

JUNE 29, 1993 VOL. 167, NO. 26

FOR THE RECORD

Pastor responds

Rex Horne, pastor of President Clinton's home church—Immanuel Baptist in Little Rock, Ark.—returned from the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston to tell his congregation the question is not whether they are good enough for the SBC but whether the SBC is good enough for them. See page 2.

Rising again

Tornado-force winds blew down the building of Bethel Baptist Church in Beech Grove, but volunteers from Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro plan to put it back together again. See page 3.

Editorial

New SBC president deserves prayers as journey begins. See page 5.

Gregory coming?

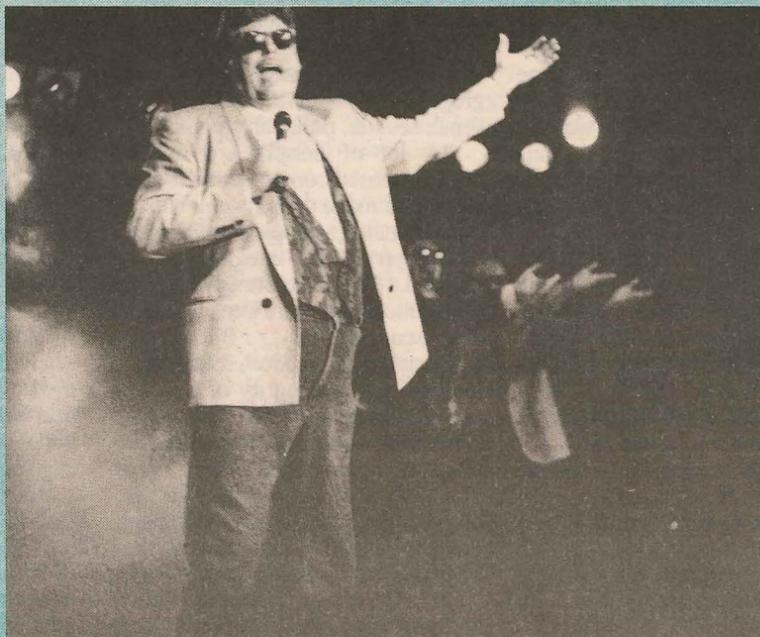
Joel Gregory could be moving to Kentucky if he accepts an offer to become dean of the chapel at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. See page 6.

Pass the plate

The church offering plate remains the best fund-raising tool in America, new research shows. See page 7.

New heart

A Vine Grove woman has received a new heart through medical technology and a new heart for missions through the power of God. See page 8.



YOUTHFEST '93 ■ Above: Members of New Song perform a 1950s-style song, "How Can You Say No 'Til You Say Yes." ■ Top right: Youth evangelist Jay Strack speaks to the overflow crowd. ■ Bottom right: Paul and Nicole Johnson perform a skit about "The Ugly Duckling."

195 choose Jesus at YouthFest '93

By Mark Wingfield & Marv Knox
News Director & Editor

FRANKFORT—One hundred ninety-five teen-agers professed faith in Jesus Christ during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's YouthFest '93 last weekend in Frankfort.

The June 25-26 event was the largest youth evangelism conference the KBC has ever sponsored, said Bill Jagers, director of the evangelism office.

An overflow crowd of 6,000 teens and adult sponsors packed the civic center for all three sessions. The teens jumped from their seats and swayed to the music of New Song and Kevin Landgrave. Many

also left their seats to confess faith in Jesus at the invitation of evangelist Jay Strack.

"There's a battle for your mind, there's a battle for your body, and the Bible says there's a battle for your soul," Strack told the crowd.

He detailed his own experience with many of the things that tempt today's youth—alcohol, drugs, sex, rebellion and self-centeredness. With the concern of a friend and the caution of a parent, Strack warned teens that those temptations are not the way to happiness.

"What I'm talking about is not just saying no to drugs," he explained. "What I'm asking you to do is to change your life."

Strack said he wanted every teen present to be "sure you know that you know that you know" that he or she has eternal forgiveness through trusting Jesus Christ.

"The Bible makes it very clear that you and I are in desperate need," he said, explaining that Jesus Christ offers the one way to happiness and peace.

But it was not until he was 17 years old, Strack said, that he first heard the promise of John 3:16—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

He told of being born to a

□ See YouthFest draws ..., page 6

Little Flock draws big crowds with outreach

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

SHEPHERDSVILLE—The correct time and temperature aren't the only new messages Little Flock Baptist Church is sending its community.

But the electronic message board—which also displays weekly sermon titles and promotes special events to passers-by on Highway 61—does symbolize the church's innovative efforts to meet needs in the community.

Such innovations include aerobic workouts, dieting groups and Tuba lessons, as well as contemporary options in worship.

Ken Lupton, minister of discipleship and outreach at Little Flock, said these and other ministries developed within the last four years have contributed significantly to the church's growth.

"The church is in a fast-growing area," he said. "But it's more than that."

Lupton said the growth is a combination of strong lay and clergy leadership along with new ministries.

Worship and Sunday school attendance both have nearly doubled since

1987, the year Ronald Shaver became pastor of the church, Lupton said. Currently, more than 600 attend worship, either on Sunday mornings or in the contemporary "community service" on Saturday evenings.

"Our church has always been a shepherding-type church—a church that really cares" for people, Lupton said.

And that hasn't changed.

But where the community used to perceive Little Flock as a traditional, narrow-minded church, they now "see a church trying to be sensitive to folks out in the community," Lupton said.

"The church has been willing to do whatever it takes to move forward, and accept rather than resist change," he explained. "With all the changes, the church has remained united."

Some of the changes that have helped Little Flock strengthen its ministry and its standing in the community include:

■ **Worship.** A new worship and ministry center completed in July seats 900 people. A large screen displays the words of choruses and is used for announcements during Saturday and Sunday services.

Lupton described Saturday services as an adaptation of Willow Creek Community Church, a contemporary-style megachurch in the Chicago area.

Started at Little Flock after Easter this year, these services focus on drama, music and life-related issues, with sermon outlines printed in the bulletin.

■ **Music.** An Academy of Arts offering private and group lessons in music and drama currently is in its second semester of operation. Students may register for instruction on various instruments or for the voice, music theory, conducting or drama.

■ **Children.** The church recently has begun a mother's morning out program and a music program for preschoolers.

■ **Youth.** "Solid Rock Cafe" meets weekly at a local community center and provides games, skits, songs and food. Attendance usually is about 70, Lupton said.

■ **Support groups.** About 40-50 people are involved in support groups through discipleship training at the church. These include "Making Peace with your Past," for adults who have been in dysfunctional families and

□ See Little Flock ..., page 3

Court rules parochial interpreter allowable

WASHINGTON—The First Amendment does not prohibit public school officials from providing a sign-language interpreter for a deaf student attending a religious school, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 18.

In a 5-4 decision, the high court reversed rulings by lower courts that said providing an interpreter for James Zobrest at an Arizona Catholic high school would violate the separation of church and state required by the First Amendment.

Zobrest's parents are seeking reimbursement for more than \$7,000 per year they spent to provide their own interpreter after the Catalina Foothills School District declined to furnish an interpreter under a federally financed program.

Armed with the Supreme Court's ruling that the First Amendment does not prohibit such aid, the Zobrests now must return to federal district court for a ruling on whether the state is required to give the aid.

The Supreme Court declined to address that portion of the Zobrests' case, choosing instead to focus only on the establishment clause question.

Writing for the court's narrow majority, Chief Justice William Rehnquist said providing an interpreter for Zobrest at Salpointe Catholic High School would not violate the ban against governmental establishment of religion. The program providing such special services targets a broad class of citizens and the aid in question benefits the student, not the religious institution, he explained.

Rehnquist, joined by Associate Justices Byron White, Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas, said the case fits a pattern of court decisions holding that the First Amendment is not violated when government programs that neutrally provide benefits to a broad range of citizens incidentally benefit religion.

Because the federal program at issue in this case "creates no financial incentive for parents to choose a sectarian school, an interpreter's presence there cannot be attributed to state decision-making," Rehnquist said.

Additionally, Rehnquist noted that the parochial school in this case "is not relieved of an expense it otherwise would have assumed in educating students."

The majority said that the task of an interpreter is different from that of a teacher and that an interpreter's presence would not add or subtract from the religious environment chosen by Zobrest's parents.

Four justices dissented, citing the court's longstanding rule of avoiding constitutional questions when cases can be settled on other grounds.

□ See Court rules ..., page 7

BAPTIST BITS

■ **A regional conference** on multihousing ministries is scheduled for Graceland Baptist Church Retreat Center in New Albany, Ind., Sept. 3-5. Hosted by the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Southeastern Indiana Baptist Association, the event will feature presentations by people who are doing multihousing ministries. For registration information, contact the church at 3600 Kamer-Miller Rd., New Albany, Ind. 47150.

■ **Fred Wolfe**, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., is the new chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Officers elected to serve with Wolfe are Eldridge Miller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sallisaw, Okla., vice chairman; T.C. Pinckney, a layman from Good News Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., recording secretary.

■ **Mollie Mitchell**, the wife of Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee member J.C. Mitchell, was killed in an auto accident June 16 while attending the SBC annual meeting in Houston. The accident happened near their downtown hotel as the Mitchells and two other couples were en route to a dinner at the home of Judge Paul Pressler. The Mitchells are from Winter Park, Fla., where he is director of the Pembroke Foundation, a church-starting organization.

■ **Thirteen Southern Baptists** working with international aid organizations have been temporarily evacuated from Somalia at the request of the United Nations. The evacuation means that the daily feeding of 46,000 people has been suspended, as well as operation of 22 medical clinics.

'SBC on trial,' Clinton's pastor tells congregation

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention is on trial, and SBC churches must decide for themselves whether the convention still deserves their support, said a pastor whose congregation recently survived an attempted ouster from the SBC.

Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., was the target of a motion to unseat its messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 15-17 in Houston.

The church was criticized for failing to censure its most prominent member—President Bill Clinton—for his views on homosexuality. The motion would have expelled the church from the 15 million-member denomination.

"The question is not whether our church is good enough for the Southern Baptist Convention," Immanuel's pastor, Rex Horne, said in his June 20 sermon upon returning from Houston.

"The question is, is the Southern Baptist Convention good enough for us?"

The motion to expel Clinton's church was offered to the SBC June 15 by Bo Hammock, a pastor from Lake Butler, Fla. The motion was debated at length by the SBC credentials committee, which later voted unanimously to reaffirm the church's participation.

However, the SBC did pass a resolution denouncing Clinton's views on homosexuality and abortion—one of about 20 anti-Clinton resolutions proposed during the three-day convention.

Horne decried the notoriety his church received during the SBC.

"We are not the ones on trial," he said. "The Southern Baptist Convention is the one on trial. We will never be judged, because we are autonomous and independent. We will never be judged by another church or group of churches."

Pattersons find church home after one-year search

By Donna Seese
Raleigh News & Observer

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP)—As a conservative, Paige Patterson believes every word in the Bible is true. But lately he might have been wondering about "Knock and it shall be opened unto you."

For the past year the president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has been making the rounds in and around Wake Forest, N.C., trying to find a church that would welcome him as a member. One rejected him outright. Others, worried that his fiery reputation would attract controversy, discouraged him from applying.

Finally, on June 9, a church took him in.

Patterson and his wife, Dorothy, became full members at Stoney Hill Baptist Church, a 109-year-old country church near Wake Forest with about 450 members. Stoney Hill's pastor, Jeff Burns, is a Southeastern graduate.

