

## FOR THE RECORD

### Third VP quits

A third of the eight vice presidents for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has announced his early retirement, citing differences with FMB trustees. See page 2.

### Sherman on gays

Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, has written a column in which he says homosexuality is a sin which individuals can turn from with God's help. See page 2.

### Lottie sighting

Kentuckian Norma Strasinger says she saw her Lottie Moon Christmas Offering dollars at work when Southern Baptist foreign missionaries came to her rescue in South America. See page 3.

### Fire settlement

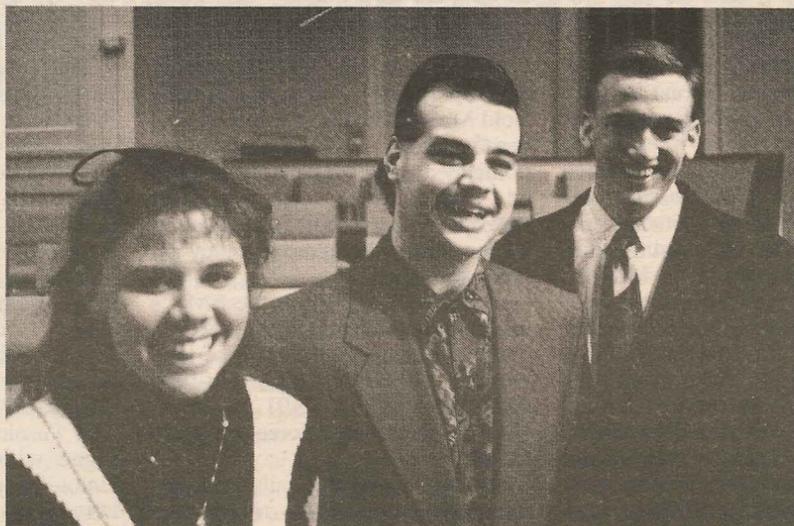
First Baptist Church of Bowling Green has reached an \$8 million insurance settlement to replace its historic sanctuary destroyed in a 1991 fire. See page 3.

### Family Forum

Where is there help for parents to deal with the stress of raising children? See page 4.

### Protestants losing

U.S. Protestant denominations continue to lose members to an ever-fragmenting array of religious preferences, a new Gallup poll finds. See page 6.



**BSU WEEKEND** Baptist Student Union leaders from across the state gathered in Madisonville April 2-4 for the annual Leadership Training Conference and summer missionary commissioning. William W. Marshall, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, delivered the charge to summer missionaries during the commissioning. He urged the students to remember that "someone out there has your name on them ... in whose life you will make a difference." A total of 78 student missionaries were commissioned for service in Kentucky, across America and in several foreign countries. Dozens of others will serve through appointment of the Southern Baptist home and foreign mission boards. ■ Top left: New BSU officers for the coming year are Shannon Howell, Murray State University, secretary; Chad Cadell, Morehead State University, president; and Curtis Barnes, Campbellsville College, vice president. ■ Top right: Jeff McAdams of the University of Louisville receives a hug from his brother during the summer missionary commissioning service. ■ Bottom left: Matthew Robertson of the University of Louisville gets help deciding what size to get when picking up a shirt given to all summer missionaries. ■ Bottom right: Pat Brunner (center), campus minister at Berea College, collects information from two students going overseas as summer missionaries, Stoney Douthitt of the University of Kentucky and Leslie Mitchell of Campbellsville College.

## Kids confront more hazards in Kentucky

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

America's children face increasing hazards in growing up, and children in Kentucky fare worse than children in 31 other states on a composite of key indicators.

That's the finding of an annual report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Center for Social Policy, based in Washington, D.C. The two organizations have collaborated for the fourth year to produce nationwide and state profiles of the condition of America's children. The findings are reported in the "1993 Kids Count Databook."

Although there have been improvements nationwide in the status of infants and young children, the report notes, the risks and hardships experienced by adolescents continue to rise.

The single indicator showing the most dramatic change for the worse in the last five years is the juvenile violent crime arrest rate.

Nationwide, 466 of every 100,000 children ages 10-17 were arrested for a violent crime in 1991. That is a 48 percent increase over the number of juvenile arrests in 1986.

That trend is even worse in Kentucky, showing an 80 percent increase in the last five years. See Children face ..., page 3

## Baptists can be vulnerable to cults, interfaith expert says

Although they've been in the news for weeks now, the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, aren't the only cult that threatens Christian theology, Southern Baptist experts agree.

Interfaith witness experts at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board continually track dozens of cults and sects like the Branch Davidians—cults that often present themselves as part of mainstream Christianity but actually deviate significantly from it.

And while the Branch Davidians have gained notoriety for their shootout with federal officers, the HMB reports dozens of other cults and sects are equally dangerous spiritually, although unarmed with guns.

Southern Baptists often become vulnerable to the false teachings of cults and sects, said Ken James, HMB regional director for interfaith witness based in Manhattan, Kan.

Factors that lead to Baptists being pulled into cults, James said, include Christians unable to articulate their world view, egotistical pastors, cults that successfully present themselves as mainline denominations and children who aren't grounded in the fact that Jesus Christ is God.

In his travels, James said he encounters many Christians who have lost confidence in their ability to make

spiritual decisions for themselves. He contends that while Southern Baptists have emphasized evangelism for the past 20 to 25 years they have neglected helping those converts know what they believe.

"I encourage people to ask themselves the question, 'What is my world view?' and then answer it in such a way that they may be able to articulate it, and not rely on somebody else to do it for them," James said.

Sadly, many pastors are all too willing to tell people what to believe, said James, who was a pastor himself for 25 years. "As a group, no one has bigger egos than pastors."

James recalled that as a young pastor, he was given to pontificating when asked for advice on spiritual matters. "People would stand there amazed that I could expound on that," he recalled. Being regarded with awe feeds a pastor's ego while starving his listeners' confidence in their ability to draw

their own conclusions.

"It's a small step for a religious leader from being a mere spiritual adviser to whom folks turn for spiritual direction, to being a self-styled 'guru' who makes spiritual demands on his followers," James said.

He welcomes the present trend of pastors seeing themselves as enablers—fellow strugglers who have been given a different role in life.

People should never, ever allow another to do their thinking for them, James said. "This is the way Mormons think: When the president speaks, all the thinking that needs to be done is done."

Although small, militaristic groups such as the Branch Davidians attract the most attention, they are not James' main concern. While Davidians captures the spotlight, "a big movement like the Mormons continues to move with the blessing of the populace, and robs men of eternity," he said.



- Arithmetic helps identify cults 7
- Editorial: Violence in the name of God? 5
- Children of God cult back in U.S. 7
- How to talk to people of different faiths 7

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **March gifts** to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program totalled 8.97 percent less than gifts during the same month last year. March gifts were \$11.15 million, short of the \$11.68 million monthly average required to meet the annual unified missions budget. However, year-to-date totals remain close to the target amount needed to reach the year-end goal.

■ **Russian Baptists** will open a seminary this fall, fulfilling a dream of almost a century. The seminary is scheduled to open in Moscow Oct. 1, with 20 students housed in temporary facilities. A proposed campus in the Moscow suburb of Losinka will be about \$1.5 million to construct.

■ **Spring break** evangelism ministries by students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, resulted in more than 450 spiritual decisions in 29 states, three foreign countries and Puerto Rico. The efforts were part of the seminary's spring evangelism practicum.

## Third of eight FMB vice presidents plans departure

RICHMOND, Va.—A third vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has announced his early retirement, citing concerns about the actions of the agency's trustees.

Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for missions personnel, will leave that post June 30, his 62nd birthday.

He follows in the steps of the FMB's vice president for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Islam Ballenger, as well as the vice president for the Americas, Betty Law, who resigned under similar circumstances within the past 15 months. FMB President Keith Parks also retired earlier than planned last year due to differences with trustees.

Spurgeon, a 25-year veteran of foreign missions work, charged FMB trustees no longer base their decisions on what's best for global evangelization but on politics.

In a March 30 letter to FMB Interim President Don Kammerdiener, Spurgeon said he was "grieved to see controversy and political struggle replace missions and evangelism as the main business of evangelists."

He continued: "It grieves me that the question of 'How will this affect world evangelization?' is no longer the deciding factor in decisions made by our trustees."

Spurgeon said he was especially

saddened by the likelihood that Southern Baptists would not reach their Bold Mission Thrust goal of having 5,000 missionaries overseas by A.D. 2000.

"I grieve over the losses we have suffered because of the trustees' pre-occupation with being politically correct," he said. "We have lost trust between staff and trustees and between staff and staff. We have lost the freedom to discuss issues openly without fear of reprisal. We have lost heart. ... We are rapidly losing our integrity."

Spurgeon, a missionary to Taiwan from 1957-72, oversees departments handling enlistment, selection and training of new missionaries and volunteers. Also in his portfolio are missionary furlough study, missionary health and board relationships with children of missionaries, former missionaries and black and ethnic Baptists. He has been in his current role 10 years.

Both Kammerdiener and trustee Chairman John Jackson praised Spurgeon's work with the FMB but said they disagreed with his assessment of current affairs.

Jackson refused to discuss specifics of Spurgeon's charges against trustees. "Although I disagree with his assessments, it would not enhance the work of the kingdom to enter into an open discussion of the trustees' inter-

pretation of his complaints," he said.

Kammerdiener said he agreed with Spurgeon's assessment that the Bold Mission Thrust goal is a "casualty" of the denomination's political struggles. However, he added, "I would not focus on one side of the controversy. I think war is caused by two sides who agree that they are going to battle."

From 1988 to 1989, the FMB's missionary force fell from 3,867 to 3,780, a 2.25 percent drop. The total climbed 2.19 percent to 3,863 in 1990 and rose to 3,906 in 1991. However, last year the mission force fell again to 3,893.

Spurgeon said this failure to permanently advance the missionary force is due to an at least perceived rejection of moderate candidates.

"In theory, our board will still appoint missionaries from the broad spectrum of Southern Baptists," he noted. But many young candidates "are convinced either that they cannot be appointed or that they would not be comfortable serving with a board with such a single-minded political agenda," he said.

Spurgeon's letter cited several examples of trustee decisions he felt were politically motivated:

■ An October 1991 action to cancel funding promised to the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon,

Switzerland.

■ Not appropriately affirming Parks' leadership through 1995 as Parks had asked.

■ Allowing trustees to bring their own candidates for staff positions, when FMB policy states trustee committees are to select such staff based on recommendations by the president.

■ Plans to hire a secular consulting firm to study the effectiveness of the agency's organization, an action that will cost "hundreds of thousands of dollars" and "appears to have little to do with missions."

■ Turning a February 1993 dialogue with Woman's Missionary Union leaders into a "tense confrontation."

Spurgeon pointed out that WMU has helped the FMB raise more than \$1 billion for missions in the auxiliary's 105-year history. "If the board had acted in the interest of our missionaries and world evangelization, they would have strongly commended the WMU for their tireless and sacrificial efforts on behalf of missions and sought ways of continued cooperation," he said.

