

APRIL 27, 1993 VOL. 167, NO. 17

FOR THE RECORD

Kentucky women called to missions commitment

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Faculty denied
Three faculty members recommended for appointment to endowed chairs at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary denied that honor by seminary trustees last week. Three moderate trustees on the board resigned in protest of that and other trustee actions. See page 2.

Editorial
Lend "healing hands" to the wounded environment. See page 5.

Children's issues
Speakers at a conference on "Children and the Church" called for greater commitment from Christians to work for the welfare of America's youth. See pages 1, 6 & 7.

Sherman speaks
Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, spoke at the spring meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship recently. See page 9.

Seminary provost leaving
Larry McSwain, provost of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named president of Shorter College in Georgia. See page 9.

HARRODSBURG—Baptist women should commit themselves to God's mission and rest assured God has empowered them for the task, speakers said during the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting in Harrodsburg April 23-24.

"Lead On, Committed Women!" was the theme of the event at Harrodsburg Baptist Church, where more than 1,200 women gathered. Another 500 elementary-age girls attended the Girls in Action missions event Saturday morning, April 24.

One of the most popular personalities at the conference was the WMU bunny, a take-off on the Energizer bunny of TV commercial fame. In each session, the life-size, robot-like bunny came banging her drum through the sanctuary while an unseen voice explained: "WMU just keeps going and going and going."

"Where will our children and young people learn to answer the call to missions if we don't lead on?" asked WMU President Delores Spears of Paducah. "If we don't, who will?"

Sara Billups, a nurse from Ashland, followed up on that theme in giving her testimony. "If we want our

□ See Kentucky women ..., page 3



COMMITTED WOMAN Edna Emerson Sudduth (right), a 93-year-old member of Calvary Baptist Church in Frankfort, receives a plaque from Dee Gilliland, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, during the annual WMU meeting in Harrodsburg. Sudduth was one of about two dozen women who were recognized for making often unnoticed and unrewarded contributions to their churches and associations through WMU. Assisting Gilliland with the presentation is Delores Spears, outgoing WMU president.

Edelman: Join 'spiritual struggle' for children

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Guns, television, bad public policy, material greed and lack of moral values all are contributing to make America a tragic home for children, Marian Wright Edelman told about 500 people attending a conference on "Children and the Church" April 21.

Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D.C., was keynote speaker for the three-day conference in Louisville, Ky. The event was directed by the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with co-sponsorship by seven other Baptist entities.

"The church must be the moral locomotive instead of the moral caboose," Edelman declared, calling the church the "key torchbearer of change."

"We must be a part of a new spiritual struggle which must arise across our land to stop the killing and neglect of children and put our action and our leadership and our pocketbooks behind our purported family values," she said.

"We must struggle to reclaim our nation's soul and give our children back their hope ...," Edelman continued. "We need a new movement in the 1990s that is about the future

and not about the past."

Churches can be a part of this renewal through several means, Edelman suggested. She called on churches and religious leaders to "be a voice for the children of our nation, who are powerless and voiceless."

The church could be part of the Children's Defense Fund's vision to eliminate child poverty in America by the turn of the century, she said.

Also, Edelman called on churches to support efforts to immunize every American child and to see that every child has opportunity for a good preschool education.

Educating church members and community leaders about the needs of children is essential, she said.

To make her point, Edelman painted a bleak statistical picture of what American children now face:

■ "Every Sunday as we wake up, 100,000 children wake up homeless."

■ "Every 13 seconds, about the time it takes us to say the Lord's Prayer, another American baby is born into poverty."

■ "Every 14 minutes, while we listen to the sermon, a baby dies in America."

■ "Every 54 seconds, while we pass the peace, a baby is born to a teen-age mother."

■ "Every 13 hours, before we go

back to sleep each night and say our prayers, a preschooler is murdered."

While Americans rightly have been obsessed with helping starving children in Somalia, Edelman said, they have been blind to worse conditions in their own country.

"Why are there more poor children in rich America than there are residents in famine-stricken Somalia?" she asked.

Edelman said America has 14.3 million poor children, a higher number than at any time in history. Further, an estimated 5 million American children are going hungry, she added.

"Thousands of children—one every 53 minutes—die of poverty in rich America and millions more suffer preventable sickness and chronic diseases."

America's children are two to 14 times more likely to be poor than the children of Australia, Canada, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom, she continued.

But "no fact tells us more clearly that something is badly awry in American society than the reports of abuse or neglect in 1990 of an American child every 13 seconds," Edelman said.

Throughout the speech, Edelman repeatedly called for a better response to gun-related violence affecting American children. She drew applause from the crowd when she called for support of the Brady Bill, a gun control measure now pending before Congress.

□ See Edelman calls ..., page 6

Children & the church

■ More on pages 6 & 7

Students & trustees at growing odds

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—The gap between conservative trustees and moderate students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary widened significantly during the April 19-21 trustee meeting on campus.

Trustees continued to chafe under criticism by students that they have spent seminary money too freely on themselves. Students who support allowing women in pastoral ministry roles, meanwhile, continued to chafe under tightening definitions of women's roles as the seminary moves toward more conservative leadership.

The spending issue surfaced in several meetings as it was revealed trustees have overspent their own meeting budget by at least \$35,000 this fiscal year, not including estimated expenses of \$30,000 for this month's meeting. In addition to the two scheduled meetings, two called meetings have been held in Atlanta.

Meanwhile, the Western Recorder has learned trustees budgeted an additional \$95,000 this year for the use of their presidential search committee. Although an exact accounting of that money was not available, trustee Chairman Wayne Allen said he believes those expenses are within budget.

Student government leaders have said the two special meetings and the large amount of money spent by the

□ See Gap widening ..., page 8

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Broadman Press**, Holman Bible Publishers and Broadman Supplies, long-time publishing imprints of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, have merged to form Broadman & Holman Publishers. Charles Wilson, vice president for trade and retail markets at the board, said Broadman & Holman "intends to position itself as a viable, competitive publisher and supplier in the broad, Christian marketplace."

■ **After receiving an apology** from the publisher of Madonna's "Sex" book, the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee awarded the printing contract for the 1993 Convention Annual and Book of Reports to R.R. Donnelley and Sons Co. Both Executive Committee and Baptist Sunday School Board officials were angry when it was reported last October that Donnelley, in a contract with Time Warner Company, had printed Madonna's controversial \$49.95 "Sex" coffee-table book. A statement from a Donnelly vice president to the SBC noted "Madonna's publishers know that we will not be involved in any soft cover edition this fall. They understand that we now know the content of the book and have always avoided such books. We are sorry for any embarrassment or inconvenience this incident has caused you." Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper said Donnelley also had apologized to him and will continue to be used by the board.

■ **Note:** Due to extensive coverage of several Kentucky meetings in this week's Recorder, reports on several national Southern Baptist Convention board meetings will be delayed until next week's issue.

Three seminary faculty denied chair appointments

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Three faculty members of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have been denied appointments to endowed chairs by a trustee committee without explanation.

Gerald Keown, Raymond Bailey and William Hendricks were among five professors recommended for the chair appointments by seminary administrators.

However, the trustee academic personnel committee, in sessions during the April 19-21 spring meeting, approved only two of the five recommendations for action by the full board.

Also during the spring meeting, trustees elected three men to new faculty positions, named retiring President Roy Honeycutt chancellor and elected new trustee officers.

Keown was to have been named to the Martha and Talmadge Rogers Chair of Old Testament Interpretation. Bailey was to have been named to the Victor and Louise Lester Chair of Christian Preaching. Hendricks was to have been named to the Roy L. Honeycutt Chair of Christian Theology.

All five appointments had been recommended by David Dockery, dean of the school of theology, Larry McSwain, provost, and President Roy Honeycutt. In previous circumstances, approving such recommendations to chairs has been routine for trustees.

After the academic personnel committee made its report to the full board April 21, trustee Julian Pentecost of Virginia asked what had happened to the other three recommended appointments.

Trustee John Allen of Mississippi, who next year will serve as first vice chairman of the board, immediately objected to the question being discussed.

However, academic personnel committee Chairman Rick White—who will be trustee chairman next year—answered with a brief statement, noting, "There is no recom-

mendation out of committee at this time ... It is inappropriate for me to go beyond that."

When asked for clarification in an interview after the session, White declined further comment. White also declined to either confirm or deny a rumor that was beginning to circulate on campus that the appointments were derailed because the professors belong to churches which support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Keown is a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Hendricks is a member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville. Bailey serves as pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville. All three allow members to channel financial support to the Fellowship, an organization of moderate Southern Baptists.

Most other committee members were not immediately available to be interviewed. However, a committee member who was absent from the one committee session where the chairs were discussed said even he did not get an explanation of the action when he asked the chairman.

News of the action toward the three professors was not well-received on campus, where some faculty suggested privately that trustees had breached the Covenant Agreement. The covenant, approved by trustees, faculty and administration in 1990, says trustees will accept less-conservative faculty appointed in earlier years in exchange for the faculty allowing trustees to bring in more-conservative teachers to achieve a balance of perspectives.

George Steincross, a trustee from Missouri who resigned from the board in protest at the end of the spring meeting, said he thinks trustees violated the covenant.

"What it is, of course, is punitive. These are measures to punish professors who get out of line," he said. "It is a raw breaking of the covenant."

Bailey, professor of preaching, also said he believes trustees broke the covenant: "This action, or non-action, is a clear abrogation of the covenant which supposedly exists between the trustees and faculty."

Bailey said he has received indications that trustees believed he "generally did not support the direction of the seminary" and were unhappy with his support of women in ministry and with views he had expressed on a joint faculty-trustee committee.

"It makes very clear that a purge is going on, that faculty will be punished if they have any independent thought," Bailey said.

"I weep for the continuing assault on the Baptist tradition of dissent and academic freedom. I will not sacrifice my integrity on the altar of political accommodation."

Keown, who was granted a promotion by trustees at the same meeting from associate professor to professor of Old Testament, is president of the Faculty Association. In that role, he often has represented sensitive faculty concerns to trustees.

Keown said he had been given no specific explanation for why his appointment was denied. "The official word apparently is going to be that filling the chairs has been delayed until the fall meeting," he said.

