

FEBRUARY 9, 1993 VOL. 167, NO. 6

FOR THE RECORD

Patterson denied
Paige Patterson has been denied membership in the Baptist church nearest Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he now serves. See page 2.

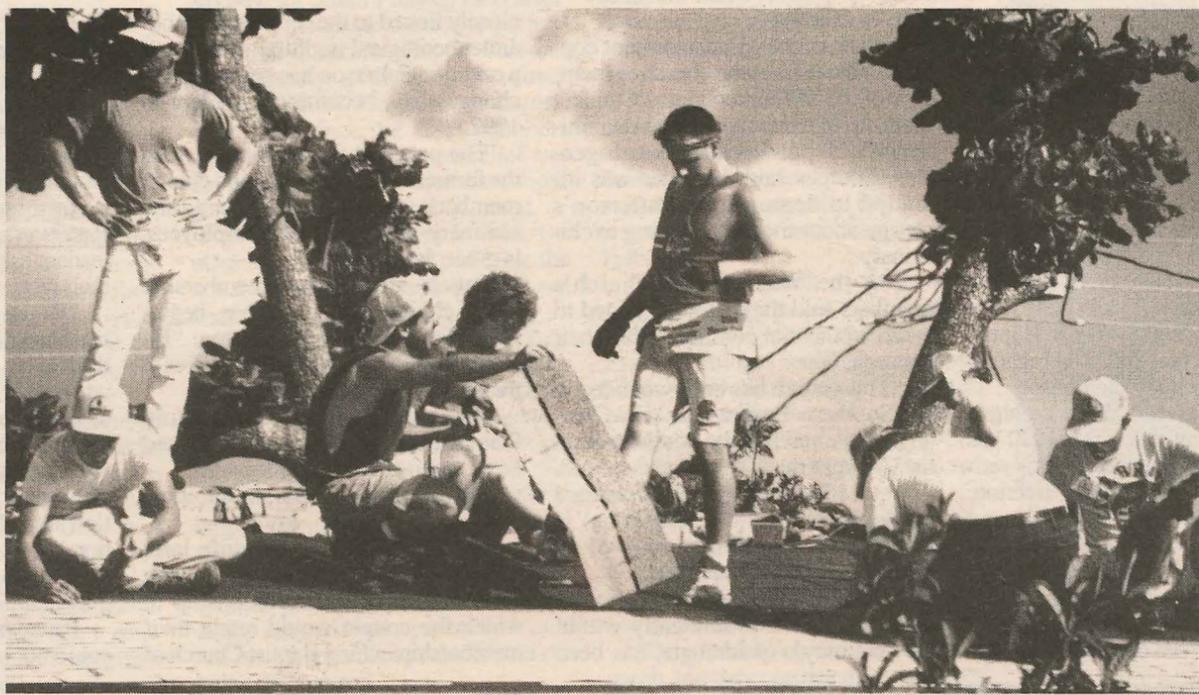
Masons responding
Masons nationwide are responding to accusations by some Baptists that Masonry is anti-Christian. See page 2.

BSU blowout
Baptist students from Northern Kentucky University were "blown away" by ministry needs they discovered in hurricane-ravaged Florida. See page 3.

Family Forum
An effective marriage requires at least two different kinds of communication. See page 4.

Editorial
For white Baptists, Race Relations Sunday ought to be more than a feeling of "We ought to treat those people better." See page 5.

Friends in faith
A friendship led a Southern Baptist missionary to a greater understanding of the Yao tribe of Africa and led his new friend to faith in Jesus Christ. See page 9.



ROOF-TOP EXPERIENCE Twenty students and three sponsors from Northern Kentucky University's Baptist Student Union spent a week between semesters in South Florida, helping residents repair their homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. The experience opened the students' eyes to the force of nature, the power of love and the grace of God. See related story, page 3. (Photo by Bill Ellis)

Churches' fears shut out mentally retarded

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

A fear of mentally retarded people prevents most churches from ministering to a segment of society that desperately needs the church's help, according to Pamela Thrift.

Thrift, minister to handicapped people at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, is among nine contributors to a new guide to help churches overcome such fears.

The "Handbook for Ministry with Persons with Mental Retardation" is a new product available from the Kentucky Baptist Convention. It was edited by Jack Palmer, KBC Sunday school associate, before his retirement last year.

"Churches are about the last organization in society that will do anything to minister to the mentally handicapped," Palmer noted.

But lack of action by churches probably is due more to fear than lack of concern, Thrift said. "Most people are just afraid of doing the wrong thing."

For example, when face-to-face with a mentally retarded person who is talking too loudly, most people don't know what to do. They want to tell the other person to be quiet but

they're afraid of hurting that person's feelings.

"Church members need to learn it's OK to say, 'You're talking too loudly; please be quiet,'" Thrift explained. "That tells them you want to talk to them. But to keep stepping back and not tell them why gives them the message they're not liked."

Because of these fears, most churches can more readily accept a physically handicapped person than a mentally handicapped person, she said.

The need is great, however. Every five minutes a baby with mental retardation is born in the United States.

And about half of all handicapped people suffer from some form of mental retardation, Thrift added.

"A lot of those people are not being church-ed, and a lot of those families are not being church-ed,"

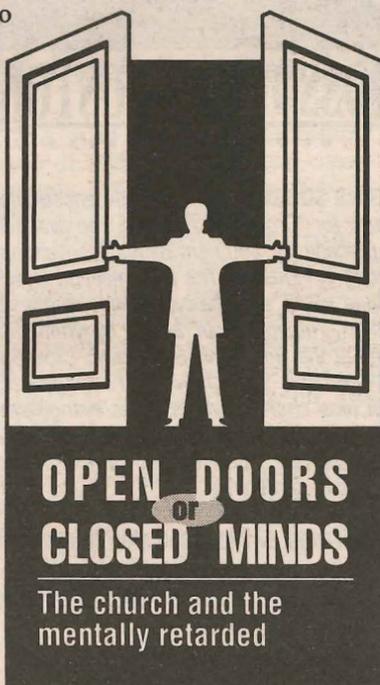
she said, explaining that many parents of mentally retarded children are afraid of the church.

They're usually tired of having to fight the system and fear if they go to church they'll only have to fight one more place to gain understanding for their children's special needs.

In fact, most churches are ill-prepared to receive such families if they were to show up on Sunday morning, Thrift noted. When she began her work at High-

view in 1990, only four Baptist churches in Louisville had any ministry to the mentally retarded.

□ See Handbook helps ..., page 7



Sudan bears brunt of ancient Muslim-Christian conflict

By Erich Bridges
SBC Foreign Mission Board

KHARTOUM, Sudan (BP)—In the freezing desert night of Sudan, children stare at the stars until they sleep—or die.

Desperate Christian mothers bury their babies in the sand, leaving only their faces uncovered. With no blankets, it is the only way they can warm the infants' trembling bodies.

Nearly 2 million black Christians and animists in the north African nation have been forced into isolated

concentration camps by Islamic government forces, according to human rights groups. The decade-long civil war between Arab Muslims in the north and black Christians and animists in the south is an ethnic and political conflict. But it also is a religious one.

Only those who convert to Islam can get food in the camps, observers charge. Torture and execution are common. Islamic law has been declared. Churches have been closed and Christian missionaries expelled.

The most common phrases used by

human rights workers to describe what is going on in Sudan are "jihad" (Muslim holy war) and "genocide." The government's "forced Islamization appears to have ... one relentless aim: eradication of the black Sudanese as a cultural entity," reports Waddi Abdulhaqq of News Network International. The Khartoum regime denies the charge, but the campaign reportedly goes on.

A year ago the head of Sudan's Arab Militia reportedly called for "a new effort to propagate Islam through the use of force, money and food. We

Kentucky's campuses still leaders

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Baptist students on Kentucky's college campuses continued to be pacesetters in missions and evangelism last year.

National statistics compiled annually by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board show Kentucky students leading the way in a number of categories. Only Texas—a much larger state with nearly five times as many full-time campus ministers as Kentucky—consistently ranked higher than Kentucky in key areas.

Kentucky Baptists' 45 campus ministry programs reached 22,327 students last year—second only to Texas, which reached 40,600 students.

About 20 percent of the students involved in Kentucky campus ministries also were involved in some type of missions project during the year.

A total of 4,315 Kentucky students took part in missions efforts, ranging from summer missions to short-term projects during school breaks, to local ministries throughout the year.

Aside from Texas, Kentucky's level of student mission involvement was more than double that of any other state Baptist convention.

Kentucky's Baptist campus ministries recorded 631 student professions of faith in Jesus Christ last year—the third highest number of any state, behind Texas and Louisiana.

On other fronts, the report shows Kentucky had:

■ 1,364 students involved in witness training.

■ 2,051 students involved in discipleship training.

■ 5,918 students involved in Bible study groups.

■ 412 baptisms of students reached through campus ministries.

■ 1,056 students preparing for church vocations.

■ 396 churches assisting in campus ministries.

must crush the Christians down."

The cultural, political and religious struggle between Islam and Christianity has been going on since long before the Crusades. And Muslims have been victims just as often as Christians.

Currently, Muslims are being driven out of Bosnia by "Christian" Serbs as fierce fighting continues after the breakup of Yugoslavia. Elsewhere in Europe, Muslim immigrants from the Mideast often are exploited, abused and attacked.

□ See Sudan bears ..., page 9

BAPTISTS

Patterson denied membership in Wake Forest church

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP)—Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been denied membership in the Baptist church nearest the seminary because church members feel his presence would be disruptive.

"The unity of our church would be severely threatened," said Tom Jackson, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church, a 158-year-old congregation adjacent the seminary campus.

Patterson is considered an architect of the movement that since 1979 has turned the Southern Baptist Convention in a more conservative direction.

Although traveling in Russia and unavailable for comment, Patterson apparently believes the church's rejection of him is evidence that SBC moderates are guilty of the exclusionary tactics they have accused conser-

vatives of using.

In late January Patterson sent copies of a letter from the church to members of the SBC Interagency Council, made up of executives of the denomination's 20-plus institutions and agencies. Sources said the letter was intended to demonstrate Patterson's charge about moderates being exclusionary.

But the Wake Forest church's members said they simply wanted to avoid a potential conflict within their congregation.

"This church has been wounded in the Southern Baptist war more than any other church in the Southern Baptist Convention," Pastor Jackson said. "Out of 15 million members claimed by Southern Baptists, (Patterson) is the one person identified most of all as the source of all that pain."

The 500-member Wake Forest Church, located prominently within the seminary's quadrangle, has been

closely linked to the seminary's moderate theological tradition. But that is a tradition Patterson has committed to change since becoming president in 1992.