Spurgeon said he has made no decisions about his future plans.

*Reported by Mary Speidel of the FMB through Baptist Press and Robert Dilday of Virginia's Religious Herald through Associated Baptist Press*

## Masonry critic wants more

BEAUMONT, Texas—The Southern Baptist critic of Freemasonry who said March 17 he would "spend no more time on the matter" now has called for trustees of the Home Mission Board to renounce their agency's study of Masons.

That demand brought a sharp retort from HMB President Larry Lewis, who said he is confused by the actions of Larry Holly, a Beaumont, Texas, physician.

"Dr. Holly expressed support for our report last week, calling for it to be approved overwhelmingly and pledging to 'spend no more time on the matter,'" Lewis said March 29. "Now, less than a week later, he is apparently calling for additional action by our board."

Upon instruction from messengers to last June's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, the HMB prepared a report and recommendations on Freemasonry's compatibility with Christianity. Messengers acted on a motion made by Holly.

Those documents, approved by HMB trustees March 17, find that some elements of Freemasonry are "incompatible with Christianity" but that individual Baptists should be allowed to make their own decisions about whether or not to be Masons.

Holly endorsed the recommendations to the convention at that time, saying he hoped messengers to this year's annual meeting in Houston would approve the report so the SBC could "move on."

However, in a March 22 letter

sent to HMB trustees and Baptist newspapers, Holly said he isn't satisfied after all. The recommendations approved by trustees are acceptable, Holly wrote, but contradict the more detailed study done by HMB staff, which he does not like.

While the trustee recommendations point out contradictions between Freemasonry and Christianity, Holly said, the HMB staff study casts Masons in a much more favorable light.

"The contradiction between your recommendation and the staff study has the HMB giving an 'uncertain sound,'" he wrote.

Lewis disagreed. "I don't see that there is any contradiction whatsoever" between the study and the trustee action, he said. "In fact, most of what is in the (trustee) report is in the larger study, even the very wording in many instances. The trustees had every opportunity to reject the study ... but no such action was taken."

Lewis said Holly's distinction between the staff study and trustee report is unfounded, since staff and trustees were involved in both. The trustees' administrative committee reviewed the study "line by line" before approving it, Lewis said.

Trustee chairman Brad Allen of Duncan, Okla., agreed the trustees had adequate input into the study and added, "I don't see contradiction and I'm pleased with the study."

*Compiled from Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press reports*

## Fellowship administrator says homosexuality is 'sin'

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Homosexuality is a sin, and homosexuals should be told God can change their orientation, says the top official of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Cecil Sherman, Fellowship coordinator, spelled out his views in his regular column in the April 1 issue of the moderate newspaper *Baptists Today*.

While Christians should oppose homosexuality, Sherman wrote, they should do so in "the spirit of Jesus." He predicted the Atlanta-based Fellowship will not appoint gays as missionaries.

Sherman's column represents the first time a Fellowship official has taken a public position on homosexuality. While the issue has gotten a lot of attention among Southern Baptists in the past year, the Fellowship, a group of moderate Southern Baptists, has tried to avoid the controversy.

"The Bible teaches homosexuality is a sin," Sherman wrote, and gays who argue otherwise "twist" Scripture.

"God made woman for man. God made man for woman. The Bible does not give mixed signals on this subject."

"Those who defend the homosexual (by) using the Bible are poor interpreters who are more into American culture than they are into Bible intention," he said.

Moreover, Sherman wrote, "gays can change."

"The argument that 'God made me

this way' is out of step with what we preach," he said, noting the message of the gospel is "we can be changed." That applies to the homosexual as much as to the adulterer, who would not be excused from the gospel's demands by claiming "God made me with a wandering eye," Sherman said.

In his column, Sherman emphasized his comments represent his own opinion and not an official statement from the Fellowship. "I hope CBF will not make 'a subject' on this subject," he added.

Sherman chose to address the controversial issue in his column, he said, because of the continuous stream of phone calls and questions he receives on the topic. While the inquiries may reflect genuine interest in the issue, he said, "a few people may want to discredit CBF by suggesting we are 'soft on homosexuality.'"

But Sherman said local congregations, not national and state Baptist bodies, should decide what churches should do about homosexuality.

Sherman said Christians should seek "the spirit of Jesus" in dealing with homosexuals and avoid gay bashing.

"It is the way of too many Christian people to hold the homosexual up to scorn," he wrote. "We almost take some strange pleasure in beating up on the gay community."

He cited Jesus' treatment of the woman caught in adultery as a worthy example. Jesus identified her lifestyle as sinful but still had compassion for her, Sherman wrote.

## Bowling Green church settles fire claim

By Marv Knox  
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—Nearly 18 months after fire destroyed its historic sanctuary, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green reached a settlement of almost \$8.4 million with its insurance company.

The \$8,375,480 settlement represents the largest single loss and claim in the history of Church Mutual Insurance Co., which insures 54,195 churches and related institutions, reported Russ Leyk, the company's vice president for claims.

First Baptist trustees accepted Church Mutual's settlement offer April 1 and announced the agreement to the church April 4, reported Pastor Richard W. Bridges. The church plans to break ground for a new sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 11.

Construction will begin the next day and is expected to take 15 months, Bridges said.

An October 1991 blaze destroyed First Baptist's sanctuary, which was built in 1913. The church now worships at Bowling Green Junior High, a few blocks from the church's downtown facilities.

Stanley Meeks, chairman of the church's trustees, expressed relief that the insurance negotiations are complete.

"It's been a long procedure, but everything is moving in the right direction," Meeks said. "The trustees are pleased that we got a good settlement. The Lord was in the process and took care of it in his time."

"People in our community and across the state have been concerned that so long a period has gone by since the fire with no construction begun," Bridges added. "These last months have been spent in careful negotiation to document the extent of the church's loss."

"We are grateful that our people have had the patience and perseverance to see the task through to this happy conclusion. Now we turn to the task of opening the door to a new century of ministry as a downtown church." The new building is to be reminiscent of the previous structure, known locally as the "Great White Temple."

The original was constructed of Warren County limestone, while the new one will be masonry with stone columns and facades, Bridges said. Like the former building, the new one will have a vaulted dome ceiling. The seating capacity will be the same, 1,500, but will be designed to accommodate both traditional and contemporary worship styles.

## Kentuckian saw Lottie Moon at work

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

FORT THOMAS—Norma Strasinger said she saw Lottie Moon in South America.

At midnight Jan. 21, Strasinger arrived in Colombia, South America, desperately hoping to find her husband, Bill, alive after a medical emergency separated the Northern Kentucky couple during a Panama Canal vacation cruise.

Having spent three frightful nights on an island where she knew no one and where language barriers prevented her from communicating, Strasinger, 69, had worked frantically to reach Colombia and her husband.

When her plane finally touched down in Cartagena, Colombia, Southern Baptist missionary Jeni Hester was waiting for her.

"I've seen Lottie Moon at work," Strasinger said, comparing Hester to the 19th century missionary to China whose name is remembered through Southern Baptists' Christmas offering for foreign missions.

Serving as a nurse in Colombia, Hester had been notified through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board of the emergency situation and had arranged to meet the Kentuckian and help her locate her husband.

Hester and two other medical missionaries, Sandi Gustin and Kay Brown, spent time with the Strasinger

ers, translating reports from the doctors and finding a safe place for Norma Strasinger to stay until the couple could return to the United States Jan. 28.

"I felt safer after that," Strasinger said. "I don't know what I would have done without my missionaries."

The couple's trip had gotten off to a poor start Jan. 12 when they were late arriving in Acapulco, Mexico, to meet the cruise ship. Their luggage was left behind, Strasinger said.

But after only one day of the cruise, more serious problems developed. Bill Strasinger became ill, and ship doctors' attempts to treat the problem failed to offer any reprieve.

The situation became so severe by Jan. 18 that he was air-lifted to the Colombian Naval Hospital in Barranquilla, Colombia.

However, space did not permit her to accompany her husband on the emergency trip. Instead, she said, she was "dumped off" at the island of Curacao in the Dutch Antilles.

Telephone calls to Kentucky resulted in a flurry of activity. Strasinger explained how her daughter, Karen Orrender, called Gerald Sharon, pastor of Highland Hills Baptist Church in Fort Thomas. Sharon, in turn, spoke with an FMB representative. The FMB notified Hester, who had just returned from furlough.

That network of assistance was bolstered by prayer.

## Children face more hazards in Kentucky

Continued from page 1

years. However, Kentucky's rate of 246 juvenile arrests per 100,000 youths still is below the national average.

The second-worst trend nationwide and in Kentucky is an increase in percentage of births to single teen mothers. Nationwide, 8.7 percent of all births were to single teen mothers in 1990, a numerical increase of 16 percent from 1985.

Again, the percentage increase during this time period was greater in Kentucky than in the nation. The number of births to single teen mothers jumped 26 percent in Kentucky, to a level of 9 percent of all births.

Kentucky also followed the national trend with increased rates of violent deaths among teens and the percentage of children being raised in single-parent families.

Nationwide, the number of teens killed violently increased 13 percent from 1985 to 1990, just 1 point higher than Kentucky's increase of 12 percent.

The percentage of children living in single-parent families nationwide increased 9 percent from 1985 to 1990. In Kentucky, that ratio increased 11 percent. As of 1990, 24 percent of Kentucky's children were living in single-parent families.

Other worsening trends in Kentucky include the death rate for children ages 1 to 14, up 2 percent, and the percentage of children graduating from high school, down 1 percent.

The percentage of babies born at low birthweights remained relatively unchanged in Kentucky.

On the positive side, Kentucky fared better than the national average on infant mortality rate. The number of infant deaths in Kentucky decreased 24 percent from 1985 to 1990, better than the national decrease of 14 percent.

Kentucky and the nation also registered advances in fighting child poverty and in decreasing the number of teens neither in school nor in the work force.

The percentage of teens neither working nor in school decreased 11 percent in Kentucky and 6 percent nationwide.

The number of children living in poverty decreased 7 percent in Kentucky and 4 percent nationwide. However, the percentage of Kentucky's children living in poverty (22 percent) still remains above the national average (19.8 percent).

When all 10 factors used in the Kids Count study are averaged, Ken-

"I had five churches in Kentucky praying for me, or I would have never made it," said Strasinger, a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Newport. "Miracles do happen, and I'm just so thankful we're OK."

Strasinger's biggest concern, she said, was the medical attention her husband was receiving.

His condition was diagnosed as peritonitis—an inflammation of the abdominal cavity—and required immediate surgery. By the time she reached him, he was recuperating.

The hospital was "ancient," she said. "They were 20 years behind in medicine. They wheeled him around in a rickety, wooden wheelchair, ... and used this rusty, beat-up I.V. stand by his bed. ... But it was all they had."

And it must have been enough, because later reports from the Strasingers' doctor in Kentucky indicated the Colombian physicians had done an excellent job.

Strasinger said her husband's spirits are high now. He is anticipating surgery April 12th to complete the procedure begun in Colombia.