Hendricks, professor of Christian theology, issued this statement:

"The voices of integrity and responsibility, who are competent to make academic decisions, were unanimous in recommending me for this honor, and that is a privilege that I will long cherish. It is apparent that independent voices and independent opinions are not valued by the trustees. I have a lot of both of these and plan to exercise them freely. I am astonished in this time of fiscal difficulty the trustees are content to suffer additional financial loss through the income of these chairs."

Endowed chairs are established by donors, with income from the endowment's principal used to pay part or all of the named professor's salary. In most cases, existing faculty members are named to chairs as they are created, thus reducing the salary drain on the general budget.

When asked in the full board meeting about the financial drain this decision would make, Honeycutt indicated only one of the three new chairs

would have been receiving funding from endowment interest at this point.

On a related note, the trustee resolutions report also was challenged, when it failed to propose resolutions of appreciation for three deans who are stepping down from their positions. At least two of the deans, Bill Rogers and Milburn Price, have publicly stated distaste for trustee-initiated changes underway at the seminary.

The full board approved adding Rogers, Price and Anne Davis to the list of other faculty members recognized through resolutions of appreciation. However, several trustees raised questions about why the committee had omitted the three in its report.

New faculty members elected are Marvin Anderson, professor of church history; Carey Newman, assistant professor of New Testament; and T. Vaughn Walker, associate professor of black church studies.

Anderson comes to Southern from Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., where he has taught since 1964. Newman moves from Palm Beach Atlantic College, where he has been assistant professor of religion since 1989.

Walker already had been teaching in Southern's school of church social work. He also is pastor of First Gethsemane Baptist Church in Louisville.

Under terms of Honeycutt's election as chancellor, his role will be "to enhance and extend the mission of the seminary and the role of the president" as assigned by the president. He will receive about \$30,000 annually over the three-year appointment but may be terminated with or without cause by the board of trustees or by the president with approval of the trustee executive committee.

New trustee officers elected are Rick White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Franklin, Tenn., chairman; John Allen, pastor of Richton Baptist Church of Richton, Miss., first vice chairman; David Miller, an associational director of missions in Arkansas, second vice president; and John Hicks, a Louisville attorney, secretary.

Three moderate trustees quit seminary board in protest

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Three moderate trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary announced their resignations at the end of the conservative-dominated board's spring meeting in Louisville April 21.

George Steincross of Missouri, Jerry Mahan of Georgia and Horace Benjamin of South Carolina one-by-one took the microphone in the closing moments of the three-day meeting to say they would resign as trustees effective July 31, the last day Roy Honeycutt will serve the institution as president.

Two other trustees questioned the tone and content of statements made by the resigning trustees and attempted to stop one of them from speaking.

"The hostile takeover of Southern Seminary is complete," Steincross

said, citing Honeycutt's "premature" retirement and the election of Al Mohler to succeed him as evidence.

Steincross said he "can no longer with integrity serve as trustee of an intentionally 'corrected' Southern Seminary."

Steincross said by resigning he wanted to identify with faculty and students who feel discouraged and hurt by the trustees and the change of administration. He asked that his comments be entered into the minutes of the meeting.

Trustee John Michael of Louisville questioned allowing Steincross to voice his opinion and asked the chairman if it was proper to allow Steincross "to impugn the motives of other members of this body."

Trustee Chairman Wayne Allen responded: "He has the right to feel however he feels."

Steincross then interjected that his

statements were deeply felt but also based on facts.

At that point, trustee Skip Stam of North Carolina, seated next to Steincross, raised a point of order in an attempt to silence further discussion.

Immediately after Steincross resigned, Mahan delivered a similar speech to announce his resignation.

Mahan said he thought trustees previously had committed to maintaining Southern Seminary as an institution to serve all the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The current direction of the board and of the president-elect indicate that will not be the case, he said: "I think this seminary will be an excellent academic institution for part of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Mahan voiced concern about trustee spending patterns on their meetings and about trustees not hearing the concerns of students and faculty.

The Georgia pastor said he found it ironic that he could sit as a trustee of the seminary but "could not be theologically pure enough" to be hired as a professor.

Additionally, Mahan said he was resigning to avoid a potential conflict of interest, since he also sits on the board of Mercer University, which he said is considering forming a seminary.

Benjamin made only a brief statement in announcing his resignation.

All three resignations are effective July 31—six weeks after the SBC meeting in which new trustees would be elected in their place.

Normally, trustee positions vacated after the convention are left vacant until the next year. However, in this rare case when a vacancy has been announced in advance but will not be effective until after the SBC, what will happen is unclear.

Kentucky women called to missions commitment

Continued from page 1

children from page 1 committed to the cause of Christ, we must be committed before them," she said. "Our time is short. Our task is great. There are children to teach, missionaries to support."

Women have a more important role in preaching the gospel in America today than do men, said Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. This influence begins with women's influence on children, he added.

It is interesting to note in Scripture that the apostle Paul told Timothy to remember what his grandmother Lois had taught him, not what his father or grandfather had taught him, Lotz said.

"Women in the world can be a mighty force for evangelism," he said.

Women have become important agents for church starting in Detroit, reported Daniel "Doc" Lindsey, director of missions for Greater Detroit Baptist Association.

Lindsey described the success of a program called Operation Lydia, in which women begin home Bible studies with the intent of maturing them into new congregations.

This project requires finding people who are "fat," he said, using the word as an acronym for "faithful," "available" and "teachable."

When properly interpreted, the Bible affirms women as missions leaders, said Dorothy Sample, an educator and psychologist from Flint, Mich. Sample is a former national WMU president.

Jesus Christ's biblical mandate for women and men is to help reconcile the world to God, Sample said. And although culture has made women feel inadequate for this task, she added, God's will is for women and men to work together as partners.

Adam and Eve were partners in the original sin that led to the fall of the human race, Sample said, explaining women do not bear the responsibility for the fall alone.

Sample began her series of Bible studies by interpreting principles of biblical interpretation. Some Bible passages are divinely inspired for doctrine, some for history, others as poetry, she noted.

She offered four questions to ask of Scripture:

■ What does it say linguistically? In other words, what the original language tell the reader that English translations might not capture?

■ What is the context of the verse?

■ Is the passage to be taken literally or figuratively?

■ Does the passage speak to a universal truth for all time or a temporary truth for a local situation? For example, she said, the Ten Commandments are universal truths for all time, while the dietary laws given in Deuteronomy were temporary laws for a given situation.

Additionally, all Scripture must be interpreted through Jesus Christ, Sample said.

During his ministry on earth, Jesus broke many of the traditional ideas of the Jewish culture, which held women in bondage, she said. Likewise, modern Christians must move beyond culture and tradition to find the truth of Scripture, she suggested.

To apply this, Sample cited several specific passages she said Baptists often interpret in light of culture and tradition more than in light of God's plan. "God is above and beyond and works through the culture that often holds us back," she said.

For example, when Genesis 3:16 says of women, "man shall rule over you," it uses a predictive verb, Sample said. That means men ruling over women is not God's perfect will but instead is God's acknowledgement of the results of sin entering the world.

God's ideal is for men and women to work together as partners, not for men to be in domination over women, she continued.

"So much of the way women have been related to in the church has been because of the result of sin in the world rather than because it was God's plan," she said.

"We have been acculturated to think women don't have as much responsibility in the Great Commission as men. But we do."

Sample did not directly address the controversial issue of ordaining women as deacons and pastors. However, she did note that the word "ordination" is never used in the Bible's original text. The word was coined in the third century A.D., she said.

"Jesus never said anything about ordination," Sample said. "He talked



about servanthood, not authority."

Both Jesus and the apostle Paul demonstrated openness to women in their ministries, Sample said. "Jesus defended women and forgave their sins. ... Jesus evangelized women and gave them the responsibility of taking the gospel to others. ... Jesus took women seriously. ... Jesus was good friends with women. ... Jesus called women and they followed him into service. ... Jesus allowed women to travel with his party, sharing the good news of the gospel."

During the Harrodsburg meeting, Kentucky WMU members also:

■ Elected as officers Kay Trisler of Harrodsburg, president; Sara Billups of Ashland, vice president; and Susan Stinnett of Lexington as recording secretary.

■ Heard thank-yous from missionaries and a missionary kid for Christmas gifts sent annually to Kentucky-born foreign missionaries and their families.

■ Heard missionary testimonies and a plea for more missionaries to go to Bangladesh, where only two missionary couples remain despite government openness to admit others.



WMU MEETING ■ Top: The WMU bunny parades through the meeting hall bringing her drum to symbolize that WMU "just keeps going and going and going." ■ **Above:** New state WMU officers are Kay Trisler, president; Sara Billups, vice president; and Susan Stinnett, recording secretary.

WMU MEETING ■ Middle: Carolyn Gibson, a schoolteacher from Hindman, sings an original song at the conclusion of one of the sessions. Gibson gave her testimony and sang in the opening session and also sang in each of the remaining sessions. ■ **Above:** Outgoing WMU President Delores Spears gets a hug from one of hundreds of well-wishers who attended a reception in her honor.

'You can minister where Lottie Moon ministered'

HARRODSBURG—Opportunities abound for laypeople to share their Christian faith and job skills in China, Ron Winstead told participants in the annual meeting of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

"You can walk where Lottie Moon walked. You can minister where Lottie Moon ministered," he said, referring to the legendary Baptist missionary who literally gave her life for the cause of missions before China was closed to missionary influence.

Although traditional missionaries still are not welcome in China, Christian people with business skills are, said Winstead, a repre-

sentative for Cooperative Services International.

CSI is an arm of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board that specializes in placing Christians in countries where preachers and missionaries cannot go.

Among foreign visitors, Chinese officials now prefer bringing in Christian teachers, doctors and nurses because of the quality and commitment they show, Winstead said.

"The Holy Spirit is doing a tremendous work in China," he reported, saying the 1 million Christians living in China in 1950 when missionaries were expelled have now grown to more than 20 million in

number.

He said God has worked through committed laymen and women despite the absence of many dynamic preachers. "We may not have a powerful pulpit in China, but we have a powerful pew," he explained.

