

**FOR THE RECORD**

## Speakers target changing world, unchanging witness

By Marv Knox  
Editor

**WMU addressed**  
The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee passed a resolution of "concern" for actions taken by Woman's Missionary Union. See page 2.

**Family Forum**  
How can I be an adequate mother, wife and homemaker and still hold a full-time job? See page 4.

**Editorial**  
Is Al Mohler's well of resources greater than his range of experience? See page 5.

**Annie Armstrong**  
Next week is the annual week of prayer for home missions. See stories on pages 1 and 6.

**Evangelism conference**  
Speakers at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Evangelism Conference called for changing methods of telling the changeless message of the gospel. See stories on pages 1 and 7.

**Court hearings**  
The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in two key church-state cases. See page 9.

LEXINGTON—Christians today face a gigantic challenge: How to confront a constantly changing culture with the changeless claims of the gospel.

That theme of change vs. changelessness reverberated throughout the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual Evangelism Conference last week at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

From start to finish, speaker after speaker pounded home one of two truths: A rapid pace of change both propels and reflects American society. And the changeless gospel is as vital for 21st century baby boomers as it was for first century Jews and Gentiles.

"We live in a time of unprecedented change," proclaimed the conference's first speaker, Ron Johnson, director of the Georgia Baptist Convention's evangelism department.

"America is in a cultural shift—a white-water shift—that bewilders most of us who observe it," added

Johnson, formerly an evangelism professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "We must help folks caught in the rapids of change (to) be changed by the gospel."

The church's success in that endeavor is up for debate, he said, citing pollster George Gallup, who believes America is in the early days of a religious revival, and theologian Kenneth Kantzer, who sees a "religious Ice Age drifting down on Europe and North America."

But no matter how rapidly the secular culture changes, the church will succeed only to the degree that it continues to introduce people to the only person who never changes, stressed D.L. Lowrie, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lubbock, Texas.

"This message that never changes is a person—Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever," said Lowrie.

Lowrie quoted a verse from the 13th chapter of the Book of Hebrews, which focuses on the changeless nature of Christ. That same verse pro-



**POINTING THE WAY** The Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual Evangelism Conference included presentations by Alicia Williamson (left), music evangelist from Mobile, Ala.; William Jones (top), pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Lois Jane Huddleston, musician from Gallatin, Tenn.

## Survey shows apathy a top future concern

NASHVILLE (BP)—Apathy, not missions, is the issue grass-roots Southern Baptists think most will affect church life in the near future, according to a nationwide survey.

Initial results of the survey, commissioned by the heads of the Southern Baptist Convention's agencies and institutions, were presented to the SBC Executive Committee last week.

The survey was conducted by the SBC Sunday School Board's research department, polling about 2,600 Southern Baptist ministers and laypeople by mail. Respondents were selected by executive directors of the state Baptist convention, but were to include a diverse representation of gender, race and political perspective.

Initial results of the survey show these opinions:

■ **Ranking of "primary issues that may affect Southern Baptist church life at the beginning of the next century":**

- Apathy, lack of commitment.
- Personal evangelism involvement.
- Denominational controversy.
- Adequate teaching/training for church leaders and members.

■ Financial support for church ministry.

■ Personnel and funding for foreign and home missions.

■ **Ranking of local church ministry areas important in the future:**

- Outreach/evangelism/witnessing.
- Ministry to families.
- Prayer ministry.
- Training/Bible study.

■ Ministry to groups within the church (senior adults, single adults, youth, handicapped, grieving, etc.).

■ Ministry to groups outside the church.

■ Home and foreign missions.

## Kentucky church models missions giving

By Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

PROVIDENCE—At Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church near Providence, doing something for missions means both giving and going.

With 285 resident members, the church is consistently among Kentucky leaders in per capita giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. In 1991, the church gave \$3,443 to the offering; last year, it gave \$4,945.

Leaders of the rural church say members give generously to the offering because "God provides" and because they have a love for missions.

That love also translates into action for the congregation where 80 percent of the members are under age 50. Church members have been involved in a number of volunteer missions efforts, including working at a county fair in Minnesota, roofing a church in Ohio and doing car-



including the need for missions in his messages. The church also publicizes the week of prayer for home missions in its bulletins and local newspaper advertising.

Giving to the offering begins with the youngest group. Members of Mission Friends, the Woman's Missionary Union-sponsored missions organization for preschool boys and girls, make special boxes in which to collect their offering gifts.

Last year was the first time nationwide gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering exceeded \$36 million. The national goal this year is \$38 million.

Gifts to the Annie Armstrong offering make up 46 percent of the Home Mission Board's annual budget. All money received from the offering supports the work of the 5,000 home missionaries serving in all 50 states, the Caribbean, American Samoa and Canada. None of it is used for HMB administrative costs.

pany work in Georgia.

"Contributions from churches which give so sacrificially to home missions are essential to reaching our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal, and consequently reaching our nation for Christ," said Larry Lewis, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board president.

Pastor Laddie Pride emphasizes the offering by announcing it and

## Mohler, 33, nominated for Southern presidency

NASHVILLE—Al Mohler, the 33-year-old editor of Georgia Baptists' weekly newspaper, has been nominated to become president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The trustee search committee announced Mohler as their choice in a Feb. 22 news conference at the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville.

If elected by trustees this spring, Mohler will succeed retiring president Roy Honeycutt. Mohler formerly served as special assistant to Honeycutt and director of capital funding for Southern while completing a doctoral

degree.

He left that position in 1989 to become editor of the Christian Index, weekly newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Wayne Allen, chairman of Southern's trustees and the search committee, made the announcement of Mohler's unanimous selection in Nashville, while SBC leaders were gathered for the winter meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

Southern Seminary trustees were notified of Mohler's selection in a letter mailed Feb. 20, Allen said.

Allen said the faculty was to be informed Feb. 22, simultaneously with

the Nashville news conference. However, faculty members have complained they received no official notification of the nomination until two days later, Feb. 24.

The chairman made no mention of how students were to be informed. And by the end of the week, there had been no official communication with students about the news.

That situation drew a sharp response from Ruth Davison, president of the Student Government Association: "We as students have to assume that convention leadership is much more important to the process than

See Mohler nominated ..., page 3

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **SBC Life**, a full-color, tabloid-size publication, will replace *The Baptist Program*—published by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee since 1925—in October. A special edition of *SBC Life* will be printed for the SBC annual meeting in Houston. Like *The Baptist Program*, *SBC Life* will be published 10 times a year and will be sent free to church staff members and denominational workers. However, additional paid subscribers will be sought. The new publication's editor will be Mark Coppenger, Executive Committee vice president for convention relations.

■ **Enrollment** in vacation Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs reached a record high in 1992, surpassing the 3.7 million mark. Statistics compiled by the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board show 76 percent of SBC churches reported having a VBS last year. In addition, 1,712 mission vacation Bible schools and 3,508 backyard Bible clubs were reported.

■ **Gary Leazer**, director of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department, has been removed from any further participation in preparing a report and recommendation on Freemasonry to be considered by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in June. Leazer, who authored an extensive study of Freemasonry, has been censured by HMB President Larry Lewis for making "inappropriate" comments in a letter. In the Jan. 17 letter to a Tennessee pastor, Leazer voiced appreciation to two Masons for reviewing the report and urged them to encourage other Masons to attend the June meeting to support the report.

## Executive Committee expresses 'concern' to WMU

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

NASHVILLE—Woman's Missionary Union needs to affirm its "singular cooperation," "undivided commitment" and "exclusive relationship" with the Southern Baptist Convention and its mission boards, according to a resolution passed by the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 23.

The resolution was adopted in response to changes approved by WMU's executive board Jan. 10 that would allow WMU to provide non-financial support to missionary-sending groups other than the SBC's foreign and home mission boards.

That change, one of many announced in a plan for WMU's future, has angered SBC conservatives who fear WMU is moving to support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The Fellowship, a group of moderate Southern Baptists displeased with current SBC leadership, has begun its own missions program and has appealed to WMU for assistance.

Executive Committee officers met privately with WMU leaders Sunday night, Feb. 21, before the start of the Executive Committee meeting Feb. 22. That session was closed to the press, but participants later said con-

cern about a WMU-Fellowship tie was the chief concern of the officers.

After the resolution was adopted, WMU leaders were reluctant to discuss or interpret it. However, to comply with its terms, WMU apparently would have to reverse its January decision allowing the mission-support group to work with the Fellowship or other non-SBC groups.

The resolution begins with seven paragraphs of affirmation for WMU's historic role in supporting SBC missions. It praises WMU for leading Southern Baptists to pray for, financially support and send out home and foreign missionaries.

However, it also notes that WMU "was established originally for the express purpose of supporting the two mission boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, 'disclaiming all intention of independent action.'"

However, that disclaimer, an Executive Committee leader explained in a subcommittee meeting, was taken from the original version of the preamble to WMU's constitution. That line was removed from the document in 1890, two years after WMU was formed.

The second part of the resolution notes "deep concern" for WMU and its future relationship with the SBC.

"We call upon the executive board of the Woman's Missionary Union to make clear its singular cooperation with the convention and its mission boards and its undivided commitment to the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions," it states.

The resolution also says the Executive Committee pledges to continue supporting WMU's relationship to the SBC as an auxiliary "so long as the Woman's Missionary Union pledges its faithful and solitary support of the mission offerings and mission programs of the Southern Baptist Convention and its mission boards."

No WMU representative was asked to address the full Executive Committee during discussion of the resolution. However, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien was asked three brief questions in the meeting of the program and budget subcommittee.

Asked if WMU plans to promote the missions offering of the Fellowship, O'Brien said simply, "No."

Asked if WMU intends to become a missionary-sending agency, O'Brien again replied, "No."

Asked what is different about

WMU as a result of the plan adopted in January, O'Brien said WMU plans to broaden its work in distributing missions-education literature.

In debate before the full committee, one member wanted to know what would happen if the resolution were passed but WMU did not change its course. Subcommittee chairman Guy Sanders of Lake Wales, Fla., replied: "As with all other resolutions ... we're expressing ourselves on an issue. We're not codifying anything. ... We're clarifying where we would like to be in the future in our relationship with WMU."

Ultimately, the resolution was adopted with about four dissenting votes.

In a statement issued after the meeting, O'Brien said: "We appreciate the affirmation expressed by the SBC Executive Committee for WMU. There are several areas of the resolution which are ambiguous, and we will seek further clarification. The WMU Executive Board next meets in June in conjunction with the WMU annual meeting and the Southern Baptist Convention. This would be the earliest time this resolution could be considered by our board."

*Additional information provided by Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press*

## Annuity Board asked to divest 'abortion stocks'

NASHVILLE (BP)—A resolution passed by the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee asks the Annuity Board to "identify any company in its portfolio that is contributing to Planned Parenthood or any other provider or advocate of legal abortion" and "begin a process of divesting itself" of those stocks.

Executive Committee member J.C. Mitchell of Winter Park, Fla., said information available from pro-life research groups indicates the Annuity Board may have investments in various companies that contribute to Planned Parenthood.

Mitchell cited news accounts that Planned Parenthood receives \$7 million annually from corporate contributors.

The divesting request passed with only minimal opposition.

Responding in behalf of the Annuity Board, Thomas Miller Jr., senior vice president for public relations, told Baptist Press the matter would be presented to the agency's trustees. No Annuity Board representative was present to address the resolution before it passed.

The Annuity Board currently is following through on a trustee-initiated Kmart shareholder action to instruct the company to eliminate pornographic materials from its Waldenbooks subsidiary.

