

FOR THE RECORD

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Executive Board

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Churches offer sights, sounds & meaning of season

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

The "eyes" have it this Christmas in Kentucky Baptist churches.

Congregations across the state are celebrating the Christmas season with an intentional emphasis on the visual arts and an eye toward the unchurched.

Some of the popular visual means of celebrating include Christmas trees, Advent celebrations, hanging of the greens services, Christmas pageants and living Christmas tree performances, as well as increased uses of banners and drama, said Jim Cordell, church music director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

These all represent responses to the fact that "we are a visual people," Cordell said. "A lot more symbols are being used. We find that those visuals reinforce the message of Christmas."

One specific visual trend among Kentucky Baptist churches is an increasing observance of the Advent season, said Vernon Cole, KBC church growth and administration director.

"Advent," which means "coming" or "arrival," is the four-week season preceding Christmas Day, during which Christians anticipate the com-

ing of Jesus Christ. Each week focuses on a specific theme. The celebration usually includes the lighting of Advent candles, arranged in a wreath with specific meanings assigned to each candle.

A four-year tradition at Second Baptist Church in Clinton offers a different type of appeal to the sense of sight: a "drive-through living nativity scene."

Ruth Ann Henson, who organizes the event, said 10 scenes were included this year, beginning with the nativity scenes, and continuing through Jesus' ministry and death on the cross. The final scene is a contemporary family celebrating Christmas at home.

The total production required about 70 people both nights, Henson said. That meant almost everyone in the church had to be involved.

"We were hoping that someone, just by driving through, might be touched and discover the true meaning of Christmas," Henson said.

Zion Baptist in Henderson is one of several churches that presented a Christmas pageant this year—a musical-drama highlighting the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"A Sterling Christmas" was presented Dec. 19-20, by a 40-member



SIGN OF THE TIMES A group of girls and staff from the Spring Meadows campus of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children show off one of six large Christmas cards they made. The large cards are mounted in the campus lawn along Shelbyville Road in front of a made.

choir and a cast of 15. In addition to its effectiveness as an evangelism tool, Minister of Music Scott Pastore said, such a production involves more than the musically talented in the church. Several men helped build the set, and a team of women made the costumes, he said.

Churches such as First Baptist in Louisville and Walnut Street Baptist in Louisville have found living Christmas trees to be an effective way to celebrate the season.

The Somerset church included about 65 voices on its tree and distrib-

uted 3,000 free tickets for three performances Dec. 11-12.

Living Christmas trees usually are made of enormous frames in the triangular shape of a tree. The frames include ascending rows where fingers stand, peeking their heads out between greenery and decorations which cover the frame.

The Somerset church's "tree" is a steel structure 25 feet tall and 23 feet wide at the base.

Walnut Street just completed its 16th annual living Christmas tree project. See Churches offer sights ..., page 3



Teen attendance on the rise in '93

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—Church attendance by American teen-agers is on the rebound, but still falls short of the record highs seen in the late 1980s.

On any given weekend this past year, 50 percent of America's teen-age population could be found in a church or synagogue, according to the Gallup Youth Survey.

That reverses a decline seen since 1989, when teen attendance peaked at 57 percent on a typical week. Teen church attendance fell to a low of 45 percent in 1992.

Attendance has averaged slightly higher than 50 percent since 1977, the year the Gallup Youth Survey began taking measurements.

"Historically, young people have always tended to attend church less frequently during their later teen years, while in college and in early adulthood," Gallup said. "But attendance and membership revives quickly among young adults who are raising families."

Among teens, the Gallup survey found, women (53 percent) are somewhat more likely than men (47 percent) to attend church.

Black teens (68 percent) are far more likely than white teens (48 percent) to attend church.

Board alters funding formula for colleges

By Marv Knox
Editor

The Kentucky Baptist Convention has changed the way it distributes funds to its three liberal arts colleges, creating a shift of more than \$100,000 for two of the schools.

The change was approved by the KBC Executive Board last week, following an extensive examination of how the convention funds education. It will take effect when the KBC's next fiscal year begins Sept. 1, 1994.

The change means a projected annual increase of \$103,647 for its fastest-growing school, Campbellsville College. But it also means an estimated decrease of \$112,354 for its largest school, Cumberland College. Georgetown College, the KBC's oldest school, will gain about \$8,707.

The new funding formula—which replaces a formula created in 1976

and last modified 11 years ago—provides a plan for allocating money to all five of the KBC's schools. KBC also operates Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville and Oneida Baptist Institute, for grades 6-12, in Oneida. Allocations to Clear Creek and Oneida will not change.

The latest funding study, part of an evaluation which takes place at least every five years, presented unique challenges, said Henry White, chairman of a special workgroup that recommended the new formula.

"This was a very difficult task, especially since we could not anticipate an increase in funds," said White, pastor of Youngers Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

In examining the liberal arts colleges' needs, the Executive Board sought to strike a balance between competing funding philosophies, he explained. The committee was pulled

in opposite directions by two college presidents.

Jim Taylor of Cumberland, who favored no change in the old formula, proposed a formula based on the number of student credit hours granted by each school. He noted this standard is recognized universally among institutions of higher education and insisted it would ensure objective and fair distribution.

Ken Winters of Campbellsville urged the committee to divide the liberal arts schools' share of the KBC budget evenly, with each receiving 33.3 percent. He claimed a formula based on credit hours would create competition among the schools.

"We came down somewhere in the middle," White acknowledged. The new formula divides the liberal arts colleges' share of the budget—82 percent of the total education. See Board alters funding ..., page 8

Coalition preparing to fight casino gambling

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptists are among the founders of an interfaith coalition to fight allowing casino gambling in the state.

