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FOR THE RECORD

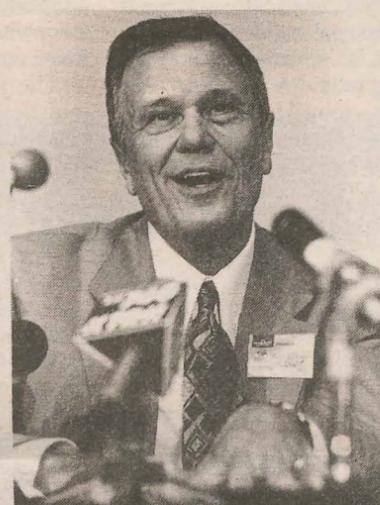
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The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that government may not single out religion for discrimination.
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SBC in Houston
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SBC SCENES (Clockwise from top left) ■ Patti LaCarter, a sixth grade teacher from Houston, witnesses outside a local fast food restaurant as part the Crossover Houston evangelism project. ■ Movie actor Dean Jones plays the part of Moses in a dramatic musical "extravaganza" during the Sunday School Board's report. ■ Al and Mary Mohler greet alumni and friends of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at a luncheon. Mohler will assume the seminary's presidency Aug. 1. ■ Ed Young, re-elected to a second term as SBC president, addresses reporters in a news conference. (BP photos)

FMB trustees elect Rankin on 59-14 vote

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

HOUSTON (ABP)—Missionary Jerry Rankin was elected president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board June 14 over the objections of some trustees who said his charismatic leanings would be divisive to Southern Baptists' worldwide outreach efforts.

In a special called meeting in Houston, one day prior to the start of the annual Southern Baptist Convention in that city, FMB trustees voted 59-14 to elect Rankin, a missionary administrator from Singapore and 23-year missions veteran.

Trustees debated Rankin's nomination during a three-and-a-half-hour closed-door meeting. In the public roll-call vote that followed, opposition trustees fell five votes short of the 25 percent necessary to block Rankin's election.

Debate during the executive session focused on Rankin's "personal theology and practice of spiritual gifts," search committee Chairman Joel Gregory told reporters afterward. The issue was "fully ventilated," Gregory said. "We fully accept his explanation."

Rankin, 51, admits to "praying in the Spirit," considered by most charismatics to be a private use of the spirit.
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Messengers address Clinton, Freemasonry, homosexuality

By Marv Knox
Editor

HOUSTON—Although he wasn't invited and didn't attend, President Clinton managed to stay in the spotlight during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston last week.

A resolution "separating" the convention from Clinton's policies on homosexuality and abortion, as well as a motion to withdraw fellowship from his home church because of its failure to censure him, gave messengers abundant opportunity to talk about the president.

The resolution—approved by an overwhelming majority of almost 18,000 messengers—urged the president to "affirm biblical morality" in public office. It also exhorted Southern Baptists to pray for Clinton and to try to influence him to reverse his policies.

The motion—which was referred to the SBC credentials committee—cited Clinton's views on homosexuality and asked that the SBC "unseat" messengers from his home congregation, Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark.

However, the credentials committee declined to recommend the action. Among other points of interest at this year's meeting were:

■ **Freemasonry.** Messengers approved a Home Mission Board recommendation, which noted some

Masonic teachings are "incompatible" with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine. But it cited the SBC's "deep convictions regarding the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church" as reason for allowing Masonic membership to "be a matter of personal conscience."

■ **Homosexuality.** This issue arose last year, when messengers approved the first reading of a constitutional change declaring churches that "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior" to be "not in cooperation" with the convention. The change—which received its final ratification this year—has the effect of ex-communicating churches, since it declares them ineligible to send messengers to SBC annual meetings.

In a related matter, messengers approved a resolution opposing government endorsement of homosexuality and the move to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military.

■ **Women.** A motion by Michael Barley, pastor of Franklin Street Baptist Church in Louisville, would exclude participation by churches that ordain women. It was referred to the SBC Executive Committee for con-

sideration before next year.

■ **Jerry Rankin.** Meeting during convention week, trustees of the SBC Foreign Mission Board elected Rankin, a 23-year veteran of foreign missions, as the board's new president. Rankin, the FMB area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific, replaced Keith Parks, who retired last year in disagreement with trustees over the direction of the board.

■ **Officers.** Messengers re-elected four out of five convention officers for 1993-94 terms: President Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston; First Vice President Jay Strack, an evangelist from Dallas; Registration Secretary Lee Porter, associate pastor of St. Andrew Baptist Church in Panama City, Fla.; and Recording Secretary David Atchison, a layman from Nashville. The lone newcomer is Second Vice President Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.

■ **Extravaganzas.** Influenced by President Young and his church's flair for exciting presentations, the annual meeting featured two evenings of dramatic shows highlighting major portions of the convention's work. One focused on the Christian education ministry of the Sunday School

Board; the other emphasized the ministries of the mission boards.

■ **Resolutions.** In addition to the resolutions regarding Clinton and homosexuals, messengers approved seven others. They affirmed the "finality of Jesus Christ as sole and sufficient Savior"; opposed expansion of abortion rights; promoted "racial and ethnic reconciliation"; supported "full and free accommodation of prayer and religious expression in public school policies"; urged Southern Baptists to increase their support for the Cooperative Program budget; expressed appreciation to the people who made the annual meeting possible; and reaffirmed the SBC's historic opposition to U.S. diplomatic ties to the Vatican.

■ **Motions.** Twenty motions were referred to the appropriate SBC agencies for consideration during the coming year. They ranged from a request that agencies divest themselves of stock in companies that have policies which conflict with the Bible; to a request to put a cap on the severance packages of convention employees; to a plea to change convention bylaws to allow state conventions, rather than convention officers, to name members to the SBC committee on committees.

■ **Evangelism.** Crossover Houston, the fifth evangelistic endeavor held immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting, produced 1,253 professions of faith in Jesus Christ.



Moving? See page 4 (06/22)

Court nixes law aimed solely at restricting religion

While the court was united in its decision against the city of Hialeah's ban on animal sacrifice, it was sharply divided over the legal basis for that judgment.

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Government cannot enact laws that single out religion for adverse treatment, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 11.

The high court said officials in Hialeah, Fla., violated the First Amendment by enacting ordinances that bar animal sacrifice—the Santeria religion's ritual of animal sacrifice—was targeted by the Hialeah ordinances, justices said.

While the court was united in its decision to reverse lower rulings that upheld Hialeah's ban, it was sharply divided over the legal basis for that judgment.

Five justices joined Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy in applying a controversial legal standard for determining how far government may go in restricting religious practice.

Kennedy—joined by Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Associate Justices Byron White, John Paul Stevens,

Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas—said the case is governed by the Smith rule, announced in the 1990 Employment Division vs. Smith case. In that decision, a narrow court majority said that neutral and generally applicable laws that incidentally burden religion do not have to be justified by a compelling governmental interest.

Prior to Smith, the court had required government to demonstrate a compelling interest to justify any restriction on religious practice. After Smith, that strict standard applies if religion is targeted.

Associate Justices David Souter, Harry Blackmun and Sandra Day O'Connor wrote or joined concurring opinions expressing their disagreement with Smith's relaxed standard of free-exercise protection.

The justices who applied Smith said Hialeah's ordinances were neither neutral nor generally applicable and therefore were subject to the stiff

compelling-interest standard.

"Each of Hialeah's ordinances pursues the city's governmental interests only against conduct motivated by religious belief. ... This precise evil is what the requirement of generally applicability is designed to prevent," Kennedy wrote.

Hialeah, the court majority said, neither demonstrated that its interests were compelling nor that it had written its ordinances in the most narrow fashion possible to achieve its interests.

The court acknowledged the city's legitimate interests in public health and safety and in preventing cruelty to animals, but said the ordinances, which allowed virtually every type of animal killing, were not drafted to protect such interests.

Rather, they were "gerrymandered" to bar only the religious killing of animals, the court said.

Souter expressed his "doubts about

whether the Smith rule merits adherence," but said its reconsideration by the court should be left to a future case in which the law at issue was neutral and generally applicable.

"In the meantime, Souter said, "We are left with a free-exercise jurisprudence in tension with itself."

A Baptist church-state expert expressed approval that the court upheld Santeria adherents' religious rights, but said the court or Congress should go farther.

"This case is not a victory for religion," said Oliver Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee. "It simply means government may not impose special burdens on conduct because it is religious."

Thomas said that until Congress passes the Religious Freedom Restoration Act—a measure that would restore the compelling-interest standard of protection for religious practice—"religious liberty will remain a matter of legislative grace."

Top Marine chaplain favors military ban

HOUSTON (BP)—A Southern Baptist who is the U.S. Marine Corps' top chaplain has voiced support for current military policy toward homosexuals to senior military officers.

Navy Capt. Larry Ellis' stance is reported in the premier issue of SBC Life, a new Southern Baptist Convention publication distributed during the SBC's annual meeting last week in Houston.

Ellis is an SBC Home Mission Board-endorsed military chaplain, a former Bible teacher in missions conferences at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center and a 1964 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

After news broke last year of the position paper prepared by Ellis' deputy, Chaplain Gene Gomulka, Ellis told the New York Times: "Legisla-

tors and military leaders have a legitimate role to play in checking the spread of homosexual behavior, especially among young people whose minds and characters are in formative stages, thus preventing physical and/or psychological harm that could injure many innocent people."

The issue of homosexuals in the military has been in the news since President Bill Clinton announced his intention earlier this year to lift the ban on homosexuals serving.

Ellis told SBC Life his stance brought negative responses from Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, among others, but that he stands by his statements.

Ellis acknowledged he walks a fine line in publicly opposing the president. "Because he is our commander in chief, the freedom of mili-

tary personnel to speak to issues on which he has spoken is somewhat limited," he explained.

"Chaplains, however, are a special case. In the exercise of our ecclesiastical function, we are not dependent upon the authority of the Department of Defense or the federal government. Historically, the separation of church and state has included protection to speak our conscience from the pulpit and to faithfully represent the teaching of our faith group.

"This is a most precious right and freedom," Ellis said. "It must be preserved at all costs or the whole concept of chaplaincy has been dealt a mortal blow."

SBC Life, published by the SBC Executive Committee, will begin regular publication in October, replacing the Baptist Program.

Presbyterians to study gay issue

ORLANDO, Fla. (RNS)—The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) avoided taking a stand in the rancorous debate over homosexuality by voting June 8 for a three-year study period.

Delegates to the church's General Assembly also approved a restructuring of the denomination's Louisville headquarters staff. The plan will reduce staff positions by about 25 percent and help bring expenses in line with current budget trends.

A church official reported that 73 staff members already have accepted financial incentives to take voluntary separation and another 11 are planning early retirements. If another 20-25 staff members opt for the voluntary programs, the total number of forced layoffs could be as few as 15-30, church officials estimate.

The three-year study period for the homosexual issue was approved after more than four hours of intense parliamentary jockeying over a variety of proposals.

During the study period, the church will continue its ban against the ordination of practicing homosexuals. Homosexuals who remain celibate, however, may be ordained.

The plan calls on Presbyterians at every level of the church to "be engaged in the discipline of open, diligent, prayerful study" of the issue and report results of their study to the church before the 1996 General Assembly.

After delegates approved the measure in a 396-155 vote with seven abstentions, about 70 gay and lesbian activists came onto the convention floor, carrying a wooden cross and singing "Jesus Loves Me" and "I Shall Not Be Moved."

Hunger legislation introduced

WASHINGTON (RNS)—From the Alabama Coalition Against Hunger to World Vision in Monrovia, Calif., and from Mercy High School in Baltimore to First Presbyterian Church in Hollywood, religious groups of all sizes and stripes are joining to back legislation aimed at reducing childhood poverty.

The object of the campaign—the Every Fifth Child initiative—seeks \$2 billion in additional funding next year for three of the most successful and cost-effective programs that help alleviate hunger and poverty among children. They are Head Start, the Job Corps and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

On June 1, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., introduced a resolution supporting the funding. In the House, Reps. Dale Kildee, D-Mich., and Bill Emerson, R-Mo., introduced a similar but even stronger measure, which, if passed, would appropriate actual money rather than, as in the Senate version, just express the sense of Congress.

"Supporting the Every Fifth Child legislation is one of the most significant steps a member of Congress can take to give the more than 14 million poor children a chance to escape the crippling effects of poverty," said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World, a lobbying organization which has promoted the legislation.

Joining the group in its campaign to address the hunger and poverty that affects one in every five Americans under the age of 18 are more than 330 other groups and agencies.

Airline reverses religion ban

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP)—Northwest Airlines has reversed the actions of maintenance supervisors who banned religion from the workplace.

On May 21, aircraft maintenance supervisors told Christian employees in Minneapolis that visible signs of religion were offensive to some employees. The workers were told to take their Bibles home, to remove religious symbols from their work areas, and to keep quiet about their faith.

"We were told we cannot witness to people, cannot talk to people about Jesus," said an aircraft mechanic. "We cannot have our Bibles displayed during the working day. We cannot have tracts, any Christian material, any Christian magazines."

Ron Roberts, vice president of base maintenance for Northwest Airlines, said the May 21 pronouncement was an error. "I think it was a communication problem," he said.

Roberts explained, "What happened was that some employees had been very out front with their faith, including periods of time that were

not lunch times or break times. There had been objections by some other employees that these guys were taking time out of work to talk about daily Bible lessons and so forth, when they were supposed to be working."

Roberts said managers decided they needed to be sure the religious zeal of employees didn't interfere with their work, "but by the time that was filtered down through a couple of levels it wound up being interpreted as 'take everything home and keep your mouths shut.'"

When Roberts heard that some mechanics believed their religious liberties were being restricted, he met with them to discuss their concerns. "One fellow asked me if he could keep his Bible on his desk," Roberts recalled.

"I said, 'That's fine, I keep my Bible on my desk.' But I asked him to set an example by not reading his Bible when he should be working. They understood that. All of us who are Christians have to be above reproach as far as our work ethic. I urged them to think about the example we set."

Call to teach children is of God, educator says

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE—People who teach children can be “a powerful witness to who God is,” a childhood education specialist told 200 Kentucky day care and after-school teachers.

“The calling to teach children is a calling from God,” said Kathryn Chapman, professor of Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. “It is not just a job. It is not just a way to spend the day.”

The church weekday education seminar, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Seminary, drew about 200 people to the Louisville seminary’s campus. Participants mostly were from Baptist churches with day care or after-school ministries.

Children learn what God is like by observing their teachers, Chapman explained.

“You may not call it grace when you give a child a second chance, but that’s what it is,” she said.

Trust can be taught, she added, when the teacher keeps promises made to children. And the orderliness of God’s creation is conveyed when

the teacher is prepared and the classroom is kept orderly, she said.

Unfortunately, those who work with children often suffer from a lack of self-esteem, Chapman said. “I just work with children” is a cliché often uttered by weary children’s leaders, she explained. Yet teachers are God-called people who have an “inordinate power of love to give.”

Likewise, children have “the power to bless us if we open our lives to them,” she said.

To illustrate the significance adults can play in a child’s life, Chapman cited a recent study of 500 adults who as children suffered physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Researchers found that half of those studied had been able to overcome the trauma of the abuse.

All those who surmounted the difficulties of their past shared one thing in common, she said: “One person in their life thought that child was the ‘cat’s meow.’ This significant person was identified as someone who had relatively consistent involvement in the child’s life and thought this child could ‘do no wrong.’ Often it was an aunt, uncle, grandparent, teacher or pastor.”

Tips for after-school programs

What makes a good church-based program for before or after school?

Jewell Nelson, preschool/children consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, offers this advice:

- **Accessibility.** Locate the ministry near the church or provide adequate transportation.

- **Quality.** Plan developmentally appropriate programs to be run by qualified staff.

- **Environment.** Provide adequate space for movement, activities and creativity in facilities that accommodate the needs of ages involved.

- **Creative play and activities.** Individual and group activities are important.

- **Affordability.** Ministries should be non-profit and structured to meet the needs of families. Churches may want to supplement the program as part of the overall church ministry.

- **Safety.** Make sure the space is

free of hazardous materials and equipment. Fire drills and fire inspections should be part of the program.

- **Exercise.** Provide space for free play and group interaction.

- **Multi-age grouping.** Allow children to interact with children of other ages.

- **License.** State regulations must be enforced.

- **Non-biased.** Provide equal opportunities for boys and girls and for children of all cultures.

- **Privacy.** Allow children to work or play alone or with other children.

- **Reliability.** Make sure children can depend on their needs being met.

- **Health care.** Train each staff member about what to do in case of an accident.

- **Homework.** Provide a special place for children to do homework, but allow some time for relaxation and a healthy snack as well.

Urgent correction: No free lunch

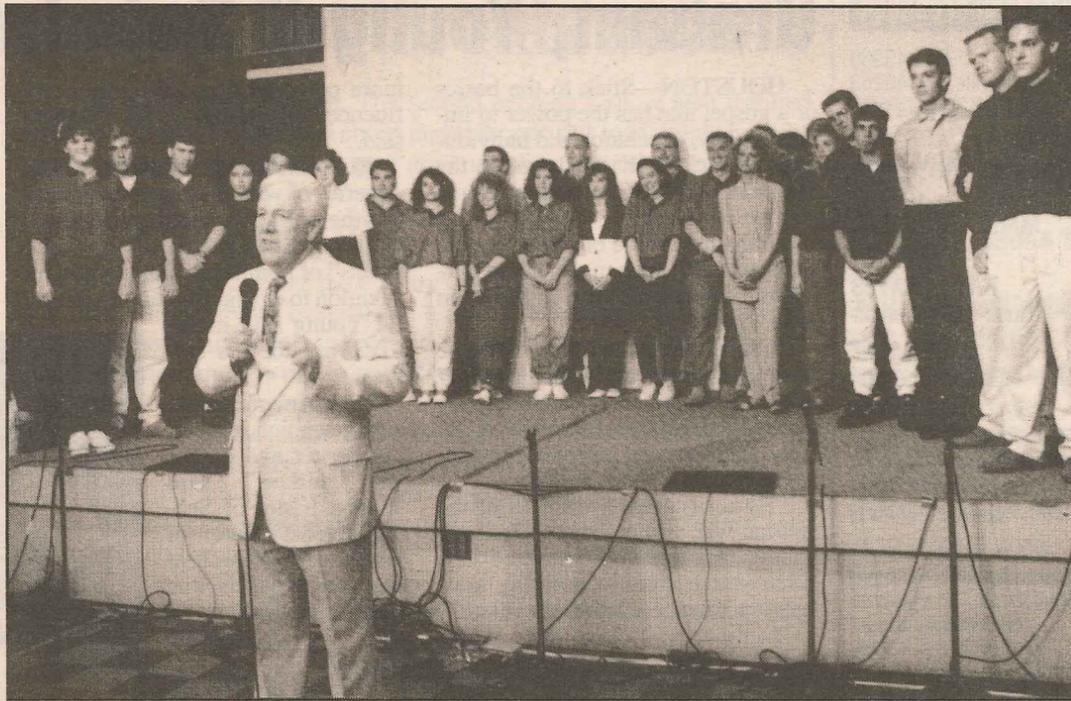
Church groups planning to attend this week’s youth evangelism conference, also known as “YouthFest ’93,” need to be aware of an important correction, reports Jim Hawkins, Kentucky Baptist Convention executive associate.

An item in last month’s “Events” insert in the Western Recorder wrongly stated that the registration fee for the youth evangelism conference includes two

meals. In fact, the \$4 fee does not include any meals.

Hawkins urges all youth leaders who may have been misled by the misprint to be sure the youths they bring to the conference have money to purchase their own meals.

