

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Midwestern faculty**  
President Milton Ferguson of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary withdrew a faculty nomination after he realized trustees would not support the candidate. Trustees also declined to grant tenure to two professors.  
*See page 2.*

**Saintly presence**  
Some call Billie Payne the "Mother Teresa" of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville because of the selfless dedication she shows to children. *See page 3.*

**Masonry talks**  
Jeffersonton Baptist Church in Louisville hosted an informational meeting recently about the compatibility of Freemasonry and Christianity. *See page 3.*

**Editorial**  
Comparing key statistics among developed nations shows America talks about "family values" more than supporting that ideal. *See page 5.*

**Summer missionaries**  
Photos of Kentucky Baptist Student Union summer missionaries. *See pages 8 & 9.*

**SBC preview**  
Freemasonry is likely to be one of the most talked-about subjects at next month's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. *See page 11.*

## Baptist teens called to sexual purity

By Terri Lackey  
SBC Home Mission Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Paul Ballenger knows of only two other male virgins at the middle Tennessee university he attends.

"I'm proud to be a virgin and I'm willing to tell that to the world," Ballenger said during the April 21 launch of a Southern Baptist-sponsored abstinence campaign called "True Love Waits."

Abstaining from sex is not a new fad for Ballenger, 19, and his girlfriend, Susan Fitzgerald, 18, a high school senior. During the early stage of their now two-year courtship, they discussed their beliefs about sex before marriage.

"After we had dated about two

months, I asked him what he thought about sex before marriage," Fitzgerald said. "I think it sort of shocked him."

"No, I was OK with that," Ballenger responded. "We have the same beliefs in that area."

Fitzgerald said her strong moral beliefs are a result of parental guidance.

"Paul and I were brought up in the same type of family. Our parents taught us strong values and morals," Fitzgerald said. "The one thing my parents taught me since I was little was to stay sexually pure until marriage."

Ballenger acknowledged staying sexually pure is not without its challenges.

"I come home every weekend

from school, and it is a constant struggle. But I've made a commitment to more than just myself. I've made it to God, and I've made it to others," he said.

"I think true love can wait."

The two teen-agers, along with about 50 others from their church, stood before a group of about 1,000 youth ministers from 32 states attending the Youth Ministry National Conference 4 and made public their pledges to no sex before marriage.

Encouraged by a standing ovation, the youth from Tulip Grove Baptist Church in Hermitage, Tenn., ceremoniously walked to the front of the sanctuary at First Baptist of Nashville where the meeting was held and laid in a mound their cards pledging pre-

See *Teens called to ...*, page 6



**SENIOR ADULT EMPHASIS** Sara Carneal (left), a member of Guthrie Baptist Church in Guthrie, visits with Willie Northington at her home. Northington and her husband, Thad, both in their 90s, have been in ill health and unable to attend church regularly. Carneal, also in her 90s, exemplifies the 1993 Senior Adult Day theme, "Coping with Crises in the Senior Years." Churches across the Southern Baptist Convention observed Senior Adult Day May 2, as part of a month-long emphasis on families. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

## Gospel supply & demand pulls Kentuckians westward

By Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

SAN DIEGO—A surplus of Kentucky preachers and a dearth of Christians in California led three Kentuckians to the West Coast, and the director of associational missions in San Diego hopes they have started a trend.

San Diego County has the third highest number of non-Christians of 3,105 counties in the nation, according to a study by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Sixty-six percent of the county's population is not affiliated with any of 133 mainline religious groups, another report shows.

In 1961, Wade McKinley was pastor of Victory Chapel Baptist Church while finishing his last semester at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. The Albany native says he wanted to be pastor of a small-

town Kentucky church after graduation.

Instead, someone submitted his name to the pastor search committee for Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville. But when he realized 174 other names of potential pastors were submitted to the same church, he decided, "I want to do something or go somewhere I'm needed."

McKinley and his wife moved to California in October 1961, even though neither of them had a job there. He became pastor of a church in Southern California before the year was over, and he was pastor of three California churches before becoming director of missions in San Diego in 1986.

An experience similar to McKinley's led Doyle Dunn to military chaplaincy. He says God called him to preach in high school, and he looked for opportunities to preach while attending Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

When he realized his local association in Kentucky had more ordained Baptist ministers than churches, "God began to show me other ministries."

Dunn has been an active duty chaplain since 1987. His current assignment is Camp Pendleton, near San Diego, Calif., and he will be transferred to Washington, D.C., later this year.

Dan Grider, a Liberty native, was a pastor in Jamestown when he met McKinley. Grider went to California to lead a revival and became aware of

## Prayer could alter society, Gallup says

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—One of the most powerful influences in America has been virtually ignored by social researchers, according to the country's best-known pollster.

That power is prayer, says George Gallup Jr., co-chairman of the Gallup Organization.

"Lives transformed by prayer can bring about a changed society," Gallup told a joint meeting of the Baptist Public Relations Association and the Religious Public Relations Council in New York April 17.

In fact, America's spirituality has more impact on society than other demographic factors, said Gallup, a Presbyterian. "It's the intensity of religion that really drives this country," he said.

Yet the influence of America's spirituality on society has gone largely unexamined, said Gallup, whose organization conducts 10,000 surveys a year.

"We know more about people's sex lives than we do their prayer lives," he said.

While researchers know that about a third of Americans claim to have had a religious experience, little is known about the nature of those experiences. "We know a lot about the breadth of the spiritual life in America, but we know very little about the depth."

Yet, Gallup said, researchers are becoming increasingly curious about the "inner life" of Americans. His own organization has conducted research on prayer and forgiveness and developed a scale to measure the depth of religious experience.

See *Gallup on prayer ...*, page 7

**How shall they hear?**

More on page 12

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **Staff cuts** will be made at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Richmond, Va., headquarters due to declining revenue and rising costs, Interim President Don Kammerdiener announced. However, he said it is too early to forecast how many of the FMB's 464 Richmond employees would be let go or when.

■ **Wyman Copass**, pastor of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, has been elected first vice chairman of the governing board for the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission.

■ **The Saturday Evening Post** features a four-page article about the Southern Baptist Convention in its May-June issue. The article highlights Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts, Baptist beginnings, the SBC's ethnic diversity and the convention's mix of megachurches with small, rural churches. It was written by James Hefley, writer-in-residence at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Missouri and author of a series of books advocating the conservative movement within the SBC.

■ **Volunteers** are still needed for recovery efforts in South Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, according to officials with the Florida Baptist Convention. Baptist volunteers have built 445 homes so far, and another 200 are in process. Volunteers interested in helping in construction or other ministries in Florida should call (305) 248-7059.

■ **Correction:** A caption in the April 20 issue of the Recorder incorrectly identified a missionary handing out tracts as John Carpenter. The correct name is John Carter.

## Midwestern trustees reject nominee

By Tim Palmer  
*Missouri Word & Way*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ABP)—Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary blocked the election of one professor and denied tenure to another during their meeting April 19-20.

Seminary President Milton Ferguson said the actions signal that the conservative-dominated trustee board wants to be more involved in decisions about who teaches at the school. But he warned trustees the confrontation over faculty tenure could foreshadow "the devastation of this institution."

During the meeting, Ferguson withdrew a recommendation for trustees to elect visiting professor David May to the permanent faculty, saying May's nomination did not have the necessary trustee support.

Later trustees rejected Ferguson's recommendation to grant tenure to theology professor Wilburn Stancil and voted to delay action on tenure for another professor. Ferguson will be allowed to resubmit both tenure recommendations at the October board meeting.

Trustees did not say why they objected to hiring May, who teaches New Testament. But a seminary source said trustees were concerned about May's view of the inspiration of the Bible.

May, who is in his third year as a visiting professor, was recommended by Ferguson to fill a vacancy in New Testament studies. Last fall the recommendation was affirmed by the instruction committee of the board of trustees. The committee again took up the matter in closed session the morning of April 19.

When the full board convened that afternoon, Ferguson announced he was withdrawing May's name from consideration prior to a vote because he did not have enough support on either the instruction committee or the full board to ensure the required two-thirds majority for election of faculty.

Academic Dean Vernon Davis expressed disappointment in the board's failure to support May, "a dedicated young scholar whom I regret to lose from the faculty."

"This development will be difficult for our seminary faculty and student body to understand," Davis said.

"I've always understood myself as a conservative biblical scholar," May, a native of Maryville, Mo., said the day after the trustee meeting. "I am disappointed and heartbroken that I am not going to be able to fulfill that calling of God here at Midwestern."

May later said some trustees had found fault with a sermon he preached in seminary chapel on Jesus' parable of the talents. Trustees reportedly questioned May's view of the inspiration of the Bible as expressed in that sermon.

Instruction committee Chairman James Jones of Waterford, Mich., who later was elected incoming chairman of the full board, declined to discuss committee members' objections to electing May.

A packet of printed materials critical of May was delivered anonymously to trustees at their hotel. But trustee Chairman Sid Peterson said the materials were not a factor in the board's decision. Trustees unanimously passed a resolution deploring the materials.

The published writings of theology professor Stancil were cited by trustees who opposed granting him tenure, an advanced faculty status that makes it difficult to fire a professor.

Trustee Ronnie Rogers of Hot Springs, Ark., read numerous excerpts from an article Stancil wrote on structuralism, a New Testament interpretation tool built on the premise that a hidden structure in each biblical text is responsible for producing the text's visible structure or pattern.

Rogers said Stancil failed in the article to warn Bible students that structuralism is "theologically bankrupt." He contended that the article affirmed structuralism. "It was very obvious that it had a positive flavor,"

Rogers stated.

However, others present said they thought the article was not favorable toward structuralism.

On another front, two trustees pointed to articles Stancil wrote for the newspaper *Baptists Today*, in which Stancil referred to the controversy over biblical inerrancy as a "word game" and in which Stancil described certain aspects of the Southern Baptist Convention as "delightful lunacy."

A motion to postpone consideration of tenure for Stancil was voted down. The subsequent vote on granting tenure to Stancil was 16-9 in favor, two votes shy of the two-thirds majority the chair ruled necessary.

Next up for consideration of tenure was church music professor Randall Bradley.

Instruction committee member Richard Proctor of Wynne, Ark., stated that tenure was a more important matter than a faculty member's hiring, and that the instruction committee should have the opportunity to interview a professor before recommending him for tenure.

"You're dealing with the heart of this institution," Ferguson responded. He said he was "deeply grieved" to think qualified faculty might be rejected because trustees had problems with procedure rather than the merits of individuals.

"I believe we are walking into what could be the devastation of this institution," Ferguson said.

The board then voted to allow Ferguson to resubmit Stancil and Bradley for tenure in October. It also voted that the president be requested to submit names of candidates for tenure at least 45 days before a board meeting.

Ferguson said after the meeting that "a precipitous, last-minute denial of tenure" to qualified faculty members poses a threat to the institution because it violates precedent. Previously tenure was awarded without extensive involvement by trustees and by merely a majority vote.

## Golden Gate OKs statement on women

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a statement related to women in ministry and hired two new faculty members during their April 19-20 meeting.

The four-paragraph "Statement on the Inclusiveness of Seminary Curriculum" was discussed and adopted by trustees during an executive session with reporters and others excluded.

Under the policy students will be counseled "to prepare for areas of ministry where they are likely to find productive ministry and employment in the churches and denominational agencies."

"We're not opposed to women in ministry," trustee Barrett Duke said after the closed-door meeting. Duke, a Colorado pastor, called the policy a "very positive" statement which says "we believe there are many places where women can serve."

But the pastorate is not one of them, according to several present at the meeting. "Mainstream Southern Baptist life does not accept the role of women" as ordained pastors, Duke said in an interview.

The policy trustees adopted does not name specific ministry roles.

Tom Wolf, 49, pastor of The Church on Brady in Los Angeles since 1969, was named associate professor of missions effective Aug. 1. Trustees also elected Lai Ling Elizabeth Ngan, 40, assistant professor of Old Testament effective Aug. 1. Currently Ngan is associate minister of Stockton (Calif.) Chinese Baptist Church.

## FMB affirms Executive Committee resolution on WMU

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Foreign Mission Board trustees affirmed a Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee resolution on Woman's Missionary Union while naming the board's first woman area director during their April 19-21 meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

Trustees also appointed or reappointed 42 missionaries, re-elected their chairman despite opposition and voted to enter Syria. About 4,000 people attended a missionary appointment service at the Columbus Convention Center during the meeting.

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, had sent letters to both the FMB and Home Mission Board, asking their trustees to endorse the resolution on WMU. HMB trustees affirmed the resolution in March.

FMB approval of the resolution—which includes both praise and warnings for WMU—came after Don Kammerdiener, interim FMB president,

issued an affirmation of WMU and a plea for renewed trust among feuding Baptist factions.

Passing the resolution, Kammerdiener said, serves as an affirmation of "all that our relationships have meant in the past and as an expectation that those relationships will be even stronger in the future."

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director, said Kammerdiener's words will be warmly received by the 1.2 million members of the mission-support auxiliary. But coupled with the language of the resolution, she said, it could send mixed signals.

The politely worded resolution begins with seven paragraphs of affirmation for WMU's historic role in supporting SBC missions. However, it also notes that WMU "was established originally for the express purpose of supporting the two mission boards of the Southern Baptist Convention."

WMU needs to affirm its "singu-

lar cooperation," "undivided commitment" and "exclusive relationship" with the SBC and its mission boards, the resolution says.