Kentuckians Against Casinos is the official name of an organization that developed out of a meeting held at the Kentucky Baptist Building Dec. 17.

The organization has scheduled a news conference in Frankfort on Jan. 6 to state its case and to thank legislators who already have expressed opposition to casino gambling.

Several Baptists were among those

present for the group's Dec. 17 meeting, including Claude Witt, executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky, and Jim Holladay, a Louisville pastor and member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's public affairs committee.

The interfaith group also includes representation from the Kentucky Council of Churches and Catholic Conference of Kentucky. Other groups have expressed interest in the coalition and are being enlisted.

The Dec. 17 meeting also included a representative associated with the

horse racing industry in Kentucky who asked not to be identified at this point. Some in the horse racing industry have expressed fears that legalizing casino gambling would hurt race track business.

The new coalition has appealed to state pastors and church leaders to begin now telling elected officials of their opposition to casino gambling. Participants in the meeting said their believe legislators need to hear their constituents express solid reasons why they should not vote for casino gambling.

BAPTISTS

Baptisms projected to be down 5 percent this year

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (BP)—Confronted with two consecutive years of decreased baptisms, Southern Baptist evangelism leaders called for intentional evangelism to be every church's priority.

The estimated number of baptisms nationwide for 1993 is 350,000, down 5 percent from 367,000 baptisms in 1992.

Steve Whitten, director of the Home Mission Board's program research department, presented the sta-

tistics during a Dec. 2-5 meeting of state evangelism directors in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"My heart is deeply burdened, grieved and broken because of what (the estimate) reflects," said Darrell Robinson, HMB vice president for evangelism. "It is indicative of a desperate need for revival."

The two years of decline follow four years of increased baptisms which peaked at 397,000 in 1991.

Whitten based his estimate on interviews with state directors of evangelism. The official baptism count, based on Uniform Church Letters,

will be prepared by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and presented early next year.

On a related note, Whitten presented evangelism leaders data from a study of 1992 baptisms in Southern Baptist churches. That study found 6,001 churches baptized no one, while less than 3 percent of the churches accounted for nearly 24 percent of the baptisms.

In that year, 370 Kentucky Baptist churches recorded no baptisms. That number is 17.5 percent of all churches affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Other nationwide findings from the report include:

■ Half the churches reporting no baptisms had fewer than 100 members, yet 18 percent of the churches with no baptisms had 200 or more members.

■ Most churches reporting no baptisms are rural, although 14 percent of the churches without baptisms are in communities of 10,000 or more.

■ Churches reporting no baptisms are typically older than churches with baptisms. The average age of churches reporting no baptisms was 70 years.

Moderate publisher marks third year

MACON, Ga. (ABP)—Dec. 10 marked the third anniversary of Smyth & Helwys, a publishing company formed by Southern Baptist moderates.

The company now has 38 books in print and provides at least some Sunday school materials for 1,300 churches, according to Publisher Cecil Staton. That literature is used by an estimated 125,000 people.

The Macon-based publisher has grown from one employee in 1991 to a full-time payroll of 23.

The Bible study material has brought Smyth & Helwys into tension with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Sunday School Board officials say Smyth & Helwys poses no threat to their \$80 million in annual sales. However, the board faced an 8 percent drop in curriculum sales in 1992.

Masonic issue sends N.C. church to court

LINCOLN, N.C. (ABP)—What began as a dispute over Freemasonry has landed the pastor and 28 members of a North Carolina church in court, according to the attorney defending the Westport Baptist Church against a lawsuit filed by disgruntled members.

The 860-member church, located in a small community 30 miles northwest of Charlotte, hired Mark Cooke as pastor in January 1992. After coming to the church, Cooke learned several long-term members and contributors also were longtime Masons and Shriners, according to his attorney, Tom Bush of Charlotte.

Cooke said from the pulpit and in other settings that Freemasonry contradicts biblical teachings, Bush said. He also preached against abortion and homosexuality.

Bush said a small minority, about 10-to-15 percent of the congregation, were offended and tried unsuccessfully to force the pastor to resign.

Seven church members later dis-

puted the September election of a slate of deacons sympathetic to the pastor. The seven filed a lawsuit in Lincoln County District Court in November which alleges church bylaws were violated in the election.

The group's attorney, Randy Isenhour of Newton, said Freemasonry is not germane to the case. Some of the plaintiffs reportedly are Masons, however.

The plaintiffs charge that a group of church members improperly substituted a list of deacon nominees without prior notice and that the new deacons attempted to change the church's bylaws to the detriment of members with opposing views. The plaintiffs have asked the court to declare the September deacon election invalid.

But Bush, the pastor's attorney, said the dispute instead centers on Cooke's controversial statements—a viewpoint echoed by more than 20 church members who have filed affidavits with the court.

Cooke did not return phone calls from Associated Baptist Press. But in a court affidavit he said the plaintiffs "have taken this foolish and unbiblical action because of their blind rage towards me."

Under the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, Bush told ABP, the court has jurisdiction to resolve only property disputes and not matters of doctrine.

"The meat of the issue," Bush told the court, "is a pastor's preaching, which is strictly barred ... from intrusion by secular courts."

Larry Holly, who has led a campaign against the influence of Masons in Baptist churches, recently held a seminar on revival at Westport Baptist, one of the largest churches in Lincoln County. Holly also conducted a separate session on Freemasonry.