The potential for conflict between the former Dallas educator and church members, including many long-time seminary professors and employees, is great, Jackson said.

Patterson first sought membership in the church last September, beginning with a request to Jackson. "He asked if I felt it would be disruptive if they joined," the pastor recalled.

Three weeks later, Jackson told Patterson his presence would indeed be disruptive, the pastor reported.

Jackson said he thought the issue was settled.

But Patterson and his wife later submitted a written request for "watch care," a less official relationship in which the couple would retain their membership in First Baptist Church of

Dallas while worshiping with the Wake Forest congregation.

On Jan. 24 the church's deacons voted down that request 16-1, with one abstention. There was no dissent when the action was reported to church members, Jackson said.

In a letter delivered by hand to Patterson's office the next day, church leaders asked the couple to withdraw their request.

"Please understand that this matter has been difficult for us and has been dealt with only through much agony and prayer," the letter said. "We wish to spare both you and our church any further distress. Your membership in this church (even on a watch care basis) would certainly result in disruption and division in this congregation."

The Pattersons withdrew their request Jan. 27, Jackson said.

Patterson is traveling in Russia and could not be reached for comment.

"Out of 15 million members claimed by Southern Baptists, (Paige Patterson) is the one person identified most of all" as the source of what has wounded our church.

Tom Jackson, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church, on why the North Carolina congregation denied membership to Paige Patterson

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Missionaries evacuate.** Southern Baptist missionaries, including two Kentuckians, planned to evacuate Lome, the capital city of Togo, Feb. 3. A deepening political crisis has fueled the spread of violence and civil unrest.

Most of the 14 career missionaries, their children and three volunteer missionaries planned to drive to Cotonou in the neighboring nation of Benin. Among that group were Paula Settle of Owensboro and Donna Shemwell of Cold Spring, along with her husband, Jim.

■ **Mission farce?** Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention's plan to share the gospel with every person on earth by the year 2000, could become "Bold Mission Farce" unless Southern Baptists change their lifestyles, according to Landrum Leavell.

Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, told Alabama Baptists Jan. 25: "We're going to have to change our spending habits. We're going to have to change the way we invest our time. We're going to have to change our mindset. ... We're not going to get it done with business as usual."

■ **Brotherhood thanked.** Brotherhood leaders from 28 states were praised Jan. 27-30 for their response after Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki.

Southern Baptist volunteers helped serve about 4 million meals in south Florida alone, according to Cecil Seagle, Florida Brotherhood director. Somewhere between 20,000 and 25,000 Baptist volunteers have worked in Dade County so far, he added.

As a result, 445 homes of uninsured and underinsured people have been reconstructed, and another 400 have been surveyed for repairs.

■ **CP up in January.** Gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget were up 14.4 percent in January over the same month a year ago. For the fiscal year to date, gifts are up 3.91 percent over the previous year.

■ **FBC Dallas names interim.** First Baptist Church of Dallas has named Roy Fish interim pastor. Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in



VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT Volunteers are encouraged to sign up now for "Crossover Houston," an evangelistic thrust to precede the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston. The SBC meeting is scheduled for June 15-17, with the evangelistic emphasis set for June 9-13. Volunteers can register by writing Bobby Sunderland at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601. Volunteers are needed for local church revivals, mass evangelism rallies, street evangelism such as puppet shows or concerts, block parties, door-to-door campaigns and a three-day prayer conference.

Fort Worth, Texas, will lead the church until a new pastor is named to succeed Joel Gregory, who resigned Sept. 30 in a dispute with senior pastor W.A. Criswell.

Meanwhile, Criswell said during a January interview in Illinois that weekly worship attendance at the Dallas church has fallen to about 2,500 from a high of about 5,000 a couple of years ago.

■ **Students invited.** Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will hold a preview weekend for prospective students March 26-27. For information, contact the seminary at Box 22000, Fort Worth, Texas 76122, (817) 923-1921.

■ **Summer staff sought.** Applicants are being accepted for summer staff positions at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist conference centers. Applicants must be 17 or older. For details, contact Glorieta at Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535-0008, or Ridgecrest at Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770.

Masons making case known as SBC study nears debate

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

WASHINGTON (BP)—From letter-writing campaigns and special meetings to a call to attend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston, Masons are defending their lodge membership and denying any conflict with Christian doctrine.

"We are simply trying to set the record straight," said John Boettjer, managing editor of The Scottish Rite Journal, which expanded and dedicated its February issue to the topic of Freemasonry and religion.

Masonic response comes as Southern Baptists await a study on Freemasonry by the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department.

Meanwhile, Freemasonry critic Larry Holly said he will publish a second book on the subject to be available at this year's convention. Holly, a Beaumont, Texas, physician who initiated the call for a study of Masonry, mailed his first book to several thousand Baptists prior to the SBC 1991 meeting in Indianapolis.

Holly said his second book also will be mailed to HMB trustees before they vote at their March meeting on whether to accept the study by the board's interfaith witness department and send it to the convention for consideration.

Holly contends that a sound study of Freemasonry will find it to be occultic and incompatible with Christian doctrine.

The HMB study is similar to those by other Christian denominations that have raised such questions as whether Masonry teaches that salvation can be achieved through good works.

Masons counter that critics misquote Masonic writings, use outdated material or elevate one Mason's beliefs to the level of doctrine. Freemasonry encourages church involvement, they say, and it simply refuses to allow religious differences to prevent good men from becoming better

through civic and charity projects.

"Even a casual perusal of these pages should convince any person open to reason that Freemasonry is not only compatible with religion but also confirms and complements religious faith and church participation," wrote Fred Kleinknecht, sovereign grand commander of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, in the Journal.

The Journal, which has a circulation of 550,000, features essays and letters by Southern Baptists and others such as Guideposts publisher Norman Vincent Peale.

Its cover features a photo of Baylor University as well as photos of Baylor President Herbert Reynolds and President Emeritus Abner McCall. The issue contains articles by both men.

Essays also note that George W. Truett, former pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, was a Mason, as is U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

Holly said the reaction is not surprising: "Anyone could expect that the Masons, who are very powerful and very wealthy, were not going to roll over and play dead."

Officials with the southern jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry have mailed about 2,800 copies of the journal to Southern Baptist leaders, Boettjer said.

Also in the journal, two Baptist laymen call for Baptist Masons to attend the June 14-17 annual SBC meeting in Houston as messengers.

Meanwhile, some Masonic lodges have held special meetings on the subject of the study, Boettjer said. Masons also have written letters to Southern Baptist leaders, stating they are Christians and see no conflict between their church and lodge.

The HMB's report will be reviewed in early February by the HMB trustee administrative committee before being mailed to the full board prior to the March meeting, said HMB President Larry Lewis.

Students 'blown away' by ministry needs in Florida

By Marv Knox
Editor

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS—Although the winds had died down, a group of Kentucky Baptist students were "blown away" by the destruction of Hurricane Andrew.

Twenty students and three sponsors from Northern Kentucky University's Baptist Student Union recently spent a week repairing damage inflicted by the monster storm. And while they had seen televised reports of the carnage, nothing prepared them for reality, they reported.

"I had no clue there was that much damage," said BSU President Rachelle Rollins, a senior from Florence who described the drive from the Miami airport to First Baptist Church of Florida City, where the group camped in army tents during the week.

Viewing the destruction on television is "like looking through a cardboard tube" compared to seeing first hand how an entire community was decimated, added Bill Turner, a senior from Fort Thomas.

"You can get on a rooftop and see destruction in every direction," explained BSU Director Bill Ellis, who sponsored the trip. "That makes you feel inadequate, but then you have to focus on the roof you're working on and the family there. You're making a difference in their lives."

"Make a difference" is what the Northern Kentucky BSU wanted to do, almost from the time Hurricane

Andrew hit South Florida, Ellis said.

The BSU group wanted to participate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief team, coordinated by the KBC Brotherhood department. But since the BSU members weren't trained in disaster relief and the semester was about to start, those plans had to be set back, he noted.

So, the group began to look for other options, and a trip during the school's semester break worked out best.

The Kentucky students found their niche in a relief program operated by the Florida Baptist Convention, Ellis said. The convention is using volunteer labor and donated supplies to repair and rebuild 350 homes. Plans also call for giving each family \$1,000 to help with carpeting, furnishings or clothing.

"These are families with no insurance or people who were extremely under-insured, who probably would not have been able to rebuild without help," Ellis noted.

And the project is a ministry of presence to the Cubans, Mexicans and Asians who didn't know Baptists but saw these new friends come to help them in Jesus' name.

That kind of ministry is needed badly, he said: "The spiritual aspect of loss is there. Some people feel betrayed or like God is trying to teach them something. Their emotional well-being was destroyed as much as their physical well-being. As well as helping them with their homes, our

students had a chance to share the hope our God gives us."

That relationship also made a difference in the students, they said.

"I was impacted by the people there and ... to get into the community to see people who lived through the devastation but clung to their faith," said Jodi Flannery, the BSU's missions coordinator and a senior from Hebron.

"It changed each of us in some ways. I was able to see God's hand in everything and how he was in control. Every morning, I could see a rainbow, a sign God was there and in control, and also there for me and in control of my plans, too."

"We had time to stop and look and listen for God," Flannery added. "It was good to sit on a roof, work diligently and still feel close to God—to be consumed with your work but to be in prayer to God and to enjoy fellowship with each other on the roof."

The students agreed they learned much, but they consistently expressed disappointment that they didn't have more opportunity for interaction with the local people.

Some of them have not been able to come back home yet, and others were gone all day working in their jobs, Ellis explained. The students cleaned yards, replaced a roof, gutted the damaged walls of a home and some days only saw each other.

Still, the people the students met made a difference in their lives.

"Being with the people there



LOVING ARMS Paula French (right) and Lesly Meade, Baptist Student Union members at Northern Kentucky Union, enjoyed the affection of a child in South Florida.

brought me to a realization that it doesn't matter who you are or where you're from, we all have the same basic needs," Turner said.

And the people in South Florida still need help. The building project will continue at least through the rest of this year, Ellis reported, citing a request for skilled workers, such as carpenters, electricians, plumbers and roofers.

"The people there left us with one request," Rollins said. "They asked, 'If you can't come back, send somebody in your place.'"

Kentucky CP's high December followed by low January

Kentucky Baptists' unified budget followed its best-ever month with one of the worst in recent history.

The Kentucky Cooperative Program received \$1,175,106 in January, making it the fifth-poorest month in more than three years. It came on the heels of a record December, when receipts totalled almost \$2 million.

The Cooperative Program is the Kentucky Baptist Convention's primary source of budget money and a tributary to the Southern Baptist Convention's funding. Kentucky CP receipts are divided, with 62.696 percent remaining in the state and 37.304 percent going on to the SBC.

