

DECEMBER 22, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 50

FOR THE RECORD

Buyout rejected

A proposal to pay Professor Paul Simmons to sever his relationship with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was rejected by seminary trustees Dec. 15. See page 2.

Executive Board

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board approved a policy on sexual harassment and disbursed year-end funds during the Dec. 14-15 meeting. See page 3.

Down Home

Christmas is a time when life's hardships force us to see the difference between happiness and joy. See page 5.

Grief ministry

A Kentucky Baptist pastor found a ministry role amid the tragic murder case of a 10-year-old boy. See page 6.

Teen problems

Informal surveys during several national summer youth assemblies reveal Baptist teen-agers have experience with violence, sex and drugs. See page 7.



FOWL FRIEND Missionary Susan Hatfield reacts with delight to the surprise gift of a rooster from her husband, Mark, in this 1990 photo from Angola, where they serve as agricultural missionaries. A recent renewal of the nation's civil war has forced the Hatfields and two other Baptist missionary families to flee Angola. The missionaries hope to return to happier days like those when the photo was taken. (BP photo by Craig Bird)

Kentucky missionaries pray for return to Angola

By Craig Bird
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP)—Kentucky missionary kid Straton Hatfield is too young to understand big words like "evacuation" and "civil war."

The 2-year-old keeps things simple and direct, insisting repeatedly on where he wants to be: "Straton home, Straton home."

When his missionary mom assures him "home is wherever Mommy and Daddy and Straton are," he fixes big, almost-teary eyes on her and asks: "Angola?"

But for now, home definitely is not Huambo, Angola, for Straton and his parents, Southern Baptist missionaries Mark and Susan Hatfield of Ashland. Or Luanda, Angola, for fellow missionaries Don and Carol Minshew of Memphis, Tenn., and Curtis and Betty Dixon of Stroud and Guymon, Okla. The three couples evacuated Angola in early November as the southwest African country reignited into fire-fights and bloodshed.

They now wait in Harare, Zimbabwe, trying to organize their futures.

The six missionaries understand those big words. Yet like Straton, they still yearn to "go home"—as early as January, they hope.

But adults know wars can last a long time. Angola has been fighting more than 30 years, except for a cease-fire that began in May 1991 but recently ended as fighting resumed.

"It was a beautiful time, those 16 months of peace," Dixon pointed out. "It seemed like Angola finally was wide open to the gospel and the church was going great guns."

But the Sept. 28 elections intended to stabilize that peace instead provoked more war. The rebel group UNITA, which had fought the Marxist government so long, refused to accept their ballot defeat.

Hundreds of people died in fighting in Luanda, the capital, and for the past month UNITA has been capturing more and more Angolan territory.

Mrs. Hatfield admitted she sometimes cries with Straton. "I just miss my neighbors so much," she said.

"What has happened to them since Huambo was captured?"

None of the missionaries detected any early warning signs they would have to abandon homes and work in Angola. Tensions rose during the election period, but when international observers declared the elections had been fair it seemed logical the country would continue to progress.

"I went to town and bought our Thanksgiving turkey on Friday, Oct. 30, and on Oct. 31 we were on a boat evacuating," Minshew said.

The Hatfields, living in the UNITA stronghold of Huambo more than 400 miles from Luanda, reacted to the increased violence but still didn't plan to leave.

"We spent our first term as missionaries in Luanda, and you can't do much agricultural work there," said Hatfield, who specializes in agricultural evangelism. "We finally got to move to Huambo in July and made contact with some of our churches that hadn't seen a missionary since 1975 and they were so excited. Even when the United Nations people started ad-

Chaplains join Somalia effort

ATLANTA (BP)—At least 13 Southern Baptist chaplains are among troops assigned to relief efforts in Somalia, said Lew Burnett, director of military chaplaincy for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

While the chaplains' primary ministry is to soldiers, the focus on humanitarian aid rather than warfare will change the nature of the chaplains' task, Burnett said.

Instead of the fear of being killed, many military personnel assigned to Somalia are excited about their mission, said Lew Dawson, HMB associate director of military chaplaincy. Yet seeing people die from starvation may be more traumatic for some soldiers than seeing people die in warfare, he added.

In addition to working with troops on the field, chaplains will minister to soldiers returning to the United States with haunting memories of Somalia, Dawson said. Some soldiers also will need help readjusting to the U.S., where food is plentiful.

Poll finds American teens say they're religious

PRINCETON, N.J.—Most American teen-agers consider themselves "religious," according to new research by the Gallup Organization.

About seven in 10 teens surveyed said they agree with the statement that they are religious, including 19 percent who agree very strongly.

Among the 30 percent who said they are not religious, only 5 percent held this position strongly. This coincides with previous Gallup surveys which have shown only about 5 percent of the total U.S. population consider themselves atheists or agnostics.

Younger teens are most likely to consider themselves religious, the new poll found. However, a dip in identification with religion occurs around ages 14 to 15, presumably during a period of teen-age rebellion.

Teen-agers who live in rural areas are more likely than those who live in urban areas to consider themselves religious. For example, only 15 percent of urban teens strongly agreed that they are religious, compared to about 25 percent of rural teens.

As reported in Emerging Trends, newsletter of the Princeton Religion

Research Center, the survey found that many teens who don't attend worship regularly still consider themselves religious. Among respondents who had not attended church or synagogue in the past week, 55 percent still said they are religious-minded.

Males and females showed about equal interest in religion, the poll found, but more females reported having stronger convictions about their faith than males.

The poll is based on telephone interviews with a nationwide representative sampling of 12- to 17-year-olds.

Merry Christmas!
The staff and board of directors of the Western Recorder wish you and your family a joyous Christmas. Due to the holidays, this is our last issue of the year. The next issue will be published Jan. 5.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Student evangelism** will be the focus of a national conference in Gatlingburg, Tenn., Feb. 8-11. Speakers include Charlie Baker of Tulsa, Okla., Sam Douglass of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Tillie Burgin of Arlington, Texas. For registration information, contact student ministry office of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board at 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234, (615) 251-2777.

■ **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary** in Fort Worth, Texas, has received three grants totaling \$93,500 from the Lilly Endowment. The grants will fund programs to improve communication between trustees and faculty/administration, provide theological education for trustees and increase dialogue between professors in the seminary's different schools.

■ **Assets** managed by the Southern Baptist Foundation grew 22.2 percent in the past year, Foundation trustees were told during their Dec. 1-2 meeting. Income produced for Baptist institutions, agencies, foundations and individuals increased \$702,058 to a record \$9.22 million for the year. The Foundation currently manages assets of \$156.55 million.

■ **Virginia Baptists** launched a multi-million dollar fundraising campaign Dec. 1, apparently marking the first time a state Baptist convention has embarked on a capital campaign apart from its annual budget and state missions offering. The Virginia campaign hopes to raise \$5 million to \$12 million for 10 programs of missions, evangelism and leadership development.

Southern's trustees reject buyout plan for Simmons

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary turned down a chance to buy out the contract of Professor Paul Simmons Dec. 15, only amplifying the uncertainty surrounding Simmons' future with the seminary.

By a vote of 21-34, trustees defeated a proposal that would have offered Simmons up to \$362,000—six years' salary and benefits—to leave his tenured position as professor of Christian ethics.

Conservative trustees, who hold a majority on the board, want the 56-year-old Simmons off the faculty because of his support of abortion rights and his views on homosexuality.

By defeating the buyout proposal, however, the board bypassed what some trustees characterized as their last chance to resolve the dispute peacefully.

"We are back to ground zero," said seminary President Roy Honeycutt as he left the closed-door trustee meeting at a hotel near the Atlanta airport.

According to trustee and seminary sources, the only course left open to Simmons' critics is to initiate firing procedures by drafting formal "heresy" charges against the professor, who

has taught at Southern since 1969.

As a full professor with tenure, Simmons could be fired only for violating his contract or teaching contrary to the seminary's doctrinal statement—charges most observers say would be difficult to prove.

Trustees apparently did not consider a motion to fire Simmons during their Dec. 15 meeting, however.

Although trustees discussed what might happen next, Honeycutt said, no direction was set. "I don't know what the next step is," he said.

"No alternative motion was made and there was nothing to contact Paul Simmons about," said trustee Chairman Wayne Allen, who called the special meeting. "I have no further comment."

Allen, a pastor from Cordova, Tenn., has insisted trustees not divulge the nature of their discussions concerning Simmons, which have been held in executive session.

Simmons, reached in Louisville, declined to comment on the vote.

Last year he and Honeycutt agreed to a \$635,000 buyout plan, but it was defeated by trustee leaders. Simmons did not participate in drafting the latest proposal, which came instead from the trustees' academic personnel committee.

The proposal read: "The trustee

committee on academic personnel recommends that the board of trustees empower the president to negotiate, without further trustee consultation, the conclusion of professor Paul Simmons' relationship to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a clause releasing the seminary, along with its present and former officers, trustees and employees, from any claims, at a cost to the seminary approximating Paul Simmons' compensation through age 62 (not to exceed \$362,000)."

According to trustees, who spoke on condition of anonymity, opposition to the motion came from both those who felt it cost too much and those opposed to any buyout plan.

Simmons' supporters on the board generally voted in favor of the motion, sources said, convinced it was the best offer the professor could get from trustees.

Two efforts to increase the offer—including one to compensate Simmons to a normal retirement age of 65—were defeated. Other trustees spoke in favor of paying him only for one year, which would be required even if he were fired.

Simmons' specific opinions on abortion and homosexuality reportedly were not discussed during the meeting, with trustees focusing instead on

the proposed motion. However, some trustees said Simmons violated an earlier agreement not to teach positions the trustees would find objectionable.

