

FOR THE RECORD

What's average?

Research from the 1992 Uniform Church Letters submitted by Baptist churches nationwide paints a picture of the "average" Southern Baptist congregation. See page 2.

Russia trip

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TV violence

A majority of Americans believe television contributes to violence in America, a new poll finds. See page 6.

David cited

An archaeologist in Israel has found a stone monument which mentions the "House of David," the first known reference outside the Bible to King David. See page 7.

255 Kentucky teens were World Changers this summer

More than 250 Kentucky Baptist youth and their leaders participated in World Changers work projects across the United States and in Puerto Rico this summer.

The 255 teen volunteers, from 14 Kentucky churches and Spring Meadows Children's Home, joined more than 4,000 others from across the nation in the mission action program sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

Kentucky teens offered their helping hands in Briceville, Tenn.; Canton, N.C.; Millington, Tenn.; Shreveport, La.; Brockton, Mont.; Clarksdale, Miss.; Kansas City; along the Eastern Shore of Virginia; and in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico.

In each case, the participants gave eight days to construction and renovation of homes for low-income people. The week includes Bible study and team-building activities for the teens, as well.

Upon arrival at the worksite, participants are divided into work crews, assigned names such as "Level Heads," "Hammer Heads," "Saw Horsemen" or "Toe Nails." Each crew is led by a supervisor with construction experience.

After a full day of work, the teens gather for Bible study, music and group activities. Many of the activities are designed to build self-esteem in the youth and demonstrate God's love for them.

"World Changers changes the world of those whose living situations are vastly improved, and it also changes those who do the work," said Mike Dixon, director of Spring Meadows Children's Home.

Dixon took two teen-age boys from the children's home to Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, for a construction project. There crews of Baptist youth built houses, added rooms on houses and repaired septic tanks.

"It's going to be a new life for me," said Carmen Sanchez, one of the Juana Diaz residents whose home was repaired. "I'm starting all over."

In Oliver Springs, Tenn., Lanie Phillips got a new roof on her house and an indoor bathroom installed—the first indoor bathroom ever in the 35 years she's lived there.

The teen-age carpenters returned to their homes and churches enthusiastic about missions and God's ability to use them in ministry.

"It was very uplifting to see that all the work we did could really change a family's life," said Jeremy, a 17-year-old resident of Spring Meadows. "It is great to know I had something to do with that change."

Kentucky churches participating in World Changers projects this summer included First Baptist, Murray; Yellow Creek, Owensboro; Shively, Louisville; Trinity, Lexington; Crestwood, Crestwood; Highland, Louisville; Bethlehem, Shelbyville; Central, Winchester; Westport Road, Louisville; Forest Park, Bowling Green; First, Mayfield; Pleasant Grove, Shepherdsville; Green River, Beaver Dam; and First, Highland Heights.

■ Kentucky Changers to begin next year, page 9



WORLD CHANGER Todd Givan, 14, of Shively Baptist Church in Louisville works on a home repair project in Millington, Tenn., as part of the Southern Baptist World Changers program. More than 250 Kentucky Baptist teen-agers and their leaders worked on World Changers missions this summer. (Photo by Say Saysombath)

'63 March on Washington still vivid after 30 years

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE—Thirty years after the March on Washington, the resounding words of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech still ring clearly in the memory of Glen Stassen.

On Aug. 28, 1963, Stassen stood on the Mall in Washington as King delivered his now-famous call for racial equality from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

"There were 200,000 people there who heard King's dream that little black children and little white children would walk hand in hand," said Stassen, now a professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "This was a tremendous lifting of our spirits. We soared."

The march provided both an impetus to civil rights legislation and "a lifting of spirits" for Americans, said Stassen, who at the time was a doctoral student at Duke University in Durham, N.C.

But 30 years later, America stands in need of a similar spiritual uplift, he believes.

"A lot of the division we have now comes from not having healed our past shame and not celebrating that we like our nation better and ourselves better because we had the civil rights movement," he said. "We desperately need church leaders and political leaders who will lead us to celebrate and affirm the difficult steps forward that we have taken and lead

us to new action."

Some people feel they cannot celebrate advances in civil rights because there is much work left to do, Stassen said. Others, he noted, linger in the "throes of reaction."

Prior to the March on Washington, organizers were worried that the march might be poorly attended or that it would turn violent, Stassen recalled. When the large throng of peaceful demonstrators assembled in Washington, a sense of achievement pervaded the crowd.

Racial segregation in America was a "spiritual sickness, a sickness unto death," Stassen said.

Had the nation not moved toward an integrated society, catastrophe loomed ahead, he stressed. "If there had been no civil rights movement, if we still had segregation and discrimination, we would be like South Africa. We would have much more violence and polarization."

Both celebration and confession are needed to bring further national healing on the race issue, Stassen said. He praised both the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission leadership for recent actions which call on Baptists to repent for racism.

The Peace Fellowship in May issued the "Birmingham Confession," asking Baptists to acknowledge and confess a "failure of nerve" on the part of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in September 1963. The Executive Committee

'See You at Pole' set for Sept. 15

ATLANTA (BP)—Sept. 15 is the date for this year's "See You at the Pole" national prayer effort for youth.

The strategy calls for students to gather around their schools' flagpoles before school and pray for classmates. Alcoholism, drug abuse, violence and suicide among teen-agers underscore the need for the prayer effort, said Dean Finley, youth evangelism specialist for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Reports indicate 120,000 youth participated in "See You at the Pole" last year, although other estimates reach 250,000.

Rallies on school campuses must be organized and led by students to avoid legal problems, Finley said, noting adults wishing to join the effort should meet off-campus.

To have an ongoing impact, students are encouraged to start or join a campus Christian club to encourage youth in evangelism, Finley said.

Brochures about "See You at the Pole" and how to start a Christian club have been mailed to every Southern Baptist church. Additional copies are available from the Home Mission Board's customer service center by calling (800) 634-2462.

Additional support is available from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism office by calling (502) 245-4101.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **The South Carolina Baptist Convention** will withhold funding for its hospital system until a dispute over control of the hospitals is resolved. In reaction to hospital system trustees voting to name their own successors, the convention's executive committee has voted to escrow funding for the hospitals indefinitely.

■ **An exhibition** titled "Religious Life in the Early 1900s: Photographs from the Kentucky Archives" will be on display at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville Sept. 13 through Oct. 29. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays.

■ **Dan Panter** and **Roger Briggs** have been named to new posts with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Europe office. Briggs, 51, will be associate area director working out of the board's Richmond, Va., offices. Panter, 46, will be associate to the area director for Europe, working out of Frankfurt, Germany.

Sunday School Board cuts 45 positions

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Forty-five positions in non-revenue-producing areas of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board have been cut to reduce corporate overhead costs, according to President Jimmy Draper.

Effective Oct. 1, the deletion of 45 jobs will result in the displacement of 29 employees and elimination of 16 vacant positions.

As of Aug. 30, four of the 29 affected employees had been placed in other positions within the board, according to Steve Lawrence, director of the human resources department. Five are taking early retirement.

Some of the other 20 employees may be placed in different positions within the Sunday School Board, Lawrence said.

For those who are not reassigned, career transition and outplacement assistance, along with severance pay based on years of service, is being provided, he added.

Draper said the study of corporate overhead was initiated in June as part of efforts to keep the board in a competitive position and maintain financial stability. "We seem to have higher overhead costs than other similar companies," he explained.

The staff reductions—which include management, professional and support staff positions—will result in a net savings of \$2.4 million for 1993-

94, Draper said.

Among components, the corporate market research department lost 14 positions, displacing 12 employees, including department director Doug Anderson, a 17-year employee. Two vacant positions in the department were eliminated.

The communications department was reduced by 10 positions, displacing five employees, including Jim Lowry, manager of the public relations services section, a 21-year employee. Five vacant positions in the department were eliminated.

Other affected areas include production services, human resources, strategic planning, facility management and four positions related to vice presidents.

With the downsizing in corporate staff areas, Draper said Mike Arrington, vice president for corporate services, will become executive director for corporate affairs. He will oversee the work of the communications department and Glorieta and Ridgecrest conference centers, as well as carrying out a variety of staff responsibilities for the president.

The information systems department and remaining functions of corporate market research and strategic planning—which formerly reported to Arrington—will be transferred to the finance and administration group and report to Draper until a new vice president is named. Former vice president E.V. King resigned earlier in

August.

Meanwhile, the overhead and efficiency study is moving into revenue-producing areas.

A study of efficient editorial processes in the trade publishing division that produces Broadman & Holman products has resulted in a merger of the two editorial departments, eliminating seven positions and affecting six employees, said Charles Wilson, vice president for trade and retail markets.

Of the six employees being displaced, three are taking early retirement.

Wilson said the trade books department and the Bibles, academic and reference books department will be merged and a search begun for an editorial director. Trent Butler, director of the Bibles, academic and reference books department, will become series editor for Bibles and reference books.

Fine tuning of the board's structure, organization and staff will be a continuing process, Draper said. "Learning to operate effectively in the midst of constant change is a challenge facing all institutions committed to providing excellent products and services that meet customer needs."

The Sunday School Board currently directs 17 programs of work assigned by the Southern Baptist Convention, with a 1993-94 operating budget of \$233.4 million.

Hawkins is new pastor of Dallas First Baptist

DALLAS (ABP)—Obviously elated at putting one of their darker periods behind them, members of First Baptist Church of Dallas unanimously called O.S. Hawkins to be their new pastor Aug. 29.

The 46-year-old pastor of First Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., since 1978 said he would accept the invitation and will assume the prestigious pulpit Oct. 3.

Many members shed tears one minute and other expressions of joy the next after hearing Hawkins would become their new pastor. The church was stung last September when Joel Gregory abruptly resigned after less than two years at the church.

Gregory cited differences with W.A. Criswell, senior pastor of the church, whom Gregory said had asked to stay on until his 50th anniversary in 1994.

Hawkins told reporters he has no problem with Criswell staying until that time and said the venerable 83-year-old will be invited to preach from time to time. Criswell was not present for Hawkins' three sermons to the church, but Hawkins said Criswell had told him that his being chosen by the search committee was "a miracle."

Hawkins is a native of Fort Worth, Texas, where he attended and later became minister of youth at Sagamore Hill Church. He served churches in Hobart and Ada, Okla., before moving to Fort Lauderdale.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Christian University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and has a doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary.

Alternative publisher reports growth in sales

MACON, Ga. (ABP)—Sales of fall Sunday school literature from a new, independent Baptist publishing house are up more than 25 percent, according to Cecil Staton, publisher of the Smyth & Helwys curriculum.

Sales of children's resources are up more than 30 percent from the previous ordering period, Staton said, and youth and adult materials have sold 15 percent more.

Smyth & Helwys is a publishing house formed three years ago by moderate Baptists.

