

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Eliff declines**

Tom Eliff has declined the nomination by a Foreign Mission Board search committee to become the agency's new president. See page 2.

**Annuity Board objects**

The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has filed a request for shareholder action against the K-Mart Corp. to stop the sale of pornographic materials in K-Mart's Waldenbooks subsidiary. See page 2.

**A Kentucky first**

Kentucky Baptists' first Haitian mission has begun in Louisville with help from Lynn Acres Baptist Church. See page 3.

**Editorial**

Is "legislative ethics" an oxymoron? See page 5.

**Future WMU**

Updated programs of Woman's Missionary Union will appear in local churches by 1995. See page 8.

**Perfect attendance**

One Kentucky woman hasn't missed Sunday school in 53 years. See page 10.

**Family's journey of faith led to Kentucky**

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Anyone who didn't know Ed Smith might have suggested he needed counseling when he quit his job in New Mexico and moved his family of five 1,300 miles away for a ministry that didn't even exist yet.

But Smith is a family counselor himself, and that's what prompted the unusual move.

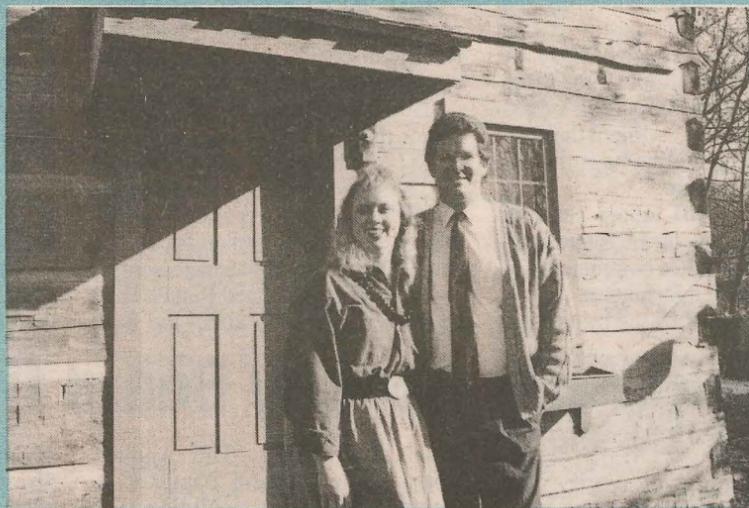
Smith and his wife, Sharon, are the founders of Family Care Christian Counseling Center in Campbellsville, which they hope will pay the way for their additional ministries of conducting marriage enrichment seminars, counseling ministers in crisis, and writing and performing original songs about family issues.

The Smiths' story begins in 1975, when they met and married as students at Campbellsville College. Campbellsville became their adoptive home, since both were pastor's kids whose own families had moved around a lot.

They left Campbellsville in 1979, moving to Fort Worth, Texas, and Kansas City, where Smith received degrees from Southwestern and Midwestern Baptist theological seminaries. He served on church

staffs in both locations before the family moved to Albuquerque, N.M., where he was an associate pastor.

The Smiths had built a new home  
□ See Family's journey ..., page 3



**HOME HELP** Sharon and Ed Smith recently returned to Campbellsville where, among other ministries, they hope to help ministerial families in crisis by offering counseling and lodging in this 100-year-old restored cabin.

**Christians can change TV, author says**

By Kathy Palen  
Freelance Writer

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (ABP)—Many TV watchdog groups miss opportunities to make a real difference in television programming because they focus on criteria that are too narrow, says the author of a new book on how Christians can change television.

When deciding whether TV programming is worthwhile or worthless, people should consider its artistic quality, its morality and whether it contributes to society in positive ways, suggested Quentin Schultze, author of "Redeeming Television: How TV Changes Christians—How Christians Can Change TV."

Watchdog groups that criticize the industry usually focus solely on the morality of programming, Schultze said. But that is only part of what needs to be considered, he believes.

"Right now we have a lot of crummy programming that's also immoral," he explained. "If we listen to some of the watchdog groups, we would end up with a lot of crummy program-

ming that's not quite so immoral. That still doesn't improve the overall quality of the programming."

Schultze said it is important to teach beneficial ways of using television to everyone involved—viewers, producers, directors, distributors, critics and teachers.

Schultze offered several suggestions for Christians who want to make television programming better:

■ **Judge by context.** Some watchdog groups will count the incidents of violence in a program and judge whether a program is good or bad on that basis alone, he explained. But applying the same criteria to some pages of the Bible, he added, might lead people to want to rip out those pages.

"The point is that you just can't take individual incidents in a program out of context," Schultze explained. "Morality always has a context. It's not that you just show something, but that you're saying something about what you're showing."

■ **Consider the audience.** People frequently apply one standard of appropriateness to all programs rather than focusing on the appropriateness

of programming for the intended audience, Schultze said. Programs directed at children, he explained, should be much more restrictive in their content than programs that are on late at night for adults.

■ **Take a broad view.** Watchdog groups, Schultze said, also tend to focus on what he calls the "big three": sex, violence and profanity. But they also should look at whether programming contains such things as racism, sexism, nationalism or materialism, he added.

■ **Work to get people together to talk about television programming.** For example, Schultze said, a group of churches could invite people from the television industry to come for several days of dialogue on issues related to programming.

■ **Support worthwhile programming.** Schultze said television producers have told him that they put much more stock in the positive mail they receive than in negative mail.

■ **Share information.** For example, church newsletters could allot space for members to recommend videotapes and television programs.

**Girl's missionary balloon led man heavenward**

SODDY-DAISY, Tenn. (BP)—A Scripture reference attached to a child's balloon was instrumental in leading an adult to faith in Jesus Christ eight years later and more than 100 miles away.

In 1982 Missy Hatmaker, as part of a Sunday school project at New Salem Baptist Church in Soddy-Daisy, Tenn., released a balloon with the message: "Behold, I (Jesus) stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

That was the last anyone knew

about that note—until 10 years later when the church received a letter from Randal Perkins of Jacksboro, Tenn., saying he had found the note in 1982 while on a hunting trip.

Perkins noted he read the verse, put it in his wallet and, over the years, had taken it out and reread the message.

"After a rough life and a friend witnessing to me, and several people praying for me, I was saved on Feb. 9, 1990, at the age of 31," Perkins wrote. He told the Soddy-Daisy church he had been baptized, joined Wood Lake Baptist Church in Jacksboro and had married a Christian woman.

Hatmaker, now a young woman, was excited to learn what happened to her note, though, now, laws prohibit the sending of balloons into the environment.

"I was just tickled to death to find out after all this time how God worked through this balloon," Hatmaker said.

Though sending a balloon does not seem significant, it can be when God is in it, said New Salem's pastor, Ted Painter. "To find out, 10 years later, that this slip of paper was found and used by God in the salvation of one soul in Campbell County just proves that little is much, when God is in it."

**Baptists give Clinton hope & hostility**

WASHINGTON—Inaugural streamers barely had time to fade before the already fragile relationship between the Clinton administration and the Religious Right began to tear apart last week.

Southern Baptist officials were among those immediately criticizing early White House actions on issues of homosexuality and abortion.

However, other Baptists saw the actions in a different light and held out hope that the Clinton administration would find agreement with evangelical Christians on other, less controversial social issues.

President Clinton repealed several abortion restrictions on the 20th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision and his third day in office.

Also within his first week, Clinton pushed ahead toward repealing the ban on homosexuals and lesbians serving in the U.S. military.

"Our vision should be of an America where abortion is safe and legal but rare," Clinton said during a Jan. 22 Oval Office ceremony in which he signed executive orders that:

■ Repealed a ban on abortion counseling at federally funded family planning clinics.

■ Lifted a ban on using tissue from aborted fetuses in research that could produce cures for afflictions such as Parkinson's disease, diabetes, birth defects and spinal cord injuries.

■ Reinstated the right of overseas U.S. military hospitals to perform abortions as long as they are paid for by private funds.

■ Ordered a re-evaluation of the Food and Drug Administration ban on private importation of the French abortion pill, RU-486.

Clinton signed the executive orders as anti-abortion forces protested outside the White House. At least 75,000 abortion opponents marched on Capitol Hill.

In a stern response, Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said anti-abortion forces "have not yet begun to fight."

Clinton's actions were an attempt "to break the will of the pro-life movement," but will not succeed, Land declared.

"It is clear to us that President Clinton has begun his presidency by rapidly accelerating America's drift toward neo-paganism," Land said. "The gauntlet has been thrown down in the struggle for our nation's conscience and soul."

Land and the CLC also oppose Clinton's promise to lift the ban on homosexuals serving in the military.

But another Christian ethicist said he considers it "foolishness" to think there have not been homosexuals in the military all along.

"I think it is foolish as well to think that they might be the only ones that present some kind of sexual threat to the people around them," said William Tillman, chair of the department

□ See Clinton's first week ..., page 6

Nothing? See page 4 (0202)

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **Ken Lyle** has been elected executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England. Since 1982, Lyle has been executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

■ **Charles Swindoll's** writings will be featured in a new five-book study series published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The series breaks down the text of Swindoll's best-selling book "Growing Deep in the Christian Faith" into five separate study books. Swindoll is pastor of First Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, Calif.

■ **Arthur Walker Jr.** will retire as executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission Sept. 1. A former Louisville resident, Walker served in several roles at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Contributions** to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship totalled \$7.3 million in 1992, a 62 percent increase over the previous year. Along with that growth has come an increase in the percentage of funds sent for the Fellowship's own programs. In 1991, 76 percent of money contributed through the Fellowship went to traditional Southern Baptist Convention causes. That fell to 56 percent last year, leaving more money for Fellowship projects.

■ **Jimmy Carter** and his wife, Rosalynn, have issued a formal endorsement of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the former U.S. president has agreed to speak at the Fellowship's general assembly May 13.

## Elliff declines nomination for FMB presidency

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Oklahoma pastor Tom Elliff has declined an offer to become president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"After much, much prayer we—my wife and I—never arrived at a point of peace about accepting that position," said Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla. "It would be foolish for someone to walk into a position of that much importance ... without the absolute, bold certainty that he is the person God wants there."

Although Elliff talked candidly about his decision, the FMB presidential search committee continued to offer only sketchy information.