Burns said the congregation approved the Pattersons' membership because "theologically, we are in agreement." He said the members of the church believe, as Patterson does, that the Bible is inerrant.

Patterson said: "I would count them as real friends of the seminary. If they didn't feel at home with the general theological direction of the seminary, they probably wouldn't feel excited about our coming."

Patterson is a leader of the conservative movement that has controlled the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979. The movement has changed the direction and nature of many Southern Baptist institutions, including Southeastern.

The struggle also earned Patterson enemies, particularly among moderate Baptists who disagree with the shift in the denomination.

"The denominational press has painted us as a hybrid between Attila the Hun and Genghis Khan," he said. "So people were feeling I'd be a disruptive element in their church."

Patterson handled the search for a church gingerly after the sting of his nationally publicized rejection by Wake Forest Baptist Church, which stands inside the seminary's stone walls. For more than 100 years, the church has been home to every president on campus except Patterson's immediate predecessor.

Patterson came from Dallas in June 1992 to take over as head of Southeastern, a major Baptist semi-

nary on the original campus of Wake Forest University.

Patterson visited a number of churches throughout the winter and spring, testing the waters for theological compatibility—and giving the pastor and congregation an understanding of what his membership might mean.

"Because of the notoriety of the whole thing, I would not think of going to a church that I did not talk to the pastor and have him talk to his people and see if it would be problematic," Patterson said. "I don't want to be problematic to a church."

Many Baptist churches accommodate members from across the theological spectrum, and they have held together despite the uproar dividing the denomination. But the appearance in their pews of a major player in the controversy is different.

Patterson himself warned at least one church, Wake Union Baptist in Wake Forest, that if he joined he probably would draw followers who would outnumber the regular Sunday attendance of 60 to 70 people.

Lester Burleson, Wake Union's pastor, said Patterson visited once and expressed interest in membership. But the congregation took to heart Patterson's caution that his presence might

upset the church's balance and discouraged him from applying.

The rumor mill that started to grind after Patterson's visit seemed to confirm fears that if he joined it would profoundly affect a church. Speculation rose to such a pitch that Burleson released a prepared statement denying that Patterson had formally requested membership and been refused.

"What has happened here cannot be viewed as 'rejection' or 'denial' of the Pattersons. Rather, it was for the concern for the identity of the church that Paige Patterson decided against requesting membership here," the statement said.

Turning down a potential member is not easy, and doesn't feel particularly Christian, said John Cook, deacon at Wake Forest Baptist, where the 17 deacons rejected the Pattersons in January. The congregation as a whole reconsidered the issue in April, and again voted to bar the pair.

"Baptists are by nature a very inclusive body," Cook said. "It's a radical, extreme step to try to exclude anyone. But we felt by including a person with the beliefs we felt Dr. Patterson to have, it would change the nature of the church when so many churches in Wake County would be delighted to have Dr. Patterson."

Parker quitting Fellowship job; Warrington fired from FMB

More than a year after Baptist mission work in Europe hit a crisis in relationships, the fallout of different perspectives is continuing.

The last remaining administrator for that region with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board was fired last week, to be replaced by someone more to the liking of the new area director.

Meanwhile, a Kentuckian who quit another FMB administrative post in Europe and went to work for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has resigned his new position as well.

Keith Parker, who has ties to Berea and Louisville, has resigned after less than a year as coordinator of the Fellowship's missions work in Eu-

rope. Parker told Fellowship Missions Coordinator Keith Parks that he and his wife, Jonlyn, plan to return to the United States to pursue ministries in pastoral counseling and social work.

Parker and Parks acknowledged that Parker's decision was influenced by differing perceptions about the nature of Parker's role in the Fellowship's European missions strategy. Both stressed that most of the problem could be attributed to the difficulties of launching an ambitious mission venture in a new organization.

Parks said the Fellowship's 20-person missionary force in Europe does not require a traditional administrator—a role Parker has filled for

the Fellowship since last July—and he urged Parker to continue in a revised capacity.

Parker, 57, was one of several top administrators who left the FMB last year in response to changes instituted by FMB trustees. Isam Ballenger, FMB vice president for that region, resigned at the same time.

One of the last holdovers in the FMB administrative structure from the Ballenger-Parker era, Tom Warrington, was fired June 23.

Warrington, associate area director for FMB missions in Europe, was fired without warning by John Floyd, the FMB's new area director for Europe. Floyd said Warrington's dismissal was routine and unrelated to

the earlier upheaval with Parker and Ballenger.

Warrington, though, said there's "another side" to the story that he won't discuss now.

Some of Warrington's colleagues said he was singled out for his close relationship with Ballenger and Parker, who hired him in 1991.

"This is strictly a power play," said one current administrator who asked not to be identified for fear of retribution. Many FMB staffers were shocked by Warrington's dismissal, he said. "They are asking, 'If it happened to him, could it happen to me?'"

Compiled from Associated Baptist Press releases

Winds blew but men will make it new

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

BEECH GROVE—Although Bethel Baptist Church's building may be gone with the wind from a June 4 storm, prayers, perseverance and the help of fellow Baptists are keeping the congregation together.

"Bethel church building is gone, but Bethel Church is not gone," Pastor Kenneth Taylor said. "There was absolutely no consideration to disband."

The church, which was established in 1860, sustained damages from another storm in 1940, and had to be rebuilt for \$1,000, Taylor said.

But the damage from the storm earlier this month was much more devastating, he added, explaining that tornado-force winds scattered parts of the church building over an acre of land.

The front of the church, which had a high porch with columns, was completely destroyed.

The wind ripped the right side of the roof off the building and set it down in a nearby cemetery, he added. The left side of the roof apparently fell "gently" into the sanctuary, without destroying the furniture.

"The pulpit held the roof off the piano," Taylor explained.

As the news spread to church members getting off work that afternoon, a group gathered in the church yard.

"Friday, they cried and cried and cried," said Taylor's wife, Mary Alice. "It was a depressing day."

"Most of our people are average folks," Taylor said. "We didn't know how we'd afford" to rebuild.

He described the church as a "small, country church" that averages about 40 people on Sunday mornings.

"We saw no hope for going back to having as much room," he said. "But we prayed, and put it in God's hands."

Within a week, members of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro heard of Bethel's plight and offered to construct a new building.

"Our Brotherhood, every year, takes a trip" to lead revivals and construction projects, said Mike Melloan, a leader of Yellow Creek's Brotherhood group and former state Brotherhood president.

During the last four years, the men have gone to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, Oneida Baptist Institute in Oneida, and to Utah and Florida. And although 25 men had reserved vacation time for August this year, the group had encountered difficulty finding the right place to serve, Melloan said.

Members from both churches agreed the arrangement was an answer to prayer.

"We voted unanimously to do this," Melloan said, adding that Bethel's members were "tickled to death" at the possibility.

Although some of the details still need to be worked out, Melloan said, the new building is to have baked-on steel walls and an enamel roof. He said the group is looking forward to completing the project in early August.

"While lots of folks like to focus on negative talking, ... our guys just like to work," he said.

Taylor stressed that members of Bethel Baptist had no time for negative talking, either. The day after the storm, about 25 people were back at the church, helping clean up and survey the damages, he said.

Many of the furnishings were salvaged, including the piano, all 16 pews and the pulpit, he added.

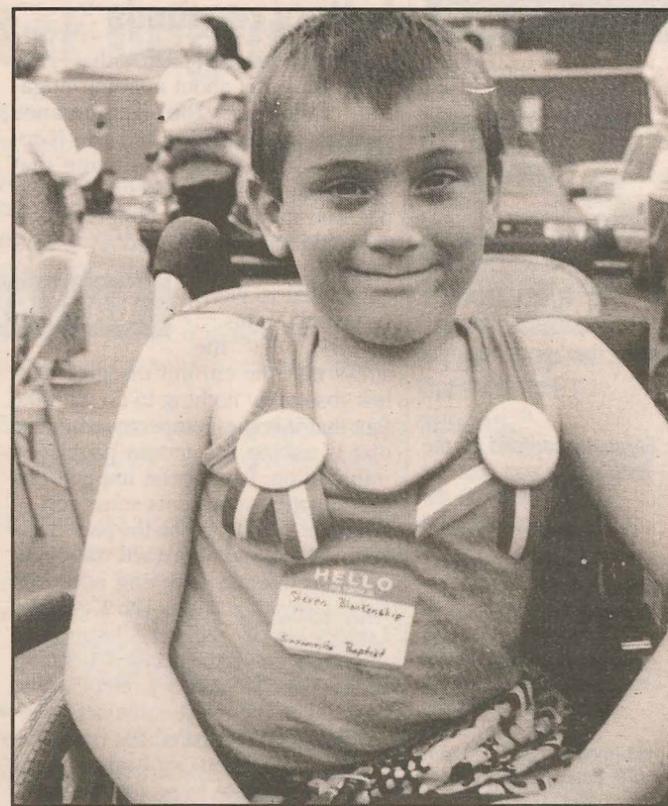
The congregation met for worship that Sunday under a tree in the church yard.

"Three people joined the church that Sunday," Taylor reported. He said 13 people had joined since December, when he became pastor of the church.

Since June 13, Bethel has been meeting in an old school house near the church grounds.

Taylor said that while the members believe "this was a terrible thing to happen," they also know God has been with them.

"Some members are still sad," he admitted, "but they're putting it behind them and working. We've got a commitment to God, and we can't do it looking backward."



A WINNER Steven Blankenship, a 7-year-old from Simpsonville Baptist Church, shows off the awards he won at the annual Philippian Games held at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville June 12. A total of 38 people from various churches participated in the event, which is designed to build self-esteem in physically handicapped or mentally retarded children and adults. (Photo by Buddy Harrell)

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Pyong Ok Lee**, pastor of Louisville's Korean Baptist Church, has been elected first vice president of the Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches.

■ **Georgetown College** has begun a literary magazine called "Georgetown Review." The first issue, which is now available, includes 23 selections of poetry and fiction, the best of nearly 1,000 submissions from around the country created by a variety of writers. Twenty-one Georgetown students volunteered as the publication's editors and producers, under the direction of Steve Carter, assistant professor of English.

■ **Cumberland College** hosted 242 girls from across Kentucky for the 47th annual Girls State convention June 6-11. This was the first time in the history of Kentucky Girls State that the event was held at a private college or university.

■ **Morgan Patterson**, former president of Georgetown College, has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Southern Baptist Historical Commission.

Harrodsburg pastor leads MasterLife in Danville prison

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

HARRODSBURG—Prisoners convicted of a need for Christian discipleship can find a reprieve through MasterLife, Barry Harmon believes.

Six Christian inmates at North Point Training Center in Danville have immersed themselves in Scripture memory, prayer, evangelism and Bible study during a rigorous, 26-week MasterLife course to strengthen their Christian discipleship.

Harmon, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Harrodsburg and facilitator of the discipleship group, said he believes this is the first time MasterLife has been provided in a state prison system. MasterLife is a product of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Harmon has led seven groups through the course since he and his wife, Patsy, were trained as facilitators.

Most of those were with members of Hopewell or pastors in the area, he said.

"MasterLife gives you all the basics," he explained, listing five areas of focus. The study emphasizes evangelism, prayer, the Bible, nurturing and finding one's place in ministry.

However, while it begins with the basics, the program is demanding, Harmon admitted: "It gets you away from the 'milk' of the word and into the 'meat.'"

Group members meet for about two hours weekly during the 26-week study, Harmon explained. In addition, they easily can spend up to two hours or more in personal preparation, devotion and Bible study.

