

FOR THE RECORD

Dental mission

A group of Owensboro dentists pulled together recently to help needy families in their area. See page 3.

Another VP quits

Beth Lambert, vice president for student services at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has become the second vice president and the fifth top administrator to resign. See page 3.

Editorial

The Freedom of Choice Act under consideration in Congress is an extreme bill that ought to be killed. See page 5.

Bauer speaks

Kentucky native Gary Bauer, head of the James Dobson-related Family Research Council, spoke in Lexington last week and called on Christians to make a difference on America's culture. See page 6.

Prayer confusion

Last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling wasn't the last word on the graduation prayer dispute. See page 6.

Baptist finds pounds of cure for Kentucky's poor

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG—Keith Decker has learned how to pass the potatoes—by the ton.

On May 15, Decker received 42,000 pounds of white potatoes at the Cedaridge Ministries warehouse, where he coordinates efforts to feed and clothe Williamsburg's poor.

Within six hours, every bag of potatoes had been redistributed to agencies and churches, who in turn delivered them to hungry townspeople to bake, mash and stew for their families.

Decker, president of Cedaridge Ministries, said they have received three such shipments of white potatoes and one of sweet potatoes in the last two months.

Passing the potatoes is what Cedaridge is all about, Decker said. He described the organization as a non-profit, Christian corporation developed by Baptists in Mount Zion Association to provide food, clothing, secure shelter and other goods for those in need.

And potatoes aren't the only items in the pot at Cedaridge, Decker added. Before Cedaridge became involved in supplying food, it was giving away clothing, building insulation and furniture to those who couldn't afford the items or had lost their homes because of fire.



PROGRESS REPORT Keith Decker and his foster daughter, Renee, survey the growth at the Cedaridge community store with Joy Wells, of First Baptist Church in Rockholds. Decker, president of the helping agency in Williamsburg, said he appreciates people like Wells and her husband, Leland (a member of the Cedaridge board of directors), who support the ministry and donate items for its use.

"We had 16 tractor-trailer loads of building materials and five loads of insulation come through" in February

alone, Decker reported.

Each month, Cedaridge distributes items to more than 125 churches and agencies and to about 2,000 individuals across a five-county area.

Decker, pastor of Flat Creek Baptist Church near Corbin, said it is difficult for him to believe that Cedaridge has grown to a \$40,000-a-year budget in less than 18 months.

Decker first started the project, he said, while serving as associational youth director in August 1991.

"We wanted to buy a school that was closing and use it for an associational youth center," he said.

At the suggestion of Director of Missions Janus Jones, Decker and other youth leaders in the association collected items from church members for a yard sale.

By the end of the day at the yard sale, so many churches and individuals had donated items that "we had more stuff than what we started with," Decker said.

Through that experience, Decker said, he realized he could help meet a great need in the community.

"Poverty is all over the area," he said. "The Lord is concerned with how we treat other people."

"So many people need help, but don't know about centers that will help them," he continued. Through the Cedaridge network, Decker said, he can meet those needs.

The yard sale developed into a "community store," open six days each week in the basement of the association. See Cedaridge offers ..., page 3

Missionaries badly needed in Middle East

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

NICOSIA, Cyprus (BP)—Are Southern Baptists afraid of the Middle East?

That's the question some are asking as missionary personnel needs in the area become critical. Of 58 individual positions requested in 1992, only three were filled, said Dale Thorne, the Foreign Mission Board's director for the Middle East and North Africa.

"I fear that we're retreating in a day when the opportunities for outreach are greater than ever before," Thorne declared.

Besides 55 unmet requests, two couples and two single missionaries have resigned and one couple transferred to Eastern Europe in 1992, adding to the list. In 1993 three couples and one single missionary already have announced resignations and one more couple will transfer to another area.

As of May, no new personnel have been appointed for the area in 1993, Thorne said. "One single missionary and one couple are scheduled for appointment in August and October and one couple will transfer in. So for two years running we've experienced a net loss in personnel," he said.

"The shortage of personnel severely restricts our ability to

See Missionaries ..., page 2

Jerry Rankin nominated to head FMB

BEDFORD, Texas—Jerry Rankin, a veteran missionary described as a "dark horse" candidate, is the unanimous nominee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's presidential search committee.

Rankin, 51, has served as the FMB's area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific since 1987.

FMB trustees will vote on Rankin at a called meeting June 14 in Houston. The trustee session, set for 2 p.m. at a location to be named, precedes the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 15-17.

Search committee Chairman Joel Gregory announced Rankin's nomination May 25, after a weekend committee meeting in suburban Fort Worth, Texas.

Trustee leaders and others predicted Rankin easily will win the 75 percent endorsement required for election.

A 23-year missions veteran from Mississippi, Rankin was not among the six finalists for the position confirmed by members of the search committee last October.

Trustee Chairman John Jackson of Fairfield, Calif., described Rankin as a "dark horse" who only in recent weeks emerged as the favorite of the 15-member committee. "Not until the last did he rise to the top," Jackson said.

Twice in recent months the committee offered the position to Oklahoma pastor Tom Elliff, a former missionary and conservative activist in the 14-year-old denominational controversy.

Earlier, committee members acknowledged they had narrowed their choice to two men with missionary experience, FMB Interim President

Don Kammerdiener and Sunday School Board administrator Avery Willis.

Several megachurch pastors also were considered to be top contenders for the post.

In the end, however, the search committee looked beyond its top candidates, deeper into the ranks of overseas missionaries.

"God put it together," said Jackson, an ex officio member of the search committee. "Only in that way could Jerry have moved past board vice presidents and pastors and other leaders of the convention. It wasn't done with arm twisting. It came on a unanimous vote."

If elected, Rankin would succeed Keith Parks, who retired as FMB president Oct. 30, 1992. Parks departed earlier than planned, citing differences with trustees over his leadership role and the direction of missions.

Rankin's nomination drew immediate praise from current and retired missionaries, many of whom had been afraid the search committee would select someone with no missionary experience.

"I'm just thrilled to death," said Kathleen Jones, a former missionary physician who worked in Indonesia when Rankin was appointed there in 1970. "He is sort of like my little brother. He's a very, very fine person."

Jones, who retired in 1987 and now lives in Little Rock, Ark., predicted Rankin will be able to work with the FMB's conservative trustees, who have been accused of pursuing their own agenda overseas. "I think he will be a bridge builder. He's very firm in his beliefs."

"He's head and shoulders above anybody we've heard mentioned," added Ruth Vanderberg, a missionary nurse who also served with Rankin in

See Veteran missionary ..., page 2

The Rankin file



Jerry Rankin

Name: Jerry Rankin

Age: 51

Position: FMB area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific since 1987

Experience: Appointed as missionary to Indonesia in 1970 and later served in India before becoming associate area director for South and Southeast Asia, then administrator for mission work in India before being named area director

Education: Bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College; master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; honorary doctor of divinity degree from Mississippi College

Veteran missionary nominated as FMB president

"He's head and shoulders above anybody we've heard mentioned. He served out in the boondocks. He and his wife stuck by the stuff. They are truly wonderful Christian people."

Ruth Vanderberg, a retired missionary nurse in Indonesia, on Jerry Rankin, nominee to become president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board

Continued from page 1

Indonesia. "He served out in the boondocks. He and his wife stuck by the stuff. They are truly wonderful Christian people."

Vanderberg, who also now lives in Little Rock, said Rankin's missionary experience will count for a lot with his colleagues.

"There is no way that you can possibly know what it is like to serve as a missionary," she said. Electing a president without that experience would be "like going to battle with an arm-chair general."

Rankin, likewise, believes his missionary experience will be an asset.

"If I'm elected, it will affirm the priority of the board's missions agenda and hopefully encourage missionaries, staff and Southern Baptists about the future of foreign missions," he said.

Even Parks, who in his departure said trustees were more concerned with the SBC controversy than with missions, praised Rankin as a capable missionary.

"Choosing him will create a great deal of relief in the minds of missionaries and missions supporters," Parks said. "It's a much better choice than getting someone who had no missions experience."

Parks said he "worked well" with Rankin when both served in Indonesia. "He has a lot of gifts and a lot to commend himself for this position.

Jerry is very bright and has a clear grasp of mission principles and a background in missions experience."

Parks said Rankin was not known to have sympathies with SBC conservatives, who dominate the trustee board. "I never had experienced him that way, but in recent months some of the missionaries and some of the staff say he has been very careful to identify himself as part of the conservative resurgence."

Rankin said he does not anticipate facing the same conflicts Parks encountered with trustees.

"I've not made any compromise in order to work with them," he said. "I discerned that these guys have a heart for the Lord and are genuinely interested in winning a lost world to Christ."

"I refuse to accept (that they have) any other agenda than representing Southern Baptists and winning a lost world to Christ," he said.

Rankin acknowledged some may view that attitude as naive. "I have claimed naivete in this whole process, and I hope that reflects a confidence in the Lord and what he's doing."

One trustee said Rankin's role as an "outside-insider" gave the committee the feeling he knows the board's internal affairs but still has an outsider's objective view.

As area director, he operates in two worlds. He is a staff member and sits on the board's Global Strategy

Group of key planners. But except for periodic stints in the FMB's home office in Richmond, Va., he lives and works overseas.

Rankin said the search committee talked to him extensively about his beliefs. "They were satisfied about who I am doctrinally, theologically and denominationally."

Gregory said Rankin "expressed commitment to the inerrancy of the Scripture and demonstrated that he understands and will embrace pluralistic missions efforts of all Southern Baptists."

Although most missionaries who have worked with Rankin praised his intellect and commitment, some said his autocratic leadership style could be a problem.

"His commitment and dedication are unquestionable," said Harold Malone, who worked closely with Rankin for 10 years as a mission volunteer. "His methodology may leave some missionaries not so satisfied."

"His style of management is more to make decisions and tell you, rather than working with people, getting input and making them feel they are part of the decision-making process," said Malone, now retired and living in Augusta, Ga. "That is one thing missionaries in general will have a difficult time with."

Rankin defended his management style: "I get fairly impatient when things get bogged down in bureau-

cratic decision making."

While his pattern is to collaborate with those affected by decisions, he said, he avoids group decision-making that produces "mediocrity."

For trustees, Rankin's encouragement of charismatic gifts, including glossolalia, on the mission field, could be a concern.

