

NOVEMBER 30, 1993 VOL. 167, NO. 47

FOR THE RECORD

Lottie Moon

This is the week of prayer for foreign missions and the time churches begin collecting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. See pages 1, 5, 7 & 8.

Support question

Several state Baptist conventions are studying what defines a "cooperating" church eligible for various phases of participation. See page 2.

Associational split

The division over ordination of women in South District Baptist Association may leave the association split three ways instead of just two. See page 3.

Pizzas and people

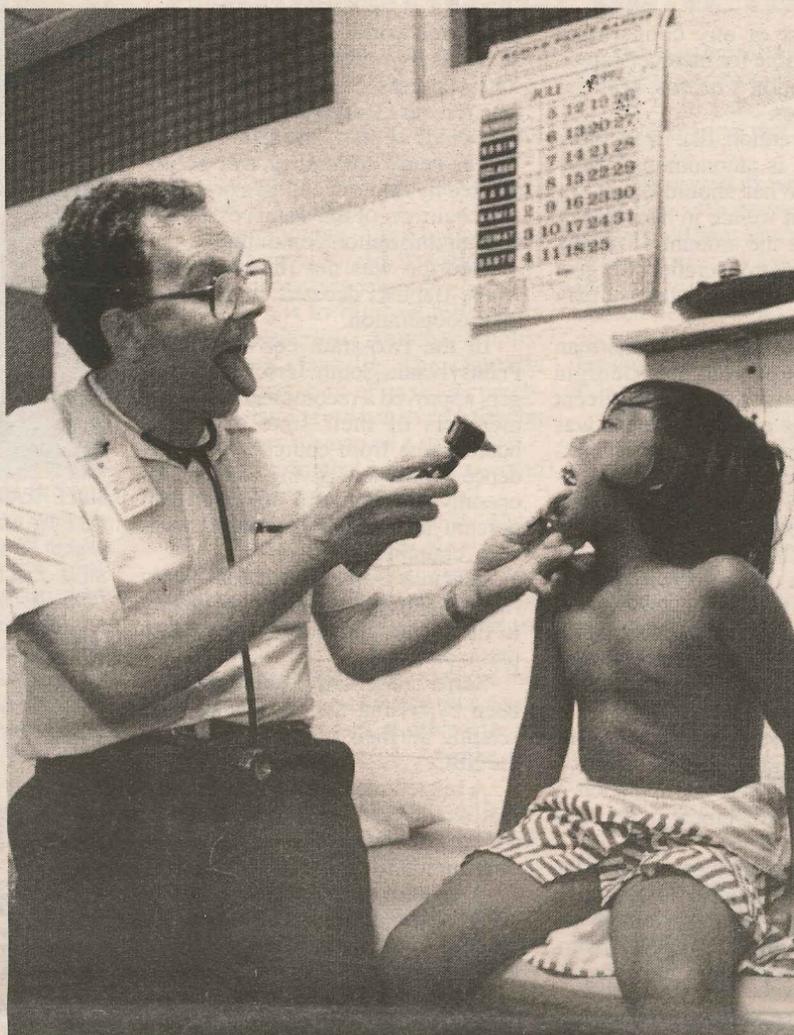
An evangelistic emphasis in Paducah featured 500 pizzas and 400 people making decisions for Jesus Christ. See page 3.

Editorial

RFRA coalition underscores cooperation & involvement. See page 5.

Pastors' Conference

Speaker at the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference called for revival in America and American churches. See page 9.



CHANGING THE WORLD Southern Baptist missionary pediatrician Ken Hinton demonstrates the art of saying "Ahh" to a young patient during an exam at Baptist Hospital in Kediri, Indonesia. Hinton is among the missionaries supported by gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention and its Foreign Mission Board. The week of prayer for this year's offering is Nov. 28-Dec. 5, with the theme "Change the World Now!" The national goal for this year's offering is \$85 million. See additional coverage on pages 5, 7 & 8. (Photo by Warren Johnson)

Family gives \$1 million to FMB work

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A Mississippi family has given \$1 million to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to support mission work in the former Soviet Union.

In a gift sent through the Mississippi Baptist Convention, the donors designated the money to meet 10 specific needs in the region through the FMB. The \$1 million check was dated Oct. 25.

The family has asked to remain anonymous.

"This was just a lifesaver," said John Floyd, FMB area director for Europe. "We've been asking the Lord for provisions."

Alerted in advance that someone wanted to make the donation, Floyd contacted mission leaders in the former Soviet region in mid-October about key ministry needs. Then he prepared a list of recommendations on how to spend the money if it were given.

The donors studied the recommendations and found them exciting, said William Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

□ See Mississippi family ..., page 2

Moving? See page 4 (1/30)

Liberty-loving priest loses place in Russian Church

MOSCOW—The Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church stripped Father Gleb Yakunin of his priestly rank Nov. 2, after he refused to remove his name from a list of candidates running for election to the Russian Parliament.

Yakunin, a member of the former Russian Parliament, led this summer's fight against a proposed law restricting religious freedoms in Russia.

The Russian Orthodox Church strongly supported the new law, which would have restricted virtually all religious groups but theirs, especially missionaries.

Yakunin and Abbot Innokenti Pavlov, another clergy-candidate, were called before the synod

and asked to stop their campaigns. An official statement from the church said, "Desirous of saving its children from mortal spiritual peril, the Holy Synod tried to prevail upon them not to take this fateful step and so turn against the church, sowing discord in the life of the church and society."

Pavlov agreed to suspend his candidacy in the Dec. 12 elections, but Yakunin refused.

In an interview with News Network International, Yakunin said he does not regard the synod's action as legitimate and will appeal the order at the next All-Russian Council of the Russian Orthodox Church.

He said he believes the action against him was in retaliation for

work he did in exposing communist infiltration of Russian Orthodox Church leadership and his success in opposing the proposed restrictions on foreign missionaries.

Yakunin has become a famous figure in fighting for the rights of all Russian religious believers during the past three decades—and in paying the price for it.

In 1965, the KGB barred him from performing priestly duties but stopped short of divesting him of his priesthood. That action followed an open letter Yakunin wrote denouncing Orthodox involvement in Soviet religious repression.

"God sent me this big cross, but I am glad," Yakunin told Baptist Press in an interview just after his defrocking. "I will bear it with his help. I believe, in fact, that what I am doing is some kind of prophetic mission."

Orthodox leaders who defrocked him know his next agenda is exposing their involvement in the recent coup attempt of hard-liners in Parliament, Yakunin said.

As anti-reform lawmakers turned the Russian White House into their military bunker and planned an armed insurrection against President Boris Yeltsin, Orthodox priests performed baptisms, offered communions and heard confessions there. One even excommunicated Yeltsin in a White House liturgy, according to Yakunin. □ See Liberty-loving priest ..., page 2



Christians fail to connect faith & finances

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Most American Christians fail to connect their faith with their finances, according to Princeton University sociologist Robert Wuthnow.

Wuthnow, in an address at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said his recent survey of the American work force found 71 percent agreed "being greedy is a sin against God." Yet the same survey also showed 68 percent believe "money is one thing, morals and values are completely separate."

"What's going on here?" asked Wuthnow during the Norton Lectures at the Louisville seminary. "Well, partly we are looking at the human capacity to compartmentalize. We are well trained at putting our faith in one mental box and our finances in another."

On the positive side, however, the survey showed 89 percent agreed "our society is too materialistic," said Wuthnow, adding the religiously involved were more likely to hold this opinion than those with no religious orientation. Nevertheless, Wuthnow, direc-

tor of the Center for the Study of American Religion at Princeton, said his study also found:

■ 76 percent said having money gives them a good feeling about themselves.

■ 84 percent said they wish they had more money than they do.

■ 78 percent said having a beautiful home, a new car and other nice things are important to them.

■ Religiously active people's overall responses were virtually the same as people who have no religious orientation.

The study indicated "quite a number of people" claim the Bible has important teachings about money, Wuthnow said. Many of those same people, he noted, even said they think about the connection between their faith and their finances.

"Apparently, though, they aren't thinking about biblical admonitions against greed and materialism," Wuthnow surmised. "In fact, we asked people if they had ever been taught—by anyone—that wanting a lot of money is wrong. Only 12 per-

cent said they had."

People always have been tempted to separate their faith from their finances, Wuthnow said. However, he emphasized these temptations may be more severe in today's world than ever before.

"Economists tell us that rational, efficient choices are all that matters," Wuthnow said. "Advertisers teach us to compare brands, not to think whether we need something in the first place. Clergy instruct us to be thankful and give freely, but consider it dangerous to say much more."

Churches, Wuthnow stressed, can still influence how people prioritize their finances. "Many people are going to church, but not many are finding their faith relevant to the ways in which they work or handle their money," he said. "They want help with the anxieties they face. But they also need to be challenged to cut back, to be less materialistic, to be more generous and to behave ethically."



BAPTIST BITS

■ **Baptists in Michigan** are seeking a new executive director for their state convention. Recommendations should be sent to Damon Patterson, 77 Wadsworth St., Monroe, Mich. 48161.

■ **The Baptist Nursing Fellowship** celebrated its 10th anniversary by formalizing a disaster relief agreement with the American Red Cross and voting to become an international organization. The group held its annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 11-14.

■ **Adrian Rogers**, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will receive the 1993 St. Jude Liberty Bowl Distinguished Service Award Dec. 27. The award is presented annually to individuals who have excelled in their professions.

■ **Contributions** to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship dropped off in October, but leaders say the moderate-backed organization still is growing rapidly. October gifts of \$678,063 constituted the lowest total for any month this year and only a 3.7 percent increase over contributions in October last year. Fellowship officials said an unusually high total last October accounts for part of the difference. Also, they noted, the Fellowship has taken in \$8.5 million so far this year, 16 percent more than the group received in all of 1992.

Georgians debate CP-level requirements

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (ABP)—A decision by a state Baptist nominating committee to make support of the Cooperative Program a qualification for leadership has sparked a full-blown polity debate in Georgia.

Messengers to the Georgia Baptist Convention, meeting Nov. 15-17 in Savannah, voted to appoint a committee to study what it means to be "in harmony and cooperation with the work and the purpose" of the state convention, their constitution's only requirement for membership.