Women are an integral part of this ministry in China, Winstead said.

He urged American women to continue praying for China, but added, "Now is the time to go."

Volunteers can be sent on short-term or long-term assignments, he said. For details, contact the FMB in Richmond, Va.

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

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Seize opportunity

There is no doubt that the world is on a collision course. Even if we avoid war for a few years, starvation, over-population and natural calamities will claim millions of lives.

We as a nation are being ripped apart by crime, racial problems and poverty. Even though we have a new administration in Washington, our problems are perhaps beyond the minds of mankind.

We do not know how much longer the doors will open for us to witness and tell people about Jesus. We as Christians need to get so absorbed in the work of our Lord that we seek to put God first in everything.

The harvest is white all around us and demands that we be about the Master's business. It is my prayer that Southern Baptists and Kentucky Baptists will seize this opportunity that is

ours while the doors are open.

James E. Casey Jr.
Greensburg

Tomcat 'unity'

I would like to address my comments to the gentlemen who questioned actions of trustees who stand against seminary professors who deviate from the Word. He said, "In his will, God allows each of us to interpret his Word" and that it was simply a matter of one's interpretation being different from the other.

I assume he believes all interpretations are correct. Some have interpreted the Scriptures to say there is no hell, while others teach salvation by works. In our denomination, many deny the Virgin Birth. Anyone who denies that Christ was virgin-born has destroyed the authority of the Scrip-

tures. It does not matter what you believe God meant, nor what I believe God meant. God is not undecided as to what he meant. He did not mean 10 conflicting things. God is not double-minded. God means just one thing and that one thing is what he reveals by his Spirit to his children.

There have always been impostors (some honestly deceived, others who are personal-gain oriented) who cannot discern the truth. The Scriptures tell us they are of no private interpretation. It is not man's place to decide what God meant, rather God's place to reveal by his Spirit what he meant. Those who interpret the Scriptures by his Spirit will not be in conflict.

God calls it "in one accord." It is possible to be in union but have no unity like two tomcats with their tails tied together hanging over a fence.

Joyce Paul
Louisville

BAPTIST FORUM

Lone Rangers ride a desolate plain

As a boy, I enjoyed watching the popular television series "The Adventures of the Lone Ranger." It was always exciting to tune in each week and watch Clayton Moore, as the Lone Ranger, and Jay Silverheels, as his sidekick Tonto, as they crusaded for justice

in the Old West. The Lone Ranger became a real hero for many children, and he was a role model they enjoyed emulating during their playtime.

While the mystique of the Lone Ranger has always had a certain attractiveness to it, I've learned since reaching adulthood that it doesn't translate that well to the real world—especially to the Christian life.

You see, to be a Christian doesn't mean living in isolation or riding off into the sunset on your own. Being a Christian means having vital connection with other Christians through involvement in a local church.

The Apostle Paul described it this

way: The church is the body of Christ, and each of us are members of that body. Thus, we all have an important role to play in the work of that body. Hence, there can be no such thing as a "Lone Ranger" Christian, for a Christian cannot function properly on his own.

Some say, "I can serve God in my own way," or "I don't need the church in order to be a Christian." Yet Jesus, the Lord and founder of the church, would never have agreed with such misguided opinions. Remember, Christ loved the church and gave his own life and shed his own precious blood for it. Certainly, that fact alone ought to spur us on toward an uncompromised and sincere commitment to the church of our Lord.

Have you ever considered being a "Lone Ranger"? Have you ever felt like pulling out and going it alone? Please don't. It's no fun to ride the range alone. It can get very lonely and

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

A lady from Russellville

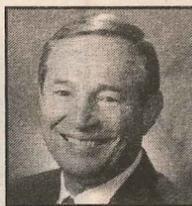
When I wrote my first column of 1993 for the Western Recorder, it was sent in an unusual way. I earnestly asked the Lord to use it to fill a need that I had seen and experienced while visiting in New York with my good friend, Quinn Pugh, executive director of the New York Baptist Convention.

I say "unusual" because I rarely think of or use my column in such a way. And even if I did "pray over" each column, I would probably not talk about it, because I am not comfortable with people who talk a lot about "their" prayer life. In any event, I felt an inner compulsion to ask the Lord's special blessing on this one.

Some days later, I learned that a retired couple had made a call to New York after reading the column. Several others either called or dropped me a note, one of them a member of our church. From these, nothing had materialized into a real, live "volunteer."

However, something was going on about which I was unaware until I learned in February from Quinn that he had gotten a call from "a lady in Russellville."

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

The long and short of it is that on March 22, Evelyn Chandler from First Baptist Church of Russellville left that Kentucky town with another retired friend who assisted her in driving and headed for Syracuse, N.Y., as a Mission Service Corps volunteer to fill the book store job I had mentioned in the column.

A bout with the flu had delayed her departure (and a would-have-been encounter with 30 inches of snow in upper New York state!).

Evangelism Director Clayton Day met them at the New York Baptist Building and directed them to the fully furnished apartment where Evelyn will live, only four minutes from her new work. Dr. Pugh and his staff had provided a well-stocked refrigerator

and fresh flowers!

She is learning from a retired, local couple, the Frank Harbaughs, the operation of the book store for which she will have responsibility.

A two-day "get acquainted" seminar provided for new workers throughout the state provided her the opportunity to meet many of the pastors and spouses, a good number of whom are multi-cultural. She says her "Southern accent" created a smile or two.

Kentuckian Glenn Igleheart, the New York missions division director, was her first "customer" on the day she wrote the letter from which I am quoting, dated April 2.

There are other volunteer needs in New York, including a need for an administrative secretary. Inquirers may talk directly with Director Quinn Pugh at (315) 433-1001 if interested.

"Lord, thank you for sending Evelyn Chandler to help our friends on mission in New York. And thank you for using this column to help it happen."

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



Desirable qualities

By Harry Rowland

Q. Another relationship ends! What do today's women really want in a man?

A. Although it was 1878 when Margaret Hungerford wrote, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," this saying still has truth. No answer of mine would be true for all single women. But there are some qualities that seem to be significant to today's single women:

■ **Communication skills.** Women generally don't enjoy having to read a man's mind or interpret his moods. They value men who are transparent. The strong, silent type is out because suppressed emotions eventually will explode.

■ **Attraction.** A man should have some physical attraction. He doesn't have to be a hunk, but nerds are not overly prized. However, men and women often have opposite views relating to a male's physical attractiveness. In The Mystery of Love, Wilson and Nias' survey cited that women were more attracted by a male's overall slimness mainly in the buttocks while men thought muscular neck, arms and shoulders were what women liked the most.

■ **Healthy self-esteem.** Most women won't marry a momma's boy or one obsessed with a mucho macho routine. Emotional stability is prized. Ladies like a man who is in touch and comfortable with himself.

■ **Balance.** Women find men interesting who are more than what they do for a living. A balanced male has interests, hobbies, pastimes and friendships—things that can be shared.

■ **Charm.** A sense of humor, good manners, caring demeanor and personal integrity will compensate somewhat for what a man lacks in physical attraction. Charm helps to steady a relationship during rocky times.

■ **A willingness to commit to someone.** Women have learned that it is commitment—not the feeling of love—that holds relationships together. A man who has a healthy grasp of this reality and a commitment to commitment is quite attractive.

Harry Rowland is pastor of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

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

Lend 'healing hands' to the wounded environment

How often have you let the water run full blast while you brushed your teeth? Or left every light in the house burning while the entire family watched TV in the den? Or dumped your newspaper, soda pop cans and juice jars into the trash with all the rest of the garbage?

Such simple actions may seem insignificant compared to the monster ecological disasters: Oil spills in the North Sea, chemical explosions in Siberia, expansion of the Sahara Desert, a toxic mining sight in the Rocky Mountains. Yet every act of neglect, no matter how small, has its own consequences. And every responsible deed can produce positive results, however incremental.

This is Soil and Water Stewardship Week. It's a good time to take stock of our own lives. We can determine how we contribute to the decline of our environment. We can decide to change our ways.

The theme is "Hands of Healing." It implies direct action and redemption—of the earth as well as ourselves.

In the face of catastrophic environmental calamity, "healing" seems impossible. We're tempted to become overwhelmed, to throw up our hands in frustration. Yet the journey toward healing begins with a single step. British statesman Edmund Burke once said, "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little." Every act of conservation makes a difference.

The National Association of Conservation Districts suggest the following 10 ways individuals can make that difference and conserve limited natural resources:

- Plant a tree. All kinds of plants—from trees to indoor flowers—help replenish the world's oxygen supply. Outdoor plants also help control erosion and provide habitats for wildlife.

- Recycle. Many communities and some businesses now offer a variety of recycling options. They include paper, glass, plastic, aluminum,

scrap metal, motor oil and yard waste. The purchase of recycled and recyclable products also supports the effort.

- Conserve water. Water can be saved by taking simple, every-day steps—like turning the water off while scrubbing pots or shaving. Water-efficient faucet aerators and shower heads also make a difference.

- Save soil. Ground cover—such as grass, plants and trees—on unprotected soil can prevent it from washing or blowing away.

- Compost. Composting programs—such as curbside leaf and grass-clipping collection—are operated in some communities. Otherwise, backyard composting piles help create better soil for gardens and save valuable space in landfills.

- Use less energy. This is as easy as setting thermostats lower in winter and higher in summer. Other energy-saving steps include insulating your house and water-heater, buying energy-efficient appliances and keeping your car tuned up.

- Apply pesticides carefully. Follow directions on pesticide containers. Apply them sparingly, and only at the right time. Never apply them on windy days.

- Reduce consumption. Turn lights off when leaving a room. Use public transportation or car pool. Consolidate errands. Bicycle or walk when possible.

- Reuse and repair. Purchase products that can be reused. Fix things that are still usable and use them again.

- Get involved. Contact your local soil and water conservation district. Learn how to conserve natural resources and how to share the information with friends, family and colleagues at work.

After all, it's God's creation we're talking about. Christians must do all we can to preserve and protect it.

Marv Knox

"They will say, 'This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.'" Ezekiel 36:35

Don't overlook poor members among the congregation

You say we need church (WR, March 16). Yes, we do need church and faith. Now let's get down to the truth: Our church is what you give (money)!