In January WMU's executive board voted to offer educational materials and prayer support—but not money—to missionary-sending groups other than the FMB and HMB. Critics, including the Executive Committee, complained the changes would allow WMU to lend support to the rival Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of moderate Southern Baptists which also sends missionaries.

O'Brien was present at the FMB meeting and unfurled a 150-foot banner made of pages of WMU literature promoting the 1992 Lottie Moon offering for SBC foreign missions.

O'Brien said she was "thrilled" to hear trustee committees report that the FMB is cooperating with other evangelical groups to do missions, "which is exactly what WMU is going to do."

"If that is the trend in the future, WMU wants to be a part of it," she said. "It's exciting to see that Christian groups are working together."

In other action, FMB trustees departed from the custom of nominating a chairman to a second one-year term without opposition, but still re-elected John Jackson of California in a 44-30 ballot over Hoyt Savage of Las Vegas.

Jackson has presided over the trustees in a tumultuous year of actions, such as the discussions with WMU.

Faye Pearson, 52, a missionary in Taiwan for 24 years, was elected area director for mission work in East Asia. She will oversee the work of 500 missionaries in Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, South Korea and Taiwan. She is the first woman to be elected as an area director.

Reported by Greg Warner through Associated Baptist Press and Robert O'Brien of the FMB through Baptist Press

## Billie Payne keeps the ball rolling for inner-city kids

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Billie Payne may not wear sneakers in the gym, but keeping the ball rolling at Walnut Street Baptist Church's activities building has become her life's focus.

Commitment to ministry also has earned Payne the reputation of being a "Baptist Mother Teresa."

Payne, 64, has been minister of activities at Walnut Street Church since 1978. She sees recreation equipment as tools to reach out with Christ's love—especially to Louisville's inner-city children.

"I'm not too much of a competitor," Payne said. "I really don't do any sports. ... I get my pleasure out of seeing others enjoy recreation."

Most afternoons, the church's weekday ministry reaches from 35 to 100 inner-city children and youth. Saturday attendance sometimes exceeds 200.

Payne described the impetus behind her work in the inner city: "I love children. Inner-city children need love so much, and they need the love of God."

"But many inner-city children don't know what love is," she continued. "They need to experience the love of a human before they can know the love of Jesus."

"The most important thing to me is for children and young people to grow up to know the Lord," she said.

With the help of two assistants and numerous volunteers, Payne supervises the weekday ministry at the activities building, which is open to the

community every day after school and on Saturday for four hours.

She also plans banquets, fellowships, league events and other church-sponsored activities in the three-story building, meets regularly with other church staff members and makes weekly hospital visits.

The activities building where Payne sometimes spends up to 12 hours a day offers children and youth the options of playing basketball and volleyball in the gym, skating, bowling and playing table games. Other rooms are used for fellowship meals, crafts and watching television.

Payne has been a member at Walnut Street Baptist Church for 35 years but said she didn't anticipate joining the church's staff.

After her husband died of cancer in 1969, she raised their two sons, Otto Joseph and George, by herself. In 1975, she made an unexpected career change and became a secretary at Walnut Street's activities center.

"Something compelled me to take the job ... and learn all I could about recreation," she said. That included attending seminary courses and workshops as well as other seminars.

Three years later, she said, she again felt "compelled" when offered the job as minister of activities. "Now I know it was the Lord compelling me," she explained.

Payne said she can identify in many ways with inner city children in the church's neighborhood.

"I grew up during the Depression," she said. "We didn't always have everything we wanted to wear or eat. That's just like these children."



**TOUGH LOVE** Billie Payne offers a kind embrace and a firm word to a child at Walnut Street Baptist Church's weekday ministry. Payne, minister of activities at the church since 1978, has earned the children's respect, one of the first steps to ministering in the inner city, she said.

However, Payne also noted some differences between her childhood and children in the inner city.

"My home life was different, because we had love and discipline at home," she said. "These children have the wrong kind of discipline, without love."

As a result, firm, loving discipline with children at Walnut Street is a necessity, Payne said. A misbehaving child sometimes is asked to "sit out" from playing, write sentences or come in to talk with Payne or one of the assistants. If worse comes to worse, she

said, the child is sent home.

"It breaks my heart, but I know sometimes it has to be done," she said.

However, Payne's ministry is not limited to blowing whistles at youth for inappropriate behavior. In many ways, Payne has become an advocate for meeting children's needs.

"Billie comes every Thursday morning and eats breakfast with the children," said Dorothy Ferguson, counselor at Engelhard Elementary School. "They all want to sit by her. She's so accepting of children ... they can see her sincerity."

Another way Payne ministers is by purchasing clothing items and shoes for children who desperately need them. She said she believes children feel better about themselves, and consequently perform and behave at higher levels, when they have something new to wear.

For that project, Payne said, she depends on donations, which come mostly from church members.

Robert Long, Walnut Street's pastor, said members support Payne's work because they believe in her. "She never seems to have problems getting volunteers," he noted.

"Some of the members have called her a Baptist Mother Teresa," Long continued, suggesting that Payne's sense of selflessness and commitment to caring about others could readily lead to that conclusion.

But Payne isn't comfortable being compared to the renowned Catholic nun from India.

"I'm not Mother Teresa," she said. "I just try to do the best I can to help people see the love of Jesus."

## Clear Creek OKs budget of \$1.9 million

PINEVILLE—Trustees of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville approved a \$1.9 million budget for the school's 1993-94 year during an April 20 meeting.

The budget covers a 20 percent increase in health insurance costs and a 5 percent increase in utility costs but does not include any salary increases. Trustees authorized President Bill Whittaker to grant mid-year salary bonuses from unspent funds if receipts are adequate.

Also, Clear Creek trustees:  
 ■ Established the James Barry Lectures on Preaching and Worship, named for a retired pastoral consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

■ Adopted long-range planning recommendations.

■ Approved a \$39,000 remodeling of the former preschool building into a music building, contingent upon receipt of adequate donations.

■ Appointed Tim Searcy assistant professor of religious education and director of institutional planning.

■ Promoted Dennis Brotherton from associate professor to professor of New Testament and John Ditty from instructor of Bible to assistant professor of Old Testament.

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **The Western Recorder** recently received the first place award for design of a newspaper, newsmagazine or tabloid in the annual awards competition of the Baptist Public Relations Association.

■ **Kenneth Winters**, president of Campbellsville College, was named a distinguished alumnus of Murray State University April 24. He was one of three honored this year.

■ **Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College** will hold commencement ceremonies May 7 at 8 p.m. at Hickory Baptist Church in Hickory, with David Dockery, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, as speaker.

■ **Campbellsville College** will hold commencement ceremonies May 8 at 3 p.m. at Campbellsville Baptist Church in Campbellsville, with an address by Hilda Legg, former alternate federal co-chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

■ **Georgetown College** will hold commencement ceremonies May 8 at 10 a.m. on campus, with Bob Babbage, Kentucky's secretary of state, as speaker. Earl Pinkston of Harrodsburg was elected by his peers to be the senior class speaker.

■ **Correction:** The Events insert in the April 20 issue of the Recorder contained two errors. The church weekday education seminar June 26 is at Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, not in Lexington. Also, the information listed on page 8-A about Brotherhood's Hope for Homes program is incorrect and should be disregarded.

## Speakers testify to Freemasonry & faith

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—A panel of eight Masons stood at the pulpit of a Baptist church April 27 to declare they see no conflict between Freemasonry and Christianity.

The Masons spoke during a program at Jeffersontown Baptist Church in Louisville intended to rebuff criticisms of Freemasonry coming from some quarters of the Southern Baptist Convention.

At the SBC's annual meeting in Houston next month, messengers will vote either to accept or reject a report on Freemasonry done by the Home Mission Board. That report says some elements of Freemasonry are "not compatible with Christianity," but that individual Baptists should be free to make their own decisions about Freemasonry.

The HMB report was developed in response to a motion offered at last year's convention by Larry Holly of Beaumont, Texas. Holly, an ardent critic of Freemasonry, has published two widely circulated paperback books to document what he claims are satanic elements in Freemasonry.

Joel Jones, pastor of Jeffersontown Baptist Church, noted at the informational meeting that his own

church met for its first 60 years in a Masonic Lodge hall.

"Mr. Holly's motion is not the voice of all Southern Baptists," he assured the 60 people in the audience, most of whom were Masons.

The event was organized by Jeffersontown member Marion Reed, retired editor of the Masonic Home Journal.

Reed and the other speakers uniformly stated that they have found no conflict between their Christian faith and Freemasonry. All of the speakers had achieved leadership positions within Freemasonry and had been Masons 20 to 40 years or more.

"I've known a lot of Baptist deacons who were Masons," Reed noted. "I never saw horns or tails on any of them, nor any halos."

Reed said the primary purpose of Freemasonry is to teach friendship, morality and brotherly love. He challenged Freemasonry's critics to find anything evil in those objectives.

Speakers attempted to address specific charges made against Freemasonry:

■ **Titles.** Calling the person elected to preside over a local lodge "worshipful grand master" is a traditional title and does not equate that person with deity, said William

Hinton, who works on the staff of Hopkinsville Community College. "By no means do we mean that he is to be worshiped or venerated or set apart," he explained, "but that he is to be respected."

■ **Oaths.** Oaths taken by Masons are solemn vows, not "bloody oaths" with sinister meanings, Hinton said. "The oaths are promises to be a better man and a better Mason."

■ **Religion.** "Freemasonry is not a religion," said Floyd Booth, a deacon at Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville. He said Freemasonry does not offer a plan of salvation nor any theology and does not teach that salvation is found through good works. Further, discussion of religion is forbidden during Masonic meetings, he added.

■ **Masonic Bible.** Although critics claim Masons have created their own Bible, the only difference in a "Masonic Bible" from a normal King James translation is a set of cross-references at the back of the book, said Jack Early, president of the Kentucky Independent College Fund.

■ **Universalism.** "Nowhere in the Masonic ritual do we say every person will be saved," Early stated. "There may be (some Masonic) writers who say this, but they speak for themselves."

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## 'May you always walk in the smile of God'

During the "Blizzard of 1993" I was searching every drawer and cubbyhole, hoping to find a misplaced battery, when I happened upon the first pair of Buster Brown shoes our daughter ever wore. I sat with my memories for a while.

My reflection was influenced by my experiences with three young mothers who died on our hospice program in recent months.

Each mother was dealing with leaving teen-age children. Each grieved of "not being here for them during the difficult adolescent years." As each asked for prayers for her children, I recalled the prayer Jesus prayed for his disciples in John 17, and began to realize that Jesus had faced a similar dilemma.

In John 14:16, Jesus struggles with leaving his disciples without a teacher and guide. "I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Comforter that will abide with you forever."

In John 16:12, "I have yet many things to say to you but you cannot bear them now." How could he prepare his disciples for what was ahead? How can a mother prepare children for adolescence, that turbulent time

when she wants to be there for them?

The entire 17th chapter of John is a prayer in which Jesus places his disciples in God's hands. Jesus talks to the Father of his effort to teach them and prepare them: "I have given them the words which thou gavest me. ... I pray for them. ... Holy Father, keep them in thy name. ... May they have joy. ... Keep them from evil. ... Father, I want them to be with me in glory."

As each mother and I moved through this chapter, Jesus' prayer helped her to verbalize feelings, desires and prayers to God. What a powerful model Jesus became! As Jesus placed his disciples in God's hands, each mother placed her children in God's hands.

One mother shared how she read a Bible through for each one of her children, underlining passages and making notes with that child in mind. Another mother leaves some beautiful quilts and other hand work.

As I held my daughter's little shoes and thought of these mothers, a story came from deep in my memory.

Jim had heard his family retell many times an incident that happened

when he was a little boy. Jim was playing on the porch one day as his mother sat nearby peeling potatoes. He noticed a ray of sun shining through an opening in the leaves of a tree, focusing on a plank on the porch. Pointing, Jim asked his mom, "What is that?" She responded: "That is the smile of God."

The mother continued with her task until she turned out, "Look, Mom." She turned and Jim had stepped over into the ray of sunshine and said, "Look, Mom, I am in the smile of God!"

Years passed. Jim's mother died. He and his brothers and sisters returned to the "old home place" to sort out their mother's things. In a drawer Jim found a small box with his name on it. He slowly untied the string and opened the box. There was a small pair of shoes with a note, "These are the shoes you wore when you walked in the smile of God."

Isn't that every parent's prayer? "May you always walk in the smile of God."

*Zelma Pattillo, chaplain  
Hospice of Montclair  
Birmingham, Ala.*

## I'll listen when ...

The two letters printed in Baptist Forum (WR, April 13) have elicited this response:

I will be more impressed by the arguments of the right-to-life movement when I see as much energy going into supporting rights of those children already born, and the women who bear them, as energy spent forcing women into its own moral choices.

I will listen to arguments regard-

ing homosexuality as a choice and a sin when the argument is made by those who seem to be attempting to love their neighbor as much as their doctrine.

*Laura Lee Duckworth  
Louisville*

## BAPTIST FORUM Glorify God

In all things, do for the glory of God.

In 1981, the Lord called me into the ministry. I try to serve him in the way he would have me to. I do not sit

and wait for a church calling.

There is a great need in nursing homes and hospitals (Galatians 1:10). I am to please God, not men (Proverbs 3:5-6).

The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways, acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." Folks that want an office serving God need to be in prayer.

Be ready, you may get it.