The case is scheduled to go to trial Jan. 3. District Judge George Hamrick, who is to hear the case, is a former deacon chairman at First Baptist Church of Shelby, N.C.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Brazilian leader's wife dies.** Suley Castro, wife of the president of the Espirito Santo Baptist Convention in Brazil, Dylmo Castro, died Nov. 25 as the result of a traffic accident. She was 38 and is survived by her husband and two children.

■ **Missionaries set good example.** Missionaries in eastern and southern Africa have given \$100,464 of their own money this year to missions. Of that total, \$62,264 went to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, which helps fund their work and the work of other missionaries supported by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Divided among the approximately 465 missionaries currently on the field in that area, the missions giving averages to \$216 per person.

■ **Hack dies.** John Albert Hack, a Kentucky native and 25-year employee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, died Dec. 16 of complications following a fall Nov. 29. He was 52. Hack was the brother of Anna Mary Byrdwell, consultant on the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union staff. Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church of Leitchfield Dec. 19. Hack was a Leitchfield native and graduate of Western Kentucky University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition to Byrdwell, he is survived by his wife, Joy Harmon Hack of

Gallatin, Tenn.; a daughter, Sandra Hack Polaski of Durham, N.C.; and his father, John Hack of Leitchfield.

■ **Missionary dies.** Southern Baptist missionary Sherry Akins, 47, died of a heart attack Dec. 4 in Brazil. Family members believe her death was related to complications from scleroderma, a disease that can cause chronic hardening of the skin and organ systems. Akins and her husband, Wade, were appointed missionaries to Brazil in 1982 and served in Belo Horizonte.

■ **Missions leaders pray.** Eight leaders of Southern Baptist missions-related agencies gathered Dec. 13 for a prayer retreat. "Our purpose was to pray and seek God's face for renewal and spiritual awakening in light of enormous changes in the world, the nation and the convention," said Avery Willis, Foreign Mission Board senior vice president.

■ **"Jesus" film to Kurds.** Texas Baptists are teaming up with Campus Crusade for Christ to deliver a Christmas gift for up to 35 million Kurds in the Middle East—a dramatic portrayal of Jesus' life presented in their own language. During the last two weeks in December, a Kurdish-language version of the "Jesus" film will be broadcast on five television stations.



Advent gaining favor among Baptist churches

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

It may sound "high church" to some, but the story of Jesus' lowly birth is being told with new emphasis through the celebration of Advent in many Kentucky Baptist churches.

Advent, which means "coming," is the four-week season of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Many Advent celebrations focus on an Advent wreath, which includes an arrangement of five candles.

Once a week for the four weeks preceding Christmas, Christians light one candle in anticipation of Jesus Christ's coming. Each candle focuses on a specific theme, such as joy, hope, the shepherds or the prophecies of Christ's coming.

These wreaths are used in personal and family devotions as well as in corporate worship. As symbols, they are one important way churches are responding to a visual society, said Jim Cordell, church music director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention: "We find that those visuals reinforce the message of Christmas."

And although Advent has been more closely associated with a liturgical church tradition in the past, Baptists have begun picking up the observance, Cordell and others reported.

Mary Jane Middlebrooks, sales clerk at the Baptist Book Store in Louisville, said Advent resources were some of the hottest Christmas items this year.

Middlebrooks estimated that she received about double the amount of interest in and inquiries about Advent this year over last year.

"People are showing a lot more enthusiasm about Advent," she said.

More Kentucky Baptist churches are discovering Advent does work, said Vernon Cole, KBC director of church growth and administration.

But this trend isn't necessarily because more churches are advocating liturgical worship, Cole said. "Particularly in the middle part of the state, more and more churches are doing Advent-type services—even churches of a very conservative nature."

One of the reasons he suggested for this trend is that more people are coming into Baptist churches from a variety of church backgrounds, where they would have had previous exposure to Advent services.

That has been a factor at Southern Heights Baptist Church in Lexington, where Minister of Music Jonathan Chappell said the church has many people with backgrounds in the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches.

Chappell worked closely with Pastor Monty Carter and other staff members to organize an Advent booklet for the church. The booklet includes complete orders of worship for each Sunday in Advent.

The Advent booklet becomes both an educational tool and an intentional means of involving laity in worship, Carter said. "Worship is not a spectator sport; it becomes participatory as well as anticipatory."

The congregation has loved the Advent celebration, he said.

Related to Advent, the church has marked the coming of Christmas with a Chrismon tree, hanging of the greens and a service of nine lessons and carols. Chrismon trees are Christmas trees decorated with large ornaments that are symbols of the Christian faith.

And Advent is not just for big churches, Carter insisted. Southern Heights averages about 160 in Sun-

day school and 200 in worship.

The participatory tone of Advent services is another reason they have gained popularity, Cole suggested.

The services involve families and offer a means for emphasizing one of the major religious holidays, Cole said. "Church growth literature focuses on that, rather than coming from a liturgical standpoint."

Other churches developed Advent devotional guides written by their own members and designed to be used in private or family daily devotions.

Frank Dorris, director of missions in Warren Baptist Association, said Advent and hanging of

the greens services are growing in popularity. "Every year, there are one or two additional churches to try hanging of the greens services," he explained. "They've seen how effective this type of service can be."

Pete Coleman, minister to students at Florence Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky, said he has seen Baptists change their attitude about Advent since his years growing up in a preacher's home.

"I'm a P.K., and Advent was not something I grew up with," Coleman said. "But it does seem to be becoming more accepted by Protestants."

Florence Baptist included Advent as part of a full program of events during the Christmas season, he said.