Harmon's years with the chaplaincy program at the state prison helped open the door to lead MasterLife there. He served as an assistant chaplain and later as a volunteer chaplain.

The pastor indicated that while a

MasterLife group in a church setting differs in some ways from one at the prison, the two are strikingly similar.

For example, all participants in a prison likely would not be Southern Baptists, as could be expected in a church.

Harmon said the North Point group includes three Southern Baptists, a Catholic, a Pentecostal and a member of the Assemblies of God.

However, finding time and privacy for daily study is a challenge both in the church and in prison settings.

Most people assume inmates have a lot of time on their hands, Harmon said. In reality, however, many spend eight to 12 hours a day in work programs, he explained.

Also, finding time to be alone in a minimum security prison can be extremely difficult, Harmon added.

And the North Point group experienced occasional difficulty with memorizing Scripture—a problem

just about everybody encounters.

Despite the difficulties, those prisoners who complete the study will find fulfillment at a crucial time in their lives, Harmon said.

For one thing, as long as they remain at North Point, they will strengthen the ministry there, he said.

And perhaps more importantly, their training in discipleship will strengthen them once they complete their terms of service and are released from the prison, he added.

"Unfortunately, when they get out of prison, most churches don't open their arms to them," Harmon said.

The former inmates will need spiritual strength during times when they could face being shunned by society and the church.

As for Harmon, he said leading MasterLife groups also is fulfilling: "The facilitator gets all the blessings; they get to see (participants) mature and grow."

Little Flock builds big following by focusing on community

Continued from page 1

"Spiritually Single," a support group for women whose husbands are not Christians.

■ **Fitness.** The church offers aerobics several times weekly. Also, some members are involved in a weight loss program, "Discipline and discipleship."

■ **Newcomers.** More than 60 volunteers in the church are assigned housing areas in the community. They visit the 300 new families that move into the area each month, wel-

coming them and sharing church literature.

"Every church needs to start at least one new ministry a year to involve new members," Lupton said, warning that members likely will drop out if there is no place for them to serve.

From a marketing perspective, Lupton said, the church wanted to find out what services were needed most by people in its community.

Detailed information about the demographics of the area were solicited

from a research and development firm.

In addition, the church emphasizes an ongoing evaluation of its work by providing response cards to first-time visitors and to participants in the various programs and events.

But Lupton also indicated that the church balances its attention to marketing with an emphasis on spiritual gifts.

"We give spiritual gift inventories when people join" the church, he said, estimating that about 200 members

now know what their spiritual gifts are.

That information becomes the basis for placing leaders in new ministries that develop, Lupton explained.

Little Flock Church now is in the beginning stages of a campaign to raise funds for debt retirement of its worship center and for building a family life center.

And, just as in previous projects, the church also will be building a bridge, Lupton said: "We're building a bridge to the community."

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

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Lottery responds

It was with great interest that I read (WR, May 25) about ongoing litigation involving the Temperance League of Kentucky and the Kentucky Lottery Corp. Knowing that many lottery players receive your paper, and knowing that congregations are being asked to raise money to cover legal costs; I feel compelled to clarify several points.

First, let me stress that the current disagreement has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that it is the Temperance League that is asking for certain privileged information. It has been implied that this situation represents some sort of religious "vendetta" on the part of the Kentucky Lottery toward the Temperance League. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Kentucky Lottery simply feels this issue is so important it must be decided in a court of law. The Kentucky Lottery would have taken the exact same action regardless of who asked for the information. The Kentucky Lottery is obligated by statute to protect the interest of its retailers. The Kentucky Lottery respects the religious beliefs of all Kentuckians, especially those who choose not to play its games.

Second and most important, it is important for readers of the Western Recorder to know and understand that the information sought by the Temperance League is available in another form. In fact, from the outset, that same information in another form was offered.

*Greg Donaldson
Kentucky Lottery Corp.
Louisville*

Power, not truth

As a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for the past three years, I feel compelled to respond to Glynn Copeland's letter (WR, May 25). I do not share in his enthusiasm for the incoming president or his belief that the trustees of

A summer blessing

You folks who read my column are in for a special treat beginning with the July 6 issue of Western Recorder.

While I am in Russia and a European Baptist conference, Dr. Franklin Owen, my predecessor, has graciously consented to write the column.

In addition to the pleasure it should give to many of his former readers, it is a most appropriate time. As Alice and I celebrate my 10th anniversary in this job, he and his wife, Sue, are celebrating the 10th anniversary of his retirement from this job.

Anyone familiar with "Dr. Frank" understood that his "retirement" would be a continuation of the many speaking opportunities he had known as executive secretary. His ability to recall and masterfully tell "stories" was an asset to him throughout his ministry and, on more than occasion, an "escape valve" for some Baptist

this institution are taking a stand for the "truth." I have witnessed trustees misrepresent the teachings of several professors in order to force them to resign. I have seen the trustees mishandle their budget while raising tuition to make up for their poor stewardship. When we protested, our student president was called "un-Christian." The trustees also denied endowed chairs to punish professors for not supporting them.

BAPTIST FORUM

This fight at Southern is not about truth, but about power. If the convention leadership can control what is taught in the seminaries, then they control what is taught in local churches, eventually giving them control over the individuals within those churches.

The time is coming when Baptists will be told what to believe; therefore, "truth" will be irrelevant. Look at history to see examples of what will happen. The Southern Baptist role in the work of Christ has already suffered greatly with this political takeover. Please do not blindly follow your leaders, because they may lead you away from God and truth.

*George Orr
Louisville*

Toward a split

Your editorial "Does the KBC have to split?" (WR, May 18) states the issues clearly. Thank you for it.

However, I fear that Baptists are too determined to decide for God who are his true people and too determined to reject all others to be swayed by sound reason and genuine missionary concern. I fear that both sides of the controversy will ultimately precipitate a split, one which is already a fact but only awaits formalizing.

*Joseph R. Estes
Louisville*

Beyond traditions

I was somewhat dismayed recently to read that the Pharisees and Sad-

meetings in which folks seemed near to blowing a gasket.

In early 1990 he and Sue moved back to Lexington, nearer to his former church, Calvary, and to their children. Many of us still think of them when we drive past their former residence on Watterson Trail. During their seven post-retirement years in Louisville he was invited by Boyce Bible School to teach classes and to represent the school at associational meetings.

In addition, he has served as interim pastor for Lynn Acres Baptist Church in Louisville and Switzerland Baptist Church in Vevay, Ind., a church "Dr. Frank" considers especially dear. His most recent interim has been with Brookside Church in Nicholasville.

During the eight years he was active on the board of Baptist Healthcare Systems, Inc., he witnessed the turnover of three presidents of the institution. His broad awareness of Ken-

ducees of Jesus' day sought to "make the gospel relevant to their own times" (WR, June 15). Actually, they sought to maintain the theological tradition of their day in the face of the challenge by Jesus Christ to make their theology relevant.

The religious leaders maintained the status quo of the faith. They strictly observed the sabbath, but Jesus healed a lame man on the sabbath. They strictly observed the laws concerning adultery, but Jesus forgave a woman and told her to go and sin no more.

The list could go on of how Jesus challenged the theological traditions of his day. The truth is that Jesus so threatened the theological traditions of the religious leaders that they sought to silence him.

While we should not simply cast away our theological traditions, Jesus encourages us to be more righteous than the religious leaders (Matthew 5:20). This requires that we be willing to move beyond our theological traditions. Before we so readily maintain the status quo of our faith, let us remember that Jesus challenges our theological traditions every day in order to ensure that the gospel is shared with a lost world.

*Dwayne Howell
Louisville*

We didn't leave

We are in complete agreement with Paul Frick of Richmond in his letter (WR, June 8).

We also attended the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Birmingham, Ala., in May; we experienced the freedom and spiritual uplift which he experienced. It was like the Southern Baptist Convention years ago.

We are the Southern Baptist Convention. The Fundamentalists are the ones who have left the convention—their doctrine proves it.

We believe the Bible, and we use it as our guide. Hallelujah!

*Loretta P. Wittmer
Louetta P. Chester
Owensboro*

tucky Baptist life was invaluable.

I consider myself unusually blessed to have followed in his steps. His graciousness to me during the three month transition and the months following cannot be exaggerated. He did everything possible to help me over the bridge to assume full responsibility.

Many people remember "Dr. Frank's" warm humor. I remember that and still enjoy the occasional opportunity to hear him tell one of his now-famous stories. Many of these stories are contained in his book, "Slightly Soiled Saints."

But I remember him best for having left the "ship of state" in excellent shape, with few problems to inherit as a result of his administration. All who accept new responsibilities should be so fortunate!

So, for a few weeks, enjoy the experienced pen of this long-time friend and leader of Kentucky Baptists.

It's your column again for awhile, "Dr. Frank." Have at it!

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



Speak the truth

By Diana Garland

Tucked away in the clutter of a dresser drawer is a rumpled stack of notes and cards—historical evidence that two people love one another. At the time they were received, those love notes were read and reread. Perhaps you have not looked at your own stash of keepsakes from your spouse in a long time, but you remember that they are there. Words are important in courtship. They helped turn emotion into commitment, private thoughts into shared understandings.

The power of words continues on through courtship and beyond the "I do's." Sometimes that power goes unclaimed in marriage. We stop writing or saying the words; we just assume our partners know we love and appreciate them. That assumption robs us of the power words can have. Words make things happen. Words create. After all, the Creator is known in the Gospel of John as the Word. Paul tells us to "speak the truth in love," (Ephesians 4:15), to offer words to one another that are "good for edification," that "impart grace" (Ephesians 4:29). Words can build and strengthen our relationship with one another over the years.

Spouses need to hear over and over that they are loved and valued.

Persons who feel loved blossom as loving persons. Loving words remind us in the hectic pace of daily life that we have a commitment to care for one another that endures. Loving words strengthen marriage.

Think about surprising your partner with a love note on the bottom of the grocery list, on the family bulletin board, stuck in a lunch box or the check book, mailed to the office, left on the voice mail or answering machine. If words are hard for you to say or write, here are a few phrases to get started:

Did I remember to tell you ...
Maybe you didn't know that ...

I don't want another day to go by without telling you ...

Thank you for ...
I thank God for you.

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

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

FMB president merits prayers as chapter begins

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board opened a fresh chapter in its history this summer, when trustees elected Jerry Rankin as the board's new president.

For awhile, the opening of that chapter seemed destined to be postponed. Some trustees openly opposed Rankin because of his reported views on glossolalia, the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues. Until the eve of the election, board sources insisted opposition forces had enough votes—25 percent—to block his election. If Rankin's election had been turned back, trustees would have left empty-handed, and the search committee, if it remained intact, would have had to start over.

But after a closed-door session in which trustees reportedly scrutinized the nominee on the "tongues issue" thoroughly, trustees voted 59-14 to make him the board's next president. So Rankin—a 23-year veteran missionary who has proven experience as a field-based administrator, who has spent the past decade and a half of the Southern Baptist political wars half a globe away and out of the political limelight—becomes the board's new leader.

That's good news, according to Foreign Mission Board staff and missionaries. "It's great," a staffer said shortly after the vote. "Many of us expected a political candidate. We never dreamed our next president would be a missionary with administrative experience."

"For now at least, the FMB has been 'saved' with the selection of Jerry Rankin," a missionary added. "Most missionaries will accept him.

After all, he is much better than we ever dreamed of getting. ..."

