

FOR THE RECORD

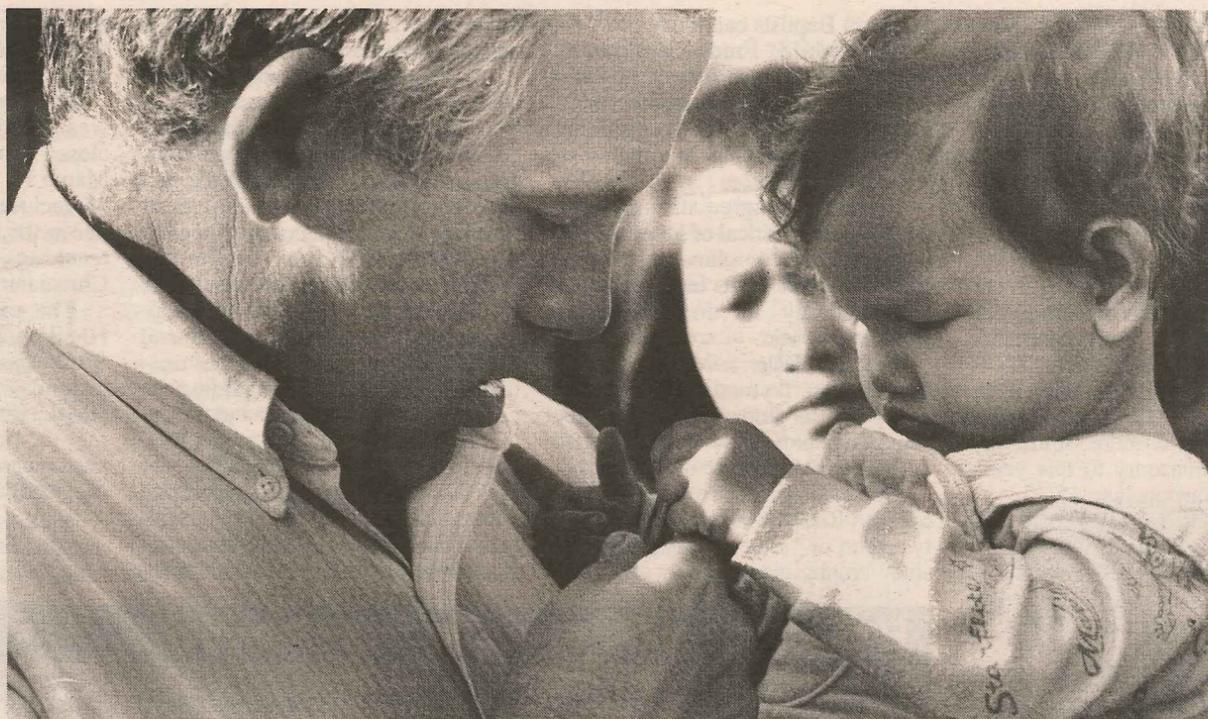
Masonry report
Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have approved a report to the Southern Baptist Convention on Freemasonry. See page 2.

City life
Needs for church starting and evangelism were highlighted during a conference on metropolitan ministries. See page 3.

Editorial
The multihousing mission field is all around us. See page 5.

Ambassador opposed
Baptists have expressed opposition to President Bill Clinton's appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican. See page 6.

Doctor shooting
Although Baptists have expressed dismay at the shooting of a doctor who performed abortions, there are different perspectives on what the shooting might signal. See page 6.



TOUCHING LIVES Doug Kellum, a Southern Baptist missionary in the Philippines, gets acquainted with an American child at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Morong, Bataan, Philippines. Since 1982 he has worked with Vietnamese refugees at this government-run camp, funded by the United Nations. Kellum is one of 449 single adults who served as Southern Baptist foreign missionaries. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is attempting to get the word out that there are places in missions for single adults as well as for couples. (BP photo by Joanna Pinneo)

Snow drops attendance, ups ministry

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

Last week's blizzard left Kentucky Baptists calculating more than the inches of snowfall outside their windows.

The March 13 storm, which dumped as much as 30 inches of snow in some parts of the state, brought record lows and highs to Sunday morning worship at some churches.

The blizzard turned traditional attendance patterns upside down at Ashland's Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Baptists came out in greater numbers for evening worship than morning worship March 14, with an attendance of eight in the morning and 12 in the evening.

Although Rose Hill might have registered record low attendance that day, their numbers were strikingly high compared to the many churches who were forced to cancel activities.

Charles Young, director of missions in Greenup Baptist Association, said Rose Hill was the only church in that association able to hold services.

That same day, however, First Baptist Church in Corbin had more than 300 in attendance, reported Pastor John Dunaway. Of that number, he said, all but about five were visitors.

Dunaway said his first call came about 1 p.m. Saturday, when the manager of Cracker Barrel restaurant asked him if about 30-40 stranded customers could take refuge at the church. Eventually busloads of people, including many Canadians and others on their way to Florida for spring break, were able to find shelter at the church after police closed Interstate 75.

"All of our pews were filled," as well as the nursery and the family life center, Dunaway said. "We had them

See *Blizzard affects ...*, page 8

Blacks' role in Bible overlooked, some say

By Jim Jones
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

ARLINGTON, Texas (ABP)—Blacks in the Bible have been ignored for centuries because of ignorance, apathy and racially biased teachings, a group of African-American biblical scholars contends.

"We can no longer accept the idea of a blond, blue-eyed Jesus that has been taught in America," said Dwight McKissic of Arlington, Texas, who is among biblical researchers calling for greater recognition of the African presence in ancient Bible texts.

His book, "Beyond Roots: The Search for Blacks in the Bible," which has sold 60,000 copies, disputes the white view of biblical interpretation that has dominated much research.

It says that well-known Bible characters such as Ham, the son of Noah; Solomon; Moses' wife, Zipporah, described as "a Cushite woman"; Joshua; David's wife, Bathsheba; and the Queen of Sheba were black or of black descent. McKissic cites evidence that the wise men who visited Jesus were North African blacks and that Jesus, while not black, had four African ancestors.

McKissic says he's not trying to put a black stamp on the Bible.

But clarifying the black role in Bible history is exceedingly important for African-Americans because they've been pictured in inferior roles, he said. Black Americans should understand that their religious heritage did not stem from "slave religion" but goes back to the beginning of recorded history.

"They told us there was a curse on Ham," said McKissic, 36, founder of the 500-member Cornerstone Baptist Church, the first black Southern Baptist church in Arlington, a suburb between Dallas and Fort Worth. "That was the extent of what was told us about our black heritage. We were descendants of Ham and all black folks were cursed and that's why we were slaves."

Cain Hope Felder, professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C., says in his book, "Troubling Biblical Waters: Race, Class and Family," that blacks have never been given their proper place in biblical research.

"Despite the fact that the Bible has a favorable attitude about blacks, post-biblical misconstruals of biblical

See *Blacks' role ...*, page 8

Check it out!

This issue of the Western Recorder includes the monthly insert, "Events for All Kentucky Baptists," produced by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board staff.

Church leaders—both clergy and laity—especially are encouraged to read it and then save it for reference throughout the month.

Church leaders accustomed to receiving brochures in the mail from KBC staff instead should watch the insert for information on upcoming conferences. A reply form on the back page of the insert may be used to request additional information and pre-register for events.

Moving? See page 4 (0323)

Being 'Super Woman' isn't answer to pressures

By Susan Doyle
Woman's Missionary Union

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—Putting on a red cape boasting the letter "S" is not the solution to the busy woman's schedule, a Baptist woman said during the first National Christian Women's Enrichment Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Women who try to do everything find themselves experiencing stress, self-neglect, guilt, burnout and resentment, said Charlene Gray, program associate for Tennessee Woman's Missionary Union.

More than 800 women from 20 states attended the conference, which was co-developed by the Southern

Baptist Sunday School Board and Woman's Missionary Union.

Gray said women struggle with the conflicting philosophies they hear—you can have it all or do it all and you can live by faith.

However, women can have relief from the conflict, she said, using the word 'relief' as an illustration:

■ "R" is for "rest." Rest is most often the last option in the busy woman's life, she said. "But it is as important for us to rest as it is to worship. They are tied together. We cannot worship God unless

we are still and quiet."

■ "E" is for "expect your best." "There is a big difference between your best and somebody else's," Gray

said, explaining agendas will be imposed on the woman who doesn't decide how best to spend her own time.

■ "L" is for "learn." Women should be lifelong learners, learning from successes as well as failures, she said. "Most of all, learn from God's word. Memorize it and make it yours."

■ "I" is for "identify stress points." Many times women haven't identified what it is that stresses them, just that they are stressed, she said. Even though the stress can't always be removed, it can be managed, she suggested.

■ "E" is for "enjoy life." Women have a hard time doing things for themselves without feeling guilty, Gray said. "Women are nurturers by nature. It's those voices out there saying, 'Give, give, give.'" Spending time with God and learning to laugh at yourself are essential to enjoying

See *'Super Woman' ...*, page 9

HOPE
for Christian
Women

More stories on page 9

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Volunteers** are needed to help with several Woman's Missionary Union-sponsored missions events in Houston June 7-11, preceding WMU's annual meeting. WMU is looking for any Baptist volunteers who can "play with children, paint buildings, sort food and clothing, style hair, make fudge, tell Bible stories or talk with people," said June Whitlow, associate executive director. Volunteers must register by April 15. Call (205) 991-4016 for information.

■ **A search committee** of the Southern Baptist Education Commission has announced it will receive applications through April 8 for the position executive director. Recommendations and resumes should be sent to Jerry Henry, 901 Commerce St., Suite 600, Nashville, Tenn. 37203-3623.

■ **Joel Gregory**, former pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, says he has experienced great peace since resigning the prestigious pulpit and has no malice toward the church or Senior Pastor W.A. Criswell. Gregory still lives in Dallas, where he bases an itinerant ministry of preaching and teaching, which he plans to continue for the foreseeable future, he told the Illinois Baptist in a recent interview.

■ **Royal Ambassadors** has strength in both rural and urban churches, a new study by Baylor University found. However, the study also noted that most boys involved in RAs attend churches with memberships of 200 to 1,400 people.

Masonry report cites problems but doesn't condemn

ATLANTA—A predicted showdown between the Southern Baptist Convention and Masons may have been averted by preliminary adoption of a statement that many teachings of the Masonic Lodge "are not compatible with Christianity" but that membership in a Masonic Order should be a matter of personal conscience.

Both critics and defenders of Masonry have expressed relief at the report adopted with one dissenting vote by trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board March 17.

At last year's SBC meeting in Indianapolis, the HMB was directed to bring "a report with recommendation" on Freemasonry to this year's meeting in Houston June 15-17.

The motion to study Freemasonry—brought by Larry Holly of Beaumont, Texas—incited a wave of protests from Masons, many of whom are members of Southern Baptist churches.

Holly and other critics insist Masons' private practices are inspired by pagan rituals and occultism. That, they say, comprises a religion that competes with Christianity by convincing well-intentioned men that good deeds—not faith in Jesus—can get them to heaven.

The Masons insist their organization is a fraternity, not a religion, and that its principles both reflect and enhance the Christian faith of members.

The HMB report mixes criticism of some Masonic teachings with praise for the benevolent work of the Masons, an ancient order that boasts 3.5 million members nationwide, including an estimated 1.3 million Southern Baptists.

But the report's central finding—that many Masonic teachings contradict Christianity—apparently will be enough to satisfy Holly. "In the environment we're in, that's the best we're going to get," he said.

Holly said his hope is the recommendation "will be overwhelmingly approved" by the SBC and "that

Southern Baptists can move on."

Meanwhile, Fred Kleinknecht, head of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry's Southern Jurisdiction, commended the HMB for recognizing Masonic membership as a matter of personal conscience.

"While I disagree strongly with several points critical of Freemasonry in the report, I compliment the Home Mission Board for its intent to report evenhandedly on Freemasonry," Kleinknecht said.

Fred McPeake, a Masonic leader and Baptist layman who opposed Holly on the floor of the SBC last June, said some of the concerns cited in the HMB report are unfounded.

McPeake, executive director of the Scottish Rite of Masons in a 24-county region of Tennessee, said the Masons' emphasis on secrecy and oaths

developed as a necessary defense against oppression centuries ago.

Although the HMB report contains sharp criticism of Freemasonry, it stops short of condemning the group.

The report ends with a one-paragraph summary: "In light of the fact that many tenets and teachings of Freemasonry are not compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, while others are compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, we therefore recommend that consistent with our denomination's deep convictions regarding the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church, membership in a Masonic Order be a matter of personal conscience. Therefore, we exhort Southern Baptists to prayerfully and carefully evaluate Freemasonry in light of the Lordship of Christ,

the teachings of the Scripture, and the findings of this report, as led by the Holy Spirit of God."

Wording of that final paragraph was toughened after a one-hour closed-door meeting of HMB trustees March 16. The original paragraph did not include the finding, contained earlier in the report, that many Masonic teachings are incompatible with Christianity.

The six-page summary report of HMB trustees will be presented to SBC messengers in June. The background study conducted by the HMB's interfaith witness department may be purchased from the HMB's customer service center for \$6 by calling (800) 634-2462.

Reported by Greg Warner through Associated Baptist Press and Martin King through Baptist Press

Excerpts from HMB reports on Freemasonry

Here are excerpts from the Home Mission Board's study and report on Freemasonry:

■ "We commend the Masonic Order for its many charitable endeavors such as the operation of 22 Shiners hospitals, 19 orthopedic hospitals and three burn institutes ... often providing free treatment to children ..."

■ "We acknowledge that many outstanding Christians and Southern Baptists now are, and in the past have been Masons."

■ "We recognize that many of the tenets and teachings of some Grand Lodges could be considered compatible with, and even supportive of Christian faith and practice, such as the strong emphasis on honesty, integrity, industry and character, and the insistence that every member believe in God."

■ "We conclude that many tenets and teachings of Freemasonry are not compatible with Christianity or Southern Baptist doctrine, including the prevalent use of offensive concepts, titles and terms such as 'Worshipful Master' for the leader of a lodge ... the use of archaic, offensive rituals and so-called 'bloody oaths' ... the reference to the Bible placed on the altar of the lodge as the 'furniture of the lodge,' comparing it to the square and compass rather than giving it the supreme place in the lodge ... the implication that salvation may be obtained by one's good works ... the heresy of universalism which permeates the writings of many Masonic authors ... the refusal of most lodges (although not all) to admit for membership African-Americans."

■ "There is no agreement among Southern Baptists whether Christians can, or should, be Masons."

Many fine conservative, Bible-believing, soul-winning men can be found on both sides of the issue."

■ "It was not found that Freemasonry is anti-Christian or satanic, nor does it oppose the Christian church. While a few Masonic writers glorify non-Christian philosophy and religions, they are clearly a minor voice."

■ "Certainly, some Masons have made Freemasonry their religion. Other Masons are emphatic that Jesus Christ is their only hope for eternal life, that they have trusted him alone for their salvation."

■ "Masons could reduce misunderstanding and criticism if they explained the meaning of the symbols to both members and non-members. Better education of Masonic members and the general public is essential."

HMB trustees follow Executive Committee lead on WMU

ATLANTA (ABP)—Trustees of the Home Mission Board have joined the chorus of Southern Baptist leaders calling for Woman's Missionary Union to restrict its work to helping the denomination's official agencies.

Meanwhile, a trustee who has served three years on the HMB's personnel committee resigned, saying trustees have "not knowingly appointed a missionary of the 'moderate' persuasion for at least six years."

