

FOR THE RECORD

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Debate over the compatibility of Freemasonry with Christianity has split a Missouri church.
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Faith sharing
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Deans resign
Deans of two of the four schools of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have announced their resignations, in anticipation of a changing of administrations this summer. *See page 3.*

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Russian missions
The Russian government has cleared the way for Southern Baptist missionaries to operate with official sanction.
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LESSONS LEARNED A photographer for the Reuters news service captured this image of four Bosnian boys playing with guns in Sarajevo as civil war in the former Yugoslavia enters its second year. (RNS photo)

Americans pray but want to do better

GLENDALE, Calif.—Nearly nine in 10 American adults pray to God, yet only one in four adults is completely satisfied with his or her prayer life.

That's the finding of a nationwide poll by the Barna Research Group of Glendale, Calif.

Factors such as age, marriage, parenthood and income have little bearing on the intensity of Americans' prayers, the poll found. However, there are marked differences between the prayer practices of Christians and non-Christians.

Regular church attendance and a strong commitment to Christian beliefs are markers of the nation's most fervent prayers, according to the data. However, such distinctions make little difference on how satisfied people are with their prayer lives.

"Many Christians feel that no matter how fulfilling their prayer lives are, there is still plenty of room to grow," said George Barna, president of Barna Research Group. "While some parts of the population display the disaffection of a skeptic, this group displays the dissatisfaction of an enthusiast, constantly wanting to improve."

Here's a summary of other findings:

■ Six in 10 Americans pray once or more per day.

■ Prayer is a regular part of the lives of 82 percent of Americans, including the lives of 63 percent of unchurched Americans.

■ Women are more likely to pray than men (95 percent to 83 percent).

■ Women are more likely than men to be certain prayer makes a difference in their lives (64 percent to 56 percent).

■ Men are more likely than women to be hopeful that prayer makes a difference but unsure that it does (23 percent to 15 percent).

■ Catholics are less likely than Protestants to be "absolutely certain" that prayer makes a difference in their lives (45 percent to 60 percent).

■ Baby boomers, adults ages 28 to 46, are less likely than the average American to consider prayer a regular part of their lives.

■ One in four unchurched Americans prays only as a "last resort," while overall only one in 10 adults do so.

■ While 73 percent of "born-again" Christians are absolutely certain prayer makes a difference, the same is true of only 43 percent of others in the population.

■ 95 percent of people who pray thank God in their prayers for what he has done for them, while 76 percent ask forgiveness for specific sins and 61 percent ask specific requests.

■ While only 46 percent of Americans listen silently for God's response to them in prayer, this practice is more prevalent among older adults. Those less likely to spend time listening to God include the baby buster group of 18- to 27-year-olds and suburbanites.

Bold Mission Thrust needs boost, some say

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Does anybody remember Bold Mission Thrust?

The reviews are mixed.

On one hand, surveys show many Southern Baptists understand that Bold Mission Thrust is the denomination's plan to make the Christian gospel known to every person on earth by the year 2000. On the other hand, surveys also show low levels of commitment to some of the things denominational executives see as vital to the success of Bold Mission Thrust.

At the same time, even the most ardent supporters of Bold Mission Thrust now admit that many of the plan's goals may not be met in the remaining seven years. However, a few of the goals already have been met or exceeded.

Almost universally agreed is the assessment that Bold Mission Thrust needs a new boost to be recaptured in the minds of people in the pews.

The strategic planning group that directs Bold Mission Thrust is convening a special meeting this week to decide how to address this challenge.

"If the people are telling us that the way we're doing it now isn't igniting any enthusiasm, isn't it appropriate for us to stop and reconsider whether we need to redirect the approach?" asked Ernest Mosley, Bold Mission Thrust steering committee chairman.

Mosley, executive vice president with the SBC Executive Committee, explained the analysis is partially "to see what course corrections may be needed to help us achieve more of the

basic objective of getting the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000."

Bold Mission Thrust was adopted by messengers to the annual SBC meetings in 1976 and 1977. It was conceived out of a missions challenge committee chaired by Warren Hultgren, then pastor of First Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla.

The plan was "to refocus the energy and interest of Southern Baptists on their primary goal of preaching the gospel to the world," Hultgren explained recently. "What Bold Mission Thrust did was merely to verbalize and articulate the fundamental commitment of Baptists from the beginning."

Although the initial Bold Mission Thrust documents set few specific, measurable goals, the number of statistical goals has been expanded through the years. Also, various agencies and institutions have piggy-backed their own strategic plans on the Bold Mission Thrust agenda, creating various subsets of goals under the one banner.

After a few years in the bureaucratic process, the simple plan to tell everyone in the world about Jesus had picked up dozens of annual themes, projects and emphases.

"We've had so many Bold Mission Thrust projects that it's hard for people to see the Bold Mission Thrust label on them," Mosely noted. "People are looking for something sharply

focused, more specific."

Mosley said he believes the amount of information people were asked to process became confusing and caused them to lose sight of their own involvement in Bold Mission Thrust through the local church.

A recent survey done by the SBC Executive Committee found Southern

Baptists ranking "personnel and financing for foreign and home missions" last out of six primary issues facing the SBC in the future. This low-priority item clearly fits the general description

of Bold Mission Thrust.

"The recognition factor regarding ... Bold Mission Thrust promotion was very low," Mosley admitted. "That the enthusiasm toward it was very low was equally spread among church leaders and church members."

But Ellis Bush, a Sunday School Board staff member who coordinates the planning and promotional aspects of Bold Mission Thrust, says earlier research shows people in the pew readily identify Bold Mission Thrust as a plan to present the gospel to every person on earth.

"Where we get confusion is where we pick up these specialized program promotions ... under the rubric of Bold Mission Thrust," he said.

In one sense, Baptist leaders note, Bold Mission Thrust has become all things to all people, churches and agencies. "It's easy for a church or a

BOLD MISSION THRUST

Where are we now?

□ See Bold Mission Thrust ..., page 7

BAPTIST BITS

■ **National Geographic** magazine has cited the quick response of Southern Baptist volunteers after Hurricane Andrew struck Dade County, Fla., last fall. In the April issue, writer Rick Gore tells of "seeing care ladled out by Southern Baptists" at a Florida City, Fla., church. "The Baptists, renowned for feeding disaster victims from mobile kitchens, were perhaps the first Samaritans on the scene," he added.

■ **Nine study groups** appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young to review the SBC's work gave reports during a review session in Conroe, Texas, April 13-14. The study groups' findings now are in the hands of a task force headed by Jimmy Draper, president of the Sunday School Board. Draper said the task force's work should be completed by the June 1994 SBC meeting in Orlando, Fla.

■ **Some courses** offered through the seminary extension program of the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries have been approved for credit ranging from one to three semester hours each when transferred to degree programs in accredited colleges and universities. Seminary extension was not designed as a degree-granting institution, noted its leader, Doran McCarty, but the new distinction could help some seminary extension students.

Spurgeon to leave early; presidential hunt ongoing

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP/BP)—A Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board vice president who announced he would retire June 30 will instead leave his post April 25.

Meanwhile, the committee seeking a new FMB president will make no recommendation when the board's trustees meet April 19-21 in Columbus, Ohio, a committee member said.

The early departure of Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for a "more orderly transition" between him and his interim successor, said Interim President Don Kammerdiener.

Thurmon Bryant, now an associate vice president in mission personnel, will become interim vice president April 26. Bryant is one of two FMB administrators to publicly state a difference of opinion with Spurgeon's view that he could no longer work at the FMB with integrity.

In a letter dated March 30, Spurgeon announced his early retirement and charged that trustees have put denominational controversy and politics above the FMB's "only agenda" of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

Though Spurgeon has acted as one of several key foreign mission strategists at the board, Kammerdiener said he had no choice but to shorten Spurgeon's presidential time because he feels Spurgeon's public statement shows lack of confidence in FMB trustees and staff.

Kammerdiener, who also asked Spurgeon not to attend the trustee board meeting April 19-21, said trustees did not intervene in the matter.

Spurgeon will receive full pay and benefits through June 30, his 62nd birthday and the day he requested to resign early retirement. He said he has been offered three jobs, but will make no decision now.

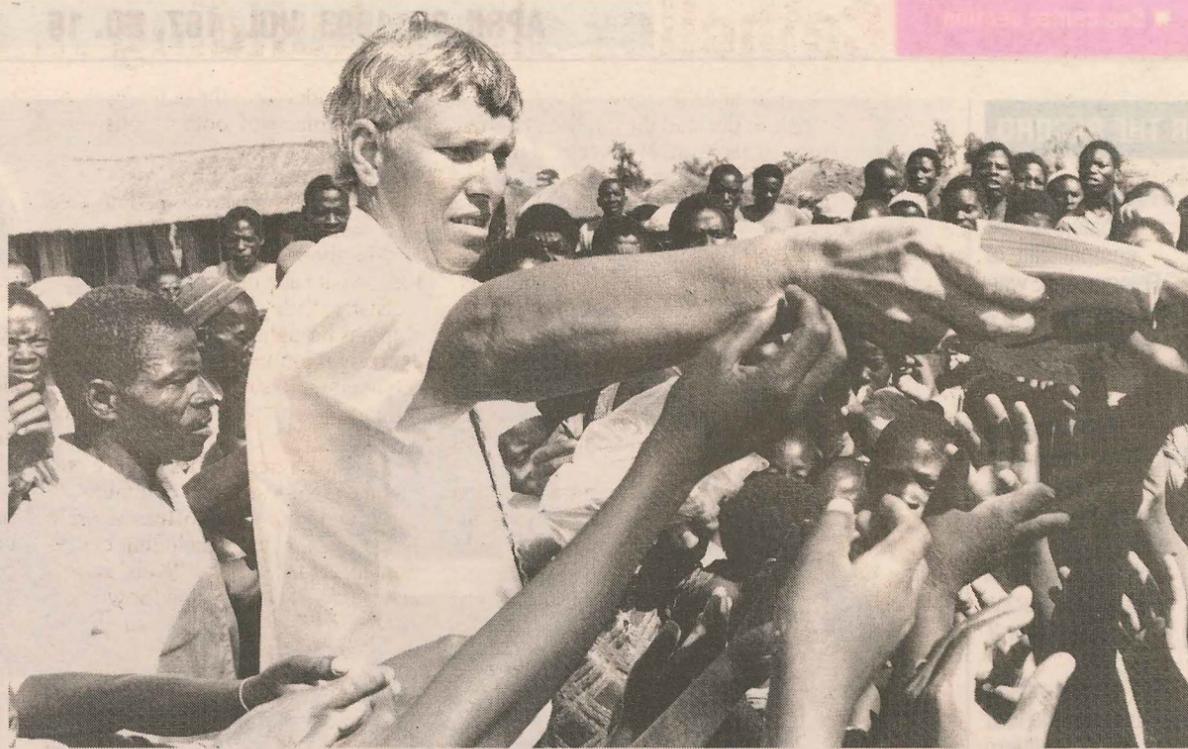
As for the FMB's presidential search, trustee chairman John Jackson, an ex officio member of the search committee, said there would be no nominee at this week's meeting and speculated it is "doubtful" a nominee would be presented at the next trustee meeting, June 28-30.

The 15-member search committee was named more than a year ago to seek a successor to Keith Parks, who retired as president Oct. 30 in a dispute with trustees.

In January the committee offered the position to Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla. But Elliff, a former FMB missionary, declined.

Associated Baptist Press learned the committee again offered the position to Elliff recently and was poised to announce his selection when Elliff again withdrew.

Committee members told ABP they have no intention of abandoning their search, and they discounted the rumor they might resign now after a year of fruitless effort.



GOSPEL HANDS International Service Corps worker John Carpenter hands out evangelistic tracts after preaching in the Kalanje refugee camp in southern Malawi. Each time the Virginia native hands out tracts in a refugee camp, he is mobbed with people wanting a copy. While most of the people in the camp are illiterate and scramble for the literature out of curiosity, some will keep the message and find someone to read it to them. The Baptist mission volunteer also preaches the gospel to all who will listen. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Freemasonry issue splits St. Louis church

ST. LOUIS (BP)—The debate over whether Freemasonry is compatible with Christianity has split a Missouri Baptist church and caused the pastor who opposed Masonry to resign.

Controversy surrounding the adoption of a policy prohibiting Masons as church staff or deacons was one factor in Stoney Shaw's decision to resign after 12 years as pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in St. Louis.

The local church experienced the brunt of a debate now raging on the national level about whether a person can be a faithful Christian and a member of a Masonic lodge. Messengers to this year's Southern Baptist Convention will vote on a report and recommendation from the Home Mission Board on the issue.

The report and recommendation were requested at last year's annual meeting after a motion was made by Texas layman Larry Holly, who tridentally opposes Freemasonry. The HMB recommends that while Freemasonry "may not be compatible with Christianity," membership in a lodge should be a matter of individual judgment.

Shaw, who resigned Feb. 28, began looking into Freemasonry after a Sunday school teacher brought the subject to his attention. The teacher had used literature that said Christians should avoid Freemasonry, and some members of the class protested.

The pastor took the matter to the deacons last June, and they agreed a study of Freemasonry should be undertaken.

"The more we studied it, the more we felt it was very cultic and very anti-Christian," Shaw said. The committee reviewed materials from modern Freemasonry critics as well as the works of the late Albert Pike, a Masonic writer.

The HMB's interfaith witness department report notes Pike's books

dealt with pagan religions; disagreement exists over their purpose.

Parkway's deacons voted to recommend the policy that no Mason could be a staff member or a deacon. When the church voted on whether to accept the recommendation last November, it passed by a margin of 148-100.

Normally fewer than 100 people vote at a business meeting, Parkway member Arthur Swope said.

"Bitterness erupted from both sides in this meeting," Swope wrote in a letter to the Home Mission Board. "The most damaging things in this entire issue were that many members were affected. Those who had fathers, husbands, sons and brothers who were longtime Christians, workers in the church, and had been Masons, felt condemned too."

Shaw expressed regret the issue generated such hard feelings. He noted some older women in the church even became fearful that their deceased husbands had gone to hell because they were Masons.

Members made their feelings known in different ways. One deacon served the Lord's Supper while wearing a Masonic lapel pin, Shaw said. "It literally slapped me that men would defend a man-made organization over the church of the living God."

Shaw claimed opponents of the anti-Mason policy misrepresented it. "We tried to make it a truth issue, but they made it into a personality issue," he said. One deacon who was a Mason had to leave the board.

Shaw said he believes Freemasonry is a religion. He cited Freemasonry's emphasis on oaths and its concept of an inclusive God called the "Great Architect" as contrary to Scripture and to Christian principles.

