

SEPTEMBER 14, 1993 VOL. 167, NO. 36

FOR THE RECORD

Moderate meeting

Texas businessman John Baugh is hosting a meeting of Southern Baptist moderates in Nashville later this month to "preserve Southern Baptists' historic work and witness" through state conventions. Meanwhile, conservative Virginia Baptists have formalized the structure for a new body. See page 2.

CP year ends

When books closed on the Kentucky Baptist Convention's fiscal year Aug. 31, total gifts to the Cooperative Program unified budget were slightly ahead of last year but slightly below this year's budget goal. See page 3.

Family Forum

A good marriage is like a quilt. See page 4.

Editorial

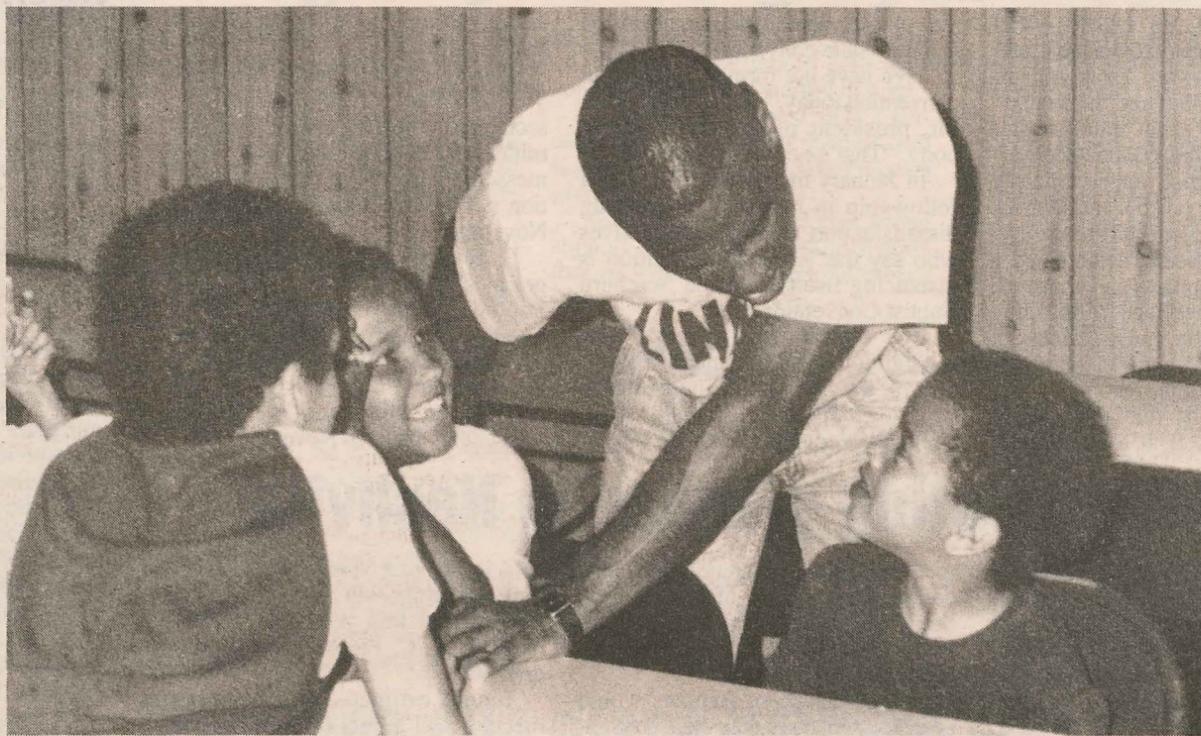
In the fall rush, don't forget the importance of the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering. See page 5.

Art funds questioned

Conservative Christian groups once again are at odds with grants given to controversial artists by the National Endowment for the Arts. See page 6.

A new world view

Kentucky teen-agers who traveled to Harare, Zimbabwe, for the Baptist Youth World Conference this summer returned with a new outlook on God's world. See page 7.



LOVE IN ACTION A student volunteer from Cumberland College works with children in a project sponsored by the school's Love In Action ministry. Love in Action is one of a variety of ministries supported by the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering, which churches across Kentucky will begin collecting this month. The statewide goal is \$700,000. Other areas funded by the offering include salaries and benefits for state missionaries, student summer workers, camp repairs, language missions, Christian social ministries and various ministry projects. See editorial on page 5.

Poll: Teens want to talk about issues

PRINCETON, N.J.—Want to know how to attract teen-agers to church?

Host dialogues on some of life's toughest questions, advises pollster George Gallup Jr.

Results of a recent Gallup Youth Survey show teens ages 13-17 have a "great deal of interest" in discussing questions such as:

■ "Is there really a God?" (64 percent).

■ "What is the meaning of my life?" (56 percent).

■ "Is there really a heaven or hell?" (55 percent).

■ "Why is there so much evil and hatred in the world?" (50 percent).

Less than 20 percent of teens surveyed expressed little or no interest in discussing such questions.

Results of the poll are reported in the September issue of "Emerging Trends," the newsletter of the Princeton Religion Research Center.

Teen-agers are most interested in discussing these difficult questions with people their own age, parents and church leaders, the poll found. They are least interested in discussing the questions with teachers and college professors.

Topics teens said they are least interested in exploring include how to become more religious and what it would be like to try another religion.

On a different front, the poll asked teens about their spending habits. Less than one-third (32 percent) reported making a financial donation to a church in the past week.

Among those who made donations, the median amount was \$2 for teens ages 13-15 and \$8.50 for teens ages 16-17.

Singers endorse 'True Love Waits'

NASHVILLE (BP)—Several contemporary Christian recording artists publicly voiced their support for a nationwide campaign aimed at encouraging teen-agers and college students to remain sexually pure until marriage.

In a Nashville news conference Sept. 7, the artists endorsed "True Love Waits," a campaign initiated by the Baptist Sunday School Board and now supported by a variety of denominations and religious organizations.

As part of the campaign, thousands of young people from across the country already have signed covenants promising to remain abstinent until they marry.

To encourage those making pledges, several Christian artists have combined their talents on a new 10-song audio cassette specifically focusing on what they consider to be God's original design for sexuality.

Featured on the "True Love

Waits" tape are songs like "I Don't Want It" by DC Talk; "Old Enough to Know" by Michael W. Smith; "Love" by Petra; and "I Am Not Ashamed" by the Newsboys. Other artists performing on the tape include DeGarmo & Key, Geoff Moore and the Distance, Kenny Marks, Lisa Beville and Code of Ethics.

The tape is being released by Genevox, the music publishing arm of the Sunday School Board, in conjunction with Inter'l inc, a Nashville-based agency that links contemporary Christian artists with local churches and Christian ministries.

The "True Love Waits" recording is scheduled for release Oct. 15 and will be available in both the audio cassette and compact disc formats. It can be ordered directly from the Baptist Sunday School Board's Customer Service Center after that date or purchased in Christian book stores in early 1994.

On fire for the Lord is good; the Lord's house on fire isn't

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Church buildings might be places where people catch the fire of the Lord, but they shouldn't be places easily destroyed by earthly blazes, fire prevention experts say.

And Baptists who think they don't have to worry about the threat of fire should think again, adds a Kentucky pastor whose historic church building was destroyed by fire two years ago.

Those with an it-could-never-happen-here attitude are "kidding themselves and running a tremendous

risk," said Richard Bridges, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

The Bowling Green congregation's 78-year-old sanctuary was destroyed by fire in October 1991.

"Don't wait for a remodeling project or a building project to bring your building up to code," Bridges advised. "The codes are costly and a lot of trouble, but the money you spend today will be pennies compared to what you'll spend tomorrow."

Arson is the leading cause of church fires, according to Pat More-
□ See Know dangers of ..., page 8

Yeltsin still fighting for missionaries

By Marty Croll
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MOSCOW (BP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin plans a second veto of laws Parliament has passed limiting religious freedom, presidential advisers said Sept. 6.

Lawmakers chose not to adopt amendments Yeltsin suggested to a first draft law Aug. 4. Instead, they wrote a new law—passed two weeks later—which they said is sensitive to his objections, but apparently is more restrictive than the first draft.

Yeltsin's promised delay of the revised law offers renewed hope to evangelicals and foreign missionaries in Russia. They stand to lose the most from the new restrictions, which bolster the strength of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Enactment of the law over Yeltsin's objections could take weeks, moving Russia that much closer to a possible new constitution. The constitution now being drafted is expected to guarantee free practice of religion, change the lawmaking process or even call for new elections.

Yeltsin is expected to take until Sept. 20—the full two weeks allotted to him—before acting on the revised religion law. For now, advisers said, he is embroiled in his latest fight with Parliament: the ouster of Vice President Alexander Rutskoi. Rutskoi has become a cornerstone in a blockade against political reforms, including the new constitution.

Support for the new religion law in Parliament has been led by an Orthodox priest, Vyacheslav Polosin. Polosin has extended his campaign outside of Moscow's White House, where Parliament meets, and into the mass media, angrily attacking Westerners' efforts to evangelize Russia.

But his distrust finds company throughout high-level Orthodox ranks and even into the government's executive branch. Unaccustomed to extreme views bred in an arena of free thought, many Russians have fought back against what they view as an invasion of foreigners preaching a wide variety of doctrines.

If Parliament votes for restrictions again, Yeltsin will seek to have the law struck down in Constitutional Court, advisers said. Such legal wranglings could delay it even longer.

The latest version of the law Parliament passed would give sweeping powers to the Justice Department, police and courts to shut down Russian religious groups and monitor missionaries. It also provides government support to the Russian Orthodox Church.

Human rights experts said the future of religious freedom, as well as other personal freedoms, depends primarily on Yeltsin's prevailing in efforts to enact a fairer lawmaking process.

Evangelical leaders in Russia wrote Yeltsin Aug. 30 protesting the revised law.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Oliver Thomas**, general counsel and associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee, has resigned to move to his native state of Tennessee. His wife, Lisa, has accepted a teaching position in the public school system outside Maryville, and Thomas plans "to preach, teach, practice law and write country music—not unnecessarily in that order," he said in his letter of resignation. Thomas, who has distinguished himself on Capitol Hill as a leading church-state authority, also plans to remain active in that field.

■ **Thomas Warrington**, the Foreign Mission Board employee who was fired from his post in June but later told he should only have been reassigned, began a new job at the FMB's Richmond, Va., headquarters Sept. 13. Warrington has been named associate director for Spanish South America, Middle America and Canada in the volunteers in missions department.

■ **An office and toll-free phone line** have been established by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to coordinate disaster assistance. The HMB and Brotherhood Commission work together in disaster relief, with the HMB taking the lead in the rebuilding phase. Current efforts are being directed toward rebuilding homes in the Midwest damaged by Mississippi River flooding this summer. The toll-free number for information about volunteer needs is (800) 4SBC-AID.

Virginia conservatives formalize group

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Virginia Baptist conservatives have taken another step toward a state organization for fellowship and missions.

Meeting only eight months after forming the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, approximately 300 conservative pastors and laypeople approved a constitution and by-laws, elected officers, established a structure of committees and approved guidelines for receiving and spending funds for mission causes different from those of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

But leaders of the new group, which met Sept. 2 at a Richmond,

Va., church, denied their organization is a new state convention.

"We have not formed a new state convention today," said Tommy Taylor, president of the conservative body. "That's not on the agenda."

In January the group formed a fellowship in response to growing dissatisfaction among conservatives who say the Virginia convention is distancing itself from the Southern Baptist Convention.

The conservative group's new constitution declares unqualified support for the SBC and its unified budget, the Cooperative Program. It encourages cooperation with the Virgin-

ia convention "in so much as conscience allows."

During miscellaneous business, T.C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va., secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, urged conservatives to bring messengers to the Virginia convention's annual meeting in Richmond in November.

"The name of the game in Baptist polity is votes," he said. "That's how Southern Baptists make decisions. There are actually 80 more conservative pastors (in Virginia) than there are moderates or liberals. But we will not win any votes until we get our messengers there in November."

Moderate meeting planned in Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—A small group of Baptist moderates from approximately 18 states will meet in Nashville Sept. 23-24 to try to figure out how to stem the growing influence of conservatives in state-level Baptist affairs.

John Baugh of Houston, organizer of the meeting, said the purpose is "to preserve Southern Baptists' historic work and witness."

But he acknowledged the meeting is in response to evidence that conservatives in several states are gearing up

to expand their influence into state conventions, many of which have been void of the politicking that has characterized the national convention for more than a decade.

"Many Southern Baptists would be distressed to see their state conventions controlled by fundamentalists using the same methods used to control the Southern Baptist Convention," said Baugh, a longtime moderate activist.

Several meetings of state-level conservative strategists have been

held in the past year. Two such national meetings—in August 1992 and February of this year—were organized by T. C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va.

Baugh estimated the moderate meeting will attract 50 to 60 people from 18 states.

"We did not intend it to be a media event, nor did we intend to be secretive," Baugh said. "Neither is the meeting an attempt to 'centralize' the efforts of moderates to influence state conventions, he said.

FMB staffer & Louisville layman dispute Parks' comments

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

A representative of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and a Kentucky layman have taken exception to comments made by Keith Parks at an August meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

Parks, missions coordinator with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, outlined six differences between the Fellowship and the FMB in response to a question from the floor. Those comments were reported in the Aug. 24 issue of the Western Recorder.

Parks, who retired as FMB president last year in a dispute with trustees, said his new employer differs with the FMB in its focus on unreached people groups, the way it assigns missionaries, the way it approaches global missions, the way it groups missionaries, its de-emphasis on institutions and its commitment to consider women and divorcees for missionary appointment.

Erich Bridges, news editor with the FMB, and Carl Kuhl, a Louisville dentist, said they see different perspectives than Parks on at least three of those six characterizations.

■ **Unreached people groups.** Parks said that aside from the European missionaries which launched the Fellowship's fledgling missions program, future expansion would focus strongly on "World A." World A is comprised of about one-fourth of the world's population, mainly people who never have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In contrast, he said, the FMB has some emphasis on World A but "is predominantly working in parts of the world that have the most missionar-

ies, the most churches and the most money."

That isn't accurate, said Carl Kuhl, a layman at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, who recently went on a "prayer pilgrimage" to World A, visiting Russia, Uzbekistan, Siberia, Mongolia and China.

"It should be told that World A is being reached by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board," he said. The work "has to be done in a secret way. It can't be publicized. We can't give names; we can't give places."

On the other hand, Bridges asserted that Parks' statement is "technically true" but misleading. "It disregards enormous efforts made in recent years by FMB mission researchers, strategists, missionaries and others—largely under Dr. Parks' own visionary leadership—to begin reaching World A," he said.

The most recent "World A Report" from the FMB says the FMB has some type of work among 80 of the 212 "priority" World A people groups. That means the FMB is at least touching 38 percent of those 212 people groups, the report says.

However, FMB research has identified more than 3,000 people groups in World A.

Also, the report says 11 percent, or 432 of the FMB's 3,890 missionaries are engaged in targeting World A populations. And of the FMB's \$183.8 million budget, 9 percent, or \$17.16 million, is directed toward World A.

The majority of the FMB's resources remain outside World A because it is difficult to change overnight the direction of an agency as large as the FMB, Bridges said.

He also pointed to the FMB's em-

phasis on acquiring extensive data on the world's peoples and their religious exposure, an effort begun by Parks and directed by David Barrett, a highly respected Anglican missiologist. However, since Parks' departure from the FMB, the agency has not renewed Barrett's contract.

■ **Missionary assignments.** Parks said in his Kentucky speech that while the FMB primarily assigns missionaries to nations, the Fellowship assigns missionaries to people groups that transcend nations. This allows the Fellowship to keep working with people even when their homelands close to missionary representation, he said.

To imply that the FMB doesn't work with people from closed nations is inaccurate, Bridges countered.

"The FMB does target people groups, and it doesn't stop work in closed nations," he said.

Bridges cited the work of Cooperative Services International and the employment of "strategy coordinators" to back his claim.

CSI is a small arm of the FMB—implemented by Parks—that sends Baptists into countries where traditional missionaries are not allowed. Strategy coordinators—also implemented under Parks' leadership—generally are non-residential missionaries who attempt to reach people by working outside the borders of closed countries.

Bridges conceded that the FMB's work in World A and use of CSI and nonresidential personnel constitute only a small percentage of the agency's total work right now. However, if current proportions are to be the measure for comparison, it should be noted that the Fellowship currently has more traditional-type missionar-

Rankin meets WMU leaders

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—In his first visit to Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union since becoming president of the Foreign Mission Board, Jerry Rankin affirmed the 105-year-old partnership between the two organizations.

"Your faithful support means so much to our foreign missions effort," Rankin told the national WMU staff and WMU leaders from the Birmingham area assembled Sept. 3 at the national WMU building to meet him.

"After becoming president of the Foreign Mission Board, one of my top priorities was for us to get together and for us to affirm and solidify our partnership," he said.

Rankin did not bring specific ideas to the WMU staff of ways the partnership could be strengthened, but rather asked for their suggestions and input. Rankin, accompanied by his wife, Bobbie, received an orientation to the work being done by WMU.

State CP finishes up for year & slightly below budget

By Marv Knox
Editor

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's unified ministry budget received a record \$17.2 million in its 1992-93 fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31.

Receipts for the Kentucky Cooperative Program finished slightly ahead of last year but slightly below this year's goal.

Total receipts were \$17,215,877. That amount was \$210,910 (1.2 percent) more than receipts for 1991-92. It was \$122,032 (0.7 percent) below the \$17,337,909 goal for this year.

"In spite of the disappointment in not meeting budget—a long shot at the first of the year anyway—we came closer than in any year since 1986-87," said KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer William W. Marshall.

"It's the largest dollar and percent-

age increase in three years, and the best performance relative to the budget goal in five years," added KBC Business Manager Barry Allen.

Kentucky Baptists should realize at least two significant factors about the 1992-93 Cooperative Program receipts, Marshall said.

"First, the KBC Executive Board made the hard, but right, decision in September 1991 to cut the 1992-93 budget by 3 percent and to hold the 1993-94 budget, which began Sept. 1, to zero growth," he stressed.

That decision was made in order to bring the budget in line with anticipated revenue, he explained. Kentucky's budget-balancing steps preceded such action in most other Baptist state conventions, many of which are suffering budgetary problems.

"From what I read concerning the budget status of the larger 14 'old line' Baptist state conventions, it appears that Kentucky would be among

the closest to budget goal," he reported. "While some would take little comfort in that, it is worthy of note.

"Second, the increase of 1.2 percent, though admittedly modest, still is an increase in Cooperative Program giving by KBC churches.

"Both of these factors give strong support to the hope and anticipation that we will not only meet but exceed budget by Aug. 31, 1994."

Although the Kentucky Cooperative Program did not reach its goal, the funds available for KBC use did.

The Cooperative Program has two basic sections. Almost 63 percent of undesignated receipts remain in Kentucky for KBC causes, and about 37 percent is forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention for distribution to national agencies.

The Kentucky portion of the Cooperative Program is supplemented by funds earmarked by churches for Kentucky only.

In 1992-93, the KBC received \$353,082 in Kentucky-only funds. When that money was combined with the KBC's portion of Cooperative Program receipts, the \$11,146,748 total was \$12,551 over its goal.

And even though the budget was tight, the Executive Board worked hard to operate in the black, Marshall said.

"KBC staff and I have continued to hold expenses below receipts and delayed staff replacements to assure a non-deficit outcome," he noted.

When the entire KBC financial picture is examined, the view is positive, Marshall added. "I happily use this occasion to affirm those churches who continue to increase in their cooperative giving; our Executive Board, who has given diligent guidance in our financial decisions; and our president, Charles Stewart, who has been an outstanding cheerleader all year long."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Student revival teams** from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College now are available to Kentucky churches through the school's Baptist Student Union program. Skills can be adjusted to individual church needs. For information call Dennis Brotherton or Fred Cummings at (606) 337-3196.

■ **The annual Food Roundup for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children** begins this month. Kentucky churches are asked to collect commercially canned foods, mixes, potatoes, flour and sugar for use at children's home facilities. A record \$64,000 worth of groceries was collected in the project last year, said staff coordinator Kathy Sanders. "Because of our churches' generosity, the funds that would have had to be used to buy these groceries can be used to help reach more children." For more information about the food drive, call Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children at (800) 456-1386.

Campbellsville up

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville College has recorded its largest fall enrollment ever, according to President Kenneth Winters.

Fall enrollment is 1,163, up 11.6 percent over last fall, he said. Last fall's total was 1,042 students, also a record enrollment at the time.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated school has recorded growth each year for the past six years, Winters said. Enrollment has grown from 734 in 1988 to the current total of 1,163.

"We are thrilled by the tremendous growth Campbellsville College has seen these last few years," Winters said.

Churches can place welfare volunteers

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Churches can get help with some of their projects and offer a helping hand to families in need due to a new federal mandate.

Under federal welfare reform, one parent in jobless two-parent families that receive benefits through the Unemployed Parent program must give time each week in volunteer service.

About 1,200 Kentucky welfare recipients already are involved in such volunteerism. But as of Oct. 1, more than 3,000 of the 7,700 Kentucky families in the Unemployed Parent program must be involved in the volunteer activities.

"We're appealing to public and private non-profit organizations that can use some help, and at the same

time help our clients have purposeful work experience," said Mike Robinson, social insurance commissioner.

The 16 hours of work required per week should help clients discover "improved self-esteem and motivation and new life skills for earning a living," he explained.

Qualified work activity is defined as "projects which serve a useful purpose." Program participants can't fill existing vacancies or receive wages or benefits for the work. The placements usually last six months to a year.

And churches could qualify as approved worksites for the volunteers in certain cases, said Sharon Perry, assistant to the commissioner for social insurance.

"Placements can be made with churches and other religious groups for work that doesn't carry out reli-

gious activities," she said. As examples, she cited child care centers, teen centers and clothing closets operated by churches.

The program apparently avoids any improper entanglement of church and state, according to Brent Walker, associate general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee, a church-state watchdog group in Washington, D.C.

The program avoids entanglement as long as tax dollars are not paid to religious organizations for the work, the benefit recipients are not required to work for religious organizations and the volunteer work is limited to the more secular functions of the church, he said.

For additional information about the Unemployed Parent program, contact the social insurance office located in your city or county.

Mission Kentucky II targets multi-housing

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Like a popular movie or a book with a cliffhanger ending, "Mission Kentucky" has been deemed worthy of a sequel.

Mission Kentucky is an emphasis begun in 1985 to start 400 new churches, missions and preaching points throughout the state. That goal was reached earlier this year, and a celebration is planned for Oct. 1.

Such an accomplishment should be celebrated, said Bob Jones of the Kentucky Baptist Convention direct missions department. But the story is by no means complete.

So, preparations to launch "Mission Kentucky II" are underway. The new focus of statewide evangelistic efforts will be multi-housing units.

Mission Kentucky's success has opened the door for more people in more churches to become involved in helping start new churches, Jones said. "It has gotten people to think about new starts."

Admittedly, not all the 400 new starts have survived. But most are

holding their own or thriving, he said.

For example, Lakewood Baptist Church in Louisville was started as a mission of Louisville's Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Jones reported. After constituting as a church, Lakewood's members doubly supported the project by helping starting another mission. The mission—Green Hills Baptist Church in Fisherville—now averages about 100 members.

Jones emphasized that every effort to begin a new work has some type of success story behind it.

For one thing, these new groups tend to make significant contributions to the convention's work, Jones said.

"New starts—new works—baptize and reach more people" than older, more established churches, he explained. "When evangelism reports showed the top 10 (churches or missions) per capita in baptism, six were new starts."

D.M. Aldridge, a KBC church starter strategist actively involved in Mission Kentucky, said he was reminded of the cooperative spirit inherent in the project during a recent visit to Copper Creek Baptist Church

in Mount Vernon.

"This church is the result of many people working together," he wrote in a letter about his visit. "The land was purchased by the church members. The KBC gave \$7,500 to help with construction, and the building was erected by members' donated labor.

"The pews were given by the Gardendale Baptist Church of Lexington. Hymnals were provided by the Mount Vernon and East Hickman Baptist churches. Eldon Hays, the first pastor, gave the pulpit furniture."

That same spirit of cooperation and determination will be required to develop work in multi-housing units, Aldridge said.

"By the year 2000, one-half of all families in the country of America will be living in multi-housing units," he said.

As many as 95 percent of those who live in multi-housing units are not Christians, Jones added.

The method must change, but Aldridge still expects perseverance to have positive results: "I think we could start (work) in at least 500 units."

Helping hands needed

■ **People** are needed to do evangelistic work in two of the final projects of the Kentucky-Brazil partnership. A total of 30 volunteers are needed for evangelism teams to work in Brazil Nov. 18-Dec. 1. Contact Calvin Wilkins at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, (502) 245-4101.

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

■ **Office help** is needed by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to help prepare bulk mailings and do other clerical functions. Call (502) 245-2101 or (800) 456-1386.

■ **Supplies are needed** for residents of men's dormitories at Cumberland College. Single sheets and blankets, towels, wash cloths, pillows, and toiletries are needed. Contact Linda Carter at (606) 549-2200, ext. 4230.

■ **A male live-in volunteer** is needed at Jefferson Street Baptist Center in Louisville to work with the homeless. Free room and board are provided. Additional volunteers are needed for weekday morning programs with the homeless. Contact Steve Golden at (502) 584-6543.

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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 III

Perhaps no one was happier in 1988 about some of the new sounds Mikhail Gorbachev was making than the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church. While the seeds of "glasnost" were still just sprouting, even this early glimpse gave new encouragement to the Russian church as it rang its bells in the Kremlin to celebrate its 1,000 years of existence in Russia.

In 988 A.D., Prince Vladimir "selected" Russian Orthodoxy over Islam and Roman (Western) Christianity for Russia's official "religion." It grew quickly and extensively, so that by the time the Turks sacked the seat of Orthodoxy in Constantinople (today's Istanbul) in 1453, Moscow fell heir to the title as the new protectorate of Eastern Orthodoxy. It was called the "third Rome."

However, Peter the Great (1689-1725), found the conservative Orthodox church an obstacle to his vision of Westernizing Russia. He abolished the patriarchate and established a holy synod which, effectively, he controlled and, thereby the church which he sought to bend to his will. His mistrust of the church led to restrictions on the priesthood and monasteries.

Peter's successors, his daughter, Elizabeth, and her daughter, Catherine (The Great) were no less restrictive. In fact, they closed over one-half the existing monasteries.

By the time of the "Last Tzar," Nicholas II of Russia, the church had finally managed to restore its patriarchate, gaining once again this right for the church. However, two weeks before Patriarch Tikhon was elected, Lenin and the Bolsheviks had taken control of St. Petersburg.

The new patriarch stood bravely against the Bolsheviks, issuing a letter of ex-communication against them. The rest is history—suffering, great suffering and persecution of the church by Lenin, then Stalin, relieved slightly by Khrushchev, but tightened again by Brezhnev and Molotov.

The cost of suffering has been enormous:

- Of the 50,000 priests and 163 bishops before the revolution of 1917, slightly more than 100 priests and seven bishops remained at the time of the outbreak of World War II in 1941.

- By 1933, all but 100 of Moscow's 600 churches were closed.

- Over 1,000 monasteries and 60 seminaries had been closed.

- Before the revolution, some 50,000 Russian Orthodox churches existed, but by 1985, they were numbered to be around 7,000.

- Hundreds of Baptists also experienced exile, were put in labor camps or killed. Most of their churches were closed; some were destroyed, and not a few pastors were never seen again.

Millions of Russian men were taken away, never to be seen again by their families. Only with the recent freedom to research and reveal the truth about Stalin, particularly, is the world being made aware of the brutality of communism's leadership. (Read "Lenin's Tomb," by David Remnick, 1993.)

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

Patriarch Tikhon's ex-communication letter of 1918 to the Bolsheviks proved, long after his death, prophetic. For after 70 years of persecution, the Orthodox Church of Russia, and the smaller church groups, like Baptists, who also persevered, are still alive and on the move. In his letter, he wrote: "We firmly believe the enemies of the Church of Christ will be broken and scattered by the power of the cross; and the promise of him who bore the cross is unalterable; that is, 'I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"

Everywhere in Moscow, change abounds. I noted an assortment of changes over my three separate journeys. Many "Russia-watchers" suggest that the new Russian god is personal success and wealth, an alien god from the communist's "collective good," in which the individual is expendable for the sake of the whole. These words are far too simplistic for the reality. It is enough to say that with new freedom has come the inherent opportunity to make wrong choices, and most everyone seems unsure as to where Russia is going. Youth, especially, are looking for direction, finding the Western symbols of jeans and Reeboks a temporary ride into what they sense is an uncertain future. They didn't like the "old ways" and don't intend to go back, but their "soul" is up for grabs.

It is uncertain whether the "church" can or will reach this younger generation. Their small numbers among the church's faithful is noticeable. All churches—Orthodox, Roman, or Protestant—seem well endowed with gray-haired widows, fondly called Babushkas, whose husbands lie in unmarked graves from World War II or in one of Stalin's mass entombments.

Handsome and polite, youth try their English at every tourist site, wanting to sell something at a profit. English has been made the official "business language" of Russia, and a

remarkable hunger to learn English drives many youth toward Western preferences. American companies pay premium dollars for interpreters, most of the best ones already bought up. Two English-language newspapers advertise for others. Who can resist a \$400 per month salary when they've been earning \$35? English is the name of the game—for awhile.

I muster up my courage and my hope. Twelve million people in this city three times greater than the total population of Kentucky. Can we really make any difference? Will the church speak authentically to this new generation while the old grumbles about what "was"?

At least a partial answer came on the Sunday morning Norm Lytle and I spoke at Moscow's Central Baptist Church. We were interpreted by Michael Zhidkov, a former vice president of the Baptist World Alliance. He graciously sat behind us and interpreted the entire service. His father, also a Russian Baptist pastor, had been imprisoned from 1938 to 1941, but had survived to preach again.

From the pulpit area we could view the entire congregation. Aisles packed with worshipers, I watched a woman stand for the two-hour service in a chair, interpreting to the deaf. We had seen hundreds of youth on Moscow's streets, signing their silent language, childhood victims of measles.

Written prayer requests floated down from the horseshoe balcony, then passed along to pastor Ivan Michaelovich, who would mention them during one of the prayer times. There were youth there, generously scattered among the older ones. Large specially prepared round loaves were broken into pieces and distributed to us; the wine glimmered deep red in the heavy silver chalices on the table. I watched tears fall across the faces of the devout.

In the congregation were most of the 190 new Christians who had been baptized the day before. Crowds of the curious had witnessed this event in a public park, an intentional result of this witnessing church. The weather had been cold.

But my heart was as warm as the passing of wine down my throat when I took my turn with the cup. The millions of Moscow seemed "touchable" in the warmth of that congregation.

Somehow this church; all Baptist churches; all of Christ's church in Russia must not fail this new opportunity. However small or insignificant, Kentucky Baptists must not fail to play whatever part we are given in this unfolding drama of God's mission in Russia.

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

music or testimony of an artist, isn't it worth it? There are many ways to share the gospel—just ask any career missionary you happen to meet.

I have been fortunate to meet several Christian artists. Their testimony to living by faith, searching the Bible and devotion to prayer would make many of us ashamed.

Could we all please turn our energies to building up the family of God and not finding reasons to tear each

other down? We are each all the other one has in this sin-filled world. And remember, just a few years ago, "Because He Lives," "He's Everything to Me" and "Pass it On" were considered CCM. And a few years before that, certain artists began adding a little pizzazz to their Southern gospel. And a long, long time ago, "Just as I Am" and "Victory in Jesus" were the new style of music that someone had to get used to.

*Julia Gioiello
Owensboro*



Quilted marriages

By Diana Garland

It seemed like it would be a fun project, to make a quilt. Our kitchen wall begged for something, and to pick up the design from the area rug under the table in a quilt-hanging seemed great. I borrowed the children's colored pencils and sketched the design. I had never made a quilt, but how hard can it be?

I soon realized the quilt was going to be different from what I had planned. I mis-measured some of the middle pieces, and small mistakes in the middle multiplied as I added layer on layer to the edges.

Eight months later (not the two I had planned), the quilt is finished and hanging. It was a lot more work than I ever dreamed. It only remotely resembles my original sketch. It refuses to hang flat, and one side is slightly longer than the other. Nevertheless, I like it. No one will ever mistake it for factory-made. It is quite different from the work of art I dreamed; all the mistakes and corrections have become part of the design.

As I put the finishing stitches on the quilt, it dawned on me how much my quilt is like a good marriage. We start out with a dream that we can make a marriage better than the imperfect and dull marriages of our parents. We sketch our plans and begin to build our dream marriage, far underestimating the work of quilting two lives into one pattern. As we shape and stitch our lives, we make mistakes. The marriage quilt becomes flawed, quilted as it is by two sinful people. We become discouraged; the pieces don't fit together as we thought they would. Compromises and patching has to take place; otherwise, we give up and throw it away.

If we persevere, and allow God to work, our marriage quilt takes on a unique beauty as love, grace and forgiveness turn flaws into redemption. The hurts and wrongs are not beautiful, but the love that shapes them into the design of God's work through our lives can turn them into pictures of the healing power of God's love.

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

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

A valid ministry

My heart has been saddened as I read the controversy raging over contemporary Christian music. Some people doubt the value of CCM, but I have seen the effects that it can have in the lives of people. There are people who would never come to a church who will go to a concert and hear a Christian artist. If one person gets saved from hearing either the

BAPTIST FORUM

EDITORIALS

Let's provide 'A Second Touch' of the gospel

Kentucky needs and deserves "A Second Touch."

That's the theme for the Kentucky Baptist Convention Week of Prayer Sept. 12-19 and the 1993 Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering.

The concept comes from the healing ministry of Christ: "Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. After spitting on the man's eyes, Jesus placed his hands on him and asked him, 'Can you see anything?' The man looked up and said, 'Yes, I can see people, but they look like trees walking around.' Jesus again placed his hands on the man's eyes. This time the man looked intently, his eyesight returned, and he saw everything clearly" (Mark 8:23-25).

We don't know why Jesus' first touch didn't completely heal the blind man. Nevertheless, Jesus persisted in his ministry, touching the man's eyes again, enabling him to see clearly. As our model for ministry, Jesus demonstrated the importance—and value—of tenacity and faithfulness.

Kentucky Baptists have been touching the spiritual and physical needs of citizens of the commonwealth for more than two centuries. But even after all these years and all those touches, Kentuckians with needs still await another "touch" by Baptist Christians.

The Week of Prayer and Eliza Broadus Offering emphasize how we can work together to reach out and touch Kentucky. Spearheaded by the Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, the Week of Prayer leads us to focus on the practical, effective ministries that make an eternal difference in the lives of people throughout our state. This week in our churches, we will study and pray about ministry to inmates at Luther Lockett Correctional Complex in LaGrange, redemptive help for residents of inner-city Louisville, saving grace extended to international students and their spouses at Murray State University in Murray, the healing ministry of participants in the Baptist Nursing Fellowship, and the encouraging balm of relationship extended to ministers and their families through the Mountain Missions Conference in Oneida.

These, of course, are representative samples of the ministries Kentucky Baptists support every day through their gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering. This year's offering goal is \$700,000, and it supports a vast array of ministries. The largest allocation (\$217,500) from the offering will go to support missionaries throughout the state. Other key allocations will include support for KBC campgrounds and summer camping programs (\$96,150); interracial work (\$80,250); ministries in inner-city and rural areas (\$110,000); student ministry (\$31,600); and special ministries and projects (\$33,820).

"The \$700,000 goal for this Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering is very reachable," insisted Dee Gilliland, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. "It is attainable. It is our opportunity ... to make missions in Kentucky come alive."

She's right, too. The offering goal could be reached many times over if each Kentucky Baptist would make at least a nominal contribution. Some of us can do much better than that, but none of us can afford to do less. The stakes are too high. With pain and suffering, poverty and isolation, sadness and loneliness in abundance, Kentuckians across the commonwealth desperately need Baptists to reach out to touch them yet again. Our contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering could mean eternal difference in the lives of our neighbors.

But those contributions should be only the beginning. Let them symbolize, but not exhaust, our commitment to missions in Kentucky. Scores of ministries across the state go begging for volunteers to pull them off. The Eliza Broadus offering needs our money, but far beyond that God needs our hands, arms, legs and voices to do ministries in our own towns and countries, and all across the state. If you can't think of something to do, check with the Woman's Missionary Union, they'll come up with plenty of ideas—all worth another touch.

Marv Knox

The 1993 Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering goal is \$700,000. Kentucky Baptist ministries need every penny of it.

Parenting shouldn't be reserved for the biologically able

I read with interest the Viewpoint article on infertile couples provided by Ben Mitchell from the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission (WR, Aug. 24). I agree with Mr. Mitchell that our culture's focus on childbirth can provoke pain and sadness for many couples unable to biologically bear children.

However, I believe it needs to be clarified that parenting is not an activity reserved for those able to biologically conceive and bear children. There are many avenues in which per-

sons wishing to parent can and should participate.

The most obvious means of parenting for infertile couples and others is through adoption.

While most agencies involved in adoption have a waiting list to adopt healthy, Caucasian infants, there are thousands of special-needs children in this country desperately waiting for a loving, caring home of their own.

There is a tremendous need for families and individuals to open their

homes as foster parents.

Foster parenting allows individuals and couples to have a lasting impact on children in need of a home as a result of a family crisis. Foster parenting is a way to be involved in parenting, while at the same time ministering to hurting children and families.

Furthermore, it is imperative our community, particularly the church community, realize that all of us share a role in parenting children.

The old saying "it takes a whole village to raise a child" emphasizes that all adults are to take roles in shap-

ing our children for the future.

Being involved in raising our children may include involving oneself in the life of a child in need of a positive role model, advocating for better living conditions for children and struggling families, or encouraging businesses to create a workplace supportive of families.

My hope is that we all will see the many opportunities and avenues in which we can parent and be a part of impacting the lives of all children.

Larry W. Owens, family services director
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
Louisville

People with loving hearts have many opportunities to nurture children.

What do wavy-haired, sleek-waisted models think about birthdays?

"What do you want for your birthday, dear?" Joanna asked.

Finally. What good's a birthday if nobody asks you what you want and makes a fuss over your grand entrance into the world X-number of years ago?

If the desire to celebrate birthdays isn't genetic, it's programmed into human consciousness at an early age. All children know that a person's birthday is the most important event of the year. They rev their little engines of anticipation months ahead of time.

Along the way, however, the dynamics of birthdays change. For grownups, it's not cool to look forward to the jocular celebration of your mortal epiphany. Birthdays remind you you're getting old, and advanc-

ing age reminds you you're not going to be here forever. Consequently, you're not supposed to like having birthdays, getting old and (gulp) dying.

That's true, even for Christians. Country singer Joe Diffy croons succinctly: "Lord, I want to go to heaven, but I don't want to go tonight."

So, most adults find mirth in birthdays by shelling out grief to the poor soul who must endure yet another.

That's particularly true of the milestone birthdays that end in "0."

Just the other day, I passed a house draped in black, with a big "Over the Hill" sign in the yard. And if you researched "Great Moments in Brutality," you'd probably run across examples of the birthday cards Joanna sent her sisters when they turned 40.

Several friends reacted with absolute denial when they hit big birthdays.

One professed he didn't know what I was talking about when I called to wish him happiness. Another groused, "We don't make a big deal about birthdays."

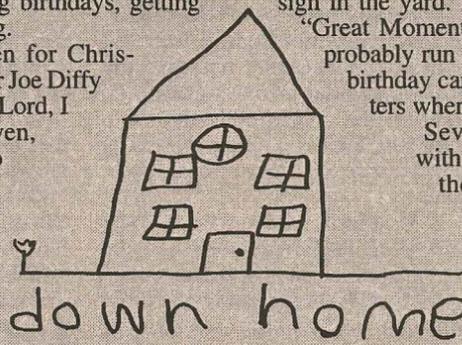
Somehow, I've been out of step with

this bleak reality of adulthood. Birthdays always seem fun. Maybe it's the kid in me. Maybe it's the chance to pig out and not feel guilty. Maybe it's the phone calls from friends and family.

But this year, when Joanna's question sent me flipping through a couple of catalogs, I began to understand a little of the adult aversion to birthdays. Studying the cotton cardigan, I realized I'd rather have the model's full head of hair than his sweater. And examining the khakis, I knew I'd like to order the guy's muscular physique, not his pants.

Funny, I'd never thought this way before. Maybe this birthday business should slow down.

Marv Knox



BRIEFS

■ A pastor whose request for an automobile license plate with a religious message was turned down is suing the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dan Pruitt Jr., pastor of Bristol Pentecostal Holiness Church in Bristol, Va., says the state's policy of rejecting vanity plates that mention a deity unconstitutionally infringes on his constitutional right to free speech. Pruitt had requested that his license plate read "GODZGUD." The Virginia policy prohibits plates with any reference to "drug culture, lewd and obscene words, deities or combinations which otherwise might be considered offensive."

■ A "lite" Bible will be published by Simon & Schuster in November. The book is "designed to be read as living literature," its publicists claim. It will feature the Old and New testaments trimmed down to provide easy, fast-moving reading. There will be no genealogies, and the book of Leviticus has been trimmed down to two-and-a-half pages.

Federal arts funding under fire again

WASHINGTON—Conservative Christian political activists once again are taking on the National Endowment for the Arts, this time over funding for gay film festivals.

The NEA recently announced it would reverse a 1992 decision denying a \$17,500 grant to support homosexual film festivals in Los Angeles, New York and Pittsburgh. Past Pittsburgh festivals included films on a "transvestite orgy," safe sex for lesbians and lesbianism among teen-agers, according to reports in *The Washington Times*.

This decision is "outrageous and unacceptable," said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Public monies should not be used to promote a lifestyle that violates the moral convictions of the vast majority of the population and is perceived

as deviant by multitudes of people," he said. "It is outrageous and unacceptable that the public's tax money would be used to subsidize the distribution and display of such filth."

"The American public should not be required to finance sexually perverse, morally objectionable material in the name of art," said Patrick Trueman of the American Family Association's Washington lobbying office.

The NEA has been under fire from conservatives for several years because it has given grants to controversial artists whose work has been labeled blasphemous or obscene.

Opponents were successful in forcing the ouster of John Frohnmayer, President Bush's chairman of the arts endowment, after less than three years on the job.

Bush named Anne-Imelda Radice as acting chairman after Frohnmayer's resignation in February 1992.

President Bill Clinton has nominated Andrew Young as the new chairman. A Senate hearing on her nomination is scheduled Sept. 21.

"Once again, the issue is not censorship but subsidy and sponsorship," Land said of his concern with the agency. "The government has a responsibility for the oversight of the expenditure of public funds."

"One can only imagine the hue and cry that would ensue if public money were used to promote or sponsor films advocating white supremacy or the KKK. While the public understands the First Amendment rights of homosexuals and racists to express their views, they also understand the public's right to refuse to subsidize such expression," he said.

Compiled from Baptist Press and Religious News Service reports

Christian Coalition hisses at Democrat

WASHINGTON—A speaker who told the annual meeting of the Christian Coalition that God is not the "province of one political party" was hissed and booed, according to the Associated Press.

David Willhelm, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, addressed the group of conservative Christians interested in impacting politics during their annual meeting in Washington Sept. 10.

According to AP reports, Willhelm rebuked the group for ads he said cast President Clinton's supporters as un-Christian and for using faith as a weapon to divide.

"God and faith are not and cannot be the province of one political party or movement," he said. "God is an independent. And no single entity can

claim to speak for all persons who believe in Christ and consider themselves Christians."

Willhelm's comments on this and other topics were met with hisses and boos, the AP reports said.

Two days later, however, the group stood and applauded commentator Pat Buchanan, who told the organization they should never "raise a white flag in the cultural war."

Buchanan, an unsuccessful Republican candidate for president in 1992, received "rousing applause" with an attack on "multiculturalism," the AP reported.

Buchanan scoffed at those who say the world's many cultures are equal. "Our culture is superior," he said. "Our culture is superior because our religion is Christianity, and that is

the truth that makes men free."

Another speaker, televangelist Pat Robertson, told the Christian Coalition "has no interest in imposing our religious faith on someone through government methods."

However, later in the same speech Robertson said the group's goal is a government that "in its policies acknowledges its dependence on Almighty God."

The Christian Coalition is the successor to Robertson's political organization and is widely gaining acceptance as one of the most powerful advocates for conservative Christian politics and "family values."

The organization's 32-year-old executive director, Ralph Reed, is profiled in the Sept. 13 issue of *Time* magazine.

Senate confirms Elders as surgeon general

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Senate confirmed Joycelyn Elders as U.S. surgeon general Sept. 7, despite protests from conservative Christians groups about her stance on birth control and abortion.

The Senate approved 65-34 the controversial nominee who is the former head of the Arkansas Department of Health under then-Gov. Bill Clinton. Thirteen of the Senate's 44 Republicans voted for Elders, while only four Democrats voted against the

nominee. Elders, who was sworn in Sept. 8 during a private ceremony, is a pediatric endocrinologist and former pediatric professor at the University of Arkansas School of Medicine.

Despite near unanimity support from the medical community, Elders' nomination was challenged by Religious Right groups who say her views on sex education promote promiscuity.

Known for her outspokenness, El-

ders' positions on abortion, teen-age pregnancy and school-based sex education and condom distribution have drawn fire from several quarters.

Her supporters counter that she grapples with the growing crises of teenage pregnancy and other health-care issues in a realistic manner.

During her confirmation hearings, Elders said she wants to change the way Americans think about health and to be "the voice and the vision for the poor and the powerless."

Jury awards \$5.2 million in faith healing case

MINNEAPOLIS (RNS)—A jury in Minneapolis has returned a \$5.2 million verdict against a mother—who relied on spiritual healing while her 11-year-old son was dying from diabetes—and against six other defendants, including the Christian Science Church.

The seven were accused of negligence in the boy's death.

The verdict was said to represent the first time that civil damages have been assessed against the church in connection with its teaching that physical illness and injury can be treated through prayer without medical treatment.

The jury of six women in Hennepin County District Court deliberated about six hours before returning the verdict for damages to Douglas Lundman for the loss of companionship of his son, Ian, who died at his home in Independence, Minn., on May 9, 1989.

In its verdict following a four-week trial, the jury determined the degree to which each of the seven defendants is liable for damages. Kathy McKown, Ian's mother, was assessed the largest amount: 25 percent of the damages or \$1.3 million.

The other defendants and the amounts assessed to each, are:

■ William McKown, Ian's step-father, 10 percent.

■ The Boston-based First Church of Christ, Scientist, 10 percent.

■ Mariano Victor Tosto, a Christian Science practitioner, enlisted to pray for Ian, 10 percent.

■ Quinna Lamb Giebelhaus, a Christian Science nurse who was at Ian's bedside when he died, 5 percent.

■ Clifton House, whose staff had given some advice to Kathleen McKown and referred Giebelhaus to her, 20 percent.

■ James Van Horn, who is on the Christian Science Committee on Publication in Minnesota, 20 percent.

ACTS/VISN to feature Habitat work

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The VISN/ACTS cable network will highlight Habitat for Humanity, which has completed its 20,000th home worldwide, in "Habitat Housewarming '93" to be aired Oct. 3, at 4 p.m. Eastern time.

The one-hour program will feature appearances by Habitat supporters Paul Newman, Bill Cosby and Willie Nelson and will be hosted by CNN's Judy Woodruff.

The program will include an interview with Habitat's most famous volunteer, former President Jimmy Carter; Habitat homeowners and volunteers sharing how Habitat for Humanity has changed their lives; news from projects in developing countries; and an update on Habitat's rebuilding efforts in the wake of Hurricane Andrew.

Habitat for Humanity International is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing organization working in partnership with people in need throughout the world to build simple, decent homes that are sold to them at no profit through no-interest loans.

In many communities, people will gather in the homes of Habitat volunteers to view "Habitat Housewarming '93" and discuss ideas for generating support for Habitat's work in their area.

Seventeen years ago, founder and President Millard Fuller began work on his vision for eliminating poverty housing from the world.

In less than two decades that vision has grown into a global housing ministry now building in more than 1,000 communities in 40 countries. In the United States last year, Habitat was ranked as the 22nd-largest home builder by *Builder* magazine.

"Habitat works because it gives people an opportunity to put their faith into practice," Fuller said. "It enables people from all walks of life to work together and make a difference. Habitat is a win-win proposition for the homeowners, volunteers and supporters."

Through volunteer labor, management expertise and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates homes with the help of the potential homeowners, who are required to perform a minimum of 500 hours of "sweat equity" in Habitat projects. Houses are sold at no profit to partner families and no-interest mortgages are issued over a fixed period.

The ACTS portion of the VISN/ACTS cable channel is operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Kentucky teens found new outlook at world summit

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Wealth and poverty are relative terms, but God's love is limitless, a group of Louisville Baptists learned during an international youth conference this summer.

Twelve teen-agers and five adults from Crescent Hill Baptist Church traded in their pool memberships, gave up football practices and donated 100 hours of work to help raise money to attend the 12th Baptist World Alliance Youth Conference Aug. 11-15 in Zimbabwe, Africa.

But their hard work didn't seem like so great a sacrifice after they saw first-hand what it is like to be a Baptist in a third-world country, said youth minister Lesa Chandler.

The youth conference, held every five years, brings young Baptists together from all over the world for worship, fellowship and open discussion.

Nearly 27,000 attended the conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, Chandler said, explaining that "youth" is defined in this international context to include people ages 15 to 35.

Also attending the conference were two Kentucky Baptist student mission teams serving in Botswana and South Africa and two Kentucky Baptist campus ministers: Pat Brunner of Berea College and Wyndee Holbrook of Cumberland College. The Son Life team, which served in Botswana, performed during the conference.

Evening worship, while held mostly in English, retained much of

the flavor of African worship, Chandler explained. Internationally-known leaders such as American author Tony Campolo addressed the group.

"Our kids were fascinated with African worship"—particularly the dances, Chandler said.

"People would just yell out and dance in the aisles," 17-year-old Ian Hooper said. "It was almost like a big party."

Tina Bellou, 13, performed in an international mass choir that sang during each evening's service. She said she enjoyed the opportunity to meet people of different nationalities during rehearsals.

Mornings at the conference were spent in small-group Bible studies and fellowship groups. During the afternoons, the youths could attend seminars focusing on a variety of topics.

For example, Laura Adams, 15, attended a peacemaking seminar, and Sean Bailey, also 15, helped build pews and podiums to be used in Zimbabwe churches.

Helping make the Zimbabwe trip possible for high-school students at Crescent Hill Baptist is part of the church's heritage, Chandler explained.

The church helped send a group of 25 to Scotland for the 1988 conference. Among those, one now is preparing to serve as a missionary in Uzbekistan.

This year's travelers also describe their experience as a life-impacting event.

Not only will the group think differently about money and wealth, Chandler said, they are more aware of

the world around them.

"They will be much more open to seeing a bigger God ... a God who is not just for middle-class whites," she explained. "The trip opened their eyes to a broader Baptist family than what they were acquainted with."

"You kind of realize that life doesn't end outside the U.S.," Bellou said. "There are a lot of people out there in other countries that are like us. We met Baptists even from Saudi Arabia and Russia."

Bellou said she has a better per-

spective on world situations than before her trip to Zimbabwe: "I know more than just a stereotype now."

"Of course, I'll never forget the trip," Bailey added. "You had to be more responsible and resourceful and learn how to work out problems." He also said he has become a stronger Christian as a result of the trip.

Adams said the conference also had sparked an interest in mission work for her: "I'd like to go back to Africa, and maybe teach English or something."



THE WORLD'S A STAGE
Kentucky's Son Life ministry team sings at the Baptist Youth World Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe. They are Phillip Brunner, University of Louisville; Rebecca Castle, Morehead State University; Leslie Mitchell, Campbellsville College; and Phillip Kays, Morehead State University.

WORLD VIEW

Before the Baptist Youth World Conference met last month, the Baptist World Alliance general council also gathered in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Here are summaries of the general council's meeting:

■ Pledge to fight racism. Baptist leaders from around the world pledged to fight racism when the Baptist World Alliance's general council met.

"Racism is rooted in the sinfulness of humankind," Baptist leaders declared in approving the "Harare Declaration."

The declaration is the work of the Special Commission of Baptists Against Racism formed by the BWA a year ago in response to the race-related riots in Los Angeles and alarming race-related conflicts in almost every country of the world.

The declaration calls on Baptists to present a "prophetic witness that exposes and challenges the sin of racism" and to "work to bring people together as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, whatever their ethnic identity."

■ Hunger discussed. A special two-hour session on the causes and effects of poverty offered many facts and figures. But the most poignant example of poverty came when a Baptist minister from war-torn An-

gola told how he and other pastors often preach while hungry.

"Many times I am hungry and have no strength in the pulpit because I have nothing to eat," the minister said, pleading, "Do something for us."

Baptist leaders promised to challenge their churches and political leaders to fight poverty and to embrace the United Nations challenge for every country to give 1 percent of its gross national product to fight poverty in the developing world.

■ \$2 million aid fund approved. A funding goal of more than \$2 million for world aid was approved by leaders of the Baptist World Alliance, but there was no celebration over the amount.

"What we are giving to world aid is sad," said Ollywn C. Abbott, executive officer of the Baptist Union of Australia. "We need to go home and reach deep in our pocketbooks."

"There needs to be a continual growth in available funds if we are to attain the goal of funding all approved projects," said Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid, noting the funding goal of less than \$2 million for 1992-93 had not been met.

Of the \$2 million for the coming year, approximately \$700,000 is for disaster relief, with slightly less than

half designated for hunger relief.

About \$890,000 is designated for development projects, with the reconstruction of war-ravaged Liberia heading the list of countries to receive help.

Bibles, churches and seminary buildings are part of the fellowship assistance program of BWAid of almost \$600,000, with the Baptist seminary in Moscow slated to receive \$100,000.

■ Resolutions address AIDS, Bosnia & abortion. Nine resolutions addressing moral issues and Baptist life were approved by the Baptist World Alliance's general council.

A resolution on AIDS gives strong affirmation to "a Christian lifestyle and sexual values including the biblical concept of chastity outside marriage and fidelity within marriage as a significant means of limiting the spread of AIDS."

The resolution calls on Baptists around the world to cooperate with efforts to limit the spread of AIDS; work with others to secure funds for research for a cure; obey the call of Jesus Christ to give compassionate ministry to AIDS victims; and be models of "accepting communities where full dignity" is given to AIDS victims.

A resolution on Bosnia condemns ethnic cleansing and ap-

plauds "the humanitarian efforts so far."

The resolution "regrets profoundly" the failure of the United Nations and European nations to "intervene effectively." It expresses alarm at the interpretation of this conflict "in inter-faith terms with the assumption that Western nations are indifferent to the plight of the Moslems."

A resolution on "The Sanctity of Human Life" asks Baptists "to honor the principle of the individual's freedom of conscience to interpret Scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and respect one another's integrity where differences exist as together we seek to affirm the sanctity of human life."

The resolution says "human life is sacred because all life is the gift of God" and every person is created in the image of God.

"Widespread resort to abortion, capital punishment, national and international conflict" are among "violations of that sacredness" listed in the resolution.

Other resolutions express appreciation for the life and ministry of Martin Luther King Jr., note the importance of William Carey's missionary journey to India 200 years ago, address poverty and thank Zimbabwean Baptists for their hospitality.



Fire safety tips for churches

Here's a summary of some commonly-suggested fire safety tips for churches:

- Evaluate your church building's current status and determine how to correct deficiencies. A representative of the church's insurance company or of the local fire department could be enlisted to help.
- Invest in a sprinkler system or fire-detection system. One of the reasons church fires often destroy entire buildings is that the fires are not detected until flames start leaping out windows. Since church buildings sometimes are vacant for days at a time, fire detection can be a major problem.
- Make a monthly check of the building, looking for any obstructed exits, accumulations of debris or other fire hazards. Also ensure that fire-detection devices are functioning properly.
- Keep flammable materials away from heat sources such as furnaces and stoves.
- Make certain the church is using properly the fire-prevention devices it has. For example, if a fire door has been installed between two areas of the building, that door must remain closed or be equipped with an automatic closing device connected to the fire alarm.
- Use only fire-resistant paper decorations.
- Do not cover more than 20 percent of any wall with children's artwork or teaching materials.

■ Avoid the use of open flames such as candles unless absolutely necessary. Fire prevention officials say candles remain the No. 1 problem area in their conversations with church leaders. Candlelight services where every person in the congregation is given a small candle to hold are a recipe for disaster, they point out. A better alternative is to give candles only to a few responsible adults within the congregation or to use battery-operated flashlights that simulate candles.

■ Do not place a live Christmas tree in the church building. In fact, the use of live trees in church buildings is prohibited by the Kentucky Fire Prevention Code.

■ Check the church organ frequently to make sure it is turned off when not in use. If left on, the overheated motor easily can start a fire.

■ Prohibit smoking inside church buildings.

■ Make sure the church has adequate insurance. A corollary to this is to make insurance-selection a business decision rather than a means of doing a favor for a church member who sells insurance.

■ Keep an up-to-date inventory to prove value in case of loss. One way to do this is through videotaping the church premises and showing every item along with a descriptive narration.

■ Have a plan for evacuating the building in case of fire and post copies of that plan throughout the building.

Based on information provided by Pat Moreland of Church Mutual Insurance Co., Richard Bridges of First Baptist Church in Bowling Green, and Robert Herman of the Middletown Fire Protection District.

A new place for new beginnings

The word "genesis" is Greek for "beginnings." The book of Genesis in the Bible tells of the beginning of God's revelation to mankind and of the creation of life.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is now using this special word as the name of its new program in Western Kentucky. We thought the name, Genesis Home, would be especially appropriate because this home offers new beginnings to girls whose lives have been torn apart.

The first girls began arriving at the facility on Old Dublin road five miles west of Mayfield this past week. They and those who will follow come with memories most would like to forget. They come from backgrounds of severe physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse or neglect. They often have an attitude of defeat and hopelessness. They need a place where they can start all over; a place where intensive help is available to meet their special needs.

Under the leadership of Carol Davis, director of the home, a well-qualified staff and group of consultants has been put in place to bring special skills to the work. Over the last month, they have undergone

extensive training together. The facility, a former nursing home, has been remodeled and freshly appointed for the girls. It's in a quiet rural setting where young lives will have an opportunity to experience the beauty of God's world and the unchanging love of Jesus Christ.

A major focus of the program will be to work with the family members of the girls. One worker will work directly with the families. We also have a small living area so families can visit overnight. We hope to help the entire family.

This is our second residential treatment facility and the first to be placed so far away from our home base in Middletown. It has been a challenge to bring all of the pieces together, but we believe it will be an excellent program for these girls who need intensive care to find hope and healing.

Pray for this new program, the staff who will provide Christ's love and care, and for the girls themselves. Pray that miracles will take place as they seek new beginnings.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

Know dangers of church fires

Continued from page 1

land, vice president with Church Mutual Insurance Co., the nation's largest insurer of church buildings.

Most often, arsonists strike churches as a means of vandalism or to cover up evidence of some other crime, Moreland said.

Faulty wiring is the second most-common cause of church fires, he said. "Many church buildings are old, and in some instances a church building may predate the use of electricity. Consequently, the wiring in some older churches may not be adequate to handle the electrical demands of air conditioning, public address systems, organs and other appliances and equipment found in churches today."

Other common causes of fires in churches include lightning strikes, faulty furnaces and stoves, overheated organ motors, carelessness with smoking materials and careless use of candles or Christmas decorations, he said.

The loss of a church building to fire is a tragedy, said Carvon Hudson, assistant state fire marshal.

"Some of our most historic buildings in the commonwealth are churches. We've lost some that it would make you cry to stand and watch them burn," he explained.

As a rule, the state fire marshal enjoys good cooperation with Kentucky churches, Hudson said.

But the age of many of the buildings and the perceived expense of making changes often work against fire prevention.

For example, probably less than 10 percent of Kentucky church buildings are equipped with fire sprinkler systems, Hudson said. And not nearly enough have fire detection systems, he added.

"If I had to recommend anything to the pastor and the congregation, it would be to protect your assets by installing an early warning system or sprinkling," Hudson said.

"Don't let money determine the degree of safety you're willing to give your church," Bridges added. "Congregations ought to demand of their deacons, their staff, that they want their building safe."

Fire prevention is a matter of good stewardship, Bridges declared. Congregations must protect what God has given them and Christians have sacrificed to build, he said.

The state fire marshal's office in Frankfort, or the fire prevention unit in each city or county, can help churches evaluate their fire-safety status.



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CLERGY ARE WELCOME TOO!

PEOPLE

Volunteers offer love & hope in West Point trailer park

By Dawn Richerson
State Correspondent

WEST POINT—One by one, the children emerged from their trailer homes and ran through the downpour to a large tent at the edge of the Bel Air Trailer Park.

It was four in the afternoon, but one little girl had donned her pink pajamas for the occasion—pajamas she

had claimed at a "Free Fair" sponsored earlier in the week by Immanuel Baptist Church of Frankfort.

In conjunction with West Point Baptist Church, members of Immanuel Baptist Church spent four days ministering in the trailer park this summer. West Point is located about 5 miles north of Fort Knox in North Central Kentucky.

Used clothing and new winter jackets donated by Frankfort's Coats for Kids program helped meet basic needs of the residents, while puppet shows, sing-alongs and crafts focused on the spiritual needs of the children.

By the end of the week, the children happily drowned out the sound of the pouring rain by singing "Yes, Jesus loves me" to a Jamaican beat. They learned the 10 Commandments in lively discussions with the mission team.

Youth from the Frankfort church spent the nights in West Point Church's parsonage, just across the street from the trailer park. During the week, other Frankfort volunteers came for a day or two to help with the

outreach.

Jack and Wilma Simmons, a couple who have a burden for the families living in the park, also were part of the effort. They have converted one of the trailers in the park into a chapel now used by mission groups.

Some of the trailers where the children live have only torn screens where windows should be. Some of the homes are surrounded by piles of garbage and debris.

As the group took down its large tent on the last day, one barefoot boy stood in the rain and watched. He had arrived too late for the afternoon celebration but not too late to receive a new pencil for the start of the school year.

With sadness in his eyes, he

looked up and whispered a sincere "Thanks." Then turning toward home, he paused to add, "I've never had a brand-new pencil like this before."

Into this setting of despair and hopelessness, the Baptist volunteers brought a message of hope and love through Jesus Christ.

But the volunteers said they learned from the children to be grateful for the blessings they have, to see beyond the clothes a person may wear and find a common love for all people, to share from the abundance God has given them.

This was not the first time volunteers from Immanuel Baptist Church have worked in the trailer park, nor will it be the last, church leaders said.

Harper fund set at Clear Creek

PINEVILLE—Family and friends of Ennis L. Harper recently established a scholarship fund in his memory at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

Harper and his wife, June, graduated from Clear Creek in 1971. Before his death in 1992, he was pastor of Craft Colly Baptist Church in Ermine; Arjay Baptist Church in Arjay; First Baptist Church of Garden City,

Jacksonville, Fla.; Riverside Baptist Church in Fourmile; Providence Baptist Church in Lake Butler, Fla.; and Bostwick Baptist Church in Bostwick, Fla.

Interest earned on money invested in the scholarship fund will be awarded annually to a graduating senior who meets the criteria. Clear Creek is receiving contributions to build the principal of the scholarship fund.

COM rally changed

The fall rally of Kentucky's new Campers on Mission chapter has been changed from Oneida Baptist Institute to Diamond Lakes Resort near Owensboro.

Due to unexpected changes, Oneida will not be able to accommodate the recreational vehicles as planned, reported Gil Chard, Kentucky Campers on Mission president.

Plans are being made for mission projects to be done at the new meeting site during the Oct. 15-17 rally.

For additional information contact Chard at (606) 223-2591.

Correction

An article on Kentucky Baptists' new disaster-relief unit designed specifically to help children (WR, Aug. 17) did not mention the individuals and groups responsible for getting the unit ready to roll.

Glen Whaley and Ed Dissell, members of Kento-Boo Baptist Church in Florence, began the work on the new trailer. It was completed by men from Bellview Baptist Church in Boone County.

Northern Kentucky Baptist Association's Woman's Missionary Union coordinated stocking the trailer, with the work done by members of WMU groups in Northern Kentucky. They were assisted by other WMU groups from around the state.

The child care trailer and other equipment will be dedicated during the Kentucky Brotherhood Convention Oct. 8-9 in Hopkinsville.

Flood victims say thanks

PAYSON, Ill.—Kentucky Baptist volunteers who went to the rescue of flood victims along the Mississippi River this summer have earned an official thank-you from Bay Creek Baptist Association in Payson, Ill.

During the association's annual meeting, messengers passed a resolution of appreciation for the Kentucky volunteers. The resolution notes Bay Creek Baptists "have been encouraged by the radiant Christian attitudes and actions of the leaders and team members of the relief unit."

"Words sometimes seem so inadequate to express our gratitude," said Henry Hall, associational director of missions in a letter announcing the resolution. "We are deeply moved by your compassionate spirit of service."



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WANTED: Hyattsville Baptist Church in Lancaster, Ky., is searching for a part-time minister of youth. Qualified persons should contact the church at (606) 792-4851.

HOLYLAND PILGRIMAGE: 10 days, Jan. 18-27, 1994, \$1,495 from Nashville or St. Louis; \$1,559 from Louisville. Meet our missionaries, see our Baptist work and all the holy sites. Call Pastor Jack R. Studie for a color brochure (502) 247-8331.

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PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

The number of Kentuckians receiving food stamps increased by nearly 9,000 people from fiscal years 1992 to 1993, according to the Cabinet for Human Resources. In 1993, a total of 532,115 individuals in 199,884 families received the assistance.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **ASHLAND**—Cannonsburg First Church ordained **Barry Donta** and **Clyde Franklin** as deacons Sept. 5.
 ■ **BEDFORD**—Poplar Ridge Church celebrated its 135th anniversary Sept. 12.
 ■ **BURKESVILLE**—Burkesville Church celebrates its 100th anniversary Sept. 25-26, with special services both days. Former pastor **Harold Barnes** will speak Sunday, and a reception is scheduled at 2 p.m.
 ■ **CRESTWOOD**—**Tom Kinman** resigned as pastor of Crestwood Church to become pastor at Crabapple First Church in Alpharetta, Ga.
 ■ **HARLAN**—Harlan Church called **Roy McNeil** as minister of youth.
 ■ **KENTON**—Kenton Church will celebrate its homecoming Oct. 3-6., which includes a fall revival with evangelist **Arnold Rider**.
 ■ **LEXINGTON**—**Kim Glass** resigned as minister to children at Calvary Church. **Carrie Beth Tonks** is interim minister to children.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Lynn Acres Church will celebrate September Super Sundays with special speakers each service. Also a revival is scheduled Oct. 1-3, with **Larry Martin** of Atlanta as evangelist.
 Ormsby Heights Church will host a "Making Peace with Your Past" conference Oct. 14-16 at the Holiday Inn South in Fern Valley. Guest speaker will be **Tim Sledge**, author of a book

by the same title. The book and the seminar will focus on ministry to adult children of dysfunctional families. Cost for the seminar is \$30, not including lodging. The Friday evening session will feature a concert by contemporary Christian singer **Kathy Troccoli**. The concert is free and open to the public. For information, call the church at (502) 447-6867.
 ■ **MILTON**—Corn Creek Church celebrated its 193rd anniversary.
 ■ **MORNING VIEW**—Wilmington Church celebrated its 189th homecoming Sept. 11.
 ■ **ONEIDA**—**Steve Crumpler**, who recently resigned as pastor of Cropper Church, can be contacted for itinerant ministry at Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Ky. 40972. (606) 847-4718.
 ■ **RAVENNA**—Williams Memorial Church called **Tom Cummings** as pastor.
 ■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—First Church ordained **Richard Edmonds** to the ministry. He is pastor at Little Mount Church in Taylorsville.
 ■ **VERO BEACH, Fla.**—Kentucky native **Clella "Ciel" Rodgers**, 79, of Vero Beach, Fla., died Aug. 23. He was born in Shelbyville and attended Eastern Kentucky University, Georgetown College and Southern Seminary. He was pastor of several churches throughout Kentucky, and served on the KBC Executive Board.

■ **WALTON**—**Kenneth Cole** retired as pastor of First Church. He has served a total of 38 years as pastor of six churches in Kentucky. He also served on the board of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and the KBC Executive Board. Cole



Cole

is available for pastor supply or as interim. Call (606) 485-6144.
 ■ **WATER VALLEY**—Water Valley Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary along with Graves County Association's 100th anniversary, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, with revival and special events.
 ■ **WHITESBURG**—North Fork Church held its charter service Sept. 12. Interim pastor is **Keith Joseph**.

4 appointed US-2 missionaries

ATLANTA—Four women with Kentucky ties have been appointed to serve as US-2 missionaries through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.
 A US-2 missionary is a recent college graduate who works in home missions for a two-year special assignment.
 Beth Ann Mauney, a native of Williamsburg, will serve in Atlanta as a special ministries missionary with an emphasis on Olympic ministries. She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond.
 Elizabeth Baird, a Berea native, will serve as a resort worker in Or-

lando, Fla. A graduate of the University of Louisville, she previously served as a summer missionary in Kentucky and Colorado.
 Andrea Ramage of Lexington will work with the Mississippi River Ministry project based in Little Rock, Ark. A native of Highland Heights, she previously served as a summer missionary in Brazil.
 Amy Smith of Salem, Mo., will serve in Louisville as a student worker missionary. A graduate of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, she previously taught math in a public school.



Mauney



Baird



Ramage



Smith

Kneeling in the mud

We are so proud of our girls cross country team. They are off and running in another autumn season. Last year they won the regional class A championship and four of our top seven runners were not even in high school.

With four schools running at Buckhorn, our girls varsity made a perfect score of 15, five of our girls being the first to cross the finish line. The score is determined by simply adding up the numbers representing where each one placed in the race. The lowest score wins. 1-2-3-4-5 adds up to 15, a perfect score.

Senior Jackie Valldejuli, a straight A student taking our hardest courses, came in first. Also, she is one of our most beautiful girls, in character as well as physically.

Second was eighth grader Bre Sharp of Lexington, an honor roll student, as is third place Amanda Lowdenback, a freshman from Jackson. Juniors Melissa Pruitt and Jennifer Beller, from Bowling Green and Corbin, were fourth and fifth.

On the same day, our girls middle school team came in second of four schools, as did our boys varsity team. Both our junior varsity and our middle school boys came in first of the four schools running.

In the Clay County Days race in which anyone of any age could run the 3.1 mile course, Jackie came in first again in the women's division. A sophomore boy, Marcellus Travers, came in first in the men's division, and another young upperclassman, Brian Parks, was second.

Ten schools competed in the Berea Invitational, most of them much larger than OBI. Our boys varsity took second place while both our junior varsity and middle school boys were first in their respective races. Our girls varsity and junior var-

sity both came in fourth.

Our new coach and biology teacher Tommy Collins is in his fifth year of coaching. His first four years he coached his home school, Buckhorn, where he was an outstanding runner, qualifying for the state tournament all four high school years. The 13th of 14 children in his mountain family, he was the only one to go on to college. An outstanding teacher and coach, this fine Christian felt God's call to serve at Oneida and took a pay cut in the thousands to do so.

Our varsity soccer team is off to their best start in 19 seasons. In five of our first seven games, our opponents did not score.

Goalie Yohonsa Parker, a junior and a licensed Baptist minister, has dazzled all with his play and sportsmanship. Many parents and players of opposing teams have complimented him and our coach. Our record is six wins and one tie.

With no losses as yet, nine of our boys have scored a total of 25 goals to five points for the opponents. Six of our boys have played for Coach Harold Underwood for three of his five years as head coach.

Coach Billy Decker, in his first year as a soccer coach, has a record of four and one with our junior varsity team.

Another striking fact about this team is that many are outstanding Christian young men. Four or five read their Bibles on their way to soccer games. Our game against Pulaski was in a rain-storm, yet our boys did not fail to kneel in the mud to thank God at the end of the game.

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Pastor's wife finding new identity

"When my husband died, I felt my whole identity was lost. I loved being a pastor's wife," June Harper reflected during a recent campus visit. Eighteen months have elapsed since Ennis Harper collapsed with a fatal heart attack in their north Florida home, where she thought they would live until retirement. "We had a wonderful growing church with so much potential and promise. He was there only 14 months but baptized 52 people during that time."

During the weeks after the funeral she stayed busy in Bostwick Baptist Church teaching a new members class and fulfilling commitments as if nothing had happened. "As I look back, I must have gone through it like a zombie." She visited for a while with a sister and then decided to ask her mother to share a home with her. A job search brought an offer to work in the Jacksonville City Mission.

June Harper is now family services coordinator in a stress-filled environment of inner-city missions. She has taken weapons off some of the women, and her car was stolen. The interdenominational work receives support and volunteers from 1,200 churches. Her responsibilities include family interviews and

supervision of a residential unit for those who secure training for a new life off the streets. "It was worth it all when one woman came back to thank me. I have many opportunities to witness for Jesus."

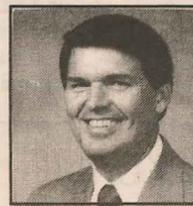
Ennis and June came to Clear Creek in 1968. She earned 72 hours of credit then and now ponders a return to complete a degree. She would join her son Doyle, now in his second year. "I just want to do the Lord's will. I still wonder 'why?' but I also thank God for ways he has used Ennis' death. His brother was saved after the funeral."

Friends and family soon will complete the funding of the Ennis Harper Exemplary Christian Life Preaching Award. A \$5,000 endowment has been subscribed to provide an annual student scholarship. Harper's last Kentucky pastorate was Riverside, Pineville. Many remember his spirited preaching laced with memorized Scriptures.

At Clear Creek, a pastor's wife discovers personal interests and develops skills supportive of her husband. It may also be the preparation for an individual ministry.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Paid Column

Missionaries in France pass the faith with football

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

PARIS (BP)—The center snaps the ball, lines of beefy players crunch, the quarterback fades back to pass ...

Wait a minute! American football in France? What's going on here?

And what are Southern Baptist missionaries doing coaching both sides?

It all began when missionaries David Murray and Rod Boatwright—both football fans—looked for new ways to share the gospel.

About 70 teams play in the amateur French Federation of American Football. Most players are unpaid amateurs, but the league attracts a few Americans who receive small stipends and living expenses to play.

Murray, of Zachary, La., arrived in France in 1987. Based in Tours, he coordinates services for other Southern Baptist missionaries coming there to study the French language.

Murray heard rumors American football was played in the area. He had to ask at a sporting goods store where games were played, since they weren't highly publicized. That's because "football" in Europe, and most everywhere else, means teams of men in shorts kicking a round soccer ball.

American football has the same following in France that soccer has in the United States—some interest, but far short of Super Bowl-level enthusiasm. But just as soccer has gained wider acceptance in the States in recent years, American-style football has grown in Europe.

And while European intellectuals may pooh-pooh anything American, almost anything from the United States gets a second look from young people.

When Murray found the local team, the players asked him to coach. Before injuries sidelined him, he played tackle for two years while a student at Mississippi College. Football fever ran in his family; he was chaplain for high schools in Franklinton and Zachary, La., during the 1970s, and his brother played for Louisiana State University.

"I always had a secret desire to coach, but I would tell my wife, Barbara, and she would chuckle, so I never followed up on it," he said.

But his coaching success in France gives him the last chuckle. Murray brought an American's enthusiasm and an inborn sense of the game.

In 1988, his first year coaching in France, his team was on probation as a new entrant to the league. But in 1989 the team won the national championship in the third division. The next season it played in the more demanding second division and won enough games to make it one of the top four teams.

The team missed being No. 1 in 1991 only by losing the final game. Last season it won the conference title but was knocked out early in the play-offs.

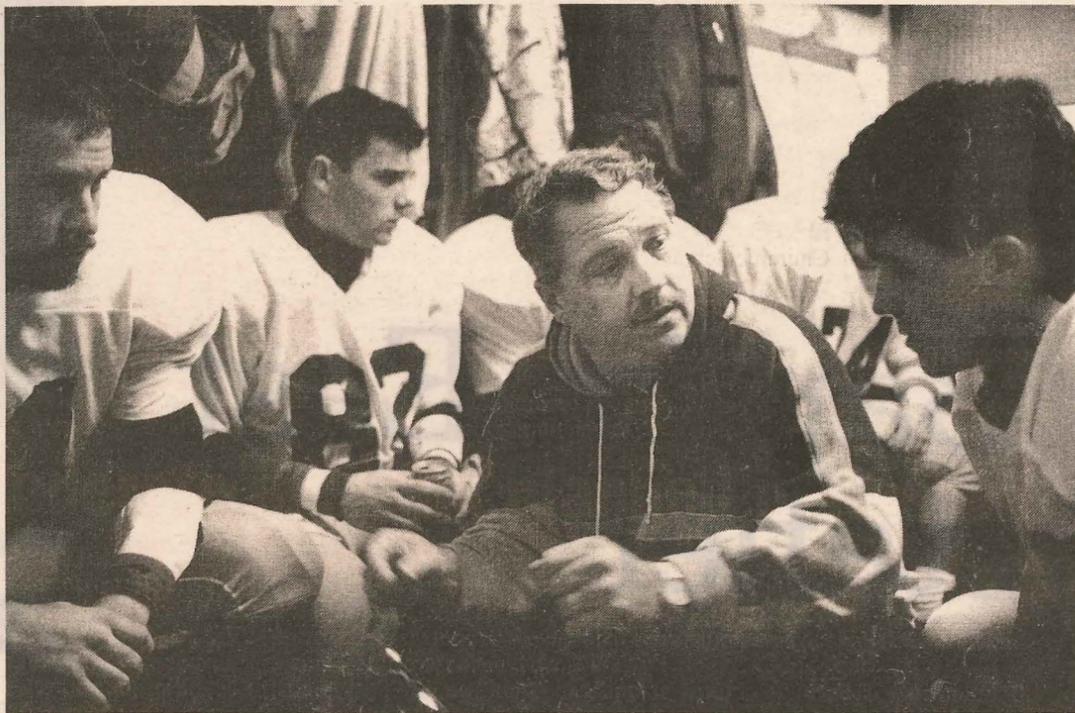
Rod Boatwright's Paris team also reached the top of its conference last season. Like Murray, Boatwright didn't exactly make football a career. He played in high school in his hometown, the Atlanta suburb of Chamblee, Ga., but lacked the size for college ball.

After Boatwright arrived in France to study French, he was asked to referee a football game for a local team. When the team members saw an American well-informed on football, they asked him to help coach.

Both missionaries give New Testaments and Scripture portions to players and talk openly about their faith in Jesus Christ. Murray's home church, First Baptist Church in Zachary, sent New Testaments for him to distribute.

On long bus trips across France, both missionaries counsel players about many topics other than football—relationship problems, family problems, spiritual needs. Murray has helped conduct several funerals of players' family members, an indication of his acceptance as a spiritual leader.

"If I can't lead them to the Lord, I can at least teach them some lessons to help them live better lives," Boatwright said. "I can help them learn to control their tempers in difficult situations



and to think under pressure. Another goal both of us have is to give Protestants in general and Baptists in particular a good image."

Most French people are not familiar with Baptists and assume they're some oddball sect, not a mainline evangelical group.

Boatwright will complete an apprenticeship at a Paris-area church this summer and will move to Nancy, France, to work with a growing Baptist church. He already has talked with the local American football team about helping out.

Football has helped Murray win acceptance in the community. Since he and his family were on furlough in the United States early in 1993, he missed much of last season. But when he returned to France in March the local newspaper did a story about his return.

In France, coverage of an evangelical Christian in secular newspapers is rare. The players in Tours think highly of Murray, the article observed.

David Mayere, 24, is one Frenchman who found Christ through foot-

ball. As secretary and assistant for Boatwright's team, he and the missionary became friends. Mayere, a student at the prestigious Paris school, the Sorbonne, was writing a thesis on how football affects American society. So Boatwright arranged for him to spend several weeks in his hometown of Chamblee.

Boatwright's parents put Mayere in touch with First Baptist Church and with students at the Baptist Student Center at Georgia Tech. Rich Taylor, Baptist campus minister, talked at length with Mayere, who was asking questions about Christianity because of his contacts with Boatwright.

One night, after reading in the Gospels of Luke and John, Mayere came to a decision for Christ. "I said yes, yes, yes, I want to become a Christian," he remembers telling God that night. Later he discovered Taylor had prayed all night for him, as did many people from First Baptist in Chamblee.

Back in France, Mayere was baptized in April at Morsang-sur-Orge Baptist Church, south of Paris.

HALFTIME STRATEGY

Football coach and Southern Baptist missionary David Murray advises several of his players during halftime of a game in France. Murray and missionary colleague Rod Boatwright combine their love of football and evangelism by coaching in an amateur football league in France, where American-style football is a minor sport but gaining in popularity. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

Former athlete finds God's strength after spinal injury

DALLAS (BP)—Lying on the ski slope, paralyzed from a freak fall, Rick Brower asked himself, "What can I do from a wheelchair?"

It all seemed so absurd, he a veteran skier and athlete—whom coach Jim Harp called "the best catcher I've had in 21 years of coaching at Dallas Baptist University"—tripping over a shrub and breaking his neck.

The accident began a chain of events that forever would change the life of the 34-year-old husband and father of two children. It would involve a series of miracles fueled by the faith and dogged determination of Brower and his wife, Phyllis.

After his accident, as medical personnel labored to save his life at the hospital in Roswell, N.M., Brower's family and friends stood by, praying for a miracle.

Brower's spinal cord was severed at the base of his neck, an injury few

survive. On top of that, he developed pneumonia. But his will to live, his athletic conditioning and the prayers of many people, prevailed.

"If you had asked me before the accident how I felt about being paralyzed, I would have said I'd rather be dead," Brower said. "But it was obvious God stepped right in and took charge, because I was never worried."

"I'm not stupid enough to say I wasn't scared, but I was reminded that the pain I felt was nothing compared to what Christ suffered on the cross."

When Brower was able to be flown to Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, near their Grand Prairie home, seeing Brower's condition was difficult for his friends.

"The first time I saw him, I left crying," recalled Wayne Pogue, sports information director at Dallas Baptist University. "We had always known him as an athletic guy. He was

paralyzed and could only blink his eyes to communicate with us.

"Since then, he's encouraged all of us more than we have him."

Another who visited was Tres Sansom, a young quadriplegic who survived a near-fatal diving accident.

Sansom's injury was similar to Brower's. Doctors first thought he would be paralyzed from the neck down. But, with the support of therapists, Sansom has redeveloped arm movement and can travel in a motorized wheelchair.

"It helped me to see Tres and to see he's been able to cope with his situation after going home from the rehabilitation center," Brower said.

Doctors said initially if Brower lived he would have to spend the rest of his life in a ventilator. But his progress and attitude amazed and influenced patients and staff at the Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation.

About two months after his accident, Brower began to regain some movement in his left arm. His lungs had cleared up and his breathing was fine. He still wasn't able to move his right arm, but he insisted therapists exercise that limb also.

"I had already turned it over to God," Brower explained. "I resolved that if it's God's will for me to move my arms, it's in his hands."

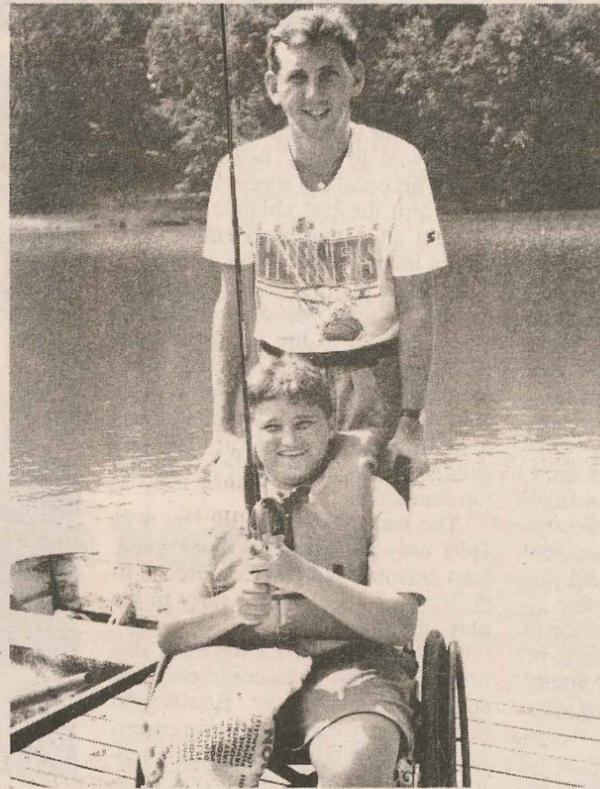
Within a few weeks, he was able to move his right arm also.

Baylor orthopedic surgeon Craig Callewart thinks now Brower may eventually regain the use of his thumbs and middle index fingers.

And Brower wants to regain enough use of his hands to manually propel himself in a wheelchair.

"But if I don't regain use of my hands, there's a reason," Brower said. "My responsibility is to accept that and be able to glorify God."

Baptist East staffer goes west to MDA summer camp



As a kid, Sean Sullivan never went to camp. But don't tell that to 13-year-old Calvin Johnson.

According to Calvin, the physical therapy technician at Baptist Hospital East was a quick study when it came to the fine art of camping 101.

"He did great," Calvin said. "I liked him and had lots of fun with him. He's one of the best (camping partners) I've ever had."

Thanks to Baptist Hospital East's sponsorship, Sean was recently paired with the youngster at the Muscular Dystrophy Association's (MDA's) summer camp in Hardinsburg, Ky. The camp is specially designed for children and young adults with neuromuscular diseases.

The sponsorship was "an extension" of Baptist East's continuing support of MDA, said Paula Blackburn, vice president. The MDA's Greater Louisville clinic is located in the hospital's Behavioral Health and Rehab wing and offers medical, therapeutic and counseling services. It is open the second, third and fourth Tuesday of every month.

For one week, Sean was Calvin's "shadow" - bunking down near him and helping him enjoy his fourth annual visit to the MDA camp. While

the summer camp was a first for Sean, it was not his first exposure to the work of MDA. As Jaycees, his parents were actively involved in fundraising activities for the organization and in 1981, his father served as the state's MDA chairperson. Sean has also played in Baptist East's MDA volleyball tournament for the last two years.

Sean's physical therapy background made him an ideal camping attendant for Calvin, said Lynn Snow, MDA's patient service coordinator.

"I paired him specifically with Calvin," Snow said. "I knew he could care for him. Anything Calvin has wanted to do, he's done it."

For Sean, the camp was an "incredible experience that just got better as it went on."

"It's amazing to see these kids. The younger kids are still running around. Then you see children with the more advanced cases. You know what's to come for these kids, but they're not going to take it easy."

Not Calvin, anyway. He may be wheelchair-bound from Duchenne muscular dystrophy, but the day for Kentucky's Junior Goodwill Ambassador for MDA and his camping partner began every day with a

7 a.m. wake-up call. From then on, the day was filled with boating, fishing, swimming, water basketball, checkers and arts and crafts. By camp's end, Calvin had garnered first place in the camp-wide checker championship. As a team, Calvin and Sean captured third place in the toy sailboat race. The two had crafted the boat earlier in the week.

The activities, though, are just one reason Calvin looks forward to attending the camp year after year.

At the camp, he said, "everyone is the same and the world is not staring at you - you're normal at camp."

Around the campfire one night, Calvin told Sean he would like to have him back next year as his camping partner. Coming from a seasoned camper, it was quite a compliment.

"He didn't know me and I didn't know him, but I feel like I accomplished something. The most important thing you can give him is your time," Sean said.

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