

FOR THE RECORD

KBC coverage

Most of this issue is devoted to coverage of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting. See the box at the bottom of page 1 for a summary.

RFRA signed

President Bill Clinton last week signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, considered by religious liberty experts to be one of the most important pieces of legislation passed this century. See page 2.

Other conventions

In annual state convention meetings this fall, seven key states turned back efforts to elect more conservative leadership in line with Southern Baptist Convention leadership. California Baptists rejected a church which called a woman as pastor. And Oklahoma Baptists reprimanded their retired executive director for his involvement with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. See page 2.

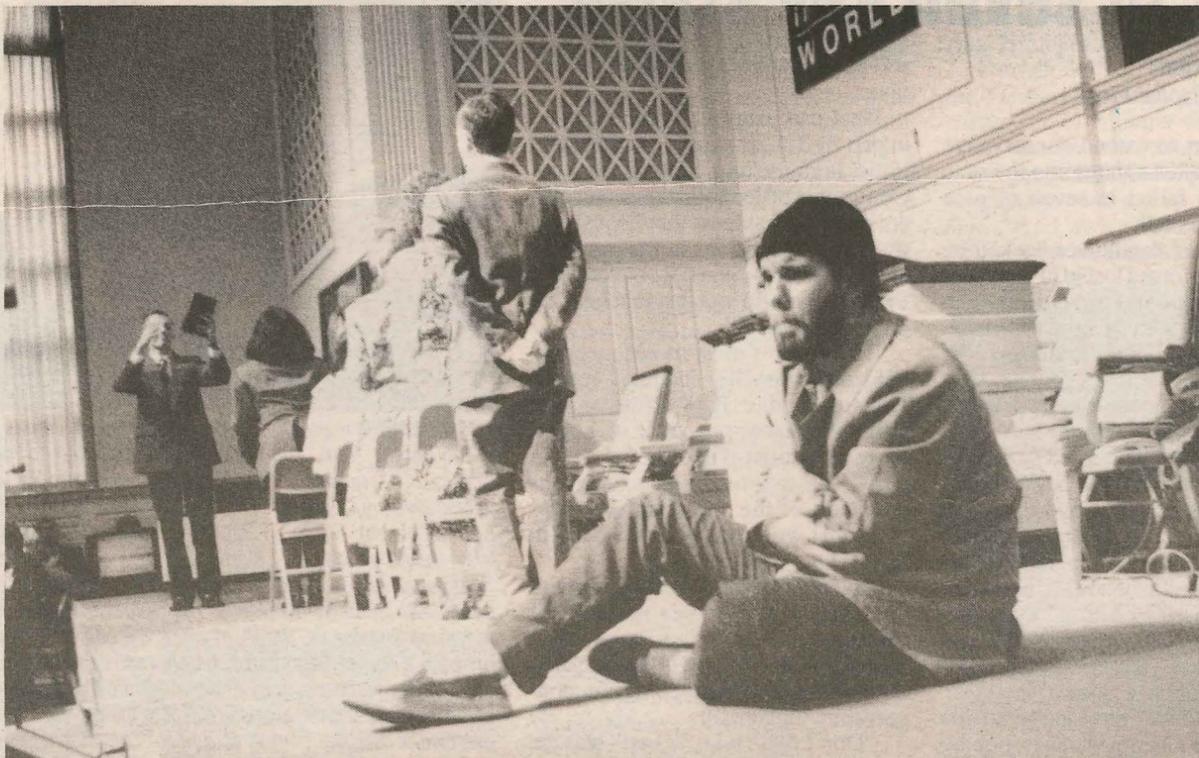
Editorial

The KBC annual meeting settled some issues but raised other questions. See page 5.

Pastors' Conference

Due to space limitations this week, the report on the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference will appear in next week's Recorder.

Moving? See page 4 (1129)



DARK WORLD Students from Western Kentucky University's Baptist Student Union present a theme interpretation during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. Here, they portray worshipers going about their business blind to the needy man outside their door. The convention's theme was "Sharing God's Light in a Dark World."

Browning wants none 'homeless'

By Marv Knox
Editor

ELIZABETHTOWN—Nobody in the Kentucky Baptist Convention deserves to be "homeless," new KBC President Bob Browning insisted.

In an interview shortly after his election last week, Browning advocated an inclusive convention, with room for people from across the Baptist spectrum.

"The ad the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children ran (WR, Nov. 16) is excellent," he said.

"Which ... would you turn away?" he said, quoting the ad, which featured a photo of six children and described the plight of hurting youngsters.

"We need to take a picture of our convention and ask that question. I don't feel anyone should be left out. We must build a house big enough for everybody.

"It's one thing to be homeless because of your circumstances. It's another to be homeless because people have rejected you. I want no homeless Kentucky Baptists."

Browning's message of inclusion echoes concern expressed by KBC political moderates. They point to theological/political strife within the Southern Baptist Convention; strife which has polarized the denomination and alienated many members. They have expressed concern for the future of the KBC, fearful that Kentucky Baptists could experience similar

BJCPA out; Mid-Continent to be studied

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

ELIZABETHTOWN—The Kentucky Baptist Convention closed the door on funding one non-convention agency last week but cracked the door to possible future funding of another.

By a 39-vote margin, messengers defunded the Baptist Joint Committee, a Washington, D.C.-based religious liberty agency.

But by an overwhelming majority,

messengers also referred to the KBC Executive Board for study a request for the KBC to "officially recognize" Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield as a Baptist institution.

In other business, messengers defeated a recommendation to require the election of a layperson as convention president at least once every five years, approved a constitutional change to allow four convention-related schools to add some out-of-state trustees, expanded the board of direc-

tors of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, and approved a \$17.86 million Cooperative Program budget for 1994-95.

A near-record number of messengers filled the sanctuary and spilled over into three overflow rooms at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Total messenger registration reached 2,153 during the Nov. 16-17 convention.

The Baptist Joint Committee fund-

What happened at the Kentucky Baptist Convention

ELIZABETHTOWN—The Kentucky Baptist Convention held its highest-attended annual meeting last week at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

A total of 2,692 messengers and guests registered for the Nov. 16-17 sessions, nearly 170 more than attended the 1990 meeting in Paducah, the previous record holder.

However, the Paducah meeting still holds the record for number of registered messengers, those who are eligible to vote. This year's meeting in Elizabethtown drew the second-largest number of messengers—2,153—more than 100 shy of the record 2,262 messengers who registered in Paducah.

Here's a summary of what happened at this year's convention:

■ **Officers.** Officers elected include Bob Browning of Somerset, president; Bob DeFoor of Harrodsburg, first vice president; Ken Bolin of Manchester, second vice president; Wilma Simmons of Ekron, secretary; and Joe Priest Williams of Louisville, assistant secretary. See page 3.

■ **Baptist Joint Committee.** By a vote of 477-438, messengers rescinded an action taken two years

ago to provide KBC funding for the Baptist Joint Committee, a religious liberty agency in Washington, D.C. See page 6.

■ **Mid-Continent.** Messengers referred to the KBC Executive Board a motion to "officially recognize" Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College as a Baptist school. See page 1.

■ **Lay presidents.** Messengers rejected 988-718 a proposal to amend the KBC's Constitution and Bylaws to require the election of a layperson as president at least once every five years. See page 7.

■ **Partnership.** The conclusion of the Kentucky partnership with Baptists in Brazil was highlighted, and then messengers turned their attention to the new partnership with Russian Baptists. See page 6.

■ **Anniversary.** William Marshall was honored for 10 years of service as executive secretary-treasurer of the KBC. See page 6.

■ **College trustees.** Messengers approved a recommendation to expand the boards of four KBC schools to include up to eight out-of-state members. See page 7.

■ **At-large members.** Messengers approved language to bring the Constitution and Bylaws in line with

a previous action creating at-large members of the KBC Executive Board.

■ **Appointments.** KBC President Charles Stewart appointed four members to the nine-member KBC committee on committees. Newly elected KBC President Bob Browning also named new chairmen for convention committees. See page 10.

■ **New churches.** The credentials committee recommended, and messengers approved, accepting three new churches into affiliation with the KBC: Green Hills Baptist Church of Louisville, New Hope Baptist Church of Jackson, and Southeast Baptist Church of Owensboro.

■ **Catholic greetings.** Frank Ruff, liaison from the Roman Catholic Church to Southern Baptists, addressed messengers with greetings "from believers in Jesus Christ who are members of Roman Catholic churches" and apologized for times Catholics have treated Baptists poorly.

■ **Budget.** Messengers approved a \$17.86 million Cooperative Program budget for 1994-95, a 3 percent increase over the 1993-94 bud-

get. See page 7.

■ **Resolutions.** Messengers passed nine resolutions, ranging from registering opposition to casino gambling to thanking all who made the convention successful. See page 7.

■ **Foundation board.** The Kentucky Baptist Foundation's board was expanded from nine members to 16 due to the increasing amount of work the Foundation is handling. See page 7.

■ **Dillard sermon.** Russell Dillard, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, presented messengers with a 2-in-1 sermon on "The Faith of the Family" and "The Family of Faith." See page 8.

■ **President's address.** KBC President Charles Stewart of Ashland urged Kentucky Baptists to hold fast to four age-old truths. See page 9.

■ **Convention sermon.** Christians should dedicate their "life symphonies" to the Lord, exhorted Lexington pastor Bob Baker, who delivered the convention sermon. See page 9.

■ **Draper sermon.** Christians must be stewards of God's grace, stressed Jimmy Draper, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. See page 9.

Conservative extension fails in seven key states

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

Oklahomans chastise former leader

BETHANY, Okla. (ABP)—Oklahoma Baptists have publicly chastised their retired state convention executive director for his endorsement of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma roundly approved a motion asking Joe Ingram to "cease and desist" from his support of the Fellowship. Ingram retired from his convention post in 1986. Now head of Baptist Healthcare in Oklahoma, he wrote letters last month encouraging Oklahoma pastors to attend a series of meetings with the Fellowship's coordinator, Cecil Sherman. Messengers approved by an estimated 95 percent a motion appointing five convention representatives to "call upon (Ingram) to express our disappointment in the action he has taken to lend support to any alternatives to the Cooperative Program and to request him to cease and desist from such actions in the future." Ingram said he does not intend to meet with anyone nor heed the call to cease his involvement with the Fellowship. He said the letter was written in good conscience and that money he gives to the Fellowship is over and above his tithe to Quail Springs Baptist Church.

The effort to extend conservative Southern Baptist control into the state conventions failed in seven of nine key states this fall.

Presidential candidates backed by conservative forces lost in at least seven large Baptist conventions—in Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

However, conservative-backed candidates won in several states, including South Carolina and Arkansas.

Presidential elections in Tennessee and Mississippi lacked overt political overtones, according to longtime observers. And in Georgia, site of frequently hot political battles, the president was re-elected to a customary second term without opposition. An incumbent also was re-elected without opposition in Alabama.

Conservatives have targeted the state convention presidencies, hoping to repeat the success they had in using the Southern Baptist Convention presidency to steer the national body onto a more conservative course. Most state presidencies carry power to appoint important committees that choose state leaders.

But Baptists in several states rejected what they called SBC-style politics on the state level.

In Louisiana, the presidential election offered messengers a choice between David Hankins, a national SBC leader who endorsed the denomination's new conservative slant, and Mark Sutton, a Shreveport pastor who said Louisiana Baptists don't need to import the SBC controversy.

Sutton, pastor of Brookwood Baptist Church, defeated Hankins by a vote of 1,301 to 1,130. Hankins, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, is outgoing chairman of the powerful SBC Executive Committee.

In the weeks before the election, Hankins' supporters used a full-color brochure to tout his endorsement of the SBC's conservative movement and his desire "to help Louisiana Baptists move forward in the same direction."

Sutton's position, meanwhile, was spelled out in newsletters circulated throughout the state.

The elections in North Carolina also featured unabashed politicking, with four candidates backed by the moderate Friends of Missions group sweeping the elections. Flyers promoting conservative, moderate and non-aligned candidates were distributed at the meeting.

Elected president was Mt. Airy pastor Alfred Ayscue, defeating Coy Privette of Kannapolis 55 percent to 45 percent. Privette, an unsuccessful candidate for governor in the state and a former trustee of the SBC Christian Life Commission, ran on a ticket promoted by Conservative Carolina Baptists.

Ayscue told reporters the elections represent a rejection by North Carolina Baptists of the campaign of SBC leaders to repeat the so-called "con-

servative resurgence" in state conventions.

That campaign has been directed in part by T.C. Pinkney, a retired Virginia layman and SBC Executive Committee officer. Pinkney and others organized at least three conservative strategy sessions in the past year in preparation for the fall conventions. Pinkney could not be reached for comment Nov. 18.

The group's most recent meeting, held in Louisville, included retired Houston judge Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The two men are regarded as architects of the conservative movement that won control of the SBC in the 1980s.

The activity of Pinkney's group spawned a September meeting of moderates—led by Houston groceryman John Baugh—who shared their own strategies for stopping the conservative juggernaut.

"Don't mess with Texas!" was the warning of Jerold McBride, who won the Texas Baptist presidency in late October by campaigning against SBC-style politics in the state. "We don't need that here."

At the Florida Baptist Convention, one of nine big Deep South conventions to meet during the week of Nov. 17, messengers defeated a slate of candidates nominated by the conservative leaders.

On a 451-382 vote, George Thomasson, a pastor from West Palm Beach, defeated Lakeland pastor Michael Hailey, who has close ties to national SBC leaders. Thomasson is not directly linked with Florida's moderate group.

In Missouri, messengers defeated a presidential candidate openly endorsed by an organization of conservative pastors in the state. Hallsville pastor Ralph Sawyer lost by a 350-vote margin to T.O. Spicer Jr., first vice president during 1993.

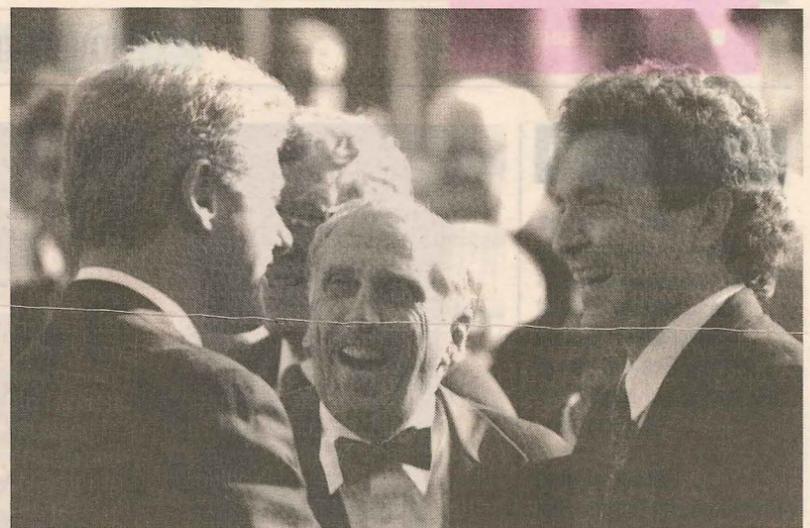
And in Virginia, moderate-backed candidates swept the offices. Richmond pastor Ron Crawford was elected president in a runoff. Crawford won 49.9 percent of the vote on the first ballot, while conservative-backed Vander Warner of Richmond received 27 percent and centrist Cecil Chambers of Richmond won 23 percent.

Warner then withdrew from the race and endorsed Chambers. But Crawford won the runoff with 58 percent of the vote.

Bucking the trend toward moderate or non-aligned officers were Baptists in South Carolina and Arkansas.

In South Carolina, Rock Hill pastor Steve Hogg led a sweep by conservative candidates to convention offices. Hogg received 1,294 votes to 871 cast for E.C. Watson, a retired denominational employee endorsed by moderates.

In Arkansas, Hot Springs pastor Ronnie Rogers was elected president, affirming the recent "resurgence of the absolute inerrancy of Scripture" in Baptist life. He defeated Eddie McCord of Independence 384 to 347.