Men who approach its rituals as a sort of "fraternity hazing" are deceived, Shaw said. "I think their in-

tent is good, but they're connected to evil."

To the argument "but they do good things," Shaw countered that Christians who accept this logic also should stop witnessing to Mormons and Jews.

Arthur Lewis, a Mason and a former deacon at Parkway, said Freemasonry was not the real issue.

"I believe Jesus is my high priest," Lewis said. "Does a minister have a right to determine who's a Christian or who's not? That's the whole problem here."

"Do I have a right to tell you how to live your life? No. As long as we're believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, as Lord."

Lewis pointed out the nation's Baptist churches have grown strong over the past century and Masons have played a part in their growth. Some of Parkway's charter members were Masons, he noted. "God has blessed this church."

Shaw emphasized the Freemasonry issue was just one factor in his decision to resign. Parkway has a strong history in prison ministry, in missions and in giving, he noted. "I just didn't want to see that interrupted."

He said he was not planning to seek another Southern Baptist pastorate, and his stand against Freemasonry might make it hard for him to find one.

"I am not angry at any Mason, but I am categorically opposed to Freemasonry and its deception," Shaw said.

Repercussions of the issue continue to be felt, Swope said. "This has really put a heavy spirit on the church at Parkway."

Lewis was more optimistic. He said the church will need time to heal, but its future is bright. He also said he expected that with Shaw gone, someone would make an effort to overturn the controversial policy.

Baptists & Catholics share building in small town

By Denise Spencer
State Correspondent

JACKSON—An unlikely partnership has developed between a Roman Catholic congregation and a new Baptist congregation in the small Eastern Kentucky town of Jackson.

"If this really works out, it will be one of the biggest witnesses in the county," said Sister Lydia Villegas of Holy Cross Catholic Church.

For more than a year, Holy Cross has been sharing its facilities with New Hope Community Baptist Church. In March 1992, the two congregations signed a covenant agreement of cooperation.

The Baptist church got its start in October 1991 when a small group of people left First Baptist Church in Jackson due to what some have called a "difference of vision."

Mark Driskill, who had resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, agreed to help get the new church started but didn't plan to stay there long.

However, after much prayer

Driskill and his wife, Mary Royals Driskill, decided they still had a ministry in Jackson. He accepted the position as pastor, and Mrs. Driskill became minister of education and church secretary.

After reaching a high attendance goal of 60 after only two months, New Hope was constituted as a church Dec. 29, 1991.

The congregation met in homes the first four weeks, then moved to an empty storefront in a shopping center before moving to the Catholic church in February 1992.

The covenant agreement signed between the two congregations instructs each body to respect the other's traditions of worship. Any events New Hope schedules are approved beforehand by Sister Villegas, pastoral director at Holy Cross, or Father Rock Travnikar.

New Hope pays Holy Cross each month for use of the building, and the relationship is evaluated every six months by both congregations.

A sign in the Holy Cross church

yard now identifies the building as the meeting place of both Baptist and Catholic churches.

The sisters of Holy Cross "have been the most gracious people I've ever seen," Driskill reported.

Members of each church sometimes visit each other's services.

Sister Villegas said the relationship has brought both churches greater recognition in the area. She hopes members and outsiders alike will be reminded that "we're worshipping the same Lord."

Driskill agreed: "It's been a tremendous witness in the community."

New Hope now offers a wide range of ministries, including education, missions, music, a "Kids' Klub," and special programming for women, singles, college students, youth and the deaf.

Beginning a church from scratch is both difficult and rewarding," the Driskills agreed. "We're trying to do things that haven't been done before," Mrs. Driskill explained. "That's part of the struggle and the joy. We try to

turn the minuses into pluses."

New Hope's situation has forced creative thinking. When the education space at Holy Cross proved to be inadequate for a Baptist-style vacation Bible school, New Hope decided to hold backyard Bible clubs in two neighborhoods.

When plans for a 6 p.m. evening worship service conflicted with another event in the building, New Hope decided to hold vespers services outdoors from May through September, and average attendance at the services zoomed from 12 to 40.

Most of New Hope's additions have been people not involved in any church before, Driskill said. Consequently, equipping members for ministry has been a top priority.

The church's deacons are learning counseling skills, and the Brotherhood is focusing on mission action projects.

"These are young professional people who have never before had a chance to do ministry," Driskill said. "It's so exciting to watch them grow."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Georgetown College** has received two grants totalling \$18,500 for its Pre-college Academic Experience in Mathematics and Science, one from the Raymond B. Preston Family Foundation of Henderson and another from the Margaret Voorhies Haggin Trust of Lexington.

■ **Gov. Brereton Jones** declared April 17 "A Day of Recognition for Excellence in Teaching," in conjunction with Campbellsville College's seventh annual excellence in teaching award program. The college honored more than 70 elementary, middle and secondary teachers from 30 participating school systems.

■ **Ernest White**, professor of church administration and leadership at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, died at his home April 17 after a lengthy battle with cancer. White, 63, also directed the school's Dehoney Center for the Study of the Local Church. White previously had been pastor of Elmburg Baptist Church in Bagdad, where he served from 1956-58. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie, four children and nine grandchildren.

■ "The Bible Walk," a program portraying biblical characters in drama and song, will be presented by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's workshop in church music drama April 27 and 29. Performances both evenings are at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., and admission is free.

Two deans stepping down at Southern Seminary

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Deans of at least two of the four schools at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will step down from those posts before President-elect Al Mohler takes office Aug. 1.

Milburn Price, dean of the school of church music since 1981, has been named dean of the music school at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Bill Rogers, dean of Southern's school of Christian education, will remain on the seminary faculty but not as dean.

Both resignations are to be effective July 31, the day Roy Honeycutt retires as seminary president.

Knowledgeable sources on campus indicate these two resignations may be only the first of several to be announced before Honeycutt transfers power to Mohler. By some estimations, up to half the current administrative staff may be gone by the start of the fall semester.

In addition to the seminary's four deans, the administrative team includes a provost and five vice presidents. The seminary also operates Boyce Bible School as a separate division with its own dean.

Mohler, who was elected to the presidency March 26, has vowed to move the school in a more conservative direction. Seminary trustees appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention have wanted to make the 134-year-old school more conservative for some time.

Southern's deans and top administrators serve at the pleasure of the president and are not elected by trustees in the same way as faculty.

However, both Rogers and Price said Mohler had not asked for their resignations, nor the resignations of any other administrators to their

knowledge. Mohler confirmed he had not requested their resignations.

"He specifically went out of his way to say to all of us in a cabinet meeting that he had been advised by some to (ask for blanket resignations) but that he was not going to pursue that course of action," Rogers said.

But Rogers did note that while he was not "overtly asked to resign," he has major philosophical differences with the incoming president.

The most important difference, he said, is on the role of women in ministry. While saying he wants to "affirm the ministry of women," Mohler has said he does not believe women should be pastors or hold certain offices in the church.

In his resignation letter to Honeycutt, Rogers said his decision was made "in light of the stated position of the president-elect" on women's roles.

"I believe that being Baptist and being Christian mean that I must advocate freedom for each believer in Christ to identify gifts and define calls to mission and ministry without regard to gender," he wrote. "I find no evidence that Jesus taught exclusiveness related to gender and ministry, rather he taught a profound inclusiveness."

Rogers said he cannot support elevating some ministry positions as unacceptable for women over others deemed lesser and therefore acceptable for women. "There is always the backhanded slap which says, 'Well, maybe a woman could be an associate pastor, maybe a woman could be a music minister ... but not pastor.'"

"That kind of second-class citizenship has always been harmful to the mission of the church," Rogers said.

Mohler responded by saying he and Rogers "have an honest disagreement over the issue of the service of women in the pastorate."

However, "the issue of women in

ministry, their ordination and service in the pastorate is hardly the most important issue facing Southern Seminary and its future," Mohler said.

Although Rogers said he wants to focus on the women's issue, he has "many differences of opinion" with Mohler about the school of Christian education. "I might have submitted my resignation over some or all of those issues, but want to keep a focus on this one."

"I see Christian education needing to address issues of discipleship and Bible study and Christian community," Rogers explained. "He has a rather singular focus on church growth. We disagree about that."

Mohler responded: "I refuse to see that as a clear dichotomy. I would want the school of Christian education to provide the best background for students in educational theory, discipleship and educational ministries. But hand-in-hand with that, I would want to see an unembarrassed attention to issues of church growth and providing front-line leadership for the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. This should be a both/and rather than an either/or."

Although Price said his decision to leave Southern's music school was influenced by current changes, he was "responding to an opportunity and challenge at Samford ... that is very attractive and to which I look forward."

Some music students on campus have said they fear the music school will abandon its classical approach to music for a more contemporary, "praise chorus" approach.

Price said concerns about different approaches are "only speculation," as far as he knows. He and Mohler "never talked about specifics of musical styles or that sort of thing."

Mohler said he hopes the music

school will build upon its good track record of service and focus on "quality graduate education."

"I'm determined that Southern Seminary will be at the forefront of leadership in this denomination and that we will graduate ministers who are academically rounded and prepared for service and ministry in the churches of this denomination."

"We live in the midst of a changing age with changing worship styles," he continued. "I would want Southern Seminary's school of church music to reflect the best of the classical tradition and the best of contemporary worship styles."

Mohler praised both Price and Rogers for their contributions to the seminary.

When asked if new deans will be appointed before the fall semester, Mohler responded: "We will do our best to have the right leadership in place at the right time."

What role new deans will play in shaping the future of the seminary remains to be seen.

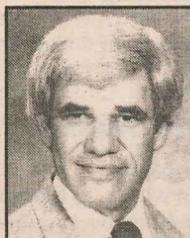
Price said Southern's music school still has a "wonderful" faculty. "As long as these faculty members are here and teaching, then I will in good conscience recommend students to come and study with them."

Rogers noted that while the new president has the prerogative to appoint a dean in line with his own philosophy, changing the religious education curriculum could not be done easily.

"The president would not have unilateral authority to alter the curriculum. The faculty owns the curriculum. The president could find someone to lead the school who agrees and is compatible with the president's direction about the school, but it would require a lot of debate and a number of years to effect that change in the curriculum."



Milburn Price



Bill Rogers

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

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God loves, but ...

In response to "It's time to respect all of God's children" (WR, March 9), I would like to point out some things.

First, it is of little consequence what theologians believe if their beliefs do not harmonize with God's word. Scripture clearly states the

homosexual lifestyle is sinful and condemned. Romans 1 refers to homosexual behavior as sinful and deserving the wrath of God. It begins by speaking of those against whom "the wrath of God is being revealed ... who suppress the truth by their wickedness." It notes homosexual behavior is the result of resistance of truth and rejection of God. Romans 1:27 says those who practice homosexuality receive "the due penalty for their perversion."

I Corinthians 6:9-11 places homosexuals among a list of persons who will not "inherit the kingdom of God" unless they are "washed," "sanctified" and "justified" "in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

These passages reveal that homosexual behavior is sinful in the same way murder, immorality, drunken-

ness, etc. are sinful and that homosexual behavior demands repentance and faith in Jesus producing a new creature (Acts 17:31, II Corinthians 5:17).

Certainly God loves homosexuals as he loves all sinners and desires to save them from their sins by the power of Jesus, but he condemns their perverted lifestyle as he does all of our sinful lifestyles until we turn to Christ in faith (Acts 20:21).

BAPTIST FORUM

Charles Davis
Grayson

More response

I just want to express my appreciation for the letter titled "Response needed" by Dr. Richard D. Land and Dr. Timothy George, (WR, March 23).

Their stand in behalf of Dr. Al Mohler as new president at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was appropriate; the article that perceived his weakness, character and personal integrity was really not in keeping with the way Baptists used to encourage one another.

Also, the ill-informed lady from Owensboro writing about the "Fiery darts" (WR, March 23) needs to un-

derstand who Paul was talking about. He was surely not talking about one Christian running others down.

I feel as I have sought to express at other times we Baptists must get on with the work of the Lord and know who our real enemy is and pray for one another. God is blessing our denomination, and we need to praise him for that.

Guy M. Deane
Owensboro

Only good things

Knowing only superficial details of the Southern Baptist Convention controversy often referred to in your writings, I would like to suggest that in the spirit of Christian unity we should not keep the "fire" alive by editorials such as the "logic" expose (WR, Feb. 16).

I can't help but think we do no constructive good toward mending the rift if we keep the opposing views debated in widely circulated publications.

Please consider constructive and positive views since we are constantly surrounded by gloom and doom in our secular life.

Kenneth T. Willis
Bowling Green

Are our ministers cracking up?

The pastor gave the church secretary his sermon topic for the following Sunday, "Are Ministers Cracking Up?" The

secretary looked puzzled but followed instructions. When the bulletin came out, the sermon topic read: "Our Minister's Cracking Up!"

That mistake is often more correct than one might suppose. Many leaders are cracking up under the heavy pressures and strains of increasing demands.

An example is trying to maintain

peace but yet trying to inspire the adventurous spirit of a church family. There is no way to please everybody.

Someone always wants it done differently.

May the good Lord deliver us from those immovable folks who are totally dedicated to the proposition that absolutely nothing should go unchallenged.

A pastor could really "crack up" if he worried over the length, breadth or sermon selections. His sheep will either rise up and go home challenged,

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

A few steps toward Russia

On April 25, Russia will experience a national referendum on whether or not its popularly-elected president, Boris Yeltsin, has the continued support of the people who elected him.

At 8:35 a.m. on April 24, four of us will board Delta flight 61Y in Moscow, headed back to Kentucky.

If all will have gone as planned and hoped, we will return with a recommendation to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board to establish a formal partnership with the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia.

Our two-week visit will include only St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) and Moscow, the latter the location of the Russian Baptist Union office, their counterpart to the Kentucky Baptist Building.

It was here we spent several days last October in getting acquainted with Russian Baptist general secretary, Brother Vassili Logvenyinko. At his invitation, we are returning for

further dialogue and considerations in forming such a partnership.

This time we will meet his anticipated successor and other Baptist leadership from a number of the provinces in Russia. With Logvenyinko's retirement forthcoming, the timing of this second journey has been crucial.

It is crucial also because veteran missionaries George and Veta Mae Lozuk will be returning to retire in America this June. Born of Russian parents, George and Veta Mae transferred to Moscow in 1991 after a long career in Brazil as Southern Baptist missionaries. No other Southern Baptist missionary in Russia has much more than a year of service; none are yet fluent in Russian.