Although the controversy over Simmons has plagued trustees for several years, the move to end the dispute quickly has taken on new impetus since Honeycutt announced in October that he will retire at the end of 1993.

In their closed meeting, some trustees reportedly expressed a desire to resolve the situation before April, when they expect to elect Honeycutt's successor at their annual meeting. Dismissal procedures, which would involve formal charges and hearings, could drag on longer, which some trustees fear would taint the administration of a new president.

Two days after the Atlanta meeting, nine leaders of campus student organizations issued an open letter to trustees in which they called for accountability for "excessive expenditures and continual disruptions" caused by the investigations against Simmons.

Trustees already have spent at least \$45,000 unwisely in attempts to remove Simmons, the students charge. They also claim trustees have hurt their relationships with students through "secretive, distant activities."

BWA is home for all Baptists, Lotz says at Kentucky event

LOUISVILLE—The challenge of the Baptist World Alliance is "to be one place where every Baptist can be at home," BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz said in Louisville.

"We are trying to re-educate a whole new generation in North America who do not know about the Baptist World Alliance, let alone what it means to be a Baptist," Lotz told about 80 BWA supporters at a dinner at Walnut Street Baptist Church.

Baptists historically have centered on missions and evangelism instead of doctrine, said Lotz: "We are trying to encourage Baptists all over the world to unite in this mission of telling people all over the world that Jesus loves them and there is a place for them."

Lotz reported that Baptist groups around the globe are experiencing movements of God: "Eastern Europe

today is falling apart in ethnic rivalry. In spite of that, heaven is open and people are hungry for the word of God. They want to know who God is. They are asking, 'Who is going to fill our empty souls?'"

In addition to involvement with evangelistic ministries in Eastern Europe, Lotz said the BWA has worked with Baptists in Croatia (in the former Yugoslavia) to provide relief supplies. "What a tragedy has come to the beautiful country of Yugoslavia," he said. "Yet in the midst of this the gospel of reconciliation has to be preached."

In Africa, 16,000 people convert to Christianity every day, he said. "Every year there are 6 million new Christians in Africa. By the end of this century there'll be 400 million Christians in Africa and the center of Christianity will move from Europe" to Africa.

BWA supports troops

WASHINGTON (BP)—A Baptist World Alliance official has endorsed the decision to send troops to Somalia.

Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid, said that "while a number of organizations have been able to get food into the country, the lack of security has severely hindered food distribution."

BWAid has sent \$115,000 in relief money to Somalia. Donations for Somali relief may be sent to Baptist World Aid, 6733 Curran Street, McLean, Va. 22101.

Missionaries hope to return to Angola work

Continued from page 1

The Minshews prayed and decided to evacuate. One prayer session was interrupted by popping noises in the office. Investigation turned up a bullet that had penetrated the outside wall and bounced off a closet door.

A normal 20-minute drive to Conoco took two hours because of roadblocks. About two miles from Conoco "the police told us they did not have authority to let us pass and we waited for 20 minutes under a tree, hearing explosions all around us and praying," Mrs. Minshew said.

When a police commander arrived, Minshew was ordered to un-pack everything with rifles trained on



KENTUCKY AWARD Jeff Hicks (left), associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday school department, receives an award from Cliff Burchyett (center) of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board while Chip Miller, KBC Sunday school director, watches. Hicks received the James W. Chatham Associational Sunday School Standard Award for leading 56 of Kentucky's 78 associations to meet the requirements of a standard associational Sunday school program. That's the largest number of associations ever to earn the distinction in any state Baptist convention and is double the number of the state with the next highest total. (Photo by Frank White)

him. "I honestly thought they were going to shoot me while I was kneeling on the ground going through suitcases," he said.

Instead the commander politely explained it was their job to check for bombs, then escorted them to the Conoco compound gates.

The Hatfields had been aboard the oil supply boat for some time. Their short trip also had included a tense inspection at a checkpoint.

The boat waited two hours for U.S. State Department officials trying to get to the compound, but left without them at 10:30 a.m. Twenty-one hours later the two couples were in Brazzaville, Congo.

Meanwhile, the Dixons "were pretty much pinned down" at home for two days by shooting that seemed designed to keep people inside and quiet, they said. The next morning a call from U.N. officials warning of growing violence convinced the Dixons it was time to leave.

But it took two days for them to get out, eventually obtaining two of 60 spots aboard a Russian Aeroflot cargo plane.

Now all three missionary families are looking at possible temporary mission assignments in other countries. The Hatfields were to take vacation and spend Christmas with family in Kentucky.

Executive Board approves sexual harassment policy

By Marv Knox
Editor

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board has taken steps to protect its staff from sexual harassment.

The Executive Board unanimously approved the policy during its winter meeting, Dec. 14-15 in Louisville.

The policy guarantees "all employees have the right to a work environment free from all forms of discrimination and conduct which can be considered harassing, coercive or disruptive, including sexual harassment."

"This is not something we're doing right now because we have a problem," said Floyd Price, chairman of the board's administrative committee and a pastor from Meade County. "It's an educational process to prevent problems."

The new policy, which already had been approved by the board's executive staff, is to be presented and explained to all board employees, said KBC Business Manager Barry Allen.

"Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct that undermines the integrity of the employment relationship," the policy states. "No employee—either male or female—shall be subject

to unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtures or conduct, either verbal or physical."

The policy defines sexual harassment as "behavior that is not welcome, that is personally offensive, that debilitates morale and that, therefore, interferes with work effectiveness." The policy notes harassment is not considered to be "occasional compliments of a socially acceptable nature."

Violations of the policy could result in termination.

The policy provides a complaints procedure that functions outside staff supervisory roles, so an employee with a complaint against his or her supervisor would not be forced to report the complaint through that supervisor.

The policy guarantees swift and confidential investigation of any charge and protects employees who might file complaints from retaliation by their supervisors.

During discussion of the proposed policy, Executive Board members expressed concern about the possibility of unfounded, vindictive charges.

"The investigation process is designed so that if someone brings false accusation the investigation should produce settlement for both parties,"

Price said.

In other action, the Executive Board:

- Voted to apply \$865,041 in billing credits from the Church Annuity Plan toward building up the Executive Board's group insurance reserve fund, which pays life and medical insurance premiums for retired board staff and missionaries.

- Currently, premiums for retirees' insurance are greater than the amount of interest generated from the group insurance reserve fund, Allen explained. This means money must be taken from the budget to help pay the premiums. Building up the fund will reduce such a drain on future budgets, he said.

- Appointed through its business and finance committee two work groups, one to study possible funding for the Temperance League of Kentucky and the other to study a funding request from Hopkinsville College of the Bible. Both work groups are to report to the committee in March; it will report any recommendations to the board in May.

- Ratified changes in the constitution of the KBC Historical Commission to designate that the convention's archives shall be supervised by the

commission and housed at the Baptist Building in Louisville.

The changes also stipulate that the librarian of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville be named one of three permanent members of the commission. The seminary librarian formerly has been chief archivist for the KBC historical collection.

- Appointed a work group from the board's agencies and institutions committee to study a request by Clear Creek Baptist Bible College to participate in the convention's matching scholarship program, which now provides scholarships for students at Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown colleges.

- Created a work group to study the possibility of providing scholarships for ministerial students at KBC colleges, who are ineligible for Kentucky Tuition Grants.

- Referred to the administrative committee a proposal to change the KBC constitution to require that most motions presented to the KBC annual meeting receive a two-thirds vote for passage.

- Had an opportunity to meet 14 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries, most native Kentuckians, who are on furlough in the state this year.

"Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct that undermines the integrity of the employment relationship."

From a newly adopted policy on sexual harassment of the KBC Executive Board

Marshall reports '92 as good year

In his 10th annual report to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board, William Marshall focused on the positive accomplishments of the past year.

"From almost any perspective, this has been a very good year for our agencies and institutions and for the Executive Board itself," said Marshall, KBC secretary-treasurer.

The year was characterized by advance rather than retrenchment, he said, but added that does not mean all needs have been met.

"The whole Kentucky Baptist family still needs our support," Marshall declared.

To illustrate the accomplishments of the past year, Marshall cited progress toward meeting three of seven Executive Board priorities: church growth, world missions and ministries to human needs.

As part of his presentation, Marshall highlighted the work of disaster relief coordinated by the Brotherhood department. More than 200 Kentucky volunteers served food and helped with cleanup in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in South Florida this fall.

In an emotional moment, Marshall presented a plaque from the Florida Baptist Convention to Randall Rogers, state Brotherhood president. The plaque's text contains a resolution of appreciation adopted by Florida Baptists.

\$765,000 in year-end funds distributed

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board distributed \$765,000 in unspent funds and investment income during its winter meeting, Dec. 14-15 in Louisville.

KBC Business Manager Barry Allen explained that the Executive Board has had the "annual joy" of disbursing these extra funds since 1981.

The Executive Board established a state missions reserve fund in 1942 to serve as an emergency fund. That reserve fund is now maintained with a balance equal to 37.5 percent of the total annual budget.

Prior to 1981, all unrestricted investment income and unspent funds at year-end were rolled back into the reserve fund to build it up, Allen explained. But since the reserve fund met its target balance in 1981, excess funds and unrestricted investment income have been available for special projects.

Three sources supply year-end funds: money budgeted for Executive Board use but not spent due to staff vacancies or other reasons; income on unrestricted investments; and interest off the state missions reserve fund.