RFRA SIGNING President Bill Clinton chats with James Dunn (center) and Oliver Thomas of the Baptist Joint Committee after Clinton signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act Nov. 16. Thomas headed a coalition of 68 groups which drafted RFRA and fought to get it passed in Congress. The coalition included diverse groups such as the Baptist Joint Committee, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, People for the American Way, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association of Evangelicals and the Traditional Values Coalition. Clinton signed the bill as about 200 people watched on the south lawn of the White House. The law reverses the 1990 Supreme Court decision *Employment Division vs. Smith*, in which the court ruled government no longer has to demonstrate a compelling interest before restricting religious freedom. The new law will require any government body to demonstrate that a policy serves a compelling interest and is the least restrictive means in fulfilling the government's interest before limiting the free exercise of religion. Clinton said RFRA "re-establishes a standard that better protects all Americans of all faiths in the exercise of their religion in a way that I am convinced is far more consistent with the intent of the founders of this nation than the Supreme Court decision." (Photo by Larry Chesser)

Californians reject church

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (BP)—California Baptists overruled their credentials committee and parliamentarians last week and refused to seat messengers from a San Francisco church because its pastor is a woman.

"This is amazing," Julie Pennington-Russell, pastor of Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church, said after the decision. "The tent has just gotten considerably smaller."

Dan Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Camarillo, challenged messengers from Nineteenth Avenue as the 53rd annual meeting of the California Southern Baptist Convention was called into session Nov. 16.

But John Bohrer, chairman of the convention's credentials committee, reported the challenge had been ruled invalid by convention parliamentarians.

"We have come to the conclusion that this challenge is not valid in that it does not conflict with the constitution as written," explained Ed Collier, chairman of parliamentarians. "These messengers may be seated."

But Nelson pressed his challenge.

"The practice of this church is their business, but when we seat these messengers it does reflect what our churches believe," Nelson said.

Some were opposed to the action. Martha McNeil, associate pastor of Tiburon Baptist Church in Tiburon, said voting not to seat the messengers would be "going against Baptist history, every precedent of what has made a Baptist

church a Baptist church.

In another appeal to Baptist history, Pennington-Russell pleaded with messengers to reject the challenge to her church's messengers.

"One of the proudest hallmarks has been our unity in diversity," she said. "If you open the door today and find that we are not acceptable, next year it will be someone else for some other reason."

"Today I beg you, I implore you to leave the tent big enough to accommodate us because you may find one of these days it won't be big enough to accommodate you."

Finally a ballot vote was taken, in which messengers voted 213-204 not to seat Nineteenth Avenue.

The narrow, nine-vote margin seemed to confirm a fear expressed in Williamson's convention sermon later that day.

"Some of us are busy trying to determine if everyone has the right theological positions and in the meantime people are dying and going to hell and Satan sits on his place in hell and he is laughing," Williamson declared.

"My fear is the controversy that has swept our national convention will sweep us here in California, and rather than working at reaching people for Jesus, we will be taking shots at one another."

Nineteenth Avenue Church is home to a variety of innovative ministries and shares its space with several language congregations. Though the years, the unique situation has been featured numerous times in publications and programs of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Browning elected KBC president in race with Short

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

ELIZABETHTOWN—Bob Browning was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention during the annual meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown Nov. 16.

Browning, the 43-year-old pastor of First Baptist Church in Somerset, defeated Don Short, a vocational evangelist and member of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton. The vote was 968-821, or 54 percent to 46 percent.

Also elected to office for the coming year were Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, first vice president; Ken Bolin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Manchester, second vice president; Wilma Simmons, laywoman from Ekron Baptist Church in Ekron, secretary; and Joe Priest Williams, member of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, assistant secretary.

Although neither presidential candidate identified himself politically, Browning largely was supported by Baptist moderates and Short largely was supported by conservatives.

Charles Stewart, a conservative-backed candidate, won the presidency last year, upsetting a line of mostly moderate leadership. Although supported by avowed conservatives, neither Stewart nor Short claimed to be the conservative candidate.

Likewise, although strongly supported by moderates, Browning does not describe himself as a moderate but as a "denominational loyalist."

Browning's church gives 27 percent of undesignated receipts to the

Cooperative Program, the unified budget of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention. Cooperative Program giving has become a rallying point for conservatives since gaining control of the national SBC structure.

Browning's church does not give money to the moderate-backed Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, but the new president is perceived by moderates as someone who will not oppose other Kentucky churches who do support the Fellowship.

Browning pledged to serve all Kentucky Baptists, to be fair and to pray over every decision and appointment he must make.

The day after the election, Short addressed the convention to publicly praise Browning and say he would support him. "I love him in the Lord and believe he will make a great president," Short said.

"A lady came up to me yesterday and said, 'They got them a president, didn't they?'" Short said by way of illustration. "I said, 'No, we've got us a president.'"

Browning was nominated by Willis Henson, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.

Henson said messengers should elect Browning because he has earned the position by working on numerous committees and learning how Kentucky Baptists work, because he has been involved in and supports missions, because he's fair and because his church deserves recognition.

Henson cited Browning's leadership as president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference last year, saying he "selected pastors from all views" to speak on the program.



Short was nominated by Ferrill Gardner, pastor of Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville.

Gardner described Short as "a man whom I feel God can use."

He joked that the tall, lanky evangelist is "not short in stature."

Neither, he said, is Short short in personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, integrity, experience as a successful pastor, passion for lost souls, zeal for missions and evangelism, knowledge of Baptists, or program support.

The churches Short served as pastor before entering full-time evangelism ranked in the top 100 contributors to the Kentucky Cooperative Program, Gardner said.

He also said Short's success as an evangelist has equipped him to pro-

vide leadership in launching the 1995 evangelistic thrust, "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now."

DeFoor was elected first vice president running against Gary Frizzell, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland. The vote was 856-697, or 55 percent to 45 percent.

DeFoor largely was supported by moderates, and Frizzell largely was supported by conservatives.

Bolin was elected first vice president running against Gerald Sharon, pastor of Highland Hills Baptist Church in Fort Thomas. The vote was 476-437, or 52 percent to 48 percent.

Bolin largely was supported by conservatives, and Sharon largely was supported by moderates.

Simmons and Williams were re-elected to their posts by acclamation.

NEW OFFICERS Elected to serve the Kentucky Baptist Convention in the coming year are Joe Priest Williams, assistant secretary; Wilma Simmons, secretary; Bob Browning, president; Ken Bolin, second vice president; and Bob DeFoor, first vice president.

New president wants none 'homeless' in KBC family

Continued from page 1
alienation.

But Browning's theology and support for the SBC's budget reflects that of convention conservatives. An avowed theological conservative, he has no dispute with the doctrinal beliefs and understandings of that group. And the church where he is pastor, First Baptist of Somerset, gives 27 percent of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program unified budget.

Consequently, he has declined traditional Baptist political labels, claiming neither the "moderate" nor "conservative" moniker.

And, although moderates generally supported him and his idea of inclusion, Browning said he did not affiliate with either denominational party.

"I was not a candidate for either party," he reported. "I did not attend meetings, write letters or make phone calls. I made myself available."

Noting he had been asked to be a presidential candidate twice previously, Browning added, "I'm of the old school that 'the office seeks the man.'"

As for his own description of his place among Baptists, Browning said: "I am a 'denominational loyalist.' I have always been a Southern Baptist, saved at the age of 9 and baptized into

First Baptist Church of Greenville.

"I have pastored four Southern Baptist churches and attended almost every Southern Baptist Convention and Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting since I began pastoring. I have always been a strong supporter of the Cooperative Program and continue to be so.

"Whenever something is discussed by the convention, I don't hesitate to express my opinion. But when a vote is taken and a decision is made, I move with the convention and continue to work in the convention to strengthen and enhance it."

Browning's perspective has placed him in-between Baptists on either side of the political spectrum, but he senses a positive opportunity out of that.

"I now see my entire ministry as a bridge," he explained. "At first, I thought I would be a bridge between generations, but now I see it as a bridge from one side of schism to the next.

"I want to be one upon whom people from one side and the other can cross. Hopefully, prayerfully, we will see these two 'land masses' move toward each other until one day there will be no need for a bridge."

An example of such relationships is his friendship with Don Short, the other presidential candidate, Brown-

ing said.

"I have never met a more gracious runner-up than Don," he insisted. "He is a personal friend. As soon as the results were made known, I went to him, shook his hand and said I hoped this would not infringe upon our friendship. ... I cannot speak for the political parties, but I know the two of us were not running against each other. I was not running 'against' anybody."

Looking toward his presidency, Browning said he wants to "build on the good foundation laid by previous convention officers and employees."

He also intends to provide strong support for the KBC's new partnership with Russian Baptists and the 1995 "Here's Hope" simultaneous revivals.

And Browning also hopes to "plant a seed" for a new KBC ministry.

"I'd like for us to mobilize the volunteers who have gone to Kenya and Brazil and will go to Russia, to encourage them to help meet the needs we have within our own state," he said, citing three reasons for the effort.

"First, these volunteers—a very large pool of them—already have been trained to do what they would need to do," he explained.

"Second, they return (from overseas partnerships) very enthused

about their mission trip and what God has done in their lives, and they feel fulfilled about meeting the needs of others.

"Third, the needs they have met on foreign soil are the same needs we have in Kentucky—poverty, disease, homelessness and all the social ills you'll find elsewhere in the world."

The concept provides at least two potential benefits, he added. "This effort would maintain the spirit of mission work and at the same time meet some real needs in our own state. It's a way of getting more miles for our money—utilizing these volunteers on a continual basis."

Such a ministry wouldn't compete with the Russian partnership, Browning stressed.

The Greenville native is a graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and earned master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

His four pastorates all have been in Kentucky—Hazel Creek Baptist Church in Belton, North Fork Baptist Church in Frankfort, Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green and, for the past 11 years, First Baptist Church in Somerset.

He and his wife, Jackie, have three children: Jason, 18; Amy Blair, 16; and Joshua Hays, 14.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

MARV KNOX
Editor

MARK WINGFIELD
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

C. R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

*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.

To subscribe: Send \$10.60 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$8.50 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6472, fax to (502) 244-1688 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 250 words and may be edited for length.

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Don Mantooh, Morehead, chairman; Tom Curry, Louisville, vice chairman; Kay Trisler, Harrodsburg, secretary; Bill Crosby, Erlanger; Denzel Dukes, Paducah; Glenn Durham, Harlan; Frank Hatfield, Shepherdsville; Isaac McDonald, Elizabethtown; Karen Owen Phelps, Owensboro; John Searcy, Franklin; William Thurman, Lexington; James Weaver, Madisonville.

Get back

My fellow Kentucky Baptists, if you know you are where God wants you, then why start some CBF or BBF or any kind of "F"?

Why not get back to the days when the liberals, the moderates, the conservatives and yes, even the extreme fundamentalists, managed to keep us together in somewhat of an orderly fashion?

We did our mission work through the Cooperative Program and could, in addition, send mission offerings to places like Oneida or Clear Creek or to our Baptist school in Western Kentucky without so much ado.

Let us be God's men, in God's place, doing our dear Lord's work in cooperation.

*Seibert K. Sullivan
Finley*

We trust God

Maybe liberals have lost their ability to respond to the spirituality of the times—we haven't (WR, Oct. 5).

We still trust and praise God. He does not change. The "old myths" we still believe and teach are the same that the martyrs in Fox's book died for. Read it again.

Liberals, in their greed for power and money, are deceived by Satan. A warning lovingly given. As more grassroots find out what you really believe, you will lose more. Baptists are Bible believers!

*Nellie Beach
Dry Ridge*

New slavery

The health care debate reflects a lack of training in economics.

If socialism in medicine will lead

to more cost-effective health care for all, it will be a first! The cost for such a plan will take away another part of Americans' dwindling private property. The Constitution does not promise health care to all, only a chance to earn it. It should not.

Who is to have compassion upon the forgotten people who have sacrificed to gain something in this world only to have those who will not toil take it away? If slavery was wrong in the 1860s, how can it be right for today's working class? I am for private charity health care, but not forced governmental control. Many Americans work six months or more just to pay all the taxes (confiscation).

Private property is a Christian-Judeo belief, while socialism and communism are man-made systems that enslave while discouraging freedom and motivation.

The new slavery is economic bondage. Religious and economic freedom are closely tied together.

Why is it that the Canadians go to Detroit to have MRIs done at our cost? The medical profession is not a group of heartless individuals, but they need to make a profit and control their own business. The profit system works! Just wait and see how the socialistic system works. There will be undesired consequences! The reform must think in long-term results and consequences, that open doors, in the light of what motivates Americans.

*David E. Fletcher
Mayfield*

Same as SBC

Jim Holladay says, "There is one thing we can agree on, and that is unfounded public accusations about the people who work for us and with us are unacceptable" (WR, Nov. 7).

Giving thanks for family

Unforgettable were those Thanksgiving days we piled into Daddy's 1941 Dodge and crossed over the river to Grandmother's house. Granddaddy lived there, too, but for some reason I always referred to that special place as "Grandmother's."

The tires of the Dodge that Daddy put two motors in, because of the war, whined across the steel-grated bridge.

It had been a covered bridge until 1893. Fortunately, artist Paul Sawyer (1865-1917) had captured the covered structure with his brush, a print of which hangs on my office wall with others of his depictions of my hometown at the turn of the century.

Except for the railroad bridge, the "singing bridge" was our only connecting link between south and north Frankfort. Seven spans now cross the Kentucky between I-64 and the dam at Bellepoint.

We passed along before First Baptist Church, the courthouse and businesses—Webster's Music Shop, which sold everything from marbles to model planes to musical instruments, and Sower Hardware, which annually gathered the finest selection

of Christmas toys in town.

Past the Grand Theatre where, on Saturday, one could see a "double-feature," have popcorn and Coke for a quarter. And sometimes I bought a hard caramel sucker which, if licked slowly, might last an entire feature.

On down the street past Woolworth's and the two "saloons" into which Granddaddy sometimes went, insisting I remain outside. It was said there were some pretty big fights there on Saturday.

We turned right onto Broadway, along the railroad tracks, then left down State Street beside the Old Capitol. From there through the alley to Mero Street, turned right and then left on Ann and we were there—at Grandmother's house for Thanksgiving dinner.

Granddaddy was sitting in his usual seat beside the door. In summer, it was the swing on the front porch. He enjoyed watching people go by, and I loved sitting with him.

As the door opened, the warm room and blended aroma of turkey, yeast rolls and mince-meat pies enlivened our appetites.

Let's consider why the article to which Holladay refers (WR, Oct. 12) was written. The Western Recorder asked Bill Hancock to write his opinion about the subject in question.

What about Richard Bridges, when he said, "The SBC has lost its character"? Does he know something about the Southern Baptist Convention leaders and messengers who have put the SBC on its path for the past 14 years? Is he saying all of those committed to the SBC have lost character? Surely not; if so, he needs to back it up or apologize to the SBC.

What about the president of the KBF, in the Oct. 30 meeting, when he said, "I am scared to death to have Morris Chapman speak at the Pastors' Conference, because I am afraid they will use the Pastors' Conference to take over the SBC"? Does he know something about Chapman that the SBC needs to know?

I really don't think this is about accusations; it's about which direction the KBC is going. So, let me go on record saying I'm one who likes the direction the SBC is going and will do all in God's power to see that the KBC heads in the same direction.

*Mark Payton
Danville*

About letters

The Western Recorder gladly receives letters from Kentucky Baptist writers.

The Baptist Forum section provides the Recorder's readers with an avenue to express their opinions.

Letters must be 250 words or less in length, and they cannot attack individuals other than the editor.

The Recorder staff makes every effort to publish all letters written by Kentucky Baptists which meet the guidelines.

Uncle Les and Auntie were already there, he in the kitchen carving the turkey that Grandmother and Hallie had been baking since early morning. Hands washed, I sometimes helped scoop the dressing from inside the big bird, laden with onion and celery.

Embedded forever in my memory is that room where we all gathered for the blessing, to be followed by loud conversation, laughter and feasting on grandmother's bounty. Her eyes danced from plate to plate, a lock of her white hair dangling across her moist brow.

This dear woman would outlive her husband and two daughters-in-law. At 92, a widow by then, she still had my widower father for Sunday dinner at her house.

At some unmarked point, that era of my life ended and we took our turn to be adults, at the "big table," creating new memories for our children and grandchildren. And we will have Thanksgiving at our house again this year with family and friends.

But at some moment, when no one is looking, I'll slip away and wander back over the river and through the old town to Grandmother's house—and have Thanksgiving there, too.

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



Joint checkbooks?

By Diana Garland

"My wife and I disagree about ways to spend money. We are thinking about getting separate checking accounts to avoid the arguments."

Many couples use two or more checking accounts.

Don't count on multiple accounts as a solution to differences in your attitudes toward money, however. You still need to agree on what funds go in each account, and what expenses must be paid from each. Can you each spend money left over in "your" account? Where will money for unexpected expenses come from? Who decides?

Separate checking accounts are not necessarily the solution, but neither are they an indication of any problems. They may be a good experiment to clarify your differences in values so you can seek solutions.

The wonderful thing about marriage is that we have many chances to solve the same problems through the years. Don't expect any solution to be forever. Marriage is an ongoing seminar on conflict resolution, in which we can ever refine the art of loving and caring.

Apart from sex, money creates more conflicts in marriage than any other factor. Like sex, money touches core values we hold and money issues result either in harmony or chronic disagreement.

Like sex, money issues change with time; our values and the demands on us shift.

Take plenty of time to talk over money issues, because although they may be frustrating, in many respects, these both reflect and influence the essence of our shared lives. We are not what we own, but what we choose to own or not own influences who we are as well as reflecting who we are. The choices we make and the ways we resolve differing values shape our spiritual lives and reflect our commitments.

Such important decisions deserve prayer and constant reminders to ourselves to act in Christ-like love, with hearts listening to our partners and to the God to whom we have committed even our checkbooks.

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

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

Calmer-than-expected meeting raises new questions

The 1993 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting failed to live up to its billing, thank the Lord.

Many messengers journeyed to the KBC expecting a political shoot-out. Indeed, some KBC actions held political ramifications, but the meeting was neither as politically charged nor as acrimonious as anticipated.

Outgoing KBC President Charles Stewart deserves much of the credit for a smooth meeting. Stewart, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, tends to see the good in every person and every situation. His running commentary on the meeting was laced with praise and superlatives. He regularly deferred to his three parliamentarians. Mistakes were rare. And when they occurred, Stewart quickly absorbed them with self-deprecating humor and wit. His gentle demeanor provided a soft touch to his firm moderating style. As he laughed and smiled and praised, he kept the meeting steady. He allowed access to discussion without letting individuals commandeer debate.

Also praiseworthy were the staff and members of Severns Valley Baptist Church, who accommodated a record crowd with exceptional hospitality; the committee on order of business, which supervised proceedings in four meeting halls without a major hitch; and the KBC Executive Board staff, which provided outstanding support.

The gracious competence of all these people, combined with an overall good spirit among most messengers, made for a smooth and relatively tranquil meeting in Elizabethtown. However, KBC '93 closed with many unanswered questions. Among them:

■ Has the convention achieved political parity?

Although both candidates for president eschewed labels and share friends across the political spectrum, both received partisan support. New President Bob Browning, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, got solid backing from moderates. Don Short, a vocational evangelist from Eddyville, garnered many votes from conservatives. Browning's victory offset a win last year by Stewart, who got conservatives' votes.

Seen from a political standpoint, the KBC presidency is important because of the president's appointive powers. Near the beginning of each annual meeting, the KBC president makes a simple announcement with enormous consequences, naming members to the KBC committee on committees. That committee has nine members, who each serve three-year rotating terms. The committee carries clout within the KBC, primarily because it nominates members to the KBC committee on nominations, which makes the final recommendations for trustees for all the convention's agencies and institutions. By controlling presidential elections and a similar nominating process, conservatives have gained control over the Southern Baptist Convention.

This year, outgoing President Stewart named four solid conservatives to the committee on committees (three to new terms and one to fill an unexpired vacancy), providing conservatives with at least a five-vote majority bloc on the nine-member committee, with several other non-aligned members. This puts new President Browning in a difficult spot as he looks to his appointments next year. He already has begun to promote a peace-and-harmony theme for the KBC. Some conservatives will call on him to provide "balanced" appointments to the committee next year. But to provide overall balance on the committee, Browning must

consider Stewart's four conservative appointments. For Browning, "balance" must mean studying the complexion of the entire committee, not just the three members he will name. Following this year's appointments, the KBC may be two or three presidents away from seeing what kind of political parity we'll achieve.

■ Have we laid divisive national issues to rest?

During the past three years, nothing has generated more passionate political debate within the KBC than the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The Joint Committee is a Washington-based religious liberty watchdog. For most of the past decade, SBC conservatives have accused it of being too liberal. They succeeded in getting the SBC to stop funding the committee in 1990 and in severing all ties to the organization in 1991.

Later that year, KBC messengers voted to "find a way" to provide funds for the Joint Committee. Last year, the KBC Executive Board decided the answer was through a special fund, supported by unspent end-of-year money, to supply interest income for the committee. A day later, KBC conservatives barely failed to get the KBC to rescind its 1991 funding action. Almost immediately, they announced they would try again this year. And after a year of anticipation and debate, they did just that. The motion to rescind carried by a 39-vote margin, 477-438, and the KBC officially defunded the Joint Committee.

Now, the question looms: Is it over? Conservatives claimed this was the fly in their KBC ointment. They said providing funds for an agency with which they disagreed was unconscionable. They said the Joint Committee issue was worth a fight in the state convention. They staged the fight, and they won. They got valuable support from moderates who still support the Joint Committee but who decided an out-of-state issue isn't worth splitting the KBC. Will the conservatives who staged this battle be true to their word and show good faith to the moderates who joined them in rescinding Joint Committee support? Or will they raise another issue next year? That leads to the final question.

■ What's next?

Prior to the Elizabethtown meeting, some conservatives across the state raised a battle flag regarding churches which provide funds to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in addition to their gifts to the Cooperative Program unified budget and the KBC's own budget. However, that issue never came up in public discussion at the annual meeting. While some conservatives passionately oppose the Fellowship as disloyal to the SBC, others say funding which churches provide over and above the Cooperative Program and KBC causes is nobody else's business. One prominent conservative leader has said several times that splitting the KBC over the Fellowship-funding issue would be "asinine."

So, with the Baptist Joint Committee behind us and the Fellowship issue quiet for at least this year, Kentucky Baptists can ask: What's next? Can we treat our polity issues as we have our doctrinal ones—separating the essentials from the non-essentials for the sake of peace?

We've got another year to pray for our Kentucky Baptist Convention and to work for harmony and goodwill. Let's give this noble task our best effort.

Marv Knox

Thanks to God's grace and a lot of hard work by many people, Kentucky Baptists avoided a strident political battle at their annual meeting last week in Elizabethtown. Now, we can look to the future and ask an important question: Can we put aside political differences for the sake of God's kingdom?

We'll pass 4th-grade science, now that we've finally seen the light

If Lindsay and I seem sort of cocky, it's because we're pretty sure we're going to pass fourth-grade science.

She's taking this class for the first time, and I'm taking it for the first time in 27 years. But we figure we've got a fighting chance.

Actually, I don't think it's been 27 years since I studied electronics. Mrs. Key didn't teach this stuff to a brood of fourth graders at Central Elementary in 1966. That honor would have gone to Miss Pruitt, who hunkered down with an all-boy ninth grade class in 1971.

(And while it's on my mind: Anybody who thinks today's educational system has gone completely to seed hasn't been over to our house for homework lately. These

kids are getting exposed to many topics long before their Mama and I heard about this stuff.)

Fortunately, the basic principles of electronics haven't changed since 1971. Or even 1966, for that matter. Unfortunately, Lindsay's would-be homework helper has slept since then. Many times.

This time around, she's teaching me about electrons, currents, and positive and negative charges. She's cuter and funnier than Miss Pruitt was, so I'm enjoying

"class" a lot more.

But our grade depends on her big project. We're supposed to make either (a) a flashlight, (b) a lunchbox with an alarm system or (c) a homemade battery.

We settled on the flashlight.

We figure the market for alarm-protected lunchboxes is pretty slim. And homemade batteries include

open containers of either vinegar, which stinks, or lemon juice, which gets sticky. But a flash-

light is neat, dry and entirely useful when a body has to get up to go to the bathroom in

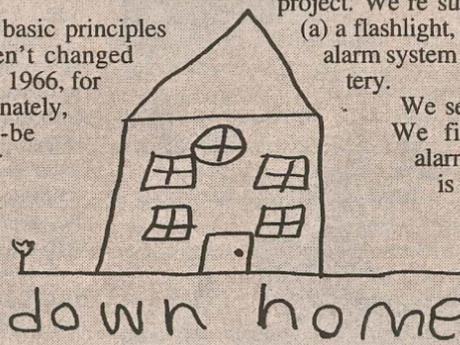
the middle of the night.

To tell you the truth, a flashlight is simple. All you need are a couple of batteries, some wire, a tiny light bulb, the tube from a role of toilet paper, a cup, and about four miles of tape to hold the thing together. We went for the deluxe edition, complete with a paper-clip on/off switch. Cool.

For awhile there, I wasn't so sure we would get our engineering marvel to work. We couldn't make a connection from wire to bulb. But we scraped off the insulating paint, and we let there be light.

As we slow down to give thanks this week, I'm grateful for children who love to learn, teachers who inspire them, and the chance to be part of the process.

Marv Knox



Baptist Joint Committee defunded in close vote

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

ELIZABETHTOWN—By a 39-vote margin, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs lost funding from the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 17.

Messengers to this year's annual meeting narrowly reversed an action which had passed with a 63 percent favorable vote only two years earlier.

The 1991 convention had instructed the KBC Executive Board to "find a way to provide funds" for the Joint Committee. The vote in 1991 was 331-195 in favor of the Joint Committee.

However, the 1991 decision to fund the Washington, D.C.-based religious liberty agency stirred the ire of conservatives, who successfully fought to get the Joint Committee defunded by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1990.

Kentucky Baptists had funded the Joint Committee through the SBC's Cooperative Program unified budget until that time. The intent of the KBC's 1991 action was to give the Joint Committee an amount equal to what Kentucky had sent to the agency through the Cooperative Program in the past.

Last November, the KBC Execu-

tive Board acted on the 1991 motion by establishing a \$200,000 investment fund to benefit the Joint Committee. The fund was to be established with unused year-end money from the Executive Board over a two-year period. It would have paid the Joint Committee about \$17,000 in interest annually.

Last December, the Executive Board appropriated \$98,000 in year-end money to the Joint Committee fund. However, no interest payments have been made to the agency, said Barry Allen, KBC business division director.

What to do with the \$98,000 and any accrued interest will be decided by the Executive Board when it meets Dec. 13-14, Allen said.

Opponents of the Joint Committee attempted to stop the KBC funding last year, but failed. A motion to rescind the 1991 decision to provide funds barely garnered a simple majority vote but not the two-thirds vote required for passage.

A two-thirds vote was required last year because the motion to rescind had not been announced in advance of the meeting. This year's successful vote to rescind the funding required only a simple majority vote because the intent to present the motion was announced during last year's meeting.

The motion to rescind funding was brought by Mike Routt, pastor of Eastern Gate Baptist Church in Shepherdsville and a conservative activist in the state.

Conservatives who oppose the Joint Committee do not oppose the separation of church and state, Routt said, but oppose the strict separation espoused by the agency.

He said the Joint Committee's executive director, James Dunn, espouses a view of separation which is "the most extreme and dangerous view."

Routt quoted Dunn as saying he favors a secular state which will be neutral toward religion. But Routt questioned whether a secular state could be neutral.

"A secular state is not neutral to religion. It is hostile," he said, citing a list of examples to support his point.

Routt also criticized the Joint Committee for its position on the Supreme Court decision in *Lee vs. Weisman*. The Joint Committee sided with the court's ruling that school-sponsored prayers at public school commencement ceremonies are unconstitutional.

"It is absolutely unbelievable" that Kentucky Baptists would support an organization opposed to commencement prayers and other forms of school prayer, Routt said.

But Bill Crosby, pastor of Erlanger Baptist Church in Erlanger, said he's not worried about school prayer.

"I'm more concerned that they not stop giving tests," he said. "For as long as they give tests, there will be prayer in public schools."

Crosby, who serves on the Joint Committee's board, rebuffed criticisms that the Joint Committee's philosophies are linked to a moral decline in America.

America's problem is not the Joint Committee, he said, but sin.

Crosby cited a list of ways the Joint Committee has helped Baptists, including saving the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board "\$1 million a year" and leading the coalition which gained Congressional approval of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Messengers should not amend the funding plan, Crosby said, because the convention already has acted to create a middle road between friends and foes of the Joint Committee. "We've already compromised. Let's leave it alone."

Jeff Wise, a member of Buechel Park Baptist Church in Louisville, said he spoke as a supporter of the Joint Committee but as one who favored rescinding the funding.

"Every church and every individual in the Kentucky Baptist Convention has the right and opportunity to support the Baptist Joint Committee," he said. "However, because it has become such a divisive issue in our convention, it would be better to rescind the action to support the committee with convention funds."

The same sentiment was expressed by Bill Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ashland. Messer noted that he was the one who made the motion to fund the Joint Committee in 1991.

"The intention of my motion was to promote fellowship, to provide

healing," he said. "But the very opposite has happened."

Mark Boes, pastor of Cecilia Baptist Church in Cecilia, noted that while some Kentucky Baptists oppose the Joint Committee, others equally oppose the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, which still gets Cooperative Program support.

"The issue is not ... one of being pleased with the job both are doing," he said, but of reconciliation.

Boes said keeping funding for both the Joint Committee and the CLC would create a win-win situation instead of a win-lose situation.

But Paul Fields of Middle Creek Baptist Church in Hodgenville argued that funding both the CLC and Joint Committee is a duplication of effort.

Don Embry, pastor of Airline Baptist Church in Henderson, said Kentucky Baptists shouldn't fund the Joint Committee because Dunn, the executive director, is too liberal. He cited a long list of accusations.

KBC President Charles Stewart called for a standing vote to be taken. The vote was 477 in favor of rescinding funding and 438 against.

Two messengers immediately challenged the accuracy of the standing count on such a close vote. One called for a ballot vote to confirm the results, but Stewart ruled the request out of order.

Kentucky Baptist conservatives savored their victory on one of the key issues for which they had rallied support.

Some moderates, on the other hand, said a wedge had been driven between those who voted against Routt's motion and those who sided with the conservatives on the basis of keeping unity.

Brent Walker, general counsel with the Joint Committee, said it was an "ironic twist of fate" that the KBC voted to defund the agency only one day after President Bill Clinton signed into law the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

"The Baptist Joint Committee was at the forefront of the 68-member coalition that secured (RFRA's) passage," Walker said. "It was a happy day for all lovers of liberty."

"Our celebration was interrupted by disappointment when we learned the next day that the Kentucky Baptist Convention had voted narrowly to defund the Baptist Joint Committee. ... On the heels of victory came rebuke, not praise."

Walker thanked the 438 messengers who voted for the Joint Committee.

"We want all Kentucky Baptists to know that we will continue to serve you and others in the finest traditions of the Baptist Joint Committee," he said.

"We hope that those individuals and Kentucky churches that have supported the Baptist Joint Committee financially will continue to do so," Walker said, "and that those friends who believe in the Baptist Joint Committee and its commitment to religious liberty—but who still voted in favor of defunding in the interest of peace and harmony—will help make up the funds that were lost."

THANKS Ilton Pereira (second from left), executive secretary for the Baptist convention in Espirito Santo, Brazil, presents a large plaque to Kentucky Baptist Convention President Charles Stewart in commemoration of the four-year partnership between Brazilian Baptists and Kentucky Baptists. Pereira thanked Kentucky Baptists for their ministry in the state of Espirito Santo, which he said had changed many lives and strengthened the Baptist witness. Standing to Pereira's left is Boyd O'Neal of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Standing to Stewart's right is William Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer.



ANNIVERSARY William Marshall and his wife, Alice, admire an original drawing presented to them by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 16 to commemorate Marshall's 10th year as KBC executive secretary-treasurer. The Marshalls also were honored with a standing ovation by the overflow crowd attending this year's annual meeting.



INSIDE

Music Leaders Follow in 3 Successful Groups

Page 2
Partnership Missions: Schedule announced for 1994 partnership events with Russian Baptists.

Page 3
Brotherhood: 1994 calendar includes missions congresses, a blitz, disaster relief and more. **Family Ministry:** Learn how to teach children and teen-agers about sex. **Evangelism:** "A Special Event for Women."

Page 4
Sunday School: What do church growth and motorcycles have in common? **Discipleship Training:** Learn to apply the Bible through MasterLife.

Page 5
Church Growth & Administration: Workshops on worship and for deacons, pastors and spouses.

Page 6
Student Ministry: Remember Student Day at Christmas. **Church Music:** Adult/Youth Vocal Ensemble Festival and Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir.

Page 7
Minister/Church Support: Fighting and fellowship. **Annuity:** Ministers' Money Matters. **Media:** Various resources available. **Jonathan Creek:** Imagine the possibilities for your church.

Every now and then, church music leaders need to step down from the podium and up into the risers, Jim Cordell believes.

And in that role reversal, scores of Kentucky Baptist ministers of music join together, periodically to create three choirs, explained Cordell, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church music department.

The church music department sponsors the three singing groups: the Kentucky Baptist Chorale for men, Kentucky Baptist Singing Women, and the combined groups form a coed chorus. They're comprised primarily of ministers of music or their spouses, although they're also open to other ministers, seminary students and up to two members from any Kentucky Baptist church.

The choirs offer four primary benefits, Cordell said:

■ "It's a continuing education opportunity for church music leaders," he stressed. "Instead of being a church music leader, members have an opportunity to become a choir member for awhile."

■ "It's a spiritual growth opportunity," he added. "During our rehearsals, we plan times of devotion, and members also receive the inspiration of singing the sacred texts."

■ "It's an opportunity for ministry," Cordell explained. "We perform for a variety of groups and in various situations. Our music ministers to the people who hear us."

■ "And it's a fellowship opportunity," he said. "We renew and make friendships, especially as we rehearse and travel together."

The Kentucky Baptist Chorale is the oldest of the groups. It started in 1965 as the Kentucky Music Ministers' Chorus and got its present name in 1967.

The choir was launched by Gene Quinn, Cordell's predecessor in the church music department. At the time, only 100 full-time ministers of music were employed by Kentucky Baptist churches; the ranks of that group have since swelled to 160.

Although the Chorale convenes only several times a year, it has composed an impressive portfolio.

Members have conducted mission trips to Europe, Kenya, and Brazil and plan to go to Russia. They have participated in three Musicians on Missions conferences—in Boston, Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio. Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, the conferences allow musicians to provide training and music leadership in churches in targeted regions.

The Chorale also participated in the invitation-only Masterworks Choral Series. It joined choirs from across the nation to perform musical masterpieces at New York City's Carnegie Hall in 1988. During that trip, the choir also performed at Metro Baptist Church in New York.

The Chorale has toured Canada; sung at the World Conference of Baptist Men in Indianapolis; conducted several Kentucky tours; performed for the Southern Baptist Church Music Week at Ridgecrest, N.C., and the Church Music Institute at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and sung at numerous Kentucky Baptist Convention meetings, including the KBC annual meeting, evangelism conference, and Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union conventions.

The Chorale has been led by some of the most noted musicians in the state. Quinn directed the Chorale for the first two years. He was followed by Wayne Johnson, retired music professor at Georgetown Col-

lege (1967-69); Don Hustad, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1970, 1983-85); Gene Sutherland, minister of music at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville (1971-82); Doug Smith, professor of church music at Southern Seminary (1986-87); Ron Turner, professor of church music at Southern Seminary (1988-90); Milburn Price, then dean of Southern Seminary's church music school (1991-92); and John Dixon, professor of church music at Southern Seminary (1993).

"Each conductor brings different strengths," Cordell said. Participating in the Chorale "is like going to a choral workshop" for like music ministers, he added.

David Dale, minister of music at Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington, is the choir's accompanist. His predecessors have been Dan Tilford and Elizabeth Carlton, music professors at Georgetown College; Albin Whitworth, organist at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville; Johnny Dean, minister of music at Nicholasville Baptist Church and later at First Baptist Church in Mount Washington; and Clark Sorrells, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville.

The Chorale produced its second recording this spring. Out of 1,000 tapes produced, more than 600 already have been sold, Cordell said. The previous recording, produced in 1975, honored the U.S. bicentennial.

Kentucky Baptist Singing Women developed out of a state music leadership retreat in the fall of 1988, Cordell recalled, noting all the women at the retreat were invited to form a choir.

"We previously had the impetus to integrate the Chorale," he said. "But Kentucky Baptists had so few full-time women music ministers

that we couldn't get the balance we needed for a coed choir."

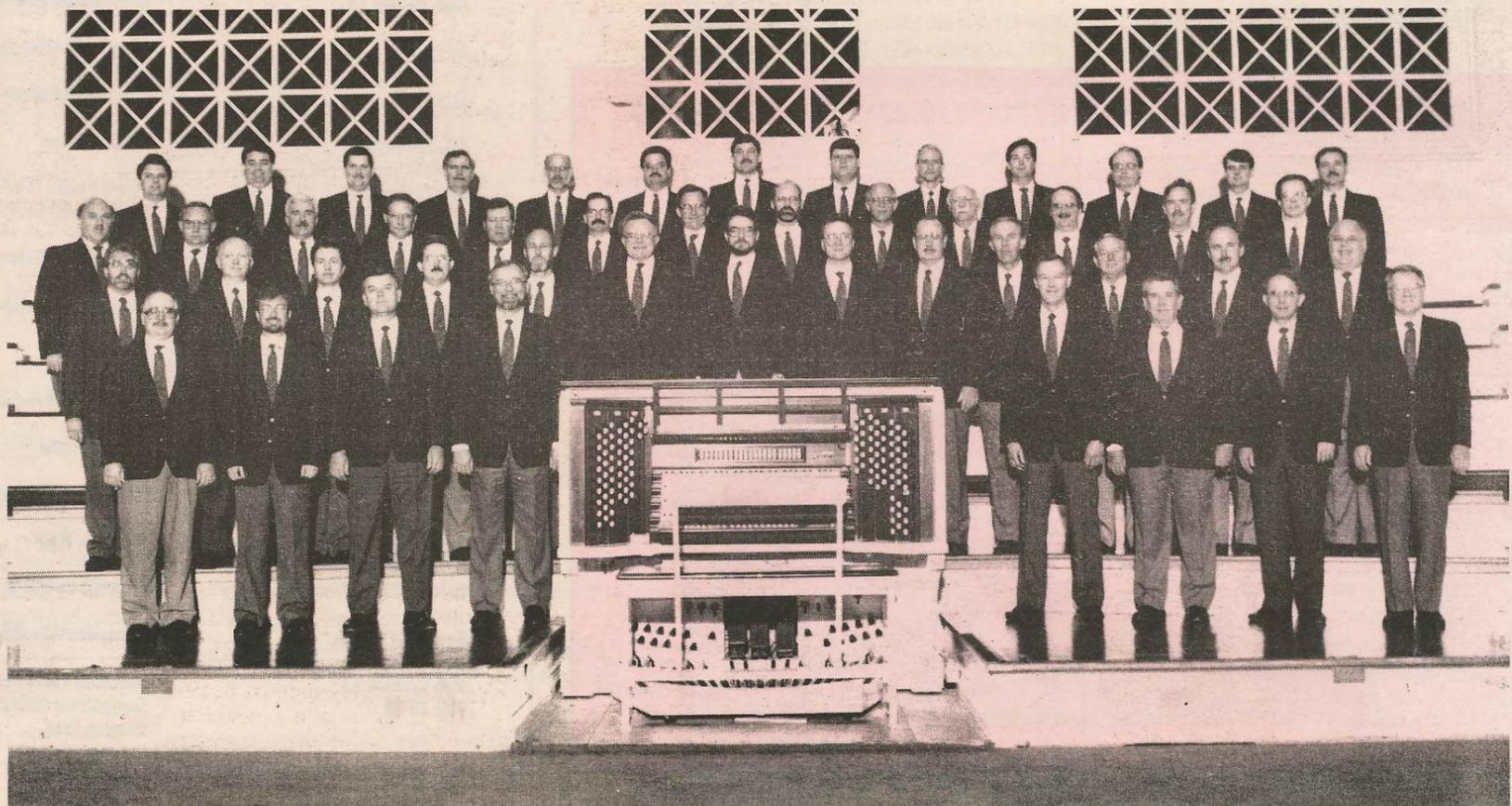
So, the Singing Women were launched in 1989, with only 15 members. The choir has grown to about 40 voices, Cordell reported, explaining members include ministers of music, some seminary students and others. "We can accept two women from each Kentucky Baptist church," he said. "They just need to be recommended by their pastors or ministers of music, and they must be willing to attend our rehearsals and performances."

Like their male counterparts, the Singing Women have performed at the KBC annual meeting, WMU convention, evangelism conference, church music leadership retreat and music conference. The group also participated in the Musicians on Missions conference in Cincinnati, and they may journey to Russia, Cordell said.

The choir's current director is Pamela Hopton-Jones, a music professor at Georgetown College. She was preceded by Betty Cook, retired minister of music at First Baptist Church of Mayfield. The accompanist is Nevalyn Moore, a music professor at Campbellsville College, who followed Toni Sholar, accompanist at Latonia Baptist Church in Covington.

Cordell is combining the two groups into a coed choir, which will perform for the first time at the KBC evangelism conference in February. That performance will feature the Chorale, Singing Women and the combined choir, he said.

For more information about the choirs and the Chorale's recording, contact Cordell at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433, or call (502) 245-4101.



The Kentucky Baptist Chorale

PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

We're Russia bound!

Kentucky Baptists' third foreign missions partnership begins soon.

How can individuals, churches, associations and organizations help support Russian home missionaries?

1. The Russian Baptist Union's Director of Missions has a vision to send out 1,000 home missionaries to start new churches, missions and preaching points in the next 5-10 years. This will make it possible for thousands of Russian people to hear the gospel, plant churches, and proclaim the good news, once forbidden to be preached. God has opened the window of opportunity.

2. An individual, church, association, Sunday School, WMU or Brotherhood may choose to support a Russian home missionary. When a missionary moves to the field he must have a commitment of support. You would be responsible for supporting the Russian Baptist missionary for at least two years. The missionary will not be sent to the field without a guarantee by the Russian Baptist Union for support.

3. The Union of Evangelical Christians—Baptist home missionary would have support for at least two years. His next two years would be spent in training and missionary service, church planting, church development and supervised evangelism. After the second year is completed the missionary would depend on the new church he has started, if at all possible, for support.

4. The cost for support would be \$200 per month. There would be \$100 set aside for salary and \$100 for rent of an apartment for the missionary family, rent for a mission building to start new work, tracts, Bibles and his retirement and insurance package. Total support would be \$2,400 per year.

A minister's salary could be shared between two churches. Another church may choose to sponsor several Russian Baptist Union home missionaries.

5. In most cases, a picture of your sponsored mission pastor and his family as well as the location of the church, city or town will be sent to you.

6. The Partnership Missions office encourages each sponsor to write letters of encouragement periodically to your missionaries. A personal visit to your missionary while on a mission project trip would be helpful sometime during the Kentucky/Russia Partnership.

7. The first six months or first year's financial support should be sent along with your partnership agreement to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. You may choose to send your money annually or every six months. Support sent at least six months in advance to your sponsored missionary will assure that payment arrives on time.



KENTUCKY / RUSSIA BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP

It may take several weeks between transactions—the Russian Baptist Union selecting a missionary, transferring of funds from the Kentucky Baptist Convention to the Foreign Mission Board, then on to the missionary—before actual payment occurs. The Partnership office will keep you informed of these details.

8. The missionary you support will be selected by the Russian Baptist Union. Once funds are transacted from the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Foreign Mission Board, then Russian Baptist Union will pay each missionary as authorized.

9. Each missionary receiving support will be requested to submit a periodic report in order to share with his or her sponsoring group. Every effort will be made to keep you informed despite language barriers.

10. Included on page 8a of EVENTS is a Russian Baptist home missionary commitment agreement which states your intent to provide support for at least two years. If interested, please sign the agreement and return it to the address provided.

Answers to questions you may have about the partnership

1. Q: What can I do?

- A.: • Pray for the partnership.
• Volunteer and go to Russia as part of a partnership missions team.
• Your church, WMU, Brotherhood or an individual in your church can support a Russian home missionary/pastor for two years.

2. Q: How long will the Kentucky/ Russia Partnership last?

A: The Kentucky Baptist Convention has voted to enter this partnership for at least five years—1994-1998.

3. Q: How can I receive further information about the partnership?

A: Complete the form provided on the new partnership missions brochure and send to:

Partnership Missions
Kentucky Baptist Convention,
P. O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253-0433
(502) 245-4101, extension 339

4. Q: How much will a Kentucky/Russia Partnership volunteer mission trip cost?

A: (Based on 14 days, round trip air fare, transportation costs while in Russia and two meals per day.) Depending on where in Russia you go, the beginning price for Moscow and St. Petersburg is \$1,995 round trip per person.

5. Q: Will I have orientation prior to my mission trip? Will I receive information and be able to discuss my specific Russia volunteer mission trip job description?

A: The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Partnership Missions staff—Benton Williams, director and Calvin Wilkins, coordinator—will offer you a thorough orientation prior to your trip.

See EVENTS page 8a for a Russian home missionary support commitment agreement form.

INTRODUCING KENTUCKY/RUSSIA PARTNERSHIP MISSION PROJECTS FOR 1994

DATE	TYPE of VOLUNTEER WORK PROJECTS	NUMBER NEEDED
December 26, 1993-January 9, 1994	Children's Gift Team/Evangelism	8
January 20-February 2	English Teach Interpreters	4
February 5-19	Teach Russia Leadership Development School	2
February 17-March 2	Baptist Center Construction	8
February 19-March 5	Teach Russia Leadership Development School	2
March 5-19	Teach Russia Leadership Development School	2
March 19-April 2	Teach Russia Leadership Development School	2
March 17-30	Construction/Evangelism/VBS	15
April 7-20	Discipleship/Survival Kit	8
April 7-20	Construction/Evangelism/VBS	15
April 10-24	Evangelism/Discipleship	8
April 28-May 12	Construction/Evangelism/VBS	15
April 30-May 14	Teach Russia Leadership Development School	2
May 5-18	Discipleship/Ministry	10
May 14-28	Teach Russia Leadership Development School	2
June 9-23	Construction/Evangelism/VBS	15
June 16-29	Discipleship/Ministry	10
June 6-August 5	BSU Summer Mission Team	8
June 9-23	Construction/Evangelism	15
June 23-July 6	Construction/Evangelism/VBS	15
June 30-July 13	Construction/Evangelism/VBS	15
July 9-23	Construction/Evangelism/VBS	15
July 14-27	Evangelism/Church Planting	10
July 20-August 3	Medical Team	9
July 23-August 6	Teach Russia Leadership Development School	2
July 26-August 10	Construction/Evangelism/VBS	15
August 11-24	Evangelism/Church Planting	10
August 18-31	Medical Team	9
September 8-21	Deaf Evangelism Team	10
September 15-28	Medical Team	9
September 30-October 15	Evangelism/Discipleship	8
October 13-26	Women's Work	8
October 27-November 9	Evangelism/Discipleship	8
November 17-30	Evangelism/Discipleship	8
May 27-June 13	Seminary Vocal Ensemble	25
May 15-29	Georgetown College Choir	40
	Mission Tour	

EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

BROTHERHOOD

Mission Congresses. . .Blitz. . .and Disaster Relief among events comprising 1994 calendar

Mission Congresses

Around the World Missions Shoot-Out. RA Racers. Knot Tying. Advancement. The Jerry Clower Speak-Out Competition, named in honor of the nationally known country comedian and Southern Baptist layman.

These are some of the events scheduled during the eight Missions Congresses in February 1994. The Congress calendar is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 5 | North Central Region
Independence
Hickory Grove Church |
| February 5 | Southern Region
Hodgenville
South Fork Church |
| February 12 | Southwestern Region
Gilbertsville
Bethel Church |
| February 12 | South Central Region
Campbellsville College |
| February 19 | Central Region
Louisville
Cedar Creek Church |
| February 19 | Northeastern Region
Ashland
Unity Church |
| February 26 | Western Region
Owensboro
First Church |
| February 26 | Southeastern Region
Corbin
Central Church |

Attendees should arrive 15-20 minutes early to register prior to the 10:00 session.

For further details, please contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253,

(502) 245-4101, extension 319.



Brotherhood Blitz

The state Brotherhood Department will train 75 key leaders on January 6-8. These leaders will blitz the state in 1994 in order to contact every Kentucky Baptist church.

If your church is interested in a blitz visitation, contact the KBC Brotherhood office.

Disaster Relief

Due to space restrictions, the Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief 1994 regional training dates are listed on EVENTS page 8a in the "Other Events" column.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Learn how to teach children and teenagers about sex

Parents and church leaders struggle with appropriate ways to guide children and teenagers in the area of sexuality. One solution to this struggle can be found at the upcoming Haworth Conference scheduled for January 28-29 at Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, Louisville. This conference will offer training in the new Christian sex education series published by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Attendees will find tools for guiding children and youth in this important area. The conference begins at 3:30 p.m. Friday and concludes at noon on Saturday.

Register by completing the form on EVENTS page 8a. Please enclose a \$10 per person registration fee which includes the cost of dinner Friday evening. Make your check payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Cost of materials is additional and may be purchased at the conference or ahead at a Baptist Book Store.

A list of area motels will be sent to those who pre-register. For more information, contact the KBC Family Ministry Department at (502) 245-4101, extension 250.

Christian Sex Education Series

- Applies biblical principles of sexuality
- Promotes abstinence, chastity and healthy self-discipline
- Assists parents and church leaders to lead children and youth to understand the good that God intended for sexual intercourse within marriage
- Teaches appreciation for one's body as God-created
- Teaches responsibility for each person to maintain appropriate boundaries with others

Six books are included in the Christian Sex Education series. Five of these are age appropriate and the sixth is a guide for parents and church leaders. These can be purchased individually or as a set. Cost of the set at a Baptist Book Store is \$43.99.

EVANGELISM

Anne Graham Lotz and Esther Burroughs to speak at "A Special Event for Women"

Attention: All women
There's a special event planned especially for you which coincides with the 1994 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Office for Evangelism is sponsoring "A Special Event for Women" on Tuesday, February 22 at the Hurstbourne Conference Center in Louisville.

Music and seminars are on the program agenda.

Program personalities include:
Esther Burroughs - Assistant Director, Field Staff, Church Growth and Associational Evangelism Department, Home Mission Board, Atlanta; wife of Christian composer Bob Burroughs

Laura Chipe - Doctoral student in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's School of Church Music and minister of music at Vine Street Baptist Church, Louisville
Jan Cox-Gedmark - Pastoral Counseling, Baptist Hospital East, Louisville

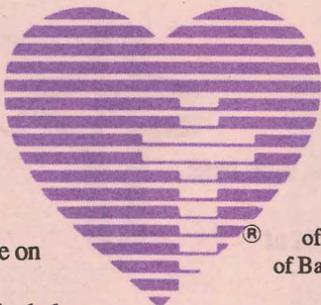
Anne Graham Lotz - Christian speaker, founder of AnGel Ministries; daughter of evangelist Billy Graham
Chip and Nancy Miller - Chip is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department. The Miller's will share their son's Stephen's story.

Ava Reynolds - Inspirational speaker, writer of "Family Ties," a column in The American Baptist newspaper; daughter of Lincoln Bingham

Jo Vaughn - Special speaker in area of chemical dependency; wife of Edgar Vaughn, president and CEO of Baptist Healthcare System

The cost of this event plus other details will be featured in upcoming issues of the Western Recorder.

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



A Special Event for Women February 22 Hurstbourne Conference Center • Louisville

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (EST)

Luncheon Meeting

1:00-1:30

Break

1:30-2:30

Seminar

2:30-2:45

Break

2:45-3:45

Seminar

Adjourn

SEMINARS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Career and Children..... | Ava Reynolds |
| Chemical Dependency and the Family..... | Jo Vaughn |
| Dealing with AIDS | Chip and Nancy Miller |
| Depression and Loneliness..... | Jan Cox-Gedmark |
| Lifestyle Witnessing..... | Esther Burroughs |
| Time Alone with God..... | Anne Graham Lotz |

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On the road with Neil Jackson

What do church growth and motorcycles have in common?

**Regional One Day
Small Church Growth Tour Workshops**

- January 6 **Leitchfield
First Church**
- January 7 **Henderson
Zion Church**
- January 8 **Princeton
First Church**
- January 17 **Covington
Crescent Springs Church**
- January 18 **Crittenden
Crittenden Church**
- January 19 **Lexington
Parkway Church**
- January 20 **Berea
Upper Silver Creek Church**
- January 21 **Corbin
Hopewell Church**

What do motorcycles and church growth have in common? Neil Jackson.

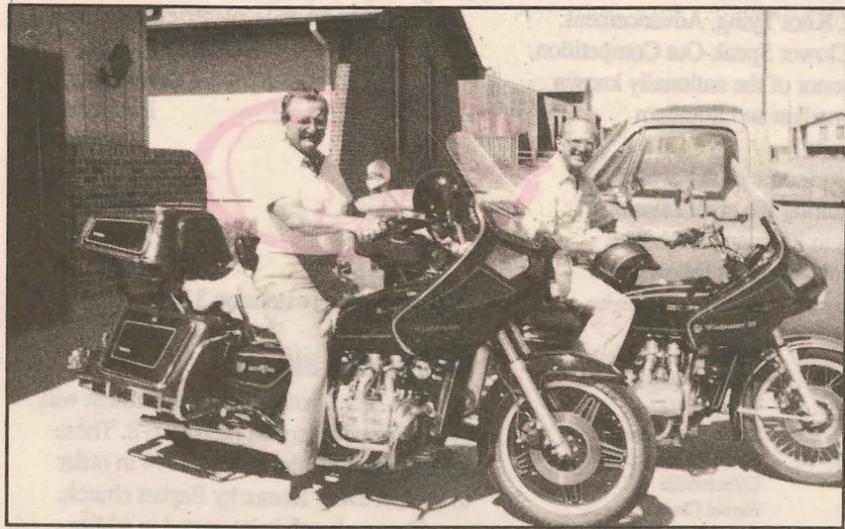
Riding low on his Honda Goldwing across the southern states, Neil is known for his colorful approach in helping church leaders everywhere. He is a retired Baptist Sunday School Board staff member who presently serves as a growth consultant.

Plan now to attend the workshop nearest you and hear motivational ideas (and maybe a few good stories) from one of our favorite leaders as well as Jeff Hicks, associate director in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department.

Evening Workshops

A free supper at 5:30 p.m. precedes each 7:00 training rally. The meal is provided for Sunday School directors, outreach directors, pastors and church staff.

The 7:00 training rally is for all church leaders, including pastors, Sunday



Neil Jackson, pictured in front on his motorcycle, en route to another church growth event.

School teachers/workers and deacons and other leaders and lay persons interested in seeing their church grow.

Neil will share simple growth ideas that can be used immediately to increase baptisms, worship attendance, Sunday

School attendance, outreach, contacts and ministry.

For more information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department at (502) 245-4101, extensions 300 or 301

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

Learn to apply the Bible daily through a life-changing experience--MasterLife

MasterLife is a sequential, developmental, group-discipling process that enables one to make Christ Master and to master life through practicing the following basic disciples under the direction of mature, practicing disciplers:

- Abiding in Christ
- Living in the Word
- Praying in faith
- Fellowship with believers
- Witnessing to the world
- Ministering to others

MasterLife has already equipped hundreds of thousands to live a fuller, more victorious and useful life and to minister to others. It is being used world-wide.

Cost of the workshop is \$82.50 per person. To register or for more information, use the form on EVENTS page 8a or contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department at P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 335.

**MasterLife Workshop • January 24-28
Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville
(Monday evening through Friday noon)**

What MasterLife can offer you and your church:

- To help Christians experience consistent spiritual vitality in their lives.
- To equip church leaders with the basic disciplines and skills of Christian discipleship that are necessary for leadership.
- To equip Christians to face the continuing moral decline and escalating self-centered living in the United States.
- To provide a strong, adequate leadership base for the church by motivating and training faithful, fruitful workers
- To provide the pastor with a means of extending and multiplying his ministry.



CHURCH GROWTH & ADMINISTRATION

Two conferences provide opportunities for growth

Worship Workshop - January
Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat - February

Leading churches to grow begins with personal growth among its leaders. The Church Growth division, through its Church Administration function, will offer two opportunities for personal, individual growth.

Growth through effective worship

Pastors and Ministers of Music can team up to attend the Kentucky Baptist Worship Workshop, January 31 and February 1, at the Kentucky Baptist Convention building. This workshop will aid pastors and their worship planning team in developing effective worship services for their church.

Worship leaders across Kentucky share common goals related to worship in their churches. In an effort to create a well-planned service, leaders struggle with services that feel too rigid. How does one balance a well-planned, well-timed service while creating a worship atmosphere that inspires spontaneous participation from the congregation and leads to spontaneous response from individuals?

Leaders who attend the worship workshop will understand the different approaches to worship planning, interpret the varieties of worship styles in today's church, identify ways to involve the congregation in worship, learn how to effectively weave drama into the worship experience. Worship planners will also benefit from small group sessions that will provide opportunities to apply the workshop ideas into the current worship planning process.

Dr. Bruce Leafblad, guest leader, is professor of Church Music and Worship at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where he has served since 1983. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Southern California. In addition to holding numerous positions in local churches, Dr. Leafblad is in demand as a guest lecturer and speaker



in the areas of worship, church music and philosophy of ministry. He and his wife June are the parents of twins, Stewart and Stefani.

Worship Workshop

Monday PM, January 31

- 1:30 Registration
- 2:30 Worship
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 "Biblical Basis for Worship"
- 5:00 Supper (on your own)
- 7:00 "Features of Effective Worship"
- 9:00 Dismiss

Tuesday AM, February 1

- 9:00 Worship
- 9:30 "Congregational Participation in Worship"
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 "Styles of Worship"
- 12:00 Optional Lunch
- 12:30 "Worship Planning" (small groups)

Baptist Bookstore
will be available to participants

Workshop Fees:

Pastor and Music Minister Team	\$12.00
Pastor only	\$8.00
Music Minister only	\$8.00
Each additional worship planner	\$8.00
Lunch (Tuesday)	\$5.00

Please indicate if spouse will attend. (\$5.00 charge for lunch - no fee for workshop)

Make check payable to Kentucky Baptist Convention, and mail to Church Music Department. A list of hotel/restaurants in the area will be sent with registration confirmation.

Growth through effective caregiving

Strengthening our individual skills in the care-giving ministries strengthens the level of caring and outreach in the church. Who better to model this strength than the Pastor and deacons? Two February retreats offer training in this very area for deacons, pastors, and spouses.

Growing through Caring, Deacon/Pas-

tor/Spouse retreats, February 11-12 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly and February 25-26 at Kentucky Dam Village Resort, will provide six conferences focusing on several areas where caring can be communicated and demonstrated, and growth will take place.

These key church leaders can take advantage of the following topics: *Deacons with Gifts for Ministry (Dan Garland, pastor, Zion Baptist in Henderson); Depres-*

sion: Identifying It and Helping (Bill Rogers, retired KBC); Facing Grief with Faith (Chip and Nancy Miller, Sunday School, KBC); Deacons and Decision Making: A Guide through Transitions (Vernon Cole, Church Growth KBC); Communicating through Drama in Worship (Michelle Turner, KBC); How Do We Keep Them? Assimilation (Doug Strader, Discipleship Training/Stewardship, KBC).

The retreats not only provide opportunities for developing skills, deacons, pastors and spouses are encouraged to draw close in fellowship and search for renewal in a peaceful, distraction-free atmosphere.

Personal involvement in growth

To participate in one or both of these opportunities register with the Kentucky Baptist Convention through the following offices: Church Music is handling all registration for the Worship Workshop and Church Growth will accept your reservations for the Deacon retreats. Using the form accompanying this EVENTS issue we will send you detailed information. Or simply call our office 502/245-4101, and information plus registration forms will be on their way.

Gather together other leaders in your church who will benefit from this training. Growing as a team is one of most fulfilling experiences you can encounter.

Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreats

February 11-12
Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
P.O. Box 37, Bagdad, Ky. 40003

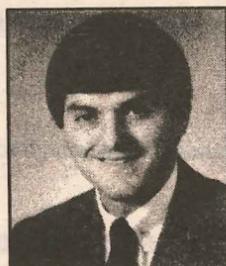
- Friday
- 5:00 Registration
 - 6:30 Valentine's Day Banquet
 - Feature message, conference and fellowship
- Saturday
- 7:30 Breakfast
 - Special message and opportunity to attend two more conferences
 - 12:30 Lunch and Dismissal

For overnight guests: The seasonal rates below cover lodging and meal costs while at the retreat. (Per person rates)

	Boone Lodge	Hotels
2/room	36.50	27.00
3/room	35.50	26.00
4/room	33.50	24.00
private room	55.25	39.00

For commuters: There is a \$1.00 insurance fee per person in addition to cost of meals while at retreat.

Note: An advance deposit of \$15.00/person must accompany lodging reservations.



Dan Garland
Pastor, Zion Baptist, Henderson
Keynote Speaker

An \$8.00 per person retreat fee should accompany all reservations to the Church Growth & Administration office. Make checks payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Maps to retreat locations will be mailed to participants.

February 25-26
Kentucky Dam Village Resort
P.O. Box 69, Gilbertsville, Ky. 42044

- Friday
- 5:50 Registration
 - 7:00 General Session to include Feature message, worship, optional conference and fellowship
- Saturday
- 7:00 Continental Breakfast
 - 8:30 Special message and opportunity to attend two more conferences
 - 12:30 Dismiss

For overnight guests: Please mail one night's deposit to Ky Dam. Prices reflect lodging only. Meals can be enjoyed off-site or in the dining room. When making reservations, indicate you are with the KBC deacons group.

Lodge:	1 person	\$31.55
	2 people	\$40.83
Cottages:	2-BR deluxe (4)	\$83.52
	3 BR deluxe (6)	\$92.80
	Executive	\$111.36

STUDENT MINISTRY

Extend your holiday church celebrations to include *Student Day at Christmas*

As the holiday season approaches, many churches plan a Student Day at Christmas emphasis. This special event can challenge your congregation to focus their attention to college campuses and the various ministry needs and opportunities for service.

Student Day at Christmas is typically the Sunday following Christmas, but find the time that best meets your needs. Remember the date for Student Day at Christmas should be selected well in advance (a minimum of two months) because of the busy season. This includes contacting and enlisting students, determining the program and notifying everyone involved.

In planning this occasion, also keep in mind students' schedules. Thanksgiving week may be the best time to enlist students for Student Day at Christmas. Contact each student at their campuses announcing this event prior to Thanksgiving. Remind them of your

interest in their lives, and how vital they are in the life of your church. Be sure to invite them to your Student Day at Christmas meeting during the Thanksgiving week. Develop a questionnaire for students in order to determine their interests and commitment for this event.

The 1993 Student Day at Christmas theme, along with helpful planning suggestions for worship, and other information are available from the *Student Ministry Plan Book*, which is a free publication accessible by order from the Baptist Sunday School Board's Student Ministry Department (615/251-2777). As you continue planning the service, give the students several possibilities and areas from which to choose.



at Christmas

These can include reading scripture, providing special music, playing one of the instruments for the worship service, serving as an usher, leading in prayer, just to name a few. Request the students to select their choices of ministry opportunities.

Upon returning to school following Thanksgiving break, send a letter of confirmation to

each student who volunteered to share in Student Day at Christmas. Be sure to

include their specific ministry responsibilities, the final schedule for the event and its rehearsals.

The benefits are numerous when churches participate in Student Day at Christmas. Students find their churches actively interested and involved in their missions on campus. What better way to commission each student as they return to their mission fields.

High schools seniors' attention will also be generated as they anticipate the college years before them. It's a great opportunity for churches to challenge each teen to begin to discover their mission during future academic years.

For more information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Student Department, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extensions 320 or 321.

CHURCH MUSIC

For everything, there is a season. . .

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Music Department is sponsoring two upcoming events which may be of interest to your church:

Adult/Youth Vocal Ensemble Festival
January 29
Shepherdsville
Little Flock Church

Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir
June 11-19
Georgetown College
Tour

Adult/Youth Vocal Ensemble Festival

As snow flurries fly, join us on Saturday, January 29 for a morning of singing and learning together. Adult and youth ensembles will have the opportunity to sing two selections for the entire group. An on-the-spot evaluation of the ensemble's performance will be available from Dr. Philip Landgrave, our guest clinician. Evaluation is, of course, optional.

Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir

School is out. Warm, sunny days beckon you outdoors. The summer stretches invitingly before you. What better time for a youth choir retreat and tour. In describing their experiences with All-State Choir, youth often use words such as "awesome" and "way cool." Several have said



The festival will begin at 9:00 with registration and conclude at 12:00 noon. The cost is \$25.00 per ensemble.

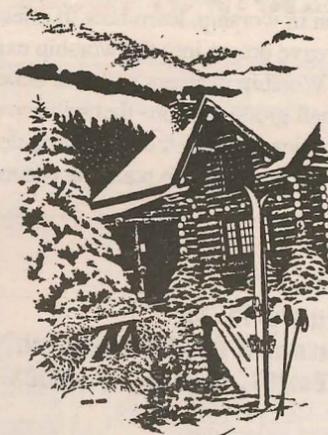
For more information or to request a registration form, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Music Department at (502) 245-4101, extension 325, or check the appropriate box on EVENTS.

Don't let your ensemble be left out in the cold!

it was the highlight of their high school years!

The 1994 All-State Choir will have this added excitement: They are the featured choir on Saturday night during Church Music Week at Ridegecrest!

The All-State Youth Choir is comprised of 80 high school youth, selected in auditions held each February and March. There are five audition dates available:



February 5	Richmond First Church
February 12	Hopkinsville Second Church
February 19	London First Church
February 26	Lexington Immanuel
March 5	Louisville Southern Seminary

Youth must audition on one of these scheduled dates. Sorry, no make-ups are permitted.

For an audition form, please contact the Church Music Department at (502) 245-4101 or check the appropriate box on EVENTS page 8a.

MINISTER/CHURCH SUPPORT

Fighting and fellowship

Is it possible to have serious disagreements with another church member and still be "in fellowship" with him or her? Of course it is! It happens all the time. But the loss of fellowship also happens, and often with very painful consequences: pastors and staff



ministers are terminated, folks leave the church, friends stop speaking, even families are estranged. So how is it that some can avoid these drastic, hurtful descriptions and others cannot?

The history of the young church in Acts barely gets underway when the conflicts arise with Ananias and Sapphira and about the need for deacons. Then came the head on clash over the question of whether Gentile converts had to become Jews before they became Christian. Paul, Peter, James and other leaders dealt with this hot issue in the Jerusalem conference. (See Acts 15) The church could have split or been severely hurt over these serious differences. It didn't. Some middle ground was found, the fellowship held together and the young church continued to grow.

Surely, we can learn from their

experience. Here are some of the elements of conflict resolution that can be seen operating in that early scene:

1. They focused on the issues, not on the personalities. They were brothers in Christ and they didn't call on each other names in an effort to win the debate.
2. They accepted each other with respect and heard the position each took. It takes patience and understanding to be a good listener, to care what the other is saying.
3. They were open to dialogue. Without a willingness to engage in conversation, the give and take of a dialogue, there is no hope for conflict resolution.
4. They stayed with the essential issue. It is easy to get sidetracked and argue over fringe issues rather than deal with the heart of the matter.



5. Any issue is worth talking about in the community of Christians. Rarely is one worth a "falling out."

Respect each other, speak the truth in love, be willing to find the middle ground.

For more information, contact Guy Futral, director, Minister/Church Support, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 243.

ANNUITY

Ministers' Money Matters

Q - Can re-payments on home equity loans or other mortgage loans be included in a minister's housing allowance exclusion?

A - Mortgage payments and payments on home improvement loans may be counted in calculating a tax free housing allowance. Payments for home equity loans may NOT be counted UNLESS the loan was for housing—related expenses. The IRS addressed this issue in a private letter ruling in 1991. Although private letter rulings apply only to the taxpayer to whom they are addressed and may not be relied upon as precedent, they are instructive about the position of the IRS.

Q - I got the information from the Annuity Board about the changes in life insurance plans. I can get more coverage for less cost but I'm a little confused about all the different options I have. Can you help me?

A - Yes! Tell me your age, age of your spouse, how many children you have, your zip code and amount of your compensation. I can then prepare an easy to read proposal for you with suggested options. This

proposal will be for a complete package of recommended coverages specific to your needs. You can then select which of the options you want to include.

ALERT: The IRS has targeted a number of professions for special audit attention this year as part of their Market Segment Specialization Program. One of those groups is ministers. Hopefully, one benefit of this process will be more consistency in how the IRS treats ministers. We anticipate having more information in the regional tax conferences scheduled in February:

February 14	Elizabethtown Severns Valley Church
February 15	Madisonville First Church
February 17	London First Church
February 18	Fort Mitchell Fort Mitchell Church

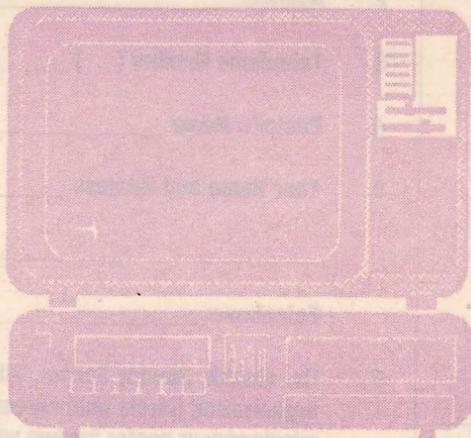
For more information, contact Don Spencer, director, Annuity Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 253.

MEDIA

Variety of resources offered

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Media Department has available over 400 videotapes on various subjects to assist your church's needs. Various subjects include:

- Deacon training
- Sunday School
- Brotherhood
- WMU
- Family Ministry
- Home Missions
- Foreign Missions
- State Missions



Videotapes are on a free-by-loan basis. Your only cost is the mailing or shipping charge of sending the tape back to the Baptist Building.

For a free catalog of available resources, contact the Media Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433 or call (502) 245-4101, extension 266.

JONATHAN CREEK ASSEMBLY

Imagine the possibilities

Just imagine the possibilities...your church and Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly!

Nestled along the shores of Kentucky Lake and vacation area, Jonathan Creek offers an ideal location for church retreats, camps, seminars and fellowships.

Consider the advantages of having your event at Jonathan Creek:

- Positive spiritual setting
- Plenty of dates available
- Easy access
- Reasonable rates
- Good food
- Close to major attractions
- Dedicated staff

Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly is located one mile south of Highway 68 on Beal Road and four miles west of Aurora. Interstate 24, connecting with Purchase and West Kentucky Parkways, loops near Jonathan Creek on its way to southern Illinois to Tennessee.

Take advantage of our special rate between February and April, 1994!

For more information, contact: Deward Hurst, manager
Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly
Route 1, Box 418
Hardin, KY 42048
(502) 354-8355



Gray Motel on Kentucky Lake

OTHER EVENTS

Disaster Relief

The following are 1994 regional training dates and sites:

- January 22**-First Church, Morehead
North Central Region, Greenup Association
- February 5**-Central Region T.B.A.
(several Louisville area churches will host)
- March 19**-Southern Region Site T.B.A.
- June 11**-Southeastern Region Site T.B.A.
- July 23**-South Central Region
Berea
Tates Creek Association
Association Building
- August 6**-Northeastern Region
Pike Association
Site T.B.A.

Please select the training session nearest you. For more information, contact the Brotherhood Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433.

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

Emphasis:
Stewardship and budget promotion

WMU

•November 28-December 5
Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and Lottie Moon Offering

DECEMBER

Emphasis:
Foreign Missions
Student Day at Christmas

KBC

•December 13-14
Executive Board Meeting
Middletown Baptist Building

Student

•December 18-31
Friendship International House
•December 26
Student Day at Christmas

WMU

•December 5
Foreign Missions Day in Sunday School

JANUARY

Happy New Year!

Emphasis:
Make Your Will Month

Brotherhood

•January 5-8
Brotherhood Steering Committee and Blitz

•January 23
Baptist Men's Day

•January 26-29
Brotherhood Leadership Meeting, SBC

Church Growth & Administration

•January 31-February 1
Kentucky Baptist Worship Workshop
Middletown
Kentucky Baptist Building

Church Music

•January 6-7
State Music Council
Louisville
Hurstbourne Hotel

•January 29
Adult/Youth Vocal Ensemble
Shepherdsville
Little Flock Church

Discipleship Training

•January 24-28
MasterLife Workshop
Louisville
Westport Road Church

Evangelism

•January 9
Soul Winning
Commitment Day

Family Ministry

•January 28-29
Haworth Conference
Louisville
Melbourne Heights Church

Student

•January 20
Deadline for student missions applications

Sunday School Regional One Day Small Church Growth Tour Workshops

•January 6
Leitchfield
First Church

•January 7
Henderson
Zion Church

•January 8
Princeton
First Church

•January 17
Covington
Crescent Springs Church

•January 18
Crittenden
Crittenden Church

•January 19
Lexington
Parkway Church

•January 20
Berea
Upper Silver Creek Church

•January 21
Corbin
Hopewell Church

FEBRUARY

Emphasis:
Baptist seminaries, colleges and schools

February calendar events will be given in the December EVENTS (December 21 issue).

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

To receive information or to register, check the appropriate boxes and mail the provided form below to: Communications Office, Attn.: Denise H. Withers, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433

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

To Receive More Information

- Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
- Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly
- Jerry Clower Speakout brochure
- Regional HSBYM President brochure
- Registration form
Adult/Youth Vocal Ensemble Festival
- Audition form, All-State Youth Choir

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Office _____ Home _____

Church _____ Association _____

Leadership Position _____

Registration fee (if applicable) \$ _____ Number in group (if applicable) _____

To Register

- Discipleship Training \$82.50 per person
- MasterLife Workshop
- Partnership Missions
- Russia
- Family Ministry \$10 per person registration fee
- Haworth Conference

RUSSIAN HOME MISSIONARY SUPPORT AGREEMENT

Clip and return to Partnership Missions office, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433.

1. Name of your church _____

2. Address _____

3. Telephone Number () _____

4. Pastor's Name _____

5. Your Name and Address _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

6. Our church, Sunday School, WMU, Brotherhood or other organization (circle one) agrees to support a Russian home missionary or pastor for two years at \$200 per month.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: () _____

Mid-Continent to be studied; lay president not required

Continued from page 1

ing was the most hotly debated issue of the business sessions. By a 477-438 vote, messengers rescinded a 1991 action which ultimately created a special fund to benefit the religious liberty agency. (See page 6.)

The fund was called for in 1991 after the Southern Baptist Convention dropped the Joint Committee from its Cooperative Program unified budget. About 37 percent of all undesignated gifts to the KBC Cooperative Program is sent to the SBC Cooperative Program.

Conservatives, who fought to get the Joint Committee defunded on the national level, opposed any funding of the agency on the state level, arguing in part that the KBC shouldn't fund "non-convention" causes.

While closing the door on Joint Committee funding, messengers cracked open a door to allow potential KBC funding for another "non-convention" cause, Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield.

The Bible college has been operated by a consortium of 15 associations in west Kentucky and surrounding states. The school never has been owned by the KBC in the way the convention's five schools currently are configured.

Bill Dodson, a retired pastor from west Kentucky, introduced a motion on the first day of the convention that the KBC "officially recognize" Mid-Continent. Dodson said he spoke on behalf of himself and the executive board of Graves County Baptist Association.

When the motion was considered the next day, Dodson moved to refer his own motion to the KBC Executive Board instead of having messengers debate it immediately.

Dodson said he had discussed his

motion with William Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer, and other convention leaders. Upon their counsel, he said, he had decided the motion should be referred.

Dodson said he believed Marshall would facilitate a thorough study of the issue by the Executive Board.

The motion to refer the issue passed on a voice vote.

The precise intent of Dodson's motion never was made clear, even though one messenger rose to ask exactly what "officially recognize" meant. Apparently, that determination will become the job of the Executive Board's administrative committee when it meets Dec. 13-14.

The KBC has addressed Mid-Continent's presence several times in the past, most recently in 1989 when a resolution was passed to note the school's 40th anniversary.

The resolution expressed appreciation to the trustees, president, faculty and staff for the school's "years of faithful ministry" and encouraged churches to support the school.

At other times, Kentucky Baptists have been more cautious to keep a clear distinction between Mid-Continent and the KBC-supported schools.

At the 1988 convention, messengers refused to receive the usually routine report on conventionwide education because it included a reference to Mid-Continent alongside the KBC-supported schools. The report was amended to delete the reference to Mid-Continent.

The issue carries more potential for conflict today than in 1988 because of the polarization between moderates and conservatives in the SBC. Although not begun as an alternative school for conservatives, Mid-Continent is known to be a conservative school. And the college's current

president, LaVerne Butler, is a well-known conservative leader in the state.

Since Mid-Continent's administration and trustees have not formally requested any action by the KBC, there is no evidence they desire a formal relationship with the convention. Full recognition of Mid-Continent by the KBC likely would require the school to change the way it elects trustees and makes other decisions.

On a related note, messengers to this year's convention approved without discussion a proposal to add up to eight out-of-state trustees to the boards of Georgetown College, Cumberland College, Campbellsville College and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

These trustees must meet the same requirements laid out for other trustees and must be elected through the same process.

Likewise, the convention approved without dissent the expansion of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's board of directors from 11 members to 18 members.

The recommendation for a constitutional change to require the election of a layperson as convention president at least once every five years was brought by the constitution and bylaws committee. The committee's recommendation failed 988-718.

The committee had said the change would ensure rotation of the office between clergy and laity. Opponents of the change said they like the idea of laypeople serving as president but don't think it should be mandated.

Only a few laypeople have served the convention as president in its 156 years. The most recent lay president to serve was Henry Huff of Louisville, who was elected in 1976.

During debate, Mark Payton, pastor of Gethsemane Baptist Church in Danville, argued the amendment "would be tying God's hands on who would be leading us."

Hayward Casey, pastor of Browder Baptist Church in Browder, concurred. "I'm uncomfortable mandating that either clergy or laity be elected."

Curtis Warf, pastor of First Baptist Church of Richmond and a member of the constitution and bylaws committee, spoke in favor of the recommendation.

"We wouldn't have much of a convention at all without these wonderful laymen," he said. "I believe we ought to give them the opportunity of serving. Somehow we don't do it as often as we should."

Gerard Howell, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Lexington, also spoke in favor of the change. Rather than seeing it as a hard-to-meet requirement, he said, the change would "untie our hands" and "encourage us to back off and let God lead."

David Schott, an attorney from East Bernstadt First Baptist Church in London and chairman of the constitution and bylaws committee, told messengers he had changed his mind on the matter.

Schott said he was the person perhaps most responsible for a similar proposal being defeated two years ago. But in conversations mainly with pastors, he said, he had seen another side.

The 1994-95 budget for the KBC Cooperative Program was approved without dissent. The \$17.86 million budget is a 3 percent increase over the 1993-94 budget. It splits undesignated receipts from Kentucky churches 63 percent to KBC causes and 37 percent to SBC causes.

"I'm uncomfortable mandating that either clergy or laity be elected."

Hayward Casey, pastor of Browder Baptist Church in Browder, speaking on a recommendation to require election of a layperson as KBC president at least once every five years

Resolutions address gambling, pornography, teens, missions

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

ELIZABETHTOWN—Kentucky Baptists spoke out against casino gambling and television pornography and in favor of teen-age sexual abstinence last week.

Those were among topics of nine resolutions passed by messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

All nine resolutions were approved without dissent.

Here is a summary:

■ **On casino gambling.** Gambling "violates God's perfect will for humanity by diminishing reliance upon the sovereignty of God in favor of dependence upon chance and luck," the resolution states. It also says gambling exemplifies poor stewardship, promotes covetousness and materialism and fosters personal gain at the loss of others.

The resolution notes riverboat and casino gambling "looms before Kentucky" as a potential "quick-fix" for ailing government coffers.

It cites a number of other evils associated with gambling, including harm to legitimate business, increased

taxes, influence of organized crime and exerting a bad influence on young people.

The resolution urges all Kentucky Baptists and churches to oppose casino gambling and calls on churches to educate their members "regarding the evils of gambling and the danger it poses to our state."

Claude Witt, executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky, delivered a copy of the resolution to the governor's office in Frankfort the next day. Witt said he had wanted to present the resolution to the governor personally, but the governor's staff could not arrange a meeting.

■ **On pornography.** The resolution says pornography is "destructive to the moral and ethical foundations of our society," "has been connected to acts of sexual crimes," and "victimizes children, women and participants."

The resolution notes messengers' opposition to all forms of pornography, including "even those acts which are considered 'soft porn.'" It further calls on all forms of media, "especially that of prime time television, to provide wholesome entertainment suitable for positive reinforcement of moral and ethical values."

■ **On "True Love Waits."** This reso-

lution praises the "True Love Waits" campaign for sexual abstinence among teen-agers currently being promoted nationwide by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. It encourages churches to participate in the effort and commends all youth who are committed to sexual purity.

The resolution notes that "love is more than sexual experience" and that "sexual abstinence before marriage and sexual purity in marriage are basic principles of Christian living."

■ **On partnership missions.** This resolution encourages prayer for the new partnership between Kentucky Baptists and Russian Baptists.

■ **On Habitat for Humanity.** This resolution encourages churches to support and participate in the ministry of Habitat for Humanity, an international, interfaith effort to build houses for low-income families.

■ **On ministry to AIDS patients.** This resolution calls on Christians to "seek opportunity to offer the marvelous grace and eternal hope of God to persons with AIDS and their families in the name of Christ." It also calls on Kentucky Baptist churches to better educate themselves on the subject of AIDS and prepare for the time "when AIDS comes to church."

It notes that Kentucky has 1,200 reported cases of AIDS, and that people with AIDS and their families "are hurting and in need of compassionate ministry."

■ **On Southern Seminary.** This resolution notes the transition of leadership at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. It commends Roy Honeycutt, who recently retired as president, "for his years of able leadership and cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention" and extends "good wishes and prayerful support" to the new president, Al Mohler.

■ **On common ground with Christians.** This resolution, presented in response to a statement during the convention from a representative of the Roman Catholic Church, says there are "areas in which all believers can cooperate." It affirms working with other believers in areas of common concern and urges all Christians "to treat all people, regardless of religious persuasion, with kindness and love."

■ **On appreciation.** This resolution expresses thanks to all who made the annual meeting successful, including the host church, Severns Valley Baptist in Elizabethtown, the convention officers and staff and others.

One resolution says gambling "violates God's perfect will for humanity by diminishing reliance upon the sovereignty of God in favor of dependence upon chance and luck."

Dilday speaks to family and faith issues

By Marv Knox
Editor

ELIZABETHTOWN—Russell Dilday delivered a two-for-the-price-of-one sermon on family to messengers at the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Elizabethtown last week.

Dilday, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, preached on "The

Faith of the Family" and "The Family of Faith."

The first part focused on the plight of the biological family, and the second on the challenge to the church.

"The American family is broken, and it needs fixing very badly, and everybody's trying to tell us how to fix it," Dilday acknowledged. "It's time we turn to the only reliable source for fixing the family—God, who 'invented' the family. ...

"The Inventor of the family used that as a metaphor for his church," he added, citing other names for the church, such as "the family of God" and "the family of faith."

"Our Baptist family is broken and needs fixing, too," he stressed. "The (Baptist) family is divided; there is that strained relationship that needs fixing."

Dilday offered prescriptions for healing both families:

■ Commitment.

"The real commitment which brings families together is genuine commitment to the Lord, Jesus Christ," he said. "That's the solution. ... Bring lost people and lost sinners to Christ."

Similarly, commitment to Christ "is the primary thing that binds us" as a denomination, he added.

■ Love.

"Christian love can fix the broken family," Dilday promised. "Love binds everything together in perfect harmony."

He quoted Mother Teresa, who said, "America is in the grip of a fam-

ine of love," adding, "Christian love can cure that brokenness."

And it can "fix a broken denominational family," he said.

■ Simplicity.

American families must free themselves from complexity, artificiality and hedonism, Dilday charged. He reminded that Jesus told people to "seek first the kingdom of God," not possessions.

"It's almost an overkill of materialism we're having today," he observed, citing family specialist James Dobson's claim that hedonism is the biggest threat to today's families.

Denominationally, Baptists also need to seek simplicity, he insisted, urging a recantation of "grandiose claims and triumphalism."

■ Conscience.

"One of the biggest threats to families today is the loss of conscience," Dilday claimed. "People are not ashamed today. There must be a ... return to moral values and Christian conscience in America."

The hope for the nation is that "all kinds of people—liberals and conservatives, Catholics and Protestants—are joining together" to demand renewed morality, he said.

From Baptists, he demanded "truth, integrity, openness and fairness," stressing, "It's time for judgment to begin with the family of God."

Dilday insisted both the biological family and the family of faith are vital, pleading, "God, help us to preserve both of them."



CONVENTION MUSIC The Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting featured a variety of musical styles, including (top) Homer Ledford, who played mountain music on a variety of handcrafted instruments, and the Kentucky Baptist Chorale (above), directed by John Dickson. The sessions also included music by a number of other choirs, soloists and instrumentalists.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Parkway Baptist Church is currently seeking a part-time position of minister of education and outreach. Those who are interested in this position should send a resumé to Bill Scudder, chairman of the Personnel Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 1915 North Broadway, Lexington, Ky. 40505.

FOR SALE: International school bus; new V-8 and carburetor, rebuilt Allison automatic, good fuel mileage, approved DOT 1993, air brakes, good tires, new paint, reliable, \$1,500. (502) 426-2377.

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

FOR SALE: Four 9-ft. church pews—good to poor condition. Call Art Hardin, pastor, Kirkwood Baptist Church, (606) 865-2938.

SEEKING: Stithton Baptist Church, Radcliff, Ky., is seeking two full-time staff members. Positions are: Associate minister/Education; Associate minister/Youth. Send resúmes to Pastor Gene Waggoner, Stithton Baptist Church, 95 Park Ave., Radcliff, KY 40160. Phone: (502) 351-6055.

FOR SALE: Word processing workstations for Novell network (cannot be used as stand-alone units). Two available at \$200 each or best offer. (502) 244-6470.

FOR SALE: 15-passenger vans: rear air, two 94s, one 92, two 91s, one 90 and four older ones. Special prices to churches. 40 vans and pickups in stock. Frankfort Chrysler (800) 289-8223.

POSITIONS: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will make faculty appointments during the academic year for two positions in social work and Christian preaching. Nominations and applications are invited by Jan. 15, 1994. All candidates must be members of a Baptist congregation and emphasize a conservative-evangelical theology. Send biographical information to: Search Committee Dean, Office of the Vice President for Academic Administration, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky. 40280. *Christian Preaching:* MDiv or equivalent, PhD, strengths in expository preaching, 5 years teaching or pastoral experience essential; rank and tenure dependent upon experience. *Social Work:* Assistant or Associate Professor, MSSW, PhD preferable; teaching or social work setting experience essential.

WANTED: A good used van or bus for church bus ministry. Call (502) 497-4500.

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

A dream for children

My dream is that every child will have a home in which he or she is wanted, loved, and cared for by great parents. I know my dream is a long way from reality, but Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is working toward making this dream come true through every thing we do.

One special outreach is First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption. This past year KBHC was able to help more than 70 young women who faced unplanned pregnancies.

The goal in the counseling is to help the birth parents make adequate plans for the children and for themselves. Many decisions must be made during a time of pregnancy, and we try to help birth parents make positive choices.

Some choose to parent their child themselves. When this decision is made, we assist in making plans to care for the baby. Parents need to decide how expenses will be met and how daily care will be provided as well as make a myriad of other parenting decisions.

If adoption is being considered, we allow the birth parent to examine profiles of couples who have contacted us seeking to adopt a

child. If all agree, the young woman (and her family if they choose), as well as the father-to-be, have an opportunity to meet the prospective adoptive family. Though we must approve the selected home, the biological mother (and father if possible), make the primary decision.

We now have two pregnancy counseling and adoption workers. Christy Brooks and Rhonda Payne travel the state to provide pregnancy counseling and conduct home studies for adoption. One special emphasis of Christy's work is the recruitment of African-American families who would like to adopt. This helps to provide birth parents with greater choice in placing a child and helps children to be placed more quickly.

Both counselors can be reached at (502) 244-9319 in Louisville or (800) 928-5242. If you or someone you know can use their help, please call. You'll be helping us be one child closer to making the dream of happy homes for every child a reality.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

Be stewards of God's grace, Draper says

By Marv Knox
Editor

ELIZABETHTOWN—Christians must be stewards of God's grace, Jimmy Draper told Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers last week.

"The grace of God is not given to us for our benefit only," said Draper, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "God gives us his grace in order that we become stewards of that grace, to share it with others."

"Every experience of God's grace places the responsibility of stewardship upon us."

He quoted Jesus, who said, "To whom much is given, much is required," and added, "That's the essence of Christian ministry."

The Apostle Paul is an example of a Christian who understood that truth, Draper reported, noting Paul called himself a "prisoner of Christ."

"He understood his position," Draper said. "He was captivated by Jesus Christ. He got arrested by Jesus Christ."

Christians today need to adopt that understanding, he added. "We desperately need to understand our position before God. There are not any superstars. There are not any great leaders. We're all just prisoners."

Paul's other terms for his relationship to Christ include "servant," "minister," "steward" and "slave," he continued.

"If we're going to be good stewards of the grace of God, we're going to have to be servants," he insisted. "Leadership is never effective when it's demanded. We belong to Christ—captured, under his authority."

Draper cited statistics to document his claim that "these are disruptive times" in church life. He told of pastors and other ministers being fired, and of the frustrations of laypeople, to document his assertion.

"How do we get on top of this?" he asked. "It comes down to understanding our position—owned by Christ, still a slave. ..."

"If we're going to move effectively into the 21st century, there's a demand for servant leadership, among both clergy and laity," he said. Just like John the Baptist, today's Christians must say, "I am not the Christ; I've just been a witness of Christ."

The key to that is to remember the Christian purpose, "to be heralds of the good news of the grace of God," he said.

Looking toward his own denomination, Draper urged: "God has a place for Southern Baptists. We're stewards of God's grace in our lives."

God's truths never change, Stewart says

By Marv Knox
Editor

ELIZABETHTOWN—Some truths never change, Charles Stewart told messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 16, when he delivered his president's address.

Stewart, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, concluded his term at the KBC helm last week.

Throughout his life, Stewart has been inspired by his boyhood pastor, W.K. Wood. "I was saved under his preaching, and I'm grateful for the truths he instilled in my life," he said, describing those truths:

■ "God is a sovereign God."

"Sovereign" means supreme, that God is in control," Stewart explained. "He is going to be victorious and triumphant."

That's true, even when current situations might indicate otherwise, he added: "I don't understand sometimes, but I'm confident it's all going to work together for good. God's been so good to us in Kentucky."

■ "God's word is still powerful."

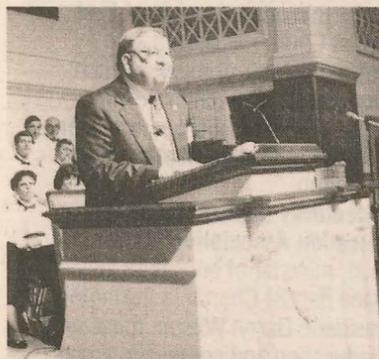
Noting the Bible is "God-breathed, inspired, infallible," Stewart added, "I love more than anything else that God's word is powerful. It is our guide. ..."

"We Baptists love the word; it's our authority. We follow it; it's our practice."

Paraphrasing an old adage about the Bible, he stressed: "God said it, and that settles it—whether I believe it or not."

■ "People still need the Lord."

"People are everywhere without Jesus," he stressed, discussing the need for evangelism. "The woods are full of them. All you have to do is go



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS Charles Stewart, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, delivers the president's address at the KBC annual meeting.

out and get them."

Noting sin condemns people to an eternity in hell, he stressed: "We have the good news of the gospel. Those who believe in Christ can be saved. That's the good news."

Baptists especially will have an opportunity to share that news across Kentucky in 1995, when they participate in the simultaneous evangelism emphasis, "Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now."

Stewart's church in Ashland was one of 10 congregations in the Southern Baptist Convention which conducted a pilot project for "Share Jesus Now." It will feature an emphasis on individual Baptists making daily evangelistic contacts for 60 days.

"I'll never be the same," Stewart said of his experience with the pilot project. "I'm always seeing opportunities, always stopping and sharing Jesus."

The emphasis will call for diligence, commitment and accountability, but will make a remarkable difference in individual lives and in the

life of churches, he promised.

■ "The command and commission of Jesus is still our challenge as Baptists."

The Great Commission, Christ's command to spread the gospel throughout the whole world, remains "our obligation, our task," Stewart urged. "We must join hands as we have these many years" to work together to spread the gospel around the globe.

Southern and Kentucky Baptists' Cooperative Program unified budget provides the financial resource for accomplishing that evangelistic task, he added. And he appealed for Kentuckians to support the Cooperative Program, as well as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which sustains much of the ministry of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Similarly, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions projects provide an avenue for spreading the gospel in foreign lands, he said.

Recalling how he went with a team that constructed a church building in Espirito Santo, Brazil, this summer, he marveled at the ministry that will be accomplished in 28 such church houses constructed by Kentucky Baptists during their four-year partnership with Baptists in that Brazilian state.

"And now, the door to Russia has opened," he added, turning attention to the Kentucky partnership with Baptists in the mammoth country, which spans 11 time zones and includes 150 million people.

Concluding, he quoted a poem about explorer Christopher Columbus, who exhorted, "Sail on!" to his crew when troubles arose.

"Sail on and on and on!" he urged. "Don't quit. Amen."

"We have the good news of the gospel. Those who believe in Christ can be saved. That's the good news."

Charles Stewart

Make life a symphony to God, Baker urges

By Marv Knox
Editor

ELIZABETHTOWN—Christians should be composing "life symphonies" which give glory to God, Bob Baker told messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Baker, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, delivered the convention sermon during the KBC annual meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

The great composer Johann Sebastian Bach often wrote the letters "I.N.D.N.J.C." at the bottom of his musical manuscripts, Baker said, explaining the letters were the initials of the Latin phrase for "in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ."

"He didn't put those letters there by accident," Baker stressed. "Bach recognized the true genius, the source of all talent, the gift-giving God."

"Each day of our lives, we compose living manuscripts of sorts. ... What kind of music are we composing and performing? Are we, at the end of each day, able to write 'I.N.D.N.J.C.'?"

To do that, Christians need to follow three principles, Baker said:

■ Remember the ultimate audience.



CONVENTION SERMON Bob Baker, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, delivers the convention sermon.

"Ultimately, you are composing and performing a series of living symphonies for God," he insisted.

Unfortunately, even Christians often forget their "audience," he added, asking: "What crowds are you trying to please? Whose applause are you trying to attain?"

■ Never forget the basics.

For Bach, the "basics" of music were pitch, tempo and harmony, Baker said, applying those traits to everyday living.

"Most of us don't have 'perfect pitch,'" he said. "We do tend to get off key at times" and "get sharp with each other" or "go flat" in outlook.

"We must stay in tune with our world, and families, and this convention and ... God," he exhorted.

Tempo reflects the pace of life, and balance is a worthy goal, he said. "If our tempo is too fast, we will miss important things. If it's too slow, much of our 'music' will never be played."

Baker defined harmony as "when two or more different sounds combine to produce something pleasing together that they could not produce apart."

Applying that principle to the KBC, Baker said, "The Master Composer calls upon us to produce harmony with others."

Christians are not commanded to "play the same note," but to "blend together to praise and serve God," he urged.

■ God, the Master Composer, always is present.

Even when some days don't produce harmony or when life is off key, God is still present, Baker pledged. "God is one who is able to bring harmony out of dissonances and dirges. ... Nothing can ever separate us from his love."

"That's a good promise to remember, a reason to write 'I.N.D.N.J.C.' across the pages of our lives."

"Each day of our lives, we compose living manuscripts of sorts. ... What kind of music are we composing and performing?"

Bob Baker

New officers of KBC-related groups

■ **Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference:** Paul Blizard, pastor of Reidland Baptist Church in Paducah, president; Rodney Burnette, pastor of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville, vice president; Dewey Keys, pastor of East Rhudes Creek Baptist Church in Glendale, secretary; Barry Allen, Kentucky Baptist Convention business division director, treasurer.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Association of Ministries with the Aging:** Jim McMurtrie, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Madisonville, president; Kelly Beaver, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Sturgis, vice president and president elect; Pat Cole, minister of music and senior adults at Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, secretary-treasurer.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Music Conference:** Pat Cole, president; Bill Tiemann, minister of music at Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro, vice president and president elect; Steve Fegenbush, associate pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Danville, secretary-treasurer. Three men were elected at-large representatives: Ron

Sholar, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Hazard; Jim Krutza, minister of music at Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green; and David Slinker, minister of music at Corinth Baptist Church in London.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association:** Aaron Reed, minister of education at Grace Baptist Church in Lexington, president; Darryl Wilson, minister of education and administration at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, president-elect; Terri Springer, minister of youth and education at First Baptist Church of Fort Thomas, secretary-treasurer.

■ **Directors of Missions Fellowship:** Charles Blair, West Kentucky Baptist Association, president; W.O. Willham, Mercer Baptist Association, president-elect; John East, Ohio River Baptist Association, secretary-treasurer; Harold Greenfield, Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association, editor of Vita-Link newsletter.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Recreators:** Bob Farmer, minister of recreation and activities at First Baptist Church of Owensboro, president.

Stewart appoints 4 to committee

Charles Stewart, outgoing president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, appointed individuals to fill four vacancies on the convention's committee on committees.

This nine-member committee nominates the members of all permanent committees of the convention as well as individuals to prepare special reports for the annual meeting. Foremost among the committee's responsibilities is appointment of the committee on nominations, which in turn nominates members of the Executive Board and trustees for all KBC agencies and institutions.

Stewart appointed Jim McGee, minister of education at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, to fill a vacant, unexpired term on the committee on committees.

Stewart's appointees for regular terms on the committee are Bill Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville; Ross Bauscher, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro; and Walter Davis, a layman and attorney from Immanuel Baptist Church in Glasgow.

Others already serving on the committee on committees are Robert Lowery, pastor of First Baptist Church of Barbourville; Geraldine Montgomery, mayor of Paducah and member of Immanuel Baptist Church there; Chris Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Russell; Gene Crowder, pastor of Columbia Baptist Church in Columbia, James McKenzie, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville. McKenzie will serve as chairman this year.

Browning names new committee chairs

Bob Browning, newly elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, announced these appointments for chairs of convention committees:

■ **Arrangements committee:** Frank Dorris, director of missions for Warren Baptist Association.

■ **Constitution and bylaws committee:** Eugene Siler, layman and judge from Williamsburg.

■ **Order of business committee:** Greg Earwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray.

■ **Credentials committee:** David

Aker, director of missions for Pulaski Baptist Association.

■ **Resolutions committee:** John Dunaway, pastor of First Baptist Church of Corbin.

■ **Public affairs committee:** Malcolm Lunceford, interim pastor at Georgetown Baptist Church in Georgetown.

■ **Committee on committees:** James McKenzie, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

■ **Committee on nominations:** Billy Compton, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington.

From defeat to victory

We do not succeed with every child we work with; but we never assume failure.

Each girl or boy is accepted, first come, first helped, if that child is competent to do normal school work, physically fit enough to be away from family, emotionally whole enough not to clearly be a danger to self or others, and we have an empty bed. Meeting the other criteria, the prospective student is put on a waiting list if we have not a bed.

We do not recruit students. We simply answer our phone and mail, and show folks around when they come. All of that is a time-consuming process. When one calls, we often spend as much as 30 minutes in the initial contact. By doing so, we often can hasten the entire admittance process by several weeks. Also, we can get enough information to be able to accept a student, allowing them to make only one trip, bringing their clothes and linens as they come. Most boarding schools require at least two trips.

The key to our admissions process is a visit of both child and family at the same time, which includes a tour, two films and an individual interview. That all takes approximately five hours on campus. Thus, before a student ever moves into a dorm room, we already have invested much time and effort—and that represents money.

Almost every student gets very homesick, which is normal when one is going away from home and familiar surroundings to the unknown. The first month is very critical. Every boarding situation loses many during those first few weeks. Often the failure comes because of "wishy-washy" parents who do not stand firm when the child is acting like a child. At such times adults need to be adults. Often, children accustomed to

having their way with such parents come up against our firmness and rebel so as to force us to expel them, though we exercise great patience and much persuasion during that critical time.

When we move a student in, having already spent so many hours and much effort, naturally we hope the student is going to finish out the year. We even dare hope that they will go on to graduation, two or three or even seven years away. Many do.

But of course, many don't. We lose many within the first month. We always feel the failure even though we know how hard we have tried. If the students and their families have even one-fourth the sense of commitment that we do to making a success of their coming, they make it through that critical first month and beyond.

But even when one does not, God often turns our seeming failure into victory. This letter has just come: "My son was enrolled in Oneida but only lasted about two weeks. He enrolled because of his failure to control his behavior at home and stay in public schools. He came home after two weeks stating Oneida was too strict and promising to behave at home.

"I am glad to say his behavior has greatly improved. I believe Oneida had a great influence on his change, with him realizing and accepting realities of life for a teen-ager. I appreciate all your staff and students did. He has asked if he might go back to OBI for summer school in 1994. Proof of your influence is why I am writing now. I was thrilled he would make such a responsible decision because Oneida's program for helping students in all areas of life is super."

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Summer missions changes lives

Jewell Habermehl attended BSU Leadership Training Conference in April with the theme "The Great Adventure." That became a description of her summer experience at Camp Joy. After working several years with preschoolers she was glad to have the opportunity to work with youth. This was the first summer for Camp Joy to have a full ministry team. Students conducted Bible studies, mission classes, led singing and presented skits. Although most of the campers were from Christian homes, many children had been abused and were from neglected families.

"I realized how much we need to live for Jesus before the children, how much we need to love them," Jewell said. The highlight of her summer came when a boy who was rowdy all week trusted Christ at the dedication service. "My summer mission experience gave me time to know the Lord better and learn to trust him in all my ways."

Dennis Starkey never thought about being a missionary until South African missionary in residence Dorothy Ditty spoke at school last year. The director of missions from Abingdon, Va., was on campus and presented the opportunity to work in his association. After an orientation session at the

University of Richmond, Dennis went to Brumley Cove Baptist Camp in Abingdon, Va.

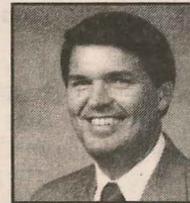
"The camp was actually a shack, a log cabin that needed so much work. I wanted to go home when I first saw it. I was teamed with a 19-year-old from California who begged me to stay. The first Sunday, I was asked to speak at an Abingdon church. The experience confirmed the Lord's call," Dennis said. He had six weeks of vacation Bible school and worked with 10 churches. At Green Valley Baptist Church he presented the plan of salvation to 5th and 6th graders and rejoiced in the salvation of two girls. Another highlight of the summer was a young lady who had attempted suicide talked with him about her needs. "I just shared

Jesus with her and told her how much he loved her."

"During the summer I had the opportunity to put into practice many things I learned at Clear Creek. I led the singing and planned worship services. I am so grateful that through the summer three young children were saved. Summer missions changed my life as nothing else has before."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Paid Column

California fires ignite Baptist ministry response

By Rachel Gill
SBC Home Mission Board

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (BP)—As nearly 2,000 fire fighters fought fearlessly to contain a raging brush fire on the hills surrounding Laguna Beach, Calif., Southern Baptists prepared for disaster relief.

Before the Oct. 27 flames were put out, 366 area homes were destroyed. "The fire moved six miles in 30 minutes," said Doyle Braden, home missionary and director of missions for Orange County Baptist Association. "That's faster than most of us can run."

As he surveyed the damage, Braden was amazed no one died in the fire. Large houses, including most of their furnishings, were completely gone. At one place, twin ceramic lions, untouched by the fire, stood guard to steps that led to nothing but charred remains of household appliances.

"People were able to get out in time," said Braden, shaking his head in disbelief, "but they didn't have

time to take anything with them. They lost everything but their lives."

To help burned-out residents reclaim their lives, the association's volunteer coordinator, Edwin Bailey, worked out of an office donated by Wells Fargo Bank. The bank turned over its entire third floor to the American Red Cross and Southern Baptists who worked together, offering counseling for homeowners who were victims and giving financial aid for basic household items.

Armed with shovels, garbage pails and dust masks, volunteers from local churches helped homeowners sift through ashes to find even the smallest treasures of their former lives.

"It's heartbreaking work," Braden said, "but it's wonderful to see how excited homeowners are to find little things. Most things don't have any monetary value, but they are ties to the past. That's very important to them."

Mark Winner is a homeowner who lost everything. Next door, only a few yards away, his neighbor's house was untouched by the fire. Three volun-

teers from Saddleback Community Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in Mission Viejo, spent the afternoon sorting through the rubble.

"It's wonderful to have this kind of help," said Winner, who is already looking toward rebuilding. "This is my home," he said. "My 4-year-old daughter still doesn't understand what happened. But we'll be back."

"This is so painful to see," said Liz Cooley, a volunteer from Bell Gardens First Baptist Church. "One day you have a home. The next day you're homeless."

"It's my first time to volunteer for anything like this," she continued. "But it won't be my last. We learn about ministry all the time, so when a need is presented that you can do something about, it's time to respond."

Wiley Drake, a certified Red Cross disaster relief trainer and pastor of First Baptist Church of Buena Park, directed operations for Southern Baptists. He was aided by Franklin Beam, a newcomer to the California Baptist Convention and veteran of disaster

relief from working with victims of Hurricane Andrew, and Don Hargis, state Brotherhood director.

Known as the "Master of Disaster," Hargis has responded to six disasters in 11 months with Brotherhood disaster relief teams.

"There have been fires, floods, earthquakes and a civil uprising," he said. "And we've been at all of them doing what we can to help."



BURNED OUT A fireplace and bare car frame are all that remain of this burned-out home in Laguna Beach, Calif., where October fires destroyed 366 homes in 30 minutes. Southern Baptists have been helping residents sort through the rubble and begin their lives again. (BP photo by Paul Obregon)

Florida church forges partnership with public school

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—While many Christians decry their lack of access to public schools, a Florida pastor has forged a partnership between his congregation and the local school to improve their community.

Ron Bradley, pastor of Killarney Baptist Church in Winter Park, Fla., heard of the Orange County school districts' "Partner in Education" program matching businesses with public schools. So he offered to participate in the program with that community's elementary school.

The principal of Killarney Elementary School was open to Bradley's suggestions and the offer of the church's facilities for school-sponsored functions. The church, which is only a few blocks from the school, includes a family life center with large gymnasium and an auditorium that seats 750, making it ideal for parties,

PTA meetings and school concerts.

And because the church already offered an after-school program for latch-key kids and a daycare program, the congregation had earned a reputation as the church that cared about children.

"We knew we had strength in ministry. We wanted to broaden that strength to our own community," Bradley said. "For too long churches have been adversaries with schools. We want to be team members, colleagues with the school."

Bradley added their motivation for the partnership was not to gain new members, "but if the Lord gives them, that's OK. We wanted to build community and get outside the walls of the church."

The church views its after-school and day-care programs as ministries to the community as well.

Religious education is a part of the "Clubhouse" program that picks up children from three local elementary schools. For many of the children, this is their only religious instruction and they often refer to Killarney as "my church."

Since the Killarney school and church became partners, Bradley has worked to create opportunities to bring students and parents into the church. These functions have included a parents' night out for the kindergartners and their siblings, a Math Superstar skating party, a crossing guard party and concerts.

The church also hosted a PTA meeting with 700 people in attendance. After gaining permission, Bradley distributed fliers for an associational family life conference that drew several families outside the church.

In all of these functions, Bradley

dresses in jeans to welcome the visitors to his church, practicing relational rather than confrontational evangelism. The adults often remark that it has been awhile since they were in a church building.

"All churches look like a castle or fortress until they have been inside. Now these people see that the church cares for them and opened its doors for them," Bradley said.

Bradley is very conscious that he walks a tenuous line. "I'm legitimate, not violating any constitutional guarantees, but I have to be wise with the privilege," he said.

"If we can't pray, let's find another way to be witnesses. And in a way, I think this is more effective," he said. "Why fight? Educators are as concerned as we are about the breakdown of the family. This is the perfect marriage, but it takes wisdom."

Young volunteer lights the way to God with bonfire ministry

PORT ANGELES, Wash. (BP)—It's an unusual way to spread light in the world, but Jeremy Saxton has a bonfire ministry.

Homeless youth and other town kids in Port Angeles, Wash., are drawn to a gospel witness through Saxton's simple roasting of hot dog on open coals.

As regular as clockwork early on Friday nights, Saxton roams the streets of Port Angeles' downtown by the bay, searching for the lonely single or the clots of kids all dressed up with nowhere to go. To his experienced eye, either condition could mean trouble.

Early in the evening the invitation is gentle, almost casual. Wary of spooking kids who need a friend, Saxton passes along the simple message there will be a bonfire down on the waterfront. If the kids look hungry, he mentions the hot dogs and sodas.

Later in the evening the talk is still easy, but the topic moves from hot dogs and keeping warm to more pressing matters of home and family and God's love.

Saxton knows the heart of a troubled youth. He has been there.

Born at Fort Ord, Calif., to a military family, Saxton learned about the tough side of life early on.

"Alcohol was a problem in my family," he says. "My sister and I were physically and emotionally abused." For example, they sometimes were "stripped and beaten if we sneaked into the refrigerator."

"At 6 years of age I was adopted. It was a beautiful experience—they were Christians and took me to a Baptist church."

Saxton looks back on that experience with a good bit of concern for Baptists. He grew up in that Baptist church but "never did learn about salvation. They even had an invitation

and I always had a feeling that I probably ought to go up there to the altar. But I did not understand what God had done for me and how I could respond."

Saxton stuck to his Baptist exposure, however, and some years later heard a sermon at a Baptist church in Alaska that left no question about what God has done in redemption and what people must do in response.

"When they finally got to the invitation, I almost ran up there," he recalls.

But the circumstances of his life at the time made discipleship difficult, and after some months he dropped out and began drinking again.

Less than a year ago, a favorite aunt had a stroke. "It hit me pretty hard and was what the Lord used to bring me back to him again," Saxton says.

The aunt was in a coma, on extreme life support measures. "Some-

times she would squeeze my hand, so I asked her if she had Jesus Christ in her heart. She squeezed my hand.

"I got down on my knees and asked God to take me back. I made a rededication of my heart and life that has given me a track to run on ever since."

The bonfire ministry began soon after that, when he went to Hillcrest Baptist Church and announced his rededication.

"They asked me right away what I wanted to do for Christ as a member of their church," Saxton explains. "I replied that anything would be OK—except working with youth. I felt I had washed out in that category. But it was a street ministry to which God led me."

"I walk up and down the streets of Port Angeles wearing my big sweat shirt that says, 'Jesus is Lord.' I go wherever the Lord leads, talking to those God puts in my path."



**Share
the news
with a friend:
Give a Western Recorder
gift subscription this Christmas**

Gift subscription order form

This gift is FROM:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

This gift is TO:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Mail completed form to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253. Enclose \$10.60 for each one-year subscription.