The annual conference is June 25-26 at the Frankfort Civic Center. For further information, call the KBC at (502) 245-4101.



Chapian says look to God, not magazines, for image

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN—Author Marie Chapien told more than 350 women at Severns Valley Baptist Church June 5 to ditch their women’s magazines.

“Who defines your personhood? Who defines the way you are and feel?” she asked the women attending a second annual DaySpring conference at the Elizabethtown church.

“You do. We’ve got to get out of this comparison thing.”

She suggested that too many women base their sense of self worth on whether they look picture-perfect or are able to juggle jobs, families and time for self as successfully as those in the magazine articles.

Instead, she asked women to examine themselves, embrace their good characteristics and vow to strengthen other areas to compensate for weaknesses.

Quoting Jeremiah 31:3, Chapien told the women, “God loves you with an everlasting love, with lovingkindness. No matter what is around you, you are precious to God.”

She noted that women often demonstrated their low senses of self worth by telling the dumb things they do. But men typically do not tell their buddies about locking keys in the car or wearing two different shoes to work.

“What you think about yourself is what you say about yourself,” she noted. She added that women typically preface their comments with, “This may not apply,” or “This might be a dumb idea,” instead of having confidence in what they say.

Chapien, who has earned four academic degrees including a doctorate in counseling psychology and has written 25 books, thinks many of these traits stem from a mistaken concept of what women think they should act like.

“What would happen if we saw the vision of femininity as strong and brave, full of wisdom and courage?”

she asked the women.

Sheryl Luken, chairwoman of the steering committee for the conference, said such misplaced thinking by women prompted them to sponsor the first conference last year.

“Women do about 95 percent of the nurturing (in our society),” she said. “We want to let women know how much God values them.” She noted that in the biblical accounts, women were the first to know of Christ’s birth as well as his resurrection.

Chapien, who lives in the San Diego area of southern California, has written about emotions and relationships in “Free to Be Thin,” “Why Do I Do What I Don’t Want to Do?” and “Mothers and Daughters.” She also has written a series of popular devotional books for teens.

HITTING THE ROAD Members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s five “Son” teams get ready to hit the road for a full summer of ministry after presenting parts of their programs to parents and friends at Cedarvale Assembly. Ralph Hopkins, associate director of the KBC student department, explains the summer ministry plan while the students gather behind him.

Helping hands needed

- **Pews**—used or new—are needed by Priest River Southern Baptist Church in Priest River, Idaho, a small church of about 50 members. Call Pastor Dave Huffman at (208) 448-1717 or (208) 448-2370.

- **People** are needed to do evangelistic work in two of the final projects of the Kentucky-Brazil partnership. Volunteers are especially needed for trips scheduled Sept. 2-15 and Nov. 18-Dec. 1. Contact Calvin Wilkins at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, (502) 245-4101.

- **Labels** from Campbell’s products with brand names such as Campbell’s Soup, Prego, Pepperidge Farm, Vlasic, Franko-American, LeMenu, Swanson, V-8, and Mrs. Paul’s are being collected by Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. One million labels collected by March 1, 1994, will secure a new 15-passenger van for the school. Contact Shelby Castlen at (606) 337-3196.

- **People and crafts supplies** are needed for Cumberland College’s Mountain Outreach/Love in Action program. Volunteers are needed through July 30. Supplies sought include glue, construction paper, crayons, markers, beads, pre-sweetened Kool-Aid, Bibles and small hand tools. Contact Rick or Hope Rieffer at (606) 549-3934 or (606) 549-2200, ext. 4346.

“Helping hands needed” is a monthly column to help Kentucky Baptists know where their volunteer help is needed in Christian ministries. Submissions must be received by the first of each month at Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253. No solicitations for money are allowed.

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MARV KNOX
Editor

MARK WINGFIELD
News Director

RAY L. HAYES
Business Manager

C. R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

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Graham, Young & Swindoll address messengers

HOUSTON—Stick to the basics of a gospel that has the power to impact society, the church and individual lives, Jack Graham advised in the Southern Baptist Convention annual sermon last week.

Graham was one of three keynote speakers SBC messengers heard during the annual meeting in Houston June 15-17.

Biblical Christians must not lose hope, despite an "anti-Christian bias" in the media, losses in electoral politics and a pervasive secularism in society, said Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas.

"By all accounts, we are losing the cultural war of our society," he said, adding that people committed to a conservative view of morality have been "outnumbered and out-voted."

To those who claim that biblical morality is "prehistory," Graham agreed, saying, "They were ordained and settled in the heart of God before time began."

God is judging America by "taking his hand off the lid" and allowing the nation to experience the consequences of its sin, he said.

Nevertheless, Southern Baptists must continue to preach an uncompromising gospel, knowing that it is

more powerful than any cultural influences or societal trends, Graham said.

President's address. The America of yesterday is gone because Southern Baptists and evangelists "side streets" of homiletics, politics and inattention to evangelism and missions, Ed Young said in the SBC president's address.

"Our America, from any viewpoint, is growing darker and darker and darker," said Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston. "We look at our America in this hour and we have to ask, 'Where is the church?'"

Young said social victories today appear on the side of abortion advocates, drug dealers, the American Civil Liberties Union and proponents of the humanist agenda.

"The evangelical church, and, yea, even much of our beloved Southern Baptist Convention, have been on side streets," he said. Recent Gallup surveys, Young noted, show

attendance up, but traditional morality in decline.

Political "side streets" also have occupied the attention of too many Christians, Young asserted.

"The difference between the church in the 21st century and the church in the first century is the difference between influence and power," Young said. "The first century church did not have much influence (on the larger society), but it had the power of God."

But the "saddest side street we have marched down," Young said, is declining evangelism and missions too low on the priority list.

"Brethren, we might as well get deadly honest," he said. "You can't find any universalists among us, but ... by not letting evangelism be the main thing ... we have become functional universalists."

Charles Swindoll. Live with integrity, popular author and radio personality Charles Swindoll urged Baptists in the SBC's closing session June

17. "My message to you today ... is that you not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that you live the word of God," said Swindoll, pastor of First Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, Calif., and newly named president of Dallas Theological Seminary. "Don't just teach it. Don't just preach it. Don't just quote it."

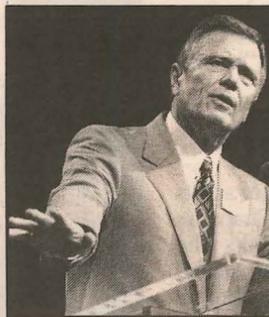
The audience applauded when Swindoll encouraged, "Be sure you live it when the church is watching and live it when nobody's watching."

Swindoll asked the crowd: "If it were possible for me to slip into your inner world, the world that happens when the doors are locked and the crowd has gone home, and you are alone in the secrecy of your world and your thoughts, what goes on there?"

He continued, "God cares about your thoughts, what goes on there?" "He cares about your eyes and the things you allow them to see. He cares about your lips and the things you say in the parking lot after board meetings."

True integrity, Swindoll said, "implies you do what's right when no one else is looking, as well as when everyone else may be compromising."

Compiled from Baptist Press reports



Ed Young

'Extravaganza' highlights barriers to missions work

HOUSTON (BP)—A Southern Baptist musical extravaganza during the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston confronted walls that home and foreign missionaries must breach to penetrate the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Featuring an array of music and media, the event challenged messengers to eliminate attitudes which prevent missions involvement.

Costumed historical figures on stage and modern-day missionaries on video demonstrated how they have scaled the walls of fear, superstition, ignorance, cultural divisiveness and prejudice across the history of world missions.

But then, as set walls fell, the focus narrowed to individual Southern Baptists and the personal barriers they must hurdle to allow God's will to work in their lives.

"Do you recognize this wall?" asked Christi Myerns, news anchor of KTRK-TV in Houston, who interviewed the historical characters and the missionaries in the dramatic presentation.

"You should," she said, "because it represents your barriers to the perfect will of God in your life" as Southern Baptists seek to minister throughout the United States and in more than 129 nations around the world.

She described it as a "wall of selfishness" made of "bricks ... fastened together by the power of your will in resisting the call of God upon your life."

An enthusiastic audience of Southern Baptists repeatedly interrupted the session with applause in appreciation for the cast of professional actors, the choirs and orchestras of First and Second Baptist churches of Houston and the combined choirs of the Union Baptist Association.

From a foreign mission leading backyard Bible clubs to East German housing complexes to a home missionary feeding hurricane victims in South Florida, the audience got a glimpse of Southern Baptists' worldwide mission efforts.

Don Kammerdiener, Foreign Mission Board executive vice president, and Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board president, issued pleas for financial and prayer support of missions as well as for people to commit their lives to mission careers.

As missionaries stood among the audience, 619 people made commitments to home or foreign missions, according to preliminary reports. Another 1,800 people made decisions to support missions by giving more sacrificially or praying more.



THANKS FOR GIVING *Marijane Vandiver* (center), playing the part of a bag lady, shares from her meager resources with "street person" Alan Green, evoking a musical "Thank you" from Green, while Debra Paget offers encouragement as Annie Armstrong, namesake of Southern Baptists' annual home missions offering. The three actors from Second Baptist Church in Houston were part of a missions "extravaganza" presented by the home and foreign mission boards. (BP photo)

SBC steers away from controversy, but threats remain

The Southern Baptist Convention took the high road away from controversy on several fronts last week. Messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Houston:

■ Overwhelmingly approved a compromise recommendation regarding the compatibility of Freemasonry with Christianity and the SBC. For a year, opponents contended Freemasonry is a dangerous cult fraught with satanic overtones. Supporters insisted it is a fraternity and not a religion. They claimed participation helps most men become better Christians and church members, and the SBC has benefited from leaders who were Masons.

Messengers adopted a statement that defined a middle ground. Some Masonic teachings are compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, while others are not, the statement said. It cited Baptist tenets of the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church, stressing participation should be a matter of personal conscience. And it urged Southern Baptists "to prayerfully and carefully evaluate Freemasonry in light of the Lordship of Christ, the teachings of the Scripture ... as led by the Holy Spirit of God."

After turning down an amendment which took a hard-line anti-Mason approach, messengers signaled a willingness to move beyond the dispute and let individual Baptists and local churches decide how they feel.

■ Sidestepped a showdown with Woman's Missionary Union over its willingness to help other groups.

WMU became a hot topic in January, when its executive board voted to enlarge its focus to embrace non-SBC missions organizations and to prepare missions education materials for evangelical Christian groups. The action potentially paved the way for WMU to work with the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which has been disaffected by the SBC's rightward shift. Subsequently, the convention's Executive Committee, Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board passed a resolution urging WMU to maintain an "exclusive relationship" with the SBC.

Based on these events, many observers expected SBC messengers to draft some sort of exclusive-relationship statement aimed at the WMU. Such a scenario never developed. Meeting before the SBC sessions began, WMU determined no official response was needed to the Executive Committee/mission boards' resolution. Later, when WMU gave its report to the full SBC, only two messengers asked questions about WMU's relationship to the Fellowship. During a lull in that dialogue, SBC President Ed Young offered what he called "my report, my witness" regarding the longtime effectiveness of WMU in Southern Baptist missions. Time for WMU's report expired without any of the 17,886 messengers moving to criticize or rebuke WMU.

■ Elected a slate of officers with almost none of the political machinations that marked previous votes. In fact, four of the five officers were re-elected, three by acclamation. Even the contested elections were settled on single ballots without political rancor.

■ Spent their evenings enjoying high-entertainment extravaganzas.

Following the lead of President Young—whose congregation proclaims itself on Houston billboards as the "Fellowship of Excitement"—the committee on order of business planned show-biz night-time sessions. The first evening focused on the work of the Sunday School Board and featured country singer Ricky Skaggs, actor Dean Jones and gospel artists Cynthia

Clawson and Wayne Watson. The second evening's show also featured professional performers, local choirs and elaborate sets to highlight how the "walls" of resistance to the gospel are crumbling around the globe. The events prompted rave revues from most messengers, and numerous individuals committed themselves to missions service.

■ Shared the gospel while in town.

Messengers from across the country descended on the host city several days early, to help with evangelistic block parties, door-to-door surveys, street witnessing and other evangelistic events. Crossover Houston, the fifth such citywide campaign tied to an SBC annual meeting, resulted in a record 1,253 professions of faith in Christ.

But everything was not so sweet and light. Several actions reflected the divisive nature of numerous annual meetings of the past decade:

■ A motion would have unseated the messengers from President Clinton's home congregation, Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, because their church has not censured him for his positions on abortion and homosexuality. Although the credentials committee did not recommend such action, the motion raised the specter of punishing a church for the actions of one individual.

■ Another motion recommended expanding the list of reasons why a church could be removed from the convention to include ordination of women ministers. The proposal would step beyond an issue on which the convention has fairly broad consensus—homosexuality—to one that could wreak havoc in many parts of the convention. At least 131 congregations already have ordained women.

■ A resolution titled "The Finality of Jesus Christ as Sole and Sufficient Savior" seemed intended to sow discord. On its face, it appears to be a forthright statement, one on which virtually all Southern Baptists could agree. But the obvious nature of the statement points to its insidious nature. The implication is that the statement must be made because "somebody" doesn't believe it. Coupled with Southeastern Seminary's distribution of a borderline-defamatory chart describing orthodoxy, neo-orthodoxy and liberalism, this resolution raises more questions than it answers.

■ A motion requesting that the Executive Committee publish a record of each church's contributions to the Cooperative Program in the SBC Annual smacks of intimidation and coercion. Cooperative Program giving has become the convention's political football in recent years, and such a scorecard—coupled with the same motion's request that the Executive Committee consider as CP the gifts designated to the SBC that bypass state conventions—primarily would serve negative purposes.

■ A motion requesting an investigation into harassment of female students by an unnamed trustee at Midwestern Seminary unfairly besmirched the character and integrity of all the school's trustees and its administration.

At a time when the SBC stands in the crossroads, such pettiness and mean-spirited actions could blow up in the convention's corporate face. Discussions with numerous pastors from Kentucky and across the larger convention last week often wound down to a common theme. They and their churches are seeking reasons to stay strongly affiliated with the SBC in coming years. The "high road" actions will give them those reasons. But divisive, political activities will drive them—and their support—away.

Marv Knox

Pastors from Kentucky and other states said their churches are seeking reasons to stay firmly affiliated with the SBC. The "high road" actions will give them those reasons. But divisive, political activities will drive them—and their support—away.

Controversies: A Baptist tradition

Fred Anderson is the executive director of the Virginia Baptist Historical Society. His weekly column appears in the Religious Herald, the Virginia Baptist newspaper.

With the "changing of the guard" at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in process, I found Anderson's column of June 3 intriguing.

"Following the death of John A. Broadus in 1895, William Whitsitt was elected president of Southern Seminary. Several years earlier, Whitsitt had published the results of his history research in Oxford; he determined that Baptists could be traced only as far as the early 1600s in England.

"His research likely would have remained obscure except for the dogged determination of a faction in the SBC called the Landmarkers. They considered the scholar's findings tantamount to heresy since they contended that Baptists descended in an unbroken succession of a trail of blood which goes back to John the Baptist.

"Following historical-scientific inquiry, Whitsitt was not content with mere acceptance of legend and lore. He once wrote, 'I have never affirmed the impossibility of a succession of Baptist churches, but I have admitted my inability to demonstrate the existence of a succession from the historical material at my

command.'

"The Landmarkers were furious. They rallied around Thomas T. Eaton who had left his pastorate in Petersburg for the Walnut Street Church, Louisville, and thus he opposed Whitsitt on his own doorstep. The storm which raged threatened the SBC and its seminary.

"William E. Hatcher of Richmond became Whitsitt's chief companion. The president of the SBC wrote Hatcher: 'It is doubtful which side will be in the majority. The seminary should have the support and confidence of all. We must rescue it from distraction.'

"Events seemed to culminate around the SBC meeting set for Wilmington, N.C., in 1897. Hatcher and Whitsitt sat up all night crafting a conciliatory statement; and after the beleaguered scholar read his statement, the delegates 'moved like a tide

towards the front to shake hands with Dr. Whitsitt.' For a brief spell harmony prevailed.

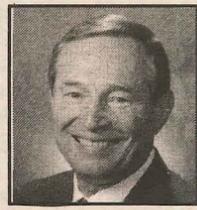
"But the opposition continued. The next year's SBC meeting in Norfolk was threatened to disrupt in anti-Whitsitt sentiment. Working behind the scenes, Hatcher again tried to stall a showdown.

"But the Landmarkers were relentless; and finally to keep the seminary from destruction, Whitsitt resigned.

"Hatcher observed: 'The sword went into his soul. His convictions brought suffering, and he showed the patience which marks the hero. It is hardly possible that the Baptist historians of the future will overlook his name. His last public words were, 'With charity for all and malice towards none, I bid you farewell.'"

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

Messengers rap Clinton; decline to punish church

"The intent of this resolution is to separate ourselves as a body from the president's policies on the critical moral issues we believe to be in contradiction to the word of God and what is best for America."

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., and a member of the SBC resolutions committee

HOUSTON (ABP)—Southern Baptists directed a measured rebuke at President Bill Clinton's social agenda by passing a resolution distancing the denomination from Clinton's gay-rights and abortion policies, while rejecting an effort to unseat messengers from the president's home church.

Messengers to the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution to "separate" the convention from a litany of public policies advocated by the Clinton administration.

The resolution also urged Clinton "to affirm biblical morality in exercising his public office" and called on Southern Baptists to "use their influence with the president to urge him to stand for biblical morality and reverse his stands."

The SBC resolutions committee used temperate language in drafting the statement on Clinton. Among the 18 separate anti-Clinton resolutions proposed by messengers were expressions of "resentment" and "outrage" at Clinton's "anti-Christian stand" and calls for "public reprimand" and a request for Clinton to withdraw from affiliation with the SBC.

"I think we used great moderation and great care," said James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., and resolutions committee chairman. In fact, Merritt said, the committee anticipated the resolution's final draft might be criticized for going too easy on Clinton, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark.

Although the resolution was titled "On William Jefferson Clinton," committee member Ronnie Floyd told messengers it was intended as a repudiation of Clinton's policies and "not a personal attack."

"The intent of this resolution is to separate ourselves as a body from the president's policies on the critical moral issues we believe to be in contradiction to the word of God and what is best for America," said Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark.

Merritt said the resolutions committee felt compelled to address Clinton's views because "as a fellow Southern Baptist we have a special responsibility to speak the truth in love to him."

The resolution was not without criticism. One messenger—Don Wilkey from First Baptist Church of Onalaska, Texas—said mentioning Clinton by name in the resolution sets "a dangerous precedent" which "smacks of partisan politics."

"We've already made the WMU mad and the Masons mad. I don't want to go back to put out fires because we've made the Democrats mad in our county," he said.

After messengers adopted the resolution overwhelmingly, SBC President Ed Young paused proceedings to offer a prayer asking "godly wisdom" for President Clinton and for the nation's "revival and renewal."

That act, Merritt later told reporters "should say a lot to the general public and to the media about where

our heart is."

Meanwhile, the convention refused to grant one messenger's desire to withdraw fellowship from Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., for failing to discipline Clinton, a member at the church since 1980.

Bo Hammock, pastor of Providence Village Baptist Church in Lake Butler, Fla., argued the church's members, "due to their lack of action ... are by their silence supporting Bill Clinton's endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle."

The motion was referred to the SBC's credentials committee, which viewed it as a test case of a new article in the convention's constitution which declares churches which "act to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior" are not in cooperation with the SBC.

The credentials committee ruled that Immanuel took no formal church action to give evidence of support for homosexual lifestyles but provided "ample evidence to the contrary."