This year-end money should not be confused with "challenge funds," the name given to Cooperative Program unified budget gifts that exceed the KBC's annual budget, Allen noted. CP receipts have exceeded the KBC budget only once since 1985.

This year's appropriations include:

- \$133,000 in unused unrestricted funds.

This allocation is divided \$8,700 for video magazine production and distribution; \$24,300 for equipment replacement; and \$100,000 as a gift to six KBC institutions. Campbellsville

College, Cumberland College and Georgetown College each will receive \$20,000; Oneida Baptist Institute and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College each will receive \$15,000; and Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will receive \$10,000.

The business and finance committee agreed to appoint a study group to determine whether any future year-end distributions to KBC institutions should be based on a percentage formula or some other standard.

- \$534,000 in state mission reserve fund investment income.

This allocation is apportioned \$100,000 for overseas partnerships; \$50,000 for the 1995 Here's Hope evangelism project; \$30,000 for interstate partnerships; \$75,000 for capital additions to student centers; \$75,000 for Baptist building operating and improvement; \$30,000 for assisting ministers in need; \$25,000 for meeting human needs; \$25,000 for replacing disaster relief equipment; \$24,000 for archives endowment; and \$100,000 for a possible salary supplement for Executive Board employees in 1993-94.

Board members discussed the \$100,000 salary-supplement allocation in both the business and finance committee meeting and in the full board meeting. KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer William Marshall emphasized the word "possible," explaining a final decision about whether staff would receive cost-of-living increases or salary supplements would be made at the May board meeting.

Executive Board staff members received no adjustments in base salaries this year due to declining funds available for salaries. However, some year-end funds were set aside last year to provide a one-time 4 percent supplement, or bonus, to all employees this

year.

- \$98,000 in unrestricted investment income to the new board-designated fund for the Baptist Joint Committee.

The Baptist Joint Committee fund is scheduled eventually to reach a balance of \$200,000 through allocation of year-end funds.

Establishment of this fund drew intense debate during the November meetings of the Executive Board and KBC. The Executive Board established it in response to a 1991 KBC motion to "find a way to fund the Baptist Joint Committee" through the KBC budget.

Opponents of the Baptist Joint Committee unsuccessfully attempted to rescind that action at this year's convention but have promised to try again at the 1993 convention.

Allocation of year-end funds

Video magazine production	\$8,700
Equipment replacement	\$24,300
Campbellsville College	\$20,000
Cumberland College	\$20,000
Georgetown College	\$20,000
Oneida Baptist Institute	\$15,000
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College	\$15,000
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children	\$10,000
Overseas partnerships	\$100,000
1995 evangelism projects	\$50,000
Interstate partnerships	\$30,000
Student centers	\$75,000
Baptist building operation	\$75,000
Ministers in need	\$30,000
Human needs ministries	\$25,000
Disaster relief equipment	\$25,000
Archives endowment	\$24,000
Staff salary supplements	\$100,000
Baptist Joint Committee fund	\$98,000

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

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Don't forget Joseph this Christmas

One of the most forgotten figures of the Christmas story is Joseph.

We know about Mary, the shepherds, the wise men and the angels, but many seldom remember to mention Joseph. Yet this forgotten hero played a tremendously important part in the early years of Jesus. (He evidently died between the time Jesus was 12 and 30, because nothing is said of him during Jesus' ministry.)

He did not have an easy marriage. He knew the pain of being a social outcast. While he and Mary knew that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, the small town of Nazareth was

abuzz with gossip.

He knew what it was to face unemployment and homelessness, since he had to leave his job in Nazareth just before Jesus was born and move to Bethlehem. He could not find lodging there, so Jesus had to be born in a stable away from family and doctors and help. We can almost feel the pain that he felt as he had to wrap his newborn son in cloths used to wipe down the animals.

Several years later, when Joseph was finally getting back on his feet, he again had to escape Herod's wrath and flee into Egypt.

Joseph raised a big family on a small-town carpenter's salary, so he knew how to make ends meet. He also knew about disputes in the family, because Jesus' brothers did not believe in him until after his death and resurrection. But through it all, Joseph shows us God can take ordinary people and use them in extraordinary ways if they will simply put themselves at God's disposal.

This year, remember Joseph and have a Merry Christmas.

*Jerry Howerton, pastor
Liberty Baptist Church
Russell Springs*

Superficial religion

Superficial religion is prevalent in varying degrees in most modern churches. It is shallow, worldly smorgasbord religion that attempts to please everyone.

One reason for superficial religion in the churches is that large numbers of church members have not been biblically converted. They are not born again—not saved.

Another reason for superficial religion in the churches is that many saved people are like Lot who pitched his tent toward Sodom. They have pitched their tents toward humanism, materialism and the other pleasure-rich -isms. They are simply unwilling to give up the pleasures of selfish living to become dedicated and surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some church members need to heed II Corinthians 13:5 to "examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith." Only genuine salvation will rid them of superficial religion.

Other church members need to

heed the words of II Corinthians 6:17 to "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing." Then they can forsake superficial religion and live a good example before the lost people in their communities.

Effective soul-winning outreach cannot happen on the church fields until life-changing revival first takes place in the churches.

*William R. Hagan
Taylorsville*

BAPTIST FORUM

Rescue schools

The article, "Thomas tells Christians to leave schools" (WR, Dec. 1), and the editorial of Marv Knox in the same issue call for action.

In today's schools, we are seeing world standards taught to our kids. The word of God isn't. Christians have allowed this to take place. The old cliché, "Let someone else do it," won't work. We are letting others do it, and look what is happening. Prayer, Bible and God are being thrown out.

A very pheasant journey with my son

"Come on, Dad. Go with me!" I had heard this from my 31-year-old son, Steve, for about two years. For whatever reason, I had let the words fall short of any commitment on my part.

Persistency being one of his many characteristics, I finally agreed. It was set; we were going pheasant hunting in Iowa.

I was as ready as I could be about a quarter of 5 on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 19, when he pulled up in our driveway, still dressed from work. After a quick change, he kissed his mother, and we headed north on I-65 toward Cedar Rapids, where he and Vanessa had lived for almost four years.

Somewhere past New Albany, he said: "I forgot to tell you that an out-of-state pheasant license is \$65." I gulped, turned red, and said, "Does it cost anything just to walk with you all?" About an hour down the road, I got over that when I realized that not only was this my first pheasant hunt, but I was having this much quality time with my married son.

We arrived about eight hours later,

almost midnight, Central Time. His friends, Terry and Dee Shields, were waiting up for us.

It rained buckets Friday, so it was a no go. But Saturday came, bright and cold—freezing, in fact.

There were four of us in the car headed 50 miles farther northeast to corn and grain fields that are longer than airfields. And there was Mattie, a middle-aged springer spaniel whose nature and training it was to scare up some birds for us.

It was about 9 when we finally, bundled up and laden down with shotgun shells, headed out into the first field. Nothing. No shots.

We crossed the road and began our walk through an uncut corn field that I thought would never end. Suddenly, a bird flew up a few feet ahead. I raised my borrowed 12-gauge to shoot when Ben, Terry's 12-year-old, yelled: "Hen!" So, I didn't pull the trigger. You can't shoot hens; only "roosters" (male pheasants). How about that for sexism? Hens began to fly up frequently. No shots. Finally, a rooster sprang up just ahead, but by

the time I got the safety button off and took aim, the shot I fired was hopelessly ineffective.

From 9 until dark we hunted, with about an hour break to go back to a local cafe for a sandwich where four older men in a booth gawked at us awhile.

The law requires that you stop shooting at 4:30 p.m. About 4, after miles of walking but no bird kills, we drove to the final field. My legs were so tired I could hardly lift them. I said, "I'll guard the car."

As I sat there, window cracked and a little angry at my old legs, I heard more shots fired than the whole day combined. Thirty minutes later, they came back with three roosters. They had come across the best field of the day.

I took much pleasure in the fact that they had to lift Mattie into the back. She too was too pooped to jump up.

Driving back to Louisville together the next day, snow fell in a couple of places. We talked a little about Christmas gifts. And I thought about what a gift I had already been given. How many dads get to go on such a pheasant journey?

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



FAMILY FORUM: TEEN-AGERS

Sibling squabbles

By Wade Rowatt

Q. What should I do when my teen-agers argue?

A. Teen arguments erupt often in many homes. But unless the conflict is happening every day or is getting hurtful, do nothing. Stay out of their fight and let them work it out. Given time, they will solve some problems, forget others and learn to live with the rest.

When parents jump into the fray too soon, we create other problems. One or both of them may feel we are taking sides. And even if we are right about the disagreement and they solve it our way, they were robbed of the chance to find their own solution.

The best way to influence our youths' attitudes and actions is modeling. When we adults model creative, Christian conflict resolution, teens learn. To help, take Matthew 18:15-22 seriously:

■ Don't sit on your anger. Go tell someone if you are getting upset. Clarifying a misunderstanding may solve the problem.

■ Keep it private at first. Don't tell others; tell your brother or sister privately.

■ Discuss "it" and not everything else. Many differences never are resolved because the people have different concerns about the same issue. Each one argues one point only and does not address the other's statements.

■ Fight to win the relationship, not the argument. Don't attack the other person, but focus on the problem. Define areas of disagreement, but don't belittle each other.

■ After trying personally, get help. An impartial referee can "call fouls" on both sides, help a family define differences and examine paths to reconciliation.

■ If the referee can't help, take it to the church. Get a group to prayerfully consider this problem and the options. Try rethinking and modeling relationships.

■ Finally, there is a time to back away. If one won't "listen to the church," then back away.

If you must discipline for unfair fighting, try something that teaches them to do better.