During the trustees' March meeting, HMB President Larry Lewis also announced that Gary Leazer, director of the interfaith witness department, had requested to be relieved of responsibilities as director and transferred to a field position with the department. Lewis said he granted the request because Leazer's leadership had been discredited by comments Leazer made in a personal letter regarding a study of Freemasonry.

Leazer's new assignment as field staff will be to lead conferences, teach, research, write and assist in development of materials for the inter-

faith witness department.

Trustees also elected new officers, naming Linda Principe of Brandenburg as secretary. The new chairman is Brad Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church in Duncan, Okla.

The resolution to WMU is in response to a January decision by WMU's executive board to offer educational materials and prayer support—but not money—to missionary-sending groups other than the Southern Baptist foreign and home mission boards.

The HMB receives about \$40 million a year—roughly half its budget—from an annual offering promoted by WMU in Southern Baptist churches.

Critics, including the powerful SBC Executive Committee, complained the changes voted by WMU would allow the organization to lend support to the rival Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In February the Executive Committee passed a resolution urging WMU to restore its "exclusive relationship" with the SBC mission

boards. HMB trustees voted to affirm that resolution.

Only seven HMB trustees—all women—voted against the resolution.

Before voting on affirming the resolution, HMB trustees had a dialogue with WMU Executive Director Delanna O'Brien. The dialogue was friendlier than recent similar sessions O'Brien had with Executive Committee leaders and trustees of the Foreign Mission Board.

Orris Bullock, pastor of Fountain Memorial Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., mailed his letter of resignation to HMB Chairman Ron Phillips March 9. Bullock's term would have expired in June 1994.

"During my tenure I have observed with pain certain personnel committee members who consistently acted as watchdogs for the conservative inerrancy clique, in their intolerance toward moderate candidates," Bullock wrote. "The fact is that the HMB has not knowingly appointed a missionary of the 'moderate' persuasion for at least six years."

During the three years he served on the HMB personnel committee, Bullock said, missionary candidates' beliefs about the Bible were the "litmus test" for appointment.

"Candidates had to be sure and use the term 'inerrancy' in regard to their belief about the Bible in a way that the committee members believed they were sincere," Bullock said.

But Phillips disputed Bullock's claims.

"That's a lie," said Phillips, a pastor in Hixson, Tenn. "If that's true, he needs to prove that."

Phillips said convention politics are "not even a consideration" in election of HMB missionaries and staff. "I don't know of any case where that has been a litmus test for missionaries."

Phillips acknowledged prospective missionaries are screened about their views of the Bible, but he denied that has kept moderates from being appointed.

This story contains additional information from Baptist Press

Use right ministry at right time, urban leaders told

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Opening the door to urban ministry requires finding the right key and using it at the right time, a Canadian pastor told Baptists from Louisville, Lexington and Northern Kentucky.

Leslie Drew, senior pastor of White Rock Baptist Church in Surrey, British Columbia, was a keynote speaker for the annual Metro Ministries Conference sponsored by Long Run, Elkhorn and Northern Kentucky Baptist associations. This year's meeting was held at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville March 15-16.

Drew has served as pastor of Baptist churches in England and Canada, and has a reputation for developing innovative urban ministry.

"The success of ministry is finding the right key in every situation," he explained.

Keys often are required, both in the literal and figurative sense, to reach modern people in urban areas that seem inaccessible, Drew said. For example, many neighborhoods and apartment buildings now have security gates that prevent traditional door-to-door visitation.

Such cases often require unconventional keys, he explained.

Other situations may not be so physically closed but still could be spiritually closed, Drew said.

In all cases, the key comes through spiritual wisdom, he said. "The fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure."

Having the right key won't do any good in ministry if it isn't used at the right time, Drew continued. "The key to ministry often is God placing his servant at the right place at the right time."

For example, in areas where new people are moving in, "the time to use the key is the day they move in," he

explained. "The longer you wait, the harder it is to turn the lock."

Drew and the leaders of more than a dozen small-group seminars talked about certain keys that often work in urban ministry.

Among ministry keys cited by Drew were:

■ Senior adult ministry. "Gray power is out there, and it's the greatest untapped resource for the church," he said.

■ Vacations. Every year, Drew organizes a major trip, which church members and non-church members alike are invited to join. Usually about one-third of those on the tour are non-church members, and about 99 percent of them become involved in the church afterward as a result of the trip, he said.

■ Children. In some communities, churches can fill a void for Christian preschools, he suggested. Drew also noted that opening a church preschool to children with special needs can demonstrate that the church cares about the community.

■ Home hospitality. Drew and his wife hold about two dinner parties each week in their home, he said. "We have done more pastoral work through the home than in any other way."

Starting missions in multihousing units is another key to urban ministry, according to Barbara Oden, multihousing ministry consultant for Union Baptist Association in Houston.

Oden told about pioneering Baptist work in apartments in the Houston area as a Mission Service Corps volunteer.

In 1986, she and her two children moved into the Springbrook Apartments in Houston, where she became the association's first multihousing missionary.

Within the first five months of her ministry, 72 residents had professed faith in Jesus Christ. The model she developed has grown to a network of 92 similar multihousing ministries in Houston today and has influenced churches across America to attempt

the same thing.

Multihousing units are defined as any place where people live other than single-family housing. This encompasses apartments, condominiums, mobile home parks, duplexes, marinas and public housing projects.

Multihousing residents have been virtually overlooked by the church, Oden said. Statistics show that nationwide the Christian community reaches about 50 percent of people who live in single-family homes, but only 4 percent of people who live in multihousing.

More than one-fourth of Americans live in multihousing units, she added, and the percentage is even higher in urban areas.

Oden's model for multihousing ministry involves laypeople beginning a variety of ministries within a complex, usually moving into the complex as resident activities directors. While residents of multihousing may not feel comfortable attending an established church, they will attend congregations begun in their housing complexes, she added.

Whatever churches do to minister in urban areas should advance the peace of God, said Dale Cross, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass. "Urban evangelism is helping people know the 'shalom,' the peace of God, in the midst of chaotic, violent situations."

By pursuing this goal, Christians become "God's agent for kingdom purposes" in their communities, Cross said.

"What does it mean for God's kingdom to come, God's will to be done in Louisville or Lexington?" he asked.

The Bible reports that when Jesus looked out over the multitudes of people living in Jerusalem he was moved with compassion and wept, Cross noted.

"What do you feel when you see the multitudes?" he asked. "Southern Baptists have too often seen the multitudes and just moved, and have not been moved with compassion."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ The Woman's Association of Georgetown College is accepting applications for its 1993-94 scholarships. Nine scholarship of \$400 each will be awarded to outstanding women interested in attending Georgetown College next fall. Deadline for applications is April 15. For details, contact Ruth Heizer at Georgetown College, (502) 863-8080.

■ A Lay Bible Conference is scheduled for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary May 13-15. A number of Southern's faculty will address the theme of "The Bible Alive" in sessions designed to help laity know the Bible better. For registration information, call (502) 897-4142.

■ Two Campbellsville College athletes recently received special distinctions. Basketball player Andrea Deaton was named Player of the Week by USA Today/Don Hanson's National Basketball Gazette. Swimmer Shanae Netherland has been named an NAIA Academic All-American for 1993.

CHAPLAIN HONORED
Chaplain Stewart Dawson receives Lexington's Firefighter of the Year award from Fire Chief Gary McComas.



Indicators for effective urban ministry

LOUISVILLE—Successful urban ministry often is marked by seven common characteristics, Dale Cross told participants in the Metro Ministries Conference.

Cross is pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass., and former urban evangelism specialist with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Based on a study of effective urban churches, Cross cited these common characteristics:

■ Definite call to a definite place for a definite time. The is the pre-eminent factor, he explained, because the city is a place which demands people have a commitment and a calling.

■ Churches indigenous in character and contextual in design. Ministries ought to be owned by the people they serve, he explained, and the pastor or missionary's primary commitment should be to the

community rather than to any denominational headquarters.

■ Team players only; no Lone Rangers.

■ Evangelistic commitment wrapped in authentic compassion. Two kinds of churches will fail in urban areas, Cross said: Churches committed only to presenting the gospel in words and churches committed to presenting the gospel only in deeds. "To argue about which is most important is like asking which of your eyes is most important."

■ Ministries which are church-based and community-committed.

■ Biblically informed and spiritually empowered ministries.

■ Inspired longevity. Cross quoted television preacher Robert Schuller, who once told a group of pastors: "You can only build one great church in your life. Why don't you stay where you are and do it?"

Bivocational pastor named Lexington Firefighter of Year

By Bill Whittaker
Clear Creek Bible College

LEXINGTON—The Lexington Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year is 32-year-old Stewart Dawson, bivocational pastor of New Freedom Baptist Church in Stanford and fire department chaplain.

Chosen from among 452 employees, Dawson's nomination noted he is "the image of what you hope to see in a firefighter—love of the job, concern for his fellow firefighter and professionalism in everything he does."

The selection was made by the Fire Awards and Review Board, representing all ranks within the department. The award was presented Feb. 26 at the Fire Training Center.

Dawson has been with the department two years. He was in his final year at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville when he read a news item about an open house for job applicants. Four hundred people applied

for the 25 openings as firefighters.

"I was up front during my interview and said I wanted to use my Bible education to help people," he recalled.

One question on the lie detector test was, "What do you want to be in 10 years?" Dawson responded that he wanted to be an official or unofficial chaplain for the Lexington Fire Department.

He expected to be eliminated as a "religious fanatic," but instead was hired.

Having five years of experience with the Danville Fire Department and being in excellent physical condition helped his chance, but he believes God's leadership was evident throughout the process.

Several people encouraged Fire Chief Gary McComas, an active member of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington, to secure a chaplain. The police chaplain advised him, "What you need is someone who feels called

to this work."

Two years later, McComas said, Dawson told him those very words about his own sense of calling.

Dawson's responsibilities as chaplain now include station visits, hospital calls, weddings, funerals and counseling. He has organized a Fellowship of Christian Firefighters chapter, with about 30 people involved.

Like others on the force, Dawson works one 24-hour shift and is off 48 hours. The schedule takes him out of the pulpit one Sunday out of three, but a layman in the church supplies.

"The church is very supportive," Dawson explained. "Bivocational ministry is really double time. The people know I'm like them, struggling with time and priorities."

The support of his church has allowed Dawson to expand his base of ministry among firefighters, he said. "I don't have the freedom to preach on the station steps, but as I share God's love, they come to me."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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

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God controls

Amazing! Years have passed while trustees and leaders have accused pastors and others at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary of deviant biblical instruction, that is, different from the trustees' interpretation. Long-term, highly respected teachers have suffered under such pressure.

Now the trustee search committee has selected Al Mohler, a graduate, former employee and recipient of doctor of philosophy and recipient of divinity degrees from that same school. Could it be that Mohler was such a poor student all those years that he failed to absorb the offered instruction? Or was the Word really opened to him?

Amazing? No! I believe it is the continuing proof that our God prevails in all ways. In his will he allows each of us to interpret his Word.

Man is not in control. Our Lord is!
H.C. Robinson Jr.
Paris

Response needed

Your editorial on Al Mohler (WR, March 2) requires a response. You not only point out Dr. Mohler's perceived weaknesses; you also besmirch his character and call into question his personal integrity. This is unprecedented, uncalled for and contrary to the Spirit of Christ. We are confident that Al Mohler will be a superb president of Southern Seminary. Southern Baptists are indeed fortunate to have such an intelligent, articulate, dedicated man of God occupy this strategic position of ministry.

Second, your description of the Christian Life Commission as being "on the right edge of the denomination" is extremely curious. The CLC will distribute well over 2 million individual pieces of literature to Southern Baptists this year on a wide range of topics, including AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse, business ethics, citizenship, ecology, pornography, reli-

gious liberty, sanctity of human life, world hunger and world peace.

The CLC's book on environmental issues, "The Earth is the Lord's," was Broadman's best seller for January. The CLC's position on the homosexual rights issue is supported by over 90 percent of Southern Baptists, and a substantial majority support the CLC's pro-life position as well. The CLC has also called for the establishment of an international tribunal to punish war criminals in the former Yugoslavia.

Where must one stand to describe such a record as being on the denomination's "right edge"?

Richard D. Land, executive director
SBC Christian Life Commission
Nashville
Timothy George, dean
Beeson Divinity School
Birmingham, Ala.

Only protection

Re: The Western Recorder's reporting of the presidential search process at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. If the trustees did not want the short list to be made public, they should not have leaked the information. Once it became common conversation in Louisville, it was news and was carefully and appropriately reported by the Recorder.

A free press is our only protection against propaganda and "spin doctors" who want to interpret the facts before they get to the people.

Sharyn Dowd
Lexington

Antagonists advise

State paper editors' recent criticism of Baptist Press (WR, Feb. 23) begs a response.

I find it interesting that two-thirds of the Baptist Press liaison committee's membership were on the board of directors of Associated Baptist Press, a competing news agency, and are generally perceived as antagonistic

toward Baptist Press. I agree with Louis Moore's comparison of the analysis of BP by ABP directors to having United Press International staff critique Associated Press.

I suggest that a Western Recorder liaison committee be selected. A total of two-thirds of its membership should include Baptists who are perceived as antagonistic. This committee might in turn critique the destructive nature of pro-Cooperative Baptist Fellowship articles and recommend stopping WR practices that raise questions about its "journalistic objectivity, fairness and balance."

Lorna Strouth
Barbourville

No call

I am 51 years old. The Lord called me to preach in November of 1991.

Every church will hire a retired minister for interim work. Every congregation expects a man to work a public job and pastor also. They also expect a seminary grad with a lifetime of experience.

How are we to get experience if we can't get a call? It hurts when you know God has called you and you can't get a church because there are 10 retirees for each church.

Bob J. Brown
Hopkinsville

Fiery darts

As a member of the Woman's Missionary Union, I appreciate the way Dellanna O'Brien and our executive committee are conducting our business and standing their ground against the "fiery darts" of power-hungry men who are trying to tell, threaten and coerce women into doing what they are commanding other Baptists to do.

I have heard that Jerry Clower said, "There are more of us than there are of them." When are we going to take our convention back from these dictators?

Abbie Hawes Mercer
Owensboro

a little more effort. However, any reasons to complain are outweighed by a grateful heart.

Kentucky Baptists have been good to me: I was nurtured in a Kentucky Baptist church; educated and called to preach in a Kentucky Baptist college; graduated from a seminary that Kentucky Baptists played a leading role in bringing here; provided a beautiful Baptist girl as my life's mate; trained to pastor in two Kentucky Baptist churches; provided a hospital for the birth of our son and grandson; supported and prayed for as my family and I were missionaries in the Middle East; and for the past 10 years, supported and encouraged in doing what they called me here to do.

If the pictures were placed side by side in this column, one could easily distinguish between which of the two is the younger.

But maybe, just maybe, though the one there now is the older, it is likely the wiser. And in days like these, maybe being wiser is worth getting 10 years older!

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

Stories that photographs tell

Some of you who read my column have noticed that I have recently changed my picture. One person said, "You've hardly changed." Both they and I know better. Today's face is 10 years older than the "old" picture and even a "touch up" on the "new" picture won't disguise the reality. I have gotten older; and by means of the picture, a 10-year whack!

Over the holidays at an open house, I ran into an old Georgetown College friend I had not seen since the '60s. He said, "Moose, you haven't changed a bit!" And I said: "Don, you haven't either, and I guess that's why you are a 'greeter' at your church. You know how to make people feel good!"

I must admit that it made us feel good when Shawn would tell us that her friends said, "Your parents look so young for their age." Whether we believed it or not, we wanted to. We never asked her how old they thought we were!