*Joseph Fortner  
Fulton*

## Something to be glad about

I'm rather proud of the improvement Kentucky Baptists have made in caring for church employees. At my request, Annuity Director Don Spencer has provided the following report:

"A sad documentary on Southern Baptists in past years has been the below-poverty-level incomes of so many retired ministers and their widows. The prospect for future Kentucky ministers retiring with reasonable income has improved in recent years. The improvement can be seen in three ways.

"First, the average Kentucky Baptist annuitant's income from the Annuity Board has risen significantly. In 1985, that average was \$179 per month. It is now averaging \$378 per month, an increase of 111 percent in eight years. The average income for Kentucky annuitants ranks 10th among all SBC state conventions. However, among the "old line" SBC states, Kentucky is third, with Virginia and Texas having averages of \$388 and \$385 per month. In terms of adequate retirement income, these averages are low; however, the increase is indicative of

an improving trend.

"Second, more are participating in the Church Annuity Plan at higher levels. With 1,714 participants, we now have more Kentucky ministers and church employees in the Church

Annuity Plan than at any time in the past. (In 1985 there were 1,428.) The level of contributions has also risen dramatically by most participants and continues to rise. In the first two months of 1993, 306 Kentucky participants upgraded the level of their Church Annuity Plan contributions. This means that only a few will have a below-poverty-level income in the future.

"There are 823 KBC churches with budgets of over \$50,000. These are, for the most part, churches with full-time pastors, for which the Church Annuity Plan will be their primary retirement vehicle. Of these 823 churches, 670 (81 percent) are currently active in the plan.

"An increasing number of bivocational ministers are participating, as they realize the plan has benefits they

cannot match with other plans.

"The third indicator can be seen in the Expanded Church Annuity Plan, with its enhanced benefits through state convention contributions for members. This plan is now five years old, and Kentucky is among the leading states in churches adopting the expanded plan. While Kentucky is eighth in the number of Church Annuity Plan participants with 1,714, Kentucky is sixth (of 38 conventions) in the number of churches adopting the expanded plan. This suggests that more churches are becoming more responsible as employers to see that adequate retirement is funded. In addition, of the 382 KBC churches with annual receipts over \$100,000, 171 (45 percent) have adopted the expanded plan for all employees, not just ministers. These churches have recognized a need to provide retirement benefits for their other employees as well.

"The bottom line in all of this is that retirement years will be more secure for many of our ministers and church employees. Continued improvement will depend upon church members who remain sensitive to these needs."

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



## FAMILY FORUM: AGING

### Driving

By John Lepper

**Q.** Dad, who is now 76, almost had a wreck the other day. Mom and I feel it's time for Dad to give up driving. We've thought about getting the doctor to be the bad guy. What are your suggestions?

**A.** You raise a very important and sensitive question—one which I cannot answer directly. You say that you and your mom feel it is time for your dad to give up driving. How does your father feel about this? As I pointed out in the last Aging column, unless a significant reason exists, older people need to maintain their rights to make decisions (WR, March 30).

The tone of your question raises the vital issue of safety. An examination by a physician can possibly determine if safety is the predominant factor.

In any case, other issues are also important. These include control, freedom, relationships and communication.

Driving a car, while providing freedom and control, also requires responsibility. Giving up this freedom when one's health and abilities have diminished to the point of becoming unsafe is an exercise in responsibility.

How you approach this subject with your father depends, to a large extent, on your relationship with him. Your conversation with him about driving is also affected by past patterns of communication. If your relationship and communication patterns have been stormy, broaching this sensitive subject may add to the storm. If the pattern has been one of openness and clarity, then this subject may be more easily approached. Talking and listening non-defensively will help bring about a positive outcome.

On the other hand, forming an alliance with your mom in order to "double-team" your father may further complicate the situation. Such alliances may work to overpower another person, but they don't usually contribute positively to the relationship.

Your attitude can influence this situation. Valuing your father's personhood and being sensitive to his feelings, as well as his safety, will help you achieve a positive result.

*John Lepper is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department.*

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

## Christians must do more for 'the least of these'

Americans pay lip-service to "family values." Unfortunately, our actions scream loudly to the contrary.

Among the most-developed nations, the United States ranks last in six of eight acute indicators of child welfare, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's center for the study of social policy.

The study compares the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom. The numbers aren't good.

Among the indicators, the study examines:

■ **Birth weight.** The U.S. ranks last in this category, with 7 percent of babies born at a dangerously low weight. France ranks first, at 5 percent.

■ **Infant mortality.** More infants die in the U.S., with 9.1 deaths per 1,000 live births. Japan has the best ranking, 4.6 deaths.

■ **Teen births.** The rate of U.S. teen births is almost 16 times higher than the Japanese rate—54.8, compared to 3.5 per 1,000 teens.

■ **Secondary education.** The U.S. enrolls 88 percent of its young people in secondary education, compared to 96 percent in Japan and 79 percent in the United Kingdom.

■ **Violent deaths.** Among people ages 15 to 24, violence accounts for 77.8 percent of U.S. deaths, compared to 62.3 percent in the United Kingdom.

■ **Child poverty.** Twenty percent of U.S. children live in poverty, compared to 2.8 percent in Germany.

■ **Married, with children.** Twenty-seven percent of U.S. households include two parents and children. Japan is tops, with 39.2 percent, and Germany has 21.8 percent.

■ **Single-parent households.** Again, the U.S. has the worst record, 8 percent. Japan has the best, 2.5 percent.

These statistics probably seem remote and obscure to most Baptists. They don't reflect the kinds of families we try to raise. But if we narrow the terms of "family values" to mean only how we're doing at raising our own families, we miss the point.

The Old Testament describes a worldview which values the larger community and channels help to the powerless, such as widows and orphans. Jesus carried this a step further, proclaiming that we serve him only as we feed, clothe and minister to "the least of these." In America today, they are our children, all children. As Christians, we are compelled to confront a host of issues—sex education, birth control, education, parenting, handgun control, adoption, nutrition and others—to serve the Lord by serving these weakest members of society.

Marv Knox

**The United States ranks near the bottom among the most-developed countries in the protection it affords its children.**

## America must take the lead to stop the slaughter in Bosnia

The civilized world stands at a critical crossroads. For more than a year, terrible acts of barbarity have occurred routinely in parts of Yugoslavia known as Bosnia-Herzegovina. Who among us has not flinched at the heart-rending images of bloody corpses, starving prisoners, emotionally shattered rape victims and orphaned children flickering across our television screens?

The violence wracking that region represents racism and bigotry in their most virulent forms. The Serbian policy of "ethnic cleansing" is as gross a violation of international standards of civilized behavior as anything that has happened in Europe since the fall of the Third Reich. The differences between what is taking place in Bosnia and what happened under the Nazis are differences only of scale and degree, not of immorality.

The horror of the Nazi atrocities drove the world, under American leadership, to establish a minimal international standard of acceptable behavior among nations. At Nuremberg, the nations of the world said that even

if something is legal in a country, it is illegal if it violates basic standards of civilized behavior, and perpetrators will be culpable for giving, or carrying out, orders which violate these standards. The world established a threshold below which a nation cannot descend without international intervention and justice.

The international community would have responded with force already if the crimes committed in Eastern Europe had occurred across international borders. The dilemma has been how to muster a response to violations of minimal norms of behavior within a country. The world has wrestled with this problem since the 1930s, when the Germans instituted an official policy of ethnic cleansing against German Jews. Had the world community been more forceful in responding then, World War II and the Holocaust possibly could have been prevented.

The world faces a similar situation today. If the international community does not stop the ethnic cleansing genocide in Bosnia, hundreds of thou-

sands of people are going to be slaughtered in similar conflicts across the globe in the next few years. The former Soviet Union alone is replete with ethnic conflicts similar to those in the former Yugoslavia. If, however, the nations of the world intervene firmly to stop the slaughter and bring the perpetrators and their leaders before the bar of justice, then a genuine hope exists for a relatively civilized last decade of an exceptionally uncivilized 20th century.

If America does not take the lead in intervening to stop the slaughter in Bosnia, it won't be done. America should not intervene unilaterally, but it should exercise leadership in assembling an international coalition for intervention similar to the leadership it exercised in response to Iraqi aggression in Kuwait.

While the United States cannot intervene in every circumstance where injustice occurs, the minimal international standards set at Nuremberg must be maintained. When a nation's policies intentionally disregard these standards, then it must be held accountable. The Bosnian situation also reveals the need for rape to be added

to the list of war crimes. When rape is sponsored as a part of a nation's policy of war, as in Bosnia, then it is a war crime for which both the people responsible for creating, and implementing, the policy should be tried before international war crimes tribunals.

The time for armed, multinational intervention has long since come. An effective intervention to stop the slaughter would meet all of the criteria of just-war theory: just cause, just intent, last resort, legitimate authority, limited goals, proportionality and noncombatant immunity. Recent peace plans are insufficient; they reward atrocities and aggression and leave criminals unpunished.

If the world does not intervene and reassert standards set at Nuremberg, we will once again confront the ghosts of Dachau and Auschwitz. Then while we grieve for the lost moment of opportunity, we must struggle as well with our own responsibility for the crimes against humanity that will continue.

Richard D. Land, executive director  
SBC Christian Life Commission  
Nashville

**"The time for armed, multinational intervention has long since come. An effective intervention to stop the slaughter would meet all the criteria of just-war theory."**

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Satellites & telephones shrink this big world down to human size

"Hello," she said. My mouth suddenly went dry as a desert, and my heart pounded like a jackhammer.

I was standing in a hotel lobby, 6,000 miles from home, and Joanna—the light of my life—was talking in my ear. Live, via satellite.

"Happy Sunday morning," I stammered, accommodating for eight time zones.

Rarely do I surprise my wife. She's smarter than I, and invariably onto my schemes before they're delivered. But a phone call from Russia did the trick.

"Marv?" she asked, incredulous at the thought of having this conversation. Despite what the ads say, we hadn't counted on the opportunity to "reach out and touch" each other. Not from halfway around the

world.

But I was homesick and determined.

The night before offered promise.

Four of us from Kentucky ate dinner with missionaries Mel and Nancy Skinner. Mel explained that telephone lines outside the country were hard to get, but that his phone had an automatic redial key, and we could attempt to phone home.

After a dozen fruitless tries, I expressed my homesick appreciation for his help. I think he understood how I felt.

"You might go to the lobby of the Cosmos Hotel," he said. "They've got an international telephone."

I didn't know an international telephone from tin cans with string. But the next afternoon, that international telephone became a magnet which pulled my body four blocks down Moscow's dusty streets, to the lobby of the Cosmos Hotel.

I picked up the receiver, dialed 9 and 0, and talked to a woman who said she'd be glad to connect me to any phone on the planet.

Only one would do. And in about 15

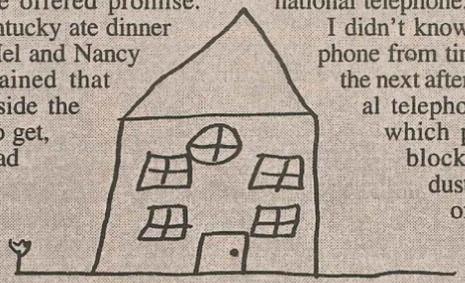
seconds, it was ringing. After that, our voices bounced off a man-made star and into little plastic receivers we held near our ears.

Now, I don't know what angels sound like. But at that moment, I would've sworn their singing never could sound as sweet as the happy, giggling voices of Molly, Lindsay and Joanna.

We talked just a little bit. (At those rates, I hope it wasn't long.) But the sound of those voices—the oral presence of my family—carried me home and lifted my spirits.

Looking back on those few minutes makes me think about prayer. If we need to talk to our family and friends, how much more do we need to talk to our Lord and Creator?

Marv Knox



## Christian teens are distinct subculture, Ross says

By Chip Alford  
SBC Sunday School Board

### Polls show teens believe God loves them

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—American teens believe overwhelmingly that God loves them, that God watches them and that God will reward or punish them for their actions, surveys by the Gallup Organization indicate.

Almost all (95 percent) believe there is a God or a universal spirit, and that God loves them (93 percent).

And 91 percent think heaven exists, while 76 percent think there also might be a hell.

Also, 86 percent say they believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ. A significant number (39 percent) say religion is very important in their lives, and many (25 percent) feel religion is more important to them than it is to their parents.

About one-third of American teens reports reading from the Bible at least weekly, and about the same number say they have listened to a religious broadcast on radio or watched one on TV in the last month. Despite this exposure to religion, few teens say they are considering a career in ministry or religion, and the numbers of teens actively involved in religious activities is less than a majority.

In a typical week, about half the nation's teens attend a religious service, slightly higher than the number of adults who do. And most say they go to church or belong to church-sponsored groups because they want to. Surveys reveal one hint for how to get teens more involved in church.

Many say they are attracted by invitations to volunteer their services to help others less fortunate.

NASHVILLE (BP)—Youth ministers in the 1990s are helping Christian teen-agers learn to live and minister as a distinct subculture in today's society, a speaker at a national youth conference said.

"Christian teen-agers can no longer identify themselves with the dominant culture. As an increasingly distinct subculture, they must establish beliefs, values and lifestyles at odds with those around them," said Richard Ross.

Ross, youth ministry consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, spoke April 20 in seminar on "Trends Affecting Youth Ministry" at the Youth Ministry National Conference 4 in Nashville.

Ross said ministers must guide youth to "take a stand for their faith with compassion," avoiding the two extremes of "monasticism" and "militancy."