In a statement released by its chair-

man Jan. 29, the committee said it has ended talks with an unnamed leading candidate and will continue its search.

"The committee recently narrowed its interest to a single candidate, only to find with prayer an apparent mutual and bilateral determination by the candidate and the committee that the will and timing of God rested in another direction," the statement said.

Committee Chairman Joel Gregory, the only committee member authorized to discuss the group's work, declined to comment further.

However, he did strongly deny a rumor that the committee—made up of 15 FMB trustees—would disband.

"We intend to follow the prayerful and deliberate process already underway to find God's person for leadership," Gregory said in a statement.

Elliff told Associated Baptist Press he prayed diligently about the posi-

tion, including at least one prolonged prayer session "from nine in the evening to noon next day." But he said he never was convinced that "God was initiating" the move.

Elliff said he told the committee his decision Jan. 27, apparently in a telephone conference call.

He told ABP his struggle to find God's leadership centered on his calling to be a pastor. "The big question for me was, 'Do you (God) want me to apply this pastoral-ministry approach within the Foreign Mission Board or remain here?'" he said, referring to his 18,000-member church in suburban Oklahoma City.

Elliff discounted rumors that family circumstances, such as the failing health of his wife's parents, influenced his decision not to return to missions work. "There is nothing more or less happening in our lives that

doesn't happen to any missionary. ... Every missionary faces all kinds of exigencies."

In his statement for the search committee, Gregory said the group will continue its work but will not have a nominee to recommend when FMB trustees meet Feb. 8-10.

In addition to Elliff, three other prominent megachurch pastors were confirmed to be among the finalists for the post—all with ties to the SBC's conservative movement: John Bisagno of First Baptist Church of Houston; Jim Henry of First Baptist Church of Orlando; and Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Baptist Church near Memphis, Tenn.

Gregory said the committee has considered 74 candidates and interviewed four. He gave no indication whether the other three finalists would now be reconsidered.

## Removing woman speaker 'mistake'

OKLAHOMA CITY—A Baptist leader in Oklahoma has apologized for removing Billy Graham's daughter from an evangelism conference program due to a male pastor's concern that her presentation might constitute unbiblical "preaching" by a woman.

Wayne Bristow, evangelism director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, wrote a lengthy letter published in the Jan. 21 issue of the Baptist Messenger, the state convention's newspaper.

"In retrospect, I believe it was a mistake not to follow through with the invitation for Anne Graham Lotz to speak at the 1993 State Evangelism Conference," Bristow wrote.

Bristow had cancelled Lotz from the program after Wayne Keely, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Claremore, Okla., protested that Lotz's two presentations on the program would amount to preaching, a role he said is unbiblical for women.

The month before, Keely had publicly rebuked a woman speaking at the state's youth evangelism conference.

The desire to avoid such a confrontation motivated the decision to remove Lotz from her speaking engagement, Bristow said. "My intention was to avoid knowingly putting Mrs. Lotz in an embarrassing situation and opening the conference to a disruptive atmosphere."

In the letter, Bristow affirmed Lotz as "a godly woman, with great courage and confidence in the Lord." He also affirmed the role women have played throughout the history of Christianity as evangelists, prophets and teachers.

However, he said the Bible does not give a "pattern" or example of a woman in the role of a pastor.

## Annuity Board files action against Kmart

DALLAS (BP)—The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has filed a resolution with Kmart Corp. that would ask shareholders to force an end to the sale of pornographic materials in Waldenbooks stores.

The Annuity Board has asked that the resolution be considered by Kmart shareholders at their annual meeting May 25. Waldenbooks is a Kmart subsidiary.

Paul Powell, Annuity Board president, said he has asked every church pension board in America to support the resolution. In addition, Powell has asked support of all Baptist foundations and state conventions.

"We have no way of knowing who is holding Kmart stock," said Powell, "so we wrote to all our possible allies in the effort to curb the sale of pornography."

The resolution is a result of trustee action on Nov. 3, 1992, following full

discussion of alternatives including divesting the Annuity Board's stock holdings in Kmart.

Powell noted, "We could simply have sold our Kmart holdings, but selling stock has no influence on the company. Our trustees wanted to attempt a meaningful attack on the sale of pornographic publications rather than just protest."

"If we get no satisfactory response, we'll sell the stock in a prudent manner," Powell said.

Since last August, Powell has written to Joseph Antonini, Kmart's chairman and chief executive officer, asking a change.

But Powell said he is thus far dismayed at corporate response by Kmart. "In spite of the official communiques to chairman Antonini, he has not had the courtesy to reply. Such executive insensitivity is as surprising as it is disappointing."

"The first reply—from the corpo-

rate secretary—came only after we filed a legal shareholder resolution request," he noted. "We have never heard from the chairman."

Powell said the Annuity Board resolution is one of at least two that have been submitted to Antonini. The other was entered by the United Methodist General Board of Pensions.

The Methodist resolution asks Kmart directors to provide shareholders with a special report on Waldenbooks policies and the sale and display of adult fiction and magazines.

"The Methodist board is expected to cast its proxy votes in favor of our resolution just as we will cast our votes for their resolution," Powell said, "but we are not permitted by corporate rules to sponsor more than one resolution."

The two pension boards together hold more than 1 million shares of Kmart stock. The Annuity Board held 221,200 shares on Dec. 10, 1992.

## WMU called adulteress; O'Brien cancelled

Recent changes adopted by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union have caused one South Carolina association to withdraw a speaking invitation to Dellanna O'Brien and the chairman of the Foreign Mission Board to call WMU an adulteress.

O'Brien, WMU executive director, has been removed from the 1995 program of Waccamaw Baptist Association's annual meeting.

The association's executive committee took the action by a 25-22 vote Jan. 18.

O'Brien had been invited last year to speak at the associational meeting at Juniper Bay Baptist Church in Conway, S.C., in 1995. That church's pastor, Charles Thrower, made the motion to rescind the association's invitation to O'Brien.

Thrower said he made his motion for two reasons: "The main reason is that WMU is linking up with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and seems to be abandoning its historical heritage," he said.

He also said he "is not in favor of women speaking from the pulpit

when they are listed as delivering a message."

Earlier in January, WMU adopted a sweeping set of changes that, among other things, will allow the missions auxiliary to support mission efforts by evangelical groups other than the Southern Baptist Convention's two mission boards. That opens the door for WMU to support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of moderate Southern Baptists who have started a new missions organization.

Meanwhile, FMB trustee Chairman John Jackson compared WMU's decision to a woman who commits adultery.

"That's the way it's going to look to the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board," Jackson said.

Each year WMU raises about \$80 million for the Richmond-based FMB, which operates the SBC's massive overseas missions program. The FMB's stateside counterpart, the Home Mission Board, receives about \$38 million.

Jackson first made the adultery comparison in an interview with the

Chattanooga Free Press before the WMU plan was announced.

Opening the door to the Fellowship is like "a woman having been married to a man for many, many years and all of a sudden she says, 'I have another man that I want to be married to as well. I know that we've had such a good working relationship, but I know that you won't mind if I bring him into our bed,'" he told the Tennessee paper Jan. 10.

O'Brien responded by calling Jackson's use of the adultery analogy "unfortunate."

"There are too many lost people in this world for us to spend our energies calling each other names when there is a Great Commission mandate yet to be fulfilled," she said.

"If an analogy must be used, it would be more appropriate to use one of friendship," she added. "When I have friends who disagree, I don't take sides. I can be friends with both of them, even if they're not friends with each other."

From Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press reports

## Outreach begins

LOUISVILLE—Speak slowly and carry a big smile.

Those are some of the requirements for volunteers who teach "survival English" to refugees and immigrants in Louisville.

The only other requirements are to be able to speak and write English and to have patience with beginners, said Diana Dang, director of Louisville's new ethnic center.

Dang helps coordinate Baptist ministries to the 1,500 southeast Asians and other immigrants estimated to live in the Americana Apartments area in Louisville.

"All you need is patience and time," she added, explaining that more volunteers are needed.

The newly formed ethnic center is sponsored by Long Run Baptist Association. Gerald McNeely, interim director of missions and ministries, said the work is in the formative stages.

But Dang already is laying the groundwork for future ministries.

In addition to the English classes that will be held at Lynn Acres Baptist Church twice a week beginning Feb. 15, Dang said the center distributes clothing, blankets and other basic items necessary for survival.

Dang, a social work student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said Christians must be seen extending love and concern for refugees' physical as well as spiritual needs: "How are we going to go in there and witness when we don't minister to their physical needs?"

## Haitian Baptist mission is state's first

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Home is where the pumpkin soup is, in Alix Duval's opinion.

Duval has discovered that connecting with people's national roots can be an effective ministry tool. So he connects with Haitians through pumpkin soup, blue and red balloons and the Creole language.

Those connections—reminders of home for members of the Haitian community in Louisville—helped Duval establish the first Haitian Baptist mission in Kentucky.

Duval, who is Haitian by birth and a U.S. citizen since 1977, arrived at Louisville's Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1991, eager to study and begin a ministry in the area.

With the assistance of Tony Aja, ethnic/language consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Duval located Haitians living in the Americana apartments. He immediately implemented his own strategy for evangelism: "get friends first," then get converts.

Duval began to visit the people. He said at first he wanted to "be open, not as a minister, but as a friend."

To do that, he and his wife invited the Haitians to a "good Haitian typical dinner." The Duvals served rice and beans and griot. Also, they decorated with blue and red balloons, the colors of the Haitian flag.

The 20 adults who came that day, along with their children, "really appreciated what we did," Duval said. "They just needed someone to care about them."

After he was able to build the com-



**FIRST BAPTISM** Pastors John Meeks (left) and Alix Duval (right) prepare for the baptism of one of the first converts of Kentucky's first Haitian Baptist mission at Lynn Acres Baptist Church in Louisville. (Photo by Tony Aja)

munity's trust, Duval said, he began to inquire about spiritual matters.

"I went one Saturday to visit, and at the first house—six converts," he exclaimed. A family of four, along with two friends who were staying with the family, all made professions of faith in Jesus Christ that day.

Those six people formed the core of a Bible study group that began to meet in their home twice each week. By October, the Bible study group had outgrown the living room.