Staton reported that an estimated 1,300 churches in 46 states and several foreign countries are using at least

some Formations materials, the publisher's Sunday school line.

Additionally, he said, approximately 300 churches used Smyth & Helwys vacation Bible school resources this summer.

Sales of Smyth & Helwys books also have increased, Staton said. "By December of this year we will have published 38 books. We are moving toward producing 50 books per year by 1995."

The publisher's best-sellers to date have been "What Happened to the Southern Baptist Convention?" by Grady Cothen, which sold 4,000 copies, and "The Baptist Identity: Four

Fragile Freedoms" by Walter Shurden, which sold 2,000 copies.

The jump in Sunday school literature sales at Smyth & Helwys comes at a time when Southern Baptists' largest publisher, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, is experiencing a decline in sales.

Officials of the Sunday School Board concede the growth of Smyth & Helwys has contributed to the decline of their own Sunday school literature. "It is somewhat of a factor," one official told trustees recently.

The board faces "some great worries if the decline continues," another official said.

Jackson gives practical advice to preachers

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—"Be a shepherd to the flock and not a CEO," Richard Jackson recently told students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jackson, who retired last year after serving 25 years as pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., led the church from a membership of less than 1,000 to more than 20,000.

During a week-long academic workshop on "Stable Thinking in the Ministry," Jackson offered a multitude of practical tips for seminary students. Stressing "good horse sense" in his lectures, Jackson talked about:

■ **Appearance:** "Wear a coat and tie and keep it on. ... Make sure you show dignity; be a cut above. ... Sit with your feet on the floor and sit up tall."

■ **Former pastors:** "Don't talk bad

about the former pastor. ... Invite him to preach after about six months."

■ **Integrity:** "The key to the minister's character is integrity. ... Be able to say 'I'm sorry.' ... Be real, (but) confess yourself in private."

■ **Family:** "Be your family's best friend. ... Let your family know you need them."

■ **Success:** "We are not called to be successful, but faithful."

■ **Evangelism:** "Evangelism is not a spiritual gift, but an assignment."

■ **Sunday school:** "Sunday school is the most important organization in the church. ... Hire a minister of education first."

■ **Buildings and grounds:** "Keep the church grounds looking good! ... Church facilities are to be used to honor God."

■ **Baby boomers:** "Baby boomers

like how-to sermons, but find the Scripture to back up everything."

■ **Preaching:** "Quit before they do." The average length of a sermon should be 30 to 35 minutes, he said. "There is no one way to preach, but the one message is Jesus."

■ **Time management:** "Make your priorities. ... Guard your study time."

■ **Hospital visits:** "See how they are doing, pray, then leave."

■ **Worship services:** "Keep the order of worship similar, with variety, (because) people need stability. ... Have familiarity laced with innovation."

■ **The invitation:** "The invitation is not for your own personal gratification. ... Don't manipulate the people to make decisions. ... An invitation will seldom be more than five minutes long."

Profile of the typical church

Based on information provided by 35,332 congregations nationwide in the 1992 Uniform Church Letter, here is a profile of the "average" or typical Southern Baptist church:

Total members	238
Resident members	168
Baptisms	5
Other additions	6
Year organized	1926
Year pastor came	1988
Sunday school enrollment	107
Average Sunday school attendance	60
Total receipts	\$56,125
Total local expenditures	\$41,945
Total missions expenditures	\$7,203
Cooperative Program	\$2,950
Percent of undesignated gifts to CP	7.2

Source: *Research Review*, published by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

KENTUCKY



GOATS ON PARADE Two residents of Glen Dale Children's Home show their goats during the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville. They were among 31 youngsters, 38 goats, 12 dogs, seven cows, six sheep and 23 other projects taken to the fair by Sue and Buckley Carlin, who lead the Glen Dale campus of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Residents of the children's home, located in rural Hardin County, are active in a 4-H program, with projects ranging from animals to photography. The Carlins say the 4-H projects help build self-esteem in children who often arrive on campus with low self-esteem. "It helps them develop self-confidence and a sense of responsibility," Mrs. Carlin said. "It's the self-confidence element I like the best, because in 4-H you're never a loser."

Nine appointed to foreign missions service

RICHMOND, Va.—Nine people with Kentucky ties were among 45 missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Aug. 17.

Greg and Jodie Robinson will live in Taiwan, where they will start and develop churches.

He earned the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and worked as a campus ministry intern through the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Robinson earned the master of church music degree from Southern Seminary. She was pianist and children's choir director at Baxter Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville.

Dale and Jane Wood will live in Central Asia, where they will begin ministries in developing nations through Cooperative Services International. She is a native of Owenton.

James and Elizabeth McElrath will live in the Middle East, where he will

work as associate pastor of an English-language church.

He earned the master of church music degree from Southern Seminary and will complete the master of divinity degree this semester. He was minister of music at Lakewood Baptist Church in Louisville.

Mrs. McElrath earned the master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary and was an intern with the KBC, a secretary/receptionist at Jefferson Street Baptist Chapel, and a secretary and creative ministries coordinator with Spring Meadows Children's Home.

Charles and Carolyn Dixon will live in Tanzania, where they will start and develop churches.

They are members of Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro, and he is pastor of Riverside Baptist Mission in Beverly. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Dixon of Nortonville. He considers Salem Mis-

sionary Baptist Church in Mortons Gap his home church.

He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville and has attended Southern Seminary.

Mrs. Dixon is the daughter of Mary Nightingale of Madisonville. She considers Salem Missionary Baptist Church her home church. She also is a graduate of Clear Creek and has attended Southern Seminary.

Leslie Durham will work as a nurse in Yemen at Yibla Baptist Hospital. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forest Durham of Owensboro. Durham is a graduate of Murray State University and the University of Kentucky and has attended Southern Seminary.

Since 1990 she has been a family nurse practitioner at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. She previously worked at Norton Hospital in Louisville.



Robinsons



Woods



McElraths



Dixons



Durham

Brazil request

Later this fall, the Western Recorder will publish a special section marking the conclusion of the partnership between Kentucky Baptists and Brazilian Baptists. The paper is soliciting first-person testimonials and quality photographs from people directly involved with the partnership projects. Please direct such to Mark Wingfield, news director, Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

'Revive Us Again' Pastors' Conference theme

"Revive Us Again" is the theme for the 1993 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, held each year immediately prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The conference will feature sermons by five preachers, along with inspirational music from a variety of people, said Pastors' Conference President C.C. Brasher, pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton.

The conference will run from 1 to 9:20 p.m. Nov. 15 at Severns Valley

Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Speakers and their topics, as announced by Brasher, are:

■ LaVerne Butler, president of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield, "Revive Us in Commitment."

■ Calvin Wilkins, partnership missions coordinator with the KBC, "Revive Us in Missions."

■ Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, "Revive Us in the Word" and

Hospitals send team to Russia

LOUISVILLE—Baptist Healthcare System has announced plans to send a 21-member team on a two-week mission to Russia as part of the Kentucky-Russia partnership.

The team of medical, pastoral and support personnel from five Kentucky Baptist hospitals will leave for Moscow Sept. 2.

In Moscow, the team will work from a church-based clinic and a clinic at the Russian Baptist Union headquarters, said Gary Bennett, director of pastoral care at Western Baptist Hospital and chairman of the Baptist Healthcare System's medical mission committee.

The Kentuckians will offer a broad range of services, including dental, well-baby and general medical services to people who would not normally be able to afford care. In addition, a worship service will be conducted every day at each site, Bennett said.

"We are pleased we can play a small role in helping the KBC serve the people of Russia," said Ed Vaughn, Baptist Healthcare System president. "It has given us an opportunity to extend our healing ministry beyond the walls of our hospitals."

The medical mission will be the first ministry Kentucky Baptists offer in their new, five-year partnership with Russian Baptists.

"Many Russian Baptists never have seen a doctor or dentist," said Benton Williams, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions office. "Medical work is of the utmost importance."

This is the second time a Baptist Healthcare System team has embarked on a medical mission. Last year a 17-member team traveled to Brazil as part of the KBC partnership with Brazilian Baptists.

Participants in the Russian medical mission include Gary Combs, George Cornwell and Carol Ann Starcher, all of Corbin; Howard Cobble of Elizabethtown; Odell Compton and Walt Green of La Grange; Thomson Bryant, Gene Cravens, Sara Steele, Kathy Wessling and John Wolfinger of Lexington; Douglas and Julia McCall, Jamie Parrott III, Edith Penn and Madeline Grieb of Louisville; Orson and Bettye Arvin of Mount Vernon; Marie Kohlenberger, Debra Raines and Bonnie Schrock of Paducah.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Campbellville College Women's Club** has published the second volume of its cookbook. Proceeds from the book's sale will be used to place new furniture in the lobby of Stapp Hall on campus. The books are sold for \$5 in the campus bookstore or by calling Nancy Martin at (502) 465-2093.

■ **Henderson's First Baptist Church** has passed a resolution on gambling which condemns the introduction of riverboat gambling in the area. The resolution calls gambling an "insidious evil, depriving individuals and families of needed assets, fostering laziness, diminishing respect for hard work," and encouraging other forms of immorality.

■ **Correction:** An article in last week's Recorder said Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield had been founded because conservatives were unhappy with the way moderates controlled Baptist schools in the past. That is not true, according to the school's current president, LaVerne Butler. While the school's founders "had their own agenda," their primary goal was to provide formal education to pastors in West Kentucky and the surrounding region, he explained. "Mid-Continent was not a reaction toward the convention."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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On the journey: Russia, Part I

My third journey to Russia in eight months was the longest and perhaps the easiest thus far.

The weather was more pleasant; I was more familiar with public transportation, and prior experience made easier the provision of food and safe water for our use.

The latter realities can be avoided by staying in first-class hotels, but we were "sampling" another hotel of "modest endowment," similar to the one in which we had stayed twice before.

Admittedly, Moscow could be experienced a little more pleasantly by going "first-class," and if I were going as a tourist for a single visit, I'd probably go that way.

But our intentions were different. We assume we will be going somewhat regularly so long as the door remains open. And by the end of this 18-day visit, we had come to feel both competent and safe to explore the city, at least to the extremities of the public transportation which serves over 6 million Moscovites daily. The metro (underground subway) of Moscow boasts the most beautiful architecture of its kind in the world. And if one could overlook that it was built by Stalin with forced labor, it is one of the finest discoveries the city has to offer, a museum in its own right. And not one bit of graffiti!

Seeing Norman and Martha Lytle waiting just outside customs at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport brought a flash back of our days with them in Israel as volunteers in 1957-58. We were "adventurers" then and, I suppose, still are. Their transfer to Russia from Israel, after 27 years of service, was no minor adjustment. Living in a 400-square-foot apartment, washing clothes by hand in their bathtub, and standing in long lines for daily bread has been eased a bit with their recent move to other quarters, slightly larger, but with a workable washing machine. Serving in Russia as missionaries is not for everyone, as time will prove and missionaries come and go.