"By monasticism, I mean they should avoid the mistake of isolating themselves, saying, 'Let's not be tainted by the bad world out there,'" Ross said.

"They also need to avoid the other extreme—militancy. We don't need to have a 'crusader mentality' where we try to take over the school. Christianity ought to be aggressively prophetic at times, but I think you can abuse (your witness) by being too aggressive."

A second trend affecting youth

ministry in the '90s, Ross said, is escalating violence.

Approximately 350,000 guns are carried into American schools each day, he said, adding as the second or third leading cause of death among 15- to 19-year-olds.

"How does this affect how you do youth ministry?" Ross asked. "Well, when you have 350,000 guns in school, some of those are going to be in the purses or pockets of some of the youth attending your lock-ins, retreats or Bible studies."

Ross suggested youth ministers form a safety committee or task force composed of concerned parents, youth workers and any school teachers or law enforcement officers who may be members of their churches. The committee should take a look at some hard questions about safety before a problem arises, he said.

A third trend addressed by Ross is an increasing interest in the spiritual and supernatural spurred by "millennial fever"—a preoccupation with the approach of the year 2000.

"Changes of centuries always have been accompanied by spiritual interest, the announcement of varied eschatological schemes. The end of a millennium should be even more dramatic. For the next seven years, rationalism will increasingly give way to supernaturalism," he said.

This trend offers both positive and negative possibilities for ministry, Ross explained.



YOUTH TALK Henderson (right), minister of music and youth at Audubon Baptist Church in Henderson, talks with Ray Ezelle, marketing representative from Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, in the exhibit hall of Youth Ministry National Conference 4 in Nashville. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

"If people are more spiritually aware, that obviously is an open door for evangelism. We won't have to bootleg the gospel to teen-agers. They will already be interested in spiritual things."

"The negative side is the darker side of the supernatural will also be getting more attention. All of the crazies will be coming out in the next seven years. It can really confuse our young people."

Ross encouraged youth ministers to emphasize doctrinal issues with youth. "There is a temptation to only deal with hot topics and not talk about

what we believe and why. But that is so important. We need to redouble our efforts in this area."

Youth ministry in the next few years also will be affected by the number of youth being raised in dysfunctional families, Ross said.

"Teen-agers who have been reared in unhealthy families are more likely, but not bound, to replicate those patterns."

"I think it is time for the Southern Baptist Convention to move heavily into helping teen-agers prepare to be husbands and wives and parents, or healthy singles."

## Teens called to sexual purity

Continued from page 1  
marital abstinence.

The Tulip Grove youth are the first in an expected 100,000 to make that same commitment over the next year, according to Richard Ross, youth minister at Tulip Grove.

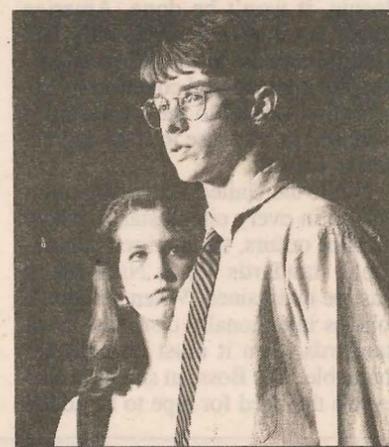
With the help of the youth ministers attending the conference, the campaign is expected to snowball across the convention, picking up new pledges at the local, association and state levels, Ross said.

The timing is right, Ross said in explaining how local and national media have picked up the "True Love Waits" campaign. He has been interviewed on CNN Radio, USA Radio Network, CBS Radio, ABC Radio and numerous local radio and TV stations. The story also was picked up by the Associated Press news wire and has been printed in newspapers across the country, even gaining a brief mention in USA Today.

"It just seems like it's God's timing for Southern Baptists with our immense resources to enter the debate about what is going to happen to teen-agers," Ross said.

Teens today seem to be living a self-filled prophesy, Ross said. Because prophylactics are handed out in many schools systems across the country, young people are given the message it is OK to have sex.

"We need to be telling them it is



WAITING Paul Hengerer of Hermitage, Tenn., speaks about his commitment to sexual purity until marriage as his girlfriend, Susan Fitzgerald, looks on. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

perfectly OK for them to remain sexually pure. It's OK to respect yourself, to have true love for yourself, true love for God and true love for that spouse you haven't even met yet.

"We need to empower these young people to find each other," he said.

A special "True Love Waits" campaign kit has been assembled and includes worship plans for families, churches, associations and state conventions; an outline for a youth Bible study; and promotional materials. The kits can be obtained for \$3 each by writing to True Love Waits, MSN 158, Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

## Churches urged to offer sex education

By Pat Cole  
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Sex education and teen pregnancy prevention programs should be "at the core of a church's youth and family ministries," emphasized the editor of a national magazine for teen-agers.

Jan Turrentine, editor of "Accent," a publication of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, said such programs must "be rooted in our theology and faith and in our life together as people of God." She spoke to a workshop on teen pregnancy prevention at an April 21-23 "Children and the Church" conference in Louisville.

Churches are charged with presenting values-based sex education in a nation where seven of 10 teens have had sex by age 18 and a million teen-age girls become pregnant each year, Turrentine said.

These problems, she said, are aggravated by sexual values depicted in movies and on TV which often stress it "is more glamorous and romantic not to plan for sex but to be 'sweet away' instead." Parents contribute to their teen-agers' irresponsible sexual conduct because parents often "feel perplexed and even threatened" to talk with teens about sex, Turrentine said.

"Many parents and church lead-

ers put blinders on when it comes to seeing teen-agers as sexual beings. No wonder so many parents are stunned and paralyzed when their unmarried teen-aged daughter announces she is pregnant or their son tells them his girlfriend is pregnant."

Turrentine noted teen-age girls who have low self esteem, poor grades in school and a sense of hopelessness for the future are more likely to experience an unplanned pregnancy.

She offered seven suggestions for congregations to follow to help prevent teen pregnancy and promote responsible sexual behavior among teens:

- Offer programs that foster hope, encouragement, self-esteem and relationships with caring adults.

- Provide tutoring and educational support.

- Offer programs that teach not only sexuality information but values related to sex.

- Help children and youth develop decision-making skills.

- Facilitate forums in which parents and children can communicate.

- Guide teen-agers to see decisions about sex and their bodies are ultimately spiritual decisions.

- Convey the message of God's love and grace.

## Americans found ignorant about Holocaust facts

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Americans are significantly ignorant about the Holocaust, with sizable minorities of both adults and young people open to the idea that the attempted extermination of Jews never happened.

That's the finding of a poll released April 19 by the American Jewish Committee.

However, a majority of both adults and youth did say the Holocaust is relevant and that it is important for all Americans to know and understand the Nazi effort to systematically eliminate Jews.

According to the survey:

- 38 percent of adults and 53 percent of high school students said they did not know what the term "Holocaust" referred to or offered completely incorrect answers.

- 60 percent of adults and 53 percent of high school students agreed the Holocaust "makes clear the need for the state of Israel as a place of refuge for Jews in times of persecution."

- 34 percent of adults and 37 percent of high school students answered either "it seems possible" or "don't know" when asked whether it seems possible or impossible that the Nazi extermination of the Jews never happened. According to the survey, education rather than age is the key variable associated with greater knowledge of the Holocaust.

## Views clash as clinic access bill studied

By Tom Strode  
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—Abortion providers, describing some anti-abortion activists as terrorists and the "later-day Ku Klux Klan," called on Congress at a recent hearing to pass legislation not only protecting entrance to their clinics but preventing harassment of them and their families.

Meanwhile, three leaders of anti-abortion groups which practice civil disobedience disavowed support of violence and threats, but said Congress should refuse to pass a law which singles out anti-abortion protesters for punishment.

Both sides' testimony came before a House of Representatives subcommittee which recently passed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, H.R. 796. The bill would make it a federal crime to block entrance to an abortion clinic. A first conviction could result in one year in prison, a second in up to three years imprisonment.

Even though the Crime and Criminal Justice Subcommittee had reported out the bill, Rep. Charles Schumer, D.-N.Y., chairman of the subcommittee, said he scheduled the hearing to consider whether other protest activities against abortion clinic personnel also should be covered by the legislation.

The subcommittee's minority leader, Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R.-Wis., announced during the hearing he would invoke a rarely used rule and request a minority hearing for which the Republicans could select the witnesses. Sensenbrenner said Schumer had rejected witnesses recommended by the Republicans, but the subcommittee chairman said he had sought the minority's input.

The hearing automatically will be held as a result of the request, but the subcommittee chairman will set the date, a subcommittee aide said.

In a letter read by Schumer, Attorney General Janet Reno said new legislation is needed to provide access to abortion clinics and also to protect women seeking abortions and doctors performing them both away from and at clinic sites.

At a news conference later, Operation Rescue leaders announced they were insisting on a meeting with President Clinton and Reno because of the attorney general's targeting of their protests.

During testimony at the hearing, a panel of witnesses described activities aimed at abortion providers which includes threats of violence, harassment of family members, destruction of private property and picketing at their homes.

David Gunn Jr. said such actions should not be protected by the First Amendment. Gunn, whose father was shot and killed outside a Pensacola, Fla., abortion clinic in March, said he had feared for his father's safety because of what he described as anti-abortion activists' increasingly aggressive tactics.

"These anti-choice organizations—I can't refer to them as pro-life anymore, they're anti-choice—are employing terrorist tactics," Gunn said. "It should all be put a stop to."

Abortion clinics "have lost scores of physicians and staff due to the direct threats to themselves and their families," said Susan Hill, president of the National Women's Health Organization. Hill said a replacement for Gunn had not been found to perform abortions.

"You must not believe that these are all well-meaning local churchgo-

ers who are merely exercising their First Amendment rights," Hill said. "This is a holy war. There is no difference between this group of traveling terrorists and groups of terrorists in the Middle East."

A director of an abortion clinic in Minneapolis testified her home has been picketed, she has been "stalked" and a cement block has been thrown through her dining room window.

"I suspect if this were the Middle Ages, they would be demanding that I burn at the stake," said Jeri Rasmussen, director of Midwest Health Center for Women. "Do I fear for my personal safety, my life? Yes."

Meanwhile, Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry and two other anti-abortion leaders said at the April 1 hearing they oppose most of the tactics mentioned by the abortion providers. The three said they do not support violence against people, violence against abortion clinics, threats or "stalking" of abortion providers.

Operation Rescue participants are required to sign a pledge of nonviolence, Terry said. Operation Rescue leaders say there have been more than 60,000 arrests in blockades they sponsored without a conviction for violence or assault.

Protesters have the right to expose doctors who do abortions, Terry said, explaining he hopes the doctors "would be humiliated" into stopping their abortion practices.

Calling the hearing a "low-tech lynching," Terry acknowledged Operation Rescue is civil disobedience but said it clearly is "not politically correct civil disobedience."

Add an amendment to the bill which would prohibit homosexual sit-ins outside churches, Terry told the subcommittee, "and see if this bill makes it."

### BRIEFS

- **Jim Bakker** hopes for an early release from prison so he can reunite with his son and daughter, "who need him very much," an attorney for the PTL founder said after an April 8 parole hearing. Bakker, who has been in prison since October 1989, should get a ruling from the U.S. Parole Commission within 60 days.

- **The Board of Pensions** of the United Methodist Church has voted to divest its funds in the Kmart Corp. after Kmart refused a request to stop selling pornography through its Waldenbooks subsidiary. The pension fund has approximately \$23 million invested with Kmart.

- **Two politically conservative** writers have charged recently that legalized abortion has taken a greater toll on the black community than among whites. In the March issue of *Crisis* magazine, Michael Novak notes that of the estimated 30 million abortions performed since 1973, 10 million have been on African-American women. "Since the number of currently living blacks is 31 million, the missing 10 million represents an enormous loss," he said. On that same theme, syndicated columnist Cal Thomas recently wrote: "For blacks, abortion has achieved what lynch mobs did not. It has kept the black population down and 'under control.'"

- **Only about 1 percent** of American males consider themselves exclusively homosexual, according to a national survey of male sexual behavior released April 14. This report from the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the former research arm of Planned Parenthood, contradicts early estimates touted by the gay community that 10 percent of American males are homosexual.

## Baptist expert calls for hearings on cults

By Art Toalston  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Branch Davidian nightmare in Texas has prompted a Southern Baptist expert on cults to suggest public attention—perhaps even congressional hearings—be focused on such groups in the United States.

Tal Davis, interim director of the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department, also voiced a positive comment about denominationalism in the wake of the fiery, suicidal deaths of cult leader David Koresh and about 85 of his followers and their children April 19 outside Waco, Texas.

Maybe the tragedy "will wake some people up," Davis said the next day in an interview.

"I'm real hesitant about the government getting too deeply into things," Davis said, citing the U.S. hallmark of religious freedom. But he said some sort of public inquiry, perhaps congressional hearings alone, "would increase the awareness of people about some of these groups."

Such awareness "would go a long way," Davis said. "People are highly aware of other issues," such as AIDS

and drug abuse. Cults likewise are "an issue ... but most people don't have knowledge about it."

The Koresh tragedy "is the tip of the iceberg," Davis said. "There are hundreds of these isolated cult groups around the country. In most communities of any size, you're going to have churches or movements that definitely are cult-like in their orientation." Many of these are small, independent churches where a leader or small group exercises absolute control over the people in the congregation, Davis said.

Davis said J. Gordon Melton, author of the "Encyclopedia of American Religions," has estimated there are 700 groups in the United States as socially restrictive as Koresh's Branch Davidians.