In the meantime, Lynn Acres Baptist Church had been praying for several years for a way to reach out to the Cambodian, Vietnamese and Haitian communities at the Americana apartments, said Pastor John Meeks.

Aja was able to make the connection with Duval's Bible study group, and by Nov. 1, the Haitian group was a mission of Lynn Acres, meeting in the same building.

The first joint service held at Lynn Acres Oct. 18 included the baptism of

the six Haitians who had made professions of faith earlier in the year.

Most of the Haitians Duval reaches out to are refugees, although he said some have been drawn into the ministry from Fort Knox.

Working with refugees takes a great deal of understanding, the pastor said. Many refugees came from Haiti to the United States by sailboat, spending up to 25 days on the sea. Some stayed alive by eating toothpaste and drinking sea water, he said.

That's why Duval's ministry with the Haitians also includes helping them find jobs, learn to drive automobiles and learn to speak English. Also, he finds ways to provide basic items of necessity in crisis situations.

The Haitian pastor, who was ordained to the ministry Jan. 31, said he would continue to plan events—like serving pumpkin soup on New Year's Day—to help remind the Haitians of their national home and point them toward their spiritual home.

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Kentucky high school** juniors and seniors and their parents are invited to attend Spring Visitation Day at Campbellsville College in Campbellsville Saturday, March 27. To register, contact the admissions office at 200 W. College St., Campbellsville, Ky. 42718, phone (800) 264-6014.

■ **Campbellsville College** holds its annual campus revival this week with messages by Stephen Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

■ **Kevin Donley** has resigned as head football coach at Georgetown College to take a similar position at California University, an NCAA Division II school in California, Pa. Donley was instrumental in building a nationally recognized football team at Georgetown, producing 26 All-Americans, 27 Academic All-Americans and three GTE All-Americans.

■ **Roger Sims** has been named director of admissions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Sims previously served as director of admissions for Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

■ **Correction:** An article in the Jan. 19 issue of the Recorder incorrectly spelled the name of Thurmond Coleman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jeffersonton.

## Family's journey of faith led them to Campbellsville

Continued from page 1

there and were beginning to live comfortably when they determined God wanted them to leave it all behind and embark on a journey of faith.

The advice of a friend helped them see the possibility of beginning a multi-faceted ministry supported by income from a counseling practice.

Faced with a fresh start, the Smiths decided Campbellsville was the place they would most like to do it.

So they sold their house, loaded up a U-Haul trailer and headed for Kentucky with their three children: Joshua, now 5, and twins Hannah and Rachael, now 2.

They arrived in Kentucky on Thanksgiving Day 1991.

By using the equity from their house as income, they figured they could survive about six months. But they made a commitment not to consider turning back until at least one year had passed.

Despite ready acceptance by churches in Taylor County, that first year was exceptionally difficult.

They first moved into one of two log cabins on a farm they rented. One cabin was to be their home, the other to serve as a retreat for ministerial families in crisis.

The wind blew right through the walls of their house that winter, they said. And the repairs necessary to

make the two log cabins usable were more costly than anticipated.

Eventually their finances got so low they couldn't pay the rent on both that property and the small house in town where Smith had opened a counseling office. So they moved into the counseling office.

Through a dramatic series of events, they then secured a lease-to-buy option on a large house owned by the widow of former Campbellsville College professor L.M. Hamilton.

That property perfectly fits their needs, they explained. In addition to the large house, the site includes a three-room building they use as a counseling office and recording studio and a restored log cabin they are developing into lodging for ministerial couples in crisis.

"To find that combination in Kentucky, let alone in Campbellsville, is amazing," Mrs. Smith noted. Both she and her husband consider the property an example of God's answer to prayer.

And that's not the only time God has worked a miracle, they explained.

Even though their financial resources were stretched to the limit for months, they never failed to pay bills and still managed to care for their family's basic needs, they said.

Friends and supporters sent them money at just the right time, Mrs.

Smith said.

Also, the counseling practice Smith thought would take two years to establish took only nine months, he said, noting he now has a full schedule of clients three days a week. Mondays and Fridays are left open for travel to and from churches for concerts and seminars.

And God has met their needs in other ways, they added, like the woman who brought them a hot water heater they had been praying for.

The woman, who works at a nearby factory, came to the door unannounced to explain that God had been telling her all day that the Smiths needed a hot water heater. Knowing Smith was a counselor, she explained, she was afraid to make such an offer for fear he would think she was hearing voices and needed counseling.

She was relieved to learn the Smiths really needed the hot water heater and it was an answer to prayer.

Though the adjustment to their new lifestyle has been difficult, Smith said, it has been rewarding spiritually. "It took us about seven months to relearn how to live by faith."

Yet it was faith in God that led them to embark on this venture in the first place, the Smiths admit.

They cite two sets of events as pivotal in developing their burden for the ministries they now perform.

First was the death of a 1-year-old daughter, Sarah, when they lived in Kansas City.

"That was a pivotal point in our ministry," Smith confessed. "It gave me a real strong dose of reality."

Even though he had served on church staffs and had been trained in family counseling, "I felt people's pain for the first time," he added.

That experience showed them the need for compassionate family counseling based on Christian principles.

And then the need for helping ministerial families came home to them as they witnessed three fellow ministers succumb to moral failures that devastated the churches they served.

After the third such experience, the Smiths concluded something needed to be done to help ministers deal with marital conflicts and head off moral lapses before they happen.

"Ministers are really set up for failure because people have such high expectations of them and there's no place for them to go for help," Smith said.

Now the Smiths hope to overcome that barrier by offering their log cabin free of charge to ministers and their spouses who seek counseling. That will allow couples to get professional help away from their church fields and perhaps avoid destroying their marriages and ministries.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## What will we do?

Bill Clinton's inauguration was filled with words and thoughts that stirred the heart and patriotism, and I found myself joyfully involved. As an American, I was excited about the new leadership and the promises of positive change. On the other hand, as a Christian, I found myself almost discouraged because I wonder how conservative Christians will respond to our new leadership.

Will we, because of our differences, retreat to some type of monastic isolation? Will we, because of our differences, adopt a militant opposition? Or will we, in spite of our differences, extend the right hand of Christian love, fellowship and cooperation?

May Christians everywhere do as President Clinton urged and, "In our own way and with God's help answer the call." The call to stand for Christian principles, religious freedom, democracy and equality for everyone. Further, may Christians everywhere, when differing views arise, whether among ourselves or our fellow Americans, be slow to criticize or condemn and quick to demonstrate Christian love in citizenship.

In the Scriptures we are mandated to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2). May all Christians take an active part in positive change. The words of former President Reagan ring true today: "I don't believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do. I do believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing."

May God bless President Clinton, Vice President Gore and their families. And may God bless America.

*Johnny W. Collett  
Pineville*

## Episode ends

The resignation of Dr. Paul Sim-

mons brings to an end an episode of faculty control by a majority of the members of the trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

This ongoing bashing of Dr. Simmons had nothing to do with his views concerning abortion or homosexuality. This is, and has been since the beginning, a demand that faculty members adhere to the basic tenets of prejudice as espoused by the fundamentalists. To have an original thought or one that differs from the doctrine of the judgmentalists is to find oneself in the hands of those who still think "original sin" is that which one can remember having committed first.

The grace of Jesus Christ is extended to all of us who claim him as Savior. For some, its depth cannot be measured. For others, it is as deep as a pie pan.

Nothing good happened in this lamentable development. As these "storm troopers" continue to violate the sanctity of individual priesthood and freedom of thought by forcing those of a character from their posts, we will see a Mickey Mouse ministry of measured monosyllabic mutterings mingled with meandering and mundane metaphors meaning ... monism!

*Edward Clark  
Danville*

## A gentleman

Although I understand, it saddens me to hear of Dr. Paul Simmons' early retirement from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Simmons served as the interim pastor in a church to which I was called. It was a "grass roots" church. The church people loved and respected him. That was our first meeting, but Dr. Simmons assisted my adjustment to Kentucky. Consequently, he became my faculty supervisor for my

doctor of ministry studies. He was courteous, thoughtful and listened carefully as we discussed issues. He never imposed his views on me, nor did I ever doubt that he had deeply held Christian convictions.

"Gentleman" comes to mind as a word to describe him. However, a Christian person who conscientiously applies the gospel to the cutting edge of contemporary life is always challenged, and sometimes charred. To even hint at heresy, however, is to redefine the word.

Dr. Simmons will be missed. When his students have their hard times, as they surely will, the memory of a professor who believed that convictions were more than mere words will help sustain them.

May God give us others with similar qualities.

*Gerard E. Howell, pastor  
Central Baptist Church  
Lexington*

## See you there

One of the highlights of my year's activities is attending the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. I always come away challenged to win more people to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to urge the pastors and people of our churches to attend this year's conference in Lexington. The marvelous Immanuel Baptist Church will host this year's conference Feb. 22 and 23.

Our director of evangelism, Bill Jagers, has planned a fine program this year. The list of speakers is outstanding. The musical program looks really exciting.

Let's kick off a great year in evangelism in our Kentucky Baptist churches by attending this year's conference. This will prepare our hearts for our spring and fall revivals. I hope to see you in Lexington.

*Charles E. Stewart, president  
Kentucky Baptist Convention  
Ashland*

## Washing away our worries

Not long ago, our trusted (and battered) washing machine gave up the ghost after 16 years. A "scratch and dent" sale item from Sears, it lived up to its strong reputation. Interesting that its death occurred at the same time Sears was starting goodbyes to its old catalog system.

I tried to repair it, and for two washings it seems that I had succeeded. That was short-lived; it had to go.

Anticipating that its days were numbered, Alice had arranged several months before with our daughter to purchase from her a washing machine our daughter had purchased from a family friend who was moving away. That proved to be a stroke of good intuition and a really sweet deal.

When the old one was really dead, we called one of the many community service organizations to come and pick it up. For only two days, we were without a washer.

It stimulated some memories. Our

first year of marriage was spent in Israel, and we washed all our clothes by hand in a tub. Can't say it hurt us any, but I'm glad we don't have to do that now, even though a majority of the world's population still does it by hand. Only a tiny minority, like us, actually have a washer and dryer in our homes. A trip downtown or to any shopping center will reveal how many people use a public facility long known as a "laundromat."

## ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

New missionaries to Russia are washing their clothes in a tub; some will ultimately, perhaps, secure a washer—with luck!

A recently-made friend of mine, a church-starter pastor in Yellowtail, Mont., is also a collector of writings, poems, and, occasionally, trivia.

In his most recent letter to friends and supporters he shared this very old "Recipe for Washing Clothes" he had discovered somewhere:

1. Build a fire in the backyard to

heat kettle of rainwater.

2. Set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is pert.

3. Shave one hole cake soap in bilin' water.

4. Sort things, make three piles, 1 pile white, 1 pile cullord, 1 pile work britches and rags.

5. Stur flour in cold water to smooth then thin down with bilin' water.

6. Rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard, thin bile. Rub cullord but don't bile—just rench and starch.

7. Take white things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then rench, blew and starch.

8. Spred tee towels on grass.

9. Hang old rags on fence.

10. Pore rench water in flower bed.

11. Scrub porch with hot soapy water.

12. Turn tubs upside down.

13. Go put on cleen dress—smooth hair with side combs—brew cup of tee—set and rest and rock a spell and COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.

I guess all I need to do now is put a rocking chair in the utility room!

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



## FAMILY FORUM: TEEN-AGERS

### How about jobs?

By Wade Rowatt

**Q.** Should I let my teen-ager get a job after school?

**A.** After-school jobs offer several benefits, but the risk may be too great. Teens who work can learn a sense of responsibility, learn to manage their money and increase self-esteem. But they may suffer consequences.

Youth with a job find out what it means to be counted on. The job helps them be more grown-up and adds structure to their lives.

Adolescents see money differently after they earn their own paychecks. When each dollar represents so many minutes of their own labor, they feel more attached to that "green stuff."

Teens build self-esteem as a part of growing up. What they do affects who they are. Often a job assists them in seeking a positive identity.

Furthermore, working teen-agers value their free time more once they are employed.

But the picture isn't all rosy. Teens who work too much are at risk for poor grades, lost opportunities for enrichment experiences and over-stress. Youth who work more than 15 hours per week rob the time from school, family and extra-curricular activities.

The lure of more spending money blinds teens to the value of a good education. But in the long run, the more money it limits their education.

Time at work may mean giving up important activities, such as field trips, out-of-state trips and special projects.

Stress can be good or bad. A teen-ager needs enough challenge to be motivated, but not so much stress that it causes problems. If a teen has more time demands than time available, warning lights should flash.

One last thing: Fit the job to the youth's age and level of maturity.

If they do take a job, keep an eye on how things go. Check on their grades. Look for increased health problems or periods of fatigue. Notice any increase in irritability. Reassess the situation on a regular basis. Don't just look at the benefits; stay on top of what the job is costing.

*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.

## Pay attention to the legislature's ethics reform proposal

Some folks would call "legislative ethics" an oxymoron, a self-contradicting phrase.

Nevertheless, ethics in government is the focus of Kentuckians' attention as the General Assembly convenes in Frankfort this month. Lawmakers are considering governmental reform, an idea whose time came years ago.

1992's BOPTR0T scandal (involving the sordid relationship between the harness racing industry and some members of the Business Organizations and Professions Committee) pushed ethics reform to the front burner. Most legislators already knew many voters suspected that they go to Frankfort to protect their own interests and line their own pockets, not preserve the common good. With each indictment, BOPTR0T made sure they got the point.

BOPTR0T turned out to be embarrassing, not just for the legislators, but for citizens who put them there. Still, the scandal represented only the symptom of a larger disease. Lawmakers are human beings, with hopes and dreams and desires like anybody else; they probably have more ambition than most of us. And our system of campaign finance and legislative process only serves to lure them to forfeit shining ideals in favor of self-interest.

Do you remember your high school civics class? You learned this country and its states are governed as a representative democracy. The people pick representatives to go to Washington and state capitals to make decisions and pass laws that benefit the public interest. The concept, according to the textbooks, is pure and relatively simple. Out in the real world, we know that's not necessarily so. Yes, many committed people dedicate their lives to public service through government. But

unfortunately, some of their colleagues' heads are turned by the opportunity for greater wealth and power. So, people who can deliver money and/or votes wind up being represented better than the average Joe or Jane.

In this special session, the General Assembly is trying to push itself and all of Kentucky government back toward the ideal. Legislators are considering a proposal prepared by the state ethics task force. Its strengths and weaknesses have been dissected by the media, and that information has been made abundantly available. In the end, the new law will succeed if it limits the power of money to buy legislation by curtailing the power of PACs and lobbyists. It will ensure its continued success if it provides for effective apprehension of bad guys while remaining open enough to encourage decent, hard-working citizens to step forward and serve the commonwealth.

We can take three steps to promote its success:

■ **Pray.** This sounds like a trite platitude, coming from a Baptist editor. But only folks who absolutely believe in miracles will bother to pray for government reformation.

■ **Pay attention.** Read the newspapers and watch the news programs while the legislature is in session. Keep up with developments, and try to understand the proposals.

■ **Speak out.** Let your legislators know what you think, and tell them you expect the best. The address for senators is Legislative Research Commission, Room 029, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Ky. 40601. The address for representatives is Legislative Research Commission, Room 023, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.

Marv Knox

**In this special session, the General Assembly is trying to push itself and all of Kentucky government back toward the ideal. You can help.**

## Baptists must team up to reach our church-starting goals

If the world is going to be reached with the message of God's love and grace, his people are going to have to do the work.

Few question why Southern Baptists send missionaries, start churches and sponsor evangelism efforts. God requires it. It's just that simple. A more important question is: How committed are we about fulfilling the Great Commission?

In 1976, we gave ourselves a goal to share the gospel with every human on earth by the year 2000. For 16 years, Bold Mission Thrust has provided our denomination with a yardstick for our commitment to missions worldwide and at home.

Part of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's goal in Bold Mission Thrust is to help Southern Baptists have 50,000 New Testament congregations that will share the good news through ministry and witness in America by 2000.

To accomplish this, we need to average 1,500 church starts annually during the '90s; hence the new 15,000 Campaign.

But is starting churches really important? Three statistics prove the 15,000 Campaign is important to our denominational

and spiritual goals:

- More than 30 percent of our population live in apartments and multi-housing complexes. Of those families, 98 percent don't attend church. If you are looking for proof that there is a mission field, look no further.
- In America, 325 counties have no Southern Baptist church. Of these, 137 have more than 20,000 residents.
- In 1960, there were 5,581 people

for each Southern Baptist church. By last year, that figure had grown to 6,587 people for each Southern Baptist church.

It would be presumptuous to suggest that only Southern Baptists can present the gospel. But the tragic increases in crime, greed and abuse should convince us that millions of Americans remain untouched by the transforming grace of God. That grace is communicated only by Christians and by New Testament churches that minister in his name and point to a better life both here and beyond.

Church starting and the 15,000 Campaign also are important because new churches mean new energy. They usually grow faster and are more evangelistic than older churches.

What can you do to support the 15,000 Campaign?

First, pray. If God is not a part of this endeavor, it will come to naught.

Jesus said, "Without me, ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Second, encourage your church and association to get involved in starting new churches. The Home Mission Board has many resources to help with this. Call us; our number is (404) 898-7730.

Third, consider your personal commitment to helping start and grow churches in your community. For virtually no cost, an individual with a burden for the unchurched can start a home fellowship with the possibility of becoming a mission or a church.

With the help of God and you, Southern Baptists can achieve 50,000 congregations by the year 2000. More importantly, however, we will have more beacons pointing our country to Christ.

Larry Lewis, president  
SBC Home Mission Board  
Atlanta

**Consider how you can play a part in helping to start and grow a new Baptist church.**

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Sears' immortal Big Book bit the dust. What'll be the next to go?

It's an old joke:

A small-town pastor paid an unexpected call at the home of the Smiths, who hadn't been inside the church house in quite awhile. Mrs. Smith was somewhat startled when she saw her pastor on the porch, but she recovered quickly and invited him in for coffee.

She felt uncomfortable, knowing he knew they hadn't been faithful to the church. And so, when Little Susie walked through the room, Mrs. Smith tried to atone for their absence.

"Honey," she said to Susie, "go get me the Good Book."

"What book, Mama?" Susie asked.

"You know, dear, the book I read every day."

Susie returned in a jiffy. To her mother's mortification and the pastor's amusement, she held a Sears catalog in her chubby little hands.

That won't happen again.

Sears has announced it's discontinuing publication of its Big Book catalog. The grandmother of all catalogs finally played out. She was 97.

On the radio, an old woman told about how her family ordered seed from the Sears catalog when she was a young girl. When the next Big Book came, they used the old one

for toilet paper. An old man reminisced about his flights of fancy through the Wish Book every Christmas.

Their words struck chords of recollection. My first major-league bout of covetousness befell me as I longed for practically every item in those '60s-vintage Wish Books. And in every August of my childhood, I pulled out the fall Big Book and chose what I would wear to school the coming year. If Sears hadn't come to my little town, I

might've dressed in flour sacks. Ironically, the Big Book died amid

record sales for most catalogs.

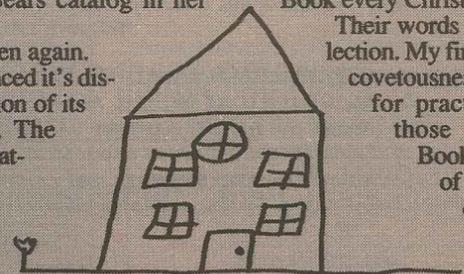
Industry analysts say the Big Book was too big. With the malls full of specialty shops, specialty catalogs appeal to today's buyers. No need thumbing through hundreds of pages when a slick little book has everything you need.

But Sears couldn't change in time. It only added toll-free telephone-order numbers a year or two ago—a decade overdue. Its own skinny catalogs also arrived too late and didn't save the Big Book anyway.

Sears' malady illustrates the church's challenge of providing vital, relevant ministries to choosy "consumers" of religion.

Dear God, please deliver us from the fate of the Big Book.

