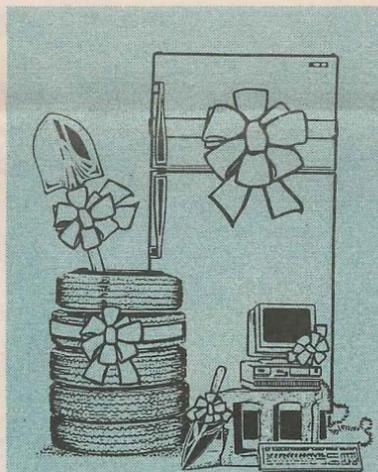
Family Forum
Sometimes marital disputes are resolved best in the light of day rather than in weary sessions before bedtime. *See page 4.*

Editorial
Old rumors never die; they just keep circulating. *See page 5.*

Lottie Moon offering
The Christmas gift list of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries includes bricks, computers, refrigerators, tires and tools. *See pages 6 & 7.*



FOOD FOR ALL Casandra Stewart raises a jar of canned fruit and a bag of groceries amid fellow Girls in Action from First Baptist Church of Taylorsville. The group gathered items to be donated to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Fall Food Roundup. Shown with Stewart are Lauren Miller, Amanda Stewart, Mallory Bowman, Jessica Sutton and Cheryl Smith. Accompanied by GA leader Judy Whittaker, they delivered their bags of food to the Spring Meadows campus, the Glen Dale campus in Glendale, the Baptist Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown and temporary shelters in Morehead and Dixon. Six volunteers drove donated trucks around the state in administrative collection points: Mr. Louis Kahne of First Baptist Church in Ashland; Bill Burden, J.G. Lile, Billy Engler and Hildred Fulkerson of Pond Run Baptist Church in Echols. This week, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will begin collecting its annual Thanksgiving offering, with a goal of \$900,000.



Missionary gift list calls for bricks & tires

By Susan Doyle
Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Last year the hot items were Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action figures, men's neckwear, nylon warm-up suits and movies.

Retailers say it's too early to know what will grab the attention and money of shoppers this Christmas. But if their projections are accurate, millions of gift recipients will be smiling on Christmas morning as will retailers who expect to increase their sales 6 percent above last Christmas, according to reports in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Another group of gift recipients can't be so certain about Christmas "gifts" or the bottom line. They aren't asking for luxurious items or those some would

□ *See Missionary gift ..., page 6*

Moving? See page 4 (1124)

Child abuse & neglect increasing in Kentucky

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

The number of child abuse and neglect cases reported in Kentucky increased 10.8 percent last year, the Cabinet for Human Resources announced.

This signals "an alarming trend," noted Curtis Mooney, president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. "While the statistics were up 10 percent over the last year, they are up 40 percent in the last six years.

"The most alarming aspect is that we are in a state where there is virtually no increase in population. We are literally abusing our children more," Mooney explained.

Statewide, 56,181 children were reported to be suspected victims of abuse or neglect in the fiscal year that ended June 30, the Cabinet for Human Resources said. Of those reported cases, child protection workers confirmed 23,172 children as victims.

That is 1,427 more incidents and

1,173 more child victims substantiated than during the previous 12 months.

"The question is always whether greater awareness has led more people to report possible signs of abuse, or whether greater tensions in families dealing with unemployment, drugs and the like have led to more abuse," noted Nancy Rawlings, director of the cabinet's family services division.

"The answer is that you can't separate the two factors," she said. "Both are likely to be affecting the numbers.

"What we do know for certain is that everyone should always err on the child's behalf—report any suspicions, take reports seriously and act promptly to protect the child."

Mooney said Kentucky Baptists Homes for Children's own statistics confirm the crisis reported by state government.

"We had 1,338 referrals for service this year, up from 1,003 the year before. We could not provide service to

□ *See Abuse & neglect ..., page 8*

Baptists offer advice, prayer for Clinton

President-elect Bill Clinton may have been elected to jump-start the U.S. economy, but some of his fellow Baptists are trying to direct his attention to social and church-state issues first.

Jerry Falwell says he will give Clinton 100 days to change his views on abortion and homosexuality before "declaring war" on his administration and perhaps reviving the Moral Majority.

Meanwhile, Clinton's Baptist brethren in Arkansas want it known the president-elect "does not represent our views" on the issues of abortion, homosexual rights and distribution of contraceptives in schools.

And Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, has written Clinton, urging him to reconsider his position on those social issues.

Despite that criticism, others have been quick to announce they think American church-state relations will benefit under the administration of

Clinton and Al Gore, both members of Southern Baptist churches.

Forest Montgomery of the National Association of Evangelicals and James Dunn and Oliver Thomas of the Baptist Joint Committee predict Clinton-Gore policies will reflect a stronger commitment to the separation of church and state than those of the Reagan and Bush administrations.

They also hope the new administration will provide a fresh spark toward passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act—legislation that would restore a high level of protection for Americans' free exercise of religion in response to a 1990 Supreme Court ruling.

"President-elect Clinton has endorsed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, while the Bush administration has been neutral at best," Thomas said. "It's ironic that the Religious Right has sought to portray Bill Clinton as anti-religious, given the track record of the Bush administration on church-state issues."

Poll finds public trust for clergy at new low

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

PRINCETON, N.J.—Americans' confidence in the clergy has hit the lowest level on record, the Gallup Organization reports.

While clergy still rank second among a field of 13 professions when rated for ethics and honesty, only 15 percent of the public give clergy a "very high" rating and 39 percent give them a "high" rating.

A third of the public consider the ethical standards and honesty of clergy to be average, while 7 percent rate clergy "low" and 2 percent consider them "very low."

These findings are from recent surveys of Americans aged 18 and

older by the Gallup Organization.

The survey asked, "How would you rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these various fields—very high, high, average, low or very low?"

Other professions listed include pharmacists, physicians, college teachers, dentists, engineers, police officers, funeral directors, journalists, bankers, lawyers, Congressmen and car salesmen.

Pharmacists come out on top of the list, with 66 percent of the public rating them either "very high" or "high." Members of the clergy rank second, with a combined favorable rating of 54 percent.

Public confidence in the clergy has declined from the high of a 67 percent

favorable rating in 1985, according to *Emerging Trends*, newsletter of the Princeton Religion Research Center. Gallup polls consistently placed clergy at the top of the list for ethical standards and honesty until 1988.

Despite their dip in the polls, clergy still rank significantly higher than several of the professions listed. Only 35 percent of the public believe funeral directors have high ethical standards, and journalists and lawyers are highly trusted by only 27 percent of the public.

Congressmen received high marks in ethics from only 11 percent of the public—a place slightly above car salesmen.

Public confidence in the clergy has declined from the high of a 67 percent

□ *See Baptists address ..., page 9*

BAPTIST BITS

■ **The vice president** of the Liberian Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Moses Rouhlac, has been abducted from his home in Liberia, and no word has been given about whether he is still alive. Baptists in Liberia are deeply concerned since Rouhlac's abduction comes shortly after the killing of five American nuns in Liberia.

■ **Robert Baker**, a prominent Southern Baptist church historian, died at his Fort Worth, Texas, home Nov. 15 at age 81. He taught church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for 40 years.

■ **The theological study** committee formed in September by Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young has added nine people to its ranks, he announced. The committee is chaired by Roy Honeycutt of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Timothy George of Samford University. Also named to the committee are William Bell of Dallas, Walter Carpenter of Houston, Mark Coppenger of Nashville, Stephen Corts of Charleston, S.C., Carl F.H. Henry of Arlington, Va., Herschel Hobb of Oklahoma City, Richard Land of Nashville, Al Mohler of Atlanta, and Bill Tolar of Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Tom Landry**, longtime coach of the Dallas Cowboys, will host "ThanksLiving," a TV special produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission which will air on NBC during the Thanksgiving holidays. Check local listings for times.

Parks meets with Fellowship, will give answer soon

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Keith Parks told leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship he would be interested in leading their missions program if the Fellowship intends to remain Southern Baptist, recruit new missionaries and target the world's populations most isolated from the gospel.

Parks and his wife, Helen Jean, met for two hours with the Fellowship's missions committee Nov. 19 but did not respond to the group's offer to make him head of the Fellowship's missions program.

He said he and Helen Jean will give them an answer "fairly soon."

Parks, 65, left the helm of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 31 in a dispute with trustees over missions philosophy. He has complained that the 13-year controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention has infiltrated the FMB and hurt missions.

The Fellowship was formed two years ago by Southern Baptists unhappy with the conservative domination of the SBC and its agencies.

Parks advised the Fellowship Nov.

19 to keep its missions program "under the broad umbrella of identity as Southern Baptists."

"If this group decides it has to create a new identity to do this kind of work, you're going to limit it to a very, very small group of folks, because churches are not going to quit being Southern Baptist churches," he warned.

However, Parks said, many Southern Baptists of all theological stripes are doing foreign missions outside the framework of the FMB. People don't cease to be Southern Baptists because they work outside the denominational structure, he said.

Parks rejected the suggestion from Morris Chapman, the SBC's chief executive, that the Fellowship should leave the SBC as a matter of integrity. "Because we do have integrity, we have to stay in the Southern Baptist Convention and continue to express Baptist beliefs in the context of missions," he said.

Both the Parkses pointed out SBC conservatives did not pull out of the SBC when they formed their own seminaries.

"Why can't we have two mission boards?" asked Helen Jean Parks. The Fellowship should not compete with

the FMB or intend it harm, she said, but should say to the FMB, "God bless you. And those that have taken you over, let them support you now, because many of them do not."

Parks acknowledged he is endorsing a "societal approach" to missions and conceded, "I've argued against it all my life."

Afterward, committee members generally affirmed the vision outlined by the Parkses, including their determination to remain identified as Southern Baptists.

Keith Parks later told Associated Baptist Press he felt "affirmed and surprised" by the committee's commitment to target unreached population groups. "That removed a big question for me."

Parks urged the Fellowship to establish a program that is "simple, frugal, flexible, mobile."

"Where I want to spend my time and energy and effort," he told Fellowship leaders, is in trying to reach the quarter of the world's population that has never had a chance to hear the gospel—what some missiologists call "World A."