The motion, by Floyd Roebuck, pastor of First Baptist Church of Rome, Ga., emerged from a dispute over a guideline used to determine who would be nominated to serve on state convention boards and committees.

Prior to the convention, the nominating committee decided to recommend for leadership positions only members of churches which contribute a minimum of 7 percent of their unrestricted receipts through the Cooperative Program, the unified funding mechanism for both the state and Southern Baptist conventions.

Roebuck, whose church gives money to the state convention but also sends a portion of its funds to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, charged that the committee's criteria disqualified "over half" of Georgia Baptist churches.

The motion asked that the criteria for determining the constitution's requirement for "harmony and cooperation" be based solely on involvement in the state convention and that quali-

fied members of any cooperating church be eligible for membership on all the convention's boards, agencies and committees.

"This convention, like every other Baptist body, is autonomous," Roebuck said. "What should count for whether or not we are in harmony or cooperation is the amount of money and the kind of cooperation we give to this convention, not what we may do anywhere else."

Nominating committee Chairman John Yarbrough told the Georgia Baptist state paper that the 7 percent guideline was adopted after it was learned that members of the SBC Executive Committee represent churches averaging 7.23 percent in Cooperative Program giving. The average of all SBC churches is 9.3 percent.

Yarbrough defended the committee's decision to employ whatever selection procedures it deemed appropriate and said he was "very pleased the average giving of the people we nominated was 11.83 percent."

Yarbrough said he welcomes the study but disagrees with Roebuck's assessment that SBC participation is irrelevant to involvement in the state convention.

"There is a bond there through the Cooperative Program," Yarbrough said. "When our state convention cooperates through the national convention, we are cooperating, not connecting."

For the Georgia convention to alter that relationship "would be a very dangerous thing for missions support of Georgia Baptist causes," he added.

Most people who give to state mission programs are motivated "by the needs of home and foreign missions

around the world," Yarbrough said. If those needs were divorced from in-state concerns, "I just believe in the long run our Georgia Baptist Convention would be hurt," he said.

The study committee will be appointed by the convention's president and chairmen of the state's executive and administration committees.

Georgia was not the only state where Baptists debated the basis for their cooperation.

In the two-state convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey, messengers approved a recommendation that members of their state executive board come from churches that evidence "consistent giving" to the Cooperative Program and suggested a 10 percent minimum for board members' churches.

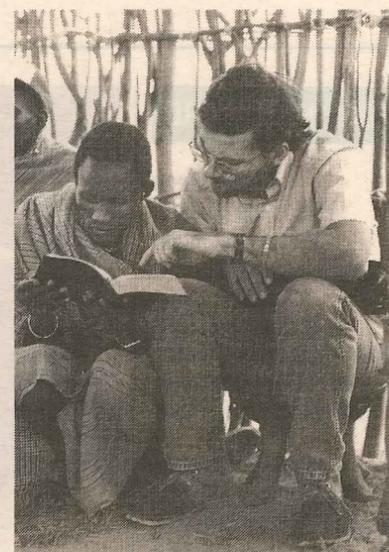
Virginia Baptists decided not to require churches to contribute money to their state convention in order to participate in it.

Some conservative churches have been bypassing the state coffers by sending all their missions money to the SBC.

A related measure also failed, one that would have initiated a study of the term "cooperation" as used in the constitution to define membership.

A handful of states passed resolutions affirming the Cooperative Program and urging churches to increase their giving.

Oklahoma Baptists went one step further, passing a resolution denouncing alternative funding methods that "have the effect of weakening the Cooperative Program" and SBC work. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was lambasted by the state convention president.



BIBLE READERS Steve Perky (right) reads the Bible with a Maasai tribesman inside a church Perky helped build in Arusha, Tanzania. Just a few months after graduating from Oklahoma Baptist University, Perky took his accounting degree and headed to Africa to work as bookkeeper at the Baptist seminary in Arusha. He spends most weekends helping missionaries do evangelism and plant churches. (Photo by Charles Ledford)

Baptists mark Carey's 200th anniversary

CALCUTTA, India (BP)—The 200th anniversary of William Carey's arrival as a missionary to India was marked with celebrations, singing, preaching and evangelism in Calcutta Nov. 13-14.

Carey, an English cobbler who fought an anti-missions sentiment among his peers, is considered the father of modern missions.

This year, more than 3,500 Indian Baptists and guests celebrated Carey's 1793 landing in Calcutta to preach the gospel.

Baptist leaders from around the world spoke of Carey's legacy of preaching, evangelism, education, social justice, Bible translation and even his love of plants. But all the messages focused on the challenge of evangelism in modern India, where a minority Baptist community of about 1 million people attempts to evangelize a country of more than 890 million residents, most of whom are Hindus or Moslems.

Knud Wumpelmann, president of the Baptist World Alliance, advised Baptists in India to preach the gospel as Carey did, with respect for the devotion of religious people in India.

"Today, people in India are honestly seeking the truth," Wumpelmann said. "Like Carey did, they must be met with great respect for who they are, then we can preach the gospel to them."

Denton Lotz, Baptist World Alliance general secretary, spoke about "the sacrifice inherent in the missionary vocation" as he urged his audience to give their lives for Christ.

"The question today for all Christians engaged in mission is, 'Are we able to 'hold not back ... spare not' our lives and our fortunes for the kingdom of God?'" Lotz said.

Mississippi family gives \$1 million to FMB

Continued from page 1

Mission funds have been tight in the region, which has seen a rapid influx of missionaries during the past three years.

"We were really hurting," Floyd said. "Plus, without adequate capital funds over the past two years, we have not been able to do things requested by local Baptist unions. Seminaries and churches desperately need help. One needs to enclose a structure for the winter so it will be usable. Churches being returned from former communist governments need to be fixed up."

"This demonstrates how God

works to meet strategic needs when he's moving throughout the world," said FMB President Jerry Rankin. "If we're committed to being obedient to God and responding to opportunities, then God's going to provide the resources."

Here's where the money will go:

■ \$420,000 for housing and automobiles for six missionary families in the region.

■ \$140,000 to repair buildings returned to Baptists from former communist governments.

■ \$230,000 to pay partial construction costs for seminaries in Odessa, Ukraine, where churches are starting

by the hundreds each year; in Moscow, where Russian Baptists prayed for a school for several decades; and in Kiev.

■ \$78,000 to translate and print discipleship training materials and teach church leaders how to use them.

■ \$50,000 to support one faculty member in a "Bible Chair" at a university in Obninsk, Russia.

■ \$82,000 to train church starters among local Baptist leaders, support Southern Baptist evangelism efforts and set up an electronic communication link among missionaries scattered throughout the vast reaches of the former Soviet Union.

Liberty-loving priest defrocked in Russia

Continued from page 1

"I want to investigate the role of the Moscow Patriarchate in the recent putsch," Yakunin said. "I want to show its role to the people and to President Yeltsin."

Not until reform takes place within the Orthodox leadership, he said, can revival take place among the people in the Orthodox church.

Yakunin's fight for Russians' right to worship freely has been costly but unavoidable, he said.

"When you fight against lies, you are always going against the flow," he admitted quietly. "I was always fight-

ing to know the truth, and God was helping me to find it. He is the foremost help in you seeing the truth."

If Russian citizens vote Dec. 12 for President Boris Yeltsin's proposed new constitution, laws restricting evangelical growth would be unconstitutional.

Parts of the document guarantee religious liberty and affirm the right of foreign missionaries to operate. The proposed constitution would:

■ Protect human rights in general. It promises that human rights as defined by commonly recognized international norms belong to every per-

son from birth and will determine how laws are enforced.

■ Protect religion specifically. It guarantees freedom of conscience, the right to profess any or no religion and freedom to spread religious beliefs. However, it also forbids propaganda claiming one religion is superior to another.

■ Give foreigners (including missionaries) the same rights as Russians except where forbidden by international treaty.

Compiled from Baptist Press and Evangelical Press reports

Kentuckians minister again in Trinidad

BENTON—Baptists from western Kentucky witnessed the conversion of more than 1,000 people during a crusade on the West Indies island of Trinidad.

Twenty-eight Kentuckians participated in the crusade, which also included a Bible school.

This year's group was led by C.C. Brasher, pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church of Benton, and Duane Holland, pastor of Hickory Baptist Church in Hickory.

"Every-other year, we organize a team to go on this very successful crusade to help build churches and win people to Christ," Brasher reported. "We were truly blessed this year with some of the best results in all the years we have been going."

The results included 1,042 professions of faith in Christ, 850 spiritual rededications, one commitment to ministry and 6,500 participants in the Bible school.

This year's crusade also included a church growth seminar, which featured training in church growth, stewardship, and evangelism, Brasher said. Leaders of the seminar were Holland; Don Short, a vocational evangelist from Eddyville; and Charlie Simmons, director of missions for Graves County Baptist Association.

Through the crusade, several churches have helped provide funds to construct a building for First Baptist Church in San Fernando, Brasher reported. The church's sanctuary will seat 600 people.

Associational split may go three ways

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

DANVILLE—A Kentucky association divided over the issue of women's ordination may split three ways instead of just two.

Four churches already have left South District Baptist Association in protest of the association's Oct. 19 decision not to remove fellowship from Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville. The Danville church upset some of its sister churches by ordaining a woman as a deacon and another woman as a minister.

Now Lexington Avenue has voted to leave the association as well.

The congregation voted by about an 85 percent majority Nov. 17 to withdraw, said Pastor Tim Noel. "Most of our dialogue had to do with our desire to maintain peace in the association."

Noel said he feared as many as half the churches in South District Association might have removed themselves had Lexington Avenue not withdrawn.

"We have a great love for the association," he said. "It has a great history, and we didn't want it to come to that."

But other pastors strongly opposed to the ordination of women said Lexington Avenue should have withdrawn before forcing the association to vote on the issue.

Two churches left the association immediately after the Oct. 19 annual meeting where Lexington Avenue escaped dismissal by a four-vote margin. Those churches are Forks of Dix River in Lancaster and Mount Freeman in Junction City.

Two other churches gave notice of their departure last week, at the same executive board meeting where Lexington Avenue announced its departure, said moderator Bob Rush. Those churches are Gethsemane and Immanuel, both of Danville.