Marv Knox



## Clinton's first week draws Baptist hope & despair

**"Our vision should be of an America where abortion is safe and legal but rare."**  
President Bill Clinton

**"President Clinton has begun his presidency by rapidly accelerating America's drift toward neo-paganism."**  
Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission

Continued from page 1

of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"The overwhelming numbers of the population are heterosexual in orientation or practice. I think we need to be much more concerned about their actions and attitudes," said Tillman, an associate in the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics.

Tillman said he objects to homosexuality as a lifestyle on biblical grounds but considers the "bashing mentality" exhibited by some conservatives to be much more destructive to society in the long term.

Guy Greenfield, pastor of Eastern Hills Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M., likewise objects to homosexuality on a moral basis. "I am unalterably opposed to the homosexual lifestyle," he said. "I think it is against God's plans for human beings. I think it is a chosen lifestyle."

But Greenfield said there is no ban on homosexuals in the military of some other countries "the governments and military institutions in those countries don't seem to have a problem."

Another Clinton promise is to support federal civil rights legislation for homosexuals, which could make sexual orientation a protected category—similar to present legal protections for race, ethnic origin or gender.

Land said he opposes any such attempt. Greenfield agreed he sees no need for additional legislation to protect homosexuals.

"I've looked at the Bill of Rights. I've looked at the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I think there are plenty of laws protecting everybody," said Greenfield, a former ethics professor at Southwestern Seminary. "I don't see any need for any special legislation to protect homosexuals."

"If you're going to give them special status," Greenfield said, "why not give it to bald people, obese people or the anorectic? When you get right down to it, an extremely obese person could face major discrimination in the job market."

Meanwhile, some Baptists took a forward look in the first days of the administration to consider how Clinton will impact other issues:

■ **Foreign missions.** How Clinton responds to foreign policy issues might affect how American Christians carry out their ministries around the world—and how they are received.

For example, Muslim anger over what they see as a hypocritical double standard in U.S. policy could fuel more attacks on Christians and Christian work in many Islamic areas—primarily in the Mideast and Asia but also eventually in Bosnia.

"The people who are doing the slaughtering and raping of (Bosnian) women in these (Serbian prison) camps are basically of Christian background, and the women being raped are Muslim," explained Jim Maroney, director of the Foreign Mission Board's global desk. "It doesn't take a brilliant person to realize what kind of reception Christians are going to get when all this is over with and they go in there and try to witness to Muslims."

Clinton's "look homeward" emphasis also could bring "the danger of neo-isolationism that would be very attractive with a staggering debt," added Clark Scanlon, who directs FMB research and planning. "That could bring a mood in the country that would make the climate for foreign missions more difficult."

But Clinton also is expected to renew the call for human rights championed by Jimmy Carter in countries with dictatorial regimes. Some nations would applaud a foreign policy based on clear human rights ideals, mission specialists agree.

■ **Economy.** Solving America's economic problems touches not only the pocketbook but the heart of the Christian mission—concern for one's neighbor and wise stewardship of resources provided by God.

Clinton's proposed economic pro-

gram includes items aimed at "Putting People First." These especially target inner cities, making them eligible for grants, tax incentives and other means of spurring investment.

"A Christian ethic at this point is one that underscores the need to meet human need and to enable human beings to help themselves rather than pouring resources into things that are not productive or constructive," said Robert Parham, director of the Baptist Center for Ethics.

Another part of Clinton's package is welfare reform—providing incentives for individuals receiving government assistance to work.

■ **Religious freedom.** Although Zoe Baird will not become the next U.S. attorney general, her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee appears to undergird the Clinton administration's support of the Reli-

gious Freedom Restoration Act, said a Baptist church-state attorney.

RFRA, a bill designed to restore a high level of protection for religious practice, has the backing of a broad coalition of religious and civil-liberties groups but was not passed in the last Congress.

Prior to withdrawing from consideration for the attorney general post, Baird said the bill "should be one of the highest priorities in the early days of the administration."

That affirmation encouraged Oliver Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee and a contributor to the proposed legislation, who said the measure is "tailor-made" for the Clinton administration.

Reported by Larry Chesser through Associated Baptist Press; Tom Strode, James Dotson, Erich Bridges and Louis Moore through Baptist Press

### Cooperative Ministries

**Building Bridges**

*"For we are laborers together with God..."*  
(I Corinthians 3:9a)

**OBSERVE RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 14, 1993**  
**Theme: "We Walk In Newness of Life" (Romans 6:4).**

**Lincoln N. Bingham**  
CONSULTANT

**Thurmond Coleman, Sr.**  
CHAIRMAN, BAPTIST STATE  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Bill Jagers**  
SUPERVISOR

**Paul Blizard**  
VICE-CHAIRMAN BAPTIST  
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The history of race relations in America has culturally conditioned attitudes of racial and cultural superiority as well as other forms of racism

The observance of RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY is intended only as a REMINDER that this must be corrected. Black and white Baptists in Kentucky already share a common Christology, Theology, and Ecclesiology. There is of course, a difference in Methodology evident in Worship styles, Administration, and Polity. We affirm this diversity, but pray and work diligently for greater unity.

**"WE ARE LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD"**

So let's --

- 1) **OBSERVE RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY,** February 14, 1993
- 2) **BLACK HISTORY MONTH,** All of February
- 3) Attend the **BLACK BAPTIST PASTORS' CONFERENCE,** February 9-11, 1993, at The Galt House, Louisville (for additional information, call 502-583-6939.)
- 4) Attend the **KBC EVANGELISM CONFERENCE,** February 22-23, 1993, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, KY (for additional information, call 502-245-4101, Office for Evangelism.)

**Lincoln N. Bingham**  
Cooperative Ministers Consultant

## Judge orders church to forfeit tithes

MINNEAPOLIS (EP)—A federal judge has ordered a church in suburban Minneapolis to return nearly \$13,500 in tithes after concluding they were given in a "fraudulent transfer."

The situation, which raises unusual church-state issues, came about when two church members filed for personal bankruptcy due to the failure of their electrical contracting firm.

After applying for protection from creditors under bankruptcy law, the couple continued their usual practice of donating 10 percent of their gross earnings to the Crystal Free Church.

Legally, people who are officially insolvent may continue to spend their money for necessities, such as food, but otherwise are expected to conserve their resources for creditors. Because of this, Robert Kressel, chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Minneapolis, ruled the contributions constituted a "fraudulent transfer" and ordered the church to return the money.

The church is considering an appeal because church leaders believe Kressel's ruling is wrong.

The case raises interesting church-state issues, said John Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute.

Unless the church had reason to believe the donations should not have been made, the money was accepted in good faith and is now owned by the church, he suggested. And to force the church to surrender money it owns could set a dangerous precedent, he added.

## Abortion case gave Robertson a victory

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (RNS)—Since it was founded three years ago, Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice has argued dozens of cases before judges without a single loss.

It was no exception Jan. 13 when the U.S. Supreme Court handed the conservative center a victory. The court ruled 5-4 that civil rights laws pose no barrier to anti-abortion blockades at women's health clinics.

In a departure from previous practice, Robertson's center in this case adopted language formerly used by the court in *Casey vs. Planned Parenthood*. It borrowed the language even though the case is anathema to anti-abortion groups because it confirms *Roe vs. Wade*, the 1973 decision that made abortion legal.

The creative flash came weeks before the center, which sees itself as an alternative to the American Civil Liberties Union, argued the case.

Jay Sekulow, the center's chief counsel, was discussing strategy with the group's executive director, Keith Fournier. The new case, *Bray vs. Alexandria Women's Health Clinic*, tested whether federal judges could use the so-called Ku Klux Klan Act, an 1871 civil rights act, against protesters who attempt to blockade or shut down abortion clinics.

Fournier explained: "Jay had a creative light bulb go off. There was language in *Casey*, a terrible opinion that reaffirmed *Roe vs. Wade*, that said reasonable people can disagree over the issue of abortion."

"The question was, do you quote *Casey* when you hate the opinion?"

Outside lawyers said no, but Sekulow and Fournier said yes.

And it worked, Fournier said. When Sekulow used the court's own language to argue his point, "I could see the justices sitting up and listening," Fournier explained.

In fact, Sekulow's argument became the cornerstone of the court's majority opinion.

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote: "Whatever one thinks of abortion, it cannot be denied that there are common and respectable reasons for opposing it, other than hatred of or condescension toward ... women."

Abortion rights advocates criticized the court's opinion, saying the court is failing to guarantee access to legal abortions.

But many conservatives were elated.

"'Ecstasy' I think is the best word," said Fournier, who at one time had all 11 of his full-time lawyers assigned to the case.

Robertson immediately used the victory as a fund-raising tool on his television program, "The 700 Club."

He urged donors to give even more money so similar victories could be achieved.

## Land: Christians aren't legislating morality

ATLANTA (BP)—Christians who actively oppose abortion are not mired in an impossible attempt to "legislate morality," according to Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Land was keynote speaker for a Jan. 22 rally on the steps of the Georgia capitol. The event, which drew an estimated 10,000 people, was sponsored by the Georgia Right To Life chapter to mark the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe vs. Wade* decision.

Citing Romans 13, Land said the New Testament teaches that God established civil government to

"punish those who do evil and to reward those who do that which is right." That is why society has laws against such moral failures as murder, theft and rape, he reasoned.

Such laws do not impose a morality on the offenders, Land said, but prevent them from imposing their immorality on others.

"When we seek to restrict abortion, we are not seeking to impose our morality on mothers," he explained. "We are trying to keep them from imposing their immorality on their victims. And it is always a fatal imposition because the baby dies."

## TV anchorman punished for claiming bias

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—A television anchorman was suspended from his job after telling a group of conservative political activists that the news media are "liberal" and biased against Christians.

Lee Webb, news anchor for WTLV in Jacksonville, Fla., was suspended by the NBC affiliate for three days Jan. 27 for "violating company policy," News Director Kevin Brennan told the Florida Times-Union.

The station declined to comment on the incident or to confirm the reason for Webb's suspension. Webb likewise declined to comment. "They've asked me not to talk about it," he told the newspaper.