The January contributions brought the Kentucky CP's year-to-date total to \$7,112,340 after five months of the

current fiscal year. That amount is \$61,093 (0.9 percent) more than the total for the same period a year ago.

On a more immediate level, the pace of funding is \$111,789 (1.5 percent) below budget for this point in the fiscal year.

The 1992-93 Kentucky CP operating budget goal is slightly more than \$17.3 million. Contributions must average almost \$1.5 million per month to meet that goal when the fiscal year ends Aug. 31.

The wide variation between a record December and a low January partially reflects the way Sundays—the days churches collect offerings from members—fell during those two months, said Barry Allen, the KBC's business manager.

"A fifth Sunday in December made it artificially high, and consequently made January artificially low," Allen explained.

A better comparison would be how the December-January combination in this fiscal year stacked up against the same two months a year ago, he said. Unfortunately, that comparison is not favorable: This year's total is \$120,000 (4 percent) below last year's.

Overall, the 0.9 percent year-to-date increase puts the Kentucky CP in a virtual dead heat with last year's receipts, Allen said.

Because of a slight change in the state/national split due to the KBC's financial crisis plan, the SBC share of the receipts has decreased by \$27,197

(0.8 percent). Kentucky's portion is up \$83,290 (1.9 percent).

Receipts designated for Kentucky only total \$138,801 for the first five months of the fiscal year. That amount is a decrease of \$14,690 (9.6 percent) from the same period a year ago.

Kentucky Baptists will have a better picture of the convention's financial health after February, when the fiscal year reaches the halfway mark, Allen said, and the impact of new church budgets that went into effect in January will be apparent later in the spring.

"For now, we're pleased receipts still are ahead of the prior year and that we're on target with the budget goal," he added. "We've gotten our budget in line with receipts."

Long Run Association withdraws invitation to Keith Parks

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Long Run Baptist Association has rescinded its invitation for Keith Parks to speak at its annual meeting next fall.

The association's annual meeting committee made the decision, committee members reported.

Parks, a career missionary and president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for the past decade, retired from the board last Oct. 31. About a month later, he was named missions coordinator for the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellow-

ship.

Associational leaders declined to elaborate on their decision.

"It was a decision made by the committee," said Jim Carpenter, pastor of Woodland Baptist Church in Louisville and chairman of the annual meeting committee. "I personally would rather not talk about that."

Russell Bennett, the association's executive director, said he did not attend the committee's meeting and was not privy to its discussion.

But Bennett confirmed the chronology of the process: The committee extended its invitation to Parks after he announced he would retire from

the FMB but before his retirement date. The committee chose to rescind its decision after Parks announced he would join the Fellowship, which some people see as competing with traditional Southern Baptist causes.

Committee members felt Parks' presence on the annual meeting program "would cause too much disturbance," said one committee member who asked to remain anonymous. "All of us felt sorry it had to happen, but I don't think there was any dissension."

Parks resonated with the committee members' sadness.

"I'm not upset or angry," he said. "I'm just saddened that this is another

symptom of what's happening in our convention."

He added he would have tried not to be divisive, had he spoken to the association, which encompasses the greater Louisville area. "In meetings like that, I try to present a missions message and sound the note I did as president of the Foreign Mission Board—that we need to be inclusive and not exclusive. There's room for all of us, and more to do that we all can do."

With speaking engagements scheduled into 1996, Parks has received four cancellations since he joined the Fellowship, he said.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

Volunteers are urgently needed for April 1-14 evangelism projects in Brazil. Calvin Wilkins, Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions coordinator, is trying to enlist 10 teams with three members each. The dates have proved to be a problem for most pastors because they include Easter Sunday, he noted. But that shouldn't deter lay people, ministers serving outside local churches and retired pastors. For details about the needs, call Wilkins at (502) 245-4101.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has planned an alumni dinner Feb. 23 during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism conference. New Orleans Professor Charles Kelley will speak at the event, which will be held at Amato's in Chevy Chase Plaza during the conference's dinner break.

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College has received an unrestricted gift of \$55,000 from the estate of Minnie Harrod of Frankfort. The school also has received four recent gifts for new student housing complexes: \$12,500 from the Cralle Foundation of Louisville; \$9,500 from the Houchens Foundation of Bowling Green; \$11,000 from James Lambert of Mount Vernon; and \$10,000 from Brooks Furniture Co. of Tazewell, Tenn.

A \$500 scholarship for Baptist women entering college will be awarded to the winner of an essay contest sponsored by Affirming Baptist Women, a group of Louisville laypeople. For guidelines about the essay contest, contact Martha McKnight, 908 Exmoor Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40223.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

MARV KNOX
Editor

MARK WINGFIELD
News Director

RAY L. HAYES
Business Manager

C. R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Directors: Don Mantooh, Morehead, chairman; Tom Curry, Louisville, vice chairman; Kay Trisler, Harrodsburg, secretary; Bill Crosby, Erlanger; Denzel Dukes, Paducah; Glenn Durham, Harlan; Frank Hatfield, Shepherdsville; Isaac McDonald, Elizabethtown; Karen Owen Phelps, Owensboro; John Searcy, Franklin; William Thurman, Lexington; James Weaver, Madisonville.

Disappointment

I received my family's Western Recorder at the same time our new president was taking oath. As I looked at the paper, I began to read the article "Baptists participate in inauguration; Graham criticized."

I was disappointed.

Although I do not agree with our new president's stand on some issues, I do not think it was just for Mr. Richard Land to ask Rev. Billy Graham not to pray at the inauguration.

There are several "unmoral" issues I do not agree with, but that does not keep me from praying for those issues. Rev. Graham asked for God's guidance and grace for our new president and our country.

Again, I am very disappointed with Mr. Land, especially with so many walls being built to keep prayer out of public ceremonies. I am a young mother with two children, and I do not believe in abortion or gay rights. But as a Christian, I will pray for God's guidance just as Rev. Graham did at the inauguration.

*Rose Ann Bebout
Crayne*

Can't believe it

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. I have been a Christian and a member of a Southern Baptist church for 73 years. I cannot believe what has happened in our convention.

When I read the statement concerning churches and individuals losing enthusiasm and involvement in missions, I cannot conceive of a Christian, especially a missionary Baptist, having such a thought. They surely do not believe the Great Commission, which is our marching orders given by our Savior just before he went back to heaven. They should read Matthew 28:19-20 and pray.

Concerning the Cooperative Program, to me it is the greatest thing that

has happened to Southern Baptists. I can remember before that time the director of each department made a plea, and whoever made the most impressive presentation for their cause was the one who received the most money.

Since the start of the Cooperative Program, we as Southern Baptists

have supported our entire program. I cannot conceive of anyone doing anything to divert funds away from the Cooperative Program or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and still claim to be a Southern Baptist.

I hope and pray that we Baptists will wake up and realize that Satan is trying to destroy our witness influence and our foreign mission program.

*Arline Trunnell
Owensboro*

No abortions

If people would read Psalm 139:13-16, they would find there is absolutely no basis for abortion.

As you can see, God knew us even before we were conceived. You cannot abort a baby (no matter what you call it in the womb) without murdering it. It is a baby from the moment of conception. It has a soul, just as you are supposed to have.

There is one thing I do know. If abortionists had to perform their services without charge, there would be none. For instance, in 1850 there were 60,000 prostitutes in New York City alone, and nearly every brothel had its abortionist in order to control the pregnancies of the prostitutes. You don't hear Planned Parenthood saying anything about it. To listen to their line, you would think that abortions began with Roe vs. Wade.

There are places for the girls to go for help, but you never tell them about the Alternative Pregnancy Center that is on Preston Street (in Louisville). They counsel the girls on all of their

alternatives and what an abortion really is and does. There are psychological aftermaths that may not crop up for years, and then when they do pop up they devastate the women. You cannot get away with murder of the unborn without paying the ultimate penalty to God.

*Robert C. Norton
Louisville*

Pray for Southern

Thank God for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

I just completed a doctor of ministry seminar at Southern Seminary. It has been six years since I graduated from Southern, and I can truly say I am still so thankful for her influence, past and present.

I am thankful for professors such as Dr. David Garland and Dr. Gerald Keown, who taught and led the seminar. They carry on the traditions of their great predecessors in being used of God to help prepare men and women for more effective ministry. They help enable their students to think biblically, to approach the Bible with integrity and to be faithful to the work Christ has called one to perform.

I am thankful for Southern because in the past, and I hope in the future as well, it was a safe place: to disagree, to share ideas and concepts without the fear of reprisal and to have your thinking challenged. That kind of atmosphere is necessary to prepare ministers of Jesus Christ for the work to which he has called them.

Southern is not perfect, never has been and never will be, but God has used her tremendously over the years and in my life as well. May we as Kentucky Baptists lift up the administration and professors in our daily prayers. The task they are faced with is tremendous, and the pressures, political and personal, they must endure are unrelenting.

*Gerald W. Murphy
Park City*

There is no God but God

The euphoria of December's record-breaking Cooperative Program receipts (\$1,956,854) was clobbered by January's receipts reflecting a 10-year January low of \$1,175,106.

This is but one of the reasons why I choose not to make monthly comments concerning Cooperative Program receipts. There is a roller-coaster effect in this process, resulting from the way Sundays fall and the way churches forward their contributions to us.

The "bottom line" is that after five months into our budget year, Cooperative Program receipts are \$61,093 (0.9 percent) ahead of the previous year and designated "Kentucky only" receipts are \$14,690 (9.6 percent) behind the same time last year. And we are \$111,789 (1.5 percent) below budget.

One can make observations about these figures, but it would be unwise to derive fixed conclusions about how this budget year will end. One can say with assurance:

■ We are ahead, however slightly,

of last year.

■ Receipts are in the strongest relationship to budget since 1986.

■ February will receive the benefit of the last Sunday in January.

But these are "short haul" observations; the "long haul" is totally dependent upon the good will of Kentucky Baptist churches toward our cooperative mission.

That "good will" should not be taken lightly; it is the "glue" that holds this wonderful thing together. It isn't the Cooperative Program that needs "protecting" as much as it is the cooperative spirit which created the "program" and without which the "program" will not be sustained.

The "Cooperative Program" has never been the "only" way we have done our mission together. Any serious look at church budgets over the past 20 years will find a plethora of mission items not related to the Cooperative Program.

The "Cooperative Program" is not the only source of funds for foreign

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM: MARRIAGE

Communication

By Diana Garland

Sometimes communication between husbands and wives seems limited to notes on the refrigerator, messages on the answering machine and shouted reminders.

We scurry through our days, passing off children like batons in a relay race. We divide up the responsibilities—"I'll fix dinner while you vacuum. You check on your mother, and I'll take the kids to ball practice."