Remember, be patient. Over time, they will resolve most differences.

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

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

EDITORIALS

'Joy' to the world: A hopeful word this Christmas

"Who's that weird lady on the front of the magazine?" Molly asked as she stopped by the coffee table.

"Weird" is a multi-purpose word for 6-year-olds, so Molly's statement wasn't as harsh as it sounded. Still, it was an honest question that demanded an answer.

"Honey, that woman's not weird," Joanna responded. "She lives in a place called Somalia, and she's starving to death."

This conversation had only gone on for three sentences, and already I had mixed feelings. On the one hand, I could've kicked myself for not turning the magazine face down when I finished reading it. (As a journalist, I oppose most forms of censorship. But as a daddy, I practice censorship often. Especially with TV news and magazine covers, when I think our girls aren't ready for the harsh reality of life at the moment.) On the other hand, I realized even kindergarteners in the suburbs must start learning about starvation sometime.

As she took her bath, Molly asked questions about Somalia, and Africa, and refugees, and famine, and starvation, and Army soldiers. After her bath, she stopped asking questions long enough for us to light the Advent candles, share a devotional, sing "Joy to the World" and brush her teeth.

Then, just before bedtime prayers, she asked the question I paradoxically hadn't anticipated but also dreaded: "Daddy, how could Jesus make a place where girls and boys starve to death?"

If you think being a parent is easy, try answering a string of questions like that between 8 and 8:30 on a Tuesday night. The only thing that made it less difficult was that our girls didn't notice the irony of singing "Joy to the World" in the middle of a conversation about starving mothers and children in Africa.

About 30 minutes after bedtime, my parents called, and I quickly phoned my younger brother. He was at a hospital near their home in Texas, where his wife was going into labor—12 weeks early. We were scared for Valorie, the baby and Martin, but I was glad our girls already were in bed. Trying to explain why a healthy, careful young woman might lose her child for no good reason would've required more energy than I could muster.

As you might imagine, I awoke with even less energy. Pictures of starving women and children kept haunting my sleep, and they only gave way to images of Valorie and Martin and their baby. No amount of prayer would set them aside long enough for sleep to remain for more than a few minutes. Or so it seemed.

The next morning as I dressed, I remembered our Mission Friends at church were to have a Christmas party that night. Kids like frivolity, so I got out my Christmas socks—fire-engine red, with green wreaths and Christmas trees—to brighten their spirits.

Pulling one onto my right foot, I remembered the first time I saw those socks. They were on the feet of Robin, my good friend who died a week before Christmas last year. Sharon passed them to me; maybe because she thought I might enjoy them as he had. All day long, my jolly socks reminded me how much I've missed my friend. More, they reminded me how his wife and children face yet another Christmas without him. "Joy to the World." Indeed.

Whatever happened to childlike innocence? Years when the whole scope of Christmas was Baby Jesus, and carols, and family, and Santa, and presents, and good food. Since that first night in Bethlehem, some children have experienced pain and sadness at Christmas, while many folks have been blessed with only wonderful childhood memories of Yuletide holidays. I remember the bewilderment I felt as a young adult when an older friend talked about the unhappiness she always experienced during the Christmas season. "How can this be?" I wondered. "Doesn't she realize what Christmas is about, and if she just focuses on Jesus, everything will be fine?"

A dozen years and countless storms of life later, I see what she means.

The celebration of God's Presence still is a happy occasion at our house. But we see the grief others endure, grief that intensifies during the Christmas season, when people are "supposed" to be happy.

For most of them, it's grief borne of separation. By death. By war. By job. By illness. By divorce. This holy event people normally celebrate with loved ones feels hollow when they're apart. And no matter how many other people are around, they still feel lonely.

For others, the grief comes from acute identification with people who suffer. Too many Somalias and Bosnias, too many South Central L.A.s and Hurricane Andrews. Too many murders in Louisville; too much poverty in the hollers; too few jobs in county-seat towns.

And for some, grief springs from dreams that won't come true, friendships shattered, parents and children estranged, life lived inside a bottle. Never kid yourself into believing Christians are immune. Ministers and counselors will tell you Christians suffer the worst at Christmas, partly because they feel guilty for not feeling better. They know they ought to feel happy about the birth of their Lord, but the vacuum in their lives—whatever it is—encompasses and chokes off any happiness they can muster.

That's why Christians need to focus on joy, not happiness, at Christmas. Happiness usually is good, but it's only something you feel. Happiness comes from external stimulants: A good surprise. Affirmation from another person. Pretty decorations on the tree.

But joy is different. Joy is something you have, no matter what the circumstances. No matter, even, how you feel. Joy comes from anticipation

that the God who would take on the vulnerability of a little baby in order to share love with the world is a God who cares about the smallest details of our lives. Joy is a byproduct of faith. It understands we "see through a glass darkly" and cannot ascertain the meaning of many confusing and depressing events of this world. It affirms the psalmist, who wrote, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." It believes with all its might in the New Testament prophecy, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

Joy produces hope, the spiritual virtue of confidence in God's goodness. Hope is what the writer to the Hebrews called "the anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." Hope is the beacon that guides us through the darkest nights of our souls. It is the engine that propels us down the long, lonely highways of separation and heartache and disappointment. It is the spiritual water that nourishes us in the desert of disconsolation. With hope, we endure to a better day.

Hope commands us to dig into our wallets to send money to buy food for starving mothers and children in Somalia, confident that troops and relief workers will find a way to get it to their parched mouths.

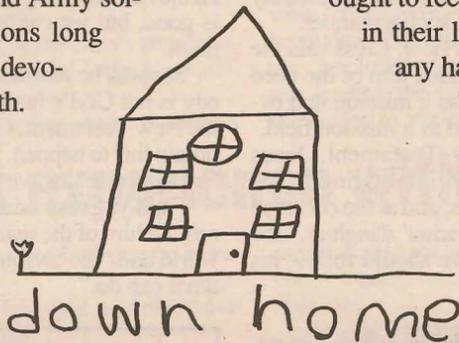
Hope sends us out to buy a Christmas present for the frailest people we know, like 2-pound, 14-ounce Shelby Noelle Knox, confident their weak bodies will grow strong enough to give us the hugs and kisses we crave.

Hope tells us to get up in the morning, even when we won't see that familiar face or hear that melodious voice over the phone. It reminds us that dear departed loved ones would want us to find joy in the remainder of our lives; it promises us they'll be waiting for us when we cross the divide between our lives and theirs.

I wish I could explain all this to Molly, but some of life's waters are too deep for 6-year-olds. I pray she someday will find the joy that God introduced into the world on that first Christmas, and that she will embrace this hope that has been shared by the "cloud of witnesses" down through 2,000 years. And I pray this hope will sustain you during this holy time of year. Have a joyful Christmas.

Marv Knox

Joy, not happiness or merriment, should be the Christian's aim this Christmas season. Happiness can be artificially stimulated; merriment lasts only for the moment. But joy is real, rich and deep. Joy anticipates the ultimate blessings of God, no matter what the circumstances of today say about tomorrow. Joy grows from faith; it produces hope. And hope launches us out into the world, confident that the God who sent us Baby Jesus is a good God, whose love will sustain us.



Church baptizes 22 from grieving family

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—

A Virginia church recorded 22 baptisms stemming from contact with a grieving family. Pastor Rodney Barwick of Gravel Hill Baptist Church near Clarksville, Va., immersed 22 members of the Belcher Wells family in the congregation's baptismal pool.

Contact between the Wells family and the church began when the man's wife asked a funeral director to suggest a minister to conduct the service; the director recommended Barwick.

The Sunday after the funeral, several Wells family members appeared in Gravel Hill's worship service, Barwick recounted. Shortly afterward, Mrs. Wells made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and joined the church, he said.

"The next three or four Sundays, members of the family kept coming forward to accept Christ—daughters of Mrs. Wells and their husbands and children," Barwick said.

The pastor arranged to baptize all of them on the same Sunday. Normally, he said, he baptizes candidates in order of age, from youngest to oldest. But Mrs. Wells insisted on being baptized first. During the service, he found out why.

"She stood at the bottom of the steps—dripping wet—and kissed every one of her grandchildren as they came out of the baptistry," Barwick reported.

Involved laity helps growth, Hemphill says

LOUISVILLE—An involved and motivated laity is crucial to building a growing church, Southern Baptist church growth specialist Kenneth Hemphill said.

Most church members "desperately want to do something meaningful for God," said Hemphill, director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School and Home Mission boards.

Yet laypeople hesitate to take lead-

ership positions because they sense they are unworthy or incapable, noted Hemphill during a church growth conference at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"Somehow we have given the people the impression that to serve God you have to be perfect," Hemphill said. Pastors, he added, "wouldn't be willing to climb into the pulpit many Sunday mornings if it were based on worthiness in terms of perfections."

In typical churches, 20 percent of

the members do 80 percent of the work and giving, Hemphill said. Such a ratio disheartens churches when they consider facilitating growth by expanding ministries and creating new Sunday school classes, he said.

Hemphill, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Va., warned that guilt is not an effective motivator for church service. Instead, he said, laypeople should be encouraged to discover and exercise their spiritual gifts.

Baptist pastor found ministry in child's death

By Beth Wyatt
State Correspondent

LONDON—People all across Kentucky followed the tragic case of Scotty Baker, the 10-year-old boy who was abducted from school last month and allegedly killed by a jealous step-mother.

But one Kentucky Baptist found an unexpected opportunity for ministry amid the grief.

Marvin Cress, pastor of Garrard Baptist Church in Manchester, was asked to officiate at the boy's funeral. Neither the child nor his immediate family were members of the church,

but Cress had made a ministry contact with the family previously.

Cress told the audience of the numerous times he has stood over a grave rendering the same service, but said he never had seen the community come together in such a manner.

In a later interview, Cress said the experience reminded him of the need to see everyone as a mission and every neighborhood as a mission field.

"In the New Testament, Jesus Christ was found ministering to the family of Lazarus, and at the occasion of the death of Jarius' daughter," the pastor noted. "We should follow his leadership."

Cress suggested three concerns for anyone faced with a similarly difficult ministry in the future.

First, he said, is concentration on the future hope of the gospel. "We cannot do anything for the child who is gone, but we can prepare to go to them."

Second, he reminded that the tragedy is not God's fault. "According to the New Testament, God is not one to ordain this to happen. Nor is he a master puppeteer that we can control."

Finally, Cress said, such tragedies remind him of the reality of evil in the world and "the awfulness of what the devil can do."

Brotherhood worker reports an open window in Central Asia

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—A Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission official has returned to the United States "amazed" at the level of openness to the gospel in Central Asia—and concerned that it may not last very long.

"I think time is very short in this part of the world," said Douglas Beggs, vice president of the agency's office of program services. "This is historically a Muslim area, and they intend to reclaim it. That's something to think about during our season of prayer and giving for foreign missions."

Beggs led training sessions over several days for Baptist pastors and believers in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and presented the gospel in schools there and in the city of Fergana. He was joined by William "Nick" Garland, pastor of First Baptist Church in Broken Arrow, Okla., and Mel Skinner, a career residential missionary assigned to Moscow by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"We were the first outsiders to come in and do training in large, open

public meetings," Beggs said. More than 200 Baptist pastors and believers were present the first night in Tashkent.

A new atmosphere was evident even before he arrived at his destination.

"No one checked anything I brought in, and we had a copier, toner, tracts, teaching guides and the like. At this point there are apparently no restrictions on religious literature coming into these countries—and that's quite a change."

According to Beggs, the new openness found in former Soviet republics like Uzbekistan also has allowed entry for Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Moonies and New Age movements.

However, the resurgence of Islam looms largest during the years just ahead, he said.

"The Muslims are pouring millions into the rebuilding of their mosques and they are setting up an educational system to teach their youth and children the principles of the Koran," Beggs said.

Lewis: Churches should be wheels

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)—"Are you a hub or a wheel?"

That's the question Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis has for Southern Baptist churches.

The typical church is a good, strong hub, Lewis said during a national meeting of state evangelism directors. In those cases, most of the church's energies and resources are concentrated on strengthening the church, not reaching the community.

A church that is a wheel, on the

other hand, needs a strong hub to pull it together. Yet it has many spokes reaching out and a rim that encircles the entire community, Lewis said.

Examples of spokes, he said, are marketplace ministries, multi-housing ministries, meeting people's physical needs and establishing congregations in unreached areas.

Churches wanting to move from being a hub to a wheel may have to change their patterns of thinking and behaving, Lewis said.

Family ministry helps churches

NASHVILLE (BP)—Churches that take seriously their responsibility to minister to family members experiencing abuse, broken relationships and addictions will be the churches that grow, says Roy Edgemon.

"Through these ministries, we are going to be doing a lot to help the heartache, pain and suffering our people have to deal with," said Edgemon, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division.

Speaking to state family ministry consultants, Edgemon highlighted upcoming emphases, events and materials including a new Christian sex education series, plans for increased focus on the needs of single parents and enlarged ministries to senior adults.

Scheduled for release in April 1993, the Christian sex education series includes books for young children, middle-aged children, pre-adolescents, adolescents, married couples and leaders.

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Bible clubs new trend in public schools

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)—Christian clubs are mushrooming in secondary schools in Arkansas and Texas, say Southern Baptist evangelism leaders from those states.

Randy Brantley, associate director of evangelism for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, said more than 100 of the 459 secondary schools in his state have Christian clubs.

"The Christian club movement is taking off," Brantley said during a national meeting for Southern Baptist coordinators of youth evangelism events. "God is doing a tremendous thing."

Chuck Flowers, youth evangelism associate for Texas Baptists, said at least 500 secondary schools in Texas have active Christian clubs. His goal is for each of the 1,500-plus secondary schools in Texas to have a Christian organization.

Club meetings take different for-

mats because each is student-led. The club at Jonesboro (Ark.) High School meets every Friday before school. An average of 50 people come to the meeting to pray for their non-Christian peers, Brantley said.

The club at J.A. Fair High School in Little Rock, Ark., meets at 7:15 a.m. The group usually invites a guest speaker; as many as 45 students attend.

In addition to group meetings, some Christian clubs sponsor special events. The club in Jonesboro enters the homecoming parade and members throw evangelistic tracts and candy from their float.

At Cabot High School in Cabot, Ark., the "Jesus Uniting Students Together" club sponsored a graduation night party in the school gym as an alternative to beer parties students typically attend.

Regardless of the club's activities, its purpose should be evangelism, directors said.

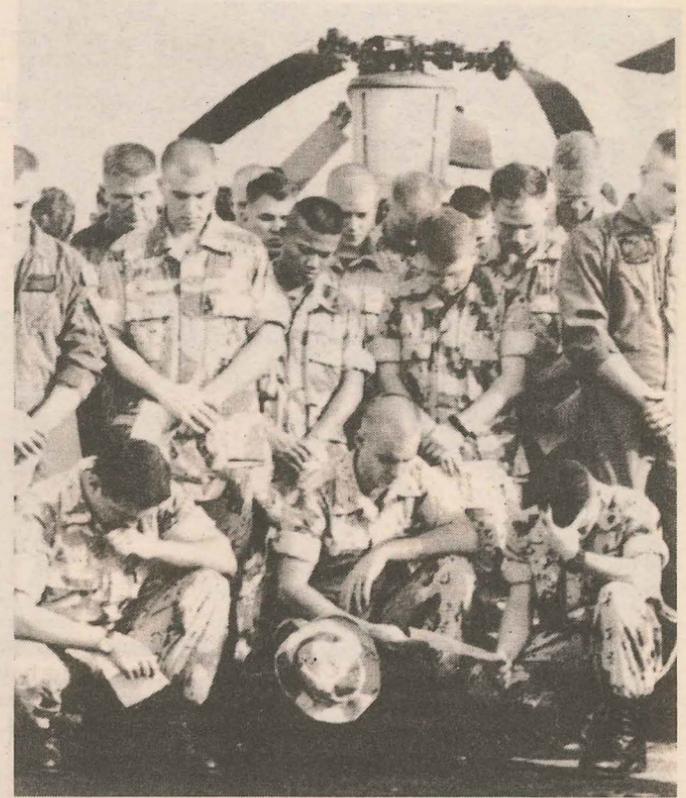
"We suggest that students adopt a

motto about what they're doing to reach their campus for Christ," Brantley said. "Without that as their purpose, they have no purpose."

Dean Finley, youth evangelism specialist for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said Christian student clubs must maintain their evangelistic zeal. "If they get turned toward themselves, they run out of steam pretty quickly. They must be outward-focused."

Both Brantley and Flowers encourage students to form groups of three. Each of the three Christians is challenged to pray for and build relationships with three students who are not Christians. The goal is for the Christians to have an opportunity to share their faith with the students they have identified.

Christian clubs should comply with school policies and they should be student-led, Flowers said. Schools may be closed to adults from off campus leading the groups, but they are not closed to students, he noted.



MILITARY PRAYER U.S. Marines aboard the helicopter carrier USS Tripoli join in a mass prayer Dec. 8 before embarking on their mission during Operation Restore Hope to aid starving people in Somalia. (RNS photo)

Baptist teens report experience with violence, sex, drugs

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Nearly one-fourth of teen-agers surveyed at national Baptist conferences last summer said they had observed violent behavior in their homes.

The violence most often involved fathers, with brothers rated a close second, said Clyde Hall, a youth ministry worker with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Sunday School Board staff members surveyed teens attending Summer Youth Celebrations at Ridgecrest, N.C., Glorieta, N.M., and several state convention conference centers.

"These are primarily youths who are involved in Southern Baptist churches," Hall explained.

Among other findings:

■ 10 percent said they had been

physically attacked by a person in authority.

■ About 30 percent said they have carried weapons.

■ 4 percent said they had been raped.

■ 59 percent said they had experimented with alcohol by age 13, an age at which 27 percent said they had experimented with drugs and 58 percent had tried cigarettes.

■ One out of every five of the youth respondents said he or she already had engaged in sexual intercourse. Of that group, 41 percent said they were currently sexually active.

■ 19 percent said they personally had considered suicide, while most reported knowing two to three people who had thought about suicide.

A major intent of the surveys is to "make every piece of material we produce and every program we conduct

as relevant to the needs of youths and youth leaders as we possibly can," Hall said.

He said he shares survey findings widely with professional and lay workers with youth to help them "bring their programs and messages in line with where people are hurting."

Even when confronted with these survey results and other information, Hall said some church leaders say their teens "aren't like that."

Such an attitude just isn't realistic, he countered. "While our numbers may be lower, the youths in our churches are struggling with the same concerns as society at large."

Joe Richardson, personnel counselor in the board's human resources department who regularly counsels youths attending youth celebrations, agreed with Hall's assessment.

During one 1991 celebration, Ri-

chardson talked with 63 teens about problems in their lives including one parent's murder and the other's suicide, alcoholism, mental problems, homosexuality, stealing, sexual abuse and eating disorders.