Webb was a speaker for a Jan. 16 leadership training seminar sponsored by the Jacksonville chapter of the Christian Coalition, a national organization founded by TV evangelist Pat Robertson to mobilize Christians for conservative political action.

The seminar attracted 100-plus people to Westside Baptist Church, where Webb, one of several speakers, offered advice on how the Christian Coalition could influence the news media.

Webb's comments were later reported in a weekly lifestyle newspaper in Jacksonville.

In his address, Webb mentioned "the obvious bias that exists in the media against you as Christians." He reportedly showed a videotape of an NBC News story on the Religious Right which he said illustrated the bias.

"We hear complaints every day that the news media is liberal," Webb told the group. "Yes, my friends, it is."

The TV station's action suspending Webb, though apparently legal, brought complaints from many Jacksonville residents. They said WTLV, while claiming freedom of speech for its broadcasts, was applying a different standard to its employees.

## BRIEFS

■ A comprehensive \$4 million campaign is underway to bring ecology into the pews. With \$600,000 already committed in foundation grants, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment will target congregations with project ideas and educational programs. Supporters include the National Council of Churches, the U.S. Catholic Conference and some Jewish and evangelical Christian groups.

■ Three United Methodist groups have asked the denomination's leaders to scrap plans for holding the church's 1996 General Conference in Colorado. The meeting should be moved, they claim, because of the state's adoption of a controversial law that prohibits cities from passing laws to protect homosexual rights.

■ Evangelist Billy Graham remains one of America's most-admired men, according to recent polls by USA Today/CNN and Good Housekeeping magazine. The magazine's survey ranks Graham as the most-admired man in America, up from third place last year. The USA Today/CNN poll places Graham fifth, behind George Bush and Bill Clinton but ahead of Pope John Paul II, Ronald Reagan and Michael Jordan.

## Singles Intimacy Conference

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# WOMEN

## WMU updating won't be seen in churches until 1995

### O'Brien assures missionaries of WMU support

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP)—The relationship between Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's missionaries has not changed, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien assured missionaries Jan. 17. "What we want you to know is that WMU loves you and will pray for you and support you. And that message comes loud and clear today just as it did almost 105 years ago" when WMU began, O'Brien told furloughing missionaries during a worship service at the FMB's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. "You are still the reason we exist, and we have recommitted ourselves to be better supporters of yours," she commented before moving into a message on needs in America and the world and how Christians are called to meet them. O'Brien's assurance came a few days after the WMU executive board made decisions which, she has said, should allow the organization to be the one entity that can relate to all Southern Baptists interested in missions.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—How Woman's Missionary Union looks in the local church in 1995 will be different from the way it looks today, due to action taken by the Southern Baptist WMU Executive Board Jan. 9-13.

WMU leaders describe the WMU organization of the future as simpler, more flexible and more relevant.

Changes are found in the new "Church WMU Base Design," a document which defines what WMU tasks are and what WMU organizations will be in the local church. The new plan will become effective with the 1995-96 church year.

The first change can be found in WMU's tasks. While the principles are not different from WMU's current tasks, they have been simplified and re-prioritized, Patterson said.

The tasks are:

- "Pray for and give to missions."
- "Do missions."

■ "Learn about missions."

■ "Develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle."

■ "Participate in the work of the church and the denomination."

WMU members will be encouraged to "do missions" more than ever before, Patterson said.

The new plan also includes a greater emphasis on churchwide missions, according to WMU leaders.

"This plan offers a continuing emphasis on strengthening our age-level organizations," said Karen Simons, WMU churchwide involvement director. "However, it goes beyond that to reach out to those church members who might not wish to belong to an organization. We have called this 'churchwide missions.'"

Churchwide missions includes ways all local church members can be involved in missions: through awareness opportunities, one-time events, short-term activities and ongoing min-

istry projects.

Beginning Oct. 1, 1995, WMU members will find the adult organization to be more innovative and unique than what they have today, said Andrea Mullins, national Baptist Women specialist.

In the adult organization, women of any age or level of spiritual maturity can come together as a result of a common need, interest or lifestyle, she said. Each group will select one or more of the missions tasks as a focus.

Also under the new plan, the Girls in Action organization will allow for older and younger groups within the organization. The new plan calls for strengthening the older girls' partici-

pation in leadership and planning and will provide learning approaches more relevant to older GAs.

The plan also calls for some changes in Mission Friends, WMU's missions organization for preschool boys and girls. In the future, Mission Friends classes can be formed by a parent to teach a preschooler in the home, by a church member to teach preschoolers in his or her community or as part of a community program such as a day-care center.

The new plan also provides a variety of options for what will be considered an Acteens organization. Acteens is the organization for girls in grades seven through 12.

## Steve Green

In Concert

March 16 • 7:30 (CST)

First Baptist, Hopkinsville

For ticket information, call (502) 886-1216

Tickets are FREE but must be reserved



### "At least you didn't quit"

Those were the words of my 7-year-old son, Jason, to me this week as I started on his third pine-wood derby car. I had messed up the first two and was looking mightily discouraged as I began the third. As I thought about his words, I realized how easy it is to become discouraged. There is so much in life that we have no control over, and we are usually too impatient to allow God to work things out.

The church, through our ministry, reaches out to those children and families who have quit. These people have faced so many burdens in life that it was just impossible to go on. For a young person who has been abused repeatedly there comes a time when you do not care any more. For a mom with no employable skills, a house full of children and an abusing husband, no way out can be seen. They exist, but they have quit life.

Our ministry must find a way to see the silent calls for help in the eyes of children who may never be able to tell you all that has been done to them. We must find a way to help the discouraged, abused mom who is so frightened that she

dare not let on that a problem exists. We must find a way of encouraging dads who have been down on their luck so long that there is actually no hope left.

The task is too big for our ministry alone. We are only touching the surface of the needs around us, and that seems overwhelming at times. I am encouraged however that we are not alone in this ministry. There are 2200 churches in every corner of Kentucky charged with reaching out to the hopeless. You in your church can touch people that no one else can.

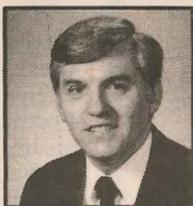
Our church in Texas had a sign which described the purpose of the church. It started off with "First Baptist is a hospital for sinners."

There are many people across Kentucky who need that hospital right now. Such a hospital is one where we recognize that all fail and all need encouragement. It is a place where everyone accepts his brother or sister, warts and all, and admonishes them to continue to run the race of life.

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

Paid Column

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

## Report of the Travis Estate Fund for Elderly Baptists and Ministers and Families Crises

October 1, 1991 through September 30, 1992

Medical (elderly Baptists) .....	\$8,036.25
Ministers Crises .....	\$3,917.60
Misc. Expenses (postage, etc.) .....	\$169.00
Total Expenditures .....	\$12,122.85

Note: This assistance is limited to members and ministers of churches of the Daviess-McLean Baptist Association.

### CBH: Where caring is sharing

Recently next-door neighbors Central Baptist Hospital and Centenary Methodist Church shared similar "problems": Both facilities were bursting at their seams, and neither had a place to grow.

The two groups began working together in 1987 and devised a mutually-favorable plan to locate and develop desperately needed space. Today the church, the hospital and new Baptist mission projects are all benefiting from this cooperative effort.

On Sept. 13, 1992, Centenary Methodist Church celebrated the dedication of its new 104,000 square-foot building at 2800 Tates Creek Road. Its former church site adjoining Central Baptist Hospital is undergoing demolition to make way for expanded hospital services.

Once completed, a marker will be erected to commemorate the original church location.

In January 1992, Central Baptist Hospital asked representatives of Elkhorn Baptist Association and Kentucky Baptist Convention to identify mission/church projects which could benefit from building materials salvaged from the church's demolition.

It was learned that Victory Baptist Church, a former mission of

Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, was in need of construction supplies. Central Baptist Hospital negotiated a salvaging contract to include these building materials.

As a result, Victory Baptist will utilize many of the old structure's internal fixtures—support beams from the old chapel and much of the field stone from the front sections of the church.

Central Baptist Hospital renegotiated with the contractor and was permitted to return unused stone and building materials.

Funds received from the returned materials will be donated to KBC's direct missions department to be used in new church/mission work.

Central Baptist Hospital is dedicated to providing its patients and its community with services which meet the highest of Christian standards. Assisting local churches as they grow and serve God exemplifies this commitment.

This article was provided by Central Baptist Hospital. Any questions or comments concerning this article should be directed to Bill Sisson, president, Central Baptist Hospital, 1740 Nicholasville Road, Lexington, Ky. 40503; (606) 275-6100.

Paid Column

# Taxes ... Ministers



## MINISTER'S INCOME TAX CONFERENCES

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 ..... OWENSBORO**  
Third Baptist Church, 527 Allen Street

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 ..... PADUCAH**  
First Baptist Church, 2890 Broadway

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 ..... LEXINGTON**  
Immanuel Baptist Church, 3100 Tates Creek Road

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 ..... LOUISVILLE**  
Walnut Street Baptist Church, 200 St. Catherine Street

- How to File Taxes as a Minister
- How to Report a Minister's Compensation to the IRS
- How to Structure a Minister's Financial Support Plan for the best tax advantages
- Update: The Church Annuity Plan

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

10:00 AM Tax Conference  
11:45 AM Lunch & Church Annuity Plan Update  
1:00 PM Tax Conference con't.  
3:30 PM Conference Adjourns

Individual Consultations will begin at 3:30 and continue as long as needed.

### CONFERENCE FEE

\$ 20.00 for one person from a church.  
\$ 5.00 for each additional person from the same church.

Conference Fee covers cost of lunch for each person attending and 1 copy for each church of Church and Clergy Tax Guide by Richard Hammar. (\$ 14.95 value) Each one attending will also receive a copy of Minister's Income Tax Guide published by Annuity Board, SBC.

### CONFERENCE LEADERS

John Hancock, Manager  
Member Services Division  
Annuity Board, SBC



Don Spencer, CFP  
Director, Annuity Department  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

### REGISTRATION FORM

Please register the persons listed from our church to attend a 1993 Minister's Tax Conference:

We will attend the conference at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
City Date

Persons who will attend: (List name & position)

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ conference fee. (\$ 20.00 for first person and \$ 5.00 for each additional person from the same church.)