Adorning the wall of the stairwell to our garage are pictures of the Marshall and Gardner families. The photos go back on Alice's side to her grandparents; on my side, to my great-grandparents. With our newest generation, 2-year-old Marshall, six generations are gathered there on that wall.

People tell me my son looks just like my Marine Corps picture which hangs there. When we first moved back to Kentucky, my wife and son were at an auction in Shelby County. A man whom they did not know came up to them and said, "You have to be Bill Marshall's son!" Turns out that the man was a former football teammate at Georgetown.

The old picture in my column tells me what I looked like 10 years ago but it doesn't tell me what I felt like. Like it or not, my body has grown 10 years older. Everything still works, but just a little more slowly and with

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



Choose joy

By Harry Rowland

Q. I have a fulfilling job, am attractive and have good friends, but I'm not very happy because I'm single. What's the problem?

A. To many, the following statement comes as a surprise: God does not promise us happiness. In fact, our happiness is not the most important thing in life.

But God does promise us joy. Happiness comes from the same root as happiness, suggesting that happiness is based on things either happening or not happening to us. Joy is something that defies circumstances and occurs in spite of difficult situations.

Whereas happiness is a feeling, joy is an attitude—a posture. Joy is the deep settled confidence that God is in control of every area of life.

Joy is not dependent upon anything this world has to offer, including relationships. Joy is a choice, not the by-product of a particular marital status. To experience joy, first realize that pain is inevitable, but misery is optional. You cannot avoid pain, but you can avoid joy.

You may not like your status in life, but you can find joy within all situations while at the same time praying that God will alter the situation. Choosing joy does not mean relegating yourself to the belief that this is how things always will be. Rather, you find joy where you are because that's where God is.

Second, understand that joy is based on being, not on doing. We often are consumed by having. Ownership seems to be the king of virtues, no matter what the commodity—even love and relationship. We forget that God created us as beings, not as doings. Our goal should be to be much, not to have much. The book mode says, "I am = what I have." This brings envy, dissatisfaction and unhappiness.

A modern-day proverb states, "A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer; it sings because it has a song." With God, you have the song; the question is, Will you choose to sing?

Harry Rowland is pastor of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

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

You drive past a mission field every day

If you're like most Kentucky Baptists, you drive right past a mission field on your way to work, church or the grocery store. You may even live in one.

And if you're like most Kentucky Baptists, you never thought of that apartment complex, mobile home park or condominium building as a mission field.

But it is.

Thirty percent of the U.S. population lives in multihousing, but only 4 percent of the people in multihousing are reached by any Christian church, reported Tony Hough, associate director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department, citing statistics from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"That means 96 percent of those people (almost 29 percent of the total population) receive no Christian witness whatsoever," Hough stressed.

That's reason enough for multihousing to be the "next big push" in the KBC's church-starting efforts, he added.

But the attempts cannot be business as usual, warned Barbara Oden, a multihousing specialist for Union Baptist Association in Houston. She cited common perceptions of both church members and multihousing residents that have kept the groups apart.

Church members consistently cite at least seven reasons why they cannot minister in multihousing, she said:

- "Those people are different from us."
- "They are not reachable."
- "They're not interested in our church."
- "Multihousing residents are not 'permanent.'"
- "Those people have problems, and we don't want to get involved."
- "They don't have anything to offer our church."
- "They want privacy and exclusivity."

But the good news is that congregations started inside multihousing communities can reach up to 30 percent of their residents, Home Mission Board studies revealed.

Part of the success of the inside-community approach is overcoming the fears and preconceptions of multihousing residents.

Oden cited six of those:

- "The church wants money."
- "Church people dress one way only."
- "Church is unfriendly."
- "Church people don't want us."
- "I'm afraid I won't behave properly."
- "Churches hand out tracts, give Bibles, preach sermons and go door-to-door giving literature, but they don't care about helping with problems."

The key to overcoming those feelings is getting out and authentically ministering among the people. In time, the strength of solid personal relationships will overpower the negative feelings of uncertainty or suspicion.

This Sunday, March 28, is Start-a-Church Commitment Day across the Southern Baptist Convention. The Home Mission Board has prepared suggestions for churches to use in starting such a ministry:

- Survey your community to determine multihousing ministry needs.
- Choose an area or areas in which to start a church.
- Build a relationship with the manager of the multihousing community and show how your church's ministry can help the community.
- Prepare an action plan for the ministry, including volunteer enlistment and training, identification of community needs, kick-off of the ministry and follow-up actions.
- Sign up volunteers and train them for the ministry.
- Decide when, how and where to begin worship within the multihousing community.
- Cultivate the community, using ministries, recreation, Bible studies, visitation and other activities geared to meet the people's needs.
- Develop a structure for the new congregation which, as it grows, can fulfill its mission of ministry in the community.

For more information, contact Tony Hough at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433, phone (502) 245-4101; or Gerald Raynor, SBC Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601, phone (404) 898-7000.

Marv Knox

Ninty-six percent of U.S. citizens who live in multihousing communities are not reached by any church.

Where under heaven would we be without symbols?

Have you ever stopped to think about the role that symbols play in our lives?

For instance, how important is that little red

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

octagon sign at a busy intersection, or the yellow triangle with silhouettes of walking children on it by a school yard? Here's my favorite, the blue rectangle sign with the "Golden Arches," "Red Roof" or "DQ" near the exit

on the interstate. Symbols are quick, visible reminders of important things.

Noah had spent one year and 17 days on a boat filled with animals, his wife and his kids. Finally, the day came when he left that home to build another. Imagine what it must have been like for Noah the first time a dark cloud came floating over the hill, had God not given him a symbol. The

symbol was the rainbow, that visible reminder that God would keep his promise to Noah and the generations that would follow. It tells all who will see that God will never again destroy all life with a flood.

One day, Jesus died on a cross. Early on in Christian history, the cross became a symbol; a symbol not only of death (dying to self) but also a symbol of life ("If I be lifted up I will draw all to me"). It was a symbol to all who saw it and believed, both then and for

the generations that would follow, that God had made a way for all humanity to be saved from destruction.

As God set his bow in the sky as a symbol of his promise, so he set an empty cross on a hill outside of Jerusalem to remind us of his love.

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Galatians 6:14).

John Ditty, pastor
Harlan Baptist Church
Harlan

You never know what kids think about George, Michael & 'Harold'

You don't have to fly into space to get a unique perspective on this ol' planet. Just spend some time with kids.

My special time is Wednesday nights, when our church sponsors Mission Friends. It's the Baptist outfit that teaches 4-, 5- and 6-year-olds about missionaries and God's work.

You wouldn't really say I "teach" Mission Friends. That's Joy's job; she's creative, clever, patient, kind. I'm sort of the justice of the peace of Mission Friends. I try to protect our Mission Friends from each other at the end of a long day, wipe noses, clean tables and get in a good word or two about Jesus and the missionaries.

A few weeks ago, Joy was telling the missionary story at the beginning of our

time together. She's good at helping the children participate in the story, so they get involved, remain less rowdy and (hopefully) remember more of the lesson. On this evening, she was using a tried-and-true teaching method. I call it "fishing the answer out of 'em."

"Our missionary friends live a long, long ways away," Joy explained. "They spend lots of their time helping children. Do you know who they tell the children about?"

"Is it someone famous?" Abbie asked.

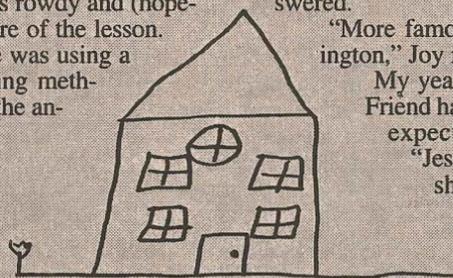
"Yes, very famous," Joy replied.

"George Washington!" Bethani answered.

"More famous than George Washington," Joy insisted.

My years as a veteran Mission Friend had preconditioned me to expect the answer to be "Jesus." But not wanting to show off to a bunch of pre-schoolers, I contained myself and waited for one of our young charges to speak up.

"More famous than George Washington—must be Michael Jackson!" Timmy shouted.



down home

Amazing how a generation defines fame. Years ago, a childhood friend came to our church and heard my daddy preach about the King of Kings. My pal thought Baptists were pretty cool for preaching sermons on Elvis.

That just illustrates how kids don't always hear what we think they hear. Like in the joke about the child who came home from church, and his mom asked what he learned in Sunday school.

"Well," he recalled, "we learned God's name is Harold."

"No, honey, that's not right," mom said. "Is so!" the boy insisted. "The teacher taught us to pray, 'Our Father who art in heaven, Harold is thy name.'"

Marv Knox

Baptist groups oppose Clinton's Vatican appointment

"This decision only makes sense as a triumph of politics over principle in which the president is seeking to curry favor with Roman Catholics who are justifiably outraged over his pro-abortion policies."

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, on President Clinton's appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican

WASHINGTON—Despite the pleas of Baptist and civil liberties organizations, President Bill Clinton has appointed Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn as the next U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican.

Flynn, an active Roman Catholic and a Democrat who opposes abortion, announced at a March 17 news conference in Boston that he had accepted Clinton's offer to fill the post that has been held by two other Catholics—William Wilson and Thomas Melady.

Former President Ronald Reagan established formal diplomatic ties with the Vatican in 1984—against the objections of Baptist and civil liberties organizations.

Both Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commis-

sion and James Dunn of the Baptist Joint Committee expressed their dis-appointment with Clinton's action.

"Such an appointment is a clear violation of the principle of church-state separation, a dangerous and divisive precedent of government meddling in church affairs, and the occasion for practical problems for all those engaged in the far-flung missionary venture in developing countries," Dunn said.

"We are saddened and chagrined by the president's decision," Land said. "Such a decision by any president is bad, but coming from a Baptist president it is even worse."

Land suggested politics is the only reasonable explanation for Clinton's action: "Given President Clinton's professed advocacy of church-state

separation, this decision only makes sense as a triumph of politics over principle in which the president is seeking to curry favor with Roman Catholics who are justifiably outraged over his pro-abortion policies."

Perhaps as predictable as Baptist opposition to the appointment was Catholic support for it.

Archbishop William Keeler of Baltimore, president of the United States Catholic Conference, lauded the appointment, describing Flynn as "a champion of justice and an eloquent spokesman for the poor and the marginalized in our land."

Keeler said it is gratifying that the United States and more than 100 other nations "recognize the value to our people of diplomatic relations with the Holy See, whose moral leadership

on behalf of peace, justice, human development and human rights, has been so universally praised."

Land said the CLC will seek to testify against the appointment before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The BJC also will oppose Senate confirmation, Dunn said.

Land noted Baptist opposition to the appointment "has nothing whatsoever to do with anti-Catholicism."

"We agree with the late John F. Kennedy, who stated his opposition to such ties during his 1960 presidential campaign by saying, 'I am flatly opposed to the appointment of a United States ambassador to the Vatican because it will not be of any benefit to either party,'" Land said.

Compiled from Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press reports

Shooting of doctor lamented; views differ on meaning

"Any group that claims to know the absolute will of God is only a short step away from believing that their objective justifies any and every means for change, including violence."

Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics

PENSACOLA, Fla.—The shooting death of an abortion-clinic doctor in Pensacola, Fla., by an anti-abortion protester March 10 has been soundly condemned by Baptist leaders, but what the shooting signals has drawn mixed reviews.

The death of gynecologist David Gunn during a protest at a Pensacola abortion clinic "is a very dangerous warning signal," said Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville, Tenn.

Parham said Gunn's death is "the inevitable outcome of the American anti-abortion war."

Whereas abortion protesters at first relied on moral education to advance their cause, he said, in recent years they have turned to ever-more-violent tactics—first non-violent civil disobedience, then property damage and now physical harm.

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, also denounced the Pensacola shooting but warned against reading too much into it.

While the Gunn shooting represents the first protest-related death, Land said, "I certainly wouldn't want to interpolate a trend from one isolated act of violence."

The shooting occurred during a protest organized by Rescue America, a Houston-based anti-abortion group. However, the organization has said they oppose such violence and had no part in the shooting.

Gunn had been the target of death

threats, protests and harassment by anti-abortionists for several years. Last summer an old-fashioned "Wanted" poster of the doctor was distributed at a rally for Operation Rescue, another anti-abortion group. The poster included Gunn's home phone number and other personal information, according to the Associated Press.

Parham of the Baptist Center for Ethics said the escalation of violence he sees in the anti-abortion movement is attributable to the movement's sense of certainty about its opinions and intolerance of other views.

"Any group that claims to know the absolute will of God is only a short step away from believing that their objective justifies any and every means for change, including violence," he said.

"If you believe abortion is murder, and you know who the murderer is, then you have to stop the murderer by murdering the murderer," he explained.

However, Land, who has been an outspoken opponent of abortion, said "to shoot and kill a human being in the name of saving human life is grotesque."

While acknowledging abortion is "an issue which engenders strong emotions on both sides," Land said the CLC opposes the use of violence to protest abortion. He said the distinction between non-violent protest and violent protest is critical.

"The Christian Life Commission

Freedom of Choice Act moves forward

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Suspending most debate, a House subcommittee approved March 18 an amended Freedom of Choice Act that would codify a woman's right to privacy in abortion decisions.

The House Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee approved the bill on a 5-3 party-line vote after making one amendment. Most subcommittee members declined to make extensive remarks or to offer other anticipated amendments, stating that they will do so before the Judiciary Committee.

The bill (H.R. 25) would codify the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision. Supporters of the bill say recent decisions by the high court have eroded the protections of Roe. Opponents counter that the bill goes beyond Roe and would allow abortion on demand throughout pregnancy.

The bill would bar states from restricting the right of a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy before fetal viability (the point at which the fetus can live outside the womb) or at any time to protect the life or health of the woman. The bill provides an exemption for medical personnel who are conscientiously opposed to performing abortions.

The subcommittee eliminated one provision that would have allowed for the involvement of a "parent, guardian, or other responsible adult" before a minor could get an abortion. The amendment to remove this language was offered by Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y.

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., offered an amendment to allow states to require that abortions be performed "only by licensed medical doctors and osteopaths."

That measure was defeated 5-3.

will continue to oppose and deplore acts of fatal violence against all human beings, born and unborn," Land added.

Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, added: "This tragedy calls for all of us of whatever persuasion to pray for our adversaries' welfare and to pray for our own humility."

"Strong emotions drive both sides," Stassen said. "We all need to pray for methods of love and mutual respect, for prevention of the causes of abortion, for justice for mothers and their children and not for methods of hate and harassment. Any other course is the way of spiritual loss of soul and public loss of support."

Compiled from Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press reports

RFRA clears first hurdle to Congressional passage

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Less than a week after its reintroduction in Congress, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act has cleared its first legislative hurdle.

A House Judiciary panel voted unanimously March 17 to recommend passage of RFRA (H.R. 1308), a bill that would restore the stringent requirements government must meet to restrict the religious practice of U.S. citizens.

For three decades prior to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1990 ruling in Employment Division vs. Smith, the high court permitted government to inter-

fere with religious practice only when it used the least restrictive means available to achieve a compelling governmental interest, such as the health and safety of citizens.

In the Smith decision, the court reversed itself by holding that generally applicable laws that infringed on religious practice no longer had to meet the strict requirements of the "compelling interest" test.

Without amendment or opposition, the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights voted to send RFRA to the full Judiciary Committee for consideration.

The swift, uncontested approval by the House panel provided a marked contrast to the more heated hearings and debate over RFRA in the previous session of Congress.

Despite solid support from an impressive coalition of U.S. religious and civil-liberties groups, the measure languished for months in the face of stiff opposition from the U.S. Catholic Conference and the National Right to Life Committee.