Billy Compton, pastor of First Baptist in Mount Washington, agreed Advent can be effective in worship. "This is my third year here, and we've done Advent every year," he said. "It helps us be intentional, and it helps lead up to the Christmas Eve service."

At 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, about



400 people from the church and community gather for a candlelight service, Compton explained.

Everyone attending the service receives a small candle. The final candle in the Advent wreath—the Christ candle—is lit during the service; then, each person's candle is lit from the original flame of the Christ candle.

The service ends with the congregation singing "Silent Night" with only the light of the glowing candles surrounding them, the pastor explained. "Advent is a real enjoyable time of anticipating Christmas."

SINGING TREE Members of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville form a "living Christmas tree" for their Christmas musical performance.

Churches offer sights, sounds & meaning

Continued from page 1

duction. Nearly 200 singers, including 130 on the tree, were involved in each of this year's 16 performances, which lasted about an hour and 10 minutes.

"We unashamedly offer a kind of entertainment atmosphere with some secular music and dancing lights and all the glitter and glow of the season," Minister of Music Gene Sutherland said. "But we also offer a spiritual aspect, which is our whole reason for doing this."

Sutherland explained that the church's pastor, Robert Long, gave a brief devotional message during most of the services; the 29,000 people who attended then were encouraged to fill out decision cards or meet with the pastor.

In this vein, many church leaders are becoming more aware of Christmas evangelistic opportunities.

"Churches should educate people as to the phenomenal evangelism opportunities at this time of year," said Pete Coleman, minister to students at Florence Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky.

Coleman led the church's Dec. 5

hanging of the greens service—a time set aside for the congregation to participate in preparing the sanctuary for Christmas.

At Florence Baptist, a 63-voice choir, brass instruments and handbells provided music for the event.

"Music is an incredible medium, especially for people not comfortable with other ways of being in church," Coleman said.

The service is being aired on local television stations about 20 times during the Christmas season, he added. "This is a great opportunity for evangelism."

Billy Compton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington, agreed.

"In my reading, Christmas is the time that more unchurched or inactive people will come back," he explained. That's why the Mount Washington church chose "Coming home for Christmas" as its theme this year.

First Baptist Church in Madisonville offered a "Return to Bethlehem"—a re-creation of the city of Bethlehem as it might have been on the night of Christ's birth.

About 300 people are involved in

the drama, Minister of Music Jim McMurtrie said. His wife, Donna, is minister of activities at the church and coordinator of the event.

Church members volunteered to operate 29 "shops," such as the potter's shop, the bakery, the inn, fruit vending and animal-trading centers, Jim McMurtrie explained.

Evangelism and outreach to the community was an integral aspect of the Bethlehem event, McMurtrie continued. When visitors arrived for their tour of the city, they were greeted by church members posing as Roman officials. Guests were assigned a family name and requested to fill out a "census card."

"The census card contains information we need for evangelistic follow-ups," McMurtrie said.

Visitors then waited in the sanctuary until called by family names to join a tour group.

The tour, actually located in the church gym, included stops at each of the shops. Shopkeepers explained their trade and something about the Christmas story.

The event was billed as the church's gift to the community.



MISSIONS TREE Woman's Missionary Union director Norma Shaw (left), WMU mission study chairman Pauline Dunn and Pastor Rodney Burnette examine one of two Bold Mission Trees WMU members constructed at Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville. The red-and-green "trees" are made of construction paper rings, on which the church's WMU groups wrote the names of all 3,953 Southern Baptist foreign missionaries. The trees provide a visible reminder of the church's \$10,000 goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

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

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Smothering Jesus

The story is told about a couple who decided to hold a party the night before their baby's dedication at church. When the guests arrived, the infant was laid on a bed in the guest room. A few guests came into the room and, not noticing the baby, flung their coats upon the bed. Soon, the infant was completely covered by heavy coats. The next morning, the local newspaper told the tragic story of the baby who was smothered to death at his own party.

That story hits home with a lot of Christians and churches. It forces us to ask tough questions. Have we smothered the Baby Jesus? Have we covered the Baby of Christmas with petty religious concerns and distracting political issues? Has the world's preoccupation with materialism smothered the focus of Advent and Christmas? Have we smothered the Baby in the midst of his very own church?

Sometimes our lifestyles and attitudes smother Jesus. When we smother Christ, we prevent others from seeing him in us. We must not forget our primary task is to share the good news of Jesus with unbelievers.

God shared his greatest gift with us, in order that we may share him with others. It's tough to do (I know, because I just did this), but take time to look in the mirror and ask God: "Is my lifestyle and witness smothering your Baby? Lord, if it is, please help me change so I can share him with others. And Lord, thank you for sending him to save me. It's the best gift I've ever received!"

Monty Carter
Southern Heights Baptist Church
Lexington

Underground Christmas

Would you participate in an underground Christmas? When the stern Puritans ruled Britain and America in the 1600s, it was

against the law to celebrate Christmas. Laws banned church services and civil celebrations on Christmas day. It was illegal to light Christmas candles or sing carols. Stores were required to remain open, and the British parliament met on Christmas day.

The reasons for such austere measures were several. The most important was the holiday heritage stemming from old Roman days. Believing Christmas meant observing pagan worship rituals, Puritans made Christmas against the law. The Puritans also were trying to cleanse the people of the drunken revelry associated with Christmas. Therefore, in 1644, Parliament declared Christmas illegal.

But Christmas refused to die. People took Christmas celebrations underground. Churches met secretly to light candles and sing carols. Families would not decorate the outside of their homes, nor their main sitting rooms, but they celebrated in privacy. Could Christmas be outlawed again? Probably not. The fact is, Christmas generates too much income for it to be outlawed now.