Send form and Conference Fee to: ANNUITY DEPARTMENT, KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253.

# PEOPLE

## KENTUCKY KERNELS

On an average day in Kentucky, 147 babies are born, 97 people die, 130 marriages take place and 58 divorces are finalized. This data is based on the latest statistics available, for 1991, from the State Center for Health Statistics.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Main Street Church celebrated the 25th anniversary of Calvin Perry as pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Al Hickman resigned as pastor of Acton Church.

Russ Mobley, assistant professor of drama and speech at Campbellsville College, has been elected president of the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference for the second time. Mobley, who has taught at Campbellsville since 1971, is a graduate of Oneida Baptist Institute and University of Kentucky.

Taylor Publishing Company of Dallas has named Campbellsville College's 1992 Maple Trail yearbook as a finalist for the 1993 Yearbook Yearbook, an annual collection of yearbook design and copywriting excellence. Bobbi-Lynn Thompson of

Springfield served as student editor of the 1992 yearbook.

■ **ELKHORN CITY**—Yuma Church called George Gaddie, interim pastor, as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—South Elkhorn Church ordained four as deacons Jan. 24: Gary Eads, Kevin Frick, David Humlong and David Morris.

■ **LONDON**—Jamie Maxey, assistant pastor and youth pastor at Arthur Ridge Church, recently was ordained to the ministry.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Penile Church called John M. Sherlock as pastor.

Gary Hollingsworth has resigned as pastor of Shively Church to become pastor of First Church of Alexandria, Va.

The Methodist Evangelical Hospital Counseling Center invites all ministers to a workshop on pastoral as-

## Woman hasn't missed Sunday school in 53 years

LOUISVILLE—Pearl Whobrey hasn't taken a vacation from Sunday school in half a century.

Despite illness, bad weather and out-of-town trips, this committed Baptist woman has attended a Sunday school class every week for 53 years.

"It's just a part of my life," Whobrey said. "It has become as natural as going to eat."

Most of Whobrey's 53 years were spent at Cane Run General Baptist Church in Louisville, where she was Sunday school secretary for about 45

years. About five years ago, she moved her Sunday school membership to Rockford Lane Baptist Church, also in Louisville.

Whobrey said her attendance record began in her late teens.

"My church encouraged attendance. I got involved in (Sunday school), and always got a lot out of it," she said. Once the years of perfect attendance began to add up, she said, she became more and more determined to go every Sunday.

Whobrey recalled several "close

calls" when her perfect attendance record was threatened. She said those occasions prompted her to shovel snow out of her driveway, visit churches in seven different states and even obtain special permission for a temporary release from the hospital.

However, Whobrey said she is involved in Sunday school for more reasons than to maintain her attendance record.

"I never think of it as the number of years anymore," she said. "I just enjoy it."

## MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Ray and Leslie England**, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field at P.O. Box 7, Baguio City, 2600 Philippines. He is a native of Campbellsville; she was born in Covington.

■ **Herb and Caroline Jukes**, missionaries to the Bahamas, are in the

States at 412 East Tarpon Ave., Tarpon Springs, Fla. 33589. She considers Morehead her hometown.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** The personnel committee of Valley Station Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of youth. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Valley Station Baptist Church, 5415 Valley Station Road, Louisville, Ky. 40272.

**WANTED:** Full-time minister of music and youth. Contact Bob W. Brooks, First Baptist Church, Pike & Lady Washington Sts., Louisa, Ky. 41230. (606) 638-4861.

**FOR SALE:** A.B. Dick model 310 table-top offset press, A.B. Dick model 106 plate maker, Ditto machine model E-21. Price negotiable; If interested, please contact Victory Memorial Baptist Church, (502) 368-2521.

**WANTED:** Part-time minister of music. Resumé or inquiry to Burgin Baptist Church, P.O. Box 266, Burgin, Ky. 40310; Phone (606) 748-5188.

**SEEKING:** National church furniture manufacturer (since 1960) seeks full/part-time commission sales rep. in Kentucky. Van, wagon or comparable vehicle needed. Call Steve Smith, (800) 234-6624.

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

## Four varsity teams compete at same time

Tuesday evening, Jan. 26, four Oneida varsity athletic teams competed at the same time against other schools. Three of the meets were at home, one was away. Hundreds of our students and staff were involved, including our band which played for the first time since our director's death.

Our boys' and girls' swim teams both defeated Knox Central of Barbourville and St. Camillus High School of Corbin in our last home meet of this season.

Senior Scott Self broke our school's long-standing record in the 200-yard free-style competition with a time of one minute, 58 seconds. He also set a new record earlier, swimming 500 yards in five minutes, 33 seconds.

There will be more competitions this season away from home, but it was a great way for Scott to end five years of varsity swim competition in our home pool. He came to us as a small seventh-grader from Arizona. Born in Colombia, he was adopted by American parents when he was just an infant. Scott has been a joy to work with these six years.

Not only an excellent swimmer, Scott has been on our soccer team for five years. As a freshman, he scored the winning goal that put us in the regional that year. For these same years he has done well throwing the discus and shotput each spring in many track competitions.

He also is an excellent musician. His speciality is the clarinet, and he also plays piano and has given many outstanding performances.

We have watched this quiet, shy boy grow into a muscular man—always polite, with an engaging smile much of the time. We have watched him grow and mature in his spiritual walk as well.

Senior Krissy May also had her last home

swim meet. She has been on our varsity swim team since the sixth grade and has set several different girls' records over the years. She was the first middle school student to earn a high school letter jacket in OBI history, doing so as an eighth grader. She has been editor of the yearbook the past two years, and active in many other activities over these seven years.

While the swim meet was on, across the road in the larger of our two gyms, our girls' basketball team was defeated by Wolfe County. But an

amazing eighth grader on the high school varsity team, Melissa Brandon, scored 26 points. She also was a key runner as Oneida's girls' cross country team won the high school regional championship several months ago and advanced to the state tournament.

Melissa and her younger brother came to us from North Carolina two years ago because their mother became ill and was unable to care for them. A Kentucky grandmother is their faithful guardian.

In the meantime, our boys' varsity basketball team was defeating favored

Cumberland High School in our first game of the Regional Class A tournament. It was a 79-58 victory for our boys. Oneida senior guard Larry Gritton Jr. scored 30 points, and freshman guard Henry Garrison scored 19.

Our next game is against highly favored Harlan. Last year we defeated them to win the regional championship and went on to the state tournament held in Rupp Arena.

At this point our boys' record is 17 wins, three losses. We have won two invitational championships so far.

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

## ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

## RA camper returns to teach

In the summer of 1944, 9-year-old Bill Pfoff enjoyed Royal Ambassador camp at Clear Creek Springs. During the week he sent a Kelly Hall postcard home to his mother inscribed with a brief note. The card came back to Clear Creek in 1989 when Pfoff returned to teach.

Born in Perry County and raised in Green County, Pfoff considered a career in medicine. He completed a doctor of philosophy degree in physiology from the University of Southern California and retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1980.

After raising four children and four foster children, the Pfoffs moved to Green County and bought 140 acres and an aging farmhouse. For seven years they worked to restore and modernize their dream home and fill it with antiques.

During 1985-86 the Lord began to work on them. Their "dream" had not satisfied them; the needs of people were so much more important.

The Lord's call resulted in selling the farm and most of the antiques and moving to Dallas Theological Seminary to prepare for a Bible teaching ministry. He graduated with a master of arts in biblical

studies and a master of theology in biblical exposition. After a term of supervised teaching experience on our campus, the trustees tapped him as an associate professor of general education and Bible.

In August he became a full professor. Pfoff is a licensed addiction counselor. He and his wife currently lead a campus marriage enrichment class on Thursday nights.

Loretta Pfoff volunteers as receptionist for the medical-dental clinics. Her special calling "is to pray for Clear Creek." Since coming to the campus she has met weekly to pray with four to five women in the community.

Scenes from the Pfoffs' life include singing a hymn to open each class, having a single student in their home on

the weekend when the dorm dining hall is closed, walking the old railroad trail, fishing trips, teaching a couples' class at First Baptist, enjoying five grandchildren.

Dr. Pfoff has traced his family roots among the German Moravians. At Clear Creek he and Mrs. Pfoff are helping our families grow spiritual roots.

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

## CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill & Loretta Pfoff

Paid Column

# MISSIONS

## Evangelicals gaining influence in Latin America

By Mary Speidel  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)—After centuries of struggling for identification, evangelical Christians appear to be gaining influence in the traditionally Roman Catholic countries of Latin America.

For example, historian Arnoldo Canclini has made history in Argentina as the first Protestant invited to join a national academic society.

Canclini, also an Argentine Baptist pastor, recently was named to the National Academy of History, one of 16 societies honoring Argentina's leaders in the arts, sciences and other disciplines.

Ten years ago he never dreamed he would be named to the prestigious academy, whose membership is largely Roman Catholic. "It's really a high honor for the whole evangelical population," said Canclini, who has written more than 60 books, many on Protestant history.

The achievement suggests Protestants are gaining wider acceptance in the traditionally Roman Catholic country. "This may mean Protestants are now being seen more as a part of the nation and the nation's past," said Canclini, a pastor in Buenos Aires.

Canclini's honor points to a broader cultural shift in Latin America, according to Betty Law, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's vice president for the Americas who retired Jan. 15. "Evangelicals are still a minority, but they're now an accepted minority. They're no longer looked on as a rare breed."

Since the late 1960s, the region's evangelical population has soared from 15 million to more than 40 million people, according to Time magazine. Christianity Today reports that some observers say Latin America is becoming Protestant more rapidly than central Europe did during the 16th century Protestant Reformation.

In fact, some scholars believe evangelicals could become a majority in Latin America if the current growth rate continues. A third of the region's population could be evangelical by the year 2010, predicts anthropologist David Stoll in his book "Is Latin America Turning Protestant?"

But some scholars call such assess-

ments unrealistic. "It's easy to get the impression that because there are well-known evangelical success stories in certain countries that therefore this is some kind of steamroller or snowball effect," said researcher David Barrett, consultant at the FMB's world evangelization research center.

Barrett said many who write on this subject cite statistics that do not reflect the growth of all "evangelicals"—Christians who emphasize new life, rebirth, conversion, baptism, the Great Commission, the Lord's Supper, Christ's second coming and the Bible.

These widely reported statistics actually show Protestant growth, not total evangelical growth, in Latin America, Barrett said. In fact, millions of Catholics call themselves "evangelicals," such as those in the growing charismatic Catholic movement in the region, he added.

That kind of statistical misinterpretation isn't anything new, Barrett said. Researchers in the late 1960s made some of the same assessments scholars today make about the region's Protestant growth, he said.

Barrett believes it's correct to say Christianity in general is "exploding in Latin America" but added "it's been exploding for a long time, over the past 100 years."

He cited statistics to support that view. During the past century, Protestant evangelicals alone have grown steadily from 760,000 in 1900 to 18 million in the mid-1980s with a projected total of 34 million by the year 2000. Christians in the region—encompassing everyone from Roman Catholics to Baptists to Pentecostals—have grown from 62 million in 1900 to 392 million in the mid 1980s. The Christian population in Latin America is expected to be 571 million by the year 2,000—92 percent of the entire population.

Barrett said recent growth in Latin America is greatest among the charismatic movement in mainline churches—including Catholics—followed by Pentecostals and Baptists.

No matter how growth statistics are compiled and analyzed, most observers agree a religious awakening is occurring in Latin America. "There's a spiritual hunger in Latin America," said Jim Slack, FMB church growth

analyst. "Spiritually speaking, it's their time."

And in the midst of that awakening, Protestant evangelicals find increased social acceptance. "All kinds of evidence indicates the stigma of being an evangelical is waning," said Bill Goff, who directs FMB work in Spanish South America.

Politics is one evidence. In 1991 Jorge Serrano Elias, a Pentecostal, was the first Protestant elected president of Guatemala. He's not the first one to serve as president of a Latin American country, but there's a growing Protestant influence in politics of the region. Serrano's vice president and about a fourth of the Congress also are Protestants, who make up more than 30 percent of Guatemala's population, according to some researchers.

In 1990 Carlos Garcia, a Baptist, became second vice president of Peru, running on a ticket with presidential winner Alberto Fujimori, a Roman Catholic. About one-third of the congressional candidates who ran on Fujimori's slate are Protestants.

In many Latin American countries, Protestants are organizing political parties. Examples include the Inde-

pendent Christian Movement in Argentina and a party in Venezuela called "Ora," Spanish for prayer.

While Protestants seem to be gaining ground, some observers say the Roman Catholic Church is growing increasingly weaker. About 400 Roman Catholics per hour switch to Protestant groups, according to news reports.

Barrett describes a different scenario: While Protestants are growing, so is the Roman Catholic Church, both through demographic growth and new evangelistic efforts.

Such practices support Pope John Paul's recent appeal to Latin bishops for a new focus on evangelism.

But the pope also addressed the rapid growth of Protestants in the region, saying Roman Catholics have fallen prey to "ravenous wolves" of Protestant "sects." He urged bishops to guard their flocks.

Meanwhile, some Protestants in parts of Latin America—particularly in Mexico—cite increasing instances of persecution by Roman Catholics. Abuses against Protestants in some areas have included threats, vandalism and murder, according to news reports.

**"Evangelicals are still a minority, but they're now an accepted minority."**

Retired FMB administrator Betty Law on the growth of evangelical groups in Latin America



**LATIN AMERICAN GROWTH** Nicaraguan worshippers pray at the altar of Managua's International Baptist Church during a service led by Southern Baptist missionary Jim Palmer. In Nicaragua and throughout the traditionally Roman Catholic region, Protestantism is attracting a growing number of followers. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

### Baptists growing in Latin America

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Latin American Baptists related to Southern Baptist foreign missions currently have the greatest potential for growth among overseas Baptists but face great challenges in achieving that potential.

That's the view of Jim Slack, church growth analyst at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Baptist growth statistics in Latin America mirror the trend of broader Protestant growth in the region, according to Slack.

Baptist growth in Latin America has been a "sustained, continuous growth with spurts" in certain areas,

added Joe Bruce, who directs FMB work in Central America.

Some of the strongest growth has occurred among Baptists in Brazil, Mexico and Guatemala, Slack said. These countries, along with Peru and Argentina, reported the region's most new church starts among Baptists in 1991.

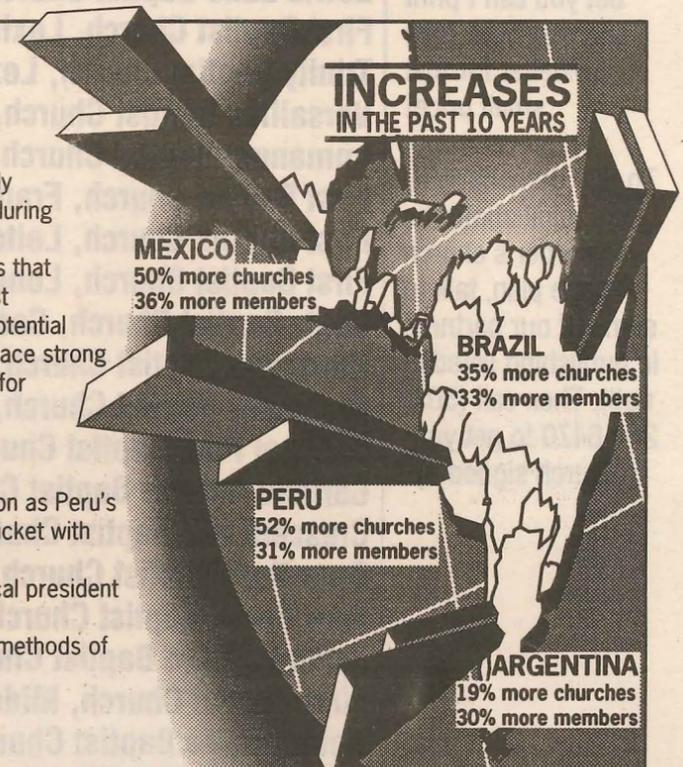
Based on number of preaching points alone, "Baptists in the Americas have the greatest potential for growth of all regions of the world. No question about it," Slack said. But a low rate of preaching points maturing into new congregations poses a serious threat to achieving that potential, he believes.

### Harvest time in Latin America

Baptists in Latin America show steady growth. Bars at right indicate gains during the past decade. These gains were reported by Baptists in four countries that relate to the work of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries. Despite their potential for growth, Latin American Baptists face strong competition and recognize the need for better discipleship of new members.

#### Evangelical stigma dissolves

- In June 1990, a Baptist wins election as Peru's second vice president running on ticket with a Roman Catholic.
- In January 1991, the first evangelical president is elected in Guatemala.
- Roman Catholics begin trying new methods of evangelism.



(BP) GRAPHIC By Marty Croll

# Don't believe the Recorder's back page is a good deal for your church newsletter?

About half the subscribers to the Western Recorder won't see the page you're reading right now. The reason: They're reading their church newsletters on this back page.

Kentucky Baptist churches of all sizes and locations are discovering the Recorder's news page plan saves money and time. And church members report they are glad to get the variety of helpful information included in each week's Recorder.

Your church could get this same great deal for just \$10 per week, plus 15 cents per subscription per week. If you're already sending the Recorder to every home, the only new cost would be the \$10 newsletter fee. Bet you can't print and mail your own newsletter for that small price!

To find out what others think about the Recorder's church page plan, talk to some of our partners in publishing listed at right. Then call (502) 244-6470 to get your church signed up.

## ASK A FRIEND

**Williamstown Baptist Church, Williamstown**  
**Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown**  
**Calvary Baptist Church, Frankfort**  
**First Baptist Church, Madisonville**  
**First Baptist Church, Fisherville**  
**Rockford Lane Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Alton Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg**  
**Lewisport Baptist Church, Lewisport**  
**Central Baptist Church, Maysville**  
**First Baptist Church, Morehead**  
**First Baptist Church, Eddyville**  
**First Baptist Church, Oak Grove**  
**Second Baptist Church Hopkinsville**  
**Turner Ridge Baptist Church, Falmouth**  
**Buena Vista Baptist Church, Owensboro**  
**Crabtree Avenue Baptist Church, Owensboro**  
**Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro**  
**First Baptist Church, Lexington**  
**Trinity Baptist Church, Lexington**  
**Versailles Baptist Church, Versailles**  
**Immanuel Baptist Church, Frankfort**  
**First Baptist Church, Frankfort**  
**First Baptist Church, Leitchfield**  
**First Baptist Church, London**  
**Cadiz Baptist Church, Cadiz**  
**Hurricane Baptist Church, Cadiz**  
**Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Buechel Park Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Deer Park Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Jeffersontown Baptist Church, Jeffersontown**  
**First Baptist Church, Middletown**  
**Gethsemane Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Highland Baptist Church, Louisville**

**First Baptist Church, Williamsburg**  
**Dunmore Baptist Church, Dunmore**  
**Burlington Baptist Church, Burlington**  
**Fairlane Baptist Church, Alexandria**  
**Latonia Baptist Church, Covington**  
**Bethel Baptist Church, Eubank**  
**Lyndon Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Midlane Park Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Green Hills Baptist Church, Fisherville**  
**Berea Baptist Church, Berea**  
**Shively Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**South Jefferson Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**West Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville**  
**Burgin Baptist Church, Burgin**  
**Harrodsburg Baptist Church, Harrodsburg**  
**Second Baptist Church, Greenville**  
**Bullitt Lick Baptist Church, Shepherdsville**  
**Erlanger Baptist Church, Erlanger**  
**Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset**  
**First Baptist Church, Franklin**  
**Liberty Baptist Church, Russell Springs**  
**Greensburg Baptist Church, Greensburg**  
**Cecilia Baptist Church, Cecilia**  
**First Baptist Church, Sonora**  
**Immanuel Baptist Church, Elizabethtown**  
**Pigeon Fork Baptist Church, Waddy**  
**Waddy Baptist Church, Waddy**  
**Centerfield Baptist Church, Centerfield**  
**DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church, LaGrange**  
**Westport Baptist Church, Westport**  
**First Baptist Church, Middlesboro**  
**First Baptist Church, Bowling Green**