Baptists can give Rankin a boost by dispelling the glossolalia specter that could hang over him. Although he has had some intense, inexplicable spiritual experiences during private devotions and one time interpreted for a worshiper speaking in tongues, Rankin has said he does not speak in tongues and does not promote it for others. That significantly distances him from historic problems with glossolalia in Baptist churches, where advocates have made an issue of public tongues-speaking, worn it as a badge of spiritual superiority and/or made it a test of fellowship. None of this is true for Rankin.

His task now is leading Southern Baptists to present the gospel clearly throughout the world in a veritable symphony of known tongues. That's challenge enough.

Rankin shared with trustees and reporters his dreams for a vital and effective foreign missions operation. "Our entire philosophy, strategy and program of missions is predicated on the fact that people are lost until they come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ, and that God has given us the mandate to proclaim his saving grace," he said. "If there is to be a theme of my administration, it would be something along the line 'that all the world might know him.'"

Jerry Rankin—and all our missionaries and missions staff—deserve our prayers as they go about interpreting that theme around the globe.

Marv Knox

"For now at least, the FMB has been 'saved' with the selection of Jerry Rankin," a missionary said. "... He is much better than we ever dreamed of getting."

Looking for friends? Then get on out there and make some

Observing someone else's milestone events, like graduations, weddings and funerals, makes most of us consider our own life situations.

At a recent funeral, my brother-in-law confided he had a will completed, except for deciding who would care for his six children if he and his wife died.

It's difficult to find someone to entrust with your children. For thoughtful Christians, it's difficult finding either friends or relatives who would raise your children according to your values.

But the hard thing for my brother-in-law was the utter, stark realization that through 40 years of life, through high school and college, through tragedy and triumph, sorrow and celebration, through careers, churches, material-gathering, cross-country moves, independence and a trip over the threshold of manhood, he had not accumulated a single friend who would count it joy to say, "Rob, if the need

arises, I'll care for your kids and raise them as my own."

Rob is not alone, either. Separate in your mind the concepts of duty and joy; obligation and pleasure. Many people will do you a favor to ensure reciprocal action. Acquaintances will. But only friends are genuinely glad for the opportunity to help, because they love you.

My first thought as my suddenly disabled van coasted to a stop in pouring rain during rush hour was: "Who am I going to call? Who would consider it a joy to drive an hour to come get us?"

Although several people who would help came to mind, I realized that in five years in our state I hadn't cultivated a friendship to the point of having memorized his phone number!

For adults consumed in work and family, it takes intentional behavior to cultivate friends. It takes a willingness to look for someone with like inter-

ests, then to reach out, even if you're afraid your hand will get snapped off, even if you're afraid the one you reach toward might push you away.

My wife told me after a pleasant conversation with an acquaintance that if we don't make a strong effort to befriend that family, we'll be the losers. That was a year ago. We just called them.

You can pursue friendships, just like you would pursue a hot ticket to a sold-out event. Make that call. Wipe a dusty place clear on the window of your life. Let somebody see inside.

Be on the lookout for people with like interest. If you keep running into the same people at church, or the soccer field, or the baseball diamond, get together for a snack after the game, or for lunch after the service.

Make time. Reserve calendar space the same way you would to prepare for an important sales presentation.

Be imaginative. Try something fun. Get two extra tickets. Try a mid-

week Putt Putt game or grill burgers.

Don't put pressure on the relationship early. No one wants a friend who is desperate for friendship. Someone whose manners say, "I'm looking for a friend and it's going to be you!" scares people off.

Afraid conversation will lag? The best way to keep it going is to ask questions about your guests. They feel important, and you learn a lot.

Among friends, saying, "Let's get together," doesn't have to unleash a house-cleaning frenzy. Don't put off having guests until you get better dishes or remodel the kitchen.

Don't be competitive. Cool it on the children's achievements, exotic vacations and new house plans until you establish common ground.

A good friend will say, as Saul's son Jonathan told David, whom Saul tried to kill, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you" (1 Samuel 20:4).

Norman Jameson, editor
Charity & Children
Thomasville, N.C.

You can pursue freindships like you would pursue a hot ticket to a sold-out event. Make that call.

GUEST EDITORIAL

If we were planning to stay at Six Flags all day, she wasn't going

"If we have to be there all day, I'm not going!" Molly hollered.

The child's nature tends to be demonstrative. Still, she normally doesn't state her opinions in such absolute terms. "I'm not going!"

Most perplexing was her decision to opt out of the day's itinerary. We were visiting her mother's parents and had planned a trip to Six Flags, a kids' haven beyond repute.

"Why don't you want to go, Molly?" I asked, ever the concerned if somewhat befuddled parent.

"You know!" she retorted.

"I don't; tell me," I replied.

"You know I can't go all day without having to go to the bathroom," she pointed out. "And I'm not going if I have to go to

theirs!"

Welcome to the real world, all you who never have had the sheer pleasure of being a parent to girl-people. If we don't like the bathrooms, we don't go. Who could question that logic?

This line of reasoning had a familiar ring to it. I've been married to one woman for 14 years and daddy of two smaller ones for most of the past decade. So, I know we never make a "pit stop" at a gas station. Buy gas where it's cheapest, but make sure

the car pulls up to a place with clean restrooms. That's the feminine-sensitive thing to do, or so I've been told.

Back to Molly. A little bit of pleading and a threat or two did the trick, and she accompanied us to Six Flags. For the whole day. Had a great time, too. She rode Judge Roy Scream, "ranked by experts the greatest family roller-coaster in the nation," the sign said. She and I got soaked to our toenails on this log-ride-on-steroids, and she feasted on a corn dog and Coke. If going to the women's room posed a problem, it got

lost in fun and frolic.

Molly's pet peeve may be unique. (Or maybe not. What do I know? I'm just a guy.) But it points to a more-common malady among all folks of both genders.

In the vernacular of rural America, it's called not seeing the forest for the trees. The up-front and personal issues often cloud our vision for the bigger picture. If an endeavor causes temporary discomfort, then the project isn't worth pursuing.

Apply that spiritually: How often do we fail to fulfill Christ's calling for our lives simply because it's inconvenient or awkward? What if we prayed to see ourselves and this world as God sees us? Things would be different.

Marv Knox



YouthFest draws record crowd of 6,000

"There's a battle for your mind, there's a battle for your body, and the Bible says there's a battle for your soul."
Evangelist Jay Strack

Continued from page 1

wealthy family in Orlando, Fla., but being devastated by a series of divorces and broken dreams. "I've spent my life feeling like a piece of luggage," he said.

Strack, who today is a popular youth evangelist who speaks worldwide, said he had lived through six broken homes by the time he reached 10th grade.

Even though he knew alcohol had wrecked his family, Strack said, the pressure of his peers made him break the pledge he had made never to drink.

"I made one of the biggest mistakes of my life when I was 12 years old," he confessed. "I thought if I got drunk once, the next time I could say no."

But that first drink was the beginning of a long series of troubles, Strack described. Finally, a friend from school who had become a Chris-

tian convinced him to attend a Bible study.

There, Strack said, he discovered "Jesus not only died on the cross for me, he died on the cross because of me."

At that Bible study, he learned that many of his classmates whom he thought had their lives together actually were searching as much as he was.

"It doesn't matter who you think you've got fooled back home," he told the Kentucky crowd. "Jesus looks at your heart."

Mirroring his caution, Strack described three steps the teens could take to change their lives.

"Program your mind," he began. "Learn to discern. ... Most of us go through life following the crowd. For most of us, our mind is like an AM radio station on scan. We have the attention span of a BB."

Strack advised the teens to let Christ shape their thoughts, keeping them pure and focused on him.

Second, he urged his audience to "present your bodies (as) a living sacrifice" to God.

Citing statistics—one out of nine teen girls in Kentucky will become pregnant; of 38 sexually transmitted diseases, 11 are incurable, including AIDS—Strack urged the youths to keep their bodies sexually pure and free from alcohol and drugs.

Acknowledging these topics typically are considered personal, he insisted God "has a right to talk to you" about such things. That's because Jesus died and rose for each individual, he said.

And finally, Strack challenged the

teens to "prove what you're made of."

"It's time for young men and women to say, 'Oh God, help me to be the real deal. I want you to live through me. I want you to use me to change my world.'"

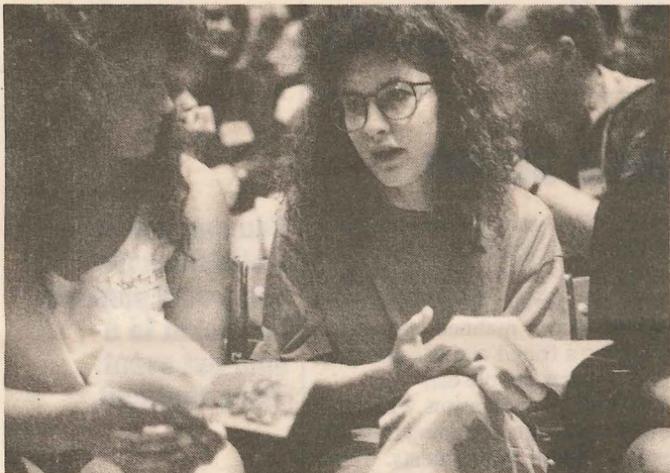
Strack invited the Kentucky youth to profess their faith in Jesus Christ, just as he did as a 17-year-old. In addition to the 195 who became Christians, another 425 teens registered other decisions, such as rededicating themselves as Christians or declaring a call to full-time Christian service.

YouthFest '93 gave Kentucky teens an opportunity to practice sharing their faith with friends and classmates. Kevin Shrum, the KBC's youth evangelism consultant, showed the audience how to use a cartoon-style gospel tract to enhance their personal Christian witness.

The program also included New Song, a men's quartet from Georgia; Paul and Nicole Johnson, a dramatic team from Tennessee; Kevin Landgrave, associate music minister at Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; Son Celebration, a Kentucky Baptist Student Union music ensemble; and Access Assured, a youth music group from First Baptist Church of Owensboro.

Participants also received information about True Love Waits, a nationwide campaign designed to encourage young people to remain sexually pure and to pledge to wait for marriage to experience sexual intercourse.

Also at YouthFest, Kentucky Baptist youth ministers received information about See You at the Pole, a simultaneous prayer campaign.



HERE'S HOW Crystal Eversole (left) and Krissy Grindstaff, both of Big Creek Baptist Church in Hazard, use cartoon-style gospel tracts to practice sharing their faith during YouthFest '93, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's youth evangelism conference.

Keep supporting Southern, Honeycutt urges

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

HOUSTON (BP)—Alumni and friends of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary bade farewell to retiring President Roy Honeycutt and welcomed President-elect Al Mohler at the school's reunion banquet during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 16.

Honeycutt, who will be succeeded by Mohler Aug. 1, urged the 360 people at the luncheon to "stay faithful, stay together and stay positive."

"Today, as seldom before we need friends—individuals committed to the well-being of Southern Seminary who are willing to demonstrate their confidence and faith in the institution's future," Honeycutt said. He

added that alumni and friends "can continue to support this seminary with confidence that such excellence as has marked our heritage will characterize our future."

The retiring president said his challenge to stay positive is not based on mere sentimentality. "Rather, as believers who commit their future to God's providential care, we are positive because of who he is and what he does in history."

Honeycutt urged the seminary's alumni to support Southern Baptist causes.

"When I consider the temptations to withdraw or otherwise diminish our cooperative ministries, I recall with deep affection and abiding commitment the missionaries in over 100 nations of the world," he said. "I re-

member the needs of Southern Baptist faculty who annually teach about one out of five seminary students enrolled in accredited seminaries in the United States and Canada."