Succeeding George Lozok, Norman was elected by his missionary colleagues as coordinator (administrator) for the Foreign Mission Board's missionaries serving in the CIS—Commonwealth of Independent States—which includes Russia. He will be our primary FMB contact person for the partnership.

The next night, the four of us boarded train No. 7 for an overnight ride to St. Petersburg. The Lytles needed a break, and we were grateful for their advance planning to make this trip possible. It was still light when we pulled away at 11:10 p.m.

We talked early into the morning before struggling to sleep a few hours before arrival at 7:20 next morning.

As had been true on our first jour-

ney to St. Petersburg, original hotel accommodations had been confused, and we checked into a hotel open only during the tourist season—spartan but adequate. The hot water was off, and the nights still chilly. But by bedtime that evening, the hotel had become "luxurious" to us.

SBC missionaries Joe and Gloria DeLeon had made arrangements for us with a friend he had made, who, like Joe, is Hispanic. Fernando provided daily transportation and a good, bi-lingual guide, Svetlana. Except for one day of cold and rain, the sun smiled upon this brief excursion out of Moscow, and we enjoyed the treasures of Peter the Great's capital city.

With all the grandeur of the city's architecture and churches, the summer palace at Pushkin, the Hermitage—Peter's main palace, now a world-class museum—I was most drawn to the wooden structure in which Peter lived while the main palace was under construction. The modest three-room cottage, later enclosed by another slightly larger building, was reminiscent of the Lincoln log cabin near Bardstown.

It is said that Peter, even after the main palace was operating in all its splendor, often returned to the cottage and the garden which surrounded it. Here, he was reported to have retreated from the burdensome responsibilities of state.

However, the jewel of our four days in St. Petersburg was not discovered in her historical treasures, as splendid as they are. Rather, it was to be found in a modest apartment located in a 12-story building surrounded by others, identical and too numerous to count.

It took our local, experienced driver an embarrassingly long time, asking person after person about the address, to bring us finally to the entrance which would lead us to the apartment of Peter Konolvalchik and his family.

Being pastor of the largest Baptist church in St. Petersburg—second-largest in Russia—provided them with no additional amenities in housing. Their tiny apartment was the exact size of the hundreds of others in the large complex where they lived.

The four of us had been invited, together with the DeLeons, for late lunch in the Konolvalchik home. Having learned we had arrived, Peter walked down the flight of stairs to greet us and lead us in.

The living room was almost filled with the table that had been prepared especially for our visit. In traditional Russian Baptist fashion, we stood to pray before being seated again.

Our conversation was enabled by a translator-friend Konolvalchik had invited to join us, the same young

man who had translated for me during our April visit to Peter's church.

Mrs. Konolvalchik joined our table after serving the plates, two of their three daughters completing the task. A delicious soup preceded the main course of chicken and rice and fresh, young cucumbers, one of the few vegetables to be found in plenty. We later enjoyed a dessert prepared from rhubarb which Pastor Konolvalchik had grown at his small dacha—in his case, an allotted garden area; in some cases, a "dacha" may mean a summer dwelling.

Assuming that all goes as planned, Peter will be elected in October as the new president of the Russian Baptist Union, succeeding the retiring Vasily Logveninko. Our conversation inevitably drifted toward his hopes and priorities for the Russian Baptist future. Already having heard that ministry-training was his top priority, we explored how Kentucky Baptists might provide some assistance.

The size of such an undertaking seems as enormous as this mammoth, 11-time-zone country. His vision will require years of commitment and hard work, but he seems to possess the qualities necessary to see it through. I was immediately impressed with him during an earlier meeting involving numerous other Russian pastors and leaders. Obviously, his "brothers" see his leadership promise.

I'm not certain if it was the modesty of their living conditions, their gracious generosity or the genuineness of their efforts to make us feel welcome which moved me. But I left there utterly convinced we had been in the home of great Christians who have learned how to live in Christ under significant restrictions and with limited provisions. As in other encounters with humble Christians, we are silently rebuked by the contrast of what so many of us Americans seem to require for living—much more than our share of humanity's provisions.

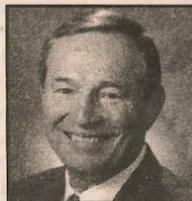
Soon after the meal, their oldest daughter treated us with a Russian hymn. Her strong but pleasant voice reverberated throughout the small chambers, down the stairwell and out the open window as testimony to this Christian home. Music is integrated, it seems, into the Russian soul.

By 5 p.m., we were saying repeated goodbyes as they escorted us down the stairs and out to the van. Alice and Mrs. Konolvalchik hugged in long embrace; each had claimed, in so brief a time, the other for a new friend.

The train to Moscow late that night clattered noisily and stopped at every village and siding along the way. There was no sleep. But in the still of the white night, stretched over our narrow, cabin berths, we watched the birches and aspens pass until the sun presented Russia with a new day. Suddenly, we were pulling into one of Moscow's seven train stations.

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

24), it seems appropriate that I respond.

However, because I already have prepared and sent to you a series of three articles related to my recent

Russian journey, I will delay my response until the completion of the series.

*Bill Marshall
Executive secretary-treasurer
Kentucky Baptist Convention
Louisville*

Response to come

Because the matter of my church membership has been raised as a public issue (WR, Aug.

BAPTIST FORUM



FAMILY FORUM: CHILDREN

Transition times

By Jewell Nelson

Q. How can I get my almost-12-year-old to keep her room neat?

A. How important, really, is a neat bedroom, especially when it creates conflict between parent and child? (As you later stated.)

To look at the bigger picture: Almost-12 is one of those "transition times." A time of disequilibrium, when the body is surging with growth and change.

Eleven or 12 is a time when kids begin to want to pull away, yet cling. It is, above all, a time when kids do not understand themselves.

Pre-teens, like teens, often want to assert themselves. Some ways of assertion are: a non-neat bedroom; crazy hair styles; clothes that are not appropriate according to parents. These assertions seem harmless.

Some non-harmless ways of assertion are: using drugs, becoming sexually active, overeating or not eating, and skipping school.

Instead of nagging your daughter to keep her room neat, set some guidelines, such as: (1) If you can't keep your room neat, please, keep the door closed so I won't have to see it. (2) If you want your clothes washed, they must be by the washer. Or wash your own clothes. Show her how if she has not learned. (3) No food or beverages in your room. (4) Neatness is required in the rest of the house. (5) If you want a goodnight kiss, come and get it, or make a non-hazardous path to your bed.

Everyone deserves space to call his or her very own. A bedroom is one of those places.

A good relationship with your daughter is essential. If it breaks down over her messy bedroom, how will you relate when greater crises come along?

Speaking of crises, in Northern Kentucky, teachers of middle and high school kids at church and school did a survey. The survey asked what topics the kids would like in seminars. Here are the top topics suggested:

- Suicide
- Drugs
- AIDS
- Guns in school

A non-neat bedroom pales in contrast.

Jewell Nelson is associate director of the KBC's Sunday school department.

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

Let's help all our children get a good education

A new government study points—inadvertently at least—to the importance of a holistic view of life.

"Condition of Education 1993," compiled and produced by the U.S. Department of Education, concludes, "Children who grow up in low-income families or with under-educated parents are often unable to pull out of a cycle of low achievement."

"This report illustrates the impact the economy has on education," said Secretary of Education Richard Riley. "We can't get our education house in order until we get our economic house in order."

"We know that all children can learn, and all students can benefit from clear expectations and high standards. Accepting second-best from a disadvantaged child can condemn that student to a second-class life as an adult, and thereby continue a cycle of failure and disappointment into another generation."

The Education Department report cites numerous statistics to back Riley's claim. Among them:

- Only about 20 percent of children from low-income families are enrolled in preschool. That compares to more than 50 percent of children from high-income families. And the gap between rich and poor children has widened in the past two decades.

- Children from low-income families are more likely to drop out of school, and children from this group attend college immediately after high school at only half the rate of their high-income peers.

- Children from low-income families tend to be older than other children in their grades. They progress through school more slowly.

- High school dropouts who come from low-income families are more likely to be unemployed than other dropouts. For example, only 27 percent of low-income dropouts are employed, compared to 42 percent of middle-income dropouts.

- In 1990, the average reading proficiency of 13-year-old students whose parents attended some college was about the same as the average reading proficiency of 17-year-olds whose parents never graduated from high school.

The emphasis of the Education Department's report is not to set one class or economic strata of Americans against another.

Rather, it intends to show how one dynamic of American life, the economy, affects another one, education. It also illustrates the complexity of problem-solving. In this case, changing the process of education is only part of the solution to more-effective teaching. The cycle of poverty is a self-regulating mechanism that holds young people down in the classroom. To be more effective in education, the nation must fix or at least repair a host of related problems. And to fix those problems, it must do a better job of education. The education/economy problem is circular and intense.

Some middle-class American Christians may dismiss this as a situation which is of little concern to them. However, that's not what Jesus would say. His teachings in the 25th chapter of Matthew, as well as the focus of the entire Gospel of Luke, reveal a mandate to minister physically as well as spiritually to "the least of these." Distinctions of body,

mind and spirit are blurred, because Christ saw individuals as whole people. As people who label ourselves with his name, Christians cannot rightly focus our vision more narrowly than Christ's.

Besides, new research reveals one of the church's longstanding concerns, the family, has a major overall impact on the economy, which this study links to education. Sociologist Barbara Dafoe Whitehead has shown (WR, June 15) that divorce and marital separation are the leading causes of child poverty in the nation today. Therefore, according to the Education Department study, children who slip into poverty are more likely to fail in education, which secures their poverty, which in turn entraps their children in poverty.

So, as children board those big yellow buses and head back to school, what can we do?

Let's help their families stay intact. Let's provide a warm welcome for them in our churches. Let's show them what healthy, happy families are like. Let's make sure their parents can get help when their marriages are in danger. More than that, let's anchor their homes to Jesus Christ, who alone offers peace and stability.

Let's help their families rise above poverty. Of course, this problem is too big for our churches to handle alone, but we can do many good things. We can offer literacy training, so moms and dads can read and hold jobs. Among our members, we have managers and personnel directors and bankers and numerous others who have the vocational and life skills to teach less-fortunate folks the things they personally need to know to find and hold down jobs. "Networking" is a buzzword in business today; a church is one of the best networks in a community, and it can be put to use helping parents keep their families' heads above the economic floodwaters.

Let's help kids stay in school and succeed in school. We cannot change the fact children's parents dropped out of school. But we can supplement the support for education their parents might otherwise give them. We can organize to tutor them and help with homework. We can give them encouragement as they work to learn. We can cheer them on as they participate in sports, applaud as they sing and play instruments, encourage them as they engage in other extra-curricular activities. We can affirm them and let them know we care about them and their school endeavors.