Also, the committee ruled, the SBC has a right only to find churches—not individuals—in violation of its constitution.

Using those criteria, the committee ruled Immanuel Baptist is "in friendly cooperation with the SBC and sympathetic to its purposes and work."

The church's pastor, Rex Horne, welcomed the committee's ruling as "only proper," but expressed "embarrassment and anger" at messengers being asked to defend their church's reputation.

"If Immanuel Baptist Church can be called to give an account, any church in the Southern Baptist Convention can," he said.

The 4,418-member church has led Arkansas Baptists in Cooperative Program giving for 30 years. Last year it gave \$411,485, or 19.9 percent of a \$2 million budget, to convention causes and was 13th in the SBC in gifts to the SBC unified budget.

"My concern is what this body is going to do about stopping some of this that is just a witch hunt," Horne said. Currently, he said, a single disgruntled messenger may attempt to "stop anybody you don't like" from attending the SBC annual meeting.

Hammock, pastor of a 383-member congregation which gave \$5,841 to convention causes last year, offered the motion criticizing Immanuel's failure to take "biblical action" to correct Clinton's views on homosexuality.

"Last year the Southern Baptist Convention took a biblical and historical stance against the sin of homosexuality," Hammock said. "It is time for us to take another stand. We have a Southern Baptist who is doing more to promote and encourage homosexuality than anyone in the history of the United States."

Two other motions aimed at withdrawing the convention's fellowship from Clinton individually were ruled out of order, citing Baptist polity which places responsibility for discipline of individual members with the local church.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"No president and no congress shall be able to stop the purposes of the Almighty God. When George Bush was president we did not have revival and now that Bill Clinton is president he can't keep us from having revival."

SBC President Ed Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston

"If Immanuel Baptist Church can be called to give an account, any church in the Southern Baptist Convention can. My concern is what this body is going to do about stopping some of this that is just a witch hunt."

Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark.—the home church of President Bill Clinton and the object of one messenger's attempt to unseat messengers due to Clinton's position on homosexuality and abortion.

"It's like taking a picture of the mountains. You can't zero in on any particular feature" but appreciate "the whole effect."

Retired Mississippi pastor T.D. Traylor, commenting on a missions "extravaganza" of video, drama and music.

"In light of the fact that many tenets and teachings of Freemasonry are not compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, while others are compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine, we therefore recommend that consistent with our denomination's deep convictions regarding the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church, membership in a Masonic Order be a matter of personal conscience."

Excerpt from the report on Freemasonry approved by SBC messengers

Resolutions target homosexuality, abortion

HOUSTON (ABP)—Messengers to the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention flexed their moral muscle June 15-17, adopting strong resolutions on several key social issues and a variety of other issues:

■ **Homosexuals in the military.** The resolution affirms homosexuality as "immoral, contrary to the Bible and contrary to traditional Judeo-Christian moral standards."

It lists several reasons for opposing homosexuals in the military, including that they are "detrimental to morale, unit cohesion, good order, discipline and mission accomplishment" and would endanger the life and health of military personnel by increased exposure to sexually transmitted diseases and tainted blood.

The resolution acknowledges the biblical promise "that all persons, including homosexuals, can receive abundant, new and eternal life by repenting of their sin and trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord."

■ **Abortion.** The resolution states strong opposition to the Freedom of Choice Act, legislation pending in Congress which would "result in a national abortion-on-demand law prohibiting states from regulating and restricting abortions in any meaningful way."

The statement notes that about 1.6 million abortions are performed each year in the United States, while expressing once again the view that life begins at conception and that the Bible prohibits the practice of abortion.

The resolution also opposes efforts to introduce abortion pills into the United States, attempts to deny abortion opponents free-speech rights during "responsible non-violent protests outside abortion clinics," and health-care reform provisions that would use public monies to fund abortions.

In addition, the resolution states Southern Baptist opposition to the use of "electively aborted fetal tissue" in scientific experiments and to repeal of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits federal funding of abortion.

■ **President Clinton.** The issues of abortion and homosexual rights were cited as specific reasons for a separate resolution against the policies of President Clinton, who is a Southern Baptist. (See story above.)

■ **Racial and ethnic reconciliation.** The resolution reaffirms Southern Baptists' "intention to love our neighbors as ourselves, denouncing in strongest terms every expression of racial and ethnic prejudice, discrimination and hatred."

It calls on national and world leaders to work to end genocide wherever it is found and urges federal, state and local governments to enforce civil-rights laws "when such laws are in accordance with the word of God."

■ **Religious expression in public schools.** The resolution decries rulings and actions messengers said have eroded the right of students to express their beliefs. The statement specifically notes a Supreme Court decision prohibiting school-sponsored prayers

at public school commencement ceremonies.

The resolution urges Southern Baptists and school officials "to work aggressively for full and free accommodation of prayer and religious expression in public school policies, including public school-related events."

■ **Vatican ambassador.** Southern Baptists also restated their opposition to diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Diplomatic ties with the Roman Catholic see were established in 1984 and have been continued under President Bill Clinton.

In their resolution, Southern Baptists insist such ties are a violation of the First Amendment and they call on national leaders to end the relationship.

■ **Cooperative Program.** In the statement, Southern Baptists commit themselves to continuing and increasing support for cooperative missions "so that all people might hear the gospel." They also commit to consider increasing gifts through the Cooperative Program unified budget.

■ **Salvation.** The resolution says Jesus Christ is "the sole and sufficient Savior for all persons who have lived or ever shall be" and the only means of salvation is "personal repentance and faith in Jesus Christ."

Resolutions are non-binding expressions of the opinions of messengers attending a particular convention. They are not the same as motions, which mandate specific actions to be taken.

Messengers approve HMB report on Freemasonry

HOUSTON (ABP)—Membership in a Masonic Lodge should be a matter of personal conscience, Southern Baptists said June 16, although they acknowledged many Masonic teachings “are not compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine.”

Messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention in Houston debated the Masonic issue for a tense half hour before overwhelmingly approving the recommendation, drafted by the SBC Home Mission Board.

The vote apparently concluded a year of debate in the 15 million-member denomination over Masonic membership. At last year’s SBC, messengers asked the HMB to conduct a study of the secret fraternity.

The HMB recommendation, a compromise that offered both praise and criticism for Freemasonry, drew reluctant endorsements from both Masons and critics when it was approved by the agency’s trustees in March.

Messengers turned back an effort to toughen the recommendation when it was presented June 16. Dan Daniels, a messenger from Mobile, Ala., offered an amendment to declare Freemasonry to be a “mixture of paganism and Christianity” that is

“condemned by God.”

Freemasonry, which is organized into 51 independent Grand Lodges nationwide, is a secretive organization known publicly for its benevolent activities but whose private pursuits involve elaborate rituals and oaths and devotion to an eclectic quest for higher knowledge.

Critics insist those private practices, inspired by pagan rituals and occultism, comprise a religion that competes with Christianity by convincing well-intentioned men that good deeds—not faith in Jesus Christ—can get them to heaven.

Masons, on the other hand, insist their organization is a fraternity, not a religion, and that its principles both reflect and enhance the Christian faith of members.

Daniels’ motion would have removed language that entrusted the decision about Masonic membership to “personal conscience,” citing the Baptist tenets of the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church.

“Let there be no whitewash,” Daniels said. “Are we to be righteous or partly righteous?”

Brad Allen of Duncan, Okla., HMB trustee chairman, argued

against Daniels’ motion, which he said “is asking this convention to strike two of the dearest things to the Baptist heart—the priesthood of the believer and autonomy of the local church.”

The amendment failed by a margin greater than two-to-one.

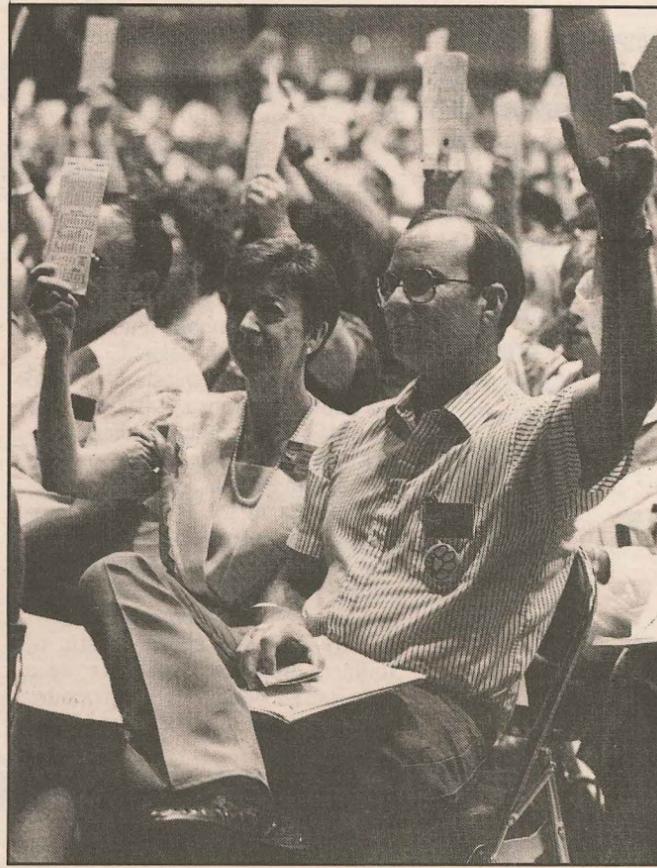
Earlier Ron Sutherland of Tucker, Ga., argued for the HMB recommendation, although he said it was “very, very weak.”

Sutherland, a former 32nd degree Mason, said he left the fraternity when he became a Christian. “I have never seen any other cult that is more destructive than this one,” he said. “I speak as one who has been there.”

“Freemasonry is not, has not (been), and never will be a religion or a cult,” countered Wallace Finfrock, a Mason from Dallas. He said he is a better Christian for having joined the Masons. He urged messengers, “Don’t reject, in a time of moral decline, those who believe in morality.”

The HMB report was approved by a wide margin, estimated to be at least five-to-one.

Absent from the debate was Larry Holly, a Texas layman whose criticisms last year sparked the original HMB study.



SAY AYE Messengers Marilyn and Tom Benton, members of First Baptist Church of Fraston, Texas, vote on an issue during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston. (BP photo by Van Payne)

SBC takes no action against WMU, despite predictions

HOUSTON (ABP)—Fireworks surrounding the relationship between the Southern Baptist Convention and Woman’s Missionary Union failed to materialize at the annual SBC meeting in Houston.

In January, the WMU Executive Board adopted far-reaching recommendations expanding WMU’s base to provide missions resources for other evangelical groups, allowing WMU to accept direct contributions and engage in direct missions projects, and providing prayer support and missions resources for other Southern Baptist groups involved in missions.

The changes angered many SBC conservatives who said WMU was opening a door to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization of Southern Baptist moderates.

The SBC Executive Committee adopted a resolution Feb. 23 urging WMU to affirm its “singular cooperation,” “undivided commitment” and “exclusive relationship” with the SBC and its mission boards. The same resolution later was approved by the trustees of the home and foreign mission boards.

But no resolution regarding WMU was reported out of the SBC resolutions committee, and messengers soundly defeated an attempt to deny the auxiliary a representative on the General Council of the Baptist World Alliance.

Dellanna O’Brien, executive director of WMU, told the convention that WMU’s “purposes have never changed,” but the auxiliary is “moving beyond meetings to ministries, moving beyond promises of commit-

ment to practical actions, even moving beyond our own organizations to support the missions effort of others.”

After her report, two messengers questioned O’Brien about plans for WMU to formalize a relationship with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

“Have you in the past, or will you in the future, encourage the WMU to support missions offerings for the CBF?” asked Wiley Drake of Buena Park, Calif.

O’Brien responded that WMU had not, and had no plans to do so.

Harry Godfrey of Bristol, Va., asked about the extent of WMU involvement with the Fellowship, to which O’Brien replied, “We would provide missions education materials concerning the cause of Christ around the world.”

However, at a meeting earlier in

the week, Karen Benson, manager of the WMU communications group, noted that the Fellowship so far has not asked WMU to publish any materials.

Benson told about 300 people attending a meeting on “WMU in the News” that the missions auxiliary would continue its historic stance of promoting only traditional denominational offerings while affirming the right of other groups to choose other funding options.

“If you identify yourself as a Southern Baptist, and you are involved in, care about or support missions, WMU wants to be there to help you,” she said.

At their pre-SBC meeting, members of the WMU Executive Board took no action in response to the SBC Executive Committee resolution.

Kentuckian wants SBC to drop churches ordaining women

By Marv Knox
Editor

HOUSTON—Churches that ordain women would be removed from the Southern Baptist Convention if a Kentuckian has his way.

Michael Barley, pastor of Franklin Street Baptist Church in Louisville, presented a motion to that effect during the 1993 SBC annual meeting in Houston last week. The convention took no immediate action on the motion, however.

Barley’s motion followed the final vote on an amendment that changed the SBC constitution to remove churches that “affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior.”

His motion would change the constitution further, to stipulate that “churches which have ordained wom-

en” would be considered “among churches not in cooperation with the convention” and therefore unqualified to send messengers to the SBC annual meeting.

The motion asked that the amendment be considered this year and then be presented for a second and final vote at the 1994 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

The convention’s committee on order of business referred Barley’s motion to the SBC Executive Committee, which processes many of the business functions and proposals of the convention. The Executive Committee will have meetings in September and February, during which it will have the opportunity to consider the motion and other referred items.

In addition to Barley, two other Kentuckians presented motions to the

convention:

■ Stan Cole, pastor of Kento Boo Baptist Church in Florence, offered a proposal to change the way the convention processes contributions.

Cole’s motion noted state conventions currently are “the only source for recording gifts given to the Cooperative Program,” the convention’s unified missions budget that funds both state convention and SBC causes. It also cited “differences between the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention” over the funding of such organizations as the Baptist Joint Committee and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The motion then requested that the SBC create a method through which individual churches could give their Cooperative Program gifts directly to the SBC and that “said gifts not be

divided with the state conventions.”

Cole’s motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee.

■ Debbie Woolsey, a messenger from Bashford Manor Baptist Church in Louisville, moved that the SBC Sunday School Board and Home Mission Board discontinue relationships with corporations that provide sponsorship to Planned Parenthood of America.

Woolsey cited the Sunday School Board for working with American Express and the Home Mission Board for business conducted in affiliation with Diners’ Club.

Her motion was referred to the trustees of the two boards, which make policy decisions concerning those agencies.

Neither Barley, Cole nor Woolsey could be reached for comment.

Committee member Guy Sanders of Florida warned that use of the Historical Commission's pamphlet mentioning the Fellowship could create a "dangerous misconception" in local churches.

Fellowship's mention irks committee

HOUSTON (BP)—A pamphlet produced by the Southern Baptist Convention's Historical Commission that makes mention of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has drawn criticism from the SBC Executive Committee.

During a June 14 meeting in Houston, the Executive Committee approved a communication asking the Historical Commission to "cease to distribute" the pamphlet until the Fellowship reference is deleted.

The pamphlet in question—"Who Are Southern Baptists?"—is part of a series designed to help Southern Baptists understand their history, according to Lynn May Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Historical Commission. Executive Committee President Morris Chapman invited May to address the committee before a vote was taken on the recommendation.

May said one characteristic of Southern Baptists is that "we are a cooperative people" who work together to reach the world for Christ.

"We do that through the Cooperative Program," he said, "but there are also some churches that choose other means to support missions and evangelism."

It is in this context that the pamphlet mentions the Fellowship as "one of the many ways Southern Baptists fund the Lord's work," he said.

The pamphlet acknowledges this fact, May said, but "by no means do we intend to promote the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or damage the Cooperative Program."

Committee member Guy Sanders of Lake Wales, Fla., said a "dangerous misconception" could result from the reference. "If a pastor uses a piece like this to tell new church members who Southern Baptists are, the lines could become very blurred."

Committee members voted unanimously to approve the recommendation, which will be referred to the board of the Historical Commission for consideration at their next meeting.

In other action, the Executive Committee voted to allocate \$300,000 of capital needs funds to the Christian Life Commission for use in purchasing an office in the Washington, D.C., area. The funds were entrusted to the Executive Committee by SBC messengers at the denomination's 1992 annual meeting.

During the past year, the \$300,000 corpus was the focus of a dispute between the SBC and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a Washington-based religious liberty organization that claimed ownership of the money and threatened to sue the convention over the dispute. In February, the Executive Committee and BJC approved a \$100,000 settlement.

Also at the pre-convention meeting, John "Jack" Wilkerson was elected as Executive Committee vice president for business and finance. Wilkerson, 50, recently took early retirement from E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., where he has worked the past 28 years.

Registration low

HOUSTON (BP)—Attendance at this year's Southern Baptist Convention was less than Texas-size, despite the meeting being held in the state with the largest Baptist-related Baptist convention.

Registration of 17,886 messengers at this year's Houston convention fell short of the 17,956 at last year's SBC in Indianapolis—a location further removed from the majority of Southern Baptist churches.

Despite more than a decade of huge crowds as the SBC has gone through internal wars, this year's registration total was only 2,000 higher than the 1979 SBC in Houston, when conservatives began their campaign to turn the convention to the right.

Kentucky ranked 10th in number of messengers registered this year, with about 700 traveling to Houston.

Ad hoc committee takes up Elder's proposals for study

HOUSTON—Lloyd Elder's plan to resolve the lingering controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention by redistributing denominational power didn't come to a vote during the Southern Baptist Convention last week, but it was embraced by a group of state convention leaders.

Elder, former president of the SBC Sunday School Board, earlier this year released a research report which he said shows "critical" trends in missions support and a need for the SBC to be revitalized through cooperative missions.

The plan was endorsed by SBC elder statesman Hershel Hobbs, who along with Elder hosted a meeting for state convention leaders to hear about the plan the night before this year's

SBC began in Houston. Elder's plan calls for greater input from state conventions into the governance of the national SBC.

About 100 people attended the June 14 session, and about 30 state convention leaders remained afterward to lay plans for a "coalition of hope," an ad hoc group devoted to implementing Elder's plan.

Rodney Osborn, an anesthesiologist from Peoria, Ill., and immediate past president of the State Convention Presidents Fellowship, was elected convener of the small work group.

Other work group members selected were Dick Maples, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and pastor of First Baptist Church, Bryan, Texas; Joe Baker, president of

the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and a director of missions; Rodney Travis, president of the Missouri Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Mo.; Quinn Pugh, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New York; and Cecil Sims, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention.

Elder, now professor of biblical studies and preaching at Belmont University in Nashville, will work with the group as a facilitator.

Elder and Hobbs claim the exclusion of Southern Baptist moderates from denominational leadership by ruling SBC conservatives is sapping strength from the denomination.

The anticipated year-long process of the ad hoc group is expected to in-

volve a broad coalition of state convention leaders who will seek to highlight specific ways to promote hope and unity among Southern Baptists. One possible vehicle is a national "convocation of hope" involving selected state leaders.

During the June 14 meeting, proposals to present a motion or resolution during this year's SBC annual meeting were rejected out of concern that they would be defeated without an opportunity to enlist grass-roots support.

The work group will meet June 24-25 in Chicago to develop a specific means of involving state convention leadership.

Compiled from Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press reports

11 Kentuckians elected to SBC positions

HOUSTON—Messengers to the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting elected 11 Kentuckians to positions of leadership within the denomination.

Nine of them were chosen to serve on trustee boards of SBC organizations.

Two others were elected to represent Kentucky on the convention's nominating committee, which will recommend candidates to fill trustee vacancies next year.

Of the nine trustees, four were re-elected to serve second terms. They are:

■ Terry Norris of Sorgho Baptist Church in Owensboro, re-elected to

the Executive Committee.