After sponsors added language clarifying that RFRA could not be used to attack churches' tax exemption or participation in government

programs, the Catholic Conference recently endorsed the bill, giving it an unprecedented range of support from religious bodies.

Supporters include the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee. President Bill Clinton has endorsed the measure.

Oliver Thomas, BJC general counsel and chairman of the coalition of religious and civil-liberties groups supporting RFRA, said committee action on the Senate version of the bill (S. 578) is expected as early as the week of March 21.

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Partnership Puts People Together on Mission

A riddle: What has 30 heads, about 840 teeth, smiles and nods, carries hammers, knows three words of Portuguese, praises God and builds churches?

Answer: A construction/evangelism team in Kentucky Baptists' partnership missions program with Baptists in the state of Espirito Santo, Brazil.

Such a "beautiful beast" is only one among many that have turned people toward Christ because Kentucky Baptists teamed up with Baptists around the world.

Partnership missions plays a vital role in Kentucky Baptist life. Its rewards are multi-faceted.

Seen from one direction, partnership missions provides strength to Baptists in parts of the country and areas of the world where their numbers are few. It has built church buildings, operated medical clinics, conducted training seminars, operated vacation Bible schools, held revivals and gone door-to-door witnessing.

From another perspective, partnership missions has enriched Kentucky Baptists' love for and knowledge about home and foreign missions as Baptist leaders from partnership states and nations have come to Kentucky to tell what God is doing where they live.

And seen from another angle, it has strengthened Kentucky Baptists' own churches. Volunteers have come home more deeply committed to missions and ministry—in their own churches as well as far-off places.

Led by partnership missions Coordinator Calvin Wilkins, Kentucky Baptists are partners with Baptists in four areas:

■ **Ohio.** Baptists in the Buckeye State are Kentucky Baptists' oldest partners. Ohio and Kentucky Baptists inaugurated their first partnership in 1982.

This relationship became the prototype for partnerships, helping to streamline the process for assessing needs and channeling volunteers to mission fields.

After a two-year break, Ohio and Kentucky Baptists began a new five-year partnership in 1990. Goals include starting 10 churches per year and strengthening 50 churches annually.

■ **Utah-Idaho.** Baptists from these two western states joined hands with Kentuckians in 1990.

A key component of the partnership is the establishment of link-ups between Kentucky's district associations and associations in Utah and Idaho. The arrangement mirrors the larger partnerships, and provides more opportunities for associations to focus on meeting specific needs.

Utah-Idaho Baptists live out their faith surrounded by Mormons. It's an area where minority status makes life and ministry difficult for many Baptists.

■ **Eastern Kentucky.** This is the area of the state where Baptist work is especially difficult.

Partnership ministry in the area is an outgrowth of the 1985-90 Mission Kentucky emphasis, designed to start 400 new churches or places of worship. The second phase of the endeavor is to continue through 1995.

■ **Brazil.** Work with Baptists in Espirito Santo has been a gigantic focus of the partnership program since the relationship began in

1990. In fact, the challenges have been so great that the partnership was extended a year, to conclude this coming Dec. 31.

Kentucky Baptists have joined with their Brazilian brothers and sisters to construct buildings and to conduct revivals, leadership training, Christian social ministries, student ministry, English teaching and music ministry.

The Brazilian partnership is the one that needs the most volunteers for this year, Wilkins reported.

"In the Utah-Idaho, Ohio and eastern Kentucky partnerships, we're pretty well leveling out on the projects," he said. "As soon as

requests come in, I have churches lined up to go help them.

"But volunteers are coming in slowly for Brazil right now. We especially need workers for construction/evangelism projects this spring."

The partnerships provide excellent opportunities for individuals, churches and associations to get directly involved in missions and to make an impact on people's lives, he stressed.

For more information, contact Wilkins at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433; phone (502) 244-6462.

How You Can Help

If you know the difference between a hammer and a Bible, you could be a two-week missionary.

Kentucky Baptists' partnership missions program is desperately seeking volunteers to participate in a late-spring construction/evangelism project in Espirito Santo, Brazil.

"There's a lot of feeling right now that folks have done what they're going to do in Brazil and kind of holding back," said Calvin Wilkins, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions coordinator.

The hesitancy may be explained by this being the last year of the Kentucky/Brazil partnership, but Wilkins urged Kentucky Baptists to continue to support the partnership through

its conclusion in December.

The most pressing need is for 30 volunteers to participate in a construction/evangelism project May 27-June 6. Other projects include:

■ A Baptist Student Union musical group, May 27-July 31.

■ Teaching English as a second language, May 27-July 31.

■ A team of youth, who will minister through music and drama, June 17-30.

■ A handbell choir, June 17-30.

■ Construction/evangelism, June 17-30, July 15-28, Aug. 5-18, Sept. 24-Oct. 6 and Oct. 21-Nov. 3.

■ Revival teams, Sept. 2-15 and Nov. 18-Dec. 1.

For more information, contact Wilkins at the KBC.

Direct Missions Touches Every Area of Kentucky

To borrow a line from a gospel song, little is much when the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department is in it.

Although the department's Louisville-based staff includes only four people, its influence is felt in nearly every nook and cranny of Kentucky's 39,674-square-mile territory.

"We have a small staff because we ought not be heavy on administration here," explained Bob Jones, department director. "We try to put all our emphasis on helping local churches and associations out there."

The direct missions staff, working in conjunction with associational directors of missions, offers resources for nearly every aspect of mission work done in Kentucky, Jones noted.

"We help train, inspire and challenge churches to do missions work," he said. "We work with churches, associations and other entities in every phase of missions work in carrying out the Great Commission in Kentucky."

For example, the department

works with churches and associations in:

- Church starting.
- Church/community ministry.
- Language missions.
- Migrant ministry.
- Resort/recreational ministry.
- Building loans and grants.

In recent years, the department has been heavily involved in Mission Kentucky, a statewide church-starting effort. Since 1986, Kentucky Baptists have started 393 new congregations through this emphasis, approaching the goal of 400 new works.

Emphasis now is being placed on helping existing churches see the potential in sponsoring new congregations or satellite ministries in multihousing complexes, Jones said. Multihousing includes apartments, condominiums, mobile home parks and other places where people live in close proximity.

While an increasing percentage of Americans are living in multihousing settings, statistics show multihousing residents are less likely to attend church than people who live in single-family housing.

"Home Mission Board research shows 95 percent of these people don't attend anybody's church," Jones explained. "We need to reach those people."

Jones and department associate Tony Hough are preaching the need for multihousing ministry everywhere they go these days. They want to enlist dozens, maybe even hundreds, of churches to catch the vision for starting new congregations targeted specifically to multihousing residents.

Another prominent area of the department's work is in Eastern Kentucky, a "relatively unchurched area" where some counties have only one Baptist church and some associations have no director of missions.

Just how the KBC will work in that region in the future is currently under review since the death of Ross Figart, the KBC's longtime mountain missions director. Jones and other KBC workers have been meeting with Baptists who live and minister in Eastern Kentucky to get their assessment of how things ought to be done there.

"We've asked for needs from the grass-roots and then prioritized them," Jones said.

Initial conversations have revealed dozens of priority needs in Eastern Kentucky, Jones reported. Among the top five are securing a mountain missions director, developing stronger churches, developing stronger associations, equipping directors of missions and establishing new congregations.

Although not as well-known across the state, the other emphases of the direct missions department also are vital, Jones said.

For example, Kentucky Baptists now have congregations worshipping in 12 languages other than English every week. And migrant ministry is growing rapidly, due to the fact 80 percent of Kentucky counties now have migrant workers, Jones said.

Also, the 25-year veteran of state mission work said he is encouraged by a trend in churches to place greater emphasis on ministry. "I see churches are doing more by way of ministry at the local level than ever before."

ANNUITY

Three Critical Tax Issues for Ministers and Churches

One month remains in this year's tax filing season. Below are three areas that need careful attention by ministers:



1. For income tax purposes, ministers should report their church income as an **employee**, not as self-employed. Generally, a minister is considered an employee for income tax purposes if the church has the legal right to "hire" or "fire" and to control what the minister does. This is true whether or not the church actually

exercises such control. A church should report the minister's income on a W-2 form, not a 1099 form. The minister then reports taxable income on Line 7 of the 1040 form. The IRS is increasingly enforcing this position. A number of ministers who reported their church income as self-employed have been required to correct this by filing amended returns. **Will this increase one's taxes?** If ministry-related expenses have been deducted, a minister will lose some and, possibly, all of this deduction. A significant increase in tax liability is possible. An accountable reimbursement plan for ministry-related expenses can avoid this problem. Another important issue with significant tax consequences: For a church to provide insurance coverage and retirement benefits on a tax exempt basis, the minister must be treated as an employee for income tax purposes.

2. Housing must be reported for SECA (Self-Employment Social Security). This includes the rental value of a church provided home and any of the home's utilities paid by the church. Upon IRS examination, if a minister has failed to include these, then significant taxes, penalty and interest may be due. A minister's housing is, by definition, an "exclusion" for income tax. Thus, there is no requirement that it be included on a W-2 form. However, a minister must include all housing on the self-employed form in computing Social Security. Any *unused housing* must also be added to taxable income using line 22 of the 1040 form.

3. Non-employee income must be reported on schedule C. Even though the minister should report church income as an employee, most ministers will also have non-

employee income. This includes payment (honoraria, "love gifts", etc.) for such things as weddings, funerals and revivals. The fact that an individual or church has labeled such income as a "love gift: does not exclude it from taxable income. IF it is for "services rendered," it is taxable income. It must still must be included on the minister's schedule C where expenses incurred in earning that income are also deducted. The net amount is then transferred to the 1040 form.

There may be other notable tax issues for ministers. However, the above three have been identified as critical for the unique tax status affecting ministers and churches.

For further assistance and/or to receive a free tax guide for ministers and churches, contact Don Spencer, CFP and director, Annuity Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40243

MINISTER/CHURCH SUPPORT

Welcome to Kentucky Event Provides Helpful Orientation to New Ministers

Louisville's **Melbourne Heights Baptist Church and the Kentucky Baptist Building are the sites for *Welcome to Kentucky, April 19-20***

Orientation events planned are a dinner banquet, introductions to staff and its programs plus a tour of the Baptist Building

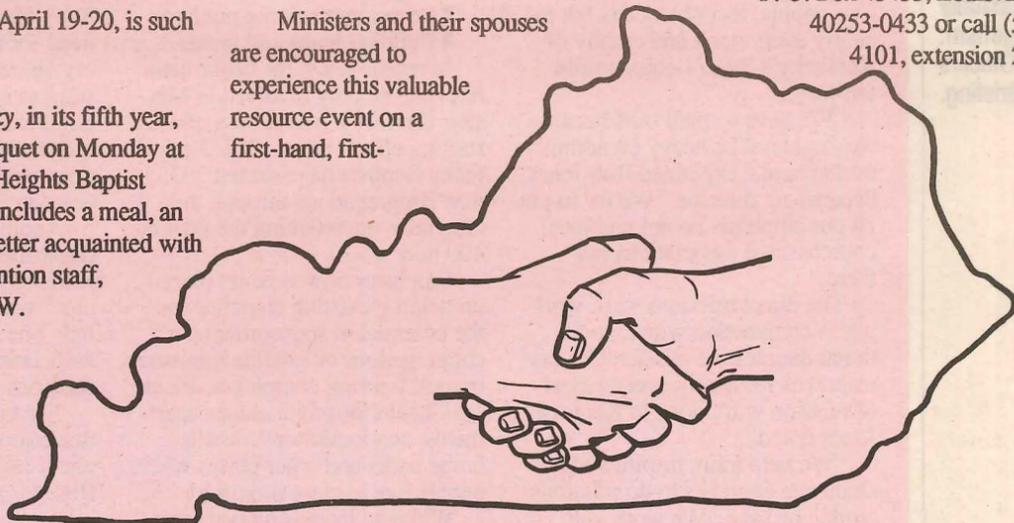
The Kentucky Baptist Convention staff feels it is important to say "hello" and extend welcome greetings to ministers as they begin in their first church as well as those ministers who have recently moved from another state to a church in Kentucky. *Welcome to Kentucky*, scheduled for April 19-20, is such an event.

Welcome to Kentucky, in its fifth year, begins with a dinner banquet on Monday at Louisville's Melbourne Heights Baptist Church. The fellowship includes a meal, an opportunity to become better acquainted with Kentucky Baptist Convention staff, remarks by Dr. William W.

Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer, and a mini-concert by the Kentucky Baptist Singing Women. The event concludes on Tuesday morning by an orientation with staff and a tour of the Baptist Building in Middletown.

Ministers and their spouses are encouraged to experience this valuable resource event on a first-hand, first-

person acquaintance. Invitations are sent to those known to be new and/or beginning ministers. Interested individuals who have not received a letter should contact Guy Futral, Minister/Church Support Division, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433 or call (502) 245-4101, extension 243.



EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

FAMILY MINISTRY

Children and the Church Conference is April 21-23

"Children and the Church," an April 21-23 conference event at downtown Louisville's Galt House, will offer 25 workshops and eight professional tracks, providing a forum for those who minister with children and their families, whether in local congregations or in agencies supported by churches.

Participants will be helped to:

(1) identify and explore their common theological foundation for ministry with children and their families; (2) continue their own development as church leaders in specific ministries with children and their families and (3) learn strategies and skills for working together across professional and societal institutions.

Conference topics include children and divorce, rearing responsible children, family resource programs, the faith development of children, a theology of caring for children and other related topics. The eight professional tracks scheduled are church weekday education, family ministry in the local congregation, family resource programs and community centers, Christian education, parenting and grandparenting. Leaders in the family ministry in the local congregation track are the Kentucky Baptist Convention's John Lepper, director, Family

Ministry Department and Chip Miller, director, Sunday School Department and his wife, Nancy. The first half of the track will deal with a general review of the variety of crises families face, how they function during the crisis and ways churches can provide a ministry to them. The second half of the track will focus on AIDS and how this crisis affects families.

"Children and the Church" keynote speakers are Marian Wright Edelman, president and founder, Children's Defense Fund; James Fowler, Candler School of Theology, Emory University; Hedda Sharapan, associate producer, "Mister Rogers's Neighborhood" and Diana Garland, director, Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Registration cost, including two breakfast meals and two lunches, is \$100; one day registration, with breakfast and lunch, is \$55.

The conference is jointly sponsored by the Gheens Center for Family Ministry, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Family Ministry and Sunday School departments and other agencies.

For more information call (502) 897-4315.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Commissioning Service to Recognize 81 College Students Serving in Summer Missions

April 3 - 7:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Madisonville

Kentucky Baptists are invited to attend the 1993 Summer Missionaries' Commissioning Service, scheduled on Saturday, April 3, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Madisonville. The service will recognize 81 college students who will be serving as summer missionaries.

Most of the summer missionaries, appointed by the Home Mission Board or by the state, will serve in the United States; between 10-20 will serve overseas in such places as Brazil and Botswana. Areas of service are varied, from evangelism to music, resort ministries to creative ministries and Backyard Bible Clubs to inner city one-on-one witnessing.

Five Kentucky Baptist Student Union ministry teams are also included in the April 3 commissioning service: SonBurst, creative ministries; Son Celebration, music; Son Bound, sports; Son Praise, revival and SonShare, drama.

Dr. William W. Marshall, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive secretary-treasurer, will give the charge at the commissioning service.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST STUDENTS
Serving Around The World



DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

May 7-8 Highview Baptist Church Louisville, Kentucky

Discipleship Training programs can impact the ministry within your church! Cynthiana Baptist Church is just one example of church growth possibilities resulting from an enriching Discipleship Training program within its ministry.

"Not only did our Sunday evening class attendance improve, but we had fifteen complete the Experiencing God LIFE course, most of whom had never been a part of any Discipleship Training course ever!"

"Indeed the Lord has richly blessed us through Discipleship Training! Our people appear to be more hungry for true discipleship than ever before!"

William Allen England, Minister of Education
Phil Loesch, Discipleship Training Director
Cynthiana Baptist Church

INFORM

Inform Kentucky Baptists of Discipleship Training programs that focus on teaching/ preaching; evangelism; nurturing and service.

INSPIRE

Inspire churches to begin a Discipleship Training program for all ages or strengthen existing programs to meet the needs of people.

INSTRUCT

Instruct key leaders how to implement Discipleship Training program in the total ministry of the church.

State-wide
School of Discipleship



CHURCH GROWTH & ADMINISTRATION

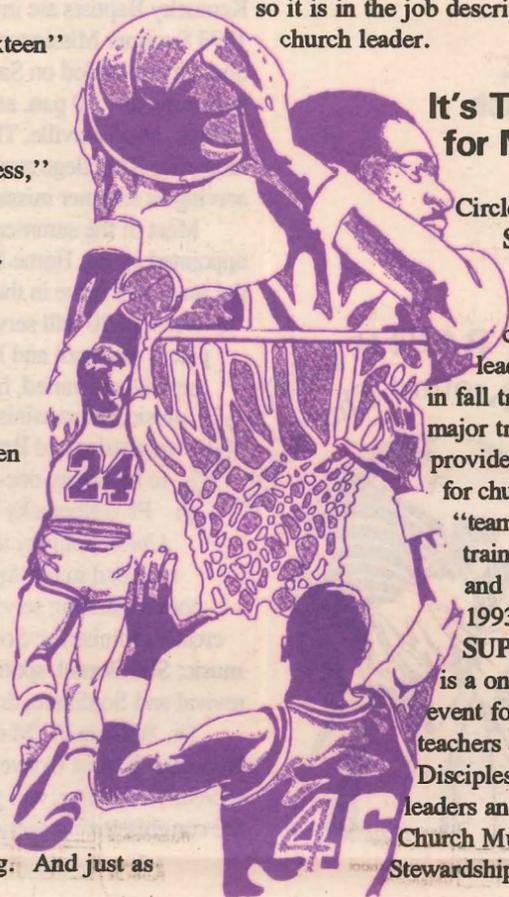
Super Saturday Conferences: the Key to a Winning Team

Develop Your Skills as a Team Player

With the "sweet sixteen" just completed and movement toward the NCAA final four just ahead, "March madness," "March mania," or a hundred other phrases describe the electricity around us this time of year. Imagine the planning, physical training, preparation, psychological energy, and practice it has taken to perform under the game pressure and arrive at the final four level - an excellent example of high payoff resulting from well executed leadership.

Church leaders are well acquainted with the necessary energy it takes in praying, planning and preparing. And just as

recruiting and training continues to be a major portion of a coach's responsibility, so it is in the job description of the church leader.



It's Time to Plan for Next Season

Circle a **SUPER SATURDAY** date on your calendar to involve the church's teachers, leaders, and workers in fall training. This major training event will provide an opportunity for church leadership "teams" to receive training, information and motivation for the 1993-94 season. **SUPER SATURDAY** is a one day training event for Sunday School teachers and leaders, Discipleship Training leaders and workers, all Church Music leadership, Stewardship committees,

Family Ministry leaders, Media workers, Pastors and Staff.

Know the Game Plan

(1) Select a Super Saturday near you; (2) Recruit current leadership and new workers; (3) Coach your team to participate; (4) Between March and August watch the *Western Recorder*, monthly *EVENTS* issues, and direct mailed

promotional material for details.

1993 Super Saturday Conferences

- Aug 14 Bowling Green - Eastwood Baptist
- Aug 21 N Kentucky - Burlington Baptist
- Aug 28 Lexington - Immanuel Baptist
- Sep 11 Ashland - First Baptist
- Sep 18 Mayfield - First Baptist
- Sep 25 Corbin - Central Baptist

Registration information may be obtained from the Church Growth and Administration division office. Use the request form on the back of this issue.

Improve Your Associational Leadership Skills in One Day

Associational Officers' Briefings
 May 1 - First Baptist Church, Madisonville
 May 15 - First Baptist Church, Winchester

Church Music Directors

Veteran and new directors will receive training to meet specific current needs. Strategies for "Effective Planning," "Time Management," and "Creative Publicity" will be offered.

Discipleship Directors

Discover how the LIFE Support courses heal the hurts of people. Investigate the resources for developing disciples and assimilating new church members in the local church.

Moderators

Frank Dorris, DOM Warren Association, will give practical answers to, "Now that I am Moderator, what am I supposed to do?"

Pastoral Ministries

Vernon Cole, KBC, will provide conference

topics and techniques which directors can use to encourage, train, and challenge church leadership (ordained and lay) to extend hope to the hopeless.

Stewardship Directors/Treasurers

Knowing the resources in budget promotion and financial stewardship development will assist churches to be better stewards of financial resources. Doug Strader, Delores Baugh and Rick Robbins are the conference leaders.

Sunday School Directors

Chip Miller, Mike Harmon (5/1), and Glen Cummins (5/15) will share how the new outreach series provides great emphasis for associational training. Conference content meets the needs of directors attending ASSIST training and those who cannot.

Reservations and details are available through the Missions/Evangelism Division office, KBC.

CHURCH MUSIC

Make Exciting Summer Plans for your Children--Send Them to Music Camp

Children's Music Camp Cedarmore Baptist Assembly July 19-23

Join 150 other campers, counselors and staff for our annual Children's Music Camp!

Activities

Campers will enjoy each action-packed day, with activities beginning at 7:00 a.m. through 10:30 p.m. Camp activities include:

- Large camp choir experience of learning a musical, as well as several other anthems, to be presented in final concert for parents and guests on Friday morning
- Two daily classes in music theory
- Two daily classes in which children will learn to play the recorder, handbells, choichimes, or Orff instruments (xylophone-type instruments designed by Carl Orff to help children experience music through a sense of ensemble playing)
- An instrumental group for all who have had at least one year of

experience playing in their school band or orchestra

- Talent show and skit night (based on tryouts at the beginning of the week)
- Fun with music and worship around a campfire, and a time for arts and crafts
- Recreation and swimming



Sherrie Lawhon

Registration

Campers must have completed fourth, fifth or sixth grade by June 1993. The fee for campers is \$79.00 for the week, which includes 12 meals, lodging for four nights, insurance and music materials. The registration deadline date is July 14. Check the appropriate box on the back of KBC *EVENTS* to receive a registration form or call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Music Department at (502) 245-4101, extension 325.

Camp Director

Sherrie Lawhon will serve as choir director for Children's Music Camp. She is a graduate of Belmont College and is presently nearing completion of her doctoral degree in musical arts from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sherrie and her husband, Dan, serve at Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church. She is music assistant and director for the young musician's choir; he is minister of music.



Join the fun!

EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ASSISTeam Training Provides Help for Associational Growth through Sunday School

April 16-17
First Baptist Church
Madisonville

ASSISTeams (Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Teams) are a proven force in increasing attendance, enrollment, outreach, baptisms and ministry through the Sunday School.

Basic ASSISTeams have leaders to train Sunday School directors, outreach/evangelism leaders, secretaries (all general officers), adult workers, children's workers and preschool workers.



The Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday School Department and the Baptist Sunday School Board offer all expense paid training annually for all ASSISTeam members.

Plan now to attend the April 16-17 trainer institute at First Church, Madisonville. Contact Jeff Hicks, associate, KBC Sunday School Department, (502) 245-4101 for additional information and motel reservations.

Growth Spiral Conference Teaches Tools for Balanced Church Growth

May 11
Gardenside Baptist Church
1667 Alexandria Drive
Lexington

WHO will reach them?
 WHEN will they reach them?
 HOW will they reach them?

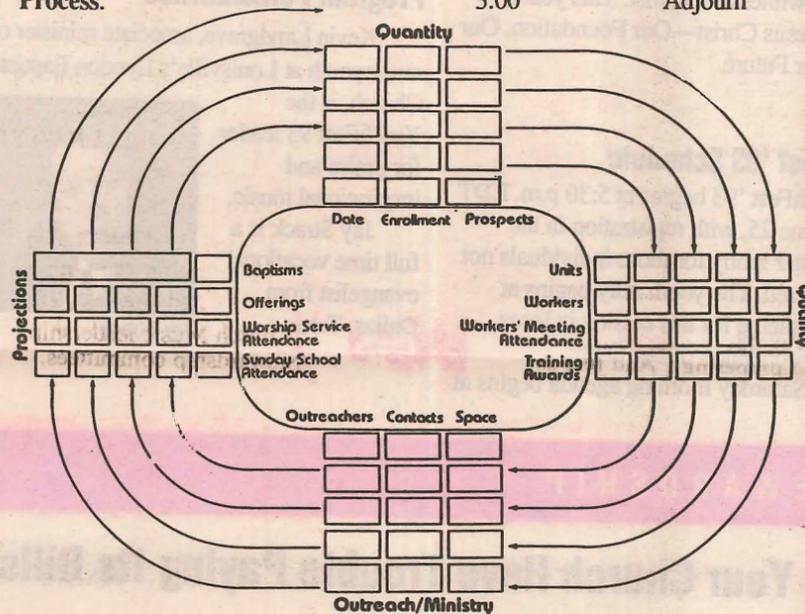
We know why we are to reach the lost and the hurting, but WHO, WHEN and HOW?

The WHO is you!
 The WHEN is now!
 The HOW is the Growth Spiral Process.

Come and experience a tool for balanced church growth. Our objective is to reach lost people for Christ. Our method is involving lost people in life changing Bible study.

The Growth Spiral Conference leader is Jerri Herring, a growth consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The conference agenda is:
 8:30 a.m. Registration; coffee and donuts
 Session I
 9:00 Lunch (on your own)
 11:30 Session II
 1:00 p.m. Adjourn
 3:00



Make Tracks to an Associational VBS Clinic



Graves County

May 3
 Hickory Baptist Church
 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Ohio River

April 26
 Dyer Hill Baptist Church
 7:00 p.m.

Pike

May 3
 Pikeville
 First Baptist Church
 7:00-9:30 p.m.
 May 4
 Pikeville
 First Baptist
 9:30 a.m.-noon

Ohio Valley

April 27
 Bethany Baptist Church
 6:30 p.m.

Crittenden

April 26
 Crittenden Baptist Church
 7:00 p.m.

Caldwell/Lyon

May 3
 Eddyville
 First Baptist Church
 7:00 p.m.

Enterprise

April 29
 Prestonsburg
 First Baptist Church
 7:00 p.m.

Blood River

May 3
 Benton
 First Missionary
 May 4
 Murray
 Elm Grove Church

Christian County

May 3
 Concord Baptist Church

Greenup

May 13
 Highland Hills Baptist Church
 7:00-9:30 p.m.
 May 20
 Flatwoods
 First Baptist Church
 7:00-9:30 p.m.

Mt. Zion and South Union

May 10
 Williamsburg
 Main Street Baptist Church
 6:30 p.m.
 May 11
 Corbin
 Hopewell Baptist Church
 6:30 p.m.

Ten Mile

April 26
 Glencoe Baptist Church
 7:00-9:25 p.m.

Owen County

May 1
 Owenton
 First Baptist Church
 7:00-9:25 p.m.

EVANGELISM

YouthFest '93 Challenges Youth to Reach Out for Christ

An estimated 6,000 people are anticipated in attendance at YouthFest '93, the annual youth evangelism conference sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Office for Evangelism. The

Frankfort Civic Center is the site of the June 25-26 event.



YouthFest '93 is a youth rally which encourages youth to follow

Jesus Christ as well as become a witness for Christ. This year's theme is Jesus Christ—Our Foundation, Our Focus, Our Future.

YouthFest '93 Schedule

YouthFest '93 begins at 5:30 p.m. EDT Friday, June 25, with registration in the Civic Center lobby for those individuals not pre-registered. The youth rally begins at 7:00. The theme for this session is Jesus Christ—Foundation of our Faith.

The Saturday morning agenda begins at

9:00 with registration in the Civic Center front lobby, followed by the YouthFest rally at 9:30. This session's theme is Jesus Christ—Focus of our Witness.

The Saturday afternoon session begins at 1:00. This rally's theme is Jesus Christ—Hope for the Future. A "See You at the Pole" challenge also occurs. This is a youth evangelism follow-up strategy involving youth in praying for a positive witness for Christ on their respective school campuses. Thousands of middle school, junior high and high school students are encouraged to join the student-led "See you at the Pole" prayer meeting 30 minutes before school starts this September 16.

Program Personalities

Kevin Landgrave, associate minister of music youth at Louisville's Lyndon Baptist Church, is the YouthFest '93 leader for praise and inspirational music.

Jay Strack is a full time vocational evangelist from Dallas, Texas.



Jay Strack

NewSong, a contemporary Christian music group composed of Bobby Apon, Eddie Carswell, Billy Goodwin and Eddie Middleton, is from Atlanta, Georgia. The WORD recording group's title track from "Light Your World" (1989) peaked at number two on both adult contemporary and inspirational contemporary Christian music charts. Other hits in their career include "What Goes Around," "Arise My Love," "Trophies of Grace," and "Forever King." The group has performed with Sandi Patti, Larnelle Harris, Russ Taff, Carman and Jim Murray (formerly of the Imperials).



NewSong

Paul and Nicole Johnson, Brentwood, Tennessee, are dramatists who provide a contemporary delivery of the gospel in worship.



Paul and Nicole Johnson

Connie Goins, a Frankfort layperson, is a former Miss Kentucky Basketball and a member of the 1982-1986 Duke University Blue Devils women's basketball team. She is presently a systems engineer for Kentucky Retirement Systems.

SonShare is a Kentucky Baptist Student Union drama team; Son Celebration is a Kentucky Baptist Student Union music team.

Registration

The pre-registration fee of \$4.00 per person is valid until June 10; a \$5.00 per person conference late registration fee will be charged at the door during the event.

To pre-register, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Office for Evangelism, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 330.

STEWARDSHIP

Does Your Church Have Trouble Paying Its Bills?

People, including some Christians, live carelessly. They are careless with their finances, an important and necessary part of life. Unfortunately, financial problems sometimes occur in churches, too.

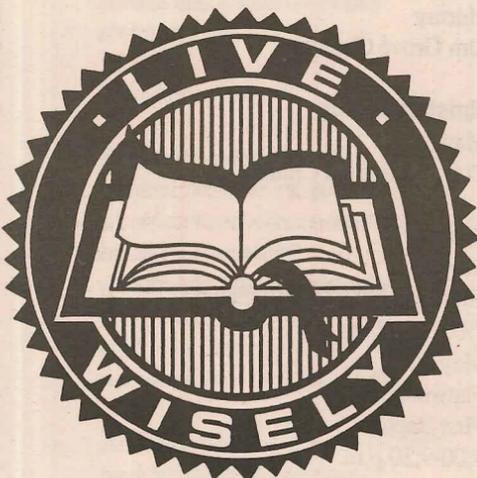
The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Stewardship Department offers your church assistance in these financial areas: church budget, budget promotion, stewardship development and money management. A presentation can be custom-made for a particular church situation. Your congregation can learn about estimating income, determining expenses, developing a church budget, keeping accurate and simplified budget records for ministries, among other topics.