Most of the time, this kind of communication smooths the flow of our lives.

Relationships need two kinds of communication, however, and this "task" communication is one: It helps us juggle all the tasks that face us as a couple. But sometimes we need to discuss not just tasks, but also how we feel about them and one another. We might call this "relationship" communication.

Relationship communication involves information about "us" and our relationship, not just our shared tasks.

For example, compare the task message, "Don't forget the milk!" with the relationship message: "I get frustrated when you give me errands to do at the last minute. I like to plan ahead. Could you let me know the night before instead of during the morning rush?"

Both messages have to do with picking up milk, but they have very different purposes. Both can be important and healthy ways to communicate.

Problems develop when we confuse these kinds of communication. Sometimes this happens when one partner is trying to communicate about tasks and the other responds with relationship concerns. Answering "Don't forget to pick up milk!" with "I get frustrated when you give me errands to do..." may end in an unresolved rush-hour argument.

Relationship communication often demands a time other than the race to work or the hassle of children's bedtime routines. Make a plan to talk about it face to face, heart to heart, with all the understanding you can muster. Then make a time, and do it!

Diana Garland is associate professor and director of the Greens Center for Christian Family Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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

Beyond the 'treat-those-people-better' syndrome

Far too often, white Baptists think of Race Relations Sunday—Feb. 14—as “We-ought-to-treat-those-people-better-Sunday.”

That's a worthwhile notion, to a point. But the concept falls short:

First, it perpetuates the “those people” idea.

Yes, race legitimately implies variations of skin color, cultural differences and sometimes even multiple languages. A recent Religious News Service article cited African-American pastors who stress the importance of preserving cultural distinctions. “I am committed to worship that is Afrocentric and music that is Afrocentric,” said Wyatt Walker, pastor of Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem. “I don't want to recruit white folks to my church. I don't want to be absorbed by the dominant society.” The effort to preserve the heritage of all Americans is noble.

But the Bible teaches that, for believers at least, the “those people” distinction is false. At our core, we are the same—human beings created in the image of God. The Apostle Paul wrote, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Given Christ's mandate to evangelize the whole world, all people of all races can become one through faith.

Second, the “treat-those-people-better” notion focuses on the symptom rather than the disease.

Better treatment of people across racial lines would do much to improve our collective lot. But behind that is the idea of having a better idea of who we are. If we acknowledge the essential unity of the human race—each person created in God's image—harmony will follow.

Think about it: You don't mistreat or abuse the people and things you truly value. If we come to see the basic, essential worth of all people, we'll work to protect them from starvation, abuse, neglect and discrimination. And if we really see how we're all created in God's image, we'll understand that mistreatment of any person is a blow to all of us.

Americans don't have much trouble treating race relations and the need for justice and reconciliation casually. Unless we're a minority, we don't feel the pain of bigotry and discrimination. What's it really matter to us? Well, we don't have to look far to see how thin the veneer of civility has worn. Racial/ethnic/religious strife has plunged Sarajevo into frozen darkness, less than a decade after it played host to the Olympics. Racial rage fueled riots in Los Angeles, beat an Asian-American teen to death in suburbia and committed genocide in Sudan.

Our response to race relations determines how we will join a major battle of good versus evil in our world.

Marv Knox

Baptists believe the Lord answers prayer, so why didn't we think of this:

Israel's national phone company, Bezek, has launched a new service—faxes to God, according to various news reports. Faithful who feel the Almighty hasn't been answering their voice mail can put their invocations in black-and-white. In just one week, phone-company workers delivered more than 300 divine faxes to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

Take a step for racial reconciliation, and keep on walking

For quite a number of years, Southern Baptists have placed Race Relations Sunday on the national denominational calendar. I, like many other African-American Christians, perceive this as an acknowledgement that some wrongs need to be corrected. It is an acknowledgement that the history of black and white people in America—even Christians—has culturally conditioned attitudes of racial and cultural superiority, as well as many other forms of racism, some obvious and blatant and some more subtle and covert.

Many other African-Americans see it as at best another “tokenistic” one-day event designed to salve the conscience of white Baptists and appease, even please, certain blacks.

Given the seriousness of racism and the length of time it has existed even among Christians, one can understand these attitudes. Many white Baptists ignore the day and the idea because they still believe themselves to be racially and culturally superior. Others play the role of the proverbial

ostrich and simply ignore the existence of the problem and the need to address it. Still others see the problem and realize the need, but refuse to deal with it.

I am convinced that one of the greatest struggles in this century has been that of race relations. It has been painfully but clearly evident not only in this country but on a global basis. In my judgment, it is even more painful and difficult to understand and deal with in a country that claims to be “One nation, under God ... with liberty and justice for all” and in “Bible Belt” communities and among Bible-believing Baptists, black and white denominations whose Christology, theology and ecclesiology are the same!

If the Bible is our textbook, Jesus is our Lord and the Holy Spirit is our guide, we have no choice but to correct this wrong and make this change.

Race Relations Sunday—Feb. 14—is not “the” day to do this changing, but a reminder that the change is a must!

This is a reminder and a request to intentionally plan to do whatever possible to work toward correcting this problem.

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, and in all his teachings, delineated between outward righteousness and inward righteousness—in other words, between true and false righteousness. Righteousness requires an absolute standard for principle attitude and actualization or action. This righteousness, real righteousness, requires that all members of all races be treated with dignity, courtesy and equality. It is a rule that governs all kingdom persons “as you would that others do unto you, do ye also unto them.”

This “righteousness” not only cannot be actualized in just one day; it cannot be actualized in just one place—church! It must be practiced in the home, school, business, on the job and everywhere people interact and interface! It demands an acknowledgement that “out of one blood created he all nations for to dwell upon the face of this earth.” It requires that we put meaning to the words which

we had our children sing: “Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.”

The theme for this year's Race Relations Sunday says it well for me: “We Walk in Newness of Life” (Romans 6:4).

Walking is intentional; we must decide to walk. Walking is directional; we don't walk in every direction at once. We decide to walk in a certain direction. Walking is also continuous or continual; you always lose balance if you make one step with one foot without using the other.

Many never get anywhere in race relations because they stand where they are and never take the first step. Others lose balance because they step and stop.

Race Relations Sunday, in my judgment, is just a step, not the journey. Let's all take the step. But please, let us not stop.

Lincoln Bingham
Missions superintendent, General Association of Baptists in Kentucky Cooperative Ministries Consultant, KBC Louisville

GUEST EDITORIAL

The cost of raising a kid: If you have to ask, you can't afford it

People say the cost of raising kids is going up, and I believe them.

Take children's sneakers, please.

Lindsay and Molly think sweat is yucky boys' stuff. That's good, because we'd have to skip a house payment to buy them sleek leather high-tech shoes endorsed by zillionaire basketball stars and favored by yucky, sweaty boys.

Our girls like relatively simple canvas numbers, in colors to hide the dirt. They're middle-of-the-road, nothing-special shoes. Still, I was in college before I owned footwear that cost as much as their tennies.

Don't forget the cost of food and clothing, not to mention piano lessons, roller skates, bicycles and trips to the movies. And when the time comes, and I ante-up to the

orthodontist, I'll be able to look over at a child with a mouth full of wires and truthfully say, “This hurts me more than it does you.”

Braces, of course, will be just a warm-up for paying college tuition, which in 10 years will equal the gross national product of Bolivia.

Since I've got daughters, I already anticipate the opportunity to fork over my entire pension for the privilege of walking them down the aisle. Lucky for me, I know lots of preachers; maybe I

can get a two-for-one deal on a wedding.

All those expenses should be enough, but now I've got to add in legal fees.

It's true: The other morning during breakfast, we were having our usual discussion over whether to watch the “Today” show or “Adventures in Wonderland.” I'd about had it with the Mad Hatter and was making a case for a few minutes with Katie, Bryant and Willard.

“Well,” said Molly, “let's just go to court.”

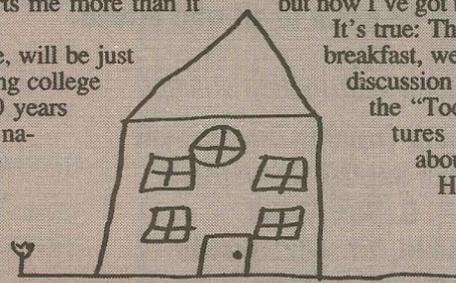
She laughed when she said that, and the sheriff hasn't served me papers, so I think

she was kidding. But I wondered how that idea got inside her 6-year-old head. We've never sued anybody, and she isn't allowed to watch TV shows about stuff like that. I suspect her friends whose parents are lawyers, but I can't prove it in court.

She has a point, you know. If we let a judge decide bed time, the content of meals and when to wash hair, our lives would be much simpler. However, given the pace of our legal system, the girls could keep their verdicts hung up in appeals until they go off to college.

Maybe we can settle out of court. We can turn off the TV and pick up the noble newspaper. Molly can have the funnies; I'll take (what else?) the editorials.

Marv Knox



down home

Clinton could be good fund-raiser for conservatives

"He has certainly given them enough material in his first two weeks to gather support for conservative causes."

Stephen Winzenburg, authority on conservative Christian causes, speaking of President Bill Clinton

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Although conservative groups which promote "family values" may have opposed Bill Clinton as a presidential candidate, his election could be one of the best things that ever happened for their fund-raising efforts, experts predict.

Even before he took office, some groups began citing the specter of Clinton's positions as evidence of why they needed more money.

The standard line: With someone in the White House who favors abortion rights and homosexual rights, "pro-family" groups need more financial support to fight him every step of the way.

"I think Clinton being in office is to the advantage of conservative fund-raisers," noted Stephen Winzenburg, professor of communications at Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa. "They have an enemy, and they can fight him."

"They can particularly use his first two weeks in office to help rally the troops. He has certainly given them enough material in his first two weeks to gather support for conservative causes," noted the professor who specializes in studying conservative Christian causes and television preachers.

Another expert who monitors such issues agreed.

"I was talking to several of these (conservative) movement leaders last

week, and they said: 'We could not have scripted the first two weeks of the Clinton administration any better. He's mobilized a lot of our people we couldn't reach,'" reported John Green, director of the Bliss Institute, a bi-partisan research group associated with the University of Akron.

"These movement organizations will prosper under the Clinton administration because they will have a target they can be unambiguously opposed to," Green added. "All movement organizations—on the right or the left—prosper in opposition."

The same situation happening this year occurred in reverse 12 years ago when Ronald Reagan was elected, he explained: "Liberals love to hate Ronald Reagan. He helped their fund raising."

Early examples of this process being used both directly and indirectly with the new administration include:

■ James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family ministries. In a monthly fund-raising letter sent out nationwide immediately after the election, Dobson cited page after page of reasons Clinton's election spelled doom for all who treasure "family values."