## Dispute over \$300,000 SBC fund settled

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

NASHVILLE—The Southern Baptist Convention may finally have closed the books on its relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee Feb. 23 when a settlement was approved over claim to a disputed \$300,000 fund.

The SBC Executive Committee agreed to give the BJC \$100,000 over a four-year period from reserve funds to avoid a potential lawsuit. Under the agreement, which still must be officially approved by the BJC, the BJC would agree to press no further claim against the SBC for the disputed \$300,000 fund.

That fund was designated in 1964 by the SBC to help the BJC purchase an office building in Washington, D.C. At the time, the SBC was one of several Baptist bodies cooperating in support of the religious-liberty agency.

However, in recent years the SBC has incrementally severed its ties with the BJC, ultimately giving its religious-liberty program assignment to the SBC Christian Life Commission, which now operates a Washington office.

Although the \$300,000 fund was set aside in the late 1960s, it never was spent.

Since the parting of ways, the BJC has claimed the \$300,000 should be given to them since they were the SBC's religious-liberty advocate at the time the fund was designated. However, the CLC also has laid claim to the fund, explaining they are the SBC's current religious-liberty voice and the successor to the role held by the BJC at the time of the fund's orig-

ination.

The Southern Baptist Foundation, which has managed the fund, declined to decide the dispute and asked the SBC Executive Committee for direction.

The Executive Committee recommended—and messengers to last summer's SBC annual meeting agreed—that the fund should not be given to the BJC but should be redirected to SBC causes.

That decision prompted the BJC to initiate legal discussions with the SBC Executive Committee. Although no suit ever was filed, both parties admit the possibility of the BJC filing a lawsuit over the disputed funds was real.

Finally, Executive Committee leaders recommended the settlement, which was negotiated with the BJC's general counsel and chairman.

The settlement is expected to be approved by the BJC executive committee when it meets March 1.

"We have polled the members of our executive committee and they are willing to accept a cash payment in the amount of \$100,000 to settle the dispute over the Baptist Joint Committee account..." wrote BJC General Counsel Oliver Thomas in a letter to the SBC's attorney Feb. 16.

"This is not an easy decision for the BJC," Thomas continued. "We feel entitled to the entire \$300,000 corpus and are reluctant to accept any compromise settlement."

The agreement calls for the Executive Committee to pay the BJC \$25,000 annually for four years, beginning in April 1993. The money is to come from Executive Committee reserve funds.

Meanwhile, the Executive Committee plans to decide how to redis-

tribute the \$300,000 fund when they meet next in Houston June 14.

The agreement states that officers and staffs of both parties shall "refrain from, and they shall make a good faith effort to cause their respective agents and members to refrain from, henceforth impugning the motives and integrity of the other party ... over the facts and circumstances surrounding this controversy."

The settlement was approved by the Executive Committee, but not without dissent. In subcommittee discussions and in debate before the full Executive Committee, strong objections were raised to accepting any settlement.

Debate on the issue focused on two primary points. Those favoring the settlement, including several attorneys on the committee, argued it was wise to settle the matter quickly and avoid the uncertainty of litigation. Several attorneys also pointed out that people who sought to win court cases primarily on issues of principle usually lost.

But those opposing the settlement repeatedly cited the principle of the issue as the very reason the agreement should be rejected. Since the BJC holds positions detestable to many conservative Baptists, to give even one cent more to the agency would be indefensible, they said.

In a rousing speech before the full committee, T.C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va., called the settlement "morally wrong."

"I would much rather spend \$300,000 defending a right position than spend \$100,000 to compromise with a wrong position," he declared.

*Additional reporting by Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press*

## Mohler nominated for Southern Seminary president

Continued from page 1

students and faculty members. ... I'm angry and sorely disappointed."

Allen said the decision to make the announcement in Nashville rather than on the seminary's Louisville campus was a practical one. "We were all here ... so it was a better stewardship of money and time," he said.

Although trustees planned to announce their selection in April, Allen said the search committee reached a "first-vote unanimous decision" after interviewing Mohler and two other finalists during the week of Feb. 15 and decided to release the name immediately.

"We had not planned to reach a decision until early March," Allen said, "but we had such a sense of God's leadership and peace concerning God's will that we reached a unanimous decision Friday afternoon," Feb. 19.

"I am amazed that God communicated to us so quickly," the chairman said.

Rather than letting Mohler's selection "be dispensed by conjecture or rumor, we thought it best to officially declare who the candidate is," Allen said.

Both students and faculty appeared reluctant either to praise or condemn the nominee. Many apparently had not considered Mohler a serious contender for the post and were stunned by his selection.

In a meeting on campus Feb. 25, Gerald Keown, president of the Faculty Association, admitted these are times of uncertainty on campus "but not times to give in to despair."

"It is in all our best interests that he succeed," Keown said of Mohler.

"I was really surprised," said Laurel Ward, a third-year student from Huntsville, Ala. "I don't know a lot about Al Mohler. I was surprised at his youth."

"Several faculty members have used the expression 'cautiously optimistic,' and I think I would agree with them."

Mohler will be recommended to Southern's trustees when they meet April 19, or sooner if trustees decide to call a special meeting, Allen said. The chairman said a March meeting devoted only to Mohler's election would allow trustees more time to get to know the candidate.

Where a special March meeting would be held was not announced, although the possibility of holding a closed meeting away from Louisville was being discussed.

That also drew a critical response from Davison, who along with four other leaders of campus organizations issued a letter to Allen Feb. 24 saying the search committee had "compromised the presidential search process" by not including the seminary community properly.

The letter specifically requests that Mohler's nomination be considered in an open meeting in Louisville.

A native of Lakeland, Fla., Mohler is the only one of four finalists for the post who is both a graduate and one-time employee of Southern. He holds the doctor of philosophy and master of divinity degrees from Southern, in addition to a bachelor of arts degree

in religion from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

He was pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church in Bedford while a seminary student.

If elected, Mohler would be the second-youngest president in the seminary's history, second only to the school's founder, James P. Boyce, who at 32 became chairman of the faculty at the seminary's founding in 1859.

Allen said Mohler's age "could be seen as a liability, but it could be seen as a strength." He noted that four of Southern's eight previous presidents were in their 30s when elected.

Although Mohler has no classroom teaching experience, Allen said that has not hindered other SBC seminary presidents, including retired Southern President Duke McCall and current presidents Russell Dilday of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Landrum Leavell of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mohler is considered by most colleagues to be a capable—some say brilliant—scholar with a confidence that belies his age. Honeycutt said Mohler is an effective fund-raiser who is capable of delineating a vision for the 134-year-old seminary.

"Personally, I have great confidence in him," the retiring president said. "I predict for him an outstanding career as president."

Allen said Mohler and his wife, Mary, "exude a strong Christian presence," and added their family—which includes a 3-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son—would be a good role model for students.

"The search committee was profoundly influenced by the passion that Al and Mary Mohler have for Southern," the chairman said. "They clearly understand the Southern (Seminary) mystique and are committed to the school."

Although Allen praised Mohler for the vision the nominee has outlined for the seminary's future, Mohler declined to define that vision until he discusses it with all trustees. "It's not a matter of reluctance to speak but respect for the process," he said.

But Mohler did speak of his love for the seminary. "I cannot express to you how precious Southern Seminary is to me. It was that seedbed where the seed of the gospel and seed of my own vocation took root."

Mohler has been successful at winning allies in both camps during the SBC's 14-year theological-political battle. However, during his four years as editor of the Christian Index, he has become a hero of SBC conservatives. His editorials, as well as his service on the SBC resolutions committee, have given conservatives intellectual undergirding for their positions on such sensitive theological issues as homosexuality and abortion.

Allen said he is confident Mohler can win easy election by trustees: "I fully expect God to move in the hearts of trustees as he did with the search committee. I believe Dr. Mohler will receive a very strong vote. I believe it will be a very significant majority of trustees."

That sentiment was echoed by Jer-

ry Johnson, a pastor from Aurora, Colo., and often a spokesman for the most conservative wing of the seminary's trustees.

"I really do believe he is the one who can lead the seminary in this time of conservative reformation," Johnson said. "I think (the nomination) will be well received. ... I don't perceive any red flags. ... I'm 100 percent behind this."

Others interviewed for the post were Timothy George, dean of Samford University's divinity school, and Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

The fourth finalist—Bob Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University—was not interviewed. He withdrew from consideration Feb. 16 after news of his candidacy was pub-

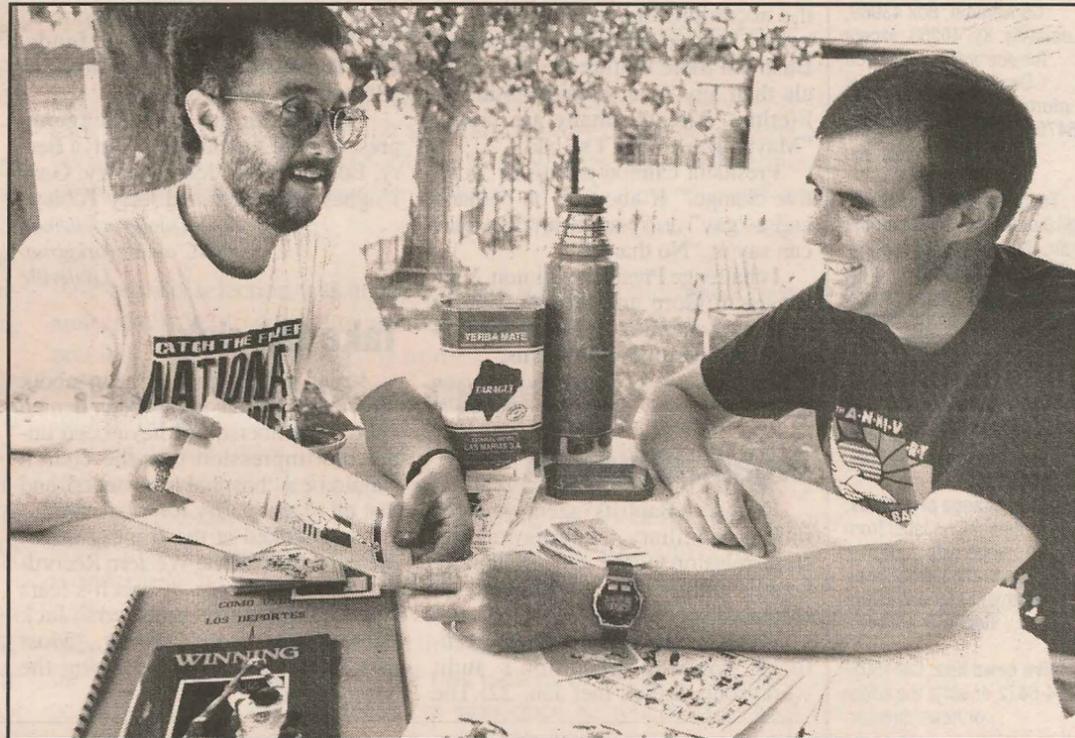
lished by the Western Recorder.

Agee said the news story "compromised the interview process."

Mohler, asked if he felt the search process had been compromised, declined direct comment. "To the best of my knowledge, I was not sought for confirmation (of the earlier story). ... Since I had no opportunity to respond to it then, I will take no opportunity to respond to it now."

If elected, Mohler likely will assume the role of president-elect sometime this summer. Honeycutt is expected to remain at the seminary until Dec. 31, his announced retirement date.