Parks said the FMB in recent years has turned its attention to World A, but progress has been "very, very

slow."

Since the FMB has targeted only 300 of the world's 3,000 unreached people groups, he said, a Fellowship program targeting World A would pose no threat to the FMB. "I don't want to tear down what I've spent my life building up," he added.

Parks said it would be "self-defeating" to try to duplicate the FMB, which has an annual budget of \$184 million. The Fellowship's few mission dollars—\$2.5 million in 1993—could have the greatest impact in the sparse mission ground of World A, he said.

Later Parks told ABP his three mission priorities—a Southern Baptist identity, a focus on unreached populations, and a commitment to develop new missionaries—are non-negotiable conditions for his employment with the Fellowship.

Committee members assured Parks they share his commitment to target unreached populations and to inspire a new generation of missionaries.

To be successful, Parks said, the Fellowship must inspire "commitment and sacrifice" among young people who are not responding to the call to traditional missions.

Bush aide says SBC leaders may lose White House access

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Having a Southern Baptist in the White House apparently won't give the Southern Baptist Convention more influence on national policy.

In fact, compared to the cozy relationship Southern Baptist leaders enjoyed with the White House's recent Republican occupants, they probably will have significantly less influence on Bill Clinton's administration, according to Washington insiders.

Both Clinton and Vice President-elect Al Gore are active Southern Baptists. But their positions on several key social issues—principally abortion and homosexual rights—have put them at odds with leaders of the conservative-dominated SBC.

Exit polls taken during the Nov. 3 presidential election suggest Clinton and Gore were elected without broad support from Southern Baptist voters.

Are Clinton and Gore likely to seek the advice or support of Southern Baptist leaders?

"I can't imagine why in the world they would," said Leigh Ann Metzger, a former member of First Baptist Church in Atlanta who works in the White House as Bush's liaison to evangelicals.

Metzger predicts a cool relationship between SBC leaders and its two most visible church members.

Southern Baptists' primary channel for influencing presidential policy in recent years has been the Christian Life Commission, its Nashville-based ethics and public-policy agency. That relationship likely will change, most observers say.

For the record, a Clinton official said it's "far too early to tell" if Southern Baptist leaders will get the president's ear—or who else in the religious

community will. "There are no hard-and-fast rules, certainly not two days after the election," Clinton staffer Mike Lux said Nov. 5.

As a political reality, however, Lux added, "Those who disagree with him (Clinton) on most issues probably are going to have less influence than those who tend to agree with him."

During the campaign the CLC frequently criticized Clinton for supporting a woman's right to choose abortion and pledging to protect the civil rights of gays and lesbians. Richard Land, CLC executive director, issued a statement that graded Clinton's policy on homosexuals with an "F."

Bush was given a "B."

After Clinton's victory, Land warned that there will be "a significant number of unborn babies that will die" as a result of weakened abortion restrictions "unless God changes Bill Clinton's mind and heart."

Other Southern Baptist critics had even harsher words.

Beverly LaHaye, founder of Concerned Women for America, said Clinton's election will be "devastating for the American family." Ed McAteer, a Southern Baptist layman and Republican strategist from Memphis, Tenn., said the election "speeds the U.S. on its vast slide down to moral oblivion."

Such pronouncements won't be lost on the Clinton White House, according to Metzger, who has been Land's entree to Bush.

The most ardent critics of the administration are likely to have little access to the Clinton administration, Metzger said. "In fairness, we didn't have people in here who didn't" support Bush's policies, she added. "There's no point in it."



FACE TO FACE Jimmy Draper, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, speaks with James Sullivan, who retired from the same position in 1975, during a retirement program for 159 Sunday School Board employees. Many of the retirees taking advantage of a voluntary early retirement incentive were hired during Sullivan's tenure.

Hancock & Corts respond to Parks

Assertions made by Keith Parks in his retirement letter to Southern Baptist foreign missionaries are "bewildering," according to Bill Hancock and Mark Corts.

Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, and Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., are the two immediate past chairmen of the FMB's trustees. They released Nov. 19 copies of a letter written in response to Parks' letter, in which he explained to missionaries his reasons for taking early retirement.

Hancock and Corts said they were releasing the letter to the media because Parks' statements could lead Baptists to "unjustified conclusions" that might keep them from giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

In the letter, the two said:

■ FMB decisions driven by theological interpretations in recent years "were largely those initiated by staff" rather than by trustees, as Parks said.

■ Trust between FMB staff and trustees broke down in part because Parks did not build bridges to conservative trustees and because staff did not always keep trustees informed.

■ Trustees who came to the FMB with "critical and analytical thinking" should have been afforded the same liberties seminary professors desire to have through academic freedom.

■ Prospective staff members never have been asked to express loyalty to the "conservative resurgence," and missionary candidates are not asked to affirm the four examples of biblical inerrancy cited in the SBC Peace Committee report.

Letter wasn't part of takeover attempt, writer says

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—A letter endorsing slates of candidates for leadership of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference does not signal an attempt to take over the convention, according to the person who wrote the letter.

Terry Sammons, pastor of New Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, insisted he has no connection to the leaders his letter endorsed and no expectations of their actions.

The letter was sent to selected pastors from Long Run Baptist Association prior to the KBC annual meeting Nov. 10-11 in Louisville, Sammons told the Western Recorder. Long Run Association encompasses the Louisville area.

And although the letter endorses the two slates of conservative candidates, its purpose simply was "to encourage (pastors) to get their messengers there and vote," Sammons said.

Sammons was one of two Kentucky pastors who attended a late-summer meeting of conservative Southern Baptists from 15 states in Memphis, Tenn. Organizers of that meeting described it as a session to express concern for the convention's unified budget, the Cooperative Program, and to share strategies for extending conservative control of Baptist state conventions.

At the time, Sammons denied using the Memphis meeting to plot strat-

egy for exerting control over the KBC. "There was not any thorough discussion of any attempt to elect any officers or elect any particular people," he said.

And after the KBC annual meeting in Louisville, Sammons still stressed he has no statewide agenda, pointing out his letter only went to Long Run pastors.

Of the six men listed on Sammons' two slates, four were elected to office.

Charles Stewart, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, was chosen KBC president. The slate's nominees for the KBC vice presidents—Louisville layman John Michael and Glasgow-area missions director John Nunley—lost.

All three of Sammons' favored candidates for Pastors' Conference leadership won—President C.C. Brasher of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton, Vice President Paul Blizzard of First Baptist Church of Fairdale and Secretary Rodney Burnette of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville.

Blizzard was nominated by the other Kentuckian who attended the conservatives' meeting in Memphis—Mike Routt, pastor of Eastern Gate Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.

Stewart noted he received a copy of Sammons' letter, but he said he agreed to be nominated on behalf of Kentucky Baptists' bivocational ministers, not to advance any political cause.

Stewart was a bivocational pastor

until he retired from the Kentucky-West Virginia Gas Co. in 1985. He is president of the Southern Baptist National Council on Bivocational Ministries, which named him one of four bivocational pastors of the year in 1991.

"I'm not a taker-over of anything," Stewart insisted. "I'll do what's right. But as to being a pusher of an agenda, I'm not a crusader. I'm my own man."

He stressed he wants to be a president for all Kentucky Baptists, noting: "I want to work with all the pastors. I respect all the pastors."

"I'm a great believer in the autonomy of the church. A church or person may disagree with me, but I'll fight for their right to disagree. Even though we may disagree, it's like working in the churches—you have got to mold the people to work together."

Stewart added: "I believe the people put me in there because they trust me. I'm not going to betray that trust."

Brasher also told the Western Recorder he does not feel indebted to any group for his election to the Pastors' Conference presidency.

"I wasn't even aware of it," Brasher said of Sammons' letter. "I didn't see it, and I wasn't aware of it. I wasn't going to allow my name to be nominated until session-time that night. I didn't see any letter of any nature. I've yet to see it. ... Somebody else might have done that, but it wasn't my doings. Sometimes people use your name, and you don't know

they're doing it."

Brasher noted some friends had asked him about running for the post, but he felt this was not the year.

"I really didn't intend to allow my name, because I felt if I was going to do it, I would do it next year (in Elizabethtown), a little closer to home," he explained. "I didn't think I could win in Louisville."

Just before the start of the evening session of the conference, a friend approached him and asked him if he would be nominated, Brasher reported: "I said, 'If I can get my buddy Don (Short, a vocational evangelist and member of Brasher's church) here to nominate me, I might.' He said he would, and I did."

In addition to their work on behalf of the candidates, Sammons and Routt—the pastors who attended the conservatives state-oriented meeting this summer—also were visible on another issue.

Sammons made the original motion to rescind a 1991 convention action which would provide funds for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, beginning with the 1993-94 budget.

Later, after Sammons' motion to rescind did not get the two-thirds majority it needed to be successful, Routt announced his intention to introduce the same motion at the 1993 KBC annual meeting. Because the motion has been announced in advance, it will only require a simple majority to pass next year.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Adoption awareness** is promoted by childcare agencies in the month of November. The Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources reports there are 250 children awaiting adoption through the state's Special Needs Adoption program. The group includes white children over age 6, black children of all ages, groups of brothers and sisters, and children with moderate disabilities. For information, call (800) 432-9346.

■ **Scott Kilgore** has been named the counselor for the Bowling Green office of Cornerstone Counseling, a joint ministry of Warren Baptist Association and Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

■ **A Warren County man** pleaded guilty Nov. 16 to blurring down the building of Barren River Baptist Church in Bowling Green last December. Jerry Wayne Gann pleaded guilty to the charges and is expected to be a key prosecution witness against three others accused in the Ku Klux Klan-related arson: Ernest Glenn Pierce, Brian Grayson Tackett and Linda Tackett.

■ **Correction:** Information supplied by the Kentucky Baptist Convention for the Recorder's Oct. 27 issue incorrectly listed Ebenezer Baptist Church in Drakesboro as making no contributions to the Cooperative Program unified budget. Actually, the church contributed \$5,940 to the CP and \$427 in other gifts.

KBC-RELATED MEETINGS

■ **Kentucky Baptist Music Conference.** Planning, educating and focusing for worship were the topics during a panel discussion on worship strategies Nov. 9.