Let's teach them values. Much has been said about "traditional family values." The educational system has been criticized for not teaching them, and many families fail to do so as well. So, we must take up the task. It's an important one, for values give us our world view. They help us integrate the things we learn about all phases of life. Seen through the eyes of faith, they help us interpret the world around us. They impart meaning. And if we think our values are important, we should give them to others and thus multiply their worth.

An old Native American proverb states, "It takes an entire community to raise a child." That's true. And as believers, let's do our part. For the sake of Christ. For "the least of these."

Marv Knox

Education is too big a task to be left up to the schools alone. It's even bigger than schools and parents combined. We all have a stake in helping to educate the next generation.

It's a good thing Wall Street doesn't know what Deep Mama knows

Deep Mama took a seat across from me in my favorite fast-food joint.

Deep Mama's my inside source on the intricacies of motherhood, and she sent word she wanted to see me.

She must've noticed my confusion when I saw she was carrying a copy of the Wall Street Journal.

"Research," Deep Mama explained, helping herself to my fries. "I've got this theory about the stock market and mothers' happiness."

My blank stare told her everything.

"It's simple economics," she elaborated. "The stock market works best when people are happy. That's why presidents are always trying to cheer everybody up. Because if people feel good, they're confident.

If they're confident, they think tomorrow's going to be OK. And then they buy stuff."

"Oh," I said, astutely.

"Buying stuff is good for the economy, lizard brain," she reported. "When people buy stuff, stores and companies have more money, pay more taxes and buy more stuff for themselves. Which means more money for the government, other stores and companies. It's a great deal, when it works."

"When it works," I repeated.

"Did I here an echo?" she asked.

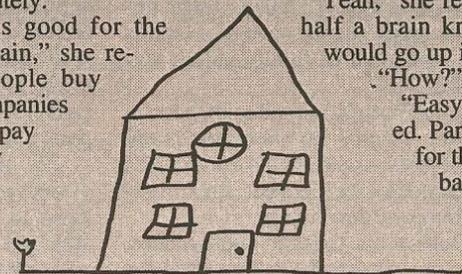
"About your theory ...," I reminded.

"Yeah," she responded. "People with half a brain knew the stock market would go up in August."

"How?" I asked, eruditely.

"Easy. Back-to-school started. Parents had to buy clothes for their kids, which got the ball rolling. But the real clincher was the mothers' happiness. It's been a loooong summer, buster. They were so excited at the prospect of getting their young ones back in school that they just bought and bought and bought.

just bought and bought and bought.



"If General Motors knew how good mothers were feeling, they would've gone out and built a new plant."

"So, what's this got to do with Baptists?" I asked, denominationally.

"WMU project," she explained. "We create a nationwide communications network that taps into how our women are feeling. If a strong majority says, 'Great!' we send out the 'buy' signal before the Wall Street tycoons figure out the color of money."

"Our WMU women always tithe, of course. So, when they get rich, our churches will be rolling in dough, and we'll have enough money to put missionaries in every village in the world!"

Marv Knox

BRIEFS

■ **The American Bar Association's House of Delegates** defeated a resolution Aug. 10 that would have forced it to put its endorsement of abortion rights to a vote by the group's 37,000 members. Last year, the ABA's policy making body passed a resolution favoring abortion on demand.

■ **The popularity of Pope John Paul II** is slipping among Americans, the Gallup Organization reports. John Paul started his tenure as the most popular pope ever, but has been slipping steadily in the polls in the last few years. However, the pontiff still stands ahead of his predecessors in the rankings of men Americans most admire.

■ **The U.S. Senate** is scheduled to vote Sept. 7 on the confirmation of Joycelyn Elders, the controversial nominee for surgeon general. Elders' positions on sex education, abortion and birth control have drawn the ire of many conservative groups, including the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Georgia county first to outlaw homosexual lifestyle

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Buoyed by support from its heavily Baptist population, Cobb County northwest of Atlanta apparently has become the first county in America officially to condemn homosexuality as a lifestyle.

County commissioners approved a resolution that describes homosexuality as "incompatible with the standards to which this community subscribes." In the resolution, approved Aug. 10 by a vote of 3-1, the county government also pledged "not to fund those activities which seek to contravene these existing community standards."

Two weeks later, commissioners made good on that pledge, voting 5-0 Aug. 24 to cut all funding for the arts in the county—including a theater company whose play sparked the initial confrontation.

The much-publicized dispute has pitted Cobb's gays and arts supporters against "pro-family" residents, many of whom were attracted to the county's suburban communities because of the area's conservative reputation.

Almost a fourth of Cobb's residents are members of Southern Baptist churches (98,517 or 22 percent), much higher than the national average.

Observers say the conservative character of Cobb County made passage of the resolution more likely than in other parts of Atlanta.

"We are more homogeneous than Metro Atlanta might be on this issue," acknowledged Nelson Price, pastor of the largest Baptist church in the county.

Price said members of his congregation—the 9,400-member Roswell Street Baptist in Marietta—were involved in passage of the resolution.

"Some attended the commission meeting. Some spoke. Some wrote letters to commissioners."

Christians from a variety of churches and denominations worked to pass the resolution.

But Price and others say the campaign was not spawned by anti-gay sentiment, but by a desire to protect family values.

"They really aren't aiming it at the homosexuals out there," agreed Nancy Schaefer, director of Family Concerns, a pro-family lobby in Atlanta. "They are just trying to uphold the

family. You have to come against the homosexual lifestyle when you uphold the family."

Price said opponents of the gay lifestyle usually aren't heard from until they are forced to react to a pro-gay offensive. In Cobb County, however, residents took the first step, he explained.

But others, including Schaefer and some county commissioners, say the Cobb resolution was in reaction to the city of Atlanta's recent decision to provide medical and other benefits to the unmarried partners of city employees—both gay and heterosexual.

That "domestic partnership" ordinance, and conservative opposition to it, "definitely" inspired Cobb residents to take a pro-active stand against homosexuality, said Schaefer, a member of First Baptist Church of Atlanta and a trustee of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

In Cobb County, not all residents—and not all Baptists—favor the resolution and arts defunding. In fact, a survey published by the Atlanta Constitution Aug. 24 found that only 33 percent of Cobb residents felt the resolution against the gay lifestyle accurately represents community standards. Only 26 percent said arts

funding should be limited to groups that uphold family values.

Tommy McDearis, pastor of Northside Drive Baptist Church, is one Cobb County resident who thinks the commission's action was ill-advised.

"I don't see that there is any place in government to attack human beings in an open way like that," he said. "When you attack another human being ... without knowing how they feel, there is no grace in that."

The play that sparked the dispute does not depict gay lifestyles but makes a reference to homosexuality while a married couple discusses the AIDS-related death of the wife's gay brother. The couple voice their disdain for the gay lifestyle but conclude if their own son was gay they "would love him all the same."

A Cobb County couple who saw the play wrote commissioners to protest the playhouse, Theatre in the Square, which was scheduled to receive \$41,000 in county funding this year. Rather than singling out Theatre in the Square for punitive action, which some experts said would be unconstitutional, commissioners cut funding for all nine community-funded arts groups.

Clinton meets pope, discusses world issues

By Larry Chesser
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The head of the 950 million-member Roman Catholic Church and the Southern Baptist president of the United States explored common concerns about international problems and social and economic justice in their first meeting Aug. 13 in Denver.

President Bill Clinton and Pope John Paul II met privately and with aides as the 73-year-old pontiff arrived for a four-day visit in connection with World Youth Day activities.

"We shared many values and perspectives," President Clinton said after a meeting he described as cordial and productive and one that "laid the basis for a productive and constructive relationship in the future."

The pope said he was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss "some of the principal concerns of the world situation" and the "inalienable dignity of a human being and the rights which flow from that dignity."

Raymond Flynn, recently sworn in as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, told reporters after the meetings that "a chemistry was developed between the president and the Holy Father, one that I think is in the interest (of) and incredibly important to the entire world community."

Before meeting with the pontiff, Clinton told a crowd at Stapleton International Airport that all Americans are grateful for the pope's moral leadership.

At the airport John Paul previewed themes he would stress during the four-day visit: the importance of the church's ministry to today's younger generation and a call to respect the moral teachings of the church.

The pope said he has been deeply



PRESIDENT AND POPE President Bill Clinton greets Pope John Paul II as he arrives in Denver Aug. 12 for World Youth Day. The two later held talks on a wide range of concerns. (RNS photo)

moved by the difficult conditions faced by the world's children and youth.

"Too many sufferings are visited upon them by natural calamities, famines, epidemics, by economic and political crisis, by the atrocities of war," he said. "And where material conditions are at least adequate, other obstacles arise, not the least of which is the breakdown of family values and stability."

John Paul also urged audiences in Denver—which numbered as many as 350,000 people at an outdoor mass on Sunday—to respect the moral teachings of the church.

During his Denver appearances, the pope repeatedly underscored the church's opposition to abortion. That position is at odds with the policies of the Clinton administration but consistent with recent stances taken by Clinton's denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The ultimate test of your greatness," the pope said, "is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless ones."

In a challenge issued in Clinton's presence, the pope said, "If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then, America, defend life. All the great causes that are yours today will have meaning only to the extent that you guarantee the right to life and protect the human person."

The pontiff also emphasized that respect for life must go beyond opposition to abortion to include concrete steps on behalf of those in difficult situations.

Asked whether Clinton responded in private to the pope on the abortion issue, Flynn said he understood the two primarily discussed international problems and social- and economic-justice issues.

Stassen recalls King's speech

Continued from page 1

failed to pass a proposed resolution expressing sorrow for the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. Instead, it passed a resolution that denounced racism but omitted any reference to the Birmingham incident.

The bombing, which occurred just three days before the Executive Committee meeting began, resulted in the death of four black children attending Sunday school.

Richard Land, CLC executive director, said in July he was filled "with an overwhelming sense of sadness and grief" when he learned of the Executive Committee's decision not to address the bombing specifically.

For the most part, Southern Baptists also had little to say about the March on Washington, recalled Henlee Barnette, senior research professor at Southern Seminary. The march was largely ignored in Southern Baptist pulpits and in state Baptist newspapers, Barnette said.

Barnette, who became involved in the fight for racial equality in the late 1940s, was unable to attend the march. Yet his eyes were glued to the television screen as King addressed the crowd. "I remember wishing that I had been there," he said, adding that several of his students participated in the event.

The importance of the march in raising the national consciousness cannot be exaggerated, Barnette said.

Human rights still abused, report finds

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Governments across the globe continued to put politics ahead of people in 1992, resulting in human-rights catastrophes, according to an annual report recently released by Amnesty International.