Of her new missionary friends in Colombia, Strasinger said, "They get along on so little, and do so much, and expect nothing in return. I tried to pay them for all they did, but they wouldn't let me. They just said, 'This is your Lottie Moon dollars at work.'"

"So, I'm going to raise my Lottie Moon giving this year."

## BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Cumberland College** will host a Big Gospel Concert Saturday, April 24, at 8 p.m. in the O. Wayne Rollins Center on the Williamsburg campus. The event will feature the Singing Cookes, Charles Johnson & the Revivers, and the Isaacs. Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$9 at the door. For information, call (606) 549-2200.

■ **A support group** for survivors of clergy sexual abuse will begin at Our Lady of Peace Hospital in Louisville April 7. The group will meet regularly on Wednesdays. For information, call 451-3333 in Louisville or (800) 451-3637 statewide.

■ **"Children & the Church"** will be the topic of an April 21-23 conference at the Galt House in Louisville sponsored by the Gheens Center for Christian Ministry of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and 11 other organizations. Keynote speakers include Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, and Hedda Sharapan, associate producer of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." The conference will include professional tracks on a variety of topics. For information, call (502) 897-4315.

■ **The musical "Annie"** will be staged at Campbellsville College April 22-25. Tickets, which are \$5 each, are available by calling (502) 789-5266.

## Other facts about Kentucky's kids

■ 25.9 percent of Kentucky's population is under age 18, a total of 954,094 youths.

■ 2.8 percent of children ages 5-17 do not speak English at home.

■ 57.2 percent of women with children under age 6 are in the work force while 68.2 percent of women with children ages 6-17 are in the work force.

■ The median income of families with children is \$26,864.

■ 38.4 percent of families head-

ed by single mothers receive child support or alimony.

■ 16.7 percent of children have no health insurance.

■ 10.7 percent of all first-time births are to mothers with less than 12 years of schooling who are unmarried and under age 20; 26.6 percent of first-time births are to mothers with two of these risk factors, while 47.7 percent of first-time births are to women with at least one of these risk factors.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

**MARV KNOX**  
Editor

**MARK WINGFIELD**  
News Director

**RAY L. HAYES**  
Business Manager

**C. R. DALEY**  
Editor Emeritus

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Debate the issues

The story has often been told of a preacher who had penciled in the margin of his sermon notes, "Weak point, speak louder." Debate often is reduced to loud noise simply because the argument is weak.

In the debate concerning the changes between the Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Convention, this is apparently what is happening. Much of the noise is surrounding one word spoken by one man. Those who do so either choose their position based upon personalities and blind loyalties or because their argument is weak.

The debate should be surrounding the changes the WMU is making in their long-standing relationship with the SBC and the effect those changes will have upon their effectiveness and upon their relationship to the SBC and our local WMUs.

As for John Jackson and his statement, the marriage relationship is often used to symbolize covenant relationships. For instance, if our state employees who receive their salaries from and owe their support to the Kentucky Baptist Convention were to give their support to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, they would by that act be unfaithful to their covenant relationship to the KBC.

This should be about issues, not personalities and syntax. To do so indicates that we do not have proper information to form the opinion we express.

*Charles T. Gresham  
Central City*

## Expose darkness

The Bible does not condone homosexuality! Some misread Romans 1, saying homosexuality is a punishment, not a sin. Yes, their first sin was not honoring God as God. However, verse 24 says, "God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity..." Is impurity a sin? Read Ephesians 5:3. Doesn't 1 Corinthians 6:20 tell us to "glorify God in your body"? The

## Easter and irregular people

If you guessed from the title that this is a column about persons who attend church only on Easter, you missed! It's about something far more significant than that, even though our churches have far too many members who do attend very irregularly.

I would guess about half my white dress shirts are "irregulars"; that is, there is a flaw in them somewhere. Usually, if you look closely enough, you can discover it. That is why the price on "irregulars" is marked down. And that is why we look for "irregulars." They are less expensive.

Most of the shoes I buy are "irregulars," and I buy them for the same reason. They are cheaper.

I have never paid "full price" for a suit in my life though there have been occasions when I was tempted. The suits I purchase may have a slight "flaw"; that is, they are "irregulars."

"Irregular" things are marked

results of not honoring God are a life of sin, including homosexuality. (Romans 1:24-27). How can anyone read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and say homosexuality is acceptable in God's sight?

I disagree that "the Bible does not mention sexual orientation." Read Genesis 2:18-25 and Matthew 19:4-5. Jesus may be "silent" on many things, but in Matthew he says nothing about "men cleaving to men" or women to women. Do we have a record of all Jesus' words? No, but we have many words from his apostles who were sent by Christ to teach his ways! (Matthew 28:20).

We must hold to our convictions but show compassion. This means following the Spirit's leading when we feel someone is "taken captive" in sin. As Christians, our light should be exposing the deeds of darkness, but let's not forget to be humble and loving like Jesus.

*Nancy Brinker  
Georgetown*

## Praise for WMU

In response to Adrian Rogers' warning to the Woman's Missionary Union of possibly losing its decision-making in the Southern Baptist Convention, I ask: Where would the SBC be without the WMU?

How can one forget Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong? Dedicated, prayerful, faithful and determined, the WMU has always made missions the No. 1 priority.

I challenge Mr. Rogers to a survey of churches. Ask, "Who is strongest, Brotherhood or WMU?" Although one is as important as the other, the WMU has been, still is and will continue to be stronger.

As for missions needing "a more masculine look," I challenge Mr. Rogers again. Ask pastors of Southern Baptist churches where they would be without WMU support.

If women were not an important part of missions, why were there such names in the Bible as Ruth, Esther, Naomi, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ?

If the WMU is not trusted, then all their hard work is done in vain.

The SBC as well as Mr. Rogers must stop and think very seriously what is happening. Do they want to go one step forward and two steps back? If the WMU is ignored, this is exactly what will happen.

I quote Acts 1:14: "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

"One accord," "prayer," "supplication." Key words, aren't they?

*Sharon Kay Deadmond  
Maysville*

## In good hands

In response to your editorial concerning the nomination of R. Albert Mohler Jr. as the ninth president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (WR, March 2), please allow me to offer these comments.

I have known Dr. Mohler as a fellow student and friend for 16 years. I feel certain that Southern Seminary will be in good and capable hands.

There is little doubt that Dr. Mohler will bring change to the institution. A portion of that change will be dictated by denominational demands; a larger portion will come about due to shifts in society and the changing nature and scope of theological education. I am certain that I will not agree with all the changes that will occur; however, I am confident that Dr. Mohler's love for the institution will outweigh any other force in his decision-making process.

I for one feel more optimistic about Southern's future. Dr. Mohler brings a promise of a stabilizing tenure, a track record as a fund raiser, a reputation of insightful theological reflection and a commitment to equip ministers for the local church. With these attributes, and with the hopeful cooperation of those who love Southern, the road ahead can be one we all can travel.

*Clay Smith  
Louisville*

term that in early years of life may be just the "words of a preacher." It is a reality that even younger preachers cannot appreciate because too little of life has yet visited upon them.

Perhaps grace belongs in the domain of the older ones; the "white haired," if you please. Maybe not exclusively, but primarily.

Perhaps our years of living provide us the best basis for understanding the meaning of Easter and its implications for those of us who understand what it means and how it feels to be "imperfect."

For Easter means a God who sent his Son on a mission to buy up all of the "imperfects."

And that's what makes folks like me understand and appreciate Easter. For he paid no cheap price for "irregular" and "flawed" merchandise like me! No, he paid full price!

And I will remember that on Easter Sunday morning, wearing a new tie ... around the collar of a shirt which was marked "imperfect."

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



## Child abuse

By Jewell Nelson

**Q.** Where is there help for parents to deal with the stress of raising children? Child abuse is too prevalent.

**A.** If anyone suspects child abuse, it is necessary to call the child abuse hotline in the front of a telephone directory. The caller does not have to give his or her identity. Such a call could save a child's life!

■ The church should be a source of help for parents.

Pastors, staff members, deacons, teachers and outreach leaders who keep in touch with members and prospects through visits often can detect abuse. Church staff members who are not qualified to counsel families must be aware of counseling services in the community.

Parenting classes are now a part of many churches. "Parenting By Grace" is an excellent teaching guide. The KBC discipleship training, family ministries and Sunday school departments, phone (502) 245-4101, can suggest personnel and materials for parenting classes.

■ Some schools conduct classes on parenting.

Schools are working to help parents recognize that good parenting includes being involved in their children's school.

■ Hospitals often conduct classes on parenting.

These classes deal with health care, child development and parenting skills.

■ Libraries are gems of resources.

One person or an organization can take parents to the library. Locate books, pamphlets, videos and films on parenting.

■ Call the Human Resources Cabinet.

A phone book lists agencies of all kinds in the blue pages (government offices). The human resources agency can give information on many family-related issues.

"Children are a gift from God, they are his reward" (Psalm 127:3).

There is an old saying, "It takes a whole village to raise a child."

Let's join together and treat children like the gift/rewards they are.

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

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

## ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

down because they do not pass inspection. They fail to measure up to the quality expected of the producer. In short, they are "not perfect."

People are like that. Not just some. All. All of us are "irregulars" in one way or another. A "flaw" here; a "failure" there. And even a "perfect" shirt, a "perfect" suit and a "perfect" pair of shoes cannot, even temporarily, cover our "imperfections."

It is good, I think, that God alone knows all my "imperfections." I doubt seriously that we could handle having all our "imperfections" disclosed either in a public forum or

even before our closest friends. I am certain that every human being has imperfections. And I know that our "imperfections" sometimes hurt others and often hurt ourselves.

If we live long enough, we see and experience enough imperfection, both in others and in ourselves, that we gain the deeper meaning of "grace," a

## What, in God's name, is happening to our world?

God has gotten a lot of bad press lately.

Read your morning newspaper; look at a newsmagazine; watch the nightly news. You'll see a world of religious hatred: A crater in the basement of the World Trade Center. Raped women among the remains of Yugoslavia. A cult compound under siege near Waco. Weeping clerics outside a demolished mosque in India. A blood-stained parking lot in Panama City. Starving children in Sudan. Torched churches in Kentucky. Bloody martyrs in the Middle East.

You can see more, if your stomach can handle it. If not, avert your eyes. But don't turn on your radio, or you'll hear tales of bombings in Northern Ireland and bloodshed in Indonesia.

All in the name of God.

Most of the major-league violence terrorizing our planet has religious overtones. The Branch Davidians of Waco are an apocalyptic sectarian spin-off of the Seventh-day Adventist version of Christianity. Feuds in the Middle East pit Muslim vs. Jew; in Africa and Indonesia, it's Muslim vs. Christian. Protestants and Catholics are at each others' throats in Northern Ireland. Even in Yugoslavia, a region known for its nationalistic strife, the root cause of conflict is religious hatred.

How, in God's name, could all this happen?

That's a perplexing question. One of the first Bible verses Christians teach our children is a simple truth, "God is love." We grow up expecting love from God and loving deeds from God's people. Anyone who professes to act on behalf of God ought to act in a loving manner, reflecting the nurturing nature of God.