■ Charles Gresham of Temple Baptist Church in Central City, re-elected to the Foreign Mission Board.

■ John Hicks of Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville, re-elected to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's trustee board.

■ Wyman Copass of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, re-elected to the Radio and Television Commission.

Five Kentuckians were elected to first terms. They are:

■ John Rice of Manchester Baptist Church in Manchester, elected to the Sunday School Board.

■ Clark Brown of Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville, elected to the Annuity Board.

■ Charles Barnes of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville, elected to Southern Seminary's board.

■ Thomas Taylor of Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, elected to Southern Seminary's board.

■ Claude Witt of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville, elected to the Christian Life Commission.

New members of the nominating committee are:

■ Bob Brooks of First Baptist Church of Louisa.

■ Yvonne Yates of First Baptist Church of Mayfield.

Agencies asked to evaluate their relationships

HOUSTON (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention agencies and commissions face serious decisions about the moral dimensions of their business practices as well as their ties to a breakaway Baptist organization as a result of motions referred to them during the June 15-17 SBC in Houston.

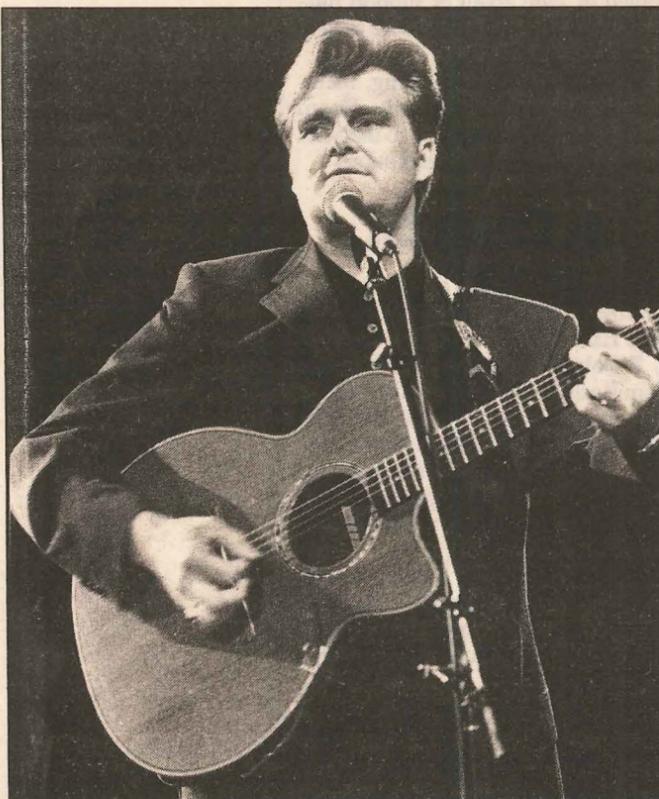
Three motions were referred to all

SBC entities to divest themselves of stock in companies with practices conflicting with the Bible or to discontinue use of charge cards—such as American Express and Diner's Club—issued by companies that help fund Planned Parenthood.

Meanwhile, a motion was referred to the SBC's six seminaries seeking

to discourage their alumni associations from having exhibits at meetings of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and to withhold SBC Cooperative Program funds from the associations if they do not comply.

The various SBC agencies are to report their decisions on these matters to the 1994 SBC meeting in Orlando.



SKAGGS SONG Country music singer Ricky Skaggs performs one song as part of the Baptist Sunday School Board's report to the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

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Discipleship Training: Super Saturdays make better disciples.
Cedarmore Assembly: Summer camp is here.

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Church Clerks: Get ready for the Uniform Church Letter.
Church Media Library: State worship Sept. 25.

Consulting Team Offers Help on Stewardship

Most churches could benefit from a renewed emphasis on stewardship and budgeting, Doug Strader believes.

As director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship office and a former state pastor, Strader said he's certain Baptists could do much more with the Lord's money if they planned and promoted better in local congregations.

"A lot of churches do not even have a budget," he explained. "Some churches are even opposed to budgets.

"And the great majority of churches that do have budgets do no budget promotion at all," he added.

Yet Strader said he believes most people in the pew aren't challenged enough to give. "I see a need for a stronger emphasis on biblical tithing."

Pastors may help in teaching their congregations that stewardship is an act of worship and a part of discipleship, he said. "We need to get across to people that giving is part of our discipleship, being a responsible steward of all of life."

Pastors may mistakenly assume that everyone else understands why giving to support the church's

KBC Stewardship Consultants

- Allen and Delores Baugh, lay couple from Elizabethtown.
- Greg Earwood, pastor of First Baptist Church in Murray.
- Dan Garland, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.
- Brad Johnson, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Rick Robbins, director of missions for Breckinridge and Blackford associations.

- Bill Simmons, retired minister of education and administration from Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.
- Gayle Toole, pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville.

To invite any of these consultants to your church, contact the KBC stewardship office at (502) 245-4101.

ministries is so important, he added. "We take for granted that everybody understands what we're doing. But they don't.

"We in the clergy sometimes see the spirituality of giving more than the people in the pew do. They may see it as paying a bill."

When churches begin to convey to their members that offerings pay for ministries to be done, missionaries to be sent and the gospel to be preached, it makes a difference in how much is given, Strader asserted.

This isn't just cheap talk for Strader. He and a team of eight stewardship consultants are ready to assist any Kentucky Baptist

church in designing a stewardship emphasis upon request.

The consultants, located throughout the state, all have personal experience in developing stewardship programs in their own churches. They can help design a specific program for budget promotion, help pastors and finance committees do their work better and offer tips on developing church budgets, Strader explained.

"They can tell you about a lot of resources available from our office and from the Stewardship Commission in Nashville," he added. "They also can be a reference point on ideas that work."

Among the standard advice

Strader and the consultants give churches is to understand the "ABCs" of church budgeting and promotion:

"A" is for advance planning and evaluation.

"B" is for budget preparation.

"C" is for cultivating commitment in giving.

"D" is for developing stewardship growth throughout the year, not just at budget promotion time. Churches also have a responsibility to help Christians be good stewards of their resources through personal budgeting, Strader said. "Churches need to help people learn to manage their money."

One way to do this is a program called "Live Wisely," a one Sunday emphasis on personal money management. Materials to support this emphasis are available from the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission by calling (800) 458-2772. A "Live Wisely" sampler kit includes a sample copy of each item available.

Strader also recommends the book "Five Steps to Successful Money Management," published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Lee Davis, a money management specialist from Nashville, is the author.

Student Ministry Touches 45 Campuses Statewide

Most Baptists are impressed with the work of Kentucky's Baptist Student Unions, Tom Smoot admits.

But they would be even more impressed if they realized how much the BSU programs accomplish with so little dependence upon the Cooperative Program unified budget, he adds.

Although Cooperative Program gifts pay the salaries of campus ministers and provide buildings for students to meet in, none of the ongoing program funds for campus ministry come from Cooperative Program gifts, said Smoot, associate director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's student ministry department.

The direct support and involvement of local churches and associations makes the ongoing work of BSU possible, Smoot explained.

And then there are the 80 student summer missionaries Kentucky BSUs have sent out this year. That's got to take a chunk of Cooperative Program money, right?

Wrong, Smoot said. The \$90,500 budget for summer missions was raised entirely by students through their BSUs. Summer missions is a student-led, student-supported ministry, he explained.

And that's no small feat, he noted, because Kentucky's BSUs send out more student summer missionaries than any other state convention but Texas.

"We are very fortunate in Kentucky's overall support of student

work," Smoot said.

He praised the Kentucky churches that faithfully support student ministry in addition to their commitment to the Cooperative Program. That dual commitment allows Kentucky Baptists to make a significant impact on 45 campuses across the state, he said.

Kentucky Baptists have full-time campus ministers on 13 campuses, along with part-time workers on another 32 campuses.

The KBC student department directs 92 percent of its budget to pay those ministers and to provide facilities for BSUs to use, explained Ralph Hopkins, another student department associate director.

The strong support of local churches and associations for the programming needs of each BSU has enabled the KBC to place such a large percentage of its resources into people and buildings, Hopkins noted.

Kentucky Baptists now have BSU buildings on every major campus in the state, Smoot added. And a new, larger facility recently was approved to be built at Northern Kentucky University. Construction should be complete in late 1994.

With this undergirding, Kentucky's BSUs have consistently ranked as leaders among state convention student ministries.

Last year, only Texas—a state with nearly five times the number of campus ministers Kentucky has—consistently ranked higher

than Kentucky in key areas.

For example, Kentucky's BSUs last year:

- Involved 22,327 students.
- Led 631 students to profess faith in Jesus Christ.
- Trained 1,364 students to share their Christian faith.
- Helped 1,056 students prepare for Christian vocations.
- Involved 4,315 students in missions efforts.

The success of Kentucky's BSU program can be attributed to a number of factors, Smoot and Hopkins agreed.

In addition to the strong support of Kentucky churches and the leadership of well-qualified campus ministers, they cited the popularity of the five "Son" teams that minister across the state every summer.

These student teams serve as staff for youth camps at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore assemblies. They also travel across the state to lead programs in local churches.

This summer, the student teams will minister in 95 Kentucky churches and associational meetings. Hopkins said he had to turn down an additional 35 requests from churches.

Smoot said churches and associations should remember that representatives from local BSUs are available throughout the year to speak in churches, lead revivals and do a variety of ministries. For a complete listing of campuses with BSU programs, see page 5 of this issue of Events.

BSU Objectives

- To lead students and faculty members to commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- To involve them in responsible church membership and in denominational understanding and participation.
- To guide them in worship and devotional experiences.
- To involve them in the study of the biblical faith and Christian life.
- To guide them in Christian witnessing.
- To involve them in experiences of Christian community.
- To involve them in Christian social life and recreation.
- To lead them to participate in Christian world missions.
- To lead them to accept and practice the principles of Christian stewardship.
- To lead them to examine academic disciplines from a Christian perspective.
- To enlist and train them for a life of Christian service.

DIRECT MISSIONS

Recharge your batteries at the Mountain Missions Conference July 26-29

The 45th annual Mountain Missions Conference offers pastors, their spouses and families, as well as lay persons who work in eastern Kentucky, opportunities such as Bible teaching, conferences which apply to the needs of mountain churches, music, fellowship and relaxation. Oneida Baptist Institute will host the July 26-29 event.

Bob Fitts, a retired professor at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, will be teaching the book of Hosea. Hosea is the designated winter Bible study book for 1994.

Willis Henson, pastor, Lone Oak Church, Paducah and former Kentucky Baptist Convention president, is the conference preacher.

John Lepper, Director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Family Ministry Department, will lead a conference on Families in Crisis.

The Mountain Missions Conference is free to attendees. The Home Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention and Oneida Baptist Institute make the opportunity possible. All meals during the conference are provided.



Registration on July 26 is 2:00-5:00 p.m. Dinner that evening is at 5:15. A luncheon on July 29 will conclude the four day event.

Although the conference cost is free, registration is encouraged. You may register by sending your name, address, the number in your group (provide names if spouse and/or children are attending) to Barkley Moore, Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, KY 40972.

Registration on July 26 is 2:00-5:00 p.m.

And please note: Bring linens and a fan when you come!

CHURCH GROWTH & ADMINISTRATION

Five ways to register for Super Saturday conferences

August 14 - Eastwood Baptist, Bowling Green
August 21 - Burlington Baptist, Northern KY
August 28 - Immanuel Baptist, Lexington

September 11 - First Baptist, Ashland
September 18 - First Baptist, Mayfield
September 25 - Central Baptist, Corbin

Before deciding how to register, choose a location nearest you or select the date that accommodates your schedule. Follow the publicity ideas in the June promotion packet mailed to each Kentucky Baptist church and association from the Church Growth office. Encourage all leadership and workers in Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Church Music, Stewardship, Church Media Library, Family Ministry and Evangelism, pastors and staff to attend this one day training event. Then, register right away!

1 Super Saturday Brochure

Mail the registration form from your Super Saturday brochure with \$8.00/person registration fee to the Church Growth office. Receive a registration-confirmation card to be filled out completely and presented on the day of the conference.

2 Promotion Packet Registration

Use the group registration sheet included in the promotion packet to register large groups of leaders and workers from a church. Include payment for the total number at \$8.00/person. The church will receive an equal number of registration/confirmation cards to distribute to each participant. Participants should complete the card and present it at registration on the day of the conference.

3 Events Registration Form

Use the back page of this EVENTS issue to indicate your interest in Super Saturdays. You will receive the necessary forms to register for the Super Saturday of your choice.

4 Call Us

Call the Kentucky Baptist Convention and say, "Super Saturdays!" You will be connected with the Church Growth & Administration office or one of seven departments offering training at each conference. Information will be mailed to assist as you make registration requests.

5 Walk In

Register at the door on the day of the conference for \$10.00/person.

Your registration fee includes lunch and conference materials. Each person registered will receive a \$2.00 coupon toward purchases in the Book Store on the day of the conference.

On Super Saturday bring your completed registration-confirmation card to the registration area to receive book store coupon, program and meal ticket. Assemble in the sanctuary and be prepared for the training adventure of your life!

CHURCH MUSIC

Summer schedule includes more than just music camps

Here's good news about youth

More than 80 high school youth, auditioned and selected from Baptist churches across the state, comprise the 1993 Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir. The choir's annual tour begins in July.

Directed by Elizabeth Mears, minister of music, Vance Baptist Church, Vance, South Carolina and accompanied by Dan Tilford, professor of music, Georgetown College and organist at Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church, the choir will begin with a retreat on the campus of Campbellsville College.

Don't miss an opportunity to hear some of Kentucky's finest youth! Concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. and at 11:00 on Sunday morning. The public is invited to attend free of charge.

For additional information, contact the Church Music Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, at (502) 245-4101, extension 325.

This may be the key to renewing your music ministry

Church pianists and organists will gather this summer in three locations across

Kentucky to develop their technical skills and expand their church musicianship.

The morning sessions (9:00-noon) are entitled, "Let's Get Back to Basics." Pianists will focus on hymn-playing, technique and expanding accompaniments; organists will examine basic technique, pedaling, registration, hymn-playing and introductions.

"The Expressive Keyboardist" will be the featured topic in the afternoon sessions from 2:00-5:00. The core of this discussion is on integrating keyboard skills with the keyboardist's unique ministry through music, as both accompanist and soloist. Advanced techniques, helps and literature will be utilized.

The cost for the clinics is just \$10.00 per keyboardist, if registered before July 19. After July 19, the cost is \$12.00.

To register or receive more information, contact Joy Berger, keyboard consultant, Church Music Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville 40253-0433 or check the appropriate box on the information/registration form on EVENTS page 8a.

Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir Concert Schedule

Wednesday, July 14	Campbellsville Campbellsville Baptist Church 7:00 p.m. (EST)
Thursday, July 15	Hopkinsville Second Baptist Church 7:00 p.m. (CST)
Friday, July 16	Paducah Lone Oak Baptist Church 7:00 p.m. CST
Sunday, July 18	Owensboro Buena Vista Baptist Church 11:00 a.m. (CST)

Keyboard Clinic Schedule for Church Pianists and Organists

Saturday, July 31	Madisonville First Baptist Church David Slinker, piano; Nevalyn Moore, organ
Saturday, August 7	Louisville Lyndon Baptist Church Dan Tilford, piano; Richard Dwyer, organ
Saturday, August 14	Hazard First Baptist Church Don Phillips, piano; Glenna Metcalfe, organ

9:00 a.m.-noon and 2:00-5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Equipped to Claim our Future" is theme for 1993 state Sunday School convention October 8-9

**State Sunday School Convention
October 8-9
Florence Baptist Church
283 Main Street
Florence**

Cost for attendees: FREE

Convention Highlights

The 1993 state Sunday School convention, scheduled October 8-9 at Florence Baptist Church, will provide pastors, church staff and volunteer workers the opportunity for motivation and inspiration through 75 elective conferences. Two general sessions

will feature Dr. Ken Hemphill, director, Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth, Atlanta. Two other key speakers include Neil Jackson, special growth consultant and retired Baptist Sunday School staff member, who will share ideas on growth and James Berthelot, Baptist Sunday School Board, will offer information about homebound adult ministries.

Classes

The 75 conferences, offered during six different periods, will address a variety of subjects:

From preschool to preteen -

- Teaching Bible through art
- Cradle Roll—Reaching young families
- Children and moral crises
- Faith development and the child
- Learning environment for children

From adolescent to adult -

- Making Bible study come alive
- Effective listening skills
- Keys to spiritual growth in adults
- The changing family challenge

To pastors -

- Sidedoor evangelism
- Dealing with the discouraged
- Motivation and the volunteer

Agenda

The convention agenda includes:

Friday, October 8

- 4:00 p.m. Early Bird Conferences
- 5:00 Supper Break
- 7:00 Opening General Session
- 8:00 First Session
- 9:00 Red Eye Special

Saturday, October 9

- 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 8:15 Early Bird Conferences
- 9:00 Conferences
- 10:00 General Session
- 11:00 Conferences
- Noon Convention concludes

Another convention feature: Exhibits

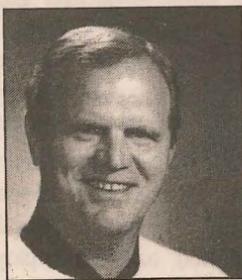
An additional attraction at the 1993 state Sunday School convention is the exhibit section. The section includes:

- Complete Sunday School curriculum display

- Computer display and demonstrations as a growth tool
- Book table with selections of Sunday School and church growth books and resources

Meet Dr. Ken Hemphill, keynote speaker

A gifted speaker, educator and writer, Dr. Ken Hemphill, Director of the Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth in Atlanta, will be the keynote speaker during both convention general sessions and will lead a dialogue with pastors. In addition to contributing numerous articles to Baptist Sunday School Board publications, Hemphill is author of five books.



Dr. Ken Hemphill

Make The Commitment
To Attend . . . To Grow . . . To Share

For more information concerning the October 8-9 state Sunday School convention, contact:

Sunday School Department
Kentucky Baptist Convention
P. O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253-0433
(502) 245-4101

A Personal Message from Chip Miller

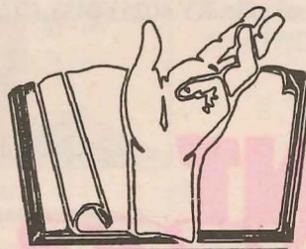
Dear Friend,

Attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 1993 Sunday School Convention could be the most convenient and rewarding investment you will ever make.

You'll profit spiritually and professionally as you receive the teachings, revitalize and renew your commitment and then reach out to inform and inspire others. Quality conference leaders will help both new and experienced workers beat burnout, improve efficiency and leadership skills and learn practical methods of presenting the lessons of old in an up-to-date format.

The conference will prove both enriching and satisfying. Dr. Ken Hemphill, our scholar in residence, will be on hand to offer food for the mind as well as the soul. No cost is involved, so I urge you to take advantage of this unique opportunity and say YES!

I look forward to joining you in October!



**Equipped To Claim
Our Future**

Sincere regards,

Chip Miller
Director
Sunday School Department
Kentucky Baptist Convention

WMU

Eliza is coming!

Eliza Broadus Offering and Week of Prayer for State Missions emphasis

**September 12-19
Theme: A Second Touch
Kentucky goal: \$700,00**



In July every Kentucky Baptist church will receive a sample state missions packet from Kentucky's Woman's Missionary Union. The packet will include a poster, a bulletin insert, an Eliza Broadus Offering envelope and copies of each age level program. Also enclosed is a card for ordering extras of all materials.