Written by News Director Mark Wingfield and Greg Warner of Associated Baptist Press with additional reporting by Staff Writer Melanie Childers.



## Recreation center a gift of love

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

MAY'S LICK—Opening a new family life center should be a church's gift of love to its community, one Kentucky pastor indicated.

On Valentine's Day this year, the 204-year-old May's Lick Baptist Church celebrated the completion of its new family life center.

Pastor David Cheek explained that the \$210,000 project was a massive undertaking for the congregation, which averages only 130 in Sunday morning worship attendance.

"This is a progressive step for a traditional church" of this size, Cheek said. But he added that church members accepted the challenge last January in an effort to embrace the entire community and provide a needed ministry.

That's the reason Cheek cited for calling the building a family life center rather than a Christian life center.

"We don't want to give the impression that this is for Christians only," Cheek emphasized. Instead, the church will use the facility to reach out to all families.

In addition to the new activities the family life center will permit, the addition provides some much-needed room for already existing ministries. The church was filled to capacity in Sunday school, recent fellowship crowds had outgrown the fellowship hall and the flourishing youth ministry required more room for lock-ins and other activities, Cheek said.

The 54-by-90-foot multi-purpose room, which adjoins the recently renovated fellowship hall, is marked for a full regulation basketball court and two volleyball courts. Cheek said the room also is equipped with a stage. He estimated the room will seat 300 around tables for a fellowship meal.

Dedication day, Feb. 14, was celebrated with a special service, a meal and an open house.

Since the center will be the only one of its kind among churches in the Bracken Baptist Association, Cheek said, May's Lick Church plans to share its facilities with sister churches and for various associational events.

"We want to use it for ministry," the pastor said, "to win people to the Lord and to strengthen our Christian families."

### BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ Geoff Moore and the Distance will present a concert at Campbellsville College March 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the college theater. Proceeds from the concert will help sponsor a Baptist Student Union mission trip to Jeanerette, La. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door or in advance. Call (502) 789-5227 for information.

GAME PLANS Robert Winter (left), former recreation associate at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, shows Steve Smith tracts for use in their work as Southern Baptist sports missionaries in Argentina. Winter, national sports ministry consultant with the Argentine Baptist Convention, and Smith, who leads a sports outreach program through First Baptist Church of Neuquen, both believe sports is one of the best ways to reach people for Jesus Christ. (BP photo)

## WESTERN RECORDER

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**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*

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## 'I'm praying too'

I am proud to be one of the "conservative Christians" Johnny Collett spoke of (WR, Feb. 4). I am opposed to Bill Clinton as president. But I join in prayer for President Clinton as the leader of this nation. I pray he will seek God's direction and change his views on abortion and gay rights.

As a Southern Baptist, I should not support a candidate simply because he is of the same faith. I find it hard to believe any Christian could vote for a man whose views are so different from what God's word teaches, such as Jeremiah 1:4-5, abortion; Leviticus 18:22, homosexuality; and Romans 1:27, "penalty for their perversion."

Why is Hollywood thrilled with Clinton, and why should Christians be concerned? Because the first few days in office, he tried to destroy some of the accomplishments of the last 12 years. Ronald Reagan and George Bush did more to improve U.S. morals than any other presidents in my lifetime. Already, many are saying "Maybe Bush wasn't so bad!"

President Clinton promised "positive change." If abortion on demand and a "gay" army are examples, all I can say is, "No thanks!"

I challenge President Clinton, Vice President Gore and all believers to join me in claiming II Chronicles 7:14 as the answer to our problems.

Betty Patterson  
Eddyville

## Organizations OK

Kentucky Baptists' agencies, institutions, auxiliary, commission and state mission board are financially healthy and worthy of continued and increased support.

This was the opinion of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's audit workgroup, which met Jan. 22. The

workgroup expressed commendation and appreciation to the boards and administrations of all KBC entities for the positive ways in which they were providing sound leadership.

An audit workgroup from the KBC Executive Board meets annually to review the audited financial statements of all KBC entities. These financial statements reflect their financial conditions and the results of their operations. This annual process is another way the KBC and its affiliated entities provide accountability for the millions of dollars given each year to convention causes.

The workgroup reviewed audits for Campbellsville College, Georgetown College, Cumberland College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Baptist Healthcare System, Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and the KBC mission program funds. Each audit was reviewed according to adopted procedure.

Members of the audit workgroup present were Joe Bagwell, Tanya Berry, Eddie Brown, Jerry Dooley, Gary Hughes, Ron Rose and Jerry Tooley.

Jerry Dooley, chairman  
KBC audit workgroup  
Louisville

## Take the risk

I read with a broken heart about how Paige Patterson has been denied church membership. I have been under the impression that the church should be a "hospital for sinners" and that all of us qualify for admission!

As I looked at the front cover of the same issue of the Western Recorder, I read the words, "Church's fears shut out mentally retarded." Jack Palmer is quoted as saying, "Most people are just afraid of doing the wrong thing."

All personalities and special needs aside, this is a strong word of conviction. Fear is one of Satan's greatest weapons in our spiritual battle. If we're afraid to do the "wrong thing," we will do "no thing."

My encouragement to all our churches is to take the risk of loving the unlovely, touching the untouchable and allowing every sinner saved by grace to be admitted into our "hospital."

Mike Wyatt  
Hawesville

## No way to act

I don't know John Jackson, but I know of his high position in the Southern Baptist Convention. He has made a vile and vulgar statement about our Woman's Missionary Union, and by this statement, he has related the WMU to a sinful and degrading act. He has tarnished the name of our wonderful mission-minded women in our churches that take offense to his statement.

How can he make a statement like this? This is what we keep getting from our SBC leadership, and they wonder why the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is in business.

This is the leadership that has called Keith Parks a traitor. Bill Hancock compared Parks to a preacher leading a church for several years and then crossing the road to start a new church. I don't blame him. I wonder how he stayed as long as he did.

Just how mean are our leaders going to become? This is no way for Christian leadership to act.

Jackson should resign. I am embarrassed because of him, and I apologize to the WMU. We have a wonderful mission program strongly supported by the WMU, but our programs won't last long with this kind of leadership at the SBC.

Larry Kemp  
Cadiz

## God is not dead, nor doth he sleep

A layman friend of mine recently served as interim minister of music in one of our small Kentucky churches. When he one day shared with me his excitement, I asked him to write it for me to use in my column.

With the understanding I could use neither his name nor the people involved, I share it now with you—not only to share their joy, but to remind us all of what the Lord can do.

"A little over a year ago, I began as interim music director (part time) in a church that had around 70-80 in Sunday school with a budget of around \$60,000 a year. God has blessed, and things have happened in the life of the church.

"They had two revivals—in the first, we witnessed a middle-aged man in a wheelchair come down the aisle and accept Christ as Savior. His wife said she had prayed for this for 32 years. The man phoned many of his old buddies and invited them to his baptismal service. We saw others saved and rededications.

"Soon after this revival, the pastor felt led to leave and go into another

area of Christian service.

"The second revival was already scheduled, and the deacons decided to go ahead with it. They visited about 40-50 families the week before the revival. Different deacons went visiting each day with the evangelist during the week of the meeting. We saw a man about 80 years of age acknowledge Christ as his Savior. Also, other decisions were made public.

"Not only has the church had two good revivals, but they have conducted a successful vacation Bible school, saw the music enrollment go from nine to 37, set high mission goals and exceeded all of

them. The goal for Lottie Moon was \$1,200, and the offering was \$1,300 plus. The Children's Home offering was over \$1,200 during November, and the regular offerings are still doing well. They support all convention causes, Clear Creek and the association. The church's Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action organizations are very active in mission action. Twenty Thanksgiving baskets were given throughout the community. One

family did not have a stove, so the Ac-teens cooked and prepared the food for them.

"A unique part of the church is the 86-year-old female custodian, who also teaches the adult women's Sunday school class and is very active in Woman's Missionary Union leadership.

"Each month this church puts all monies left in the bank over \$500 (after expenses are paid) into the building fund and starts each month with this balance. Necessary repairs and additions are made without going in debt.

"They have \$2,500 toward a new piano. New choir robes are ordered. Choir leaders have been trained and new choirs started. One adult choir leader has started taking piano lessons.

"As the hymn writer said, 'To God be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done.'"

"P.S. They voted yesterday to spend approximately \$15,000 on remodeling the auditorium and providing new lights."

With spring revival meetings coming up, this letter might give some of our readers some encouragement.

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



## FAMILY FORUM: CHILDREN

### 'Super mom' myth

By Jewell Nelson

**Q.** How can mothers be adequate mothers, wives and homemakers and hold full-time jobs? Since the job offers a salary, the family suffers.

**A.** I was headed out of town on an assignment. Our then-6-year-old son assured me he was going to cook breakfast for his dad and brother. A later report of the results of the breakfast: "I started with French toast, but finished with scrambled-egg toast."

Families may not "suffer," they may actually benefit from the experience of everyone having to be responsible for helping each other, when both parents are employed. Each member, also, benefits from having to be more responsible for self.

As mothers, we often have the feeling that we must be all things to all people. Shake yourself! You are only one. Turn loose; let others do it. It may not be perfect, but by whose standards?

Break that "homemaker" into as many pieces as there are family members. When parents work together sharing responsibilities inside and outside the house, good examples are set. A parent and child working as partners in completing tasks can help prepare the child to take solo responsibilities later.

Affirm any effort to help, and certainly for a job well done. Anyone works better with positive reinforcement.

Keep the pantry and refrigerator stocked with healthy foods. If you do not have time to bake goodies, it is all the better for your family's health. Cut-up raw fruits and vegetables in air-tight containers on an easy-access shelf in the frig prevents sudden starvation and teaches healthy eating habits. Milk and juice are necessary liquids.

Take time to love and appreciate your husband. Such actions set good examples for your children and create love and appreciation in return.

Make time for yourself and your children. Prioritize! Prioritize! Prioritize! House cleaning and other "daily stuff" will always be there. But the family changes from day to day. And all too soon it's you and "dad" and plenty of time to clean.

Jewell Nelson is associate director of the KBC's Sunday school department.

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

# EDITORIALS

## Can Mohler's resources offset slim experience?

A longshot won the Southern Seminary Derby.

Before last week's announcement, few observers predicted Al Mohler would be nominated to succeed Roy Honeycutt as Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's ninth president. But Mohler came out ahead in a week of search committee interviews and now awaits his major challenge—election by the full board of trustees.

By most accounts, the two other candidates for the presidency appeared to have an edge on the 33-year-old newspaper editor, not yet four years out of seminary.

Timothy George taught church history and historical theology at Southern Seminary for a decade. Since 1988, he has been dean of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, a Baptist institution in Birmingham, Ala. In addition to his administrative experience at Beeson, he is regarded as one of the foremost scholars of the Reformation and a respected educator.

Richard Land has been executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission since 1988. Previously, he was vice president for academic affairs at Criswell College in Dallas. As an SBC agency head and longtime political operative within the convention's conservative power structure, Land is well-connected to the upper echelons of the SBC hierarchy.

Mohler, on the other hand, is short on experience. Unlike both George and Land, he never has taught classes nor supervised academic faculty. He has been editor of Georgia Baptists' Christian Index—his only full-time job—less than four years. That paper, as with most Baptist newspapers, has a small staff and a budget that is small compared to a seminary's. He has been unable to stem the decline of the paper's circulation, which fell 21 percent—18,500 subscriptions—from 1990 to 1992.