Rankin acknowledged his views on this subject have been a point of some contention on the mission field. "I believe the gifts of the Spirit are valid and relevant to today and are used of God," he said.

"The (search) committee has looked into this thoroughly and is convinced there is no doctrinal problem," Rankin said.

Rankin and his wife, the former Bobbye Simmons, were appointed as missionaries to Indonesia in June 1970.

He served as a general evangelist in Indonesia, consulted in evangelism and church growth in India, served as associate to the area director for South and Southeast Asia and then administrator for mission work in India, and finally became area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific.

In his current role, he oversees the work of 480 missionaries in 15 countries.

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

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Truett Seminary to open.** The Baylor University board of regents voted unanimously May 21 to open the George W. Truett Theological Seminary in 1994,

pledging not to duplicate existing seminaries but to offer a distinctive approach to ministry preparation. However, the Truett Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, located only 90 miles away, will compete for donors, Southwestern's executive vice president, Scotty Gray, warned in response.

Seminary classes and administrative offices will be located at First Baptist Church of Waco, but plans are being made to construct a multi-purpose building on the Baylor campus within the next 10 years. Enrollment will be limited to 50 students the first year, with a maximum enrollment of 150 projected after three years.

■ **Volunteer programs cut.** Three missions programs for lay volunteers living and traveling abroad have become casualties of the recent downsizing at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The Tentmakers program will phase out as 37 volunteers conclude their terms of service. Two other programs, Baptists Living Abroad and the Creative Evangelistic Opportunity network, will cease operation May 31.

■ **Yeary to North Phoenix.** Dan Yeary, pastor of University Baptist Church in Coral Gables, Fla., has been called as pastor of the 23,000-member North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., the largest Southern Baptist congregation in the West. Yeary will succeed

Richard Jackson, who retired from the North Phoenix pulpit after 25 years.

■ **Mohler addresses students.** Christian ministers will be measured by whether they stay true to the gospel or move away from it in an effort to explain the difficult standards of Jesus Christ, Al Mohler told graduates of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary during a baccalaureate service. "Unsettled convictions is a recipe not just for compromise and accommodation, but for apostasy, the falling away of the church," said Mohler, president-elect at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ **Good neighbor award.** The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has received the American Red Cross Good Neighbor Award for 1993 in recognition for disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. The award is presented annually to an individual or organization making "a significant humanitarian contribution to the local, national or international community" in support of the Red Cross.

■ **Se habla Espanol?** The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has established a toll-free customer service line for Spanish-speaking customers. Spanish-speakers may call (800) 257-7744 to order books, Bibles or any product or literature the Sunday School Board sells.

■ **Time takes note.** The "True Love Waits" campaign which advocates sexual

abstinence before marriage is mentioned in the May 24 issue of Time magazine. Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, which is promoting the campaign, was one of several sources interviewed for a Time cover story on teens and sexual values.

■ **New shows planned.** The need for new children's programming has caught the attention of the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission. One addition to the cable network lineup offered through the ACTS and FamilyNet systems will be "Gerbert Live," a call-in children's program featuring creative contests, original songs, poems, music videos and other interactive features.

■ **Kentuckians elected.** Four Kentuckians are among new officers elected for Southern Baptist Women in Ministry. Mary Zimmer, assistant to the dean of Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was named vice president and program chairwoman; Dixie Petrey, a seminary student, was elected recorder; Ronda Stewart-Wilcox, a recent seminary graduate, was named treasurer; and Brian Cole, leader of Appalachian Ministries in Berea, was elected membership chairman.

■ **Closed captioning offered.** Videos produced by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board now are available with closed caption encoding for the deaf and hearing impaired. For information, call the HMB's customer service line at (800) 634-2462.

Missionaries needed in Middle East

Continued from page 1

seize the new openings appearing in yet-unentered countries of the area, as well as in countries where we already have personnel. The planting of new congregations among unreached people groups depends on our placing personnel with marketable skills in limited-access countries," Thorne said.

Yemen is one country in which a lack of the right workers jeopardizes Southern Baptist presence. Southern Baptists, through the operation of a hospital, maintain a Christian presence in this solidly Muslim country.

"The continued existence of the hospital in Yemen will depend largely on our ability to appoint a sufficient number of doctors and nurses to staff the hospital," Thorne said.

Although the FMB has reported an overall increase in applications for missions service, few candidates seem willing to work in the Middle East.

"I don't know why we're receiving so few new personnel," Thorne said. "The personnel consultants at the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond say when new candidates come to the list of our requests, they hurriedly turn on to other requests they feel will be easier.

"There seems to be a basic fear and ignorance of resident ministries in the Arab/Muslim world," Thorne concluded.

Dentists pull together to help Owensboro families

By Susan Gayle Reed
Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer

OWENSBORO—Local dentists volunteered both their time and services May 15 to provide free dental care to migrant families in the Owensboro area.

About 20 people, who would not be able to afford care otherwise, took advantage of the offer at the office of Dr. David Wilson.

The day's care was sponsored by the Daviess-McLean Baptist Association, which is composed of 57 churches in the two counties.

Brenda Isenberg, director of migrant ministries, said she got the idea after getting information from migrant families through the Daviess

County Board of Education's migrant school program.

"One of the greatest needs they have is for dental care. One lady said her son was 23 years old and had never been to see a dentist," Isenberg said.

Isenberg said the idea began to mushroom after she met with Jim Spaulding, director of missions, who has organized similar clinics in the past. Dentists belonging to the association were invited to participate.

"They took the idea and ran with it," Isenberg said. "They were so excited, you'd have thought we'd offered them a chance to go to Hawaii."

Spaulding said the association was looking for a way to minister to people by helping with their needs. He

said no one was preaching at the dentist's office.

"We give them a little booklet with information about how to become a Christian, and if they have questions, we'll answer them," he said. "But we don't aggressively try to convert anybody."

Each dentist who volunteered brought along a few technicians and support people, totaling about 25 volunteers, Spaulding said.

Debra Bryce of Owensboro brought three of her seven children for the free care. They had not been to the dentist before.

"We're just getting a checkup ... I hope," said Bryce, whose other children are covered by a medical card.

Dr. Ralph Thacker, a volunteer

dentist, is a member of the association through a church in Livermore. He said the dentists were performing routine dentistry, treatment to prevent pain and infection, extractions and restorative work, plus counseling the patients in dental hygiene and diet.

"That is just as important," he said. "We don't want to just do this now and have them not learn anything about what created the problems to begin with."

Thacker said he was glad to be able to do something to help others in the community.

Other dentists who volunteered services or supplies were Bill Wilson, Danny Reynolds, Mark Fort, Anthony Durall, Russ Settle, Joe Higginson, Terry Norris and Noel Maddox.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Mike Warnke**, a Christian comedian, will perform Saturday, June 12, at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville at 7:30 p.m.

■ **A bivocational track** has been introduced at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College to make job training available simultaneously with ministry training. The program has received tentative approval by the American Association of Bible Colleges. This is thought to be the only such program offered among Southern Baptist colleges.

■ **Campbellsville College** has received a \$70,000 grant from the IBM Corp. for computer equipment, which will be used in academic areas.

■ **"Celebrate Sex in Your Marriage"** is the 1993 theme of the Fall Festival of Marriage to be hosted in Louisville by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board Sept. 24-26. Dan and Sandra McGee, authors of this year's theme book, will be the keynote speakers. For information, write the Sunday School Board at MSN 151, 127 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234, or call (615) 251-2282.

■ **The January Bible study materials** to be used in many Southern Baptist churches next winter will be the focus of Campbellsville College's Biblical Studies Program Aug. 12-13. Gerald Keown, associate professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will lead the program on the book of Hosea.

Cedaridge offers food & more

Continued from page 1

sociational office for people to purchase clothes and other items, some for as little as 25 cents.

The center grew so much it had to be relocated three times in little more than a year. Now, the incorporated ministry operates from a 14-foot-tall garage-warehouse owned by the RC Cola Co.

This building, Decker said, offers plenty of room for office space and the community store, as well as docks where large shipments can be received and redistributed. "We can handle 10 tractor-trailer loads one right after another."

In the last eight months, Decker reported, the ministry has accepted 40 tractor-trailer loads of materials. Agencies from Virginia, Indiana and even Oklahoma send these, he explained. Cedaridge pays only a portion of the shipping cost.

In addition to furniture, clothing and food, items donated include children's toys, soap, shampoo, hospital

beds, books, greeting cards and bicycles. Cedaridge even offers tuxedos for rent.

Although the ministry no longer "belongs" to Mount Zion Baptist Association, Decker said, it still is a Baptist organization.

"The board of directors is made up of Baptist deacons and pastors," said Decker, a Baptist pastor for 21 years. "And I don't see that changing."

The non-profit corporation status permits Cedaridge to receive grants and to work with all Christian groups to help needy people in the area.

Decker said he believes the Lord prepared him for his work at Cedaridge.

"I grew up a poor boy right here in Williamsburg," he added. "I know what it feels like to be hungry."

While he said he "always felt called to be a pastor," Decker admitted he "couldn't preach without doing the work of Cedaridge."

"My vision is that we not have hungry people in our area," he said.



FOOD FOR ALL Students and student families from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College pick up portions of nonperishable items donated by Robert Roan and Willard Mason, new owners of Willard's Food Mart in Pineville. An estimated \$20,000 worth of food was donated to Clear Creek and to Interfaith of Pineville to help needy families.

Another vice president resigns at Southern Seminary

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Elisabeth Lambert has become the second of four vice presidents at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to resign her post as the Louisville school undergoes a leadership change.

Lambert, vice president for student services since 1985, will leave her job July 31, the day President Roy Honeycutt retires.

She is the fifth top administrator to announce plans to step down since the March 26 election of Al Mohler as Honeycutt's successor. Mohler, who will take office Aug. 1, has vowed to steer the Southern Baptist Convention's oldest seminary in a more conservative direction.

Lambert declined to discuss the reasons for her departure, but said in her resignation letter to Honeycutt that she can "no longer serve the seminary."

Her letter describes the Southern Seminary she has been proud to serve as a place where "the highest standards of academic inquiry and the

principle of the priesthood of the believer" were fostered. "I especially value the open, candid pursuit of truth that characterized Southern Seminary in those years as women and men from diverse backgrounds and perspectives prepared for ministry in a changing world," she wrote.

Lambert's husband, Frank, is a professor at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind. They have commuted between the two locations for several years.