The 1993 report, released in the wake of the first United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in 25 years, chronicles carnage on a terrifying scale, with thousands of men, women and children tortured, killed, imprisoned or unaccounted for in several countries.

And while most governments give lip service to human rights, the report says, their responses to the tragedies have been marked by "a conspicuous lack of political integrity."

"Self-interest has guided governments' responses to human-rights crises and has prevented or hindered action in many countries where it is desperately needed," the report says.

The grim, 350-page report details human-rights violations in 161 countries—the most in the 32-year history of the human-rights movement.

Some human-rights violations listed:

- Killings by official security forces occurred in 45 countries.

- More than 4,400 prisoners of conscience—those imprisoned for peaceful exercise of their basic rights—were held in 62 countries. At least 300,000 political prisoners were jailed without charge or trial in more than 60 countries.

- More than 1,500 political prisoners were incarcerated after unfair trials in about 30 countries.

- In at least 110 countries, victims were tortured or treated badly, with more than 500 people apparently dying from this treatment in some 48 countries.

- After being arrested, at least 950 people were reported to have "disappeared" in some 25 countries.

- Women were victims of a range of violations in at least 45 countries.

The 1993 report also notes that the growing number of refugees reached crisis proportions. In Europe, particularly the former Yugoslavia, horrific abuses led to hundreds of thousands of people fleeing and seeking safe haven.

Civil wars, religious persecutions, coups and uprisings prompted hundreds of thousands to flee countries in Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East.

Catholic encyclical would quash dissent

LONDON (RNS)—Dissent from official Roman Catholic teaching on moral issues is severely censured in the draft text of a new encyclical, "Veritatis Splendor," which is expected to be published this fall.

A copy of the 35,000-word German text, whose title means "The Splendor of the Truth," is circulating in London. Although the draft, recently leaked to the press, dates to three years ago, it is understood to be a version of the definitive German text.

The draft encyclical avoids any mention of specific moral teachings, but a chief target clearly is the widespread rejection by Catholics of the church's ban on "artificial" forms of birth control.

The document specifically rejects widespread dissent as an argument for

setting aside particular doctrines and stresses the infallibility of the church's "magisterium," that is, the pope and bishops who are regarded in Catholic teaching as direct successors to the apostles of Jesus and church councils charged with defining official teaching.

"If in their actions the faithful do not follow the teaching of the church or if they erroneously regard their own pattern of behavior as morally good, although it is in opposition to the law expounded to them by their pastors, then this does not argue against the moral principles taught by the church," the document says.

The draft is particularly insistent on the need for the moral theologian to conform to the church's teaching to adopt "silent suffering" over pub-

lic dissent where disagreement exists. It calls for "trusting acceptance" as the fundamental attitude required.

Dissent, according to the document, always is the product of error.

"If the theologian persists in his deviant opinion, it is his duty to be restrained and guarded about his conclusions, to remain open with regard to the truth that will one day prevail and to suffer in silence and with prayer for that truth which for the time being remains inexplicably veiled from him."

The draft encyclical defends the right of church authorities to withdraw from dissident theologians the official mandate to teach theology in the name of the church.

The document also restates the traditional doctrine of papal infallibility.

First reference to David outside Bible found

JERUSALEM (RNS)—An archaeologist has uncovered the first reference outside the Bible to King David and the dynasty he established.

In early August, at Tel Dan, the site of an ancient city in northern Israel, archaeologist Avraham Biran found a fragment of a stone monument from the ninth century B.C. which has an Aramaic inscription reading the "House of David." This inscription is thought to give evidence that there was a people at that time identified with the biblical ruler.

While the discovery has caused excitement throughout the academic community, some scholars are wait-

ing to read the full inscription on the monument before determining its significance.

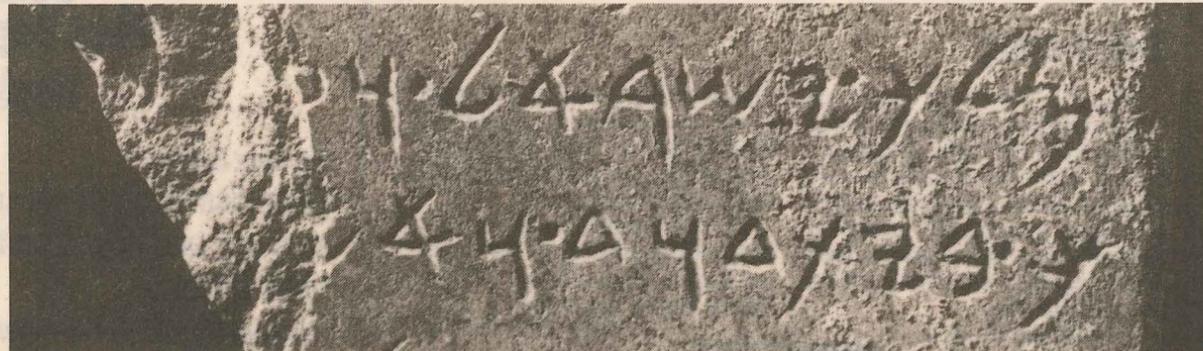
"Some discoveries are made accidentally," Biran said in a telephone interview from Jerusalem. "This stone was lying in the ground for 3,000 years. Only when the sun came down in the right direction did you notice the writing on the basalt slab."

Biran, who has been working at the site at Tel Dan for 27 years, has his own theory about the stone monument, or stele, based on his interpretation of the Bible. He referred to I Kings 15, which gives a vivid description of the relationship between

the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel.

Biran believes the victory stele was erected after Asa, the king of southern Israel, conspired with the king of Damascus to overtake a cluster of cities from King Baasha of northern Israel, including Dan. Thirty years later, when King Ahab of northern Israel attacked Dan, he destroyed the stele and used it as stone for walls and pavement.

Detailed transcriptions and photographs of the writing on the stele will be released in a full report about two months from now in the Israel Exploration Journal, Biran said.



NEW FIND The inscription on this fragment of a victory monument bears the first known reference outside the Bible to "House of David," the dynasty established by Israel's most revered king. The fragment, which is written in Aramaic and dates to the ninth century B.C., was discovered in early August by an archaeologist. (RNS photo)

Religion restrictions still possible in Russia

MOSCOW (BP)—A bill restricting religious liberty in Russia and allowing the government to actively support the Russian Orthodox Church drew one step closer to becoming law Aug. 27 when Parliament passed it for the second time.

President Boris Yeltsin refused to sign the law when first passed by Parliament July 14.

Since then, lawmakers have reworded parts of the bill, making it all the more difficult to spread non-Orthodox doctrine on Russian soil.

Parliament stuck with the more-restrictive changes in the second vote but added a clause allowing government support for groups that promote traditional confessions in Russia.

When the law will go into effect remains unknown. Questions have been raised as to whether Yeltsin will

have the opportunity to reject it again or be forced to sign it this time. There also is a possibility implementation could be delayed as Yeltsin or dissenting Parliament members appeal their case in constitutional court.

The amended draft forbids missionaries from "offend(ing) the religious feelings" of Russians or "compelling ... citizens in their choice of convictions."

It leaves undefined who determines what "offend" and "compel" mean. It also requires missionaries to receive special permission from the government to carry out any professional religious work, even at the direction of a Russian group.

The new draft retains the promise of "criminal and administrative" penalties for infractions, which include "coercion" by anyone—Russian or

missionary—to persuade someone to change faiths. It also retains wording that bars foreign missionaries from working in Russia without being accredited by the government, and it reestablishes the state's right to open and close churches.

Yeltsin detailed reasons in an Aug. 4 letter to Parliament why he was refusing to sign the first draft of the law. Among them were that the law contradicted international human rights norms and Russia's own constitution that guarantees the personal right to choose and practice faith.

Yeltsin is working overtime trying to develop a new constitution for Russia that could yield a more democratic-minded group of lawmakers. But Parliament, with generally the same power bloc as in communist days, is fighting him bitterly at every turn.

WORLD VIEW

- A code of ethics has been adopted by the Korean Evangelical Fellowship. The code says ministers should not "possess excess property and their income should not far exceed the average income of the congregation." The statement also says ministers should be faithful to their families and free from sexual immorality. Further, they should "lead in preserving the natural environment and should not pollute nature."

- Several Iranian Christian churches have refused to obey government orders to limit evangelism, according to News Network International. The government recently told all churches to sign a statement promising not to evangelize Muslims. Some agreed, but Assemblies of God and Brethren churches refused, despite threats of "consequences." The church leaders said, "You can arrest us, put us in prison, execute us, but we won't close our churches."

- A Salvadoran woman washing her clothes sought baptism recently while watching an outdoor service in which Southern Baptist missionary Bill Stennett was baptizing 40 new Christians in San Salvador. When she heard his sermon over a loudspeaker, she left her clothes and hurried over to the group. She said she had been a Christian 15 years but never had been baptized. After a Salvadoran pastor counseled her, Stennett baptized her.

Wrong place

I am writing as a Christian Baptist Sunday school teacher and National Rifle Association member. I respect the protest of the epidemic of gun violence in urban areas. However, the protest is at the wrong building. It is against the law for children to buy a firearm. The same goes for a convicted felon. It is illegal to rob someone at gunpoint or to murder someone with a firearm. The reason the NRA and myself are against more gun-control laws is that we already have them. The laws being proposed will only affect honest citizens. The criminals won't obey the laws because they are criminals. For instance: Who will be affected by a seven-day waiting period? The person who is honest enough to obey the law. A person who wants to rob a store isn't going to wait seven days to honestly buy a gun so he can dishonestly rob a store.

My advice is to protest in the front yard of the guy who lets convicted criminals out of jail before they serve their time. Or the person who made federal prisons into health resorts. Is it any wonder criminals go back to prison so soon after getting out? The gun-control groups would like for all citizens to be without their guns. Can you imagine the field day the criminals would have if all honest citizens were defenseless? I say "amen" to protesting gun violence, but the NRA is the solution, not the problem.

Scott Mitchell
Sadieville

Examine yourself

"CCM 'Conforms' the Spiritual to the Sensual" (WR, Aug. 10) criticized the artist of the contemporary Christian song, as well as those who enjoy contemporary Christian music.

As an individual who plans a career in the ministry of CCM, I felt the column was close-minded, as well as unchristian. The artists on the Christian contemporary scene are no longer, as many can see by this column, viewed as Christ-serving people. I differ with that fact. The artists of CCM are praising God in their own way.

The comments regarding the song "Hand On My Shoulder" were unfair. Anyone with

feelings knows that we as Christians are not perfect, and we also go through tough times. This song merely expresses the feelings of a Christian who has gone through some tough times and realizes God has his hand on his or her life.

The column also criticized the song "El Shaddi" and some of its lyrics. The words quoted in the article were "Adonai," which translates as "God the Highest, Oh Lord," and also the words "El Shaddi," which translates as "God Almighty." The column said these terms were used as exotic Hebrew words. I hardly think singing or reading these words are exotic. If you ask me, they are praise to God.