For churches to deal effectively with abuse, addictions, violence and other issues, Richardson said leaders must first acknowledge that problems in society also are problems of teens in their churches.

Second, leaders must "talk openly about real problems people have to open the way for youths to talk about the problems they are having."

Third, Richardson urged, listen.

Fourth, create an atmosphere of trust, he said. This trust should not be based on secrecy but on a leader who can say to a teen, "Whatever you tell me, I'll handle with your best interest in mind," he explained.

Court leaves intact state's abortion limits

WASHINGTON—States may regulate abortion as long as they do not unduly burden a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy, the U.S. Supreme Court indicated once again.

The court refused Dec. 7 to hear an appeal of a lower court decision upholding a Mississippi law that requires a 24-hour waiting period and informed consent for women seeking abortions.

That decision came one week after the court refused to review a federal appeals court decision striking down Guam's law that would have criminalized most abortions.

The outcome of the Guam and Mississippi cases mirrors the last major abortion ruling from the Supreme Court.

In June, a narrow court majority reaffirmed the basic right to abortion while upholding most provisions of a Pennsylvania law regulating the practice.

Mississippi's requirements for informed consent and a 24-hour waiting

period are substantially like two of the provisions upheld in Pennsylvania. In the Pennsylvania case, the court also upheld reporting and record-keeping provisions but struck down a spousal-notification requirement.

Under the "undue burden" standard used by the court to decide the Pennsylvania case, states may not place a "substantial obstacle" in the path of a woman seeking an abortion before the fetus is developed enough to live outside the womb.

That standard is less rigid than the one set by the court in the landmark 1973 Roe vs. Wade case that recognized a woman's right to privacy in abortion decisions. Roe required states to show a compelling reason to restrict abortion.

The physicians who challenged the Mississippi law argued unsuccessfully that the regulations pose an "undue burden" because of the long distances many women would have to travel to reach one of the state's three abortion clinics.

However, an attorney for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission said the court's refusal to hear the two latest abortion cases does not signal reinforcement of the Pennsylvania decision. Instead it simply indicates inaction by the court, said Michael Whitehead, CLC general counsel.

"The legal effect of a refusal to hear an appeal is much different from an affirmance of the lower court," he said.

"These cases do not amount to legal precedent upholding the decisions of the lower courts. A denial of the appeal is merely a decision to take no further action on the case."

Whitehead said he believes the court will "continue to avoid the abortion controversy for a while" while letting the Pennsylvania decision trickle through the lower courts and legislatures.

Reported by Larry Chesser through Associated Baptist Press and Tom Strode through Baptist Press

CLC counsel quits Bar Association

WASHINGTON (BP)—The general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission has resigned from the American Bar Association in protest of an abortion rights resolution adopted in August.

The Christian Life Commission "cannot in good conscience pay dues to the ABA to help fund its advocacy in public policy against values which we hold most dear," Michael Whitehead said in a letter informing the ABA of his resignation. "We will let Southern Baptists know of our decision, and we expect that many lawyers in SBC churches and other churches will decide to follow the same course."

Just short of 3,500 members had left the ABA because of the resolution as of Dec. 1, a spokesperson for the largest lawyer organization in the country said.



CHRISTMAS SONG Campbellsville College's Concert Chorus presents "The Many Moods of Christmas" on campus Dec. 10. Shown singing are Tammy Ridgeway of Mount Washington, Valerie Owens of Lebanon Junction, March Wilson of Wheelwright, and BeLinda Smith of Campbellsville. Also during the annual Christmas celebration, Jay Montgomery of New Matamoras, Ohio, and Brooke Williams of Annville were crowned Snowflake Ball King and Queen. (Photo by Joan McKinney)

Eugene Hill dies

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Eugene Hill, 83, who helped start Chinese Baptist churches in Virginia and Maryland after retiring from a 40-year career with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, died Dec. 11 of injuries from a car-truck crash.

Hill earned two degrees from Southern Seminary. He and his wife entered foreign mission service from his first pastorate in Horse Cave.

"He may have had an Anglo body, but he had a Chinese spirit," said Charles Nunn, executive director of the Richmond Baptist Association. "He thought, he felt and he could speak with the Chinese. He loved them and they knew it."

Foundation reports strongest growth year

By Marv Knox
Editor

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation set multiple records during the 1991-92 fiscal year, according to an annual audit received by the Foundation's board of directors Dec. 10.

Foundation assets grew to \$32.4 million when the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, reported Executive Director Richard Carnes.

That amount reflects an overall increase of \$8.1 million, including \$7.4 million in new funds contributed to the Foundation during 1991-92.

Those numbers mean the Foundation enjoyed "its strongest growth year ever," noted its independent au-

ditor, Glenn Metten of Louisville.

The Foundation's fund balance—the amount of money it is holding for Baptist causes—grew by a record 37 percent, Metten said.

That gain pushed the fund balance to a 74 percent increase for the past four years.

Carnes also announced the Foundation distributed a record \$1.36 million in investment income during '91-92.

Christian education received 41 percent of the distribution total. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and the Cooperative Program unified budget both received 17 percent. The remainder went to home, foreign and state missions (12 percent), churches

(5 percent) and other causes (8 percent).

In other business, the Foundation board re-elected Charles Barnes, a Louisville banker, as its president.

Other officers are Miller Owings, a businessman from Middletown, vice president; M.A. Winchester, a Whitley City physician, secretary; and Carnes, treasurer.

Members of the Foundation's executive committee are Barnes; Owings; Mike Melloan, a real estate auctioneer from Owensboro; and two ex-officio members, William Marshall, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive secretary-treasurer, and Barry Allen, the KBC's business manager.

Seminarians kept letters going for 50 years

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—The U.S. mail has carried a 50-year chain of unbroken friendship for four members of the 1942 graduating class at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

T.E. Robinett, Quentin Porch, A.D. Prickett and Frank Bowman agreed shortly after receiving their degrees from the Louisville school that they would keep up with each other through a chain letter. Their letter has made the rounds unabated the past 50 years.

The four men and their wives gathered this fall at Unicoi State Park in Helen, Ga., to commemorate the 50th year of their letter and the 50th anniversary of their seminary graduations and marriages. All four married the summer after graduating.

Now that each contributor has retired, the frequency of the letter has

increased from about four times annually to approximately 10 times, said Robinett, who has originated each cycle the past 50 years. The chain then goes to Porch, Prickett, Bowman and finally back to Robinett.

Each person composes a new letter that includes information from others in the chain.

All have been fairly punctual in keeping the flow of information going, Robinett said.

Prior to retirement, Robinett was a pastor in South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida. Porch was a pastor in Alabama and later a professor at Judson College. Prickett was pastor in Virginia and then a Navy chaplain.

Bowman was a pastor in Alabama and Pennsylvania. While Prickett was on active duty, the letter sometimes "went literally around the world," Robinett said.

Now Robinett lives in Bradenton, Fla. Porch, Prickett and Bowman all reside in Alabama cities—Marion, Ashville and Dothan, respectively.

In recent years, the four have gotten together annually. "We talk about the seminary or about current events," said Robinett, noting they all were dormitory neighbors while in seminary. "We talk a lot about our experiences in the classroom. There's a lot of reminiscing about our days at Southern Seminary."

"... and the greatest of these is love"

How often during this Christmas season will we run from store to store, mall to busy mall to find that "perfect" gift for someone we love? How many of us will be too exhausted to enjoy Christmas when it gets here because of all our rushing around trying to prepare for it?

It is so easy to get caught up in the glitter and dazzle of the holiday season. It is so easy to delude ourselves into thinking that we can actually purchase the best gift. Paul tells us in his letters to the Corinthians that of all the gifts we have, the greatest is love. He tells us that all our other talents, all our other "good works" are just loud, clanging cymbals if we have not love.

I was vividly and sadly reminded this week of how easily we get trapped in the world's idea of Christmas and forget that the best we are given and that we can give is our love. I was reminded as I attended the funeral of Claudia Shouse, the 32 year old wife of Scott Shouse, Director of our College and Career Program. Claudia was a houseparent at Spring Meadows for five years. I saw in the eyes

of the youth from Spring Meadows who attended the funeral the most precious gift they had received from Claudia - I saw her love for them.

When those of us who knew Claudia remember her time with us, we won't think of the "things" which she gave us, we will remember the love, the time she spent with us. Claudia knew the preciousness of life. She battled Hodgkin's disease as a teen. She learned that every moment we have is a gift of God—to be shared and rejoiced in.

As Christmas approaches, I hope each of us will remember why we celebrate this season. I hope we will open our hearts to the love of Christ, and share that most precious gift with others.

The birth of the Christ child is the promise of his abiding love. It is the promise of hope and peace for all people. Thank you for being the vessels of that love for our children. Thank you for giving your best gift.

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

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PEOPLE

Kentuckian helps Namibians build houses for worship

TSUMEB, Namibia—Raindrops won't be falling on the head of Namibian Baptists, thanks to a Kentucky layperson.

Bert Lyttle, a member of Horse Creek Baptist Church in Manchester, recently traveled to the southwestern African nation to help construct buildings for two churches that had been meeting under trees.

Lyttle journeyed to northern Namibia at the request of Southern Baptist missionaries Bob and Oakie Blevins. Blevins was director of missions for the Booneville and Irvine Baptist as-

sociations in Kentucky before the couple went to Africa.

"Now many people will come to this church," noted Pastor Solvin Sabuto as he watched Lyttle put the finishing touches on Masokotwani Baptist Church in Katima Mulilo.

"The small but growing congregation had been meeting under a tree for over two years," Blevins reported. "It was a blessing to know that now the people could meet for worship and be sheltered from the rain, when it comes, and the hot African sun."

The same goes for the church in

Rundu, which also had been meeting under a tree until Lyttle arrived.

Lyttle, who has helped construct church buildings in Jamaica and Brazil, got by with a little help from his friends back home. Horse Creek Church paid his air fare, and Manchester Baptist Church sent money to buy materials for both construction projects.

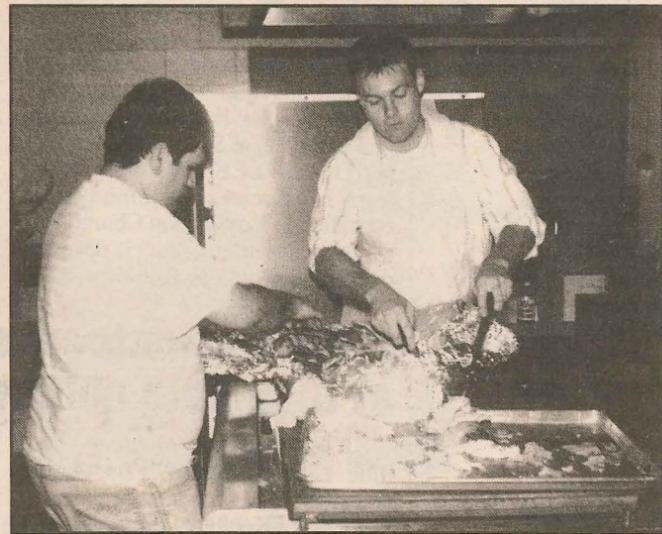
But even trips of mercy involve a few difficulties, Blevins reported.

"Katima Mulilo is a 10-hour drive" from the Blevins' home in Tsumeb, he noted. "The trip requires driving 250 miles each way on a dirt road, and an overnight stay.

"One of the trucks loaded with the materials got stuck in the sand and had to off-load the materials to be hand-carried a distance and then re-loaded

onto the truck to be carried over the remainder of the hot, dusty road."

The effort paid off when the building was completed and the workers nailed a cross to the front of the church, Blevins said. "I finished with a baptism of nine precious souls, using a portable wire-cage baptistry."



FEEDING THE 600 Greg Whitetree II (left) and Joe Johnson Jr. help carve 450 pounds of turkey used for a Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Lookout Nov. 21. Along with other volunteers, they served about 600 of the 700 people invited to the meal—primarily families of those who utilize the center's facilities. An anonymous donor funded the project. Alice and Greg Whitetree Sr., directors of the center, organized volunteer help in serving the meal at a local school cafeteria. "You learn to be friends when you share a turkey," Alice Whitetree said.

What's New in WMU?

Dear Friends in Kentucky WMU,

I am writing to thank you for your interest and concern for us at Rough River Baptist Church in Breckinridge Association.

In October, we started Mission Friends, GAs and Acteens. Our enrollment and attendance in each of these organizations has been very good. We appreciate your prompt assistance with WMU Yearbooks and other materials, after Virginia King (associational WMU director) notified you.

Yesterday, I received additional magazines and letters from the Customer Service Supervisor, SBC WMU, informing us of your gift subscriptions to us. Thank you! Thank you!

Delores B. Tichenor, WMU Director
Rough River Baptist Church

Has your church begun Woman's Missionary Union or a new age-level organization? Kentucky WMU wants to assist you in receiving needed materials. Contact your associational WMU director for more information. What happened at Rough River can happen at your church too!

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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: Folks interested in missions and Christism education in the Hawaiian Islands. Join Betty Jean and me, Feb. 16-19, 1993, for an experience of a lifetime. Trip is tax deductible. Must decide before Jan. 1, 1993. Don Chatham, M.D., 813 Plainview Dr., Shelbyville, Ky. 40065 (502) 633-4272.

WANTED: Part-time Youth and Music Minister. Contact Art Hardin, Kirkwood Baptist Church, 2166 Kirkwood Road, Salvisa, Ky. 40372 (606) 865-2938.

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KENTUCKY KERNELS

This is Drunk and Drugged Driving Week, a Kentucky emphasis on the dangers of driving while intoxicated. Last year, 828 people died in Kentucky vehicle accidents, and nearly half of those were alcohol-related.

Source: Cabinet for Human Resources

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ BREMEN—Pleasant Hill Church called **Tom Wilkins** as pastor.

■ CAMPBELLSVILLE—Pitman Valley Church recently has become debt free.

Clyde Pruitt is interim pastor at Saloma Church.

■ FRANKLIN—First Church will ordain **Gene Ferrett** and **Wesley Wade** as deacons Jan. 17.

■ GREENVILLE—First Church celebrated 15 years with pastor **Charles Midkiff** at a reception Dec. 6.

Ted Tucker is serving as interim youth director at Second Church.

■ LOUISVILLE—**Robert Blackburn** is associate pastor/minister of education at Beechwood Church.

John Saunders, church development director at Long Run Baptist As-

sociation for more than seven years, has resigned to become director of congregational development for Pilot Mountain Baptist Association in Winston-Salem, N.C.

■ MAYFIELD—**Larry York**, pastor of First Church of LaCenter, will speak on "How to Be a Better Church-Growth Leader" at the Purchase Area Regional Ministers' Conference monthly meeting Jan. 5 at 10:45 a.m. at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

■ SHELBYVILLE—First Church has called **Ron Nordan** as minister of music. He previously served in that capacity at Hurstbourne Church in Louisville, while completing work on a master's degree at Southern Seminary.

Liberty volunteers decorate cottages at Glen Dale children's home

GLENDALE—Volunteers from nine Liberty Baptist Association churches made Christmas brighter for residents of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Glen Dale campus Dec. 5.

Each church took responsibility for one cottage. Volunteers provided Christmas decorations and gave their time to help the children string popcorn, hang ornaments and put up lights.

For many of the children, this was the first time to experience the excitement of preparing for Christmas.

Churches participating in the effort were Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Glasgow Baptist Church, Immanuel Baptist Church, Park City Baptist Church, Salem Baptist Church, Horse Cave Baptist Church, South Fork Baptist Church and Edmonton Worship Center.

The true measure of a man

John is the youngest of three children. He grew up without a father. There was no child support, no food stamps. His mother worked whenever she could and, somehow, made ends meet. We took him without one dime of money. Over a semester he ran up a bill of over \$200 in loans for supplies, etc. He did average school work but failed to come back after Christmas. That was some years ago and he is now legal age. I have just heard from him:

"Do you remember I owe the school? My mother refused to give it to me. She says it is my debt and I must earn it. I have drifted, not doing much of anything. She still refuses to pay my debt. She said that 'the true measure of a man is being responsible for all your own actions.' I have worked and saved the money that I owe you. Also I have worked and saved up enough money to pay you \$50 a month. I really need my education. You work hard to get minimum wages. I have to get an education to do better. I realize how stupid I was trying to get by the easy way.

"Please let me come back and get my education. Oneida Baptist Institute is the best thing that ever happened to me. You and your staff care about our future. You all worked with us to achieve. If you can find it in your heart to let me come back, I will be eternally grateful."

Now what shall we do about this request?

You know what we are going to do. What are you going to do?

Can we count on your prayer support? Are you going to be one of those that will help to pay his way? It takes approximately \$600 monthly to feed, house, teach each girl and boy. We have about a \$1,200 a month program for each child. However, with each of our staff working for very low salaries, 20 percent of our staff working

without any salary at all, raising much of our own food, processing our own water and treating our own sewage, doing our own printing, doing our own janitorial, many other things large and small, we cut the actual monthly cost from \$1,200 to \$600.

John is able to pay \$50 a month through having worked and saving over a long period of time. Who is going to pay the other \$550? We can expect about \$48 from the Cooperative Program of Kentucky Baptists. We are grateful for that assured support. But that leaves \$502 unaccounted for. What part of that will you be responsible for?

There are many things beautiful about the Oneida work.

One of the principal things is that Oneida is a place that helps people to help themselves. John and every girl and boy at Oneida have chores to do that teach responsibility, that help cut costs, that help each to have pride and self-respect.

Come see with your own eyes.

Visit and see what our young people have done, are doing. See the beautiful dining tables they have built using table legs salvaged and stored from worn-out tables of former years, bed frames salvaged from worn-out army cots and thick stained plywood.

Look at the hundreds of school desks discarded by other school systems that Oneida students have refinished, repainted and made usable for years to come.

Look at Oneida's waxed floors. Not one dollar has been given a janitor in 91 years. Oneida students have always taken care of all janitorial duties.

Reprinted from WR, July 24, 1990

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

Paid Column

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Five Kentuckians appointed missionaries

RICHMOND, Va.—Five Kentuckians were among 35 people appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Dec. 8.

Michael and Michelle Barnett will live in Japan, where they will work in education. Cathy Sue Smith will live in the Philippines, where she will teach children. Alan and Melodie Lyons will live in Panama, where they will work in leadership training.

Barnett is a native of Kevil and a former member of LaCenter Baptist Church. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Barnett of Kevil.

The Barnetts recently were FMB volunteer workers in Asia, and he has been attending Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Smith is from Russellville, where she was a member of First Baptist Church and previously was

a special education teacher in the public schools. She also has ties to Barbourville and Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg.

Smith is a graduate of Cumberland College and Western Kentucky University. She also has taught at South Todd Elementary School in Elkton, served as youth director at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Lewisburg, youth director and child care worker at First Baptist Church in Williamsburg, and youth director at Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville.

Lyons is a former resident of Fort Campbell and Louisville, where he earned the master of divinity degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Lyons has been a special education teacher in Jefferson County.

Since 1980, he has been pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Ind.



Barnetts



Smith



Lyonses

Turkey man

Near my desk phone is a wooden turkey call, a gift from my wife and a humorous reminder of the unusual way the Lord led us to Clear Creek. I do owe my job to a turkey!

It began in 1966 when Illinois native Don Burnett graduated from Clear Creek and moved to the pastorate of Andrew Baptist Mission in Bowling Green. The Burnetts rented a home near my student pastorate at Jackson Grove, and we became friends.

Don remembered student families without adequate resources and many meals without meat. He decided to gather funds to give each student and staff family a Christmas dinner turkey.

Our church helped, and I accompanied Don to Pineville with a pickup of frozen turkeys. Along the way we stopped to eat homemade Swiss cheese at Swiss Colony and knocked mistletoe from the tree tops with his shotgun.

The family moved to Prestonsburg in 1969 and Don became Enterprise Association director of missions. The turkeys were ordered and the funds made available to pay the bill for the 1970 project, but Don didn't make it back to Clear Creek. A heart attack took him while on a Thanksgiving Day hunting trip with his sons.

The following year no one planned to continue the turkey project, so I asked school officials if I could assume it. Except for three Decembers we were in the Philippines, I have been present for Turkey Day. Preaching in chapel and distributing the "Gospel Birds" have been a highlight of my Christmas since 1971. During those years, student and alumni have drawn me into the Clear Creek family so that I felt much at home the day we moved to campus.

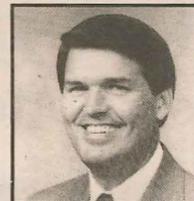
Hardly a week passes without a remembrance of Don Burnett. He was a grand servant of the Lord. Some called him the "mechanical man" from the distinctive sound of his metal crutches heard long before he came into view. His legs were paralyzed from a World War II Navy injury.

Husband, father, pastor, missionary were callings he aptly filled. He was my friend, a man I found so honest and so truly himself. His life taught me many lessons and powerfully demonstrated how God's love can flow through a committed Christian to a lost world. May many more like him come from Clear Creek.

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

Paid Column

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

PEOPLE

Convention messenger came from jail

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)—Some of the 4,000 messengers attending the annual meeting of North Carolina Baptists this fall may have traveled farther than Dan Brown, but none took as hard a road to get there as he did.

Brown has been in prison 16 years due to a drug-related offense.

He was permitted to leave the Sandy Ridge Correctional Center, a state minimum custody unit, for nine hours to attend the Baptist convention in Winston-Salem. And he was a messenger from his church, Union Grove Baptist in the Winston-Salem area.

His uniqueness as a messenger is paralleled by a story of witness, ministry and services involving numerous others.

Baptist Men at Union Grove started a Yokefellow Prison Ministry to the inmates at Sandy Ridge, which meets each Tuesday night at the correctional center. Its purpose is in its name: "To yoke up with the inmates" for worship services, Bible study and

drug and alcohol rehabilitation sessions.

Hillus Conrad, one of the team leaders from Union Grove, invited Brown to attend the church services and secured permission to take Brown out of jail for six hours on Sundays. In time, Brown made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized at Union Grove last Easter.

"These two Conrads (Hillus and his wife, Peggy) are not your average, garden-variety Christians," Brown explained. "They are happy people whose lives touch others, in prison as well as outside, and bring happiness to them."

But Brown isn't a garden-variety Baptist either.

"This guy knows more about Southern Baptists than most typical Baptists," Peggy Conrad said. "He has learned through study, listening to others and sharing in Baptist meetings. He saw the reality of people who are genuine Christians."

Peggy Conrad has just completed

two years as moderator of the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association. In some of her engagements with churches as moderator, her husband and Brown accompanied her, which let the prisoner see firsthand the Baptist way of doing things.

Brown also is part of the "Think Smart" program in which he speaks in schools—kindergarten to college—about the importance of young people staying away from drugs. Speaking as a Christian but avoiding stereotyped phrases, Brown stresses the necessity of drug control in society and abstinence from drugs by young people.

Brown said his greatest goal in life now is to help others who are incarcerated. He believes his experiences give him an insight into the needs of others who have low self-esteem, hostility and a sense of futility.

"It takes a lot of time to work out the hostility," Brown said. "The Lord has helped me, these two Conrads have helped me. They have been good instruments of the Lord."



SURVIVOR Southern Baptist mission worker Sandy Rogers, 38, comforts a patient during morning rounds at the Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen. Rogers recently was battered and lacerated but survived a late-night flash flood that swept her down a normally dry river bed and hurled her over a 20-foot drop. Local Yemenis, who have come to visit her in large numbers, told her God preserved her life for a special purpose. They said body parts were all they ever found of other friends washed down the river of flood water that comes crashing down from the mountains after heavy rain. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Layman develops taxicab ministry

NEW YORK—In contemporary theological lingo, they might be called "Cabbies for Christ."

A national ministry group for taxi drivers supported by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has worked with the American Bible Society to produce a special Scripture leaflet for distribution to cab passengers.

The idea was inspired in 1976 when Claude Frazier of Asheville, N.C., hopped into a Chicago cab en route to a meeting. Frazier, a Christian doctor, and the cabbie engaged in conversation, and the driver witnessed about his Christian faith.

With that encounter, Frazier was impressed with the possibilities for evangelism in America's thousands of taxis.

Working with Frazier, the American Bible Society agreed to publish Scripture portions with seasonal emphases that could be easily taken from the back seat of a taxi.

Frazier's church, West Asheville Baptist, funded the project for the first year in Asheville. Women in the church created "pocket aprons" that drape across the front seat of a taxi to hold the Scripture portions in pockets on the back side.

Frazier has been working to expand the ministry in major cities across the nation. Tom Eggleston of the HMB's special ministries department says he plans to use the customized leaflets as a national literature piece.

The leaflets, called "People on the Move" are available from the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.

Memory of Christmas death eased by faith

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—At 7:30 last Christmas morning, Dudley Singleton, Linda Singleton's husband of 28 years, died at home after a 10-month battle with a brain tumor.

Linda Singleton approaches the first anniversary of her husband's death with the faith and characteristic realism that sustained her through his illness and death. She does not dread Christmas 1992.

"People have said to me, 'Oh, how horrible that he died on Christmas day,'" said Singleton, music consultant for the Tennessee Department of Education and a member of Crieewood Baptist Church in Nashville.

On the contrary, Singleton said she finds comfort in knowing, because the anniversary of her husband's death is also Christmas day, she will always be surrounded by family and friends.

Singleton believes she has gained strength not only from her faith in Jesus Christ but also from the way Dudley faced death while never giving up hope for life.

A veterinarian, he understood immediately upon receiving the diagno-



HOME ALONE Melanie and Linda Singleton have been sustained by their faith in God and the support of friends in dealing with the loss of their father and husband, who died on Christmas Day in 1991. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

sis the gravity of his situation.

As Christmas 1991 approached and Dudley was becoming progressively weaker, he told Linda he still had some goals. While he did not tell her what the goals were, Linda believes one may have been to live until Christmas.

During December, he enjoyed the decorations and music of the holiday. The Singletons' daughter, Melanie, had quit her job and moved home to help care for her father and to bright-

en his days. Son Brett received a "humanitarian transfer" from the U.S. Navy to be with his father. Dudley's parents traveled regularly from their Huntsville, Ala., home to support their son and assist in his care.

"Strangely enough, we had a good year," Singleton reported. "There was a clarity about life. Dudley was dying. God was ever present."

"We shared this realism with gratitude for the good life we had experienced together. We were surrounded by God's love manifested primarily through the remarkable people who were willing to enter into our sorrow," she continued.

To Christians who may feel uncertain about how to minister to people experiencing grief during the holiday season, Singleton urges sending cards, visiting and calling, not necessarily to talk about the pain but just to make the person aware that someone is there who cares.

"We should never underestimate the positive impact of cards and visits and food," she said.

"For weeks after Dudley died, I could hardly wait to get home and check the mail to see who I might have heard from."

Baptist school graduates 8 Bishops & 6 Popes

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Donald Christian says being a minister with a last name like his has opened doors and started conversations over the years.

"It has given me the opportunity to share a witness or to plant a seed," he explained. "Having the name Christian does make you think about living up to your name."

Christian, now pastor at Moffett Memorial Baptist Church in Danville, Va., is one of three Christians to graduate in the last 42 years from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Southeastern also has graduated eight Bishops, six Popes, four Churches, two Elders, one

Parson, one Preacher and one Usher.

What's it like being a Bishop in a Baptist church? Monte Bishop, pastor at Thomas Memorial Baptist Church in Bennettsville, S.C., said it has provided much humor over the years. When he first moved to South Carolina, a paper ran the headline "Baptist Church Calls Bishop."

James Parson, now a retired minister in Clinton, N.C., said some members of his congregation took to calling him Parson Parson.

With the maiden name of Preacher, Claudia Preacher Brantley, associate pastor at the nondenominational Restoration Church in Chesnee, S.C., said people usually "want to know

what's going on" when she tells them her full name. "When they find out it is my real name, they say 'I guess it was prophetic.'"

Also among Southeastern's 6,403 graduates are two Shepherds, one Word and one Scripture.

Lee Scripture, pastor at Wicomico Baptist Church in Wicomico, Va., said when he was a student at Southeastern, Professor John Durham thought the registrar was trying to play a trick on him. He said many people still do not believe it is his real name.

In more common nomenclature, the seminary also has graduated 99 Smiths, 53 Johnsons and 43 Joneses.

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