Panel members included Don Hustad and Milburn Price of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Louie Bailey, minister of music at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville; Linda Barnes and Angie Harrington, interim pastor and interim minister of music/organist at Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville.

Planning creative worship for every Sunday can be a chore, Hustad reminded the group. He recommended active worship committees to help involve laypeople and add creativity to preparation.

The panel also dealt with the sometimes-thin line that can separate worship and entertainment.

"People participate freely in religious entertainment, and the models have become confusing," Hustad said.

New officers are Jerry Lester, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Danville, president; Patricia Cole, minister of music and adult education at Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, vice president/president elect; and Don Schlosser, minister of music at Central Baptist Church in Winchester, secretary/treasurer. Jim Krutza, minister of music at Rich Pond Baptist

Church in Bowling Green, begins a three-year term at-large.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship.** D.M. Aldridge, church starter strategist for the KBC and former president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, was the keynote speaker Nov. 9.

"I've been working with DOMs in three states, and never in my experience have I known Kentucky to have as strong a group as we do now," Aldridge said.

Aldridge encouraged the group to take advantage of training and to aggressively begin new work.

Randall Jones, director of missions in Northern Kentucky Association, was named DOM of the year.

New officers are Terry Sills, Blood River Association, president; Charles Blair, West Kentucky Association, president-elect; John East, Ohio River Association, secretary-treasurer; and Tom Shelton, Ohio County Association, editor of the Vita-Link newsletter.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Association of Ministries with the Aging.** In its second year, the association adopted a mission statement which says it will "provide a forum for an exchange of ideas for ministries with older adults, to provide emotional support for leaders of older adult groups, and to be an advocate for ministries with older adults."

Officers elected are Joyce Shelton, First Baptist Church of Russellville, president; Jim McMurtrie, First Baptist Church of Madisonville, president-elect; Kelly Beaver, First Baptist Church of Sturgis, secretary-treasurer.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Women in Ministry.** Christian ministers are confronted with a contest between "the power of truth and the truth of power," Paul Simmons told participants at a luncheon for women in ministry and their supporters.

The test of ministerial ethics is "to determine if we are more interested in truth or in power," said Simmons, professor of Christian Ethics at Southern Seminary in Louisville.

Both male and female images for God are appropriate in the search for truth, he said. Female images illustrate the nurturing nature of God, while male images describe a protector and deliverer, he noted.

The organization elected two members to its steering committee: Stacey Cruse Pennington, interim campus minister at the University of Kentucky, and Linda Judge McRae, minister to students at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ **Lay luncheon.** For the first time, the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship sponsored a luncheon for laypeople Nov. 11. About 40 people attended and heard Don Putnam, a member

of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington, talk about the lay renewal movement.

Christians are called to be "priests in the marketplace going about their work but with a sense that there's more of a reason for them to be there than just to make a paycheck," Putnam said.

■ **Ministers' Wives Fellowship.** June Honeycutt, wife of the president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Roy Honeycutt, hosted the women for hors d'oeuvres Nov. 11 prior to a dinner and fashion show.

Officers elected are Linda Hill, Magnolia, president; Sue Hawkins, Elizabethtown, vice president; Middy Judd, Elizabethtown, secretary-treasurer; Mary Jane Boes, Cecilia, program chair; Suzanne Darland, Elizabethtown, publicity chair.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association.** David Stancil, an assistant professor of psychology of religion and pastoral care at Southern Seminary, provided the church leaders an overview of support-group ministry.

KBREA officers are President Steve Stewart, minister of education and youth at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, and President-elect Aaron Reed, minister of education at Grace Baptist Church in Lexington.

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

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Trustee disagrees

As a Foreign Mission Board trustee, I was saddened to receive Keith Parks' letters which were the basis of an article (WR, Nov. 3).

In these letters, he makes unfounded charges against the trustees.

He has allowed his bias against the "conservative resurgence" to color his opinions and affect his relationship with trustees.

Bill Hancock's letter to Bob De-Foor is accurate. Trustees affirmed Dr. Parks' leadership more than once, but he wanted trustees to affirm him to lead until 1995, which amounted to a four-year contract.

Hancock was probably correct in his count of 70 trustees willing to affirm Parks' leadership until 1995; however, it would have been poor stewardship to lock in his tenure with no room for unforeseen circumstances.

"Ultra-conservative theological interpretation" has not replaced mission principles.

The seven principles which guide the board's policy have been confirmed repeatedly, but one of those trustees is biblically based theology. Trustees require appointees to believe in and affirm the complete trustworthiness of the Scriptures, but this is not "ultra-conservative theological interpretation"; it is sound doctrine. Our sole agenda is Bold Mission Thrust.

Just a few days ago, Roy Honeycutt announced his retirement as president of Southern Seminary. Although he had philosophical differences with trustees, he found a way to work effectively with them, and when he felt it was time to leave, he did so with grace and dignity, attempting to pave the way for Southern to go forward with her mission.

I pray Dr. Parks will do the same.

James T. Garland
Paducah

Feeling badly

We see more and more reasons to feel badly about being a Southern Baptist.

Instead of seeking re-connection and healing with European Baptists after defunding Ruschlikon Seminary, we see Paul Pressler inflaming the issue. He takes back a statement of regret over the defunding and says his regret is that Ruschlikon did not add fundamentalist faculty.

Now, in at least one seminary, students are allowed to tape-record lectures without the instructor's knowledge or permission. Students do not do this to understand the lectures.

They tape lectures to send to the fundamentalist "thought police."

Our once-proud institutions of higher learning are becoming nothing more than vocational-technical trade schools.

We do our future leaders no favor by putting them in an educational environment that starts with all the answers and measures progress in terms of discovering the dogma underlying those answers. They will serve in churches where flesh-and-blood people grapple with issues not defined by the vocabulary of fundamentalist dogma. These future ministers will be miserable failures and will blame their church members or even themselves. The real culprit, however, is the fundamentalist "vo-tech" trade-school.

Many feel the burden of failure that eventually comes with fundamentalism. They can call Fundamentalists Anonymous, a support organization for people hurt by fundamentalist experiences. Members include former fundamentalists and adult children of fundamentalists.

Fundamentalists Anonymous has established a hotline, (212) 696-0204, and can be written at Box 20324, Greeley Square Station, New York,

N.Y. 10001.

Gary L. Millsap
Louisville

Disappointment

We are disappointed in reactions of Russellville-area church folk and leaders, both Baptist and other, to the two gay men running a resort inn.

The reported hostility—whether expressed as threatened violence, desire for financial failure or misguided prayer—reminds us of the sad history of Baptists in the 1950s and 1960s, when most resisted racial desegregation. A small-town motel which then welcomed mixed-race couples would have faced similar attacks.

We wish to report recent positive Christian responses in the Louisville area:

■ Two local Baptists groups in April 1991 signed a "friend of the court" brief which helped the Kentucky Supreme Court strike down the anti-gay sodomy law.

■ A local Baptist congregation has appointed and maintained as committee members two openly gay men.

■ That church's pastor spoke encouragingly at a December 1991 public rally of 250 supporters for the Fairness Amendment to protect civil rights on basis of sexual orientation.

■ A pastor from another local Baptist church spoke publicly for the Fairness Amendment at a public hearing in December 1991 and at an aldermen's meeting in the spring of 1992.

■ Another local Baptist congregation placed its name with 1,000 other individuals and groups supporting that amendment.

■ That church's pastor marched to City Hall in August 1992 with a coalition of clergy supporting fairness.

We hope that these examples of Christ-like living will serve Kentucky Baptists well.

13 Signers
Louisville

BAPTIST FORUM

Thank you, Dr. R. Keith Parks

On Oct. 31, a great leader among us stepped down. Controversy continues to swirl around his departure and many are still very uneasy about it. There has probably never been a time in the history of Southern Baptist foreign missions when so many missionaries were concerned about their home base.

What ever may be said of Dr. R. Keith Parks in the future, there are some accomplishments during his tenure as president that serious Baptist historians will note.

A few of those were shared publicly by two of Parks' colleagues during his last meeting as president of the Foreign Mission Board. Vice presidents Carl Johnson and Harlan Spurgeon shared with the board the following accomplishments during Parks' ministry.

Since these should have escaped public notice, I share some of them for the readers of my column:

■ When Dr. Parks became president in 1980, the FMB had an endowment of \$14 million. At his departure,

endowment funds stand at \$72 million.

■ In 1980, there was an "emergency contingency fund" of \$12.87 million. When Parks left office there was a \$25 million contingency reserve.

■ At the time he became president, the board contributed about 2.5 percent of a missionary's total support to the missionary's pension. Under Parks' leadership, the board increased that to 10 percent. To support this, Dr. Parks took the courageous stand to put the board in debt by \$10 million, a debt finally retired in 1989.

■ In 1980, the maximum life insurance for the missionary head of the household was \$20,000; for wives and single missionaries it was \$10,000. Today, the life insurance is \$100,000 each.

■ In 1980, countries upon his departure, we are in 126.

■ Parks led in the expansion and creation of channels of service for increasing numbers of Southern Bap-

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

tists including International Service Corps, Tentmakers and partnership missions.

■ Since 1980, approximately 111,000 volunteers have been enabled to go overseas, and the goal of sending over 10,000 per year has been accomplished for the past four years.

■ Since 1980, 4,866 people have been appointed or employed for overseas service. By contrast, only 6,740 people were appointed between 1845 and 1980—135 years! This means that of the 11,606 sent out in missionary count since 1845, 42 percent were sent out during the Parks years from January 1980 through October 1992.

These are but a few of his accomplishments. From my personal perspective, his greatest accomplishment was to bring Southern Baptist foreign missions into the forefront of the global evangelical movement as a partner with other world Christians.

The Foreign Mission Board will go on without Parks and he, without them. But none can deny that Parks is a man called of God to be a leader in foreign missions. Parks honored that call with obedience. We should all do so well.

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



FAMILY FORUM: MARRIAGE

Night fights

By Diana Garland

Q. Our worst marital arguments seem to happen in the evenings. Our last argument lasted until late in the night, and we came close to hitting one another. How can we handle this kind of conflict better?