So, religious terror shocks us, as much because it defies our expectations of godly people as because it wreaks havoc. Bombing makes for poor evangelism, genocide won't cut it as an effective church-growth tool and mass-murder never can be redemptive.

We shake our heads and wonder at a world run amok. But we also see the shells of religious warfare close to home. You say you can't understand how people—in the name of God, Allah or Yahweh—can beat the living daylights out of other people? Consider the character assassination and invective that has ricocheted around the Southern Baptist Convention for 14 years. Nobody's been shot. But friendships have been severed, careers lacerated, lives scarred.

The passions of religious hatred run so deep because the faith which anchors religious conviction descends to the core of human existence. The religious journey carries people on a quest for ultimate truth. Unfortunately, many of those who believe they have found it hold zero tolerance for those who have not, and outright animosity for those who claim another version. "Convert or purge," their motto proclaims.

Where do we go from here? Adherents of other faiths search their scriptures to find their answers. Scholars say each of these faiths contains teachings that would promote and sustain peace. Christians need look only to the life and teachings of Christ for their path to peace.

Jesus spoke the second-greatest commandment—"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"—in the same breath in which he announced the first—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind." Love for God void of love for other people sends zealots on bloody crusades. But Christ knew true love for God is reflected in love for neighbors. And, you will recall, he chose a Samaritan—to his audience, a despicable outcast product of heretical origin whose ethnic impurity surely was repugnant to God—as a fine example of what it means to be a neighbor.

In fact, Jesus called his followers to practice ethical standards far higher than reality ever demanded. He said to give your litigation-crazy neighbor the shirt off your back. Turn the unbruised cheek toward the big bully. Carry the occupying soldier's pack a second mile. It's what Christian ethicist Glen Stassen calls "transforming initiative," a surprising act of love that moves both aggressor and defender toward reconciliation. Toward peace.

During this holy season, as we look toward Easter, we remember the ultimate transforming initiative. Mysteriously, miraculously, Jesus Christ mounted the Cross and bore the crushing brunt of selfish human sin. While thousands, maybe even millions, have killed on behalf of God, Christ died—and defeated death—on behalf of humanity.

Our world has seen enough slaughter in the name of God. Let us, in the name of Christ, live lives of selfless service and sacrifice. Let us, in the name of God as defined through the life of Christ, transform hatred into love.

Marv Knox

**Religious passion taps into the core of human personality. Christians must look to the life of Christ—not darker, sullen images—for the meaning of living a God-centered life.**

## Monday is (brain)wash day, but thank the Lord for it anyway

Millions start the week groaning, "It's Monday. ... Ugh!"

Unexcited and resentful that the weekend is over, we believe that Monday is

a rotten day, out to get us. Tuesday is slightly better, but still too close to Monday. Wednesday is "Hump Day" because we get over the hump of the work week and head for the weekend.

Thursday, we start to slack off, and "Thank God, it's Friday!" is actually a code phrase meaning, "I can mess

around today because the weekend's almost here."

Saturday we grouse at having to work around the house. On Sunday, we either put in our "duty" at church or sleep in, using the excuse, "It's the only day I get to sleep late." Then

comes "Monday. ... Ugh!" again. Our brains have raced us right through our week.

But the Bible tells us, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). The writer urged us to action because "in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working ... nor wisdom."

Now, because of Christ, we believe in life everlasting. Are we going to waste ourselves in heaven waiting

for "the weekend"? God doesn't want thanks for Friday if that means we're going to do our jobs half-heartedly with one eye on the clock. We are brainwashed into "hating" the days God gives us.

Christians, why not say, "Thank God, it's Monday" (or any other day) and do with all your might?

Ray Farrow, pastor  
Waddy Baptist Church  
Waddy

**Thank God for the gift of any day, even Monday.**

### MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

## We didn't catch a single fish, but the buttercups sure looked pretty

Our outing couldn't have turned out better.

My buddy Brent and I took our daughters fishing. That's four girls and two daddies versus a pond full of bass, bream (also known as sun perch where I grew up) and tadpoles.

Their mothers stayed back at the house—with our friend Nancy, who let us invade her home for a spring-break weekend reunion—while Alayna, Andrea, Lindsay and Molly and their daddies hiked over the hill to the pond.

We headed out on the first really warm day of the season; still cool enough to keep the snakes asleep but temperate enough to enjoy sun on bare arms. We carefully tramped through the woods, directing all four sets of bare little arms past the "sticky

bushes" to the Home for Uncaught Fishes.

Brent spotted The Big One right away. She was a large bass who appeared to have the run of the place. We rifled through our tackle boxes for the just-right lures that would look like lunch to unsuspecting fishes.

Lindsay and Molly said they wanted to fish, too, so I set out to try to teach them.

The problem with training children in the ways of fishing is that they have no point of reference.

"Grab hold of the handle and press

down on that black button." I told Molly. "Bring the rod back and then move your arm like you're throwing a baseball. When you get to the point where you would let go of the ball, then let go of the black button."

This would make sense to someone who actually knows how to throw a baseball. Molly and I have played catch, and I can verify that she doesn't always know exactly when to let go of the ball.

Ditto for Lindsay. We slipped the lure behind us, slung it into the tree, slapped it on the bank and occasionally cast it per-

fectly into the pond.

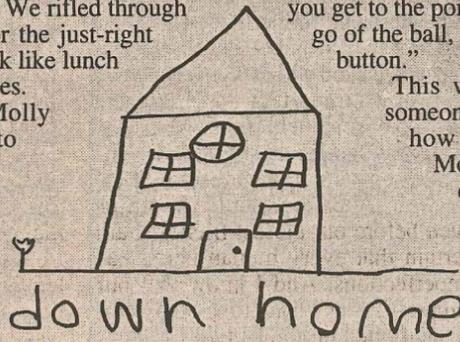
Meanwhile, the fish must've gone out to eat. They didn't so much as nibble at our luscious lures.

Pretty soon, the girls got bored and sashayed over to the stream. Not long after that, I got bored and practiced skipping stones across the water. Not coincidentally, Brent hung up his lures, and we headed for the house.

On the way, the girls discovered a patch of wild buttercups and quickly transformed the blossoms into a bouquet for their mothers and Nancy.

I know, a true angler would say a fishing trip without fish is a failure. But a morning in the sun with little girls is splendid. And you don't have to clean buttercups.

Marv Knox



## Losses continue for U.S. Protestants

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—Protestant denominations still claim the majority of Americans as members, but their rolls are dwindling and Protestants are becoming increasingly fragmented.

That's the analysis of George Gallup and Robert Bezilla of the Gallup Organization after completing their latest nationwide polls on religious preference.

About 90 percent of Americans identify themselves with some religious group, the polls found. A bare majority of 56 percent of Americans identify with a Protestant denomination, down from 67 percent in 1967.

One American in four (26 percent) is a Roman Catholic. Roman Catholicism is strongest in the East, where they account for 38 percent of the population.

An additional 1 percent of Americans say they are members of an Orthodox faith.

Mormons claim 1 percent of the populace, although 4 percent of Americans in the western region affiliate with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Two percent of the population claims Judaism as a preference, although this rises to 4 percent in the eastern region of the U.S.

The South remains a Protestant stronghold, with 70 percent of Southerners naming one of the Protestant denominations as their preference.

About one American in five (19 percent) is a Baptist. Southern Baptists account for 9 percent of the population nationwide and 22 percent in the South. Other Baptist bodies are claimed by 10 percent of the population nationwide and 16 percent of Southerners.

The proportion of Baptists in America has declined in the past 25 years from 21 percent to 19 percent.

Ten percent of Americans are Methodists, compared to 14 percent in 1967. Methodists are represented uniformly throughout all regions.

Lutherans claim 6 percent of the population and are most numerous in the Midwest, where they represent 15 percent of the population.

Presbyterians claim 5 percent of Americans' religious preference, and also are uniformly represented.

Episcopalians account for 2 percent of the population.

The polls find Methodist and Lutheran congregations often embrace members from all levels of educational attainment, while Presbyterians and Episcopalians attract a high proportion of college graduates. Baptists are disproportionately high number of members who never have set foot on a college campus, the polls found.

Baptist groups as a whole still appeal most often to lower-middle and low-income people.

Baptists also attract those whose religious fervor is strongest. Baptists are more likely than members of other denominations to report religion as being "very important" to them personally and to call themselves "born again" or evangelical Christians.

## RFRA advances

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Religious Freedom Restoration Act took one step forward in the House March 24 but has hit a standstill in the Senate.

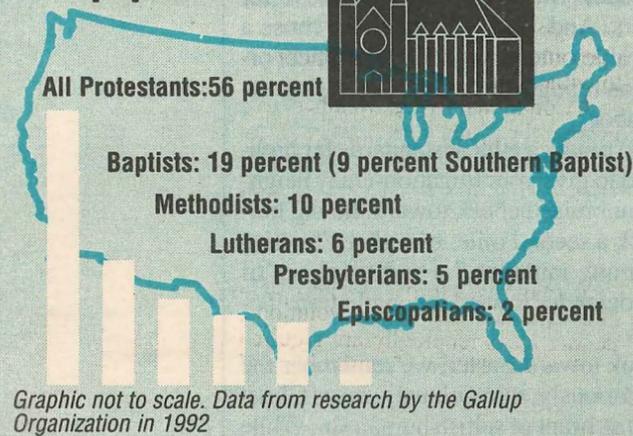
The House Judiciary Committee unanimously approved an unamended bill (H.R. 1308) for floor consideration by the full chamber. However, the Senate Judiciary Committee postponed consideration of the bill (S. 578) until after the April recess.

Attorneys working for RFRA's passage agreed the House committee action far outweighed the Senate committee's inaction.

House committee members expressed enthusiasm and support for the legislation that would restore a high level of protection for religious practices.

Oliver Thomas, chairman of the coalition of religious and civil-liberties groups supporting the bill, said: "The unanimous vote of the 35-member House Judiciary Committee shows the breadth of support for this bill. The members recognize that without RFRA the free-exercise clause (of the First Amendment) remains a dead letter."

### Protestants as a percentage of the U.S. population



## BRIEFS

■ **Sandi Patti talks.** Sandi Patti has broken the silence on her divorce from her husband of 13 years, John Helvering. Other than a brief statement last summer, she had been silent on the subject. The April issue of CCM magazine includes an interview with the gospel music superstar in which she does not discuss the exact reasons for her divorce but does say it has been a painful process. Divorce never had been an option in her mind before, she said, adding she never wants it to be an option again. "All I can say is I feel for a lot of reasons that I hope nobody knows, ever, that I feel a release that I truly believe is from God," she said. Patti said she had battled severe depression for seven months. She also discussed being sexually abused as a child by a woman teacher from her father's church.