But prior to the candidate interviews, one close observer predicted Mohler could get the nomination if he split the difference between Land and George's weaknesses: Land can be overbearing, and he carries political baggage, both from a stint in the office of the Republican governor of Texas and a post on the right edge of the denomination. George is a scholar's scholar, and is not perceived as a public personality who would be a major fund-raiser and public relations leader.

Although Mohler has used his editorial page and a term as chairman of the SBC resolutions committee to provide an intellectual apologetic for the convention's conservative party, he does not have as many battle scars as Land. And although George has called Mohler the brightest student he has taught, Mohler learned the practical skill of writing financial grants when he worked for Honeycutt at Southern, and he has developed his preaching and speech-making skills.

Mohler apparently convinced the search committee his strengths outweighed Land and George's, and his weaknesses weren't as significant as theirs. Moreover, he convinced them he holds the formula for building a successful seminary in the 21st century. "We all had such a sense of God's leadership and a peace concerning God's will that we came to a unanimous decision," reported Wayne Allen, chairman of the search

committee, who said each committee member scored Mohler highest on its 17-point profile.

Mohler "clearly articulated his personal vision for the institution," said Allen, a pastor from suburban Memphis, Tenn. "His statements reflected a complete knowledge of the history of the school, a thorough understanding of the present climate of anxiety and a conceptual course for a positive future direction."

If trustees elect him president, the weight of that direction will fall upon his shoulders. Numerous observers insist he'll be up to the task. "He's young, but he'll be a fine president," an older colleague called to say last week. Such friends and supporters cite his intelligence and his knack for building an extensive personal network of acquaintances and allies. No doubt, he is one of the brightest young leaders of the SBC's conservative party. His powers of analysis should enable him to formulate a winning vision for the seminary, and his rhetorical abilities should enable him to articulate that vision to all the groups the seminary must reach to thrive.

Yet Mohler's well of resources must be greater than his range of experience if he is to succeed as president. Will he have the mettle to stand between both the faculty and trustees? Will he have the wisdom to see past the many obstacles which stand in the way of quality theological education? Will he have the fortitude to do what is right, despite intense pressures to kowtow to partisan politics? Will he have the self-confidence to hire top-quality faculty and staff, without fear of being upstaged?

When his selection was announced last week, Mohler spoke passionately about his love for his alma mater. "I cannot express to you how precious Southern Seminary is to me," he said. If Mohler is to be successful, he must love Southern Seminary more than he loves himself, his future and his reputation.

That's a tall order for an ambitious young man who has climbed so high so quickly. Some friends and colleagues question the trajectory of his career, believing he turned toward the SBC's conservative party when that group began to gain clear control of the convention. They wonder how he utilized the network he developed as a seminary grant-writer. They also note his Index editorials have been aimed more at the new SBC political establishment than Georgia laypeople, who represent the majority of his readers. Will this pattern of using institutional resources for personal advancement stop once he reaches the goal for which he has strived?

If Al Mohler can advance the fortunes of Southern Seminary as distantly and as rapidly as he has advanced his own career, his tenure will stand unparalleled. He has the intelligence, and most likely the vision, to do it. Does he have the integrity, personality and wisdom?

All who love Southern Seminary, as Al Mohler surely does, will pray fervently for this president-designate. Weight of historic proportions is about to be unloaded on his young shoulders.

Marv Knox

**If Al Mohler can advance the fortunes of Southern Seminary as distantly and as rapidly as he has advanced his own career, his tenure will stand unparalleled.**

## Even summer's splendor takes a back seat to The Big Snow

Summer tops the Knox family poll of favorite seasons. Reasons abound: No school, visits with grandparents, vacation, swimming, cookouts, evenings out on the porch swing. Summer stuff.

But even the best summer will be pressed to produce a splendid four-day span like Kentucky enjoyed last week.

You know what I mean: The Big Snow of '93. We'll remember last week until we shiver through our final February.

Anticipation arrived first. The weather-people saw the white stuff approaching for several days and told us to expect a major snowfall by midweek. They never wavered and even convinced hard-nosed school administrators, who canceled classes before a single flake floated to the frozen earth.

Then reality arrived on cue. By late morning, our world turned frosty white, as tiny flakes of frozen powder poured down from the heavens. By early afternoon, Currier and Ives couldn't have painted a more beautiful scene of winter wonderland. And the snow fell.

Now I know snow—especially the slick streets it creates—is an inconvenience for some folks. Even newspaper people have to wonder how they're going to meet the next deadline when getting to work

makes crossing the Himalayas look easy.

But for parents and small children, snow is a gift from God. Summer can't compete with such a spontaneous, unstoppable, leave-your-worries-by-the-thermometer change of pace.

If school is canceled, any daddy whose pilot light hasn't gone out can come up with an excuse to get home to throw a few snowballs (or, in the case of last week, a few handfuls of powder).

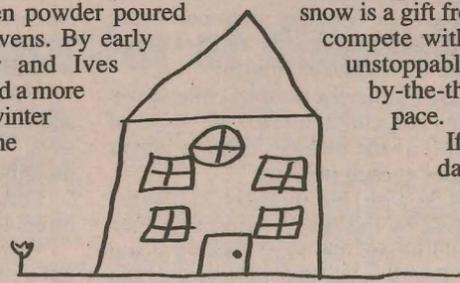
The best thing about last week's snow was the sledding. Lindsay and Molly never

had tested the terrific trio—hills, snow and gravity—but they grasped the concept immediately.

So did a few zillion other folks. We met in a park normally reserved for golfers and put the land to really good use. Jubilation ruled. Total strangers discussed the proper technique for riding garbage-can lids down frozen chutes. Entire families blew steam, wiped runny noses and drank hot chocolate. A 40-year-old man showed pre-schoolers a sled his mom bought for him—used—for \$1 when he was 5.

The Big Snow reminded me of God's grace: Surprising, undeserved, exhilarating. The only difference is you don't have to shovel grace out of the driveway.

Marv Knox



down home

# MISSIONS

## Missionary stretches gifts through volunteers

### Annie Armstrong Offering facts

■ Total cost of operating Home Mission Board in 1993: \$86,026,461. That's \$7,168,872 per month, \$1,654,355 per week, \$235,689 per day, \$9,820 per hour, \$164 per minute.

■ 1993 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal: \$38 million.

■ Dates for week of prayer for home missions: March 7-14.

■ In 1991, home missions personnel led more than 44,000 people to profess faith in Jesus Christ.

■ The Home Mission Board supports the work of missions personnel working in all 50 states, the Caribbean, American Samoa and Canada. And through the SBC Chaplains Commission, the HMB endorses more than 2,300 chaplains serving in military, institutional, business-industrial, healthcare and pastoral counseling roles.

By Susan Doyle  
Woman's Missionary Union

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich.—Norman Beckham has been around long enough to know that the process of making "clones" only happens in science fiction.

But the dilemma Beckham faced was not fiction. The needs were real, and there were too few people to meet them. What he needed was a quick way to multiply leadership.

Beckham, a Southern Baptist home missionary, is director of missions for Macomb Baptist Association in Michigan. More than 1.2 million people live in the association, which covers a six-county area north of Detroit.

There is only one Southern Baptist congregation for every 48,000 people within the association, and there is more to do than the 18 churches can do, Beckham said.

"Our churches tend to be made up of new Christians and new Southern Baptists," Beckham said.

Three years ago, Beckham made a decision which has made the difference in Southern Baptists' work in Macomb Association.

"I decided that we're never going to have the funds or the full-time personnel to do all we need to do," he said. "It seemed everywhere I turned, I heard how we should develop volunteer work."

Beckham took the idea seriously and led the association to appoint a part-time director of volunteer minis-

tries in October 1989. Through that decision, he has multiplied the effectiveness of Southern Baptists' contributions to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and the Cooperative Program.

Brenda Davis, a member in one of the association's churches, held the job for the first three years. She worked with Beckham and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to develop the volunteer program. Last fall, Davis' military husband was re-assigned to another base by the U.S. Navy. Davis resigned, and Jan Woodard was elected by the association to continue the volunteer program.

Many, like Woodard, who work with Beckham say he has the vision for the association and the ability to lead people to make the vision happen.

"Norman has the gift of organization, administration and the vision for the way things should be," said Woodard. "He just seems to know how to get resources. He can talk to people and help them see what they should be doing and make it happen. He's a visionary."

Beckham describes himself as a "garden hose," directing resources where they need to be.

In the volunteer program's three years, the association has hosted 20 long-term volunteers. A long-term volunteer is someone who commits to the job for one year or longer.

Currently, 10 volunteers are working with the association in a variety of jobs—pastor, church educational di-



**VOLUNTEER SUCCESS** As director of missions for Macomb Baptist Association in Michigan, home missionary Norman Beckham (center) uses volunteers like Darrell and Barbara Everly of Central City, Ky., to multiply his effectiveness. The Everlys are Mission Service Corps volunteers who have started a church which meets in this facility owned by the Spanish American Baptist Church in Port Huron, Mich. (Photo by Dan Bryan)

rector, artist/computer operator, church senior adult and children's director, church starter strategist, church children and youth director, and music evangelist.

The main obstacle facing the long-term volunteer program is housing. Housing within the association can be expensive, according to Davis. "If we had \$100,000 (to purchase a house) and a mission group to help us fix it up, it would be great," she said.

Last summer, the association also hosted five summer missionaries and 198 short-term volunteers, including several church groups.

Most of the short-term volunteers help with children's ministries—leading vacation Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs, putting on puppet shows in city parks, and helping with church services.

The churches are slowly seeing the results of those contacts. Children who attended Bible schools and Bible clubs two summers ago eagerly returned for the same events this past summer.

Last summer, at least four families attended Harrison at Metro Baptist Church as a direct result of backyard Bible clubs.

## Campus missionary knows prayer is the key

By Kelly Capers  
SBC Home Mission Board

LANGSTON, Okla.—Verlene Farmer was dying when she left Africa 26 years ago. Ending a career as a foreign missionary, she was sent home with complications from a reaction to anti-malaria medication.

But two decades later, Farmer still lives the life of a missionary.

"It's good that God has the last say," says Farmer, the Baptist Student Union director at Langston University in Langston, Okla., since 1971. Plagued with failing health since her days in Monrovia, Africa, she continues to answer God's call.

For Farmer, God's call has always been to lead others to Christ and

God's provision is always the privilege of prayer.

"Everything around here is built around prayer and the word of God," she explains. "John Wesley said, 'God does nothing but in answer to prayer.' It's the lifeline."

Not only is prayer the source of physical health for Farmer, it becomes the source of spiritual health for those who participate in her ministry.

Farmer is a staple at the university and a prominent member of the Langston community.

One of five all-black communities in Oklahoma, Langston has 1,461 citizens. And according to the 1990 census that figure includes a portion of the university's 3,500 students.

Linking university and community, Farmer has developed a Scripture memory program where college students teach elementary children Bible verses. The Monday afternoon event feeds soul and body as students memorize verses and eat a meal.

By Farmer's example, college students and children learn the value of prayer as she includes them in prayer circles at each meeting.

Likewise, her ministry, supported in part by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and the Cooperative Program, is a model for Southern Baptists.

As far as Farmer is concerned, whenever two or more meet, it's prayertime. Students look for Farmer at the BSU, at home and in class, when they know nothing will get them

through the day but God.

Farmer opens each of her religion classes with requests for prayer. The fact that often her students aren't Christians makes her more determined to show them an active prayer life.

Her boldness has led to many professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Recently, a Muslim student in her Old Testament class prayed to receive Christ.

"The key is prayer," Farmer says.