These Stewardship Department consultants are available to assist you—

- Greg Earwood, pastor, First Church, Murray
- Delores Baugh, lay person, Sevens Valley Association
- Allen Baugh, lay person, Sevens Valley Association
- Dan Garland, pastor, Zion Church, Henderson
- Bill Simmons, minister of education, Calvary Church, Lexington

- Gayle Toole, pastor, Edgewood Church, Nicholasville
- Rick Robbins, director of missions, Blackford/Breckinridge Associations

For more information about church stewardship, contact us at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Attention: Doug Strader, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 335.



FOUNDATION

Ministering to Many Needs

One of the clearest teachings of the Bible is that we are to minister to human need in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who set the example for His followers with the service which He rendered to others.

As you seek to live God's Word and minister to others, you have an ally in your Kentucky Baptist Foundation. The mission of this Baptist agency is to support the ministries of Kentucky Baptists by serving as a channel for funds which are managed by the Foundation for worthwhile Kingdom causes. These funds are established by concerned Christians just like you. Your Kentucky Baptist Foundation can help you give support to critical needs like these:

- **Missions** - Support of local, home and overseas missions is possible through gifts administered by your Baptist Foundation.
- **Your local church** - Your own local church may be designed as a beneficiary of a fund established through your Baptist Foundation.
- **Christian social ministries** - Through various financial instruments, you may also assist children, the elderly or others who are unable to help themselves.

- **Students, colleges and schools** - Because of the rising costs of education, our Baptist students and educational institutions need scholarships, endowments and other forms of financial aid. This may be arranged conveniently through your Baptist Foundation.
- **Specialized ministries** - Aid for struggling churches, language ministries, church planting in targeted areas—all these needs and many others can be addressed by gifts channeled through your Baptist Foundation.

Proper estate planning can provide assistance for mission causes that are important to you and can save tax dollars. For more information about the services of your Kentucky Baptist Foundation, call the Foundation's office at (502) 245-4101, extension 205.

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

EVENTS

CEDARMORE ASSEMBLY

A Glance at a Nontypical Weekend

The Telephone Conversation

It was the week of February 22 and the telephone conversation went something like this:

Patsy: Good morning, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. This is Patsy.

Dan: Good morning, Patsy. We're really looking forward to our choir retreat this weekend. But... they say we're in for a big snow storm. What will we do?

Patsy: We will have everything ready; you just bring your people.

Dan: But, Patsy... we live in Louisville. Those roads to Cedarmore are crooked and there is a steep hill down to Boone Lodge where we will be staying.

Patsy: Don't worry, Dan. Herschel, Sam and Greg work hard to clear roads on campus and Bro. Barnes keeps in contact with our county and state road departments. They have promised their assistance.

Dan: I believe you are trying to tell me not to cancel our retreat and to come on.

Patsy: You've got it! Martha and I have all the registration work

done. Judy, Florence and Lucille have all the rooms cleaned.

Margaret, Margie and Cecelia have the menus planned. And Allen will be washing dishes.

Dan: Sounds as though everything is in our favor. We'll see you Friday night!

Patsy: Great! This is Herschel and Ann's weekend off so Bro. Barnes and Laverne will be waiting to greet you. Hope you have a wonderful weekend.

The Events

Two groups came Friday evening. The adult choir (47 people) arrived by coach and stayed until 2:00 Saturday afternoon. The second group, 27 youth, braved winter conditions in vans and cars and remained until after breakfast Sunday morning.

The Results

Roads were cleaned. High snow piles lined the roads and walks. The people came. Fun was had by all. Easter music was learned by Dan's choir. James' youth retreat included lots of meditation and prayer time. Snow balls were thrown. Snow men were built. And lives were changed.

Nothing hinders a great retreat at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. Call 502/747-8911 for more details.

JONATHAN CREEK ASSEMBLY

Affordable, Scenic, Nice Facilities: An Opportunity You Can't Miss

You plan your event too well to use anything less than the facilities and services available at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly.

Location

Jonathan Creek is three miles west of Aurora, Kentucky in the heart of one of the nation's finest recreation areas. The assembly is just minutes from Tennessee Valley Authority's Land Between the Lakes.

Accommodations

Gray Motel -
48 rooms, accommodating 132 guests
Fully-furnished rooms with private baths
Air conditioning; heat

Waller Dormitory -
Accommodates 114 guests
Bunk beds with baths at end of each hallway

Stewart Dining Hall -
160 seat dining room featuring good food
Gracious service

Shoemaker Chapel -
Seating for 225
Air conditioning
Additional conference space

Lassiter Conference Building -
Conference space for 200
Air-conditioning

For further information contact:

Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly
Attention: Deward Hurst, Manager
Route 1, Box 418
Hardin, Kentucky 42048

SPECIAL DISCOUNT RATE THROUGH APRIL!

Plan your next weeklong camp, overnight retreat or drive-in event with us and receive a special rate.

MISSIONS / EVANGELISM

Associational Officers Briefing Meetings Offer Leadership Training

This year's training sessions:

Western Region

May 1
First Church
Madisonville

Eastern Region

May 15
First Church
Winchester

Each session begins at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m.

An Associational Officers Briefing Meeting, often referred to as an AOB meeting, is a specific training session for elected associational officers. The 1993 AOB meetings are as follows: Western Region - May 1, First Baptist Church, Madisonville; Eastern Region - May 15, First Baptist Church, Winchester. Each session begins with breakfast served at 8:45 a.m. and concludes by 2:30 p.m. Lunch is also included in the one day drive-in event.

The following conferences are scheduled in these leadership areas at each meeting site:

Brotherhood
Clerks
Church Media Library
Church Music
Directors of Missions
Evangelism
Family Ministry

Discipleship Training
Moderator
Pastoral Ministries
Recreation/Youth
Stewardship/Treasurer
Sunday School
Woman's Missionary Union
Missions Development

Leadership training session leaders include personnel from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Baptist Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

A special presentation, Southern Baptist Convention Ministry—Hope for Hurting Humanity, will be given at each 1993 AOB meeting site. June Whitlow, a representative of the Southern Baptist Convention's Woman's Missionary Union,

will lead the May 1 presentation; Beverly Hammack, a vice president in the Missions and Ministries Division at the Home Mission Board, will lead the May 15 presentation. Each AOB attendee will receive a packet of information from the Home Mission Board concerning the presentation topic.

Informational brochures have been previously mailed. If you have not received information about the AOB meeting in your area or you have additional questions, contact your director of missions or Benton Williams, director, Missions/Evangelism Division, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY, 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 236.

Upcoming Events

OTHER EVENTS

Direct Missions

Migrant Ministry Workshops are scheduled in three state regions:

Eastern Kentucky - March 25, First Church, Richmond;
Western Kentucky - March 26, Blood River Associational office, Hardin;
March 27, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

Each workshop begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. A free lunch will be provided at each site.

Nathan Porter, national consultant, Domestic Hunger and Migrant Ministries, Home Mission Board, will serve as moderator.

Tony Aja, ethnic and language consultant, Direct Missions Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, is also a program personality along with other Kentucky directors of missions, pastors, and lay persons.

MARCH

Sunday School

March 27
State VBS Clinic
London First Church

APRIL

Brotherhood

April 16-17
Fishing Tournament
Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly

Church Music

April 16
All Ages Regional Music Festival
Hazard First Church

April 19
Kentucky Baptist Singing Women Concert
Louisville Melbourne Heights Church

April 23
Adult/Youth Regional Music Festival
Lexington Gardenside Church

April 23
Adult/Youth Regional Music Festival
Louisville Westport Road Church

April 23
All Ages Regional Music Festival
Hopkinsville Second Church

April 24
Children's Regional Music Festival
Lexington Gardenside Church

April 24
Children's Regional Music Festival
Louisville Westport Road Church

April 30
Adult Regional Music Festival
Corbin Central Church

Student

April 2-4
Leadership Training Conference and Student Missionaries Orientation
(Orientation is April 3 - 7:30 p.m.)

Madisonville First Church

Sunday School

April 16-17
ASSISTeam Training
Madisonville First Church

April 26
Associational VBS Clinic
Ohio River Association
Dyer Hill Church
7:00 p.m.

April 26
Associational VBS Clinic
Crittenden Association
Crittenden Church
7:00 p.m.

April 26

Associational VBS Clinic
Ten Mile Association
Glencoe Church
7:00-9:25 p.m.

April 27
Associational VBS Clinic
Ohio River Association
Bethany Church
6:30 p.m.

WMU

April 2-4
State Acteens Conference
Paducah Lone Oak Church

April 23-24
WMU Annual Meeting
Harrodsburg Harrodsburg Church

April 24
GA Missions Event
Harrodsburg Harrodsburg Church
9:00 a.m.-noon

MAY

Brotherhood

May 7-8
Lads/Crusaders Conclave/Track Meet
Hardin Jonathan Creek Assembly

May 21-22
Pioneers/High School Baptist Young Men/Baptist Men Conclave/Track Meet
Bagdad Cedarmore Assembly

Missions/Evangelism

May 1
Associational Officers Meeting
Western Kentucky Madisonville First Church

May 15
Associational Officers Meeting
Eastern Kentucky Richmond First Church

CHECK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

For additional information or to register, check the appropriate boxes and mail the provided form below to:
Communications Office, Attn.: Denise H. Withers, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433

To Receive More Information

- Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
- Camps (Specify which one and site)
- Church Music**
- Regional Church Music Festivals

WMU

- Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner
- Acteens Dinner
- Baptist Young Women Luncheon
All in conjunction with WMU Annual Meeting.

To Register

WMU

- Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner
- Acteens Dinner
- Baptist Young Women Luncheon
All in conjunction with WMU Annual Meeting.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Office _____ Home _____

Church _____ Association _____

Leadership Position _____

Registration fee (if applicable) \$ _____ Number in group (if applicable) _____

ISSUES

Scholars see SBC shifts reflecting other U.S. bodies

By Mark Wingfield & Marv Knox
News Director & Editor

LOUISVILLE—Schism within the Southern Baptist Convention is similar to transitions in most American religious denominations, speakers said at a conference on "The American Denominational Future."

However, one pastor supportive of the SBC's new conservative leadership countered that only a "statistically insignificant" number of churches are moving away from the SBC, which he said remains in excellent health despite the declines of other religious bodies.

The March 12-13 conference at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary was funded by the Lilly Endowment and focused on the SBC—America's largest Protestant denomination—as a case study.

The program featured a variety of perspectives on the SBC's past, present and future—including representatives of the convention's moderate and conservative wings, as well as non-Baptist observers.

Yet all speakers agreed the SBC is significantly different today than it was in 1979. Whether that change is a

sign of denominational breakup or merely transition drew different assessments.

Speakers often referred to a shift in the denomination's magnetic "center" to explain the changes that have occurred.

"The denominational center of the SBC was forged in the cultural ethos of the American South and the defeat in the Civil War, as well as through participation in the 'religion of the Lost Cause' and the prevailing racism of the region," said church historian Bill Leonard.

Along the way, that center was shaped by the denomination's successful programs, such as missions, Sunday school and centralized fundraising, added Leonard, chairman of the religion department at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

But "the centrist coalition was so obsessed with avoiding schism and retaining numerical growth that it sowed the seeds of its own demise," he asserted. "By retaining incompatible subgroups, the ultimate destruction of the old center was ensured."

"While something called the 'Southern Baptist Convention' continues to exist, it is merely a shell for

an ever-fragmenting assortment of subgroups each as yet incapable of re-establishing a new center for the denomination or for itself."

The fragmentation that has marked the SBC in recent years came about because members of the convention's right wing "were willing to be divisive if necessary in order to create a theological rather than a programmatic center for the SBC," Leonard said.

Leonard advised SBC moderates who are waiting for the pendulum to swing back the other way to quit waiting. "The pendulum fell off in 1985," he reported.

Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, challenged Leonard's assessment during a pastors' panel later in the conference. At most, the SBC might lose 600 of its 38,000 churches due to distaste for leadership changes, Sutton said, calling that number "statistically insignificant."

"Relatively few people are scrambling for a new center," he said.

What has happened in the SBC is merely a course correction, Sutton said. "The leading center was out of place with the real center."

The "conservative resurgence," as it is identified by its supporters, merely brought the SBC's leadership back in line with the conservative theology of the people in the pew, he explained.

Such a clash was inevitable, according to David Dockery, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dockery said the SBC entered the second half of the 20th century divided between "progressives" in leadership and "traditionalists" in the pews.

Sociologist Nancy Ammerman of Emory University concurred that a perception among grassroots people that the denomination was not functioning well fueled the recent changes. Such an anti-establishment campaign was helped by the fact that "fundamentalists have never been enamored of bureaucracy," she said.

Yet the SBC, like most American denominations, had evolved into a bureaucratic structure where career professionals managed an array of agencies and institutions. These bureaucrats were perceived to be less spiritual than a few well-known pastors whom she described as "popular spiritual leaders" who dominated annual meetings.

'Post-denominational' age emerging but still unclear

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—The American church has entered a "post-denominational" age, but what that era will look like remains to be seen, speakers said during a conference on "The American Denominational Future" in Louisville.

A variety of speakers described American religious denominations as in transition between forms.

"The signs are very clear ... denominations seem to be losing their direction," said Russell Richey, associate dean for academic programs at Duke Divinity School.

However, declaring denominationalism dead might be premature, Richey said, because the concept of denominations has nearly died four times before but lived on in new forms.

Yet Richey and other speakers described a variety of changes facing American denominations. Prominent

among the changes is decreasing denominational loyalty.

"There was a day when if a denominational publishing house offered a program, we just took it and did it," noted D.L. Lowrie, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, and former executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. "There was no competition."

"But today, every agency of our Southern Baptist Convention has a competitor," he added, noting the options available to local churches are increasing rapidly.

Further, many denominations have lost the common purpose around which diverse people united in the first place, Richey said. "Denominations are losing their adhesive factor."

Other reasons speakers cited to explain the decline in American denominationalism included:

- An erosion of regional cultural uniformity, such as the South exerted on the Southern Baptist Convention for 100 years after the Civil War.

- The influence of para-church groups.

- The rise of megachurches, which function as denominations unto themselves.

- The denominational shift toward "regulatory agencies" which focus on rule-making, indicting and forcing adherence.

- The change in America from a rural-based to an urban-based society.

- Greater abilities to communicate among churches, nations and people.

- The desire of modern churchgoers to support local missions causes them to see and do themselves rather than sending money for someone else to do missions somewhere else.

A likely alternative to denominationalism is an entrepreneurial model, where congregations shop for options, said Jim Brown, executive director of the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Or churches might affiliate through "functional associations" rather than geographic associations,

Fellowship's future as a model called uncertain

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Can a new religious movement, such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, survive in a post-denominational world?

Only if it remains flexible and sensitive to needs, participants in a conference on "The American Denominational Future" were told.

The closing decades of the 20th century have been hard on denominations, speaker after speaker said during the conference, sponsored by the Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism and American Culture.

But the Fellowship—created two years ago by Southern Baptist moder-

ates disenfranchised by their convention's rightward shift—is a model of what denominations might look like in the future, said Nancy Ammerman, a professor of the sociology of religion at Emory University in Atlanta.

But how the Fellowship defines itself in the coming months will determine its viability as a model, she said.

Two conservative forces are vying to keep the Fellowship from becoming a new model, Ammerman explained.

The first force is from people who want the Fellowship to retain its identity as a caucus within the Southern Baptist Convention, she noted.

The second force is from people who want the Fellowship to recreate

the "good ol' days" of the SBC, a model she called "SBC Jr."