Dobson said he had waited until after the election to speak his mind due to IRS restrictions, but now felt compelled to warn of what would happen if organizations like his didn't prepare to fight Clinton and Congress.

The longer-than-usual direct-mail piece included a reply card for pledges and contributions.

■ The Kentucky Right to Life Association. A January fund-raising letter sent by Executive Director Margie Montgomery—contribution envelope enclosed—declares the "horror" coming to America via Clinton.

"You'll see that your contribution has never been more desperately important than it is now," she wrote. "There has never been a president more committed to legislation which will allow the destruction of unborn babies than Bill Clinton. It's the one campaign promise he'll keep unless he has a change of heart."

■ The Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission. During deliberations of an SBC Executive Committee subcommittee in January, Clinton's election was cited a primary reason for not cutting the CLC's allotment of Cooperative Program unified budget funds.

While every other SBC agency, including and commission is recommended to take at least a 1.4 percent CP reduction in 1993-94 due to declining contributions, the CLC alone was spared and will keep the same allotment it is receiving this year. Many subcommittee members wanted to find a way to give the CLC an increase.

The CLC needs the extra funds more than other SBC entities, some subcommittee members reasoned, because of its important work against abortion and homosexual rights. The CLC's voice will be more important now than ever before because of

Clinton's election, they suggested.

Whether grass-roots appeals for funds based on Clinton's election will produce more cash remains to be seen.

"Our mail has been up recently," Paul Hetrick, spokesman for Focus on the Family, noted Feb. 2. "In the last two weeks, we've had some record-setting days, but it would really be inappropriate of me to link that to anything the Clinton administration has done."

January traditionally is a good time for fund-raising at Focus on the Family, Hetrick said. Because of that and the diversity of issues the organization addresses, crediting opposition to Clinton with recent increases would be "presumptuous."

"All I can tell you for sure is we have had some record setting days both in letters and calls coming into our organization in recent days," he said again.

Likewise, Kentucky Right to Life has noted some increase in calls and letters since Clinton's election and the January fund-raising letter, said Cathy Daugherty, secretary and office manager.

"Ever since the election, I have had some increase in people calling in and saying, 'How can I join Right to Life?'" she explained.

The fund-raising letter, which was intended to raise money for television ads, also has produced "a pretty decent return," Daugherty said. "We're not flowing with money, but we're getting a nice response."

Two Discipleship Training Events--Doctrinal Study Overview and How to Have LIFE and LIFE SUPPORT in Your Church--at the same locations

Dates and Locations for Both Events:

- March 1 Northside Church
Princeton
- March 2 Hillview Heights Church
Bowling Green
- March 3 Carlisle Church, Louisville
- March 4 Highland Heights First
Northern Kentucky
- March 5 Clear Creek Baptist
Bible College, Pineville

Doctrine Study Overview: The Doctrine of Salvation

1993 Southern Baptist Doctrine Study
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

A Complimentary Copy of *The Doctrine of Salvation* will be given to all who attend.

For additional information contact:

Discipleship Training Department
Kentucky Baptist Convention
P. O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253-0433
(502) 245-4101

Douglas T. Strader, Director
Jim Clontz, Associate Director

How to Have LIFE and LIFE SUPPORT in Your Church

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Learn about LIFE courses such as:

- MasterLife
- Disciple's Prayer Life: Walking in Fellowship with God
- Step by Step through the Old Testament
- Step by Step through the New Testament
- Experiencing God

In addition, learn about the new LIFE SUPPORT materials and how they can assist hurting adults, both members and potential members. In the United States, 15, 000,000 are in support groups.

The LIFE SUPPORT curriculum materials will provide resources for churches to use in support groups that minister to a growing number of adults who are dealing with Addiction, Alcoholism, Codependency, Grief, Divorce, Depression and other problems.

**Attend one
or both!**

MINISTRY

Handbook helps churches serve mentally retarded

Continued from page 1

But it doesn't take a church as large as Highview to reach out to the mentally retarded and their families, Thrift explained.

Reaching these families may not require special facilities or highly trained teachers, she said. "All you need is for God to provide the interest and the people."

The primary purpose of Sunday school, for example, is to draw people closer to Jesus Christ through Bible study, Thrift noted.

Caring people with a love for Jesus can accomplish that task with mentally retarded individuals, she added: "Show them Jesus. It does not take a degree in special education to do that. It does take committed, patient, caring Christians."

Thrift and other contributors to the handbook suggest that mentally retarded people should be integrated into the worship setting as much as possible.

And that usually requires some education for everyone involved, Thrift said. "You can't force churches to do it. You can't force someone to worship with people who are handicapped."

"But you can create the want-to. It is a very slow process. The best thing to do is to educate ... and God will bring it about."

The new handbook provides practical ideas for beginning a ministry to the mentally retarded. The handbook covers the theology of caring, a definition of mental retardation, ministry to families and other topics.

Churches may receive the handbook at no charge by inviting a specially trained KBC consultant to go through it with church members. Jewell Nelson, KBC Sunday school associate, is coordinating these presentations.

Other training sessions for church leaders are scheduled across the state this year: at associational vacation Bible school clinics every Saturday in March; at Super Saturday leadership conferences in late summer through early fall and at the February and April deacons' retreats.

In addition to Thrift, other contributors to the handbook are Larry Keaton and Keitha Brasler, chaplains at Hazelwood Center in Louisville; Anne Smith, minister of education at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville; Orion Bell, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville; Ty Clenney, pastor of Greensburg Baptist Church in Greensburg; Carol Lee, a worker with Highland Ministries in Louisville; Richmond Marcy, principal of Kentucky School for the Blind; and Becky Hunger, mental health educator with Hazelwood Center.



wood Center in Louisville; Anne Smith, minister of education at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville; Orion Bell, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville; Ty Clenney, pastor of Greensburg Baptist Church in Greensburg; Carol Lee, a worker with Highland Ministries in Louisville; Richmond Marcy, principal of Kentucky School for the Blind; and Becky Hunger, mental health educator with Hazelwood Center.

How to help families

How should a Christian friend respond to a family with a mentally retarded child?

To ignore them is definitely the wrong answer, according to Carol Lee, one of nine contributors to a new "Handbook for Ministry with Persons with Mental Retardation."

Lee previously worked with the Hazelwood Center, an intermediate care facility for mentally retarded people in Louisville, and now works through Highland Ministries in Louisville.

She wrote the chapter on family ministry in the new handbook, published by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

She addressed how to respond to families when they first learn a child is mentally retarded or when they move into the church's ministry area.

When church members respond to families of mentally retarded in-

dividuals with fear and silence, they drive those families away from the church, Lee writes.

Instead, to make a positive impact on such families, Lee suggests Christians should:

■ Listen. "At times a hurt and confused parent needs to verbalize thoughts and feelings. A Christian friend can minister often just by listening."

■ Speak. "A few words of truth offered in a loving manner may correct wrong beliefs and negative attitudes."

■ Visit. "A visit demonstrates your interest and concern."

■ Continue. "Fellowship develops with time and makes it possible to share feelings of pain."

■ Loosen up. "A relaxed, informal ministry is best. Natural humor, honest sharing and a warm and receptive relationship will help find the source and level of pain."

Ministries churches could offer

What can a church do to minister to mentally retarded children and adults?

Plenty, according to nine contributors to the new "Handbook for Ministry with Persons with Mental Retardation" published by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The greatest unmet need is services for mentally retarded adults over age 21, the handbook explains. While there are needs to be met among all age levels, mentally retarded adults receive the least help from already existing social programs.

Among all age levels, here are some of the handbook's suggestions for ministries churches could undertake:

■ A "secret pal" program. A person in the church becomes a secret pal to a person with special needs. They agree to write or call the pal once a week and send small gifts on special occasions. Then at an end-of-year fellowship, the pals finally meet.

"This helps the special needs person feel a bond with someone in the church other than their family and teachers," explains Pamela Thrift, minister with handicapped people at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. "At the same time it

allows the person who wants to be involved but is intimidated by special needs persons to reach out from a distance until they are more comfortable."

■ Barnabas Connection. Volunteers become buddies with mentally retarded friends and help them engage in social activities.

■ Sunday school. Offer a special needs class as appropriate or make arrangements to include special needs students within existing structures.

■ Prayer partners. Volunteers agree to be called by special needs people for prayer needs.

■ Sanctuary pals. Volunteers agree to sit with special needs friends in worship.

■ Service. Find opportunities for the mentally retarded to make their own contributions as greeters, in mission ministry projects, by helping set up for Wednesday evening meals, through a role in worship or through creation of handcrafted work for display in the church.

■ Fellowship events to bring mentally retarded people and other church members together. Sunday school classes or missions organizations might sponsor these events, which could be talent shows, spring fairs or sing-alongs.

Who is mentally retarded?

Mental retardation is a developmental disorder of a person with an IQ of 70 or below that usually is determined before age 18 unless precipitated by trauma.

Such individuals do not meet the standards normally expected of their ages in areas such as social skills, communication and responsibility.

There are more than 300 known causes of mental retardation, including infections such as meningitis, genetic disorders such as Down's Syndrome and traumas suffered at birth. Mental retardation is classified in four categories: mild, moderate, severe and profound.

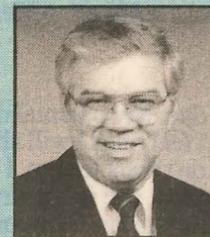
1993 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference

Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington • February 22-23

The 21st Century: The Challenge for Change



William A. Jones
Pastor
Brooklyn, New York



D. L. Lowrie
Pastor
Lubbock, Texas



Chuck Kelley
Professor
New Orleans Seminary



Lois Jane Huddleston
Music Vocational Evangelist
Tennessee



Alicia Williamson
Music Vocational Evangelist
Alabama

OPINION

Thank God

Praise the Lord! Two wonderful, encouraging things have taken place within the Southern Baptist Convention in the last few weeks.

One, a great mission leader, Keith Parks, determined to let the Lord continue to use him by our world vital part of becoming a mission enterprise through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Secondly, the courageous and Christian action of the Leadership of Woman's Missionary Union. The WMU is to be highly commended in its efforts to "embrace" all Southern Baptists!

Ernest L. Martin
Danville

Send a message

On Monday, Jan. 18, the nation recognized the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The federal government, state and local governments, public and private schools, financial institutions and many businesses were closed to honor this great man in history.

I am disappointed, however, in how seemingly few "white" churches recognized this day as a legal holiday.

Several churches in Louisville have been working toward harmony with the black community and its ministers. Joint services between white and black churches have been enjoyed by many. Further activities that offer diversity in culture, song and community are being considered.