How tragic to consider that God gave us his best—his only son—and the loudest noise celebrating his Advent is the cash register. How tragic the realization that the pressure of time is because there are just so many shopping days to Christmas, rather than pressure caused by a passion for souls yet unsaved. The greatest tragedy is seeing people shifting the star from Bethlehem to the North Pole. When Santa Claus becomes more important than Jesus Christ, Christmas in its fullest sense is lost already.

The place of Christmas today is up to you. Only you can rule Christ out of your heart and life. Only you can keep Christ in your Christmas. Advent means God came to you in Christ. No court or government can forbid Christ from living in and through you.

If Christ is to be outlawed in your life, you will be the one to do it. If

Christ is to live in you, you will be the one to let him.

Tom Stokes, pastor
First Baptist Church
Whitesburg

So what?

Christmas is the time when we celebrate the great gift that God gave humanity—Jesus. But as we begin to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the question arises: So what?

Many times that is the attitude of our world: Jesus is coming; so what? Christmas is just another day of lonely feelings, of too little money, of disappointment, of despair. Jesus is coming; so what?

With all the commercialization of Christmas, is there still room for Jesus? Does it really make a difference that Jesus is coming into our world? For many, the answer is no. No! Christmas is a long weekend away from work and a time of celebrating with friends and family. It is a time of giving and receiving gifts. But beyond these, it is just another day.

Jesus' coming is a time of celebrating, but it is a celebration with profound importance and impact. Jesus' coming brings new opportunities and new challenges, but most of all Jesus' coming brings a newness of life for every person who opens up to a personal relationship with him. Jesus' coming brings a new day for humanity. A day of peace on earth and good will toward all people. A day when love for God and love for one's neighbor is the most important issue.

As we celebrate the coming of Jesus this year, let us ask the "so what" question. So what difference does the coming of Jesus make in my life? So what difference does Jesus make in my relationship with God? So what difference does Jesus make in the way I treat others? So what difference does Jesus make in the way I celebrate Christmas?

Jesus is coming! So what?

Scott Hamric, pastor
Centerfield Baptist Church
Crestwood

A Christmas collection

At Christmastime in 1513, Giovanni wrote:

"There is nothing I can give you which you have not, but there is much that, while I cannot give you, you can take. No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. Take heaven! No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in the present. Take peace! The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet within reach, is joy. Take Joy!"

"It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself."

Charles Dickens

"The best Christmas gift one can bestow on a child or a friend is a happy memory."

New York Times, Dec. 23, 1894

"Dear Santa Clas, Please help my mom and dad this Christmas. My dad is not working anymore. We don't get many food now. My mom gives us her food.

Please help my mom and dad.

"I want to go to heaven to be with the angels. Can you bring me to heaven? My mom and dad would not have to by things for me no more. That would make them happy. Please bring my dad a job and some food.

"I live in my house like last year. We got candils. A city man took the light a way. It looks like we don't live heer no more. We do. I will wait for you too come in my room.

"I will not sleep. Wen you give my dad a job and some food too my mom and I will go with you and the rain deer.

"Merry Christmas too you Mrs. Clas too the elfs too. Thad."

An unstamped letter with no return address, dropped into a mailbox before Christmas 1992 in Port Angeles, Wash., a depressed timber town

"No Santa Clause? Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia; nay,

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



Teen 'blow-ups'

By Wade Rowatt

Q. How can parents cope with teen-agers when they "blow up" at them?

A. Teens do get mad, upset and blow up. For some, it is just a phase. For others, being angry becomes a way of life. Parents react in a variety of ways. Parents try ignoring their teen-ager's tantrum and "tune it out." Others attempt to smash it and "turn it off." Some attempt to be mean and tough.

Ephesians 6:4 suggests parents are to provoke not their children to wrath. Even if dad and mom succeed in not being the cause of the youth's frustration, they will still hear it. Being cross or even fuming is a normal part of growing up.

Parents can cope with teens who get steamed up.

First, accept it. Tell your teen-agers that it is OK to feel resentful, sullen or even mad. However, they should express themselves within limits. It is OK to raise your voice, but not to become violent. Get it out with words; don't destroy something of value. Jesus expressed his rage at the money changers in the temple. Be angry, but don't sin.

Second, identify with it. Put yourself in their place. How do you feel when you face their situations? Tell them how you felt when you were in their shoes. Let them know that some level of being mad is normal when a person has been hurt, insulted or threatened.

Third, test the anger. Is it based in reality? Are the assumptions, perceptions and understandings true and verifiable? Invite them to tell you the story from their point of view. Consider the angles. What else could be going on? Sometimes looking at something from a different view can reduce the anger.

Fourth, address it. Take teens seriously. Try to respond to their situation. If something can be changed, try it. But some things just can't be changed, so work on helping them accept the situation.

Remember, a family will experience some conflict. You can do more than just cope; you can work out difficult situations. Pray for guidance in the process.

Wade Rowatt is professor of psychology of religion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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

EDITORIALS

May the holy wonder of Christmas surprise you

Christmas is a time for surprises.

So, imagine being young and vulnerable, and told by an angel you're about to become the mother of God's Son.

Pretend you're a parent, and your 15-year-old daughter tells you she's been visited by an angel, and she's pregnant with God's Son.

Consider how you'd feel if you were president of your church youth group, captain of the basketball team and sergeant-at-arms of the senior class, and your steady girlfriend tells you she's been visited by an angel who told her she's been chosen to bear God's Son.

Or put yourself in the sandals of a lowly shepherd, out in the boon-docks minding your own business, when suddenly a choir of angels pops up to tell you a young girl holed up down the road just gave birth to God's Son.

Surprise!

God must've used a ton of heavenly creativity to hatch this plot: Descend to earth through the body of a teen-ager from Nowheresville, start out as a baby born in a borrowed barn and send the only birth announcements to a pack of redneck ruffians. Live a life of virtual obscurity in Mama's tiny hometown before hitting the road with a rag-tag band of hooligans. Bounce from town to town helping poor people and preaching the God-awful truth in such a way that normal folks never seem to get it, while the priests and the feds turn purple with rage. Get deserted by friends and killed by the bad guys. Come back to life just in time to head home to heaven, leaving the rest of the work with the very follow-

ers who (a) never seemed to get the message and (b) ran off when the going got tough.

Surprise!

Small wonder the Apostle Paul called the gospel story a "stumbling block." Who in their right minds would believe it? Kings aren't born in stables. Messiahs don't shun the religious bureaucracy. Saviors don't get killed. And nobody but nobody comes back from the dead.

Surprise!

Sure, we talk a lot about surprises at Christmas. Some families have unofficial contests to see who can think up the most surprising gift each year. But nothing from the Neiman-Marcus catalog ever came close to what God planned for a world that rejected godly love time after time. "I'll send Jesus as a little baby—visible but vulnerable. He'll grow up among them. He'll heal them and preach love. And he'll proclaim my forgiveness with his dying breath. Those with eyes to see and ears to hear will know the depths of my love for them and experience victory over death."

What a surprise! The incarnation of God in the Christ Child wasn't what anybody expected. Better still, Jesus was more than anybody could have dreamed. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on him should not perish but have everlasting life." That's the best surprise of all time. May the grace of Christmas surprise our incredulous world.

Marv Knox

No matter how hard we might try, we never could conceive a Christmas surprise like the birth of Jesus.

Reach out to God & others to confront grief at Christmas

Between the holidays last year and Christmas this year, many people experienced deaths of loved ones. For them, this season is different. The traditional festivities may have evoked dread rather than celebration or joy.

The holidays are a special time, but the people we love cause the holidays to take on unique meanings. How

grieving people face the first Christmas after a loss varies greatly. Some act as if nothing has changed. Others ignore the holidays completely. A healthy and mature response is most likely somewhere between those two extremes.

If you are among the bereaved, careful reflection can calm the anxiety, fear or dread you feel. While you certainly have no power to change things back as they once were, you can cope with your new holiday situation.

Be aware that holidays and other special days will reawaken and intensify your grief-pain. Memories of pre-

vious holidays will cause you to hurt. These are memories made from hearts of love. Embrace your pain, permit yourself to cry and find time to be alone. But also give thanks for the time you had together. Your hurt is real, but time and the grace of God bring healing.

Plan how to handle the holiday. This often requires

frank discussion with family members. Many people are hesitant to discuss a plan for fear of causing others to be upset. Remaining open and honest with one's feelings is a key to coping with loss.

Monitor your expectations and determine if they are realistic. Christmas is a wonderful day that too often is loaded with unreal expectations—even when a death has not occurred. You may get caught up in a fantasy of how Christmas "should be" as opposed to how your family actually functions. Christmas does not necessarily mean family members will be drawn together full of love and laugh-

ter.

Coping with grief during Christmas can create even greater stress upon yourself or the family. The expectations of family and friends who are further removed from the pain of your loss can be problematic. Their plans for you may conflict with your plans. All plans need flexibility, but only you can determine what is best for you.

Avoid being alone Christmas day. When your grief is deep and painful, the tendency to avoid others can be strong. Sitting alone can make you more miserable. Hopefully there will be those who have confronted such grief and will reach out to you. Take their offers, even if you don't feel up to it.

Resolve to be kind to yourself. Remember, you already have your emotional plate full. The second-guessing that often accompanies grief in the form of "if only" and "what if" can cause you to beat up on yourself or to question your sanity.

Remember the faithfulness of

God and the power of your faith. Let prayer be a ready resource to you in your difficult moments.

In times of profound grief, many people report they "don't feel like praying." One suggestion is to simply seek to learn to pray what is known as the Serenity Prayer: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference."

This season also provides opportunities to explore and claim the biblical promises of God's presence and care. In doing so, you might wish to share these days in the fellowship of your church and Christian friends.

The first Christmas after the funeral may or may not be especially difficult for you. In any case, this is a time when your trust in the power of the resurrection of Christ and the certainty of eternal life can be felt anew. May this be true for you this year.

Joe Gross, pastoral care director
Baylor University Medical Center
Dallas

While you cannot "do away" with grief during Christmas, you can find ways to cope.

GUEST EDITORIAL

'Why?' Pondering an important question at Christmastime

My heart aches. Chances are, so does yours. Countless Kentuckians can't stop thinking about those seven Trigg County boys who died on Highway 68 last week.

Just an ordinary late-afternoon break from work. A trip down the road to pick up a snack, share a laugh and head on back to make wooden duck calls. Piled into one tiny car, on a journey like any other. Except they never returned.

Their car crossed the center line, swerved to get back in its lane and got hit broadside by a four-wheel-drive vehicle. They rode into every parent's worst nightmare. All the boys perished at the scene. Can you imagine the awful fury and silence of the moment?

They were good kids, too. Ask anybody

around Cadiz, and you'll hear words and phrases like "All-American" (as in normal and wholesome, not super-jock), "happy," "hard-working," "industrious," "friendly," "outgoing," "loving sons," "well-adjusted."