Our pastor is good, but you can see his hand is out to the big people who run the church.

What they say, he does. But what about the poor who can only give \$5 or \$10? There are people in our hometown who need help. There are a lot of people who have lost their jobs and have children.

Yes, we are poor. We go to church, and my faith is with God, not the people. But sometimes I tell my husband, "What's the use?" My children don't

want to go because they never get picked. Only the children who have money. What do I do?

I tried to write you a letter back at Christmas. We didn't have anything to give our children. I had to sell my daughter's piano to pay medical bills. It was because

of me; I was getting cancer last spring and had to have surgery.

And you say you must have faith and a church. My husband doesn't have a job since January. How can faith pay our bills? The pastor never calls to even ask if he can help. Last week I wanted to take my own life, but knew I would burn in hell!

If I don't have faith, what do you

call it?

Our church gives big to these people somewhere else. Why can't they see to take care of the people at home? I really believe people with money don't know what faith is or they will see heaven. The Bible speaks of the poor rather than the sick.

I talked to our pastor one day and told him how come we never get asked to be on committees or asked to lead prayer. We have been there for three years now.

You know what he said? "Well the older people who have gone there for years like for you to be there awhile." In other words, to see how you can be trusted. But they go after the ones like lawyers or doctors. Boy, let me tell

you, as soon as their names are on the book, they are on some committee.

You tell me if the churches aren't for the sick not the poor. Sometimes I feel we can have church in our home. The Lord tells us where two or three are gathered in his name, he will be there. But if I stop church, so will my children and husband.

How much faith in a church can a person hold? This only hurts the church, because people only see the rich there.

I believe in church, God and faith, but if you are a Christian—I mean a full Christian—it's not what you give in that plate Sunday, it's in your heart to help your fellow man.

Name withheld by request

"I really believe people with money don't know what faith is."

VIEWPOINT

Here's a tasty topic for your doctoral dissertation on parentology

If you're thinking about going back to school to get a doctor's degree in parentology, let me recommend a topic for your dissertation: Food.

And if you think writing a doctoral dissertation on children's eating habits would be a snap, then obviously you haven't been a parent yet. Anyone who's taken kids past the strained peas and Zwieback cracker stage knows children's culinary logic defies the normal adult's range of understanding. You're going to have to do lots of research.

I suggest you start by focusing on the few things that make sense.

Like sweets, for example. If it's got sugar in it, a kid will eat it. I've seen children eat glop that looks like spiders, squids and miniature dinosaurs. Each one was 99.44

percent sugar, with food coloring mixed in.

Cheese also fills the almost-any-kid-will-eat-it bill. Vegetable farmers across America would go out of business if parents didn't have rich, creamy cheese to melt on top of veggies. If Junior and Bitsy think broccoli tastes more like Velveeta than broccoli, you've got a chance of getting it down their little throats.

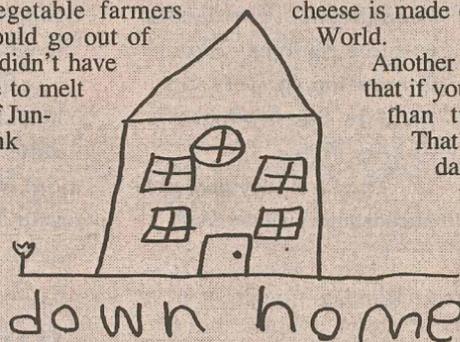
Macaroni also is a big hit. That's because children think it's a kind of cheese. You know how it goes,

"Mom, can I have some more Macaronian cheese, please?" They believe Macaronian cheese is made on a farm near Disney World.

Another principle of kidfood is that if you have to chew it more than twice, it's not good.

That's why a child will disdain steak for baloney and take a slice of white bread over a French roll.

And with kids, appearance is everything. They'll take hot soda pop in a can over cold soda pop on ice. I conducted this experiment on a slew of kids the other



Churches called to keep future bright for children

Taking care of children begins with parents who are priests to their children, said Harold Hime of the Home Mission Board.

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

LOUISVILLE—If children are the future, churches have a responsibility to keep the future bright, workshop leaders said during a "Children and the Church" conference.

The conference was sponsored by the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and co-sponsored by seven other Baptist entities.

Taking care of children begins with parents who are priests to their children, said Harold Hime, associate director of church and community ministries for the Home Mission Board.

Children's programs are not a solution to family problems, Hime said. Instead, parents need to be taught to lead home Bible studies and worship with their children.

Churches also can begin teaching children that biblical marriage is

based on commitment, not love, Hime said. Waiting until a couple is engaged to teach them about marriage is not effective, he added.

Home also is the best place to teach sex education, and churches can equip parents for that responsibility, said Karl Babb, family enrichment specialist for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Human sexuality is good in its creation and wholesome in its divine intent, but is often distorted and degraded," Babb said.

Christians must teach that sexuality is to be enjoyed in the bounds of marriage, he added.

The Sunday School Board has developed a Christian sex education curriculum to help parents teach children.

The age-graded material is designed for younger children through

adolescents. It includes a guide for church leaders to introduce parents to the books.

Churches must present values-based sex education, said Jan Turrentine, editor of *Accent*, a Woman's Missionary Union magazine for teenagers.

She called for churches and parents to recognize teenagers as sexual beings and talk frankly with them about sexual behavior.

Churches can help teenagers see that decisions about sex and their bodies are ultimately spiritual decisions, Turrentine said.

Churches also can facilitate forums in which parents and children can communicate, she said.

Other issues children deal with include homelessness, loss of their parents' jobs and blows to their self-

esteem, workshop leaders said.

Barbara Massey, editor of *Aware* and *Discover* magazines for WMU, said it is naive to think childhood is the "golden age of innocence."

Children experience emotional pain, but they do not communicate it like adults, Massey said. Children process their thoughts and emotions while they play, while adults assume that children would not be playing if they were sad.

To help children in crisis, Massey suggested giving children all available information. Children realize when they are not given the whole story, she said.

Help children clarify the information and ask them about the event several days later to be sure they understand its meaning, she suggested.

Massey said children need someone to listen attentively to them and accept their feelings rather than telling them, "Don't be afraid" or "Don't cry."

Children & the church

Edelman calls church to act for children

Continued from page 1

"The deadly quick violence of guns takes an American child's life every three hours and the lives of 25 children—the equivalent of a classroom full—every two days," she explained.

The 55 American men, women and children killed with handguns every day in America compares to 13 such murders per year in Sweden, 91 per year in Switzerland, 87 in Japan, 58 in Canada and 52 in Great Britain, Edelman reported.

Further, "some children in inner cities are growing up being able to distinguish between semi-automatic gunfire before they can distinguish between their colors," she said.

"The evil fruit of the unchecked trafficking in guns abounds all around us. ... Guns exceed television sets as American playthings."

But the dangers of television haven't escaped her watchful eye, either.

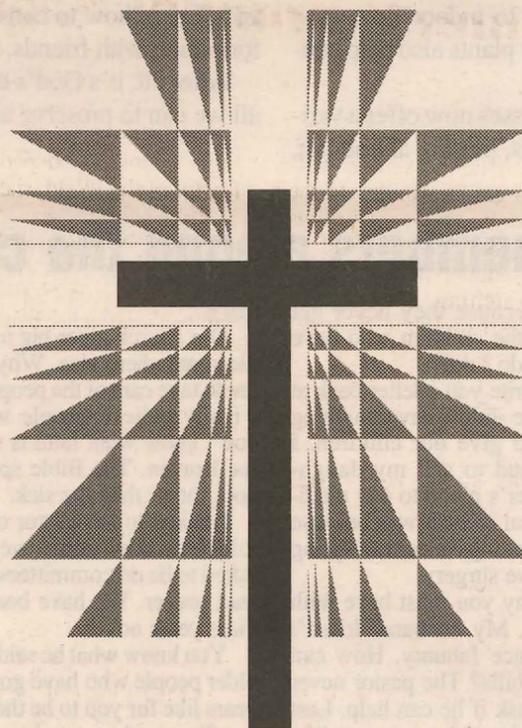
"It is time for us to tell parents to shut off the television set and to tell Hollywood ... the levels of violence we are now seeing and show are absolutely unacceptable," she said.

America's children need better role models in the media and at home, Edelman charged: "They see too few adults who exemplify and communicate clear, consistent standards of acceptable moral and civic conduct."

Christians must "struggle to live our family values in our public and private lives," she said.

"Talk is cheap and won't cure the pervasive breakdown of moral and family and community values in America. Nor will judgmental finger-pointing at any group or family type."

Edelman said a proper response require Americans to "resist the simplistic, either-or choices and fragmented, single or quick-fix solutions to the needs of our families."



Sunday School Charity... with your help it works year-round

Medical emergencies can happen in any family. And when they do, they often create financial hardships and, in some cases, a financial crisis. That's why Baptist Healthcare Foundation, in partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, actively supports the Sunday School Charity Fund.

The fund has only one purpose: to provide assis-

tance to individuals facing a financial crisis because of medical expenses. The requests for financial assistance are received by Baptist pastors throughout the state as well as the chaplains serving within the five Baptist hospitals.

Providing a financial helping hand to these individuals is an ambitious goal. But one we can achieve with your help. This Mother's

Day, May 9, please support the Sunday School Charity Fund at your Baptist church.

For more information on the Fund, contact Baptist Healthcare Foundation at 502-896-5003. Churches that would like a supply of envelopes for this special Sunday School Charity offering should also contact the Foundation.

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40207

Jesus preached 'revolutionary' message about children

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE—Jesus preached a "revolutionary" message about children that today's society should heed, according to a Southern Baptist social work professor.

Diana Richmond Garland, a church social work professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said Jesus "turned the world's values upside down and placed children first."

Garland addressed an April 21-23 conference on "Children and the Church" directed by the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry at the seminary.

"In a nation where more children live in poverty than any other age group, where parents staying together for the sake of the children is considered out of vogue, perhaps even socially incorrect, it is clearly still revolutionary," said Garland, director of the seminary's Gheens Center and dean-elect of the school's Carver

School of Church Social Work.