Lambert said she plans to relocate full time to Lafayette, where she will seek employment in a social service agency.

She holds the master's degree in social services work from the University of Louisville, as well as the master of arts in Christian education degree from Southern Seminary and the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College.

Prior to becoming Southern's first female vice president in 1985, Lambert served the seminary as dean of students and as director of student services. She has worked for the seminary since 1975.

Lambert's departure, along with the resignation of David Wilkinson, vice president for seminary relations, leaves only two vice presidents in place: Tom Mabe, vice president for development, and T.J. McGlothlin, vice president for business services.

A fifth person who holds a key administrative position but is not classified as a vice president also has resigned. Ron Dempsey, Southern's director of academic services, has been named assistant dean of Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C.

Southern's provost and two deans also have announced plans to step down before Mohler takes office. Provost Larry McSwain has been elected president of Shorter College in Rome, Ga.; Music dean Milburn Price has been named to a similar position at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; and Christian education dean Bill Rogers has resigned that post but plans to remain on the faculty.

Anne Davis, dean of the social work school, had announced before Mohler's election her plans to return to full-time classroom duties. Honeycutt has named professor Diana Gar-

land the new dean for that school.

If he remains in place, David Dockery, dean of the theology school since August 1992, will have the longest tenure of any academic administrator on campus after July 31.

Replacements for Price and Rogers have not yet been named by President-elect Mohler. However, Bob Hughes, associate professor of Christian education, has been named acting dean for the school of Christian education, and Lloyd Mims, associate professor of church music, has been named acting dean for the school of church music.

Southern operates Boyce Bible School as a separate division with its own dean. Boyce dean Bob Johnson remains in place, but his assistant dean, Robert Shippey, has resigned. Shippey, who also serves as Southern's director of continuing education, has been named chairman of the theology department for Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga.

Cheryl Caddell-Shippey, his wife, is Southern's assistant director of alumni/ae relations. She also will leave her post.

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

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The real issue

I wondered if you could have had the interpretation turned around in "Make an impact on culture even a court can see" (WR, April 20).

Is it possible that the "cultural" impact of the Muslim and Jewish publications are somewhat innocuous as far as a difference with what other papers were saying? Could it be that the fear on the part of the court is that the Christian "religious" publication would encourage a different response to the culture than that considered acceptable?

Maybe the paper would encourage responses to issues that aren't "politically correct." Thereby they may have a "religious" impact on culture by applying Scripture.

I wondered if the real issue is "political correctness."

*Ann Britt
Louisville*

God first

It's upsetting to see people blame things other than themselves, as in the opening statement of Edelman's article (WR, April 27).

We ourselves are accountable for our actions.

Back in the 1950s, most TV stations had westerns. Western movies taught three things:

First, there was justice. When someone was caught doing wrong, punishment followed.

Second, respect of people property, country, law.

Third, reference to God, creator of all mankind, earth, nature. Life was important, not to take for granted.

Today there is no such teaching on our TVs, only crime, sex, drugs. Even if caught, you're given a lesser penalty.

Before the land of no return

Anyone who reads my column knows I have a grandson whose first name, in case you had forgotten, is Marshall; a 26-month-old bundle of joy and fun!

Marshall has a mother and dad living together with him and two sets of grandparents who nurture him as often as possible. Marshall, however, is not representative of the majority of children today. In fact, he is part of a shrinking minority.

Children are special! But they have so few years before adulthood carries them into the land of no return. All the care, affection and love they receive in those "few" years will make the passage more pleasant and adulthood more stable.

Child-caring institutions such as nursery schools and day care centers, the vast majority sponsored by churches, are one of the things Kentucky and Southern Baptists do well; better, we are told, than any other American religious group.

In addition, Kentucky Baptists support the oldest Baptist child-caring institution in America. Founded in

We are putting ourselves first, then God, even in the Baptist convention! Between the groups of conservatives, liberals, moderates, each wanting their own way.

Clearly if such trends continue, we will all lose, for God will not tolerate such sin in our nation, church, personal lives.

For in his commandment, "Have no gods before me," includes man.

Let us all, as one, put God first. Our lives will be blessed as well as this nation. Our nation's crime will disappear as we live closer to God.

*David McEntee
Sturgis*

BAPTIST FORUM

Real demons

If the "leaders" of the Southern Baptist Convention would climb down from their creedal horse and stop jousting with lance and sword at first this set of Christians, then at those others, it might be possible to unite against the real demons.

These are the TV and movie corporate executives who get rich by spewing sick garbage: violent, pornographic movies full of foulness and greed, and even deadlier so-called music that sells AIDS-producing behavior to teen-agers and pregnancies to children.

As they do this, these so-called men hide behind a Supreme Court that seems not to know the difference between freedom (two-way) and license (one-way, no recourse), or the difference between suitable laws for corporations vs. laws for people, or even tigers vs. pussycats in homes.

These men buy greedy Congressmen who dread leading and foul the White House with easy meetings with a president who seems dependent on MTV for re-election. They feed their factoids to news persons to read aloud

to the public, as they all pretend ignorance of 30 years of research tying TV to crime with ropes.

Fear is binding in this sad era; but should there be somewhere one other who shares these opinions, why not copy and send this to some leaders or newspaper, perhaps even to an SBC leader?

*Lewis V. Spencer
Hopkinsville*

Unworthy of trust

Inherent in the definition of "trustee" is trustworthiness. It should be the primary qualification for appointment to the position.

At their April meeting, the trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary demonstrated that they are not worthy of our trust. They repudiated their 1990 Covenant Agreement with the administration, faculty and students. They overspent the budget for their meetings by \$35,000, excluding the expenses for their April meeting. They declined to account for the \$95,000 budgeted for the presidential search, which included time at a resort in Florida. They prefer to operate much of the time behind closed doors, away from scrutiny.

The conduct of the trustees is unconscionable. They apparently do not comprehend the gravity of their fiduciary duty—a legal responsibility to act in the best interest of the school. Their unwillingness to practice financial restraint and give a detailed accounting of their stewardship cannot be excused. They should all resign.

Legend has it that the dance band on the Titanic played "Nearer My God to Thee" while the ship and many of its passengers sank to a watery grave. I wonder what tune is ringing through the halls of Southern Seminary these days?

*Rob Edwards
Louisville*

get dessert, who have no blanket to drag behind them, who watch their parents watch them die, who can't find any bread to steal, who don't have any rooms to clean up, whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser, whose monsters are very real.

"We pray for children who spend all their allowance before Tuesday, who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food, who shove dirty clothes under the bed and never rinse out the tub, who get visits from the tooth fairy, who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool, who squirm in church, whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can make us cry.

"And we pray for those whose nightmares come in the daytime, who will eat anything, who aren't spoiled by anybody, who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep, who live and move, but have no being.

"We pray for children who want to be carried, and for those who must, for those we never give up on and for those who don't get a second chance.

"For those we smother ... and for those who will grab the hand of anybody kind enough to offer it. We pray for children. Amen!"

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

"And we pray for those who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire, who can't bound down the street in a new pair of sneakers, who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead, who never go to the circus, who live in an X-rated world.

"We pray for children who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions, who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money.

"And we pray for those who never



Meeting needs

By Harry Rowland

Q. Why do we need a singles' ministry? Why can't singles be content with adult classes and regular programs?

A. Singles ministries are not a detriment to the family-oriented church. We need to remind ourselves that singles are family, and the church's mandate is to reach people, not stroke families.

Biblical and sociological reasons support the need for singles ministries.

■ The statistical need: Approximately 66.3 million singles live in the U.S.; baby boomers are 500 percent more likely to be single than were their parents; 60 percent of today's children will live in a single-parent home; and 50 percent of first marriages end in divorce. Singles and the issues they face are here to stay.

■ The spiritual need: Real Christianity is not a system but a relationship with Jesus. Thus the church is relation-oriented. Many singles feel like an extra thumb in our family-oriented programs. Classes and services that are composed of or led by mostly married adults tend to focus on subjects that may not relate well to singles. Singles ministries give Christ the opportunity to relate to the single where she/he is.

■ The social need: One of the greatest needs of singles is a network of people who will offer support, friendship and learning. This always has been a function of the church (Acts 4:32-35). Singles programs can better address single issues and provide an environment for healthy relationships from which to draw strength and support.

■ The specific need: Ministry is most effective when directed toward specific needs. Never-married, separated, formerly married and widowed singles all have unique needs. The church is ministering as it should when it organizes to meet specific needs. Remember, the first organized ministry of the church was a group of single adults, Greek widows (Acts 6:1-7). The result was "the word of God spread" and the church "increased rapidly."

Harry Rowland is pastor of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

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

Hard-line FOCA bill will further divide America

The polarizing, take-no-prisoners forces who would divide this country over a single issue are at it again. This time, their focus is an important bill called FOCA—the Freedom of Choice Act—currently making its way through Congress.

If passed, FOCA (labeled S. 25 in the Senate and H.R. 25 in the House of Representatives) would write into law a woman's right to choose to terminate her pregnancy. The extent of that right provides fodder for debate. FOCA's supporters insist the bill merely codifies the Supreme Court's landmark Roe vs. Wade decision of 1973. Opponents contend it extends abortion rights much further.

The shrillest activists on both sides of abortion give a clear indication they would sooner split the country than lose on this issue. Radical pro-choicers want a woman to have an unfettered right to abort her fetus, which they see as an extension of her body. Radical pro-lifers see the fetus as a baby from conception and would deny a mother any choice over its delivery. As approved by the House judiciary committee, FOCA feeds the frenzy.

That committee repeatedly aborted attempts to modify FOCA's extreme pro-choice position. Ironically, the committee even killed proposals the sympathetic pro-choice Supreme Court already had ruled permissible under precedent set by Roe vs. Wade. For example, the committee defeated amendments to the bill which would have:

- Permitted a state to require a short waiting period.
- Allowed prohibition of abortion after the 24th week of pregnancy.
- Enabled a state to prohibit non-physicians from performing abortions.
- Permitted local or state bans on abortions in public hospitals.
- Allowed a state to require parental consent or notification before a minor could have an abortion.
- Enabled a state to require informed consent from a woman who intends to have an abortion.

Given the passion generated by abortion, hope for national consensus may be naive. Absolute pro-lifers believe abortion is murder and should be outlawed. Absolute pro-choicers believe it is a private medical procedure and should be permitted. Neither side wants to allow for middle ground, where millions of Americans stand.