Yet we don't recognize a holiday of extreme importance to the African-American, one that should be equally as important to all people, all races, all nationalities, all religious backgrounds.

What Dr. King began years ago cannot end with his death. We must be responsible in our efforts to make progress toward unity and understanding that Christ wants for all people.

What a wonderful message we send by merely publishing: "Office closed Monday, Jan. 18, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday."

The message we send: "We believe in Dr. King's efforts. We care about racial equality. We desire unity and harmony for all."

It is but a start—but it is a start!

Carol Jones
Louisville

Another view

What I'm about to say will be good news to Baptists in Kentucky who are working to reinstate the anti-sodomy law which was declared unconstitutional by a close vote of the Kentucky Supreme Court.

The Louisville lawyer who stated the evidence he thought condemned the law used evidence that was wholly unscientific and morally unsound.

R.C. Lewontin holds the Alexander Agassiz chair in zoology at Harvard University.

In his book, Lewontin says: "There is absolutely no evidence that there are any genetic differences between individuals of different sexual preferences. ... There are no studies of the hereditability of sexual preferences, so the claims for genetic predispositions to different forms of sexuality are pure fancy. ... It is a made-up story that appears in textbooks, in courses in high schools and universities, and popular books and journals."

So, regarding the judge who wrote his justification for outlawing the sodomy law because homosexuals have no choice and no cure, both statements are false. A homosexual is one by choice, and by the grace of God through Christ, such a human being can be made clean, whole and free.

Homer Wm. Smith
Louisville

Sing, women

In response to Rev. Keely's opposition to women preaching or teaching men (WR, Jan. 19), I have advice for women such as Anne Graham

Lotz and Jill Briscoe: Take singing lessons!

Ironically, women often are not allowed to minister through preaching or reading the Scriptures aloud but sometimes are allowed to minister through music, though often being denied the title "minister."

Ironically, those who oppose women to sing for church services and conferences. It's as if the only "word" their solos contain is "la."

Ironically, church music often is thought of as "filler" or "preliminary" to preaching, yet more people will leave church singing "Amazing Grace" than leave reciting the three-points-and-a-poem of the sermon.

In 1989, I was invited by the Kentucky Baptist evangelism office to sing during several segments of the Evangelism Conference. With prayerful consideration, I chose music and verbal introductions which were scripturally based, attempting to say through word and song something that would be meaningful and inspiring. In my opening segment, I said, "I hope you don't think I'm here to 'entertain.'"

Surely, many men have learned their theology from singing Fanny Crosby's "sermon," "To God be the Glory," and have felt the call to missions when singing E. Margaret Clarkson's "sermon," "So Send I You."

So, to Mrs. Lotz and Mrs. Briscoe, I say, "Put your sermons to music, and you'll be allowed to get God's message across without rude objections."

Naomi King Walker
Louisville

Gratitude to WMU

As a life-long Baptist and a Christian for almost as long, I want to express my gratitude to the Woman's Missionary Union for their Christ-like approach to missions as they have chosen to make the proclamation of the gospel their central purpose rather than the political agenda of the current convention leadership.

My prayer is that all Christians who feel burdened by the Great Commission of our Lord will see the distracting influence of the current Southern Baptist leaders and choose other avenues to share the good news of God's love with a world suffering physically and spiritually.

I would also express my disappointment with the political agenda of the Christian Life Commission leadership, when the executive director was attempting to persuade Billy Graham to withdraw from the inauguration of our new president because of differences on a political issue. Was Richard Land as interested in Dr. Graham's participation when Richard Nixon's administration was obstructing justice and conducting illegal combat incursions in Southeast Asia?

As ministers of the gospel, our responsibility is to be where we are sent, where the Spirit leads, regardless of the Richard Lands and Randall Terrys. If the message of grace is not proclaimed, how will those in darkness ever be brought to the light?

I am thankful to Dr. Graham for his ministry to all, even when their political views were not mine.

Ed Canada
Middletown

HEART TO HEART



There is a special bond between the birthparents and adoptive families of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Program. You can feel the Heart to Heart bond between the birthparent and the adoptive couple expressed in the letters below.

Dear Adoptive Couple,

Today has been a hard day. My parental rights were terminated and it feels so final, yet in my heart it doesn't feel final. I will always love my baby girl. I am glad that you are her parents, but I didn't want to sign. I did it for her because I want what is best for her. My Mom is sad too, she is her first granddaughter. But like Mom says, "just because it hurts doesn't mean it's wrong." Thinking of your happiness does help the hurt.

I didn't think I would miss holding her so much, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. Thank you for being at the hospital, I am glad you can tell her about her birth. She was definitely the prettiest baby there! Please tell her that I love and I will always love her.

I want you to know that I will never intrude in your lives but a picture now and then will be treasured. I hope to hear from you soon. She is very special and I know you will take good care of her.

Love, Birthmother

Thanks to your commitment to this vital ministry, young mothers facing an unplanned pregnancy are given the opportunity to take the first step toward a brighter future. The First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Program offers hope and support to birthparents and is giving new life to adoptive couples. Thank You!

Dear Birthmother,

Thank you so much for our beautiful little girl. She is truly a gift from God. She is perfect in every way. We are also so thankful to have a birthmother like you. We feel that God has brought us together.

I know it is difficult going to court. I wish you didn't feel so sad. Our prayers are with you. Be assured that she will always be told of your love for her.

As you can see in these pictures, she is growing fast. It is amazing how quickly she changes. She loves to eat and she especially loves to stay up all night. Not only is she beautiful on the outside but on the inside too. Everyone in the church nursery comments that she is the sweetest baby. It has been so fun staying home with her these weeks and just watching her.

We are so fortunate to be her Mom and Dad. Thank you for this precious gift. If possible, please send one of your baby pictures. I would love to see the similarities. I think she has your eyes and hair. We are making a videotape and having her picture taken professionally, we will be sending it soon.

Love, Adoptive Couple

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children • 10801 Shelbyville Road • Middletown • Kentucky • 40243
502-245-2101 or 1-800-456-1386

Poll: American belief stronger than European

PRINCETON, N.J.—Americans may not practice the religious beliefs they claim to hold, but they still identify with religious beliefs more strongly than Western Europeans.

That's the conclusion of new research recently reported by the Gallup Organization through the Princeton Religion Research Center.

The findings are based on a large study of the values of Europeans begun in 1990 but only recently reported.

The Gallup Organization previously has found a significant gap between what Americans say they believe and what they practice of those beliefs. But on most issues, Western Europeans don't even claim a level of religious practice similar to Americans, the new study found.

Here are some comparisons:

- Belief that there is a God or universal spirit: 96 percent of Americans, 79 percent of Europeans.

- Belief in life after death: 65 percent of Americans, 52 percent of Europeans.

- Belief in heaven: 78 percent of Americans, 47 percent of Europeans.

- Belief in hell: 60 percent of Americans, 24 percent of Europeans.

- Belief in the devil: 55 percent of Americans, 27 percent of Europeans.

- Religious upbringing as children: 89 percent of Americans, 74 percent of Europeans.

- Belong to a religious denomination or express a religious preference: 89 percent of both Americans and Europeans.

- Attend church or synagogue weekly: 42 percent of Americans, 24 percent of Europeans.

Friendship led to faith & understanding

By Donald Martin
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MAUDZU, Malawi (BP)—It took a still graveyard to stir a friendship and a ministry to life.

Steve Evans, a Southern Baptist missionary from Seattle, met Jameson Mwenyeheri, a member of the Yao tribe, on the shores of Lake Malawi in 1991. The encounter marked Evans' entry into the Yao culture and Mwenyeheri's eventual entry into Christianity.

Evans had taken a break from meetings to join friends for the weekend at a lakeside hotel with thatched huts and a swath of sand for a beach.

During an afternoon walk along the shore, Evans paused with his camera to watch a few Yao children play. His head was packed with Yao demographics and intricate cultural details he would use in his ministry with the Yao Outreach Committee, an interdenominational group formed to reach the 1.5 million Yao of Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania.

But to the Yao around him, he was just another tourist wandering off the hotel compound.

"I had all this research and statistical information, but nothing was personalized," Evans recalled. "I was literally in the middle of the Yao, but I didn't have a way of gaining an entrance into the nearby village."

It was then that Mwenyeheri, a confident 28-year-old, spotted Evans and offered to show him things to photograph in the village.

Barely containing his excitement, Evans followed Mwenyeheri. As they toured, he mentioned he wanted to record Yao music for radio broadcasts. Intrigued, Mwenyeheri said he would check with the chief, his uncle.

Soon they passed a small graveyard where crosses marked a few graves.

"I was surprised to see that," Evans said, "and asked, 'Are there Christians here?'"

"We're three kinds of Yao here—Christians, Muslims and 'People of the Dance,'" Mwenyeheri answered.

Evans was hooked.

"I guess I'm a romantic, and this phrase, 'People of the Dance,' just grabbed me. It sounded so beautiful," he said. "I think that's really what



DANCE BAND A Yao dancer in Maudzu, Malawi, demonstrates steps to one of the many Yao traditional tribal dances. In the background, Southern Baptist missionary Steve Evans and Jameson Mwenyeheri, a member of the Yao tribe, record the accompanying drums which pound out the dancer's cadence. Evans' recordings will play on Yao-language radio programs which are broadcast twice daily to communicate the Christian message to Yao listeners in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

sprung open our conversation. We started comparing each other's cultures and lives. We became friends."

The friendship grew as Evans returned time and again to the village.

He recorded Yao music and learned more about the People of the Dance, who uphold the tribe's traditional religion with its colorful dances, spiritual ceremonies and myriad of gods. He also saw how the People of the Dance bowed to the prestige of Islam and its hold on the Yao community.

Some Christian researchers question how deeply Islam has penetrated the Yao. Ninety-five percent of the Yao are Muslim, and many say: "To be Yao is to be Muslim." But they usually mean a heavily modified or folk Islam—a blend of beliefs more resembling tribal religion than a faith based on the Koran, Islam's holy scriptures.

However, the lack of grounding in Islamic teaching doesn't necessarily make them open to the gospel, explained Braam Willemsse, a South African Baptist missionary who works with Yao Outreach Committee.

Yet societal pressures have brought changes that demand new answers. A small but growing part of the Yao community questions traditions.

And the Yao radio broadcasts intend to tap this growing need, Evans said.

The programs of music, discussion and drama, which started in March 1991, intend to stimulate an awareness of God and to present facets of the gospel.

Evans had no idea how his budding friendship with Mwenyeheri was leading him to a new awareness of the gospel.

"The first time I returned to his village to record, we started talking about the Bible," Evans said. "He had studied the Bible in school, but he was not a Christian. I didn't press things, because I felt the first thing you don't want to do in a Muslim community is run people away."