"Jesus is saying children are supposed to come first," Garland stressed. Therefore, churches are called to work for justice for children, she said: "As the church, we need to be working to loose the chains of poverty that create discouragement and despair. We need to untie the bonds of commercialization that distort children's values. We need to set children free to become all that the Good Father has created for them to be."

Children, she added, can be most effectively helped by aiding their families, for "family is the ecology of the child."

However, Garland said Southern Baptists seem more concerned with theological conformity than performing needed ministries.

"As a Southern Baptist, I cannot believe that God endorses our denomination's preoccupation with internal

theological squabbles, like modern-day Pharisees and Sadducees," she said. Jesus, she added, "commanded us not to agree on theology but to love God and neighbor."

The Christian vision for addressing social problems should not come from a simple response to the needs of the world, Garland emphasized: "Ultimately, we answer to God for living in response to God's commandments, not to the world in response to its needs."

Church programs that address social needs should nurture spiritual growth for Christians, she said: "Involving the saints in active ministry to social needs should lead to spiritual discipline and growth just as surely as involving them in the disciplines of Bible study and prayer. And that discipline may include volunteer services or writing letters to congressional representatives."



Turn off TV, 'Mr. Rogers' producer says

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

LOUISVILLE—While Fred Rogers uses television to remind children they are special, the associate producer of "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood" says children are better off playing than watching TV.

Turning the TV off is one way Hedda Sharapan recommends to monitor television exposure. Sharapan spoke April 22 to a conference on "Children and the Church" directed by the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Rogers, she said, shares the opinion that too much TV is detrimental for children.

Families can establish rules such as no television before dinner or no television after dinner or no television on certain days, Sharapan suggested. In most households, the TV is on seven hours a day, she noted.

Turning it off may be difficult, but

she said, "It's an addiction, and you have to live with withdrawals."

When children watch TV, Sharapan suggested adults should watch with them to get "a window to their world." Watching the same program helps adults talk to children with images they will understand, she said.

While watching TV together, adults can teach children their own values by making comments such as, "I can't believe that character was so rude to her mother" or suggesting that children look for the helpers during news programs, Sharapan said.

Adults also need to help children understand the difference between reality and fantasy, Sharapan said. Helping children view TV realistically is necessary because of television's impact, she said.

Television threatens children by showing too much violence, greed and stereotypes, Sharapan declared.

According to one report Sharapan cited, 77 percent of broadcast programs contain a violent act or the

threat of hurting or killing someone. Children who continually watch such violence typically respond by imitating it, becoming "hyped up" or being fearful of the world, she said.

Television is often called "happy violence" because results of the behavior are not portrayed, Sharapan said. Children who see violence without consequences can become immune to terror, she said.

Children also learn commercialism from television, Sharapan said: "The business of commercial television is not to produce a program for an audience but to produce an audience for a sponsor to sell a product."

To explain the dangers of stereotypes, Sharapan noted if all a person knew about drinking beer was what he learned from TV, he would believe beer drinkers are always happy, have lots of friends and never gain weight.

"Television is not a window to the world," Sharapan said. "It is a story telling machine that happens to be telling the same story."

Rowatt: Teens face 'new level of difficulty'

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

LOUISVILLE—Without adult intervention, problems among teen-agers will only get worse, predicted Wade Rowatt, associate dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"If you think the 1960s were turbulent, wait until the next five years," Rowatt said during a conference on Children and the Church. "If we don't respond, the riots of the 60s will look like skirmishes."

Today's teens are in a "new level of difficulty," said Rowatt, who recently studied youth crises during a nine-month sabbatical.

Citing issues such as murder, drug abuse and AIDS, Rowatt said more teen-agers are in trouble than in years

past and they are involved in problems at an earlier age.

He blames teen-agers' problems on adults, however.

"Teen-agers are just trying to grow up and meet legitimate needs without adequate resources," he said.

Some ways adults can help:

- Valuing each ethnic group. "Teen-agers need a place where their heritage is worth something," he said. "A place where they are loved for who they are. They need a message of equality and that their uniqueness is acceptable."

- Creating meaningful places of service. Teens are under-challenged, Rowatt said. Churches used to give teen-agers jobs such as playing the piano, taking up the offering or working in the nursery. Now most churches pamper teens without giving them

any real responsibility, he said.

- Educating parents through shared resources of schools, governments and churches. Such groups need to work together as a society, not in isolation, he said.

- Producing programs with an attractive package. "We need MTV quality with a moral message," Rowatt said, explaining that a poor medium will keep the message from being heard.

- Sharing programs. Something that works should be franchised to the nation, he said.

- Listening, listening, listening. "Don't talk down to teen-agers or make decisions for them or push them aside."

- Spending time with teens. "Adolescents need as much of their parents' time as 2-year-olds," he said.

Lobby for children, expert says

LOUISVILLE—Christians can help the plight of children in America by lobbying lawmakers on behalf of the nation's youngest citizens, stressed a public policy advocate for children.

Shanon Daley, director of religious affairs for the Washington-based Children's Defense Fund, said children are "the ones least equipped to speak up for their own interests."

The cause of the 14.6 million American children living in poverty would be helped if Christians would use their political clout and moral persuasion on behalf of children, Daley told a workshop during a conference on "Children and the Church" April 22.

Writing letters, offering prayers and visiting members of Congress are ways Christians can help America's children, said Daley, urging that individuals and churches strive to keep informed on key pieces of legislation before Congress.

Many bills to aid children languish in Congress because members of Congress simply "don't hear from people back home," Daley noted.

Congress, she added, is now considering bills to provide universal immunizations for children and expand the Head Start program. Another pending piece of legislation, the "Family Preservation Bill," would provide services for families at risk so that children can remain with their parents and not be placed in foster care, Daley said.

Only 60 percent of America's children are fully immunized against childhood diseases, while 80 percent of the children in developing nations have been immunized, Daley said. Yet each dollar spent on immunizations will save \$10 in the years to come, she claimed.

Waco children could have gone to Baptist home

WACO, Texas (ABP)—If the 24 children who apparently died in the Branch Davidian fire April 19 had been allowed by cult leader David Koresh to leave unhindered, they would have been released into the arms of Texas Baptists.

Instead, the children—including 17 under age 10—all are believed to have died in the fire that destroyed the stronghold near Waco, Texas.

"We had been notified that all of the children remaining in the compound would be released in our care," said Kevin Dinnin, president of Baptist Children's Home at San Antonio.

The involvement of children's home with the children from Mount Carmel dated back to the days immediately after the Feb. 28 shootout between the Branch Davidians and agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Within the first five days after the ATF raid, 21 children from the compound were released.

On March 8, administrators of Baptist Children's Home at San Antonio were asked by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services to establish an emergency child-care facility for the released children at an undisclosed location in Waco.

Twelve of the children who were released from the Branch Davidian compound received care at the Baptist Children's Home Waco Emergency Shelter.

BAPTISTS

Gap widening between seminary trustees & students

Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will overspend their own budget for meetings by about \$65,000 this year, in addition to a \$95,000 allowance they gave their presidential search committee.

Continued from page 1

presidential search committee are lavish, especially in light of the sacrifices students make to stay in school. For example, the search committee spent several days in February at a resort in West Palm Beach, Fla., interviewing three presidential finalists.

During the last called meeting, when trustees elected Al Mohler the seminary's ninth president March 26, student leaders encouraged students to write postcards to trustees expressing their concerns.

More than 400 postcards were mailed to trustees during the week.

Although many trustees said they were irritated by the postcards, the students' messages made an impression on some trustees who attempted to stop a set of student fee increases for the coming year.

Students had argued it was unfair to increase their fees significantly when trustees are spending so much money on themselves.

One postcard several trustees reported getting was on gold card stock with art added to make it look like an American Express gold card. Individual trustee names were inscribed on the cards along with the permission to

"go anywhere, do anything" and spend as much as desired on the seminary's account.

When the trustee executive committee presented a recommendation to raise student matriculation fees for next year by \$100—or 18 percent—per semester and increase student housing rent by 5 percent, some trustees at the spring meeting rebelled.

"I don't think trustees ought to vote it for themselves and then put it on the backs of students," said Steve Anderson, a real estate agent from Memphis, Tenn.

Other trustees defended the board's expenditures and the necessity of raising fees to compensate for declining income from the Southern Baptist Convention and from investments.

Additionally, presidents of the six SBC seminaries agree annually on a minimum fee increase to keep parity between the schools, they explained. That agreement calls for at least a \$75 per semester increase for next year.

Further, Allen said what trustees have spent on their meetings is "not an astronomical amount" in comparison to the whole budget and is money "well spent."

Ultimately, trustees approved a \$16.3 million budget for the coming year, which begins Aug. 1, along with the recommended fee increases.

The issue of student fees, trustee spending and student protests was discussed at length in the student services committee meeting. In that meeting, Student Government Association President Ruth Davison reiterated student concerns on that and other issues.

She also reported on a meeting Allen had with her and five other student government leaders April 6. In that meeting, Davison said, Allen told Davison her leadership was "inappropriate" and that students should not have sent the postcards to trustees.

Davison said she explained to

Allen that she and other students had tried other means of communication with trustees before and felt like they weren't being heard. They chose the mass mailing of postcards to try another way of getting through, she said.

Davison said she felt Allen was attempting to squelch future expression of student opinion to trustees.

However, when asked by the Western Recorder to explain what he found inappropriate about student activity, Allen flatly denied Davison's report.

"No, I didn't say they were inappropriate," he explained. "I did say it would have been more appropriate if they had contacted me first and learned the reasons we did what we did."

Allen also discounted what Davison reported to be a "threatening" tone from the chairman during the meeting. "Why would I initiate a meeting with them if I didn't want their voice to be heard?" he asked.

Others present with Davison in the meeting with Allen confirmed Davison's account and said they were puzzled by Allen's denials.

Although Davison's report took up about two hours of the committee's two-and-one-half hour meeting, committee Chairman James Bullock barely mentioned it in his brief report to the full board. "Students shared with us some of their concerns during this time of transition," was all he said.