By taking an extreme position, FOCA further polarizes our nation, broadens the debate and eliminates further opportunity for reasonable—stress “reasonable”—discussion and possible consensus. Even without debate which descends to nasty rhetoric, FOCA as it now stands clearly is a bad bill. You don't have to agree on abortion to see that FOCA—particularly as defined by the House committee—will widen the rift that threatens to divide America today. Kill the bill.

Marv Knox

Express your opinion

- Write representatives by name at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.
- Write senators by name at U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.
- Call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.
- Call the White House comment line at (202) 456-1111.
- Write the president at the White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

Shouldn't God have as much access to Riverfront as Budweiser?

Take me out to the ballgame. Buy me some peanuts and Crackerjack. Buy me a beer; buy me two or three. But whatever you do, leave the Bible out of it.

That's the message that the Cincinnati Reds baseball club has delivered to Guy Aubrey, an unconventional evangelist who seeks to “spread the Word” in whatever venue possible, including the ballpark. Aubrey likes to show up at Riverfront Stadium, home of the Reds, with a banner containing a reference to the New Testament verse that many Christians regard as the cornerstone of their faith. It's John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Well, whosoever runneth Riverfront Stadium apparently took exception to Aubrey's banner and its subversive sentiments. He was informed the sign violated the stadium's “good taste/bad taste policy,” which essen-

tially allows the Reds to decide which signs are acceptable and which are offensive.

Apparently, the New Testament was deemed offensive. It's OK to plaster the stadium with ads for beer and cigarettes, but biblical verses are out of bounds. The Marlboro Man is OK, but the man from Galilee is suspect.

But Aubrey and his attorneys went to court and argued, successfully, that the Reds had violated Aubrey's constitutional right to free speech.

The Reds countered by altering their policy. Henceforth, they declared, all banners in Riverfront Stadium must be related to baseball.

Aubrey showed up with a new sign: “Go Reds. John 3:16.”

Stadium officials were unamused. They amended their policy yet again, banning all non-commercial signs, regardless of content. Then, the folks who run the ballpark issued a statement that could keep constitutional scholars occupied for decades. The

new policy prohibiting non-commercial banners was necessary, the Reds' director of stadium operations said, “to protect the family-oriented atmosphere of Riverfront Stadium from detrimental signage.”

Now, I confess I don't know what “signage” is. To my knowledge, I've never encountered any.

But if I understand the statement issued by Riverfront Stadium officials, Aubrey's offending banner represents a threat to the “family-oriented atmosphere” at the ballpark. Never mind the beer-swilling lout cursing umpires from the next row. Just don't bother the kids with references to religious faith.

The doofuses bent on running major league baseball into the ground have a lot to account for. They've lavished millions of dollars a year on journeymen infielders and raised ticket prices to compensate for their folly. They fired a commissioner who dared to tell them that they didn't want to hear—that a day of financial reckoning was approaching—and who pro-

posed a realignment of the National League based on the startling revelation that Chicago lay somewhere to the West of Cincinnati and Atlanta.

What is even more detrimental is that the owners have built antiseptic stadiums carpeted with synthetic grass.

And in their effort to draw more television revenue, they insist that the World Series be played in the evenings, thereby ensuring that an entire generation of children—including my own—will grow up with scant appreciation for the pastoral delights of baseball.

Why don't the owners face baseball's real problems and let the banner fly, for God's sake? Aubrey isn't out to destroy “family-oriented atmosphere.” He has as much right to propagate his views as the guy sloshing Budweiser all over his pants urging Barry Larkin to hit one into the Ohio River.

C'mon, play ball!

Randall Balmer
Religious News Service

VIEWPOINT

According to the Reds, the Marlboro Man is in, but Jesus is out.

This ballgame would be perfect if they'd ever let me have a turn at bat

Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium should be so, uh, unique.

First base is the near right leg of the swingset. Second is the bald patch just in front of the garden. The broken tambourine over by the chain-link fence marks third. And home plate? Wherever the batter's standing. A cluster of lawn chairs on the patio serves as the grandstand. A big evergreen crowds the left field fence and eats homerun balls.

Welcome to O'Neill Field. It's easily the hottest home for Our National Pastime on Clerkenwell Road.

See, baseball fever overtook our neck of the neighborhood this spring.

It began one fine day, when Tim heard a voice speaking from beyond his backyard

clover. “If you mow it, they will come,” the voice promised.

Sure enough, Genny and Ben and Kate, Lindsay and Molly, Emily and sometimes Maureen, every now and then Merv and Gabe, and occasionally Nick appear in Sarah and Tim's yard, just after supertime.

They come because they want to play baseball, or some version thereof. They're joined by three grizzled veterans: Tim “Slingshot” O'Neill on the mound, Gary “The Phantom” Strobel be-

hind the plate and me in the outfield.

It's a game of kids versus dads. As best I can tell, the score is Urchins 3,462, Old Geezers 0, and we're still in the first inning.

That's because of Rule No. 1: Kids always bat. And because of Rule No. 2: Outs don't count. The only time a dad gets to bat is if too many children have gone to the bathroom, all the available kids are on base, and someone has to hit somebody in.

So, we're smack in the middle of a never-ending game of baseball. If we can't get

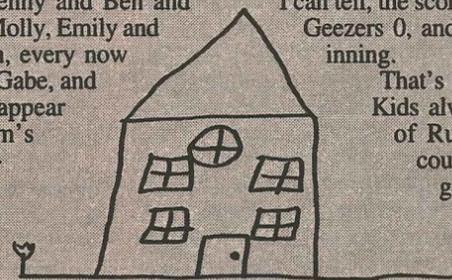
them out, this thing could go on until they go off to college.

And that'd be fine with me. The evenings are long and warm, the neighbors friendly and the mosquitoes still sleeping.

Who could ask for more? Besides hot dogs and Crackerjacks, I mean. This game is really good.

And it's getting better. The kids' swings are leveling out, and they're learning to keep the ol' eye on the ball. The outfield's not even as boring as it was a week ago, because more hits are coming that far out. But the first crisis is inevitable—when somebody slides into second base and wipes out a couple of Sarah's tomato plants.

Marv “Humm-batter-batter” Knox



down home

BRIEFS

■ A gathering of about 140 urban gang leaders committed to turning the violence of the cities to peace ended with a worship service in which three gang members "dropped their colors," saying they wanted to come out of a destructive lifestyle into one of wholeness. At the end of worship at St. Stephen Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo., host site for the summit, "one of the gang members got up and said, 'I was out to kill this guy and now I know that this is not the way and I'm not going to pursue this,'" reported Claudia Esslinger, a member of Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. The conversions "had to be real," she noted. "You don't do that for show, because then your enemies are going to get you."

■ Jim Bakker's request for early parole has been denied by the U.S. Parole Commission. A department spokesman said the former televangelist must serve his full prison term through August 1997. However, Bakker could be eligible for release in October 1994 for good behavior.

■ The Boy Scouts can deny membership to those who are unwilling to subscribe to the Scout oath, including its pledge to do one's "duty to God," a Chicago appeals court ruled May 18. The 2-1 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit said civil rights law does not require the Boy Scouts to admit agnostics or atheists, since the group is a private organization, not a place where the public must be accommodated.

America at 'defining moment' on morals, Bauer says

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LEXINGTON—America stands at a "defining moment" over moral values as significant as the American Revolution or the Civil War, Gary Bauer told a group of Kentuckians May 27.

Bauer, a Northern Kentucky native and graduate of Georgetown College, heads the Family Research Council, the public policy arm of James Dobson's Focus on the Family ministries in Washington, D.C. Bauer is a frequent guest on Dobson's nationally syndicated radio program.

"In the history of any nation, there come defining moments, times when people are forced to decide which direction they will go," Bauer said in his address at Southland Christian Church in Lexington.

He cited the American Revolution and the Civil War as examples of such times.

"We in 1993 are in one of those defining moments," he continued. "We must now decide, are we going to continue down the path of the last 30 years of unbridled individualism ... or get back to the idea of order ... and of God's principles?"

An example of this struggle, he explained, is deciding how Americans will define what constitutes a family. He said the pro-homosexual lobby is on the verge of destroying America by defining family "to mean

anything."

Bauer, whose appearance was sponsored by the interfaith Family Foundation of Kentucky, drew sustained applause when he drove this point home. "Somebody needs to tell the president he was elected to deal with the economy, not to force the radical agenda of the gay rights people on us and on our children."

Before heading the Family Research Council, Bauer was director of policy development in the U.S. Department of Education during the Reagan administration.

During a question-and-answer period, one woman wanted to know if Bauer had been able to talk face to face with the president.

"You mean this president?" he asked in astonishment, explaining that the Clinton administration views him and the Family Research Council as "political enemies."

However, Bauer said he believes the "family values" movement is growing strong enough that a president who supports its agenda will be elected to the White House soon.

He stopped just short of criticizing the Reagan and Bush administrations for not delivering on campaign promises to the Religious Right. The next time conservative Christians support a candidate, Bauer said, "we need to ask for a price."

"That individual cannot expect us to work our hearts out for him, give our money and talk to our neighbors,

only to get the back of his hand," he asserted, noting his experience during the Reagan years taught him that while the president may support "family values," others around him may not.

"My experience at the White House was bittersweet," he said. "Any time I could get an idea directly to the president, I won. If I had to go through the layers between me and the president, I would not win."

He said his agenda with the president often was derailed by White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan.

Bauer also touched on a number of issues, including abortion, school prayer, sex education and how to influence elected officials.

Despite the moral decline he sees in America, Bauer said he is an optimist. "I'm an optimist because I believe millions of Americans believe in what you believe in," he said. "Millions of American families believe in family, faith and freedom."

He urged Christians to stand up for biblical values in government and to vote for candidates who support them.

"There isn't any magic formula" to political influence, he said. "It's really just the basic expressions of citizenship."

Writing letters and calling elected officials carries more weight than most people think, Bauer said.

Although there are a few people in Congress so committed to their own agenda they won't be moved, most

senators and representatives pay close attention to public opinion, he said.

However, Bauer said the gay-rights and abortion-rights groups have done a better job of making their voices heard than have conservative Christians.

"There are more of us than there are of the other side," he declared. "If we do these things, we will win."

Bauer said public opinion will be especially important on the Freedom of Choice Act which now awaits debate on both the House and Senate floors. The bill would mandate abortion-rights through an act of law.