■ **Falwell lashes out.** Jerry Falwell jumped back into the political arena March 21 with a blistering sermon delivered on his television show, "The Old Time Gospel Hour." Falwell said modern U.S. Supreme Courts have "raped the Constitution and raped the Christian faith and raped the churches by misinterpreting what the founders had in mind in the First Amendment of the Constitution." He also called First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton "Mother Superior," saying she and President Bill Clinton have determined America no longer won't be "a nation under God anymore."

■ **No abortion doctors.** The Clinton administration may have freed doctors on U.S. military bases overseas to perform abortions, but that appears to be a freedom doctors at European bases don't want. The Los Angeles Times reported March 29 that two months after the ban was lifted, doctors, nurses and anesthesiologists are refusing to perform abortions on moral and religious grounds. "As of today, we have no takers," said Col. Ogden DeWitt, assistant chief of staff for the



■ **WACO WEAR** Bill Powers shows off some of the T-shirts and hats he was selling near the Branch Davidian compound outside Waco, Texas, March 14. Powers sold more than 500 T-shirts in two days. The hat he is wearing says "We Ain't Coming Out," an acronym for the city name "Waco." (RNS photo)

Army's clinical services in Europe. The L.A. Times article said military officials have reported that none of the 44 obstetricians and gynecologists in the European theater have agreed to perform abortions.

■ **Presbyterians cut back.** The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will eliminate about 125 of the 700 jobs at its Louisville headquarters as part of a massive downsizing. The denomination's nine ministry units will be collapsed into three new units.

■ **Riverfront policy changed.** After attorneys for the Rutherford Institute filed a motion for a permanent injunction against the banner and sign policy of the Cincinnati Reds, the baseball team has changed its policy regarding religious banners at Riverfront Stadium. The amended policy comes after U.S. District Court Judge Arthur Spiegel ruled Feb. 25 that the "good-taste, bad-taste" sign policy which had been used to exclude religious signs was unconstitutional.

## Clinton would lift abortion ban

WASHINGTON—President Bill Clinton wants to end the nation's 16-year-old ban on federally funded abortions for poor women.

The White House confirmed March 30 that Clinton will fulfill a campaign promise by asking Congress to approve an appropriations bill for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education that does not contain the Hyde amendment restrictions on abortion funding.

Named for its sponsor, U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., the ban has been part of Medicaid funding measures since 1976.

The president's proposal "comes as absolutely no surprise," Hyde said. This decision is "predictable, given the zealotry of this administration toward the abortion ethic."

But Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-

Colo., called Clinton courageous for his willingness to make good on a campaign promise that undoubtedly will not be popular with many Americans.

"For a politician who says his abortion policy is meant to decrease the number of abortions in America, he has a strange way of showing it," said James Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "It is inconceivable that the number of abortions in the country will not increase when the federal government gets back into the abortion business."

Smith also criticized the proposal on fiscal grounds: "Forcing pro-life Americans to pay for this reprehensible practice with their taxes is unconscionable."

Compiled from Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press reports

## Alcohol-label bills reintroduced

WASHINGTON (BP)—Legislation requiring warning messages to be included in alcohol advertising was reintroduced in Congress March 30 in the face of what appears to be increased opposition.

The Sensible Advertising and Family Education Act, introduced for the third consecutive Congress, would require health and safety warnings in all alcohol ads broadcast on radio and television or printed in newspapers, magazines or promotional displays.

This year's legislation calls for seven rotating messages rather than the five in previous bills. The print warnings contain more information than the broadcast ones and also include a toll-free phone number for consumers to learn more details on alcohol use.

The broadcast messages, all in the form of a "surgeon general's warning," are:

■ If you are pregnant, don't drink alcohol. Alcohol may cause mental retardation and other birth defects.

■ If you are under the age of 21, it's illegal to buy alcoholic beverages.

■ Alcohol is a drug and may be addictive.

■ Drive sober. If you don't, you could lose your driver's license.

■ Don't mix alcohol with over-the-counter, prescription or illicit drugs.

■ If you drink too much alcohol too fast, you can die of alcohol poisoning.

■ Drinking increases your risk of high blood pressure, liver disease and cancer.

## Children of God cult back in U.S. as 'The Family'

NEW YORK (RNS)—A religious group called the Children of God and known since the early 1970s for unorthodox sexual practices and radical communal lifestyles is moving back into the United States under a new name.

The group, considered dangerous by critics but strongly defended by its leaders, moved into areas overseas in the late 1970s and the 1980s, virtually abandoning U.S. mission fields for Europe, Asia and South America.

Reorganized in 1978, the group now calls itself "The Family."

"I would say that if you take the 10 largest cities in America, you would find homes getting established there," said John Francis, a top spokesman for the Family, in a recent telephone interview. He declined to say where the communes are, except for one near Los Angeles.

In all, between 200 and 250 Family missionaries have returned to the United States, he said. The Family's U.S. headquarters is in Anaheim, Calif.

Francis said several factors had motivated the group to target the U.S. again.

"We now have a new generation in our midst that is basically the age we were when we first became part of the revolution," he said, referring to

the Jesus movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s. "At the same time, back in the U.S.A., you have another generation of teen-agers and people who heard nothing about the former Children of God or knew nothing about the Jesus revolution, but you are finding quite a desperation amongst the youth today who are quite frightened by all that they are faced with in their early ages."

Promotional material from the Family claims the Children of God disbanded in 1978 and that more than 300 disruptive leaders were dismissed. The literature says 25 percent of the Family's current members are carryovers from the Children of God's worldwide network.

Today, the Family is active in 100 countries. Ex-members estimate the group has 25,000 full-time members, although Francis claims the group has influenced millions through making "part-time disciples."

Paul Carden, international coordinator for Christian Research Institute, a group that gathers data on aberrant

and new religious movements, said he views the Family's re-emergence in the U.S. with deep concern.

"This is a destructive and subversive group, and I view its return with the gravest concern," he said. "They represent a deadly mix of evangelical terminology and a perversion of Christian beliefs."

But Francis countered that the group's leaders have matured since the 1960s.

"Something we have definitely learned as we have matured as a movement is to do all that we can to make our message understandable to people," he said.

But some ex-members say the group is just as deceptive and dangerous as ever. They cite as evidence several sensational ongoing court battles in Australia and Spain where communes affiliated with the Family have been charged with child abuse.

Practices are said to include:

■ Sex outside of marriage. "We believe that sex was an original creation of God meant to glorify him and as a means of showing love to one another," Francis explained. "We do believe that consenting adults have the perfect right scripturally to share amongst themselves sexually if it is done in mutual consent and it is not to the harm, hurt or neglect of anyone else."

er," Francis explained. "We do believe that consenting adults have the perfect right scripturally to share amongst themselves sexually if it is done in mutual consent and it is not to the harm, hurt or neglect of anyone else."

■ Sex as evangelism. "Flirty Fishing" is a proselytizing technique by which certain female members develop sexual relationships with men outside the group. The practice reportedly has been banned by leaders since the rise of AIDS.

However, promotional literature claims "many people, most of whom would never even go near a church, were reached and won to Christ through this very humble, honest, open and intimately human approach to witnessing."

■ Communal living. Members live in what the group calls "combos."

■ Child sex. Although official literature strongly denies that adult-child sex ever was condoned, ex-members claim such practices have been sanctioned at times.

■ Juvenile camps. As part of a "Discipleship Training Revolution," defiant teens reportedly are required to listen to hours of Scripture and tapes of Family teachings, to perform hard manual labor and to be yelled at by leaders until they are submissive.

**The Family, a cult previously known as the Children of God, is returning to the United States with its practices of communal living, sex outside marriage and indoctrination.**



## Use math to determine who's a cult or sect

ATLANTA—Applying basic arithmetic can help a Christian decide whether a religious group is a cult. Simply ask: Does the group add, subtract, multiply or divide?

In his book "The Rise of the Cults," Walter Martin defines "cult" as "a group of people polarized around someone's interpretation of the Bible and ... characterized by major deviations from orthodox Christianity relative to the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith, particularly the fact that God became man in Jesus Christ."

The interfaith witness department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board uses the four basic operations of elementary mathematics—addition, subtraction, multiplication, division—to help Christians detect such theological errors.

"Patterns in the Cults," a publication of the interfaith witness department, offers these illustrations:

■ **Addition.** Does the religious group add to the word of God through indispensable publications that claim to give the Bible's clear meaning or through present-day direct revelation from God?

Examples of cults with publications they consider essential are Jehovah's Witnesses and Watchtower magazine; Mormons and "The Pearl of Great Price" and "Book of Mormon, Doctrines and Covenants"; Unification Church ("Moonies") and "Divine Principle"; Christian Scientists and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures"; and Worldwide Church of God and "Mystery of the Ages."

■ **Subtraction.** Does the examined group subtract from the person of the

Lord Jesus Christ by making him less "God" than his Father or by elevating man one day to become like him?

All of the aforementioned groups either present a Jesus who worked his way to Godhood or a Jesus who has only the status of an angel, "Patterns in the Cults" notes. For example, the defective Christology of a cult called The Way International is evident in the title of its founder's book "Jesus Christ is Not God."

■ **Multiplication.** Does the sect under consideration multiply the requirements for salvation by making works a necessary condition?

While the biblical plan for salvation can be described as Faith = Salvation + Works, the system of salvation for the major non-Christian groups can be understood as Faith + Works = Salvation.

The latter formula contradicts Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works ..."

■ **Division.** Does the religious group in question divide the loyalty of its members between God and itself and its leaders? Also, does the sect make devotion to the organization a test of faith and consider adherence to itself the vehicle for salvation?

In I Corinthians 7:23, the Apostle Paul instructs, "You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men." Followers of cults are repeatedly required to divide their loyalty between their church and its leaders and God.

The Branch Davidians, who now say they want to be called "Koreshians," give allegiance to leader David Koresh. The president of the

Mormon Church is called "prophet, seer and revelator." The Rev. Sun Myung Moon, head of the Unification Church, claims to be the messiah who has come to complete Jesus' failed mission.

Additional patterns the Home Mission Board has noted in cults are:

■ Speculation and date-setting, particularly concerning the return of Christ.

■ Obscure biblical attention, in the form of authoritative stands on debatable or minor Bible issues that have no bearing on salvation.

■ Financial exploitation of followers, to the extreme of coercive control of individuals' finances.

■ Denial of eternal punishment.

■ Fostering of paranoia; an isolationist attitude that builds an "us against the world" mentality.

■ Doctrinal changes, often seen as shifts in theology that follow the death of one leader and the emergence of a successor.

■ Spiritual practices, such as clairvoyance, automatic writings, claimed angelic direction, alleged help in spiritual matters from departed loved ones.

■ Uncertain or ambiguous hope of salvation. "A person who never really had the certainty of possessing eternal life can be continually manipulated into striving for unrealizable goals," the interfaith witness department notes. "Fear becomes the motivator of one's actions."

Written by Tim Palmer of Missouri's Word & Way based on information provided by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department. For a copy of the publication "Patterns in the Cults," call the HMB's customer service center at (800) 634-2462.

### Tips for witnessing

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Many of the Americans Southern Baptists would consider non-Christians may still be religious, according to Gary Leazer of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department.