In a chapel service held on campus during the trustee meeting, stu-

dents supporting women in ministry staged a silent protest. They have been at odds with President-elect Mohler's stated position against women serving as pastors and in certain church offices.

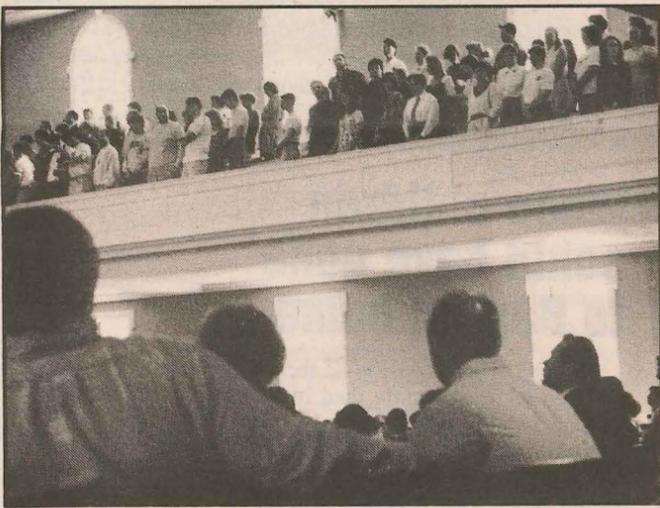
A flier handed to everyone entering Alumni Chapel before the service explained, "We are a wounded and grieving community ... By worshipfully standing in silence in the balcony throughout the entire chapel service ... we celebrate and witness the hope that is within us. We affirm God's call upon the life of every believer in all aspects of ministry and pledge ourselves to support one another."

Others desiring to join in the silent statement were invited to move to the balcony during the first hymn.

Several students explained the symbolism was intended to recall the segregation of women and slaves from the white males in Baptist churches in the past.

Despite an unusual appeal by President Roy Honeycutt for the students not to go through with the protest during worship, about 225 people stood in the balcony throughout the 50-minute service. Those standing included both male and female students, some faculty, five trustees and some alumni.

Worshippers exiting the chapel after the service were confronted with a large banner which read, "Women in Ministry: You Can't Stop What God is Doing."



SILENT STAND Supporters of women in ministry stand silently in the balcony during an April 20 chapel service at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The protest by about 225 people was intended to symbolically recall the segregation of women and slaves from white males in worship in an earlier era.

CLASSIFIED ADS

TOUR: Israel and Egypt, May 31-June 11, with Dr. Jerry Vardaman. Contact Dr. Rick Landon, (606) 266-8879, for information.

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

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

FOR SALE: New for handbell choir directors: "Assigning and Marking Handbell Music: A Systematic Guide to Assigning Handbell Parts and Color-Coding Music." This soon-to-be-released publication will help your ringers perform more advanced music in less rehearsal time. Great for both music major and non-major directors. Send for FREE brochure to: Bridgeway Press, P.O. Box 21863, Little Rock, AR 72221

TOUR: Holy Land & Switzerland, Aug. 2-16 with Ted/Ginny Sisk. Call (606) 269-1281.

SEEKING: An Indianapolis-area church is looking for an associate pastor who will have the following responsibilities: 50%-60% time as youth director; 40%-50% time in music ministry. Some experience in both fields is necessary, and a minimum of a college degree is expected. Please send resumé with references to: Personnel Committee, 1575 Reeves Road, Plainfield, IN 46168.

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

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

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Touchstones

In earlier times a type of black stone called a touchstone was used to determine the purity of gold or silver. The streak left on the touchstone by the gold or silver as it was rubbed against the stone indicated its purity. Today the word touchstone has come to mean any test to determine genuineness or value.

In each of our lives the experiences and beliefs we embody form our own personal touchstones. We gage the value of an idea, a belief system, an investment, or a political candidate against that personal touchstone. In my own life, I think back to values I was taught as a child—to be honest, to care for others and to work hard. Later experiences at college, the military, and work have refined my touchstone. The ultimate touchstone for all of us is Christ and the person we become when he enters our life.

A major challenge that we face in caring for hurting children is to help them develop their touchstones. They come to us from situations where every person they have ever been close to has let them down. They have been abused by those they look to for care and concern. They could write a book on how not to live or not to rear a

child.

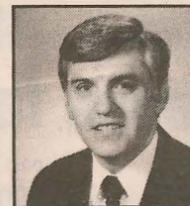
Those working with these children must first make sure that they present a positive role model. Children learn by watching others. Our staff must show the young people positive ways that real people live and interact. The staff must also be able to convey to the children that they genuinely care for them. That can be a difficult assignment when a child is fighting you all the way. Beyond that our staff must have the knowledge and skills to teach, counsel, and guide troubled adolescents from anger and despair to an acceptance of themselves as somebody worthy of care. Staff must help them to see what is truly important in life.

The shaping we helped them provide to their touchstones will guide much of what they become as adults and how they rear their own children.

Serving children who have been severely hurt all of their lives is one of the toughest jobs I know of today. However, there is none more rewarding.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

KENTUCKY

Sherman calls for truth & freedom with grace & love

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Baptists today need to balance freedom and truth with grace and love, Cecil Sherman told participants in a Kentucky Baptist Fellowship meeting April 17.

Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, was keynote speaker for the meeting at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, where a crowd of about 200 people gathered from across the state.

During the meeting, the state Fellowship organization elected new officers and board members and approved establishing a state office and hiring a part-time employee.

Sherman called on Baptists to recover an understanding of what it means to be free in Christ.

"We're going to have to think again about the idea of freedom," he said. "There's a great deal of intimidation in Baptist life today."

Church staff members and denominational employees must weigh free expression against their desire for job security, he noted to illustrate the point. "There are people who work for a denomination called Baptists who are not free to go to certain meetings or talk about certain things."

At the same time, Sherman said, Baptists must be committed to truth.

He said he is troubled both by people who claim there is no truth and by people who claim they know all truth.

"The gospel is not just anything anybody says it is," Sherman de-

clared. "There has to be some normative measure of what gospel is."

However, Baptists who are most inclined to think they know all truth forget freedom, he warned. And "some people who are free and talk about truth are mean as snakes," he added.

The road between truth and freedom is found in exercising grace and love, Sherman said.

"If grace isn't found at church, it isn't found at all," he explained. "Somebody has got to live it out, not just say it."

In another session, Sherman told Kentuckians the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship does not intend to recreate the Southern Baptist Convention.

As an example, he cited the organization's relationship with emerging independent agencies such as Associated Baptist Press and the Baptist Center for Ethics. "We do not own them, we do not control them," he said. "We give money to them because we believe in them."

This type of free association is better than the SBC's model of having direct control over a set of agencies, Sherman said. "We got the other structure so tight we set in place an intentional wickedness."

Sherman reported the national Fellowship continues to grow in number of supporters and financial contributions. Anywhere between 70 and 100 churches are sending money to the Fellowship for the first time every month, he said.

Kentucky ranks sixth in number of

churches supporting the Fellowship, Sherman said, although he did not give a total. North Carolina ranks first, with 199 churches in support.

Sherman also reported on the Fellowship's 20 missionaries and said all are to be in Birmingham, Ala., next month for a commissioning service during the Fellowship's annual assembly.

The state Fellowship organization has named Carolyn Hale, associate pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, as communications coordinator. In this part-time position Hale will operate a state office out of her home.

The telephone number for the new Fellowship office is (502) 863-2329.

Steve Hadden, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, was elected Kentucky Baptist Fellowship president, replacing Jim Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville. Other officers re-elected to their posts include Vice President Jo Garnett, minister of education at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville; Secretary Geneva Muntz, a member of First Baptist Church in Paris; and Treasurer Frank Hatfield, a member of Shepherdsville First Baptist Church.

Other Kentuckians elected to the organization's board of directors include Carman Sharp of Louisville, Bill Tuck of Louisville, Charles Gaba of Louisville, Micki Davis-Robison of Paris, John Dunaway of Corbin, Amanda Hiley of Louisville, Bill Hurt of Calvert City, Bill Messer of Ash-

land, Barbara Golatzski of Erlanger, June Anthony of Paducah, Cynthia Snider of Lexington, Tonya Charlton of New Castle and Terry Wilder of Burlington.

McSwain named Shorter president

LOUISVILLE—Larry McSwain has become the third top administrator in two weeks to announce his departure from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

McSwain, the seminary's provost, will become president of Shorter College in Rome, Ga., July 1. He was elected unanimously to that post by Shorter's trustees April 17.

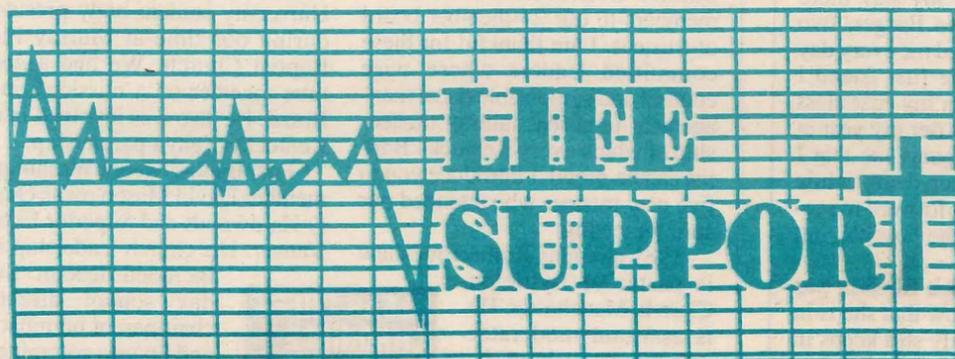
His resignation from Southern follows on the heels of the resignations of two deans, Milburn Price and Bill Rogers. Price, dean of the music school, is leaving for Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., while Rogers, dean of the Christian education school, will remain on the seminary faculty.

In an interview soon after his election, McSwain spoke guardedly about his departure from Southern, emphasizing the opportunities awaiting him at Shorter, a liberal arts college with an enrollment of about 800 students.

"Shorter has a very pleasant environment," he said. "The board of trustees is extremely positive about the future. There is an exciting quality of student there. I'm looking forward to going there and giving leadership, much of which will focus on developing resources for the school."