In his address, Mohler pledged to maintain the heritage of Southern Baptists' oldest seminary. "We stand on the threshold of the 21st century with an institution that is 134 years old and 134 years proud, with an unparalleled heritage," he said.

"We stand on the brink of a new denominational moment which I pray will see this great denomination move into a bold and innovative future."

Also during the luncheon, Howard Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, assumed the presidency of the seminary's alumni association.

Georgetown names first 10 in mentor program

GEORGETOWN—Ten Scott County High School juniors were awarded \$8,000 scholarships to Georgetown College last month for their participation as charter members of the college's new Presidential Mentorship Program.

The scholarships were announced at a banquet that concluded the 1993 program for the first group of Presidential Mentors selected.

Developing the program was the idea of President William Crouch,

who said he personally wanted to help a group of high school students learn communication skills, learn to appreciate cultural diversity, develop global awareness, understand the business world, volunteerism and personal planning.

Crouch explained he is indebted to the mentors who helped him at critical points in his career and wants to pass on that help.

The program is funded in part through the 3-M Foundation.

Joel Gregory offered post at Southern

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Joel Gregory could be on the move from Texas to Kentucky if he accepts an offer to become dean of the chapel at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Gregory, one of Southern Baptists' best-known preachers, has been unemployed since resigning the pastorate of First Baptist Church in Dallas last September in a leadership dispute with the church's senior pastor, W.A. Criswell.

Gregory also was chairman of the Foreign Mission Board trustee committee that nominated Jerry Rankin to lead the denomination's global missions effort.

Al Mohler, Southern's president-elect, said through a seminary spokesman June 15 that he would have no comment on Gregory's situation. Gregory could not be reached for comment.

However, Gregory and his family visited the seminary's Louisville campus June 24-25, where the possibility of his employment was widely known. He was involved in several meetings with faculty and staff members, and was the guest of honor at a reception the evening of June 24, seminary sources confirmed.

Knowledgeable sources on campus, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said Mohler apparently has offered Gregory the position but Gregory has not decided whether he will accept it.

Exact details on what Gregory's responsibilities would entail could not be determined. Dean of the chapel would be a new position, apparently replacing some of the duties currently held by Bill Cubine, seminary pastor.

Cubine, however, apparently would remain on staff as seminary pastor, concentrating his efforts on pastoral duties such as student counseling and hospital visitation, as well as teaching two courses in the fall semester. Cubine, formerly pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah, was named seminary pastor in October 1991 by Roy Honeycutt.

Gregory would take over Cubine's responsibility for coordinating the seminary's chapel program.

Gregory also would teach some courses in Southern's preaching department, sources said, although there are no current vacancies in the department.

Apparently Gregory also would be free to continue his itinerant preaching ministry, at least on weekends. He is a much-sought-after preacher for churches, conferences and other events.

Offering plate still America's best fund-raising tool

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

GLENDALE, Calif.—The church collection plate remains far and away the most popular fund-raising tool in America, according to a new survey by the Barna Research Group.

Among all Americans surveyed who had given to charity in the previous 30 days, 66 percent had done so through church collections, the survey found.

By comparison, other forms of charitable solicitation had drawn considerably less participation in the 30-day period: 27 percent of those surveyed had given in response to face-to-face appeals, 26 percent had given in response to direct-mail appeals, 19 percent had given through payroll deductions, 13 percent had given in re-

sponse to telephone appeals, and 8 percent had given in response to television, radio and newspaper ads.

Americans who are active in churches were much more likely (75 percent) to have given to charity than were people who are not active in churches (43 percent). Also, those who could be classified as "born-again" Christians were more likely to have donated to charity than Americans who would not be classified "born again."

Americans who are involved in churches were much more likely to have given their contributions through the church collection plate, but less likely to have given in response to other appeals. However, Americans who are not involved in churches were more likely to have given to charity in other ways.

"There may be either good news or bad news for churches in these findings," said George Barna, president of the research firm. "Americans who are involved in churches are more likely to feel those churches are worthy of their money as well as their time. They are voting not only with their feet, but with their pocketbooks."

"But this survey did not differentiate between those who give a substantial portion of their income and those who drop a quarter into the basket every time they visit. It is possible that churched Americans' edge in giving is a lot smaller than these numbers suggest."

Among other findings:

■ Women (71 percent) were more likely to have donated to charity than men (62 percent).

■ Adults earning \$40,000 or more

annually (78 percent) were more likely to have given than those earning less than \$20,000 annually (52 percent).

■ Married adults (76 percent) were more likely to have contributed than single adults (55 percent).

■ Americans are increasingly irritated by telephone appeals, and are half as likely to contribute to a telephone solicitation as to a direct-mail solicitation.

■ The most active givers of all age groups are those people between the ages of 47 and 65.

Data for this survey were drawn from telephone surveys conducted in February 1993 using a random national sample of adults. There is a 95 percent chance the figures are accurate to within plus or minus four percentage points.

Among all Americans who had given to charity, 66 percent had done so through church collections.

Reaction to Ginsburg nomination mixed

WASHINGTON—Reaction to President Clinton's nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the U.S. Supreme Court has drawn mixed reviews from people concerned about abortion and church-state separation.

Ginsburg, 60, has served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia since 1980.

Clinton said he nominated Ginsburg because of what he predicted will be her ability to be a "force for consensus building" on the court.

Ginsburg's church-state record is encouraging to Brent Walker, associate general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee.

"Judge Ginsburg appears to have an expansive view of the Bill of Rights and a keen interest in protect-

ing individual liberties," Walker said. "But she's not a knee-jerk ideologue. She is balanced and fair."

In a number of church-state cases decided during her term on the D.C. Circuit Court, Ginsburg has shown a commitment to religious liberty, Walker said.

While seen as a supporter of abortion rights, Ginsburg has on occasion criticized the Supreme Court's 1973 landmark abortion decision in Roe vs. Wade.

Some anti-abortion groups were strongly critical of Ginsburg.

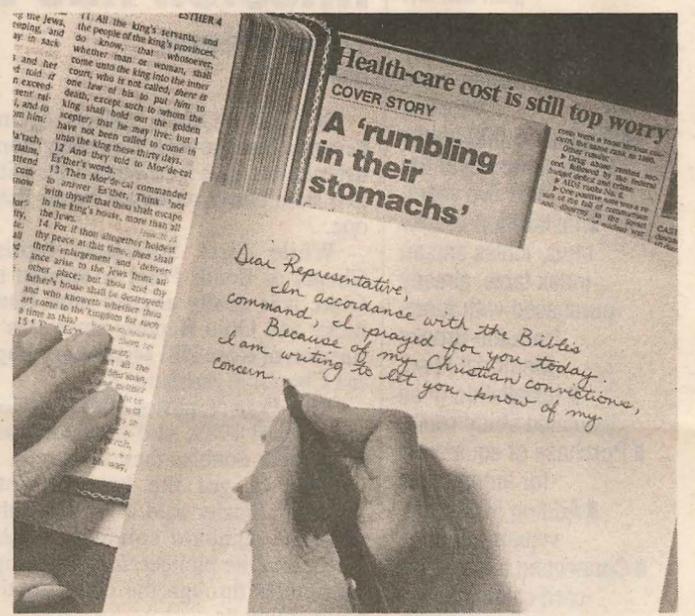
"If Judge Ginsburg is in the mainstream, she is at its left bank and President Clinton should not think he can push the ideological envelope any further and claim to be a 'moderate

new Democrat,'" said Thomas Jipping of Coalitions for America.

Other abortion opponents, however, were less harsh.

"While she has a history of supporting abortion rights, there's an indication that she has some very serious questions about the landmark 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling," said Jay Sekulow, head of Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice. "We're optimistic she'll approach the abortion issue with an open mind."

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion Rights Action League, said Ginsburg's criticism of Roe is "cause for concern" because she might not protect "a woman's fundamental right to privacy." (ABP, RNS, EP)



What does the court's decision mean?

WASHINGTON—What does the Supreme Court's ruling in Zobrest vs. Catalina Foothills School District mean on a practical level?

As with most legal decisions, it depends on who you ask.

Interpreting this case is not an easy task, noted James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee. "These issues require more than reading headlines and bumper stickers," he said.

Dunn's associate, BJC General Counsel Oliver Thomas, said the court's ruling does not mandate school districts to pay for interpreters for students attending parochial schools. The ruling simply says providing such a service would not violate the First Amendment, he said.

The ruling maintains a proper separation of church and state by affirming the child-benefit theory, he explained. "The program benefits did not affect the cost of tuition or, as the court noted, create an inducement to attend a parochial school."

However, Michael Whitehead, Thomas' counterpart at the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said he believes the case affirms "educational choice," a program unsuccessfully touted by both the Reagan and Bush administra-

tions. "Educational choice" would allow the government to give parents tax vouchers or other incentives to send their children to the schools of their choice, including parochial schools.

The high court's decision demonstrates "educational choice is constitutional, where the aid goes to the student, not to the school," Whitehead said. "The aid serves education and freedom of choice, not religion. Just like G.I. Bill money to a college student who chooses Baylor University, this aid to a high school student who chooses a religious high school does not violate church-state separation."

In the Zobrest case, the court said the First Amendment does not prohibit Catalina Foothills School District from providing a sign-language interpreter for a student attending a parochial school since the district provides interpreters for students attending other private but non-religious schools.

Earlier, when filing a brief on behalf of the CLC siding with the Zobrests in this case, Whitehead said the issue is one of religious discrimination.

"Our brief does not assert that private school students have a right

to funds or services provided to public school students," Whitehead said at the time. "But if state officials decide to aid private school students, they cannot single out religious private school students for discrimination."

However, any attempt to see the Zobrest decision as an endorsement of "educational choice" is ill-founded, countered Brent Walker, associate general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee.

The court's decision did not signal any intention to tolerate voucher payments to parochial institutions, Walker said.

"The court was very clear to say it was ruling the way it was because the benefit flowed to the student and not to the institution," he continued. "They found there was no direct benefit to the institution or even an inducement to attend the institution. The voucher system, the grants and aid, the proposals under the choice schemes, all result in benefits ultimately going to the institution, even if passed through the parent's pockets in the form of vouchers."

Written by News Director Mark Wingfield with reporting from Tom Strode of Baptist Press and Larry Chesser of Associated Baptist Press

Court rules on parochial aid

Continued from page 1

Justice Harry Blackmun, joined by Justice David Souter, disagreed with the majority's decision to decide the First Amendment question and also with its conclusion that providing an interpreter at a sectarian school does not offend the establishment clause.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, joined by Justice John Paul Stevens, agreed with Blackmun and Souter that the constitutional question should not have been addressed and refrained from discussing it.

In his dissenting opinion, Blackmun said the court had strayed from a "course set by nearly five decades of Establishment Clause jurisprudence."

The court's cases "consistently have rejected the provision by government of any resource capable of advancing a school's religious mission," Blackmun said.

"Until now, the court never has authorized a public employee to participate directly in religious indoctrination," Blackmun wrote. "Yet that is the consequence of today's decision."

Reported by Larry Chesser of the Baptist Joint Committee through Associated Baptist Press and Tom Strode of the SBC Christian Life Commission through Baptist Press

CITIZENSHIP Sunday, July 4, is Christian Citizenship Sunday, an emphasis sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. The emphasis highlights the important role individuals have in influencing government through means such as voting, serving in public office and prayer.

Woman gets new heart & missions change of heart

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

VINE GROVE—Bea Brown waited a long time for a change of heart.

For more than a year, her name had been on the medical waiting list for a donor's heart. And for most of her life, she had been waiting for an opportunity to do mission work.