A couple were promising athletes, and a few were good students. Mostly, they were fine young men—not perfect, but good-hearted. Three were members of a Disciples of Christ church, three were Baptists and one was a Methodist. They should have had 60 or more years

ahead of them; time to be deacons and Sunday school teachers and daddies.

But that wreck snuffed out their lives in an agonizing instant that will divide time in southwestern Kentucky for generations.

You've probably asked the same question everybody else has asked: Why? Why could seven clean-cut, courteous boys die in a flash? Why must seven families, a community and an entire state face this Christmas with such

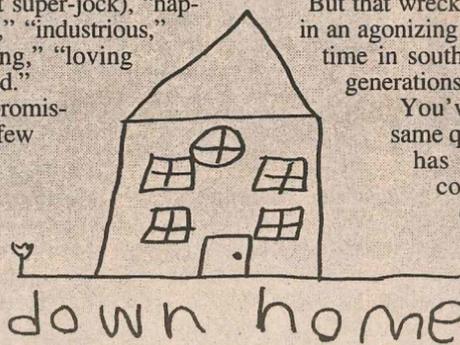
anguish? You won't find an answer here. Not be-

cause I won't tell you, but because I can't.

That tormenting question haunted my mind Sunday morning as I sat in worship, trying to anticipate the coming of Christ but mostly thinking about those boys and praying for their mamas and daddies.

Probably none of those parents would have exchanged one of their children for the lives of others. And yet that is what Christmas is all about. God sent the Son, Jesus, down to this dangerous earth knowing full-well this Holy Child would die young. Don't you think God's heart broke—at least a little—on that first Christmas? God knew what Christmas cost, and so do the parents of seven fine boys from Trigg County.

Marv Knox



BRIEFS

■ **Chuck Swindoll**, popular author and radio personality, has resigned the pastorate of First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton, Calif., effective April 15, 1994. He and his wife plan to move to the Nashville area. Despite the move to Nashville, Swindoll still will become president of Dallas Theological Seminary next June.

■ **Bishop Knox**, principal of Wingfield High School in Jackson, Miss., was fired Nov. 24 after allowing a student to read a morning prayer over the school intercom system. Knox put the question of morning prayers to a vote, and students voted 490-96 in favor of prayer. The firing has prompted a storm of protest that observers say could escalate debate over prayer in public schools.

■ **Tammye Faye Bakker** is back. The ex-wife of imprisoned televangelist Jim Bakker has launched a "900" number help line for the spiritually depressed. Tammye Faye, who recently married Kansas developer Roe Messner, told ABC television her pay-call line will have a cheerful new message each day.

High court hears clinic protests case

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Can a law originally designed to curb mob activity also be used to restrain protests at abortion clinics?

That question was before the U.S. Supreme Court Dec. 8 as the court once again debated whether an existing federal statute can be used to limit protests at abortion clinics. In the last term, the court ruled that a 19th century civil-rights law could not be used in this way.

This term, the court is examining another statute, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, which makes it illegal for an "enterprise" to use a "pattern of racketeering" activity. A pattern of racketeering requires two or more crimes.

At issue in the case is whether or not economic gain has to be the motivation behind the enterprise or pattern of activity.

Fay Clayton, representing the National Organization for Women and

the clinics, contended that the statute does not require an economic motivation.

She charged some anti-abortion groups have crossed the line from protests that are protected by the First Amendment to a campaign of violence that depends on "terrorist tactics."

Some anti-abortion groups, she said, have engaged in a national campaign to shut down clinics through multiple illegal activities, such as extortion, vandalism and arson.

Robert Blakey, a Notre Dame law professor, countered, "This appeal is about a misguided effort to evoke a powerful statute in the face of a social protest movement." Evoking this statute ultimately would affect all protests—even non-violent ones, he said.

He summarized the statute in two words: "elicit gain."

His clients are not seeking personal gain, he said, adding that the statute requires an economic motivation be-

fore it can be used to prohibit an activity.

Clayton disagreed.

The First Amendment claim also is false, she continued, saying "mob violence" crosses the line of protected speech. The Pro-Life Action Network "ridicules peace-loving protesters, calling them wimps," she added.

"We do not want to infringe on First Amendment rights," she said, "but when they give up that speech and turn to force and violence ... their advocacy can cross the line."

Justice Antonin Scalia, who was the most aggressive questioner during the one-hour arguments, said the term "enterprise" did have an economic connotation. He also expressed concern that interpreting the statute too broadly could adversely affect legitimate anti-abortion protests.

The court is expected to rule on the case—National Organization for Women vs. Joseph Scheidler—by next summer.

ACLU rebuts 'far right' in new mailings

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The American Civil Liberties Union is mounting a national campaign to counter what it calls "misleading assertions by the far right" about religion in public schools.

The ACLU has distributed a new legal bulletin to more than 16,000 school superintendents around the nation and released its first-ever video, "America's Constitutional Heritage: Religion and Our Public Schools."

The new products are described in an ACLU press release as part of a continuing effort to "combat misleading information being distributed by Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice." Robertson's group has mailed letters to school administrators arguing that certain religious practices, including graduation prayer, are constitutionally permissible.

The ACLU said its video is a direct response to "America's Godly Heritage," a video being distributed by several religious right groups. It was produced by Wallbuilders, an organization which argues America was founded as a Christian nation.

The 35-minute ACLU video, meanwhile, features a longtime Baptist pastor, W. W. Finlator, as narrator, as well as constitutional scholars and families who have challenged the religious practices in their public schools.

Finlator, former pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., says on the video that he shares the widespread concern about "the seeming lack of faith and values in America." But he says he fears those who want to usurp the role of the family and church by bringing religion to children through the public schools.