Davis said he receives calls each week from parents, friends and ministers concerned over someone who has become involved in a cult, which he defines as a religious movement or organization claiming to be Christian yet either denying or redefining one or more essential doctrines of the Christian faith.

"We have calls every day about something new," he said. Keeping up with the proliferating number of cults

and sects is "a never-ending responsibility."

The possibility for cults turning violent or suicidal, Davis acknowledged, is "the dark side of our freedom, (which) always opens itself up to the possibility of abuse." Yet "most of those are not going to end up being as violent" as Koresh, he said.

This presents a positive side to denominationalism in an era of anti-denominationalism, Davis said, noting denominations can help prevent spiritual abuses such as those perpetrated by Koresh.

"I think denominations have a very important part to play" in American religious life, he explained. "If you're looking for a good church, find one that fits in a solidly biblically based denomination."

Denominations foster accountability to the Bible and to church members through such practices as ordination and minister peer evaluations and through denominational and church councils, Davis said.

Be wary of any congregation "where one person or one small group becomes the focus of power and authority (because that) sets up the potential for some kind of spiritual abuse," he advised.

## Gallup on prayer

Continued from page 1

Gallup said he found that about 13 percent of Americans live the faith they profess. While church involvement makes little difference in behavior, he said, there is evidence "that deep and transforming faith can make a profound difference in people's lives."

Gallup offered several suggestions to those who want to expand the influence of spirituality in America:

- Promote constitutionally permissible ways to bring religion into public schools.

- Develop a "healthy pluralism" that is confident in one's own faith but comfortable with religious differences.

- Promote small groups for sharing and nurture.

- Elevate those people who are good faith examples.

While the outlook for America is "somewhat bleak," with growing social ills and an apparent decline in morals, Gallup said, "there is not a spiritual vacuum in our country but spiritual chaos."

## HOME



Dashannon Bunch  
Cumberland  
South Carolina



Amanda Carney  
Berea  
Oklahoma



Cara Catlett  
Western  
Puerto Rico



Mark Dearing  
Eastern  
Alabama



Michael Gosser  
Western  
Utah/Idaho



Shana Harper  
Georgetown  
Utah/Idaho



Amy Harrison  
Murray  
South Carolina



Gretchen Loesch  
Cumberland  
Virginia



Tara Nash  
Morehead  
Georgia



Christopher Norris  
Morehead  
New England



Shannon Patton  
Western  
Louisiana



Todd Probus  
Georgetown  
Kansas/Nebraska



Holly Rowlett  
Morehead  
Colorado



Melissa Scott  
Western  
North Carolina



Brent Thornton  
Campbellsville  
Utah/Idaho



Tara Young  
Western  
Florida



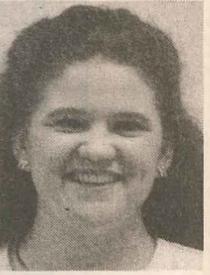
Chad Abney  
UK  
Son Celebration



John Akers  
Campbellsville  
Muhlenberg Assoc.



Curtis Barnes  
Campbellsville  
SonBurst



Kelly Boekley  
Northern  
Son Bound



Amy Cummins  
Cumberland  
White Hall



Gina Damron  
Berea  
Freeda Harris Center



Gretchen Dorff  
Western  
Clifton Baptist, Lou.



Matthew Flanagan  
Centre  
Son Celebration



Jewell Habermehl  
Clear Creek  
Camp Joy



Mildred Hackley  
UK  
SonBurst



Gary Jones  
Morehead  
Spring Meadows



Jeffery Keeton  
UK  
Son Bound



Deana Mullins  
Georgetown  
Son Celebration



Candy Neighbors  
Eastern  
Pike Assoc.



Scott Norris  
Murray  
Son Share



Jennifer Reber  
Georgetown  
Son Celebration



Gene Smith  
Campbellsville  
Son Praise



Rich Smith  
Campbellsville  
Son Bound



Craig Tackett  
Georgetown  
Son Share



Knox Thames  
Georgetown  
Son Bound



James Ward  
Campbellsville  
Son Praise



Carl Willoughby  
Northern  
Camp Joy



Jason Wilson  
UK  
Son Celebration



Michelyn Wilson  
Western  
Camp Joy

## KENTUC

KENTUCKY



Laura Carr  
Eastern  
Son Bound



Travis Claypool  
UK  
Son Celebration



Bryan Crady  
U of L  
Son Praise



Twila Croucher  
Eastern  
SonBurst



Eva Floyd  
Campbellsville  
Son Praise



Tomara Fox  
Georgetown  
Son Praise



Michael Grigsby  
Morehead  
SonBurst



Amanda Gruner  
Georgetown  
Camp Joy



Angela Lockard  
Pikevills  
Long Run Assoc.



Jeffrey McAdams  
U of L  
Camp Joy



Tiffani Merrick  
Campbellsville  
Son Share



Becky Mishler  
Campbellsville  
Nelson Assoc.



Matthew Robertson  
U of L  
SonBurst



Wendi Robshaw  
Cumberland  
Clifton Baptist



Susan Sawning  
Morehead  
Long Run Assoc.



Stephanie Seales  
Eastern  
Son Celebration



Chip Tillet  
UK  
Son Share



Heather Urquhart  
U of L  
Glendale



Scott Walters  
Murray  
Williamstown



Alison Ward  
Murray  
Son Share



Tabitha Wright  
Paducah  
Nelson Assoc.

FOREIGN



David Atcher  
Campus Minister Director  
Son Life, Brazil



Johnny Bolton  
Northern  
Son Life, Brazil



Bobbi Bowman  
Berea  
Africa



Phillip Brunner  
U of L  
Son Life, Botswana



Kathleen Bush  
Campbellsville  
Son Life, Brazil



Rebecca Castle  
Morehead  
Son Life, Botswana



Christina Davis  
U of L  
Africa



Stoney Douthitt  
UK  
Africa



Phillip Kays  
Morehead  
Son Life, Botswana



Stephanie Kersey  
Morehead  
Son Life, Brazil



Jon Lucas  
Northern  
Son Life, Brazil



James Lyles  
Georgetown  
Africa



Donny Mathis  
UK  
Africa



Leslie Mitchell  
Campbellsville  
Son Life, Botswana



Sarah Sleet  
Cumberland  
Son Life, Brazil



Bradley Steele  
Eastern  
Africa



Kimberly Stewart  
Northern  
Africa



Lesley Thomas  
Cumberland  
Africa

## SBC president leads growth at Houston's Second Baptist

By Mike Livingston  
MissionsUSA magazine

HOUSTON—It is 2 p.m. Sunday. Ed Young is in his office at Second Baptist Church, Houston, ready to talk about his favorite subject—church growth.

Since 6 a.m., he has preached before 6,000 people, twice, met with the congregation's new members and answered questions for an hour-and-a-half at a monthly church luncheon. In the last eight hours, he has had only a glass of grapefruit juice. Between services, he changed shirts.

As he sinks into a Queen Anne chair, he is so tired he can't sit up straight. He takes a short sip on a bottle of apple juice. After a long deep breath he is ready to field questions.

"Fire away!" His voice booms, exuding confidence. But he can't re-

member who he is talking with.

Such are the demands on a man who is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of a church with 18,000 members.

Reporters from London tabloids, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. and others regularly traipse through his office to talk about the state of religion in America today. Churches throughout the convention constantly demand his time as SBC president.

So if you're a reporter and your name is Mike, but Ed Young calls you Frank, you just write faster. You're in the company of a man around whom a phenomenal thing is occurring.

"Everything you see is happening here for one reason," says Young, 56. "It's happening because we go after pagans and we go where the pagans are to reach them."

No matter who asks what's happening at Second Baptist—reporters or other pastors—that's how Young explains an incredible story.

In 1978, he was serving in his fourth pastorate in the Carolinas. Each call had been to a smaller church. But after he had been at First Baptist, Columbia, S.C., seven years, the church was growing and pulpit committees had become regular visitors. After the 17th contact by a pulpit committee, he accepted the call to yet another smaller church. Second Baptist, Houston—membership 400.

And the rest, as Young says, "is His story—the Lord at work."

As America's fourth largest city, Houston presented Young with the opportunity to reach baby boomers in large numbers. That became his "niche market."

Today, with more than 2,200 unmarried adults in Sunday school, the church lays claim to the largest singles department in the world. In a 1991 survey conducted by the Houston Chronicle, "Exciting Second" finished a close second to a popular bar as Houston's best singles venue.

Facilities and programs, Young believes, helped earn the church that distinction.

It's not incidental the pastor looks as if he just stepped off the cover of Fortune magazine. "We're in the born-again business," says Young, a student of big business with a fondness for Peter Drucker, Success magazine and the catchphrases of modern management philosophy.

In developing the "Fellowship of Excitement," Young and his staff visited Xerox, IBM and Disney World.

A London tabloid described the church as a "high-tech God mall with two gymnasiums, a theatre, a jacuzzi, an indoor running track, a pool hall,

an eight-lane bowling alley, a restaurant, an arts and crafts boutique, a bookstore and somewhere to pray."

Whether your feelings are pro or con about today's megachurches, Second Baptist, Houston, is probably the example you point to.

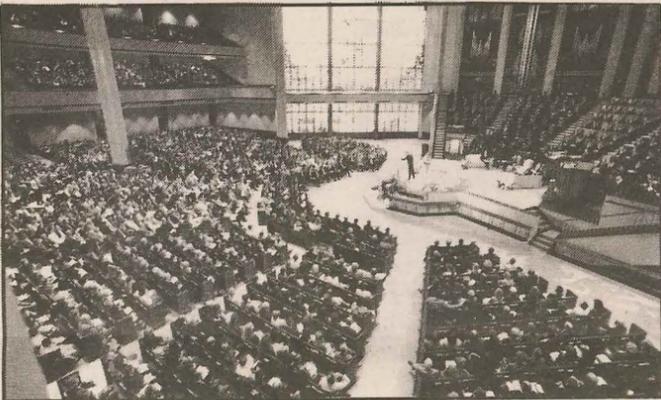
"We are not legalistic and dogmatic," says Young, who recently told a group of new members that he could just as easily be Presbyterian as Southern Baptist.

"So many people who join our church aren't Baptists and we don't try to make them Baptists," says Young. "Generic things are where the thinking baby boomers are today."

To support this, Young proudly points to Second's 200 Bible studies involving 6,000 people, the 2,700 people on 300 sports teams and the 10,000 volunteers who worked in last year's Christmas programs.

Young is also quick to point out that "although we are non-traditional in our programs, in the pulpit we are very conservative and traditional—Bible teaching and non-compromising."

A slogan the church uses states that "Everybody Needs a Second Home." And Second Baptist, Houston, is trying hard to be just that.



**MEGACHURCH** Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young preaches to a full house at Second Baptist Church in Houston, where he addresses about 12,000 people every Sunday. (MUSA Photo by Ken Touchton)

### Melbourne Heights Baptist Church

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**Who:** Henry T. Blackaby, Director of Prayer & Spiritual Awakening Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention

**When:** Friday, May 28th, 1993 . . . . . 8 AM until 6 PM  
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Continental Breakfast & Box Lunches will be provided)

**Where:** Chevy Chase Baptist Church  
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Lexington, Kentucky 40502  
(606) 266-2601

**Registration fee: \$10.00.** Send fee and information as soon as possible.

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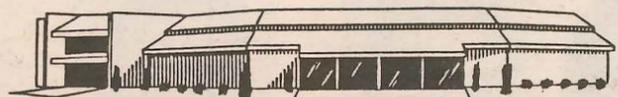
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**Dr. Dan Reichard**

Seminar presenter for Church Growth Institute and Assistant Pastor, Temple Baptist Church, Madison Heights, Va.

**Saturday, May 15**  
**9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Cost: \$10 per person (make checks to Little Flock)  
Team Evangelism workbook, 2 textbooks, gifts inventory



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## SBC will consider Freemasonry issue

By Art Toalston  
Baptist Press

HOUSTON (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention will face the volatile question of Freemasonry's compatibility with Christianity during the SBC's annual meeting, scheduled June 15-17 in Houston.

And while not officially on the agenda, the convention might be asked in motions from the floor to address changes adopted by Woman's Missionary Union's executive board, broadening the auxiliary's work beyond SBC entities.

Also, from action at last year's SBC meeting in Indianapolis, the convention will take the second of two required votes on a proposed change in the SBC constitution to disestablish churches for actions which "affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior."

"For Such a Time as This" will be the theme of the three-day meeting in Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center.

Concerning Freemasonry's compatibility with Christianity, messengers will vote on a report and recommendation on Freemasonry from the Home Mission Board, which concludes:

"In light of the fact that many tenets and teachings of Freemasonry are not compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, while others are compatible with Christianity

and Southern Baptist doctrine, we therefore recommend that consistent with our denomination's deep convictions regarding the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church, membership in a Masonic order be a matter of personal conscience. Therefore, we exhort Southern Baptists to prayerfully and carefully evaluate Freemasonry in light of the lordship of Christ, the teachings of Scripture, and the findings of this report, as led by the Holy Spirit of God."

During last year's SBC, a motion to create a special committee to study Freemasonry was amended and then approved by messengers to instruct the HMB's interfaith witness department to study Freemasonry and for the board to bring "a report and recommendation" to this year's meeting.