McSwain said he had been in conversation with Shorter "for a number of months" and that his decision to leave Southern was not prompted by events in recent weeks. However, McSwain indicated the impending change of presidents at Southern provided a good time for him to move.

McSwain has taught at Southern since 1970 and has been provost since 1991. Prior to being named provost, he was dean of the school of theology.



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- Michael D. Rice, Associate Pastor
Unity Baptist Church, Ashland

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Music
Presentations
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Keynote Message:
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8:10 Large Groups
9:00 Small Groups

Saturday Morning

8:00 Coffee, Juice & Donuts
8:30 Large Groups
9:25 Small Groups
10:20 Large Groups
11:15 Small Groups
12:05 Closing Rally by Roy Edgemon, BSSB Discipleship Training and Family Development Division Director

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KENTUCKY KERNELS

Although Kentucky had a record high percentage of fully immunized kindergarteners entering school last fall, the percentage of 2-year-olds without adequate shots remains alarmingly low, reports the Cabinet for Human Resources. April 24-30 has been declared National Preschool Immunization Week. Kentucky Health Services Commissioner Rice Leach estimates only 65 percent of Kentucky 2-year-olds have received the full series of immunizations on schedule.

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BELTON**—Forest Oak Missionary Church called **Gene McGehee** as pastor.
 ■ **BENTON**—Pastor **Michael Littrell** was honored April 4 for 10 years at New Zion Church and 20 years in full-time ministry.
 ■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Mercer Church called **C.M. Riley** of Brodhead as pastor.
 Temple Church ordained **Dale Ward** April 18.
 ■ **CYNTHIANA**—**John Wallace** is interim director of missions in Union Association.
 ■ **FINLEY**—Eastside Church called **Raymond Ross** as interim pastor.
 ■ **LEBANON**—**Oliver Hawkins** is director of missions in Central Association.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Calvary Church called **Hank Ellington** as minister of education and outreach.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church ordained **Beverly Bailey, Donald Dauenhauer** and **Rosie Turner** as deacons April 18.
 The home of **Jack and Margie Oliver** burned April 17, destroying most all their possessions. Oliver is pastor of Vine Street Church, and Mrs. Oliver is secretary in the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism office.
 ■ **MIDDLESBORO**—**Dillard Mynatt**, interim pastor of First Church, will be named pastor emeritus of First Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn., May 2.
 ■ **SALVISA**—Kirkwood Church recently called **Laura Eades** as minis-

ter of youth and ordained **Greg Carpenter** and **Carlo Reed** as deacons. Also, the church designated **Willie Ransdell, Garnett Ransdell** and **Bill Cunningham** as lifetime deacons.
 ■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Scottsville Church called **J.V. Case** as interim pastor.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Richard and Marilyn Curtis**, missionaries to Japan, are in the States at 302 Banbury Lane, Victoria, Texas 77904. She is from Louisville.
 ■ **James and Jane Park**, missionaries to Liberia, are on the field at P.O. Box 10-1416, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia. They are natives of Paducah.
 ■ **Gene and Jackie Phillips**, missionaries to France, are on the field at 6 rue Adrien des Londains, Apt. 88C, 3700 Tours, France. He is from Murray.

Paris church unearths prominent figures during centennial

PARIS—First Baptist Church in Paris claims a charter member who, as a Revolutionary War soldier, helped establish a new church as well as a new nation.
 Celebrating their church's 175th anniversary this year, members of First Baptist were pleased to claim a prominent figure, George Bryan, as one of eight charter members from the church's 1818 beginnings.
 Not only had Bryan served in the Revolutionary War; according to at least some sources, his wedding to Elizabeth Rogers marked the first of-

official marriage ceremony in the state of Kentucky.
 While church members highlighted these and other historical nuggets during a Feb. 21 celebration, they chose an anniversary theme to help them look toward their future as well as their past: "A Church with a Great Past and a Greater Future."
 William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Jerry Wilkes, director of missions in Elkhorn Baptist Association, were guest speakers during the morning worship service.

Day of Prayer activities slated

FRANKFORT—Special events are scheduled at the state capitol as well as at several Baptist churches May 6 to mark the National Day of Prayer.
 Three ecumenical services will be held in the capitol rotunda at 9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. The capitol's chapel will be open for prayer and Bible reading between services.
 Regional prayer events also will be held in the state. For example, in Northern Kentucky, the day is scheduled to begin with a morning prayer breakfast at Fort Mitchell Baptist Church and conclude with an evening prayer service at Cold Springs Baptist Church.
 "The most important thing we're concerned with is to pray for our nation and its healing," said John Stephenson, Kentucky superintendent of public instruction and co-coordinator of the event.
 All ministers and church members are invited to participate in the National Day of Prayer. For more information about the events or about ways to observe the day in other places, contact Stephenson at (606) 331-4400.

'I will never die'

"God put me on earth to accomplish a certain number of things. Right now I am so far behind, I will never die."

Do you ever feel this way?

Well, it is better to laugh than to cry! As someone else put it: "The hurrier I go, the behinder I get!"

Three years ago we got a telephone call about a young man, age 16. An only child, Henry (not his real name) was reported to be "rebellious and belligerent." We also were told, he "won't go to school, is lazy, needs to learn to accept responsibility."

Henry's father had been out of the home since he was a small boy. Finances dictated a nearly full scholarship. A letter dated April 15 tells "the rest of the story":

"I am so thankful for what Oneida did for me, and what you are doing for many others. I can remember Oct. 21, 1989, like it was yesterday. That was the day my mother and I made the trip to Oneida. I had many problems prior to my stay at your school. I had attempted suicide and was a very uncontrollable child.

"I remember my mother driving me up the hill to the dorms and my begging and pleading with her to let me go back home. I told her I would straighten up my act, but she did not give in to me. She was strong that day. Thank the Lord for her strength. She made me stay.

"During my stay at Oneida I learned what discipline was, something I was never taught as a child. I learned responsibility and I thank you and the school so much for that.

"I quickly made many friends and I fit in really well. I tried out for drama and got the part of Grandpa in "The Homecoming." I thank the drama coach, Debbie Winters, for that opportunity.

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

It made me feel a part of OBI so quickly.

"Two other people that made my stay more pleasant were Rhonda and Renee Barger, two beautiful blonde sisters who greeted me every day with big smiles. Rhonda was the first friend I made at school. I sat beside her in my first class and we quickly became friends. After my year at OBI we kept in touch. It really pains me that I received the delayed news of her death while away at college. We were looking forward to seeing each other while she was in the hospital, but she didn't make it to surgery.

"I am so thankful that Rhonda was a Christian. We all know that she is in heaven now. Her family still keeps in touch with me. They are very wonderful people.

"My stay at Oneida came to an end in May 1990. I went home a totally different person with a different attitude. My mother thanks you. I especially thank you.

"I am now a freshman in college. I am a very active member of the Baptist Student Union here at the university. I am also a member of a Baptist church. My life has changed dramatically since I attended Oneida Baptist.

"I would like for your students to know that no matter what anyone goes through or how hard life has been, they can go far if they want to and have the guidance of the Lord. I want to thank you, the staff and all of the supporters of the Oneida Baptist Institute."

There are many heartbreaks here at OBI, and not all that we work with respond to our ministry as positively as did Henry. But hearing from so many like Henry gives us new courage to "keep on keeping on." Pray for us.

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

Paid Column

Capable trustee leadership

Each November, the Kentucky Baptist Convention elects new members to our 24-member board of trustees. I am thankful for these committed leaders whose wise counsel and responsible fiscal management represent faithful trusteeship of which every Kentucky Baptist can be proud. I introduce you to five new trustees who attended our spring meeting.

1981 alumnus Rollin Bradshaw is pastor of Lytleton Church, Manchester. He is assistant moderator and Sunday school director of Booneville Association. As treasurer of the national alumni, Bradshaw encouraged the alumni to give \$1,000 of their surplus funds to student housing. His association also accepted his challenge and gave \$2,000.

Frances Gambrel participated in many trustee events during the years her husband, Elmer, served on the board. His death in 1991 was a great loss to Southeast Kentucky. Mrs. Gambrel taught preschool Sunday school for 12 years and is a member of Central Baptist, Corbin. She and her children own Gambrel Chevrolet-Olds-Toyota.

Far Western Kentucky will gain representation through Hickman County Commonwealth Attorney Timothy Langford. He is a deacon

and Bible teacher in West Hickman Church. Tim was Murray State University student body president during our time at Murray First Baptist Church. We had a great time together on a mission trip to Brazil. He also was involved in the Kentucky-Kenya partnership.

First Baptist Mount Washington member David Mason owns Quality Hardwoods and Superior Export Veneer. His church leadership has

included deacon, Sunday school director, chairman of nominating and finance committees. He will enjoy fellowship with the James Castlen family. Music professor Castlen was minister of music at Mount Washington while working on his doctorate at Southern Seminary.

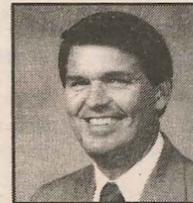
Richard Neal, Georgetown, was elected to complete an un-

expired term. A registered electrical engineer, Neal has wide business and construction experience including several years of plant management at UK. At Porter Memorial Church, Lexington, he is a deacon, boys' teacher, usher and active in Brotherhood. For 17 years Neal was associational RA leader.

With trustees like these, Clear Creek is in good hands.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Paid Column

MISSIONS

Native American Baptists find missions connection

By Mary Speidel
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Russell Begaye grew up on reservations in New Mexico and Arizona as the son of a Navajo medicine man.

Begaye believes this background uniquely equips him and fellow Native American Christians to share their faith with other Indian groups overseas.

"We have similar cultures, language structures and spiritual, social and economic struggles," said Begaye, who directs Southern Baptist work among Native Americans in the United States and Canada for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Begaye, who is based in Arlington, Texas, recently visited the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., to firm up plans to involve Native American Southern Baptists as volunteers among indigenous people groups in Latin America. He was accompanied by Bill Barnett, pastor of Indian Nations Baptist Church in Seminole, Okla. They represented the Native American Southern Baptist Fellowship, which includes about 520 churches.