Eliza Broadus was a missions pioneer who helped lay the groundwork for a Southern Baptist auxiliary for women interested in missions. She was also instrumental in organizing WMU at the state level. For 32 years, she served as the vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Woman's Missionary Union. She was the daughter of Dr. John A. Broadus, a pastor, professor and second president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Eliza Broadus Offering and Week of Prayer for State Missions is essential to the work of Kentucky Baptists. The offering provides assistance in such areas as salaries and benefits for state missionaries, salaries for student summer workers, repairs at camps and assemblies, interracial work, special ministries (Christian social, rural urban, interfaith witness), student work, retreats, disaster relief, scholarships, camp activities, Freeda Harris Center van, seminary interns at Luther Lockett Correctional Complex, race track ministries and much more.

If your church has WMU, the packet will be sent to your WMU director; if not, it will be sent to the church or the pastor.

For more information, call the state WMU office (502) 245-4101 at the Kentucky Baptist Building.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Get the most out of your marriage

**Fall Festival of Marriage -
A marriage enrichment weekend
for couples
September 24-26
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Louisville**



**Housing -
A list of hotels located near
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
will be mailed to you with confirmation
of your registration. Note: 2825 Lexington
Road, close to I-64.**

**Keynote Speakers -
Dan and Sandra McGee
Arlington, Texas
Marriage Enrichment Leaders
Authors of *Celebrating Sex in Your
Marriage***

Fall Festival of Marriage will inform you how to:

- Nurture and grow your marriage
- Reaffirm your commitment
- Find new ways to strengthen your marriage
- An opportunity to worship and fellowship with other couples
- A pause to relax with your spouse
- A time to sense God's presence in your marriage

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

STUDENT MINISTRY

**Student Awareness Month emphasis
assists churches in planning for student outreach**

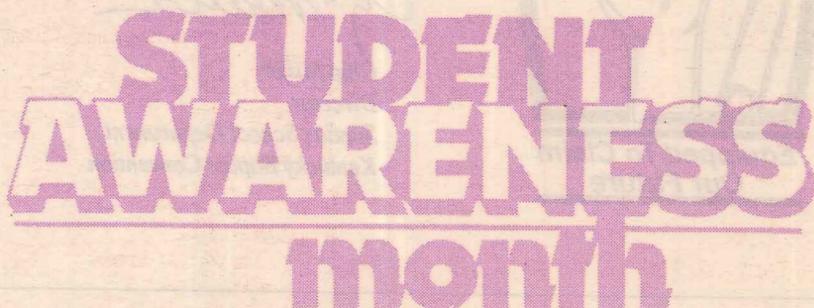
July is Student Awareness Month

Student Awareness Month (SAM) is an organized approach to inform and reach students through your student ministries program. SAM is designed to assist you in planning for outreach during the first four weeks students arrive on campus. In surveys done with students, one observable trend is that students choose those activities to which they will be committed during the first four weeks of school. This means they will join fraternities, social clubs, get involved in intramurals, find a church, be involved in Baptist Student Union and many

other activities. Students have literally hundreds of new choices to make as to how they will use their time once they become students.

SAM will assist you in determining the strengths and weaknesses of your present program with students. It will also help you to involve students in reaching other students.

For more information about how you can make Student Awareness Month work for you, contact the Student Department at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101.



MINISTER/CHURCH SUPPORT

Called or hired?

Have you heard the change in our language as we discuss the ministers who work in our churches? Somewhere in recent years we have begun to refer to them as people the church has "hired" rather than "called." If the language reflects our attitudes, or worse, our theology, then we are on the verge of losing something very valuable. These two words suggest worlds of difference in the way we think about ministers and treat them.

To say "we have 'hired' a new minister at our church" may mean exactly that! A new "hired hand" has been employed. We pay; the minister performs. This entirely misses the Biblical concept of all disciples being ministers. These disciples are the members who share the work and have leaders who teach, coach and work alongside them. When church members "hire" ministers and are not involved in the work of ministry with them, then they are just a step away from "firing" when they become dissatisfied with the minister's performance. "Hiring and firing" is a secular concept, not a biblical one.

The Biblical idea of "calling" has not been abandoned by our churches but it does appear to be under serious attack. Our basic calling is from God to be Christians. Christians are then called by God to use their gifts in specific ways to honor Him and

bleed others. Ministers are called to serve in many areas, among them—pastors, evangelists, and teachers. They are also called by a church to serve with them in a leadership role. Baptist congregations ask God to guide them in the calling process. Pastors and staff ministers ask God to guide them in knowing when He is calling them to another place to serve. The apostle Paul tells how he was called to be an apostle and then called from one place of service to another.

The point of this is that both the church and minister have relied on God for direction. They have sought His will as to whether they should make a "covenant" with each other and share life together. If God is involved from the beginning, surely He should be involved when the decision is made to end it. Then, ways other than "firing" could be found. When differences arise and conflict results, God's will can be sought. The resolution would be constructive rather than destructive, healing rather than hurting. There may need to be a "parting of the ways," but it can be accomplished without the lives of ministers and their families and whole congregation being damaged. Let us continue to take great care in the prayerful calling of ministers and in finding the Father's will when there is a need to end that covenant agreement.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Introducing your campus ministers

Full time



Jack Birdwhistell
Georgetown College

Jack Birdwhistell, or "Doc" as he is known to his students, is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "Doc" has written a book, *Kentucky Baptists: 150 Years on Mission Together*. "Doc" has served as campus minister at Georgetown since 1979.



Pat Brunner
Berea College

Pat Brunner is a graduate of Berea College and Lexington Theological Seminary. Pat recently received the "Woman of the Year" award from the Berea Chamber of Commerce. Pat has served as Berea's full time campus minister since 1986.



Bill Ellis
Northern Kentucky University

Bill Ellis is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University and Southern Seminary. Bill, once a member of the Son Celebration music team, now directs it. He has served at Northern Kentucky University since 1992.



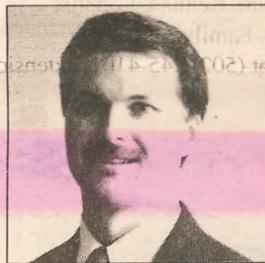
Wyndee Holbrook
Cumberland College

Wyndee Holbrook is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University and Southern Seminary. She has served as campus minister at Cumberland College since 1985. Wyndee recently played the role of Eleanor of Aquitaine in Cumberland College's production of *The Lion in the Winter*.



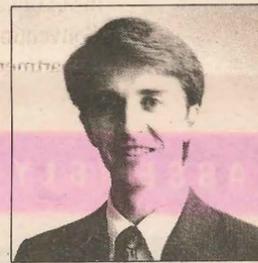
Rick Howerton
Western Kentucky University

Rick Howerton is a graduate of Campbellsville College and Southern Seminary. In 1979 Rick made an album with Gentle Spirit, a contemporary Christian music band. He has served as campus minister at Western Kentucky University since 1991.



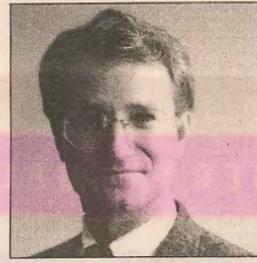
Keith Inman
Murray State University

Keith Inman is graduate of Murray State University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Keith, director of Son Praise, the state Baptist Student Union revival team, has served at Murray since 1987.



Tommy Johnson
Campbellsville College

Tommy Johnson is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and Southern Seminary. In high school Tommy played golf with Kenny Perry, now a pro on the PGA tour. He has served at Campbellsville College since 1991.



Gene Parr
Morehead State University

Gene Parr is graduate of Asbury College and Southern Seminary. Gene has had articles published in *The Student* magazine and the *MSU Wellness* newsletter. He has served at Morehead State University since 1982.



Angela Perkins
University of Louisville

Angela Perkins is a graduate of the University of Louisville and Southern Seminary. Angela, once a member of the SonBurst creative ministries team, now directs the team herself. She has served at U of L since 1989.



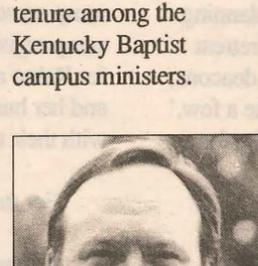
Stacey Pennington
University of Kentucky

Stacey Pennington became interim campus minister at the University of Kentucky last December following the departure of Twila Greene. Stacey is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary.



Mikel Robinson
Kentucky State University

Mikel Robinson, a graduate of Wayland Baptist College and Southern Seminary, has served at Kentucky State University since 1978. He has served the longest



Bryant Rudolph
Western Area

Bryant Rudolph is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth

University and Southern Seminary. Bryant became a Christian while working as a roadie with a rock band. He has served the western area--Owensboro Community College, Henderson Community College, Madisonville Community College, Kentucky Wesleyan and Brescia College--since 1989.



Rick Trexler
Eastern Kentucky University

Rick Trexler is a graduate of Gardner-Webb College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has a personal collection of over 1,000

baseball caps. He has served as campus minister at Eastern Kentucky University since 1980.

Part time, intern and volunteer campus ministers play an important role, too

- David Atcher
Elizabethtown Community College
- Laura Bevins
Lee's College
- Dennis Brotherton
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College
- Mary Beth Carlisle
Western Kentucky University
- Nancy Cooper
Hazard Community College
- Tony Cumette
Ashland Community College
- LaRaine Dail
Georgetown College
- Cheri DePugh
University of Louisville
- Bill Dickens
Thomas More College
- Jeff Dixon
Henderson Community College
- Mel Doughty
Paducah Community College
Hopkinsville Community College
Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College
- Kevin Hampton
Somerset Community College
- French Hamon
Pikeville College
Prestonsburg Community College
- Tim Henry
University of Louisville Health Sciences
- Cam Holzer-Williams
Midway College
- Linda Judge-McRae
Lexington Community College
- Caprecia Kilburn
Sue Bennett College
Centre College
- Wade Leonard
University of Louisville
- Beth-Ann Mauney
Eastern Kentucky University
- Sandy Mitchell
Alice Lloyd College
- Craig Naylor
University of Louisville Health Sciences
- Rodney Norvell
Bellarmine College
- Tasha Pearce
University of Louisville Health Sciences
- Gregory Pope
Jefferson Community College,
Downtown
- Jay Reber
University of Louisville
- Stephanie Robinson
Murray State University
- Jimmy Ross
University of Louisville
- Matthew Sickling
Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College
- Tracy Smith
Campbellsville College
- Mike Spencer
Oneida Baptist Institute
- Keith Stillwell
Hopkinsville Community College
- Kevin Thomas
Maysville Community College
- Thom Thornton
Lindsey Wilson College
- James Vandy
Union College
- Scott Wasdin
Jefferson Community College,
Southwest
- Dean Whitaker
Spalding University
- Elizabeth Zalenski
Sullivan College

ANNUITY

Money Matters for Ministers and Churches

Question: Recently, our church secretary received information about the Church Annuity Plan. I thought that plan was only for ministers. Can other church employees participate?

Answer: Yes, other church employees can participate. We currently have 152 church secretaries and 58 church custodians in Kentucky making contributions toward their retirement through the Church Annuity Plan.

Question: Interest rates are so low now. My IRA at a local institution is earning less than 4% per year. Do the low interest rates affect the earnings on my retirement account at the Annuity Board? Since I have 19 years until retirement, I'm concerned about the effect of interest rates on the growth of my account.

Answer: The degree of effect on your earnings depends on which fund(s) you have selected. In the fixed fund, you will earn

between 5.75 and 6.75% for 1993. While down from double digit rates existing a few short years, this is an excellent return in today's economy. The short-term fund is highly affected by the drop in interest rates and will have earnings similar to money market rates, currently very low. The balanced fund and variable funds will be affected somewhat indirectly by the rise and fall in interest rates. The variable fund is a portfolio of stocks similar to the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index. The balanced fund is a mix of stocks and high quality bonds.

With 19 years until retirement, a word of reminder: When investing for retirement, do not be as concerned with the short-term earnings of your account. Look at the long term results. I have information to help in determining if your selection of funds is the best choice for you.

For more information contact Don Spencer, director, Annuity Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, (502) 245-4101, extension 253.

FOUNDATION

Your right to decide

Did you know you have a will prepared whether or not you have ever written one?

For over half of all Americans, including many friends of Kentucky Baptist institutions, a will prepared by their state must be used as a substitute for these persons' own wishes regarding the ultimate distribution of their property.

Why the waste?

People have different reasons for failing to plan. Some believe they are too young to make effective estate plans, not wealthy enough or are concerned about how much planning will cost.

Others think they don't need a will because they own all property jointly or through other arrangements and a will would be an unnecessary "extra" document.

Nothing could be further from the truth. If a will or other legal arrangements are never made, your state of residence will step in and apply an all-purpose set of rules to divide property among relatives in equal shares, regardless of your wishes.

Eliminate unnecessary tax!

The state's plan makes no attempt to minimize taxes. In our society, we have a choice between paying estate taxes and voluntarily leaving property to charitable interests instead of paying the estate tax. The state-made "will" can obviously not consider your private wishes regarding how your property should be left.

Kentucky Baptist causes each year depend greatly on funds that have been left through estates to further their efforts in carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ. There is no limit to how much can be left for charitable purposes and deducted from federal estate taxes.

If you would like to learn more about how to minimize estate planning expenses and taxes while exercising your right to choose the recipients of all you have accumulated during your lifetime, contact the Kentucky Baptist Foundation at (502) 245-4101, extension 205.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Super Saturdays can help in equipping better disciple makers for your church

Super Saturdays, leadership and mini-interest conferences being offered by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Growth and Administration Division in six state regions in August and September, will provide special interest conferences for disciple training leaders. These conferences include:

- Communication and Intimacy:
- Covenant Marriage
- Christian Self-Esteem:
- Parenting by Grace
- Making Peace with Your Past
- First Place: A Christ-Centered Health Program
- Search for Significance (LIFE Support Edition)
- Bible Drills: Children and Youth
- Assimiliating New Church Members

Core conferences will be offered for general officers and leaders of children, preschool, youth and adults.



The 1993 Super Saturday Schedule is:

August 14	Edgewood Church Bowling Green
August 21	Burlington Church Burlington
August 28	Immanuel Church Lexington
September 11	First Church Ashland
September 18	First Church Mayfield
September 25	Central Church Corbin

To register, choose a location, complete the registration form on page 8a and send a \$8 per person pre-registration fee to the provided address. Your form and fee will be forwarded to the Church Growth and Administration office. More details are also available by calling the Discipleship Training Department, (502) 245-4101, extension 335.

CEDARMORE ASSEMBLY

Summer camp training is over. . . the real thing is here!

All counselors and team members have just completed training and summer camps are now in full swing. The Kentucky Baptist Student Union's Son teams are leading youth camps; Girls in Action counselors are working with girls and Royal Ambassador leaders are directing boys. Few spaces remain for camps scheduled later this summer. Don't let your youth miss out on the challenges God has for them!

It is not too early to begin planning your fall event. There are many retreat possibilities for children, youth, deacons, choirs, church staffs, just to name a few. Cedarmore also makes a good site for a conference getaway.

Cedarmore staff spotlight

Margie Yeary became a temporary employee in 1985. This summer Margie will be the early morning shift leader in Food Service, which means she reports for duty well before campers arrive for breakfast. She will be the first person camp guests see when going through the food line.

Margie is one of those part-timers

without whom Cedarmore could not function. She had her husband Bobby are adjusting to the "empty nest syndrome" since all their children are grown and on their own. Spending time with their grandchildren is a favorite pastime.

Sue Hill has worn many hats during her eight year tenure with Cedarmore. She began in housekeeping and later moved to a night desk clerk position. Since the 1989 camp season, she has served as summer camp registrar. She handles forms for boys for Rabro and girls at Cedar Crest. Margie and her husband Paul live in Henry County with their two children.

For more information, contact:

Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
P. O. Box 37
Bagdad, KY 40003
(502) 747-8911

CHURCH CLERKS

Uniform Church Letter 1993 mailed to associations; big change in forms

Uniform Church Letter (UCL) 1993 has a very different look about it, but don't be frightened!

Each page carries a picture of a computer screen that corresponds to information on that UCL page.

Why?

To help you use a computer to complete your UCL, if you have a computer...and...IF YOU WANT TO USE IT.

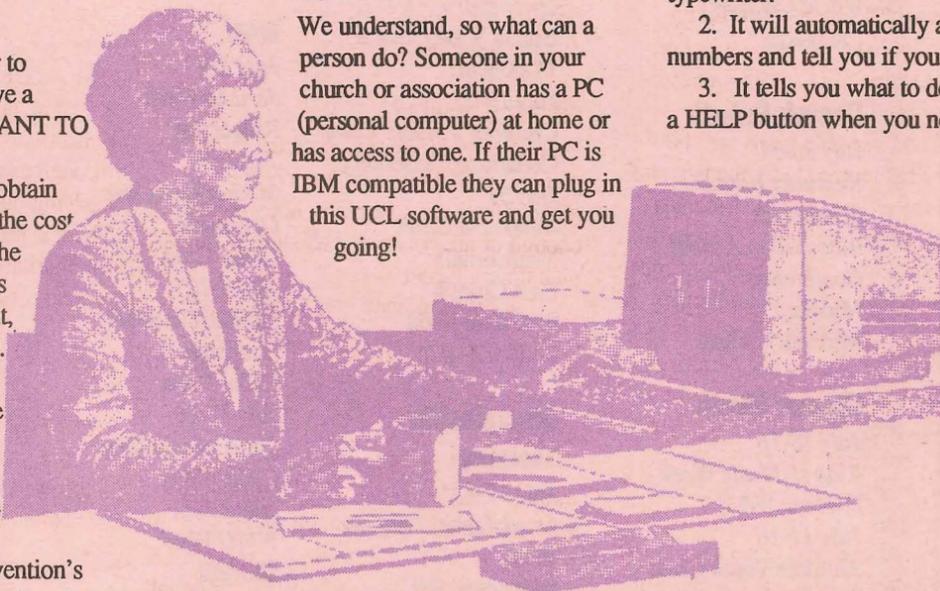
Each association may now obtain FREE software (you only pay the cost of a disk—less than \$5) from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Computer Services Department, (502) 245-4101, extension 219. Your associational clerk may already have the 1993 software (disks). She or he can provide each church clerk with the software for just the cost of the disk.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Office and Computer Services

Department stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

But I'm not computer trained!

We understand, so what can a person do? Someone in your church or association has a PC (personal computer) at home or has access to one. If their PC is IBM compatible they can plug in this UCL software and get you going!



How does this computer thing help me?

Let us count the ways:

1. It is easier to enter the data than on a typewriter.
2. It will automatically add the numbers and tell you if you made an error.
3. It tells you what to do next and has a HELP button when you need it.

4. It will create a digest of church information for your leaders to use.
5. Connect your PC to a printer and it will print extra copies of the UCL, the digest, Part A, Part B (leaders) and more.
6. If you make a mistake or are given new information, it is easy to change; there are no "carbon" sheets and pages to erase.

1993 UCL software disks and instruction book are available to associational clerks by contacting:

Jim Hawkins or Douglas Hayes
 Kentucky Baptist Convention
 P. O. Box 43433
 Louisville, KY 40253-0433
 (502) 245-4101 Call between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. EDT.

Helps for church clerks... and they are free

Church clerks can receive a free packet of HELPS from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Office simply by asking for them.

Clip out this article, check the items you want and mail to the address below.

Many clerks do not have access to the clerks training conference offered each year—so now you can get some valuable HELPS. Check all items of interest:

- CLERK - Two page description of the ministry and work of the church clerk.
- WRITING GOOD MINUTES - Practical guidelines for preparing minutes, discussion of motions, actions on reports, correcting minutes and more. Four pages.
- POINTERS FOR ASSOCIATIONAL CLERKS - Guides for effective service as associational clerk, including preparing for annual meeting, correct form for minutes and more. Four pages.

- SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER - How the Social Security number is used to assure correct names and addresses for church leaders.
- CHURCH CONSTITUTIONS - How churches are constituted, what to include in constitution and by-laws, other guides. Six pages.
- ROLE OF STATISTICS - How Uniform Church Letter information is used by the Southern Baptist Convention and Kentucky Baptist Convention. Two pages.

To order, send this to:

CLERK HELPS
 Executive Office
 Kentucky Baptist Convention
 P. O. Box 43433
 Louisville, KY 40253-0433

Be sure to include your name, mailing address and zip code.

CHURCH MEDIA LIBRARY

Check it out...at the September 25 state workshop

Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Baptist Church will serve as host of this year's Kentucky Baptist Church Media Library Association Workshop on September 25. Church librarians and media leadership are encouraged to attend this annual statewide time of learning and fellowship.

Newly elected librarians can learn from their more experienced peers as well as attend seminars on beginning and maintaining church libraries, classification and processing and much more.

Experienced librarians will find new ideas and advanced training in several seminars, including how to computerize your church media library.

Media ministers and volunteers will participate in an advanced seminar, "Using Video and Television in the Church." Paul Lee, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Media Department, will offer fresh techniques and concepts to improve your video ministry.



All church librarians and media leaders will soon receive the first edition of the Kentucky Baptist Church Media Library Association's newsletter, **Input**. The new publication will give more details concerning the September state CML workshop.

For further assistance, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Media Department, c/o Paul Lee, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 266.

OTHER EVENTS

Church Growth

The Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association annual meeting is July 30-31 at Midway College. Provide Lucy Parr, First Church, Morehead and current KBSA president, or Michelle Turner, administrative secretary, Kentucky Baptist Convention, the opportunity to answer your questions about registration and membership.

Evangelism

Regional associational directors of evangelism will be involved in Here's Hope '95 training this July through September. Enlistment luncheons for pastors, church staff and key lay leadership are scheduled for this November and December. For more information, contact Bill Jagers, director, Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433.

Student

July is Student Awareness Month, an organized approach to inform and reach college students through your church's student ministries program. For more information, read the smaller Student EVENTS feature on the bottom of page 4a.

KBC

The 156th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is this November 16-17. Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Baptist Church is this year's host.

Upcoming Events

JUNE

Evangelism

June 25-26
YouthFest '93
Frankfort
Frankfort Civic Center

Sunday School

Church Weekday
Education Seminar
June 26
Ashland
Rose Hill Church
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

WMU

June 25-26
Mother/Daughter
Overnight
Jonathan Creek
Assembly
June 28-July 2
GA Camp
Cedar Crest and
Jonathan Creek
Assembly

JULY

Brotherhood

July 31-August 7
World Changers
Louisville

Church Growth

July 30-31
Kentucky Baptist
Secretaries
Association Annual
Conference
Midway
Midway College

Church Music

July 10-16
Church Music Week
Glorieta (NM)
July 11-18
All-State Youth Choir
Retreat
and Tour
Tour Schedule:
July 14
Campbellsville
Campbellsville Church
7:00 p.m.
July 15
Hopkinsville
Second Church 7:00 p.m.

July 16
Paducah
Lone Oak Church 7:00
p.m.
July 18
Owensboro
Buena Vista Church
11:00 a.m.
July 19-23
Children's Music Camp
Cedarmore Assembly
July 31
Keyboard Clinic
Madisonville
First Church
9:00 a.m.-noon
2:00-5:00 p.m.

Discipleship Training

July 17-23
Discipleship Training
Week
Ridgecrest (NC)

Evangelism

July 23
Here's Hope '95
State Advisory
Committee meeting
Mt. Washington
First Church

July 23-24
Kentucky Mass
Evangelism Conference
Mt. Washington
First Church

WMU

July 3-9
Jericho Week
Ridgecrest
July 6-7
Mother/Daughter
Overnight
Cedar Crest
July 9-10
Mother/Daughter
Overnight
Cedar Crest
July 12-16
GA/Acteens Camp
Cedar Crest
July 17-23
WMU Week
Glorieta
July 19-23
Acteens Camp
Cedar Crest
July 23-24
Mother/Daughter
Overnight
Cedar Crest
July 26-30
GA Camp
Cedar Crest

July 30-31
Mother/Daughter
Overnight
Cedar Crest
July 31-August 6
Jericho Week
Glorieta

AUGUST

Church Growth and Administration Division

Super Saturday August
dates
August 14
Bowling Green
Eastwood Church
August 21
Burlington
Burlington Church
August 28
Lexington
Immanuel Church

Church Music

State Keyboard Clinics:
August 7
Louisville
Lyndon Church
August 14
Hazard
First Church

CHECK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

To Receive More Information

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cedarmore Baptist Assembly | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly | <input type="checkbox"/> State Sunday School Convention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Music | <input type="checkbox"/> WMU |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Eliza Broadus Offering (state missions) and Week of Prayer Emphasis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keyboard Clinics | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Festival of Marriage | |

To Register

Church Growth

Super Saturdays

- August 14 - Eastwood Church, Bowling Green
 - August 21 - Burlington Church, Northern Kentucky
 - August 28 - Immanuel Church, Lexington
 - September 11 - First Church, Ashland
 - September 18 - First Church Mayfield
 - September 25 - Central Church, Corbin
- Pre-registration fee: \$8 per person

Church Music

Keyboard Clinics

- July 31, Madisonville First Church
 - August 7, Louisville's Lyndon Church
 - August 14, Hazard First Church
- Cost: \$10.00 per keyboardist if registered before July 19. After July 19, the cost is \$12.00.

Evangelism

- Kentucky Mass Evangelism Conference - \$10 p/person, or \$15 per church (unlimited number)

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Office _____ Home _____

Church _____ Association _____

Leadership _____

Registration fee (if applicable) \$ _____ Number in group _____

MISSIONS

Veteran missionary elected FMB's 10th president

Continued from page 1

itual gift of speaking in tongues. He also acknowledges interpreting, or translating, a message spoken in tongues during a public worship service in Singapore, where he serves as area director for the FMB's 480 missionaries in Southern Asia and the Pacific.

But Rankin insists he is not a charismatic and not part of the modern charismatic movement, which encourages tongues-speaking as evidence of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Gregory said the search committee was likewise convinced Rankin's private prayer experiences "would not fall into the category of unknown ecstatic utterances," commonly known as tongues.

Many Southern Baptists discount all evidence of tongues, dismissing the modern phenomenon of tongues-speaking as either no longer a valid spiritual gift or something different from the biblical accounts of tongues-speaking, which some say refer only to specific, intelligible languages.

Initially, Rankin's May 25 nomination to the FMB post seemed almost assured, buoyed by endorsements from top Southern Baptist leaders. But questions about his charismatic leanings surfaced in the days leading up to the called meeting, drawing the ire of the FMB's most conservative trustees.

The search committee was preoccupied with the charismatic charges in recent days. "It was almost the only thing we have talked about," one committee member said.

Rankin was pressured to withdraw before the vote, sources said, and the

search committee likewise was asked to postpone the election. A motion to postpone was voted down during the closed-door session.

According to several trustees, there were enough negative votes at the start of the closed session to block the election. But Rankin himself swung the vote, according to search committee member Leon Hyatt of Louisiana.

"He spoke forthrightly on the charismatic issue and convinced a majority of trustees that he is not charismatic and is opposed to the modern charismatic movement but is very interested in being filled with the Holy Spirit and very committed to winning the world to Jesus," Hyatt said.

Most trustees spoke highly of Rankin's spiritual devotion and commitment to missions, saying only his views on tongues caused them pause.

In the end, trustees voted to call the split vote unanimous. Paul Pressler of Houston, who voted against Rankin, offered that motion, which was greeted by standing applause by the trustees. Most seemed willing to work with their new president despite the dispute.

Rankin's election is expected to meet with the approval of most of the FMB's 3,953 missionaries, many of whom feared the committee would turn to someone with no missionary experience. Although not involved in SBC politics, Rankin is sympathetic to the cause of SBC conservatives and committed to biblical inerrancy, the pivotal issue in their struggle for control of the SBC.

The vote concluded 14 months of work by the 15-member search committee, which was charged with se-



lecting a successor to Keith Parks, who retired three years earlier than he previously planned because of philosophical differences with trustees.

Rankin was one of the early candidates for the job, Gregory explained. But "other factors," not Rankin's charismatic leanings, persuaded the committee to pass him over after his initial interview more than a year ago, Gregory said. He said Rankin was seen as an FMB "insider," and the committee was looking for fresh faces.

However, committee member Hyatt told trustees the committee initially shied away from Rankin because "we had heard rumors that Jerry had had on occasion, in his private prayer life, experiences we couldn't understand."

The committee concluded, however, that Rankin's beliefs are "not outside the bounds of Southern Baptists," Hyatt said. He was the only one of the 14 committee members to address the charismatic issue during the committee's hour-long presentation June 14.

Hyatt urged trustees to put the charismatic matter in perspective. "Consider the 23 years he has served as a faithful, successful missionary," he said. Trustees should be pleased they would have a deeply spiritual president guided by the Holy Spirit "instead of just corporate administrative methods."

Other committee members, explaining their unanimous choice, cited Rankin's deep spirituality and devotion to prayer, an emphasis they suggested was missing from the Parks administration.

Several committee members sobbed in recalling the group's own spiritual journey to arrive at the conviction that Rankin should be the nominee. "This man knows the Lord like nobody I've ever known," said Phyllis Randall of Virginia.

Allowed to address trustees, Rankin outlined several broad principles that would guide his administration if elected:

- Focusing on responsive mission areas—"those harvest fields that God has ripened"—without neglecting so-called World A, the one-fourth of the world that has never heard the gospel.

- Streamlining the FMB's admin-

istrative structure.

- Giving missionaries more influence in developing FMB strategies with less direction from Richmond.

- Continuing the FMB's devotion to "indigenous missions"—in which nationals and not missionaries control the churches in a country—but with increased emphasis on missionary-generated strategies.

- Using more volunteers and other non-traditional channels for world evangelization, answering a criticism of many trustees about current FMB practice.

Rankin confronted another trustee criticism of outgoing president Parks, who complained trustees had become too involved in administering the FMB. "I don't see the necessity of a dichotomy between the role of trustees and the role of staff," Rankin said. "We're a team."

Rankin suggested the theme of his administration would be: "That all the world might know him, know him personally, like I know him."

In a news conference after the election, Rankin interpreted his election as good news for Southern Baptist missionaries worldwide. "I have walked where they walk," he said.

Rankin promised the missions force would continue to grow, from the current 3,953 missionaries to a record 4,000 within coming months. And the growth will surpass 5,000 by the year 2000, he predicted.

But those missionaries may cooperate with other groups on two levels, he said, drawing a distinction between the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and other "Great Commission Christians."

"We have taken great strides with other Great Commission Christians," he said, citing progress in developing cooperation with such groups worldwide. And while he ruled out an "organic union" with those missions-sending groups, he stressed that related ministry would continue.

But when asked about cooperation with the Fellowship, an organization started by Southern Baptists who have been disaffected by the SBC's rightward shift, he said he "would not see a possibility of working in any kind of union" with a group which adopts an "independent approach" to missions.

INTRODUCTIONS Bobbye Rankin (left) joins her husband, Jerry, and Foreign Mission Board trustee Chairman John Jackson in addressing reporters during a news conference shortly after Jerry Rankin's election as the FMB's 10th president. Despite the opposition of some trustees due to concerns about Rankin's views on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Jackson assured reporters the debate was not about Pentecostal theology. "He does not believe in a baptism of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by speaking in tongues as a second act of grace," Jackson said of Rankin. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

Kentuckians voted for & against Rankin

By Marv Knox
Editor

HOUSTON—Kentuckians reflected the diversity that shaped the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's vote to elect Jerry Rankin as its 10th president.

Bill Hall, pastor of Gethsemane Baptist Church in Danville, voted in favor of Rankin's election. James Garland, a retired pastor from Hazel, and Charles Gresham, pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Central City, voted against. Terrell Mays, a layperson and member of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, was not present for the vote.

After the vote, Hall explained that Rankin's presentation to the board won his support.

"I was assailed by telephone calls and rattled by the rumor mill," Hall said. "When I came here, my mind was not made up. But from what I heard and saw and felt today, I gave a solid affirmative vote to Jerry."

"He gave a good account of his convictions and practices that completely satisfied me regarding his doctrinal convictions," Hall noted in reference to Rankin's much-discussed views on gifts of the Spirit and speaking in tongues.

"He's going to be a great leader of Southern Baptists in world missions. I was proud to be part of this meeting."

Gresham declined to discuss the meeting and his vote, and Garland could not be reached for comment.

Another Kentuckian present for the meeting but not voting was Bill Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, who was FMB chairman and appointed the search committee 14 months ago before his term as a trustee ended.

"I felt the leadership of the Holy Spirit that put the committee together was evident in leadership in their action," Hancock said. "The structure of the committee represents all the facets of Southern Baptist life—the constituency as well as missionaries on the field."

"The Lord used (search committee Chairman) Joel Gregory in a tremendous fashion to give the committee the spiritual leadership they needed to bring the recommendation to the board."

Hancock predicted success for the board under Rankin's administration.

"It is evident Jerry Rankin was God's choice and not someone selected by human instrumentality," he said.

CONFERENCE SUMMARIES

Honeycutt passes seal to Mohler

HOUSTON—A taped tribute to the presidency of Roy Honeycutt of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville opened the seminary reports at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston. Honeycutt has been "a reconciler in a community of conflict," said Wade Rowatt, professor of psychology of religion who joined a group of others in the tribute. Honeycutt presented the seminary seal to Al Mohler, recently elected the ninth president of the seminary who will succeed Honeycutt when he retires this summer. "I think Al Mohler has the potential to become a significant leader among Southern Baptists," Honeycutt said. "We will offer the highest quality of ministers," Mohler responded. "We want this institution to be part of what God has in store for this denomination."

■ **Religious educators.** If Christians are going to make an impact in the 21st century, they must begin taking the future seriously, Tom Sine told the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association June 13-14 in Houston.

"Rarely do I find a denomination, seminary, agency or institution that is making an effort to anticipate how things will change in the future," he said. "We are preparing people to live in the world that is, instead of how to live in the world that is going to be."

Sine, a Seattle-based Christian researcher and futurist, is author of the book, "Wild Hope."

He challenged educators to be proactive rather than just reactive. "We've got to do more than long-range planning. We've got to forecast. If we don't, we're being irresponsible," he said.

Sine outlined several global and national challenges that will impact Christian education in the next 10-15 years: a continued focus on ecology and environmentalism, changes in the global political stage, the continued "blending" of cultures in America, the "graying" of America and rapidly advancing technology worldwide.

Thomas Pelphrey, associate pastor of Third Baptist Church in Owensboro, was chosen vice president for the SBREA's central region for 1994-95.

The organization also honored veteran religious educator C.W. "Windy" Rich with the 1993 Distinguished Religious Leader Award. Rich, who served more than 50 years as a minister of education across the South, has conducted 10 adult growth conferences in Kentucky.

■ **African American Fellowship.** Adoption of a constitution marked the official formation of the African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention June 14 in Houston.

The constitution outlines the organization's purpose to work in harmony with the SBC in fulfilling the Great Commission through support of the Cooperative Program, to sensitize the SBC and its entities to concerns of the African American community and to help one another in church growth.

Joe Ratliff, pastor of Houston's Brentwood Baptist Church, was elected the first president.

■ **Directors of missions.** The current pattern for Southern Baptist program development no longer functions adequately and must undergo massive change to be effective in the future, Larry McSwain told the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions.

McSwain, former provost of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said the mission of a church is local and "the congregation must be its own mission structure."

"Only those denominational structures which decide to facilitate the mission of the congregation will have a meaningful future," he declared. "It is a decentralized understanding which Baptists have always emphasized in theory but have not always practiced."

■ **Prayer conference.** Prayer that precedes spiritual awakening focuses on God, not the needs of people, according to speakers at the 1993 National Prayer Conference June 10-12 at Second Baptist Church in Houston.

In praying for spiritual awakening, Christians should look for God's initiatives in the world rather than asking God to join theirs, speakers explained.

"The Lord Jesus didn't come to meet needs. He came to do the will of the Father," said Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "He did not let the needs of people set his agenda for ministry."

More than 300 people attended the conference, where coordinators of prayer ministries in Houston churches outlined multi-faceted ministries built around intercessory prayer conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

■ **Research Fellowship.** Unchurched young adults are not so much anti-religious as individualistic, according to Southern Baptist researcher Ron Dempsey.

Dempsey, winner of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship's 1993 award for research excellence, presented his findings on attitudes of the baby bust generation at the research group's annual meeting in Houston June 12.

A former director of academic services at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Dempsey recently was named associate dean at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C.

Dempsey surveyed students at the University of Louisville and Jefferson County Community College and found 70 percent of the unchurched students identify themselves as Christian.

They gave several reasons for avoiding church, he said, including the belief that religion is a private affair, disillusionment with organized religion, and lack of time.

Churches must learn to approach unchurched people "as people who actually have religious motivations, religious feelings and (who) have just not found appropriate places to express them," Dempsey emphasized.

■ **Pornography workshop.** "America's women can determine the nature of this nation's culture, if we will decide to do it," said Dee Jepsen, national director for the anti-pornography campaign "Enough is Enough."

Jepsen spoke in a workshop sponsored by Southern Baptist

Woman's Missionary Union June 14 at First Baptist Church in Houston.

"If American women want to turn this country around, we can do it! We have more influence than we realize," Jepsen said. Pornographers are "counting on the fact that women are not willing to get our hands dirty, discount our many religious and political differences or pay the financial price to wage a war against them."

Jepsen noted her organization garners bipartisan support from 19 states' governors and the support of Barbara Bush and Hillary Clinton.

She cited a successful campaign against pornography in Oklahoma City in which 160 businesses which dealt in pornography were closed. During that five-year fight, the number of reported rape cases in Oklahoma City decreased 25 percent, while the rate of rape cases increased 20 percent statewide, she said.

■ **Family violence seminar.** People who commit spouse and child abuse can change their ways if they get help, said Lane Powell, chairman of the family and consumer education department at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

"If they (abusers) know other ways to handle their stress and other ways to work with their children, they will indeed change their behavior," Powell said in a seminar on family violence sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

People who are abusers most often grew up in homes where poor relational skills were modeled, Powell said. Many times, she added, abusers are victims of abuse themselves.

Churches can help the situation by offering classes on parenting, marriage and relational skills, she suggested.

Abuse is not limited to sexual and physical abuse, she said, noting emotional abuse also can have serious consequences.

Emotional abuse is particularly dangerous because it often goes undetected, Powell said. "It's like the enemy you can't understand or see."

■ **Women in Ministry.** Officers of Southern Baptist Women in Ministry are developing a guide, "Biblical Basis for Ordination of Women," and an educational brochure to be used as tools to educate people about women in ministry.

"The person in the pew does not understand that it's scripturally acceptable for women to be in ministry. We want to help them understand that women can serve in roles of ministry," said Terry Honeycutt, the organization's president and minister of Christian education at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church in Cary, N.C.

The guide will highlight the reasons and theology behind women being ordained, while the brochure gives a historical time line of wom-

en in ministry, Honeycutt said in an interview during the organization's meeting in Houston June 13.

With approximately 500 members in their 10th year, Women in Ministry has two goals, Honeycutt said: to educate and to encourage.