We need to realize these people are not being sensual or exotic.

They are praising God and God alone. Before anyone, including myself, can question or denounce types of Christian ministry, he or she must first examine themselves.

Jason T. Mitchell
Frankfort

Musical language

For about three-fourths of my life, I listened to mainstream musical artists. I was never made to "feel good." Then I started listening to contemporary Christian music. Almost immediately, I all but stopped listening to mainstream artists because of the feeling I experienced when listening to CCM, and the feeling I carry away with me.

Yes, CCM does make me "feel good." But it is not a sensual "feel good." It is a joy that can only be brought into your life when you have met Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. And when these songs remind me of his sacrifice, then, yes, I "feel good."

In Acts 2 we are told the story of the day of Pentecost when each heard God's message in their own language. Music is language. Each type of music is like a different language. No two people have the same taste in music; therefore, they do not hear and speak the same language. So when one person can listen to the Gaither Vocal Band and be inspired and uplifted, it takes Stephen Curtis Chapman or DC Talk to inspire and uplift another. So should we criticize what music inspires and uplifts another just because it does not inspire and uplift us? Bet-

ter yet, when we criticize it, are we criticizing the musical artist, or the Creator who gave them the talent and his message to share with others?

Elizabeth Baggarley
Murray

Sensual music

I would like to thank the gentleman for the column regarding contemporary Christian music (WR, Aug. 10).

Never have I seen written or spoken anything that so clearly defines the truth about this so-called Christian music. Many people today are grieved to hear music that should invoke its listeners to worship but instead strips Christ of his deity.

For too long, we have taken the things of the world and have wrongly thought we could tack God onto them and that would make them acceptable or Christian. It's another way in which those who live ungodly can soothe the consciences because in their sensuality they have at least acknowledged God, something even the devils do.

The writer has said all that should ever need be said on the subject. It was an encouragement to see put into words exactly what I feel every time I hear this music.

Joyce Paul
Louisville

Start talking

As a gay man, I echo what Eddie Mitchell said (WR, July 27). It is indeed a travesty that so many people who know so little about gays and lesbians should be allowed to spew so much untrue verbiage.

The reality is this: Gays are not trying to infiltrate your churches; we are in fact already integral parts of your congregations. We are contributing, tithing, working members and staff persons. We have no hidden agenda; we just want to be ourselves, without fearing reprisals.

I myself have been the victim of discrimination, in that I was needlessly fired from my position in a church after my orientation became known. All those involved assured me that my performance had been exemplary and that I was always welcome. But my gayness couldn't be tolerated. Needless to say, I am no longer affiliated with that church, but I welcome those who would take a small step out of their way to talk to me, to try to learn, understand, to grow.

This is the answer—talk with us! We'll be happy to help with the process of dialogue in any way we can. Unfortunately, in the meantime, I regret I must request my name be withheld, to protect my job security, and possibly my physical well-being.

Name withheld by request

BAPTIST FORUM

Bob's story

The Kentucky State Fair is always an exciting time for the young people from Glen Dale Children's Home. Many are active in the 4-H program and there is always a large contingent showing their animals at the fair. Others have entries in such fair categories as cooking, crafts, and photography.

I am proud of all of the students, but I was especially mindful this year of one young man, who I'll call Bob, who has been with us for several years now. Kentucky Baptists became involved with him because his father is handicapped and was unable to care for him after his mother abandoned the family.

Coming into care was not easy for Bob as he dealt with the pain of his family situation. But through the help of staff and the other youth, he gradually began to put the pain in the past and look toward his future. Although he grew up in an urban environment, he soon found he enjoyed working with animals and began to excel in the 4-H project. In fact, he's now won so many awards that a recent visitor thought awards that were Bob's were actually the accumulated awards of the whole campus.

The award I'm proudest of though is one he received for leadership because he has truly become an outstanding young man and excellent campus leader.

He said recently that he not only now looks positively at the future but credits the Lord with helping him to forgive his mother.

"Glen Dale helped me to heal those scars and accept her for who she is and not for what she did," he said.

For that young man to say that means that he has come a long way, both as a person and as a Christian. It also speaks very directly to what Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is all about. We as Kentucky Baptists can't

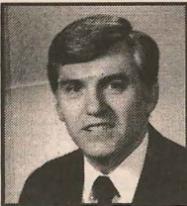
erase the bad things that have happened in children's lives. We can only show them Christ's love and help them move on.

Thank you for touching Bob's life. Thank you for touching the lives of more than 530 other Bobs last year. Thank you for extending Christ's love to hurting children and families each day.

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

Paid Column

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Baptist Men's Conclave And Mission Rallies

October 7-9
First Baptist Church
Hopkinsville

Exciting Events:

Commissioning of new child care unit and new disaster relief vehicles

Keynote Speakers—see below

Interest Group Rallies:

- Baptist Builders
- Disaster Relief
- Lay Renewal
- Lay Revival



William W. Marshall
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Kentucky Baptist Convention



James D. Williams
President
Brotherhood Commission



Jim Furgerson
Director, Adult Division
Brotherhood Commission



William D. Jagers
Director, Evangelism Department
Kentucky Baptist Convention



Randall Rogers
President
Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood



James S. McKenzie
Pastor, First Baptist Church
Hopkinsville

Motor Host Motel name changed to EconoLodge, (502) 886-5242.

Special Brotherhood Convention rate: \$34 for double room.

For more information, call: Brotherhood Department (502) 245-4101

MINISTRY

Kentucky version of World Changers coming next year

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptist youths who are ready to change their world shouldn't forget about needs close to home, Rick Lucas believes.

Lucas is coordinator of Kentucky Changers, a local version of the youth mission program World Changers, is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

The state's new program, developed jointly by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, will enlist high school teen-agers to help repair and renovate substandard housing across the state.

The first project is set for July 31-Aug. 7, 1994, in Hopkinsville.

Lucas, a consultant in the KBC

Brotherhood department, described the event as a mission trip that balances between missions education/preparation and missions involvement.

Groups deciding to become Kentucky Changers will receive a packet of preparation materials to complete prior to the trip. They also will be required to accomplish a local mission project as part of their training.

"They need to work together as a group as well as get some basic training in construction work," Lucas said.

"We are anticipating 150-200 youth coming to Hopkinsville next August," he explained. They will repair 15 substandard houses.

Youths will "do construction by day and recreation, worship and group-building exercises by evenings," he said.

One feature unique to Kentucky Changers is its interracial consistency.

From the advisory committee's planning to the teen-agers' hammering, the project is designed to be a bridge between white and African American Baptists, Lucas said.

The advisory committee, which assists in administration and planning for the project, is made up of two KBC representatives, two representatives from the General Association of Baptists and one seminary student.

In addition, teens representing both races will work together in a one-to-one ratio during the week of ministry and worship in Hopkinsville.

Hopefully, Kentucky Changers will lay the groundwork for helping young people work together to break down racial barriers and prejudices, Lucas said. "A work setting, where they are focused on accomplishing a goal together, is a good place for that."

"Hopkinsville is really an ideal situation" for the first project, Lucas said. Baptists there have a history of working across racial lines—and even started a church together.

Baptist associational leaders and community officials all have helped prepare Hopkinsville as the first site.

Initial contacts have been made in other regions of the state for future Kentucky Changer sites, Lucas said.

Because travel is limited to one state, the cost for Kentucky Changers will be \$120 per participant—about half the cost for World Changers in the United States. Lucas said he hopes the lower cost will make the experience feasible for more groups.

Brochures about Kentucky Changers have been sent to local churches. For more information, call the Brotherhood department at (502) 245-4101.

Midlane Park sets example for 1994 ministry emphasis

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Midlane Park Baptist Church in Louisville took nearly one-fourth of its congregation on a mission trip this summer.

Twenty-three people from the small congregation traveled to Southeastern Kentucky to help with the Mountain Outreach program of Cumberland College. There they were one of three churches working to build a house for a family who otherwise

couldn't have afforded to buy one.

An earlier group laid the foundation, then the Midlane Park members came in and laid the flooring, framed the walls and roof and installed doors and windows. A third group came afterward to do the finishing work.

"This has given the church an opportunity to minister outside itself," said Interim Pastor Tony Hough. "The people gained a great deal of satisfaction. ... They got a taste and touch of servanthood and suffering."

Hough, an associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department, hopes hundreds of other Kentucky Baptist churches will engage in similar projects next year.

The KBC, along with several

agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, is promoting a simultaneous ministry emphasis called "Hope for Hurting Humanity."

Churches across Kentucky and throughout the United States are asked to participate in at least one ministry project sometime between June 19 and July 31. The projects may take a variety of forms, Hough said, but should be aimed at moving congregations beyond the four walls of the church into compassionate and evangelistic outreach.

Even though next June seems a long way off now, churches should begin preparing for the emphasis right away, Hough said. And although the projects can be one-time events, many could become ongoing ministries.

Other ideas for ministry projects Hough suggested include:

- Help during crisis pregnancies.
- Teaching conversational English.
- Working with disabled people.
- Backyard Bible clubs.
- Big A clubs.
- Working with adult non-readers.
- Working with deaf people.
- Working with homeless people.
- Refugee resettlement.
- Working with non-refugee immigrants.
- Working with internationals.
- Working with latchkey children.
- Migrant ministries.
- Resort missions.
- Programs for substance abusers.
- Health fairs.
- Providing respite care.
- Hosting day camps.
- Clothing distribution.
- Food distribution.
- Scripture distribution.
- Nursing home ministries.
- Mission vacation Bible schools.
- Volunteer chaplaincy to law enforcement agencies.
- Youth recreation programs.
- Ministries to military personnel.

Hope for Hurting Humanity support materials are available from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's customer service center by calling (800) 634-2462. A series of pamphlets outlines helpful tips for doing many of the ministries listed above.



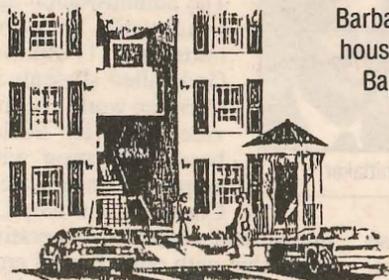
"Hope for Hurting Humanity" is the theme of a nationwide simultaneous ministry emphasis slated for June 19-July 31, 1994. Kentucky Baptist churches are asked to engage in at least one ministry project during that time.

Did You Know ...



Those who dwell in apartments, mobile homes and high rises in the U.S. currently number about 80 million? Only 2 million of them attend any church. 78 million are probably lost!

Multi-Housing Workshop With Barbara Oden



Barbara Oden, the long-time multi-housing minister for Houston's Union Baptist Association, has moved to New York City's Metropolitan Association. She was an apartment manager for years and loves apartment dwellers, understands them and knows how to get to them.

Plan to attend one of the following conferences:

- First Baptist Church, Paintsville, Tuesday, Sept. 7, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- Elkhorn Baptist Assn. Bldg., Lexington, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 10:30-3
- Florence Baptist Church, Thursday, Sept. 9, 10:30-3
- Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, Friday, Sept. 10, 10:30-3
- First Baptist Church, Greenville, Friday, Sept. 10, 6:30-9 p.m.

Please Note: Daytime meetings will have a lunch provided. If you plan to attend, please notify KBC Direct Missions, (502) 244-6461, so we can prepare one for you.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

SEEKING: Hickory Grove Baptist seeks a full-time youth minister. Send resumé, tape or video to Rev. Charles Steger, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, 11969 Taylor Mill Rd., Independence, KY 41051.

WANTED: Full-time minister. Contact Pastor Search Committee, Nicholasville Baptist Church, Main at Chestnut, Nicholasville, KY 40356, (606) 885-6077.

FOR SALE: Evergreen mausoleum crypt for two, desirable location by the lake. Call 897-2204.

WANTED: Full-time pastor, Locust Grove Baptist Church. Contact Mike Williams, chairman, pastor search committee, 1510 Middle Creek Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. (502) 765-2943.

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

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Protestants are twice as likely as Catholics to be registered as Republicans. However, even among Protestants there are more registered Democrats than Republicans.
Source: *The Barna Report 1992-93*

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BARDWELL**—Bardwell Church ordained **Nicky Burgess, Kevin Hoskins, Leland King, David Smith** and **Bob Thomason** to the deacon ministry Aug. 22.

■ **BENTON**—South Marshall Church celebrated its homecoming Aug. 8.

Spring Creek Church will celebrate its homecoming Sept. 19.

■ **CROPPER**—**Steve Crumpler** resigned as pastor of Cropper Church. He plans to develop an evangelistic ministry.

■ **KEVIL**—**James Cason** resigned as pastor of Kevil Church to attend New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Calvary Church called **Mary Kyser** as associate in administration, education and outreach.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Melbourne Heights Church ordained **John Bannon, Cheryl Davis, Annette Guthrie** and **Len Jagers** as deacons.

■ **MOUNT EDEN**—Mount Moriah Church called **John Norman** as pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—First Church honored **Greg Earwood** on his 10th anniversary as pastor.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Nicholasville Church ordained **Dwight Hannah** to the ministry. He currently serves as associate pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Trinity Church called **Brett and Melissa Franklin** as

ministers of youth. Also, **Bob Seely** was ordained as a deacon.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—**Donald Zuberer** resigned as pastor of First Church to become pastor at Valley Station Church in Louisville.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Mount Vernon Church ordained **Curtis Coots** to the ministry. He currently is pastor at Silas Church in Paris, Ky.



CHILDREN'S CENTER The Irene Peterson Child Development Center was dedicated at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College Aug. 2. The 3,000-square-foot facility is named in honor of a retired college registrar who was nursery coordinator from 1964-78. Most of the construction was done by a team from the Bell County Forestry Camp, a minimum security prison located 10 miles from the campus. The center accepts children ages three months to kindergarten, both from student families and from the community. The \$125,000 facility is completely paid for.

Youth Ranch gets Crusade grant

ELIZABETHTOWN—The Baptist Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown has received a \$14,460 grant from the WHAS Crusade for Children.

The funds will help provide a treatment team of a nurse, psychologist and psychiatrist to help boys who come from backgrounds of physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

"We are very pleased to receive this funding," said C.A. Brown, Youth Ranch director.

"We are working with boys who have been through tremendous difficulties in their lives, and this treatment team will be invaluable in helping them find healing."

Located on 10 acres and surrounded by farms, the Youth Ranch works with up to 11 boys at a time.

The ranch's residents are ages 13 to 18.

"The common thread that runs through almost all of the situations is the abandonment the boys feel, either physical or emotional," Brown said.

The boys often have an attitude of defeat or hopelessness when they arrive at the ranch, he explained.

The ranch staff works to help them build self-esteem and self-confidence.

The ranch is housed in a large home. Special tutoring services are provided by the Hardin County School District. The facility also includes a large vegetable garden and horses.

Boys living at the ranch attend church and participate in recreational activities in the local area, Brown said.

The length of stay for boys at the ranch ranges from nine months to two years.

The goal of the program is for the boy to move from the Youth Ranch to a stable living situation, either with family, a foster family or within another Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children facility.

No water, no lights!

At 4 a.m. the walkie-talkie that sits near my bed crackled to life. Our dorm houseparents, key maintenance men and several others of us have this means of instant communication.

Imagine my consternation to learn that, on our first day with everyone back to start our 94th academic year, we were without water anywhere on campus. Until one and a half years ago, we always processed and purified our own water. But now we are on a public system.

I made sure the proper public authorities were made aware of our desperate situation. Then we began to make "do" with the unexpected emergency.

Cooks were preparing breakfast for hundreds and they were notified to use paper plates and cups as we had no way of knowing when we would have water to wash dishes.

Over 600 boys, girls and adult staff would be waking up, using the toilets, taking showers, washing their faces, shaving, brushing their teeth, and we had no water. What would we do?

After brainstorming over our radios, some other key staff members were awakened, along with several of our senior and junior boys. We have thousands of feet of fire hose. Staff and students began unrolling the hoses near our indoor heated swimming pool which has thousands of gallons of water to a depth of nine feet. Gasoline-powered pumps were put in position to pump water through the hoses to the dorms.

We have 400- and 600-gallon capacity water tanks on wheels. Our boys wheeled these into position and water was pumped into them. Our girls have tubs, along with showers, so their tubs were filled. They then could carry water to flush the toilets, to take sponge baths, rinse their hair,

etc.

We keep scores of five-gallon buckets in storage. Each had been washed out and kept for future use. Being good stewards and using our imagination, we are very good at stretching whatever resources come into our hands.

Soon those buckets were all in use. Each student needing to use a toilet was sent by a student monitor to carry a bucket of water for flushing. Boys came out to the water tanks and ran water to shampoo their hair, wash their faces, etc.

At 8:30 a.m., with everyone already about the normal routine, our water came back on.

The very next night at dusk, we suddenly lost all electric power. This has happened before. Soon staff and students set up gasoline-powered generators kept in storage for just such emergencies to provide lights for three hours in our dorm stairwells and other critical places.

We still do not know why our water and power went out. But we made it through.

For the nearly 100 girls and boys here for the first time, many already homesick, no water, and then no electricity, added real grit to their normal homesick litany over the phone to family and friends.

Having detailed the above real—and many other imagined—woes, one girl was overheard telling her mother with a wail, "Would you believe, they have even made the gardener the principal!" This was said in reference to our new principal who has her earned doctorate and works in our flower beds for the love of it.

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

Paid Column

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Is Clear Creek still the same?

In 1944 Clear Creek launched its three-year diploma program. On Aug. 25 our 50th class began studies, and all of them plan to earn a B.A. in ministry. Some ask, "Is Clear Creek still the same, or has it changed from its original purpose?" The freshman class reflects our continuing emphasis on training adults for ministry leadership.

Are we training Kentucky preachers? Forty-two percent come from within the state. Other states include Tennessee (six), Ohio (four), Michigan (three), Georgia (two), and one student each from California, Virginia and West Virginia.

Does Clear Creek offer training for other types of Christian service? By all means. The 31 freshmen will receive specialized training for those called in missions/evangelism, Christian education, pastoral care/counseling, and church music.

Can someone without a high school diploma enroll at Clear Creek? Certainly. We have an open admission policy. Many have come, secured a GED, and completed a degree. Half of the 1993-94 class are high school graduates and half have some previous college work.

What skills do our students

bring? You name it—we have it.

Are we moving away from adults? The average age of the incoming class is 33. Only one is below age 21, and he comes with 22 hours of college credit. Sixteen of the class are ages 21-29; six are in their 30s; four are in their 40s; and four are above 50, with our oldest freshman age 62.

Is Clear Creek still a family school? Twenty of the 31 freshmen are married, with 29 children.

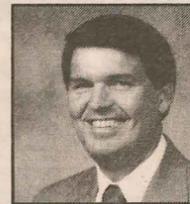
Are we fulfilling Clear Creek's stated purpose? Definitely. The administration and faculty/staff are committed to: (1) Nurture God-called students in Christian work; (2) Provide a quality Bible-based education with emphasis on practical Christian service; (3)

Initiate and maintain cooperative fellowship with other Baptist entities; and (4) Manage human, physical and financial resources according to biblical principles.

"Is Clear Creek still the same?" Yes! Clear Creek still exists to provide educational preparation for adults called of God into Christian service.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Paid Column

After corporate ladder led to prison, she found hope

BATON ROUGE, La. (BP)—Shirley DeLoach had everything she thought she wanted: a high-paying job in Southern California that brought with it power, prestige, control.

Then, nine years ago, she went to prison for a crime she says she did not commit. Even so, she is thankful that injustice brought her something she had left far behind in rural Louisiana—her Christian faith.

She is now the Louisiana director of Prison Fellowship, an interdenominational organization started by Charles Colson 16 years ago, after he served a federal prison sentence for his Watergate-related crimes.

"I lost every material thing I ever gained—money, prestige, power, knowledge, control," DeLoach said. "I lost all of it, but I gained the most important thing—a truly personal relationship with a living God. I am thankful he was so merciful that he brought me to the point I could really know him."

She is a member of First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, but most of

her weekends are spent in other communities working to enlist volunteers and churches in Prison Fellowship programs.

DeLoach has come a long way, physically and spiritually, since her years growing up in rural Louisiana. She was born on a farm, attended Pioneer High School and was baptized by her uncle in First Baptist Church of Delhi.

When she left Louisiana, she attended UCLA and received a degree in business tax management.

In college she gave in to the lure of materialism, accepting the philosophy that there really is no such thing as absolute right or absolute wrong—only gray areas in between, she said. "It is hard to survive in the corporate world without that philosophy," DeLoach said, "but I never got away from knowing deep down inside of me that it was wrong."

She rose in the company to become executive vice president of business tax management. Then one day she heard a voice from her past speaking to her conscience, and she

made a commitment to Christ to dedicate her life "in a way that I could no longer live without those absolutes."

"When I told my employer this, he threatened me," DeLoach said. "He said if I didn't work for him, I wouldn't work for anyone."

"I was charged with a major crime, mismanagement of corporate funds," she said. "Although I did not steal his money, I plea bargained to get away from the total corruption of the situation I was in."

She was sentenced to four years in prison and was released after serving two years—with nothing left of her former life.

"I went to prison in 1985 and was released in 1987 with nowhere to go. My husband had deserted me. I had no money, no home. I started over."