The pastors at Gethsemane and Mount Freeman said they don't plan to run right back to South District Association now that Lexington Avenue has left.

"When we left, we felt led of the Lord to do what we did," said Terry Cornish, Mount Freeman's pastor. "I believe there was a reason in that. We haven't really brought it before the church yet. The deacons and I have spoken. We're waiting and going to let the dust settle and see what the Lord wants."

Mark Payton, pastor at Gethsemane, said his church knew of Lexington Avenue's departure before it voted to leave the association. "We withdrew mostly because the association did not vote for them to leave," he explained.

Payton said his church's decision was confirmed when a motion he made at the Nov. 22 executive board meeting was defeated. His motion would have set the stage to amend the association's constitution to automatically withdraw fellowship from churches that ordain women.

"We would have stayed if the constitution and bylaws could have been changed," he explained.

The pastors of Forks of Dix River and Immanuel could not be reached for comment last week.

Payton said he knows of other churches in the association that had planned to withdraw but apparently will not now that Lexington Avenue has withdrawn.

As things stand now, 23 churches remain in South District Association, four have left to take a stand against the ordination of women and one has left because of its stand in favor of ordaining women.

The conservatives who withdrew have talked about forming a new association. "Our original goal at the beginning was to start a new association," Payton said. "I don't know if that will happen now."

Lexington Avenue won't make any decisions soon about affiliating with another association, Noel said.

"It's too soon to make that decision," he said. "Probably for this year we will take the money we would have given to the association and give it to some good local missions and then make a decision a little more leisurely."

Despite their associational limbo, Lexington Avenue remains committed to the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, Noel said.

However, some churches in South District Association question Lexington Avenue's commitment to the SBC because the church allows giving to the moderate-backed Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"In conversations I had with some of the pastors whose churches were considering withdrawing, they made it known to me that the ordination of women was no longer the issue for them. They said they were afraid our church had designs to lead the association toward the Fellowship," Noel said.

"I assured them that was not the case. In fact, I gave them iron-clad guarantees to that effect."

Cecil Sherman, Fellowship coordinator, said the Fellowship has not organized beyond the state level.

"Now, if these people keep acting this way and keep pushing people to the edge, there will eventually be CBF associations, if that's what they insist on doing," he said.

"There's a novel idea that hangs around in our history and sometimes it shows up in our polity: Baptist churches are free," Sherman continued. "And protecting the freedom of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church is the work of all free Baptists. If they should choose to associate with some organization different than our church, that is well within the bounds of our Baptist family."

Five churches have left South District Baptist Association: four because the association didn't disfellowship a church that ordains women and one because their ordination of two women has become divisive within the association.

Paducah crusade involves 500 pizzas & 400 decisions

PADUCAH—Few towns have seen one group order 500 pizzas in a single day, but even fewer have seen 400 people profess faith in Jesus Christ in a single week.

Both of those things happened in Paducah the first week of November.

More than 18,000 people attended five "Life Expose Lectures" presented by Baptist evangelist Jerry Johnston at the Mid-America Expo Center. Also, 11,000 teen-agers heard Johnston speak in 13 schools about substance abuse and suicide.

Johnston's crusade was sponsored by the West Kentucky Youth Council, a collaborative effort between area churches. Members of about 15 churches were involved in planning.

Johnston spoke to teen-agers during the day and their families at night.

In middle schools and high schools, he talked about his own past experiences with drug abuse. Afterward, Johnston and a group of counselors were on hand to talk one-on-one with students needing help.

Each night he addressed larger crowds at the Expo Center. His messages included "Satanism and Halloween Unmasked," "The Coming Anti-Christ, Master Deceiver," "Facts About Heaven, the Celestial City," "The AIDS Alarm" and "This is My Story."

The final service drew 6,000 people. Tickets for a "pizza blast" had been issued to area students, and 500 pizzas were served.

Mark Long, minister of youth at First Baptist Church of Paducah, said extensive follow-up plans have been made to keep track of the 400 people who made public decisions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Financial support for the crusade and anti-drug talks was provided by individuals, churches, West Union Baptist Association, Charter Hospital of Paducah, Ronald McDonald Children's Charities, Western Baptist Hospital and Purchase Cancer Group.

Reported by State Correspondent Pauline Stegall

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Association celebrates 150th.** Baptists in Daviess-McLean Baptist Association celebrated their 150th anniversary recently and passed two resolutions. One resolution opposes gambling as "destructive of good moral and spiritual values" and opposes opening any new form of gambling in the region. The other resolution opposes the opening of "adult entertainment" centers and pornography outlets. In its 150 years, the association has grown from nine churches to 54.

■ **Staubach at Georgetown.** Professional football legend Roger Staubach spoke to 176 guests attending the annual President's Club dinner at Georgetown College Nov. 4. Staubach said team spirit is essential to any enterprise, including the Georgetown College community, whose members are working to advance the mission of the college. The President's Club honors donors who have given \$1,000 or more in the past year.

■ **Extension director named.** Robert Hughes, a communication and mass media professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been

named the school's director of extension studies and continuing education. Hughes currently serves as acting dean of the school of Christian education.

■ **Professor awarded.** Martha Watson, professor of mathematics at Georgetown College, has received the 1993 Kentucky Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. The annual award is sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America.

■ **Campbellsville gives honors.** Campbellsville College recently presented its top awards for alumni, full-time faculty and part-time faculty. Lynwood Montell, a 1956 graduate who teaches at Western Kentucky University, was named Distinguished Alumnus for the year. Harlie White, associate professor of mathematics and chairman of the science division, received the Faculty Academic Excellence Award for full-time faculty. Jeanette Parker, director of extension programs and adjunct instructor in psychology, received the Faculty Academic Excellence Award for part-time faculty.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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Beware the dreaded holidayitis

Many problems affect our society, both secular and spiritual. I've discovered a new one—holidayitis!

I tried to eliminate the holidays we observe. State, federal, local governments and financial institutions tend to celebrate them all. Holidays cost money, so businesses are more reluctant to close.

Churches and religious groups tend to lean toward ones with a religious connotation, but they are not averse to taking every one they can. Employees like for holidays to occur on a Thursday, Friday or Monday, so they can take what they refer to as "a long weekend." These tend to affect church attendance, and therefore giv-

ing!

Of course, the good ol' paternal federal government threw a monkey wrench into the holiday machine by requiring many of them to be celebrated on Monday, regardless of what day they occur. Pay all of these events or historical figures a little honor and get them out of the way, and celebrate by fishing, golfing or some other honorable pursuit.

Religious holidays, once almost sacred, are not much more significant than the secular holidays. Patriotism, the deceased and veterans are paid a little lip service. Thanksgiving, the best holiday of them all because it doesn't take on the aura of commer-

cialism, is now being threatened by the long Christmas season.

Holidays, once so meaningful, are now just a respite to pursue our desires. Unfortunately, the cost to businesses, institutions, churches, etc. in time and money is staggering. But the loss of the feelings the holiday was originally intended to engender is even more unfortunate.

Do I have a solution? Well, possibly. Let's take a few holidays and give an employee a week off in lieu of holidays. If there are 20 holidays observed, give the employee four weeks vacation. The exceptions would be Fourth of July, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas. Why should New Year's Day be celebrated, except at midnight?

Oscar Davidson
Somerset

VIEWPOINT

God's timing

One day the envelope came in the mail, and it had just what was needed to pay the bill. Another time a job was contracted which had additional work added, and the financial need was met because of the additional work. A person needed some extra encouragement, and one day the card from a friend was in the mailbox.

All these events have one thing in common—the preparation to meet the need began several days before the need was apparent. God began early to see to it that the answer was there when it was needed.

Moses' mother, Jochebed, was a woman of faith, one who trusted in the providential care of God. When Moses was born, she trusted God and placed him in a basket in the Nile. Did this godly mother know that the Lord had a special task for her baby boy? We don't know, because she never

said. However, the Scripture shows that

God did have a job for Moses to do. Before he was ready for that job, he grew up learning the ways of the Egyptian court and met God, learned of his power and planned God's way of doing things.

God started 80 years before it was time to meet the needs of the Israel-

ites. But when the time was right, the answer was ready. God had heard the cries of sorrow and despair coming from his people. He came and saw, and he had prepared the answer.

God knows the times and seasons of your life. He hears and sees, and he prepares. He already has put into motion the events which will end in the answer. God has prepared the way; wait and experience his answer.

"Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she gave birth to a son. ... So God looked and was concerned and ... God called him 'Moses' (Exodus 2:1, 25 and 3:4).

John Ditty, pastor
Harlan Baptist Church
Harlan

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

Don't include me

I have thought hard about your "we are not the enemy" editorial. One thing stands out—inclusive guilt. Yes, I am sure that a lot of good people have been hurt on both sides. There has been name calling and character assassination.

However, I did not conspire in

Texas. I didn't change the Southern Baptist Convention from something I joined 20 years ago to what it is today. What it is today is a battlefield.

Generally, when people are attacked, they respond in kind; they resist.

What is unusual about that? People should stand up for what they believe.

If there is guilt to be borne by me, it is that I was too slow and too weak

to make a difference. But don't include my guilt with those who couldn't care less about the many who have given their lives for Christ within this denomination. Don't include me with those who want to salvage what they can for their own gain.

Too many have given too much to be branded guilty for trying to save something they love.

Pete Sinclair
Louisville

BAPTIST FORUM

Ladies and gentlemen, Jesus

Humility is not a weakness, as the following devotional by Chaplain Wayne Willis reflects.

"In the dusk of his life, Albert Schweitzer was approached by some of the great universities of the world who wanted to confer on him an honorary doctorate. Schweitzer earned four doctorates, one in music, one in philosophy, one in theology and one in medicine, but in his 30s, he had turned his back on the prestige and amenities of an academic career in Europe to care for the sick masses of Africa, a cause that was to be his passion for the next half century.

"Now, in his old age, an honorary doctorate held little appeal. But a little Colorado school invited him to lecture on Goethe; a friend in Louisville asked him to play a new organ just installed there; a school in Chicago

asked him to speak to the students about his "reverence for life" philosophy. Those three invitations struck his fancy, and he accepted.