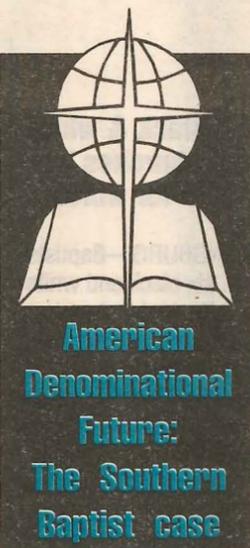
Ammerman noted the whole spectrum of American organizational development is moving toward options. She suggested the Fellowship would do well to:

- Offer specialized, flexible services to churches.

- Use computer technology to match specific needs with specific services.

- Assume laypeople have the skills to develop church programs to meet their needs, rather than imposing pre-packaged programs on them.

- Work in coalitions and networks with other religious bodies rather than trying to do everything itself.



OVERHEARD

"Five years ago, I would have said missions is the glue that has held Southern Baptists together. Now, I realize it was trust."

William O'Brien, former executive vice president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board and now director of the Global Center at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School

"The compromises required for reunion in denominations are so great that the institutions created usually won't work."

Jim Brown, an executive with the Presbyterian Church (USA), which in 1983 reunited three groups that had been separated since the Civil War

"What's amazing is not that (denominations) divide, but that they stay together so long."

David Harrell, history professor at Auburn University

"Not every religious body is afflicted with this sense of having lost control. Only those which had a sense of control can mourn its loss."

Sociologist Nancy Ammerman of Emory University's Candler School of Theology

"Many of the issues Southern Baptists debate are not issues among black Baptists. Such issues are debated among people who have the luxury of not having to struggle to survive."

Kevin Cosby, pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville

Blacks' role in the Bible overlooked, some scholars say

Black & white churches join for worship

GREENSBURG—Baptists from six black and white Kentucky churches worshiped together Feb. 21 at Greensburg Baptist Church in Greensburg as a living illustration of Race Relations Sunday. "The Lord didn't die for just one color," said Greensburg Church's pastor, Ty Clenney. "He died for all of us." That message was driven home by Lincoln Bingham, who preached to the more than 400 people in attendance for the special service. Bingham, pastor of St. Paul's Baptist Church in Louisville, has worked for years to coordinate efforts between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and General Baptist Association. This is the third year for Greensburg Baptist Church and the black churches of Mount Zion Baptist Association to hold a joint service to mark Race Relations Sunday. Other churches participating this year included Greensburg Second Baptist Church, Jacob's Grove Baptist Church, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Pleasant Run Baptist Church and Mount Union Baptist Church.

Continued from page 1

traditions have created the impression that the Bible is primarily the foundational document of "the white man's religion," Felder said.

Failure to teach about the black presence in the Bible has caused many African-Americans to defect to Islam, which some bill as the natural religion of black people, McKissic said.

"The Muslims teach that Christianity is the white man's religion," he said. "But I've proven that there were Christians in Africa 400 years before Mohammed (the founder of Islam) was born," McKissic said.

While disputing McKissic's conclusions, many respected white scholars agree that the African role in the Bible has been given short shrift.

"I think it's true that not enough attention has been paid to blacks in the Bible, mainly because of Christianity being so strong in Europe," said biblical antiquities expert William Tolar.

Bible characters have been "Europeanized" when they were neither white nor black but of various Middle Eastern hues, said Tolar, vice president for academic affairs at Southwestern Baptist Theological Semi-

nary in Fort Worth.

Artists in Europe painted biblical scenes, such as da Vinci's "The Last Supper" showing pale disciples eating with a white Jesus. "We need to say these aren't Anglo-Saxons, but we need objective, serious scholarship not slanted toward blacks or whites."

Warning against putting a racial stamp on Bible interpretation, Tolar added: "Whether you are black or white, you need to be honest about what the Bible says and not read too much or too little out of these texts."

Both secular and religious scholars are finding greater evidence that Africa was the home of the earliest civilizations, McKissic said.

Much of the argument for a greater black presence centers on the biblical kingdom of Cush, which was named for one of Ham's three sons. The area is now known as Ethiopia and Somalia.

Black biblical scholars contend that the black presence in Egypt was pervasive, and indeed many Egyptian paintings in tombs show black people, believed to be Nubians from the area of Cush.

Tolar and other scholars question the premise of McKissic and some

other biblical scholars that Ham, one of Noah's three sons, was black.

"I don't think Noah and his wife had one black, one yellow-skinned son and one white," Tolar said.

But that was the standard teaching 100 years ago. After the flood, some Bible scholars said, Noah and his wife had three sons who established the white, yellow and black races. "Ham was (said to be) the black," Tolar said.

"And some taught that the curse on Ham justified slavery. But that's been totally repudiated."

Tolar gives more credence to the argument that one of Ham's sons, Cush, founded the land of Cush.

Some use the fact that Cush was black to say Ham had to be black, too," Tolar said. But he believes diet and climate may have caused those in Cush to develop darker skins.

Blizzard affects state churches

Continued from page 1

literally all over the church."

Red Cross volunteers were on hand, and church members helped provide sandwiches for a meal that night, the pastor said.

By Sunday night, the number at the church had grown to about 350, Dunaway said, including one family that had been stranded for 17 hours.

"Although it was a devastating experience for people, this really became a significant ministry," Dunaway said. He called it a "community project," one that included volunteers from Piney Grove Baptist Church, First Methodist Church and a Church of God congregation.

A worship service was held Saturday evening and on Sunday, when the pews weren't being used for sleeping, Dunaway said. "This is probably the first time some people slept in church without feeling guilty."

At the other extreme of the winter crisis were Kentuckians traveling east and south last week—particularly college Baptist Student Union groups on spring break mission trips.

For example, 15 students from the University of Louisville never reached their ministry destination site of Morganton, N.C.

BSU Director Angela Perkins, reporting in periodically to Kentucky Baptist Convention's student department, explained that they left March 12 and traveled as far as Canton, N.C., before they were forced to stop at a motel.

They spent two nights in Canton, and then after a seven-hour trip to travel 15 miles to Asheville, they spent two nights in a police station conference room.

Although the students were unable to carry out plans to minister at a prison in Morganton, the KBC student department reported, they made the most of their resources.

While stranded in Canton, the Louisville team met fellow Kentucky BSU students from Morehead State University in Morehead, also stopped by the snow. The two groups provided a worship service and puppet show Sunday morning for fellow travelers.

Meanwhile, other Kentucky churches and church members found ways to minister on a smaller scale in their particular areas.

■ In Prestonsburg, Pastor Mike Taylor shoveled snow off sidewalks for senior adults at Prestonsburg Baptist Church.

■ Gene Davis, a deacon at First Baptist Church in Allen, used his garden tractor to remove snow from driveways and back roads.

■ A pastor of an independent Baptist church near Williamsburg rode a mule to church so he could preach in morning worship.

■ Ashland's First Baptist Church provided a cassette tape of a previous worship service to the local radio station and set up a network for contacting shut-ins and older members by telephone.

A more distant chilling effect of the blizzard likely will be evident in Kentucky Baptist Convention finances, said KBC Business Manager Barry Allen.

"Generally, if people don't go to church, they don't give," Allen said, noting the minority of tithing members who will give regardless of weather or attendance.

Consequently, one Sunday's drop in offering plate receipts eventually could mean less money for the KBC's Cooperative Program unified budget. That's because most churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts to the KBC, and empty offering plates mean smaller slices of the denominational pie.

Editor Marv Knox contributed to this story

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Planning ahead

Many of us spend more time planning our annual vacation than we spend planning our financial future. SuEllen and I recently decided that we needed to learn where we really are. Are we prepared for an accident or long-term illness? Do we have the resources to send Andrea and Jason to college? Will we have the resources we need at retirement? Are our wills current and do they say what we want them to say?

Though I must confess that we have done more exciting things, I do not believe we have ever done anything more important for our family's future. A friend of mine was injured in a car accident over a year ago. He was hospitalized for 11 months before his death in January. What if that had been me? We learned that our long-term disability policy would not be nearly adequate to keep us going; that we had too much life insurance and it was going to get more expensive; that we needed to save a lot more to send Andrea and Jason to college.

More recently I attended the Stewardship Commission's annual conference in Nashville. Again I was struck by how people need to plan. So many individuals, many

with wealth, have no will. They are leaving important decisions to a judge who will have no idea of what they valued in life.

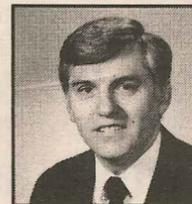
Even with a will, many people with significant wealth will cause their families to pay thousands in estate taxes. Perhaps you plan on your children inheriting your business. It would be a shame if they had to sell it to pay the taxes. By special agreement before your death the estate could have passed to them through a charitable lead trust.

As interest rates drop many people on a fixed income are finding it harder to make ends meet. They might consider a gift annuity. Perhaps they have some highly appreciated stock on which they would have to pay capital gains taxes.

Whatever your circumstance, take time to see where you are and where you need to be. In the parable of the talents the master honored the servants who knew what they had and what to do with it. For more thoughts on financial planning or your will, call 1-800-456-1386 or write to the address below.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

WOMEN

Act where you can and trust God for rest, women told

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—Rising above negative emotions and reaching maturity requires acting on that which can be controlled and trusting God to take care of the rest, two Southern Baptist counselors said.

Dorothy Sample, a counselor and consultant from Flint, Mich., and Rebekah Land, counselor and coordinator of the Trilogy Program at Parthenon Pavilion in Nashville, led conferences on depression and negative emotions during the first National Christian Women's Enrichment Conference March 5-7.

A woman whose faith is anchored in God can come at the challenges of life with confidence, "but it's not easy," said Sample, former national president of Woman's Missionary Union.

"We have to learn to do the part that is ours and not try to control the part that is God's. I think we grieve the Holy Spirit of God when we don't use the resources he gives us to take control of our lives. The more we know God, the more we understand ourselves and life," she said.

When dealing with depression, Land urged women not to try to solve the whole problem at once.

"Narrow your focus and find some place to start," she said. "It may be a small place. Focus only on the things that are in your control. The good news is God only holds you accountable for your part."

For example, Land said depressed Christians often find praying difficult.

Instead of not praying, "the better thing to do is tell God you don't feel like talking to him, but that you're open to letting him work with you. Not working on the things you can control will lead to depression."

Sample listed three groups of negative emotions that create problems for Christians:

■ Anxiety, worry and fear—emotions often caused by a person's inability to control something.

■ Depression, loneliness, guilt and grief—dark emotions that require turning the focus from oneself to others.

■ Anger, resentment and bitterness.

Land said depression is no respecter of persons—age, sex, educational level, Christians and non-Christians. Depression most often starts in the late 20s. While everyone experiences some types of short-term depression, more serious types require treatment, she noted.

Symptoms of depression, Land said, include a sad mood, loss of interest in life, change in appetite, change in sleep patterns, fatigue, change in perspective, feelings of worthlessness, diminished ability to think and concentrate, and thoughts of suicide.

One of the difficult things about

depression is that it feeds on itself, Land said. For example, Christians often begin to feel guilty for being depressed and consequently get more depressed.

"Is depression a sin?" Land asked. "No. Can sinful behavior lead to depression? Yes. These are not the same things."

Abuse—physical, sexual, emotional—often brings on depression, Land said. "God didn't make us to absorb abuse."

Land and Sample agreed that the unwillingness or inability to forgive others can lead to negative emotions,

including depression.

"If someone has hurt us, everything in us wants not to forgive them," Land said. "Forgiveness is not choosing to nurture my anger so I can get on with my own life. Forgiving someone and saying what they did is OK are not the same thing."

Sample listed five steps to forgiving others:

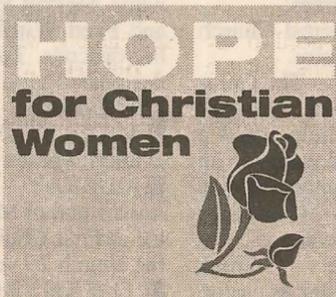
■ Accept the principle that every person is accountable to God.

■ Own your own sin in the relationship.

■ Try to understand the other person's perspective and look for good in the person.

■ Choose to accept what you cannot change.

■ Choose to relate to the person as if the sin had never occurred.



'Super Woman' not the answer

Continued from page 1

life, she said. "F" is for "fear the Lord." It's easy to read the description of a godly woman found in Proverbs 31 and get stressed out, Gray said. "But as I read this, I find there is not so much an emphasis on what she does as there is on who she is—how she chooses to live out her faith."

In America today, a greater emphasis is being placed on what women accomplish than on who they are, Gray said.

"We're so caught up in what you (are)," she continued. "If you think success in this material world is found in what you are, you are sadly mistaken. But as you discover who you are as a woman in God, you can take off the cape."

■ BELOW: Four women recognized as 1993 Christian Women of Excellence at the conference are Edna Hill of Lawton, Okla.; Mary Broyles of Milan, Mo.; Miriam Owens of Pueblo, Colo.; and Daphne Strickland of Greensboro, N.C. (BP photos by Deborah Griffin)



■ ABOVE: Liz Minnick, a trustee of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, speaks about the dangers of pornography during a conference seminar.

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KENTUCKY KERNELS

Nationwide, the number of children reported abused or neglected has nearly tripled since 1980. In Kentucky, there were 56,181 reported cases of child abuse and neglect in 1992.

Source: Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ AUBURN—Auburn Church called Gary Hughes as pastor. Hughes previously served First Church, Maysville, for more than five years.

■ BELTON—Gerald Dukes has resigned as pastor of Forest Oak Missionary Church.

■ CAMPBELLSVILLE—Acton Church called James W. Jones as pastor.

■ CORBIN—Lynn Camp Church called Andy Reese as interim pastor.

■ EASTWOOD—First Church called Dan Birchfield as pastor.

■ EMINENCE—Eminence Church

called Charles Westrick as minister of children/youth. Westrick also teaches fifth grade in the Eminence Independent School System.

■ FRANKFORT—Hillcrest Church called Tom Troth as pastor.

■ GRANITE CITY, Ill.—The Community Care Center seeks a ministry construction team to help build a clothing center and food pantry in an inner-city location. Contact Denise Wright at (618) 876-8770 or (618) 877-0028 for more information.

■ GRAYSON—Wolfe Creek Church called Lee Gussler as pastor.

■ JEFFERSONTOWN—West

Broadway Church recognized five deacons March 21. Thomas Howard was installed as an active deacon, while Merrill Heath, Steve Adams and Fred Winfield were designated life deacons. Tommy Brannin, also designated a life deacon, was honored posthumously.

■ MIDDLETOWN—Eldred Taylor is interim pastor at First Church.

■ MURRAY—Tom Moody will retire the end of March as assistant pastor at First Church. He has served at the church 26 years.

■ OWENSBORO—Marietta Pendleton, the oldest living member of Sorgho Church, celebrated her 94th birthday March 13.

■ PAINTSVILLE—First Church called Drew Martin as pastor.

■ PRESTONSBURG—Jennings West retired as pastor of Lancer Church. Cohen Campbell has been called as interim pastor.

■ REYNOLDS STATION—Stewart R. Hines, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, died suddenly Feb. 17 of a heart attack. He had served 30 years as pastor of Kentucky Baptist churches, mostly in Ohio County Baptist Association. Hines, 77, is survived by his wife, Rachel, and two daughters.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—Bullitt Lick Church called Eddie Reynolds, of Hustonville Church in Hustonville, as pastor. Earl Bell had served the church as interim pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Church pews: 58-8', 9-9' oak with blue padded seats; pulpit, 3 chairs, table, and fiberglass baptistry; available in May, call Red House Baptist Church, (606) 623-8471.