But a few weeks later, Evans asked Mwenyeheri if he had thought any more about what it meant to be Christian. Mwenyeheri said he had not just thought about it, he had become a Christian.

"I was elated," Evans recalls. "But he didn't stop there." Within four months Mwenyeheri started a church in his village, which grew from four to 35 members in its first year.

"We (missionaries) spend years trying to do this stuff, and here he is starting a church in his yard with three people ready to be baptized."

■ More than 15,000 blankets and \$200,000 in medical supplies and hygienic items are on their way to Bosnia in a cooperative effort by the Baptist World Aid arm of the Baptist World Alliance and three other relief organizations.

BWAid now is working on a possible shipment to Croatia. Donations earmarked for BWAid efforts in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia may be sent to BWA at 6733 Curran St., McLean, Va. 22101-6005.

■ Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister and ally of Mikhail Gorbachev, announced in late November that he had become a Christian. Shevardnadze was baptized at a Georgian Orthodox cathedral, he told a national radio audience.

■ Traffic jams throughout Manila, caused by deflated tires on scores of buses and cars, persisted for hours during a late December evening rush hour after religious cult leader Alelio Bernaldez told his followers that flat tires were the will of God. The group distributed fliers stating that deflating tires was "God's way of stopping bad deeds." Police arrested 32 people in the event.

■ Church of England bishops are hoping to avoid a schism by appeasing clergy who oppose the ordination of women as priests. The House of Bishops has proposed sending out three traveling bishops who would minister to opponents of women priests in diocese where the assigned bishop is a supporter.

Sudan bears brunt of ancient Muslim-Christian conflict

Continued from page 1

In fact, traditionally "Christian" nations have had the upper hand in the battle since the decline of Islam's cultural golden age centuries ago. Dominated, colonized and often oppressed, many Muslims have nurtured a sense of grievance ever since. The militant brand of Islam sponsored by Iran and other hard-line Muslim states has fanned that long-smoldering resentment into open flames.

Sudan is perhaps the most horrifying front in militant Islam's expanding war against Christianity, but it is far from the only one:

- Christians are under attack in Egypt. Every week believers are killed or injured, reports say. More than 100 died in such attacks last year.

- Muslims destroyed scores of churches in Indonesia after one Christian group compared Jesus to Muhammad, Islam's prophet.

- Pakistan postponed enforcement of a new law requiring citizens to carry identity cards listing their religion only after a major outcry from its Christian minority. Christians and other religious minorities fear the law will lead to more discrimination against them in the nation, where Muslim clerics want Islamic law enforced as law of the land.

- Saudi Arabian authorities beheaded a man accused of blaspheming Islam and reviling Muhammad. The real reason for his execution, sources believe: his conversion to Christianity and attempts to spread his

new faith. The beheading was widely publicized in Saudi Arabia to pacify rising Muslim militants.

- Muslim fundamentalists assaulted a Christian village in Bangladesh, burning a church, destroying homes and attacking a Christian hospital.

"We're experiencing a wave of activity sparked by Muslim fundamentalism," said a Christian worker in the Middle East. "It's been there all along under the surface, but it certainly has intensified. Each country sort of has its own brand of it."

Whatever happens in the political-military sphere, Islam will not crush the Christian church even in its own heartland, Christian observers predict.

A Christian revival apparently has broken out in Egypt. Even in Iran,

evangelical Christians reportedly have grown nearly fourfold in 15 years. Nine of every 10 baptized believers are Muslim converts.

"Among Muslims today, Iranians are the most open to the gospel," one Iranian Christian leader claimed.

"It's interesting," added the Christian worker. "It seems like the church under persecution does better."

Yet rising Muslim fundamentalism, political turmoil, repression and economic hardship are combining to drive more and more Christians from the land of the Bible, according to the Middle East Council of Churches. The number of Christians leaving the Middle East, the council reported last year, "has reached an unprecedented level."

PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Kentucky's birth rate is slightly lower than the national average. For the most recent year of record, 1991, Kentucky's birth rate was 14.6 per 1,000 residents, compared to a national rate of 16.2 per 1,000. Source: *Vital Statistics Report*

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BRODHEAD**—McKinney Church ordained **Richard Walden** to the ministry Feb. 7. Walden is interim pastor at Sunrise Church in Somerset.

■ **BURNA**—**Buddy Keeling**, pastor of Good Hope Church, has resigned due to health considerations.

■ **CARROLLTON**—**Stanley Reedy**, pastor of Whites Run Church, received an honorable mention for his sermon "There's no such thing as a free lunch." The award was one of 30 Small Church Preaching Awards given by Mon Valley Ministries, an interdenominational coalition supporting small churches.

■ **CLOVERPORT**—**Roger Willoughby** has resigned after eight years as Assist director for Blackford Baptist Association.

■ **ERLANGER**—Erlanger Church ordained six as deacons Feb. 7: **Mike Clark**, **Oza Delaney**, **Keith Hammond**, **Eddie Massey**, **Romey Reynolds** and **Greg Stamper**.

■ **GREENVILLE**—**Ted Tucker** is interim youth director at Second Church.

■ **HAMPTON**—Hampton Church will ordain **Randy Beals**, pastor of Dyer Hill Church in Smithland, to the ministry Feb. 21.

■ **HAWESVILLE**—New Life Church called **Gary Roberts**, from South Carolina, as pastor.

Tim Hughes has accepted the position of assistant camp director of the Schafer Baptist Camp, operated by Daviess-McLean Baptist Association.

Also, Hughes will serve as youth director at Union Church in Hawesville.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Victory Church called **Coye Still III** as pastor. Still previously served as pastor of Burk's Branch Church in Shelbyville.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Buechel Park Church ordained **Roxie Hoffman** and **Caroline Randolph** as deacons.

Deer Park Church called **Joel Drinkard**, a professor at Southern Seminary and member of the church, as interim pastor.

Kenwood Church called **Phil Ellis** as pastor.

■ **MYRA**—Faith Mission has scheduled several featured guests: **Lois Jane Huddleston**, Feb. 14; **Bill Whittaker**, of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, for spring revival, March 21-24; and **Betty Jean Robinson**, April 24-25.

■ **OWENSBORO**—**Wallace Morris** is retiring as pastor of Crabtree

Avenue Church. His 46 years of ministry include seven years as a vocational evangelist. Wallace will be available for interim and supply preaching.

■ **SOMERSET**—**David Morris** is pastor of Duke Memorial Church. The church will ordain three recently-elected deacons: **Donald Black**, **Frank Rhodus** and **Paul Wilson**.

Pleasant Hill Church called **Roger Weddle** as interim pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

ACT NOW! Only eight spaces left. Holy Land tour, July 1-9. Cruise Paul's missionary journeys (optional). Call Dr. T.L. McSwain, (502) 423-1342 or (502) 964-6403.

NEEDED: Small church needs donated items: tables, chairs, used carpet, misc. furnishings. Jeff Thompson, Bethel Flock Baptist, (502) 637-4686.

WANTED: Full-time minister of music and outreach. Contact Mrs. Laura Cannon, Burlington Baptist Church, P.O. Box 48, Burlington, Ky. 41005; (606) 586-6529.

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.

Seeking Pastor

The members of Cadiz (KY) Baptist Church are requesting resumés of candidates for pastor. The church has 510 resident members with 285 in Sunday school. Send resumé and statement of ministry to:

Mr. Larry Kemp, co-chair PSC
111 Melwood Drive
Cadiz, KY 42211

(Please do not send resumé to church address.)

Ray Wilson



Is Scheduling Revivals & Bible Studies for 1993—Dates Available.

Call Today: (606) 986-6087 (Leave Message), Or Write: P.O. Box 334, Berea, Ky. 40403

Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

Call or write for our free catalog

1-800-527-1459
P.O. Box 1340
Henderson, TX 75653-1340

Steeple & Baptistries
Krinkglas® Windows
Baptistries
Lighted Wall Crosses
Baptistry Heaters

FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

'Beyond Goose Creek—River of No Return'

Preston "Doc" Keith ran away from our village and school of Oneida 51 years ago. He was a very unhappy 16-year-old when he left home to find work in Cincinnati and less than a year later was in the Navy doing dangerous convoy duty in World War II.

Doc has found a good measure of happiness the past half century. He found it in a solid religious faith in our Lord Jesus, in a good marriage, children and grandchildren. A lifelong lover of books, he has read much, and in retirement has been doing a good bit of reflecting and writing.

He has written a tremendous book on his first 16 years of life that will be available in hardback two months from now. I have personally spent at least 100 hours over the past two years in editing, proofreading, and otherwise supervising the publishing of this fascinating account. Four of our staff and two friends have also collectively worked at least a thousand hours in typesetting, proofing, making negatives of each page, printing, all that is involved. In just a few days, having done all else, it will be on its way to a bindery to be hardbound.

All of us involved in publishing the book, to be titled "Beyond Goose Creek—River of No Return," are very excited. Doc's is a beautifully written, poignant story. The following will give you a bit of the flavor.

"Dr. Preston Jennings Jones used horses to carry him on his rounds. He attended my mother on a wintery day in February. ... I weighed in at a modest 13 pounds. ... Being named for my doctor caused me to get the nickname 'Doc.'

"After two years of being patted, pinched, petted, praised, hugged, kissed, admired ... it began

to affect me mentally. I began to think that everyone came to our home only to see me.

"The responsibility for my well-being was placed on my mother. She promptly passed that responsibility on to my older siblings. To hear them tell it, it took all six of them to keep one enterprising little boy out of mischief.

"My mother was a gentle soul. Lenient in her exercise of authority, it was easy for us children to talk our way around her.

"Her garden supplied a substantial portion of the food used to keep her brood fed. It was filled with everything known to her for a healthy diet. Vegetables were planted to mature at different times during the season. Early lettuce, cucumbers and melons were grown in hotbeds. Peas, onions, turnips, cabbage, carrots, peppers, tomatoes and beets were grown in furrows. The surplus vegetables were canned.

"About twice a year, she would run out of items we couldn't grow on the farm and that she felt were essential to a well run household. These included coffee, sugar, flour and baking soda.

She would calculate how many chickens she needed to sell for these provisions, tie their legs together, throw them into a wagon. Then she, my father and some of the children would be off on a bartering expedition to Manchester. ...

"Twelve was the usual number at our house, and sometimes that many relatives would show up for a visit. Our house would be bathed in the delicious aromas wafting from my mother's kitchen. ... Nobody complained of being overcrowded. The adults got the beds and the children got pallets on the floor."

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Alumni families missionaries in residence

Missions emphasis at Clear Creek this semester is especially strong because we have two missionary-in-residence families on campus. James and Dorothy Ditty, South Africa, and Tim and Brenda Searcy, Colombia, are walking familiar ground.