And that religious consciousness—although not Christian—may create a barrier in reaching such people for Jesus Christ, he noted.

"The people that you and I try to reach with the good news of the gospel are not unreligious," Leazer said. "They might not be saved, they might be lost, but they can still be religious. They might be unchurched, but they can still be religious."

He recommended the following strategy for talking with a person whose religious beliefs differ radically from one's own:

■ Know what you believe and how to share it. Leazer encouraged students to "take every advantage of getting a broad education so that you will be better equipped to face this religious world in which we are called to minister." "Knowing how to share our faith with a wide variety of people is so essential," Leazer said. "Sometimes one approach will be best. Another time another approach will be best. Sometimes you're just going to have to improvise."

■ Know something about the people you're trying to reach. "If we're going to be effective witnesses in our world today, we need to know something about the Muslims so that when we witness to them we don't erect barriers unnecessarily to an effective witness," Leazer said.

Christians must use an approach that communicates the gospel with understanding, he said, because "real witness does not take place unless we have communicated the message so that that individual understands it and has the opportunity to respond to it."

■ Be open to God's leadership. If the truth of the gospel is going to get out, Christians need to be willing to go and speak a word of witness in more than just the places they like and feel comfortable in, Leazer said.

As Christians are open to God's leadership, they will be led to people who are religious but lost, Leazer said, and then they can say as the Apostle Paul did to the ancient Athenians, "What you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you."

# MISSIONS

## Secular people hard to reach, prof says

### Missions is for doing, Lewis says

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—“The Great Commission was not given to us to memorize and to recite,” Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, told students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. “The Great Commission was given to us by our Lord to do,” he explained. “Missions is not just something we study about ... ; missions is something we do.”

Lewis said he is bothered that so many people keep telling God what they're going to do and where they're going to go. “I hear Jesus say, ‘You do not have that prerogative,’” Lewis said.

“We continue to graduate from our seminaries every year literally hundreds of students who have no assignment and no place to go, and yet I have on the wall of my office in Atlanta a map with 22,000 dots on it, ... places in the United States we have already targeted to begin new work, ... not by the year 2000, but right now.”

However, when HMB personnel ask for people to go to Montana, Utah or Alaska, for instance, they too often hear such excuses as, “Oh, well, not there. You see my family is all down here in Georgia” or “I have a rheumatic condition. If I go up north ..., well, I just can't stand it,” Lewis said.

“We now have (HMB) work in every state in the union,” Lewis said, “but there are still 300 counties in America where we have no Southern Baptist church or witness.”

“You may have to be bivocational. God has never said one time in his word that he was going to supply your needs through a board. He did say he would supply your needs through the Lord.”

DETROIT (BP)—Churches that are reaching secular people today are “flexing to meet them culturally,” a Kentucky professor and author told Southern Baptist church-starting leaders.

George Hunter III, dean of the Stanley Jones School of Evangelism at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, addressed the annual conference of church extension leaders sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Secular people—those with no church background—often are turned off by a traditional worship service because it resembles the style of TV evangelism that “passes itself off as Christianity,” Hunter said.

“Churches employing traditional forms (of worship) almost never reach secular people in significant numbers,” he explained.

Hunter, author of “How to Reach Secular People,” said the church has lost much of its cultural influence. “For a long time, the church has been like a football team. We always had a home-field advantage. We wrote the rules. We briefed the referees.”

During that time, the church simply had to harvest the population that had experienced Christianity through its culture. Now, Hunter said, the church must start from zero with people who are not “church broken.”

Quoting Gallup polls, Hunter said the U.S. population with no religious training increased from 9 percent in 1968 to 25 percent in 1988.

He estimates 120 million Americans are secular people, making the nation “the largest mission field in the Western Hemisphere.”

Hunter cited eight principles for communicating Christianity to secu-

lar people.

■ Almost all effective evangelization begins where people are and not where Christians want them to be.

■ Evangelism involves the ministry of explanation.

■ The gospel must be communicated through the vernacular.

■ Christians must be willing to discuss honestly the doubts and hangups of people with no spiritual background.

■ No one gets the message the first time.

■ Because no one gets it the first time, Christians should learn to say the same things several ways.

■ For most secular people, assimilation into the church fellowship often precedes commitment to Jesus Christ.

■ The Christian faith is more caught than taught.

## Reach cities to regain moral clout: Chaney

DETROIT (BP)—Christians have lost their moral clout in America's cities and must focus anew on rechurching the country's troubled urban centers, a Home Mission Board executive told Southern Baptist church-starting leaders.

“Our commitment to kingdom growth must be expressed in reclaiming the American cities for Christ,” said Charles Chaney, HMB vice president for extension. “That, I believe, can only be done by rechurching the cities.”

More than 52 percent of Americans live in urban areas, Chaney said. Those cities, however, have fewer churches and fewer per capita church members today than they had in 1950.

“One of the reasons we have major problems with violent crimes, drugs, prostitution ... in the cities of America is because Christians do not have the moral clout that they once had because we're not there with the churches and with the church members,” Chaney said.

Anglo churches leaving transition-

al urban areas often have no regard for the spiritual needs of the black or ethnic residents who remain, he said.

“Some relocating churches have such a bias against the new residents in a community that they would rather see their old building become a restaurant and a lounge than be used by the church of new residents.”

As a result, church buildings acquired through years of sacrifice are lost, he said, leaving no spiritual center in an area where high property values make church planting difficult.

### The Hilltoppers

When you read this column, college basketball will be over for 1993, and it is my hope that the Kentucky Wildcats will be national champions. This has been a great year for Kentucky basketball with three teams making it to the final 16. I was most excited that my alma mater, Western Kentucky (class of '69), made it as far as they did and was pleased that they never gave up. That last-second, three-point shot that almost went in on the bounce caused a lot of hearts to stop momentarily.

Western always has had a great basketball tradition. In my day Clem Haskins, the Smith brothers and Wayne Chapman (Rex Chapman's dad) filled Diddle Arena nightly to see some of the best basketball around. I remember to this day the foul called on Greg Smith against Michigan. It was called on a jump ball with 10 seconds to go and allowed Cazzie Russell to go to the foul line and kill Western's chances of playing Kentucky, which would have been their next opponent. Few Hilltoppers of my day will forget that controversial call which replays showed should have gone the other way.

Those are great memories and that is part of why Kentuckians love basketball. There is something remarkable about seeing young people give all they have to something. This year I have truly been inspired by Mark Bell, the 5' 8" point guard at Western who led the team. I saw him play against Louisville with severe leg cramps, but he kept going back into the game. Over a foot shorter than the big boys underneath the basket, he repeatedly came away with rebounds and made things happen.

Another inspiration for me has been Coach Willard. He came to Western three years ago and took over a struggling team. Without the big name players he has built a winner with guys who give everything they have to the game.

I hope that the young people in our care can gain inspiration from Mark Bell and Coach Willard. Not all of us have equal gifts of size and ability. Take what you have and give it your absolute best. You will always be a winner.

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

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

### Christ in our midst

Baptist Healthcare Foundation's guest author this month is Bob Cunningham. Bob is associate chaplain at Baptist Hospital East, where he has served since 1982. He is a master of divinity graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Some years ago a colleague of mine asked, “What do you tell people who ask, ‘Where is God?’”

I replied that I most often see God in other people, that I experience Christ in those around me. Such convictions were confirmed during my recent stay as a patient at Baptist Hospital East.

Jackie from the lab draws blood from my arm so gently I barely feel the needle stick.

Laura, a nurse, gathers my medical history asking very personal questions in a professional yet caring and sensitive manner. She also patiently explains the medications I'm being given.

A nurse named Nancy puts ice on my I.V. site and takes her time while infusing medication, thus alleviating the burning sensation in my hand.

Debbie, another nurse, talks me through the test they'll be running, promising it “won't be that bad.”

Mark in radiology assures me a delay in the upper GI being done

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**WANTED:** Full-time minister of music/youth. Contact: Leon Greer, Meta Baptist Church, 351 Lower Johns Creek Road, Meta, KY 41501, or call (606) 631-1194.

**WANTED:** Part-time minister of music and organist/choir accompanist. Send resumé to Personnel Committee, Bullitt Lick Baptist Church, P.O. Box 924, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

**WANTED:** Minister of music; salary negotiable. Send resumé to Personnel Chairman, First Baptist Church, Magnolia Street, Tompkinsville, KY 42167.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Send resumé. Youngers Creek Baptist Church, 251 Youngers Creek Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

**AVAILABLE:** Part-time bookkeeper-secretary. Please call (502) 266-8741 to discuss days and hours I am available.

**MINISTERS' WIVES:** Books that offer solutions for your special needs. Send SASE for free brochure to Books, Box 158553, Nashville, TN 37215-8553.

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

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

### BAPTIST HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

does not mean they've found something—doing wonders for my level of anxiety.

For Jackie, Laura, Nancy, Debbie, Mark and many others who were so sensitive and kind in the caring they gave me, I suspect this is simply how they do their job on a daily basis. For me, however, it was more akin to what I was trying to tell my colleague. It was an experience of Christ in the form of human caring.

Our vision statement speaks of providing health care services in a “Christ-centered” system and my brief stay as a patient convinced me those are more than just words in a statement by the way they do their jobs.

Baptist East is blessed to have a staff committed to giving care in a way that demonstrates the vision to which we are committed.

My thanks to all who cared for me and my encouragement to continue making Baptist East a place where far more than basic health-care is given.

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

Paid Column

# PEOPLE

## Support group promoter speaks from experience

NASHVILLE (BP)—Johnny Jones is a recovering alcoholic.

That's the first thing he'll tell you when he comes to your church to train members in starting support group ministries.

Jones is project coordinator of Life Support resources produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Life Support resources provide group support ministry to people suffering from difficulties such as codependency, chemical dependency, abuse recovery, eating disorders, divorce recovery and grief.

While Jones acknowledges he hasn't had a drink in more than 15 years, he believes he'll be in recovery the rest of his life.

"I don't think you ever get out of recovery," said Jones, who was drinking from two to five fifths of bourbon a week when he prayed to God to take drinking out of his life.

"You can't drink as long as I did and not do damage spiritually and emotionally," he said.

Jones tells his story because he believes empathy goes a long way in reaching others who are hurting.

"I was raised in a Southern Baptist home," Jones said, noting he attended church regularly with his family. "My

family was dysfunctional from the standpoint that there was no emotional nurture. I don't blame my parents. My mother's mother died when she was 4, so she never had a model of how a mother was supposed to be.

"And my father was out of that old era where you shake hands and that's it. They provided for all my physical and material needs; they just didn't know how to meet my emotional needs," he said.

So, while in high school, Jones said he began to look for emotional nurture in other places. He began drinking to ease his emotional pain.

"Alcohol relieves the pain for a short while, but the problem is it takes more and more to ease the emotional pain. When you begin to sober up you have double pain," he said. "One is the emotional aspect begins to come back, and then you've also torn away at your self-esteem because of the drunkenness."