For me it is more than "accidental" that at about the same time the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board was considering us as a possible partner for Russia, the Lord was working in the lives of Norman and Martha Lytle, 28-year missionary vet-

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM: MARRIAGE

Divorce?

By Diana Garland

Q. "I've been married 26 years and now my husband wants a divorce. I don't believe in divorce, but my husband doesn't love me any longer."

A. Jesus stated flatly that God designed marriage to be a life-long commitment: "What therefore God has joined together, let man not separate" (Matthew 19:6). Jesus was reacting, however, to his opponents and their concept of divorce, which was that a man had done all that God required if he gave his wife a certificate of divorce when he put her out. Jesus was not speaking to partners experiencing the wrenching failure of a marriage. As the prophet Malachi said, God hates divorce (2:13-16), just as loving parents hate the forces that hurt their children.

What should Christians do, then, when one or both partners consider divorce? First, we must recognize that we have sinned against one another and against God in the hurt we have caused. The sin is not simply the final legal act but the process, often over a period of years, of destroying the loving commitment each has to the other. Many who never consider divorce are, in fact, sinning in their unwillingness to love one another. Once we have confessed our sin to God and to one another, it is time to determine what we can do in repentance. Couples often find a professional counselor to be very helpful.

Sometimes the cancer has progressed too far and requires the radical surgery of divorce. The most loving response to an abusive spouse may be a separation. One spouse cannot make a marriage work when the other is willfully destroying it. Paul recognized that sometimes a partner no longer "consents to" continue in a marriage (I Corinthians 7:12-13). God does not intend divorce for us, but God has also called us to peace (I Corinthians 7:15). Divorce may be the only route left to peace. It is a public confession of a long process of destruction. As the church, we need to respond to the pain of partners facing this difficult decision with love and support.

Diana Garland is dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work and director of the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry at Southern Baptist Seminary.

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

Make an impact on culture even a court can see

Which came first, the culture or the religion?

The University of Virginia has denied a Christian group's request for funds to publish a newsletter, according to a recent issue of *Context*, edited by church historian Martin Marty. So, the Christian students have taken their school to court.

The Christians claim the university has discriminated against them, denying them their right to free speech. "The university funds a large number of student publications," reports their lawyer, Michael McConnell, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School. "... They fund Moslem and Jewish organizations, but when it comes to a Christian point of view, they shy away."

But UVA's lawyer, James Mingle, insists that's not so. He cites a district court ruling that determined the Jewish and Muslim groups are "primarily cultural organizations," while the Christian group is a religion. "No religious publications are funded here," Mingle says.

Hmm. Maybe the Jewish and Muslim students were so glad to get the financial help they didn't care what the court thought of them.

Maybe the Christian students should have seen how the court watered-down "religion" until it became only "culture" and told the school to keep its money, thank you.

Maybe the judge should have re-read the Constitution's establishment clause, taken a course in world religions and told the state-run school not to give any money to any religious groups.

But set the church-state issue aside, and think about the definitions handed down by the district court: Muslim and Jewish groups are "cul-

tural." The Christian group, however, is "religious."

Did the court mistake the concept of "ethnic minority" for the word "cultural"? Muslim and Jewish people aren't part of the majority in WASP-y Virginia. They don't worship on Sunday, and their rituals and customs look and sound different than what goes on in church. They pray in foreign languages. Without a doubt, their religion permeates the cultures of the countries where they are the majority. But to casually dismiss two of the world's dominant religions as merely "cultural" is to insult all people of all faiths.

On the other hand, the Christian group didn't fare so well, either, and it's not just because they didn't get the money. The *Context* article notes, "Most of the Christian groups who are discriminated against are fundamentalist or fundamentalist-like." Consequently, in assigning the Christian students the "religious" label, the court also said the group is identifiable only for its religious belief. And that belief, unlike the Jewish and Islamic faiths, doesn't impact "culture."

The Apostle Paul urged, "Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Jesus commanded: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Together, these admonitions lead from religion to culture; or more precisely, from faith to public action. If we're serious about our religion, we'll make an impact on our culture that even a court could see.

Marv Knox

If we follow the biblical mandate, our faith will move us beyond the comfort of our religion and push us out to impact our culture for Christ.

'Separation of church and state' will limit religious freedom

This is in response to a guest editorial written by Brent Walker, "Constitution guarantees freedom to 'Christianize' nation."

This nation was originally 13 English colonies in which religious and property qualification were prerequisites for voting and holding office. Most of these colonies had established churches. Neither the Articles of Confederation (1781-89) nor the federal Constitution changed these voting rights or the rights of states to have established churches. The first Ten Amendments were passed at the insistence of and were written to protect the states.

George Washington was a devout Anglican. When he sent a prayer to the states at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, he prayed, "Grant our supplications, we beseech Thee,

through Jesus Christ our Lord." Washington believed good government was based on morality and morality was based on religion. For the state of Virginia, he proposed what is called Washington's Concept of Assessments. He proposed the state taxes be distributed to the churches in ratio to their membership. When he was inaugurated president of the United States, he added "so help me God" to the oath.

Baptists, a powerful group in Virginia, opposed Washington's idea. Historian Robert Semple wrote, "In 1777-78, the chief concern among Baptists seems to be the existing marriage laws." According to "Journal of the House of Delegates," Baptists flooded the legislature for permission for all Christian clergy to perform legal marriage contracts. Baptists did

not want to separate from the state, but rather wanted to become a part of state. When a minister performs a marriage, he becomes a legal agent of the state. Baptists were fighting for religious freedom. In no primary source materials was the term "separation of church and state" used.

Finally, the assembly passed the marriage law so dear to the heart of Baptists. On Dec. 16, 1784, Virginia law mandated, "That it shall and may be lawful for any ordained minister of the gospel in regular communion with any society of Christians, and every such minister is hereby authorized to celebrate the rites of matrimony according to the forms of the church to which he belongs."

At the national level, according to former Chief Justice Warren Burger, on the same day the Ten Amendments were passed, Congress passed a law

establishing chaplains for both houses of Congress whose pay is the same as congressmen. Even today, both houses are opened with prayer. By law, up until the Civil War, all army chaplains had to be Christian. In 1975, in a course on American government, the professor stated that, generally speaking, the Madison doctrine of no religious preference has been followed in this country rather than the Jeffersonian doctrine of separation of church and state. In an increasingly secular society, there will be less and less accommodation to religion by government. Under the guise of separation of church and state, religious freedom will be more and more restricted.

James Crisp, senior professor
History and political science
Cumberland College
Williamsburg

Early Virginia Baptists "did not want to separate from the state, but rather wanted to become a part of state."

VIEWPOINT

My, how time flies when you're watching your children grow up

It's halfway over.

Oh, I know this is a silly way of looking at things. But it's a habit I picked up in grade school: Anytime some special event comes along, you can savor it best by keeping track of how fast it's used up. For instance, you can count the days of Christmas break, ever aware of the drain on your free time.

Same goes for vacations and trips to grandparents' homes. I always knew when it was halfway over, when I'd spent more time having fun than I had left.

The part of my brain that stays awake when I do hadn't thought about such time-keeping in 20 years. Still, I wasn't all that surprised when the winding-down clock started ticking in my ear a few weeks ago.

Here's the story: If Lindsay goes off to college in the fall after she graduates from high school, then she's already lived in our home half the time she'll be with us. This month.

Tick-tock. Oooh.

Sometimes, of course,

I relate to Bill Cosby's Cliff Huxtable, who—with throngs of noisy, nosy offspring swirling about him—looked at his wife and asked plaintively, "Do you think they'll leave the house before we die?"

But most of the time, being a father is

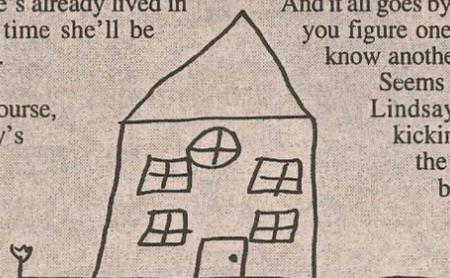
the best job there is. The main problem is that the only way you learn is on-the-job.

And it all goes by so fast, too. By the time you figure one thing out, you need to know another.

Seems like yesterday morning Lindsay arrived, crying and kicking and screaming, into the world. She was stubborn—took 27 hours in labor—and has left her fingerprints on our agenda ever since.

Back then, I didn't know beans about parenthood.

Some days my kids would tell you I haven't learned all that much. The most amazing



down home

revelation has been this: The last nine and a half years of my life have been better than all the 27 that preceded it, by a long shot. Because I'm Daddy now. Not that it's all perfect. We're not perfect. Still, being in the middle of family shines light on what God's grace is all about. A truly splendid gift. Undeserved, and unconditional.

The good news is grace is forever. The hard news is children grow up and leave. Lindsay's day is almost a decade away, but I feel it coming: When she'd rather go to a friend's house than bowling with me. When she gets that young-woman look that reminds me of her mother back when we first dated.

Hug your kids; they'll be gone soon.

Marv Knox

Sponsors sought for Somali refugees coming to U.S.

For information about sponsoring refugees, call the Home Mission Board's refugee resettlement office at (404) 898-7395.

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

SAN DIEGO (BP)—To most Americans, Somalis are starving people on the other side of the globe. But to Eric and Linda Berquist, Somalis are friends living in the apartment complex down the street.

At least 5,000 Somalis are expected to come to the United States this year. Refugee resettlement coordinators predict the refugees will resettle in cities across the nation. For example, at least 200 Somalis are expected in Atlanta by September.

To the Berquists—he is a graphic artist and she is director of extension ministries for Del Cerro Baptist Church in La Mesa, Calif.—the influx of Somalis is an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with an unreached people group. The Encyclopedia of Christianity reports that 99.8 percent of Somalis are Muslim, and foreign mission work in Somalia is limited.

Somalis' "healthy resistance" to Christianity makes sharing Christ with them difficult, Berquist said. Many Muslims equate Christianity with pornography, alcoholism and other vices they associate with America and "Christian" countries, he ex-

plained. The Berquists have established relationships with the Somalis by being good neighbors.

When the electricity went out in a thunderstorm, Berquist took candles to the Somalis. The women talk to Berquist to practice their English. He promises to look for volunteers to help them study. When Berquist had an extra job, he hired a Somali.

Somalis who make it to the United States are typically resourceful, Berquist said. The men he has met are educated and bilingual. But in most cases, it has taken all their resources to get here, and they arrive with virtually nothing.

Samme Warsame, director of Somali Relief and Community Service Inc. in Atlanta, says Somali refugees arrive with "barely enough" clothes to cover their backs.

Many of the refugees never were on a plane before their trip to the United States, said Warsame, a Somali who came here 20 years ago. It takes some Somalis a year to recover from the jet lag and to adjust to living in a different hemisphere, he said.

Though many Somali refugees are trained in professions such as electrical engineering, the language gap



ABANDONED HOPE Children gather for instruction at a school and orphanage in Mogadishu, Somalia. Military chaplains who served in Operation Restore Hope said conditions in some feeding stations were worse than any television report could show. More than 5,000 Somali refugees are expected to arrive in the United States this year, and Southern Baptists are being sought to help sponsor them. (BP photo by Mark Sandlin)

makes it difficult to transfer those skills to jobs here, Warsame said.

Bill Fulkerson, director of refugee resettlement for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said refugees receive limited government assistance. Sponsors assist refugees in a

number of ways, including finding housing, enrolling children in school and helping adults find work.

For information about sponsoring refugees, call Fulkerson at (404) 898-7395 or write him at 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30367-5601.

Missionaries legal in Russia

MOSCOW (BP)—The Russian government has granted Southern Baptists the legal right to operate as a nonprofit religious organization.

The new status clears the way for missionaries to buy and sell property, hire people and bring whatever they need into the country.

It was approved just weeks after 20 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to republics of the former Soviet Union met for the first time and formed the Commonwealth of Independent States Mission, an organization of missionaries.

At that two-day meeting in Moscow, missionaries elected former Kentuckian Norman Lytle as their coordinator. Until last fall Lytle di-

rected the Baptist conference center in Israel. He and his wife, Martha, a Louisville native, recently completed a furlough in Kentucky.

Twelve Southern Baptist missionary families are assigned to the Commonwealth of Independent States now, including seven in Moscow. Others are in Belarus and the Ukraine. Still others will transfer into Latvia, Estonia and Siberia within months. Southern Baptists have built up personnel in the region since the Soviet Union broke up in 1991. More than 90 other Southern Baptist workers who practice professional skills throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States are not connected with the new mission.

Volunteers needed to replace Kentuckians on drama team

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (BP)—Southern Baptist volunteers are urgently needed for a drama ministry in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan.

Four current drama team volunteers—including two Kentuckians—will complete their assignments in 1993. Members of a group called "Company International," they are engaged in mime, street theater and dance and music performances.

The group is stationed in Kazakhstan's capital city, Alma-Ata.

Drama training is not necessary, but a college education and a willingness to perform are. Musical ability is helpful, though not required.

Team member Kathy Abshure of Ringgold, La., said volunteers should be willing "to be stretched, to learn to do things they never did before, never thought they could do and maybe really don't want to do."

Company International director Joel Heard of Lexington has called the drama ministry in Kazakhstan "one of the greatest undeveloped ministry tools that we have."

Over the past year and a half the team's dramatized message has been well-received. "It gives people a point of reference. They can relate; they can feel what the characters on stage feel," Heard said.

Originally working with a secular Kazakh theater troupe, the team assumed ministry through building relationships would be the extent of their assignment.

"When we first came we thought things were very closed," Heard said. "But when we saw doors were wide open and all we were doing was theater games and sketches with no meaning, we decided to explore other avenues."

Company International has performed for benefit concerts and cultural programs.

The group performed for "Tomisha," a televised Kazakh celebration seen by about 30 million people.

The drama group's main project has been "The Tune," a 50-minute pantomime based on the Bible. New volunteers, the group hopes, will continue performing the pantomime, taking it to frontier regions throughout Kazakhstan.

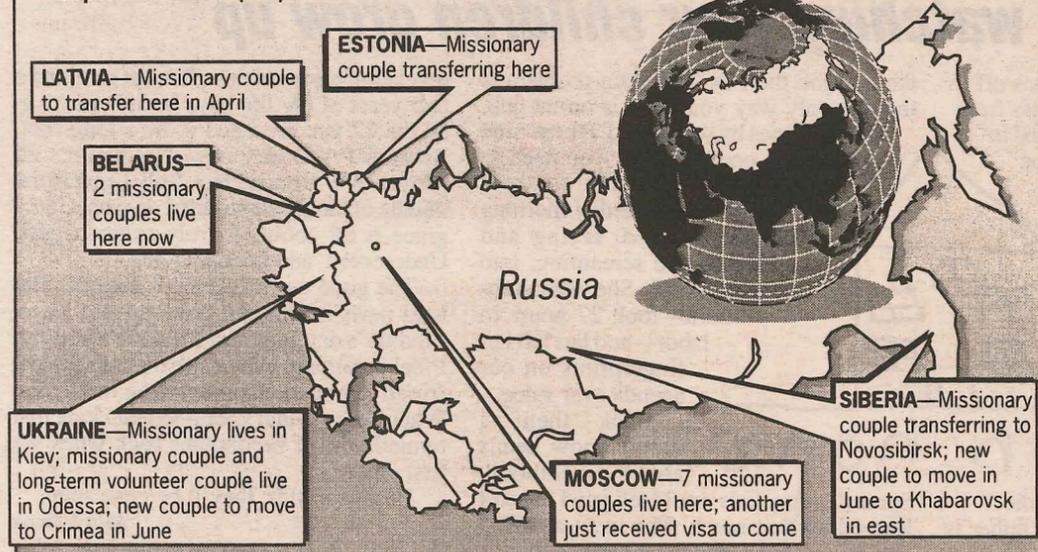
James Atherton, another team member from Lexington, said the focus of the group's work has shifted from drama to discipleship. "You never do what you think you're going to do here. God is always full of surprises ... what God has led us to do is infinitely better than anything we could have dreamed of," he said.

New volunteers will continue performing "The Tune" but will also develop new material for cross-cultural outreach, discipleship and congregation-starting efforts.

For more information about the drama team request and other volunteer opportunities in Kazakhstan, contact Cooperative Services International, Box 6841, Richmond, Va. 23230.

Personnel buildup in former Soviet Union

Since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, Southern Baptists have been putting missionaries into place in former Soviet republics. In mid-March missionaries formed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Mission.



(BP) GRAPHIC By Marty Croll

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Cedarmore Assembly: Our staff is busy preparing for your visit.
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Church Growth & Administration: Capture the skills you need to become fishers of men at the Super Saturday events.

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Annuity: Money Matters for Ministers and Churches. **Events Reply Form. Upcoming Events.**

School of Discipleship Features 5 Headliners

Kentuckians will have the opportunity to hear five of the Southern Baptist Convention's foremost experts on discipleship training issues during the first-ever Statewide School of Discipleship May 7-8.

The training event, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's discipleship training department, will be held at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Featured speakers include:

■ Roy Edgemon, director of the discipleship training division for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, who will talk about the role of preaching and teaching in discipleship training.

■ Avery Willis, manager of the adult department for discipleship training with the Sunday School Board, who will teach on in-depth discipleship, drawing on his experience as author of the MasterLife and MasterBuilder programs.

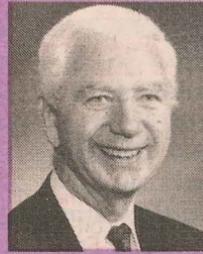
■ T.W. Hunt, prayer consultant with the Sunday School Board, who will talk about prayer, based on his own decades-long journey as a prayer warrior.

■ Art Criscoe, director of the youth/children/preschool department in the Sunday School Board's discipleship training department, who will discuss future trends in discipleship training.

■ Perry Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lafayette, La., who will tell how to build a strong discipleship training program in a local church.



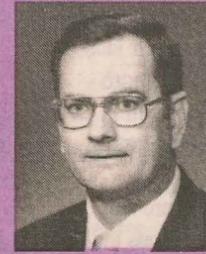
Roy Edgemon



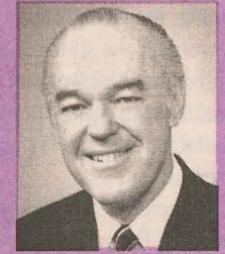
Avery Willis



T.W. Hunt



Art Criscoe



Perry Sanders

Doug Strader, director of the KBC's discipleship training department, said having a statewide training event with five such well-known speakers at one time is a first for his department.

The event is designed to help pastors, church staff members, lay leaders and teachers of discipleship training classes in any size church, Strader said. It also could be a good introduction to disciple materials for churches beginning or renewing their training programs, he added.

"Some people never get to go to Ridgecrest" for training during the summer, noted Jim Clontz, associate in the KBC discipleship training department. "Here's a chance to meet some of the same people and get the same training as at Ridgecrest."

As an added incentive, Strader and Clontz are offering churches and associations the opportunity to earn free literature by bringing more than 25 people to the conference.

Any church with 25 people or

more in attendance will receive \$50 worth of discipleship training material, and any church with 50 people or more in attendance will receive \$100 worth of materials.

Likewise, any association with 25 people in attendance from at

least two different churches will receive \$50 worth of material, and any association with 50 people in attendance from at least three churches will receive \$100 worth of materials.

Highlights of Small-group Conferences

- Bible Guide: Discipleship and Doctrine
- Disciple's PrayerLIFE
- Doctrine of Salvation
- Experiencing God
- DecisionTime
- Training Potential Leaders
- New Church Member Training
- Teaching Children and Discipline
- Incessary Prayer Ministry
- Parenting By Grace: Christian Self-esteem
- Making Peace with Your Past
- How to Handle Conflict
- Search for Significance
- First Place
- Christian Families Growing Stronger
- Learning to Share My Faith
- WiseCounsel
- Master Your Money
- Children's Bible Drills
- Youth Bible Drills/Speakers' Tournament
- Disciple Youth I
- Discovering Spiritual Gifts
- General Officers' Leadership
- Adult Leadership
- Youth Leadership
- Children's Leadership
- Preschool Leadership
- Step-by-step Through the Old Testament/New Testament

Strong Families Build Strong Churches, Lepper Says

Kentucky's churches will be no stronger than the families within those churches, John Lepper believes.

So Lepper, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department, wants to help churches strengthen their families in every way possible.

"One of my greatest concerns is helping pastors and church leaders know how to respond to the needs of families," he said.

While most churches want to do family ministry, few actually follow through, Lepper said. "We respond to the needs of families a lot like the disciples responded to the hungry crowd. We are ready to send them away or we are overwhelmed with the needs."

As a starting point to overcome these barriers, Lepper recommends churches determine what resources they have and then put those resources to use to help families.

"God will take those resources, meager as they may be, and use them to bless families," he explained.

And for anyone who doesn't believe the church ought to minister to families today, Lepper draws

from a deep well of statistics to make his point:

■ More than 1 million infants are born to unmarried mothers every year in the United States, accounting for 26 percent of all births.

Steps to Respond

- Recognize the need for family ministry.
- Determine the needs of families in your church and community.
- Evaluate existing provisions and programs.
- Review available resources.
- Determine objectives.
- Determine programs, projects and activities.
- Publicize and promote.
- Provide programs and activities.
- Celebrate and evaluate, then go back to step one, two or three.
- Adopt an organization suitable to your needs at whatever stage in the process is most appropriate.

■ The number of households headed by a single female has doubled since 1970 and is expected to continue increasing.

■ Twenty-three percent of all children under 18 now live with only one parent.

■ Projections indicate 60 percent of today's 3-year-olds will spend some time as a member of a single-parent household prior to their 18th birthday.

■ More two-earner families exist today than in the past.

■ Life expectancy has increased considerably in recent years.

■ More than 40 percent of the adult population is single.

The KBC's family ministry department doesn't serve as a crisis intervention unit for family problems, Lepper said. The department's focus is on providing resources for churches and Christians to make a difference in their own communities.

"We are not in the business of providing ministry to families; we're in the business of providing resources for churches doing ministry to families."

This is accomplished through several ongoing efforts, Lepper

noted.

First, the KBC works with associations to strengthen family ministry. Currently, about half of Kentucky's associations have family ministry directors. Lepper hopes that number will continue to increase.

The department also provides a variety of enrichment and training events throughout the year, directed toward single adults, senior adults, couples, parents and children.

These include an annual single adult retreat, two annual senior adult retreats and four annual senior adult one-day conferences, the Fall Festival of Marriage conference, and other specialized conferences on topics such as "Parenting by Grace" and "When Crisis Comes Home," the theme of this year's Christian Home Emphasis.

Churches across the state are encouraged to highlight family ministry during the period from Mother's Day to Father's Day. Lepper's office, in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, can recommend a full line of materials to support this emphasis.

CEDARMORE ASSEMBLY

Staff Busy Preparing for Your Visit

I am reminded of a little rhyme from childhood days which says, "Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the flower is?" As spring returns to our land, so do summer reservations to Cedarmore—steadily with some choice dates still available. Don't delay in making your reservations.

Open dates, for example, are still available for additional reservations include mother/daughter and father/son overnights and youth weeks. Those attending YouthFest (Youth Evangelism Conference) June 25-26 following youth week at Cedarmore have a special treat: Recreation time will be provided on campus Friday afternoon (including the pool), a dinner that evening, lodging after the conference and breakfast on Saturday morning before returning to the sessions that day.

Spotlighting the Staff that Serves You

Cedarmore employees work in areas of special responsibilities much like other organizations. Our areas include: administration, building and grounds, canteen, food service, housekeeping and recreation and swimming pools. In order to become better acquainted with our

employees, we will attempt in upcoming EVENTS insert issues to feature several employees each month.

Building and Grounds

Sam Satterly began his tenure at Cedarmore in 1964 as a teenager when Marvin Byrdwell was manager. Very few see Sam because his work tasks are completed by the time people arrive. Sam and his wife, Delores, have two sons. Sam is a member of Indian Fork Baptist Church, Bagdad, where he serves as a deacon.

Administration

Another of our "background" people is Martha Quire. She came to us from a Shelbyville bank in 1964 and has helped in administrative records and paperwork since her employment. Martha is the "senior" employee in administration. Martha has a deep love for Cedarmore which is demonstrated in all she says and does. Martha and her husband, Ray, have two daughters and reside in Bagdad. They attend Bagdad Baptist Church where Ray is a deacon.

To schedule your group's event, contact us soon: Harold Barnes, Manager, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, P. O. Box 37 Bagdad, Kentucky 40003, (502) 747-8911.

PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

Volunteers Needed for Brazil Projects

"We've made a commitment to Brazil for this last year of partnership missions so we hope to fulfill that promise by going out in grand style," Calvin Wilkins, coordinator, stressed while making a plea for more volunteers. "So many Kentucky Baptists volunteered their services for Hurricane Andrew relief in south Florida which makes it harder for our folks to have additional funds or spare vacation time left for service in Brazil." More than 700 volunteers have gone to Brazil since the project began in 1989.



(#93813) Construction*/Evangelism - September 23-October 6
(#93815) Construction*/Evangelism - October 21-November 3

*Construction teams have funds to build five more chapels if enough volunteers go this year.

If you are interested in serving as a missions volunteer in Brazil this year, contact:

Projects needing volunteers include:

- (#93806) Conversational English Teachers - May 27-July 28
- (#93809) Construction*/Evangelism - June 17-30
- (#93811) Construction*/Evangelism - July 15-28
- (#93812) Construction*/Evangelism/Medical - August 5-18
- (#93814) Evangelism (10 teams) - September 2-15

Calvin Wilkins
Coordinator
Partnership Missions Office
Kentucky Baptist Convention
P. O. Box 43433
Louisville, Kentucky 40253-0433
(502) 245-4101, extension 339.

BROTHERHOOD

Brotherhood Means Missions

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department has four major upcoming events—the May 7-8 Lad/Crusader Track Meet and Conclave; the May 21-22 Pioneer/High School Baptist Young Men/Baptist Men Track Meet and Conclave; Royal Ambassador camps June 14-August 6 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly's Rabro and Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly and Kentucky World Changers, August 1-7, in Louisville.



yard dash long jump, four hole frisbee golf and tug-of-war pulloff.
Lads involve boys ages 6, 7 and 8. Crusaders involve ages 9, 10 and 11.

Pioneer/High School Baptist Young Men/Baptist Men Conclave and Track Meet

Cedarmore Baptist Assembly May 21-22

A Friday evening conclave kicks off this event, which features Angela Perkins, campus minister, University of Louisville, getting the crowd involved in musical skits. In addition, Royal Ambassador Racer State Championships will be held. The track meet agenda includes a mile run, a 440 relay, 100 yard dash, shot put, long jump and four hole frisbee golf.

Pioneers are boys ages 12, 13 and 14. Boys in grades 10-12 comprise High School Baptist Young Men. Baptist Men are for those men ages 18 and older.

Lad/Crusader Track Meet and Conclave Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly May 7-8

The conclave, a meeting of like believers in times of fun and fellowship, begins the two day event. Featured is ventriloquist Lorilee Roberts, a former Kentucky Baptist Student Union summer missionary from Reidland, and the Royal Ambassador Racer (homemade racer cars) State Championship. The track meet on Saturday includes teams consisting of Lads vs. Lads, Crusaders vs. Crusaders, church vs. church and association vs. association in competitive events such as softball toss, 50

Royal Ambassador Camps Rabro, Cedarmore Jonathan Creek June 14-August 6

RA Camp (for boys in grades 4-12) bases its program on the Christian idea that each boy is a person of worth created in the image of God. This idea is applied to every activity and to each aspect of the program—from archery to swimming, from camping to Bible studies and from crafts to canoeing.

The camp cost is \$71.00 per person, which includes lodging, meals and supplies.

Note: A split week for LAds and Father/Son Overnight are also available.

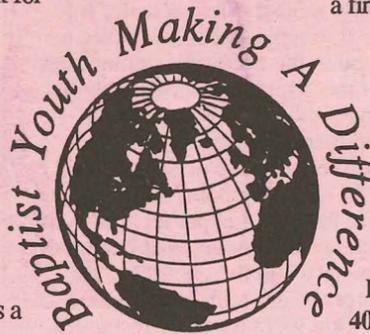
Kentucky World Changers Louisville August 1-7

World Changers is a co-educational mission project involving youth in an intensive week of hands-on-repair of homes in high-need communities. The activity week also features times of sharing, worship and

fellowship. Youth are eligible to participate if they have completed grades 9 through 12.

This year's project returns to the Louisville area where 15 homes are slated for repair. The World Changers' involvement in 1992 brought positive local and regional media coverage to the worthwhile project. About 257 youth volunteered their time to World Changers.

Cost per person is \$110, which includes lodging (at a local school), meals and materials. A deposit of \$30 is refundable until May 1; the remaining balance is due by July 1. Space is limited on a first come, first serve basis.



For more information concerning any event listed above, contact the Brotherhood Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 319.