"A Christian volunteer for Prison Fellowship offered me a job," she said. "That was my new beginning—people who believed in me when I couldn't believe in myself."

Rather than become bitter while in prison, DeLoach found new strength and time to reflect on her life.

"I became aware of the shallowness of my Christianity all of those years. There had been a total lack of involvement in people's lives," DeLoach said.

"I asked God to give me his love for people if he wanted me to work for him in prison. It was like the lights came on."

"Before I went to prison, I would have written a check to your cause or made a sizeable donation to the church, but I would not get personally involved," she said. "My prison experience made me want to get involved."

She became familiar with Prison Fellowship during that time and spent two years counseling other women inmates in need of assurance that God does not turn his back on those who make mistakes.

"Throughout the Bible, God uses examples of people who failed and were still used to do his work. That is what we try to get over to them, that just because they made a mistake does not mean God does not love them and cannot use them in his work."

'Hang on,' accused teacher tells missionaries

MANILA, Philippines (BP)—A Foreign Mission Board trustee accused of moral wrongdoing told Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines to hang on when discouragement comes.

"You may ask yourself, 'Is it worth it?' Yes, it's worth it," said Rodney Duncan, chairman of the trustee committee for Asia and the Pacific.

"You may not understand everything, but sooner or later you'll see the Lord's hand in it," Duncan advised.

Duncan left home in North Pole, Alaska, on schedule for the summer tour, despite his failure in June to salvage a 17-year teaching career at North Pole High School.

In March, a student's parent accused Duncan of soliciting pornographic material from her son. She also wrote a letter about Duncan to the Fairbanks daily newspaper accusing him of making sexual advances toward male students. Duncan denied any wrongdoing. Police investigated, but criminal charges never were filed.

But school district officials undertook a far-reaching investigation into the most personal aspects of Duncan's life.

Caught in a crossfire of differing views of the teacher-student relation-

ship, religious freedom issues and local politics, Duncan was permanently fired by the school board in a 5-1 vote.

Duncan told missionaries the only charges the school board could verify against him during a four-day closed hearing stemmed from the fact that he shared his Christian faith "while in the employment of the school system."

Duncan's attorney filed an appeal with Alaska's Fourth Judicial District Superior Court July 6. The appeal asks the court to reverse the school board's decision. Also, a pending motion filed in the same court asks it to force the school board to consider the evidence again.

Hundreds of students, past and present, rose to Duncan's defense, as did many in the community at large. He acknowledged times when he was discouraged but said he learned to depend on God, not himself.

Duncan isn't sorry to have gone through the experience because God "taught me so much," he said. When he was first charged, a former student told him God must "love you a lot to put you through this," he said.

One Sunday while singing in church, Duncan was struck by the words, "To see his hand of love in all that comes my way." In a flash, he saw what the former student meant.

He has seen good things come from the difficulties, even within his own family.

"I've seen God's hand at work," said Duncan, who also serves as minister of youth and music at Cross Roads Baptist Church in North Pole, a Fairbanks suburb.

Once during the three-month ordeal when he was asking himself "if it's really worth it," he received a telephone call from a former student he had led to faith in Jesus Christ. The man, who lived in a distant city, called to offer support.

"Then he put his 8-year-old son on the line," Duncan said. "The boy said, 'You don't know me but my dad has told me a lot about you. I just want to say thank you for telling my dad about Jesus.'"

Duncan said when he went into the hearing that sealed his fate at North Pole High School, he experienced a peace he knew was "of God."

One student questioned in the hearing was asked whether he was unduly influenced by Duncan. "The student replied, 'Oh no, it was God that changed me when I gave my life to Jesus,'" Duncan recalled.

Duncan hasn't given up teaching. This fall he will teach English at a Fairbanks Christian school.

Arkansas Lt. Gov. says he hasn't left Christian ministry

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)—The former Baptist pastor who now is lieutenant governor of Arkansas says he has not abandoned a higher calling to pursue secular politics.

"I think we are on dangerous ground when we start saying what God's will is for another person unless we have prayed in that man's shoes," said Mike Huckabee, former pastor of Beech Street First Baptist Church in Texarkana, Ark. "It is inconceivable to think that people are willing to usurp the authority of the Holy Spirit and determine how a per-

son fulfills a call to the ministry.

"I don't have to be in a certain role to be God's person," he said. "Fulfilling God's will is discovering what it is he uniquely wants me to do now."

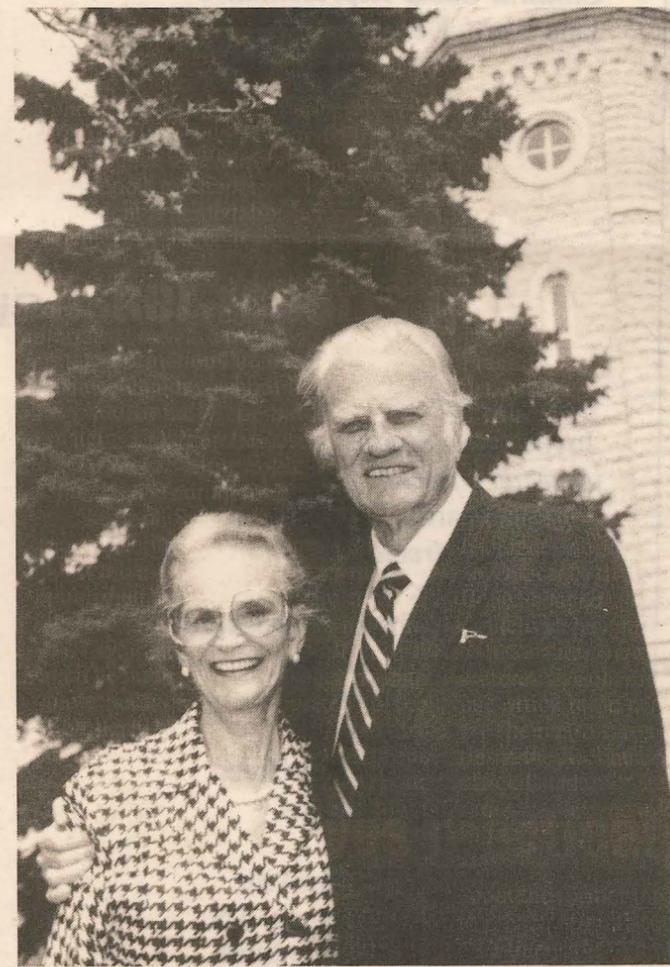
Huckabee, former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, won a July 27 special election called after Lt. Gov. Jim Guy Tucker moved from lieutenant governor to governor due to Bill Clinton's presidential election.

Huckabee resigned his church last year to make an unsuccessful run against U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers.

During both campaigns, Huckabee faced critics' charges that he had abandoned a higher calling to pursue secular politics.

Noting that he preached each Sunday during both campaigns and plans to continue doing so, Huckabee explained, "I don't personally ever see myself as a dichotomy of the minister Huckabee versus the politician Huckabee. God gives us identity as a whole person, and I don't think we have to cut ourselves into compartments and pieces to be Christian."

"In fact, I think it is anti-Christian



50 YEARS Evangelist Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 13. "We have had our share of joy and heartache over these past 50 years, but through it all our love and faith in one another and in our Lord has enabled us to face whatever challenge has been placed before us," he said.

to compartmentalize Christian life versus secular life," he emphasized. "To really be a Christian means that we are salt and light wherever we are and that we never go off the clock as Christians ... The highest calling anyone has is to follow Jesus Christ, not to fill a particular ecclesiastical role."

Huckabee said he decided to seek public office "because we were losing the country economically and morally because of lack of participation by people who didn't want to get involved."



“Thank You!”

1993 Cedar Crest Girls in Action/Acteens Camp Staff

Director

Beth Dunn, Louisville

Assistant Director

Evie Cash, Versailles

Unit Leaders

Cammie Jagers, Louisville

Christy McCane, Burlington

Carla Wainscott, Dry Ridge

Lifeguard

Nancy Ayers, Bowling Green

Cultural Camp Representative

Jane Weru, Kenya

Counselors

Melanie Bramlette, Pleasureville

Amy Dotson, Louisville

Lisa Fields, Springfield, TN

Amy Goode, Prospect

Keri Hutchison, Louisville

Angela Link, Leitchfield

Heather Mayer, Louisville

Pamela O’Nan, Frankfort

Michele Pry, Paris

Volunteer Nurses

Vicki Ball, Shepherdsville

Bonnie Leist, Louisville

Darlene Witten, Elizabethtown

Assistant Counselors

Rachel Bowen, Demossville

Melissa Bryant, Shelbyville

Robin Goben, Mt. Washington

Karen Hogsed, Richmond

Stephanie Nation, Frankfort

Nancy Noe, Paint Lick

Jenny Spurlock, Richmond

Heather Vineyard, Nicholasville

Jenny Westerfield, Owensboro

Heather Wooley, Eubank

1993 Jonathan Creek Girls in Action/Acteens Camp Staff

GA Director

Joyce Paris, Sturgis

Acteens Director

Carlann Harris, LaCenter

Program Directors

Sheila Brown, Guthrie

Mischelle Durham, Owensboro

Glenda Roberts, Murray

Carla Taylor, Murray

Recreation Directors

Emily Davis, Bowling Green

Tammy Hopper, Sturgis

Unit Leaders

Cicely Maggard, Louisville

Lisa McCarty, Savannah, TN

Clarissa Morrison, Frankfort

Gail Siler, Louisville

Volunteer Counselors

Betty Lou Ashby, Hartford

Laura Barnett, Princeton

Susan Bell, Cadiz

Judy Binkley, Marion

Kimberly Burkhart, Princeton

Patricia Collins, Burna

Cynthia Crick, Earlington

Pennie Cruse, Benton

Charlene Davis, Beaver Dam

Mary Jane Davis, Cunningham

Stacey Durbin, Sturgis

Suzie Dye, Morganfield

Maggie Evans, Sebree

Joy Forker, Hanson

Betty Galey, Cunningham

Debbie Golightly, Barlow

Bernadette Harmon, Calvert City

Gayla Hill, Princeton

Janice Hill, Princeton

Stephanie Lee, White Plains

Michelle Malone, Cadiz

Mary Mayes, Paducah

Dianne Morgan, Grand Rivers

Zona Newton, Barlow

Kelly Nichols, Princeton

Tammy Paschall, Murray

Kim Polley, Wickliffe

Vilaine Ramage, Hampton

Penny Roberts, Murray

Judi West, Owensboro

Debbie Wheeler, Water Valley

Julie Williford, Paducah

Amy Wilson, Wheelwright

Melinda Wilson, Wheelwright

Beverly Winchester, Murray

Cindy Wright, Henderson

Sandra Melson, Savannah, TN



Woman's Missionary Union
Auxiliary to Kentucky Baptist Convention