Jones continued to drink through college and after he married, until finally his wife suggested they needed to get back in church.

"I agreed just to get her off my back," he said.

A new youth minister at the church he was attending asked him to drive

the church bus on youth trips. The youth minister didn't know about the drinking problem.

At a Panama City Beach youth conference where he drove the young people one summer, Jones lingered at the door of the worship services "and God began to speak to me."

"On a Thursday night, I walked out of that chapel by myself and I said, 'God, if you'll take drinking out of my life, I'll go anywhere you want me to go, and I'll do anything you want me to do.'"

"And I have not had a desire to drink since."

The difference between that night and the other times Jones promised God, church leaders and himself he would quit drinking is that "that youth minister said, 'Johnny, if you are going to walk with the Lord, you're going to have to be disciplined.'"

"He took it upon himself to disciple me and to teach me how to get into God's word, how to have quiet time and how to grow as a Christian."

Jones then went to seminary, became a pastor for 12 years and then moved to the Sunday School Board where he could use his experience with alcoholism and a dysfunctional family to help others like him.

### 'I'm OK, you're messed up'

NASHVILLE (BP)—Churches are filled with dysfunctional families, as is the world, but until those families decide to seek help, there is no benefit to pointing out their needs, a pastor and author of support group materials said.

"Don't go around saying you think everyone is messed up," Tim Sledge told a group attending a national launch of Life Support materials at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Sledge, whose late father was an alcoholic, is pastor of Kingsland Baptist Church in Houston, and author of "Making Peace with Your Past." He is writing a second book due out this fall, "Moving Beyond Your Past." Both deal with varying aspects of dysfunction that result from growing up in an unhealthy family.

"People are threatened by you as a support group person," Sledge told participants who attended the conference to learn to start support ministries in their churches. "God's timing needs to be given permission to operate with people. You can't make them feel it."

Sledge said dysfunctional families possess some common characteristics. A dysfunctional family:

- Focuses its attention on an emotionally needy family member rather than moving that attention around as family needs change.

- Places limits on the expression of feelings.

- Discourages open talk about obvious problems.

- Fails to provide appropriate nurture for developing children.

- Is closed to the outside world.

- Permits destructive roles for children in the family.

Sledge said the primary feeling that results from growing up in a dysfunctional family is shame.

"Shame is a feeling about who I am, and guilt is a feeling about what I've done," Sledge said in explaining the difference between the often-confused terms.

He said shame-based adults learn to mask themselves, avoid intimate relationships, settle for destructive or toxic relationships and feel they don't have the same rights as others.

## BAPTIST BOOK STORES

of Kentucky  
Presents

### "Christmas In June '93"

Christmas Music Choral Readings

June 11th & 12th

Galt House, Louisville, KY

Live Hear  
DAVID T. CLYDESDALE  
Conducting a Premier Performance of  
his new musical  
'From Heaven's Throne'  
Friday, June 11

MUSIC PACKETS  
Valued over \$200  
included with  
registration

Readings For These & Other Publishers

- Word
- Lillenas
- Hinshaw
- Shawnee
- Genevox
- Phil Barfoot Music
- Beckenhorst
- Lorenz
- David T. Clydesdale Music

Yes, I want to be a part of Christmas in June 1993. I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee with packet \$65.00 (deadline 4-26-93)

Registration Fee without packet for Choir Members, Instrumentalist, and Others \$15.00 (deadline 4-26-93)

Luncheon Ticket for Saturday, June 12 \$13.00

I want to charge my fee on my Baptist Book Store Acct.# \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose your check along with this completed form and mail immediately to: Baptist

Book Store, 1235 Hurstbourne Lane, Louisville, KY 40222. Make checks payable to

Baptist Book Store. Conformation to be mailed.



PUBLISH YOUR OWN BOOKS!

EXPAND YOUR MINISTRY  
300 Copies Low As \$3.49 Ea.

FREE AUTHOR'S KIT: 800 334-8861

BRENTWOOD CHRISTIAN PRESS

Let me help you  
with your next auto

C.W. Woodson

(21 years in same location)

Tri-City Olds

Subaru & Volkswagen

Breckinridge Lane, Louisville  
(502) 897-6541 or (502) 239-7668

PEWS  
NEW & USED (800) 366-1716  
Overholtzer



Spring  
Gathering

Saturday, April 17  
Broadway Baptist Church  
Louisville

#### Speakers:

- Cecil Sherman
- Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler
- James Dunn
- David Rogers

#### Topics:

- Mission Plans
- Ruschlikon Seminary
- Baptist Joint Committee
- New State Officers

Registration starts at 9 a.m.

Lunch available for \$5 (Reservation Requested)

For information, call (502) 863-2329

## KENTUCKY KERNELS

The rate of Kentuckians dying from cancer increased steadily from 1955 through 1991. The rate of cancer deaths in Kentucky in 1955 was 126 per 100,000 residents. By 1991, the rate was 232 deaths per 100,000 residents. Source: Cabinet for Human Resources

## Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BURLINGTON**—Susan Bradley, administrative secretary for Northern Kentucky Association, will become director of Bullittsburg Baptist Assembly April 12.

■ **CARROLLTON**—Whites Run Association honored Harold Lee, who retired Jan. 31 as director of missions.

■ **CLINTON**—Brotherhood members at Second Church ministered to a homebound man by pouring a sidewalk at his home, enabling him to enter and leave his house in his wheelchair.

■ **GREENSBURG**—James Casey, former director of missions in Russell Creek and East Lynn associations, is seeking people to help conduct revival services in Russia June 24-July 14. Those interested may contact him at (502) 932-3665.

■ **GREENVILLE, S.C.**—Kenneth Owens, a former intern with Kentucky Baptist Convention's discipleship training department, was elected to be the first full-time Baptist campus director at Furman University.

■ **HENDERSON**—Harry Hunter, interim pastor at Immanuel Temple, will become pastor of the church April 4.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Second Church called Rick Bene, minister of youth at Crest View Church in Lenoir, N.C., as minister of youth and church activities.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church will present its 12th annual

musical-drama, "The Living Scenes of Easter," April 7-10 at 8 p.m. Tickets are free and may be ordered from the church office at (502) 368-5806.

Franklin Street Church called Michael Barley as pastor.

■ **MIDWAY**—James Broome celebrated his 10th anniversary as pastor of Midway Church.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Gayle Toole celebrated his 20th anniversary as pastor of Edgewood Church.

William B. Craig is interim pastor of Nicholasville Church.

■ **PAINTSVILLE**—First Church ordained four as deacons: Danny Colvin, Dan McKenzie, John Sparks and Jerry Swank. In addition, the church also recognized senior deacons for their service: Frelan Bradbury, Escam Chandler, James H. Conley, Raymond King and Sherman Rice.

■ **PLEASUREVILLE**—Elmburg Church called Fred Madren Jr. as pastor.

■ **WACO**—Ralph Redden, Kentucky pastor for more than 40 years, died Feb. 16 after a long illness. He was ordained to the ministry by Sinking Springs Church in Murray and was pastor of several churches in Boones Creek and Tates Creek associations. He is survived by his wife, Anna, one son, two daughters and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

■ **WADDY**—Hempridge Church called Jason Graves as pastor.

## Lyndon sings another original

LOUISVILLE—The music staff of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville has taken literally the scriptural admonition to "Sing unto the Lord a new song."

This year's Easter musical/drama, like seven other presentations in the last five years, is the original creation of Lyndon church's own members.

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives," to be performed by a choir, dramatic cast and orchestra of 100 people, was written by Music Minister Phillip Landgrave and church member Michele Togami. Landgrave wrote the music; Togami wrote the drama.

Since 1989, Lyndon's staff and

members have written nearly half the major works performed, as well as numerous anthems and solo pieces, Landgrave said.

The church has three part-time music leaders: Landgrave, who also is professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Associate Music Minister Kevin Landgrave, who owns Koinonia Computing; and Associate Music Minister Naomi Walker, who is acting director of housing and mailing services at Southern Seminary.

This year's original Easter musical will be presented at 6 p.m. Sunday, April 11, and 7 p.m. Monday, April 12.

## April designated for child abuse prevention

LEXINGTON—April is designated Child Abuse Prevention Month by the Kentucky Council on Child Abuse.

Blue ribbons and Lifesavers are two symbols the council is promoting as reminders about the tragedy of child abuse.

Kentuckians concerned about child abuse are asked to participate in Blue Ribbon Day April 14 by wearing blue ribbons; placing blue ribbons on desks, doors, cars; distributing blue ribbons at churches, civic organizations and other groups.

Also, the council has launched a

"Be a Life-Saver" campaign by placing its statewide toll-free hotline number on rolls of Lifesaver candy for sale at SuperAmerica stores in Lexington.

In Kentucky last year, more than 23,000 children were victims of reported child abuse.

"Experts tell us the only sure way to stop child abuse is to prevent it from starting," said Jill Seyfred, executive director of the council. "The children in our commonwealth need our adult voices today."

The council's toll-free number is (800) 432-9251.

## The last shall be first

Working at my desk at 10:30 p.m. Thursday, I suddenly heard youthful voices over my walkie-talkie singing our school song, "Oneida Fair." Written for and first sung by our seniors 82 years ago, I realized it was our '93 seniors announcing their safe return from OBI's 43rd annual trip to Washington and colonial Williamsburg.

As I walked up the hill from my office to the front entrance of our Sparks gym, traditional spot for such trips to begin and end, I saw another group of excited seniors hugging loved ones who had been awaiting their return, and greeting the handful of staff here during spring break. How many times I have witnessed this happy scene over the years. How fondly I remember my own senior trip 35 years ago.

Two of our staff and three of our boys also returned safely from a three-day trip to western Kentucky. They had disassembled a silo donated us and brought it back to be reconstructed on our farm.

Friday and Saturday were busily spent by various staff members and several students preparing for everyone else's return on Sunday and the start of our fourth academic quarter. Four of our staff and myself spent hours reviewing the folders of new students arriving to begin the fourth quarter. It was past midnight Saturday when we finished deciding who was to room with whom.

Everything went very smoothly Sunday as nine staff members processed 60 new students as they arrived, and the deans received them in the dorm along with the hundreds of others returning. Such days are always very busy. Old students and the ones newly arrived met in the evening worship in our chapel. For some it was the first worship experience in their young lives. All 518

beds were claimed and our commuting students pushed our enrollment to 609. Monday morning, 35 are waiting to come.

After a hymn and prayer at our daily morning chapel, I called the honor roll of over 180 girls and boys who had at least a B average the preceding quarter. Each came to the platform to applause. This was an eye-opener for the 60 new students. Most schools do not single out the academically outstanding. But we do. Even the "coolest" like to hear their names called to stand before their peers.

Our 1993 yearbook had arrived while everyone was on spring break. This is the earliest it has ever gotten in, a tribute to our wonderful yearbook staff and sponsor. Truly a beautiful book. The yearbook honors, kept secret until this occasion, were then conferred on the students voted "most studious" and "most outstanding" in each grade in secret ballot by the staff after nine hours of discussion. Each along with "Mr. and Miss Oneida" came forward to receive a yearbook free. Then Mrs. Carolyn Woods Hinkle, a faithful

cook for 14 years, received a spontaneous standing ovation from our girls and boys and staff as the yearbook was dedicated in her honor and "to the glory of God."

On Tuesday after singing God's praise and prayer, we challenged our new students and old as we honored our winter athletes: boys' and girls' basketball teams (three invitational championships and district runner-up), swimming and diving teams, boys' wrestling squad (a class A state championship) and girls' cheerleading squad (top "pep" award in the region).

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

Paid Column

### ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

## Stronger music program

Strengthen our music program is one of our five-year goals. Some of you shared in some results of that goal at the state Evangelism Conference in Lexington. Music Professor James Castlen directed the congregational music for the Monday session. Castlen commented on the type of music education a student can expect to receive at Clear Creek: "The music ministry supports the ministry of the word. We are looking for students with a strong sense of calling and a solid musical aptitude who will participate in learning and doing music ministry."

A native of Owensboro, Castlen graduated from Berea and New Orleans Seminary and earned a music doctorate at Southern Seminary. His wife, Shelby, serves as my very capable secretary. The parents of two children, the Castlens were missionaries for 16 years in the Philippines and Australia. They very much feel Clear Creek continues that missions calling.

As enrollment grows we have added another full-time faculty member. Miss Tina Murdock teaches music theory, private piano, keyboard, accompanies the Clear Creek Singers and directs a women's ensemble. A graduate of

Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, Tina finds her deepest fulfillment in teaching people to use music in the church and worship. She was missionary journeyman with International Baptist Church in Singapore.

Plans have been approved to relocate the music classrooms from the second floor of the library building to the facility vacated by the preschool center when it moves this summer to new quarters. This change will meet the demand of an anticipated increase in music student enrollment and will provide a better environment for practice.

Music ministry preparation at Clear Creek includes studying a core of Bible and ministry courses which prepare the graduate to help the church in a variety of needs. The 130-hour curriculum includes courses on music theory, sight singing, hymnology, composition, choral techniques and developing a graded choir program. The average Southern Baptist church wants someone who can do more than music. As God calls individuals from your church, send them to Clear Creek.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Paid Column

## Young friends sent supplies by truckload

By Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)—College students in Riverside, Calif., are still celebrating Christmas, thanks to the generosity of Southern Baptist children.

Del and Kathi Brixey, student ministers at the University of California at Riverside, have been inundated with school supplies since last fall.

The Brixeyes, who work under the Home Mission Board's Mission Service Corps volunteer program, received the first of 112 packages from the Christmas in August program on Sept. 28. They eventually had a 12-foot stack of notebook paper in their garage along with thousands of pens, tubes of toothpaste and cans of shaving cream.

"We got stuff every day for weeks," Mrs. Brixey said. "The postman had to get a bigger truck, and we had the opportunity to witness to him."

Sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, Christmas in August is an activity for children and teen-agers to provide extra supplies to missionaries. The project began in the 1920s when items were sent to China and donations had to be mailed in August so missionaries would receive them by Christmas.

Last year the Brixeyes' name was given to Mission Friends, the missions education organization for pre-schoolers.

College students helped the Brixeyes sort donations into brown paper lunch bags. During "Club Day" last October, students distributed 300 care packs, each with a flier about the campus ministry.

Steven Kish, a sophomore, learned about the ministry by receiving one of the care packs. He became involved in the organization and by February was co-host of a banquet to raise money for summer missions.

The Brixeyes also used Christmas in August materials for a scavenger hunt. They put together identical bags of supplies and sent students out in groups of three.

Students traded something in the bag for something of more value. One group traded for a fellow student, who became part of the group and invited her friends.

The scavenger hunt served another purpose. Before students could trade items, they had to identify themselves as part of Focus—Fellowship of Christian University Students—which meets on Thursday nights. Brixey said the project helped students learn to talk to strangers, and it provided word-of-mouth publicity for the group.

## Peruvian Baptist to train politicians

By Mary Speidel  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

LIMA, Peru (BP)—Carlos Garcia wants to use what he learned as Peru's second vice president to prepare other Peruvian evangelicals for future political service.

However, Garcia, a Peruvian Baptist, says he won't return to politics after his 20-month experience as one of the country's two elected vice presidents.

"I'm totally out of politics now and am back in Christian ministry," Garcia told Baptist Press in a telephone interview from his home in Lima, Peru's capital.

Garcia, a former Baptist pastor in Peru and Colombia, will begin training for an evangelistic ministry to Peruvian executives he will start through Campus Crusade for Christ International.

Also, Garcia and about a half dozen evangelical politicians in Peru are trying to organize an informal institute for training Peruvian Christians interested in political service.

His brief political stint convinced him Peruvian evangelicals need more preparation for political service. "We (evangelicals) need more than enthusiasm. We need preparation, training and organization."

Garcia, also a lawyer, became interested in entering politics while working for eight years as a Peruvian national director of World Vision, a Christian relief organization.

He was elected Peru's second vice president in June 1990 on a ticket with presidential winner Alberto Fujimori, a Roman Catholic. About one-third of the congressional candidates on Fujimori's slate were evangelicals, who make up about 5 percent of Peru's population.

Garcia's five-year term was cut short after Fujimori dissolved Peru's constitution and disbanded Congress on April 5, 1992. Fujimori claimed that legislative and judicial corruption was hampering his efforts to revive Peru's economy and curb guerrilla violence. The president's action drew international criticism and prompted the United States to cut aid to Peru.

Garcia and First Vice President Maximo San Roman, who both pub-

licly opposed Fujimori's decision, were forced to leave office early. In the days immediately after the president's self-imposed coup, more than half of the disbanded Congress named Garcia president of an opposition government since San Roman was out of the country.

For personal safety, Garcia sought political asylum at the Argentine embassy in Lima at the advice of legislators. When San Roman returned to Peru April 18, 1992, Garcia turned the resistance government over to him.

San Roman has remained a public critic of Fujimori, who continues to enjoy popular support in Peru despite international condemnation of his actions.

But Garcia quietly returned to civilian life; he preaches regularly in Baptist and other evangelical churches in Peru and remains active in Peruvian Baptist work. He is a former president of the Evangelical Baptist Convention of Peru and of Peru's National Evangelical Council.

"It was good experience, but there was some frustration," said Garcia of his political service.

He has advice for other Peruvian evangelicals who aspire to be politicians: "First, be clear and strong in your Christian position, in your faith. Second, remember political position should be used to serve the people. Political power can be very dangerous; it can be used for good or for bad, depending on the values of the person. Finally, a leader needs to understand the reality of the problems of his people."

As second vice president, Garcia wasn't given a specific job assignment and was "quietly left alone," according to some observers. Peru's second vice presidency is a "symbolic position" with no salary, Garcia explained.

To make a difference, Garcia carved out his own niche in social services. Besides using government programs, he worked with international relief organizations, including church-related groups, to help Peru's poor citizens.

Garcia formed a nonprofit organization to undergird that work and to carry on its programs after he left of-

office.

The organization is called the Center for Cooperation, Action and Development, with a stateside counterpart called Cooperative Development for Latin America. It has helped to provide clothes, food, medicine, Bibles and other aid to Peruvians.

Peruvians face "a very difficult economic situation," Garcia noted. "The people are very patient. They wait and wait, thinking that maybe next month the economic situation will get better. They continue to wait," he said. He urged prayer for Peru's "economic and political situation."

A government austerity program has curbed inflation from an annual rate of about 8,000 percent in 1990 to 78 percent, according to news reports. Yet austerity measures have pushed about 5 million Peruvians into poverty; more than half of Peru's 22 million people reportedly live in poverty.

**LESSONS LEARNED** In his office in Lima, Peru, Peruvian Baptist leader Carlos Garcia (right) confers with Southern Baptist missionary Hayward Armstrong about Baptist relief for cholera victims. At the time this photo was taken, Garcia was still second vice president of Peru. Garcia says he wants to use his experience in government to train other Peruvian evangelicals for future political service. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)



## Composer plays to needs of small churches

By Charles Willis  
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Joe Parks says he believes musicians can be as much service to God in a small church as in a large one.

And to support that conviction he devotes most of his time as a composer and arranger to producing music for small-church choirs.

Parks, who lives in Chattanooga, Tenn., and is the author of "Songleading Made Easy," recently released by Convention Press, spoke to participants in a seminar for music leaders in smaller-membership churches.

"God has a plan for each of our lives," Parks said, "and if that's in a small church, be content with it."

Working with a smaller member-

ship church does not have to result in stagnant service, he insisted.

"A lot of choir directors have two years worth of (music) material, but don't ever get fed from other sources," he observed.

"Buy fresh music occasionally," he urged, "and check in to music lending plans in associational libraries."

Parks, who has close to 1,000 titles to his credit, said he has done about 95 percent of his musical compositions for small choirs because he believes the need is greatest in those churches.

"The majority of our (Southern Baptist) churches are under 350 members," he said, "and the average choir in those churches has 18 persons—15 women and 3 men."

Parks said he takes into consider-

ation the needs of people who work at a full-time job and also direct the music for their churches.

For people who direct music in a small church, Parks suggested five options for training to improve their success and sense of achievement in a music program:

■ Take advantage of training offered by Baptist associations.

■ Attend state Baptist convention retreats for musicians.

■ If possible, attend national seminars such as those offered by the Sunday School Board.

■ Take vacation time to attend conferences at Glorieta or Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Centers.

■ Learn music wherever you can through private lessons or classes at a nearby university.

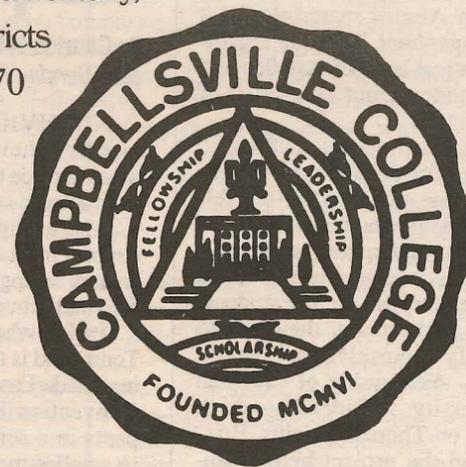
# CAMPBELLVILLE

## Excellence in Teaching Should Not Go Unnoticed



Campbellsville College acknowledges the important part teachers play in our society. They are role models—demonstrating character, values, wisdom and intelligence. Through their guidance, teachers help motivate students to become leaders in their communities, churches and schools.

In recognition of outstanding teaching, Campbellsville College will honor Kentucky elementary, middle and high school teachers from the first, second, fifth and sixth congressional districts at the Seventh Annual Excellence in Teaching Award Program, April 17. Nearly 70 teachers from 30 participating school districts will be honored by their schools and by Campbellsville College for creative, innovative teaching. We believe it's fitting to say, 'Thank you, Kentucky teachers, for a job well done!'



**Campbellsville College • 800-264-6014**