However, Brown said the transplant she finally received last March prompted an unexpected change of heart.

Brown, a member of Buck Grove Baptist Church in Ekron, said she had wanted to do mission work ever since her childhood. But until this year, she had allowed that dream to lie dor-

mant.

Growing up in Hawaii, Brown said, she gained a great appreciation for mission work.

"Missionaries started our church in Hawaii," she said. "I've always loved missions, and wanted to go into missions."

After one year at a Mississippi college, she said, her mission plans came to a halt when she married someone who did not share that dream.

"I knew when I got married that it would never come to pass," she said.

Instead, Brown put all her energies into raising a family and building her career. She eventually became a manager in the Army and Air Force exchange service.

The work was stressful and in-

involved a lot of travel, she said. "I got my priorities in the wrong order. God was always there, but on a back burner."

The strain placed on her body caused a heart condition which led to three heart attacks.

When eventually she was forced to stop working, Brown confessed, she abandoned any hope of pursuing mission work.

In August 1991, she was placed on a waiting list to receive a donor's heart. Her opportunity for a transplant finally came this past March.

And the change of heart has been more than physical, admitted Brown, who said she again has hopes to become involved in mission work, perhaps on a short-term, volunteer basis.

"I felt God had a purpose for me," she said. "Something I hadn't done, I needed to do."

Brown attributes her quick recovery to prayers of friends and church members.

"If I can get approval, I hope and pray I'll be able to go to Hawaii next year," she said.

From Hawaii, she plans to travel to Okinawa to assist friends who recently began ministering there.

While unfinished details and medical approval still must be settled, and despite the language barrier she will face in Okinawa, Brown said her heart is set on this trip—"even if only for a month or two weeks, and even if I just have to hold hands and smile, or whatever."

Clear Creek launches library expansion

PINEVILLE—The Carolyn Boatman Brooks Memorial Library on the campus of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College has implemented a five-year plan to improve service to students and the community.

The plan was designed by Carolyn Brooks, director of library services until her death last year.

Major objectives of the plan call for:

- Furnishing a computer lab, a goal already reached through grant monies.
- Adding 15,000 books to the library over the next five years.
- Installation of new study tables and an index table, already purchased with funds from the Brooks Memorial Fund.
- Installation of an insulated study room.
- Purchase of equipment for automation.
- Adding 500 audio-visuals annually.
- Connecting the existing card catalogue to a computer-readable format.
- Adding study carrels.
- Adding an elevator.
- Creating an informal reading area.
- Developing an archival collection.
- Preserving selected materials on microfiche.

Mission has feet in 2 states, eye on growth

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

SOUTH POINT, Ohio—Members of a fast-growing Kentucky Baptist mission have found that links with two state conventions are better than one.

While First Southern Baptist Chapel of South Point is located in Ohio, it is dually aligned with Kentucky and Ohio Baptists since it is a mission of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, Ky.

Rick Frazier, pastor of the mission since April 1989, said the double arrangement doubles their resources.

"We've got the best of both worlds," Frazier said. "We have the old-time standard solidness of the KBC, and the pioneer, new-work opportunities through the Ohio Baptist Convention."

Frazier said that when he arrived in South Point soon after the mission began, about 22 people were attending. Most of these previously had been members of Rose Hill.

Four years later, they now average 150 in Sunday school, including Bible studies held in the community each week, he said. More than 200 attended at Easter.

A groundbreaking ceremony June 6 marked the fourth building project for the growing mission, Frazier said. This expansion will increase the sanctuary's seating capacity from 135 to 275, and will add more Sunday school rooms and a church study.

Frazier confessed it is difficult to single out a source of the tremendous growth they've experienced, especially since South Point is a "town-and-country" area where growth traditionally has been slow.

Being in what Frazier calls a "McDonald's" location helps. The mission enjoys high visibility and accessibility at a highway crossroads.

Still, Frazier credited the congregation for the mission's dramatic increase in membership.

"Our consistent, steady growth is attributed to the basic foundation of a church," Frazier said. "People are willing to work. Every member of the church is considered a minister."

Ministry in the community is vital for the mission, Frazier said. Currently, the congregation supports Bible studies and fellowships at several nursing homes, a youth detention center and in the homes of members who are unable to attend on Sundays.

Two puppet teams and a clowning troupe provide a different kind of ministry, he added. And three vacation Bible schools were completed last summer.

The youth of the church do their part, as well, the pastor added. Last year, a group traveled to Arkansas for a mission trip. This year, 17 are preparing to go to Alma, Mich.

Frazier emphasized the need for innovative approaches to ministry.

"This is a different generation," he said. "If you say revival, most people will stay away in droves. We can't just open doors and expect people to show up."

"We go out to where (the people) are," the pastor continued, referring to the mission's prospect file of 600 people. "We're not out for new members, but to offer Christ to people."

Not only does the mission draw support from two state conventions; its proximity to Kentucky and West Virginia makes for a diverse group of people from three states, Frazier said.

Greensburg approves resolution

GREENSBURG—Greensburg Baptist Church passed a resolution on homosexuality June 2, which urges members to write Sens. Wendell Ford and Mitch McConnell to express their views on the subject.

The resolution cites several points of opposition to any legislation favoring special rights for homosexuals, including:

- Such legislation would "ap-

pease a very few while ignoring the effect on the many."

■ Homosexual behavior is "an abomination before God, condemned in the Holy Scriptures, and is corrupting to the moral and social values of our nation."

■ "Most of the population of the earth considers the practice of homosexuality to be repugnant or at least morally wrong."

And that diversity extends beyond geographical differences, he added.

"For some, it's their first time in church," Frazier explained. "Others have been lifelong Catholics."

A mentor program for new members to examine points of doctrine help disciple members and prepare them for church involvement, he said.

While Frazier agreed the mission is large enough to think toward constitution as a church, he said it may be as long as two more years before that happens.

"We're like a great big baby," he said. "We need to finish our building project and get a little bit more maturity."

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Reunions

As summer begins, many of us are planning on seeing family and friends. With the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston this year, SuEllen and I had the opportunity to visit with some old friends in Texas. At the end of the summer we plan to attend the annual family reunion of SuEllen's mom's family. Those visits and others will be special to all of us for it is great to renew acquaintance and see how everyone is doing.

On June 26 at Glen Dale and August 7 at Spring Meadows two special "family" reunions will take place. Young and old alike, with various family members in tow, the alumni from Glen Dale

and Spring Meadows will return to visit their "brothers and sisters." At Glen Dale they gather under the trees by the L&N railroad tracks. The young people and staff of today serve the food and provide a little entertainment, but mostly just let the alumni enjoy great visits.

The alumni will go down a list of those who were there with them and catch up on everybody. Someone is always there who has not been back in many years.

They will remember the good

old days. Some will acknowledge what a special place the home was to them. Some will remember that without that place and the people who cared, their lives would have been very different.

Last year at Spring Meadows we had a special dinner to honor J. D. Herndon, former Superintendent there primarily during the 60s. Some of the "young people" of his day shared a special memory and showed a collection of slides which had everyone remembering special friends.

This year we will honor C. Ford Deusner with a special dinner at Glen Dale. Deusner served for 15 years (1948-1963) as superintendent at Glen Dale, then 10 years as general superintendent of the Board of Child Care. We hope several of his "young people" will return. One of those young people is Buckley Carlin who will be hosting the dinner.

Enjoy your family reunion, and thanks for making this family and its reunions possible.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

'Not that gift'

I read "Rankin faces tongues issue" (WR, June 8).

Paul said, "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts especially the gift of prophecy" (I Corinthians 14:1). "Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid the speaking in tongues" (I Corinthians 14:39).

The gifts of tongues is not the issue. The issue is total surrender. Are we surrendered if we tell God: "I eagerly desire spiritual gifts, but I don't want the gift of teaching because I don't like studying. But Lord, I don't want the gift of giving because I want a new car. But Lord, I don't want the gift of tongues because I might be fired or told to leave the church the Lord put me in"? The list goes on.

I want my church leaders totally open and surrendered to God and to all his good gifts.

I Corinthians 12:7 states, "Now to each one, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." Can we sing "I Surrender All" then say to God the Holy Spirit, "Yes, but not that gift"?

BAPTIST FORUM

Gloria Gore
Louisville

How sad

Our Southern Baptist Convention, including churches and institutions, are in bad shape when we have to agree 100 percent with everything that the higher-ups say or we cannot be a part of God's family. Where in

the Bible does it say that Masons, gays, lesbians, divorcees or people who carry a New International Version Bible cannot be saved?

While I do not agree with some of the different lifestyles, I still have friends and loved ones who are in these categories.

Where in the Bible does it say that women cannot be called to serve our God? Surely one look at our state camps at Cedar-moore would tell you that the Woman's Missionary Union certainly is taking better care of the girls than the Brotherhood is of the boys.

How sad that the devil is having a hay day with such a great convention and churches while people are dying and going to hell all around us. We are destroying our image of Christ and blaming someone else for our own lack of stability.

Wouldn't it be a sad world if everyone wore the same color, styles, drove the same cars, lived in the same kinds of houses? We are about to that point.

Libby Parrish
Louisville

Put down weapons

Southern Baptists have always had a variety of mission options. Some dually aligned with other conventions, such as the American Baptist or black Baptist conventions. Others had mission programs similar to independent Baptists. Now, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has begun to draw fire, receiving little of the good spirit

other mission options have experienced.

Charles Stanley recently spoke on Philippians 1:15-18, where Paul told of church leaders who were taking advantage of his imprisonment. They were envious and causing strife. Paul was not vindictive. He said Christ was being preached, and he rejoiced. Stanley commented that we needed Paul's spirit in our churches today. As I listened to him, I wished he would apply that scripture to our denomination today. If he and we did, then much of our bad feelings would disappear.

A positive result of our denominational problems is that more Southern Baptists are now involved in missions than ever before. Some fundamentalists or conservatives now are giving greater mission support. Some moderates are now supporting missions through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The result will be a greater total mission commitment than we have had. Is it really necessary for either group to bad-mouth the other in order for their group to succeed? Are we biblical enough to say simply, "Thank God for the advancement of the gospel and the preaching of Christ"? We need to put down our weapons of denominational warfare and join hands with all Christians to reach our world for Christ.

W. Robert DeFoor
Harrodsburg

God's gender

I am astounded effort is being expended to deal with issues such as God's gender. I see that Ed Young is concerned that increasing numbers of

ordinary people such as myself are thinking of God as Parent, rather than as Father.

In our pre-fundamentalist days, we were taught that God, being spiritual, has no physical characteristics. Can it possibly be the case that God does have physical characteristics? According to the group assigned to study this, God has only one physical characteristic—gender. God's gender is male!

Perhaps this (pseudo-)fact gives rise to the practice of excluding women from positions of leadership and from sacred responsibilities associated with ordained ministries. Consider God's non-physical manifestations such as lovingkindness, compassion and longsuffering nature. These qualities seem more parental, or even motherly, than fatherly.

We are told that God is male because the Bible uses masculine pronouns to refer to God, and because Jesus referred to God as Father. The Bible was written by men contaminated by their own prejudices. To the extent the Bible appears to condone slavery, sexism and other prejudices, our understanding of it is in error. Nothing Jesus said or wrote has survived directly from his lips or pen. Even with this filtering by the early church, Jesus is portrayed as approaching God as an intimate "daddy" rather than a macho "Texas cowboy."

The problem with ascribing male gender to God is evident in the following: motherhood is a certainty; fatherhood is only an opinion.

Gary L. Millsap
Louisville

Hope

In 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton, an English explorer, headed an expedition to the South Pole. Shackleton was forced to leave most of his men stranded on Elephant Island while he went for help. When he reached safety on South Georgia Island, he secured another ship and returned to rescue his crew. He saw a favorable opening in the ice, sailed through and took his men aboard quickly and slipped out just before the ice crushed shut.

After the excitement calmed down, Sir Ernest asked one of the crew, "How did it happen you were packed and ready for my coming and that you were standing on the shore ready to leave at a moment's notice?" The crewman replied, "When you left you said you would come back for us, and we never gave up hope."

Jesus said he is coming again. We can depend on that promise. We have been assured. He is coming again. Let us always be ready, and never give up hope.

Mark Boes, pastor
Cecilia Baptist Church
Cecilia

Do good

"Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins" (James 4:17).

I once read where President Lyndon Johnson said that it was not the parts of the Bible he could not understand that bothered him. It was the parts he understood and failed to do that concerned him the most.

Let's begin with your relationship with God.

Have you made a public profession of your faith in Christ and been baptized? Are you sharing your faith with others? Are you attending Sunday school, worship, discipleship training, evening worship and prayer meeting? Are you a faithful steward of your time, talents and resources? Do you have a devotional time each day?

What about your relationship with others? Are you spending time with your family? Are you giving your employer the best you have while on the job? Are you paying your bills? Are you honest and trustworthy? Do you encourage and help others? Do you pray for those who need God's help? Have you forgiven those you have hurt you and extended the hand of renewed friendship? Are you speaking out for the voiceless and powerless?

Are you taking care of your body? Do you feed your spirit? Have you forgiven yourself? Are you living up to your potential?

Why should we be concerned about doing all these things? Read the

verse again. It tells us the failure to do good is a sin, and sin weakens and kills everything it touches.

On the other hand, doing good will make us better and stronger. It will make our homes, churches and communities healthier. It will strengthen and advance the Kingdom of God.

How do we do these things, especially when we are noted for being procrastinators? Ask for God's help.

If something is good, he wants us to do it. What he wants us to do, he will empower us to do. Rely upon him.

Bob Browning, pastor
First Baptist Church
Somerset

Build the body

Weightlifters have certain rules for building their bodies. Some of the rules can be used to help a church build up its body.

First, no pain, no gain! This rule does not apply to those just "staying in shape," but it does to those body builders who are trying to build their muscle. We may forego creature comforts, but it will pay big dividends to us as we sacrifice for a purpose.

Secondly, just as in body building, no one should work alone, we are all in this together, helping one another strengthen ourselves individually so that the whole church will benefit.

The third very important rule is balance. If a body builder works only on the biceps, he will look out of pro-

portion, and other areas of his body will be underdeveloped. Churches must keep a keen eye to help people develop a personal relationship with Christ while equally concentrating on the needs of those among us now! There must be a balance in ministry, programs, preaching and teaching.

Another key component to healthy body building is pacing. You can't become Mr. Olympia overnight. It takes long, hard work with patience, commitment and long-range goals. Churches must constantly be working on short-term projects while always maintaining direction toward long-range intent.

Lastly, a body builder must realize that he doesn't work hard, build up his body, reach his goal and then quit. Body building is a never-ending process. We must understand that a healthy Christian body of believers is constantly re-evaluating effectiveness and toning muscles to be the best it can be.

Larry Nobles, pastor
Green Hills Baptist Church
Taylorsville

Vital attitude

Attitude is an essential characteristic in all of life. If we want to be successful in our work or in our personal lives, we must have a positive attitude.

This carries over into the church. The church that will be successful and that will grow is the church where the members have a good, positive attitude toward their church.

You find this in teachers who

teach because they want to, not because of a sense of duty. A positive attitude expresses itself in people who visit and witness because they love God, not because the pastor or staff makes them feel guilty about visiting.

When a church has a positive attitude, you find that the people are excited about ministry. They come to church on Sunday morning because they truly want to be here. They want to be a part of the worship experience. They couldn't wait for church, and they go pumped up for the rest of the week by coming to church.

People with positive attitudes come to church to learn new things about God, about their own relationship to Jesus. They come because they want to see the work of the Holy Spirit. They want God to use their lives, and they make themselves available to God.

If we are happy and excited about our church, then we will be excited about doing God's work. We will want to visit and reach out to new people. Positive people invite family and friends to church.

When all of our people get a positive attitude, we will see our churches truly grow. A positive influence results in victory, because enthusiasm is contagious. Success breeds success.

When you invite one person to church, you'll see how good you feel when he or she comes. Are you positive? Ask yourself this question: Is the glass half full or half empty?

Michael Baker, pastor
Victory Memorial Baptist Church
Louisville

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Only a few of those who attended the dedication of the "new" Baptist Building in Middletown on July 1, 1957, are still around to recall that service which happened 36 years ago this week. "Dr. W.C. Boone, Dr. L.C. Ray and Dr. W.R. Pettigrew would be proud to see the growth in the building but especially the tremendous growth of the General Association, now the Kentucky Baptist Convention," said Doris Yeiser, KBC archivist and one of those present for the dedication.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BAGDAD**—Seven youths from Bagdad Church recently participated in Cumberland College's Love in Action program by conducting a vacation Bible school in Whitley County. This summer, 80 volunteers will work through Love in Action, a program to share God's love with children of mountain communities.

■ **COVINGTON**—Latonia Church ordained **Scott Moore** and **Jack Philabaum** as deacons June 27.

■ **LEXINGTON**—East Hickman Church celebrated homecoming Sunday, June 27.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—St. Matthews Church called **Charles Bugg**, professor of Christian preaching at Southern Seminary, as interim pastor. He will serve through late January.

Ron Harrington resigned as minister of music at Carlisle Avenue Church to become minister of music and senior adults at Yellow Creek Church in Owensboro.

Crescent Hill Church called **David Garland**, professor of New Testament at Southern Seminary, as interim pastor through December.

Twenty-six youths from Valley View Church volunteered in Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach program recently. They constructed a home for a family in Whitley County. This summer, nearly 200 volunteers from 19 churches in seven states will build 10 houses through Mountain

Outreach.

■ **MASON**—Mason Church called **Paul Bodenhamer** as pastor. Also, **Albert Campbell** and **Garry Nickell** were ordained as deacons.

■ **PINEVILLE**—**Beth Bevins**, instructor of English at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, will leave on a three-week summer outreach to Russia and Ukraine July 22. She will give testimonies, conduct evening Bible studies, and minister in hospitals, orphanages, youth prisons and local churches.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church will celebrate its 175th anniversary with a picnic at Dogwood Lake and campground, starting at 2 p.m. on July 11.

■ **STURGIS**—First Church called **Bill Jones** as pastor. Also, **Scott Maze** was called as minister of youth.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Approximately 160 youths from five Kentucky Baptist churches attended "The Great Adventure" Camp of Champions recently on the Cumberland College campus.

■ **WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.**—**Helen Hayes**, a retired missionary to Brazil, died at age 97. She worked in education and evangelism as missionary for 35 years. She was formerly from Fordsville and attended Georgetown College. She is survived by four sons, a daughter and 13 grandchildren.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Full-time, mission-minded minister of youth and education, focusing on youth evangelism and discipleship. Church located in small town in western Kentucky coal field region. Housing projects provide real mission field. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, 214 South Broadway, Providence, KY 42450, or call Pastor Danny Davis, (502) 667-2212 or 5431.

WANTED: Part-time minister of youth. South Jefferson Baptist Church. Send resumé to Personnel Committee, 6505 Pendleton Road, Louisville, KY 40272. (502) 937-2404.

FOR SALE: Christian Book Catalog. Send \$1, SASE to Shining Light Books, 32 SE 180, Warrensburg, MO 64093.

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, Monitcello, 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 resumé and referrals to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 200 North Morgan Street, Morganfield, KY 42437. (502) 389-1042.

AVAILABLE: 2-Bedroom, 2-

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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.

FOR RENT: Furnished duplex, Crescent Avenue, Louisville, owner's downstairs unit—very nice. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, living room, dining room, kitchen, screened porch, hardwood floors, appliances, washer/dryer, water, TV cable, yard maintenance furnished, off-street parking. \$650/mo. + LG&E, security deposit, no pets, references. (502) 897-6132.

Basketball & Christian witnessing

Larry Allen Gritton Jr., valedictorian of the Oneida Baptist Institute of 1993, has just returned from a 12-day witnessing trip to mainland China and Mongolia, with two days in Tokyo.

At age 18 he was the youngest of a group of men known as the Baptist Crusaders who love the Lord and are adept at playing basketball. Larry qualifies wonderfully in both areas.

Larry writes from his new home in Georgia: "We were able to play four games, including the Mongolian National Team, winning them all. I was amazed to see how a sport could open the door to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The people were very receptive. I know there will be a harvest from the seeds that we planted. The Lord taught me great things; I learned and grew physically, emotionally, mentally and, most importantly, spiritually.

"We were in Mongolia for eight days. It is a beautiful country. The average yearly salary is \$100. We just don't realize how blessed we are in the USA. Although the people did not have much, they gave us the best they had. I realized just how selfish we often are.

"The trip was rough and grueling, but I am thankful for the opportunity to learn how much of the world really lives. We had no running water for a week. We bathed in a freezing cold river. We had to fly in a cargo plane. We rode 22-1/2 hours in Russian jeeps—seven to each vehicle—over the roughest terrain I've ever seen. We ate goat, camel, sheep, and drank fermented mare's milk. I wish everyone in America could visit a third-world country and see just how fortunate we are, yet we complain about our situation."

Larry Allen taught our sixth-grade boys this past year in Sunday school. Their love for him

was such that they sat through our three-and-a-half-hour graduation ceremony to see him get his diploma and give the valedictory address.

He also was voted by the faculty and staff Oneida's highest honor, the Evans trophy, and the accolade of "Mr. Oneida." His basketball jersey and No. 13 were retired during the graduation service, one of the surprises of the program. The 5'10" guard broke the previous OBI scoring record set in 1980 by a 6'5" center by over 500 points; in his varsity playing at OBI Larry made a total of 3,058. He also set all-time records in the following: 837 free throws out of 1,031 attempts; 728 career assists; 130 career 3-point goals.

Chosen 13th Regional Player of the Year this past season, Larry was honorable mention three times on the All-State team, four times on the All-Conference team, three times All-District and twice on the All-Regional team. On Feb. 5, 1992, he led our team in the Class A state tournament in Rupp Arena (a narrow loss). Last summer he was a member of Eddie Ford's Kentucky Junior All-Star team, helping win the national All-Star tournament. Playing with the Baptist Crusaders, he went on a basketball/witnessing trip to Mexico and Argentina.

His parents, Larry Sr. and Linda, have just completed 20 years of teaching at Oneida and have gone to a new place of service in Georgia. Larry Sr. was our principal for the last eight years, French teacher for 17 years, and was our basketball coach for 20 years with a record of 426-202. He also coached our boys' cross country teams to eight regional championships and was state runner-up last fall in the Class A tournament.

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

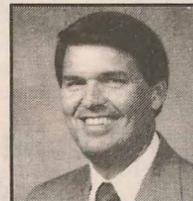
Paid Column

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

'For such a time as this'

The words from Esther, the theme for the Houston Southern Baptist Convention, appropriately emphasize Clear Creek's unique opportunity in God's kingdom. My Houston experience affirmed the lasting contribution our graduates make in Southern Baptist life.

One hundred ten graduates visited our exhibit along with a host of friends. Many of them attended an after-session fellowship. Laughter, hugs and shared memories strengthened the tie between alumni and school.

Sometimes the initial tie is brief but makes a lasting impression. At age 25, J.L. Sharpe came to Clear Creek in 1952 when we were an unaccredited Bible school. Dr. Kelly told him he ought to attend college. Following summer school and the fall semester, Sharpe enrolled at East Texas College and was later graduated from Southwestern Seminary. He acknowledged that we played a "vital role in his military chaplaincy career." At Clear Creek he secured the foundation and impetus to work hard and go as far as he could.

This month volunteers from his church will work on student housing. They asked Sharpe to come with them. "I put in my time in the

summer of '52!" On the student work program he picked up rock from the creek and helped build Mahan Faculty Apartments.

Paul Flowers left an Ohio factory job in 1953 and came to the campus with classes already underway. "Dr. Kelly took me to L.T. Hastings' class that very day." Before graduation Flowers married a Bell County girl. His 36-year ministry included starting two churches in Ohio and an 18-year pastorate in Illinois. He planned to retire, but 13 months ago took a struggling mission. Attendance has grown from three to 44. "The Lord has saved the best until last," testifies Flowers, now 67.

Sunday morning prior to the convention I preached at Santo, Texas, First Baptist. 1990 graduate Gary Nunn is pastor. Gary had asked one of his members to help us with the summer building program. I personally thanked the donor and received this extra gift of thanksgiving. "I am glad to help a school that put out pastors like Bro. Gary." I am thankful Clear Creek continues to equip those whom God has called for such a time as this.

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

Paid Column

Will Catholic Church have altar girls?

ROME (RNS)—A Vatican announcement that approval of altar girls is under consideration may be the Roman Catholic Church's way of getting people ready for a change in practice, according to a U.S. church official.

The Vatican statement was contained in a May 31 release by Joaquin Navarro-Valls. He was responding to questions generated by a Time magazine report predicting that the church will lift the ban on female altar servers sometime later this year.

"That the Vatican is releasing a news item like they did, I think is kind of significant," said the Rev. Robert Krisman, executive director of the Secretariat for Liturgy of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. "It almost sounds as if they are preparing people for perhaps some kind of change in this kind of discipline."

Altar servers assist the priest at mass and other liturgical functions, handing the priest water and wine and attending the priest and others when they distribute communion bread.

Being selected an altar boy has traditionally been seen as an honor, especially before the Second Vatican Council when the mass was said in Latin and altar boys were the sole respondents to the priest's prayers.

In his statement, Vatican spokesman Navarro-Valls said, "The matter ... of altar girls is under study. There has not, therefore, been any decision taken in this matter."

The release also emphasized that the question of altar girls is of a pastoral nature and does not involve church dogma or doctrine. It also emphasized that "the matter of altar girls is not in any way connected to the matter of ordained ministries."

For Ruth Fitzpatrick, national coordinator of the Women's Ordination Conference, the news is less than scintillating. "I think it is a bit of a positive direction, but I don't think it's earth shaking."

"The church, as always, is catching up with what people are doing," she said, referring to the fact that altar girls already are used in many parishes.

Although the practice may be common in areas of the United States, Krisman said it is far more prevalent in other countries and occurs frequently in Rome.

Ironically, while American bishops have urged the Vatican to consider approving altar girls, some U.S. Catholics have been the most strident opponents of the practice.

Public sees difference in labels, poll says

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—The American public can differentiate between people described as "born-again," "fundamentalists" and "cult members," the Gallup Organization reports.

And the public has a distinct perception of people carrying each of those labels, results of a recent Gallup poll indicate.

Most people polled in late March said they had an unfavorable opinion of religious cults. Although the survey preceded the April 19 inferno at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, it was taken nearly a month after the standoff began between David Koresh and federal agents.

When it comes to religious funda-

mentalists, many Americans regard them as extreme (55 percent) and intolerant (57 percent), although many agree that their zealotry stems from principles.

One person in three (33 percent) believes religious fundamentalists are highly principled, and an additional 28 percent believe this description is somewhat true. Among the remaining populace, 25 percent feel they are not at all principled and 14 percent are unsure about their intentions.

"Born-again" Christians are viewed more favorably than people identified either as fundamentalists or cult members.

Pollster George Gallup explains this may be true because more Americans describe themselves as "born

again" than as fundamentalists or cult members. Nationwide, 31 percent of the population say they are born-again Christians, Gallup reports.

When asked their opinion of born-again Christians, 64 percent of Americans say they have a favorable view. Another 25 percent have a negative view, while 11 percent have no opinion.

In contrast, religious fundamentalists are viewed favorably by only 36 percent of the population. A larger number, 45 percent, view fundamentalists negatively.

Members of religious cults are viewed negatively by 86 percent of Americans. Only about 9 percent of the population has a positive view of cult members.

Dissenting Episcopalians to form group

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (RNS)—A leading traditionalist group in the Episcopal Church is poised to set up a kind of "church within a church" for disgruntled Episcopalians, pressing an idea that has been thoroughly rejected in the past by the church hierarchy.

At a meeting in Valley Forge, Pa., leaders of the traditionalist Episcopal Synod of America voted to approve in principle a proposal for a non-geographic province that would allow traditionalists to be ministered to outside the framework of the church's nine existing geographic provinces.

According to the Rev. Samuel Edwards of Fort Worth, Texas, acting director of the synod, the proposal will be presented to delegates at the

2.5 million-member church's 1994 General Convention next summer.

"We threw the ball into the General Convention's court, but it is up to them to decide whether they'll take a vote that will result in a Province 10 or not," Edwards said.

Thousands of traditionalists have left the Episcopal Church in the past two decades to protest what they call the church's increasing liberalism, particularly in areas such as the ordination of women and homosexuals and use of gender-free language in church liturgies. Those affiliated with the Episcopal Synod of America, however, have opted to remain in the church and fight from inside.

The idea of a non-geographic province is highly controversial be-

cause it would allow traditionalists to circumvent assigned clergy and use bishops and priests of their own choosing.

Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning could not be reached for comment, but Jim Solheim, a spokesman at church headquarters in New York, noted that the idea received a cold reception when it was raised by the synod two years ago and stands no better chance this time.

The move is an ecclesiastical shot across the bow, according to Edwards. He warned that the synod may choose to implement the plan even without General Convention approval if synod leaders see what they consider to be evidence of increasing discrimination against traditionalists.

Doctor in botched abortion sent to jail

NEW YORK (EP)—Dr. Abu Hayat, the Manhattan abortionist who severed the arm of a baby later born alive, was sentenced to prison June 14 for a variety of charges and could serve up to 29 years.

Hayat is reportedly the first physician jailed for an illegal third-trimester abortion since the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision legalized abortion.

Hayat, 63, was convicted of knowingly performing an abortion on Rosa Rodriguez in October 1991, when she

was approximately 32 weeks pregnant. The next day, baby Ana Rosa Rodriguez was born alive, with one arm severed at the shoulder.

Hayat was convicted of violating the little-enforced New York law which prohibits abortion of a viable fetus except to save the life of the mother.

Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, said Hayat's conviction would have been impossible under the Freedom of Choice Act now be-

ing considered by Congress.

"If the Freedom of Choice Act had been law, Dr. Hayat would have been protected from prosecution by a congressional shield of immunity," he said.

Sponsors of the bill claim it would permit states to limit abortions after "viability," but also have admitted that the definition of "viability" would be left up to individual doctors. "Under the bill, if Dr. Hayat had said he doesn't consider babies viable until 34 weeks, he could not have been convicted for maiming Ana Rosa," Johnson said.

Additionally, the bill says abortion may not be restricted after viability if, in the opinion of the doctor, it is necessary for the "health" of the mother—including "emotional well-being."

Hayat, called the "Butcher of Avenue A," also was convicted of assault on a woman whose abortion he stopped half-way through the procedure to demand an additional \$500. When the woman's husband couldn't come up with the cash, he sent the semi-conscious, bleeding woman home.

Prosecutor Margaret Finnerty sought the maximum sentence, saying that at no time has Hayat "shown any remorse for his behavior." Finnerty argued that Hayat's conduct "was outrageous ... and that he was motivated by greed."



ALSO SENTENCED Randall Terry, founder of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, and his wife, Cindy, leave Manhattan Federal Court June 11, where he was given a five-month prison term for causing a follower to present then presidential candidate Bill Clinton with a fetus during the Democratic National Convention. Terry was released on bail pending his appeal. (RNS photo)

BRIEFS

■ **Mary Adelia McLeod** of Charleston, W.Va., has been elected the first woman to head a diocese of the Episcopal Church. Pending confirmation, she will become the bishop of Vermont. She will be the third woman ever elected a bishop in the Episcopal Church but the first to head a diocese.

■ **Billy Graham** dedicated a new training center in Asheville, N.C. May 25. The Cove has been developed as a training center whose only textbook is the Bible. Its programs will focus on Bible instruction, inspiration for believers, intercession by believers and impact for renewal and revival.

■ **Charles Swindoll** has been named president of Dallas Theological Seminary but will remain as president of Insight for Living, his daily radio ministry, and as pastor of First Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, Calif.

■ **President Clinton** said May 27 that he prays every morning he won't make any "stupid little mistakes." Asked what his first thoughts are each day, Clinton told a CBS Morning News audience: "When I get up in the morning, I say a little prayer that I won't make any stupid little mistakes and that I'll do right by America today."

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE

BAPTIST REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER'S GARDEN CULTIVATES "CAN-DO" ATTITUDE

At Baptist Regional Medical Center, it's a sure sign of summer's arrival. Outside the facility's new 20-bed rehabilitation center, a group of patients is hard at work caring for the budding flower beds, dwarf apple trees, herbs and vegetables in the rehab garden. As gardeners, the patients are participating in a unique aspect of Baptist Regional's rehab program: horticulture therapy.

According to Paula Blevins, senior rehabilitation/occupational therapist at Baptist Regional, horticulture therapy offers patients recovering from impairments such as strokes and hip fractures a different outlet for exercise.

When the thermometer hits the 65-degree mark, 45-minute gardening sessions often complement the more traditional rehab exercises of wrist weights or exercise pulleys conducted inside the center. While tending to the



Rehab center patient Dorothy Barton (center) plants flowers in Baptist Regional Medical Center's rehab garden with assistance from Courtney McKeenan, BRMC occupational therapist, and Charles Dietzen, M.D. Horticulture therapy is a unique aspect of the BRMC rehab program.

tulips, daffodils, or the lemon balm in the herb garden, the patients are fine-tuning their motor skills or enhancing their ability to maneuver a wheelchair.

"Patients find the garden a lot of fun," Blevins said. "It's a distraction from strict exercise."

But it's exercise nonetheless, said Charles Dietzen, M.D., a member of Baptist Regional's courtesy medical staff and consulting rehab physician.

For stroke victims, the garden offers an exercise in cognitive planning – a way to help them relearn and determine the order and sequence of a given activity. For wheelchair-bound patients, watering plants and flowers helps to build strength in the upper extremities.

"A lot of the tools used to work the soil, plant, or weed a garden are the very tools used in occupational therapy," said Dietzen. "The key to using a garden is to make it wheelchair accessible."

With wide concrete pathways and raised flower beds and planter boxes, the medical center's rehab garden is barrier free.

As the garden grows, so does the self-esteem of the rehab center's patients. The garden gives patients "some feeling of mastery," Dietzen said.

"If they just trim back the ivy, they can see they've made a difference – something depends on them."

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM