

**FOR THE RECORD**

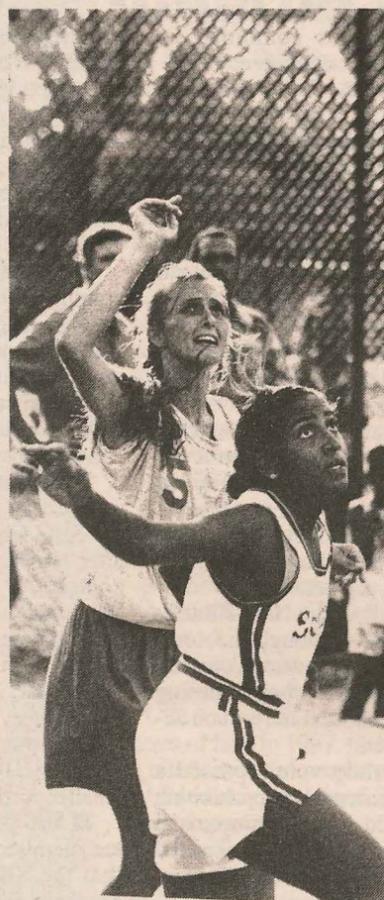
**Presidential prayer**  
Southern Baptists have launched an effort to pray for two of their own, President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. See page 2.

**Graham's coming**  
Evangelist Billy Graham will lead a community worship service as part of the ceremonies marking the inauguration of Al Mohler as president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. See page 3.

**Editorial**  
Baptists can lead the way in answering the call for a new moral agenda in America. See page 5.

**Who's saved?**  
An article in a daily newspaper has sparked discussion regarding the meaning of salvation. See page 6.

**'Party hardy'**  
Baptists are helping launch a new television program that will offer students and young adults an entertaining, Christian way to celebrate special events. See page 9.



**HOT SPOT** Heat and humidity made basketball a tough game for Kentucky native Kim deMarigny (No. 5), who played on a sports evangelism team.

## Kentuckian hoops it up for missions

By Craig Bird  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

VICTORIA, Seychelles—Most people go to the Seychelles to laze on the beach. Most people don't go to Madagascar at all. Most people don't even know where the Comoros are.

But Hopkinsville native Kim deMarigny traveled there to play basketball and share her faith.

It was a long—and expensive—way to go, since she and her husband not only had to raise \$2,500 each but also took a month off their jobs. But she signed up, "To share the love of Christ through sports and new friendships."

Growing up, she was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. Now she teaches and coaches at a Fort Worth, Texas, high school while husband Rob attends seminary.

On the trip, she started on the women's basketball team and played on the women's volleyball squad for the International Sports Federation. ISF is dedicated to matching Christian athletes, coaches, trainers and doctors with worldwide requests.

ISF was invited to the countries to help the national teams prepare for the fourth Indian Ocean Island games.

But while sports competition was the reason for the trip, showing peo-

ple a Christian lifestyle was the purpose. The Seychelles, a lush tropical paradise, is a highly secular and affluent society where 70 percent of the population is illegitimate. Madagascar is poverty-ridden and dominated religiously by adherents of African Traditional Religion. The Comoros is 99 percent Muslim.

Evangelical Christian churches are tiny minorities in all three places—yet the governments not only invited ISF to come but paid for the hotel and food.

In all three countries, the basketball was rough, a sort of are-you-sure-this-isn't-rugby kind of competition.

The men's team was the Southwestern Seminary team with the addition of one player. The women's teams were split about evenly between current college players and recent graduates.

Everywhere they played, they attracted crowds who, while rooting for their national team to win, still appreciated the skill of the visitors.

And they proved an athletic riddle—you can't be friends with an opponent until he respects you, and the way to get respect is to beat him.

For example, after the Seychelles team rolled over the ISF men in the first game, an ISF player jokingly asked the star Seychelles player, "Are

we good enough competition for you, or should we get someone to take our place next match?"

"Get someone else," he sneered. "You don't belong on the court with us." Yet, two days later, after the ISF squad won by 15 points, he was friendly and open.

"Sports is a wonderful door into a country and culture," explained Fred Sorrells, a Southern Baptist missionary who set up the summer tour. "Not only do the athletes and coaches get to know the opponents, but they can make an impression on the hotel staff and other people they meet. Plus there very presence, as highly visible Christians, is an encouragement to the local Christians who often feel overwhelmed by their own society."

The trip was the ISF's first project. "We plan to concentrate on the Indian Ocean Island countries at first because we have already established ourselves there and there are no similar groups there," said ISF Director Cheryl Wolfinger. "But we are open to requests from anyone, anywhere."

"Working with the (Southern Baptist) Foreign Mission Board, we are sending another men's basketball team to Madagascar in January and a construction team there to help build outdoor basketball courts in February," she added.

## Russian liberty movement gets a breather

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Orthodox scheme to limit religious freedom in Russia suffered a serious setback last week, when President Boris Yeltsin disbanded parliament, two Russian reformers said.

But the coalition of Orthodox leaders and communist politicians—whose proposals would have clamped down on evangelicals across Russia—won't give up their fight, warned Gleb Yakunin, a dissident Orthodox priest, and Lev Ponomarev, a leader of the Democratic Russia movement.

In a private meeting in Washington Sept. 23, Yakunin told Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind.: "We must stay on guard even after the (December parliamentary) election. This legislation limiting religious freedom in Russia has been tabled for now, but the opposition will attempt to get it through the new parliament."

But the parliament to be elected in December will abolish strict proposals against religious freedom, Ponomarev predicted. Such laws were passed by the old parliament twice, but Yeltsin refused to sign them into law.

The proposed limits would have given police and others power to regulate non-Orthodox Russians and ban foreign missionaries from spreading the gospel.

A deluge of response from the United States—including an objection from President Clinton—took many Yeltsin advisers by surprise. But it gave Yeltsin needed support to stall the legislation, which never became law.

For months, Yeltsin has worked to establish a new constitution guaranteeing religious freedom and other free market and democratic reforms.

Yakunin and Ponomarev said the Russian democracy movement needs money to buy media time, as well as manpower to help monitor free elections. Their visit to Washington last week coincided with the Senate's vote to funnel \$2.5 billion in U.S. aid to Russia.

Although communism has been overthrown, religious freedom advocates in Russia fear dominance of Orthodoxy as a state religion. Some Baptists in Russia say they suffered worse persecution at the hands of the Orthodox prior to 1917 than they did from communists afterward.

The battle for religious liberty in Russia has special significance for Kentucky Baptists, who have just launched a multi-year missions partnership with Russian Baptists.

Reported by Marty Croll, SBC foreign mission board staff writer.

## How many Americans really go to church?

NEW YORK—How many Americans go to church?

Speculation about the answer has fueled a high-level debate, thanks to a new study that claims the rate of U.S. church attendance has been inflated.

Three researchers—two Southern Baptists and a Catholic—argue that the rate of church attendance is only about half that claimed by social scientists and publicized by historians and journalists. Some colleagues praise their work, while others pan it.

The study was conducted by Kirk Hadaway, a former researcher for the Southern Baptist Sunday School and Home Mission boards, now with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries; Penny Long Marler, a

graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and professor at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; and Mark Chaves, a professor at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

Their study reports that about 20 percent of Protestants and 28 percent of Catholics attend church in any given week. That compares to a 1992 Gallup poll which claimed 45 percent of Protestants and 51 percent of Catholics got to church.

For decades, similarly high Gallup poll figures have gone unquestioned, consistently showing weekly church attendance to be more than 40 percent for all denominations.

Hadaway, Marler and Chaves in-

sisted their results call into question the validity of the kind of telephone polling on which the Gallup figures are based. "When people self-report in a survey, they tend to over-report what they perceive to be socially desirable behavior," Chaves said.

But the trio's report itself represents undesirable research, critics have charged.

It's "a sloppy piece of work," complained Andrew Greeley, a Catholic priest and sociologist and professor at the University of Chicago.

George Gallup, head of the Gallup poll on which previous church-attendance reports have been based, declined comment on the study, saying

□ See Church attendance ..., page 8

## Moral Majority might come back

LYNCHBURG, Va. (EP)—Is the Moral Majority—successful standard-bearer of the religious right throughout the United States during the '80s—going to make a comeback?

Recent fund-raising appeals from Jerry Falwell, best known as founder of the Moral Majority coalition, say: "Some people have told me that I made a mistake in closing Moral Majority a few years ago. Perhaps I did. At the time, I felt we had reached many of our goals—and I had to devote more time to my ministry and to Liberty University. But now the liberals are a much better organized force than we faced in 1979. And they have very powerful allies in the White House and in Congress."

He urges recipients of the letter to vote on whether or not the Moral Majority should be reactivated, and he states, "I will let you know my decision."

If the Moral Majority is reactivated, it won't be the same as its earlier incarnation, in which Falwell played the roll of spokesperson for the religious right, said Falwell spokesman Mark DeMoss.

"While he hasn't decided specifically how involved he might get politically, he has decided how involved he will not get, and namely he refuses to travel the country like he did in the mid-1980s and be gone for extended periods of time," DeMoss explained.

Moving? See page 4 (0928)

## SBC updates guidelines for disciplinary actions

### Fellowship adds 6 missionaries

DECATUR, Ga.—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship appointed its first new career missionaries this month. The three couples—who will serve in Miami, the Czech Republic and Asia—are the Fellowship's first career missionaries who have not previously been appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The three young couples join 20 other Fellowship missionaries, all of whom serve in Europe.

One of the six missionaries was Fellowship missions Coordinator Keith Parks' youngest son, Stanley, who with his wife, Kay, will open mission work among an unreached people group in Asia. Tracy and David Bengston will coordinate the Fellowship's hurricane-relief work in south Florida.

Veir Dean and Allen Williams will live in the Czech Republic, where he will teach in a Czech Baptist seminary. In other business, the Fellowship's coordinating council heard reports on the 3-year-old organization's progress.

"We are adding a church a day," said Fellowship Coordinator Cecil Sherman. At the end of eight months of 1993, a total of 1,094 churches had contributed \$6.8 million through the Fellowship's three giving plans.

*Compiled from Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press reports.*

NASHVILLE—Southern Baptist Convention leaders have adopted guidelines they hope will keep some disciplinary actions against SBC churches from becoming front-page news.

The SBC Executive Committee approved the guidelines last week. Its action followed a high-profile flap this summer, in which President Bill Clinton's home church was forced to defend its good standing in the SBC.

The attempt to expel messengers from Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., from the SBC annual meeting failed. But the process exposed the church to "ungrounded, unsubstantiated attacks" in pursuit of "personal, secular, political agendas," claimed Immanuel Pastor Rex Horne.

The new guidelines ask that challenges to churches be presented before the SBC annual meeting starts. They also give the SBC president prerogative to rule would-be challenges out of order.

The process also calls for a meeting of the SBC Credentials Committee with the challenger—presumably in private—to assure that a valid challenge exists. If so, the committee holds a hearing and examines two principles: First, the SBC test for participation is a test of the church and not of individual actions of its members. Second, a church's action is official only when it is approved by a vote of the congregation.

Consequently, a church could not

be disciplined because of individual actions of its members, such as Clinton's personal views.

According to the SBC constitution, the only congregational action, other than lack of financial support, that can disqualify a church from the SBC is endorsement of homosexuals. But other moral restrictions are coming, predicted members of the subcommittee that developed the new guidelines. Some of them suggested other issues, such as abortion, should be considered.

Ordination of women will not be one of them, however. The Executive Committee unanimously dismissed a proposal which would have made women's ordination grounds for a church's expulsion from the SBC.

"While we don't believe in ordaining women, ... we felt like it was a local church matter," explained committee Chairman Fred Wolfe of Mobile, Ala.

The Executive Committee unanimously handled more than 30 other items during its meeting. Among them were:

■ **Self study.** The committee will take "a hard look" at SBC agencies' responsibilities, said Wolfe.

Beyond seeking to increase the flow of dollars to the convention's budget, the study will examine "how we might be more cost-efficient with the ones we already have" and possible updates in assignments, Wolfe explained. Some leaders would like to

see small agencies combined or brought under the committee.

■ **Investments.** The committee delayed action on a dispute with the Annuity Board, the SBC's pension and insurance provider, over investments that support abortion.

Last February, the committee asked the board to divest itself of stocks in companies that contribute to abortion-supporting organizations. In August, the board declined the request, citing its legal responsibility not to jeopardize its clients' pension funds.

The committee last week voted to "reserve further comment" until the board addresses a motion referred from the SBC annual meeting that the agency divest itself of stocks in companies "whose business endeavors conflict with the teachings, commands and spirit of the Holy Bible."

■ **Site swap.** Although the committee would like to reward Colorado and punish Atlanta for their opposing positions on homosexuality, such action was delayed.

After Colorado voters passed a constitutional amendment prohibiting laws that would protect homosexual rights, the Atlanta city council voted to bar any city-funded travel to Denver.

Consequently, the committee received a motion that would move the 1999 SBC annual meeting from Atlanta to Denver. But the SBC is slated to hold its 1995 meeting—which will

commemorate the 150th anniversary of the convention, which was founded in Georgia—in Atlanta, and contracts have not been signed for convention facilities.

Fearing reprisals, the committee voted to defer action on the 1999 move "in order to allow adequate time to secure a signed contract" for 1995.

■ **Presidential nominations.** The committee rejected suggestions that the responsibility for appointing the SBC Committee on Committees—which sets in motion the nomination of SBC trustees—be shifted from the SBC president to state and regional conventions.

■ **Capital funds.** The committee released \$300,000 in capital funds to the SBC Christian Life Commission after learning the CLC had signed a contract to purchase a building in Washington.

The money was part of a fund set aside for "public affairs" in 1964. After the SBC defunded the Baptist Joint Committee, that organization and the CLC disputed ownership of the money. The BJC eventually received a smaller portion of investment income.

■ **SBC parliamentarian.** Committee members rejected a requirement that the SBC parliamentarian be a Southern Baptist. Since 1986, Barry McCarty, a Church of Christ minister, has been the convention's chief parliamentarian at a cost of \$91,320.

*Compiled from Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press reports.*

## Presidential prayers planned

By Ray Waddle  
The Nashville Tennessean

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore haven't had a prayer with many Southern Baptists—until now.

A "Pray for the President" daily prayer guide has been printed by the thousands after one Baptist official became alarmed at how many Baptists were bad-mouthing their fellow Christians.

"I travel a good bit, and all I was hearing from Baptist men was how bad Clinton is," said Jim Furgerson of the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission.

"I didn't vote for Clinton, but I'm an American, he's our president and my Bible requires that I pray for our leaders. The Bible doesn't say to cut him to pieces."

Although both Clinton and Gore are Southern Baptists, they have alienated conservative SBC leaders because they advocate gay rights and are pro-choice on abortion.

The booklet is a 40-page prayer guide. Each page has a Scripture reference and a specific topic to pray about—for instance, that Clinton be a good "model of Christian leadership" or that he maintain hope, self-control and faithfulness to Christ.

The book specifies many of the same topics for Gore.

Each page also has a blank line

on which to write down a current news event to pray about. The books are being sold by the Brotherhood Commission for \$3.50 for a pack of 10.

Top SBC leaders who visited Clinton and Gore this month gave them copies of the booklet.

The president was pleased to learn of the prayer plan, said SBC President Ed Young, who made the visit with Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, and two others.

Young, who told the SBC Executive Committee about his visit with the president, said he found a spiritual sensitivity in Clinton. "There is a heart there—a spiritual cross-pull—in the life of our president. Who knows what the Lord will do?"

Young called for SBC churches to launch a 40-day prayer campaign for Clinton and Gore beginning Jan. 1.

In its annual meeting last summer, the SBC urged Clinton and Gore "to stand for biblical morality" and reverse their stances on homosexuality and abortion.

Brotherhood Commission President James Williams said he and Young will send a letter to each pastor in the SBC to announce the call to prayer and to tell how copies of the booklet can be ordered.

*Herb Hollinger and Art Toalston of Baptist Press also contributed to this story.*

## Money matters is major issue

NASHVILLE—Money matters have become a major issue for the Southern Baptist Convention in recent weeks.

The SBC's most powerful committee and two ad hoc groups have focused on financial support:

■ The SBC Executive Committee's leaders have urged churches to give 10 percent of their undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified budget.

"Some churches give well over 20 percent" to the CP, said Executive Committee President Morris Chapman. "Others give 2 to 3 percent," while the SBC average is 9.3 percent, he added, noting year-to-date CP receipts are 1.88 percent below budget.

"A new determination has emerged to build an even stronger convention ... with unequivocal biblical convictions. But if these strong convictions lead us to an independent mentality and away from a cooperative spirit in financially supporting missions, we will ... fail."

But committee members stopped short of tying their own participation on the committee to a minimum Cooperative Program contribution from their churches. Their churches contribute an average of 7.23 percent of undesignated receipts to the CP—2 percent below average.

An SBC proposal would have required members on the committee come from churches that give at least 10 percent to the CP.

In voting down the proposal, committee members noted "individuals and not churches are eligible for elec-

tion" to the committee, individuals may not feel as their churches do about the CP, churches give to the CP voluntarily, and CP giving is not the basis for SBC membership.

■ The Coalition of Hope—a group that says it wants to end SBC division by focusing on missions—last week urged expansion of its movement based at least in part on CP support.

The coalition's coordinating workgroup met with state Baptist leaders, seeking support for its effort to "call Southern Baptists ... to new levels of missions commitment."

While seeking to register commitments to form state-level workgroups, coalition leaders repeatedly voiced their commitment to the CP as Southern Baptists' financial channel.

■ Three pastors from across the spectrum of SBC theological views have headed up an effort to raise more money for foreign missions.

John Bisagno of Houston, Frank Pollard of Jackson, Miss., and Dan Yeary of Phoenix sent a letter to 100 pastors, urging them to increase their support for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for SBC foreign missions. Those 100 pastors have been asked to contact 30 other pastors for similar support.

The Lottie Moon Offering is to provide about 45 percent of the SBC Foreign Mission Board's \$185 million 1994 budget. The offering traditionally is promoted by the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, which heads up mission offering support.

*Compiled from Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press reports.*

## Graham to address inaugural worship

LOUISVILLE—Evangelist Billy Graham will speak at an Oct. 14 community worship service to celebrate the inauguration of Al Mohler as president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Graham is no stranger to Southern Seminary. The school's center for world evangelism and its endowed professorship in evangelism are named in his honor.

The seminary has rented Freedom Hall, Louisville's largest auditorium, for the 7:30 p.m. worship service. In addition to Graham's message, the program will include comments by Gov. Brereton Jones and solos by operatic soprano Marilyn Mims and contemporary Christian musician Marshall Kellam.

Mohler's formal inauguration ceremony will be held in the seminary's Alumni Chapel the following morning at 10. Due to limited seating, attendance at the inauguration will be by invitation only. The service will be shown on closed-circuit television elsewhere on campus and telecast live in the Louisville area on the Faith Channel.

That service will feature charges by representatives from the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, seminary trustees, the school's alumni association, Mohler's academic colleagues, Southern Baptist churches, the faculty and the student body.

The community worship service and inaugural ceremony will be the only public services marking the event, a seminary spokesperson said. A private post-inaugural luncheon will feature theologian Carl F.H. Henry, and the seminary will sponsor an inaugural picnic for students.

Mohler is the school's ninth president, succeeding Roy Honeycutt.

## Church rises above airport expansion

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Airport expansion may have thrown many Louisville homes and businesses into a tailspin, but Highland Park First Baptist Church has risen above the crisis.

In August 1990, about 85 church members moved from their 80-year-old Park Boulevard location to a new site on Milltown Road, just south of the Gene Snyder Freeway. Three years later, more than 400 members worship at the church regularly.

Conditions in their previous neighborhood had made ministry difficult.

"Highland Park where we were was going down," said Barbara Wooden, a Sunday school teacher who joined the church at the age of 8. "A lot of transients lived in the neighborhood; it was hard to even visit them because they just didn't stay very long. We were dying."

The church had purchased 30 acres of land in 1987, planning to start a mission on the property, Pastor Jerry Browning explained. "The airport sped things up."

Despite insecurities about the future, the small church acted on faith to build a 450-seat sanctuary.

"We had to be good stewards of our money, and we built the size

church that we thought we could afford," Wooden explained. "If we had known those 400 people were coming, we might have done it differently."

Since that time, the church has expanded the sanctuary twice (to a seating capacity of 700), added an education building and completed the Shirley A. Bradley Family Life Center.

This newest building was dedicated Aug. 8. The church acted as general contractor, and members have invested much of their own time and labor to complete the project, Browning said.

Naturally, the church's tremendous growth made many adjustments necessary.

"It was like nothing else I have ever known or will ever know—getting to know so many people so fast," Wooden recalled. "For a long time, we wore name tags."

"The church is having to change from a small-church mentality to a large-church mentality," added Browning, who still is the church's only full-time staff person.

Another change was in members' driving distances. For 17 years, Barbara and Gary Wooden drove 15 miles each way to attend church. Now they live only three miles away.

Browning conceded that so far, the

growth has occurred without an intense effort on the part of the church. Many of the first new members already were Christians who simply changed churches.

"We haven't had to beat any bushes," he said. "Now we'll have to roll up our sleeves and go to work."

Throughout all the changes, Wooden said, the church has maintained a sense of openness and inclusion.

"At first, we talked about the 'old church.' Now, we don't think that way," she said. "The old members have bent over to try to include (everyone). I think we've done really well to have jelled as well as we have."

Donna Reddick, whose husband, Larry, is minister of education at the church, described members as hard-working, dedicated people with a vision of what they can do with the Lord's help.

"What they've been through has been very dramatic. ... It could have been a very tragic situation," she said. "And yet they were able to apply a vision. I've heard nothing but people giving credit to God."

"They don't wonder, they don't hope, they don't speculate—they know God will continue to bless them."

## Seek the Jesus of Scripture, Campolo urges

By Marc Whitt  
Campbellsville College

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Christians must seek the Jesus of Scripture, not the Jesus based on culture, Tony Campolo told a Campbellsville College audience.

"We as Americans must ask ourselves, 'Describe the Jesus we worship,'" declared Campolo, sociology professor at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa. "Americans see Jesus as an Anglo-Saxon, white, American, Republican. He's become an incarnation of the American value system. How do we differentiate the God of our culture and the God of the Scrip-

tures?"

That problem isn't unique to white American Protestants, Campolo noted, recalling depictions of Jesus as Chinese in a Chinese Catholic church and as black in a painting in an African American church in Philadelphia.

But the problem is bigger than artistic images, he insisted.

For example, cultural Christianity compels churches to build buildings, while scriptural Christianity calls them to feed the poor. "Churches ought to feel guilty," he said. "More than \$14 billion was spent last year on (church) building projects."

"If Christ had a choice to either build or to feed the hungry with that

kind of money, I tell you he would choose to feed the little hungry children. The Jesus of the culture would build. The Jesus of the Scriptures would change lives."

Campolo admitted he, too, has been blind to needs. He described a woman who came to him with a malnourished child, begging for help. But he left her behind.

Later, "it dawned on me that child seeking nourishment was Jesus," he said. "Christ comes to us in mysterious ways. He presents many opportunities for us to serve him. Before you can come to know Jesus, you've got to throw away the cultural view of him."

## Kentucky Baptist moderates join 'call' to state conventions

NASHVILLE—Eight Kentuckians have joined moderate Baptists in calling for state conventions to preserve "historic Southern Baptist work and witness."

Eighty-five participants from 13 states adopted the "call" during a Sept. 23-24 meeting in Nashville.

Daniel Vestal, pastor of Tallwood Baptist Church in Houston, presented the call to the group.

Their meeting was not held to establish "another centralized, political organization," nor to "create a connectionalism" between the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and state conventions, he insisted.

Rather, it was held to see "each state convention free of Southern Baptist control, free of secular political control and free to pursue whatever it feels God wants it to pursue."

Dishonest politics has imperiled the SBC, claimed Texas layman John Baugh. "We have to stop lying, cheat-

ing and slandering," he said. "It kills families, ruins businesses, tears churches apart and has torn asunder the Southern Baptist Convention."

The preamble to the call states: "It is time for healing in the Southern Baptist family. ... The world desperately needs our witness. The problems of our day are too dangerous for anything less than a unified witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ."

It offers five points, which call on each state convention to:

■ "Renew its commitment to historic Baptist principles, the authority of Scripture and the priesthood of all believers, resulting in autonomy of all Baptist bodies and the voluntary character of cooperation. ..."

■ "Renew its commitment to the love of Christ as the method and means of cooperative ministry."

■ "Renew its commitment to the centrality of Jesus Christ and his kingdom as the basis for our mission."

■ "Renew its commitment to religious liberty and its corollary, the separation of church and state, and avoid being used as an instrument of or promoting any secular political agenda."

■ "Confess that there have been far too many unethical actions in Southern Baptist political movements, resolve that such actions will not be tolerated ... and renew its commitment to truth and integrity. ..."

The Kentuckians were pastors of six churches: Richard Bridges, First, Bowling Green; Larry Burcham, First, Winchester; Robert DeFoor, Harrodsburg; Terry Freeman, Grace, Lexington; Don Mantooth, First, Morehead; and Bill Messer, First, Ashland; and two laypeople: Gabe and Maybelle Payne of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz.

Bridges led a session on fostering truth in state conventions.

First comes personal honesty, he said, noting, "We pastors need to tell

the truth about where our minds and consciences are."

Second is truthfulness about what being Baptist means, he added, stressing a need to focus on Christ, not programs. "The Lord Jesus Christ did not die on the cross for the Cooperative Program," he said. "He died for me and you."

Third is truth about state conventions, he said, advocating an examination of programs for usefulness.

The Kentuckians confirmed that the meeting's organizers did not promote participation in the Fellowship. And while they said the group discussed "the potential takeover of the state conventions," they did not discuss specific strategy.

"I'm not sure moderates could organize a two-car funeral procession," Vestal told them.

Written by Editor Marv Knox, with reports from Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press.

## BLUEGRASS BURGOO

■ **Steven Cummins**, missionary to eastern Russia, will speak at Campbellsville College in Campbellsville at 10 a.m. Oct. 6. Cummins is a 1978 graduate of the college.

■ **Olin Williams** of Eubank has been named executive secretary of the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators' BookLink ministry. BookLink provides Christian reference and study books for Southern Baptist missionaries and pastors overseas.

■ **David Dockery**, vice president for academic administration and dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, is the guest lecturer for the 1993 Page Lectures at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., this week.

■ **Kentucky alumni** of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will hold their annual luncheon Nov. 17 at noon at the Peking House restaurant, 1008 N. Mulberry in Elizabethtown. No reservations are required. For more information, contact Don Cole at 5188 Old State Rd., Brandenburg, Ky. 40108.

■ **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's** Kentucky alumni will hold their annual luncheon Nov. 17 at noon at the Western Steer restaurant in Elizabethtown. For more information, contact Bryan Peistrup at (502) 389-9345.

## WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969  
Louisville, Ky. 40253  
(ISSN 0043-4132)

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-1688. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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## Open to all

This letter has been written regarding a recent article titled "Conservatives hold by-invitation-only meeting" (WR, Aug. 24). We wish to make it very clear that First Baptist Church, Irene Cole Memorial, Prestonsburg, Ky., was in no way responsible for the setting or conduct of the meeting referred to in the article. Our church has never taken a position in the conservative-moderate-liberal controversy.

Our church has and will continue to provide a fellowship open to all. We should not be labeled or regarded as taking either side in this controversy.

The focus of our church is on bringing honor and glory to our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. We attempt to meet the needs of our church and community without regard to anyone's stand on controversial issues. Those with differing opinions are welcome at any time.

Randy Polk & Michael M. Taylor  
Prestonsburg

minishes" the Cooperative Program. Therefore, the CBF and the Kentucky Baptist Convention are divisive. Your moderate/liberal bias overshadowed your objectivity.

I cannot speak for the other causes listed, but I can say that Mid-Continent College has always supported the Cooperative Program. Mid-Continent literally saved west Kentucky for Southern Baptists and the Cooperative Program from the independent, anti-mission influence. Our graduates are some of the strongest supporters of the Cooperative Program in the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Even though your editorial was a diligent effort to explain your membership in a church that is heavily involved with the CBF, you totally missed the point of the problem. Until we recognize that the CBF is an anti-Southern Baptist, anti-Cooperative Program movement, all our rhetoric will be an effort in futility.

LaVerne Butler  
Mayfield

## BAPTIST FORUM

### A vast difference

Your editorial (WR, Sept. 7) stated: "This is no different than the decisions churches make to support other non-Cooperative Program causes, such as independent missionaries with ties to the church, the Gideons, Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, or Kentucky Right-to-Life." This is incorrect. There is a vast difference!

According to Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, what they are doing "di-

### Project Praise

We occasionally hear remarkable personal testimonies. These may be conversions, special needs met, tragedies overcome or God's hand in ministries. But surely these are only a fraction of God's miracles.

Those whom Jesus touched could scarcely contain their testimonies. Why are we so shy? Modesty? But praising God isn't bragging. Didn't the Israelites sing of God's mighty deeds on their behalf, and didn't Paul

"boast in the Lord"? I hope we're not ashamed (Mark 8:38).

Why don't we make a special effort to share out blessings with both other Christians and the lost? We might call it Project Praise. We could start with our friends or Sunday school class; write letters to the Western Recorder; schedule more testimonies in our worship services, retreats and conventions. Why not organize a seminary chapel service with testimonies?

We can't possibly imagine how God could magnify our efforts (Ephesians 3:20). For example, my friend Gary shared how God enabled him to overcome a personal tragedy. Then Gary gave his testimony at the 1991 Billy Graham crusade in New Jersey, which was replayed on national television. Gary's testimony was printed in local newspapers, and he was later interviewed on national television. A church and an anti-drug ministry were founded. God has surely used Gary's testimony mightily!

We'll sing praises to God in glory. So, why not get in a little "choir practice" now with our testimonies? God's results might surprise us.

James Browning  
Louisville

### Letters

Letters to Baptist Forum must be signed to be considered for publication. They must be 250 words or less in length, and they must not attack individuals.

A letter to Baptist Forum is an exclusive expression of the opinion of the writer. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or board of directors of the Recorder.

## The KBC and the Cooperative Program

Since 1925 the Cooperative Program has been the primary support vehicle for Southern Baptists to accomplish together our overall mission efforts.

Another record in Cooperative Program giving this year from Kentucky Baptist churches bears testimony to the fact that most Kentucky Baptists still are committed to this approach to mission giving, while recognizing that the special offerings for home and foreign missions now generate more of their budgets than the Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program has always had its struggles. In the early going, many Kentucky Baptist churches rejected this method as "unscriptural." And there have always been some churches which contributed significantly more than others.

Even today an annual average of over 450 Kentucky Baptist churches (20 percent) contribute nothing through the Cooperative Program, although more than half of these make a contribution to such ministries as foreign or home missions, Homes for Children, Oneida, Clear Creek or others.

During the previous year which closed Aug. 31, 1,321 churches (57 percent) gave less than \$2,000 through the Cooperative Program.

This pattern is not a new reality; it has been true for years.

Even so, our state convention provides for such churches to have messengers at the annual meeting of the KBC.

Article III of the KBC constitution provides for

"1: Two messengers from each church having one hundred members or less, which is in friendly cooperation with this convention; is sympathetic with its purposes and work; and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the convention work.

"2: One additional messenger for each church shall be allowed for each additional two hundred fifty members or for each \$250 contributed to the Cooperative Program during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting, but no church may be allowed more than ten (10) messengers."

The fact that Kentucky Baptists have continued to include even those churches which give nothing through the Cooperative Program says volumes about our history and our disposition as a convention. Specifically, we have generally come down on the side of being "in-clusive" rather than "ex-clusive."

Years ago, elder statesman Dr. James L. Sullivan originated the characterization of the Cooperative Pro-

## ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

gram as a "rope of sand." He made graphic what is true about it: Its power is solely voluntary. Its remarkable level of participation has demonstrated its potential.

At some point in recent years, the Cooperative Program assumed a prominence that was uncomfortable for many. This discomfort was characterized by a well-known pastor and leader of what some call the "conservative resurgence." He called the Cooperative Program Southern Baptists' "Golden Calf." And a great many Southern Baptists accepted his judgment as true.

If it was true then, there is new cause for concern today. For it appears that the "Golden Calf" which was abominable to many a few years earlier, is being raised again by some who seem to be determined to make the Cooperative Program a test of fellowship among Kentucky Baptists.

The Cooperative Program is, undeniably, a "rope of sand." It can neither be "pushed" or "pulled," for too much of either will break it.

I believe that the kind of Cooperative Program which the large majority of Kentucky Baptists supports is a free-spirited, voluntary, uncontrolling method of giving.

And I believe that the Kentucky Baptist Convention will continue to support the right of each individual Kentucky Baptist church to give to whatever cause it wishes without intimidation, interference or exclusion.

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



## Pastors & shut-ins

By John Lepper

**Q.** What is the relationship between a pastor and shut-in members? Should a pastor be expected to visit all shut-in members at least once?

**A.** The tone of your question seems to indicate your pastor may not be meeting your expectations regarding visitation of shut-in members.

Let me speak first from the perspective of the pastor. So many needs exist, and pastors have so many responsibilities that visits to shut-in members may become a lower priority. Some pastors are attuned to the needs of older people. Other pastors place their priorities in different areas of ministry. While the visitation of shut-in members may be very important, other urgent needs may compete for the pastor's time and energy.

Sometimes pastors do not meet the expectations of congregations because they are unaware of these expectations. Assuming your pastor wishes to be an effective minister with all ages, you might consider sharing your concern with him. Being clear about expectations is a step toward resolution of a problem.

The fact is, shut-in members are still part of the church family, even though they cannot attend church. These members need to know their church family cares. A larger issue is the need for them to be included and the need for care of the church. While the pastor is a representative of the church, he is not the only representative. Others also need to visit shut-in members.

Some homebound members are not able to get out because of their own health. Others may be tied to home because they are providing care for a family member. Your church might consider offering some respite care, to allow these primary caregivers the opportunity to get away from home.

Paul Harvey, the popular newscaster, says the complaint of many caregivers of invalid family members is that people promise to pray but they never offer to stay.

Care for shut-in members is a ministry worthy of the combined efforts of the pastor and the entire congregation.

John Lepper is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department.

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

## We must answer the call for a new moral agenda

Listen carefully and you'll hear it: The drumbeat for new moral leadership, pounding across the land.

First come the dissonant bangings of the anti-immorality drums. You hear them as you read the paper and watch the evening news. Corruption and extortion in high places. Scandal in big business. The something-for-nothing mindset that propels the gambling industry on its selfish juggernaut. Petty lying and thievery. Poverty and destitution. Racism and discrimination. Read between the lines, talk to your neighbors and listen to your own heart when you hear these stories, and you'll get a clear message: People are fed up with moral malfunction.

Next come the clear rhythms of drummers who have thought long and hard about the American moral malaise. Increasing numbers of leaders whose everyday jobs force them to listen to the atonal cacophony of common, street-level immorality are cupping their hands to their mouths and shouting for reinforcements. They know "the wages of sin is death," because they've seen the sin and smelled the stench of death, moral death. It's in homes, down at city hall, out in the plant, up in gleaming office towers, even in the mall.

And eventually come the loud bongings of the drummers who think it's their job to popularize any and every movement for culture-at-large. You know the types—talk-show hosts, congressional ethics committee members who normally wouldn't recognize ethics if it bit them on the ankles, even your occasional movie producer. They're the ones who, when they hear the symphony tuning up, scramble to the podium to try to be the conductor. More than being leaders, they're indicators of a trend that maybe, just maybe, is emerging.

We could debate whether society is getting worse. Some say yes, and point to zillions of factors to support their case. Others say no, and document their theory with mountains of historical data. The common ground

for both cases is this: America is in a moral mess, and the time is ripe for moral leadership.

Many people narrow that to shrill pronouncements on a couple of issues that have divided our nation—abortion and homosexuality. Church-going folks certainly have their views on those subjects. But the opportunity to direct the nation positively centers around the more pervasive moral issues that bump up against citizens every day: Honesty, integrity, justice and compassion.

What an opportune time for people of faith to speak up. A group of Jewish and Christian leaders did just that, issuing "A Call to the Common Ground for the Common Good." The call particularly focuses on justice and integrity. "We must grow beyond polarization and gridlock" and engage in "the pursuit of the common good," it states. "We continue to believe that there is no substitute for the efforts of families, neighborhoods, churches, synagogues and other organizations to help individuals meet their local needs."

A similar call has been sounded by Michael Lerner, editor of the New York-based journal *Tikkun*. He advocates such values as cooperation, joint sacrifice and community in an ethic he calls "the politics of meaning." It applies Christian/Jewish values to the public sphere. It condemns selfish interests and promotes responsibility for and accountability to the larger community.

Jesus set the standard, both in deed and in word: "You must practice dealing with others as you would like for them to deal with you; for this is the summing up of the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12). As Christians who follow our Lord, we can lead the way—through our churches and in our individual lives—in promoting Jesus' high moral standard for our nation today.

Marv Knox

With so many people betraying the everyday trust citizens place in each other, God's followers have an opportunity to demonstrate grace and compassion, redefining the moral language of the nation.

### Rewards await

The Appalachian Trail begins at Springer Mountain, Ga., and extends to Mount Katahdin, Maine. In-between lies some of the most beautiful country in the United States. The trail winds its way through 2,100 miles of high mountains, low valleys, wild animals and unpredictable weather.

Those who set out to hike the trail are in for a grueling physical and mental challenge. Because of the sheer magnitude of the task, fewer than 1 in 10 hikers who begin the trail actually finish. Those few who complete the trail walk away changed people.

Following the Lord is often more of a challenge than the Appalachian Trail. Along the way, we may experi-

ence doubts, fears and frustrations. There are times of heartache, grief and despair.

But at the end of the trail, there are rewards awaiting us. Paul tells us in II Timothy 4:7-8 that he had fought the good fight and had kept the faith. He was assured of the crown of righteousness that Christ had laid up for him.

We, too, can be assured of a crown if we will endure.

Chuck Darland, pastor  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Elizabethtown

### MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

#### Price tags

Do you ever consider the price tag on sin in the lives of people? We often complain about how much things cost these days and the high cost of

living. Sin, since taking hold of the human life, has carried a tremendous price.

We often hear people respond to the gospel with the words, "I will have to give up too much." Or, "It costs too much to be a Christian." What that person doesn't realize is the price he/she is paying to live in sin.

Let us contrast the returns on our investment in life as one lives for God and righteousness as opposed to living for Satan and sin. Now, I know the attitude of some is they can live in a middle ground and not have to pay for either. Not so! Jesus said, "You are either for me or against me." We human beings have only two options from which to choose, God's way or Satan's way.

Now, see what return we receive from sin. Sin brings separation from God, broken lives, heartaches, bodies destroyed, murders, segmented fami-

lies, hatred and ultimately eternal death in hell. What a price to pay for sin.

Jesus said, "What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?"

Note the wonderful return on one's investment in God. Forgiveness of sin, eternal life with God, experiencing a relationship with the Eternal Father, peace of heart and soul, fellowship with the Spirit and victory over problems, grace for every struggle, wisdom for every decision, strong marriages and families, and ultimately victory over death, to name a few of the riches.

I thank God that he called me to life and allowed me to invest in the eternal kingdom of his dear Son. There are riches there for you, too.

Gates Bowman, pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Eddyville

## A big hunt: We stalked a pride of lions & flushed a covey of quail

The girls and I took our first hunting expedition of the season.

We stalked a pride of lions and flushed out a covey of quail. We tracked down a leveret, a baby hare. And we trailed a troop of baboons.

Lindsay scoped out a manatee cow, and I was the first to spot a tigress. Molly carried our ammunition back and forth, when she wasn't sidetracked talking to the pet hamster.

Our pace quickened late in the afternoon, as we sensed darkness approaching. Even the best of hunters can't track bear and deer in the dark.

Right before nightfall, Lindsay declared our safari a success. To celebrate our adventure, we drove through Rally's on the

way home. Nothing like burgers and milkshakes to revive a band of hungry hunters just off the trail of wild game.

No, we didn't take the kids to Africa for summer vacation.

Lindsay, Molly and I took our little safari in the heart of St. Matthews, Ky., in the reference section of the Eline Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library.

Our ammunition was row upon row of encyclopedias. World Book, Colliers and Encyclopaedia Britannica took their toll on the prize

specimens to be hunted in Lindsay's fourth-grade science project: Track down the titles of the males, females and offspring of a zooful of animals. Determine what a group of each animal is called, and describe their habitat.

Who said education isn't an adventure? Dr. Livingston would've been proud of the way we marched across savannas and through rain forests, right there in the corner of the library.

The excitement of our hunt began to escalate as we raced through mountains of volumes, seeking clues for our quest.

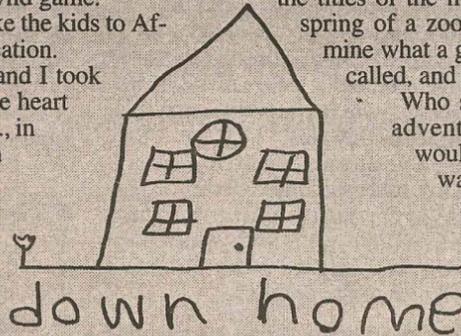
Where do you turn when you've absolutely, positively got to know what to call a group of bears? ("Grizzle" didn't hold up, and "denful" seemed sort of boring.) What do you label a mama quail? (I voted for "Marilyn," but Lindsay just rolled her eyes.)

We experienced the thrill of victory: Determining that "leveret" is the title for young hares ranks with bagging a 10-point buck.

And we also tasted the agony of defeat: Never did decide how to address a collection of bears.

But we also figured out how Noah passed all that time on the ark. He talked to the animals.

Marv Knox



# BAPTISTS

## Article creates flap over who's been saved

"There's a positive side to this. ... People are talking about what it means to be a Christian."  
Writer David Reid

By Art Toalston  
Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—A daily newspaper's rewrite of a Baptist news release—and the controversy it has sparked—has generated discussion of the meaning of Christian salvation.

A front-page article in The Birmingham News declared: "More than 1.86 million people in Alabama, 46.1 percent of the state's population, will be damned to hell if they don't have a born-again experience professing Jesus Christ as their savior, according to a report by Southern Baptist researchers."

The article quoted several critics, including one who asked, "What did they get, a Xerox copy of the Lamb's Book of Life?" The ensuing controversy prompted an Associated Press story that was picked up nationwide. It ran in the Louisville Courier-Journal and the Lexington Courier-Leader.

The original news release, prepared by the Alabama Baptist convention's public relations office, began: "How great is the need for Christian evangelism in a given county in Alabama? Statistics released by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board answer that question in terms of a county's total number of non-Christian residents, their percentage of its population and its score on an 'evangelism index.'"

David Reid, the Alabama convention's associate director of public relations, wrote the release, based on the HMB's county-by-county statistics. Then he circulated the release to 128 Alabama newspapers. More than 30 used it.

But the Birmingham News' story misrepresents Baptists as being judgmental and shows how a reporter's perspective influences the direction a story will take, Reid charged.

"I think most Baptists and other Christians, having read the initial

news release, would interpret the research as showing concern for lost people," Reid said. "The story was motivated by our desire to promote evangelism."

The original news release did not mention any specific denomination except Southern Baptist and did not depict Baptists as the only "saved" people, he added, noting the news release focused only on overall county populations.

Estimates, such as the ones on which the story were based, have existed for years, added Phillip Jones, director of the HMB research department, which produced the index.

"Gallup's been asking some sort of religious questions back into the '30s," Jones said, adding the index never was meant to be taken literally.

"We never were arrogant enough to think these were accurate figures," he said. "This is not a survey; all we did was re-crunch some numbers."

The Birmingham News' religion

writer, Greg Garrison, contended his story "never implied Baptists think they are the only ones going to heaven." His story "explained in detail that the Home Mission Board has formulas to estimate the number of born-again Christians based on different categories of church membership, such as more Methodists than Catholics are likely to be saved."

"To say that one believes in evangelism ... and yet sidestep the issue of what happens to the unsaved or how they feel is not a full discussion of salvation," Garrison insisted. "For a Baptist press release on a study of the saved and lost to sidestep the issue of damnation is fine, but I explored it more thoroughly—which touched a raw nerve."

"There is a positive side to this," Reid noted, "in that people are talking about what it means to be a Christian."

David Winfrey of the Home Mission Board contributed to this story.

### BAPTIST BITS

■ **Chaplain faces discharge.** Discharge hearings have begun for a Southern Baptist Air Force chaplain and Vietnam veteran who questioned the use of military force in the Persian Gulf.

Lt. Col. Rob Robertson's conflict with the military began when he wrote a letter to the Abilene (Texas) Reporter-News prior to the Gulf War, questioning possible military involvement. Military officials said Robertson violated conduct codes by identifying himself with the Air Force.

Huey Perry, director of chaplaincy for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, which endorsed Robertson's chaplaincy, said the officer "is still in good standing with us."