The Searcys have the longest connection with Clear Creek. His father was one of the first four graduates from the three-year diploma program.

Tim recalls coming back with the family each August to the alumni reunion. "The services always included graduates testifying about God's work in their life and church. Those experiences continue to influence my life."

Licensed to preach at age 16, Tim graduated from Oneida in 1973.

Winchester native Brenda Barrett became his bride in 1975, and they moved to Clear Creek the next year. She took the music ministry track while on campus. Both also earned a bachelor of arts at Lincoln Memorial University, and Tim received a master of religious education and doctor of education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In Colombia Tim taught at the International Baptist Seminary, Cali.

On furlough Searcy teaches two religious education classes for

Clear Creek and the Southern Seminary campus center. He also directs an assessment planning committee preparing a campus master plan for SACS accreditation.

James Ditty certainly identifies with our adult education emphasis. He was converted at age 30, called to preach at 40, and began work in South Africa at 50.

Ditty left a secure management

job to enter management in 1975. Using the influence of the campus WMU, the Lord called Dorothy to missions. James acknowledges, "I wasn't fully surrendered to go anywhere." After a doctor of ministries at Southwestern they were appointed associate missionaries and he was asked to teach Old Testament and Hebrew at the Baptist Theological

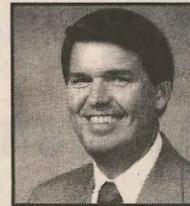
College. They lived near Johannesburg and had some work in the black townships.

Ditty's excitement for missions is communicated in a missions class and a class on wisdom literature. Mrs. Ditty teaches a minister's wife course on the devotional life.

Both of these couples are available for missions presentations.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Paid Column

Physical condition affects exercise of spiritual gifts

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—A person's physical condition often determines what he can do with spiritual or mental gifts, but many Christians are too lazy to maintain their bodies, according to a Southern Baptist fitness specialist.

Baptists are not alone in their flabbiness, lack of conditioning and unwillingness to deal with it, said Tommy Yessick, who works in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation department.

People can control 53 percent of the physical factors that impact their quality of life by paying attention to exercise, eating, stress and relaxation, Yessick said. "Only 47 percent of physical condition is attributed to environment, health care and heredity—

things you can't change."

Yessick offers this spiritual perspective to physical conditioning for people who say they try to be Christ-like: Christ walked everywhere he went and one day walked 50 miles and on another occasion walked 120 miles in three days.

"He had to have been physically fit to do the things he did. Remember, Christ grew up working in a carpenter's shop that didn't have Skil saws," Yessick said.

Although many people put off physical conditioning with the idea of doing it later, Yessick said they may not have a chance later.

Cardiovascular disease begins early. Men in the 35-45 age group likely will never realize they have a prob-

lem. In that age group, the most common indication of heart disease is death, Yessick said. "You may not get warning signs or a second chance."

But, the good news is simple efforts can delay the effects of cardiovascular disease, Yessick said.

"If you can't do anything else, walk," he said. "Walk a minimum of three times a week for 30-45 minutes. Four or five times a week would be better."

Next, Yessick suggests modifying diet. "Nobody needs to go on a diet. They need to change their diet. After you go on a diet, you go back to the old way of doing things. You need to change your eating habits and exercise to control weight."

Most Americans aren't willing to

maintain a program to keep physically fit, Yessick said. Consequently, the United States ranks high in colon cancer, heart attacks, diabetes, obesity and other problems related to excessive fat intake, improper diet and lack of exercise.

"We're in a quick-fix society and lack the discipline for exercise and proper diet," he said.

But, Yessick said, without physical conditioning, Christians will have a hard time doing other things.

"It's a shame we don't have the endurance to do our daily tasks and then have energy left over to do anything else," he said.

"If we are spiritually fit and mentally fit but we have no physical strength, what can we do with it?"

"We're in a quick-fix society and lack the discipline for exercise and proper diet."

Tommy Yessick, fitness specialist

Worship non-fattening but church dinners may not be

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—Baptists like to get together for worship, prayer, study and fellowship. They also like to get together and eat.

The good news is worship, prayer, study and fellowship are sugar-free, fat-free, sodium-free and healthy for everyone.

The bad news is, when church activities involve meals or refreshments, individuals on restrictive diets may be unintentionally excluded or limited in participation.

About 14 million Americans have diabetes, according to American Diabetes Association statistics. Thousands of others have been diagnosed with some form of cardiovascular disease. For many of these individuals, a carefully controlled diet is not just a matter of attractiveness or physical fitness but a matter of life and death.

Nutritionists estimate in a typical group of people at a church dinner or other such function, one-third could eat whatever is served with no problem; another one-third could benefit by watching their intake of fat, sodium and sugar; and the remaining one-third would definitely need to be on low-fat, low-sodium and low-sugar diets.

"I don't usually let anything stop me" from participating in social functions where food is served, said Cindy Rice, who is diabetic. She is director of foundation development at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. Rice said she has long since overcome any hesitancy about refusing items that are not allowable or asking for a substitute such as fresh fruit instead of a dessert high in sugar.

But not everyone feels that comfortable with dietary restrictions, ac-

ording to Alice Lumbley, dietary director for the Baptist Home retirement center at Ironton, Mo. For diabetic residents, especially, she said, "this is a very hard thing for them" when they go out to a "beautiful church dinner ... with everybody's favorite dessert" and see so many things they cannot have. Some feel sensitive about asking for anything different from the regular fare offered, she said.

While not recommending a ban on brownies or a resolution denouncing coconut creme pie, several dieticians do suggest churches make an effort to include healthwise foods along with the heavier fare at their food-and-fellowship functions.

Offering menu options lower in sugar, salt and fat not only makes meal participation more accessible to people on restricted diets; it also makes good health sense for people who aren't on diets, they pointed out.

Tips for cutting down on fat include substituting unsaturated fats for saturated fats and trimming visible fat from meats.

People on sugar-restricted diets should be offered dessert options, Lumbley suggested. Fruit, either fresh or packed in fruit juice, is one possibility. Sugar-free mixes and recipes are available for custards, puddings and gelatin desserts. If necessary, these could be identified as "sugar-free" with a small sign on a toothpick or straw.

Along with healthwise food options, dieticians suggest offering a generous helping of sensitivity and courtesy. If refreshments are offered, and someone says, "No, thank you," don't push them to partake, they emphasize.



Ministers called to fitness

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The internationally known founder of the aerobics movement challenged students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Jan. 22 to "glorify God with your bodies."

Kenneth Cooper, founder and president of the Cooper Aerobics Center in Dallas, asked students during a chapel service at the Fort Worth school to commit to some form of aerobic exercise in light of evidence of high levels of stress among ministers.

Cooper cited a 1991 Southern Baptist Convention report that placed ministers below average in physical fitness, with heart attacks being the leading cause of death among males and cancer the leading cause among females. He revealed statistics showing that people who do some type of weekly aerobic exercise increased longevity by two and a half years.

"If I could get everyone here today, all ages, to dedicate 30 minutes three times a week to some type of sustained physical activity, it could improve the quantity, I assure you, as well as the quality of your lives," Cooper said.

According to Cooper, studies show that the average minister works 56

hours a week, while only 16 percent have memberships in health clubs.

"Of professional groups, pastors are the most deconditioned people I see," he said.

In a survey of hospital costs for Southern Baptist ministers, Cooper found that psychosis was the leading expenditure, with \$1.6 million spent in 1991. Maternity costs were second, and heart bypass surgeries were third.

Cooper's study showed that twice as much was spent for psychosis as for heart surgery.

"God hath not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and of sound mind. That's what we're teaching and preaching, but are we practicing it?" Cooper asked.

The study also showed the top two prescription drugs used by ministers were for high blood pressure and stomach ulcers.

"Since when is a bleeding ulcer a sign of spirituality? When will we learn that efficiency is enhanced not by what we accomplish but by what we delegate or relinquish?" he said.

Cooper, a Southern Baptist layman, is the author of 11 books which have sold more than 20 million copies in 41 languages and Braille.

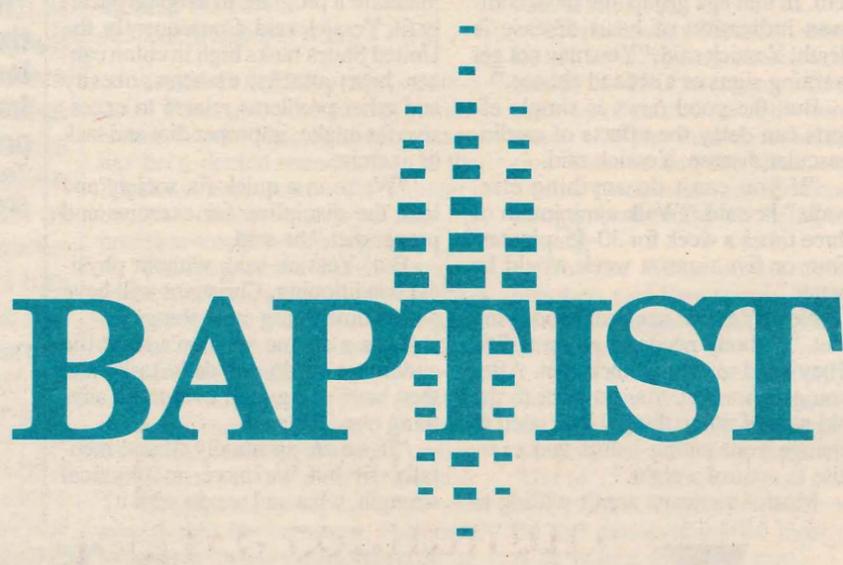
THICK AND THIN Both physically fit and overweight, poorly conditioned bodies are represented in most Baptist congregations. Promoting fitness makes good sense for Christians, experts say, because fit bodies are better able to serve the Lord. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Fitness facts

- Nearly 40 percent of Americans are overweight.
- 62 percent of ministers who died last year died as a result of heart attacks.
- The U.S. leads the world in cases of hypertension, cancer and heart attacks.

- 60 percent of all cancer is caused by improper nutrition.
- 80 percent of Americans suffer from lower back pain, often the result of lack of exercise.
- Psychosis was the leading medical expenditure for Southern Baptist ministers in 1991.

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE



BAPTIST

A Statement of Values

"We believe . . . it is our responsibility to provide accessible healthcare and to contribute to the improvement of the general health and wellness of our community and environment through a continuum of care, effective community education and continuous quality improvement of our services."



BAPTIST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Baptist Hospital East, Louisville
Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington
Western Baptist Hospital, Paducah
Baptist Regional Medical Center, Corbin
Tri-County Baptist Hospital, La Grange