The House post office currently has its biggest backlog in history, he claimed, and 95 percent of that mail relates to FOCA.

Bauer predicted FOCA could be killed because abortion-rights supporters are locked in an internal disagreement and have no strategy to protect the bill from amendments on the floor.

Amendments are likely to be offered to add exclusions such as waiting periods and parental consent, he said. "Congressmen don't want to have to vote on things like parental consent and waiting periods."

On that and many other issues, average citizens have an opportunity to determine America's destiny, Bauer said. "Are we going to continue to expel God from the public square, ... or are we going to stand up and say, 'No'?" he asked.

Court decision wasn't last word on graduation prayer

WASHINGTON (ABP)—School boards across the country are learning this spring that the U.S. Supreme Court's 1992 ruling against prayer at public-school graduation exercises was not the last word on the subject.

That's partly because some individuals and interest groups have refused to give up their campaign to include invocations and benedictions in the annual ceremonies. And it's partly because a federal appeals court agreed with their view—that the Supreme Court's commencement-prayer ban does not apply across the board.

As graduation day has approached for more than 2.2 million seniors in the nation's 16,925 public high schools, school boards have been under pressure from proponents and opponents of commencement prayer.

A year ago, the Supreme Court held that commencement prayers directed and sponsored by public school districts violate the Constitution's ban on governmental-established religion. That 5-4 decision came in a Rhode Island case called *Lee vs. Weisman*.

Shortly after that ruling, the Supreme Court sent a Texas graduation-prayer dispute back to a federal appeals court with instructions to decide the case in a manner consistent with the *Weisman* decision.

The appeals court upheld the Texas district's prayer policy, saying it was different from the *Weisman* case. Unlike the Rhode Island policy in which the school principal invited clergy to deliver prayers, the appeals court noted that the Texas policy pro-

vided for student-initiated, student-led prayers. The policy further required the prayers to be non-sectarian and non-proselytizing.

That case—*Jones vs. Clear Creek Independent School District*—is back on appeal to the Supreme Court.

In the meantime, school districts have been caught in a cross-fire of competing claims.

First, the American Center for Law and Justice, televangelist Pat Robertson's answer to the American Civil Liberties Union, notified every school district in the country that student-initiated, student-led commencement prayers are permissible.

In *Weisman*, the ACLJ statement asserts, "the Supreme Court held only that it violates the establishment clause for school officials to invite clergy to give prayers."

In response, the American Civil Liberties Union warned superintendents that the ACLJ's bulletin misrepresented the *Weisman* and *Jones* decisions. In *Weisman*, the ACLU contends, the high court ruled "that the practice of prayers at public school graduations violates the Constitution when there is any indication that such religious exercises are sponsored by or through school authorities."

Even student-initiated prayers incorporated into official school ceremonies "amount to state-sponsored religious activities that violate the First Amendment," the ACLU said.

Predictably, the episode has produced confusion.

For example, in Kentucky, where the state Education Department is ad-

vising school districts not to include commencement prayers, officials at Central Hardin High School in Elizabethtown approved a student's request to open the graduation ceremony with prayer but instructed the student not to mention Jesus or God, the Louisville Courier-Journal reported.

It is too early to gauge the full impact of the ACLJ bulletin.

Spokesman Gene Kapp said the ACLJ has received requests for assistance from about 5,000 districts, but the organization does not know how many of those districts will decide to have graduation prayers.

Based on feedback from ACLU affiliates, ACLU spokeswoman Lynn Decker said at least one school district in most states is opting to have a *Jones*-style invocation.

Regardless of what they decide, school districts in some communities can count on stiff opposition.

Gwendolyn Gregory, deputy general counsel for the National School Boards Association, said most lawyers think it's questionable whether the *Jones* ruling will stick and are advising districts to avoid graduation prayers.

"We don't know whether it's legal or not," she said. "But to be conservative, we take the position that it's safer to avoid graduation prayers."

Brent Walker, associate general counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee, said the "Jones approach of running in a student to pray doesn't cure the constitutional problem as long as the ceremony remains school-sponsored. And when the principal 'blue

lines' the prayer to make sure it is non-sectarian, you create horrendous (church-state) entanglement problems."

Some districts, though, such as Greenville County (S.C.) School District, have adopted policies mirroring the *Jones* scheme. The Greenville board voted 7-4 in early May to allow graduating seniors to vote on whether to include non-sectarian prayers offered by a student.

Board member Margaret Burch, a Presbyterian, criticized the proposal, saying it makes a mockery of prayer.

"Prayer is far too personal and sacred to be desecrated and reduced to what amounts to political prayer," she said. "It becomes no prayer at all."

Burch said she could not believe Pat Robertson would urge school districts to use the *Jones* graduation-prayer model, with its requirement that the prayers be non-sectarian.

Some communities are attempting to avoid the growing dispute over prayer at graduation ceremonies by conducting non-school-sponsored baccalaureate services.

In Amarillo, Texas, eight churches joined together to sponsor a baccalaureate for seniors at the city's four high schools. About 1,000 of the school system's 1,500 seniors were among the 3,500 participants.

"We were able to provide Amarillo seniors a baccalaureate service that was in keeping with tradition and also in keeping with the laws of the land," said Ben Loring, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo and an organizer of the event.

CHURCHES

Church growth key: Open front door, close back door

NEWARK, N.J. (BP)—Opening the front door and closing the back door are essential elements of church growth, claims Win Arn, founder and president of Church Growth Inc., in Monrovia, Calif.

Opening the front door means using an array of methods to attract people to church, Arn told 300 people attending a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board school of evangelism and church growth. Closing the back door involves keeping new members from dropping out of church life.

The best recruiting tool is new Christians telling friends and family members about Christ, Arn said. He cited a survey of 20,000 church members, which found more than 70 percent came to church because a friend

or relative invited them. Walk-in visits, church programs, the pastor, a special need such as the death of a family member, Sunday school, unsolicited visitation and crusades or media events each accounted for less than 3 percent of reasons people were in church.

Biblical examples Arn cited of evangelism through relationships include Peter telling his brother Andrew about the Messiah, Jesus telling Zaccheus to share his new faith with his family and the response of Lydia and her household.

Churches should design outreach strategies around the principle that "God uses networks of people for the great growth of the church," Arn said. Leaders can help church members

identify unreached people by asking members to list their friends who do not attend church.

When people become Christians, help them immediately share Christ with their non-Christian friends, Arn urged.

"New converts know more non-Christians than church members," he said. "The longer you're in the church, the fewer friends you have in the world."

Yet making friends is an essential part of keeping new Christians involved in churches, Arn said. "Friends are the glue that holds people in a congregation."

Assimilating newcomers is the responsibility of the church, not the new member, Arn said. He noted he has

yet to meet a person who joined a church with the intention of dropping out.

To help new members become part of the congregation, he said, churches should:

■ Give them a task appropriate for their spiritual gift.

■ Make sure they are in a small group where they will be missed if they are absent, such as choir or Sunday school.

■ Highlight new members in church publications.

■ Create opportunities to build friendships. This must go beyond the coffee hour before Sunday school or after worship, he said.

■ Start new groups with new roles and tasks.

Pastor advocates missions giving over bigger buildings

NEWARK, N.J. (BP)—If Southern Baptists are going to share the gospel with all people, they must limit spending on church buildings, said a Florida pastor.

"If we're ever going to give what we ought to give to missions, we will have to be creative enough to use the buildings we have over and over again" rather than build new facilities, said Charles Roesel, pastor of First Baptist Church of Leesburg, Fla.

His church is not planning to build any new facilities, he said. "We'll just fill what we have over and over and give more money to reach the world."

Roesel addressed about 300 people attending the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's annual school of evangelism and church growth.

One example Roesel cited from his church is "Saturday Sunday School." From 1:30 to 3 p.m. each

Saturday, 60 volunteers lead Sunday school classes for 350 children from the church's bus ministry. That frees more space for children on Sunday morning.

In addition to creative use of space and alternative times for services, churches must minister to hurting and lonely people, the pastor said.

"The world is not impressed with our buildings, our budgets or our baptisms," Roesel said. "But when we help hurting people, the world will sit up and take notice."

In a town of 25,000, Roesel's church has more than 70 ministries, including crisis pregnancy counseling, assistance for abused children and homebound care for the elderly.

Each ministry's ultimate goal is evangelism, he said. Before the church became involved in such outreach, it never baptized more than 300

people a year. Since it began the ministries, it has not baptized fewer than 300 people a year.

Reaching hurting people requires lay leadership, he said. "We're not going to reach the world through clergy."

Roesel said his most serious mistake as a pastor was believing he was the only person in the church God

could use. The greatest decision he made was to trust the laity, he added.

To finance ministries, Roesel said churches must trust that God will provide. "If you're broke, start giving money away," said the pastor, whose church received \$100,000 more than its budget requirements last year. "If churches will quit hoarding and start sharing, God will start blessing."

Redefine worship, Dockery asks

HANNIBAL, Mo. (BP)—Southern Baptists have gone through a generation without worshipping because Sunday morning services have become so evangelistic, David Dockery said during a recent Bible conference.

Dockery, dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of theology, talked about worship during the Midwest Bible Conference at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo.

While insisting he is not against evangelism, Dockery said Southern Baptists try to have everything in their services. "And I'm not sure we can have it all," he explained.

Evangelistic services are "not a substitute for the worship of God," the theologian said. "We need a mixture."

When worship services are only evangelistic, a void is left, and that void "saps the life out of the church," he said.

Dockery said worship is "the act of giving worth or praise to someone." In the church, it is an offering given to God "out of recognition of who God is."

Genuine worship also "has a content to it," he continued. "As we sing the songs we must be able to think through what we are singing," and Christians should learn from and respond to the preaching.

"I think there is a need for renewal in our worship," Dockery added, citing four reasons:

■ The current shift toward entertainment in the modern world. People come to church expecting to be entertained, and "entertainment is no substitute for worship."

■ The Enlightenment has created an overemphasis on the rational element, Dockery said. This emphasis has left "no room for an emotional response to God."

■ The rise of revivalism. In some sectors, there has been an imbalance in emphasis on unbelievers to the neglect of nurturing believers, Dockery said.

■ The trend toward secularization. The influence of secular culture on the church has reduced the distinction between church and culture, Dockery said.