Because Farmer is grounded in prayer, she refuses to send out evangelistic teams without prayer back-up.

On Tuesday nights, students meet at the BSU to find partners for witnessing on campus. Students go in twos to dorms and throughout the community. Always, some stay behind for prayer support.

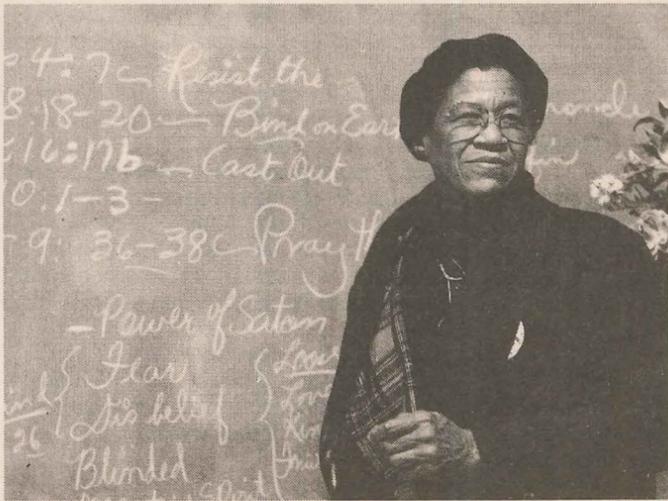
A Christian since she was 12, Farmer says the growth of her faith started with a Christian grandmother who lived with her family.

"Grandma was always praying, and that was a stabilizing force," she says. "When we saw Grandma, we thought of prayer."

Fortunately for Langston, Farmer offers her life as a similar model.

"Prayer is the main thing," she says. "Sometimes we talk about prayer until there's no time to pray. But you might be the person God could use to intercept someone. Students have so many problems. It's so important to have someone stand in the gap."

**PRAYER POWER** Home missionary and teacher Verlene Farmer opens each of her religion classes at Langston University with requests for prayer. Although not all of her students at the Oklahoma school are Christians, Farmer says she is determined to show them an active prayer life.



### Do Something!



**Week of Prayer  
for Home Missions  
March 7-14**

#### PRAY

For daily updates on home missions prayer requests, call the intercessory prayerline at (800) 554-PRAY

#### GIVE

The 1993 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal is \$38 million

#### GO

To see how you can participate in home missions, call the volunteer hotline at (800) HMB-VOLS

## Now is the time for new view of evangelism, Johnson says

By Marv Knox  
Editor

LEXINGTON—Now is the time to change the way Baptists look at evangelism, Ron Johnson told participants at the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference last week in Lexington.

The Southern Baptist Convention's history is laced with stories of successful evangelism, said Johnson, director of evangelism for the Georgia Baptist Convention and a former evangelism professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"But your past success guarantees nothing," he insisted.

The current model for evangelism in Baptist churches includes five elements—spring and fall revivals, door-to-door visitation, personal training in evangelism methods, gospel tracts handed out by members and serious effort "by the pastor and one or two members," Johnson described.

"We must look at our effectiveness," he urged. "We're not making a dent in the sea of lostness around us."

Baptists need a new model for evangelism that "gets hold of a mis-

sionary church, where members are involved directly in evangelism," he said.

That involves four parts, he added:  
■ Fellowship, which "expresses itself through love ... and becomes what Christ was—a friend of sinners."

This is a "Holy Ghost hospitality for the hurting," he said. This kind of church "creates programs that actively seek the lost, that go where the lost are, and minister to the lost in word and deed."

■ Proclamation, or the declaration that "Jesus is Lord in today's confused culture."

Christians must share their faith verbally, he said, noting, "What separates the church from all other benevolent institutions is the proclamation that Jesus came to redeem sinners."

■ Service, which is a balanced focus on meeting human needs.

"For too long there's been a wall of separation between acts of service and the proclamation of the faith," Johnson stressed. "Servants are judged by what they did or did not do for those who obviously are in need."

■ Witness, or an active lifestyle that demonstrates God's love.

"People come to Christ by what we proclaim, who we are and how we serve," he said.

In a parallel speech, Chuck Kelley contrasted four historic "basic ways of doing evangelism" with four keys to effective evangelism in the future.

Kelley, professor of evangelism at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, recently conducted an extensive study of the history of Southern Baptist evangelism.

The four traditional evangelism methods he described were decisional preaching, which concludes with "an invitation to give your life to Christ"; personal evangelism; Sunday school, which brought people into church; and revivalism, which was designed to evangelize the cities.

"The genius of Southern Baptist evangelism was the integration of those four things together," Kelley said. From 1946 to 1955, Southern Baptists grew five times faster than the nation did, he noted, describing the period as a golden age.

"The problem with the golden age is this: What do you do for an encore?" Kelley said. "Southern Baptists need to get a fresh glimpse of

what God wants to do to catch the pulse of the nation."

Consequently, he offered four principles to guide churches to effective evangelism:

■ "Assigned responsibility will always be more effective than assumed responsibility."

Churches need to assign evangelism to a committee that can lead the church to set goals and work on reaching people for Christ, Kelley said.

■ "Learn to adopt orphans."

Noting Sunday school was an "orphan" created by other denominations and "adopted" by Baptists, he called for an openness to new techniques for evangelism, even outside Baptist life.

■ "Plant churches."

New churches are strongest at leading people to faith in Christ, he said, adding, "We need a baby boom of churches so Southern Baptists can impact this nation."

■ "The cities are the key."

As an illustration, Kelley described how television programming is based on which shows will be viewed well in large cities. "If we're going to reach America, we've got to reach the cities," he stressed.

**"For too long there's been a wall of separation between acts of service and the proclamation of the gospel."**

Ron Johnson, evangelism director for the Georgia Baptist Convention

## Speakers address change & changelessness

Continued from page 1

vided the text for William A. Jones, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., who quoted a prayer from an Anglican woman in Capetown, South Africa: "Lord, thank you for being the same yesterday, today and forever, and especially today."

"Especially today," Jones repeated. "That's God's time breaking in on clock time. ... Time touched and formed by timelessness."

Jesus' "sameness" transcends everything human that takes place within time, said Jones, a Kentucky native.

"Regardless of all the sweeping social changes, there is one Sameness

that remains the same," he said of Christ. Then he turned to the other constants of the human condition: "Sinners need the same salvation; souls need the same security. It makes sense to trust the same Lord who is the same yesterday, today and forever, especially today."

In another sermon, Jones appealed to that trust in God as the ingredient necessary to confront change, even against all odds.

"God can do the seemingly impossible with just a few servants," he insisted. "God needs no crowd."

But God does need Christians who will make themselves available im-

mediately, added Lowrie, who compared evangelism to harvesting a crop.

"Harvesting" evangelism should be a priority because it's important and because it's urgent, Lowrie stressed. It's important because it has serious consequences; it's urgent because it cannot be delayed, he explained.

"Farmers know there's a vulnerability to the harvest," he said, noting crops can be destroyed and farms lost because bad weather ruins the harvest. "But we do evangelism like we've got forever to get it done. ... The harvest is truly ready, but the laborers are few."

## Lepper: Churches have something for singles

LEXINGTON—Churches can minister to single adults by doing for singles what they do for the rest of the members, John Lepper said during the Kentucky Evangelism Conference.

"What single adults need from our churches is basically what we all need: affection and direction," reported Lepper, director of the Kentucky Baptist family ministry department.

And the slice of American life represented by singles is a big one, he described: 44 percent of U.S. adults

are single; 23 percent of U.S. children live in single-parent homes; 60 percent of today's 3-year-olds will live with a single parent by the time they turn 18.

"Single adults need the church, and the church needs single adults," Lepper stressed. Unfortunately, some single adults have been treated as second-class citizens by some churches, he lamented.

"We need to pay attention to how we pay attention" to them, he said,

providing some thoughts to consider:

■ "They're more like married adults than unlike married adults."

■ "They need pastors who know their names, non-judgmental attitudes and listening."

■ "Churches where single-adult ministries thrive offer both affection and direction."

Ultimately, singles need the one thing everyone needs, Lepper said: "If you want to reach single adults, give them Jesus. There is nothing else."

## Leazer: Beware of devil, a 'master of disguise'

LEXINGTON—"The devil is a master of disguise," Gary Leazer told participants in the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

"He appears to be whatever suits his purposes," said Leazer, director of interfaith witness for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "Satan can be subtle. ... He will use anything, any means to accomplish his goal of taking a life of an individual (and) to destroy the joy a believer has in Christ."

A "typical" Satanist is curious, white, a teen, middle- to upper-class, bored, an underachiever, estranged from her or his family, a victim of abuse, has low self-esteem and is seeking acceptance, Leazer described.

Several factors lead people toward Satanism, he said. They include:

■ Participation in the Dungeons and Dragons game.

■ Listening to heavy-metal music.

■ Belief in astrology.

■ Abuse of drugs.

■ "Busy-ness," which robs people of the time to pray and to maintain their spiritual lives.

Leazer offered firm advice to Christians in order to resist Satanism.

"Recognize the reality of spiritual warfare," he said. "Satan fights us harder than he does lost people, because he's already got them. ...

"Resist Satan by the authority of Jesus Christ—the only power we have to overcome Satan. ... Resist him. Be firm in your faith."

### OVERHEARD

**"When Southern Baptists get on their faces before God, ... the Lord will fill us so full of the Holy Spirit that if a mosquito were to fly in here and bite one of us, he would fly out singing, 'There's power in the blood!'"**

Chuck Kelley, evangelism professor  
New Orleans Baptist Seminary  
New Orleans

**"All of us are witnesses; that's what marketplace evangelism is all about. I've seen as much happen in the marketplace as in the pulpit and the pews."**

Arnold Turner, attorney & evangelist  
Prestonsburg

**"Here's an easy way to give your testimony. It has three steps: 'What was your life like before you knew Christ? How did you get saved? What difference did it make?'"**

Royce Pile, director of missions  
Ohio Valley Baptist Association  
Sturgis

**"My wife wanted me to go to church. ... Tears were streaming down her face, and she said: 'Honey, it's family night, and all the other wives will have their husbands there. I want you to go with me.' I used to call that nagging, but now I call it soul-winning."**

Curtis McGehee, evangelist

Greenville

(Describing the night he committed his life to Christ)

**"In every person in Kentucky there is a potential citizen of the Kingdom of God. ... I don't care where they've been or what they've done."**

D.L. Lowrie, pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Lubbock, Texas

**"If the devil came for me, first he'd have to pry open the fingers of God, then wade through the blood of Jesus shed for me and then crack open the seal of the Holy Spirit. If he did all that, he'd be one saved devil."**

Chuck Kelley, evangelism professor  
New Orleans Baptist Seminary  
New Orleans

(Quoting an unnamed preacher)

# OPINION

## Such a need

I read with interest about the churches' lack of interest in working with people with mental retardation (WR, Feb. 9). We, too, had a similar situation to happen—a retarded child and his parents showed up at church one Sunday. The pastor decided to start a class for one. That was more than 30 years ago. We still have the class, only now we have more than 75 students in the department each Sunday. Most people are uncomfortable around these special folks, but through the years our students have become an active, participating part of our church. Our teachers went one step further, and established three homes (a farm/residence) for this population. It is almost nine years old, and serving 18 people who are learning a vocation, how to live more independently and enjoy life. There is such a need, and the church isn't meeting it.

Joseph P. Richey

## Thanks, KBC

Thank you, Kentucky Baptist Convention! Through the Kentucky/Brazil Partnership, you have given me the opportunity to take part in a life-changing experience second only to my conversion.