"We are not a phase. We are here to stay," she explained. "We have learned of God and his calling through our Southern Baptist Convention churches, but sadly we are having to leave those to answer our calling. The home that nurtured us and taught us does not always allow us a place to serve."

■ **Ministers' wives luncheon.** "Jesus loves me, this I know" is one of the most important and meaningful things known to Willard Scott, weatherman on NBC's "Today" show.

Speaking to 570 women gathered for the 38th annual Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon, Scott said the other two meaningful things in his life are "going into anything with an attitude of prayer" and witnessing.

"We don't have to beat them over the head," he said, advocating instead what is known in Baptist circles as "lifestyle evangelism." Raised a Southern Baptist but now a member of his wife's Episcopal church, Scott said, "We can talk things to death. ... If what we believe in our hearts is right, it will prevail; it has for 2,000 years."

■ **Church music conference.** More than 100 songs were offered by a variety of choirs, soloists and orchestras during 10 concerts and two worship services that were part of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference in Houston.

The conference concerts ranged from children's choirs to handbell demonstrations to organ recitals, while educational sessions included such topics as current trends in church music, team building in children's choir and drama in worship.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell Dilday spoke about the faithfulness of God at both conference worship services. Dilday stressed that faithfulness is a limitless dimension of God. He also predicted that generations following will judge how faithful today's Baptists have been to their ministry calling, Southern Baptist heritage and to Jesus Christ.

Musical works commissioned by the conference were premiered, including the anthem "You Are A Light" by David T. Clydesdale, and the hymn "Our God, You Seek Our Company" by T. W. Hunt.

■ **Filipino Fellowship.** The Filipino Southern Baptist Fellowship of North America organized during the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston. With 325 churches and mission congregations and 125 pastors in 27 states, the group has pledged itself to double their number by the end of the century.

Compiled from Baptist Press reports

Crossover Houston rounds up 1,253 new believers

HOUSTON (BP)—Southern Baptists recorded 1,253 professions of faith in Jesus Christ during the fifth Crossover evangelism effort prior to a Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Preliminary reports from last week's evangelism projects in Houston include 221 professions of faith from door-to-door surveys, 377 from rallies and revivals, 281 from street witnessing and 374 from block parties.

"In every case where churches participated enthusiastically, there were a multitude of seeds sown and a tremendous harvest," said Darrell Robinson, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism. Crossover Houston was jointly sponsored by the HMB, the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Union Baptist Association.

In addition to professions of faith, 5,000 people were fed during block parties and at least 1,448 prospects were discovered for local churches.

Darrell Copeland, pastor of Jersey Village Baptist Church in suburban Houston, said he expects a long-term impact from Crossover. His church participated in door-to-door surveys by matching a church member with an out-of-town volunteer. This was the first door-to-door experience for some of his church members.

People participating in the door-to-door thrust used a survey that questioned residents about their church membership, what would attract them to a church and if they thought a local church cared about them. The survey led to the opportunity for volunteers to share their Christian testimony.

Copeland said it was good for his church members to realize how many people in their neighborhood do not attend church anywhere.

Baptists shared the gospel 1,364 times during the door-to-door surveys. The resulting 221 professions confirmed previous experience that one person is converted, on average, for every six times the gospel is presented, Robinson said.

Volunteers witnessing at parks, shopping centers and other places with high pedestrian traffic were added to the Crossover agenda in 1991 when the convention met in Atlanta. This year's result of 281 conversions was the most successful statistically, said Norman Harbough, coordinator of the 35 street teams.

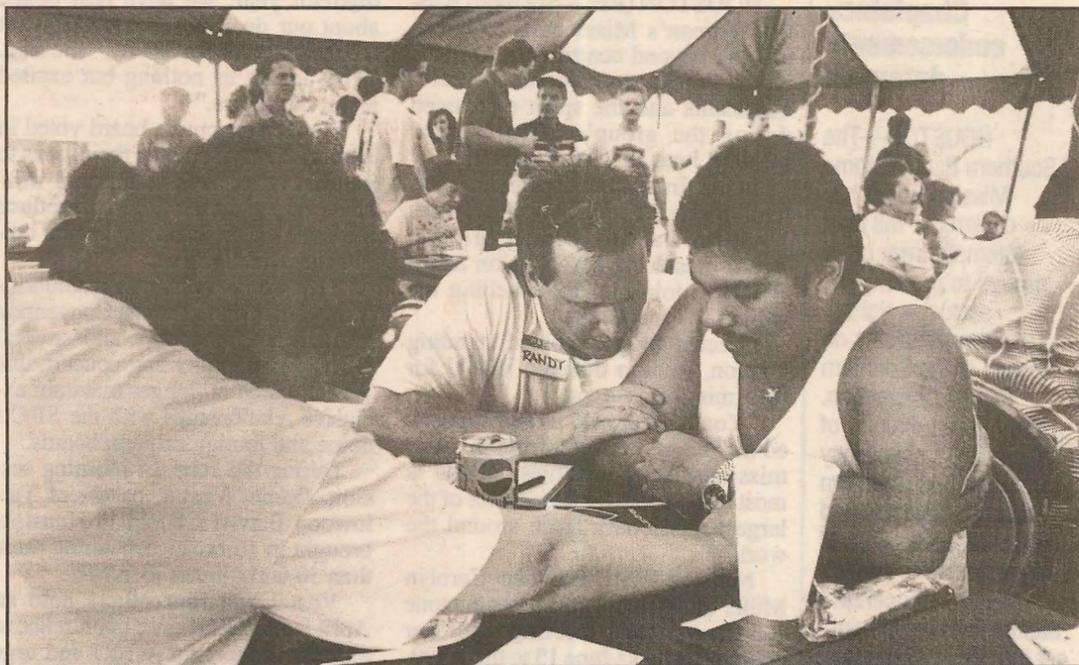
Street evangelism last year at Crossover Indianapolis reported 198 professions of faith; Crossover Atlanta had 156, he said.

In addition to the conversions, Crossover also generated excitement among local church leaders, Harbough said. "People now have a vision of what can be done."

One church reported that despite no professions of faith it developed more than 300 prospects, he said. "I do believe that a lot of seeds were planted."

More than 500 volunteers braved humidity and temperatures in the upper 80s to witness, serve food and entertain people coming to the 21 block parties, said Bill Cox, coordinator of the parties.

Mission pastor Sergio Rios of Ebenezer Baptist Mission said Crossover helped his church deliver its message to the community.



"It lets the neighborhood know the main purpose of the church, 'I was hungry and you fed me,'" said Rios, whose church hosted a block party, complete with barbecue and a clown team from Soldier Creek Baptist Church in Midwest City, Okla.

Although they were not added to Crossover events until last year, evangelistic block parties started six years ago when True Vine Baptist Church in Oakland, Calif., sought to impact the nearby 700-unit Acorn government housing project, said Bill Simms, who was involved in the first effort.

The parties are successful because they minister to needs while sharing

the gospel, Simms said.

"This is a bridge. People who won't come to church will come here," he said. "Because of block parties, we find out about peoples' needs, so we minister seven days a week."

Woods Watson, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., said he participated in Crossover Houston because he is attracted to Southern Baptists having a better witness more than "adding to the coffers and filling the convention center for a few days."

"I like the idea of making an impact on the city more than just coming a few days to do business," he said while distributing tracts at a flea market.

INTO THE HOOD Randy Williams (center), youth minister at Memorial Baptist Church in Port Arthur, Texas, leads a man to faith in Jesus Christ during one of 21 block parties conducted as part of Crossover Houston, an evangelism effort that preceded the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo by Bob Carey)

Brokenness and humility bring healing, pastors told

HOUSTON (BP)—Pastors need to experience brokenness and humility to bring healing to their lives, churches and country, speakers said during the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference June 13-14 in Houston.

"Heal Our Land," taken from 2 Chronicles 7:14, was the theme of the conference.

■ **Charles Stanley.** The grace of God, more than judgment and repentance, is the only message "that's going to heal our land," said Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist

Church in Atlanta.

To effectively proclaim grace to hurting people, the pastor must do so out of a "broken life," Stanley explained.

Brokenness, he said, is a process in which God targets anything a Christian depends on rather than God, arranges the circumstances to break a person, chooses the tools to do the breaking and controls the pressure on the person.

If you are "going to be a blessing, you're going to have to bleed," Stanley said.

■ **Harold O'Chester.** "Brokenness is that condition ... where our will is brought into absolute and total submission to God's will," said Harold O'Chester, pastor of Great Hills Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.

"You've got to understand, whatever it takes (to break a person), God's up to it," the pastor said in a sermon in which he told about his own experiences through the deaths of his first wife, their two children and an unborn child in an auto accident.

Failure, bad health and persecution are circumstances which can bring brokenness, he said. Such events can toughen and teach pastors, as well as make them tender, he said.

■ **John Maxwell.** Seven things prevent leaders from being broken by God, said John Maxwell, senior pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church in San Diego and a popular speaker on pastoral leadership and lay ministry.

The seven are the fast pace of life, an unwillingness to be vulnerable, immaturity, isolation from the world, misplaced priorities, contentment with status quo, and a human perspective rather than faith perspective.

"We lack brokenness because we don't see people like God sees people," Maxwell said. "If the pastor can be changed, the church can be changed, and if the church can be changed, the community can be changed."

■ **Adrian Rogers.** Ego is "on parade in too many pulpits," said Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn.

"I'm sick and tired of people standing up and talking about our great Southern Baptist Convention, our great churches. There's one who's great. His name is Jesus," Rogers said.

■ **Cal Thomas.** A "compromising, undisciplined, disobedient church of Jesus Christ" is to blame for much of the moral and spiritual decline in America during the last 25 years, according to syndicated columnist Cal Thomas.

"If the church and its leaders cannot be transformed by the renewing of their minds and marriages, how can we ever hope to transform culture?" Thomas asked. "Why should culture even bother to listen?"

Transforming the culture will require greater emphasis on prayer, more ministry by the laity and withdrawal from the public schools, he said.

Thomas exhorted pastors to "remove ourselves from American public schools and establish a superior school system. What's wrong with us being the standard and drawing them to our schools?"

Ike Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga., was elected president of next year's Pastors' Conference.

Pastors' Conference quotes

"America is not in need of healing because of abortion or pornography or liberalism or humanism or even homosexuality. America is in need of healing because the church of America is sick. When the church of America is sick, the nation is doomed."

Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark.

"If we're going to heal our land, we've got to heal our relationships. Some men are trying to be Superman, super pastor. What your family needs is for you to be a husband and a dad."

Charles Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantown Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M.

"I believe that anger does more damage in our homes and in our lives than any other single thing I see. It's very normal to get angry, but it's very damaging to allow the anger to stay."

Gary Smalley, counselor and author from Phoenix, Ariz.

WMU meeting focuses on future, not controversy

Chaplaincy endorsements defended

HOUSTON—The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has declared it will fight attempts from other groups to pre-empt its exclusive right to endorse chaplains on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention. Huey Perry, director of the board's chaplaincy division, told Southern Baptist chaplains and pastoral counselors of his response to rumors that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship might get into the endorsement of chaplains. Perry said he had told Cecil Sherman, Fellowship coordinator, that endorsement of chaplains has been given to the HMB Chaplains Commission by the SBC and "we will resist any attempt on the part of any group within the Southern Baptist Convention to endorse persons." Perry added it was not an issue of "protecting territory" but of protecting a system that has evolved among a large number of faith groups. The issue, hypothetical now, would become real should an endorsed chaplain find himself or herself a member of a church that no longer is a part of the SBC but is affiliated with the Fellowship, an organization of moderates disaffected by the rightward shift of the convention. Such a person would lose endorsement by the SBC, Perry told the fourth annual convocation of the chaplains' group.

HOUSTON (BP)—Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union is moving beyond controversy to focus on the future, according to speakers' comments and the spirit evidenced during the group's 105th annual meeting June 13-14 in Houston.

In his first public appearance, less than one hour after his election as Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board president, Jerry Rankin asked WMU to join him in "reaching the world for Jesus Christ."

Greeted by a sustained standing ovation, Rankin thanked WMU for their missions support.

"You have upheld us and supported us," he said. "Apart from the very missionaries themselves, WMU is most responsible for the success of the largest missionary force around the world."

National WMU President Carolyn Miller of Huntsville, Ala., set the tone for the two-day meeting with her opening remarks June 13 to the 1,800-plus registered participants and guests.

After a brief reference to problems encountered by the national organization in recent months, Miller encouraged participants to look to the future.

"Although we have experienced a

difficult year, we have real peace about our decisions and about what the future holds for WMU," she said. "That leaves us nothing but excited about our future."

WMU's executive board voted in January 1993 to enlarge their focus to include other, non-traditional missions opportunities and to produce missions materials on request for other evangelical groups.

That action produced resolutions from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and several other groups expressing concern that WMU would no longer maintain exclusive relationships with the SBC's home and foreign mission boards.

During the June 14 morning session, Daniel Vestal, pastor of Tallwood Baptist Church in Houston, brought in 15 boxes containing more than 50,000 tributes to WMU.

Vestal and four others held an April 8 telephone news conference to express support for WMU and urge Southern Baptists nationwide to write or call an 800 number to voice their tributes.

"Please continue, for the sake of the gospel and the cause of Jesus Christ," Vestal said, "to lead Southern Baptists—all Southern Baptists—

in the cause of missions involvement and missions support into the next century and the next millennium."

In response, Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said: "WMU in its 105 years has never sought glory for itself. We have always said, 'If the hungry are fed, the wounded bound up and people are brought to Christ, to God be the glory.'"

During the WMU executive board meeting June 12, O'Brien said the controversy was discussed but board members determined no response was needed.

Miller echoed that decision in her remarks to the general session.

"We are here today because of our tomorrows, not because of what happened in our yesterdays," the president said. "If you feel like I do, you are ready to move on—to greater service, to deeper levels of ministry, to a higher calling of missions."

Missionaries and other speakers called on Southern Baptists to support missions with their prayers, their money and a willingness to become personally involved.

Beverly Dunston Scott, retired professor of urban planning at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., noted: "We are inundated with human misery and need. We have been fed so much gloom and doom we are becoming compassion fatigued."

She called on Christian women to "see themselves as God sees them—intellectually and spiritually capable, compassionate, caring. Christian ser-

vice is not and should not be defined by man, denominations or society. It is defined by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Mike Chute, missionary in Hong Kong, said the three objectives of Bold Mission Thrust—Southern Baptists' goal to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000—are still valid. "We still need people who will go. We need people who will give. We need people who will pray."

Home missionary David Fuller of Cleveland, Ohio, said Scripture is clear on serving "the least of these."

He said fear and pride are two barriers Christians face in ministering to others. "If we feel like we're better than the least of these, then we can't serve them. And if we can't serve them, then we can't serve Christ."

Houston pastor William Lawson Jr. echoed Fuller's comments in a later session.

"Jesus set an example of service so that the church he left behind would not have the notion that it is a country club, but rather a community of service."

"If the focus of Jesus was on the underclasses, then where should our focus be?" asked Lawson, pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church.

Echoing the annual meeting theme, "Summoned to Serve," Lawson encouraged the audience to "return to your community to find a way to serve Jesus Christ because one day he is coming back for all of us. Will you be ready?"

New missions fund launched

HOUSTON (BP)—A special fund to accept contributions for missions projects and the ongoing work of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union was authorized June 12 by the WMU executive board, along with plans to fund annual projects addressing critical social issues.

The Vision Fund will enable the national women's missions organization to achieve its vision for the future, said Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien.

It also will provide needed support in light of reductions in traditional funding sources, including sales of magazines and products, she added.

"To ensure the ongoing of our ministries, we must pursue other sources of income," she said. To administer the fund, O'Brien an-

nounced the formation of a development office to be overseen by June Whitlow, WMU associate executive director.

Board members also voted to conduct national projects to alleviate hunger in 1993-95 and to address the issue of AIDS in 1995-96.

They delayed until January 1994 decisions about what issues should be addressed for the remainder of the decade.

The board also approved plans for a WMU enlargement campaign to be launched in June 1994.

A Kentuckian, Roseline Minkon of Louisville, was one of three women named the first recipients of gifts from a scholarship fund named in honor of Keith Parks, former president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Hosea: God's Redeeming Love

August 12-13
Campbellsville College

Prepare for the 1994 January Bible Study with Dr. Gerald Keown, Old Testament professor at Southern Seminary. Call Dr. John Hurtgen at (502) 789-5029 for reservations (meals and session charges at no cost with advanced reservations).

Hosted by the Christian Studies Division
Campbellsville College

Celebrations

The management team and I recently took a couple of hours to evaluate our work this past year. This has been one busy year! Though we haven't heard the results yet, we spent a year preparing our self study and programs for the accreditation team's visit. We launched a new counseling program in Bowling Green, opened a new foster care office in Hopkinsville, and are preparing to bring the new Mayfield home on line next month. By the time we finished listing the year's work we all felt good, but tired. We also looked at some things we could have done better. One of those was that we should have taken more time to celebrate and appreciate all that God is doing through this ministry.

There always seems to be so much to do. By the time we finish with one project, another is ready to go. Perhaps we are simply caught up in the fast pace of life today. God gave us the example of taking a day of rest after the creation. I imagine that he took time to think about the beauty of the world he had created, and the love within the relationship between himself and mankind.

We are going to try to make time to celebrate more of the victories God gives to us. We recently celebrated 10 years of ministry at the Dixon Shelter—the care provided to over 540 children, and the commitment and hard work of the several staff members who had touched hurting lives.

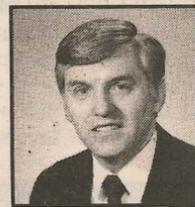
We also took time to celebrate the 20th anniversary in child care of Bill Heaton, the director of all our work in western Kentucky. Each of those 540 children are quite real to him, for he counseled with each one. He cried with them, shared with them, and encouraged them in some of the most critical times in their lives.

Bill's reward for all that hard work is more hard work. He is putting together the team to run our new Mayfield home and is responsible for the Hopkinsville foster home worker.

All of us need to celebrate more. We do not win every battle and not everything is a great victory; but the more we rejoice in God, the greater our lives will be.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

Kentuckians among Patterson's list of 'neo-orthodox'

HOUSTON—Two Kentucky men and one Kentucky school are among examples of "neo-orthodoxy" in the Southern Baptist Convention, according to a 16-point position paper distributed from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's booth in the exhibit hall of the Southern Baptist Convention last week.

Paige Patterson, Southeastern's president and author of the paper, said the document was not meant for distribution at the SBC. He apologized for the error and ordered that further distribution of the paper during the Houston meeting be stopped.

The paper, titled "Understanding the Controversy," says its purpose is

"to help clarify the differences among us." In addition to comparing beliefs according to three categories, the document classifies schools, seminaries and individuals as adherents to those beliefs.

One column is labeled "Orthodoxy (to cut straight)." The next is labeled "Neo-Orthodoxy (really neo-

liberalism)." The third is labeled "Classical Liberalism."

The Kentucky references fall among 15 specific mentions of people and schools Patterson considers "neo-orthodox."

Cumberland College, which is located in Williamsburg and affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is listed in this category. Also mentioned are Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and Ken Chafin, retired pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

Conspicuously missing from any listing on the chart is Southern Seminary as an institution.

Other references in the "neo-orthodox" category include Baylor University, Gardner-Webb College, Wingate College, Carson-Newman College, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Glenn Hinson, Russell Dilday, Cecil Sherman, Randall Lolley, Milton Ferguson and "most Baptist state paper editors."

The paper defines "neo-orthodoxy" as a belief that:

- "Rejects inerrancy completely."
- "Talks about missions, but does very little about evangelism or missions."

- "Claims the Bible contains the Word of God."

On the other hand, the paper describes "orthodoxy" as a belief that:

- "Accepts full inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

- "Tends to emphasize missions, evangelism, church growth, pastoral leadership."

- "Claims the Bible is the word of God."

Patterson's examples of schools adhering to "orthodoxy" include Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Criswell College, Luther Rice Seminary, Southwest Baptist University, Hannibal-LaGrange College, Palm Beach Atlantic College, Southeastern Seminary, and "some" at Dallas Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Individuals cited as representing this belief include Herschel Hobbs, W.A. Criswell, Adrian Rogers, Jerry Vines, Charles Stanley, Bailey Smith, Ed Young, Jimmy Draper and Paul Pressler.

Honeycutt originally issued a statement strongly protesting distribution of the document. Upon hearing Patterson's explanation, however, Honeycutt said he accepted the clarification in good faith. "I do not, however, accept the content of the document," Honeycutt said.

James Taylor, president of Cumberland College, said he is "very disappointed" with Patterson's statement "because it doesn't ring true."

"However, I understand that Paige Patterson has publicly apologized, and like Dr. Honeycutt I will accept Dr. Patterson's apology because the Bible tells us, 'Be ye kind one to another.'"

Chafin could not be reached for comment.

Written by News Director Mark Wingfield based on information provided through Baptist Press

"I understand that Paige Patterson has publicly apologized, and like Dr. Honeycutt I will accept Dr. Patterson's apology because the Bible tells us, 'Be ye kind one to another.'"

James Taylor, president of Cumberland College, on his reaction to the Kentucky Baptist school being described as "neo-orthodox" by Patterson, the president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Annuity Board Sunday 1993

Celebrating Preparation

Although relief for poverty stricken elderly preachers, their widows and orphans was Dr. Lunsford's immediate concern, he was very conscious that preparation for retirement is much better than relief. He wrote:

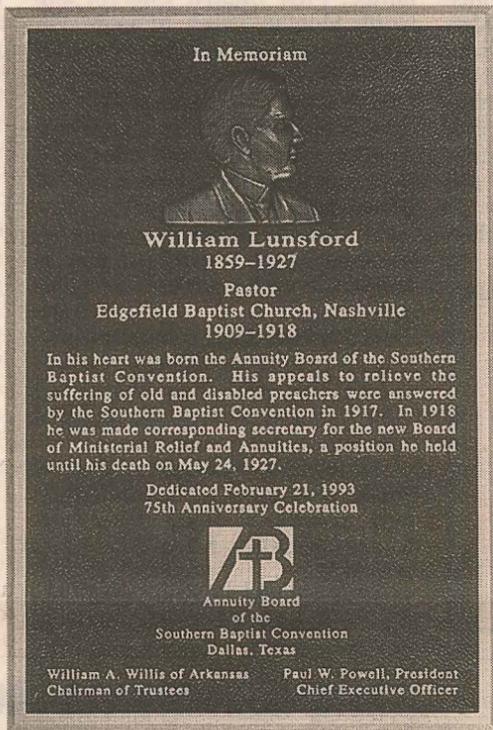
"Because we have to bear this relief burden, which in a sense has been passed on to us, does not constitute a reason why we should not realize our duty or obligation to our active ministers to provide for their future. . . . It is an economic and social right and equity that we make provision for the future, for the ministers who are now the active ones, so that when their work is completed they will not be passed on to the next generation as helpless objects of charity."

Celebrating Preparation

In 1916, when William Lunsford proposed a Southern Baptist Convention relief program for destitute retired ministers, his goal was provision of the bare necessities of life.

There was no Social Security in those days, no Southern Baptist pension plan, and little personal insurance. Meager salaries paid to ministers made savings hard at best and impossible for most. It was not a good time to raise money. The United States was in the midst of a world war; but Lunsford would not be deterred:

"Our nation takes care of its soldiers and sailors who are disabled; our great industries pension worn-out employees; why cannot our denomination provide for its veter-



ans and worn-out workers?"

Today, almost 35,000 ministers and other church employees are active members of the Church Annuity Plan, and 34,000 agency and institutional employees are members of the Convention Annuity Plan. The Annuity Board holds assets exceeding \$4 billion for the purpose of providing retirement benefits.

Yet, about two-thirds of all local church employees are not enrolled in the

Church Annuity Plan. Of the 35,000 who are active, thousands will receive inadequate benefits unless churches catch a clearer vision of the need for preparation through adequate contributions. We recommend that every minister contribute five percent of income to the retirement plan, and that churches match the contribution two dollars for one. For most who contribute at least \$105 per month, the state convention will match total contributions one dollar for three, up to \$35 per month. Of the state convention contribution, the first \$17.50 pays for a special protection section providing a survivor benefit up to \$67,500 and a supplemental disability benefit of up to \$300 per month. The next \$17.50 goes directly to the member's retirement income account for tax-deferred earnings compounding to the day of retirement.

Our prayer on this 75th Anniversary Annuity Board Sunday is that every church will, in the words of the Apostle Paul, ". . . be generous also in this service of love" (2 Cor. 8:7 TEV).

Paul W. Powell, President



ANNUITY BOARD SBC
75 YEARS OF KEEPING
YOUR CONFIDENCE
1918-1993

KENTUCKY KERNELS

The Southern Baptist Convention has met in Kentucky nine times in the past: In Louisville in 1857, 1870, 1887, 1899, 1909, 1927 and 1959; in Russellville in 1866; and in Lexington in 1880. Source: 1992 Southern Baptist Convention Annual

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **COVINGTON**—Latoria Church ordained **Lynda Hoskinds** to the ministry June 6.

■ **DANVILLE**—Several RAs from Immanuel Church received awards recently for competing in the South District Association track meet. Also, GAs treated their mothers to a luncheon to celebrate Mother's Day. Mothers were provided handmade corsages and cookbooks.

■ **GRAHAM**—Larry Vincent has resigned as pastor of Graham Church.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Russell Creek and East Lynn Associations have called **Wilburn Bonta** as director of missions. Bonta, who has served as pastor of Greasy Creek Church for 13 years, begins his new post in July.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Wayne Dukes is pastor of Cave Springs Church.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Pioneer Church called **Richie Gooch** as youth

minister. Also, the church plans to celebrate its 35th anniversary June 27 with homecoming.

■ **IRVINE**—Thomas Church recently retired the debt on its property.

■ **LEWISPORT**—Lewisport Church ordained **Robert Cobb** as a deacon June 20.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Calvary Church called **Hank Ellington** as minister of youth and outreach.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Eaton Memorial Church invites friends and former members to attend the church's 85th anniversary celebration July 11. Reservations for lunch, which will be held after the 10 a.m. worship service, may be made by calling (502) 684-5239. An afternoon service will feature former staff members of the church.

■ **ROCKFIELD**—Cedar Bluff called **Dale Etheridge** as pastor.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR YOUTH LEADERS

Last month's "Events" insert in the Western Recorder wrongly stated that the \$4 fee for the youth evangelism conference included two meals. The fee does not include any meals.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Kimball Organ, church type, 5 years old, double keyboards, 13-note pedals, computer by Eelka, EP-13 series, walnut finish, half price. Kimball organ, P.O. Box 724, Monicello, KY 42633. (606) 348-8620.

LOOKING: Part-time minister of music. We also are seeking a full-time minister of youth and education. The church has a resident membership of approximately 500 and an average attendance of approximately 210. Send resumés and referrals to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 200 North Morgan Street, Morganfield, KY 42437. (502) 389-1042.

AVAILABLE: 2-Bedroom, 2-bath condo for vacation rental, Sanibel Island, Florida. Large pool, tennis courts, sauna, bikes, screened porch. Best beach on the island. Call Pat Owen (502) 895-8752.

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

WANTED: Handbells, any condition. Write Bethel Baptist Church, HC-82 Box 630, Pine Knot, KY 42635, or call Donna Strunk, (606) 376-5031.

WANTED: Part-time minister of youth. Gethsemane Baptist Church. Send resumé to 10400 Blue Lick Road, Louisville, KY 40229. (502) 969-3191.

RETREATS: Bud's Lake, I-65, exit 81, Sonora, Ky. (502) 324-3036.

Dormitories, kitchen, gym, swimming and campground. Year-round Christian fun.

POSITION: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will make a faculty appointment during the academic year for the following position: Christian Missions—associate or full professor, tenurable or tenured position; MDiv or equivalent, PhD or DMiss, 5 years experience in an overseas setting essential. Nominations and applications are invited by Sept. 15, 1993. All faculty must be active members of a Baptist congregation and emphasize a conservative-evangelical theology. Send biographical information to: Search Committee Dean, Office of the Provost, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280.

NEEDED: Bethany Baptist Church, Louisville, is in search of a mature, young man who has been preparing for a call that matches his training in a church where combination talent in education and youth will best serve the Lord. To appreciate what this opportunity has to offer, you must spend an hour of so with our pastor, Dr. Bill Groover. You also will want to see our church and witness firsthand how it is right for you at this juncture in your career. Please send your resumé or call the church office at (502) 452-2681 for more information. Dr. Groover will set a time convenient to you for an interview.

Mother and son have birthday same day

For 52 years, Donna Atto and her only son have celebrated their birthdays on June 15. Bill Jr. was her most wonderful gift on her 27th birthday.

This year both were honored with a special chapel service on their birthday, and we also celebrated the father's 80th birthday which is less than a month away. Bill Sr., affectionately known by family and friends as "Pal," and Donna will have been married 55 years this coming October.

The Atto family first became involved with Oneida in the late '50s when Bill Jr. and his sister, Kay, came to enroll. Bill Jr. graduated in 1962, his graduation having been delayed because of illness. Kay graduated a year later. After a year of college, she married her OBI sweetheart, Bud Underwood.

In 1984 the elder Attos and son sold their home. Bud and Kay sold their nine-room house they had lived in for 16 years, a very large Western Auto store, a 13-bay garage and three tow trucks. Both families moved to the Oneida campus.

The Attos came to serve as full-time volunteers. Pal Atto, a retired teacher and Baptist pastor, came to teach Latin. Donna Atto, with \$200 worth of materials, started Oneida's first craft program in a small wing built onto a 125-year-old log cabin museum. Under her vigorous leadership and many 12-hour days, the program grew so much that a 3,000-square-foot, three-level building was added five years later. Pal and Bill both assisted her.

Since then, several hundred volunteers have worked in the Craft House anywhere from a day to three years. Many scores of Oneida's girls and boys have learned to do a wide variety of craft work—a knowledge that will give them pleasure

for a lifetime and, in many instances, can be turned to profit.

Without outside outlets and with very little public promotion, the craft program this past year grossed over \$43,000 and turned a profit of over \$27,000 after expenses. Every dime of this goes to support student scholarships.

In the meantime, Bill Jr. is assistant manager of our student campus store, besides taking care of the soft-drink vending machines across the campus. His work and the profit realized adds thousands more to support student scholarships. Bill also has been most faithful in our local Baptist church and very active with the Sunday school.

Not only do they give totally of themselves in time, effort, energy and love, they also have averaged donating \$200 a month out of pocket in the nine years they have served.

Bud has done yeoman work as dean of boys and work supervisor for over 300 boys. Kay has put in 12-hour days as admissions secretary. The two oldest Underwood children and their spouses collectively have taught, coached and performed about 14 years of service. Daughter Missy has just graduated from OBI, and son Michael will be a sophomore.

Maintenance supervisor David Foley led an opening prayer for the birthday service. I spoke of the ministry of this remarkable family. We sang Donna's favorite song, "To God be the Glory." Chaplain Mike Spencer preached a wonderful sermon on "The Servant Heart" as exemplified by Jesus. I announced the trustee action in naming the Craft House for Donna and Pal, and pastor Al Griffin led the closing prayer.

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

Paid Column

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Kelly Hall observes 50th anniversary

On the campus of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College stands a state-ly building. From the outside, the building's rock exterior and majestic columns captivate the onlooker; from the inside, it captivates the heart.

This structure, known as Kelly Hall, recently observed its 50th anniversary and serves Clear Creek's family and friends in many ways. The building is named for Dr. L.C. Kelly, founder of the school, and his wife, Nancy. It was built with student labor and faced with rock from nearby Clear Creek. Old-timers say when they ran out of rock, Dr. Kelly prayed for rain to swell the creek and roll more rocks down the stream.

For 20 years Kelly Hall was the heart of the campus, housing offices, classrooms and the chapel. The first child care center was located in the building. Clear Creek Chimes radio program originated in an upstairs studio. When Kelly Hall first opened, it was publicized as a hotel for area visitors. For several years it was a favorite Sunday dinner spot.

Today, it is home to both single and married couples and serves as a permanent home for one professor and part-time residence for oth-

ers. Kelly Hall also is a guest house for visitors and volunteer work teams. The front porch is a favorite place of fellowship.

Kelly Hall operates a dining hall in which approximately 24,000 meals are served annually. Events such as the Mountain Laurel Festival queen candidate dinner, weddings and the annual alumni conference are hosted in the building.

Activities at Kelly Hall are coordinated by Austin and Barbara Campbell. Austin "keeps the place running," states a Kelly Hall employee. Austin supervises Kelly Hall, and his wife is food service director. Barbara commented that she has seen God work miracles in Kelly Hall's kitchen. "Someone unexpectedly drops in for a meal," she said, "but it seems we always have enough food."

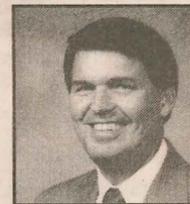
The Campbells supervise seven student workers. "God has been faithful to send us just the worker we needed at just the right time." The Campbells relate well with the students since Austin graduated from Clear Creek in 1988.

Written by Clear Creek student, Tina Pope

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

Paid Column

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Small Messianic Fellowship meets with enthusiasm

HOUSTON (BP)—Amid the rustle of polyester suits and styrofoam coffee cups, a blast from a ram's horn emanated from the halls of the George Brown Convention Center. It was the meeting of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship—Jews who have accepted Jesus Christ as the Savior and Christians who are drawn to Hebrew culture and worship.

The Messianics are a dedicated group of believers committed to finding their place within a denomination that has in the past had difficulty assimilating them.

It was just a few years ago a Southern Baptist Convention president, Bailey Smith, made the comment that "God does not hear the prayers of a Jew."

Jews who convert to Christianity can expect even rougher treatment from their own family and friends.

Started in 1986, the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship holds steadfastly to Hebrew customs but breaks with Judaism on one fundamental point—belief that Jesus Christ was the Messiah, not just a prophet. They also prefer to call themselves "believers," not "Jews for Jesus."

"Don't confuse the religion with the culture and don't confuse the culture with the ancestry. Messianics are people who are Jews and Gentiles and follow Jesus within the framework of Jewish culture," explained Jerry Young, president of the Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship.

The Messianic Fellowship held their gathering in a small side room to the George R. Brown Convention Center. But what they lacked in size they more than made up for in devotion and enthusiasm.

The meeting began with singing,

tambourines and hand-clapping. This was followed by the testimony of Gus Elowitz.

Raised devoutly Jewish in Queens, N.Y., Elowitz came into contact with a Christian couple who gave him a Bible. He slowly came to the conclusion that Jesus was the Messiah and today heads a Messianic congregation in Houston.

His was an oft-repeated story, as speaker after speaker took his or her turn to tell of the day they came to accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah, despite being raised and taught to believe otherwise.

Even though "shaloms" and Hebrew phrases were sprinkled throughout their speeches, the word that came up repeatedly was "challenging"—the challenge of questioning your religion, your family and your entire upbringing.

There were emotional testimonies of becoming outcasts in one's own family after making the confession that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.

A sizable portion of the Messianic group consists of Baptists and Protestants who appreciate the historical context and biblically-directed rituals the Jewish culture embraces.

Many members like the observance of Passover and the Messianics' use of the biblical calendar for religious holidays as opposed to the Gregorian calendar instituted by the Catholic Church hundreds of years ago.

"We want to remind Gentiles of where their roots really are," said Michael Copen, the fellowship's vice president. "What we call Messianic Judaism is just following the first Messianic Jew—Jesus Christ."

Youth choir's harmony isn't just in music

HOUSTON (ABP)—A 100-voice youth choir representing Anglo, African-American, Hispanic and Chinese congregations from Houston did its part to demonstrate that harmony can occur at an annual Southern Baptist Convention gathering.

"United Colors of Christ," a combined choir from the predominantly black Brentwood Baptist Church, Houston's Chinese Baptist Church, the primarily Hispanic Trinity Baptist Church, and the predominantly Anglo Willow Meadows Baptist Church, performed a mini-concert at the Tuesday evening session of the SBC.

Musical selections were led by directors from the four churches and included arrangements of the Doxology in both English and Cantonese, a Spanish-language medley, a gospel song by a local African-American music minister and a prayerful anthem to unity—"Many Gifts, One Spirit" by Allen Pote.

The choir also has performed at a community-service program at Brentwood and they have been invited to sing at the annual meeting of Union Baptist Association in October. They have sung at each of the four churches from which membership is drawn.

In the future, leaders hope the choir can sing at city-wide functions such as the lighting of the community Christmas tree, according to William Love, minister of music at Willow Meadows Baptist Church: "Moving beyond the walls of the church, the choir makes an important witness. So much of the future rests in the hands of today's youth. The choir offers a message about the possibility of living in harmony."

Although no firm plans have been made about the future of the choir beyond the summer tour, Love said he would not be surprised if the youth demanded that the program continue.

"They have come to the realization that there is a real strength in working together in unity and harmony," he said. "This really works."



Pages find formative experiences at SBC

HOUSTON (BP)—Every few years it happens—a Southern Baptist Convention page shares with Lee Porter his desire to surrender his or her life to ministry.

"I pray before the convention and the week after that some will hear the call of God," said Porter, SBC registration secretary who has worked with the pages for 25 years.

"During a Foreign Mission Board report several years ago a page leaned over to me and said, 'That's what I want to be (a missionary),'" Porter smiled. "That's really what it's all about."

In the years Porter has worked with pages, 10 have shared their special call with him.

Each year former pages or parents of pages return to the convention and tell Porter what they've become since being a page. "They are pastors or

missionaries ... college professors," Porter says.

In a pre-convention orientation and pep talk to the 14 High School Baptist Young Men and six Acteens who served as pages for this year's Houston convention, Porter emphasized the importance of their role.

"I want you to be alert to this great opportunity of service. It's an extension of the service you've done in your church, only now you're on the SBC level," Porter told the pages.

High School Baptist Young Men qualify to be pages by completing 300 hours of personal missions involvement, said Tim Bearden, page coordinator for the Brotherhood Commission. "This experience helps them to better identify with their convention and gives them an inside look at the annual meeting and workings of the SBC."

Duties of pages include working in the convention newsroom, registration office, information center and message center.

The delivery of messages and ballots are among the most important duties of pages. Emergency messages are relayed by pages to the platform, where Porter approves the placing of the message on the convention's closed-circuit TV.

"We will receive over 1,000 emergency messages in a week," Porter said. "There will be 800 deaths in SBC churches and the pastors of those churches are here. It is extremely important that we locate people in an emergency."

A typical day for a page begins at 5 a.m. and does not end until long after the last messenger has left the convention hall. In all, pages work about 60 hours in four grueling days.

PURITY PLEDGE Hundreds of teen-agers from 25 Houston-area churches rush to the platform to affirm their pledge to remain sexually pure until marriage in response to the Baptist Sunday School Board's "True Love Waits" campaign. President Jimmy Draper (left), introduced the campaign during the board's report to the Southern Baptist Convention last week. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

**That's funny,
it doesn't
look like a
newspaper.**



**But it is
for Baptists who
can't see this page.**

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