Dockery suggested four steps for the church's response:

■ Help the redeemed community rediscover and understand that worship is a primary function of the church.

■ Learn that worship is not passive, but active.

■ Understand that worship is primarily rooted in the "Christ event."

■ Emphasize worship is primarily spiritual and symbolic.

Prayer brought growth for Houston church

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

HOUSTON (BP)—Four years ago, members of Houston's Vietnamese Baptist Church took a long, hard look at themselves.

"We knew where we ought to be, but we were very far from that," recalls pastor Huynh Quoc Khanh. "I was frustrated because I preached and not many responded."

Out of that frustration, the church began holding Tuesday night meetings with prayer for spiritual awakening as the only agenda. Khanh credits God's answers to those prayers with the church's growth from 45 to 183 members.

Also in the last two years, the church purchased a building it shares with a black congregation and set a goal of starting a Hispanic mission.

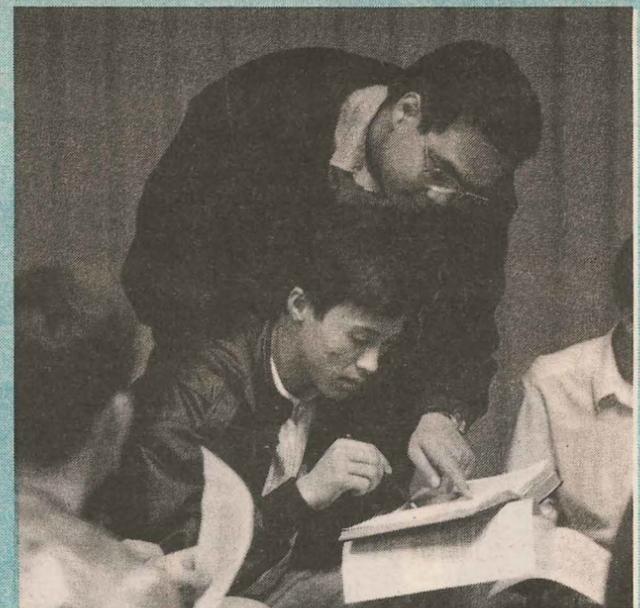
Evangelism among Vietnamese is most effective through relationships, Khanh says. Eighty percent of Vietnamese adhere to Buddhism, which stresses the value of ancestors and families.

"Our people will not listen to a stranger tell them their ancestors were all wrong," Khanh says. "You have to build friendship and trust."

Khanh made his profession of faith in Jesus Christ while escaping Vietnam.

"When I reached 18 my family sent me away to save my life," Khanh says. At that time, 18-year-old Vietnamese men were assigned to the war in Cambodia. Many of them did not live through the experience, Khanh says.

When Khanh escaped Vietnam, six people on his boat died from



lack of fresh drinking water. Facing death made Khanh recall the Christian teachings of his parents. He remembered John 3:16, which he memorized in vacation Bible school, and made his profession of faith.

Vietnamese with similar backgrounds find a place where they are understood and accepted at the church, which Khanh started in 1983. People drive from all over Houston to attend the Vietnamese church, Khanh says.

Church members meet on Fridays for choir practice and Bible study and Saturdays for prayer meetings. Their prayer requests on Saturday range from health concerns to family issues. But their Tuesday night prayer focus remains on spiritual awakening.

BIBLE STUDY Pastor Huynh Quoc Khanh looks over a student's shoulder during Friday night Bible study at Houston's Vietnamese Baptist Church. The church, which now plans to start a mission, began growing after focusing on prayer for spiritual awakening. (BP photo by Paul Obregon)

Political correctness vs. doctrine: An antagonistic debate

Segregation?

I am perplexed regarding the controversy over Freemasonry. The Home Mission Board found several areas of concern regarding the compatibility of Freemasonry, Southern Baptist doctrine and Christianity. One of the concerns was "the refusal of most lodges (although not all) to admit for membership African-Americans." I agree, no one should be denied admission to an organization based on race. Unfortunately, I'm afraid the most segregated time and place in America is still 11 a.m. on Sunday morning in the pews of our churches. We need to get the log out of our eye before we worry about the speck in someone else's (Luke 6:41).

L.T. Lewis
Louisville

When Allan Bloom published "The Closing of the American Mind" in 1987, he used the word "openness" to describe the "way of making surrender to whatever is most powerful, or worship of vulgar success look principled."

In my understanding of his use of "openness" and the current use of the term "political correctness," they are synonymous.

If so, political correctness "goes with the flow." It is the easiest way to succeed. The distinctives that provide orientation and identity to a person or a people are palliated by political correctness to the extent that they disappear into that gray immensity of the universal. Indeed, inclusivism is the passion of this cultural decorum.

Don't leave anyone out.

This dubious insight of our time strives for the excision of all prejudice. Certainty about something is suspect. Anyone who claims to know something is dangerous. Those who advocate the homogenizing of society warn against thinking one is right. "In the past, men always thought they were right, and that led to wars, persecutions, slavery, xenophobia, racism and chauvinism," Bloom wrote. With less concern for being really right, political correctness makes not thinking you are right at all noble and principled.

To be sure, there are deforming forces of convention and prejudice that should be debunked and jettisoned. This is far different, however,

from making indiscriminateness a moral virtue.

There is evidence that narrowness is compatible with the vitality of an individual or a people, whereas with political correctness it is difficult to avoid decomposition.

The question arises: How is the "impasse" in the Southern Baptist Convention, and the frustration among the faculty at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary related to political correctness?

Perhaps one's judgment is clearer if the effort is noted that assigns religion to the realm of opinion as opposed to knowledge. This is the basis for Fred Craddock seeking to inform the preacher that when he stands up before the modern congregation he is

"one without authority" as perceived by the world.

Both sides have opinions—strong opinions, some of which the other thinks lack justification. But, in my opinion, political correctness impinges the controversy at a point that should give us pause; namely, the antagonism of one side toward doctrine.

Parameters are precisely what political correctness rejects. Boundaries preconceived are unacceptable, even boundaries that offer place and identity. This is political correctness operating full tilt. Relativism is the soul of the whole idea. It will be interesting to observe where it rears its noble head.

John C. Huffman
Louisville

Better ways

At the 1991 Kentucky Baptist Convention, I voted in favor of the convention's plan to provide funds to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and I was pleased to see that a significant number of other messengers did the same. It made me feel good that Kentucky had chosen to support the committee after the Southern Baptist Convention had voted to reduce its support.

I voted again in 1992 to support the convention's plan, but was dismayed to see that only a slight major-

ity supported the motion. A large percentage of messengers were against it. The plan had become an issue dividing the state into two camps.

This year I have decided to vote against providing funds to the BJC. I still believe in the committee's work, but I also think there are better ways of supporting it than a plan that has divided our state as this has.

Every church in the state has the right and the opportunity to contribute to the BJC if it so chooses, and no church who does not desire to support the committee should be forced to do so by decision of the convention.

Therefore, in the spirit of fairness and respect for every church's autonomous right to decide for or against support of the BJC, I will vote against the convention's plan to provide funds, and will, instead, encourage my church—and others who are like minded—to provide support of its own free will.

Jeff A. Wise
Louisville

Support for Keown

It was with a sense of sadness that we learned of the trustees' decision to deny Dr. Gerald Keown an academic chair at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Keown has played an important part in the recent history of our congregation. Serving as our interim pastor two years ago, he brought to us a loving, gracious spirit which was a rich source of blessing.

The continuing divisiveness of our denomination is a tragedy, harming "moderates" and "conservatives" alike. It is not our wish to add to the conflict by casting dispersions upon any person or any organization. Rather, we simply wish to state that Dr. Keown is a Christian minister and educator who has blessed us and continues to bless us. We offer him our support, our prayers and our love.

Beechland Baptist Church
Louisville

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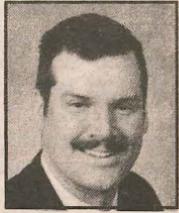
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PEOPLE

Kentuckians among Southern Seminary graduates



Johnathan Auten
Master of divinity
Louisville



Robert Brill
Master of social work
Louisville



Robert David Cherry
Master of divinity
Harned



Laura Chipe
Master of church music
Elizabethtown



Frederick Cummings
Master of divinity
Corbin



Robert Davis Jr.
Master of social work
Stephensport



William Earl Dickens Jr.
Master of divinity
Covington



Carol Francisco
Doctor of philosophy
Louisville



Stephen Harrington
MA in Christian education
Louisville



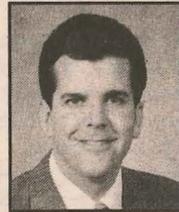
William Haynes
Diploma in Christian ministry
Louisville



Patricia Johnson
Master of divinity in Christian education
Louisville



Paul Jones
MA in Christian education
Paducah



Jeff Lamont
Master of divinity
Louisville



Harold Buddy Lee
Master of social work
Louisville



Jennifer Morton
MA in Christian education
Henderson



Lisa Piatt
Master of divinity
Louisville



Deborah Reichenbach
Master of divinity
Louisville



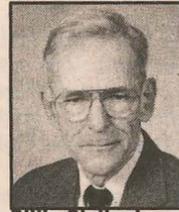
Lillian Rentschler
Master of divinity
Louisville



Bill Scott
Master of divinity
Corbin



James Smith
Master of divinity
Louisville



Billie Stallard
Diploma in Christian ministry
Fisherville



John Strimple
Diploma in theology
Georgetown



Bonnie Sturgeon
MA in Christian education
Louisville



Sharon West
Diploma in Christian ministry
Louisville

Has your will had a check-up lately?

Not even the most carefully drawn will remains sound permanently. Years pass; families grow or decline; circumstances change; Christian commitment grows. It is a good practice to read your will once a year. As a result, you will be reminded of prior decisions and will be aware of needed changes.

Symptoms to look for:

1. Growing children. Special provisions related to needs of minors may indicate the need for revisions.
2. Change in marital status. A marriage, death of spouse or divorce probably indicates the need for major changes or a new will.
3. Birth of a child. A new family member could necessitate changes to carry out your wishes.
4. Death. Death of a parent, spouse, child, beneficiary or executor calls for a close examination of your will.
5. Move. A change in permanent legal residence from one state to another requires a good look.
6. Exchange of assets. A change in the nature or growth of assets is an occasion for examination.
7. Tax laws. Recent changes in estate tax laws have made many wills out of date. A review is wise.
8. Gifts. Recent or contemplat-

ed gifts could make changes necessary.

9. Personal Representative. Death, disability or refusal of the personal representative probably requires major changes.

10. Growing Commitment. Your Christian growth, perhaps coupled with a lessening responsibility to children, may call for changes, to reflect your growing interest in the Lord's work.

Has this check-up revealed that you do not have a will at all? It is estimated that three out of four adults who will die this year have no will. If you are thinking about leaving a portion of your estate to a worthwhile charity, please give prayerful consideration to helping Baptist Healthcare Foundation help others. We would welcome your gift and put it to work in the name of the Lord.

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, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207 (502) 896-5003.

Paid Column

NOTE: These 24 Kentuckians were among 288 students receiving degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and its Boyce Bible School division in Louisville May 21.

Graduates shown are those who provided the seminary news office with all information requested and had a current photo on file with the seminary.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Full-time church custodian—church and activities building; Cedar Creek Baptist Church, (502) 239-2129 for application.

AVAILABLE: Roger Cowen is taking summer Sunday evening concert & revival dates, some Sundays left. Call (502) 267-7247 (answering machine after 4th ring).

FOR SALE: Dodge 15-passenger, balance of factory warranty, low mileage, \$6,000 off new. Three other 15 passenger vans from \$3,350. Call: Frankfort Chrysler 1-800-289-8223.

FOR SALE: Gestetner 5210 duplicator, purchased 12-90, \$4000; Adler-Royal 230Z copier, purchased 10-87, \$300. Prices negotiable; call Stithton Baptist Church, Radcliff, Ky., (502) 351-6055.

PASTOR SEARCH: First Baptist Church, Burlington, N.C., invites nominations for pastor. FBC is a downtown church with a membership of 852 and a budget of \$548,000 in a community of 40,000. Send resumes and referrals to Tom Stogsdill, First

Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2686, Burlington, NC 27216-2686.

WANTED: Part-time youth minister for small church. Send resumé to: B. Woodward, 217 Cottonwood, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

CHRISTIAN RETREAT: Air-conditioned lodge on 81 acres, wooded hills, lake, trails. Forty miles northeast of Louisville. Leaders experienced with couples, youth, ladies, men's retreats available. The Plantings Christian Retreat, Rt. 1, Box 145-A, Bedford, KY 40006. (502) 255-7676.

TOUR: Holy Land/Switzerland, Aug. 2-16, with Ted/Ginny Sisk. Call (606) 269-1281 or day phone, M-F, (606) 266-3174.

WANTED: Small church in Louisville area wants to rent/lease a building with option to buy. Call: (502) 429-4193.

TESTIMONIES: Looking to 'Do Something' innovative? Use Baptist laypersons with strong testimonies on subjects like: Being a professional Christian; How to be a Christian; Life in an un-Christian world; How to live in a 90s marriage. Call (502) 368-7203—leave message.

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

Marshall & Hogan honored

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Faculty member Molly Marshall and seminary supporter Ernest Hogan, a retired business executive, were honored during Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's 171st commencement May 21. Marshall, associate professor of Christian theology at the Louisville school, received the Findley B. and Louvenia Edge Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. Marshall, who joined the seminary faculty in 1984, was the first female theology professor named to a teaching post at a Southern Baptist seminary.

A committee composed of faculty, students and alumni selects the recipient of the award each year. Hogan of Boca Raton, Fla., received the George W. Norton Distinguished Service Award. The award, established in 1989 by a vote of seminary trustees, is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to Southern Seminary by an individual outside the seminary community.

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KENTUCKY KERNELS

The racial composition of Kentucky's population has changed little in the past decade. Data from the 1990 census shows the state's population is 92 percent white and 7.1 percent black, with all other races accounting for 0.9 percent of the total.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BAGDAD**—Bagdad Church called **Alicia Watkins** as minister of music.

■ **BROADHEAD**—First Church called **Mark Whicker** as pastor. He previously served as pastor at Sinking Creek Church in London.

■ **CARROLLTON**—First Church awarded **Larisa Keith** the Monty O'Neal Memorial Scholarship, and **Chad Franklin** the Edith Rodgers Memorial Scholarship. The scholarships, awarded the first time this year, are in honor and memory of two former members. Keith will enroll at Western Kentucky University of Bowling Green this fall. Franklin is a student at Georgetown College.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—**David Atch** resigned as Baptist campus minister at Elizabethtown Community College effective Aug. 1. He plans to continue his education at Southern Seminary in Louisville.

■ **LEITCHFIELD**—First Church elected five as deacons: **Randolph Behnken**, **Norman Cabbage**, **J.W. Dennison**, **Lonnie McKinney** and **John H. Taylor**.

■ **LEWISPORT**—Lewisport Church called **David Nelson** as interim pastor. He is a retired pastor from Owensboro.

■ **LEXINGTON**—First Church called **Greg Webber** as pastor. He is a recent graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **LONDON**—Mount Zion Church called **Don Farmer**, from Barbourville, as pastor.

Tommy Floyd is pastor of Slate Hill Church.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Macedonia Church called **Steve Evans** as minister of music and education and **Paul Gunn** as minister of youth and children. Evans comes from Rose Hill Church in Ashland; Gunn comes from Garden Acres Church in Burleson, Texas.

■ **PINE KNOT**—Pine Knot Southern Church called **James Mitchell Farthing**, of Richmond, as pastor. Farthing is a student at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

■ **SCIENCE HILL**—King Bee Church called **David Hargis** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Pilot Church in Somerset.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—**Samuel Smith** resigned as minister of education from First Church to serve as director of missions for Shelby County Baptist Association.

■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant Hill Church called **David Bullock** as pastor. He has served as pastor of Hartford Church in Hartford and is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

■ **STURGIS**—First Church ordained **Crise** as pastor of the ministry April 18. Crise is pastor of Old Bethel Church.

Smith has long record as deacon

By Jim Robinson
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Lynn Smith of Louisville should be a pretty good church deacon—after all, he's had 61 years of practice.

Smith, a former railroad conductor, has been a deacon at Auburndale Baptist Church since the mid-1960s. He is still an active deacon there, though he has had to discontinue his evening visitation routine since he doesn't drive at night.

But living across the street from the church allows Smith to act as unofficial caretaker of the property, and he has his own set of keys.

To sit with him about his life is to catch a glimpse back in time. His lined face has seen many things, and his "deaconin'" and "railroadin'" anecdotes make one want to spend the whole day with him.

Smith was born and raised a Catholic and left his Nelson County home when he was 15. His brother-in-law got him a job as a train brakeman at Lebanon Junction, and he stayed in the railroad business until he retired.

"I made my profession of faith in 1930," he said. "I was scared into it, I guess. The visiting evangelist laid it

on the line so plain I couldn't help but make a profession." Ordained as a deacon two years later, Smith was able to share his faith with others on the long train rides.

Keeping his New Testament prominently displayed in his train box so anyone could see it, he hoped his fellow trainmen would ask him about it. Some did. Smith the railroad worker for a short time on the railroad with a young man who came to visit him many years later.

"Your life and your influence caused me to become a Christian," the man told Smith. The elderly deacon still beams when he tells the story.

"The biggest difference I see now is that deacon then, we would witness anywhere, anytime," Smith said. "It ain't like that anymore."

The thing that bothers Smith most about visiting someone and sharing the Lord with them "is when they won't even turn off the TV during the visit." Witnessing to some people will sometimes get one "cussed out" or ignored, he said.

Smith says that after all his years as a deacon, he is sure of one thing above all else: "Those who trust and believe in the Lord Jesus are the only ones saved. He's our only hope of salvation."



Lynn Smith

'Bittersweet days'

The last days of our school year were bitter-sweet as always. So many wonderful events, the culmination of years of striving on the part of 65 girls and boys about to graduate. Yet each day a "last time" to do something, and eventually the final "goodbyes," knowing that one will never see many again in this world.

Saturday, May 8, was a beautiful, sunny spring day, neither hot nor cool, just a beautiful day. I accompanied our marching band on a picnic at Levi Jackson State Park in London. There several of our staff grilled hamburgers, and we all had a wonderful time. Then we took in a movie and came home.

Sunday morning we were off with the choir for our last concerts of the school year at Germantown Baptist Church in the morning after breakfast in Winchester. After a wonderful lunch provided by the Germantown folk, we traveled to Butler. There we sang for Mary Helen Evans Doyle, a former OBI full-time volunteer, in her home on Mother's Day afternoon. Now in her 80s and suffering from a stroke, she was mentally very alert and full of her usual spirit. Our girls and boys sang for her about six hymns.

Then it was on to Campbellsburg Baptist Church, where our choir sang that evening and I spoke briefly. After they fed us, we got home about midnight—about 20 hours after we had risen to begin the day.

Our spring sports convocation was held Monday morning. On Tuesday we had more than 150 guests from about 23 churches, mostly Baptist, but one Lutheran, one Methodist and three Catholic congregations represented. Nothing special was happening on that day, but all these people decided to visit on that day. Their visit made the day

very special, and most of them got here in time for our daily worship service.

On Wednesday our staff children performed a 25-minute musical on "The Creation" they had been preparing for months. They did a super job and we were very proud of them. I traveled in the afternoon to Irvine with a van-load of OBI alumni to be with the family of a 1935 OBI graduate who had died the day before, Lucy Baker Hatfield.

Thursday, 45 members of the "Young at Heart" choir of Shelbyville First Baptist, ranging in age from 65 to 93, led our morning worship. It was the last daily chapel for our graduating seniors, who were away most of Friday at Natural Bridge State Park for their farewell picnic.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, our Oneida Players performed nearly flawlessly their spring production of "Where the Lilies Bloom."

Saturday was another beautiful day; we hosted a track and field meet that lasted the larger part of the day.

In early evening I hosted a dinner for 32 specially invited guests in our oldest building shortly after 5 p.m. It was a pleasant time with these former and present students, some parents and several benefactors of our work. Afterward we attended the evening play together.

Graduation day was picture-perfect weather-wise. The morning sermon in our local church preached by our former pastor for 13 years, Joel Rackley, was excellent. That final service in the church is always very moving, as is the afternoon graduation ceremony.

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

Paid Column

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Richardson student scholarship endowed

Taylor County native Mrs. Alva Richardson has endowed the Harry and Alva Richardson Scholarship to assist students with ministry preparation. The funds have been placed with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, and annual interest will be used for student financial aid. She also provided funds to complete a student apartment in memory of her husband who died last year after a five-year illness. Mr. Richardson was employed with the Soil Conservation Agency for 23 years.

Mrs. Richardson's contact with Clear Creek began in 1954 when founder L.C. Kelly and his wife, Gladys, retired to Campbellsville and moved into her neighborhood. Mrs. Kelly would often visit and after Dr. Kelly died, she would stay overnight some. "She told so much about Clear Creek during those visits," Mrs. Richardson recalls. "It is inspiring to know men are still called to preach in their adult years, and Clear Creek is a place where they can prepare."

Mrs. Richardson was converted at age 15 in a rural Methodist church. Her mother wanted baptism by immersion, and the family joined Long Valley Baptist Church, located in the area now impounded

by Lake Cumberland. She has been a member of Campbellsville Baptist since she moved to town, worked in the extension department from its beginning until recent years, taught an adult ladies Sunday school class, and was active in the Coroney WMU circle.

She had a 42-year teaching career and retired after 26 years as English teacher at Taylor County High School. Her first teaching assignment had a \$49 weekly salary.

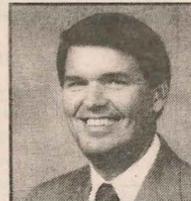
She and Mr. Richardson retired together and both enjoyed gardening. She continues to drive, providing neighbors transportation to church and grocery.

Mrs. Richardson recalls a childhood pastor, Ben Settles, who "fought the call" for many years. Men like that still come to Clear Creek. Last year all but five of our students needed financial aid. Although our tuition is lower than the typical college, our students have added family costs. Parents are not sending them a check. Through assistance like the Richardson Scholarship, crucial support will continue for these student families.

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

Paid Column

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

After civil war, Lebanese Baptists fight economic war

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP)—A 16-year civil war ended in Lebanon in 1990, but as Lebanese Baptists celebrate their 100th anniversary this year another war rages.

"We have a new kind of war—an economic war," said Nabih Haddad, general secretary of the Lebanese Baptist convention and pastor of Beirut's Ain Dara Baptist Church.

Runaway inflation has reduced the currency to almost nothing, and Baptists who have fled the country have reduced Lebanese Baptists' base of support.

In years past a U.S. dollar exchanged for about three Lebanese lira. Now a dollar brings about 1,800 lira. In a nation still reeling from war damages, the effect is devastating.

"Our income is in Lebanese lira but our expenses are in dollars," Haddad explained. "It's harder to support Baptist work now than during the war." Lebanon, a small country, imports many products at international prices.

"We went through 16 years of a very difficult war. It was very hard and we came out of it very tired. Thousands of homes were destroyed; thousands of houses burned. Tens of thousands of people of all ages were killed," he said.

Now more than two years after the return of peace, Baptist churches still struggle to repair shell-damaged buildings, such as Haddad's church.

Hanna Fahmi, pastor of Rahbe Baptist Church in Rahbe, a town in north Lebanon, tells a similar story.

Artillery shelling damaged the church building and made it totally

unusable for several years. Also, Muslims from a nearby town attacked Rahbe during the war, partially burning the church and its furnishings. Fahmi was beaten during the attack and most of his theological books were burned.

The church is now repaired enough to use it, but the walls and roof still need repair. "When it rains, it still comes in," said Fahmi, who estimates repairs will cost thousands of dollars.

"Many people hold more than one job," said Samuel Kharrat, pastor of another church with financial needs. "Each person in a family has to work. There's no way to tell when things will get better."

The war has hurt Baptists in other ways, as well. Thousands of Lebanese, including many Baptists, fled during the war. About 1,000 Baptists

in 25 churches and missions belong to the Lebanese Baptist Convention, plus six independent Baptist congregations.

Haddad said the entire Baptist community, including children and steady visitors, probably numbers about 5,000.

If everyone Baptists have won to Jesus Christ over the past two decades had remained, these numbers would be two to three times as high, he estimated.

Some Christians hoped the war's end would make the Lebanese people more responsive to the gospel. But Haddad said that hasn't happened. Evangelism continues to be hard work with no signs of large revivals. "Really, Satan is the same in any situation," he said. "In the world there are many reasons to prevent people from coming to the Lord."

"It's harder to support Baptist work now than during the war."
Nabih Haddad, general secretary of the Lebanese Baptist Convention

Fire hits Philippines seminary

DAVAO CITY, Philippines (BP)—A fire gutted several buildings at the Philippines Baptist Theological Seminary in Davao City, Philippines, and narrowly missed destroying the school's library and dormitories.

Student security guards discovered the blaze early April 22 in a storage area near the classroom building, said Tony Latham, Southern Baptist missionary from Jackson, Tenn., who teaches at the seminary. The fire apparently started in electrical wiring, possibly in a fan switch.

About 70 students were at the seminary, but none was seriously injured. Several sustained minor burns while trying to save books and equipment from the library as the blaze approached the building, Latham said.

The fire destroyed the classroom building, the administration office, faculty offices, a conference room and a storage space. The dormitories are connected to this area by covered walkways and would have burned if

fire officials had not contained the blaze, according to Latham.

"We're thankful no one was seriously injured and that the fire didn't begin in one of our dorms," Latham said. "We're also thankful the library was spared because buildings in one sense are easier to replace than books."

The fire chief said the inferno was within about five minutes of destroying the library, the largest theological library on the Philippine island of Mindanao.

Students were so concerned about losing the library, which is funded by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, that they broke windows and entered to salvage books and equipment, Latham said. Two students carried a piano from the chapel in the building's lower level.

Estimated loss for the buildings destroyed by the fire—not including equipment, books and records inside—was \$128,000.

Russians writing curriculum

DOMODEDOVA, Russia (BP)—It's been less than three years since Ljudmila Genrich was dodging the KGB, trying to tell children in her native Siberia about the love of Jesus.

Unable to teach religion openly under communist rule, the Baptist woman had to be both secretive and imaginative in sharing her faith. Her strategy? Plan birthday parties.

Whenever a local child had a birthday, she would throw a party in the child's home, invite children from the neighborhood and use the opportunity to talk about Jesus. Though the KGB soon caught on and continued to follow her, she never was arrested.

With the demise of communism and the collapse of the Soviet empire, Ljudmila is now free to share her faith and is even writing Sunday school lessons for children. Recently, she attended the second in a series of Sunday school curriculum development workshops led by workers from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The workshop drew more than a dozen Baptist church leaders from

Russia, Ukraine and Latvia, all republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"Our purpose was to help Baptists in the former Soviet republics develop Sunday school materials that will meet the needs of their churches," said Mavis Allen, senior program development coordinator for the Sunday School Board's church growth-Sunday school division and one of the six workshop leaders.

The series of workshops are the brainchild of Sergei Sannikov, president of Odessa Baptist Seminary and Bible School in Ukraine. "Sergei's dream is to provide Sunday school literature for all Baptist churches in the former Soviet Union," Allen said.

Participants in the first workshop were given an assignment to write a unit of Sunday school lessons for a particular age group and bring it to the second meeting, Allen said.

"We set aside time to evaluate those lessons as a part of the workshop and all our team was impressed. The writers had done remarkable work," she said.



Olive wood splinters sell for \$18,000

PARIS, France (EP)—Two slivers of olive tree, said to come from the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified, were sold for more than \$18,000 in a crowded Paris auction house May 12, despite Vatican warnings that it is a sin to trade in religious relics.

Accompanying the slivers of wood are two certificates of authentication, including one from the Vatican dated 1855.

The two pieces of wood, one-tenth and two-tenths of an inch long, lie in the form of a cross inside a tiny box with a crystal cover. The back of the box carries the Vatican seal.

Wood that is supposed to have come from the cross of Christ can be found in churches and convents across Rome, but this is the first known instance of any having

been sold. Vatican authorities have noted that the cross would have been enormous if all of the relics of it were authentic.

Bishop Lorenzo Antonetti, the Papal Nuncio to France, said in an interview with an Italian newspaper, "It is a sin to trade in holy relics," and warned that any Catholic purchaser was under an obligation to return the object to the church.

The object was sold at the Drouot auction house by heirs of Edouard Thouvenel, who was France's Ambassador to Constantinople in the mid-19th century. It was purchased by an unidentified middle-aged woman for 100,000 francs, or \$18,587.

For perspective, note that a Paul Cezanne still-life of apples sold for \$28.6 million at Sotheby's May 11.

MOURNING A Bosnian Serb woman mourns May 17 over the remains of her son, who was killed by Muslim forces in June last year near Srebrenica. The remains of 21 Bosnian Serbs, discovered in the area recently, were buried in a common grave in the eastern Bosnian village of Fakovici. How to respond to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia continues to perplex world leaders. Many groups, including a number of religious leaders, have called for military intervention to stop the killing. (RNS photo)

GEORGETOWN



B. J. MARSHALL BELIEVES IN GEORGETOWN'S MISSION(S)

"I've always wanted my life to count for something and I have lived my life in that way," says B. J. Marshall. A 1956 magna cum laude graduate of Georgetown College, Marshall put her credo, her faith and her commitment to Christian service into action as she ministered to others for more than two decades as a nurse in Japan and the Gaza Strip.

This remarkable woman has blessed hundreds of lives as a missionary, teacher, nurse and friend. Returning to Kentucky in the late '70s, she remains active as a clinical nurse, a Sunday School teacher at Lexington's Central Baptist Church and a loyal friend. Marshall's generous spirit and her continuing support of

Christian missions were affirmed through a special gift to her alma mater. "I made this bequest to Georgetown because I love what the college stands for, and I want to be part of its future mission efforts."

Georgetown College has acknowledged the loyalty and stewardship of Marshall by establishing the B. J. Marshall Mission Impact Program. Her endowment will underwrite many of the Christian ministry activities at Georgetown, including the missionaries-in-residence program and student summer missions.

President Crouch and Georgetown College salute B. J. Marshall, who personifies our "8 Guiding Principles."

8 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

QUALITY, as expressed in Jesus Christ, is our way of life.

EXCELLENT SERVICE is our goal.

LOYALTY is our strength.

TEAMWORK is to be cherished.

POSITIVE VISION will motivate us.

STEWARDSHIP is our responsibility.

PERSONAL GROWTH will bring us joy.

COMMITMENT will be reaffirmed daily.

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