"When he was to arrive by train in Chicago, a committee of dignitaries from the university was at the depot to greet him. They knew what he looked like, but he would not be able to recognize any of the welcoming committee. When Albert Schweitzer disembarked, the committee observed a scene they would not forget for life. Dr. Schweitzer saw a bent old woman carrying her bags

with great difficulty. He spontaneously lowered his grip to the floor, picked up her bags and carried them to a cab. After helping her into the cab, he returned to his grip and began to look for someone who would chauffeur him to his speaking engagement at the

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

university.

"That day the president of the University of Chicago, introducing Dr. Schweitzer to the student audience, put aside the several pages of the jungle doctor's achievements that he had originally planned to use and simply said: 'This morning Dr. Albert Schweitzer carried a feeble little old lady's bags. As long as we live, we will never again see a person in need and be able to pass on by. Ladies and gentlemen, Albert Schweitzer.'"

As the season approaches to reflect upon the humility of the stable and the manger, we would all do well to remember that Jesus practiced humility from the manger to the cross.

"He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death—his death on the cross" (Philippians 2:8, TEV).

Humility is but one of the many lessons Jesus can teach us ... if we want to learn.

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



Hol-"I"-days

By Harry Rowland

Q. The holidays are an uncomfortable time for me and other singles. Help me find the joy of the season.

A. The foremost problem faced by singles during the holidays is a sense of not belonging. Singles often feel isolated since family has disintegrated, a loss of close relationships from the past has occurred, and as even the most sensitive churches speak to the season as a family event.

The marketplace reinforces this isolation when co-workers ask single employees to work the holidays so they can be with family.

Singles also are guilty of isolating themselves during the holidays. Too often singles decide that the holidays are not for them. Time off is used to do any number of things except celebrate. This removes them from the mainstream of the church and world, and the sense of community is lost.

The welcomed truth is that many singles really enjoy the holidays. Two attitudes seem to be the key. First, approach the holidays with the attitude that you are blessed. The feeling of isolation often comes from unfulfilled dreams about family and the holidays. Tragically the holidays often remind us more about what we don't have or want instead of cultivating a sense of gratitude for what we do have. God is able to bring joy to our lives when we cease to concentrate on what we lack and express gratitude for what we have.

Second, develop a celebratory attitude. Be sure to celebrate. Some singles deal with the isolation by denial. They ignore it by working, traveling, refusing to attend functions, and not associating with others. Celebrate the holidays by refreshing your spirit with worship, friendships and ministry to others.

God is concerned with the singular "I" in hol-"I"-day. On a cloudless night, he went to the isolated shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around them. This, not the things we sense we lack or want, is what brings joy to the season.

Harry Rowland is pastor of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

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

Coalition underscores cooperation & involvement

In addition to safeguarding religious liberty in America, the recent effort to ratify the Religious Freedom Restoration Act underscored two important principles.

First, people of faith can achieve amazing accomplishments when they work together.

RFRA languished for more than three years. The need for such a law arose in 1990, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that government no longer had to prove a "compelling interest" in order to interfere with the religious exercise of citizens. Some lawmakers worked quickly to draft the act, which would restore liberty the court denied. Unfortunately, their effort could go no further. A majority of senators and representatives did not support the bill. The Bush administration would not endorse it. And the religious community failed to unify around it.

All that changed this year. Buoyed by the prospects of a supportive administration, the coalition that had been formed to secure RFRA's passage grew rapidly and broadly. It brought together the National Association of Evangelicals and the American Civil Liberties Union, People for the American Way and Concerned Women for America, Catholics and Protestants and Jews, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee. Think of any groups that take opposing views on most religious issues, and they gathered around the RFRA table.

This Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion, comprised of 68 organizations, proved that groups on the left care about religion and that groups on the right can cooperate for the common good, noted its chair-

man, Oliver Thomas, former general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee. It also proved cooperation works. In the face of such strong support, Congress approved the bill so President Clinton could sign it into law.

Second, people of faith have a place in the arena of public policy.

"It is high time we had an open and honest reaffirmation of the role of American citizens of faith—not so that we can agree, but so that we can argue and discourse and seek the truth and seek to heal this troubled land," Clinton told 200 religious and political leaders who gathered to watch him sign the act.

"There is a great debate now abroad in the land which finds itself injected into several political races about the extent to which people of faith can seek to do God's will as political actors," he added. "I would like to come down on the side of encouraging everybody to act on what they believe is the right thing to do."

The president's affirmation was not lost on religious leaders. "Everyone ... was moved as the president put down his notecards and spoke from his heart of the moral crisis in our nation and of the desperate need and right of people to bring their faith convictions to the public square in a joint search for truth and meaning," said Richard Land, whose Christian Life Commission has criticized the president on a number of issues.

Based on its religious freedom safeguards alone, RFRA is one of the most significant bills of the century. If religious people learn from their efforts to gain its passage, its influence will loom larger still.

Marv Knox

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act secured basic religious liberty for this and future generations of Americans. The coalition which secured its passage provides a model for religious cooperation and involvement in public affairs.

Foreign Mission Board makes strides around the globe

I wish it were possible to share personally with you the excitement being felt by missionaries, Foreign Mission Board staff and trustees about what God is doing throughout the world.

In our October board meeting, a record budget of \$185 million was approved for 1994.

Avery Willis was elected senior overseas vice president,

and 32 new missionaries were appointed. We also welcomed Jim Ferguson as the new director of our volunteers in missions department and anticipate his leadership will enlarge the channels for more Southern Baptists to serve overseas through volunteer projects.

Last year we rejoiced in record numbers of baptisms, new churches and membership. However, as area directors convened in Richmond this fall, they shared testimonies of even greater breakthroughs this year.

Bill Phillips from West Africa indicated there will be at least 5,000 more baptisms this year in that area, increasing from 34,000 to 39,000, and 203 new churches. In Nigeria alone, 102 more churches were started this year than in 1992.

Reports are not complete for Europe, but—in spite of perceptions to the contrary—Foreign Mission Board personnel have increased. We have a net growth of 30 missionaries, bringing the total to 360. Twelve more are in the appointment process. These are working in partnership with Baptists in 47 countries and republics in a renewed focus on evangelism and church planting. We've seen 204 new churches and a total of 1,347 mission points in Europe, and this does not yet include reports from the republics of the former Soviet Union.

We've always concentrated on evangelism that results in churches.

That approach continues to prove its effectiveness as local churches multiply to envelop the world. Brazil recorded 63,000 baptisms and started 205 churches this year, compared to 53 started in 1992. John Griggs, a church planter in Masvingo, Zimbabwe, reported baptisms increased from 848 to 3,830, and new church groups grew from 18 to 47 this year. Pat Doyle, in Guatemala, says baptisms have tripled in the past couple of years, and evangelicals now make up 40 percent of the population. Even Japan, which traditionally has been a resistant country, reported 41 church starts and 900 baptisms this year.

We think of missions as bringing salvation to the nations, allowing every person a chance to come to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith. Your missionaries are faithfully doing just that. More than 87 percent of the Foreign Mission Board budget is used overseas. Two-thirds of our total budget goes to support missionaries. That

is our priority, to represent you in sending missionaries who live the gospel in a cross-cultural witness.

In order to continue this support, we have cut our home office staff and reduced overseas budgets by 12 percent in 1994. That makes it difficult for missions to provide housing, transportation and basic working funds; yet I believe Southern Baptists will be faithful to provide the support needed.

As you consider what God is doing through the Foreign Mission Board and your missionaries, encourage your church to give sacrificially to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

We are dependent on this special offering as our largest source of financial support. After all, we are your channel as Southern Baptists for reaching a lost world.

Jerry Rankin, president
SBC Foreign Mission Board
Richmond, Va.

"We think of missions as bringing salvation to the nations, allowing every person a chance to come to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith. Your missionaries are faithfully doing just that."
Jerry Rankin

GUEST EDITORIAL

The practice of family dentistry isn't exactly what it used to be

The chain of intra-family dentistry must skip generations.

Back when I was a kid (not so long ago, by my reckoning), Daddy pulled all the teeth. Not so now.

According to tooth-pulling ritual:

The child who had the allegedly loose tooth would appear before Daddy, mouth open wide. Daddy would ask for the location of the wiggly snippet of ivory.

The child would respond, finger in mouth, pointing the way. Saying something like, "Issssh thissssh one, riiii heeere."

Then Daddy would wash his hands, bravely stick his right index finger in the kid's mouth, and wiggle the tooth.

His prognosis would have one of two answers: "It's not ready yet," or, "Go get

me the dental floss."

The first answer created disappointment in little hearts, but the second stirred fear. We would walk on skinny legs back to the bathroom, find the floss, pull a handful of Kleenex from the dispenser and return to Daddy Dentist.

I can still see the way he squinted as he carefully wound the thread around the offending tooth. But I can't report how he looked when he pulled that string, because I always had my eyes shut tight by that time. (Things

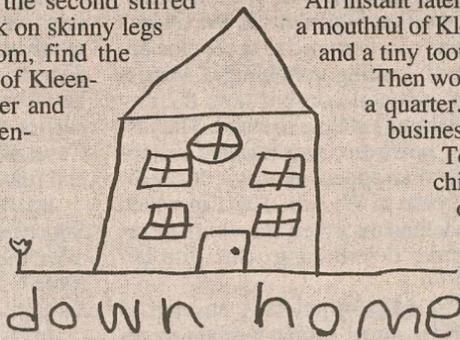
like this hurt less if you aren't looking. Every kid knows that.)

An instant later, the child would have a mouthful of Kleenex, a couple of tears and a tiny tooth.

Then would come a big hug and a quarter. We skipped the fairy business.

Today, however, either children are less trusting or daddies are clumsier with dental floss. If I even suggest pulling a tooth around our house, the girls look at me as if I'm coming at them with a pitchfork.

So, Molly pulled her own front teeth last



BRIEFS

■ **"Against the Grain,"** a new television show on NBC, has drawn the praises of a conservative group most known for criticizing television fare. Don Wildmon and his American Family Association are campaigning in favor of the show, which they say is one of the best shows to be developed on TV in recent years. Wildmon said he fears the show's Friday night time slot may not give the show the time it needs to build an audience. He encourages viewer support for the program, which he says presents positive family values, honesty in school, ethics in business and the true meaning of good sportsmanship.

■ **"Precious Moments"** figurines and accessories generate more than \$500 million annually in retail sales, according to the Wall Street Journal. Artist Sam Butcher told the Journal he developed the product line as an extension of his Christian faith. "When I became a Christian, I really wanted to reach people. And I think that's what happened with Precious Moments. It's given me opportunities to minister to people. And I feel good about that." Butcher currently is working on a Precious Moments Chapel, based on the Sistine Chapel but with Precious Moments figures in place of Michelangelo's murals.

Catholics embrace 'True Love Waits'

NASHVILLE (BP)—The two largest religious bodies in the United States are now actively involved in a nationwide campaign to encourage teen-agers and college students to remain sexually pure until marriage.

At a Nov. 12 press conference during the National Catholic Youth Conference in Philadelphia, officials with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry Inc. announced plans for bringing the message of "True Love Waits" to Catholic teen-agers.

The conference is a networking organization which serves youth ministry offices in the Catholic dioceses across the United States. These dioceses include 19,000 parishes with a combined membership of more than 10 million teen-agers.

The organization will provide Catholic dioceses with an overview of Catholic teaching on adolescent sexuality, resource listings and supplemental teaching materials that can be used with young people, families and parishes, according to Executive Director Leonard Wenke. Catholic youth also will have an opportunity to

sign "True Love Waits" pledge cards as a sign of their promise to remain sexually pure until marriage. They will be displayed on the Washington Mall July 29, 1994, along with several hundred thousand cards signed by youth from Protestant churches.

"We wish to empower Catholic young people in this country to be witnesses of their faith and give them the opportunity to commit to a chaste lifestyle and to reject the 'safe-sex' messages dominant in our culture," Wenke said.

With the involvement of Catholics, the largest religious group in the country, "True Love Waits" is now supported by the two largest religious bodies in the nation, along with other denominations and para-church groups. The campaign is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, the country's largest Protestant denomination.

"The nation will not be able to ignore such a united statement from teen-agers," said Richard Ross, "True Love Waits" coordinator. "I honestly

believe there will be a measurable impact on the moral conscience of our society."

Some of the other groups participating in "True Love Waits" include Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Assemblies of God, Youth America, Wesleyan Church, Campus Crusade for Christ, Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.), Evangelical Covenant Church, Youth With a Mission, Youth for Christ, National Network of Youth Ministries, Reachout Ministries, Student Discipleship Ministries, Pentecostal Church of God and Son-Life Ministries.

Last month, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada announced it would carry the campaign's theme to its 100 Canadian Protestant denominations, para-church groups and mission agencies representing more than 7,000 churches.

In response to the increasing public attention to the campaign, the Baptist Sunday School Board recently installed a toll-free number to field questions from interested callers, (800) LUV-WAIT.

Child pornography definition in dispute

WASHINGTON—Both the U.S. Senate and President Bill Clinton have chastised the Justice Department for promoting a new definition of child pornography.

In a Nov. 10 letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, the president said he agreed with a recent Senate resolution which criticized a Justice Department brief in a recent case before the Supreme Court. The Senate approved the non-binding resolution unanimously.

"I find all forms of child pornography offensive and harmful, as I know you do, and I want the federal government to lead aggressively in the attack against the scourge of child pornography," Clinton said in his letter to Reno.

The department "should promptly prepare and submit any necessary legislation to ensure that federal law reaches all forms of child pornography, including the kinds of child pornography at issue in the Senate resolution," Clinton said.

U.S. Solicitor General Drew Days

had argued that the case of a convicted child pornographer had been wrongly decided because the child models were not nude. Days, who works in the Justice Department, said the court should set a new standard for defining child pornography.

The previous standard has focused on the intention of the adults producing questionable material. But the new standard promoted by the Justice Department would focus on the actions of the children pictured.

The department's brief with the Supreme Court argues that material classified as child pornography must "show minors engaged in the conduct of lasciviously exhibiting their (or someone else's) genitals or pubic areas" and must include visible depiction of the genitals.

In response to the Justice Department's brief, the Supreme Court returned the case, *Knox vs. U.S.*, to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals for rehearing.

However, in response to the expressions of dismay from Clinton and

the Senate, the Justice Department has agreed to begin work on new legislation related to child pornography.

Clinton's action on the issue was too little too late, according to an official of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"I'm really disappointed that it has taken (Clinton) two months to respond, and when the response has come it shows a gross misunderstanding" of the problem, said Lamar Cooper, who handles pornography issues for the CLC. "It lines him up with the Senate, but it does not indicate to me that he understands what the issue is. If he does understand, I am waiting to be convinced."

Cooper said the solution is not drafting new laws but for the attorney general to prosecute fully the laws already in place.

A group of six Republican senators wrote Clinton Nov. 12, saying they believe new legislation is not necessary and calling on the attorney general to enforce existing laws.

Based on Baptist Press reports

Singer launches petition drive

TULSA, Okla. (EP)—Contemporary Christian singer Carman is launching a petition drive to bring back prayer in public schools.

The singer, who has sold nearly 5 million albums worldwide, already has gathered thousands of signatures and hopes to collect more than 1 million.

The effort is linked to release of Carman's single "American Again" from his new album, "The Standard."

The singer traces most of America's moral ills to 1962, the year the Supreme Court outlawed mandatory school prayer.

Court denies hearing in two abortion cases

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court recently denied hearings to two abortion cases, pleasing abortion advocates in one and pleasing abortion opponents in the other.

The court refused to accept the appeal of a ruling upholding a Mississippi parental consent law, thereby allowing the statute to stand. The justices, however, also rejected acceptance of an appeal of a civil disobedience case in Wichita, Kan., in which the defendant asked the court to reconsider determining when life begins.

The Mississippi law, enacted in 1986, requires minor women to receive written consent from both parents, with few exceptions, before obtaining an abortion. As an option, the minor may receive a judicial bypass

of the law if she can show either she is mature enough to make the decision or an abortion is in her best interest.

After delays while procedural rules were adopted and other parental involvement cases were decided, the district court in 1992 prevented the law from being enforced. On appeal earlier this year, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals lifted the injunction and ruled the law constitutional.

By refusing to hear the case, the Supreme Court supported that ruling, allowing the original law to be enforced. The case was *Barnes vs. Mississippi*.

In *Tilson vs. Wichita*, Elizabeth Tilson was arrested for trespassing after entering a Wichita abortion clinic in an attempt to "rescue" unborn children.

Americans favor choice but not public funding

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—The recent vote against a school choice voucher system in California is no surprise to pollster George Gallup Jr.

The reason, he says, is that Americans repeatedly have spoken in favor of the idea of choice but also repeatedly have spoken against plans to fund private schools.

"Ask Americans if they favor using public money to allow choice in education, and a strong majority say yes," Gallup explains. "But ask the question another way; ask them if they favor a system of funding private schools. Now the nation's democratically minded populace backs off."

In recent surveys, Americans have expressed strong opposition to allowing parents and students to choose private schools at public expense, Gallup says. Three times as many oppose the idea as favor it.

But when the issue is framed as one of providing "choice" rather than funding "private" schools, a majority say they favor it.

Much of the opposition to public funding for school vouchers comes from older people, Gallup reports. "As many a school board member can testify, rising taxes are a concern for a lot of older people who no longer have children in the schools. They will often turn out to vote against just about any increase in school taxes."

Opposition also may stem from feelings that vouchers will not provide a panacea for the nation's educational ills, he continues. Only one person in five believes public funding of alternative choices would lead to improvement of all schools.

A majority of Americans (69 percent) believe public funding of private schools would help some schools but hurt others, he says.

MISSIONS

Give sacrificially

Mike and Juanita Bridges of Chattanooga, Tenn., had seen enough on mission trips into third-world countries to know that their own standard of living was high. Their experiences readied them to freeze their standard of living after hearing a challenge from a missions leader during a conference in Chattanooga. After hearing the challenge for an insurance company in Chattanooga, both of them worked to freeze their standard of living, committed to set aside all future salary increases for foreign missions. "We certainly have not suffered by doing this," Bridges said. "It's money we would have spent frivolously anyway. Once you bite the bullet initially, you don't even miss it." For four years, the Bridges have been able to give beyond their typical gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. They believe God affirmed their commitment when Mrs. Bridges was displaced by changes in the company earlier this year. On her last day of work, she was offered another job at about the same pay. They were able to continue putting the same amount into their Lottie Moon savings fund.

Work with internationals

Linda Templin of Arlington, Texas, started working with international students more than 20 years ago. At that time, it was her job. As a Baptist Student Union director on four Texas campuses, she helped plan events for international students. After marrying and moving to Arlington, work with internationals became more of a "calling" for her to continue. "You can't drive from my house to my church without seeing at least 20 internationals, God says to share as we go, especially where we live. (It's as though) I live in the middle of the U.N." Through a program at First Baptist Church in Arlington, called "International Friends," Templin works with international children while their mothers study English and crafts. She has seen the gospel change lives—among both those who stay in the United States and those who return home. "We want them to take a Christian message back with them whether or not they become Christians," she said. "It may be nothing more than they found a place where they were cared for and people who were interested in them." Templin said her work with internationals also has made a positive impact on her three sons and husband—giving them a world view and making them "more accepting of people who are different." Every interested Southern Baptist "could minister to the pockets of internationals where they are," she said.

Pray for foreign missions

Ruby Monroe of Brooklyn, N.Y., has learned an important lesson in praying for foreign missions: "Your prayers aren't always answered the way you want, but God always answers." Monroe didn't know prayer would become her life's vocation, but four years ago, her employer offered early retirement. Almost immediately Evergreen Baptist Church offered a position she didn't want—WMU director. "I just wanted to be a WMU member, not a leader," she said. But God had different plans. She now oversees all of the WMU age-level organizations and helps lead church-wide missions efforts. Knowing the importance of prayer in missions, Monroe has organized a prayer group of men and women who meet at the church every Wednesday. They use the Prayer Calendar and prayer updates from the Foreign Mission Board. She also has organized prayer partners within the church. She meets with her partner every morning by phone.

6 ways to change the world

Volunteer for short-term or long-term work

Lee Thomas, a physician in Lancaster, S.C., has gone on six short-term volunteer trips. His wife, Lou, and their two daughters often went with him. On most trips he relied missionary physicians so they could attend continuing education conferences to improve their skills. Volunteering has broadened the Thomases' view of the world and opened their girls' eyes to how other people live. But they're not the only ones who've benefited. "Lee leaves a positive witness with the patients and staff he works with," Mrs. Thomas said. "When they know he's not a 'professional' Christian, sometimes they're more open to the witness he gives." Volunteering helps Christians grow in their faith and see prayers answered, she said. "If anyone feels any inclination at all to volunteer, they should do it. It's a real blessing."

Offer missions education at church

St. Stephens Baptist Church in Los Angeles places a priority on missions education that involves everyone. The church offers all age-level missions organizations for men, women and children. WMU and Brotherhood play a vital role in the church's life. "Missions education makes our church alive and creates an awareness of people around the world," said Pastor E.W. McCall. "We don't have the power to change the world as individuals, but we can change the world where we are." Missions education has resulted in church members developing a number of ministries to change their world: helping young girls who need homes, feeding the homeless on "skid row," reaching out to residents of senior citizen complexes and ministering to the physically handicapped. McCall believes in missions education so strongly that he has a message for any church without it: "You're missing out on one of the most important growth principles of church. The more people a church can involve in missions education, the more people who will be readily available to do the will of God."

Volunteer for career missionary service.

Paul and Lori Babb believe they can answer God's call to help change the world as career missionaries. They and their three preschoolers have arrived in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, in the former Soviet Union, for their first term of service. He will plant and develop churches. She will work with children and in Sunday school. "I see the call God has given us as our responsibility," Babb said. "Hopefully the Lord will use me in a way that I can be an example to the people around me." "There are open doors all around us and sometimes we close our eyes to those," Mrs. Babb added. "We should be willing to do what God has called us to do."

■ Week of prayer for foreign missions: Nov. 28-Dec. 5
 ■ Lottie Moon Christmas Offering national goal: \$85 million

Music missionary understands struggle toward faith

By Martha Skelton
SBC Foreign Mission Board

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica—Missionary Dirce Cooper is a one-woman United Nations.

She is Dirce (pronounced DEAR-see) Mitsue Shirazawa Cooper, a Brazilian-Japanese-North American name. And she lives and works in Central America.

A music missionary in San Jose, Costa Rica, Mrs. Cooper teaches on the same faculty with her husband, Roy, who is seminary rector as well as a professor.

The Baptist Theological Seminary of Costa Rica has 39 students, and Roy is praying toward a goal of 20 new students in the 1993-94 school year.

Mrs. Cooper understands the spiritual searching in the lives of people who do not grow up knowing Christ. Her faith was nurtured by her parents. But they heard the gospel only after a long search.

Their family in Andradina, Brazil,

was traditionally Japanese, speaking the language and observing Buddhist customs. But Mrs. Cooper's mother started taking her six little girls to a local Catholic church, seeking answers to her spiritual questions.

When Mrs. Cooper was 7, her father got very sick. Her mother went searching for assurance that there was hope of life eternal. Brushes with Buddhism, Catholicism and spiritism left many unanswered questions. A cousin who was a Baptist, her pastor and some deacons came bringing a Bible. The mother and father read it.

"With their limited knowledge of Portuguese, with a third-grade education, they started reading the Bible, and by themselves in our house they accepted the Lord in their hearts," Mrs. Cooper explains.

Several months later, her father died at home. With his daughters around his deathbed, he told them: "Your mother and I had a hard time finding Jesus, but now that we have found him, I'm going to live with him. Your mother's going to teach about Jesus. If you follow what she's going to teach and accept Jesus in your heart, this is not a sad time and it's not an adeus (Portuguese for "goodbye forever"). But if any of you don't follow Jesus, this is forever. I'll never see you again."

Mrs. Cooper never forgot his words. She determined to know about "this Jesus that made my Daddy die with a smile on his face."

The family struggled on, living in small, bare rooms.

Some rich relatives told her mother they would help provide for the family—if they would quit going to the evangelical church.

"She knelt down and she told the Lord, 'They're right. I can't raise the girls but I'm going to dedicate them to you, all six. This is the only treasure I have. You raise them and you use them. There's no turning back for me.'"

The girls grew up, all professed faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and became active in Baptist churches.

As a teen-ager, Mrs. Cooper began to feel the Lord was calling her to special service.

"Lord, I don't want to go into missions because that means being poor," she prayed.

In her heart, turmoil reigned. She determined to be a doctor, to make money. But in a revival service, the lyrics of a hymn touched her: "I'll go where you want me to go."

By the time she finished high school, Mrs. Cooper was convinced her gift was teaching. She decided to go to the Baptist seminary in Rio de Janeiro to further her studies in music and teaching.

"Most of my teachers were Southern Baptist missionaries paid by the Foreign Mission Board," she recalls. "In a way, we were able to have a seminary because we had missionaries."

When she received her bachelor's degree, Mrs. Cooper felt led to get a master's degree. But that wasn't offered at Brazilian Baptist seminaries, so she took another step of faith and bought a one-way plane ticket to Texas to enroll at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Once again, a missions organization touched her life. She received a working fellowship from Woman's Missionary Union to help her get through Southwestern.

By the time she got her master's degree, she and Roy Cooper, a fellow student and fellow missions volunteer, had fallen in love. Their shared commitment to foreign missions led them after marriage to seek FMB appointment as teachers at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Costa Rica.

Today, Mrs. Cooper teaches piano and conducting classes and leads the seminary choir.

When they aren't at the seminary, the Coopers can be found working with a neighborhood Bible study in the Cartago community near San Jose.

As missionaries, the Coopers say they appreciate the help they receive through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Through those channels, Southern Baptists have sent them musical instruments, sound equipment, tapes and music for the seminary.

When they joined others in getting the Cartago group started, there was nowhere to meet, no chairs, no supplies. FMB funds provided a "starter kit" for just such an undertaking: chairs, hymnals, Bibles and literature for Sunday school. As soon as a group is able, they give it all back so another new group can use the material.

"It keeps going from mission to mission and that's wonderful," Mrs. Cooper says.



READY TO SING Missionary Dirce Cooper (center right) and members of the Baptist Theological Seminary of the Costa Rica's choir wait on a Sunday morning to go to a nearby church. The ministry of Mrs. Cooper and her husband, Roy, in Costa Rica is supported by Southern Baptists through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

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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.

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.

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

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

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Families are in crisis

There was a time when the needs of children and families were much less complex than they are today. We served children orphaned by death, or at times, by economics. The children came to us to stay until they reached an age when they could go out on their own. Some of these boys and girls had problems stemming from abuse and neglect, but by and large, most of the children just needed a place to live and people to supervise and love them.

Today, our world is a much more difficult place for a child. The stress on families is extreme. It has become the norm today for both parents to work outside the home. Family life is compressed into the few hours the family has together in the evenings and on weekends. Television and other media sources bring into our homes language, images, and situations that we would never allow otherwise. Job pressures, relocations away from extended families, and the easy availability of alcohol and other drugs also add to the stress on the family unit.

Increasingly, our staff has seen these pressures on the family lead to child abuse and child neglect. Most parents don't set out to abuse their

children, but it is a fact of life in our society that children too often bear the brunt of the stress, frustration, and anger that their parents are feeling.

What this means for Kentucky Baptists is that the children coming to us today need more than just a place to live and be loved. They have been hurt by those closest to them and they need opportunities to find healing and new hope.

As caring Christians, we must continue to find ways to better meet the needs of these children and their families. KBHC is striving to do just that through programs like Cornerstone Counseling which seeks to help individuals and families solve problems before they become overwhelming. Ministries like the Genesis Home and Baptist Youth Ranch now specialize in caring for children who have been severely victimized. And, in all of our programs, we are seeking to help families repair broken relationships because a happy, healthy family is the best place for children.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

Pastors' Conference calls for revival in America

By Mark Wingfield & Marv Knox
News Director & Editor

ELIZABETHTOWN—America needs revival, and so does the church in America, five preachers said during the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference Nov. 15.

The annual conference, held at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, preceded the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"There is a great need for spiritual awakening in America," declared Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. "Our only hope is for God to do something beyond the abilities of man to manufacture."

It has been 135 years since a spiritual awakening began in America, Chapman said, and 85 years since an awakening spread to America from some other starting point.

"Our generation never has experienced a mighty moving of God that swept people to their knees," he said.

Part of the problem, Chapman suggested, is that too many churches are living off momentum of the past. Churches can remain open even after they're dead, he said.

To illustrate, Chapman told about watching someone wring the neck of a chicken in preparation for dinner. The headless chicken ran wildly around the yard after her neck was wrung.

"That chicken was dead, but she didn't know it," Chapman said, and so are many churches.

Chapman listed three priorities of revival Christians and churches should seek:

- Filling of God's Spirit. "God wants pre-eminence in our lives."

- Exhortation of God's word. He quoted someone else to say, "The early Christian preachers preached Christ; we preach sermons."

- Expectation of prayer. "No great movement of God has ever occurred except it was preceded by prayer. ... There will be no revival in this country without prayer."

In an earlier sermon, Chapman said ministers face a tremendous threat of discouragement. Speaking from Revelation 3, he reminded pastors that "Jesus holds the key."

"There's nothing better than to be in the will of God," he said. "If we believe we are in the will of God, the last thing we'll do is run when we face a little discouragement."

Chapman urged pastors to set their course straight ahead and keep working until God tells them otherwise. "God knows when we need to go and when we need to stay."

Pastors must realize people always will be ready to criticize. "Everywhere in the church of Jesus Christ are people with wet blankets waiting to wet your fire for the Lord," he warned.

But the bad behavior of other

Christians should not be reflected in ministers, he continued. "We ought never say an unkind word about a member of our congregation. We ought to pray for them."

He admonished pastors facing conflict to follow the scriptural pattern for confrontation found in Matthew 18:15-17. "For those of us who say we believe the word cover to cover, we need to practice it," he said.

LaVerne Butler, president of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield, urged pastors not to commit the sin of Job.

Job's sin, Butler said, was being at ease.

Baptists may have overcome many temptations, such as drinking, he said, "but a greater sin has overtaken us."

"We as Southern Baptists boast about so many things today, ... but we're at ease. ... Dear hearts, the God I serve did not save us to be at ease."

"There are too many souls to save, too many churches to be planted, too many homeless people to be fed outside the doors of our churches."

Evangelism is a key to revival, stressed Don Short, a vocational evangelist from Eddyville.

Sometimes Christians can be sidetracked from doing their best for God, simply because they are doing good things for God, Short insisted.

To illustrate, he told about a young woman from Trinidad. He met her while he was on a mission trip, and she was suffering from a disfiguring growth on her chin.

As he was returning home, he promised to help her get medical attention in the United States. But upon his return, he got busy with a family crisis and his ministry and put off seeing to the woman's needs. Only later did he learn she had died.

"While being involved in good stuff, I let some of the most important stuff go by," Short confessed. "Often times the enemy of doing the best thing we could do—evangelism—is doing some good stuff."

But he offered four promises for evangelism:

- "The harvest is plenteous."
- "Evangelism helps people. Getting folks saved is good for them."

- "Hell is the penalty" for not accepting Christ as Savior.

- Evangelism is God's plan for people.

Missions also can lead to revival, said Calvin Wilkins, director of partnership missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"I thank God for the challenge he has given us," Wilkins said, describing the Christian mandate to share the gospel around the world.

"We must be militant" in spreading the Christian message, he said. "Jesus designed us as soldiers going into battle, on mission for him."

And that means having a global vision of the gospel's impact, Wilkins said. "If we were to localize Christianity, we would paralyze Christianity. Jesus came to be a world redeemer. To go someplace carrying the gospel of Christ is the supreme opportunity of a lifetime."

In addition to its world impact, missions can revitalize dying church-

Tips to avoid discouragement

ELIZABETHTOWN—In his sermon to the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Morris Chapman suggested 10 ways to avoid discouragement in the pastorate:

- Don't let others rob you of your self-worth as a servant of God.
- Ignore rumors unless you have proof.
- Don't read anonymous letters. Have a secretary or someone else open the mail and throw away any unsigned letters.
- Don't take rejection of an idea as a personal rejection.
- Don't develop a God complex, neither be just one of the guys.
- Don't believe you have to be right all the time.
- Spend time with friends who encourage.
- Don't react, but do act.
- Don't tell your spouse every criticism you hear about you, your spouse or your ministry.
- Don't let your joy depend on circumstances, salary, what others say, what others do or the amount of attention you receive.

es who send out mission workers, he promised.

"We have experienced revival ourselves as we have given ourselves," he said of Kentucky Baptists who have participated in mission partnerships in Kenya and Brazil and who plan to participate in Russia.

"We become a family united as we go on mission for Christ," he said. "Partnership has brought about revival ... in our churches and in the lives of those who rushed forward to volunteer. ..."

Revival will come to America only "when God comes to town," said J.C. Pyles, pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church in Louisville.

"When you're hurting, you don't want God to be everywhere," he said, "you want him to be local."

"God is everywhere at the same time, and he does come by here. But when God comes to town, town is in trouble."

Pyle cited three times God has "come to town" before: in the Garden of Eden, at the Tower of Babel and at Bethlehem.

"Although you've missed those three trips, he's going to make one more," Pyle declared, saying the fourth visit will be the Second Coming of Christ.

"You missed the first trip. You missed the second trip. You missed the third trip. All I want to know is, are you going to miss the next trip?"

The Pastors' Conference elected three new officers for the coming year. Paul Blizard, pastor of Reidland Baptist Church in Paducah, was elected president over Brad Johnson, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Rodney Burnette, pastor of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville, was elected vice president over Mark Boes, pastor of Cecilia Baptist Church in Cecilia.

Dewey Keys, pastor of East Rhudes Creek Baptist Church in Glendale, was elected secretary by acclamation. Barry Allen, Kentucky Baptist Convention business division director, serves as treasurer.

Banks honored by bivocationalists

ELIZABETHTOWN—Herb Banks, pastor of Premium Baptist Church of Whitesburg and principal of Jenkins High School, has been named the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Bivocational Minister of the Year.

"I never in my life expected to be honored in such a way," Banks told a crowd of bivocational ministers, associational directors of missions and KBC staff members during an award banquet held in conjunction with the KBC annual meeting this month.

"This honor comes as second in my life, behind being called of God to serve him," he said.

Banks started ministering at Premium Church 20 years ago, serving the first seven years without any compensation, said Vernon Cole, director of the KBC church growth and administration division, who presented the award.

"He began with 25 kids and not many adults," Cole reported. "But he has very patiently worked in

that circumstance" and built a strong congregation of 141 members.

The church distributes clothing and food to needy people in the community. Banks also has been a community leader, Cole said. In addition to his work at the high school, Banks is president of a local volunteer chaplaincy program, president of the Letcher County Extension Council, past president of the Letcher County Literacy Council and an active leader in Three Forks Association of Baptists.

He also has led the church in several witness-training courses, as well as a full range of church programs.

Several criteria are used to judge nominees for the award, Cole said. The recipient must have been in his local association for five years, helped develop the church, had an impact on the community and had a unique ministry.

Twenty-eight percent of Kentucky Baptist pastors are bivocational, he noted.



KENTUCKY KERNELS

More than one-third of the 59,405 Kentucky women enrolled in Woman's Missionary Union attend churches located in areas designated "open country and village" (21,798). The next largest group (13,662) live in medium-size cities of 10,000 to 50,000 in population. Statewide, 64 percent of all Kentucky Baptist Convention churches offer an ongoing WMU program.

Source: *Southern Baptist Handbook, 1993*

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BENTON**—Craig Holloman resigned as minister of music and youth at First Missionary Church. Dane Hodges was called as interim minister of music.

■ **BLANDVILLE**—Blandville Church called Larry Jackson as pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Ballardsville Church's families committed \$320,000 for the church's building program. The pledges will provide facilities for worship and Christian education. The new building will be located on 22 acres of property on Highway 53, north of Ballardsville.

■ **FRANKFORT**—East Frankfort Church called Gary Elcessor as pastor. He previously was associate pastor at Kento-Boo Church in Florence. Also, Lee Carter, of Georgetown College, was called as youth minister.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Greensburg Church ordained Gary Wilson and Tony Jewell as deacons Nov. 21.

■ **HIMA**—Booneville-Irvine Association hosted its the Southeastern Kentucky Bible Conference Sept. 15-17 at Horse Creek Baptist Church. Speakers included Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee; Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla.; LaVerne Butler, president of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College; Don

Mathis, executive secretary of the West Virginia Baptist Convention; Lincoln Bingham, superintendent of missions for the General Baptist Association of Baptists in Kentucky; and L.C. Gray, vocational evangelist from Owensboro.

■ **KEVIL**—Kevil Church called Terry Mitcheson as pastor Nov. 14.

■ **LACENTER**—New Hope Church called Troy Deweese as pastor.

■ **LONDON**—New Salem Church held a note-burning to retire the debt on its Family Life Center Nov. 21.

White Oak Church called Terry Amburgy as pastor.

■ **LORETTO**—Smock Chapel Mission, mission of Lowell Avenue Church in Campbellsville, has called J.C. Riley as pastor. Riley also is moderator of Central Association.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Wayne Hager has resigned as manager of the Baptist Book Store in Louisville to become pastor of Midlane Park Church.

Alma Hunt, retired executive director of SBC Woman's Missionary Union, held a foreign mission study at St. Matthews Church. Approximately 75 women from local churches attended.

Cherie Smith resigned as minister of education and outreach at Deer Park Church.

■ **MILLERSBURG**—Millersburg

Church called David Hatch of Lexington as pastor. He currently is working on the master of divinity degree at Lexington Theological Seminary.

■ **MURRAY**—West Fork Church called Mark Dowdy as part-time minister of music and youth Oct. 31.

■ **PADUCAH**—Kevin Pledger has resigned as minister of music at Bellview Church.

James Green has resigned as pastor of East Church. Bob Swift has

been called as interim pastor.

Dale Jerrell resigned as minister of music and education of Twelfth Street Church.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Hillsboro Church ordained Willis Hockett and Robert Perry Oct. 31.

■ **WHITE PLAINS**—The Brotherhood of White Plains and Concord churches in Little Bethel Association built two rooms on a trailer for a needy family in the community.

Kentucky native Lewis Martin dies in Atlanta

ATLANTA—Lewis Martin, a native of Waddy who went on to work for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, died Oct. 28 in Atlanta at age 94.

Martin is considered to be the founder of world missions conferences, associational-wide events highlighting home and foreign missions.

He was a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Hazard and as a missionary evangelist in the Appalachian mountains of Kentucky. He moved to the HMB's headquarters in Atlanta in 1943 and retired in 1965.

All Lottie gifts go overseas, treasurer says

RICHMOND, Va.—All gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions still go overseas, according to Carl Johnson, treasurer of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"I have received several inquiries asking whether the Foreign Mission Board has changed its use of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," Johnson reported.

The board still uses all of the offering "exclusively in its overseas

budget," he said. "None of the ... offering is used in the board's stateside administrative and promotional budget. The Foreign Mission Board treats the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as a designated offering, designated for the overseas budget."

A report describing the board's use of the offering is available. To receive a copy, contact Johnson by writing to the Foreign Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230, or call (800) 866-FMB1, toll-free.

Bubble gum and turkey

Miss Bottoms' sixth grade class is an above-average, highly motivated, imaginative group of four girls and five boys. They are well organized.

Some weeks ago they decided they were going to have a class Thanksgiving dinner. They each made donations from their weekly allowances toward a class fund to buy the turkey. Treasurer Brian, a young man from Louisville whose mother was one of my students for four years, dutifully deposited the money in the class account in our student bank.

The class then proceeded to draw up a menu. It was agreed that Miss Bottoms would bake the turkey and the class members would do the rest of the cooking themselves.

Class President Jason, from Kettering, Ohio, has a culinary speciality—macaroni and cheese. So the class also agreed to buy the necessary ingredients so Jason could do his thing. Then the class came up with the more traditional foods such as mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, dressing, cranberries and bread.

But the class finances did not quite cover all these other items, so they decided to talk our kitchen folk out of the raw ingredients and were successful.

There was rising excitement. The guest list began to expand. Another of their teachers, Pat Rowe and family, were invited. They also asked me, our middle school principal and secretary to come.

We showed up with some trepidation. The principal whispered to me that he had overheard Miss Bottoms, his assistant coach for the high school varsity girls basketball team, asking someone how to bake a turkey.

But bake it she had, and Jason's large bowl of macaroni and cheese looked most inviting, as did everything the young people had prepared. After the blessing, we each served ourselves and found

turkey and all to be most delicious.

Being a perfect host, one of the boys came around about midway through the meal with a large sack of bubble gum which he enthusiastically pressed upon me and the principal. Being traditionalists, we both smiled but declined the proffered bubble gum between our turkey and mashed potato course.

The whole meal was topped off not only with the usual Thanksgiving pumpkin pie, but also with peach and apple pie. Then there was an absolutely delicious crumb-covered pie called Dutch apple.

Having eaten, I was informed there was \$2.42 left in the class account—we like to stay in the "black" financially.

A special guest for the evening was Jorge who had just arrived from Miami a few hours before. Born in the Cuban community, his Spanish is more fluent than his English. Our newest sixth-grader, a handsome 12-year-old, he was obviously an exciting addition for our young ladies. In fact, he charmed all.

Another Jason, highest-ranking academically, is a mountain boy from Lee County. Nick from Corbin, Jamie from Detroit, Kammie from Cincinnati, Sarah from Oneida, Henry from Shepherdsville and Leslie from Floyd County completed the dinner party.

Thirty minutes after the meal our young friends were engrossed in the video "Aladdin" and "Teen-age Mutant Ninja Turtles." At one point Henry had Jorge in a headlock. Later I overheard Henry telling the other boys that Jorge was the only one ever to get out of his headlock. Oh, to be 11 again!

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

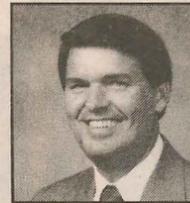
Paid Column

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

A new man in Newtown

Campus operations worker Ronnie Washam gave his testimony in chapel.

"We were poor people raised on the railroad tracks in Newtown. Without an education Daddy could barely write his name. He worked daylight to dark digging ditches for \$3 a day. When I went to school, I received two new pair of pants, two shirts and one pair of shoes to last all year. When the shoes wore out, I wired them back together. My job was to pick up coal along the tracks or from the creek.

"At 13 I went to work for 50 cents a day. I said when I married, I wouldn't have this kind of life. I began to let money rule my life and worked two jobs. I thought if I gave my family what they wanted, that was enough. When my daughter went to college, I realized I hadn't been with her and promised to do better.

"Mom and Dad were Christian; I went to Sunday school a little bit. I hadn't thought of the Lord until my wife had an operation. Two Clear Creek students I barely knew cared enough to visit, pray with us, and stayed several hours. The doctor reported after the surgery, 'nothing showed up.' I knew God had healed her. My wife talked me into going to church and the Lord started working on me. I was really

bothered about a \$700 federal tax bill; my daughter went into the hospital, and while I was with her, someone shot my dog twice. I went home to check on him and went to church that night feeling very heavy. Robert Simmons (student pastor) took me in the back, and I got saved. I was a sinner for 46 years and six days! I felt like a heavy weight was lifted off me. The next day the dog was up walking around. If it took that dog to lead me to Christ, I'm thankful. A few weeks ago my daughter was saved.

"The Lord has really been good to me. I've been offered better paying jobs, but I love this place and these people. I'm trying my best to improve it.

"You are very fortunate to be a preacher. There are 265 million people in the U.S., but the Lord has seen some good stuff in you to call you. You should live in Newtown; this place is like heaven. I like to work late sometimes just so I won't have to go back.

"Thanks for putting up with me. I am not perfect. It only takes one to pull everyone down."

Thank the Lord for laymen like Ronnie whom the Lord uses to pull us closer to Jesus.

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

Paid Column

Separated by war, Chinese brothers follow God

By Donald Martin & Michael Chute
SBC Foreign Mission Board

JIAYUGUAN, China (BP)—Two brothers, separated for 40 years by China's civil wars, have leared that erratic turns of history are no match for the steady hand of God.

Both Zhang En-guang, now 67, and his brother, 61-year-old Chang Chen-kwang, were dedicated as newborns by their parents to Christian ministry. Yet their parents never could have plotted the actual course that led each son to his life's work.

Today Zhang is pastor of the Christian church in Jiayuguan, China. His brother, Chang—known to many as John C.K. Chang—is president of the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of a Baptist church in Taipei, Taiwan. "Zhang" and "Chang" are spelling variations of the same family name.

Sixty years ago, Zhang was a 7-year-old in charge of his baby brother. Each morning he tied the infant to his back and walked to school through the narrow streets of Gulang Yu, one of the islands of Xiamen, China.

"When my brother was small, he would not cry if he left his mother or father, but he would cry and cry if he left me," Zhang recalled.

Often after class, Zhang—with brother in tow—joined friends at the beach to play in the last hours of sunlight. The days were simple. Yet Zhang's island of childhood memories made little room for the historic events that would tear China and his family apart.

In 1937, when Zhang was 11, Japan launched a massive invasion of China. That same year the family moved from Xiamen to Yangzhou, where the boys' father became pastor of the Nei Di Church. Within a year, Japan controlled most of eastern China, including Yangzhou.

Japanese occupation took its toll on the Nei Di church and the Zhang family. The boys' father depended totally on church offerings to feed his family. But members had little to give. The boys often ate breakfast not knowing if they would have another meal that day.

When the war in the Pacific ended in 1945, Zhang and Chang left home for Shandong province to pursue their educations. Zhang enrolled in North China Baptist Seminary to study for the pastorate. Chang entered high school.

But peace eluded China. With the Japanese threat gone, Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang (Nationalist) forces and Mao Tse-tung's communist Red Army locked in a showdown that World War II had only delayed. As the armies battled for control of China, Zhang and Chang saw their own plans veer off course.

A year after Chang enrolled in high school, the students and faculty fled to Shanghai ahead of the advancing Red Army. There the 15-year-old Chang joined the Nationalist youth army and prepared to defend the city.

Meanwhile, his older brother joined the Nationalists' Air Force meteorology school. In light of China's civil war, Zhang believed it was

impossible to study for the pastorate. Instead, he moved to China's remote interior, where he worked as a civilian in the Air Force.

On the coast, communist forces by 1949 had pushed the Nationalist army to port cities where ships ferried beleaguered troops to Taiwan. Along with thousands of other Chinese, the teen-age Chang boarded one of the last ships from Shanghai, leaving behind his family and changing his life forever. Like most Chinese mainlanders on Taiwan, Chang wouldn't see his homeland or family again for 40 years.

Unlike his younger brother, Zhang had run toward the advancing Red Army. While working with the Nationalists in Urumqi, he felt God calling him back to seminary.

"Once there in Urumqi, I saw the (desperate) conditions of the people, and I knew God allowed me to see this because he was calling me to this work," he said.

During a transfer from Urumqi to a post in Hami, Zhang deserted the Nationalists, going instead to Lanzhou, where he entered the seminary. Less than three weeks after he arrived, Nationalist forces and the Red Army began fighting for control of the city.

When the communists took the city, Zhang, along with many residents, breathed a sigh of relief. Lanzhou had escaped destruction and widespread casualties. For Zhang, the city's change of hands wiped his slate clean—he was no longer a deserter of the ruling government.

Feelings of relief were short-lived. A few days later Zhang learned his brother had gone to Taiwan. He would not see Chang again for nearly four decades. Although the conflict severed contact, the brothers believe God led both into vital ministries.

The following years in China were tumultuous; Zhang's course was filled with obstacles. During the 1950s he was forced to work as a laborer in the countryside for three years after being denounced as a "rightist." During the ruinous Cultural Revolution beginning in 1966, he was again forced into hard labor—this time in coal mines.

"At the time I did not think about what the experience meant. But later I saw that God was molding me, teaching me patience and smoothing my personality," he said.

Today, Zhang has returned to the northwest, where he first felt God's call during the civil war. For the past eight years he has worked along the Silk Road, an ancient trade route, helping start churches in remote Gansu province. He is one of a few trained Christian leaders working in an area larger than the state of Washington.

"Life is very difficult up here," he admitted. "If I had chosen, I would have gone to an easier place, but this place is God's will for me."

In Taiwan, meanwhile, brother Chang began without money or family. Yet he managed to finish college and enter Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary, started in 1952 by Southern Baptist missionaries. He joined the faculty in 1962 in the music department, then became dean of studies.

He earned a master of theology degree in Taiwan's branch of the Asian Baptist Theological Seminary, then master of church music and doctor of music arts degrees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1981, Chang became president of the Taiwan seminary and pastor of Hwai Ning Street Church.

But Chang's family in China knew little of his accomplishments. Since 1949 people in Taiwan and China had had almost no contact because of differences between the two political systems. Then, in 1987, Taiwan repealed its 38-year ban on visits to mainland China.

Three years later, Chang and Zhang finally reunited.

Zhang detected no change in the first glimpse of his brother—he had the same eyes and easy smile. But as Chang walked closer, Zhang was sur-

prised to find that his "little" brother was now half a head taller than he.

They stood face to face, and a thousand questions raced through each man's mind. But as they talked in a hotel in Lanzhou, China, the need for answering old questions slipped away.

Zhang considered telling his brother about his years of hardship in the countryside as punishment during China's political campaigns. But the words never came.

"I did not want to tell him these secrets about my life ... these sad things," Zhang said. "When we saw each other, our affection was there, as it has always been. I did not want to live in the past.

"No matter what difficulties I have had, God's grace was sufficient for me. Now I have this work to do and it's important to me. This, too, is God's grace, and it is sufficient."

BROTHERS IN MINISTRY

Chang Chen-kwang (top photo), pastor of Hwai Ning Baptist Church in Taipei, Taiwan, greets a child at his church after a Sunday service. His brother, Zhang en-guang (bottom photo), preaches to members of Ling Shui Church in China's Gansu province. (BP photos by Warren Johnson)





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