FOR SALE: 32 used Schulmerich handbells, 2 octaves plus, 3 cases, \$3,750. Louisville, J. Berrien Minter (502) 459-3223.

CHURCH CAMPS & RETREATS: Laurel Lake Baptist Camp; affordable rates, new pool and more; (606) 528-3522.

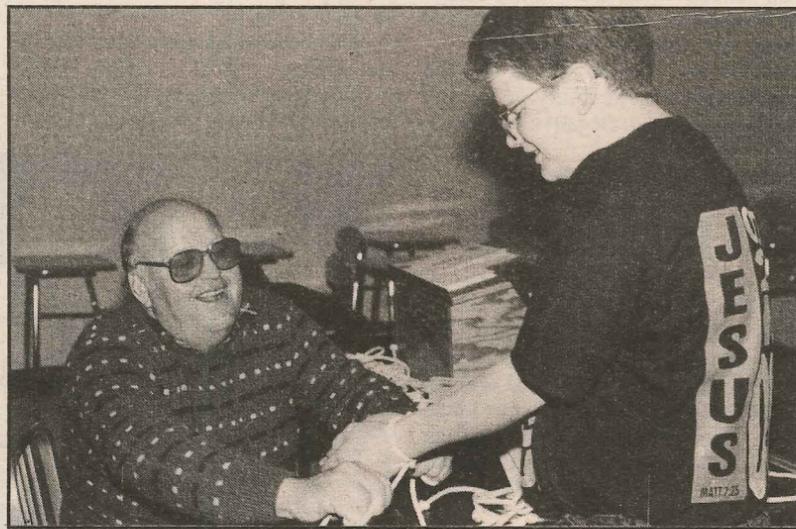
FOR SALE: Baldwin (No. 2153) church organ with speaker. Sebree, Ky. (502) 835-2354.

EXPRESS: SBC-Houston; includes airfare, Holiday Inn rooms, shuttles. From Louisville June 13-17; \$480 per person. Call (502) 477-2379.

TOURS: New York City, June 16-21; Nova Scotia, July 6-20; Renfro Valley, Aug. 19; Branson, Mo. Aug. 30-Sept. 2; Pennsylvania, Oct. 12-15; 7-night Caribbean cruise, Nov. 27; Gatlinburg Christmas, Dec. 7-9. Contact Bill Ditto, 1409 Delmar Ln. Louisville, Ky. 40216, (502) 366-9496.

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

IN A KNOT Janus Jones, director of missions for Mount Zion and South Union Baptist Associations, ties a handcuff knot for Matthew Rieffer of Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg during the regional RA Congress Feb. 27 at Cumberland College in Williamsburg.



Beautiful wedding in the blizzard of '93

Jim Mallard and wife, Mary Ann, both dedicated Christians and lifelong public school teachers, came to teach science and Spanish at Oneida 10 years ago. With the graduation of their youngest of four children from high school, they took a \$28,000 cut in annual income and sold their house where their three sons and one daughter grew up, each working their way through college.

As I had spoken in their home church, each had felt the call of God to full-time Christian service at Oneida. Neither had been aware of Oneida before that morning. Five years later, true to their call, they came to render faithful service.

Nearly four years ago it was discovered that Mrs. Mallard had cancer. She fought a brave battle, always smiling, and was confined to a wheelchair the last two years of her life, dying a year ago.

During her long illness, still carrying a full teaching load, Jim Mallard made the words of their wedding vows taken 36 years before her passing come alive—"in sickness and in health, till death do us part." Mrs. Mallard never spent a moment in a nursing home and very few days in a hospital.

Over two years, scores of our students and staff, family members and friends, were with Mrs. Mallard day and night when Jim could not be. Nearly every day until two days before her death, Jim took care of her and brought her out to attend church, ballgames, whatever was happening.

She was blind her last year, yet when the congregation sang, Mary Ann mouthed the words she no longer could see—learned and loved and sung throughout a lifetime of Christian devotion and worship. Literally scores responded and reflected back that love to Jim and Mary Ann until

she quietly died in her campus home.

This past Sunday, in the midst of the great blizzard of '93, Jim again made his wedding vows to a new wife who came as a nurse 22 years ago. A great Christian lady, never married before, Tressa has ministered in more homes in our county than any person in the history of the county.

Even the wedding practice had to be cancelled the night before the wedding because of the terrible weather. Road conditions prevented her parents and eight brothers and sisters from arriving. Three of the Mallard children were stranded on the highways, yet the wedding took place in our chapel as scheduled.

Several hundred were able to get into the building because 65 of our male staff had worked many hours shoveling snow to clear campus sidewalks and roads for the Sunday services as well as classes on Monday.

The day before the great snow we had replaced our wornout chapel instruments with a new grand piano and organ.

The wedding ceremony of 100 minutes was a worship service with the focus on Jesus Christ, not on the bride and groom as is customary. Appropriate Scriptures were shared, the congregation sang "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" and there were four solos and a sermon on Jesus and his bride, the Church. The couple repeated their vows without ministerial prompting and sang together the old hymn, "Lord, We Are Fondly, Earnestly Seeking to Serve." The preacher pronounced them husband and wife.

Who, present, can forget?

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

Paid Column

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Football player follows new game plan

"That basketball referee looks like a football player." The comment fits 6'4", 245-pound second-year student Jack Helton who referees for our winter intramural league.

After high school in Columbus, Ohio, Jack entered Kent State on a full football scholarship. He later tried out for the Cincinnati Bengals, but "they had three bigger, more experienced tight ends."

Through the influence of an older brother, Jack trusted the Lord at age 12 and became active in the church youth group. When his brother married and moved away, Jack became spasmodically involved. Fifteen years later he and his father-in-law were paired in a golf game with a pastor and evangelist who encouraged him to try Whitehall Baptist

Church, a new community fellowship. A month later he met another member of the church. The Holy Spirit spoke to Jack through family needs, and he also realized his weak influence as a father. His wife, Ginny, was not saved, and she responded to his decision, "Oh, no, he's going to be a Jesus freak!" She saw it was real and two months later also trusted Christ.

In the growing Whitehall Church, Jack served as deacon, Sunday school director, youth

worker and supplied for the pastor. Isaiah's prayer became his own, "Here am I, send me."

Two days after their visit to Clear Creek his parents moved to Knoxville. It confirmed the Lord's leadership. He has built a stronger relationship with his dad. Jack vividly remembers his first class. "Bible instructor John Ditty commented on the Scripture, the fullness of time. 'You are here in God's appointed time,' he said. At age 35 it was wonderful to realize how God had put together all the strategic pieces."

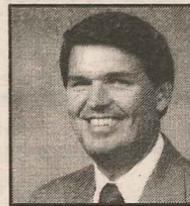
Both of the Heltons have campus workshops. She operates the campus post office, and he works at the family life center. They are busy parents with Carly, 8, Madisyn, 6, and Trace, 17 months.

Do they regret a pro football career didn't come? "It would have been fun for a while, but if he had stayed with football, we probably wouldn't be together today," Ginny observed.

Jack Helton's football background and personality fit the Lord's plan. Men caught in "the system" will find Jack to be an understanding friend whose life demonstrates a better way.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Paid Column

PEOPLE

'Prayer helps,' teen battling bone cancer reports

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

TULSA, Okla. (BP)—Like most 13-year-old boys, Scott Carter loves sports, sports heroes, Nintendo and playing with his friends.

However, since Feb. 4, 1991—the day he was diagnosed with bone cancer in his left knee—the fight for life has been his No. 1 priority.

Carter has faced the battle with determination, a positive attitude, an unflagging sense of humor and the assurance first verbalized by his mother that "God loves Scott even more than we do."

After four months of chemotherapy, Carter underwent 21 hours of surgery in May 1991 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Surgeon James Neff removed the cancerous knee and, in a procedure unusual in the United States, rotated the lower part of the leg and foot 180 degrees and reattached it to the upper part of Carter's leg.

The heel of his foot, now located in front, became his new knee and the ankle, the knee joint. A prosthesis has been fitted over the foot and lower leg, enabling him to become more mobile than other options would allow.

The surgery, practiced more than 20 years in Austria, has been done only about 50 times in the United States because of the unusual appearance of the leg without a prosthesis.

Mike and Paula Carter let Carter make his own decision about the surgical technique. After watching a videotape showing patients who had had the surgery engaging in activities such as soccer, Carter said, "I decided it was the best thing to do because I still wanted to be able to run and jump and play with my friends, play sports and

have a good time."

A year of chemotherapy followed Carter's surgery. In August 1992, only a few weeks after the conclusion of chemotherapy, Carter's cancer recurred in his spinal cavity, necessitating in early September more surgery and plans for radiation and more chemotherapy. In a September update newsletter to friends, the Carters wrote, "what looked like the end of a long road, turned out to be a fork."

Paula Carter broke down and cried when verification came by phone that the cancer had recurred. "Now, mom," Carter said, "we can't be 'un-positive' about this."

During an interview before a trip to Disney World that would be followed by the onset of many more months of therapy, Carter said his faith in God has seen him through the surgeries, therapy and adapting to a prosthesis.

"All of the people praying for me, that helps," Carter said. Eight scrapbooks and another box full of mail bear witness to the prayers and expressions of concern from family, friends and many people Carter has never met. "If I didn't know God, I don't know how I would have gotten through this," he said.

Neither Carter, his parents nor his brother, Cason, or sister, Elizabeth, have spent a lot of time asking God why cancer has come to their home.

Carter recalled a letter from a friend which stated he had never prayed before learning of Carter's illness but now is praying every day. Carter believes the witness of his own faith and experience may be "one of the reasons God allowed me to have cancer—not made me—but allowed."

Mike and Paula Carter see many evidences of God's presence in their

son's life.

"Scott has learned to appreciate life," Paula Carter said. "A lot of people live to be 85 or 92 and never learn to appreciate life the way he does right now."

Also, they see God's grace evident in ways Carter has adjusted to change.

"Before cancer, this was a child who was always fun and easy going, but he didn't like discomfort at all," Paula Carter said. "If I laid out the wrong shirt, it would ruin his day. He dresses purely for comfort, and you tell him he is going to have to have his leg cut off and wear a thing like this molded to his body."

"I look at Scott and it's obvious to me he has received a God-given gift of tolerance because he didn't have it before," she added.

In addition to gifts and mail, Carter has received many additions to his collection of sports memorabilia. A 1988 Los Angeles Dodgers World Series jersey worn by Coach Bill Russell has accompanied Carter on every hospital stay. Russell is a personal friend and member of First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow, Okla., where the Carters are active members.

Carter has football and basketball jerseys from nearby Oklahoma State University, Mike and Paula Carter's alma mater. He sat on the end of the OSU bench during many games of the 1991-92 basketball season. Coach Eddie Sutton gave Carter his souvenir watch from the 1992 NCAA tournament.

Autographs and mementoes from OSU football star Barry Sanders, LA Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, LA Lakers great Magic Johnson, boxing star Muhammad Ali and many others line the walls and shelves of Carter's room.

Carter dreams of opening a celeb-

rity hall of fame, charging admission and giving the proceeds to the Make a Wish Foundation which funds trips and other desires of children with critical illnesses. "When Scott wants something, he usually finds a way to get it," Mike Carter said.

While Carter's focus has been on life, he also has contemplated death. In a recent conversation with his mother, Carter reported he had figured out God's timing.

"If I die before you do, I won't miss you until you get there (heaven) because it will only seem like a couple of minutes in God's time," Carter assured his mother. "It's like a time warp."



HOPEFUL TEEN Scott Carter goes through boxes of cards and greetings he has received from family, friends and people he has never met since he began battling bone cancer. (BP photo by Linda Lawson)

War strands Yugoslavian-born girl away from family

By Lacy Thompson
Louisiana Baptist Message

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—As soon as she said she was from Bosnia-Herzegovina, she had the attention of everyone in the room.

For weeks now, the brutal fighting in the former Yugoslavia region has been headline news. But it was news from far away until Tinka Milinovich entered the room to tell her story.

Milinovich, from the besieged city of Sarajevo, traveled to the United States as an exchange student and has been cut off from her country by civil war. The young music student from Louisiana College in Pineville last talked to her parents in July and has received word from them only three times since.

When she spoke to a luncheon crowd recently, she answered questions about the situation "back home." At times, her voice grew soft and seemed to quiver.

Someone asked if she would like to sing a song from her native country. "No," she said quickly and then again to reemphasize the point. "No."

And she sat down.

Later, Milinovich sat on a blue leather couch in the Louisiana Col-

lege student center trying to make sense of what is happening among her native people.

She repeated two phrases again and again: "It makes no sense" and "I don't know," both expressing bewilderment at the sudden crisis in this 19-year-old's homeland.

Milinovich came to Louisiana as an exchange student for her final year of high school. At the end of the year, she planned to return home for the summer, then come back to Louisiana College to study music.

But the fighting had started in her republic and Milinovich's parents told her to stay in the United States. They sent her money for the first year of college.

It has been many months since Milinovich has seen her homeland. But she remembers it and she remembers the drift toward war that began with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

In time, disputes between Yugoslavia republics led to fragmentation and fighting. "But I was thinking, it'll never come to my republic," Milinovich recalled. "Nobody is lunatic enough to start fighting here."

In the Yugoslavia Milinovich re-

members, differences in people made no difference at least among her friends.

Milinovich said it is hard for her to understand exactly what is fueling the war. "I don't think it's ethnic as much as just some kind of hatred. Maybe there is some ethnic but from the 13th century or something. I don't know."

"My philosophy is we are so equal (that) it doesn't matter. We all have same blood. More or less, we are all connected in some way. What difference is it what name (or ethnic background) you have?"

Milinovich still looks at the fighting from the perspective of a Christian who grew up in a city and a republic evenly divided among Christians, Muslims and Greek Orthodox adherents. For her, Sarajevo always was a mixing ground.

Now, it is a killing ground of sorts and Milinovich says she has a hard time coming to terms with what that means. "It's kind of weird. I'm thinking how it's going to be when I come back home. It's going to feel so awkward going there and seeing all the ruined places. It's kind of scary because when I left everything was fine. Now ..."

Overseas relatives attempt to keep

in contact with her family by amateur radio. In November, Milinovich received word her family was all right. But they also said something about men being drafted for the fighting, which causes Milinovich to fear for her 22-year-old brother.

She tells of hearing from a girlfriend who fled with her family to another republic. The friend told of two boys Milinovich knew in Sarajevo, one a Muslim, one a Christian Serb. They were "definitely best friends," she recalled. Now, they are fighting on opposite sides. "It doesn't make sense."

For Milinovich, stopping the fighting seems so logical. "Sometimes I think we are great people but as much as we are great we are ... " Words fail her. She swipes at her forehead in a gesture indicating a people who have lost their minds.

"I mean, who would want to live in war and not have electricity or water? I don't see reason why they still fight. And definitely I think they could clear one region and say, 'Hey, all you Serbs go here and all you Muslims go here and whatever.'"

It seems so right, Milinovich says. But she has little hope of it happening soon.



1993 Girls in Action and Acteens CAMP

JONATHAN CREEK

JUNE 14-18 (GA/Acteens)

JUNE 21-25 (GA)

JUNE 28-JULY 2 (GA)

MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHTS

JUNE 18-19

JUNE 25-26



CEDAR CREST

JUNE 21-25 (GA)

JUNE 28-JULY 2 (GA)

JULY 12-16 (GA/Acteens)

JULY 19-23 (Acteens)

JULY 26-30 (GA)

AUGUST 2-6 (GA)

MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHTS

JULY 6-7

JULY 9-10

JULY 23-24

JULY 30-31

Note: GIRLS DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF GIRLS IN ACTION OR ACTEENS TO ATTEND.