Last Oct. 30 we left for two weeks of building a church building and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

I certainly was expecting a blessing as we came to love our Brazilian brothers and sisters, and as we witnessed to those who came to watch and work. But praise God, he opened the windows of heaven, and I can assure you that it was impossible not to have your cup filled and overflowing!

During the two weeks we were at Nova Almeida, north of Vitoria in Espirito Santo, the Lord melted the hearts of 28 souls and brought many others to a closer relationship with him.

Knowing that this is the last year of the Kentucky/Brazil Partnership, I have arranged to make two trips to Brazil this year, both evangelistic projects, leaving April 1 and again Sept. 2. I fully expect the blessings of the Lord to continue and to be even greater.

I would urge you not to let this year go by without taking advantage of one of the remaining projects. It will be a wonderful life-changing experience. Calvin Wilkins at the KBC offices can give you all the needed information; call (502) 245-4101.

I have always believed in and supported missions, but now I am living missions.

Marvin J. Nafus  
Bowling Green

## God's work suffers

Re: The editorial "Consistently inconsistent" (WR, Feb. 16). For too long, our convention has been running on political energy rather than on the Lord's guidance.

As a foreign missionary, I have been very much the

outsider to the controversy, mostly watching it from afar. It has always appeared to me that we are dealing with a problem in which many of our leaders are focusing on issues of relative unimportance while the real work of God in the world is suffering.

Freddy Davis  
Missionary to Japan  
Louisville

## BAPTIST FORUM

## Granny-bashing

Talk about granny-bashing! I can't believe the Foreign Mission Board was ungrateful enough to be rude, much less hostile, to Woman's Missionary Union representatives.

Just think. WMU raises over \$80 million a year for foreign missions, writes literature for and sponsors a foreign mission study throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, encourages a week of prayer for foreign missions, and publishes missionaries' birthdays so each can be assured that

one day each year he or she has the prayers of millions of Southern Baptist faithful.

WMU exists, and has always existed, to support missions. We do not exist to promote anybody's power-grabbing agenda. If the Foreign Mission Board succeeds in dismantling or even disabling WMU, it will not only have bitten the hand that feeds it, it will have killed the goose that lays the golden eggs.

We organized in 1888, in spite of the SBC's men, who even then were short-sighted about supporting missions. Because we stayed on our missions course, remained an auxiliary and refused to become an SBC agency, we have stayed out of the SBC political wars.

We have tried to hold the SBC together because of our commitment to missions. We finally took a stand without taking sides, while remaining true to our purpose—missions—and we got kicked in the teeth because we reaffirmed our historic stand.

Foreign Mission Board, how could you insult your best friend, your source of mother's milk?

Satan must be laughing his head off!

June B. Rice, WMU director  
Enterprise Association of Baptists  
Paintsville

## There's hope

Life without hope is wandering along the Emmaus Road in disbelief. It is sitting in the wilderness wondering, "Why did I ever leave Egypt?" It

is going overboard thinking life is over, only to be swallowed by something more fearful.

Life without hope is seeing everything you believed in for over three years scoffed, mocked, humiliated, abused and then mutilated publicly while throngs wag their heads. It is walking away from this horrible scene wondering, "How did this happen?"

Life without hope is sitting in the prison cell knowing there is no way you can change the situation. And each day you wonder about your dreams.

Life without hope is standing in the cemetery filled with loneliness and pain knowing there is no hope in this place.

Life without hope is meaningless. It is a void filled with nothing.

This scenario can change. For the Israelites, it was the leadership of Moses and a caring God. For Jonah, it was a second chance. For the early Christians, it was seeing a real risen Jesus. For Joseph, it was time. For the demoniac, it was the caring Jesus who brought him hope.

Most of the world lives without hope. Much of the world is hungry. One in four children in Kentucky lives in poverty.

The multitudes are searching for peace, rest and happiness. Many are hopeless.

The Christian has this one message: There is hope. Jesus came to give us life. And there is no life without hope.

Glenn Mollette  
Louisville

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#### CENTRAL & SOUTHERN REGION



ELDRED M. TAYLOR

Eldred Taylor is no stranger to Kentucky Baptists. A former executive director for KBHC, Dr. Taylor has served as a pastor, director of missions and director of evangelism for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Dr. Taylor also served as pastor for First Baptist Church, Somerset for 23 years.

#### NORTH CENTRAL NORTH EASTERN REGION



PAUL GODSEY

Paul Godsey served as a former pastor of Burlington Baptist Church. He has been a strong advocate for KBHC throughout his ministry. He has served on the board of the Western Recorder and as moderator of several associations.

#### SOUTH CENTRAL & SOUTH EASTERN REGION



ANDY REESE

Andy Reese served as a former pastor of First Baptist Church, Barborville. He has been active in Kentucky Baptist life through his service on the Executive Board of Kentucky Baptist Convention and on the boards of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Cumberland College.

#### WESTERN & SOUTH WESTERN REGION



J. D. HERNDON

J. D. Herndon served as a former director at KBHC's Spring Meadows campus. He has been active in Kentucky Baptist life through service as a director of missions in Nelson, Henry and Christian counties and as pastor of several Kentucky churches.

All KBHC regional representatives are available to speak in local churches and meet with individuals and groups to answer questions about the ministry of childcare in Kentucky. Plan today to invite one of these gentlemen to speak to your church or community group, to schedule a speaker, call:

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## Court hears arguments in 2 church-state cases

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Veteran church-state attorneys expect the U.S. Supreme Court to have little trouble finding that school facilities available for a variety of community purposes must also be available for religious purposes.

It's a much tougher call, they say, to predict whether the court will insist the First Amendment bars school districts from providing a paid sign-language interpreter for a deaf student attending a religious school.

The high court heard oral arguments in both cases Feb. 24. One case challenges a New York school district's policy barring after-hours use of school facilities for religious purposes. The other challenges an Arizona school district's refusal to provide an interpreter for a deaf student who attended a Catholic high school.

"Both cases are essentially about discrimination against religion," said Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Many well-meaning public officials feel obligated to discriminate against religion, for fear that equal treatment of religious people might somehow violate the separation of church and state."

Lamb's Chapel, an evangelical church, and its pastor asked the high court to reverse lower-court rulings that upheld the Center Moriches Free Union School District's policy against the religious use of its facilities. The church had sought to use the facilities

to show the James Dobson film series titled "Turn Your Heart Toward Home."

The case is about censorship of Lamb's Chapel's speech, attorney Jay Alan Sekulow told justices.

While Sekulow insisted the district's policy violated both the First Amendment's religion clauses and its free-speech clause, the court's discussion focused on the latter.

School district attorney John Hoefling said Center Moriches had established a "limited open forum" and that officials had restricted use of the facilities for commercial and partisan political purposes as well as religious reasons.

Sekulow said the school district could bar after-hours use of the facilities by all outside groups, but could not restrict religious use when the buildings were available for a broad range of social, civic and recreational purposes.

School districts cannot open their facilities to drama and then exclude a religious play, Sekulow said.

Hoefling said the district's policy is neutral because nobody with a religious viewpoint is allowed to use the facility.

Four church-state attorneys said the issues appear to be clear enough in the case that justices should easily side with Lamb's Chapel.

"The oral argument went extremely well," said Brent Walker, associate general counsel of the Baptist Joint

Committee. "The state's position was simply untenable."

"To say it's OK to allow secular lifestyle topics to be discussed, but not religious ones, or that anti-religious family values can be taught, but not religious values, borders on the absurd."

Walker was joined in predicting a victory for the church by Oliver Thomas, BJC general counsel; Steve McFarland, director of the Christian Legal Society's Center for Law and Religious Freedom; and Forest Montgomery, attorney for the National Association of Evangelicals.

"Lamb's Chapel is a slam dunk. ... I would not be surprised if the court was unanimous," Montgomery said.

At issue in the second case is whether the provision of an interpreter for a deaf student at a religious school unconstitutionally advances religion or entangles church and state.

The Education of the Handicapped Act authorizes federal funds for special services, such as sign-language interpreters, but the Catalina Foothills School District in Arizona refused to provide James Zobrest an interpreter because he attended a religious school. The district said it would have supplied Zobrest an interpreter if he had gone to a public or non-sectarian private school.

His parents, Sandra and Larry Zobrest, challenged that decision, and lower courts upheld the district's position that providing an interpreter would violate the First Amendment's ban on government establishment of religion.

During oral arguments, William Ball, Zobrest's attorney, said the court could reverse the lower-court rulings by holding that the benefit sought by the student does not violate the Lem-

on test. Lemon is a test used by the court to determine governmental neutrality toward religion.

The key issue is the second prong of the three-part test, he said, which requires that government neither advance nor impede religion.

Ball said providing a neutral interpreter who merely translates a language does not advance religious beliefs. Nothing in Lemon bars providing an interpreter, Ball added.

John Richardson, attorney for the Arizona school district, said using state employees as interpreters in religious schools would necessarily involve them in religion. Part of what goes on in Catholic classrooms is the exercise of religion, he said.

Church-state attorneys present for oral arguments agreed that the decision in Zobrest will be close—perhaps a one-vote decision.

The Baptist Joint Committee and Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, along with several other religious groups, filed briefs on behalf of Lamb's Chapel and the Zobrests in the two cases.

However, in the Zobrest case, the CLC and nine other organizations also asked the court to revise the Lemon test, which governs establishment-of-religion cases.

"School board lawyers rigidly follow the Lemon test, resulting in hostility rather than accommodating neutrality toward religious persons," said the CLC's Whitehead. "Justice Rehnquist remarked that the time may have come to clarify some of this hostile confusion and to straighten things out in the First Amendment case law. We surely hope so."

*This story includes additional information from Baptist Press*

**"Both cases are essentially about discrimination against religion. Many well-meaning public officials feel obligated to discriminate against religion, for fear that equal treatment of religious people might somehow violate the separation of church and state."**

*Michael Whitehead, general counsel of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission*

### The dignity of mules

*Our guest author is Chaplain Gary Bennett from Western Baptist Hospital of Paducah.*

I have always been fascinated by mules. I don't really know why. I never have been around them much and know very little about them. The only time I was ever around a team of mules was on an uncle's farm in West Virginia one summer. The only thing I learned from that experience was not to walk up behind them. Still, mules have held a fascination for me to the point I now collect them. I don't have many mainly because they are so hard to find. I get some of the funniest looks when I go into an antique store and ask if they have any mules. It seems not many people collect them. I think it is because people are prejudiced against mules.

Most people think of mules as being "common." They are looked down on as beasts of burden and our society values only the exceptional. Few of us give honor to the one who pulls the plow. We are impressed only with the exotic or the elite, like the thoroughbred.

And yet there is a dignity about the mule. There is dignity in doing the small task, doing what one is asked to do, no matter how menial. It may not be the most important job on the farm but someone has to

do it. And after it's finished the mule seems to say, "Now take me to the barn and give me my oats." There is no expectation of praise or recognition. For the mule there is no winner's circle; no garland of roses. There is simply the satisfaction of a job well done. That is the dignity of the mule.

I know a lot of people with such dignity. There are many people in our churches and our communities who are faithful to their "common" or "ordinary" tasks, who never ask for and seldom receive praise for what they do. They work hard and do what is asked and never expect recognition or praise. And yet where would we be without them? They are the ones who get things done. They are the faithful remnant who can always be counted on. They are the ones we often take advantage of because we know they won't say no. And yet they continue to give of themselves, never asking for anything in return. To me, that is dignity. So the next time someone compares you to a mule, just tell them thanks.

*Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Healthcare System or Baptist Healthcare Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., president of Baptist Healthcare Foundation, Corporate Complex, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207 (502) 896-5003.*

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## KENTUCKY KERNELS

Kentucky's labor market bounced back in 1992 after a slump in 1991, according to the Cabinet for Human Resources. Nine of 10 employment categories monitored by the state showed growth in 1992. Agriculture was the only major category to show a decline. The biggest gains were registered in trade, services and manufacturing.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **CENTERTOWN**—Roger Taylor resigned as pastor of Centertown Church.  
 ■ **CROMWELL**—Mt. Zion Church called Daniel Howard as pastor.  
 ■ **ECHOLS**—Rick Whittington resigned as pastor of Pond Run Church.  
 ■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Association called John R. Walker as director of missions. Walker previously served as pastor of First Church in Oak Grove.  
 ■ **FORDSVILLE**—Providence Church ordained Leonard Staples, Don McLemore and Jimmy Mattingly as deacons.  
 ■ **FRANKFORT**—Wade Bibb, pastor of North Fork Church, has been selected a national winner of the Graduate Student Paper Competition sponsored by the Society of Biblical Literature. Bibb presented the paper, "The Characterization of God in the Opening Scenes of Luke and Acts," at the annual meeting of the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature in Toronto, Canada, Feb. 14-16.  
 ■ **HARTFORD**—Barnetts Creek Church called David Voyles as pastor.  
 East Hartford Church called Frank Benton as pastor; Charles Driggers previously served in that position.  
 ■ **KUTTAWA**—Leslie Baker has

resigned as interim pastor of Hopewell Church and is available for interims, supply preaching and revivals.  
 He may be reached at (502) 388-2091.  
 ■ **LEITCHFIELD**—Bill Claggett, a student at Southern Seminary, has been called as youth minister at First Church.  
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Nick Johnston resigned as minister of youth at Carlisle Avenue Church.  
 Minors Lane Church called Michael Bowling as pastor. Bowling, a student at Boyce Bible School of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is from Kalamazoo, Mich.  
 Shively Church called Randy Record of Paducah as minister of youth.  
 Westport Road Church called Art Tober as minister of youth. Tober previously served at South Jefferson Church in Valley Station.  
 ■ **OLATION**—Fairview Church ordained Charles Brown as a deacon.  
 ■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Bardstown Junction Church called Paul Lee, director of the media department for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, as interim pastor.  
 ■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant View Church ordained Timothy Price and Michael Price as deacons Jan. 24.

## 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.  
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**EXPRESS:** SBC-Houston; includes airfare, Holiday Inn rooms, shuttles. From Louisville June 13-17; \$480 per person. Call (502) 477-2379.  
**SEEKING:** Part-time pianist. Send resumé to: Music Committee, Buck Grove Baptist Church, 255 Buck Grove Road, Ekron, Ky. 40117.  
**CHURCH CAMPS & RETREATS:** Laurel Lake Baptist Camp; affordable rates, new pool and more! (606) 528-3522.  
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**WANTED:** Part-time minister of children/youth. Contact Rev. C.M. Baker at Victory Memorial Baptist

Church, Louisville, Ky. (502) 368-2521.  
**WANTED:** Part-time minister of music. Contact Dr. Barry Harkness, Long Run Baptist Church, 1901 Flat Rock Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40245; (502) 241-1519.  
**NEEDED:** Couple to manage Baptist camp. Living quarters, utilities furnished; small salary. Russ Adkisson, (502) 422-4047.  
**NEEDED:** East-end church needs pianist. Two services and Wednesday rehearsal. West Broadway Baptist Church, (502) 491-1920.  
**POSITION:** The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will make a faculty appointment during the academic year for the following position. Nominations and applications are invited by April 1, 1993. All faculty must be active members of a Baptist congregation and emphasize a conservative-evangelical theology. Send biographical information to: Search Committee Dean, Office of the Provost, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40280.  
*Evangelism/Church Growth:* Assistant or Associate Professor, 3-year contract, M.Div. or equivalent, Ph.D. or D.Min., experience in effective local church growth leadership is essential.

## Students go to Space Camp in Alabama

Two chaperones and 24 girls and boys, members of our academic team, left Oneida at 5:30 a.m. Friday morning, Feb. 19, traveling to Huntsville, Ala. Arriving in the afternoon, they visited the Space Museum. There they saw the Apollo 16 capsule, high fidelity mockups and remnants of the actual Skylab. They saw other space flight hardware and numerous "hands-on" displays that exhibit scientific principles.  
 The parents of one of our girls whose home is Huntsville hosted an all-you-can-eat pizza party that evening. Saturday was a busy day, and their three meals were eaten in the cafeteria of the Space and Rocket Center. After breakfast, our group boarded a NASA bus to tour the facilities of Redstone Arsenal and Marshall Space Flight Center. They saw the Army test site for the rocket that took Alan Shepard into space. Moon rockets, the shuttle, prototypes for a space station, four new missiles and the training center for astronauts also were seen.  
 Especially enjoyable were movies at the Spacedome Theater. They saw "Speed," the newest 70mm Omnimax feature on a 67-foot dome screen. Using "Star Trek"-type special effects, "Speed" is a wild ride through the development of technology, from the point of view of the audience. Viewers are pedaled, driven, flown and rocketed at ever-increasing velocity to the edge of the university and beyond.  
 Also, our students saw "The Dream Is Alive," a journey inside the Space Shuttle, and "Blue Planet," revealing the splendor of Earth.  
 The four-acre Rocket Park has the finest rock collection in the world, including the Saturn V moon rocket. On the Space Camp action tour, our young people experienced hands-on training used in the manned space program.  
 After Sunday worship in a Huntsville church where the ladies prepared a delicious lunch, our

team headed back to Oneida.  
 In the next three weeks they will participate in the regional Governor's Cup competition, four mock trials, the state Governor's Cup meet, the Kentucky United Nations Assembly, make a three-day trip to New York City and participate in the mock trial finals.  
 While the academic team was in Alabama, 16 or our 35 chess players were participating with 12 other central and eastern Kentucky schools in a tournament at West Liberty. In the unrated junior high division, two of our boys placed first and second. In the senior high division, the Oneida team brought home the third-place trophy out of 13.  
 Our teams will be in the regional at Richmond on March 6 and the state individual championships in Owensboro the end of the month. In early April our students will participate in the three-day "Space City Open" hosted by the University of Alabama in Huntsville. On April 10 we hope to compete in the Kentucky state team championship at Bardstown and will participate in the WKU Scholastic April 24.  
 A group of our band members was away over the weekend for the EKV honors band program at Richmond. Seven of our wrestlers and several staff spent three days in Louisville at the state wrestling tournament. Two of our juniors had qualified for the state tournament of all schools, small and large, who have wrestling programs. A month ago our boys won the state Class A championship meet held at Frankfort.  
 In the meantime, back on campus we had a variety of non-varsity basketball games while a boys' varsity win at Middlesboro made our record 22-6. There is never a dull day at Oneida.  
 Barkley Moore is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

### ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

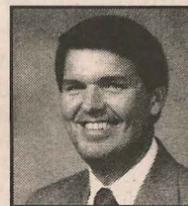
Paid Column

## Michigan church planter

"If a pastor will teach the church to be missionary, he will not have to worry about the church taking care of him."  
 A decade has passed since Bob Carpenter heard New Testament professor Earl Clark speak those words. Carpenter's experience supports his teacher's assertion. In June 1986 he became pastor of Emmaus Baptist, Holt, Mich., as part of the Home Mission Board church growth assistance program. The 35-member congregation was the only Southern Baptist work in a town of 18,000. Attendance now numbers 220, and Emmaus has planted two other churches.  
 "Missions is the lifeblood of our church," Carpenter says. About 100 members have been given up to the two new starts, also planted in towns without any other Southern Baptist work. Central Baptist Association comprises five counties but has only 17 SBC churches and missions.  
 Bob left the family dairy farm to attend college on a basketball scholarship. He heard the gospel for the first time from a North Carolina Southern Baptist classmate. He joined the Navy, married two years later and was stationed in Norfolk, Va. 1985 Clear Creek graduate Bobby Skeens visited their mobile home park. A new church was started, and the Car-

penters worked in it for two years.  
 With two children, the family atmosphere at Clear Creek was just the place for ministry training. He remembers, "It wasn't just me; we all went to school." Two other children were born while they were here. What does he value most after 10 years away from college? "The intense, very basic approach to teaching the Bible. Wherever I open my Bible I remember how we walked through the passage with Dr. Fitts and Dr. Clark. The Lord used Dr. Clark's Greek class to plant the seed for further study."  
 This Michigan pastor holds the distinction of being our first graduate to enter and complete seminary without any additional academic requirements. He strongly supports our accreditation.  
 Carpenter chairs the Michigan convention missions committee. State leader Gerald Colbert said, "He is an outstanding example of your graduates. We hope more like him will come to Michigan."  
 In a well-received chapel sermon Carpenter challenged the campus family to "spend time with Jesus. The result will produce authentic servants with confidence in God's message. It will make us relevant."  
 Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Paid Column

## Bronx Baptist Church begins choir for homeless

By Karen Willoughby Santiago  
Freelance Writer

NEW YORK (BP)—The choir has a home even though its members don't.

"Next week I'll show you how to sing that song," Blaine Durham said to the choir director with a lilt in his voice. "I was in a choir once. I'll show you how to pick up the pace."

Durham was one of 16 people to join in late January what may be New York City's first choir of homeless people.

The choir is the latest addition to 26 years of innovative ministry led by Samuel Simpson, Southern Baptist pastor of Bronx Baptist Church in New York.

"We got to thinking, last October," Simpson recounted. "These people don't come to church on Sunday, we said, so how can we minister to them beyond what we do on Saturdays?"

Bronx Baptist provides a hot meal and free clothing for up to 100 people each Saturday in the fellowship hall of its stately building two blocks off

the main downtown area of the Bronx, one of five boroughs in metropolitan New York City.

Bronx Baptist's choir director, Roy Jennings, who teaches music at La Guardia School of the Arts, offered to lead the choir of homeless people twice a month.

Sydney Brown, a member of the church's Gospel Vibrators musical group, volunteered to lead the choir the other weeks.

The choir doesn't care who leads. They just want to sing.

Kingsley, that's his first name, was the first to sidle over to the piano where Jennings was working through chord progressions.

"I want to draw people's attention to God," Kingsley said in explanation of his desire to join the choir. "Besides the attention to God, I think you will actually feel the right way. I try to sing the right way for Bronx Baptist Church."

One by one, people who had been leaning against a wall ambled over to the sound of music.

Some stopped at the free clothing

table and with their heads kept time to the beat as they searched for fresh garments.

"I enjoy it. I enjoy it," said a man who identified himself by the "B" on his baseball cap. "I'm feeling good."

Feeling good is what it's all about, Simpson said.

"The idea is, how can we help them beyond just a hot meal and some new clothing?" Simpson asked. "As they work together, Mr. Jennings is going to pull out of them what's troubling them, and once we know that, we can try to rehabilitate them."

Besides, Simpson added, music in and of itself produces a healing.

He suggested to Jennings the choir could sing "Amazing Grace." Sure enough, they could.

Then came a suggestion for "Jesus Loves Me," and that triggered a memory in one choir member's mind.

"We need a songbook," she said. "We're in a choir. We need songbooks."

Even with the assistance of hymnals, "Jesus Loves Me" was kind of ragged, but the sound of joyous voices

swelled with "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and grins spread across faces as the choir caught the joy in each other's shining eyes.

Then one spotted someone sitting down at the table set for lunch, and choir rehearsal was over as everyone claimed places.

So many homeless people show up for Saturday's Jamaican cooking at Bronx Baptist that they eat in shifts. But before the women of the church served dinner, Simpson talked to the first shift of diners about his plans for the choir.

"We're expecting to have good fellowship, to sing music we all know and love," Simpson said. "We're going to have a big choir, and what we want is to make it your thing."

Choir rehearsal will start at noon every Saturday, Simpson said.

Choir members will eat before the other diners, and then will entertain. (That should increase the ranks of the choir, he said in an aside.) Someone may be led to bring a gospel message and that will be all right, too, Simpson said.

**"The idea is, how can we help them beyond just a hot meal and some new clothing?"**  
Samuel Simpson, pastor of Bronx Baptist Church

## Singers pitch in to keep Sacred Harp tradition going

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Growing up in a tiny Alabama town, Floyd Screws remembers well the sounds of Sacred Harp music.

Often, the entire population of Sardis, Ala., would take time out to continue the musical tradition brought to America by Pilgrims generations before. They would gather at the church, arrange their chairs in a hollow square, open their shaped-note song books and sing all day.

Screws only listened, never participating. Then World War II came, time passed and he moved to Texas. But Screws never forgot his roots.

"I don't know what struck me," he said Jan. 30 while waiting for the annual Sacred Harp singing to begin at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "After 60, I just thought I should sing."

Southwestern has a special interest in Sacred Harp music because many of the most cherished Baptist hymns

came from the tradition, said William J. Reynolds, professor of church music.

The music is based on four notes of the scale—fa, sol, la and mi. Each note is shaped differently, making it easy to read and to teach, said Reynolds, one of Southern Baptists' foremost hymnody experts who organizes the Sacred Harp singing each year.

Screws, in renewing his ties to Sacred Harp music, went back to Alabama and Sardis Missionary Baptist Church. Only five people came. The tradition, it appeared, was dying.

So Screws went door to door with minutes from old Sacred Harp singings.

The minutes, covering a span of nearly 60 years, listed the names of everyone who attended those singings. Nearly every person in the town could find a relative's name on the faded papers.

Screw's tactic worked, and last

year 60 Sacred Harp singers crowded the Sardis church.

It's a tradition too precious to forget, Screws said. He regularly goes back to Alabama for singings and anywhere else a group gathers to keep the tradition alive. He traveled four hours from his home in Hughes Springs, Texas, to join the singing at Southwestern Seminary.

"I've followed every singing I can in Texas," he said. "I sing it as a means of worshipping God. There's something about Sacred Harp singings. When you get in a group you just feel at home. There's a feeling that everyone's there to worship God."

Those who sat in the hollow square in the rotunda of Southwestern's school of church music building agreed.

Vivian Rogan has been a Sacred Harp singer 12 years and she brought her 7-year-old son to the Southwestern singing.



"I brought him for the tradition to continue," she said. "For us, it's a form of worship. That's why we want our child to continue it."

**SACRED HARP Singers young and old join in singing a Sacred Harp tune during the annual Sacred Harp singing at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.**

## 'Break the Glory Free' came from author's personal pain

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—As Billie Pate listened to her own musical performed last summer, she recalled anew the pain that preceded writing the work.

"It seems the most significant things I have written have been born in pain," said Pate, associate director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday school division, after the performance of "Break the Glory Free."

"It was about six months after my father died in July 1989 when they asked me to write this. I said I couldn't do it ... I just didn't have the heart for it," she recalled.

But after she and Bob Dean, senior editorial and curriculum specialist at the board, began searching the Bible for significant breakthrough events to use and as she began to write, "the words began to flow and it filled a

void I had," she said.

Pate recounted how she wrote "Touch Life," a book of poetry, soon after she left the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union staff in Birmingham, Ala., and her 22-year-old niece suffered permanent brain damage in an auto accident. That work was dedicated to her niece.

Then, "Til Millions Know," a song written for the 8.5 by '85 Sunday school enrollment campaign and later selected for the Baptist Hymnal 1991 edition, was written after a time of personal illness.

"There is a reason for significant work coming from pain," Pate said. "You become more reflective at times like that. You look inside yourself to examine your values."

Pate's brother and two sisters had opportunities to see the musical with her at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference

Center last summer. "The saddest thing for me is that my mother couldn't be here and share the experience," she said.

Pate's mother is 83 and lives in Kingsport, Tenn. She has been ill for more than seven years and requires 24-hour care. Pate, her brother and sisters each take turns spending weekends with their mother.

Pate initially wrote "Break the Glory Free" as a single song to help introduce the Sunday school "Breakthrough" enrollment theme for 1990-95. After the song was presented in planning meetings, someone suggested it as the anchor for a musical.

Pate and Dean outlined about 20 important Bible events as breakthrough for the redemption story. They continued to narrow those down to write the musical.

"The words would come to me at

odd times. I would have thoughts on the way to work and have to hurry in to write them down or they would be lost," she said.

Dennis Goskie, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Albuquerque, N.M., said "Break the Glory Free" can be "as creative as you want to be. The theme is very strong, the music is good and it has a strong biblical message." Goskie's 90-voice choir has presented the musical three times.

Don Wyrzten, a well-known composer, musician and organist at Brentwood Baptist Church near Nashville, arranged the music. Songs were written by Mark Blankenship of the Sunday School Board's church music department and former board employees Dennis Allen and David Danner. Dramatic narratives were written by Ragan Courtney.

# CLEAR CREEK

## Profiles In Commitment

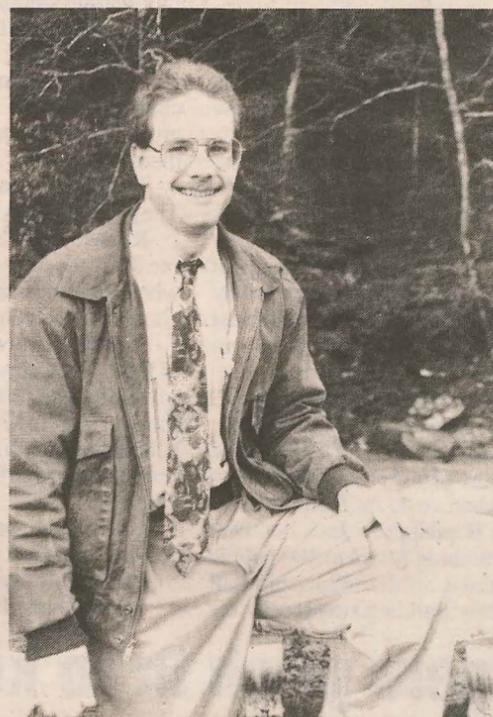


**Sam and Vanessa Huff and family, Pellville**

"The faculty and staff are more than teachers. They are your friends, and often friends in need. Clear Creek is a very special place to serve the Lord Jesus Christ." Sam acknowledged the call to preach November 1990. In January 1991, he found himself enrolled in classes for the next four years. Sam knew he must get an education to preach to the best of his ability as the Lord expected of him. Class scheduling allows him to spend quality time with his wife, Vanessa, Tiffany, 9, and Zachary, 6. Various family activities are planned periodically on campus to promote family togetherness. Sam works as school electrician and pastors part time in Virginia. Vanessa works as Kelly Hall housekeeper.

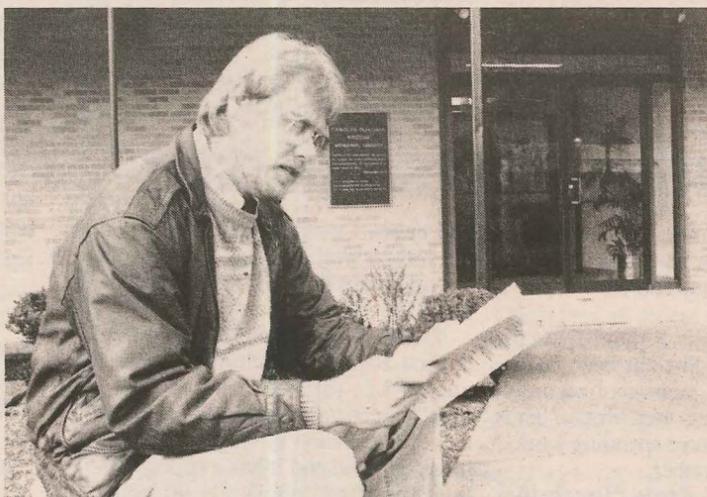
**Farrel and Dianna Green, Lenoir City, Tenn.**

"I never anticipated going to college at age 38, yet Clear Creek provided both the academic training and encouragement I needed. Serving as pastor at nearby Chenoa Mission enabled me to respond to God's call to serve him in ministry even as he prepared me for ministry." Farrel and Dianna Green graduate in 1993 and anticipate serving God in home missions. They have one son, Korby Wade, who is 9 years old. Farrel feels he has "dwelt among plants and hedges for the King's work" (1 Chronicles 4:23) in landscaping the campus. Dianna worked for New Testament Professor H.C. Chiles before his full retirement. Seminary and pioneer church-starting in the West will probably follow their time at Clear Creek.



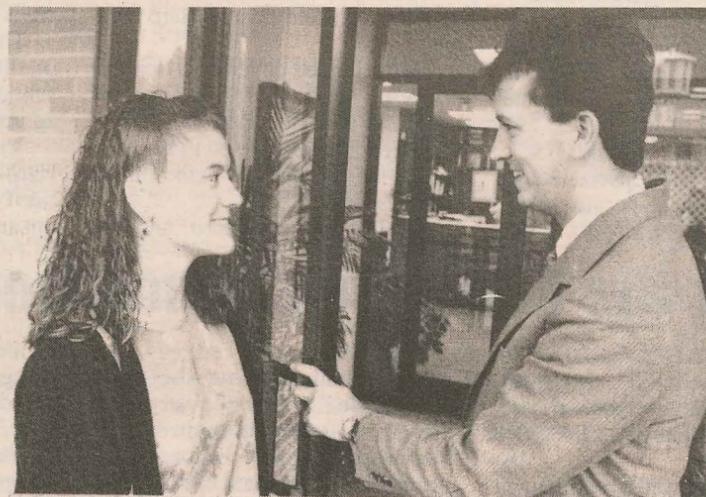
**Dan Brinker, Erlanger**

"Last year when I was called into the ministry, I felt God leading me to work with teen-agers and youth. I had just married, and Clear Creek provided the opportunity to attend college and also work to support my wife, Jennifer, and myself. I am enrolled in the missions track, and also install furnaces in the new student duplexes. Jennifer hopes to begin classes next semester."



**Tim Smith, Muncie, Ind.**

"Clear Creek is family-oriented and personable." Tim is a single student, 29 years of age. "It is not only a place to gain knowledge of the Bible but also a place for the Lord to mold and make you exactly what he wants you to be." Tim feels sure Clear Creek will have a lasting effect on his life.



**Dennis and Angela Hisle, Williamstown**

"Clear Creek is a place to more fully experience and develop your relationship with God. The presence of the Father is evident in all campus activities. It is a family feeling in a vacation setting. Clear Creek provides the opportunity for discovering our part in God's plan. It means more to us than words can give credit. It is like experiencing Jesus Christ for the first time. The feeling you receive is guided by God, and you must be on campus to discover it."

**Clear Creek  
Baptist Bible College  
Pineville, Kentucky  
(606) 337-3196**