Prior to the HMB's adoption of its recommendation March 17, the issue was volatile on several fronts:

■ Writers in a key Scottish Rite journal called the SBC study the "most vicious attack in 100 years" against the fraternal organization; Masons initiated a letter-writing campaign to various SBC leaders; and one Masonic writer urged Southern Baptist Masons to become messengers, attend the SBC and vote against any anti-Masonry SBC stance.

■ The key advocate of an anti-Freemasonry stance by the SBC, Larry Holly, a Beaumont, Texas, physi-

cian, issued a call for the resignation of the HMB's interfaith witness department director, Gary Leazer, who gave a draft of the Freemasonry study to two Masons, including former Baylor University President Abner McCall, to review before submitting it to HMB President Larry Lewis. Leazer subsequently asked to be reassigned to a field position in the department.

After the HMB adopted its recommendation, Holly said it was "not as I would have made it," but he voiced support for it.

However, he later said the HMB should correct the longer study on Freemasonry led by Leazer to bring it more in line with the shorter report and recommendation.

With several time slots set aside for introduction of business and resolutions, Woman's Missionary Union may face scrutiny of decisions by its executive board in January to broaden the scope of the auxiliary's missions education efforts beyond SBC entities.

In February, Foreign Mission Board trustees posed tough questions about WMU's direction in a dialogue with the organization's leaders. The SBC Executive Committee, as well as trustees of the FMB and HMB, have passed resolutions voicing appreciation for WMU's 105 years of missions support but also urging the organization to "make clear its singular commitment" to the SBC and its missions boards.

### Pastors' Conference

■ **Sunday afternoon, June 13:** Michael Hailey, First Baptist Church of Lakeland, Fla.; Jay Strack, Dallas; Harold O'Chester, Great Hills Baptist Church, Austin, Texas; Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn.

■ **Sunday evening, June 13:** Cal Thomas, political columnist; John Maxwell, Skyline Wesleyan Church, Bossier City, La.; Jerry Vines, First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.

■ **Monday morning, June 14:** Danny Gray, Brushy Creek Baptist Church, Easley, S.C.; Joe Brown, Hickory Grove Baptist Church of Charlotte, N.C.; Fred Wolfe, Cottage Hill Baptist Church of Mobile, Ala.; Rodney Gage, Euless, Texas.

■ **Monday afternoon, June 14:** Ronnie Floyd, First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark.; Dwight "Ike" Reighard, New Hope Baptist Church of Fayetteville, Ga.; Johnny Hunt, First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.; E.V. Hill, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Los Angeles.

■ **Monday evening, June 14:** Charles Lowery, Hoffmantown Baptist Church of Albuquerque, N.M.; Gary Smalley, Today's Family; Charles Stanley, First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

### SBC annual meeting

■ **Tuesday morning, June 15:** Committee on order of business; Charles Fuller, First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va.; introduction of business and resolutions; Executive Committee report; president's address by Ed Young, Second Baptist Church of Houston.

■ **Tuesday afternoon, June 15:** Committee on order of business; Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn.; election of officers; committee on nominations; Executive Committee report; business; committee on committees; introduction of business and resolutions; second election of officers.

■ **Tuesday evening, June 15:** Third election of officers; joint emphasis on SBC seminaries; Sunday school and discipleship

presentation.

■ **Wednesday morning, June 16:** Richard Land, SBC Christian Life Commission; fourth election of officers; report and recommendations on Freemasonry; miscellaneous business; resolutions committee; fifth election of officers; convention sermon by Jack Graham, Prestonwood Baptist Church of Dallas.

■ **Wednesday evening, June 16:** Business; mission board reports and joint missions "extravaganza."

■ **Thursday morning, June 17:** Frank Pollard, First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.; miscellaneous business; resolutions committee; Chuck Swindoll, First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton, Calif.

### WMU annual meeting

■ **Sunday afternoon, June 13:** David Fuller, home missionary in Cleveland, Ohio; National Acteens Panelists; Mildred McWhorter, home missionary in Houston.

■ **Sunday evening, June 13:** Seven banquets, each with different home and foreign missionary speakers.

■ **Monday morning, June 14:** Michael and Kathy Chute, missionaries in Hong Kong; business; executive board report; Karen Hopper, foreign missionary to

Philippines; Beverly Scott, Rutgers University.

■ **Monday afternoon, June 14:** Choice of missions tours in Houston or a variety of special-interest conferences.

■ **Monday evening, June 14:** Earl Potts, Montgomery, Ala.; John King and Will Hodge, missionaries in Birmingham, Ala.; Mike Rouse, Dallas; William Lawson Jr., Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church of Houston.

### Schedule of SBC-related events

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 10

■ **National Prayer Conference.** Second Baptist Church, 8:30 a.m., with sessions through noon April 12.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 11

■ **Crossover Houston evangelistic blitz and Woman's Missionary Union mission projects.** Various times and places.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 13

■ **Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.** First Baptist Church, 2:30 p.m.

■ **Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.** Champion Forest Baptist Church, 1:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

■ **Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.** Second Baptist Church, 1:30 p.m. George R. Brown Convention Center, 6 p.m.

■ **Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.** Doubletree at Allen Center, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

■ **Woman's Missionary Union simultaneous banquets.** Westin Galleria Hotel, 6 p.m.

#### MONDAY, JUNE 14

■ **Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.** First Baptist Church, 9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

■ **Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.** George R. Brown Convention Center, 8:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 6:10 p.m.

■ **Southern Baptist Messianic Jewish Fellowship.** Astrodome, 9 a.m.

■ **Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.** Champion Forest Baptist Church, 8:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.

■ **Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.** Doubletree at Allen Center, 8:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.

■ **New Work Banquet.** Hyatt Regency Houston, Imperial Ballroom, 5:30 p.m.

■ **Southern Baptist National Hispanic Fellowship.** George R. Brown Convention Center, 7 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 15

■ **Southern Baptist Convention.** George R. Brown Convention Center, 8:15 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6:10 p.m.

■ **Clear Creek Baptist Bible College alumni and friends.** Four Seasons Hotel, Conroe Room, 5 p.m.

■ **Mid-America Seminary annual fellowship breakfast.** Hyatt Regency Houston, 7 a.m.

■ **Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon.** Hyatt Regency-Houston, Imperial Ballroom, 12:15 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

■ **Southern Baptist Convention.** George R. Brown Convention Center, 8:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.

■ **Brotherhood Commission breakfast.** Hyatt Regency, 7 a.m.

■ **Friends of the Baptist World Alliance breakfast.** Hyatt Regency Houston, 7:15 a.m.

■ **Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary alumni and friends luncheon.** George R. Brown Convention Center, Room 301B, 12:30 p.m.

■ **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary alumni and friends breakfast.** Hyatt Regency, Imperial Ballroom, 7:30 a.m.

■ **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni and friends reunion.** Hyatt Regency, Imperial Ballroom, 1 p.m.

■ **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary alumni and friends reunion.** George R. Brown Convention Center, Ballrooms A & B, noon.

■ **Home Mission Board/Foreign Mission Board reception for missionaries.** George R. Brown Convention Center, Ballroom A, 4-5:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 17

■ **Southern Baptist Convention.** George R. Brown Convention Center, 8:15 a.m.

\* This list contains information available as of press time. Other events are planned but dates and times were not immediately available.

## God working in San Diego; available workers needed

### U.S. counties with the most non-Christians

Three of the nation's top-four counties in non-Christian population are in Southern California, according to a study by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board research department. The study is based on 1990 population figures and estimates of numbers of people who are not Christians. It includes data from 3,105 counties. New York City is divided into boroughs, each of which were studied as a separate county. Two of the top 10 areas of non-Christian population are New York City boroughs. Here are the estimated number of non-Christians in the top-10 counties:

1. Los Angeles—6.9 million
2. Cook (Chicago)—3.7 million
3. San Diego—2.1 million
4. Orange (metro Los Angeles)—2 million
5. Harris (Houston)—1.8 million
6. Kings (metro New York City)—1.8 million
7. Maricopa (Phoenix)—1.7 million
8. Dade (Miami)—1.6 million
9. Queens (New York City)—1.6 million
10. Wayne (Detroit)—1.4 million

By Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

SAN DIEGO (BP)—All it takes is availability to start a church in one of the nation's most non-Christian communities, according to bivocational pastor Bill Losasso.

"God's timing and orchestration are so evident every day," Losasso said. "All we do is show up."

Pathways Community Church in Santee, Calif., began in February, with Losasso, who also is plant manager for a manufacturing company, as its first pastor. By its fourth week, the church had 275 in attendance, two softball teams and plans for an array of home fellowship groups.

Santee is in San Diego County, which has the nation's third-highest number of non-Christians, according to Home Mission Board research of 3,105 counties. San Diego County's non-Christian population is estimated to be 2.1 million.

Southern Baptists in San Diego are attempting to reach their non-Christian neighbors with the combined resources of people, established churches and the local association.

"We're looking for more people like Bill Losasso," said Wade McKinley, home missionary and director of missions for San Diego Baptist Association. "He won to Christ most

of the people in the new church's core group. He was a soul winner before he became a pastor."

Pathways Community Church is sponsored by Del Cerro Baptist Church in nearby La Mesa. Volunteers from Del Cerro do everything from teaching Sunday school and leading music to serving coffee and moving in furniture every week to transform an elementary school into a church.

Linda Berquist, director of extension ministries for Del Cerro Baptist Church, helps new churches develop promotional material, find places to meet, secure special guests to attract the unchurched and plan for child care.

Pathways also received a \$10,000 grant from San Diego Baptist Association. McKinley said a survey of the association revealed the need for 150 more churches. But he also wants to see "old churches live again."

The state's economic recession creates a positive climate for planting churches and expecting revival, McKinley said.

"For the first time in many years, people in Southern California are concerned about their existence—their career, their family, their medical insurance, their taxes. Now everybody talks about insecurity. Even the person at the top of the rung is no longer secure."

That sets the stage for talking

### How shall they hear?

### The road less traveled

One of my favorite images is from Robert Frost's famous line, "Two roads diverged in a woods and I, I took the one less traveled by and that has made all the difference."

The image is one of a decision which must be made at a major turning point in life. I have come to realize that we are not faced with just one critical decision, but with many choices in life.

We all want to make the right decision. In fact, we are obsessed with finding the one right answer. We pray to God and ask for signs, or we allow the decision to so take over our life that we can focus on little else. The reality I have come to accept is that there is literally no one right answer. In Romans 8:28 we are told, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." God is able to take the circumstances of our individual lives and help us to focus them toward the good that he wants to do. As I have come to understand that teaching I have come to truly realize the freedom that is in Christ. Instead of worrying about the future if we make wrong deci-

sions, we can instead focus on that future knowing that God will be able to take any situation in life and work it to fit his overall purpose. That does not mean that we should not plan our work, seek God's will, and make the best decision we can. It does mean, however, that when we have done the best we can do, we should put it behind us and trust God to handle the rest.

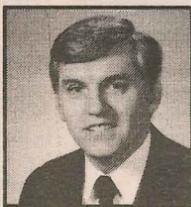
There are so many circumstances in life over which we have no control. Faith is accepting that God can find good in what to us may seem to be the worst circumstance in life.

When I think about the horror of child abuse that many of our children endure, there are times that I question how God could let such a thing happen. God allows all of us to make our own choices. We make some miserable ones at times, but through our faith and actions God can work all things to good. I, this ministry, and those that support it are ways in which God can work good for a lot of children.

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

Paid Column

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney



KENTUCKIANS IN CALIFORNIA Dan Grider (left) left the pastorate of a Kentucky church three years ago to start Daybreak Community Church near San Diego, Calif. Kentucky native Wade McKinley (right) moved to California 32 years ago because he discovered there were relatively few Baptist ministers there, compared to the Bible Belt.

about eternal security, McKinley said. "For the first time in a long time, they will listen to the gospel. We've got to give them the word. We may pass up our greatest opportunity if we don't move now."

Mormons evidently see the same spiritual void as McKinley. They established high visibility in San Diego when they opened the world's 45th Mormon temple there in February.

Mormons already outnumber Southern Baptists in San Diego County. A 1990 report shows that 1.9 percent of San Diego County residents are Mormons, compared with 1.2 percent who are Southern Baptists.

The report also showed 66 percent of San Diego County residents are not

affiliated with any of 133 mainline religious groups. Kentuckian Dan Grider, pastor of 3-year-old Daybreak Community Church in Carlsbad, Calif., is most interested in reaching the unchurched population.

Last year his church baptized 68 people, making it an associational leader in number of baptisms.

Daybreak's challenge now is securing a meeting place. It began in a theater, then moved to a school. But the school system limits how long the church can meet there.

While the church is waiting for a permanent location, Grider said he is willing to meet in a tent if necessary. Like Losasso, his plan is to watch for God's movement and be available.

### People gifts

Baptist Healthcare Foundation's guest author this month is Larry W. Gray, chaplain at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington. Larry received a degree in philosophy from the University of Kentucky and a Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been with Central since 1983.

One of our spring traditions around here is our volunteers award banquet. Service pins are given to volunteers in recognition of the hours they have contributed to the care of our patients, families and staff.

This last year these folks have given Central Baptist Hospital 32,495 hours of service. For those quick with calculations, you know that represents a sizable contribution and dollar savings. Mae Demos alone received an 18,000-hour pin for her accumulated service over the years.

We grieved the death of Lena Riggs who contributed approximately 41,000 hours of service to the hospital.

The volunteers represent our mission and values as they help to personalize health care. They escort patients and families, deliver cards and flowers, assist families of patients in surgery and critical care,

help staff with errands and special needs, and provide a warm smile and a kind word in the midst of a usually hectic and often anxious environment.

These are the kind of people-gifts that you really can't put a dollar amount on. They represent service that flows from the heart. They remind all of us in health care about the central mission of Christ-like service to people who are hurting, anxious and frightened.

Take time to express your gratitude to hospital volunteers you know. Better yet, join them by donating some time, even if it's only a few hours every other week. Those few hours can make a tremendous difference in the health, wholeness and faith of others.

That's the way it is with Baptist Healthcare Foundation work as well. A few dollars given can make a difference, especially when put with the contributions of others. Together, we can make a difference.

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

Paid Column

# PEOPLE

## Kentuckians appointed for foreign missions

RICHMOND, Va.—Two couples with Kentucky ties were among 41 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 20.

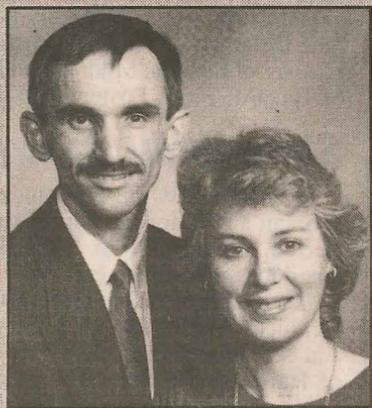
Wayne and Barbara Myers will live in Swaziland, where they will start and develop churches and assist in a variety of outreach efforts. Robert and Zona Zbinden will serve in Hungary, where he will be pastor of an English-speaking church and they will do other outreach efforts.

Myers is a Harrodsburg native and also lived in Lexington, where he considers Highland Baptist Church his home church. He is a graduate of Cumberland College and Southern Seminary.

Myers currently is pastor of Orchard Drive Baptist Church in Hammond, Ind. He is a former youth minister at Dover Baptist Church in Shelbyville.

Mrs. Myers is from Shelbyville

and considers Dover Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Shelbyville as her home churches. She is a graduate of Midway College and Cumberland College. A former schoolteacher, she most recently has been secretary for Northwest Indiana Baptist Association in Gary.



Wayne and Barbara Myers

The Zbindens most recently have been serving a church in Georgia but previously lived in Kentucky. He is a former pastor of First Baptist Church in Lebanon Junction and Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence. He also is a graduate of Southern Seminary.



Robert and Zona Zbinden

## Association speaks against Fellowship

MANCHESTER—Booneville Baptist Association has voted "to oppose any and all support to the so-called (Cooperative) Baptist Fellowship," reported associational Moderator Ken Bolin.

The association's resolution expresses opposition to "any and all support to the Baptist Fellowship" by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Kentucky Baptist WMU and Booneville Association WMU.

"We further resolve to ask all Baptist agencies at the local, state and national level to consider the Baptist Fellowship a renegade organization and not consistent with Southern Baptists," the resolution states. "We further resolve to ask other Baptist associations to consider similar action."

The resolution was approved by the association's executive board in regular session, noted Bolin, pastor of Manchester Baptist Church in Manchester.

"Our association voted unanimously to pass this resolution, and we feel very strongly about it," he said.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**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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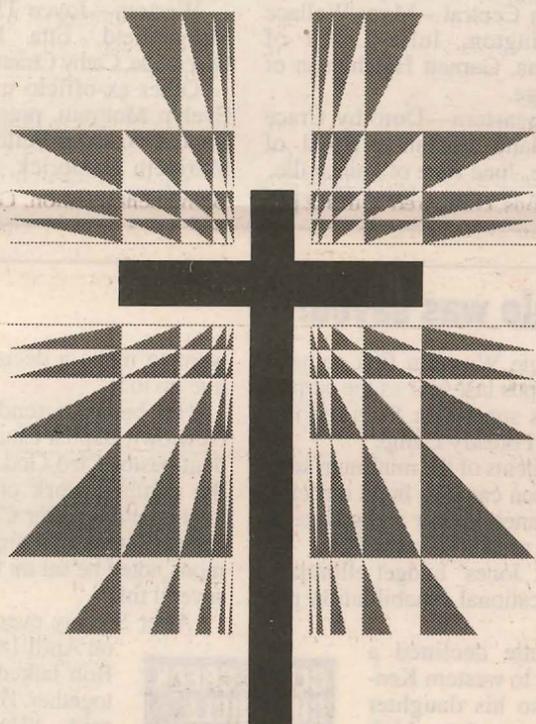
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## Three named to seminary faculty

LOUISVILLE—Three men have been appointed to faculty positions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary by President Roy Honeycutt. The appointments are to three-year contract posts, which differ from tenurable faculty positions, which must be approved by seminary trustees.

John Mark Terry, academic dean at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, was named associate professor of evangelism. David Gushee, adjunct instructor in Christian ethics at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, was named assistant professor of Christian ethics. Roger Smith Jr., a spring doctor of philosophy candidate from Southern Seminary, was named assistant professor of Christian preaching.

## 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

## KENTUCKY KERNELS

Kentucky's population will continue to grow grayer and slightly larger through the year 2020, according to predictions by the Kentucky State Data Center. The state's population of 3.69 million in 1990 is projected to increase to 3.93 million by 2020. Residents in the 0-14 age category are projected to decrease from 21.6 percent of the population to 17.9 percent during that period. The number of residents ages 65 and over is projected to increase from 12.6 percent of the population to 16.7 percent.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BURLINGTON**—Burlington Church called **Samuel Newman** as minister of education and youth. Newman has served since 1988 at First Church, Morganfield, in the areas of education, youth and music.

■ **HAWESVILLE**—**Jim Watt** and **Phillip Basinger**, former pastors of Hawesville Church, participated in the constitution of First Church of Pine Lakes, Fla., April 4. Watt is pastor of the new church; Basinger is director of missions in the Lake County Association, where Pine Lakes is located.

■ **JEFFERSONTOWN**—**Walter House** was named one of Jeffersontown's Outstanding Citizens for 1992. House, a former Southern Baptist preacher in Indiana, served for 16 years as executive director and congressional lobbyist for the Temperance League of Kentucky, and has preached in more than 700 churches in the area.

■ **KNOXVILLE, Tenn.**—West Hills Church ordained **Linda Mulford** to the ministry. Mulford, formerly of Munfordville and a recent graduate of Southern Seminary in Louisville, currently serves as a chaplain at Baptist Health Care Systems of Knoxville.

■ **LONDON**—Liberty Church honored **Thermon** and **June Taylor** April 17 on their 50th wedding anniversary. Taylor served 14 years as pastor of the church before retiring in 1991.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Crescent Hill

Church ordained **Kris Kennedy** to the ministry May 2. Kennedy is preparing for military chaplaincy.

Lyndon Church ordained three to the ministry May 2: **Joe McKissick**, **Dee Prosser** and **Ken Walker**.

■ **MORNING VIEW**—Oak Island Church held a "Young at Heart" revival April 29-May 2.

■ **NORTONVILLE**—New Salem Church held dedication services for its new sanctuary May 2.

■ **RADCLIFF**—Stithton Church honored **Brian Voelker** April 25 for 10 years as associate pastor in music and education.

■ **SADIEVILLE**—**Robert Sain**, previously of Brush Creek Church in Beattyville, is pastor of Sadieville Church.

■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant Hill Church called **David Bullock** as pastor. Bullock previously served as pastor of Hartford Church in Hartford.

### MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Cathy Sue Smith**, missionary to the Philippines, has arrived on the field to begin her first term of service at P.O. Box 54, San Pablo City, Laguna 400, Philippines. She considers Russellville her hometown.

■ **Brad and Sally Womble**, missionaries to Niger Republic, have arrived in France for language study at 37300 Tours, France. She considers Hopkinsville her hometown.

## Kentucky WMU honors 21 women

**HARRODSBURG**—Twenty-one women were recognized by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union earlier this month for their often unrewarded service through their local churches.

The special awards were given to Katherine Allgood of Ekron, Anna Francis Blaylock of Richmond, Dorothy Burr of Adairville, Jane DeJarnett of Paducah, Mattie Fiechter of London, Mildred Fields of Hazard, Flora Foster of Wil-

liamsburg, Estelle Gray of Murray, Ina Grider of Albany, Minnie Harriman of Louisville, Maude Jones of Murray, Barbara Logue of Harrodsburg, Shirley Maggard of Ashland, Faye Marshall of Georgetown, Francis McKinney of Eubank, Bernice Miracle of Coldiron, Joyce Paris of Sturgis, Patricia Ramey of Williamsburg, Edna Emerson Sudduth of Frankfort, Cynthia Walton of Clinton and Enola Wheat of Jamestown.

## State WMU executive board elected

**HARRODSBURG**—Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union has elected 24 women to its executive board for the coming year.

The board members serve with Kentucky WMU's three officers and executive director: Kay Trisler of Harrodsburg, Sara Billups of Ashland, Susan Stinnett of Frankfort and Dee Gilliland of Louisville.

Board members, by region, are: Central—Ann Moffett of Shelbyville, Linda Sorenson of Louisville, Pam Cobb of Eminence.

North Central—Mary Wallace of Lexington, Julie Losch of Cynthiana, Garnett Hutchinson of Dry Ridge.

Northeastern—Dorothy Crace of Ashland, Suzanne Boyd of Pikeville, June Rice of Paintsville.

South Central—Edna Floyd of

Somerset, Joyce Graham of Campbellsville, Kathleen Hall of Stanford.

Southeastern—Gilberta Hurst of London, Carolyn Gibson of Hindman, Debbie Earnest of Corbin.

Southern—Mildred Harris of Franklin, Pat Howard of Bowling Green, Nancy Buchanan of Burkesville.

Southwestern—Ruth McConnell of Hopkinsville, Estelle Gray of Murray, Juanita Jones of Paducah.

Western—Joyce Thompson of Morganfield, Etta Butcher of Greenville, Cathy Chinn of Hartford.

Other ex-officio members are Evelyn Mottram, president of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship, and Maribeth Hambrick, endowment consultant.

## Our prodigal girl is found!

Mary came to us 20 years ago. She was from a very large and very poor mountain family. There were 12 children. Four of them were older and seven were younger than she. She came to us a seventh grader and 12 years old.

Her progress was remarkable over the next four years. This "diamond in the rough" came to glow and developed into a beautiful young woman. Mary was very intelligent and became an honor roll student. She developed into a fine athlete. Tomboyish, she learned how to wear a dress gracefully. Hers was a winning personality though she could lose her temper on occasion. She became a Christian and was active in BSU and many other school programs.

Then an older and very handsome boy enrolled in our school. They were attracted to one another and he persuaded her to elope with him in the summer of 1977. We were heartbroken. They were too young to be married. He was not a stable personality at the time. Developing alcoholism and other problems brought their marriage to a sad end a little over one year later.

Years passed. We never saw Mary nor did we hear from or of her. I was always depressed when I thought of how far she had come, the great potential she had, and the disaster that had befallen her. Every thought of her has been most painful.

Recently we made contact after all these years. She has a wonderful, loving, stable marriage of many years with a man she met after her divorce. They have a fine son, an only child, who is the same age and grade that Mary was when she came to us. There is a great relationship between the parents and their son. But he is not as motivated as Mary would like. He may soon be coming to Oneida from their home in another state.

### ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

The family income is well over \$5,000 monthly, so different from Mary's own very economically and socially deprived childhood.

Mary writes: "I am so pleased that Oneida continues successful, and that Christian values are still very much a part of the school. I am continually reminded of Oneida and the lessons I learned there. I work with youth and address many organizations and constantly refer to Oneida."

"I never thought I would someday look back on Oneida as a special place and use it to prove my point what discipline can do for a child. Had it not been for the values and discipline I received at Oneida, I would not be where I am today. I am ever so thankful to you and the many people who helped me while at Oneida. I have often wanted to kick myself for being so hardheaded when I left."

"As you know, I found Christ while at Oneida and I have kept him in my life ever since. Even though I did some really stupid things, Christ remained in my life. With his love I have come through some really tough times. I am a college graduate in criminal justice

and will soon go to graduate school. I now work for the Department of Juvenile Services in my state. Someday I want to be a teacher for troubled youth. I feel Christ leading me.

"There is no way I could ever repay Oneida for the values and leadership I received there. I have always wanted to. I leave it in Christ's hands to show me the way. I thank you again for the years I spent at Oneida. I pray that Christ continues to bless Oneida and all who walk through its doors."

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

Paid Column

## Ronnie was saved!

Ronnie Washum first came to the campus last year as the carpentry class supervisor from the Bell County Forestry Camp.

Residents of the minimum security prison came to build our child development center and gain certification as skilled carpenters.

Gov. Jones' budget eliminated this vocational rehabilitation program.

Ronnie declined a transfer to western Kentucky so his daughter could complete high school.

The local warden allowed the prisoners to complete the center if Ronnie provided supervision. We employed him on a contract basis. With a crew of three he built a beautiful and useful facility.

The workers took unusual pride in their work. They took lunch in Kelly Hall and became a familiar part of the campus. One of the men became a Christian.

All who worked around Ronnie became impressed with his skill, hard work and leadership. One thing he lacked: he was not saved.

Student preachers and staff witnessed to him and encouraged him to trust Christ. His response would often be, "I know I need to. It is something that should not be put off, but I'm just not ready; I don't

want to make a decision and not live up to it."

He began attending nearby Newtown Baptist Church with student pastor Cleo Goodlett, also on the campus work crew. Ronnie kept attending after Cleo resigned. Interim student pastor Bob Simmons noted he sat on the front row several times.