A. The old saying, "Don't go to bed angry," probably grew out of someone's understanding of Ephesians 4:26: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger." Unfortunately, some couples end up in long, heated battles that last into the wee hours of the morning, trying to avoid going to bed angry. Then they go to bed not only angry but also feeling defeated.

The new day began at sunset for the Jews. This Scripture warns us not to let anger ruin our tomorrows together—our future. Anger stored up provides an opportunity for the devil (Ephesians 4:27), not for healing. Anger held over until tomorrow—and the next day and the next—often takes on a life of its own.

Attempting to resolve conflict in the weary evening hours may not be the best way to keep anger from ruining our shared tomorrows, however. The fatigue of the day may keep us from being as patient, as willing to listen to one another, and as creative in our problem-solving as we need to be. If that is true for you, try agreeing to talk about the issue at a better time. Set a time and a place, and stick to it.

If both feel an honest commitment from the other to tackle the problem at a more suitable time, anger often recedes. You have faced the anger, even though you have not yet resolved the conflict. The time between now and then can be used not to mull over how rotten your partner is, but to seek ways that you might be willing to change, and to form in your own mind what it is that you really want from your partner.

Postponing conflict also helps when we are tempted to strike out at one another. A wise person knows when to say: "I am too angry to discuss this further. I need to cool off and talk about this later."

Diana Garland is associate professor and director of the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry 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.

Old rumors never die; they just keep circulating

Two wasteful, time-consuming and embarrassing rumors keep circulating among church-going folk in Kentucky.

The first rumor claims the famous atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair has been granted a Federal Communications Commission hearing "which would ultimately pave the way to stop the reading of religion on the airways of America." Petitions perpetuating this rumor incorrectly link O'Hair to a formal request—RM 2493—asking the FCC to ban the broadcast of Sunday worship services. Some petitions also claim O'Hair "is campaigning to remove Christmas programs, Christmas songs and Christmas carols from public schools."

The second rumor is that the president of Procter & Gamble appeared on the Phil Donahue show last spring and "announced that due to the openness of our society, he was coming out of the closet about his association with the Church of Satan." This rumor also claims that a large portion of Procter & Gamble profits go to support the Church of Satan. It alleges that consumers should boycott P&G products, which are identified by "the symbol of the ram's horns, which ... will form the number '666,' which is known as Satan's number!!!"

Both of these rumors are false. And ancient.

The O'Hair rumor dates at least as far back as 17 years. An article in the July 19, 1975, *Western Recorder* stated: "No, Mrs. O'Hair is not petitioning the FCC to stop religious radio and television broadcasting." Nothing about this rumor has changed since then.

In fact, O'Hair never was affiliated with RM 2493, the petition to the FCC. It was filed in 1974 by two Californians, Jeremy Lansman and Lorenzo Milam. They asked the FCC to put a freeze on licenses for additional educational television and FM radio stations that were to air only religious or quasi-religious programs. Their request would have done nothing to eliminate religious broadcasting from stations that already received licenses. What's more, Lansman and Milam failed in their attempt. The FCC issued a statement Aug. 1, 1975, noting it is required by the First Amendment "to observe a stance of neutrality toward religion, acting neither to promote nor to inhibit religion."

The latest versions of the O'Hair petitions were drafted in the late 1970s. Here's how you can tell: Most of these petitions refer to O'Hair as "an atheist whose efforts successfully eliminated the use of Bible reading and prayer from all public schools 15 years ago. ..." The Supreme Court decision to which the petitions refer was handed down in 1963—almost 30 years ago. Anyone who can do simple addition can figure out that 15 years beyond 1963 was long ago.

The most recent Procter & Gamble rumor is at least a little more subtle. A printed "notice" claims the company's president appeared on Donahue's program March 1, 1992, and on a "recent" Merv Griffin show. It also insists the ram's horns/666 logo started appearing on the company's products last April.

Both assertions apparently are rehashed versions of falsehoods that date back at least a decade. A March 15, 1982, letter to the *Western Recorder* from a Procter & Gamble public affairs executive noted the

Donahue rumor was surfacing then—more than 10 years ago. That letter also included a statement from the producer of Donahue's program, verifying that not only had the president of P&G never appeared on the show, but that Donahue never had done a program on Satanism.

The ram's horns/666 logo rumor has its roots in an old rumor about the familiar P&G man-in-the-moon with 13 stars trademark. A version of the star symbol dates back to 1851. A moon with 13 stars logo was registered with the U.S. Patent Office in 1882. It combined the crescent moon, a popular design of the day, with stars representing the United States' original 13 colonies. "Our moon and stars trademark represents only P&G and has no other connection," including Satanism, a company spokesperson said. "Any resemblance between our moon and stars trademark and any other symbol is purely coincidental."

Two facts belie the latest round of Procter & Gamble rumors, said P&G spokesperson Ann Jenemann Smith. First, March 1, 1992, the alleged date on which the company's president appeared on Donahue's show, was a Sunday, and Donahue is not broadcast on Sunday. Second, the company does not have a logo featuring ram's horns or "666."

Many well-meaning Christians have been snookered by these rumors down through the years. Believing in freedom of religion and freedom of speech, they have wanted to fight any reported movement to curtail those freedoms. Opponents of Satanism, they have wanted to take appropriate action against any corporation that might be funneling profits into the Church of Satan. But in fighting these old, phony rumors, they have wasted precious time and energy jousting with rhetorical windmills. Christians have no need to fight a petition that was defeated 17 years ago, and no need to fear a TV program and logo that never existed.

The final two sentences of the "notice" about Procter & Gamble bear repeating, in the context of sharing this news about these rumors that won't die: "Please make copies!!!!!! Make sure all of your friends get one!!!!!!"

Marv Knox

We can help Kentucky's kids

Kentucky children suffered abuse and neglect at an alarming rate last year. Reported cases increased 10.8 percent, to a total of 56,181. A story on page 1 of this issue of the *Western Recorder* documents the details.

They point to the need for more services for the most vulnerable Kentuckians—our children. In a time when "moral values" have become buzzwords, we must remember that a society is no more moral than the welfare of its weakest members. We must care for all children.

Kentucky Baptists have a splendid opportunity to provide direct aid to more of them. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is expanding its programs and services as rapidly as possible. Our support for the KBHC Thanksgiving offering will make more help available, all across the state. Working together, we can make a difference.

Marv Knox

Remember this: The rumor about Madalyn Murray O'Hair and the FCC petition never was true—not even when it started 17 years ago. The "Satanic" rumors about Procter & Gamble also are lies, and 10-year-old lies at that.

She placed her hand in mine and carried me way, way back in time

Lindsay slipped her hand in mine as we walked across the parking lot.

We were on the routine journey. A trip to the grocery store, to pick up a jug of milk and a bag of chips, if memory serves me well. I've been to the grocery for milk at least a zillion times in 36 years, so a little trek like that ought to be hum-drum.

But Lindsay transformed the moment. By placing her 9-year-old hand in the palm of mine. By skipping. (A third-grade girl can't walk anywhere; she either skips, runs or turns cartwheels, but she never walks.) By chirping about what she did at school that day, and by laughing at things she thinks are funny.

Almost everyone agrees you can't be two places at the same time. Don't believe

it. As we walked past the cars and entered the grocery, I was still a daddy in a shopping center in Kentucky. But I also was a boy again, with my daddy, in another store long ago and far away.

For a few seconds, I remembered what my small hand felt like when Daddy held it on similar outings in the fall of 1965, when I was in third grade. I remembered how fun it was to be someplace—even Safe-way—alone with my dad, with his attention on me only divided by trying to find the

freshest loaf of bread. I remembered the security of his big hand around mine, and the laughter of trying to decipher the abbreviations on Mother's shopping list.

At the same time, I marveled at the tremendous privilege of living on both sides of this generational fence. I prayed Lindsay was feeling as secure and happy as I felt when Daddy took me with him. And I hoped I gave Daddy as much joy as my children bring to me.

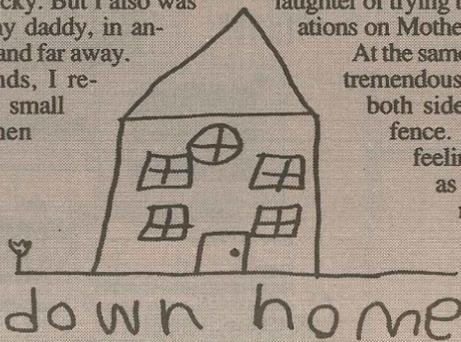
At Thanksgiving, we often stop to express our gratitude for big-ticket stuff: Freedom and democracy, prosperity, church and

other larger-than-life blessings.

But if we had those big blessings without the little ones, life wouldn't be much fun. This year, I hope I remember to thank God for the smaller things that give life texture and resonance:

- Joanna's good-night kisses.
- Games of Yahtzee with the girls.
- Iced tea in the summertime.
- Logs on the fire in winter.
- Perfect fall days.
- Phone calls from our family.
- Hot showers.
- Books that don't need pictures.
- "Amazing Grace," sung a capella.
- Children's laughter in the yard.
- "I love you," heard anytime.

Marv Knox



MISSIONS



Missionary gift list: Tires, bricks & refrigerators

Continued from page 1
consider "frills."

They're asking, instead, for gifts basic to their work—building materials, tires, computers, refrigerators.

This wish list is the one held by Southern Baptist foreign missionaries and Foreign Mission Board administrators. They, like retailers, are waiting to see if the bottom line will be up from last year.

Retailers, who depend on gift-giving during the Christmas season for the bulk of their profits, are not unlike the FMB, which depends heavily on gifts from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The goal for this year's offering is \$84 million.

The offering currently provides 46 percent of the FMB's annual budget, while the Cooperative Program provides 38 percent. The Cooperative Program is the Southern Baptist Convention's unified plan of giving.

The FMB's annual budget is set based on the goal for the offering, not actual offering receipts. Should offering receipts fall short of the goal, the FMB budget has to be reduced—something that has been done every year for the past 10 years. The last year Southern Baptists reached the goal was 1981.