EVANGELISM

YouthFest '93 and Kentucky Mass Evangelism Conference Headline Busy Summer Schedule

YouthFest '93 is June 25-26 at Frankfort's Civic Center. Nearly 6,000 people are anticipated to attend the two day youth rally which encourages teenagers to follow Christ. To pre-register, use the form on page 8a.

YouthFest '93

An estimated 6,000 people are anticipated in attendance at YouthFest '93, the annual youth evangelism conference sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Office for Evangelism. The Frankfort Civic Center is the site for the June 25-26 event.

YouthFest '93 is a youth rally which encourages youth to follow Jesus Christ. This conference is uniquely planned and carried out with the idea of ministering to youth and their leaders. Its goal is to challenge students to become a better witness for Christ. This year's theme is Jesus Christ—Our Foundation, Our Focus, Our Future.

Program personalities featured are Kevin Landgrave, praise and music leader, an associate minister of music and youth at

Louisville's Lyndon Baptist Church; Jay Strack, a full time vocational evangelist from Texas; NewSong, a contemporary Christian group from Atlanta; Paul and Nicole Johnson, dramatists from Tennessee; Connie Goins, a Frankfort layperson and former Miss Kentucky Basketball and member of the Duke University Blue Devils' women's basketball team and SonShare, a Kentucky Baptist Student Union drama team. Also planned is a "See You at the Pole" challenge. The latter event is to encourage middle school, junior high and high school students to join a student-led "See You at the Pole" prayer meeting 30 minutes before school starts this

September 16.

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



To receive further information or to pre-register, contact the Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, ext. 330.

Kentucky Mass Evangelism Conference is July 23-24 at First Church, Mt. Washington. You may register for this event on the form provided on page 8a.

Kentucky Mass Evangelism Conference

Innovative and effective ways to increase attendance and baptisms.

Exciting worship services.

Creating music programs.

Counseling.

Cost-effective advertising programs/Total church communications.

These and other topics, including a panel discussion, music, food and fellowship, will be featured at Kentucky's Mass Evangelism Conference July 23-24 at Mt. Washington's First Baptist Church. The event is sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Office for Evangelism and the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board.

Conference personalities include Richard Harris, director, Mass Evangelism Department, Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Ron Phillips, pastor, Central Baptist



Richard Harris



Ron Phillips

Church, Hixon, Tennessee; Jerry Passmore, director, Evangelism Department, Florida Baptist Convention; Tom McEachin, associate director, Mass Evangelism Department, Home Mission Board; Kevin Shrum, youth evangelism consultant, Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention and Bill Jagers, director, Office

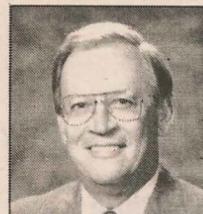


Jerry Passmore

for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

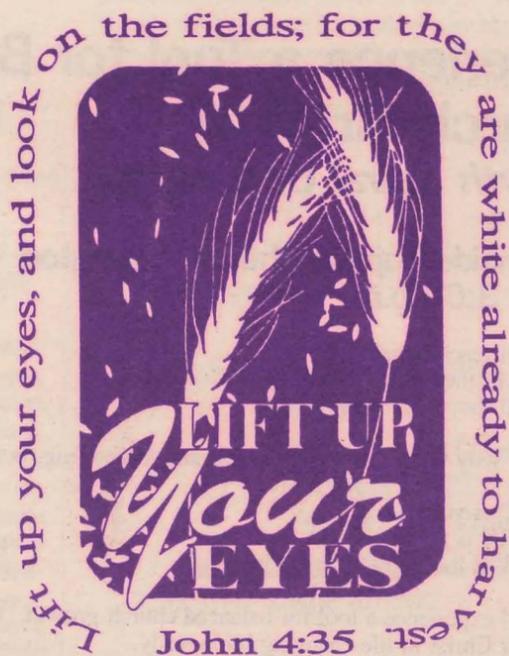
The July 23 agenda begins at 12:00 noon and continues through 9:00 p.m., with an hour break

between the afternoon session and a 6:00 banquet. The Saturday morning, July 24 session begins at 8:45 and adjourns at 12:00 noon.



Tom McEachin

To register, fill out the registration/information form on page 8a or send the Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention, your name, your church's name, address, city/state/zip and phone number along with your fee—\$10 per person or \$15 per church, unlimited number, with checks made out to Kentucky Baptist Convention—in care of Bill Jagers to P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, Kentucky 40253-0433.



Six Hours Credit for Church Weekday Educators

Regional Church Weekday Education Seminars

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

Louisville
June 5, 1993
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Norton Hall
2825 Lexington Road

Paducah
June 12, 1993
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
First Baptist Church
2890 Broadway

Ashland
June 26, 1993
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Rose Hill Baptist Church
1001 Winslow Road

Teachers need tools in caring for God's gift of children. The Church Weekday Education seminar offers such tools. Learn how the young child develops, what the child needs, and how the child learns. A variety of conferences are available to help you become a better teacher, and young children will benefit.

The workshops include:

- **Weekday Directors**
Quality weekday programs can only be developed through quality directors. Share ideas. Learn ways to improve your weekday program.
- **Teaching Infants and Ones**
Hygiene and safety are mandatory, but teaching also begins with infants.
- **Teaching Twos and Threes**
Preschoolers are ACTIVE. Meet the needs of activity by using "activity teaching."
- **Teaching Fours and Fives**
Learning by doing is the best method of learning. Learning centers are age appropriate for twos through fives. Discover ideas for good and creative learning centers.
- **Before and After School**
A BRAND NEW curriculum "Flexible Curriculum" has been developed to meet the needs of Before and After School, summer programs, day camps, and other times when a "flexible" curriculum is needed. Be the first to look at this curriculum.
- **The Gift of Being Different**
Differently abled, culturally different, different body types—each child deserves to be treated as a special gift. Learn to teach without a difference.
- **Teaching Gifts for Teaching "Gifts"**
Bring your camera. Capture ideas for teaching aids made from inexpensive materials, and throw-aways.
- **Appreciate the Gift of Children**
Learn how to recognize and report child abuse. Learn how to help parents become better at parenting.
- **Crises Affects The Gift of Childhood**
Death, divorce, moving, abuse, separation, learn ways to help young children cope when bad things happen.
- **When A Child Bites**
Understand why a child bites, how to prevent it, and what to do for the bitten.
- **Tour a Preschool Facility**
To pre-register use the registration blank on the back of Events. Enclose a \$10.00 fee per person. The fee includes lunch. Be sure to check the location where you will attend. Make check payable to the Sunday School Department, KBC.

Congratulations to:

Casey
Central
Lincoln County
Monroe
Red River
Shelby
Taylor County



These associations reported 100% of their churches having Vacation Bible School in 1992. Each association received special recognition at the state Vacation Bible School clinics.

Thanks to each person who contributed in any way to the work in these associations. In 1993 there will be more associations with 100% of the churches in Vacation Bible School with YOUR help!

Thanks to all those who were and are in the Vacation Bible School effort. 1992, set a record for the Southern Baptist Convention. A total of 3,709,174 preschoolers, children, youth, and adults were enrolled in Vacation Bible School in 1992.

If your church or association needs help or information about Vacation Bible School 1993, please call the Sunday School Department, at KBC: 502/245-4101.

Experience a Tool for Balanced Church Growth

Growth Spiral Conference

May 11
Gardenside Baptist Church, Lexington
8:30 - 3:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

The conference leader will be Jerri Herring, BSSB Growth Consultant. For more information, contact Jeff Hicks at 502/245-4101.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Does Your Church Have a Strong Life Support System?

Statewide School of Discipleship is all about real-life issues

May 7-8
Highview Baptist Church
Louisville

When the real issues of life call people to search for solutions and explanations, church can respond with answers to life's questions through Christ-centered discipling.

Support group studies offer self-discovery in an atmosphere of care and love; enriching Bible studies direct Christian lives toward growth and maturity; and a Discipleship Training program in the local church provides personal development for all ages through opportunities that meet many needs.

Any person concerned with these areas in life, who wants to personally find answers, or desires to help others find peace will find direction, how to's, and materials at the School of Discipleship in May.

Healing the Hurts of People

People who experience the personal pain of divorce, dysfunctional families, abuse, eating disorders, feelings of rejection and low self-worth will find healing and comfort in the newest L.I.F.E. (Lay Institute for Equipping) Support Series materials.

Individually or in small group settings, churches can reach people by meeting them where they hurt most. Implementing any one of the following support group studies into the ministry of a church will have a transforming affect on God's people, so that wounded lives will be disciplined by the peace, love and nurture of a Christ-centered program that is all about real-life issues.

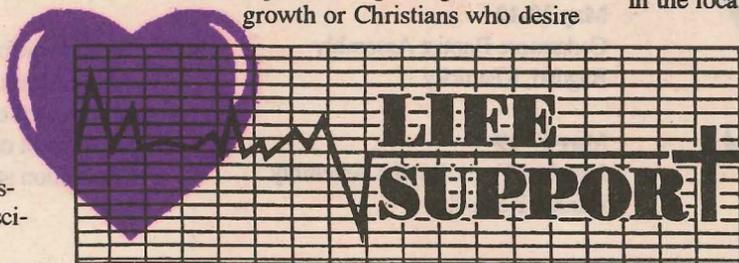
- Course offerings include:
- *Making Peace with your Past*
 - *Search for Significance*
 - *First Place: A Christ Centered Health Program*
 - *WiseCounsel: Skills for Lay Counseling*

Large groups will be led by these Sunday School Board staff:

- Roy Edgemon**
Director,
Discipleship and Family Development Division
- T.W. Hunt**
Prayer Specialist
- Art Criscoe**
Director, Discipleship and Family Development
Youth/Children/Preschool
- Avery Willis**
Director,
Discipleship and Family
Adult Department

Strengthening Christian Discipleship

Encouraging God's people, who have embarked upon the beginning of christian growth or Christians who desire



a deeper relationship with God, is the responsibility of the local church.

How to know the will of God for your life and expressing it through strengthened prayer life, Bible study, witnessing, stewardship, money management, and spiritual gifts can be discovered through participation in these discipling courses:

- *Disciple's PrayerLife*
- *Doctrine of Salvation*
- *How to Share My Faith*
- *Managing Your Money*
- *Experiencing God*
- *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts*

Developing a Strong Discipleship Training Program in the Local Church

The strength of an effective Discipleship Training program is dependent upon (1) the enlistment of committed, christian leaders who are identified by their desire to serve, their skills to lead, plan and facilitate, and their openness toward a growing, disciplined life. (2) Quality training for leaders and workers, ensuring that each feels confident with their leadership and teaching skills while relying upon the support and guidance of the Holy Spirit. (3) Identifying the real-life needs of church members and the surrounding community then providing spiritual growth opportuni-

ties for all ages as each is assimilated into the life and ministry of the local church.

Beginning a new Discipleship Training program or strengthening an existing one is easy when these conferences are applied in the local church program. Receive instructions on how to enlist and train leaders, information on Bible drills and speaker's tournaments for children and youth, and find inspiration through these quality conferences:

- Training Potential Leaders
- General Officers' Leadership
- Adult Leadership
- Youth Leadership
- Children's Leadership
- Preschool Leadership

The Statewide School of Discipleship is sponsored by the Discipleship Training/Stewardship Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Long Run Baptist Association. Register for this event by completing the *EVENTS* Registration Form on page 8a. Let our office staff assist in answering your questions by calling Doug Strader, Jim Clontz, or Vikki Harris at 502/245-4101, x335.

**Everyone Attends!
Free Admission!**

Free Material for Churches!

Churches bringing at least 25 persons will be eligible for \$50.00 complimentary Discipleship Training materials! Churches bringing at least 50 persons will be eligible for \$100.00 complimentary materials!

Associational Freebees!

Bring at least 25 persons (from at least 2 churches) to be eligible for \$50.00 Discipleship Training materials! Bring at least 50 persons (from at least 3 churches) to be eligible for \$100.00 Discipleship Training materials!

Schedule

Friday Evening:

- 7:00 p.m. Discipleship Rally
Music
Message - Perry Sanders,
keynote speaker
Pastor, First Church,
Lafayette, Louisiana
- 8:10 Large Groups
- 9:00 Small Groups

Saturday

- 8:00 a.m. Coffee, Juice, Donuts
- 8:30 Large Groups
- 9:25 Small Groups
- 10:20 Large Groups
- 11:15 Small Groups
- 12:05 p.m. Closing Rally/Challenge (Roy Edgemon)

FAMILY MINISTRY

Fall Festival of Marriage and Senior Adult Retreats

Fall Festival of Marriage--a marriage enrichment weekend for couples--is scheduled in Louisville September 24-26. Senior adults can find enrichment, fellowship and fun May 10-12 at Cedarmore or May 17-19 at Jonathan Creek.

This autumn **Fall Festival of Marriage** celebrates 15 seasons of serving you with marriage enrichment weekends. In its sixth year in Louisville, the **Fall Festival of Marriage** is a weekend to help a husband and wife grow in their relationship. The weekend is designed as a retreat with a wide selection of topics and activities to help with your unique needs.



Our goal at Festivals of Marriage is to help you celebrate. . .to see that you get the most out of your marriage, and to encourage a vital relationship with God. God has blessed you with someone to love and cherish. Keep the adventure of faith and marriage alive! Plan now to attend a Fall Festival of Marriage this autumn.

The Louisville **Fall Festival of Marriage** will again take place at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. A list of hotels near the seminary will be mailed to you with confirmation of your registration.

Senior Adult Retreats

May 10-12
Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
Bagdad, Kentucky

May 17-19
Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly
Hardin, Kentucky

Retreats begin with supper on Monday and end with lunch on Wednesday.

Retreat Cost

Overnight Guests - \$86.00 per person for two nights lodging (double occupancy) and six meals

Commuter Guests - \$6.00 per person per day plus cost of meals

For more information about any of these events, please complete the form on page 8a of this insert or call the Family Ministry Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at (502) 245-4101, extension 250.

DIRECT MISSIONS

Associational Missions Week

May 17-23

Associational Missions Week

There's a Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. There's a Week of Prayer for Home Missions. There's even a Week of Prayer for State Missions. There's a special offering emphasis with each week.

But what about local missions? There is one—Associational Missions Week is May 17-23!

"The associational week emphasis encourages local churches to become better aware of their local Baptist associations," explained Robert C. Jones, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Direct Missions Department. "Each association will

celebrate in different ways." Jones also noted that Associational Missions Week, completes the annual missions emphasis cycle.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is comprised of 78 local associations and 51 directors of missions. Some director of missions in Kentucky have responsibility for more than one association; some associations currently do not have a director of missions.

For more information about your local Associational Missions Week, watch for details in your associational newsletter or contact your associational office.

DIRECT MISSIONS

New Work Starting Conference

May 17, First Church, Central City, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

New Work Starting Conference

Since 1985, Kentucky Baptists have been striving to begin 400 new churches. This goal—MissionKentucky—is anticipated to be achieved next month.

For others interested in starting new churches, a New Work Starting Conference is scheduled May 17 at First Baptist Church, Central City. The event begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 2:00 p.m. (CDT). The conference includes a free lunch. Conference leaders and topic(s) are:

Charles Stewart, Pastor
Rose Hill Church, Ashland
The Blessings of Sponsorship; Biblical Mandate for New Work

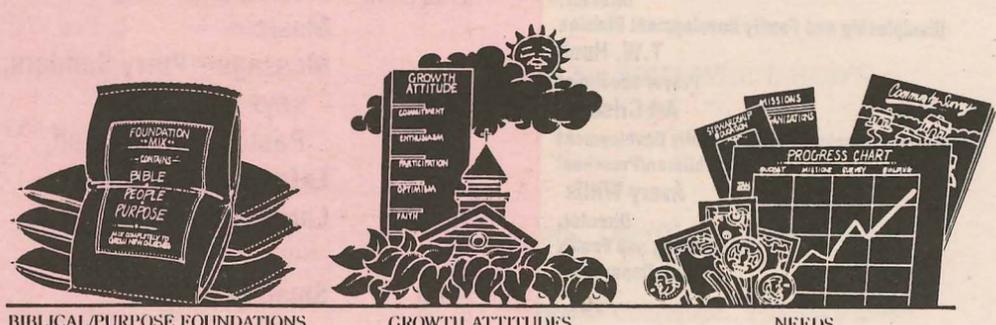
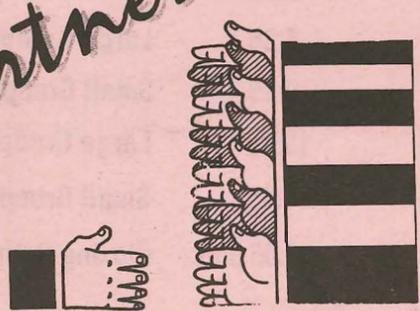
Bill Jagers, Director
Office for Evangelism, KBC
Enlisting Sponsors and Workers

Bill Long
Home Mssion Board
People Needs for New Work; How to Start New Work

Bob Morrison, Director of Missions
Little Bethel Association
The Role of the Mission Development Council in New Work

Tony Hough, Associate
Direct Missions Department, KBC
Demographics; Resources for New Work
For more information, contact: Tony Hough, Associate, Direct Missions Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Howdy, partner!



BIBLICAL/PURPOSE FOUNDATIONS

GROWTH ATTITUDES

NEEDS

CHURCH GROWTH & ADMINISTRATION

Capture the Skills You Need... Become Fishers of Men

Super Saturdays offer spiritually energizing conferences for church leadership, pastors and staff

August and September Six regional locations

Becoming fishers of men involves knowing how to fish under a variety of conditions, knowing when and where to cast a line, how to reel in, and equally important, how to care for the catch. Skilled fishermen will equip others to participate in the gathering of the catch. Skilled church leaders will equip people to participate in reaching, teaching and discipling those who are gathered for Christ.

I'm a church leader, and I feel like a fish out of water!

When leaders or workers are enlisted to the challenge of leading church folks without the opportunity to receive specific training, that "fish-out-of-water" feeling becomes overwhelmingly familiar. Perhaps you can identify with this testimony:

"I've been asked to lead a program in my church, but I feel lost and unprepared. I find this leadership responsibility challenging and stimulating, and I feel good about myself knowing that I can help the people in my church. But I want to be sure that what I offer is fresh, innovative and spiritually energizing for others. It is important to me that I have ideas and plans that will demonstrate my concern for the spiritual growth of each person I lead. I am concerned that I receive training which will help me feel more confident and equipped to lead adults, youth, or children in music, discipleship training, worship, stewardship, Sunday School."

Because concerns like this are important to the Super Saturday staff, each Super Saturday offers conferences designed to (1) inform leaders of contemporary, up to date ideas and materials in each program area;

(2) strengthen leadership skills and promote confidence among church leaders and workers; and (3) enhance the church's ministries through worship, family ministry, Sunday School, stewardship, church media, and discipleship with practical plans that will encourage personal spiritual growth.

Choose from 18 intensive leadership conferences that focus on the specific skills necessary for your program responsibility. Then choose from 25 mini-conferences that will stimulate new areas of direction, enhance the work you accomplish with age-appropriate information, or satisfy the interest you have in other program areas.

Our folks just go with the flow

Persuading the church to take the challenging course that heads upstream is demanding. When workers experience little motivation the down stream route requires less effort; conforming to the status quo becomes the easiest method for maintaining responsibilities. However, this course provides little opportunity for joy in the cause of teaching people, meeting needs and developing disciples. Inspiring church leadership with opportunities for staff development can activate an entire church to claim a new challenge and seek a purpose for ministry.

To be transformed by the renewing of one's mind (Rom 12:2) is the key to finding joy and purpose in the work accomplished by God through the church. Workers will not conform to old patterns when their minds and visions have been stretched with new ideas and creative methods. Providing the means for training expresses to staff, leaders and workers an appreciation for the time they give. It is a profound way to affirm the gifts they share and the value placed upon them.

Chart a course for direction

Pastors who chart a direction that grows from the unique purpose of each local church will prepare their crew for the storms of change that lie ahead. Times of transition are difficult, but a well trained team can weather the conflicts, adjustments

and periods of drifting that are a part of change.

Register now!

Let a Super Saturday ignite the motivation needed to launch your ministry into challenging waters. Bring your fishing crew of leaders and workers to one of six Super Saturdays near you.

Complete the registration form found on page 8 and return with \$8/person pre-registration program fee to the Church Growth & Administration office, KBC. Participants may register on the day of the conference for \$10. Registrants will receive a \$2 coupon toward purchases at the on-site Baptist Book store the day of the event.

A promotion packet will be available in June and mailed to each Kentucky Baptist church.

CONFERENCES

Leadership Conferences 9:45-12:15

Church Media/Library
• Establish, Maintain and Promote a Church Media Library

Church Music
• Part-time Music Directors
• Older Children's/Combination Choir
• Younger Children's Choir
• Preschool Music Activities

Discipleship Training
• General Officers (Pastors, staff, directors)
• Adult Leaders
• Youth Leaders
• Children's Leaders
• Preschool Leaders

Pastors and Staff
• "Transitions" in Church Growth

Sunday School
Ideas for outreach; teaching and evangelism through the Sunday School
• Sunday School Directors
• Adult Leaders
• Youth Leaders
• Children (younger and middle)
• Children (older)
• Preschool (infant-1 yr)
• Preschool (2's-pre-six)
• Special Education



Mini Interest Conferences 1:00-2:00 and 2:00-3:00

Choose two conferences from the following list

- ABCs of Church Budgeting
- Assimilating New Church Members
- Bible Drills
- Children's Division Directors
- Children's Sermons
- Christian Self-Esteem: Parenting by Grace
- Communication and Intimacy: Covenant Marriage
- Contemporary Resources and Environments for Teaching Adults
- Creative Adult Sunday School
- Creative Methods for Using Music with Children
- Empowering Leadership Through Using the Basics
- First Place (total personal health)
- Flexible Curriculum
- How to Lead Choir Rehearsal
- Live Wisely: Successful Money Management
- Making Peace with Your Past
- Music Reading Session
- Positive Discipline for Preschoolers and Children
- Preschool Division Directors
- Responding to the Needs of the Family
- Search for Significance
- Sex Education: A Biblically Based Approach
- Teaching Youth
- Using the Autoharp with Children
- Youth Resources and Space

Choose from six Super Saturdays

August 14
Eastwood Baptist Church
Bowling Green

August 21
Burlington Baptist Church
Northern Kentucky

August 28
Immanuel Baptist Church
Lexington

September 11
First Baptist Church
Ashland

September 18
First Baptist Church
Mayfield

September 25
Central Baptist Church
Corbin



ANNUITY

OTHER EVENTS

Brotherhood

Hope for Homes with Habitat for Humanity's Home Building project is September 19-25.

Kentucky World Changers

This year's site: Louisville

This year's date: August 1-7

Another reminder: The Royal Ambassador camps at Camp Rabro and Jonathan Creek are June 14-August 6.

Church Growth and Administration

Did you know? If a guest in your church is visited within 36 hours of their visit by a lay person, there is an 85% chance that that guest will return next Sunday.

Think about this... What is the ratio of roles or tasks to resident members?

In a growing church the minimum is 60 specific roles/tasks for every 100 resident members. For plateaued churches the ratio is 43 to 100. For declining churches the ratio is 27 to 100. An example of a role or task is Sunday School teacher leader, deacon, choir member, usher or visitor. Check your church for its ratio.

Why not interview new members between the ages of 20 to 34 who have joined in the last year? Ask them why they were attracted to your church. Use their responses as a basis of promoting how God is using your church to reach people.

Church Music

Joy Berger has recently joined the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Music Department as a keyboard consultant. Joy, a Georgia native, anticipates receiving her doctor of musical arts degree from Southern Seminary in May. If your church needs keyboard assistance, contact Joy Berger at (502) 245-4101, extension 327.

Money Matters for Ministers and Churches

Q. Will rates be going up this year for the Annuity Board's medical coverage?

A. No! Participants in the church medical plan through the Annuity Board did not experience an increase in rates in January. A decision has now been made that **no increase** will be made in July. This means a full year without any increase. Medical costs in our country are still a major problem. We can expect more increases in the future and we can expect the government to deal with this problem. In the meantime, we are grateful for the work of the Annuity Board and The Prudential in

helping us hold down costs in our denominational plan.

Ministers and church employees not currently in the Annuity Board plan may apply for coverage. For information contact the Annuity Board or contact me at the address below. **Every minister and church employee should have adequate life, medical and disability coverage.**

Q. Last month you emphasized "employee" status for ministers for income tax purposes. I've been filing as self-employed for years with no problem. I'm confused!

A. For many years ministers gen-

erally filed their taxes as self-employed. In recent years, there has been recognition that ministers are an employee for income tax purposes (still self-employed for social security). The IRS has not been uniform in its enforcement of this, thus creating confusion. The IRS in Kentucky is currently engaged in a special tax compliance project including ministers. One of the issues is employee status. I have discussed this issue with a group manager of one of our Kentucky IRS offices. He indicated a definite position of employee status for ministers as they relate to a church in Southern Bap-

tist life. Many of our ministers who filed as self-employed in 1990 and 1991 may be forced to file amended returns using employee status. This could increase their tax liability if ministry related expenses have been deducted. **For church treasurers, this means a minister's income should be reported on a W-2 form.**

For more information contact Don Spencer, director, Annuity Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433.

Upcoming Events

APRIL

Church Music

April 23
Adult/Youth Regional Music Festival
Lexington, Gardenside

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

April 23
All Ages Regional Music Festival
Hopkinsville, Second

April 24
Children's Regional Music Festival
Lexington, Gardenside

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

April 30
Adult Regional Music Festival
Corbin, Central

Discipleship Training

April 30
Children's Bible Drill
Paducah, First
Campton

Sunday School

April 16-17
ASSISTeam Training
Madisonville, First

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

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

April 26
Associational VBS Clinic
Ten Mile Association
Glencoe Church, 7-9:25 p.m.

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

WMU

April 23-24
WMU Annual Meeting
Harrodsburg Church

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

MAY

Brotherhood

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

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

Church Music

May 1
Youth Children Regional
Festival

Corbin, Central
Adult Regional Festival
Bowling Green
Eastwood Church

May 7
Regional Keyboard
Festival
London, First
Hopkinsville, First

May 8
Regional Keyboard
Festival
Louisville
Melbourne Heights
Ashland, First

Discipleship Training

May 1
Children's Bible Drill
Hopkinsville, Second
Ashland, First

May 7-8
Stateside School of
Discipleship
Louisville, Walnut Street

Family Ministry

Senior Adult Retreats:
May 10-12
Cedarmore Assembly
May 17-19
Jonathan Creek Assembly

CHECK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

For additional information or to register, check the appropriate boxes and mail the provided form below to:

Communications Office, Attn.: Denise H. Withers, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433

To Receive More Information

- Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
 Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly

To Register

- Church Growth**
 Super Saturday
Discipleship Training
 Statewide School of Discipleship
Sunday School
 Church Spiral Conference - May 11

- Church Weekday Education Seminar
(June 5, Southern Baptist Seminary, \$10 per person)
 Church Weekday Education Seminar
(June 12, First Church, Paducah, \$10 per person)
 Church Weekday Education Seminar
(June 26, Rose Hill Church, Lexington, \$10 per person)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone: Office _____ Home _____
Church _____ Association _____
Leadership Position _____
Registration fee (if applicable) \$ _____ Number in group (if applicable) _____

BAPTISTS

How will Baptists know when all have heard gospel?

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

If Bold Mission Thrust is a plan to share the Christian gospel with every person on earth by the year 2000, how will Southern Baptists know when they've done the job?

"There is no way we could ever know if we have succeeded in that goal or not," said Ernest Mosley, chairman of the Bold Mission Thrust steering committee.

Measuring success on such a goal over the 24-year period of Bold Mission Thrust is like watching a moving target, Mosley and others involved with Bold Mission Thrust planning admit. People constantly are dying and being born into the world, and there's no certain way to assess who has heard the gospel and who hasn't, they explain.

This was a point of debate among the framers of Bold Mission Thrust in the late 1970s, noted Warren Hultgren, retired pastor of First Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla., and chairman of the missions challenge committee that recommended Bold Mission

Thrust's adoption.

"Realistically and literally, one could not accomplish this," Hultgren said of the goal. "But the final resolution was that any lesser ideal or object would be less than the Great Commission, hence we ought to go for the ideal and not try to limit ourselves merely to the realities."

While the goal of Bold Mission Thrust is ambitious, it is not as unachievable as it may sound, said David Barrett, global missions researcher with the Foreign Mission Board.

One way to measure progress toward the goal is to look at the world in people groups, Barrett said.

One snapshot of the world shows that 75 percent of the people in the world today know something about Jesus Christ, although they may not follow him, Barrett said. "The 25 percent who know nothing about Christianity—about 1.2 billion people—they're in what we call World A, a very clearly defined, mapped and tab-

ulated area of the world."

The people of World A are clustered in a belt that extends through North Africa and Central Asia, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and includes predominantly Muslim strongholds.

Another snapshot of the world shows that there are 12,000 ethno-linguistic people groups in the world, Barrett said. About 9,000 of those groups have been exposed to Christianity, while about 3,000 have little or no knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Don Kammerdiener, interim FMB president, explained that his agency has set a goal of sending missionaries to at least 300 of those unreached people groups. Since Southern Baptists have 5 percent of the world's missionary force, taking responsibility for 10 percent of the unreached groups is carrying more than a fair share, he said, noting the FMB is attempting to work with other "Great Commission

Christians" to reach all 3,000 groups.

Even though this effort has just begun in recent years, FMB workers are beginning to penetrate at least 50 of these unreached groups, Kammerdiener said. "This is one of the most substantial results of Bold Mission Thrust. All of these are people groups where we previously were not working and now are. That's one of the good things that has happened."

One misconception Southern Baptists might have about reaching the Bold Mission Thrust goal is that every person will have multiple opportunities to respond to the gospel, Barrett said.

People in highly evangelized areas like the United States and England are "spoiled" in comparison to residents of regions where the gospel has yet to be proclaimed one time, he said.

When seen in its simplest terms, the Bold Mission Thrust goal is achievable, Barrett said, because it is simply a restatement of the Great Commission.

"It obviously must be possible," he explained, "otherwise Christians wouldn't have been told to do it."

"That the convention set as its primary missions challenge that every person in the world shall have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ in the next 25 years ... so that all men, women and children can understand the claim Jesus Christ has on their lives."
Recommendation of the missions challenge committee approved by the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention.

BOLD MISSION THRUST

Where are we now?

Volunteerism is one success story, but other goals lag behind

Increasing volunteerism may be one of the greatest contributions Bold Mission Thrust has made to Southern Baptists' global witness, several key observers believe.

At the same Southern Baptist Convention where messengers approved Bold Mission Thrust, they heard a challenge from then-President Jimmy Carter to drastically increase the missions involvement of lay volunteers.

That challenge resulted in formation of Mission Service Corps, a program of long-term volunteer service on home and foreign mission fields. Subsequently, other short-term volunteer programs have been developed by both the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board.

Bold Mission Thrust calls for enlisting a combined total of 350,000 volunteers during the five-year period from 1990 to 1995 and 400,000 volunteers during the period from 1995 to 2000.

For the last year of record, the HMB and FMB reported use of 83,083 volunteers—well above the annual rate needed to reach the ultimate goal.

"I think the most significant thing that has happened in Bold Mission Thrust ... is

the phenomenal acceleration in the utilization of volunteers," said Ellis Bush, planning and promotion coordinator for Bold Mission Thrust.

The other Bold Mission Thrust goal on target relates to Home missionaries. Bold Mission Thrust calls for a total of 4,500 home missionaries by 1995 and 5,000 by the year 2000. The current total is 4,868, although the way missionaries are counted by the HMB has changed since Bold Mission Thrust goals were set.

Goals lagging behind include:

■ **Baptisms.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for a total of 2.1 million baptisms reported by churches during the 1990-1995 church years and 2.5 million during the 1995-2000 church years. Achieving the 2.1 million goal would require 420,000 baptisms annually. In the 1991-92 church year, Southern Baptists baptized 367,847 people.

■ **New church starts.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for a total of 50,000 churches and church-type missions in existence by the year 2000. Currently, the SBC counts 43,387 churches and missions. Achieving the goal requires starting 1,500 new congregations each year. Last year, 1,281 new

churches were started, the highest number in recent years.

■ **Worship.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for average morning worship attendance in SBC churches to equal 60 percent of resident church membership and for average evening worship attendance to equal 35 percent of resident membership by the year 2000. Currently those ratios are at 42.4 percent for morning worship and 17.8 percent for evening worship.

■ **Bible study.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for 13 million people enrolled in SBC Sunday schools by the year 2000. Current enrollment is about 8.3 million. Reaching the goal requires a 5 percent annual increase. Last year's increase was 1 percent.

■ **Discipleship.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for 3 million people enrolled in discipleship training programs by the year 2000. Current enrollment is about 2.2 million.

■ **Missions education.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for combined WMU and Brotherhood enrollments of 2.3 million by the year 2000. Current totals are 1.8 million. Growth has been short of the 3 percent annual increase needed to meet the goal.

■ **Stewardship.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for a total of \$20 billion in undesignated church offerings annually by the year 2000. Last year's total was nearly \$4 billion.

■ **Foreign missionaries.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for a total of 4,800 foreign missionaries by 1995 and 5,600 by the year 2000. The current total is 3,893.

■ **Missions support.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for annual gifts to the Cooperative Program unified budget to equal \$2.5 billion by the year 2000. Last year's total was \$369.5 million.

■ **Associational missions.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for each church affiliated with the SBC to give a percentage of their undesignated receipts to associational missions. As of last year, only 79 percent of churches were doing that.

■ **Intercessory prayer.** Bold Mission Thrust calls for each association to have a functioning network of intercessory prayer by 1995 and for each church to have such by the year 2000. As of last year, 34 percent of associations reported intercessory prayer ministries. No report was available on churches.

Bold Mission Thrust needs a new boost, some contend

Continued from page 1

Christian, a state convention or an agency to say, 'Anything I do is Bold Mission Thrust,'" said Wally Buckner, assistant vice president with the Home Mission Board. "How's that any different than business as usual?"

For Bold Mission Thrust to succeed, Buckner suggested, it must be seen as a truly bold step that moves the church beyond its basic commitments. And that's the work of the Holy Spirit more than a denominational bureaucracy, he said.

Yet in an organization the size of the 15 million-member SBC, some form of long-range planning is needed, said Don Kammerdiener, interim

president of the Foreign Mission Board.

"It is far easier for us in the agencies to do our work effectively if it can be coordinated with other agencies," he explained. "At the same time I'm a church member and I know that people out in the churches are bored with long-range planning."

The SBC also faces a dilemma in planning styles, Kammerdiener said. "We are on a railroad track in which there are trains coming toward each other related to the whole issue of planning."

The traditional approach has been to develop ideas and programs through agencies and institutions,

with approval from SBC messengers when necessary, he explained. "Right now, we are confronting a different style of leadership in which each new president of the SBC comes with a fresh, charismatic view ..., a new vision that this is what I want to accomplish in my year or two."

On top of that cultural change, the 14-year controversy in the SBC has derailed some of the focus on Bold Mission Thrust, leaders suggested.

"I believe anyone, whatever position you might take in the so-called controversy, would have to concede that you have bled off a lot of energy and interest," Hultgren said. "As a convention, we have lost the cohesive

thrust across the board.

"The ideal is still there, the need is still there, the command is still there, but I don't believe we have the resolve to do what we set out to do as a total convention," he said.

But Buckner believes entrusting the ultimate goal of Bold Mission Thrust to a denominational plan never was the answer.

"This is God's work," he said. "We have to be a part of that, but we have to be in what he's up to. I don't know that we can manufacture this. We can't just crank this out as a denomination."

"It's got to be a movement of God, or it's not going to happen at all."

Baptist Tabernacle celebrates 100th with musical reunion

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Three Sundays of celebrating the 100th anniversary of Baptist Tabernacle in Louisville sparked a youth choir reunion and soaring church attendance.

The 25th reunion of the 1968 youth choir at Baptist Tabernacle brought 24 of their members—and their director—back for an encore performance.

With only three or four rehearsals to brush up where they had become rusty after 25 years, the choir re-performed the musical "Purpose," an original composition by Tabernacle's

minister of music at that time, Phillip Landgrave.

Sam Roberts, pastor of the church since 1989, said nearly 300 people attended each of the special emphasis Sundays—surprisingly high numbers for a church that usually averages 100 on Sundays.

Highlights of the Feb. 21 celebration, which focused on the church's history, included a play, an old-fashioned pie social and an open house of the church's heritage room.

Also, the church commissioned a book about its first 100 years.

On Feb. 28, the church celebrated through music. Landgrave was invited to preach during the morning wor-

ship service. Members of the 25th reunion of the Purpose choir led the evening service.

March 7 was designated "challenge day." Joe Priest Williams, pastor from 1961-1989, and Roberts both preached during the service. Also, the church dedicated its Family Life Center—which has been operating since 1985—for social ministries.

Social-oriented ministry is a priority for the downtown church, Roberts said. The church operates a clothing and food center and a medical supply closet for the community, and also provides tutoring for children, a number of support groups and special seasonal ministries.

Attendance records show that Baptist Tabernacle's membership is significantly less now than during the church's "heyday," when the average was closer to 1,000 than 100, Roberts said. The flight from urban areas, which began during the 1960s, took a drastic toll on the church.

"The church made an important decision to stay where it was," Roberts said. "It felt like it was needed there."

Since that time, the church has weathered many changes, but remains strong, he said.

"I don't know of any other congregation that has done as much with as little" as Baptist Tabernacle has.



FIRST AWARD Andy Lowe, a high school senior and member of Calvary Baptist Church in Cave City, receives the National Missions Challenge Award from John Lott, Kentucky Brotherhood associate director, during a regional missions congress Feb. 20. Lowe is the first person in Kentucky to complete all five units of a program called Missions Challenge for High School Baptist Young Men.

Adult care needed, must be licensed

FRANKFORT—Churches and other organizations that provide adult day care centers for four or more older adults must be certified by the Department of Social Services under a new state law.

Information packets on certification are available by calling (502) 564-6930.

With limited funding available for state centers, the department reports, help is needed from outside agencies, such as churches to fill a void in adult day care. "The market is there for adult day care businesses, and those that fill niches like alternate shifts will be most successful," said Sue Tuttle of the aging services division.

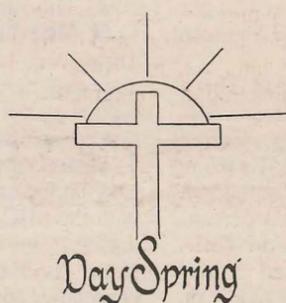
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'Please don't forget me'

Those words express the feelings of all of us at times. In a world so large and so fast paced we want to matter to someone. We want to be remembered at least by those who are close to us.

Recently Nell Reynolds, the lead child care worker at our Dixon shelter, received a letter from one of the girls who was moving to Glen Dale. It read in part, "I guess you're wondering why I'm writing you. Well, it's to tell you that I will miss you. Nell, you're the best house parent a kid could have. Thanks for being there for me when I needed someone to talk to. Please don't forget me, because I promise I won't forget you." A lot of young women will remember Nell, for she is a special lady who does a great job of helping young people in crisis.

Nell will remember this young lady along with many more. Chances are she will get a call or a visit in a few years. It may be at a time of crisis again, just to ask for advice, or more likely just to find someone to listen who will understand. It may be a visit to say, "Look how I turned out! I bet you never thought I would make it."

It will be those memories and contacts that will make up for the countless hours of concern and hard work which a child care worker has to put in. Caring for 10 young women all with different problems and concerns is a major task. Knowing you only have a few weeks to impact their lives only adds to the pressure.

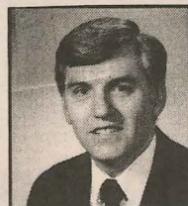
Each of us who work in child care have children we will always remember. Sometimes they are the ones with which we believe we failed. I wonder at times about a number of young people with whom I worked personally. I have a hard time giving up on young people. I always believe there is something more we can do to help them make it.

I am thankful to God for Nell and the 59 other child care workers in our system. They truly make a difference in the lives of young people. I am also grateful for the supervisors and social workers who provide support for our frontline staff, and for the many donors who make our work possible.

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

Paid Column

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

IRS fines Falwell & revokes tax-exempt status for 2 years

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A decision by the Internal Revenue Service to fine Jerry Falwell's Old Time Gospel Hour \$50,000 and revoke its tax-exempt status for two years may signal a crackdown on involvement of religious groups in politics.

The Old Time Gospel Hour has agreed to pay a \$50,000 fine to the IRS after a prolonged audit of the evangelist's many ministries showed that some activities violated tax laws.

The IRS investigation, which scrutinized the organization's activities in

1986 and 1987, found that ministry personnel were used to raise money for a political action committee. The law bars tax-exempt bodies from participating in political campaigns on behalf of specific candidates.

The ministry's political action committee, called the "I Love America Committee," was formed by an official in Falwell's Moral Majority to back congressional candidates.

The agreement reached between the government and Falwell brings to an end a far-ranging investigation by

the government.

Both the I Love America Committee and the Moral Majority have been disbanded.

Earlier, the IRS revoked the tax exempt status of the Liberty Federation, another Falwell organization with a wider public policy agenda than the Moral Majority, after determining it did not operate solely for religious and charitable purposes.

Terms of an agreement signed in mid-February called for the Old Time Gospel Hour to publicize the settle-

ment to media outlets chosen by the federal agency, but many news outlets got information of the penalty from the IRS.

"We followed the instructions exactly," said Mark DeMoss, a spokesman for Falwell. But he said that when nobody picked up the story, the IRS apparently decided to publicize the agreement itself.

The agreement calls for the Old Time Gospel Hour's tax-exempt status to be revoked for the years 1986 and 1987 but reinstated in 1988.

Kentuckian dominates Dove Awards

NASHVILLE (EP)—Kentuckian Steven Curtis Chapman dominated the Gospel Music Association's 24th annual Dove Awards April 1.

Chapman captured six of the seven awards for which he was nominated, including the prestigious Artist of the Year and Songwriter of the Year awards.

Chapman's album, "The Great Adventure," was named Contemporary Album of the Year, and the title song was named Contemporary Song of the Year. In addition, "The Great Adventure" was honored for short-form video.

Michael English was named the Gospel Music Association's Male Vocalist of the Year for the second year in a row. Female Vocalist of the Year went to Twila Paris, breaking Sandi Patti's 11-year lock on the honor.

Other winners included Group of the Year 4HIM, and New Artist of the Year Cindy Morgan.

The Dove Awards broadcast was hosted by entertainer Barbara Mandrell, and included performances by Amy Grant, Sandi Patti, Steven Curtis Chapman, Bruce Carroll, White Heart and others. The program was broadcast live on The Family Channel.

Court rules on women chaplains

DENVER (RNS)—A federal agency's policy that blocks women from serving as Roman Catholic chaplains at Veterans Administration hospitals is illegal, a federal appeals court ruled April 1.

But the court's decision does not mean women can start lining up for Catholic chaplaincy posts.

The court, in one portion of its decision, said it is illegal for a federal agency to bar someone from a job because of gender. But it also upheld a Veterans Administration policy that requires chaplain applicants to obtain

endorsement from their denomination. And that's where the hitch comes in.

The Catholic Church has endorsed only priests, and women are barred from the Catholic priesthood, a situation over which the state has no control.

The agency rule that was overturned by the appeals court required chaplains be ordained. That rule directly blocked Catholic women from serving and thus violated the 1964 Civil Rights Act's prohibition of job discrimination based on gender, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals said in its decision.

The 3-0 ruling applies to women of all religious groups that do not ordain women, according to Daniel Lynch, attorney for Mary Wilson Murphy, the Denver woman who sued the Veterans Administration.

However, if the endorsing agencies of denominations that do not ordain women will endorse chaplains without ordination, approved female applicants still may meet Veterans Administration requirements.

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KENTUCKY KERNELS

Alcohol is the most commonly used drug by Kentucky students in grades six through 12. About 80 percent of 16-year-olds polled had used alcohol, and about 34 percent of that age group had used it in the past month.

Source: Cabinet for Human Resources

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BIRMINGHAM, Ala.**—Southern Baptist Women in Ministry will hold a decade celebration service of worship and communion May 13 at 10 a.m., in conjunction with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship meeting in Birmingham, Ala. An outdoor event May 12 featuring humorist Rod McClelland also is scheduled. For more information or to make reservations, contact the Southern Baptist Women in Ministry office at 2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, Ky. 40206.

■ **BURGIN**—Burgin Church called **Larry Vaughan** as minister of music. Formerly a member of Versailles Church in Versailles, Vaughan began his ministry April 11.

■ **BURLINGTON**—Bellevue Church is celebrating its 190th anniversary April 11-May 2. Highlights of the church's history are being presented each week, and former pastors are preaching in morning worship services. Homecoming is scheduled for May 2.

■ **CALVERT CITY**—First Church called **Rick Johnson** as minister of music and education. Johnson previously served on staff at Bellevue Church in Owensboro.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Salem Church ordained four recently elected deacons March 28: **Jeff Arnold, Gary Pike, Ronnie Patton and David Gaddie.** **Doug Clark**, already ordained, also was elected.

■ **HENDERSON**—Recently retiring

its debt on a family life center built in 1988, members of Hyland Church observed a note burning celebration service Feb. 21.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Auburndale Church honored **Pearl King** on her 90th birthday, recognizing her for 39 years of continuous service teaching Sunday school. She was presented a plaque during morning worship March 14.

Eastern Parkway Church will ordain **Kimberly Isley** to the ministry May 16.

"Our Baptist Tradition," a new



FOUR GENERATIONS Four generations of the Smart family gave testimony of Christian faith during a recent service at Hardinsburg Baptist Church in Hardinsburg. Shown clockwise from top left are John Smart, Scottie Smart, J.S.G. Smart Sr. and J.S.G. Smart Jr.

book by **William Powell Tuck**, soon will be released by Smyth & Helwys publishing company. The book, which Tuck said grew out of denominational crisis, places the Southern Baptist tradition within the context of the larger Christian community. Tuck has been pastor of St. Matthews Church since 1983.

■ **MAYFIELD**—**Harry Hunter**, a Mission Service Corps volunteer and Kentucky Baptist evangelism consultant, will be the featured speaker for the Purchase Area Regional Ministers' Conference, at 10:45 a.m. May 4 on the campus of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield.

■ **PERRYVILLE**—Perryville

Church will celebrate its 175th anniversary April 24-25. Former members are invited to join the church for a dinner April 24 at 6 p.m., and for lunch and a 2 p.m. service April 25.

■ **RIDGECREST, N.C.**—The administrative services coordinator of Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center is attempting to update files of former summer staff people in anticipation of a 1994 staff reunion. Former staffers are encouraged to send their names and addresses, along with others whom they know about, to administrative services coordinator, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, P.O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770.

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Difficult to believe

Last week I noticed four strangers sitting on the front row at our daily chapel service. Every day we have many guests and normally I have met them before the service, or are aware that they are coming. But I had never seen any of these before.

After the service I found that one was a lawyer, another a coal operator, a teacher, a school administrator. They were from Virginia. They told me they had read an article in their local paper about Oneida. They informed me they had found what they read difficult to believe, and had come to see for themselves.

I finally got a copy of the newspaper article, and found it written by Ann Gregory, who was a first-time visitor to our campus in June.

She wrote in part: "Have you ever heard of a private boarding school that doesn't necessarily charge tuition, that maintains no on-going solicitations for money from alumni, that conducts no fund-raising campaigns whatsoever, but that operates from day to day, winter and summer, over a period of decades on faith alone? There is one called Oneida Baptist Institute, founded in 1899, and as far as I know, it's unique. Although I am an enthusiastic—some might even say aggressive—believer in public schools, I'm nevertheless impressed with this particular school and its dedication to its mission.

"No student is ever turned away just because he or she isn't able to pay tuition. Neither is the school 'selective' in requiring that all of its students fit any particular molds. Rich kids, poor kids, bright kids, average kids, 'good' kids, 'at-risk' kids, problem kids—they have them all. Oneida accepts any child that is physically, mentally and emotionally ready to be away from home. The school is fully accredited.

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

"When we asked where the money comes from to maintain the impressive physical plant which includes a number of buildings on the school's beautiful campus, as well as the extensive faculty (four foreign languages, for example, are offered to students), Dr. Moore said it is impossible to pin it down. 'We get a lot of \$5, \$10 and \$25 contributions.'

"When we asked him how such a financial system can possibly work, the irrepressible Dr. Moore said, 'It's very simple. We do the will of God, and he provides.' He continued, 'Some people say they wonder how we know what the will of God is, but it's right there in the Bible. We're to teach his word and do his work,' and he emphasized that students at Oneida Baptist Institute attend chapel daily. 'The Bible says part of God's work is feeding the hungry, taking in the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick.... People at Oneida have lovingly been doing all these things for 92 years, and God takes care of us.' The school provides housing for its teachers, but pays them very small salaries by today's standards.

"It's an amazing place, this Oneida Baptist Institute. With no big endowments, no alumni campaigns for money, no high-powered fund-raising drives, never knowing on any given day where 80 percent of its financial support will materialize, it nevertheless continues, year after year, to attract sufficient means to maintain and constantly improve its impressive campus, provide scholarships for many, and provide a superior faculty and staff for its diverse student body. It's an operation of faith."

Reprinted from WR, Aug. 6, 1991
Barkley Moore is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

Paid Column

A busy summer with volunteers

Spring and summer at Clear Creek bring the opportunity for many volunteers to help us with campus projects.

The first spring crew came from Sturgis. First Baptist deacon Pete Brown brought his welding equipment and friends Galen Heppler and Nickey Holeman. They completed welding the new bridge to Kelly Hall, working most of Saturday in a light drizzle.

Meta Baptist member Jerry Brock was between contracting jobs at Appalachian Bridge Co. He recruited five others from Pike and Floyd counties to place reinforcement rods in the bridge and prepare it for concrete. The group included '83 student Charles Justice.

Six men and three couples are coming in May from my former church, Orlando Downtown Baptist. One of them will catalogue library books.

Twelve men from Greenup Association, Ashland, arrive May 15 for a week. Their assignment is to remove the top and gut the inside of a student cottage and get it ready for Sullivan Association, Kingsport, Tenn.

Sullivan Director of Missions Tommy Holtzclaw, a '75 graduate, returns again with 25 workers each week for three weeks to totally ren-

ovate a Holly Hill cottage.

Our largest contingent is Constructors for Christ, based in Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. During a three-week period, 203 from eight states will build three duplexes and complete the interior of three other duplexes.

During June and July we will host 112 volunteers from these churches: First, Bolivar, Mo.; Glencoe, Gadsden, Ala.; First, Waterloo, Ill.; Dover, Shelbyville, Ky.; Beulah, Forest, Va.; and Savannah (Ga.) Association.

Seventeen other groups from eight states have contacted us but earlier planning has already filled our summer. Some of these may come August-November.

To lower our costs, volunteers will pay for meals, bring food for our cooks, or prepare food in our kitchen. They bring their own linens. Some will camp in our mobile home park.

All will enjoy the beautiful campus, Pine Mountain Park, excellent recreation in the family life center. They will be blessed by helping us meet major campus needs. We will make a host of new friends.

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

Paid Column

PEOPLE

Time to see blacks as missions partners, leader says

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)—When Annie Armstrong wrote letters to motivate Southern Baptists to be involved in home missions, she identified three people groups for ministry: migrants, American Indians and blacks.

Seventy years later, Tom Kelly says it's time to think of blacks as mission partners rather than mission targets.

"I refuse to let our black churches be second class," says the director of black church extension for the California Southern Baptist Convention.

California is the only state convention with a staff member whose full-time responsibility is black church extension; most states add leadership of black church extension to other assignments.

Kelly's leadership and the state's commitment to black churches make California a pacesetter in black church growth, says Willie McPherson, Home Mission Board director of black church extension.

Of the Southern Baptist Convention's 38,458 churches, 1,352—3.5 percent—are predominantly black congregations. In California, 260—17 percent—of Southern Baptist churches are black congregations. Of California's top 25 churches in baptisms last year, 15 were black congregations.

When Kelly began working with the state convention in 1984, California had 100 black Southern Baptist churches, and he was the only staff person assigned to black church extension.

The home missionary has since developed a network of regional consultants and contract workers who

serve as specialists in subjects ranging from Sunday school to Woman's Missionary Union. "They're the key to our success," he says.

Many of California's new black Southern Baptist churches are established congregations affiliated with the predominantly black National Baptist Convention, Kelly explains. Most of them remain dually aligned.

"They stay with the National Baptist Convention for fellowship and come with the Southern Baptist Convention for training," he says. Dual alignment strengthens both conventions as well as the church, he says.

Southern Baptists have been accused of proselyting churches from the National Baptist Convention, but Kelly says that is not the case.

When a church wants to affiliate with Southern Baptists, Kelly says, "We check out their motives. We ask, 'Can you help us win California for Christ?'"

Although Kelly helps existing churches that want to affiliate with the SBC, he says his priority is starting churches. California reported 18 new black churches last year, but Kelly wants the number to reach 50 a year soon.

Many black churches have five to 10 associate ministers, Kelly notes. He challenges those churches to send associates as church starters.

Helping churches "read the menu" in Southern Baptist life is another priority for Kelly.

Newcomers have to be taught the difference in Sunday school curriculum and how local associations, state conventions and national agencies relate.

Kelly also is leading black churches to give more to the Cooperative Program unified budget. Black

Baptist pastor leading peace effort

By Mark Wyatt
California Southern Baptist

LOS ANGELES (BP)—As jurors in the second Rodney King beating trial considered the evidence last week, a Southern Baptist pastor was among those leading efforts to head off possible civil unrest.

Lonnie Dawson, pastor of New Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, joined other ministers in announcing a publicity campaign urging residents and businesses from Long Beach to south-central Los Angeles to "Keep It Good In The Hood."

"We are trying to develop a mind-set that we will not, should not, cannot destroy our city again," Dawson said.

Dawson is president of the Southern Area Clergy Council, whose leaders detailed plans to help curb possible flare-ups like those which resulted in scores of deaths and massive destruction after the first Rodney King trial nearly a year ago.

Unlike some in the community, the ministers do not expect violence to result from the second trial

involving the four police officers or from the trial of four men accused of beating truck driver Reginald Denney during the 1992 riots. Still, they are working hard to make sure the community remains calm no matter what verdicts are returned.

The ministers' group was to distribute a half million fliers printed in English, Spanish and Samoan. The handbill lists several damaging effects of violence: It destroys a family's future; demeans the local economy; divides the community; decreases property values; increases insurance costs; costs lives and jobs; interferes with education; destroys spirituality.

The efforts to head off violence have been covered on several Los Angeles television stations as well as the CBS Evening News and CNN.

"This has been a fantastic movement," Dawson told The California Southern Baptist April 8. He credited the California Southern Baptist Convention missions ministries department with helping fund the printing of the fliers.

In addition to the publicity blitz, Dawson helped lead a peace march and rally April 10.

churches in California give nearly \$300,000 a year to the Cooperative Program now, but he says he wants to see that amount reach \$500,000.

Personal mission involvement is another of Kelly's goals. He hopes to see more blacks commit themselves to foreign mission careers and serve as volunteers in home missions.

Kelly said he looks forward to the day when black Southern Baptists are in places of responsibility across the convention. Black churches are a majority in three of California's 33 associations, Kelly says, and he would like to see a black person serve as director of missions in those associations someday.

LIFE COMMITMENT April is Life Commitment Month on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar, and this year's theme is "Finding Your Place in Ministry: Location." Tom Dye (right) is one Southern Baptist who has found his place of service. As a volunteer youth worker at Twelve Corners Baptist Church near Garfield, Ark., Dye has helped build a youth ministry from scratch. Dye also shares his faith through his taxidermy business. A gospel tract is attached to each mounted or stuffed animal that leaves his shop. Watching Dye work are two members of his youth group.

'An addict in God's hands now'

ATLANTA (BP)—Asked about the scar on his left cheek, Bo Render shrugs and says "just one of those things." But it hints at the life he lived before finding Techwood Baptist Center and becoming a Christian.

"I'm an addict in God's hands now," says Render, 29, who spent more than eight years in jail on drug trafficking charges.

Render was leaving a courthouse last year because of a burglary charge when his brother, a city drug investigator, told him to clean up his life and go see Terry Moncrief, a Southern Baptist home missionary and director of the center in downtown Atlanta.

Planted in the middle of the nation's oldest housing project, Techwood Baptist Center offers job training, family counseling and other ministries to more than 6,000 residents.

"I'd come in here and I'd feel nothing but Christianity through the services," Render said.

Workers helped him get admitted into a Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation center, after which he worked with the Techwood Baptist Center and Christos, a dependency support group.

Although he was cleaning up his life, Render says he still lacked the joy he saw in other people at the center.

"I was always seeing Christians mostly smiling and I was wondering why I wasn't smiling."

He said he professed his faith in Jesus Christ a few months ago, giving him a reason to smile. "I wake up in the morning and I'm happy about myself."

Old friends have noticed a difference, Render said. On the streets, customers with debts promise to pay, only to hear that Render doesn't want their money anymore. "I just feel good doing the Lord's will. I never thought I could feel this way, but I do."

His new life also has given him a burden to help others. Looking around the community, Render says he sees kids with no hope who believe the only way to be important is to sell drugs and wear gold jewelry.

"They don't have anything to look forward to," he says, adding he is starting a leather workshop so youths can make things with their hands, stay out of trouble and feel a sense of accomplishment.

Render acknowledged public housing isn't the safest place for Christian ministry but said that shouldn't matter. "You shouldn't be afraid to come work here, because this is God's house."



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