A decision on the case eventually will be made by the secretary of the Air Force.

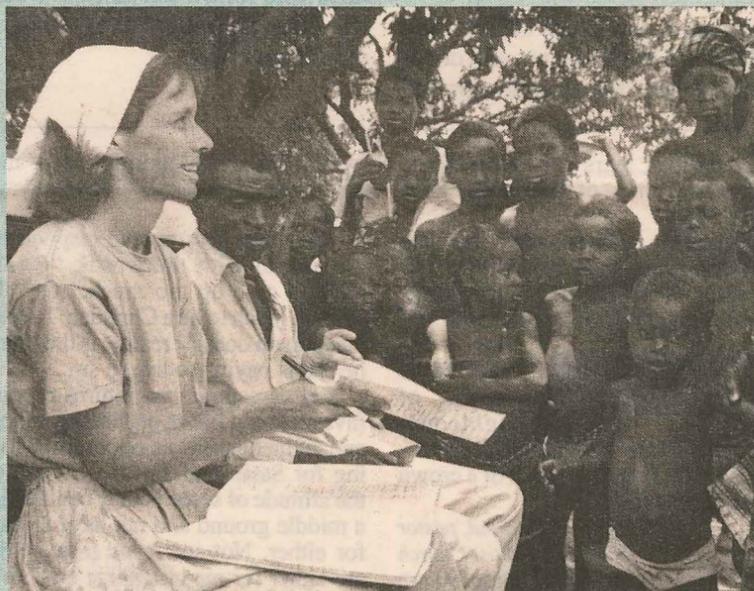
■ **Flood relief pours in.** Baptists attending five weekend conferences for single adults contributed more than \$25,000 to aid Midwest flood victims.

The offerings were sent to the Disaster '93 Flood Relief Fund administered by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

About 6,500 singles attended the conferences, held at Ridgecrest, N.C.; Glorieta, N.M.; Palm Springs, Calif.; St. Louis; and Tampa Bay, Fla.

■ **Prayers sought for Africa.** Violence in South Africa threatens to worsen as the nation moves toward its first multiracial election Sept. 30, Southern Baptist missionaries fear.

That concern has prompted them to seek an intensive prayer partnership with Baptists back home. "Our prayers are for a peaceful transition," said missionary John Gordy. "The majority of the people here want to live and work together in peace and harmony, ... even though



**HEALTHY HELP** Cherry Faile (left) a public health worker and Southern Baptist missionary in Ghana, reviews children's medical records with Ghanaian parents. Immunization and education fight disease, but Faile's successful ministry is built on trust, which she constructed through long days of patient conversation in Ghana's villages. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

there's so much violence and unrest."

■ **Activators rate high.** A record number of Activators performed superbly this summer, their sponsors said.

Activators is a hands-on missions program operated by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for girls in grades seven through 12. About 190 teams worked with home and foreign missionaries this year.

"I've already received many reports from the missionaries ... telling of the quality of their work and the positive spirit with which they worked," reported Marti Solomon, director of the program.

■ **Radio-TV names woman v.p.** Deborah Little Key has been named the second woman vice president in

the 52-year history of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Key has worked for the commission since 1983, when she was hired as a drama coach for a children's program. Since 1984, she has had several positions with the commission's ACTS television program. In her new post, she is vice president of network operations.

The commission's first woman vice president was Bonnie Sparrow, a public relations/development officer.

■ **Campers support missions.** The 36,135 youth and leaders who attended a total of 92 weeks of Centrifuge camps this summer contributed an average of \$6 each to support home missions projects.

Campers gave \$201,919.51, reported the Southern Baptist Sunday

School Board, which operates the camps.

Of the offering, \$70,000 is earmarked for Mississippi River ministry; \$70,000 for disaster relief; \$40,000 for volunteer assistance; and \$20,000 for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's creative arts team.

■ **Oklahoma staffer resigns.** Sam Garner, executive director of the Oklahoma Baptist family care ministries department, has resigned after facing charges of "improper expenditures of ... funds which violated the convention's policy against personal use of convention funds."

The improper expenditures were found in an audit.

Garner has reimbursed the Oklahoma Baptist convention for all the funds he used personally, according to a statement by the convention's board of directors.

The statement indicated no other employees were involved in the handling of funds and determined "no further action was necessary."

■ **SBCNet adds resources.** Adult Bible Book Series and youth discipleship supplements are set to be added to SBCNet, the data communications network for Southern Baptists, effective with October lessons.

The Adult Bible Book supplements will be posted on Thursdays, 10 days prior to the Sunday the material will be used. "Instant Imagination," the monthly youth material, will become a weekly offering, named "DiscipleLife Plus."

Other information available on SBCNet ranges from news items, to clip art, to prayer requests, to other Sunday school materials, to sermon illustrations.

Information about the service may be obtained by calling SBCNet Coordinator David Haywood at (800) 325-7749, extension 2895, toll-free.

## Government study opens literacy door

By Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—A government study noting the demand for higher reading skills in the job market may open the door for Southern Baptist literacy missions.

Released by the U.S. Department of Education, the study estimated 90 million Americans—47 percent of the nation's 191 million adults—have poor literacy skills.

However, Kendale Moore of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board staff said many adults will not admit they are slow readers. The challenge to Southern Baptists is to be prepared to offer assistance to those seeking help, he said.

In north Georgia, Southern Baptists already are helping people improve their work-related reading skills.

The owner of a muffler shop wanted his mechanics to read new car manuals to be prepared to work on new models. When he learned one of his employees could not read the manuals, he called Renva Acree, regional volunteer literacy coordinator for Georgia Southern Baptists. Acree found a man trained in literacy missions to tutor the employee.

Two north Georgia industries offered GED classes to their employees to take advantage of state tax credits for companies offering education classes. But several employees could not read well enough to take the classes.

Acree and other volunteers began teaching the employees.

The north Georgia literacy missions program includes ministries at a residential probation detention center, a training center for the mentally retarded and tutoring for students having trouble learning to read in school.

Although Acree is a retired special education teacher, she notes literacy missions volunteers do not have to be professional educators.

Teaching a person to read requires a long-term commitment, Moore said. Developing a relationship with the student and demonstrating what it means to be a Christian make literacy missions an effective evangelism ministry, he added.

Six students in the north Georgia tutoring program and many students at the probation detention center have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ, Acree said.

"We use the Bible as our teaching tool," she explained. "Missions is at the center of our work."

Free brochures about teaching conversational English and working with adult non-readers are available by calling the Home Mission Board, (800) 634-2462.

## Clinton proposes cure for health care

By Tom Strode  
SBC Christian Life Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—Calling on Congress to "make this our most urgent priority," President Clinton implored members of both houses to help him "guarantee every American comprehensive health benefits that can never be taken away."

In his long-awaited address, the president asked for a reformation of the country's health care system based on six principles: security, simplicity, savings, choice, quality and responsibility. His proposal would provide every American with a health care security card, assuring lifetime health care benefits.

"This health care system of ours is badly broken, and it is time to fix it," Clinton said. "Despite the dedication of literally millions of talented health care professionals, our health care is too uncertain and too expensive, too bureaucratic and too wasteful."

"We have to preserve and strengthen what is right with the health care system, but we have got to fix what is wrong with it," he said.

Clinton's Sept. 22 speech followed eight months of work by a health care

task force headed by his wife, Hillary.

The proposal has raised ethical and religious concerns. Among them:

- Abortion, which is included in the basic benefits package.

- Rationing of health care.

- Living wills, which will guide physicians in determining when to withhold treatment aimed at delaying death.

- The status of hospital chaplains, who, according to an early analysis of the plan, may have to compete with other health care professionals for positions and salaries.

Some members of Congress and some organizations, including the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, have vowed to oppose the plan unless abortion is removed from the basic package.

"Most Americans feel that our health care system needs major revision," said Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission. "President Clinton has done a good job of articulating many of the problems with the present system. I must confess, however, that I am more pleased with his diagnosis than I am with his prescription for treatment."

"The CLC's major focus will be on how the president's proposed health care reforms impact sanctity of human life issues. Funding for abortion, the prospect of living wills and the attempts to ration health care in the last stages of life will be of paramount concern."

Clinton asked Congress to pass legislation by the end of 1994.

The proposal primarily will be funded by premiums paid by employers and individuals. New taxes also will be levied on tobacco. In addition, large employers who opt out of the system will be expected to help underwrite it.

"I believe as strongly as I can say that we can reform the costliest and most wasteful system on the face of the earth without enacting new, broad-based taxes," Clinton said.

To achieve simplicity, his proposal recommends a standard insurance form instead of hundreds. "A hospital ought to be a house of healing, not a monument to paperwork and bureaucracy," he said.

The federal government will establish a national health board to oversee the system, and states will set up health alliances, the president said.

**"Funding for abortion, the prospect of living wills and the attempts to ration health care ... will be of paramount concern."**

Richard Land

## Abortion debate continues

WASHINGTON—Abortion promises to be a focal point as America debates the Clinton Administration's health care reforms. And even beyond the medical system overhaul, abortion is holding its own as a major issue before Congress.

As President Clinton unveiled his health care reform plan last week, abortion advocates and opponents asserted the issue will make or break their support.

"It is essential to the public health and to the liberty of women in America that the role of abortion and all reproductive health services be an integral aspect of health reform and included in the plan," said Pamela Maraldo, president of Planned Parenthood of America.

But Rep. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., countered: "Abortion service poisons the well of health care reform. And this is an issue on which we who believe in the sanctity of human life cannot bend, buckle or bow."

The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights was among groups calling for abortion coverage. "To be fair and just to families of our nation, ... our new, reformed health care system must allow every woman, regardless of age or income, the chance for opti-

mal reproductive health care," insisted RCAR Executive Director Ann Thompson Cook.

However, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission opposed abortion options. "We urge all Southern Baptists to contact their representatives in Congress and request them to oppose taxpayer-funded abortions," said James Smith, CLC director of government relations.

On another front, a Senate panel approved a measure that would allow public financing of abortions for poor women.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a bill that would lift a nearly 20-year-old ban on Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions, setting the stage for a battle on the Senate floor.

The Hyde amendment, named for Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., has banned federal funding for abortions except to save the life of the mother. A new House version adds exceptions in the cases of rape and incest.

A Senate subcommittee stripped the Hyde amendment from the Senate bill.

Reported by Tom Strode of the Christian Life Commission and Pam Parry of the Baptist Joint Committee.

## Bills pose threat to non-profit organizations

By Pam Parry  
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Two proposals circulating on Capitol Hill could undermine the public-policy advocacy of non-profit groups, including Baptists.

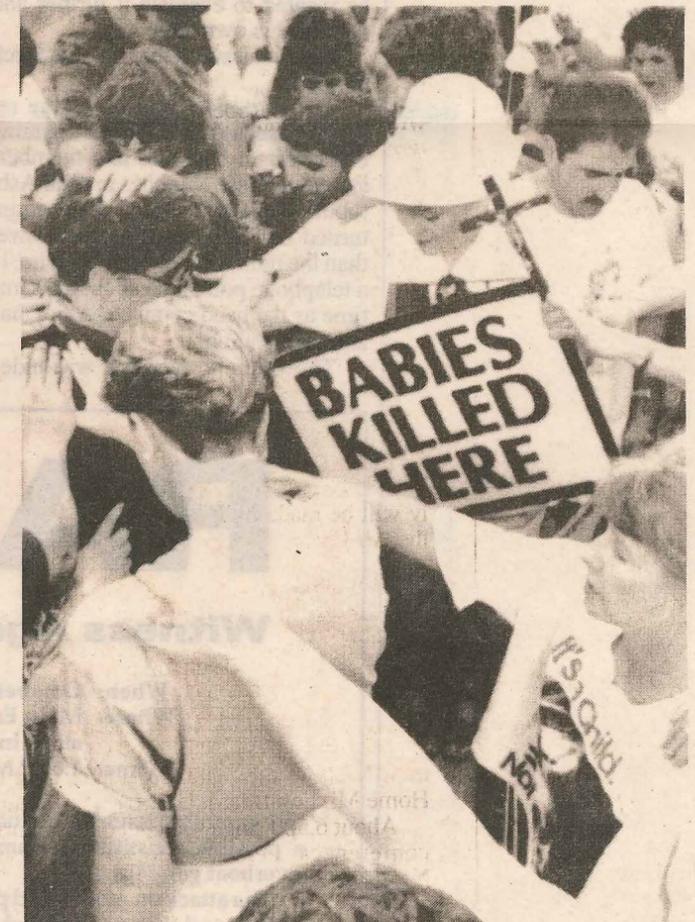
The Baptist Joint Committee joined with several non-profit organizations to oppose the provisions—one of which would raise postal rates for non-profit groups that solicit funds

and engage in some lobbying activities.

The proposal, offered by Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Ark., would disallow the use of third-class postal rates for solicitation of contributions that eventually would be used (even indirectly) to influence government.

Several groups, including the BJC, American Cancer Society, Girl Scouts and Goodwill Industries, opposed this amendment.

Any groups that engage in fund



**HOT TOPIC** Abortion will remain at the center of American debate, particularly as Congress considers President Clinton's health care reform proposals. (RNS photo by Reuters)

raising and occasionally contact legislators to support or oppose legislation would be affected.

Another proposal would impose a 30 percent tax on lobbying expenditures of tax-exempt organizations.

Brent Walker, BJC associate general counsel, predicted neither proposal would be adopted. However, he added, "it is important for non-profit organizations to speak quickly and forcefully against them. Both measures would be ruinous."

## Churches face post-communist future

By Gustav Spohn  
Religious News Service

NEW YORK (RNS)—When the Berlin Wall fell nearly three years ago, church attendance in East Germany fell with it, ending an era when churches often were packed with people challenging communism.

The result is that religious leaders in the now-unified Germany are being forced to grapple with the kinds of hard questions that must be answered if churches are to survive in the 21st century, said Konrad Raiser, top official of the World Council of Churches.

But the new situation ultimately will work to the churches' advantage, Raiser insisted.

In the years leading up to East Germany's decision to topple communism in 1989, dissidents in the country flocked to churches, discovering there virtually the only forum for challenging the communist dominance. People found in those sanctuaries a language that expressed the

"common mind," a language of "lamentation, hope and mutual confidence" Raiser recalled.

But the moment moral public expression became possible, the people who once packed the pews to strategize against communism left the churches, he noted. "They could now congregate freely."

The years of communist dominance had "a tremendous secularizing, corrosive effect," he added. It left a generation of young people who, unlike their elders, are unwilling to take for granted the importance and relevance of the church or the "inherited forms of Christian community."

Therefore, church strategies that largely assume the relevance of the church are no longer useful, he said. And now religious leaders are forced into a position where they must try something new.

Churches around the world—but particularly in nations formerly bound by the Iron Curtain—must appeal to young people if they are going to survive, said Raiser, a theology profes-

sor who grew up in West Germany.

But glimpses of optimism surface now and then, he noted. Germany's church gathering, called the Kirchentag and held every-other year, drew 150,000 people this year. Most of them were under age 30.

That's a sign that young people are searching for meaning in life, Raiser stressed.

Despite the quest of a new generation, churches worldwide have failed to address their needs, he said. "We haven't found the forms to make young people feel comfortable."

Churches consequently must "move into the direction where the young person is," instead of forcing youth into structures they find outmoded, he said.

Some youth movements worldwide have experienced success reaching out to young people with special emphases, Raiser claimed. But the challenge for major denominations is to incorporate youth and young adults into meaningful participation in the larger realm of church life.

## Leaders launch evangelistic effort

MINNEAPOLIS (EP)—Christian leaders from across the country are searching to discover how American cooperative evangelistic efforts might begin as the year 2000 approaches.

Mission America 2000 is the theme for the effort, which brought 120 leaders from 60 cities together.

Mission America 2000, which unites the vision of two evangelistic organizations, the U.S. Lausanne Committee and the AD 2000 and Beyond Movement, will attempt to bring the gospel to all the nation.

"Mission America 2000 is unique because it is the first time that major organizations and agencies are cooperating together with a vision to reach the U.S. for Christ," said John Quam, coordinator of the effort.

Even though similar efforts already function in other countries, the United States lags behind because of the complexity of U.S. church life, he said.

## Church attendance fires pollsters' debate

Continued from page 1  
he wanted to evaluate it further and confirm his own data.

Partly at issue is the trio's research method.

The Protestant portion of the report is based on an elaborate counting of Protestant churches and members attending those churches in rural Ash-tabula County, Ohio. The count turned out to be considerably lower than the number of the people who, in a telephone poll taken about the same time as the head count, said they had attended church.

The Catholic research was aided

by annual head counts conducted in a number of dioceses across the country.

Comparisons of those head counts to figures obtained from self-reporting surveys also showed a wide discrepancy.

"To generalize from a county in Ohio to all of Protestant America is irresponsible," Greeley stressed.

Gerald Marwell, editor of American Sociological Review, which will publish the study in its December issue, disagreed.

"Careful research—and I think this was careful research—does not

demand that they do all the counties in America" or even a large sample, said Marwell, professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. "I think they've made a real contribution to opening this question for America as a whole."

Reported by Tom Roberts for Religious News Service.

### YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED

Baltimore, Atlanta, Orlando, Buffalo, Philadelphia, for summer mission projects 1994. We provide meals, lodging, assignment. For info, costs, contact Dr. Harry Fowler, Youth on Mission, Box 2095, Rocky Mount, NC, 27802 (919) 985-4499

## Advisory Board helps children

From Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's founding day in 1869 through its growth into today's many faceted ministry, there has always been a group of women who encouraged, supported, and helped in any way they could. That group today is called the Women's Advisory Board. They are a group of 50 women from all over the state. Three times a year they meet at one of the KBHC facilities. On Sept. 28 they will have their fall meeting at our newest facility, the Genesis Home near Mayfield.

The W.A.B., as we call it, sponsors several important projects for us each year. Currently they are leading the Food Round-Up all across the state. This drive stocks our food pantries for the year and is vital to our work. Another project of the W.A.B. in recent years has been the Mile of Pennies. Several churches have taken advantage of this unique way of supporting our ministry and teaching children and others the joy of giving. They also approve and sponsor a monthly list of needs for the children. These include school supplies, personal supplies, and recreational items.

In addition to these ongoing

projects, the W.A.B. also helps to recruit associational and church representatives across the state. Through these individuals we share with each church about the ongoing needs of our children and new aspects of our work. A few weeks ago I spoke at Livermore Baptist Church. It was the local church representative who arranged for my visit and who introduced me to the congregation.

All of these aspects of the Women's Advisory Board are crucial to our ongoing work. However, there is one thing they do that is most important to the staff. They encourage us. There is something special about looking out at a group of people

who have driven a long way just to learn more about our work and plan new ways they can help. As they hear reports, ask questions and meet, they represent the 2,200 Baptist churches, and the hundreds of thousands of Baptists across the state in saying "keep on going. We are with you all the way!"

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

Paid Column

# 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.

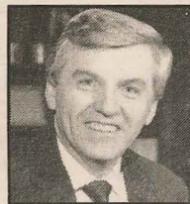
Speakers will include:

- 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

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

# RESOURCES

## New 'Party' program targets teens

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—FamilyNet, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Pyramid Productions have joined forces to offer students and young adults a Christian way to celebrate special events.

"Let's Party and Say W.H.A.T. (What He's About Today)—Sharing the Victory" is a television series built around special events such as Halloween, the Super Bowl, the "Final Four" basketball championship and the baseball all-star game.

The concept calls for church and campus ministries to sponsor parties in churches, homes or schools. It's centered around a nationally televised live broadcast that brings together sports personalities and Christian recording artists. The celebrities share what God is doing in their lives.

Guest lineup for the Halloween show is Star Song recording artists Two Hearts, Keith Brown, Disciples of Christ (D.O.C.) and video by Newsboys. Athletes include Buffalo Bills quarterback Frank Reich, golfer Betsy King and Michigan basketball star Rob Pelinka. Other guests include comedian and ventriloquist Dennis Lee and insight into deception by investigative journalist and master illusionist Dan Korem.

Halloween is on Sunday this year, and the first program will be a straight one-hour show aired at 8 p.m. Eastern, 7 p.m. Central.

"We're bringing in high-profile athletes who have integrity," said Mitch Beckman of the Pyramid Group. "We don't want them to sell Jesus; we want them to share Jesus.

And we mix the sports personalities with contemporary Christian artists. It's a way to reach students in a non-threatening manner."

A party plan kit has been created with ideas and promotional material to help each church and student organization maximize the event. "The TV show gives an athlete a chance to talk to a large group of students at one time and exposes a lot of students to contemporary Christian music," Beckman said. "Sports, music and high-profile celebrities are big attractions to students, so we're just unashamedly using these influences for the glory of God."

FamilyNet is a service of Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. For more information, call (800) 947-6411.

## Kentuckians see food commodities sliced

FRANKFORT—Food shipped to Kentucky for the federal commodities program for the last quarter of the year will be down sharply from the current quarter and the same period last year.

The commodities program—which is designed to provide supplemental nutrition for low-income fam-

ilies—has been cut nearly in half in the past year, reported the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources.

The July-September quarter has been higher, however, because of a national surplus.

But the coming drop could have an impact in communities where churches provide food closets for families.

Cornmeal, rice, peanut butter, raisins, butter and apple juice are included in the 1,028,124 pounds of food shipped to Kentucky for the last quarter of the year.

That food is valued at \$458,006, compared to \$669,000 worth of commodities shipped for October-December last year.

## Worried parents to get aid

FRANKFORT—Parents who have questions about their children's development now have answers at their fingertips.

First Steps, a project of the Kentucky Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, offers parents a toll-free number—(800) 442-0087—with information about developmental delays in children from birth to age 3.

"Parents are usually the first to notice if their child is not growing or learning at the same pace as other children," said James Henson, assistant director of the state Division of Mental Health. "First Steps provides the resources to alert parents to potential concerns and gives them facts so they know what the average child can do.

"We cannot stress enough how important it is to identify children with delays or potential delays early and get them services as soon as possible."

The first two years of a child's life are the most critical for development, Henson added: "The earlier we can detect problem areas and get help, the better chance we have of preventing developmental delays. Early intervention also is crucial to relieving family stress, and it's cost-effective."

Of about 53,000 babies born in Kentucky each year, 5,300 are at risk of some developmental delay before the age of 3.

Studies have shown that at-risk children who get help early are less likely to need special services, be on welfare or live in institutions, Henson reported.

"There's really no reason for a child not to get help," he said. "With First Steps, parents have a chance to answer their questions and address their fears, and decide if they need services."

## Abstinence campaign effective

HOUSTON (BP)—Thomas Walker questioned whether teens really would accept Baptists' True Love Waits sexual-purity campaign, but seeing close to 300 young people pledge to abstain from sex until marriage erased all doubts.

"These kids are hungry. They are starving for someone to tell them the truth," said Walker, youth minister at Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston. He introduced True Love Waits to his youth group during an all-day workshop held in preparation for Youth Explosion, an evangelistic youth event.

At the workshop, 94 young people signed a covenant card that stated: "Believing that true love waits and acknowledging the biblical principle of human sexuality, I commit from this day on to remain sexually pure. Believing that God's way is always the best, I covenant with him to abstain from sexual intercourse until the day I enter into a marriage relationship."

The next week, Walker offered the True Love Waits challenge at Youth Explosion, and 194 young people took the pledge.

As a result of the follow-up calls, a significant number of young people also have made professions of faith in Christ, he added.

True Love Waits is a national campaign launched by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board promoting sexual abstinence among teens.

True Love Waits campaign organizers hope to receive 100,000 signed covenant cards in time for the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention.

More than a dozen other denominations and para-church groups have joined Southern Baptists in the campaign, and planners hope 1 million signed commitment cards will be dis-

played at the National Mall in Washington during a rally July 29, 1994.

When he first received information about True Love Waits, Walker wondered if it could be effective.

Linking the sexual purity campaign to the Youth Explosion was "Spirit-led, not planned," he said, adding he was unsure until the last minute how he should tell the young people about sexual abstinence.

"I didn't know how I was going to present it. The Lord literally woke me up at 4 in the morning, bringing to mind the story of Gina, a girl I knew growing up in Arizona, who had three babies by the time she was 16," he said.

The teen-agers' response to the frank, honest presentation exceeded all expectations, Walker said. He now has a goal of seeing 500 young people make the True Love Waits pledge.

The youth appear desperate for someone to lift up God's moral standard concerning sex, he added.

"Somebody said, 'You need to deal with reality.' The reality is that God said it. Somebody said, 'Tell the truth about safe sex.' The reality is that God already has," Walker said.

Walker and the youth leaders from the other churches involved in Youth Explosion have divided the young people who took the pledge into 12 "tribes" to help provide them emotional and spiritual support.

Once every three months, Walker also is planning a special recreational activity for all of the youth who took the sexual purity pledge.

"I want to stay in touch with them and support them through the process. It's like I've told some of the young men, 'In 10 years, I want to see you with your wife and kids and have you come up and say, 'Rev. Walker, I made it.''"

## The Real Thing?



Dennis Johnson has helped start six churches since 1990. As director of church planting for the Baptist association, he is helping start Baptist work in more than 2,000 communities of Mexico City.

"Millions of people have heard about Coca-Cola®, but they don't know who Jesus is," says one Mexico City pastor.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ, not Coke®, is the real thing? Then consider helping your Southern Baptist missionaries around the world share His name.

Call your Foreign Mission Board at

**1-800-866-FMB1**

to find out about opportunities for service for a few weeks, a few months, a few years - or a lifetime.



**YOUR BRIDGE TO THE WORLD**

# PEOPLE

## KENTUCKY KERNELS

Middletown, home of the Kentucky Baptist Convention offices, was established in 1797 by Philip Buckner, a landowner in the area. The name apparently was chosen because the site was halfway between Shelbyville and Louisville.

Source: *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BURLINGTON**—Burlington Church called **James Victor Harrison** of Hopkinsville as minister of music and senior adults.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Elkhorn Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary Oct. 9-10, with special services both days.

■ **HENDERSON**—First Church or-

dated **David McAdams** and **Jimmy Jones** as deacons Sept. 19.

■ **LEWISPORT**—**William S. Roberts** resigned as pastor of Chestnut Grove Church to become interim pastor of Sacramento Church.

Also, **Timothy Roberts** was licensed to the ministry Sept. 12.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Porter Memorial

## 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.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/senior adults. Resumes 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:** Full-time minister. Resident membership, 450; average attendance, 180. Send resume and references to: Pastor Search Committee, Lebanon Baptist Church, 144 E. Mulberry St., Lebanon, KY 40033. (502)

692-3031.

**WANTED:** Associate minister of adult ministries for multi-staff American Baptist church of 735 families in a university city setting. Send biographical data to Senior Minister, P.O. Box 1056, Huntington, WV 25713.

**WANTED:** First Baptist, Calvert City, Ky., seeks minister of youth and family enrichment to plan and implement a comprehensive youth and family ministry. Candidates should have college and seminary degrees. Send resume to: Ray Tucker, Search Committee Chairman, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 366, Calvert City, KY 42029.

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

Church called **Edd Brashier** as assistant to the pastor and minister of music.

Hillcrest Church called **Chris Hedges** as minister of music.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechwood Church will celebrate its 40th anniversary Oct. 3. KBC Evangelism Director **Bill Jagers** will be the guest speaker. **Hugh McElrath** will direct the music.

Gethsemane Church called **Billy Thornton** as minister of youth.

Jeffersontown Church will celebrate its 148th anniversary Oct. 17. The morning service will be dedicated to the late **Edward Straney**, former pastor who served the church for more than 30 years.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—**Alan Medders** resigned as pastor of First Church to become director of alumni services/alumni giving at Southern Seminary.

■ **MURRAY**—Locust Grove Church licensed **Tom Richter** to the ministry.

Coldwater Church celebrated its 85th anniversary Sept. 26.

New Mount Carmel celebrated its homecoming Sept. 26.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church called **James Chatham** as pastor. Chatham previously served as pastor of Harrisburg Church in Tupelo, Miss. Chatham will begin his new ministry Oct. 17.

■ **STAMPING GROUND**—**James Fuller** resigned as pastor of Stamping Ground Church, to become pastor of Calder Church in Beaumont, Texas, Oct. 1.

## Hall to keynote at Campbellsville

Joe B. Hall, who coached the 1978 Kentucky Wildcats to the national collegiate basketball championship, will be keynote speaker for Campbellsville College's alumni banquet Oct. 15.

The banquet will be one of several highlights of homecoming weekend.

Homecoming events include:

■ Golf scramble at Campbellsville Country Club, 9 a.m. Friday.

■ Annual campaign kick-off, 3:30 p.m. Friday.

■ Alumni banquet, 6:30 p.m. Friday.

■ Pep rally, 9:01 p.m. Friday.

■ Walk-around parade, 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

■ Antique car display and special-interest booths, Saturday morning.

■ Baptist Student Union reunion and division receptions, 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

■ Alumni barbecue, 11:30 a.m. Saturday.

■ Homecoming football game—Campbellsville Tigers vs. Cumberland College Indians, 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

■ Student theme parties and dinners throughout the week.

For more information, contact Andrew Wilson, (502) 789-5061.

## What makes the difference?

Have you ever thought how much time a public school student spends waiting for and riding a school bus daily? A conservative figure would be two hours. That adds up to 10 hours weekly or 360 hours for the nine-month school year. That is equivalent to 45 standard eight-hour working days per school year! Multiply that amount of time by millions of school children and the wasted time is staggering.

One of the advantages of a boarding school is that the 10 hours most young people spend weekly waiting for and riding a bus can be spent in many more productive ways. Extra time for study, practicing a musical instrument, reading, participating in extra athletic practice, drama or academic team.

In a boarding school, all the waking hours can be a learning time whether in study, play or work. All of it is within a broad framework, and more integrated because it is being supervised day and night (even weekends) by the same staff.

It has been well said that "idle minds are the devil's workshop." One of the great strengths of Oneida is that we have a well-rounded program that keeps our young people usefully occupied from the time they awaken each morning until bedtime, and that includes weekends.

Having such an active program, and having our students all their waking hours, makes it possible for much more to be accomplished in a shorter period of time. The cumulative effect is often truly life-changing.

Another great advantage we have, being a Christian school (not relying on tax money) is that we are free to share Christ in the classroom and every situation. How can a teacher tell a girl or

boy who they are, what the might do or be, if they cannot tell them about God, and what Christ has already done for them? Our teachers have the wonderful advantage.

Not every child accepts the message, but at least we are able to tell every one many times. The great majority of them come to us spiritually lost. It naturally follows that many also are lost academically, socially and in every way. They have no sense of who they are, no self respect, and thus little or no respect for others.

But, praise God, the great majority who leave us, after being with us for a time, go away in a much different condition. They have the Lord in their lives. That does make a difference. It gives one an entirely different perspective on everything.

We teach our students that they are made in God's image, each one uniquely different. We are able to teach about love here. For God is love. Those who truly have God in their hearts have love in their life. If love is not in what we are doing, then Jesus is not in that activity.

It is so wonderful that when we are able to live by faith, doing in love that which God has commanded us to do, he blesses and multiplies. There are miracles today just as real as in Bible times. But many are unaware because there are no miracles in their own life experiences. There can be no miracles without faith. Nor can there be miracles where love is missing. But faith and love, active, sharing the good news of a risen Lord, ministering in his name to the needs of others, is blessed of our Lord who is the same yesterday, today and ever. All things are possible with him.

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

Paid Column

## ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

## Who will fulfill Malawi student dream?

On Oct. 26, 1992, David Thuthuwa left Malawi, Central Africa, for the United States.

"This was a day of new experiences. I was very troubled and afraid, trying to figure out what things would be like in America. At the airport my wife could not speak. She knew this was the last time to see me, and she would miss me for months."

Kingsport, Tenn., Baptist layman David Harris met Thuthuwa during a mission partnership trip. Harris caught David's vision of preparing himself to build a pastor's school in Malawi where national leaders could be equipped for evangelism and church planting. With Harris' full sponsorship David began classes in the January term. David stated, "I believe this is the place I will really be exposed to true Bible teachings and be able to understand what Christ wants me to do for his glory in this world."

Shortly before his arrival on campus, David and his wife lost three small children to illness. Within a month David received the tragic news of his wife's sudden death. He returned to Malawi, arriving after her burial. To show their love, the campus youth group

raised enough money to buy 30 Bibles for Malawian pastors and prayed for his return. Their prayers were answered.

David came back for the summer session and anticipated continuing his studies, but illness struck again. Students, faculty and staff visited and ministered to him, but most came away being ministered to rather than ministering.

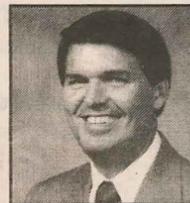
After two weeks in the Pineville hospital, David was transferred to the UK Medical Center. After multiple tests, medications and a realization that the campus wasn't a place for the ill, he decided to return to Africa. Friends said after he arrived home Aug. 6, he was getting a bit better, but suddenly things became serious. He died at home on Aug. 15.

David Thuthuwa focused our attention on the needs of the world. His quiet spirit was in balance with his zeal for the Lord's work. I wonder how many others like him have died in his disease-ravaged country. Even though he died in Christ, we at Clear Creek also feel sad. May our Lord raise up another to fulfill his dreams.

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

Paid Column

## CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Sight not essential for missions, volunteer reveals

NASHVILLE (BP)—Seeing doesn't have a thing to do with believing in partnership missions, Charles Couey believes.

Couey, a computer programmer for the state of Tennessee, is president of the Southern Baptist Conference of the Blind. He's also one of the first blind Baptists to volunteer for short-term overseas ministry.

Despite not being able to see, Couey had no reservations about participating in an evangelistic crusade in Chile, where he was the preacher for a volunteer team. "If God calls us to do something, he is going to preserve us in it," he said.

Couey recalled an earlier conversation he had with Jarvis Hearn, director of partnership missions for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"I asked him if there was anything I could do in partnership missions. Without hesitating, he answered,

'Yes, go preach in Santiago,'" Couey said. "I knew by his answer that it was what God had for me."

Couey was well-received by the Chilean people, he reported.

"Being myself and showing compassion for the people's needs is what God used as much as my preaching," he said.

The primary beneficiaries of Couey's love were children. Couey, who teaches 5-year-olds in Sunday school, said he held children all week, even while he preached.

One woman had said she could not attend the revival services at La Estrella (The Star) Church because no one was there to watch her baby. Couey held the baby while he preached so the woman would attend. She accepted Christ as her savior during that week, he reported.

Richard Poe, a coordinator of the Tennessee/Chile partnership, reported

Couey was effective because his love for the children impressed upon the parents that someone cared.

During the eight services Couey conducted that week, 15 people made professions of faith in Christ, and five people—including Couey—made spiritual rededications.

"I got under conviction about the fact I could go to Chile to tell people about Jesus because they did not know my weaknesses," he explained. "They saw me at a spiritual plateau. I asked the people of La Estrella Church to promise to pray with me about my rededication decision."

The church went a step further. Their pastor asked the church to covenant to gather to pray for Couey.

Missionary Jim Dobbins explained that Chilean custom notes a difference between a promise and a covenant.

Chileans might break a promise,

but they will not break a covenant, Couey said Dobbins told him.

A highlight for Couey came at the end of the crusade, when he was chosen by the Chile missionaries to preach the "victory night" sermon.

The partnership team included two university professors and a number of pastors, Couey said. "I was honored to be asked to preach the victory night message."

Couey said he is amazed God would use him. "I spent 27 years running from God, but he still uses me," Couey said.

Couey hopes his trip will be an inspiration to blind Baptists. "I want the blind to identify their spiritual gifts and use them in serving Christ wherever he might put them," he said.

"None of what happened in Chile had anything to do with my blindness. It was with my availability to serve God."

## Baptist author writes new chapter in his life

BATON ROUGE, La. (BP)—At an age when most people are thinking about what to do with all that leisure time they've earned, Gilbert Morris is wading deep into a third career.

The 64-year-old former English professor and former Baptist pastor is busy engraving a name for himself as one of the key authors in the growing Christian fiction market.

With 36 completed books since he started writing in 1987, 37 more currently contracted between five publishers and plans for as many more to follow, Morris has gained a reputation as one of Christianity's fastest pens after 24 years on the faculty of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

He is juggling ideas for 11 series but is best known for two sagas tracing American history.

The House of Winslow series traces a family down from the Pilgrim Fathers, and the Appomattox series chronicles the lives and loves of a family divided by the Civil War.

He dislikes "preachy novels" and left 20 years of part-time work as pastor of small Arkansas churches after concluding he "wasn't the best pastor in the world." But he definitely uses his books as a paperback pulpit.

The Christian message "has to be dramatized and realistic," he explained. "One way you can do it is to

bring in a character like Stonewall Jackson, who was a devout Christian and witnessed to his men and fellow officers.

"I don't feel that's wrong. I try to show that getting saved is easy, but being the Christian that you become is usually a long process.

"I want people to go away having read one of the books with the feeling that they have seen that Jesus is able to take their lives and make a difference for the better."

Given his fairly tight formula for each book and the speed with which he can produce one—three weeks—a casual observer might wonder whether they all are the same book, just with different titles.

"I could try to write slower if that would impress anyone," he laughed. "If you wanted to analyze the work of Charles Dickens, I could put that in a formula and just say he did the same thing over. Shakespeare even."

Although his name appears on the covers, each book is a partnership with his wife, Johnnie. She helps with research and takes on all the editing and revision.

"Once I have finished the first draft, I usually don't see it again until the book is done," Morris explained. "Unless we run into a problem, she does it all. Like one time I had a woman who was 107 years old having a

baby; I had gotten my chronology a little bit off!"

In his short but prolific writing career, Morris has graduated from the pen through the computer to the Dictaphone and has no worries about running out of ideas.

"One thing I do well is plotting," he noted. "Other writers tell me it is the hardest thing they do, but I can sit down with a blank screen and with nothing, and in an hour and a half have the basic plot done."

Morris moved to Baton Rouge, La., six years ago. For several years, he helped lead weekly services in a prison, and he continues to preach when he can.

But his main ministry is through his books and the contacts that brings with readers. He corresponds regularly with several "fans" who are sick, homebound or in prison.

Morris believes the Christian fiction market has come a long way since he started. There is more realism now. "It was very bland back then; you couldn't have people blowing their brains out."

At the same time, he senses a need to be careful not to offend. "I have had letters from people saying you have the filthiest mind that I have encountered in my life to people who say you have handled this in a delicate and sensitive way."

## Sunday school quarterly provides roadmap to new life

CARROLLTON, Ala. (BP)—God, a Baptist with a Sunday school quarterly and a stranded couple collided; changed lives walked away.

One Sunday afternoon, Ernie Carroll, director of missions for Pickens Baptist Association in Alabama, taught a class on "Experiencing God" at Carrollton Baptist Church.

During the class, a member asked him how to maintain confidence in God's activity in people's lives.

"I answered that God is going to save at any given time anyone he wishes and that I must trust God has been working in that person's life and preparing his heart," Carroll said.

Following the class, he drove to

nearby Mineral Springs Baptist Church to preach the evening service.

"As I made my way up to the church, I saw a stranded vehicle near the church," he recalled. "I thought, 'Wouldn't it be a shame for a person to break down in sight of a church and no one help?' So I pulled up and offered to help."

The couple's car was running hot, and they needed water, Carroll said.

"I emptied a liter soft drink I had in my car and told him I would go to the church for water. As I left, I thought, 'He's asked me for water; now I'm going to offer him Living Water.'"

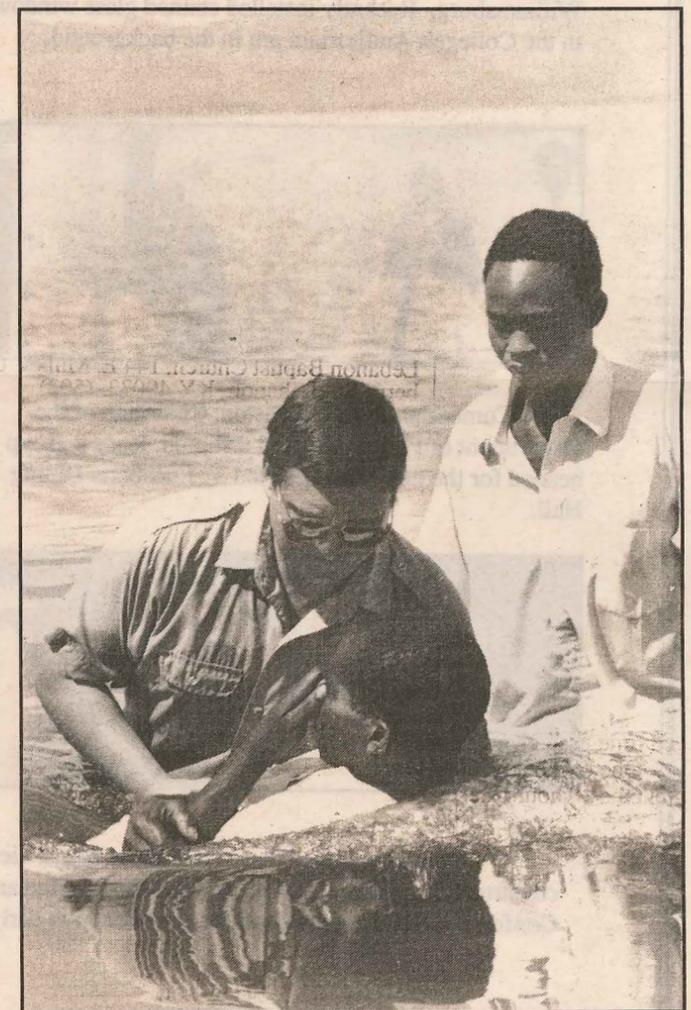
The weather was hot, and worship

was to start in 30 minutes, so Carroll knew he had to get to the point.

"I realized I did not have a tract to use in witnessing to this couple," he said. "As I was wondering what to use that would be concise and make sure I would leave nothing out, I suddenly remembered the Sunday school quarterlies have the plan of salvation outlined."

So Carroll grabbed a senior adult quarterly, returned to the couple, filled their radiator with water and told them about Christ.

"I asked them if they died in a car accident on the way home, did they know if they would go to heaven? The woman answered 'yes,' but the



**GROWING NUMBER** Steve Evans, a Southern Baptist missionary from Seattle, and Jameson Mwenyeheri, a member of the Yao tribe, baptize one of eight new Christians in Mwenyeheri's village in Malawi. In the first year after Mwenyeheri became a Christian and started a Bible study, 29 new believers joined Maudzu Baptist Fellowship. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

man could not say if he would go to heaven," he noted.

So the man gave Carroll permission to share the plan of salvation.

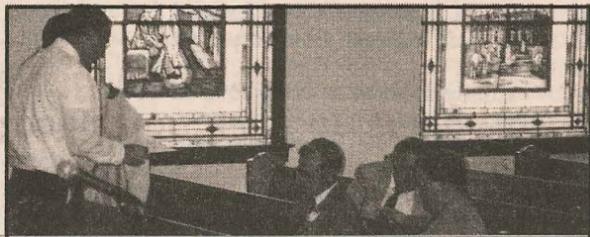
"When we got to the sinner's prayer, I read through it and asked if that prayer expressed a need in his heart at that moment," Carroll reported. "He said it did. I then asked him if there was any reason why he could not pray to receive Christ as Lord and Savior of his life. He said there was not.

"At that moment, I led him through the prayer basically as it is printed in the quarterly. I felt the sincerity in his heart as he began to cry as he prayed."

## FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

### Church Relations Board Meeting & 1993 Pastor/Staff and Family Conference

**"Be happy, laugh! A merry heart doeth good like medicine." That's what professional Christian entertainer/singer, housewife, Kay Dekalb Smith told those attending the Pastor/Staff Family Conference at Cumberland College July 19-21.**



Wes Roy, pastor of DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church, LaGrange, chairs a Committee meeting made up of Volva Brown, Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesville; Ken Milby, Maple Heights Baptist Church, Fairborn, OH; and Rick Vaughn, First Baptist Church, Williamsburg. Recently installed stained glass windows in the College's Auditorium are in the background.



Kay Dekalb Smith sparked the three-day event using her talents of singing, humor and testimony.



Cumberland's Bob Dunston, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, leads a group headed for the newly re-modeled T. J. Roberts Dining Hall.



Louisville's Robert Williams was on hand to describe the Williams Cross Collection during a tour of the Cumberland Museum.



Members of the Church Relations Board view construction of Phase II of the Cumberland Lodge and Conference Center, scheduled for completion in early 1994.



Marshall Eastham, pastor of South Greensburg Baptist Church, Greensburg, shares a break with Howard Cobble, pastor of the Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

**The Pastor/Staff Conference offers inspirational messages, Bible study, timely seminars, fellowship, relaxation and recreation. Plan now to attend next year's meeting.**



Fun and Fellowship...No small part of the conference! "Volunteers," Jim Heneisen, Temple Baptist Church, Springfield, and Steve Fegenbush, Calvary Baptist Church, Danville, help Kay with a "fun" number.

**Cumberland College  
Williamsburg, Kentucky**