"Some Southern Baptists are surprised to learn that the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is not money that is over and above the Foreign Mission Board budget," said Carl Johnson, FMB vice president and treasurer. "We depend on the offering to provide missionary support and items they need to work with."

The entire amount given through the offering is used in the overseas budget. None of the money is used for administrative or promotional costs at FMB headquarters in Richmond, Va., Johnson said.

"Through the years, Southern Baptists have appointed missionaries at a

faster rate than they have increased their giving through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," he said. "It's a good news/bad news problem."

This year, Southern Baptist foreign missionaries have made plans to expand their ministries using every dollar of the \$84 million Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal. They are looking to Southern Baptists for help.

"An \$84 million goal may sound like a lot of money," said Johnson. "However, it isn't much when you consider that if the goal is reached, Southern Baptists will have spent only 2.4 cents on each of the 3.5 billion non-Christian people of the world."

Facts about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

■ The average cost of supporting a missionary for one year is \$31,071. That's \$85.13 per day or \$597.53 per week.

■ The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board supports 3,897 missionaries serving in 126 countries.

■ The cost of Southern Baptists' entire foreign missions program for 1991 was \$191.26 million. That's \$624,005 a day or \$3.68 million a week.

■ The work of career missionaries was enhanced by the service of 9,191 volunteers in 1991.

■ During 1991, Southern Baptist foreign missionaries reported 233,334 baptisms, 27,932 churches and 22,736 missions points.

Church development builds for future generations

HAIFA, Israel—David Groseclose's pastor was his student just a few years back.

That's the way Groseclose likes it. He is a Southern Baptist church developer in the northern area of Israel, along the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea. His goal is to produce Arab Christians strong enough to lead local congregations.

Groseclose remembers looking deeply into Philip Saad, now pastor of Haifa Baptist Center, as Saad said, "David, I'm dry. I really need something." Saad was at that time a teacher at Nazareth Baptist School. A new Southern Baptist "church starter," Groseclose was pastor at Cana Baptist Center.

The two began Bible study together. By the end of Groseclose's term, Saad had grown enough spiritually to lead the congregation at Cana while Groseclose went home for a year's furlough.

"I am really more involved with

building men and women than building buildings," Groseclose said.

He believes when those who lead a congregation can show others how to do it, and teach them how to show others still, then future Baptists in Israel will be free of a leadership

shortage. Groseclose calls this process "mentoring," and he's trying to jump start it in Western Galilee.

"The key to success here is church growth, and the key to church growth is God-called and well-trained local leaders," he explained. "Leadership is a big prob-

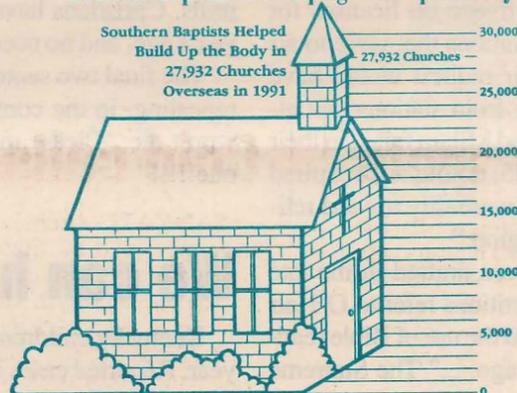
lem in all of our churches."

Southern Baptist representatives and Baptists in Israel have just kicked off a five-year emphasis on church starting. To develop churches, Southern Baptist representatives like Groseclose often must spend as much effort working one-on-one with future leaders as they do preaching in mission stations and leading Bible studies.

Depending on a culture's openness to the gospel, it can take from several months to several years for a congregation to organize itself as a church and call a pastor.

Baptisms among churches in Baptist conventions overseas last year reached an all-time high of 233,334, up 12 percent from 208,381 in 1990. Sunday school enrollment, one indicator of church growth, increased last year by 6.4 percent to 1.7 million, and church membership gained by 12.3 percent to 2.99 million.

Southern Baptists Are Helping Build Up the Body



Computers help publish Bibles & missionary literature

HONG KONG—Morning rush-hour traffic whizzes past Gwen Crotts' window in Hong Kong. A 747 jumbo jet on its final landing approach swoops down low, just a couple hundred feet above her Baptist Press office.

The Southern Baptist missionary doesn't even notice, concentrating intently on her computer screen. It displays what will soon become the first Chinese Bible with Jesus' words in red characters.

Through the publications of Baptist Press in Hong Kong, where Crotts is executive director, she helps declare hope to Chinese readers throughout the world.

Computer equipment bought with Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds this past year already is enabling Baptist Press to declare even more hope to Chinese people. The \$30,000 in Lottie Moon funds enabled Baptist Press to buy eight computers with color monitors, a laser printer, three dot-matrix printers, and software for word processing, spreadsheets and graphics.

But there are other challenges Crotts must continually balance.

Personnel is an urgent need. Crotts looks to hire editors, managers, an artist and a Chinese person to replace her as director of Baptist Press.

Crotts didn't set out to become executive director of Baptist Press.

In 1975 Crotts arrived in Hong Kong to work as a math, English and

Bible teacher at Pui Ching Middle School, a Baptist school for grades 7-12. Work with students, teaching and involvement in Yan Tin Baptist Church "filled her cup" in every sense of the words, she said.

But six years ago, Chinese leaders asked her to join the press' staff

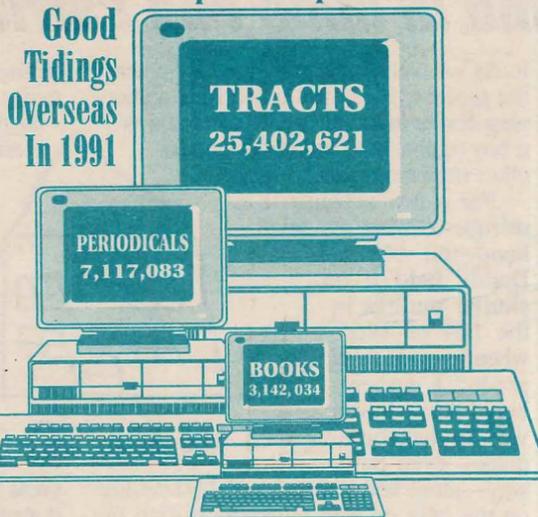
as director of training. After four months, the trustees invited Crotts to direct the press' work.

Crotts calls her job "overwhelming at times" as she regularly puts in 14- to 16-hour days with Baptist Press. Not a news agency like the Southern Baptist organization of the same name, the Hong Kong version is an international Chinese Baptist publishing agency that serves Chinese Baptist churches, organizations and individuals worldwide.

The press publishes Bibles, hymnals, curriculum, magazines, textbooks and general Christian books. The press also oversees the work of three Baptist Book Stores and conducts training seminars for teachers and church leaders.

Missionaries and national Baptists at 44 other Baptist-related publication centers around the world are able to carry out similar ministries because of Southern Baptist support through the Lottie Moon offering and Cooperative Program. During 1991 these centers published 3,142,034 books, more than 7,117,083 periodicals and 25,402,621 tracts.

Southern Baptists Helped Publish



MISSIONS

Tires keep missionaries on road to theological education

BENGKULU, Indonesia—The hill was steep and slick. The night was dark. And missionary Marvin Leech's Land Rover had just turned 180 degrees—against his will.

After careening helplessly downhill about 100 yards, the Land Rover landed in a ditch, only to continue sliding downhill as soon as it restarted.

When it finally stopped, he and church planter Mike Hampton turned to one another and agreed that new tires had become their first priority upon returning home.

Primarily called to disciple other believers, Leech focuses on reaching people through Christian leadership training.

His mission calling requires land travel in Indonesia. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering helps him travel safely.

In 1970, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board assigned Leech and his wife, Linda, to work in the field of theological education. At that time he began ministering at the Indonesian Baptist Theological Seminary in Semarang, but soon transferred to Central Java to develop a less traditional, more indigenous program of theological educa-

tion. Since missionary appointment, Leech has intermittently taught, directed Indonesia's theological education program, led Theological Education by Extension, developed curriculum, and directed library services.

The Leeches also have focused on personal evangelism, new church planting, and developing and training Indonesian church members as

leaders. From 1989 through 1992, Leech served as the academic dean of that island nation's unified seminary program. In January 1992 he began establishing a regional Bible school in Bengkulu.

The northern hill country of Indonesia's Bengkulu province, Leech says, is becoming one of the largest transmigration areas in Indonesia. Already, the government has moved

500,000 Indonesians from overcrowded Java to less populated Bengkulu.

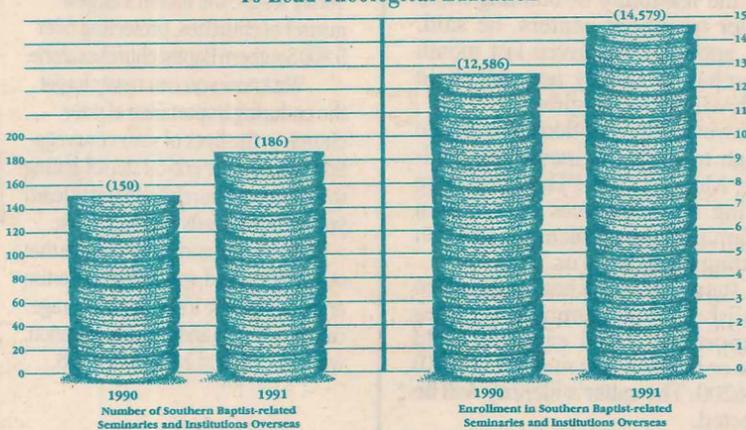
A predominantly Islamic area which runs along the coast of the Indonesian Ocean, Bengkulu is located on the western shores of Sumatra—the fifth largest island in the world.

When students in Bengkulu began their first semester of training, personal evangelism was one of the most demanding of the curriculum's 10 subjects, Leech says. For that course, students were divided into teams to visit homes throughout the city.

"Thanks to Lottie Moon tires," Leech exclaims, "we can transport them efficiently in a more effective program of on-site evangelistic training. They help us achieve the primary goals of starting new churches through personal evangelism and discipleship."

Worldwide, Southern Baptist-related theological seminaries and institutes grew from 150 in 1990 to 186 in 1991, a 24 percent gain. Enrollment in those seminaries and institutes increased from 12,586 in 1990 to 14,579 in 1991, a 15.8 percent gain.

Southern Baptists Helped Re-Tire Missionaries To Lead Theological Education



Helpers dig into tough spots

KENIEBA, Mali—Water in semi-arid Mali is as scarce as Christians—two problems Mike Krahwinkel has devoted his life to solving.

Krahwinkel, a Southern Baptist agricultural missionary, has drilled more than 100 wells and helped develop irrigation and water projects for 65,000 people in the past five years. Supplying these life-sustaining improvements is just part of his goal.

"Ninety-nine percent of these people in the rural villages have never heard about Jesus," he said. "So hope comes two-fold."

By day Krahwinkel and his team install wells and irrigation systems; by night they talk about the hope found in Jesus Christ.

"That's exactly how we've opened the door to these people," he explained.

Yet the door would remain closed without Southern Baptists gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas

Offering. The Foreign Mission Board's hunger relief ministry supplied funds for the water projects, but without the Lottie Moon offering and the Cooperative Program no one would deliver the aid.

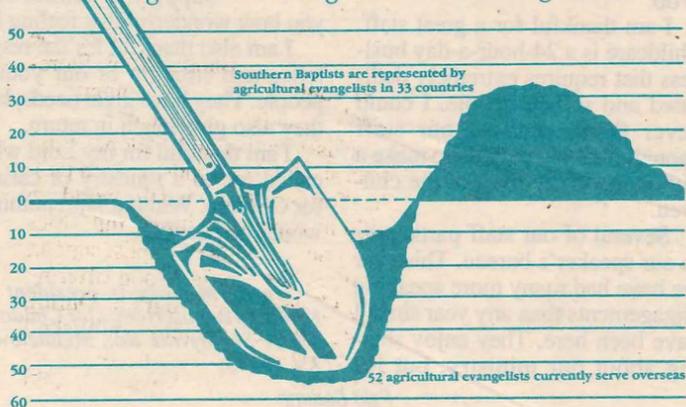
It takes years to establish a strong Christian base in most Islam-dominated societies. Mali is no exception. In the Kenieba area, in the western region of Mali, there are only about 2,000 Christians among 150,000 people.

Nearly 90 percent of Mali's 8.5 million inhabitants are Muslim.

"We've got such a large group of people who still have not heard about Jesus. We need to be in (Christians') prayers," he said.

Krahwinkel and other Southern Baptist agricultural evangelists offer Christ's hope through humanitarian projects. In 1992, 52 agricultural missionaries worked in 33 countries. More than 300 human needs projects were funded by the FMB in 1991.

Agricultural Evangelists Are Breaking New Ground



Cold calls spread gospel

SANYATI, Zimbabwe—Refrigerators can be lifesavers in Nancy Carley's work.

The one at Sanyati Hospital in Zimbabwe, where Carley is a registered nurse, stores vaccines the Southern Baptist missionary uses in immunization programs.

Carley's own home refrigerator, which she was able to purchase because of Southern Baptist support through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program, keeps cold drinks and food handy for Zimbabwean youths who hunger to learn more about the Living Water and the Bread of Life.

Hosting Bible studies and fellowships for groups, including the youths she teaches in Sunday school, is just one of Carley's ministries in Sanyati. Her primary assignment is that of 193 other Southern Baptist missionaries in 48 countries—health care ministries.

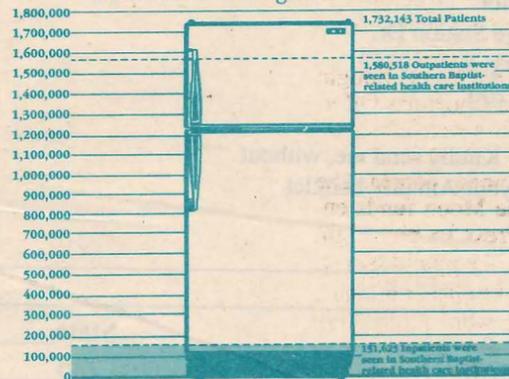
Jobs in health care ministry are limited to physicians, dentists, nurses and other trained health care workers. With help from the Lottie Moon offering, their potential for outreach can be far-reaching.

Through hospitals, clinics, community health ministries, health education, counseling programs and dental ministries overseas, Southern Baptists have demonstrated a compassionate concern for people and their physical needs. During 1991, Southern Baptist-related health care institutions overseas ministered to 151,625 inpatients and 1,580,518 outpatients.

While health care ministries bring healing to the body, they also seek to build bridges of evangelism and discipleship to the soul.

The annual Lottie Moon offering helps provide Bibles, tracts and transportation for Carley and others to minister. Through hospital ministries in 1991, 225 decisions for Christ were recorded.

Southern Baptists Helped Rescue the Perishing Overseas in 1991



Kentucky gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

- 1982: \$1,768,952
- 1983: \$1,860,251
- 1984: \$2,056,361
- 1985: \$2,080,407
- 1986: \$2,231,530
- 1987: \$2,311,565
- 1988: \$2,735,011
- 1989: \$2,578,611
- 1990: \$2,759,724
- 1991: \$2,889,633

Abuse & neglect increasing



Hospital picks Collier for pastoral care

Stuart Collier has been appointed director of pastoral care for Tri-County Community Hospital in La Grange. Tri-County is the newest member of the Baptist Healthcare System, and Collier will develop the hospital's first pastoral care program. Collier has been chaplain and senior counselor at Brooklawn Academy in Louisville. Previously, he was pastor of Goshen Baptist Church in Goshen and director of chaplaincy services for the Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center in La Grange.

Continued from page 1

1,081 of the children referred to us," he said.

Nearly half the children turned away from the Baptist children's homes had problems too great for Baptist facilities to handle, Mooney explained. "For the remainder of the children referred but not accepted, we simply did not have the space or could not respond as fast as they needed."

A majority (60 percent) of the reported cases confirmed by government child protection workers last year involved neglect. That means the child was not receiving adequate supervision, food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care.

Physical abuse accounted for 26 percent of confirmed cases; sexual abuse accounted for 10 percent; willful parental failure to provide proper care accounted for the remainder.

The child protection crisis is compounded by lack of adequate staffing in government programs, the Louisville Courier-Journal reported.

Kentucky law requires a caseload of no more than 25 for each social worker, but in some places the average caseload is as high as 44.

Social Services Commissioner Peggy Wallace has said her agency

would have to hire 300 new social workers to meet the legal mandate. However, due to the state's budget shortage, plans have been made to hire only 50 additional workers.

Mooney said Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is committed to increasing its services for children and families. He cited the development of regional Christian counseling centers, the recruiting and training of families to offer foster homes and expansion of institutional facilities.

The agency's Glen Dale campus opened 10 new beds last year, and a study currently is underway to determine the feasibility of building more smaller treatment centers, he said. Also, approval was given last month to purchase a facility near Mayfield which will house 15 girls.

However, these actions may not be enough to meet the increasing challenge, Mooney said. "Though we are creating new resources for children and families, the problem for children is getting away from us."

A statewide abuse hotline has been established by government agencies to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. The number is (800) 752-6200. The caller's identity will be protected.

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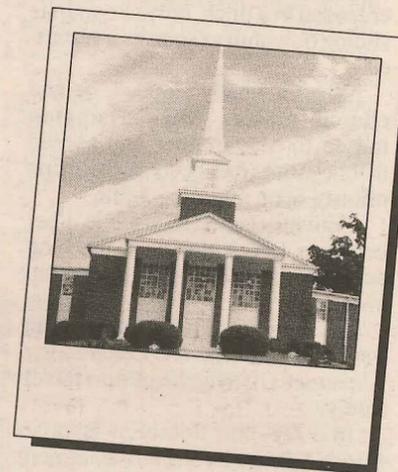
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Thank you

As you read this, you are preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Perhaps you are busy getting ready to host family and friends or maybe you are traveling to be "home" for this special day. Maybe you are thinking about the day after Thanksgiving and all the shopping you need to do.

Whatever your plans, I hope you take some time to think about the things for which you are thankful.

On my personal list, I think first of my family. I have not been able to be with them as much as I want to. With speaking each weekend, the convention and other meetings, we have some catching up to do.

I am thankful for a great staff. Childcare is a 24-hour-a-day business that requires extremely dedicated and skilled people. I could never thank each of our staff enough for what they do to make a difference in the lives of the children.

Several of our staff participate in our speaker's bureau. This year we have had many more speaking engagements than any year since I have been here. They enjoy sharing about our ministry, but for

many of them the holidays will provide a much-needed rest.

I am thankful for members of our board and Women's Advisory Board. They are dedicated to developing the best ministry possible. As we look at expanding to meet an explosion of needs, they have been willing to tackle tough issues and reach out in faith to minister to hurting people.

I am thankful for each donor. Their love, concern and generosity make this ministry possible.

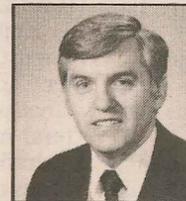
As I visit donors, speak in churches, and attend associational meetings and the convention, I feel a tremendous undergirding of support. I cannot tell

you how wonderful that feeling is.

I am also thankful for the resilience and strength of our young people. They have great needs, but they also give much in return.

I am thankful for my Lord who called me to a ministry of caring for children. Without Him nothing would be possible.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

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

Paid Column

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RETREATS: Bud's Lake, I-65, exit 81, Sonora, Ky. (502) 324-3036. Dormitories, kitchen, gym, swimming and campground. Year-round Christian fun.

WANTED: First Baptist, Clay, Ky., is seeking a full-time Minister of Youth and Music. Send resumé to: FBC c/o Bob White, Box 485, Clay, Ky. 42404.

WANTED: Part-time Minister of Youth. Write or call Calvary Baptist Church, 401 Waveland Ave., Danville, Ky. 40422. (606) 236-5350.

FOR SALE: "175 Year Heritage, First Baptist Church, Frankfort." The church's history in a 350-page hard-back volume will be released in mid-December. Pre-publication price: \$22 (until Dec. 1). Price when released: \$26. Order your copy by calling the church at (502) 227-4528 or by mailing your check to the church. The address is: P.O. Box Drawer Q, Frankfort, Ky. 40602.

SEEKING: Part-time Minister of Music, Send resumé to Alton Baptist Church, 1321 Bypass North, Lawrenceburg, Ky. 40342.

WANTED: Part-time Youth Pastor for established youth group. Music experience helpful. Salary negotiable. First Baptist Church Whitley City, P.O. Box 670, Whitley City, Ky. 42653. (606) 376-2418.

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Baptists address Clinton

Continued from page 1

equal rights for homosexuals.

"I shudder to think that Mr. Clinton's first order of business is, as he said, to allow homosexuals in the military," Falwell said. "It's bad enough to fight that crowd in front of you without looking around wondering where they are."

Falwell later told reporters he will reserve judgment on Clinton's presidency until after he takes office. He added he expects Clinton to "self-destruct" and be a one-term president.

The Moral Majority, founded by Falwell in 1979, promoted his conservative social views as part of the Religious Right movement of the 1980s. Falwell disbanded the group in 1989.

It took only one generation to realize moral decline in America, Falwell said, but the trend also could be reversed in one generation.

He cited the change in the Southern Baptist Convention in the past 15 years as an example of how God could change America.

Getting the job done, he said, will require men and women who have

"an authoritative Bible, a set of principles to live by, and an order of business by which we can recover our nation."

Arkansas Baptists attending their annual meeting in Pine Bluff adopted a resolution Nov. 11 criticizing Clinton's stance on abortion and homosexuals.

The resolution, which was adopted overwhelmingly in a voice vote, denounces what it describes as Clinton's support for "continued legalization of abortion on demand, (the) homosexual rights movement, (and) distribution of contraceptives in public schools."

Rex Home, Clinton's Little Rock pastor, spoke against the value of the resolution during debate.

"If resolutions could change the world, Southern Baptists would have changed the world long ago," he said. "We need to give ourselves to intercession rather than resolution."

Baptists in Florida and Louisiana also registered opposition to Clinton's social views through resolutions passed during their annual meetings. But Baptists in Kentucky, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Virginia and other states passed resolutions vowing to pray for Clinton.

Heightened rhetoric from Falwell and the Religious Right against Clinton's positions is predictable, noted Thomas of the Baptist Joint Committee.

"They're not going to have access to the levers of power that they have in the past, and because they're on the outside they may become more strident than ever," he said. "They're not used to being in exile. Being on the outside tends to sharpen one's rhetoric and heighten one's role as a critic."

"When you're working within the system, compromise and moderation pay dividends."

Compiled from Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press reports

Jerry Falwell cited conservatives' capture of the Southern Baptist Convention as an example of what could happen to transform American government.

A New Way of Doing Sunday School.

Outdated Idea #1 • People can't handle deep Bible study.

• **Formations Response:** Learners of all ages are quickly bored with shallow Bible study. Deeper Bible study is more challenging, and more rewarding. Prospects and new members are more interested in Bible study which is as substantial as their questions and needs.

Outdated Idea #2 • Literature must be ordered 4 times per year and thrown away after use.

• **Formations Response:** Ordering only three times per year makes good sense, and helps us keep prices affordable. Our material for preschool, children, and youth is undated and reusable—making good use of your investment.

Outdated Idea #3 • Missions, church history and discipleship issues should be studied outside of Sunday School.

• **Formations Response:** People are busy. Many will only participate in Christian education programs once per week. To gain a "balanced diet," many areas should be included in Sunday School. Besides, *it is through Bible study* that we are led to do missions, to learn from history, and to make discipleship decisions.

Outdated Idea #4 • All literature publishers are slow to respond to comments and suggestions from churches.

• **Formations Response:** When was the last time you made a suggestion to a literature publisher and saw immediate results? Ask anyone using Formations about our speed in making changes and improvements—they have witnessed it. Believe us... we take your ideas seriously and, who knows, you may see your idea implemented in the next issue!

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KENTUCKY KERNELS

Although the largest Baptist body, Southern Baptists are not the only Baptists in Kentucky. The General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, with more than 170,000 members, is the second-largest Baptist body. Other Baptist groups in the state include American Baptists, Free Will Baptists, Old Regular Baptists and Primitive Baptists.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Burton Memorial Church ordained **Forrest Adams** as a deacon. **Frank Dorris**, director of missions for Warren Baptist Association, delivered the charge to the church and the candidate.

■ **BREMEN**—**James Vincent**, interim pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, died suddenly of a heart attack Oct. 20. Vincent served for 42 years as pastor of Kentucky Baptist churches, mostly in the Muhlenberg Baptist Association. Vincent, 69, is survived by two daughters, Judy Liles of Greenville and Kaye Williams of Destin, Fla. He was preceded in death by his wife, Agnes Marie "Tootsie" Vincent.

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church called **Terry Williams** of Batesville, Miss., as pastor.

■ **CROMWELL**—**Elvis Egge** has resigned as pastor of Mt. Zion Church.

■ **DANVILLE**—The senior adult choir, "Primetimers," from First Church, were featured at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center during senior adult week Sept. 28-Oct. 2. They also have sung in seven churches and two nursing homes this past year. Those interested in inviting the group to sing for church services or events may contact Jerry Lester, minister of music, at First Baptist Church, Box 132, Danville, Ky. 40422.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns

Valley Church ordained **Mark Hazle** to the ministry Nov. 8. Hazle currently is minister of youth and outreach at First Church, Sellersburg, Ind., and is completing his master's degree at Southern Seminary.

■ **FRANKFORT**—First Church called **Chris Kurtz** as family minister. He previously served at Bardwell Church in Bardwell.

■ **HARTFORD**—**Eddie Young**, former pastor of Concord Missionary Church, has been called as pastor of Barnetts Creek Church.

■ **JONESVILLE**—**Gene Hill** has resigned as pastor of Macedonia Church, to become pastor of Westwood Church in Wooster, Ohio.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Sand Spring Church honored several deacons Nov. 14 for many years of service. **Carl Birdwhistell**, **Roy Robinson**, **Clelland McMurry**, **Charles Peyton** and **William Birdwhistell** were named deacon emeritus.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church ordained **Mary Sirls** and **Jeff Wise** as deacons Nov. 22.

■ **OAK GROVE**—First Church ordained **Bob Moehring** as a deacon Nov. 22.

■ **SALEM**—**Rodney Travis**, a native of Ohio River Association, recently was elected president of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—**Bob Vassar** has resigned as pastor of First Church to become pastor of Pleasant Heights Church in Columbia, Tenn.

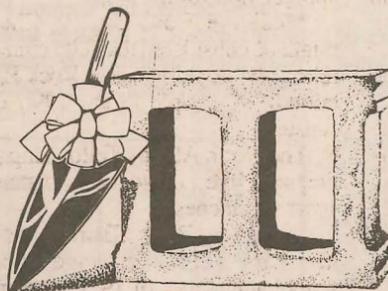
■ **WILMORE**—Mt. Freedom Church honored **Flora Dillender** on her 100th birthday Nov. 8. The church's oldest member, Dillender has served as Sunday school teacher

and in WMU. She was given a print of the church during the morning worship service.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Mac and Betty McElrath**, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the States at 511 Harding St., Raleigh, N.C. 27604. He is a native of Murray,

This Christmas, help build up the body.



David Groseclose is declaring the hope of Christ in the land where Jesus himself walked. He's active in The Haifa Baptist Center, which he says is "perhaps the fastest-growing Baptist church in the country right now."

David is awaiting the day his church can find a lot on which to build, with funds already set aside from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Pray that David's church members will find land to build a church. Pray, too, that Baptist churches in Israel will continue to declare hope for others as they grow spiritually and numerically. And pray that more churches will be started in Western Galilee.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
National Goal: \$84 million

A witness projected far

Aren't nasty letters depressing? Thankfully I don't get very many. You'll forgive me for quoting from a few recent letters that uplifted me. I trust they might give you some further insight to our work others have experienced.

A couple recently wrote from Evansville, Ind., after having made their first visit to Oneida: "Thank you for the memorable five hours you spent with us answering all our questions. The delicious lunch and the chapel experience will live in our memory. If only the churches here in Indiana could know of the school there. Even though Oneida has existed for almost a century, we didn't know of it until your choir came to the church to sing where our son was serving. We want to continue to contribute, and enclosed is a check for \$50. We know your students are receiving a Christian education in a Baptist context."

Recently our choir was invited to sing at the dedication ceremonies of a new federal prison to house 1,500 inmates. Approximately 700 attended the program, including Congressman Hal Rogers, who personally gives our seniors a tour of the Capitol each spring on their annual Washington trip. The warden wrote: "The performance of your choir was outstanding. The dedication and hard work that went into preparing a quality program for our benefit are representative of the finest, and the witness that you project extends far beyond the boundaries of your campus."

From Franklin, N.C.: "Now we understand why our son said we had to go to Oneida! Thank you for making our visit so very pleasant, your time so generously given, and the friendliness of everyone we met. This morning our pastor spoke of faith being the most powerful force available to us. I thought of your remark: 'It isn't faith if you have the money in your hand.' So am enclosing a gift to help in one of your 'faith' projects. Especially do I thank you for sharing

the spirit of Oneida."

From Hamilton, Ohio: "I am the mother of a 14-year-old boy who is in the seventh grade (again) and is having trouble again. I work with two women who have placed their sons in your school and are very pleased. Please send information for enrollment." This letter is representative of scores of letters and calls weekly. We do not recruit or advertise for students. It is such word-of-mouth reference that keeps us operating at near capacity.

From Auburn, Ky.: "My husband and I visited Oneida this summer and were greatly moved. Enclosed please find a check for \$1,000 in memory of my mother."

From Frankfort: "I am 88 years old and a resident of a retirement home. But recently I visited Oneida and was greatly impressed with the management and the faith I saw that God will supply your needs. The interest on my investments has been lowered but I want to help."

A 1939 graduate and faithful supporter writes: "I shall always be grateful for the privilege of having my needs met at Oneida during my teenage years. The Christian workers made a great impression on my life. I never cease to thank God. Would to God we had more Oneidas!"

From Franklin, Ky.: "I visited your school many years ago. I thought it was wonderful. Many children would not have gotten the good training had it not been for your great school. I hope I will be able to send a little gift a few more years." Her "little gift" was \$1,000 which is a huge gift for us. But no gift is so large as to be unneeded or so small as to be unappreciated. This donor, faithful for so many years, is now 93 years of age.

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

Paid Column

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Convention-goers affirm Clear Creek

Time will reveal more of the consequences of actions made by the recent session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. A constant stream of visitors at our exhibit booth and inquiries in the hallways deepened the fellowship we have with Baptists across the state and affirmed our unique ministry.

St. Matthews member Meta Herren came by for a visit. Her ties with Pineville go back to founder Dr. L.C. Kelley, who baptized her at Pineville First Baptist. She recalled, like many others, attending summer camp at Clear Creek Springs. Mrs. Herren plans to visit us during the summer as a volunteer worker. 1947 graduate Marvin Byrdwell, former Cedar-moore director, can tell you about those days. It was good to see him at the convention.

Allen pastor French Harmon told me of a recent journey when he heard our radio program, Clear Creek Chimes. "It is one of the best I've heard. How can we get it on stations in our area?"

Paducah pastor Richard Edmiston slipped me a note during a convention session. "Bill, I need student info for a 39-year-old married man who feels called." That is our specialty, and pastors recommending us to the called keeps us going.

Seventy alumni and friends gathered for a bountiful dinner at Ninth and O Baptist Church. Graduates from 1952 to 1992 remem-

bered days on the creek. 1978 alumnus and pastor Rodney Burnette and his wife, Judy, hosted the evening. 1980 graduate Tim Searcy shared a testimony of his experience in Colombia and the sad news of a sudden departure because of dangers from the drug cartel.

Western Recorder business manager Ray Hayes and family were guests at our dinner. He was at Clear Creek while his dad, Wayman, was a student. Ray offered the excellent suggestion of organizing the "kids of Clear Creek graduates. It was a special time in my life, and I think other sons and daughters could be involved to help the school."

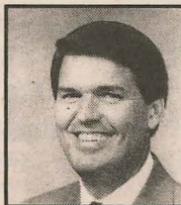
Hazard minister of music Ron Sholar expressed deep thanks for the excellent leadership of New Testament professor Dennis Brotherton as their interim pastor. This is an often un-

reported but significant ministry we offer to the churches of Eastern Kentucky. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for helping make possible what we do. During the last year the state Cooperative Program provided 28 percent of our budget. With your continued support we intend to serve Jesus Christ, "Our Foundation, Our Focus, Our Future."

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

Paid Column

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MISSIONS

'Bivocational' is understatement for Wyoming pastor

By Charles Willis
SBC Sunday School Board

MEDICINE BOW, Wyo. (BP)—To call Emory Lussi a bivocational pastor would be an understatement.

He is pastor to three congregations separated by miles of unpopulated, rugged Wyoming terrain, driver of two school bus routes and a substitute school teacher. In his "spare time," he volunteers as a firefighter and ambulance driver for the town of Medicine Bow, population 389.

Lussi and his wife, Beverly, are native Georgians who came to this small, historic town four years ago. The economy was beginning to weaken with the closing of mines and the curtailment of many related businesses.

In fact, one of the original three congregations he came to lead folded when the entire town of Shirley Basin "went out of business," he explained.

When the mines at Shirley Basin closed, virtually everyone left town. Lussi's last church member in Shirley Basin met with him for weekly worship services for a time before moving to look for work.

For a brief time he was pastor to four congregations. Six months before Shirley Basin church ceased to exist, a woman from North Albany County, Wyo., made a surprise telephone call to Lussi.

"It was the weirdest thing," he recalled. "She just called out of the blue and said, 'We want to have church out here. Will you come?' I said, 'Well, sure I will.'"

Since Lussi already had two services to preach on Sunday mornings, one on Sunday afternoon and an evening service in Medicine Bow, the North Albany Fellowship began meeting the first and third Monday

nights of the month.

The Lussis drive for about an hour on a rough, unlighted, dirt and gravel road to meet with 14 to 33 people who provide a potluck meal and participate in a worship service at a community clubhouse. In months that have a fifth Monday, they have a singing. Lussi said they never fail to express their appreciation for his help.

Medicine Bow Baptist Church might be considered the "city church," relatively speaking, since Rock River tallied 197 people in the 1990 U.S. census.

The North Albany Fellowship participants live considerable distances apart on ranches.

Medicine Bow Church has 31 members, with an average Sunday school attendance of 19; First Baptist Church of Rock River has 25 members, with an average of 15 in Sunday school.

Both are small enough that Lussi's sermons might better be described as dialogues. Members feel free to respond to Lussi's statements and questions, and he said he likes that. At North Albany Fellowship, his weekly sermon is adapted for a dialogue around the supper table after two Sunday school classes for children have begun.

In all three services, Lussi's singing and guitar playing draw enthusiastic participation. He is preacher, music leader and education director.

The Lussis, parents of three boys, have a baby due in January. Yet they seem to thrive on what many would consider a lifestyle that pulls in too many directions.

"I could be happy here the rest of my life," he declared. "It may seem initially difficult to break in to the community, but once folks know you they accept you for what you are."



PEOPLE'S PASTOR

■ Above: Pastor Emory Lussi roughhouses with Tyler Lawson before Sunday school begins for the children of North Albany Fellowship in North Albany County, Wyo. The children of ranching families, scattered too far to attend weekly church services, have Sunday school twice a month on Monday nights.

■ Left: Lussi and his wife, Beverly, visit with Dorothy Breshnan outside the borrowed clubhouse where North Albany Fellowship meets. (BP photos by Jim Veneman)

Women hope to start apartment church using WMU plan

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

ST. LOUIS—In the shadow of the St. Louis airport, two Baptist women are piloting a church-starting project they have no guarantee will take off.

But by using Contact, a personal spiritual growth plan, they are building a base of adult leadership they hope will become a church.

Contact, a 12-week program combining individual and group Bible study with Scripture memory and missions awareness, is published by New Hope Press, publishing arm of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Donna Potts and Vivian Hite lead the Contact group at Crosswinds, an aging apartment complex near Edmundson Road Baptist Church. The Contact group is a part of the ministry of Edmundson Road.

Both the church and the apartments lie in the path of Lambert Field airport expansion. For the church, that means a possible need for relocation in five to 10 years. For the apartment dwellers, it means their neighborhood will continue to be a transient, low-rent district.

Potts is WMU director at Edmund-

son Road. Hite is a Southern Baptist home missionary specializing in multi-housing ministries.

The two women began working together after Richard Miller, minister of education at Edmundson Road, saw an opportunity for ministry in Crosswinds, a complex of about 1,000 apartments.

Two years ago, the church used student summer missionaries to begin a ministry with apartment children. The student missionaries canvassed the complex and invited children for vacation Bible school. They flocked to the church.

Subsequently, the church began bringing the apartment children in for Wednesday evening missions programs year-round.

Last summer, the church decided to expand its ministry to include adults.

But no one knew for sure what direction that ministry would take or how long it would last, Potts said. "We were just blundering into this, doing our own thing."

About the same time, Hite assumed responsibility for multi-housing ministries in the St. Louis area. Leaders from Edmundson Road approached Hite about working with

them in the Crosswinds complex.

Hite met with the apartment manager and secured the use of a vacant apartment for free. So the church moved its ministry on site, alleviating transportation problems and concerns about the apartment children overloading what the church's Wednesday evening leadership could handle, Potts said.

Hite had heard about WMU's Contact program and suggested it might be the right tool to use with the fledgling adult Bible study. Potts, Miller and others involved agreed.

Currently, Potts and Hite lead the Contact group every Sunday at 4 p.m. They meet in the bedroom of a vacant one-bedroom apartment, while Miller and other church members conduct Big A Club, a program for unchurched children, in the adjacent living room.

In addition to Potts and Hite, two other church members attend, as well as two women who live in Crosswinds. Both of the apartment residents, Deborah and Sherry, are single mothers with no means of transportation to get to another church.

The two women, who are neighbors, also face a multitude of problems just to survive each day. Each

has three children—some with medical problems—and limited financial resources.

Inevitably, Potts and Hite explained, the Sunday sessions turn into discussions of the two women's struggles. But Contact is good for this group because it relates Bible study to real-life issues, they said.

Contact is structured with a seven-point emphasis for five days of each week. A daily Bible study revolves around an acronym of the word "contact": "Connect with the Lord," "Observe my world," "Nudge me through the word," "Teach my heart," "Approach the past," "Confront needs," and "Touch others through prayer."

"To me, the real solidity of (this experience) is that when we get to the end of the Contact material, we're going to have two women committed to whatever happens there," Hite said, referring to her dream of a permanent congregation.

For now, a permanent, thriving congregation seems far off, but it is possible, the women believe.

"The needs in the community abound, and you don't see any other group knocking us out," she explained. "If we're not there, who's going to be?"

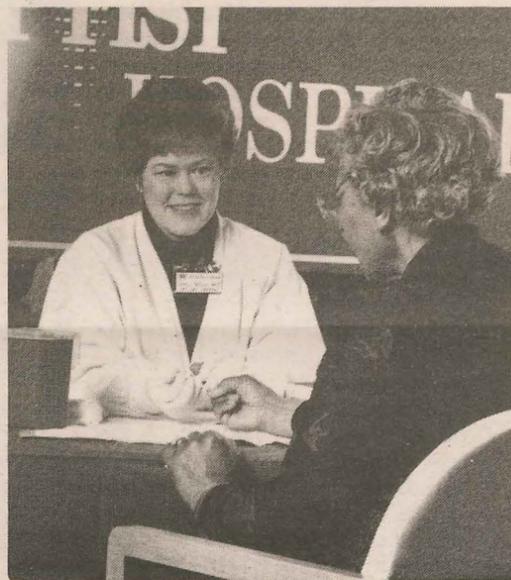
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