The group already has sent volunteers to assist career missionaries working among the K'ekchi' people in Guatemala. Three Southern Baptist home missionaries—all Native Americans—spent a week in February helping lead evangelistic services at a K'ekchi' Baptist church in Pocola. They are Jimmy Anderson and Alpha and Ron Goombi, who work among Native Americans in Oklahoma and Nebraska, respectively.

Future projects in leadership training and evangelism are planned in June among the Mam people in Guatemala, the Miskito and Garifuna in Honduras and the Kuna in Panama. A group of Native American Baptist women also will attend the Honduran Baptist Woman's Missionary Union annual congress in October.

Leaders from the Native American fellowship approached board officials last year about getting involved in volunteer missions among indigenous people groups, said James Cecil, an associate in the board's volunteers in missions department. Some of the group's leaders already had discovered common cultural ties with Indian groups in other parts of the world.

As Native Americans experience volunteer missions overseas, "it will heighten their interest in foreign missions and help them to see the need for their further involvement," Cecil predicted. "As a result, we feel several of them will make themselves available for career missions or for service through the Foreign Mission Board's International Service Corps." The service corps provides opportunities for Southern Baptists to serve in overseas assignments ranging from four months to two years.

Begaye estimates about 60 Native Americans work as Southern Baptist home missionaries. He said he knows of at least one full-blooded Native American who formerly served as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary.

The volunteer projects grew out of a trip Begaye and Anderson made to Central America last year to learn how Native American Southern Baptists could work as volunteers there. They spent time with Southern Baptist

career missionaries who work among the region's indigenous people.

On their trip, Begaye and Anderson, a Creek Indian, discovered common cultural ties with the native groups opened doors for communicating the gospel. In Guatemala Begaye found "almost an immediate attraction, commonality and brotherhood" with the K'ekchi', including common traditional foods, clothing, language structure, tribal worship, fears and struggles.

"Some of the words are even the same," he said of the K'ekchi' and Navajo languages. Southern Baptist missionaries have worked among the K'ekchi', descendants of the ancient Mayans, since the 1960s.

In Honduras the Native Americans visited Garifuna villages with Southern Baptist missionary Stanley Stamps, who has coordinated translation of evangelistic tracts into the Garifuna and Miskito languages. No Baptist work exists yet among the Garifuna, also known as the Black Caribs, descendants of the Caribbean's first inhabitants.

Begaye and Anderson were the first North American Indians many of the Garifuna and members of some other tribes had ever met. "When people learned we were Indians, they wanted to meet us. They invited us to come back. They said they wanted to hear the gospel from fellow Indians," Begaye related.

"I had the feeling I was participating in the first steps of something very exciting and promising in respect to our mission in Honduras and to the kingdom's cause," said Stamps, from Prentiss, Miss.

Stamps observed the Native Americans achieved "immediate rapport and acceptance" among the indigenous people they met and believes their future volunteer projects will bring a "new dimension" to what career missionaries already are doing. He said he also believes the experience will open up new horizons of service for Native American Southern Baptists and show Hondurans "the makeup of Southern Baptists is rather heterogeneous."

Begaye added Native American Southern Baptists' beliefs about the Bible provide a point of connection in evangelizing fellow Indians, both at home and abroad. "We view the Bible as the authority," he said. "Indians see medicine people as infallible. Their prayer sticks, rattles, drums, chants and rituals all have authority."

When Indians accept Jesus Christ, they transfer that sense of authority to their new-found faith, Begaye explained. "The Bible becomes the full authority. God is the only God. Jesus is the only way to salvation."

CULTURAL TIES Jimmy Anderson (left), president of the Native American Southern Baptist Fellowship, gets acquainted with a resident of a Garifuna Indian village in Honduras. Anderson visited Central America to learn how Native American Southern Baptists might work in volunteer missions among indigenous people groups in the region. (BP photo by Stanley Stamps)



Bangladeshi woman's humble story illustrates compassion

By Susan Doyle
Woman's Missionary Union

BANGLADESH (BP)—The woman who kept her face hidden beneath her sari haunted Barbara Joiner during the two-day women's conference.

When the Bengali woman finally spoke on the last day of the meeting, what she shared was the best example of mission action Joiner says she has ever heard.

The Bengali woman began to tell Joiner of a Hindu man in her village who had a stroke. He is bedridden and cannot feed himself, she said.

People in the village gave up on trying to feed him because it becomes such a messy ordeal when eating the Bengali way—using one's fingers.

The woman told her, "I have a spoon. Every day I take my spoon, and I go over and feed him his curry. I make sure every drop of it goes into his mouth and not on his face."

The story of servanthood—and that spirit of humility—made a lasting impression on her, Joiner said.

A widely known author and conference leader from Alabama, Joiner was in Bangladesh to spend a month with Southern Baptist foreign missionary Gloria Thurman. Joiner is writing a biography about Thurman and her work in Bangladesh.

"While I was in Bangladesh, I was asked to help with a women's conference," Joiner said. "The women came from more than 20 churches. They each brought one sari (dress) which they washed in the scummy pond where they also bathed. They slept on the floors. They brought their babies."

"They came hungry to learn. Only three in the group could read. The rest were learning Scripture by heart."

Joiner had been asked to give three 15-minute devotionals. With half of the time spent in translating, "It wasn't very much," she said.

But during the conference, Thurman told Joiner that one of the Bengali women somehow knew Joiner had written "Yours for the Giving," a book about spiritual gifts published by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. Through an interpreter, the woman asked Joiner to teach them about spiritual gifts.

"I don't have the book with me," Joiner told Thurman. "How can I teach the book if I don't have it?"

Joiner also was concerned that she didn't have copies of the spiritual gifts "test" she uses with individuals after they have completed the study.

But the woman insisted, and appeared so eager to learn about spiritual gifts, Joiner finally agreed.

Joiner ended up teaching three two-hour sessions to the women.

Throughout the sessions, she said she wondered if anything she was saying was being understood by the Bengali women. At the end of the last session, Joiner asked the women if they had learned what their spiritual gifts were. One by one they rose to tell her what they had learned.

"Finally, the last woman stood up," Joiner said. "She had haunted me all day. She sat with her sari wrapped like a cocoon to hide her face."

"She said, 'Ask Barbara if I have the spiritual gift of mercy.'"

Joiner asked Thurman to have the woman explain why she thought she had the gift of mercy. That's when the woman told the story of feeding the Hindu man.

Joiner asked Thurman to tell the Bengali woman, "You have the most beautiful gift of mercy I have ever heard."

Leading that women's conference was just one of many highlights of Joiner's recent visit to Bangladesh.

Walking alongside Thurman for a month gave Joiner a full view of her life in Bangladesh.

Joiner learned firsthand what it is like to eat curry every day, to be offered fish heads as the guest of honor, to wear a sari and keep it draped gracefully on.

Most of all, she witnessed Thurman's commitment to Christ.

"When she leaves, nobody will ever be able to fill her shoes," Joiner said. "She thinks Bengali. She prays Bengali. She speaks Bengali better than any foreigner."

Joiner says she now better understands the urgency to write a book about Gloria Thurman and the need for a Christian witness in Bangladesh.

The urgency for such a book was first brought to Joiner's attention by former missionary Betty Rains. Rains and her husband, Randy, were missionaries to Bangladesh until their youngest son became so ill they had to return to the States.

Rains called Joiner last year to tell her she was unable to sleep at night thinking of the missions opportunities in Bangladesh which were going unmet.

"As of Jan. 1, there were nearly 300 churches in Bangladesh," Joiner said. "We have only two missionary couples there and yet the government is welcoming us."

Rains told Joiner she felt that if a biography was written about Thurman, it might encourage others to go to Bangladesh to work.

WMU will release the book, titled "Gloria!" Aug. 1. The book will be featured at WMU week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center Aug. 21-27, with the Thurmans and Joiner on the program.

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE

The faces of achievement at Baptist Healthcare System



Sandra Vaughn Cole



Anna Smith



Guy Howard Dorsey III

If there's a speed limit when pursuing a goal, no one has told Anna Smith, Guy Howard Dorsey III or Sandra Vaughn Cole. As Baptist Healthcare System's selected 1993 "Black Achievers Program" honorees, they know no limits. And recently, they were among the 98 adults who were recognized at the 14th annual Chestnut Street YMCA Black Achievers banquet.

Collectively, they have given more than 31 years of service to the Baptist hospitals and the community. Smith is vice president of patient care services at Tri-County Baptist Hospital in La Grange; Dorsey is a respiratory therapy supervisor at Baptist Hospital East; and Cole is a nurse manager at Baptist East.

As adult achievers, the Baptist Healthcare professionals will serve in a role model capacity to help fulfill one basic goal of the Black Achievers Program: to introduce and interest youth in health and medical careers.

Although their career paths have varied significantly, they have a common message for traditional and non-traditional students who are leaning toward a healthcare career: maintain a positive attitude.

"You can pursue anything you want to," said Dorsey, whose responsibilities at Baptist East include staff scheduling and managing respiratory therapy for critical care patients. "The only thing that stops you from obtaining your goal or dream is yourself."

For Cole, who has been with Baptist since 1974 and taught nursing for nine years, the key to achieving is "to believe in yourself."

"I wouldn't say I'm a renegade, but I see things from a different perspective. You've got to be willing to take risks for what you believe in – to be persistent and open-minded."

That message is echoed by Smith, who was attracted to the idea of nursing at an early age. She is now responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating nursing and clinical programs, policy and procedure as well as staff development at Tri-County Baptist.

Early on, she said, nursing was in her heart.

"I knew healthcare was something special – a field that you could feel good about."

It was that focus that compelled her to finish a four-year nursing program at Spalding University in three years while holding down a full-time job.

Baptist Healthcare System is proud to recognize its achievers and to be a co-sponsor of this year's Black Achievers Program, said Ed Vaughn, president and chief executive officer.

"We salute all the outstanding 1993 adult and youth achievers, and we're pleased to be able to join with other area organizations to play a small role in helping introduce young people to healthcare opportunities."

They are the very opportunities that Anna Smith, Guy Howard Dorsey and Sandra Vaughn Cole hope will be viewed as limitless.

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM