

FOR THE RECORD

White House visit

Two top leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention met with President Bill Clinton at the White House Sept. 16. See page 2.

Russia update

More plans are being laid for specific projects in the Kentucky-Russia partnership during the coming year. See page 3.

Editorial

Could Baptists learn a lesson from the historic handshake between Palestinians and Jews? See page 5.

Women's role poll

A majority of Americans believe it is acceptable for women to serve as pastor of a church. See page 8.

Tortured to faith

Christian faith sometimes leads believers to be tortured, but one Ethiopian man found faith while being tortured. See page 11.

Pastor delivers

Bivocational pastor Dave Hammond works by day as a UPS driver but still has time to lead his congregation to grow. See page 13.



Raising the roof

ROOFTOP EXPERIENCE Greg Cox of East Rhudes Creek Baptist Church near Glendale (above, right) works with Dennis Buckles, a Native American member of Morning Star Baptist Church in Wolf Point, Mont., to construct the roof on the Montana congregation's building. Later, Morning Star members Norm and Ginger Haase and Pastor Billy Bird, daughter Kayla and wife Lucy made a sign to show their feelings for Kentucky Baptists who made two trips to help them this summer.



Girls' home opens in Mayfield

MAYFIELD—A 15-bed home to help girls who have suffered severe abuse, neglect or family crisis has been opened in Mayfield by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

The Genesis Home becomes the sixth residential facility in the agency's statewide network.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's largest facilities are the Spring Meadows children's home in Louisville and Glen Dale children's home in Glendale. The Kentucky Baptist Convention agency also operates a boys Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown and temporary shelters in Morehead and Dixon.

The new facility is located on a five-acre site near Mayfield.

"There is a such a need in our state for this type service, and I am proud that Kentucky Baptists are a part of helping these precious girls find hope and healing," said President Curtis Mooney.

The girls' home is similar to the Elizabethtown Youth Ranch for boys. It serves girls ages 12-18 who come from backgrounds of physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect.

"These girls really have come from some difficult situations and need help putting their lives back together," said Genesis Home Director Carol Davis. "At Genesis Home, they'll find people who care and have the professional expertise to help them overcome their pasts and begin looking toward their futures."

Girls will live with trained staff who provide around-the-clock supervision, counseling and guidance, Davis said.

The staff also will work to include each girl's family in the treatment when possible, she continued. "The emphasis will be on having a strong family program. When we can, we want to help the family solve the problems that led to the child's difficulties."

God's judgment seen more than mercy

GLENDALE, Calif.—Americans believe more strongly that God will judge all people than they believe that God can forgive all sins.

A new poll by the Barna Research Group of Glendale, Calif., found 86 percent of Americans believe God eventually will judge all people. Yet 32 percent of Americans believe that God cannot forgive all sins.

Christians tend to believe more strongly in God's judgment than does the general public, the poll found. But Christians differ little from the general public in their belief that God cannot forgive some sins.

Among "born-again" Christians, 99 percent believe God will judge all people. In America at large, 90 per-

cent believe God will judge all.

On the question of whether God can forgive all sins, 27 percent of "born-again" Christians say he cannot, compared to 32 percent of Americans at large.

"The idea of Judgment Day is very firmly implanted within the church in America," said pollster George Barna. "The notion of God's grace is in a much more precarious position. If America's Christian leaders are trying to fight two opposite errors, universalism and legalism, these attitudes indicate that they may be winning the former battle but are probably losing the latter."

This probably impacts the church's ability to reach unchurched

Americans, Barna said. "Among unchurched adults, a huge percentage—40 percent—believe God is not able to forgive all sins. These people are hearing messages of judgment from the church but not messages of forgiveness. Is it such a surprise that they are staying away?"

Americans' views on God's justice and mercy also differ along educational and economic lines.

Belief that God cannot forgive some sins is strongest among the poor and less-educated but weakest among the rich and better-educated. Belief that God eventually will judge all people is strongest among the poor and less-educated but weakest among the rich and better-educated.

Baptist scholars see few end-times clues in peace accord

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

While some radio and TV preachers may see ominous signs of the end times in the newly developing Middle East peace accord, scholars from across the Baptist theological spectrum don't see any direct relationship between current events and end-times prophecy.

Based on their differing views of how the end-times will unfold, however, they do assign different degrees of importance to the Sept. 13 treaty between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Those who describe themselves as premillennialists or premillennial dispensationalists are most likely to see some significance. Those who are known as amillennialists see less significance.

"The most I would be willing to say about the present peace accords is

that it may be something of a harbinger of millennial tranquility," said Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Patterson is a "modified dispensationalist" who interprets biblical prophecy quite literally.

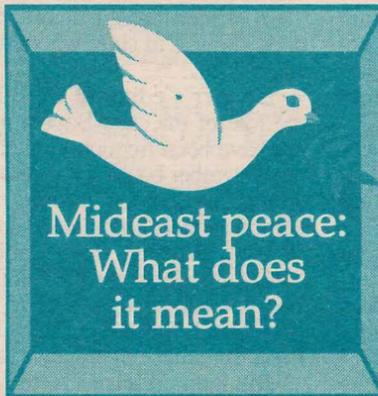
"I can't see how a careful dispensationalist would do more with it than this," he contin-

ued. "If Daniel 9 is taken literally, then eventually Israel will be exiled

from the land again, and a temple built sometime between now and the time that exile takes place will be profaned again. Only by God's intervening protection will God's nation be saved at that time."

The peace Israel seeks now ultimately could impact its future unrest, Patterson said.

"There's usually a price involved in a making of peace. What Israel has



More on pages 5, 6 & 7

Moving? See page 4 (0921)

done strategically is to make their land much less defensible."

But from a Christian perspective, the effort at peace "is always worthwhile," he added.

"Before the Second Coming of Christ, there will be a semblance of peace. I think we see all the movements in the Middle East as very, very critical," said LaVerne Butler, president of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield, Ky.

Like Patterson, Butler interprets biblical prophecy literally and believes Christ will return to earth before a period of great tribulation occurs. Christ's return will happen when all the "signs" are in place.

But Butler sees current events in the Middle East as "just the continual moving of the checkers on the board until they all get into place."

See Scholars see ..., page 6

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Clinton & Gore meet SBC leaders at White House

By Tom Strode
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore held a lengthy meeting Sept. 16 with four Southern Baptist ministers, including the president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Disagreements on moral issues were expressed during the session, but a desire for further discussion was voiced by both parties, participants reported.

Clinton and Gore, both Southern Baptists, met for about an hour and 40 minutes at the White House with Ed Young, SBC president and pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston; Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee; Wendell Estep, pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C.; and Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., where Clinton is a member.

Then on the morning of Sept. 17, Young went jogging through the

streets of Washington with Clinton.

It was Clinton's first meeting with Southern Baptist leadership since messengers to June's annual meeting overwhelmingly passed a resolution separating themselves from the president's support of abortion and homosexual rights.

Although the resolution was not specifically cited, the president initiated the discussion on the issues at the start of the meeting and seemed well aware of the views SBC messengers had expressed through resolutions, Chapman said.

"We talked about areas where we as Southern Baptists strongly disagree with the president and the vice president," Young said. "We are pro-life. We are deeply concerned about the gay agenda, and the perception is that the president and his administration have totally endorsed pro-choice, have endorsed the homosexual lifestyle as a minority lifestyle."

On abortion, Clinton "gave an extended monologue of his position, and we listened and commented," Young said.

"We really didn't get into a debate.

We simply stated our position biblically. He stated his position and how he came to that position. He knew we didn't agree with him."

Estep told the president there needs to be a "a conservative evangelical who has a prominent place in the administration of the president," Young said. "(Clinton) said he wants the cabinet to look like America, and from our perspective it looks like the far left of America."

"The president seemed to be very open to the suggestion," Chapman said.

The meeting, which was held on the Truman Balcony overlooking the south lawn, was a "very frank, candid, congenial conversation," Chapman said.

Young, Chapman and Horne all said the meeting succeeded in fulfilling its purpose.

"What I was hoping would happen in the meeting was there would be an open, frank, cordial dialogue, and we could leave the meeting thinking there would be the openness to meet again," Horne said.

"While there are key issues with

which most Southern Baptists would disagree with the president, he did express an interest in a continuing dialogue on the value systems of the nation," Chapman said. Clinton "was certainly a willing listener," he added.

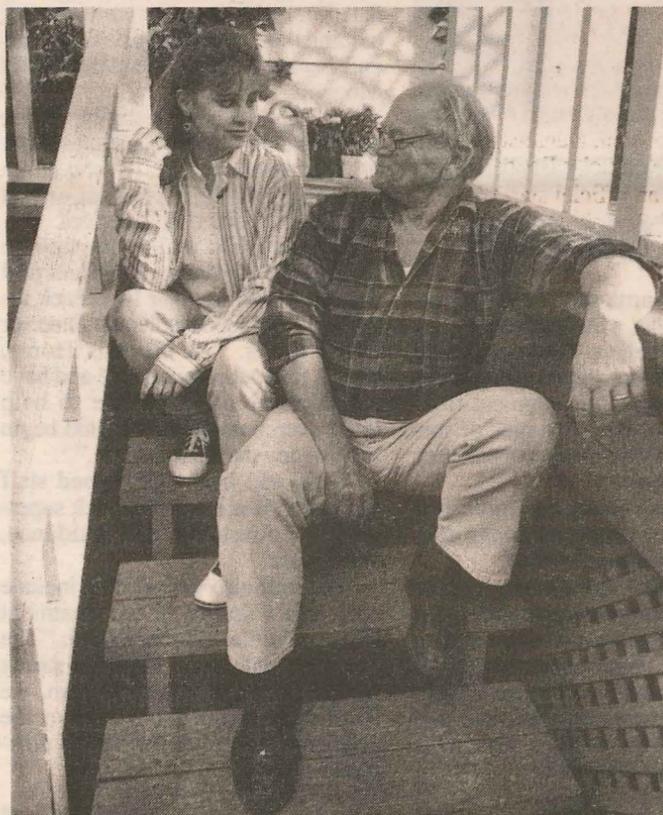
Young said, "It's a beginning dialogue. If there were any agenda, it was get to know one another, talk, share. We left it like, 'We need to sit down and talk again away from the public eye.'"

Horne said he had been seeking to arrange the meeting since before the SBC's annual meeting, and it had nothing to do with the convention's action.

Early in the meeting, Young gave both Clinton and Gore copies of the SBC Brotherhood Commission's new "Pray for the President" intercessory prayer plan. It leads people to pray for an issue, for Clinton and for Gore with specific requests each of 40 days.

Young also presented new Bibles to the president for his wife, Hillary, and him, and presented one personally to their daughter, Chelsea.

TV TALK "Drea" and "Grandpa," two prominent characters in a new video series in production for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, visit on the back porch steps at the end of a day and reflect on lessons learned that day. "Secret Adventures," which features Drea as a teen-age babysitter, is designed to teach moral principles related to a variety of children's concerns. Producers George Taweel and Rob Loos previously produced the award-winning "McGee and Me!" video series. "Secret Adventures" will be available through Christian retail stores, including Baptist Book Stores and Life-way Christian Stores, beginning in October.



CLC plans to buy Washington building

NASHVILLE—A building for the Washington, D.C., offices of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission will be purchased if the SBC Executive Committee gives approval.

CLC trustees approved the \$645,000 plan during their Sept. 13-15 meeting in Nashville, where the agency's main office is located. The Executive Committee is to consider the request this week.

During their semiannual meeting, CLC trustees also approved a record budget of \$1.67 million for the coming year.

CLC officials credit increased sales of literature and designated gifts as a primary reason for the budget growth.

"The growth in product sales and designated gifts more than makes up for declining Cooperative Program revenues affecting all SBC agencies," a CLC news release explained.

Overall Cooperative Program allotments to SBC agencies and institutions have been declining in recent

years. But the SBC Executive Committee—which determines allotments from the national unified budget—has acted to protect the CLC from taking as big a hit as other agencies and institutions.

One reason this is necessary, Executive Committee members have said, is because many moderate churches are designating funds away from the CLC, which they consider to be too conservative for their tastes.

The record budget indicates "tremendous growth in Southern Baptists' confidence in the CLC and its products at all levels of Southern Baptist life," said Richard Land, CLC executive director.

Likewise, the increasing sales and circulation figures "should be interpreted as an affirmative vote by rank-and-file Southern Baptists," said Louis Moore, CLC director of media and products.

Money for the Washington building will come partially from the \$300,000 given to the CLC in June by the SBC Executive Committee. That

money was awarded to the CLC from a disputed building fund originally designated for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The new building, a residential townhouse converted into an office building, will cost \$495,000 and will need about \$150,000 in renovations, officials said. CLC trustees estimated the \$300,000 will cover the renovation costs and the \$148,500 down payment.

The remaining \$346,500 purchase price for the building will be paid through an owner-financed note for 10 years at 8 percent interest. Payments on the note are about the same as the CLC is paying for rent on its current Washington offices.

Trustees also voted to present the CLC's 1994 Distinguished Service Award to Richard Neill, a Fort Worth dentist who launched a campaign to drive TV talk-show host Phil Donahue off easily accessible daytime hours because of the program's objectionable content.

Based on a Baptist Press story

Florida editor won't be censured; reader poll shows support

ORLANDO, Fla. (ABP)—Trustees of the Florida Baptist Witness have determined not to censure the paper's editor, despite calls from within their own ranks for him to become more sympathetic to the conservative movement in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In an Aug. 26-27 meeting in Orlando, trustee J.C. Mitchell of Orlando made the motion to "reassert our confidence (in) and commend the growth of Jack Brymer," editor of the Witness since 1984.

Mitchell added the Witness trustees would "not set any parameters for his work as editor."

"I don't think it should be our jurisdiction to limit the freedom of an individual anymore than I would want

someone to tell me what I can and cannot do," said Mitchell, a former pastor and state convention president. "We've been through this enough. He does know, I'm sure, where we each stand."

Brymer's editorial freedom and the role of the state Baptist newspaper have been frequent topics for the nine-member board for several years. At their most recent meeting, several commissioners complained about the Witness printing stories about the SBC controversy and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, as well as articles originated by Associated Baptist Press, an independent news service.

But their criticisms were matched against a new reader opinion survey that demonstrated a high approval rat-

ing of the weekly newsmagazine and its editor. The telephone survey, done at the commissioners' request by an independent research firm, surveyed laypeople and pastors who subscribe to the Witness.

The research revealed that 72 percent of the laity and 66 percent of the pastors consider the reporting by the Witness to be fair; 71 percent of both categories assess the publication as accurate; and 65 percent of the two categories consider the Witness balanced.

Eighty-five percent of both groups answered "yes" when asked if the Witness should publish reports which deal with all sides of Southern Baptist issues. And when asked if the Witness should publish news stories from As-

sociated Baptist Press, 70 percent of the lay subscribers and 85 percent of the pastors said "yes."

Pastors were evenly divided over the issue of publishing reports of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a group of Southern Baptists displeased with the current Southern Baptist leadership: 47 percent said "yes," while 42 percent said "no."

A significantly high percentage of lay subscribers—28 percent—answered "don't know."

Florida Baptist Convention Executive Director John Sullivan told trustees he would consider withholding the state convention's \$200,000-a-year support of the Witness if commissioners acted to "circumvent" the editor.

Further plans laid for Kentucky-Russia partnership

By Marv Knox
Editor

Kentucky Baptists will help their Russian brothers and sisters with medicine, construction, "mutual encouragement" and evangelism/discipleship/church starting during the first year of their new partnership.

Plans for the ministries were developed during a late-summer strategy trip taken by 10 Kentucky Baptist ministry specialists.

The group met with Russian Baptist leaders and pastors in the Moscow and St. Petersburg regions, marking out plans for the initial phase of a five-year Russia-Kentucky Baptist partnership.

The 1993-94 partnership projects closely follow the four major areas of cooperation identified by Russian and Kentucky Baptist leaders when the partnership was launched earlier this year.

The Russians need help with construction, particularly because many church buildings were destroyed by the communist regime. They also need quality health care, since it is unavailable to many Russian citizens, especially Baptists from the poorest strata of the economy.

They have asked for assistance in education of pastors, church starters, Sunday school teachers and other church leaders. And they have requested help with evangelism and discipleship, with a focus on presenting the gospel to masses of people who are open to a new way of life and then training them in Christian faith.

Those priorities will be reflected in the first year's projects, said the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leaders in the endeavor, Partnership Director

Benton Williams and Partnership Coordinator Calvin Wilkins.

"We met together (with Russian Baptist leaders) and heard their concerns," Williams said. The Kentucky Baptists divided into three teams and focused specifically on ministry tasks with counterparts from the Russian Baptist union, he explained.

From those discussions and visits to various ministry sites, the groups set priorities for 1993-94, Wilkins added. They include:

■ A medical-dental project currently underway, headed by Baptist Healthcare System. The ministry is being conducted in three sites in the Moscow area.

■ A mid-winter construction project in Moscow. A team will renovate space in an old office

building owned by the Russian Baptist union and set up a partnership office to be used by Kentuckians during the next five years. Another team will remodel a Moscow apartment formerly

used to house retired missionaries George and Veda Rae Lozuk, transforming it into an office for Southern Baptist missionaries.

■ Church construction projects during winter and early spring. Teams will be dispatched to complete the interior space of new church buildings and to remodel older buildings.

■ "Mutual encouragement projects" in April and May. The concept behind these efforts is to place teams of workers in strategic churches in selected oblasts—the Russian equivalent of states—"to share, listen, observe needs and set goals of the partnership," Williams said.

■ Evangelistic/discipleship/church planting projects throughout next summer. Teams will spend two weeks leading evangelistic efforts in coop-



FELLOWSHIP MEAL. Kentucky Baptist Partnership Coordinator Calvin Wilkins (front, center) and Russian Baptist home missions Director Vladimir Boyev (back, center) share a fellowship meal with longtime Russian Baptists.

eration with local churches. Team members also will provide discipleship training for new Christians, offer additional training to other believers, and work with Baptists to start new churches.

■ Additional church construction projects in the summer and fall, channeling work to incomplete church buildings.

■ Training projects for church leaders next summer and fall.

■ A continuation of medical and dental projects, also in the summer and fall.

■ An ongoing Russian leadership development school, established in St. Petersburg, which will provide training throughout the year.

The partnership efforts are being geared to support a dream of Vladimir Boyev, Russian Baptists' missions director, to start 1,000 new churches, Williams said. The focus of the partnership is diverse, because Baptists in Russia need to create an entire infrastructure of evangelism, training, church growth and development, and ministry to human need, Wilkins added.

In addition to Williams and Wilkins, strategy-planning team

members are Gary Bennett, a chaplain at Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah; Herbert Booth, a physician from Florence; John Dyke, a veteran mission church builder from Benton; Dee Gilliland, executive director of Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

Also Bob Jones, director of the Kentucky Baptist direct missions department; Gene Reynolds, director of missions for Bethel and Logan Baptist associations, from Russellville; Bob Simpkins, director of Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood; and Bill Snowden, a dentist from Winchester.

Kentucky Baptists haven't waited for an official start of the partnership to begin their support, Williams reported.

"If it's any indication of what is to come, the number of people willing to participate and support Russian missions is tremendous," he said, noting about \$18,000 in individual and church contributions already has been received.

For further information about how to participate in the partnership effort, either as a church or an individual, contact Williams or Wilkins at the KBC, (502) 245-4101.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Ken Winters** and Campbellsville College, where he is president, both are featured in the September issue of Kentucky Living magazine. The article describes the growth the Kentucky Baptist college is experiencing through enrollment and new programs.

■ **Delbert and Mildred Fann**, longtime missionaries with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, are returning to Kentucky upon retirement the end of this year. Mrs. Fann is the former Mildred McAllister of Waddy. They plan to live in Shelbyville in retirement.

■ **Ron Ellis**, executive vice president at Campbellsville College, has been named vice president of the Council of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities' business officers' section. He will become president next year.

■ **Olin Williams** of Eubank has been named the volunteer director of BookLink, a program to provide Christian reference and study books for missionaries and national pastors. BookLink is sponsored by the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators.

■ **Correction:** An article in last week's Recorder identified Carl Kuhl as a member of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. Kuhl actually is a member of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville.

Kentuckians work double time to help Montana church

By Marv Knox
Editor

GLENDALE—East Rhudes Creek Baptist Church doubled its efforts on behalf of Baptists in Montana this summer.

The Kentucky congregation sponsored two mission trips in two months to help Morning Star Baptist Church in Wolf Point, Mont.

In mid-July, 33 people from the church traveled 1,600 miles to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. They conducted a vacation Bible school and worked on a 30- by 60-foot addition to Morning Star's building.

"The foundation already was in place, and we got the floor down and the walls up," reported East Rhudes Creek Pastor Dewey Keys. "We had to quit because we ran out of money."

Haunted by the thought of leaving the project exposed to Montana's ravaging winters, the Kentuckians decided they had to come back soon.

So, when they returned home they contacted some other supportive

churches. That included First Baptist Church of Brandenburg, Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow and Glasgow Baptist Church in Glasgow.

Reinforced with more than \$7,000, East Rhudes Creek Church planned the second trip, which began in late August. This time six workers—John Bowles of Glasgow Baptist Church, Richard Caswell of Gilead Baptist Church in Glendale, and Wally Reed, Sonny Keptlinger, Greg Cox and Keys of East Rhudes Creek—traveled back to Montana.

In four dawn-to-dusk days, they closed in the roof and completed the outside walls. A Morning Star member has shingled the roof, and East Rhudes Creek is planning to return next summer and finish the inside.

The Kentuckians' work has had a positive impact on the reservation, said Morning Star Pastor Billy Bird.

When he began the building's foundation and told people about the Baptist workers, Wolf Point residents told him, "The white man will never come," he reported.

"We put it in the newspaper that we were going to build this building," said Bird, whose church has grown from 12 to 60 members in the past two years. The Kentucky Baptists "have really turned a lot of heads in this community. People have really noticed what they've done."

"They've really been a witness. People are asking a lot of questions. They know these people came here twice to help us. We just can't say enough about the brothers and sisters from Kentucky. That's just the good Lord at work."

The missions connection also has been good for Baptists from Kentucky, Keys explained.

"Fellows who went up to Montana told me things like, 'I didn't know what missions was until this trip.' After we raised the first wall and Brother Billy said a prayer of faith that the building would be completed, another man said, 'Now I realize why I came to Montana.'"

The first trip, which included a vacation Bible school, also exposed a

wider range of the church to missions, he said, noting members of all ages participated.

"It gave my children a first-hand picture of missions," he said. "It helped our people see what it means to do missions and be supportive. I would recommend that any church encourage families to go on mission together rather than vacation in Florida. When we came back, we were not so tired, but rather refreshed and encouraged."

Keys also is concerned about Baptist ministry on Indian reservations. Some tribes are trying to force Anglos off the reservations, he said. "The white man could lose a presence on the reservation, stranding those who know the Lord there."

That won't be the case for East Rhudes Creek Church, Keys promised. The congregation will spend the next year raising funds and return next summer to complete the building. "Anybody who wants to go with us to help us work is welcome to come along," he added.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Heritage or Christ?

I'm saddened that the new president of my alma mater is so determined to renew the plague of sectarianism that was so prevalent in our country when Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was founded.

His use of a secondary source to condemn Alexander Campbell and all those churches birthed in that tradition shows a lack of scholarship. Were Dr. (Al) Mohler to read Alexander Campbell, he would discover a person who preached believer's baptism by immersion and the centrality of Christ to the church. Campbell did not believe human creeds should be used as tests of faith.

I would hope Dr. Mohler would not only read Alexander Campbell, but also from his father, Thomas Campbell. He has something to say about who is the "real" believer: "Nothing ought to be an article of faith, a term of communion or an obligatory rule for the constitution and government of the church except that is expressly taught by Christ and his apostles."

Thomas Campbell reminded his congregations during a time when sectarianism was dividing the Christian world that they "are not the only

Christians, but Christians only." I pray Southern is not now more concerned about its heritage than it is about its Christ.

*John Wesley
London*

Temporary times

From our governments, there is lack of moral concern. We hear talk of "ethics reform"; politicians use this term to win campaigns.

Our churches are divided. They used to condemn sin and bid people to come to Christ. Today, some ministers water down the gospel, while the Kingdom of God ceases to grow. Stories about violent crime fill our newspapers. Obscene song lyrics, pornography, drugs and alcohol have captivated teens and adults alike.

These problems can be traced back to the family. Unless the family is willing to submit to the laws of God, America will cease to be.

The Apostle Paul warns the young minister, Timothy, that these times would come (II Timothy 3:1-9). These days are surely upon us. The Christian need not be stagnant! As believers in the family of God, it would do us good remember: Jesus said that he has chosen us out of this

world (John 15:19).

Let us complete the race Christ has prepared for us. The day is soon coming when time shall be no more. When we catch a glimpse of what Jesus has prepared for us, these times are just temporary and what is to come is glorious, to say the least!

*John Mark Roberts
Murray*

World Changers

God really met the need of a missionary family through the World Changers who came to Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, this summer. We are missionaries to the deaf here. The Lord knew we were missing home-folks, and he provided us with 100 of them. What a blessing!

Actually though, there was a 256th Kentucky World Changer! Upon their arrival here, they enlisted our son, Charles, and assigned him to a team. He is a youth from Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville. Being in the deaf ministry here has not allowed for him to have friends his age or be part of a youth group. By the time the work week was over, he had new friends all over the States. We had prayed for over a year for his needs to be met, and God really over and abundantly met his need.

*Mike & Shirley Rhoads
Louisville & Juana Diaz, P.R.*

BAPTIST FORUM

■ More letters on page 9

My church & the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Over the years of my lifetime, I have been a member of eight Kentucky Baptist churches: Frankfort First, Georgetown, Highland (Lexington), Walnut Street (Louisville), Karn's Grove (near Owensboro), Lyndon, Shelbyville First and since 1987, Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville.

Each has made a distinct contribution to my life, and for each I have an abiding affection.

For almost six years Broadway has been our "church home." Friends from Georgetown College days made entry easy and familiar. That our daughter and son-in-law were members there gave an added incentive.

Broadway is neither more nor less perfect than any other church that I know. After a few years in any church, one can always find something with which to disagree. Our church seems to be one of those which "agrees to disagree" and moves on with life together.

I like and appreciate our pastor, Ron Higdon and his wife, Pat, who were also Georgetown College classmates. Having been a pastor and still aware of what goes on in church life, I know what a difficult job it is.

Recent years have further deepened our roots in the soil of this church. Our youngest daughter was married there; about a third of the "witnesses" were Broadway friends. And it is no insignificant pleasure for me, when I am not on the road, to go back to the toddler area to see my grandson, Marshall, dressed up in his "Sunday clothes," or watch him scramble around with the dozens of others his age during Wednesday

night suppers.

I would be among those who would agree that we should strive to do more for missions than we do. Still, we do more than many, including some of Broadway's critics.

Yes, Broadway provides some funds to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We also give to the Cooperative Program and all of the special mission offerings for the Southern Baptist Convention and Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Having lived in Lyndon's missionary house while on furlough (1973-74), Alice and I are especially pleased that Broadway provides a "missionary house" and that Kentuckians Wendell and Betty Smith, SBC missionaries to the Philippines, will live there this year.

We participated with Lakewood Baptist Church in establishing Green Hills Baptist Church, providing some financial support to the fledgling church.

Broadway contributed the funds to build a church during the Brazil partnership and sent a team out to help do the job.

Our new budget calls for funds to be set aside for our forthcoming Kentucky-Russia partnership.

Other budgeted funds help several Baptist ministries in Louisville's inner city. We also contributed a significant amount to the Fred Tucker Mission Offering sponsored by Long Run Baptist Association.

In 1992 Broadway's gifts for Kentucky Baptist causes would have placed it in the top 35 of 2,300 churches.

And now, it seems, some folks

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM: SINGLES

Moving on

By Harry Rowland

Q. Although it's been a year since my last relationship ended, I still hurt; how can I get over it?

A. Often we're surprised at the pain that accompanies the ending of a relationship. What used to bring pleasure now brings pain. It's the unexpectedness of the pain that makes recovery difficult. If we include another in our life, we do hurt when this aspect of our life is missing. But if there were no pain, there could not have been much of a relationship. It's worth the effort to recover and to learn from past relationships as you anticipate future ones.

■ Give yourself time to mourn. You need time for adjustment and healing. The last thing you need is to rush into a new relationship. The mourning period will vary depending upon the intimacy and duration of the relationship. For lengthy, intimate relationships, a minimum of a year is not unusual.

■ Decide to get over it. Just as entering into a relationship is a choice, so is getting over one. If it's really over and you know it, move on.

■ Focus on the positive. How tempting it is to replay the parting scenes in slow motion. Instead, concentrate on the positive memories.

■ Catch up. During the time you've been focusing on this relationship, you probably have been neglecting some other people, tasks and even yourself. Now is a good time to rearrange priorities.

■ Honestly evaluate what happened. Don't exaggerate the pain. Be accurate, honest and no more. To what degree are you responsible for the relationship's failure? Did the relationship ever really have a chance?

■ Pamper yourself. You are a person of worth. Learn to enjoy yourself again. Get away for a weekend. Take in some special events.

■ Look for a life lesson. There's a lesson to be learned in every relationship. From this relationship, have you learned anything about yourself, human nature or God that can help you in your next one? If you have, then the experience, though painful, hasn't been wasted.

Harry Rowland is pastor of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

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

Israeli-Palestinian accord fuels hope for peace

It's one of those you'll-always-remember-where-you-were-when-you-saw-it historic images: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat smiled broadly beneath a traditional Middle Eastern kaffiyeh. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin peered resolutely from behind thick glasses. The two mortal enemies turned toward each other. Arafat extended his hand. Nudged gently by President Clinton, Rabin extended his. They clasped, and with two quick but firm pumps, they shook on a deal designed to bring peace to the world's holiest—and most ravaged—land.

Who would have dreamed of living to see the day when these two old freedom fighters would stand and shake hands, in front of their gods and everybody? During their lives, they have been flesh-and-blood symbols of centuries of animosity between their peoples. As military leaders, they have been responsible for thousands upon thousands of deaths. As political leaders, they have been responsible for human gridlock on the ground called holy by Jew, Christian and Muslim.

Prior to this moment, we might have expected one of these leaders to reach out with a gun and shoot the other. Certainly, we could have expected fiery speeches and angry denunciations. But never a handshake.

Almost any observer of the region could cite a host of reasons why these leaders would continue to stand apart. War and violence has been their pastime. Yet illness and fatigue brought them together—they are sick and tired of fighting.

"We who have fought against you, the Palestinians, we say to you today in a loud and clear voice: 'Enough of blood and tears. Enough,'" Rabin proclaimed.

The Israeli leader honestly admitted that coming to a table to sign a peace treaty was "not so easy." But he told the Palestinians: "We have no desire for revenge. We harbor no hatred toward you. We, like you, are people—people who want to build a home, to plant a tree, to love, live side by side with you in dignity, in affinity, as human beings, as free men. We are today giving peace a chance and saying to you, saying

again to you, 'Enough.' Let us pray that a day will come when all will say farewell to the arms."

Speaking in Arabic, Arafat echoed similar sentiments. "My people are hoping that this agreement which we are signing today marks the beginning of the end of a chapter of pain and suffering which has lasted throughout this century," he insisted. "My people are hoping that this agreement which we are signing today will usher in an age of peace, coexistence and equal rights."

The PLO leader mirrored Rabin's comments as he spoke to his former enemies: "Now, as we stand on the threshold of this new, historic era, let me address the people of Israel and their leaders, with whom we are meeting today for the first time, and let me assure them that the difficult decision we reached together was one that required great and exceptional courage. ... Our two peoples are awaiting today this historic hope, and they want to give peace a real chance."

Of course, not all Israelis and Palestinians want to give peace a chance. Across the globe in their homeland, as Arafat and Rabin spoke, Palestinian and Jewish youths threw stones and chanted, "We don't want peace." Taming their rage will be difficult. They've never known peace; they can't comprehend it.

But Rabin spoke with the force of Scripture. Quoting from Ecclesiastes, he announced, "To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to love and a time to hate, a time of war and a time of peace."

Thus reminded, we can pray for peace in the Holy Land and hope for serenity in that land of strife. And if our faith is strong enough to take on such a challenge, perhaps we can hope for peace among Baptists. The same God who has closed a multi-millennial chasm can bridge our little gap of antagonism.

Marv Knox

"We say to you today in a loud and clear voice: 'Enough of blood and tears. Enough.'"

*Yitzhak Rabin
Prime Minister of Israel*

Whatever happened to our zeal for Bold Mission Thrust?

1976 began and was filled with great expectations, both in society and in hearts of many Southern Baptists. We were charged with the responsibility of winning the world for Jesus Christ by the year 2000. Stalwart patriarchs of our convention extolled the needs and necessities of maintaining and enlarging a basic denominational structure, while making new initiatives into a lost and unchurched society.

I listened to what was needed if these great accomplishments were to

be attained. Lives, by necessity, would be changed; sacrifices must be made; families would be uprooted, but the price was well worth the commitment to realize this attainable goal. I remember very well the oratorical admonitions from leaders, both in Kentucky and in the national arena, that if the goal was to become a reality, it could only be achieved by the personal commitment of many stable servants.

Today as we struggle and meander in the wilderness of uncertainty, I

wonder if the results would have been different had we given more heart to the task of Bold Missions, instead of just haranguing; given more commitment, instead of so much concern with proper moves and increases in "church status"; given more sacrifice, instead of searching for the denominational "golden egg."

To answer the question of what happened to Bold Mission Thrust: God gave us a window of opportunity which included national recognition as a people, powerful resources and capable people, and we traded it for political recognition and security

in Egypt, even though it was a return to the bondage of selfishness and greed.

If we are to give CPR to Bold Mission Thrust, it will not come as the result of who believes the Bible more than another; not because one is more conservative or liberal than the other. It will be because we accept the oratory of the late 1970s as truth and be willing to give up and go. Without concern for who will be the greatest in the kingdom, who will be God's servant?

Gene Crowder
Columbia

Southern Baptists are in danger of losing their opportunity to spread the gospel across the globe.

GUEST EDITORIAL

If she answers with a firm 'we'll see,' you might as well forget it

Sociologists, counselors and other experts blame poor communication for the breakdown of family commitment.

I mentioned this to Joanna while she was reading the newspaper the other night. A few minutes later, she asked me, "What was it you were saying about 'spore inoculation and the breakout of hominy fermentation'?"

See what I mean?

Communication is a big deal. Especially for families, who (theoretically, at least) are supposed to understand each other. And (theoretically, at least) the more you talk to each other, the better you understand each other.

The trouble is, families—even families who talk to each other all the time—con-

found the English language. Most of us develop our own glossary of words with questionable meaning.

Like when we were kids and we'd ask Mother if we could go swimming. If she said "maybe," that was OK, because "maybe" meant "possibly," which meant we had at least an outside chance. But if she said "we'll see," that meant we had a better chance of ice skating on the pool than swimming in it.

We've got a friend who, if you ask him

about his day or the weather or the meal he just ate, he'll answer, "It's fine." In this case, the word means absolutely nothing, but the inflection in his voice can translate it from "despicably horrible" to "phantasmagorically wonderful." Tone-deaf folks never will understand the guy, but his wife almost always knows what he means.

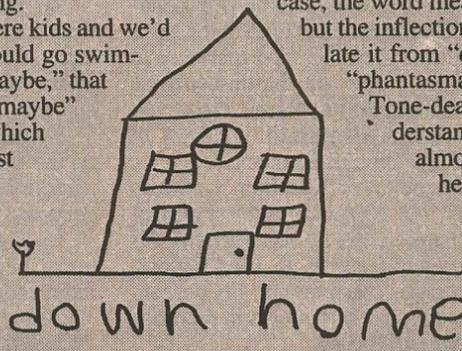
Joanna and her sisters grew up hearing a phrase that still defies literal translation. When they went on and on about a particular complaint, their daddy often answered with a firm, "I hear ya." It effec-

tively ended the debate, because the girls knew it really meant "shut up."

We've developed a similar verbal tool. It's "oh." For instance, when the youngest member of our tribe is arguing up a blue streak that black is white, arguing back won't do any good. But if we listen to her spiel and respond with a thoughtful "oh," she'll usually move on to the next subject. Sometimes less is more.

But our daughters aren't without their own linguistic devices. Their parents' (occasional) statements of improbability are greeted with choruses of "yeah, right," which loosely translated means "we'll see." They've got a lot in common with their Grandmommie.

Marv Knox



Scholars see few end-times clues in peace accord

Continued from page 1

"There are many things that may happen, and some things that must happen" before Christ's return, he said. "This is one of the things that may happen. There's not any biblical chapter and verse explanation of this single incident."

A similar opinion is shared by James DeLoach, who recently retired from the position of senior associate pastor at Second Baptist Church in Houston and moved to Alabama. DeLoach has been an ardent supporter of Israel and a spokesman for Israel's key role in end-times prophecy.

The peace accord is not the "zinger" some would like to see it as, he said.

"From what I see in the prophetic Scriptures, I do not see Israel in peace in the last days. So I do not see this as some kind of ominous first step to the end times," he explained.

"But at same time I do not take great hope in it as far as the future of Israel is concerned. I see Israel in turmoil in the end times. God is the only ally Israel will have at that time.

Like Butler, DeLoach believes Jesus will return to claim his believers before the tribulation and millennium. "There are many things that are happening on the biblical scene that are indicators that the child of God should be looking up," even if the peace accord is not one of them, he said.

He cites Israel's re-establishment in its homeland and the many oppressions that have come as signs. "I also see that the United States itself, who has been Israel's friend, seems to be backing up

from a strong commitment. Israel is becoming more and more friendless. It looks as though Israel has a lot of friends, but they are very tentative friends."

Others see it differently. "From the Christian viewpoint, we've got to be careful to keep a lid on these guys who say, 'Armageddon,'" said Wayne Ward, senior professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "Some are going to want to say maybe the millennium is coming."

But to identify the modern state of Israel with the Israel of prophecy is "outrageous," Ward said. "The designers of this state were socialists. ... The founding Zionists were all socialists, some of them card-carrying atheists."

Instead, the Israel referred to in New Testament prophecy "includes all who are believers by faith in the promise of God fulfilled in Jesus Christ," Ward said. Therefore, what the modern nation of Israel does is not as important as others would believe, he said.

Don Mantooth, a Kentucky pastor who formerly served as a Baptist missionary in Israel, also does not see a connection between that nation and

Christ's return.

"Whatever the end-times schedule is, it's in the hands of God," said Mantooth, pastor of First Baptist Church in Morehead. "Regardless of whether there's peace in the Middle East, the Lord's going to come when he's going to come."

James Leo Garrett, professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, also sees no connection.

"I see no special meaning related to end times" in the peace accord, he said, "although every movement of nations has relation to God's plan."

"Every movement toward peace among men and nations is something that can be seen as God's hand among mankind," Garrett said.

The peace accord "doesn't at all minimize our Christian responsibility to take the gospel to Arabs and Jews," he continued. "The fact that they're not shooting one another as much as before doesn't lessen the fact that they need to hear the gospel."

Regardless of their theological views, these Baptist scholars uniformly expressed joy at the prospects of peace in the Middle East.

"Having traveled to Israel for

many, many years, and having many Jewish friends and many Arab friends, nothing personally gives me greater joy than to see at least this step having been made," DeLoach said. "I know that my Jewish friends, I know that my Arab and Muslim friends, ... I am happy for them. This is at least a movement that indicates somebody is thinking peace."

"From a Christian viewpoint, our friends and fellow Christians (in the Middle East) are going to have a chance to be a kind of bridge," Ward said. "It's been difficult for them. They've been attacked from both sides."

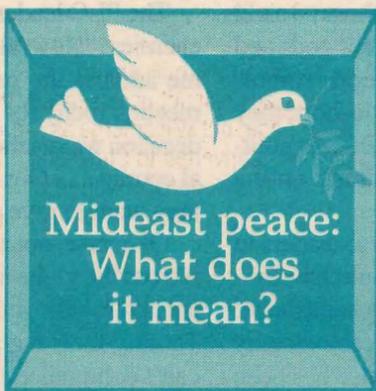
And the work ahead remains exceptionally difficult, he added.

"The work of building is much more demanding than the work of destruction. Satan is the destroyer, and God is the creator and builder. When you're on the side of restoring and building something, you're on the side of God. When you're on the side of destroying and throwing bombs, you're on the side of Satan."

And many crucial issues remain to be resolved, noted James Chancellor, associate professor of Christian missions and world religions at Southern Seminary.

"The settlement that is being made by the PLO and Israel is essentially a political settlement over issues of sovereignty of the land, but does not address what is the really central religious issue in Palestine—that is the religious status of Jerusalem."

Both Jews and Moslems claim Jerusalem as their capital and holy city.



To whom does the disputed land belong?

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

While watching and reading the endless news reports about the centuries-old struggle between Arabs in Jews in the Middle East, American Christians may find themselves asking, "Whose land is it, anyway?"

The answer often depends on one's view of history and the Bible.

"The Palestinians were there before the Jews got there. But the claim of the Jews has been that 'God gave it to us,'" said James Heizer, history professor at Georgetown College.

The people who already were there—including ancestors of modern-day Palestinians—did not recognize the Israelites' unique claim to the land, he added.

"It goes back to Abraham," Heizer explained, referring to the Old Testament character. Jews claim God gave the land to Abraham and therefore to them since they are the descendants of Abraham through Isaac. However, Palestinians also claim ancestry to Abraham through Ishmael.

Ishmael was Abraham's son by Hagar, the Egyptian maidservant of Abraham's wife, Sarah. This story is recorded in Genesis 16. God's promise to give Abraham and his descendants the land of Canaan is recorded throughout Genesis.

When Abraham's descendants finally arrived in Canaan, the Bible reports, there were other people already

living there. They are identified in Numbers 13 as Amalekites, Hittites, Jebusites, Canaanites and Amorites.

Those names don't mean much in the struggle going on today, noted James Chancellor, associate professor of Christian missions and world religions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. The key parts of the argument come from later periods of history.

Even in the glory years of Israel recorded in the Old Testament, the Israelites did not occupy the entire land, Heizer explained. "When Abraham's descendants moved there, they still lived in the hill country, not in the cities. ... Even David didn't rule all of Jerusalem."

Jewish sovereignty over territories in the Middle East ended about 75 A.D., Chancellor said.

Then the Middle East territories went through centuries of occupation, conquering rulers and realignments. There were the Assyrians, the Greeks and the Romans, to name just a few.

By the first part of the 20th century, the British controlled much of the Middle East. Much of that land was occupied by Palestinians.

In 1947, through the United Nations, the British divided the land into independent Jewish and Arab states. The state of Israel was created May 14, 1948.

"The people who were resident at that time, the Palestinians, never accepted the UN's authority to do that,"

Chancellor explained. "Many Palestinians were dispossessed in highly violent and highly unethical ways."

"Much of this really goes back to the British who promised the peoples of the Middle East self-determination in exchange for their support in the war against the Turks. At the same time, the British also were promising the Zionist movement in Europe an eventual homeland for European Jews."

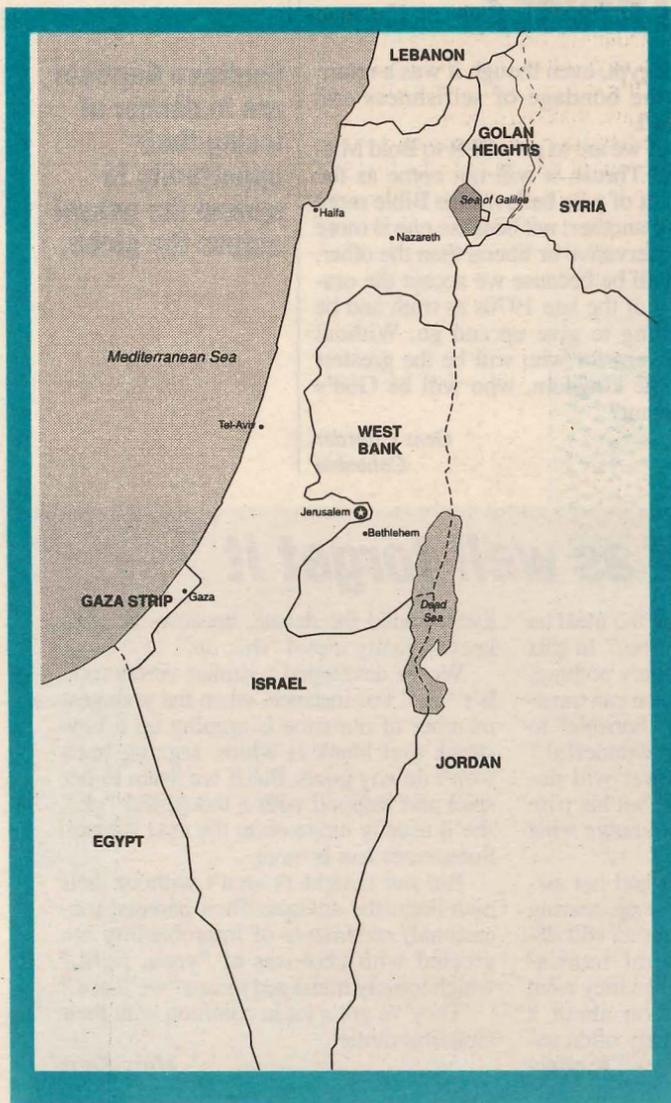
In 1967, Israel took control of additional territory, including the Golan Heights, Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank and East Jerusalem. Some of this territory was returned to Egypt between 1978 and 1982; some is impacted by the new peace accord; some remains in dispute.

Modern perspectives on who had the land first continue to differ.

"The Palestinians say, 'We were here first,'" Heizer said. "The fact that you (Israel) had a kingdom over here and you controlled the land for four or five centuries does not give you the right to come back and control it in ... the 20th century."

But James DeLoach, a Baptist minister who has been active in support of Israel for decades, says he absolutely believes the Israeli claim to the land is superior because it is "the promise that God made to Abraham."

"God very specifically details and outlines the geographic boundaries," he said. "I believe the land biblically belongs to the nation of Israel."



Four views of the end times

Christian perspectives on the end times—also known as “eschatology”—generally fall into four categories.

In the introduction to his book, “The Meaning of the Millennium,” published by InterVarsity Press, Robert Clouse summarizes these views. Here is a synopsis of what he says:

■ **Premillennialists** generally believe that the return of Christ will be preceded by certain signs such as the preaching of the gospel to all nations, a great apostasy, wars, famines, earthquakes, the appearance of the Antichrist and a great tribulation.

Christ’s return will be followed by a period of peace and righteousness before the end of the world. Christ will reign as King in person or through a select group of followers. This reign will come about suddenly and with overwhelming power. The Jews will be converted and will play a key role in end-time events.

At the end of this period—known as the millennium—there will be a rebellion of the wicked which will almost overwhelm the saints. Some premillennialists believe that during this era the Christian dead will be raised to mingle freely with others on earth. After the millennium, the non-Christian dead will be raised and the eternal states of heaven and hell established.

■ **Dispensational premillennialists** hold a more specific understanding of the premillennialist view. Strict dispensationalists view world history in large periods of time known as “dispensations.” They

generally look for a secret rapture of Christians from the earth before the Great Tribulation. Afterward, Christ returns to establish his kingdom on earth.

Dispensationalism bases its beliefs on a highly literal reading of Scripture.

■ **Postmillennialists** take a nearly opposite view to premillennialists. They believe that the kingdom of God is now being extended through Christian preaching and teaching. This activity will cause the world to be Christianized and result in a long period of peace and prosperity called the millennium.

The new age will not be essentially different from the current age, but will emerge as more of the world’s population is converted to Christianity. This period closes with the Second Coming of Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the final judgment.

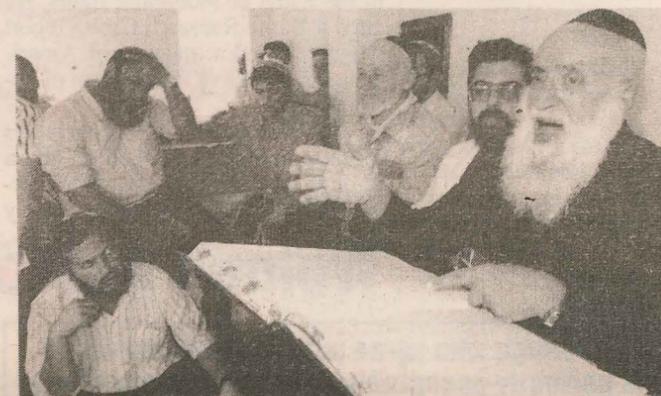
■ **Amillennialists** believe the Bible does not predict a period of universal peace and righteousness before the end of the world. They believe there will be a continuous growth of good and evil in the world which will culminate in the Second Coming of Christ when the dead shall be raised and the last judgment held.

Amillennialists hold that the kingdom of God is now present in the world as the victorious Christ is ruling his people by his word and Spirit, although they look forward to a future, perfect kingdom on the new earth in the life to come. Amillennialists interpret the millennium mentioned in Revelation 20 as describing the current reign of the souls of deceased believers with Christ in heaven.



■ **LEFT:** A seamstress in Jerusalem arranges a Palestinian flag under an Israeli flag as she plans the design in her shop Sept. 6. The shop has ordered material for mass producing the Palestinian flag.

■ **BELOW:** Rabbi Samuel Goren, former chief rabbi, gives a lecture to Yeshiva students in the ancient synagogue in Jericho as he speaks about the importance of Jericho in the Bible. Goren warns that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is creating a Palestinian state that will destroy Israel. (RNS photos)



MISSIONARY QUOTES

“There are so many people who have lost loved ones in the wars or in terrorist acts. The way they seem to be looking at it is that ... there’s a hope for peace, that our sons and daughters don’t have to be killed anymore.”

Southern Baptist missionary Tom Hocutt, who has worked in Israel about 10 years

“This is one of those rare moments you’d never really have thought was going to happen in your lifetime, and it’s happening. We’re in shock. Really, we’re in shock.”

Southern Baptist missionary Ray Hicks, who works in the West Bank city of Bethlehem

“I would say the majority of people here are crossing their fingers—very hopeful.”

Nancie Wingo, a Southern Baptist representative who came to Gaza about six years ago after 23 years in Lebanon

Baptist peacemakers pleased with action

By Pam Parry
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel gave birth to hope Sept. 13 as they signed a historic framework for peace, according to Baptist experts on the Mideast and past peace efforts.

Former president Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist layman, was among 3,000 guests at the White House ceremony in which the pact was signed. Fourteen years ago, Carter helped mediate the Camp David peace accords between Israel and Egypt.

“This is the opening of a door that cannot be closed,” Carter said. “When we left Camp David, I thought this day would come a lot earlier. It’s long overdue. For the entire world, this is an extremely historic achievement and a symbolic event.”

Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance and former missionary in Eastern Europe, likened the event to the toppling of the Berlin Wall.

“I had the same feeling when the Berlin Wall fell down,” Lotz said, adding that Baptist leaders in Israel and Arab Baptists have been praying for this day for many years and they are rejoicing.

“The whole world was relieved when (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin and (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat shook hands,” Lotz said.

Lotz said the BWA recently held a meeting in Cyprus with Middle Eastern Baptist leaders. At that time, they prayed for peace. Lotz said he was sure they were surprised at how

quickly those prayers were answered.

He said the White House ceremony had a “biblical thrust to it” and said President Bill Clinton’s references to Joshua and the fall of Jericho “was very symbolic of the whole nature of the problem.”

Bill O’Brien of Birmingham, Ala., who serves on the steering committee of Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding, struggled to verbalize the feeling that swept over him as he watched the events unfold. “I was literally moved to tears,” he said.

After decades of bloodshed and hatred, the world witnessed the “birthing of hope,” said O’Brien, director of the Global Center at Beeson Divinity School of Samford University and a 26-year veteran of Southern Baptist foreign missions.

“It means a lot of people will experience the birth of hope for the first time. ... Even if the whole thing fell apart tomorrow, some things are worth doing for the moment.”

However, O’Brien said he does not believe the entire peace process will be derailed. As long as extremists on both sides whip up hatred, O’Brien said, there will be setbacks. But he said he doubts the whole process is reversible.

Ken Sehested, executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, agreed.

“The process is going to be a long one,” Sehested said. “There is plenty

of room for lots of things to go wrong. But for hopeful people, as Christians are called to be, a profound opening for a new future (has taken place).

“It’s still going to take a lot of courageous, visionary people willing to take risks to produce something concrete out of this, but for the first time in half a century, we have the prospects, the opening, for some new forms of relationship among the Semitic peoples of the Middle East.”

Charles Kimball, associate professor of religion at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., said the handshake between the two leaders was “the pivotal symbol that both sides had come over an enormous threshold. That is the key.”

“At this point what has been agreed to is not a great deal,” said Kimball, a Middle East expert and author. “But that the two sides have in fact come to this point and crossed this enormous barrier is quite important. It does signal that both sides are very serious now about negotiating a settlement. That degree of seriousness has not been there before.”

Samford’s O’Brien said that the event is a wonderful opportunity for Christians in the West to become acquainted with how they can learn from their brothers and sisters in the Middle East. He reminded Christians in the West that there are three times as many Christians in the Middle East as there are Jews in Israel.



SBC leaders tape 'Focus' broadcast

James Dobson said he is excited that a number of denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention, are making "a move back toward traditional values and the recognition that we have to defend them."

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP)—A war is under way for the preservation of traditional family values, and the only hope for victory is active involvement by the organized church.

That was the message of Christian author and speaker James Dobson during a recent taping of his "Focus on the Family" radio show which featured interviews with Baptist Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper and Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young.

The show, titled "Southern Baptists: Reasserting Traditional Values," is tentatively scheduled to air Nov. 3 on 2,000 radio stations nationwide.

One reason for society's worsening moral condition, Dobson said, is a pervasive relativism that excuses sin in the name of individual rights. He cited a Barna Research Group report which showed a majority of Americans don't believe in any form of absolute truth.

Any lasting change in society's moral condition won't come about through the efforts of para-church organizations like Focus on the Family

alone, Dobson said, but instead will require the active involvement of local churches. He said he is excited that a number of denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention, are making "a move back toward traditional values and the recognition that we have to defend them."

Draper said he has seen the SBC take on a new focus in recent years, combining an emphasis on biblical truth and absolutes with a concentration on evangelism, missions and moral issues like the sanctity of life.

As an example of effective church involvement in confronting moral issues, Dobson lauded the Baptist Sunday School Board's "True Love Waits" campaign. The year-long emphasis encourages teen-agers and college students to sign a covenant promising to remain sexually pure until they marry. Tens of thousands of teens from across the country already have done so.

"It excites me to see the way this (campaign) is exploding," Draper said. "The response has been absolutely mind-boggling."

"The pressure is awful for teen-

agers caught up in this sexual whirlwind we have today," added Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston.

Teens can use the positive support of "True Love Waits," Dobson agreed, pointing to a study by Planned Parenthood which showed peer pressure is the No. 1 reason teens become sexually active.

Dobson said the message of "True Love Waits" gives teen-agers "an excuse to say no—a reason to say no."

"And it's not just for virgins," Young added. Youth who already have engaged in sex can receive forgiveness and still make the commitment to purity, he said.

Dobson also praised the SBC for its stand against homosexuality. Messengers to last summer's annual meeting in Houston approved a constitutional amendment declaring churches that "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior" as "not in cooperation" with the convention.

"It's so important for the church to take a stand," Dobson said, adding there needs to be "a message of compassion, but repentance, too."

Colson talks on liberty & modern myths

CHICAGO (EP)—Prison Fellowship founder Charles Colson issued a call for international religious liberty, "the essence of human dignity," during his 1993 Templeton address, presented at the University of Chicago Sept. 2.

Presenting himself as "one transformed by Jesus Christ, the living God," Colson, who received the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in May, spoke at the public ceremony connected with the prize.

"It is our obligation," Colson said, "to bring back a renewed passion for religious liberty to every nation from which we came. It is our duty to create a cultural environment where conscience can flourish."

Colson also called on believers to use their freedom to "expose the deceptions that are incompatible with true faith." He identified four "great myths that define our times."

The first myth, Colson said, is "the goodness of man" which deludes people into thinking they are always victims, never villains; always deprived, never depraved. It dismisses responsibility as the "teaching of a darker age" and "multiplies evil by denying its existence."

The second myth of modernity outlined by Colson, a former aide in the Nixon administration, is the "promise of coming utopia," that "human nature can be perfected by government; that a new Jerusalem can be built using the tools of politics."

The third myth is the "relativity of moral values." Colson noted that when "society becomes merely the sum total of individual preferences, and since no preference is morally preferable, anything that can be dared will be permitted."

Colson identified the fourth modern myth as "radical individualism," which "dismisses the importance of family, church and community, denies the value of sacrifice and elevates individual rights and pleasures as the ultimate social value."

As head of the world's largest criminal justice and prison ministry, Colson said he has seen "firsthand the kind of society these deadly myths create ... in more prisons than I can count, in more nations than I can name."

He continued, "Crime is a mirror of a community's moral state. A society cannot long survive if the demands of human dignity are not written on our hearts. No number of police can enforce order; no threat of punishment can create it. Crime and violence frustrate every political answer, because there can be no solution apart from character and creed."

Women pastors OK with most Americans

GLENDALE, Calif.—Three-fourths of American adults find it acceptable for women to be the pastors or head ministers of churches, a nationwide poll found.

Whether rich or poor, urban or rural, male or female, Democratic or Republican, Catholic or mainline Protestant, between 70 percent and 80 percent of Americans say they have no problem with female pastors.

Only among the most conservative Christians—the group known as evangelicals—do more people object to women pastors than find them acceptable. Among evangelicals, 45 percent favor women pastors and 54 percent object to women pastors.

For this study, evangelicals are defined as "born-again" Christians to whom religion is important, who see God as "the all-powerful, all-knowing, perfect creator of the universe who rules the world today," who feel a personal responsibility to spread their beliefs and who believe the Bible is accurate in all its teachings.

Among all whose beliefs classify

them as "born-again" Christians, two in three support women as pastors and head ministers, the poll found.

Nationwide, the strongest supporters of women pastors are mainline Protestants (86 percent), people who do not attend church regularly (85 percent), college graduates (81 percent) and adults ages 18 to 27 (81 percent).

"Americans are solidly behind the idea of equal opportunity in the pastorate," said pollster George Barna.

"It is difficult to see a future America where there will cease to be pressure for women to be a major force in most professional circles of the Protestant church. Though many conservative churches and denominations will hold out, they are already in the minority."

"A major reason for precluding women from the pastorate is doctrinal—an argument few Christians understand and which millions reject," Barna added. "Churches can expect this issue to persist in its intensity and significance."

Distrust cited between press & church leaders

CHICAGO (RNS)—An unhealthy mutual distrust exists between the press and religious leaders, inhibiting the free flow of information, according to a national survey of clergy and journalists conducted by The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University.

The distrust is rooted in a clash of goals and values, the survey said—a press engaged in a search for facts, and a religious community that cherishes the discovery of faith beyond facts.

"Faith draws heavily on revelation and intuition; news reporting strives for verifiable information," write the survey authors—John Dart, a Los Angeles Times religion columnist, and Jimmy Allen, a former Southern

Baptist national executive.

The survey says: "Reporters and editors value clarity, reason, facts and egalitarian ideals. Thus, newspeople may find the basis of religious knowledge too subjective, intuitive and unverifiable in ordinary ways."

However, the survey also debunked perceptions of the media as godless secularists with no personal interest in religion.

Dart and Allen interviewed or sampled more than 500 religious leaders and approximately 370 reporters and editors at daily newspapers over the last nine months.

They found that 72 percent of the newsroom editors and 95 percent of religion beat specialists say religion is personally important to them.

Percentage who agree with the statement, "It is perfectly acceptable to you for a woman to be the pastor or head minister of a church."

All Americans (76 percent)

Unchurched (85 percent)

College graduates (81 percent)

Catholics (76 percent)

Protestants (75 percent)

"Born again" (67 percent)

Evangelicals (45 percent)

SOURCE: Barna Research Group OmniPoll

INSIDE

Brotherhood Wheel Rolls into Missions Action

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Kentucky Brotherhood is on a roll. The Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions program for men and boys—which is expanding to embrace entire families—has experienced steady and increasing growth for about five years.

KBC Brotherhood Director Bob Simpkins and Associate Director John Lott date the growth to the Kentucky Brotherhood "wheel."

The wheel is part logo, part organizational chart, part management tool. Mostly, it's a working model for implementing missions education and action, Simpkins said.

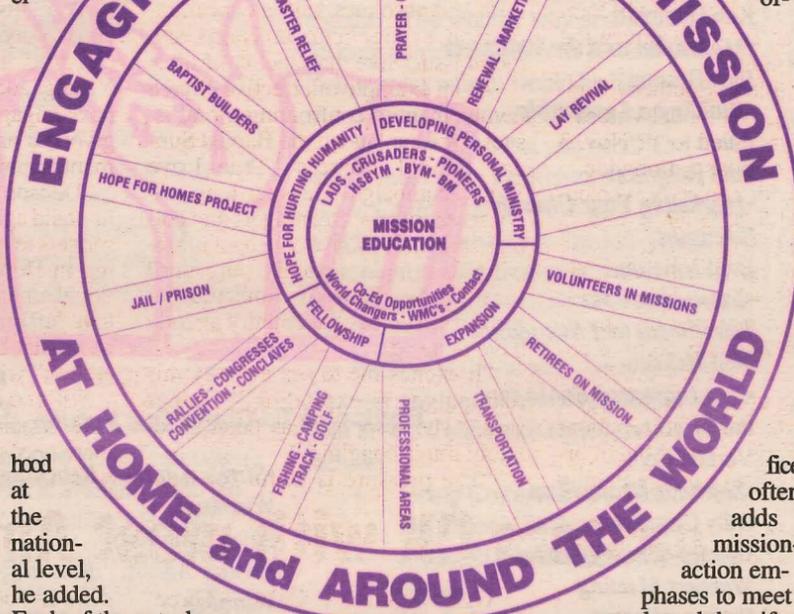
Missions education provides the hub of the wheel, Lott explained. From a formal standpoint, it begins with boys in first grade and extends to retirees. But from a practical standpoint, it's co-educational and multi-generational.

The traditional materials reflect educational groupings developed by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. The newer materials have been developed in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

"We're trying hard to convert our thinking to families in missions," Simpkins stressed. Total family involvement increases opportunities for participation, enlarges the base of support and helps churches more

efficiently focus their energies on missions, he said.

A ring around the hub highlights the five major tasks of Brotherhood participants reach out to a hurting world.



hood at the national level, he added. Each of those tasks are connected to specific spokes of the wheel—mission action projects through which Brother-

hood participants reach out to a hurting world.

The spokes of the wheel are variable, he said, noting the state of-

to develop their own spokes to match their Brotherhood members and the needs in their areas.

Statewide, a coordinator and assistant coordinator direct the ministries represented by each spoke. The structure enables Kentucky Brotherhood to provide training and encouragement.

The outer rim of the wheel connects those spokes and touches Kentucky through ministry.

The Brotherhood wheel, and particularly the mission actions which make up its spokes, is an appropriate model of ministry, Simpkins said. "At the local church level, it gives adults who have discerned their gifts the opportunity to plug into mission action," he insisted. "This validates what God has already given them. They're grasping some 'ownership' and taking this chance to put their gifts into practice."

Consequently, Kentucky Brotherhood membership—particularly defined by participation in-church mission education/action—has doubled to 35,000 in the past 10 years.

Simpkins and Lott expect more growth next year. In January, they'll train 75 Brotherhood leaders from across the state and create 25 three-member Kentucky Blitz teams, which will provide Brotherhood training in churches statewide.

Women Urged to Serve Others in Christ's Name

"Serve in Christ's Name" is the theme for Woman's Missionary Union this year.

Delores Gilliland, Kentucky WMU director, said she hopes all women in Kentucky Baptist churches will be encouraged by this theme, based on Colossians 3:17.

The following theme interpretation was written by Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of the national WMU organization.

In a 1989 interview with Mother Teresa, servant of God to the poor and dying of Calcutta, India, she explained her deep commitment to the unwanted in one of the world's most crowded cities.

Each morning at 4:30 a.m., she arises to pray for the work she will be doing throughout the day. The driving force of her selfless and untiring labor is her personalization of Jesus with the poor to whom she ministers.

"We try to pray through our work by doing it with Jesus, for Jesus, to Jesus," she said. "That helps us put our whole heart and soul into doing it. I have an opportunity to be 24 hours a day with Jesus."

When Jesus met for the last time with his apostles on the mountain in Galilee, he made a significant promise: "Go, and lo I am with you forever." On a number of occasions, Jesus assured the disciples of his ongoing presence with them.

Christ's every thought was that

he would be present and active in our lives, encouraging and enabling us in our service for him. He will, through the power of his Spirit, be our constant companion in ministry. Our part of the partnership, however, requires that we be willing to share Christ's vision and to allow him to work through us.

When an actor is selected to play a part on stage or screen, if he is a good actor, he will seek to bring an exact representation.

But these actors, regardless of how talented they may be, never will be able to represent their characters exactly, because they never can move inside the person's heart and into his deepest being.

Christ, however, makes himself at home in the hearts of those who seek and believe in him. When we allow Christ to come into our hearts and to fill us with his presence, then, and only then, can we serve with him.

Every Royal Ambassador member can quote the verse, "We are ambassadors for Christ."

Serving our King in the court of another, we seek to represent our Lord daily wherever we live. Representing Christ, serving on his behalf, is an awesome responsibility.

An ambassador is charged with

the duty faithfully to represent Jesus and his kingdom's policies and vision. Therefore, to serve for Christ, we must seek to know all the things for which he stands. In doing so, a servant spends much time with the Master, in adoration and in learning.

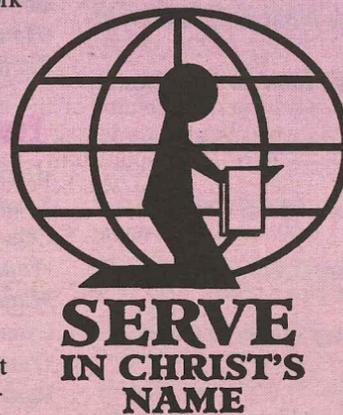
The service performed by a faithful ambassador brings honor to the King. Seeing our good works, others glorify our Father. A servant for Christ knows and represents him faithfully, even in the hard times, knowing that his service will bring honor and glory to the Master.

Mother Teresa's prayerful service is visible to the poor and unwanted of Calcutta. She prefers, however, to perceive it as ministry to Jesus.

"The dying, the crippled, the mentally ill, the unwanted, the unloved—they are Jesus in disguise."

Jesus anticipated the time when his followers would be commended for their compassion to him when he was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick and in prison. "Lord, when did we see you in need and come to you?" we inquire.

"Truly, I say to you to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of



them, you did it to me."

Our acts of loving kindness to others are sacrificial gifts to Jesus. Our compassion for others stems from adoration of the Father. "The least of these" are all around us: the sick, the poor, the homeless, AIDS victims, pregnant teen-agers, the abused. Do you, can you, see beyond the revulsion, the unloveliness, the hopelessness? Can you instead see Jesus, needy and worthy? Will you reach out to offer hope and love?

Mary Saunders, wife of Davis Saunders and "Mamasan" to missionaries and nationals all over Africa, served as missionary until Davis became area director for the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond. In due time the Saunders' daughter, Nina, and her family felt called to serve in Uganda.

After a visit to Nina's home, Mary received a letter from her which included the following:

"You remember when you were here we went to a Bible study in the men's prison. Recently, I received a letter from one of the inmates. He wrote about seeing you and wanting to meet you. After the study he went to the front, put out his hand to shake yours, but instead you took him in your arms and kissed him. Never, he said, had he ever been touched in love. He had been kicked, slapped, and spat upon, but no one had ever before reached out to him in love."

That is serving in Christ's name. If Christ had been there, he would have done the same.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Make the commitment to attend...grow...and share

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's 1993 Sunday School Convention

October 8-9
Florence Baptist Church
283 Main Street
Florence, Kentucky

Schedule:

Friday, October 8

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

Saturday, October 9

- 8:15 a.m. Early Bird Conferences
- 9:00 Session I
- 10:00 General Session
- 11:00 Session 2

- All sessions free
- No child care provided
- Complete curriculum display
- Music and drama
- Major book table
- Two general sessions feature Ken Hemphill
- Motel and restaurant list available upon request. Contact the Sunday School Department, KBC, at (502) 245-4101, extensions 300 or 301.

Conferences available

The following conferences are offered at the state Sunday School Convention:

Pastors/General Officers

- *Pastors Dialogue*
Ken Hemphill
- *Motivation and the Volunteer*
Jerri Herring
- *Building a Leadership Team*
Paul Robinson
- *Marketing Your Church Strengths*
Brad Johnson
- *Increasing Your Enrollment and Attendance*
Neil Jackson
- *Ten Important Books for the 90's*
Vernon Cole
- *Siddoor Evangelism*
Billy Compton
- *Basics of an Effective Workers Meeting*
Rodney Vincent
- *Planning with a Purpose*
Lee Gambrell
- *Dealing with the Discouraged/Ineffective Workers*
Wayne Lipscomb
- *Ministry to Persons with Special Needs*
Pam Thrift
- *Let's Reach Baby Busters*
Jeff Hicks
- *How, When and Why Start New Units*
Will Pollard
- *Designing Leadership Training That Works*
Glen Cummins
- *Building Ministries through Spiritual Gifts*
Jeff Coursey
- *Discovering God's Vision for Your Church*
Vernon Cole
- *Pastor's Role in the Sunday School*
Billy Compton
- *How Physical Space Affects Growth*
Phil Bradley
- *Making Curriculum Decisions*
Glen Cummins
- *Growing the Sunday School in the Black Church*
Lincoln Bingham
- *Keys to Effective Children's Worship/Children's Sermons*
Trace McCann
- *Innovative Sunday School Approaches*
Neil Jackson
- *What's a Sunday School Director to do?*
Will Pollard

Adults

- *Keys to Spiritual Growth in Adults*
Steve Huff
- *Making Adult Bible Study Come Alive!*
David Wallace

- *What We are Learning from the Small Group/Cell Movement*
Mike Diggs
- *Effective Listening Skills*
Jo Garnett

The Changing family: The Adult Class Challenge

- *Reaching/Teaching Ministry through Homebound*
James Berthelot
- *Ministry Motivations through an Adult Class*
Mike Diggs



Equipped To Claim Our Future

- *Single Adults...Reaching, Teaching, Winning*
Alice Lynn Kerr
- *Senior Adults...Reaching, Teaching, Winning*
Bob Justus
- *How to Lead an Adult to Christ*
Jim McGee
- *Using Adult Curriculum Effectively*
David Wallace
- *Building Relationships*
Jo Garnett
- *Keys to Spiritual Growth in Adults*
Steve Huff
- *Outreach and Enrollment Ideas for Adults*
Jim McGee
- *Effective Class Organizations for Adults*
Bob Justus
- *Senior Adults: An Untapped Opportunity*
Bob Justus
- *How to Lead an Adult to Christ*
Jim McGee

Youth

- *Dealing with Moral Issues Facing Our Youth*
Corky Alder
- *Youth Sunday School: Hub of Youth Ministry*
Lynn Riley
- *Youth Outreach Ideas*
Ryan Wagers
- *Ways to Engage Youth in Missions*
Ingy Winders
- *Youth Sunday School in the Smaller Church*
Wilma Simmons
- *Word Data III*
Ryan Wagers
- *Youth Sunday School Organization Team*
Wilma Simmons
- *Creative Teaching Ideas for Senior High*
Mike Harmon
- *Making Youth Sunday School Come Alive!*
Corky Alder

- *Creative Teaching Ideas for Junior High*
Ingy Winders
- *How to Lead Youth to Christ*
Mike Harmon
- *Youth Need Space, Too*
Lynn Riley

Children

- *Teaching Resources made from Throwaways*
Tina Cundiff
- *Faith Development of the Child*
Linda Miniard
- *Happy Preschoolers and Children in the Small Church*
Margaret Anderson/Donna Wagers
- *Outreach Ideas for Unchurched Parents*
Trace McCann
- *Teaching the Bible Creatively to Children*
Lena Romans
- *The Child's Moral Crisis in Today's Society*
Linda Miniard
- *Weekday Programs for School Age Children*
Mary Sells
- *Flexible Curriculum*
Jewell Nelson
- *Teaching Those Rowdy Kids!*
Lena Romans
- *What Should We do with the Sixth Grade?*
Linda Miniard

Preschool

- *Extended Session for Preschoolers*
Lois Fisher
- *How to Choose Sunday School/VBS/CWE Curriculum*
Rebecca Sparrow
- *Teaching the Bible to Preschoolers through Learning Centers*
Carrie Beth Tonks
- *Safe, Clean, Creative Environment for Preschoolers*
Lois Fisher
- *Cradle Roll - Reaching Young Families*
Cheryl Springer
- *Music, Music, Music for Preschoolers*
Rebecca Sparrow
- *Church Weekday Programs for Preschoolers*
Carrie Beth Tonks
- *Happy Preschoolers and Children in the Small Church*
Margaret Anderson and Donna Wagers
- *Faith Development of the Child*
Linda Miniard
- *Outreach Ideas for Unchurched Parents*
Trace McCann

Yes!

TRUE LOVE WAITS

CHURCH MUSIC

True Love Waits campaign emphasizes more than just safe sex for teens

**A national campaign for sexual abstinence among teenagers
June 1993 - June 1994**

The "Safe Sex" message is not the answer to the challenges facing teenagers. Some professionals have unwittingly communicated to America's youth: "We have given up on you. We believe most of you will be promiscuous. So, we hope to keep some of you healthy by teaching you how to protect yourselves."

Tens of thousands of Southern Baptist teenagers are quietly proving the "professionals" wrong. They have chosen God's plan for sexual expression and they are ready to make the same commitment if properly challenged. Even youth who have already failed can choose to begin living sexually pure.

True love is important to teenagers. Many are discovering that true love can be a powerful motivation toward sexual purity.

- True love—waits.*
- True love for God.*
- True love for one's future child.*
- True love for one's future mate.*
- True love for one's current date.*
- True love for one's self.*



Kentucky participation

Kentucky Baptist churches are encouraged to participate in this program. A "True Love Waits" booth will receive commitments at this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in November and also at the 1994 Evangelism Conference in February.

Campaign kit

All material related to the campaign is included in a "True Love Waits" campaign kit. The campaign kit is available from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Family Ministry Department for \$3 (price covers printing cost). To receive your kit, please complete the information form on EVENTS page 8a requesting this kit. Send no money at this time. Call our department office at (502) 245-4101, extension 250 for more information.

Energize your music ministry

Do you ever feel like that pink battery bunny on TV? You just keep going and going and going. Take some time to rejuvenate and re-charge those batteries.

Think ahead to what you will be doing in November. The countdown for all the Christmas music activities will have begun. You wonder if everything can possibly come together. You wonder why you wanted to become a music minister in the first place. You wonder what it would be like to worship as a participant rather than as a leader.

We have just what you need! The annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference on November 15 offers a wonderful opportunity to "re-fuel your tank." Meeting at Cecilia Baptist Church, near Elizabethtown, you will begin by celebrating in worship at 1:30 p.m.

Following the service you may select from several conferences designed to meet your needs. Conference topics and leaders include:

- **Using Computers to Teach Music**
Dr. Dennis Skelton
- **Using MIDI-Keyboards in Music Ministry**
Kevin Landgrave
- **Creative Congregational Hymn Singing**
Jim Cordell

- **Using Dramatic Ministry in Worship**
Dr. Mozelle Sherman

Conference times are 2:30-3:15 p.m. and 3:45-4:30, allowing you to attend two conferences. A brief business session will conclude by 4:45 leaving plenty of time for relaxation and fellowship before the banquet at 6:00.

After feasting on delicious food for your body, you will be treated to some savory "soul food." The highly regarded Danville Children's Choir will present a concert from 7:30-8:00. The evening will conclude with a concert by the First Church Youth Choir from Fulton from 8:00-8:30. You will no doubt be refreshed by hearing these excellent choirs.

The KBMC meeting is certain to renew your vision for music ministry. Join us!

For complete information, please contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Music Department at (502) 245-4101.



PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

Russia: A field ripe for harvest

The history of Kentucky Baptist partnerships in missions, especially foreign Kenya (1985-87) and Brazil (1990-1993)—is short but successful. Beginning officially in January 1994 and extending through December 31, 1998, Kentucky Baptists will participate in a partnership missions link with Russia, which is in spiritual need after 70 years of Communist rule.

The Russia Partnership will involve volunteer mission project tasks in and around Moscow and St. Petersburg. These two cities have a combined population of 16 million.

Kinds of ministry projects offered by the Russian Baptist Union are: medical, construction, education/training of pastors and church leaders, evangelism, discipleship and new work. Other projects such as English language teaching, student work, camps, seminary instruction and deaf ministry and others may be initiated later.

The total cost of the volunteer trip has not yet been announced but the estimated figure is between \$2,000-\$2,100.



The average volunteer partnership trip is two weeks.

Information will soon be mailed soon to all Kentucky Baptist pastors, churches, directors and missions and others interested in volunteering during the Russia Partnership. For further details, complete and mail the information form provided on EVENTS page 8a or write Benton Williams, Office for Partnership Missions, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 236.

WMU

National Baptist Nursing Fellowship celebrates 10 years at Birmingham meeting

The National Baptist Nursing Fellowship will commemorate their tenth anniversary November 11 with a meeting at the Woman's Missionary Union Building in Birmingham, Alabama. The Thursday (November 11) meeting begins with registration at 1:00 p.m.

(CST.) The afternoon program will include a presentation by Jan Striepe, R.N., M.S., project manager of Kellogg Parish Nurse Project in Spencer, Iowa. Two contact hours of continuing education credit will be given. The Thursday meeting at the Woman's Missionary Union Building will conclude with a 5:00 p.m. banquet. The meeting for nurses will then be combined with the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship at Birmingham's Winfrey Hotel, Galleria.

The theme of the November 12-14 meeting is "Is There No Physician There?"

These sessions will feature daily Bible study led by Dr. William Hull, provost, academic affairs, Samford University; a dialogue with eight missionary doctors currently on furlough and reports from missionary physicians from around the world.

Evelyn Mottram, president of the Kentucky chapter of Baptist Nursing Fellowship, and other Kentucky Baptist nurses will participate in this meeting. A group from the Commonwealth will travel to Birmingham together.

For additional information about the meeting and its costs, contact Kentucky's WMU office (502) 244-6485, or complete and mail the information box on EVENTS page 8a.



CHURCH GROWTH & ADMINISTRATION

Measuring Church Growth

What do we mean by Church Growth? How is it measured? Usually "total membership" is the measurement chosen to determine growth in a church. Yet, it is evident that churches may experience membership increases but Sunday by Sunday the number of people involved remains static. Growth in one area does not automatically translate into total church growth.

A more wholistic measurement of church growth among Kentucky Baptist churches was achieved through a recent data printout. Computer Services of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board measured numerical and percentage growth in the following areas: resident membership, undesignated church receipts, Sunday School enrollment, and Sunday School average attendance.

The rationale for using these categories to demonstrate church growth is: When a church is reaching people (increase in resident members), then a proportionate increase is reflected in financial giving (undesignated receipts) and in Bible study (SS enrollment and average SS attendance). Balanced growth in these four areas indicates a church is making disciples rather than just obtaining decisions (Matt. 28:18-20).

The graph illustrates the difference in balanced growth versus growth in resident members. Of the 898 (39.3%) churches that grew 5.1% or more from 1986 through 1992 only 375 (16.4%) of these churches had positive growth in undesignated receipts, Sunday School enrollment and Sunday School average attendance as well as resident members. These churches are to be commended.

Some of the small churches are:

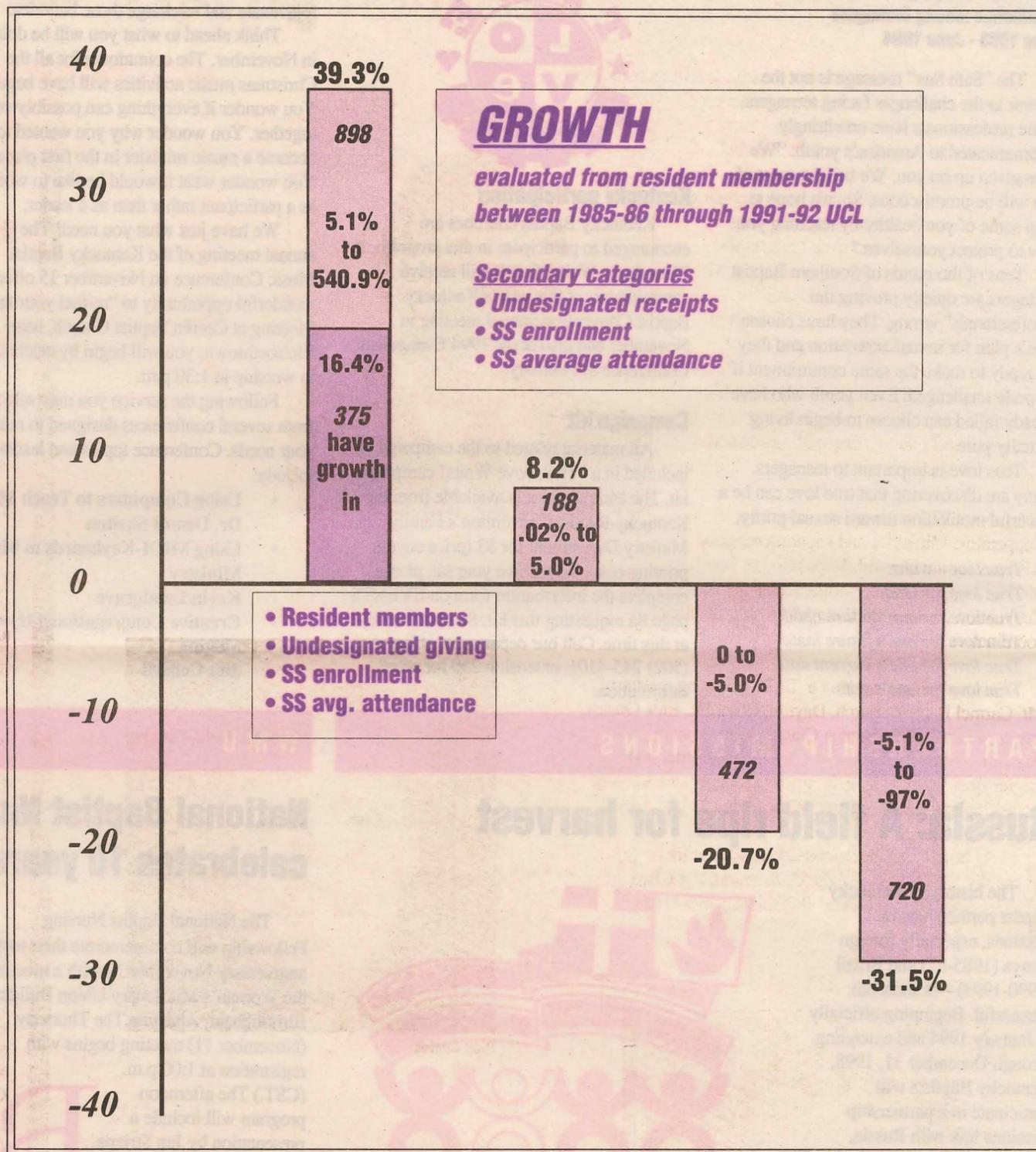
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| Mayflower Unity | Pike Association |
| New Prospect | Booneville Association |
| North Rolling Fork | South District Association |
| Liberty | Russell County Association |
| North Frankfort | Franklin Association |
| Oak Grove | West Union Association |
| Oak Grove | Casey Association |
| Springhill | West Kentucky Association |
| Galilee | Tates Creek Association |
| Pond River | Little Bethel Association |

Some of the medium churches are:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Tatesbrook | Elkhorn Association | Little Flock | Long Run Association |
| Watson Lane | Green Valley Association | Severns Valley | Severns Valley Association |
| Eastern Gate | Long Run Association | Richmond First | Tates Creek Association |
| Hardin | Blood River Association | Paducah First | West Union Association |
| Louisa First | Greenup Association | Immanuel | Elkhorn Association |
| Highland Park First | Long Run Association | | |
| Cecilia | Severns Valley Association | | |
| Faith | Elkhorn Association | | |
| Red House | Tates Creek Association | | |
| Wing Avenue | Daviess-McLean Association | | |

Some of the large churches are:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Macedonia | Daviess-McLean Association |
| Eastwood | Warren Association |
| Henderson First | Green Valley Association |
| Ludlow First | Northern Kentucky Association |



change and a growth (disciple-making) mind-set which brings wholistic growth.

The departments of the Church Growth & Administration division are eager to help your church find personal ways to obtain a balance in total church growth. Sunday School, Discipleship Training/Stewardship, Church Music and Church Administration seek the opportunity to work with you in ministry.

The largest increase and most balanced church growth occurred at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Warren Association.

Some of these churches are growing by "doing church" with "tried and true methods." Others like Living Hope are experimenting with different worship formats and learning approaches. It is not the methods alone that stimulate growth; it is openness to



EVANGELISM

Cooperative Ministries/Evangelism Clinic unites two cultures, two Baptist groups

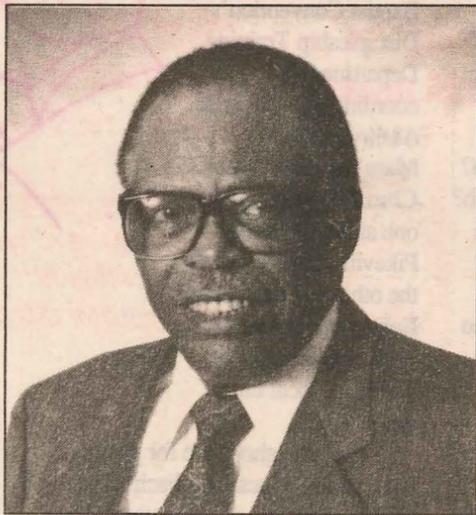
The third annual Cooperative Ministries/Evangelism Clinic on November 1-2 provides two Baptist organizations—the General Association of Baptists (Afro-Americans) and the Kentucky Baptist Convention—a time to gather for fellowship, inspiration and information sharing. This year's event features an agenda program which encourages leaders from both Baptist groups to minister together in evangelism with mutual appreciation, helpfulness and enthusiasm. The clinic theme is "Ministerial Flexibility in Evangelism Strategies."

Erlanger Baptist Church (KY) is the host site for the free, two day event, which begins at 1:00 p.m. (EST) on Monday and concludes at noon on Tuesday.

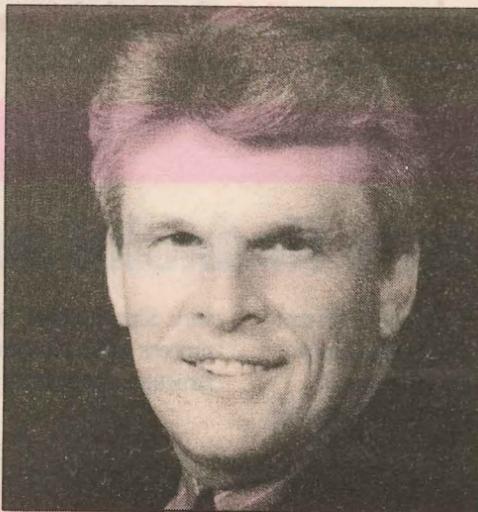
Lincoln N. Bingham, consultant for Cooperative Ministries and superintendent of missions for the General Association of Baptists, and Bill Jagers, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Office for Evangelism, are the clinic coordinators.

Featured presenters are Dr. D. D. Chestang, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio; Dr. Rick Ousley, pastor of Brook Hills Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama; Arnold Turner, a bi-vocational minister and lawyer from Prestonsburg, Kentucky; and Garswa Matally, a church planter from Liberia, West Africa.

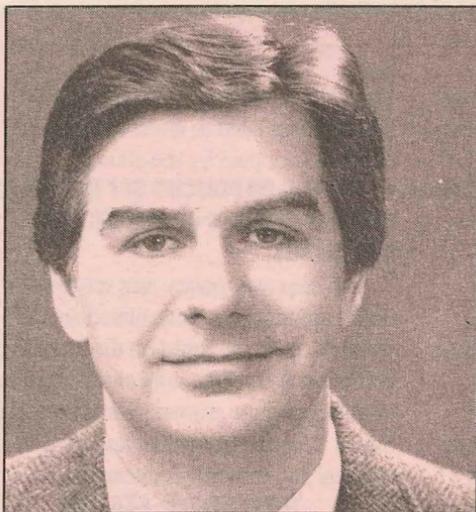
For more information, contact the Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 330.



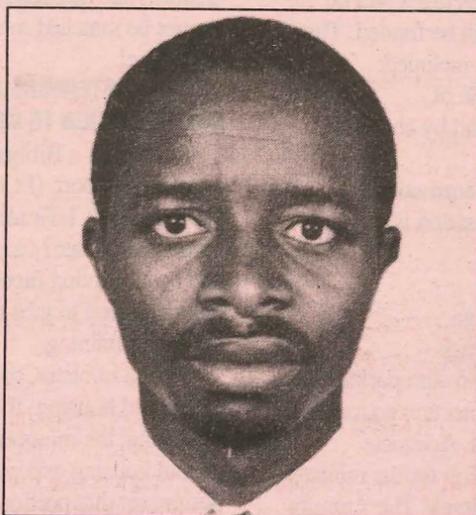
D. D. Chestang



Rick Ousley



Arnold Turner



Garswa Matally

Third Annual Cooperative Ministries/Evangelism Clinic

November 1-2

Erlanger Baptist Church
Erlanger, KY

The event is free.

Clinic Theme:
"Ministerial Flexibility in Evangelism Strategies"

Program Agenda

Monday, November 1

Beginning at 1:00 p.m. Bill Jagers, presiding
Welcome Bill Crosby
Purpose Lincoln Bingham
Special Music Cynthia Winfree
Theme Interpretations D. D. Chestang
Special Music Cynthia Winfree
SEMINAR I Rick Ousley
"Strategies for Reaching Today and Tomorrow's People"
Break
SEMINAR I, continued

Evening Session Lincoln Bingham, presiding

Beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Congregational Hymn
Devotional Worship Randall Jones
Introduction of Speaker Willie Barbour
Special Music St. Paul Baptist Church Choir
Message D. D. Chestang
Congregational Hymn
Introduction of Speaker Bill Jagers
Special Music St. Paul Baptist Church Choir
Message Rick Ousley
Benediction Joseph Garr

Tuesday, November 2

Beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Congregational Hymn
Special Music Cynthia Winfree
Testimony M. Garswa Matally
SEMINAR II Arnold Turner
"Evangelism in the Marketplace"
SEMINAR III M. Garswa Matally
"Cultural Considerations in Church Planting"
Congregational Hymn
Special Music Cynthia Winfree
Testimony Arnold Turner
Benediction Tommy Mitchell

MINISTER/CHURCH SUPPORT

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Ministers' Wives Retreat and help for pastor/search committees

Here's a gift idea

The Minister's Wives Retreat at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly October 29-30 would be a wonderful "treat" for someone special. In recent years some pastor and staff minister wives have been given the retreat as a way of saying, "you are appreciated, thanks for all you do." This could be a project of the deacons, WMU, a Sunday School class or some caring individuals.

There is still time to register. You can complete and mail the requested information on the registration form on EVENTS page 8a. For more information contact the Minister/Church Support Division Office, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 243.

Finding direction

Pastor search committees have to discover some way to determine what the church needs in its next pastor. Most often they simply ask, "What kind of preacher do we want?" This gives some valuable answers about the person and the qualities that one should possess. Another way is to ask some questions about the church, such

as "What kind of church are we and what do we want to accomplish in the future?" The answer to those questions will best be given by the congregation and it's not hard to do.

On Wednesday and Sunday evenings the committee could guide the worship time and have the congregation "talk around the tables" in small groups. These groups would briefly (10 to 15 minutes) "brainstorm" three questions:

1. What are the strengths of our church?
2. What are my concerns for my church?
3. What would I love to see happen in my church next five years?

The answers to these questions will provide some valuable and exciting information for the search committee. It will point toward the skills, training and experience needed by the next pastor.

This is a simple process to determine the church's current condition and where the people want to go from here. As Casey Stengel used to say, "If you don't know where you're going, you might end up someplace else." A prayerful plan to involve the congregation can guide the committee toward calling the pastor God wants them to have.

Contact Dr. Guy Futral, Minister/Church Support Division, KBC, for more details.

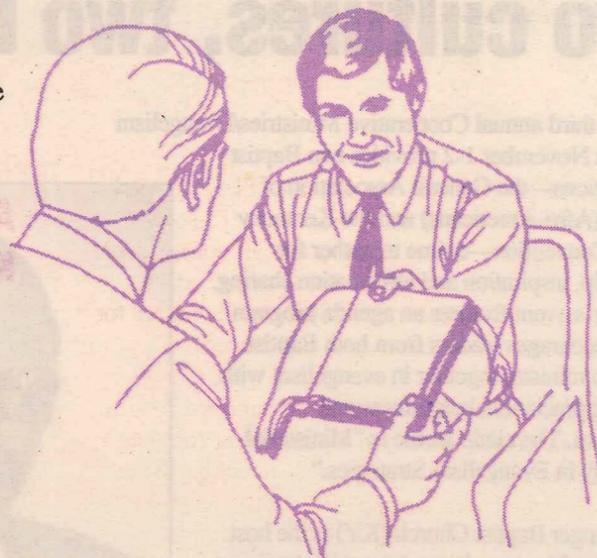
Give your new members good beginnings

What's the next step for new church members once they have joined?

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department is coordinating "How to Assimilate New Members into Your Church" workshops—one at First Church, Pikeville on October 25, the other at First Church Berea on October 27. Both events begin at 7:00 p.m. local time. and are free.

The workshops are for pastors, ministers of education, discipleship training directors and directors of new church member training.

Attendees will learn various approaches, including "The Encourager Plan for New Christians" and will also become familiar with curriculum



resources—Survival Kits, Learning and Serving and Basics for New Baptists.

For more information, contact the Discipleship Training Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 335.

ANNUITY

How to structure a minister's financial support plan

Many Kentucky Baptist Convention churches are now in the process of preparing a church budget for the upcoming year. Too often, when a

minister's compensation is considered in that process, the church deals only with a lump sum package. There may be a number of problems with that approach. There is a better

way. Shown below is a suggested five step process a church committee may use to structure a minister's financial support.

For additional information, contact Don Spencer, director, Annuity Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 253.

Five step plan

1. DETERMINE HOW MINISTRY RELATED EXPENSES WILL BE COVERED.

All expenses should be paid by the church as employer, using a valid accountable reimbursement plan. Expenses paid as an allowance increase an employee's tax liability. Expenses should NOT be considered part of the "pay package." Ministry related travel should be reimbursed at the IRS rate (currently 28 cents per mile). Expenses might be covered for:

- A. Car (ministry related travel)
- B. Conventions (SBC, KBC and associational meetings)
- C. Conferences and continuing education
- D. Books, periodicals, subscriptions
- E. Hospitality expense

2. WHAT PROTECTION COVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED AND ON WHAT BASIS?

Decide as a matter of POLICY and PRINCIPLE what coverages will be provided and how they will be funded. The following items should be included:

- A. Retirement (10% of compensation paid by church is recommended)
- B. Social Security equivalent (7.65 of compensation is recommended)
- C. Life coverage
- D. Medical coverage
- E. Disability coverage

Ministers given a lump sum package too often neglect adequate protection coverage in one or more of these areas. Adequate coverages provide protection for the minister, their family and for the church. The Annuity Board has excellent life, medical and

disability plans. Retirement should always be through the church annuity plan of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board. There are advantages in this plan that cannot be matched in any other plan - anywhere!

3. DETERMINE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION TO BE PAID

Consider a Biblical base for adequate financial support. (I Corinthians 9:14; Galatians 6:6; I Timothy 5:8, 17) Is the amount adequate? Consider family needs and cost of living factors. Compare the compensation to jobs requiring similar skills and training.

For a minister, compensation includes salary and housing. If the minister is buying or renting, the minister estimates total annual housing expenses. The church then designates that portion of the compensation as housing allowance. If a house is

provided, a housing allowance should still be designated to cover any housing expenses not paid by the church.

4. BASED ON POLICIES SET IN STEP #2, CALCULATE COSTS OF PROTECTION COVERAGES

In step two, policy was set--no dollar amounts were calculated since some of these are based on the amount of compensation. Now, with compensation known, compute amounts for retirement, Social Security equivalent and for life, medical and disability coverages.

5. TOTAL AND RE-EXAMINE ENTIRE FINANCIAL SUPPORT PLAN

Check for areas needing additional discussion and adjustment. Is the plan appropriate for the church? Is the plan adequate and fair to the minister?

STUDENT MINISTRY

Youth Celebration--a happening for senior high youth

November 19-20 • Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek Baptist Assemblies

"Youth Celebration" is a program of large general inspirational sessions, contemporary youth personal growth seminars and recreation featuring Baptist Student Union talent and leadership as well as feature artists. Special seminars will be offered on topics of concern for youth of pastors and other church staff leaders.

The cost of lodging, meals and insurance is \$21.75 per person, payable directly to Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek. All reservations must be made in writing to the assembly you or your group plan to visit.

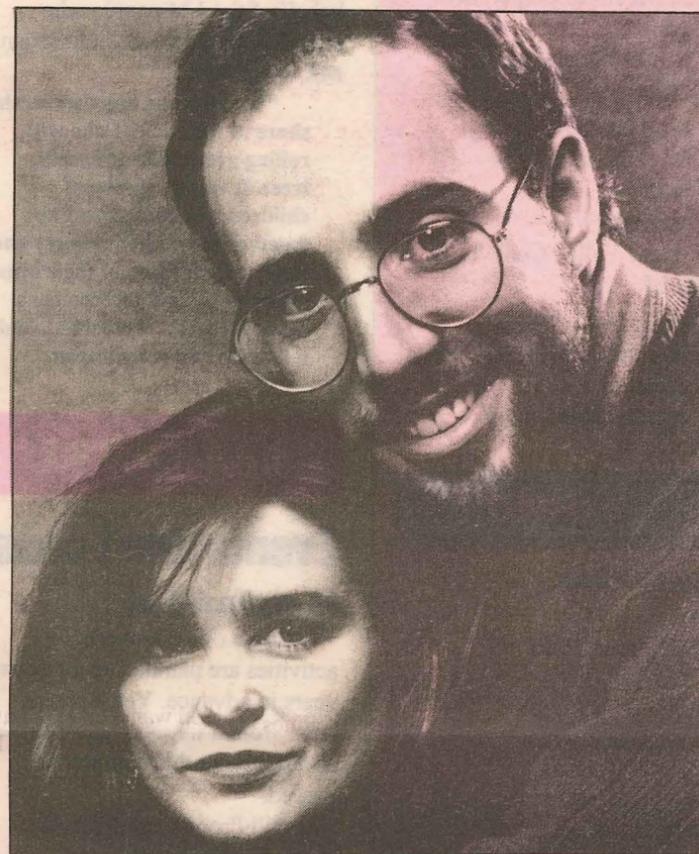
Counselors must be provided by the church on a ratio of 1 to 4 up to 1 to 12 depending on type of housing assigned by the assembly. Bedrolls and towels are to be provided by each participant. Hospitality is provided by the assemblies. Programming is planned and conducted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Student Department under the leadership of its director, Don Blaylock.

To receive a registration form, check "For More Information" on EVENTS page 8a and mail to the given address.

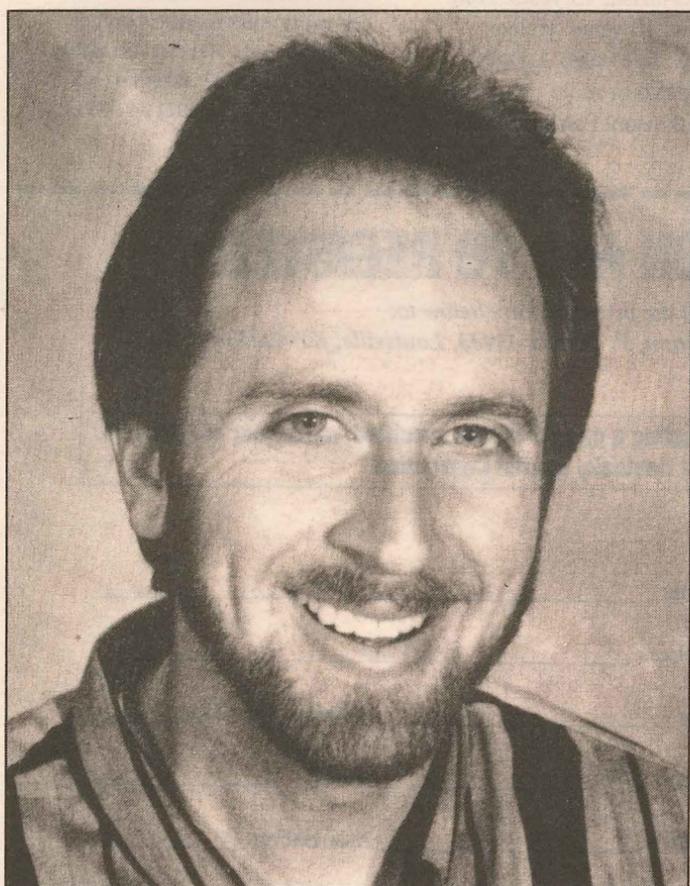
Appearing at Jonathan Creek: Kyle and Susan Matthews

Kyle and Susan Matthews travel and perform together full time. Since 1988 Kyle has recorded two albums of original music, "The Bottom Line," and "Some Assembly Required," as well as a live recording of his musical, "Jonah." He has published choral music with Purifoy Publishing and a lullaby with Brentwood music. Susan is trained in both piano and vocal performance and her experiences include folk ensembles, opera workshops and singing in the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Chamber Chorus for four years. She is a music therapist currently working on a contract basis in Nashville, Tennessee where they reside.

Kyle and Susan share a concern for presenting the gospel of Christ through music and drama with fresh perspectives. Kyle's music reflects his desire for people to be challenged by the gospel of Christ and to respond to relational issues.



Kyle and Susan Matthews



Nick Foster

Appearing at Cedarmore Nick Foster

Nick Foster has been a storyteller since 1981, speaking at youth conferences, on college campuses, at churches and special events across the country.

Nick, a pastor's son, grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. He has a B.A. from Sanford University and a M.Div. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Nick has served as an associational intern with the Birmingham Baptist Association, as youth minister with Birmingham's South Avondale Baptist Church and as a Centrifuge youth camp pastor during the summers of 1981 and 1982.

Nick and his wife, Gail, have two sons, John Paul and Justin.

Nick presently serves as minister to students at First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tennessee, where he works with students from seventh grade through graduate school.

Kentucky Baptist State Student Convention

October 1-3
Calvary Baptist Church
Lexington

\$4 registration fee
Register through local campus minister

1993 theme:
Towels and Basins
John 13:5, 12

Featured speaker:
John Hendricks, SBTS
Featured soloist:
Susan Ashton
Contemporary Christian artist

EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

Discipleship Training

•September 24-25
Disciple Youth Conference
Lexington
South Elkhorn Church

Media

•September 25
Church Media Library
Workshop
Elizabethtown

Severns Valley Church

WMU

•September 24-25
Young Black Leader's Retreat
Bagdad
Cedarmore Assembly

OCTOBER

Brotherhood

•October 7
Golf Tournament
Hopkinsville

•October 8-9
Brotherhood State
Convention

Hopkinsville
First Church

Church Music

•October 7-8
Chorale Retreat
Elizabethtown

•October 8-9
Singing Women Retreat
Louisville

Westport Road Church

Evangelism

•October 12
Conference on Cults
Harrodsburg

Harrodsburg Church
7:00 p.m. (CST)

Student

•October 1-3
State Student Convention
Lexington

Sunday School

•October 8-9
State Sunday School
Convention

Florence
Florence Church

WMU

•October 1-2
Baptist Women/
BYW Retreat

Cedarmore

•October 8-9
Baptist Women/
BNF Retreat
Cedarmore

JONATHAN CREEK ASSEMBLY

A great place to reunite

The place you love for the people you love to be with!

This boast is supported in the following testimonial, expressed by MK (missionary kid) Julie Milam of Salt Lake City, Utah on behalf of the 124 people who attended the first ever Indonesian MK's Reunion:

"We all came together on the shore of Kentucky Lake with rolling green hills and leafy trees. It was a reunion of children who had grown up together in another country and now have children of their own. Many of us had not seen each other for years. We talked, had a bonfire and worshipped

together in chapel. There was a pool to splash and cool off in and playing fields of all kinds. In a common dining hall we shared southern cooking, iced tea and even an afternoon of watermelon on the Fourth of July. Every night we came back to cool, clean hotel rooms to rest. Our hosts could not have been more congenial and hospitable. They helped make our reunion a memorable experience. We hope they'll help us get together for the next one."

For more information, contact:
Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly,
Route 1, Box 418, Hardin, KY
42048, 502/354-8355.



Indonesian MK's Reunion attendees gathered for a group picture.

CEDARMORE ASSEMBLY

Events don't cease once summer ends

An awakening job

Some of Cedarmore's activities are planned as far as two years in advance. Yet, a recent letter from a frequent guest served as a reminder that summer has passed.

Bill Probus, minister of music at Cynthiana Baptist Church, wrote:

"For many years now, the fall choir retreat at Cedarmore has been a real highlight of our calendar year. Not only do we get five hours of concentrated

Christmas cantata rehearsal but we also have several hours of fellowship, which has really helped us to bond together as a choir family in Christian love.

We are so grateful for an excellent—and affordable—facility such as Cedarmore, and deeply appreciate the gracious manner in which we have been cared for through these years by you and your fine staff."

A timely reminder

Cedarmore will be closed to guests again this December and

January so it's not too early to be making your reservations for that special event.

A focus on Cedarmore staff

Many thanks to "seasonal workers" who perform a tremendous service to Cedarmore's guests each year. Serving 20 years: Florence Long, Lucille Parrish; 15 years: Ann Meadow; 10 years: Helen Coombs; five years: Laverne Barnes; two or more seasons: Matt Atkinson, Patricia Banta,

Jane Clay Kephart and Loretta Monfort; new to staff: Ron Atkinson, Dawna Clark, Matt Maxwell, Lisa Mullins, Greg Shouse, Marty Shouse and Kathy Wallingford

Without these faithful personnel, Cedarmore guests and staff would go hungry and dirty. Many thanks for their contributions. We salute them!

For more information contact:
Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
P. O. Box 37, Bagdad, KY
40003-0037, (502) 747-8911

CHECK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER

For additional information or to register, check the appropriate boxes and mail the provided form below to:

Communications Office, Attn.: Denise H. Withers, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433

To Receive More Information

- Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
- Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly
- Discipleship Training "How to Assimilate New Members into Your Church"
- Evangelism Cooperative Ministries/ Evangelism Clinic
- Partnership Missions Russia
- Student Youth Celebration
- Sunday School State Sunday School Convention
- WMU National Baptist Nursing

To Register

- Church Music \$50 per choir due before October 8
- Senior Adult Choir Festival
- Minister/Church Support \$15 pre-registration fee due by October 11
- Ministers' Wives Retreats
- WMU Fall Retreats - Registration \$18 p/person
- October 1-2, Cedarmore-All women
- October 8-9, Cedarmore-35 up, nurses
- October 14-15, Jonathan Creek-All
- October 14-15, Jonathan Creek-All

Sending a check? Unless specified, make your check out to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone : (W) _____ (H) _____

Church _____ Association _____

Leadership Position _____

Registration Fee (if applicable) _____

Number in group (if applicable) _____

Even in hindsight, 1968 was one tumultuous year

Certain years have the extraordinary power to excite, inspire or anger us, and 1968 was one such year. Now, with 25 years of hindsight, it is clear 1968 marked the end of the "age of innocence" in religion, race relations and politics.

VIEWPOINT

It was the year when conventional beliefs were challenged and shootings gave us two martyrs, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy. Coming just five years after the murder of President John F. Kennedy, it suddenly seemed that assassinations were as American as apple pie.

It was the year when the centuries-old white male stranglehold on American institutions, including synagogues and churches, started to crack. The urgent calls for black, Hispanic and female religious "empowerment" began to be heard that year.

Until 1968, it had mostly been Jewish theologians who, traumatized by the Holocaust, had spoken of the "eclipse of God" in history "after Auschwitz." But in 1968 we learned

about the "God is dead" debates among Christian theologians.

Such reports, were, of course, wildly premature, but those three words dramatically changed American religious life. Indeed, it can be argued that the current fundamentalist movements in Judaism, Christianity and Islam are a response to those who proclaimed God's demise.

It was the year when James Baldwin's "Fire Next Time" became real, as black rage scorched American cities. In 1968, a violent riot pitted police against demonstrators during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. No longer would such political gatherings be merely colorful occasions to nominate presidents and to stage mindless rallies. Rather, they would become the occasion for heated debates reflecting deep political and religious divisions.

It was 1968 when the American armed forces in the Vietnamese vil- lage of My Lai carried out brutal ac-

tions that many critics called "war crimes," and when the Viet Cong's Tet offensive forever shattered American hopes for a military "victory." Many families became bitterly divided by the Vietnam War, and the innocent belief that the United States always fights for high moral purposes became a casualty of that conflict.

Another casualty was Lyndon Johnson's presidency. He was succeeded that year by Richard Nixon, who would make political history six years later when he was forced to resign his high office in disgrace.

The severe questioning of America's motives and tactics in Vietnam that began in 1968 nearly paralyzed our nation's ability to act in the international arena for many years, and the spiritual demons of Vietnam have not yet been fully exorcised.

It was a year when communism, once heralded as "the wave of the future," showed its weaknesses and failures when Soviet tanks rumbled across Prague's bridges to crush political dissent in the Czech capital. But

the repression was not to last. The Soviet Union itself entered the dustbin of history 23 years later, and its abandoned military equipment was gleefully sold as souvenirs to foreign tourists on Prague's Charles Bridge.

In late 1968, American astronauts circled the moon for the first time, but even this achievement caused dissension and debate. Critics charged that the enormous funds needed for space exploration could be better used to address the ills of global society. Countless sermons began with the familiar words, "If we can send people to the moon, why can't we solve our problems here on earth?"

This year ended when an astronaut, awed by what he saw and felt, recited the psalmist's ancient words: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth God's handiworks." Even in a year of tumultuous change, at least something remained constant.

A. James Rudin
Religious News Service
New York

1968 marked the end of the "age of innocence" in religion, race relations and politics.

Interesting facts

Some interesting facts have surfaced (WR, Aug. 24).

Fact No. 1 is that the 70 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship churches of Kentucky support the Kentucky Baptist Convention but do not support the Southern Baptist Convention. They have given up on the present leadership and direction of the SBC and have organized their own fellowship, which is a denomination within a denomination.

Fact No. 2 is that these 70 CBF churches give to the Cooperative Program in order to maintain messengers and voting rights at the state convention and the SBC. Their commitment is no longer to the Cooperative Program but to CBF causes. The CBF has established a rival contribution center to the Cooperative Program and seeks to win defectors from the CP.

Fact No. 3 is that some of the leadership of the KBC are members of CBF churches. This is a matter of concern to many people across our state. Since the money given by the majority of the KBC churches is CP money, and some of it goes to pay the salaries of those who provide leadership for our state convention, it seems to me we should be able to count on their support for the Cooperative Program and SBC causes.

BAPTIST FORUM

ter of freedom of conscience. Let me note the danger implied in their rhetoric by posing two questions: Is the group who met recently able to discern the will of God for church membership for Dr. Marshall, Mr. Knox and all KBC personnel? Are some churches more acceptable than others, and does this group wish to dictate the politically correct ones?

Baptists have always been firm on the issue of autonomy. Each local church, each association, each state convention (including the KBC) is autonomous. The SBC is also an autonomous body. None of these can dictate anything to the other. We voluntarily choose to cooperate in various relationships. The churches to which Dr. Marshall and Mr. Knox belong are supporting financially the KBC. On the basis of autonomy and giving, I consider them cooperating Kentucky Baptists.

Greg C. Earwood
Murray

Set example

Have you considered:
■ That full support doesn't mean sole support? To give to causes other than the Cooperative Program is not wrong; but to rob the CP to do so is. As a church member would be considered wrong to withhold his tithe to support Billy Graham, so is robbing the CP to support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

■ That to dwell on 1837 is to forget 1925? Since the inception of the Cooperative Program, there has been an undeniable link between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. As long as a church sends one check to the CP which is then divided between the KBC and the SBC, you are inextricably linked together.

■ That when the current bylaw was passed, it was done because conservative churches were designating their giving? If it was wrong for them, why

isn't it wrong for you?

Do you remember the "Friends of Missions" who, at the 1986 convention in Atlanta, proposed that no person should be eligible for election whose church gave less than 10 percent through the Cooperative Program? If a person's church membership could be held against them then, why not now?

I appreciate your continued, personal support of the CP; however, I would like to see a greater example set by those who serve us.

Eddie Reynolds
Shepherdsville

No competition

MCI competes with AT&T. Pepsi competes with Coke, Ford with Chevy. The Cooperative Program competes with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (WR, Sept. 7)? I mourn when Baptists put secular qualifications upon missions.

I was a home missionary while a student. I also recruited other summer missionaries. I am now a minister of youth while I further my education.

Missions and ministry, when evaluated by business standards, are failures. We spend more than we make. Our staff is underpaid and overworked. The "bottom line" is red.

I mourn because I've met people crying out for ministry. Ministry should not be measured by business standards. Ministry is above that. Missions is people, not money or size.

We are called to be good stewards. I am a Cooperative Baptist. I prayed and studied before making that decision. I found out what the CBF and the CP are doing. Then I decided that for me to be a good steward of my tithe, it should be distributed to mission efforts through the CBF.

I am willing to cooperate with others. Missions is not a question of bottom lines and competition. I will not be "conformed to this world." The secular world talks of competition; Christians should talk of cooperation. I look forward to cooperating to fulfill

the Great Commission. My hands are outstretched for a loving embrace of those who think I am competing with them. I would love to walk hand-in-hand as we "tell the old, old story."

C. Brian McAdams
Louisville

No condemnation

How can people be so critical of our churches which support worthy causes in addition to the Cooperative Program?

We have always had churches on our border states who contributed both to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention and to the American Baptist Churches. We have African-American congregations which contribute both to the Cooperative Program and to the National Baptist Convention. Every church I have ever belonged to has had a budget item for the American Bible Society. Many Southern Baptist churches have special mission budget items for a particular missionary family of the SBC, and provide local housing for those missionaries while on furlough. The church where I hold membership has in its budget money for Habitat for Humanity (many of our members contribute labor for this cause as well), for a local "safe house" for juvenile offenders, the local ministerial organization which disburses emergency funds for travelers in distress, and funds for a county rehabilitation farm for the mentally handicapped.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship continues to fund missionaries and missions projects which Southern Baptists have supported for decades. If a local congregation believes in its heart that these people and projects are worthy of continuing the funding, who dares to condemn them?

God gives us many opportunities for Christian service and witness. Let us not condemn our brethren who give to causes in addition to the Cooperative Program.

James L. Heizer
Georgetown

Sacrifice?

As a poor, dumb layman, maybe I'm not quoting Scripture correctly, but I think Jesus said something like, "The foxes have dens, the birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Maybe he should have waited until 1979 to become pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston. Wouldn't it be difficult for the pastor who lives in a \$600,000 house to preach on sacrifice? Unless, of course, he is just living in the same style of the average family in his parish.

No wonder the non-Christians (and the Christians in the deserts of Mexico, the slums of Rio and even "average" Baptists in the USA) are seeking refuge among those of different persuasions.

It has been said when Baptists get smart enough, they become Presbyterians. Rich enough, they become Episcopalians. With all these reasons to leave, it is a wonder we still have any Southern Baptists anywhere.

Ed Boden
Georgetown

They're cooperating

I am writing in reference to the "by invitation only" meeting held in Eastern Kentucky. I am distressed over the evidence of fundamentalist politics in an attempt to take over the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Among the various strategies employed is the attack on the church affiliations of Dr. Bill Marshall and Mr. Marv Knox.

Joining a Baptist church is a highly personal decision based on the leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is also a mat-

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

Southern to publish journal

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry has assumed the lead role in sponsorship of the Journal of Family Ministry. The journal, which was founded in 1987, has been jointly published by Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, the Texas Baptist Association of Family Ministers and the Southern Baptist Association of Family Ministers. Southern Seminary was invited to join the publication effort after Hardin-Simmons University decided to withdraw from the venture, said Diana Garland, director of the Gheens Center and dean of the Louisville seminary's school of church social work. All subscriptions and editorial work on the journal will now be channeled through the Gheens Center. Leigh Conner, associate professor of psychology of religion at Southern, will edit the journal.

■ **HMB contract awarded.** The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's executive committee voted unanimously Sept. 14 to award a \$13.57 million construction contract to Metric Contractors Inc., of Marietta, Ga., for construction of the HMB's new national office building.

The project will be funded primarily by the previous sale of the board's current building in Midtown Atlanta. The new property is located in Alpharetta, Ga., a fast-growing suburb 22 miles north of the current headquarters.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the project will be Oct. 11. Construction is expected to be completed by the spring of 1995 with dedication ceremonies in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta in June 1995.

■ **Loan rates reduced.** Loans with a three-year fixed interest rate of 6.95 percent—the lowest rate in 15 years—are available to Southern Baptist churches from the Home Mission Board's church loan division.

The interest rate is available for new loans or refinanced loans for Southern Baptist churches to buy property or construct buildings for church use, said Bob Inlow, director of the church loans division. The interest rate will be adjusted after three years to reflect interest rates at that time.

Generally, churches which could recapture the closing costs within 18 months through lower payments would benefit from refinancing, the HMB advises.

■ **'Pole' results positive.** The annual "See You at the Pole" prayer emphasis for Christian youth "went smoother in more places this year," according to Dean Finley, youth evangelism consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Through "See You at the Pole," school administrators are recognizing Christian students can exercise their faith, Finley added. Nationwide reports on how many students participated in the Sept. 15 event will be available in October.

■ **Baptist seeks office.** Nancy Schaefer, vice chairman of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and founder of the Atlanta-based Family Concerns Inc., is running for mayor of Atlanta.

Schaefer, a member of First Baptist Church of Atlanta and an outspoken advocate of conservative Christian "family values," is one of seven candidates vying for the position, considered especially significant because of the spotlight being placed on Atlanta as it prepares to host the Olympics in 1996. The incumbent, Maynard Jackson, is not running in the Nov. 2 election.

"I want to break the cycle," she said in a news conference. "Atlanta smells. I want to bring back again a new fragrance, an aroma of character, responsibility, honesty and pride."

■ **Illinois elects Wilson.** Gene Wilson, 49, was elected Sept. 14 to succeed Maurice Swinford as executive

director of the Illinois Baptist State Association. The IBSA board of directors voted 59-2 to call the director of missions for Calvary-Arrowhead Baptist Association in Riverside, Calif., as their eighth executive director.

■ **Reservations due.** Hotel reservations for the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting should be mailed Oct. 1, according to convention manager Jack Wilkerson. The meeting will be June 14-16 in the Orange County Convention/Civic Center in Orlando, Fla.

The SBC Housing Guide and Request Form can be obtained from the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Louisville or in the September issue of the Baptist Program magazine published by the SBC Executive Committee.

Reservations must be postmarked on or after Oct. 1, 1993, and will be made on a first-come, first-served basis through the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau's computerized housing system.

■ **Publisher in top 10.** Broadman & Holman Publishers, the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been ranked number nine in the top 10 Christian publishers, according to "Christian Retailing" magazine.

"Seldom do companies even attempt, let alone pull off, the major overhaul Broadman & Holman started in August 1992," the magazine reported in its Sept. 5 issue. "Though it's too soon to predict results, early indicators suggest that other publishers better start keeping an eye on B&H."

■ **Nominations sought.** Nominations are being received for the second annual "Christian Women of Excel-

lence" recognition sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and Woman's Missionary Union.

The honorees will be presented during a national Christian women's enrichment conference in Atlanta, March 24-26, 1994.

Women nominated should exemplify biblical values of Christian women and be considered role mod-

els for Christian women of the '90s. Four women will be chosen from these categories: two laypeople, one minister's wife and one woman in vocational ministry.

Recommendations must be submitted on a form which can be obtained by writing or calling Christian Women of Excellence, 127 Ninth Avenue North, MSN 171, Nashville, Tenn. 37234, (615) 251-2277.

Come Celebrate Our 190th Year!

"190 Years of Serving Christ Together"

The Long Run Baptist Association invites you to celebrate our 190th Anniversary at our Fellowship Meal. The featured speaker will be Dr. Roy L. Honeycutt, retired president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Honeycutt will be given a special introduction by current president Dr. Albert Mohler.

October 18, 1993
Commonwealth Convention Center

6:00 P.M. Dinner
6:40 P.M. Program
\$8.00

For more information or tickets call (502) 635-2601

**"The biggest theatrical"
"event of the year!"**

-Time Magazine

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

**JESUS
WAS HIS NAME**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: SCOTT SANDERS
AND DENISE PETITDIDIER

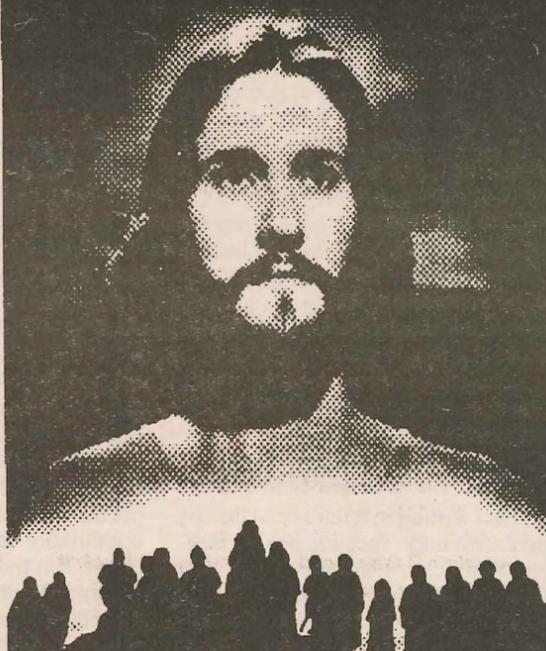
THURSDAY

OCTOBER 21ST • 8:00 PM
LOUISVILLE GARDENS

Tickets are available at Louisville Gardens, the Kentucky Center for the Arts, all TicketMaster locations and your local Christian bookstores.

Order by phone at 584-7777
or 1-800-775-7777

"The role of Jesus portrayed by Jean Marie Lamour."



Torture led Ethiopian to authentic faith in Christ

By Craig Bird
SBC Foreign Mission Board

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP)—Faith often leads to torture. But for Ephraim Chewaka, torture led to faith.

In the midst of a savage beating by Ethiopian communist troops, Chewaka

tested "the truth of the Bible, where it says revenge belongs to God."

Three times, as new assaults pounded him, he consciously "became keep-quiet"—and stilled his anger and hatred toward his tormentors.

Each time the pain lessened. Finally he could barely feel the touch of rubber hoses, fists and sticks. He finally

concluded, "If God is telling the truth about loving our enemies, then he must be telling the truth about Jesus Christ and salvation."

Aloud he exclaimed, "Oh, Lord, hallelujah; Oh, Lord, they don't know what they are doing," and kissed the hand of one soldier who hit him.

"At that exact moment," he says

quietly, "I claimed Jesus."

Kissing one soldier's hand made them all angry and they began beating him simultaneously.

That was in 1978. Today Chewaka, 33, is a key leader in the New Covenant Evangelical Baptist Convention of Ethiopia—a quiet and gentle man who has dedicated his life to telling the children of Ethiopia about Jesus.

Ironically, Chewaka should not have been arrested when troops of the communist government rounded up Christian believers in his western Ethiopian hometown of Kaffa.

When a sound truck rolled through the streets blaring, "Anyone under the age of 30 who goes to church tomorrow will be shot," it didn't take him long to decide: "Jesus has never done anything for me worth dying for."

He was 19 years old, had taught Sunday school since he was 7, sang in the choir and was treasurer of a church where his father was pastor. Still, he immediately "canceled to go to church," as he put it.

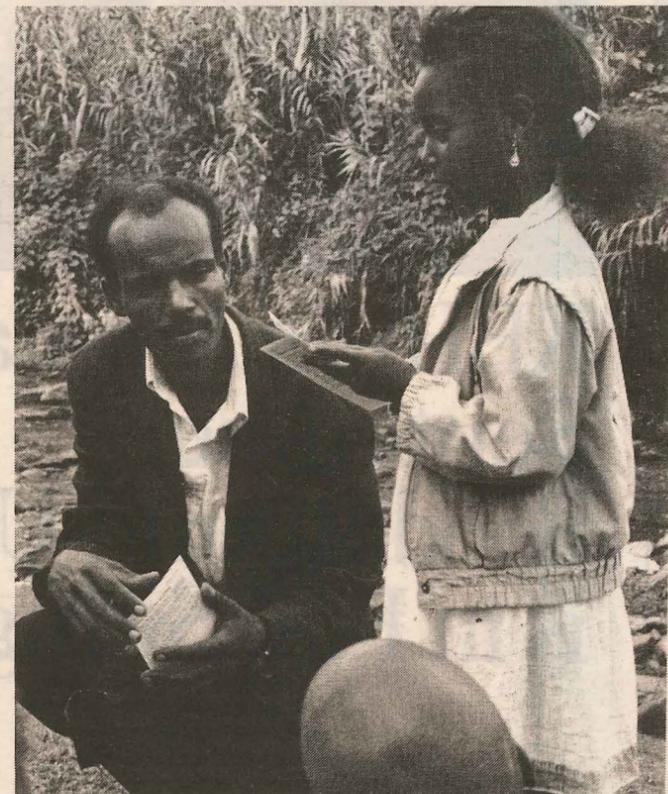
He stayed home that Sunday—but on Monday he was picked up along with 17 other members of the choir who had gone to church. Two days later in the basement of the prison, between screams of pain and hatred, he realized other choir members were singing and smiling as they were beaten. Hours later he joined them in their unusual—but biblical—response to persecution.

The beatings of the choir members began at 8:30 a.m. on a Wednesday. About 350 soldiers took turns smashing the believers. They continued until 12:30 a.m. Thursday before the commanding officer declared: "Surely their God is with them. They have more power than we do."

In the end, 19 people filed out of the room instead of the 18 who had been arrested. One of the soldiers had accepted Jesus Christ during the day, publicly stated that fact and voluntarily went to be locked up. "To this day he serves the Lord in that church and sings in the choir," Chewaka says.

In the end, 19 people filed out of the room instead of the 18 who had been arrested. One of the soldiers had accepted Jesus Christ during the day.

FIRM FAITH Ephraim Chewaka listens as Lydia, a 10-year-old Ethiopian girl, teaches a Bible lesson to a group of children. Chewaka calls Lydia one of the best evangelists he's ever seen. Almost every week one of her friends becomes a believer in Jesus Christ through her encouragement. Chewaka placed his trust in Jesus in 1978 while suffering torture in a communist jail. Now he devotes himself to reaching the children of Ethiopia with the gospel. (BP photo by Melissa Bird)



Accommodations 1993 KBC Annual Meeting - Elizabethtown

The 156th Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting is November 16-17 at Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Baptist Church. The hotels listed below represent facilities with blocked convention rooms in Elizabethtown, Radcliff, Shepherdsville and Cave City. Room rates are for 1-4 persons per night. Reservation deadlines, otherwise specified, are November 1. **Individuals making reservations must identify themselves as attendees of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to receive the established room rates. Make your reservations EARLY!**

Please note: The Executive Office of the KBC Executive Board makes every effort to advise Convention messengers concerning good lodging at a variety of prices in any host city. Messengers should be aware, however, that lodging other than that listed may be available. Also, individuals are expected to exercise personal discretion in the selection of appropriate accommodations. Telephone a hotel if you have specific questions about its services or policies.

ELIZABETHTOWN - Add 9% tax to rates

Best Western/Cardinal Inn

642 East Dixie
502/765-6139; 1/800/528-1234
Located on Hwy. 31W between I-65 and U.S. 62; exit 91 off I-65
Restaurant
\$26-\$42 + tax

Days Inn

I-65 & U.S. Hwy. 62
502/769-5522; 1/800/325-2525
On Hwy. 62 directly off I-65 exit 94
Denny's (open 24 hours) is adjacent.
\$27-\$45.90 + tax

Holiday Inn North

I-65 and U.S. Hwy. 62
502/769-2344; 1/800/HOLIDAY
Off I-65 exit 94 on Hwy. 62
Restaurant
\$43-\$53 + tax
Reservation deadline: October 15

Howard Johnson/Commonwealth Lodge

708 East Dixie
502/765-2185; 1/800/654-2000
On Hwy. 31 between I-65 and WK Parkway
Continental breakfast
\$29.95-\$39.95 + tax

Lincoln Trail Motel

905 North Mulberry Street
502/769-1301; 769-1302
On Hwy. 62 one mile west of I-65 (exit 94)
\$24.06-\$32.88 (this includes tax)

Rodeway Inn

656 East Dixie
502/769-2331; 1/800/228-2000
On Hwy. 31W near I-65 exit 91
Jerry's Restaurant is adjacent
\$29.88-\$39.88 + 9.15%

Towne Inn (formerly a Howard Johnson's)

I-65 and Hwy. 62
502/765-4166
On Hwy. 62 directly off I-65 (exit 94)
\$30-\$45 + tax

Another E-town hotel is available, but blocked rooms were not offered in advance:

Comfort Inn

I-65 and Hwy. 62
(502) 769-3030; 1/800/228-5150
On Hwy. 62 just west of I-65 exit 94
Next to Cracker Barrel and Shoney's
Indoor pool; whirlpool tubs available
\$59.37-\$69.86 + tax (30 day advance deposit)

RADCLIFF - Add 9% tax

Facilities are 9-12 miles of Elizabethtown

Best Western Gold Vault Inn
1225 North Dixie
502/351-1141
U.S. 31W, north side of Radcliff
1/2 mile from Ft. Knox
Shoney's Restaurant is adjacent
\$38 + tax
Reservations deadline: October 23

Econo Lodge

261 North Dixie
502/351-4488
U.S. 31W, north side of Radcliff
Continental breakfast
\$35.97-\$43.60; \$3 extra per person (tax included in this price)

Quality Inn

438 South Dixie
502/351-8211
U.S. 31W south of Radcliff
Continental breakfast
\$40 + tax; \$3 each for additional adults
Children 18 under - free
Reservations deadline: October 15

SHEPHERDSVILLE - Add 9% tax

20 miles north of Elizabethtown

Best Western South
44 Lakeview Drive
502/543-7097
I-65 and State Hwy. 44, exit 117
Restaurant
\$37-\$45 + tax
\$4 each extra person
Suites: \$51-\$65 + tax

CAVE CITY - Add 9.18% tax

30 minute drive south of Elizabethtown

Best Western Kentucky Inn
I-65 and Ky Hwys. 70 & 90
502/773-3161
1 block east of I-65, exit 53
\$28-\$32 + tax
Each extra person add \$4
One night's deposit in advance

Church's 7-year prayer for building answered

WHITESBURG—God answered a seven-year-long prayer for First Baptist Church of Whitesburg, reported Pastor Tom Stokes.

The church closed a deal on a building and property for its Linefork Baptist Mission late this summer, Stokes said, noting the action received a 97 percent favorable vote by the church's members.

First Baptist began praying for a site and facilities when it started Linefork Mission in 1986. A temporary answer came in the form of the Old Kingdom Come Settlement School.

"This is an old stone three-story building that had not been used for anything but storage for many years," Stokes described. "We fixed it up the best we could and moved in."

"However, it was still an old building with a leaking roof. The past two years have been especially difficult. The leaks have caused the ceiling plaster to get wet and fall. The falls would cause messes as well as pose danger to the folks there."

So, the church stepped up its prayers and search the past couple of years, he said. And the answer was a

house in the Linefork area, "ideally located at the junction where we felt the mission needed to be when we first went out there."

The mission initially will meet in the home without alterations.

The financing also has been an answer to prayer, Stokes added. The church voted to borrow the \$25,000 it needed to meet the \$70,000 purchase price. But in two days following the vote, members raised an additional \$7,000. Another member offered to buy a steeple.

Linefork Mission has been supported by a \$5,000 grant from Kentucky Baptists' Mission Kentucky campaign to start 4,000 churches across the state. The mission also has been aided by Southern Baptists' Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, and it gets home missions aid for the salary of Pastor Carl Hall.

"Through this process, we have learned a valuable lesson on how God works," Stokes stressed. "We wanted property years ago and tried to force it last year. However, that property was not God's will, and the timing was not the Lord's."

"This time and this property are his will; therefore, now it's a done deal. May God be glorified and praised."

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Accepting bids on a 1975, 66-passenger Ford bus, in good condition. It has a new V-8 Ford engine with low mileage. Send bids to Central Grove Baptist Church, Route 1, Box 78, Albany, KY 42602. For more information, call (606) 387-7898.

WANTED: Live-in custodian. Bullittsburg Baptist Camp. Call Susan Bradley or send resumé to P.O. Box 18370, Erlanger, KY 41018. (606) 727-6522.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/senior adults. Resumés to First Baptist Church, 201 North Main, Barbourville, KY 40906.

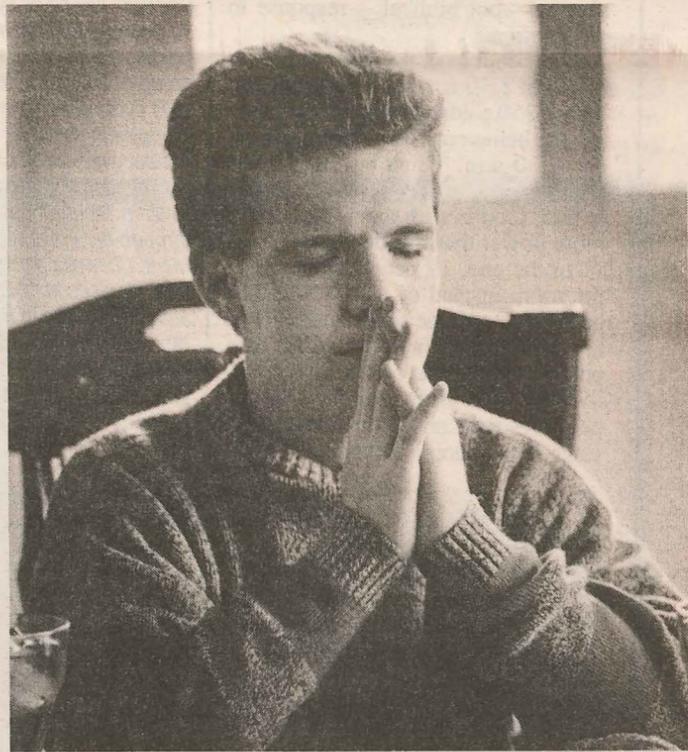
FOR SALE: 46 choir robes in excellent condition. Asking \$25 a piece. They are green with gold/white reversible collars. If interested, call Sand Spring Baptist Church (502) 839-3415.

WANTED: Volunteer missionaries (any age) to work with young adults in an urban church. Will commission! Be involved in missions personally. Call pastor (502) 636-1355 or (502) 425-4091.

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



DONE DEAL Participating in making a dream come true on the day of closing for Linefork Baptist Mission's new building are Gene Smallwood, deacon at First Baptist Church of Whitesburg; Carl Hall, mission pastor; and Tom Stokes, pastor of the Whitesburg church.



KBHC's Annual September Food Round-Up is in Full Swing!

All donated food items for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Annual Food Round-Up must be delivered to Pick-Up points no later than October 1.

Thanks from all of the children for your help this year!

Regional Pick-up Points

Western Region
Henderson—Green Valley Assn. office
Central City—Muhlenberg County Assn. office
Madisonville—Little Bethel Assn. office
Owensboro—Davies-McLean Assn. office
Sturgis—Ohio Valley Assn. office
Hawesville—Hawesville Baptist Church

North Central Region
Erlanger—Erlanger Baptist Church
Lexington—Porter Memorial Baptist Church
Morehead—First Baptist Church

Southwestern Region
Paducah—West Union Assn. office
Mayfield—First Baptist Church
Princeton—Caldwell/Lyon Assn. office
Hopkinsville—Christian County Assn. office
Murray—First Baptist Church
Cadiz—Little River Assn. office

Central Region
Glendale—Glen Dale Children's Home
Middletown—Spring Meadows Children's Home

South Central Region
Somerset—First Baptist Church
Danville—First Baptist Church
Greensburg—Greensburg Baptist Church
Richmond—First Baptist Church
Berea—Tates Creek Assn. office
Columbia—Columbia Baptist Church

Southern Region
Russellville—Bethel/Logan Assn. office
Bowling Green—Warren Assn. office
Glasgow—Calvary Baptist Church
Morgantown—Casper River Assn. office

Southeastern Region
Hazard—First Baptist Church
Barbourville—First Baptist Church
Manchester—Island Creek Baptist Church
Williamsburg—Main Street Baptist Church

Northeastern Region
Ashland—Unity Baptist Church
Prestonsburg—First Baptist Church
Pikeville—Pike Assn. office
Campton—Campton Baptist Church

For more information call:
1-800-456-1386



RALLY

Witness Against Gambling

When: October 8, 1993
Where: Main Entrance around the Capitol steps in Frankfort, Kentucky
Time: 1:00 P.M.

The gambling issue in Kentucky has greatly intensified because of a possible constitutional amendment vote authorizing casino/riverboat gambling.

The attack on morals and principles compel us to speak out and be firm and show a powerful resolve to keep any further legalized gambling from entering Kentucky.

Speakers will include:

- Religious leaders from various churches across Kentucky
- State Legislators
- Lay persons

Our purpose is to send a message to any and all persons who would try to increase legalized gambling in Kentucky that we are tired of their attempts to glamorize a social problem that is sweeping across our nation.

Sponsored by The Temperance League of Kentucky

Bivocational delivers in Myra

By Melanie Childers
 Staff Writer

MYRA—United Parcel Service truck driver Dave Hammond is making good on his sermon deliveries.

For the last nine years, Hammond has worked for UPS in Harlan. Before that, the Georgetown College graduate was a high school teacher and basketball coach for seven years.

But it's only been in the last three years that Hammond also felt God's call to preach, he said.

Hammond began lay preaching in 1990 and was called as pastor of Faith Baptist Mission in Myra in 1991.

At that time, the mission averaged about 18 people on Sunday mornings. Today, nearly 100 members regularly gather for worship.

Last year, the mission reported 26 baptisms—the third highest number in Pike Baptist Association.

Hammond described the members of the mission as "the most loving church I've ever seen" and said he believes their love and faith have contributed to the recent growth.

"This is the greatest church in the country," Hammond said. "I'd have to take a step down to take First Baptist of Atlanta."

Faith Baptist Mission actually began in 1983 with five people and a vision, Hammond explained.

After years of meeting in a high school band room and later at a roller-skating rink, the members began plans to construct a church building. First Baptist Church of Jenkins is the supporting church.

Faith Baptist Mission now emphasizes two ministries: discipleship training and visitation. Furthermore, Hammond explained, "visitation is the job of the people."

Pastors—especially bivocational pastors—can't do all the church's work, he insisted. "It takes a team effort."

When a congregation led by a bivocational minister is growing, that's a sure sign that committed Christian people are working together, Hammond said.

"We hope by the spring of next year to be the Faith Baptist Church of Myra," he said. Plans to expand the church's sanctuary also are being explored.

Hammond admits serving in a bivocational role can be taxing. "At times, I feel exhausted."

But the Lord grants the strength to keep going, he added. "I think God is giving a little extra blessing to bivocationalists."

Couple launches Wyoming's first BSU

LARAMIE, Wyo. (BP)—

"There are almost as many bars in Laramie as there are Baptist churches in Wyoming," says Rhett Ivey, who, with his wife Denise, is launching a student ministry at the University of Wyoming, the state's only four-year college.

"A lot of students are searching for answers, and we want to be there to give them those answers," Ivey says.

The pioneer work is "an awesome responsibility, but we know with God all things are possible," Mrs. Ivey adds.

The Iveys are volunteers appointed through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Mission Service Corps program.

First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M., has raised its Cooperative Program giving from **3 percent to 10 percent** in two years.

First Baptist Church, Albemarle, N.C., has met its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal every year for the last **19 years — on the 1st day** it was collected!

You Can Make a Difference!

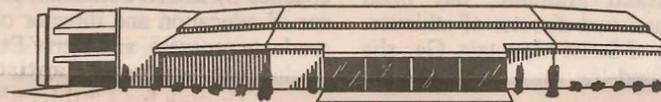
These churches are putting their money where they know it will make a difference.

Your church can too.

Give through the Cooperative Program and to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and see your missions dollars make a difference around the world.



YOUR BRIDGE TO THE WORLD



LITTLE FLOCK BAPTIST CHURCH Shepherding Seminars

Saturday, October 2, 1993 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Seminar	Leader	Subject
Preschool Leaders (SS, DT, Extended Sessions, Missions)	Sharon Mitchell Preschool Minister Highview Baptist	Benefits of having child-centered rooms (learning centers)
Children Leaders (SS, DT, Children's Church, Bible Drill)	Lynn Mitchell Children Minister Valley View Baptist	Ways to memorize Scripture, retain lesson and teach effectively
Youth Leaders (SS, DT, Youth Sponsors)	Eddie Clay Youth Minister Highview Baptist	How to make the lesson exciting, do Inreach and Outreach more effectively
Adult Leaders (SS, DT, Support and Small Group Leaders)	Ken Lupton Minister of Outreach and Discipleship Little Flock Baptist	Asking good discussion questions, handling group difficulties, small-group dynamics
Prayer Ministry (Intercessory Prayer Warriors, Daniel/Prayer Captains)	Nell Bruce Prayer Minister Highview Baptist	Lord, teach us to pray during Sunday school and worship
SS Class Outreach and Inreach Leaders	Wilma Owen Minister of Education Bashford Manor Baptist	Ideas for reaching adults
Telephone Outreach Ministry (TeleReach)	Ron Smith TeleReach Coordinator Little Flock Baptist	How to make effective calls to prospects
Stephen Ministry (Lay Caregiving Ministry)	Alice Newton Stephen Minister Coordinator Little Flock Baptist	Introduction to the Stephen ministry
Greeter Ministry (SS and Worship Greeters, Welcome Center Hostesses)	Jim Hatfield, Greeter Coord. Southeast Christian Shirley Taylor, Greeter Coord. Little Flock Baptist	Making a winning welcome to church guests
First Impressions Ministry (Newcomer, New Homeowner Visitation)	Raymond Hornbeck First Impressions Coordinator Little Flock Baptist	How to make the most of your newcomer visits

5500 Preston Highway
 4 miles south of the
 Gene Snyder Freeway

Offices located at 160 Zoneton Rd., Shepherdsville, KY 40165
 (502) 955-8760 • Fax (502) 955-6397
 Call or Fax for reservations.

KENTUCKY KERNELS

More than four out of every five adults in the United States describe themselves as Christians. Two-thirds of the population claim they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. Yet less than half of American adults say they trust Jesus Christ as their means to salvation.

Source: *The Barna Report 1992-93*

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville College has announced the employment of new full-time faculty and staff: **Kathleen Bush**, admissions counselor; **Avis Hewitt**, assistant professor of English; **Royce Simpson**, assistant professor of psychology; **Roger Wendt**, assistant professor of sociology; **Jeanette Parker**, director of extension programs; **Bryan Cross**, admissions counselor; **Karen Pierce**, secretary in admissions; **Walter Bell**, custodian; **Darla Lacey**, secretary in public relations and marketing; **Scott Pickett**, safety officer; and **Bryan Blair**, director of television services.

■ **FALMOUTH**—Turner Ridge Church ordained **James Smith** and **Wayne Biddle** as deacons Sept. 12.

■ **FRANKLIN**—**J.C. Bigbee** resigned from Fairview Church. He has served as a minister for 32 years, and is now returning to evangelism. He is available for revivals and pulpit supply, and can be reached at 6632 Highland Rd., Portland, Tenn. 37148. Or call (615) 654-2294.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Jeff Cavalcante** resigned as minister of youth from Clifton Church, and **Rebecca Kennedy** resigned as minister of music.

Cumberland makes sports changes

WILLIAMSBURG—Cumberland College has named a new director and assistant director of athletics and announced the addition of five new sports programs.

Floyd Stroud has been named athletic director. He is a 1974 Cumberland graduate who has worked for the school ever since his graduation. He has been dean of men since 1980 and was named as the men's cross-country coach last year.

Julie Waterhouse Hill, a 1992 Cumberland graduate, has been named assistant director of athletics. A native of Stone Mountain, Ga., she also earned the master's degree in

sports administration from Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond.

New sports programs added this year include women's cross-country and track, women's swimming, women's soccer, men's swimming and men's soccer.

The women's cross-country and track team will be coached by Stroud. Both the men's and women's swimming teams will be coached by Kimberly Proffitt, education graduate assistant. The soccer teams will be coached by Robert Schooner, professor of education and director of the graduate program, and Kerry Dugan, graduate assistant in education.

Audubon Church called **Joel Weaver** as part-time associate pastor. He is a graduate student at Southern Seminary.

■ **SALEM**—Salem Church called **James Dwiggin** of Evansville, Ind., as pastor Sept. 19.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **LOME, Togo**—Kentucky missionaries **Paula Settle** of Owensboro and **Donna and Jim Shemwell** of Central City have returned to Togo after being in Benin for seven months due to political unrest in Togo. They may be addressed at BP 1353, Lome, Togo.

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Looking for something to do with preschoolers? Mission Friends can be the answer!

Mission Friends is the organization of Woman's Missionary Union for preschool boys and girls. Its primary objective is to teach missions attitudes and concepts through stimulating learning experiences.

Mission Friends can occur during Baptist Women or Baptist Young Women meetings, Mother's Day Out, Sunday or Wednesday services, adult choir practice, day care or extended session.

For more information, contact Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, or call (502) 245-4101.

On the fast track

On Sept. 9 Oneida was host to five schools in late-afternoon cross country competition. Oneida took first place in both boys and girls competition at all levels, except our boys' varsity team came in second to Cordia of Perry County. In the boys' junior varsity race, Oneida had a perfect score of 15 (first through fifth place).

On the same afternoon, our girls' volleyball team traveled to Breathitt County and bested Mt. Carmel. In the meantime, our choir traveled to the 123rd annual session of the Booneville Baptist Association where they sang after my annual report. Afterward, we treated them to some fast food (some of the staff and I stopped at another restaurant to eat and have some fellowship together). The following night some of us again attended the annual associational meeting.

Saturday morning our boys' and girls' cross country teams were off bright and early to Covington Catholic to compete with 17 other schools from Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. Our boys varsity came in fourth, both girls and boys junior varsity were sixth, and our varsity girls came in eighth.

In the meantime, some of our students were away at Manchester playing tennis. In the afternoon our academic team and band left the campus at about the same time. Nine of our academic team traveled to the YMCA's Camp Crescendo near Lebanon Junction for a statewide leadership conference preparatory to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Youth Assembly.

I traveled with our band for their first marching competition with 15 other schools at Danville. We were first on the program and I was very proud of the sound and appearance of our young people.

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

After watching three other bands, three of our students left with one of our math teachers to meet the academic team. The band and I got back home about 1 a.m.

While our band was traveling to Danville, Boyle County High School's soccer team was coming to Oneida. Our boys defeated them for the first time in five years with a score of 4 to 1.

Sunday morning, several students and I left early for Bagdad where I spoke at the morning service. Unable to make a funeral in time that afternoon, we stopped off at Georgetown to visit a friend of the school who had an operation several days before. We also visited one of our graduates attending college there.

We met our choir at Manchester that evening where I listened to them sing. I spotted senior Sarah Perrine who had left the campus the day before to march with the band at Danville, then traveled to Lebanon Junction to join the Academic team, and had gotten back to Manchester in time to sing with the choir. A straight A, third-year German student, she was a

Governor's scholar this summer at Centre College and studied last summer in Germany on a special grant.

Monday evening I spoke at an associational WMU meeting at Somerset, went with our soccer team to Richmond on Tuesday, attended a Bible conference with over 500 on Wednesday, spoke at Wayne Association near Monticello on Thursday, Bible conference again on Friday, spoke at Red River Association in Campton on Saturday, met our band in Hazard that afternoon, and then went on to Louisville to speak at Green Acres.

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

Paid Column

The plumber president

Three years ago Keith Withrow quit a plumbing job in Owensboro and moved his family to Clear Creek. His plumbing skills have provided needed school and family expenses and met a critical need for campus construction. He has installed the plumbing in seven homes, 12 apartments and the Child Development Center. He has completed the final details on a 900-foot water and sewer system to the new Hemlock Heights village.

Last April classmates taped Keith as student body president. "This is one of the highest honors of my life because it came from the student body, and one thing in life I strive for is for people to respect me," says Keith. He chairs the student advisory committee, represents students on the board of trustees and works closely with the director of student affairs. A former high school basketball star, Keith led his intramural campus team to the championship last spring.

Hosman Baptist Church, four miles west of Pineville, called Keith as pastor in July 1991. Several student families are active members of the congregation. The church appreciates his love for people, strong biblical preaching and

cooperative spirit. With a winning smile Keith relates, "Before coming to Clear Creek, I had heard of bivocational ministry. My experiences here have introduced me to tri-vocational work—going to school, working and pastoring."

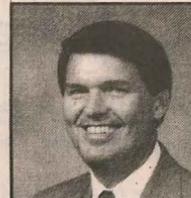
The Withrows are parents of Haley, 5, and Whitney, 7. With both girls in school this year Kim decided to enroll in classes. "I want to take some of the basic courses, possibly earn an associate degree. It's tough at times as wife, mother and student, but I enjoy it and am learning so much." She also assists volunteer dentist Bill Snowden in the campus dental clinic. Dr. Snowden appreciates her servant heart, stating, "Kin relaxes patients with her sincere gentleness and concern for them."

This busy family exemplifies the best of Clear Creek: Commitment to Christ, the church and his word, hard work and growing together as a team. They continue to merit the honor of "student first family." My only problem is they do to eat Owensboro barbecue.

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

Paid Column

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MISSIONS

Mission study video focuses on Indonesia

By Donald Martin
SBC Foreign Mission Board

KEDIRI, Indonesia (BP)—When three Southern Baptist missionaries in the mid-1950s opened a rural medical clinic in Indonesia, local leaders scoffed, saying a shoe box would easily hold all the patients' records.

"It certainly didn't look very promising for three white, Christian women in a backwater, mostly Muslim town in Indonesia," said Kathleen Jones, recalling her time working in rural Kediri as a missionary physician with missionary nurses Everley Hayes and Ruth Ford.

From the start the three women had to prove themselves in Indonesia, home to the largest Muslim population in the world. Their stories are part of the 1993 Foreign Mission Study, "Indonesia: Missions in Transition."

Southern Baptists produced the 1993 adult study in video format for the first time without an accompanying book. It's part of a three-year test sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board. Materials for youth and children come in print formats.

In Kediri, one village leader told Jones, Hayes and Ford that foreign women would find few Indonesians willing to come for treatment, much less attend the Sunday school they planned to lead in the garage of their home.

And, when they asked where they could buy a file cabinet to hold patient registration cards, the leader said that a shoe box would be big enough.

Yet the clinic outgrew that advice in less than a month. And though the three missionaries treated only 10 patients the first day, they had ministered to more than 100 people by the end of the month.

"From then on we never slowed down," Jones recalled. "It was amazing."

Today, the patient load has not only outgrown a shoe box, but the clinic as well. In its place, a 152-bed facility treats more than 85,000 patients a year. Currently, the Kediri Baptist Hospital sponsors a nursing school and has added a dental clinic.

"The Lord did help us in Indonesia. He opened many doors," Jones said. "When I think of the lives we touched through medicine and the thousands of persons God brought to us, I'm amazed. God has done great things ... from three white, Christian women, two houses and a Sunday school in the garage to a hospital that today reaches out to thousands of patients each year."

Students believed they would go to Cuba

By Mary Speidel
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Randy Carter never stopped believing he would go to Cuba.

He had every reason to doubt. It had been nearly 30 years since Baptist Student Union summer missionaries had worked in that communist nation.

"But I believed right up until we got our visas the night before we left," Carter said.

A Spanish and religion major at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Carter is one of four Texas Baptist students who spent the summer in Cuba as Baptist Student Union summer missionaries.

When the students, all Spanish-speaking, were accepted for the assignment, they were told there were no guarantees the Cuban government would grant them visas. They had an option of working in nearby Dominican Republic.

"We felt there was about a 50-50 chance they would get visas based on information received from Cuban Baptists," said Mark Smith, missionary to Latin America who helped coordinate the project.

"All of us prayed the whole semester about it. Our hearts were with Cuba, even though we didn't know if that's where God wanted us," said

Anna Maria Rojas, a student at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Other students besides Carter and Rojas were Alex Aldape of the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg and Jami Partain of Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

The students weren't the only ones praying. For more than a year, Tom Ruane and Josue Valerio had prayed about sending students to Cuba. They first discussed it last year in Chihuahua, Mexico, where Valerio is a Southern Baptist representative working with students. Ruane is an associate in the student division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"We were talking about what God is doing in the world and the advantage students have to respond to some of these situations because of their freedom and availability," Ruane recounted.

The men promised each other they would pray regularly for Cuba. Later, student summer missions was added to Ruane's job description and he grew determined to try to send summer missionaries to Cuba.

When Texas Baptist leaders approached the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board about the idea, officials tried to discourage it. "They told us from the beginning that it would be a miracle for four college students to be accepted into the country for more than a week," Ruane

called.

But both agencies agreed to try.

Smith and Ronald Wilson, who directs FMB work in the Caribbean, advised Texas Baptist and Cuban Baptist leaders throughout the process. "They were cautious, they were careful," Ruane said of Smith and Wilson, "but I think when they met the students they began to realize that God was doing something here. They gave it every possible consideration."

The students ministered in Cuba seven weeks through the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. They stayed in the homes of Cuban Baptist pastors and at a Baptist camp.

Their main assignment was working at the camp. On weekends they traveled to some of the convention's 113 Baptist churches to preach, sing, give Christian testimonies and lead vacation Bible schools.

Rojas met Baptist children as young as 6 years old who had read the Bible through as many as eight times. "They have a knowledge of the Bible like I've never seen in the States," she said, noting that Cuban Baptists start memorizing Scripture at an early age and continue that as adults.

During the trip Carter, Aldape and some Cuban pastors visited in the homes of non-Christians. "They were interested that we had given up the summer in the United States to come to Cuba. That gave us an open door to tell why we were there," he said.

"All of us prayed the whole semester about it. Our hearts were with Cuba, even though we didn't know if that's where God wanted us."

Anna Maria Rojas, a student at the University of Texas at San Antonio

Silent treatment key for music missionary

XIAN, China (BP)—Conductor Phillip Posey believes the key to filling China's concert halls with music is silence.

"Music carries so little cultural baggage. There's something in music that connects us all," said Posey, guest conductor of the Shaanxi Symphony Orchestra. Posey, 56, is a music volunteer with Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

But he found connecting with Chinese listeners isn't always easy in a country known for its boisterous audiences. Posey's first concert there unnerved him.

"The atmosphere of the performance was dismal," he said. "They talked, they smoked and children ran all over the place. The musicians had long since resigned themselves to this, but I could see it was still hard on them. I decided the orchestra deserved better."

Posey, on sabbatical from his directorship of instrumental studies at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., had inherited an orchestra seasoned more in perseverance than skill.

Orchestra members, whose ages range from 21 to over 70, had worked more than six months without a conductor. They rehearsed on aging instruments in a drafty, warehouse-like building in a city known for harsh winters.

Posey and his wife, Ann, understood many of these limitations when they considered sabbatical options. But they chose the CSI assignment anyway because it blended the couple's musical talents with their Christian commitment.

"We knew we were supposed to come here," Posey explained at his Xian apartment on the campus of Shaanxi Teachers University, which employs the orchestra.

"As Christians, we bring a special kind of caring to our profession and our relationships," he said. "I think others sense that."

That care formed the core of Posey's efforts to instill in orchestra members a spirit of unity and pride in their art.

For his debut with the 75-piece orchestra, Posey tripled the time he would normally prepare with a professional group. But at his first concert in the meeting hall of a local factory, the polished overtures drowned in the commotion and conversations of the audience.

Despite his guest status in a foreign country, Posey decided he would insist on silence from the audience in a prepared statement at the orchestra's next performance.

Posey tucked the statement into his pocket before the concert. He needed it sooner than he expected: after just a few bars of the opening movement, dozens of students barged into the 700-seat hall, demanding to hear the concert although they had no tickets.

In the confusion, Posey waved his arms and cut off the music.

"I stopped the overture," he recalled. "The orchestra was in absolute shock. I then walked off the stage and found the woman that had read the opening announcements and gave her my statement."

Before she could respond, two university officials in the audience stood up and began shouting at the students,



telling them to sit down and be quiet.

"You could have heard a pin drop," Posey recalled with awe. "But by now the orchestra was in total shock. I walked back to the front and quietly reassured them. They looked around and saw that nobody was talking. I raised my hands and we started to play—and they played their hearts out. For the rest of the evening they played beautifully, without the slightest flaw."

More than music was created that evening, Mrs. Posey said.

"When Phil refused to go on until everyone was quiet, it gave the orchestra members a sense of pride," she said. "They saw that he was willing to take risks for them. And once the audience quieted, the orchestra could hear how good they sounded."

A new confidence took hold of them.

"They were absolutely beside themselves with excitement," Posey said. "There was an enthusiasm you don't always see on the professional level."

PERCUSSION DISCUSSION
Southern Baptist music volunteer Phillip Posey works out timing with two percussionists of the Shaanxi Symphony Orchestra in Xian, China, while Wang Ting (left), a violinist in the orchestra, translates his instructions. While on sabbatical leave from William Jewell College, Posey was the orchestra's guest conductor. (FMB photo by Warren Johnson)

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