After Sunday evening worship on April 18, Ronnie and Bob talked and prayed together. His new pastor said, "He was convinced he was lost and really believed the Bible. He made a good confession when he said, 'I know Jesus will take away my sins if I ask him, and I asked him.'"

"Ronnie was saved last night!" was the first news I heard the next

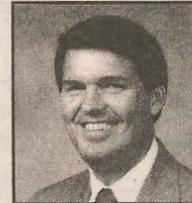
morning when I stopped to view the Kelly Hall bridge construction. He was working on fresh concrete, and I called from the car, "Ronnie, Hallelujah!"

Ronnie's baptism is set for Sunday. When people ask what happened at Clear Creek in 1993, Ronnie's conversion must be at the top. Individuals coming to Jesus is the result of our training.

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

Paid Column

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Economics cracking door to closed North Korea

By Erich Bridges  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

SEOUL, South Korea (BP)—Korea once was the reclusive "Hermit Kingdom" of the East—closed to the outside world and closed to the Christian gospel.

North Korea still is, but maybe not for long.

The communist north remains hermetically sealed off to most outsiders.

And it definitely has a king: the "Great Leader" Kim Il Sung, absolute ruler for more than four decades.

It even has a crown prince—Kim's son, Kim Jong Il. The "Dear Leader" already has assumed much of his elderly father's powers in the first dynastic succession in a communist state.

While the rest of the communist world has begun opening to the outside, North Korea seems frozen in time. Despite limited attempts to attract

more investment and tourism from non-communist countries, the government reportedly fears too much foreign influence will undermine its rigid control of society.

Meanwhile South Korea races ahead economically, struggles toward full democracy and—most significant for the church—solidifies its status as the Asian powerhouse of Christianity.

What is now North Korea once was the heart of Korean Christianity. But Christianity was suppressed in the north after Korea was divided and communists took over after World

War II. Many believers fled south, died under persecution or were killed during the Korean War.

Russia finally has reopened its doors to the gospel, at least for the moment. China is still firmly communist, but officially admits—and more or less allows—tens of millions of Christian believers to worship. Albania, once the self-proclaimed "world's first atheist state," is witnessing the rebirth of a vital church.

In North Korea, by contrast, a grand total of three church buildings can be found—two Protestant and one Catholic, all in the capital of Pyongyang.

But that's three more than existed before 1988.

Times are changing too fast for North Korea to ignore. Its "juche" philosophy, also known as "Kimilsungism," calls for absolute self-reliance. Yet it must increase international ties to pay off a large foreign debt and

survive economically. Communism has failed politically or economically almost everywhere else, and even North Korea's closest ally—China—is pressing it to open up.

"The economy of North Korea has shrunk over 20 percent in the last two years," said a close observer. "Exports have dropped off radically with the fall of communism in the Soviet Union. Even China refuses to sell oil and other raw materials to North Korea without payment in hard currency."

How to generate more hard currency? Foreign tourism and invest-

ment. But tourism poses a dilemma. "To permit tourism is to permit the outside influence so undesirable to the communist government," explained the observer, who asked not to be identified. "To restrict tourism is to bar the entrance of hard currency that is so needed for the continuing survival of the communist regime."

One foreign visitor to North Korea last year was Billy Graham, who dined with Kim Il Sung himself and spoke to scholars and official Christian leaders. Some say the visit, like Graham's trips to Moscow before the fall of communism there, was stage-managed by the government for public relations advantage abroad and minimal impact at home.

Still, the Graham visit was "very significant," insisted missions researcher David Barrett. "You can't apply normal criteria of judgment to things like that. How many other people would have been able to do it, to start with? The fact that he was able to do it and others could not means that it's a significant step forward. They went out of their way to receive him, which is really quite extraordinary."

Also, even the North Korean government and the officially recognized Christian association admit religious activity goes on outside the church buildings in Pyongyang. House churches, both recognized and unrecognized, meet around the country.

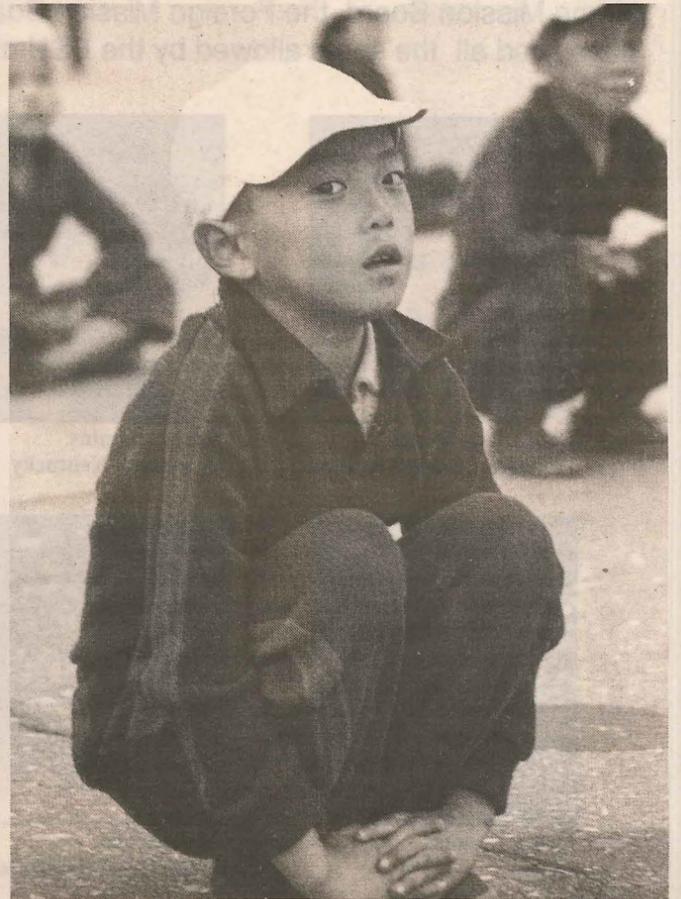
"Information keeps coming through that house churches are multiplying, the same as in China 20 years ago, when nobody thought there would be this enormous surge," Barrett said. "It's a development on both sides of the (Chinese) border with North Korea."

Many ethnic Koreans living in China travel between the two countries on business. Large Korean communities also exist in the Russian region bordering North Korea. Numerous Korean Christians worship in China and Russia.

"We believe there are a minimum of 30,000 believers" in North Korea, Korean-American Christian Isaac Lee



(BP) MAP



told News Network International. "Those are just the ones we've identified. There are probably about 1.5 million."

Barrett estimates perhaps 1 percent of the population is Christian. That's about 200,000 people—still high for a society like North Korea. More than 40 percent of the people, he adds, may have heard the gospel.

"They may have had (gospel) presentations, they may not," he said. "They may have heard radio broadcasts (via government radios altered to receive foreign broadcasts). They may have secretly had Christian literature for years which they are preserving. You can submerge Christian influences like the Scripture under communism, but you certainly don't get rid of it."

**FUTURE FAITH?** Will this young North Korean ever have an opportunity to hear and embrace the Christian gospel without fear? Perhaps. The nation remains probably the most tightly controlled society in the world, but economic conditions and world changes may compel even North Korea to open up. Already, mission researcher David Barrett estimates, about 1 percent of the population of 22 million may be Christian. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

## Prayer is the key to church growth, Pastor Cho says

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP)—Long hours of persistent prayer are the secret to the phenomenal growth of the world's largest church, according to David "Paul" Yonggi Cho.

Cho, pastor of the 700,000-member Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, was keynote speaker for a church growth conference at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

The soft-spoken Korean pastor told how he prayed five hours a day when he started his first church in 1958. And now, he said, he spends at least three hours daily in personal prayer, as well as an additional hour leading an early morning prayer meeting.

"Prayer is the key to church growth," Cho explained.

Each Sunday at the Yoido Full Gospel Church, 15,000 to 17,000 people pack the main auditorium seven times for services, three of which include preaching by Cho. Hundreds

of thousands of others watch the services by television in other buildings on the church campus or by live satellite broadcast at other sites throughout the city.

The church sponsors some 240 missionaries around the world. One satellite congregation in Japan, a country not yet widely receptive to the gospel, has 5,000 members.

Cho said he began his first church in an old tent once owned by the U.S. Marines in 1958.

His focus on prayer came easily at that time, he said: "I had nothing else to do. With only five members, it does not take much time to visit."

But the church grew rapidly. Within a few years he started another church, which had grown to 18,000 by 1974. It was then he began his current "pioneer" work, which has continued rapid growth.

One of the reasons for its growth and that of other churches in the coun-

ty, Cho said, is the popularity of early morning prayer services.

Each morning, Cho said, his own regimen is to get up at 3:30 a.m., pray for an hour, then lead a half-hour Bible study and one-hour prayer meeting at his church.

"That kind of life is not easy. But you should sacrifice in order to have revival in your church," he told the pastors.

Cho told of a telephone call he received one morning from his mother-in-law, who he says has helped keep him committed to prayer.

"Shame on you. It's already 5 a.m.," Cho said she told him. "We are all waiting on you in the church. We are wondering if you're still Christian."

Cho rushed to the church and took the platform, only to be greeted by laughter, still wearing his pajamas.

Despite his candor, Cho said he has found the need for prayer time has

increased as his church has grown. In 1979, he said, he was faced with increasing pressures of ministry that forced him to cut back on prayer.

His leadership—consisting of 500 elders and 50,000 deacons—had asked him to devote more time to visiting members, but he instead decided prayer was more important.

"Even though I was lacking in carrying out ministry to the people, I had such a power in my preaching that more people would come to the church," he said. "Even now, the more work is piling up on my life, the more time I need to pray."

It is through prayer, he said, the love relationship with God is maintained and the power of the Holy Spirit is renewed.

"Ministry to the people is very, very necessary, but far beyond that, ministry unto the Lord must be a priority in your life," he said.

# CUMBERLAND

## Meet our 1993 Summer Missionaries

Twenty-five Cumberland College students will participate in summer missions through the Kentucky Baptist Student Union, the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board and Appalachian Ministries. For several years Cumberland College students have filled all the spots allowed by the BSU and HMB. This year's missionaries and their places of service are:



DeShannon Bunch  
Lexington, South Carolina



Amy Cummins  
Richmond, Kentucky



Gretchen Loesch  
Virginia Beach, Virginia



Wendy Robishaw  
Louisville, Kentucky



Sarah Sleet  
Sun Life - Brazil



Lesley Thomas  
Kenya



Amy Jacobs  
Hilton Head, South Carolina



Sherry Fury  
Home Mission Board



Jenny Collins  
Home Mission Board



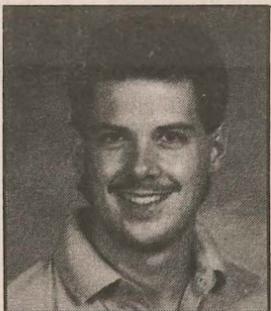
Anita Jordan  
Home Mission Board



Jenny Gyorey  
Home Mission Board



Terrina Cornett  
Alaska



Albert Jones  
Appalachian Ministries



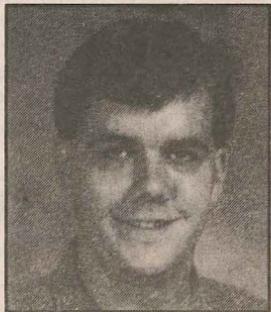
Matthew Husted  
Appalachian Ministries



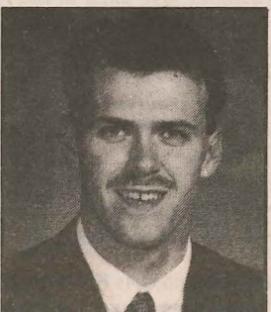
Candi Rheins  
Appalachian Ministries



Traci Carver  
Appalachian Ministries



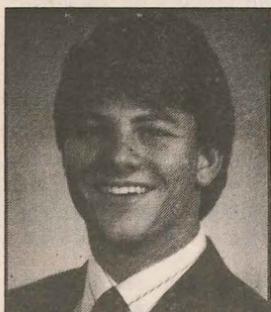
Chad Blevins  
Appalachian Ministries



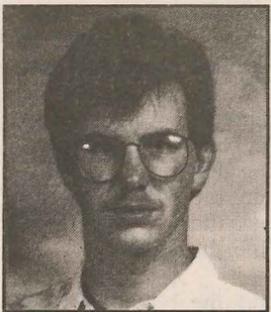
Jeff Taylor  
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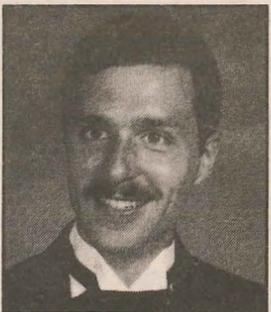
Anna Willard  
Appalachian Ministries



Darrell Burriss  
Appalachian Ministries



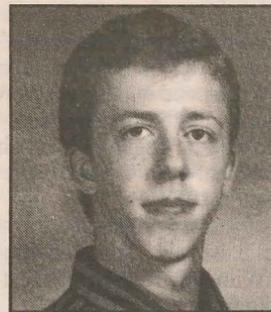
Shane Caudill  
Appalachian Ministries



Hunter Barber  
Appalachian Ministries



Elizabeth Pennington  
Appalachian Ministries



Ansel Smith  
Appalachian Ministries



Tammy Franks  
Appalachian Ministries

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Williamsburg, Kentucky 40769