"Since the birth of this nation," he continues, "we have debated the issue of separation of church and state. ... Most Americans—myself included—don't want the government interfering in any of our most private affairs, especially not our religion."

The video also outlines historical development of the concept of the separation of church and state and challenges some assertions of the right, such as that SAT scores have declined since the 1962 Supreme Court ruling banning state-sponsored prayer in public schools.

Prepared by the ACLU legal staff, the bulletin addresses constitutional implications of graduation prayer, Bible distribution, displays of religious symbols and observance of religious holidays. It also explains the equal access and free speech rights of religious groups that are protected by the First Amendment.

And now there's a Baby Jesus Doll as well

LITTLETON, Colo. (RNS)—Forget Barbie and the Cabbage Patch Kids. The ultimate doll for Christmas has a detachable glow-in-the-dark halo and comes in its own manger with imitation lambskin.

Presenting—the Baby Jesus Doll! Let every heart prepare it room.

A vinyl 13-inch figure, the Baby Jesus Doll comes in three shades—Anglo, Black and Hispanic. Wearing a cream smock with a golden cross embroidered on the front, the Baby Jesus Doll is the creation of Rita Webber, president of Heavenly Dolls Inc. of Littleton, Colo.

Although the doll has been around for about eight years, its hasn't competed in the usual children's marketplace of Saturday morning cartoon ads, and it won't be found on the shelves of giant toy stores.

Webber, 64, was inspired to create the Baby Jesus Doll a decade ago when her 6-year-old grandson wanted to take a plaster of Paris statue of

Jesus to bed with him. Fearing it would break and hurt him, Webber refused the request.

"After thinking about it, the idea came to me that there should be a Baby Jesus doll that he could take to bed with him, if it gave him comfort," she said.

Having no plan to realize her idea, Webber contacted a doll company that provided the name and number of the molder of the head of Baby Jesus.

She eventually got the look she wanted—"a beautiful face with an angelic appearance that immediately attracts people to him."

The doll, priced at \$28.50 plus shipping and handling, has a star painted on each of his pupils, intended to differentiate him from other dolls.

"We want the Baby Jesus Doll to be something special, not just something to drag around the yard," Webber explained.

From the testimonies Webber has received in the mail, the doll has been very special not only for children but also for adults.

"I have gotten so many letters stating the good results that have come from the doll," she said. "Children who did not want to speak about trauma they experienced, whether mental or physical abuse, will pour their hearts out to the Baby Jesus when they think they are alone."

Some families are reported to bake a cake for the doll, gather around it on Christmas Day and sing "Happy Birthday."

One man wrote that the Baby Jesus Doll was the only gift he could think of giving his 40-year-old wife, who was undergoing radiation therapy for cancer.

Since the doll's introduction in 1985, roughly 7,000 have been sold—miniscule in comparison to the 75 million "Barbie and Friends" dolls Mattel Toys will sell this year alone.

ACTS/VISN network has new name in new year

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The cable channel ACTS shares with VISN will be renamed "Faith & Values Channel" effective Jan. 2, 1994.

ACTS, which stands for American Christian Television System, is a product of the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission. Since 1992, when ACTS began sharing the cable channel with VISN—Vision Interfaith Satellite Network—it has been called the VISN/ACTS Channel.

"This doesn't represent a change in direction," said RTVC President Jack Johnson.

"We'll continue to use the acronym ACTS. And we'll continue to provide Christian family values programming. The name change simply enables the cable operator to better advertise and promote programming

with local media."

Johnson said the Faith and Values Channel would continue the practice of no on-air fund-raising. The RTVC receives approximately 55 percent of its annual \$8.7 million budget from the Southern Baptist Convention's

ty expanding beyond the southern half of the United States.

The agreement put ACTS in 11 more states and more than doubled its outreach.

Johnson said because of the shared channel agreement, ACTS has penetrated markets where Southern Baptists have had difficulty getting a foothold.

"The most important result is that people are coming to Christ," he said. "We're fulfilling our mission purpose, which is the Great Commission. Many church people always think of the Great Commission in terms of a foreign land. But the command is to go into all the world and preach the gospel, and when it comes to people not knowing the saving power of Christ a lot of the world is right here in the United States."

unified budget, the Cooperative Program. The agency must raise the remainder through advertising and solicitation of individuals. Churches are not solicited.

When ACTS and VISN entered the channel-sharing agreement with cable giant TCI in 1992, ACTS was available in approximately 8 million cable homes and was having difficul-

FAITH & VALUES CHANNEL

EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE WESTERN RECORDER ■ DECEMBER 1993

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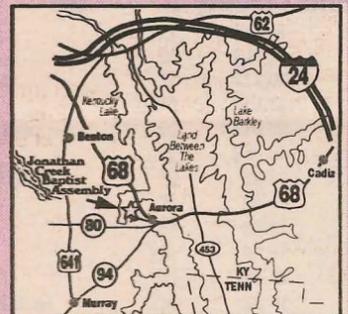
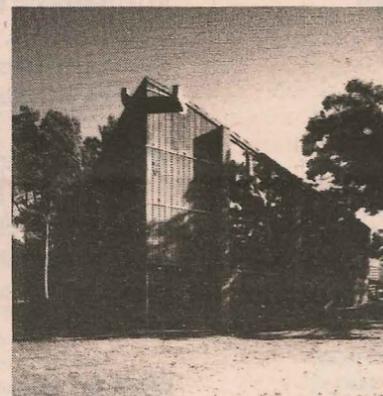
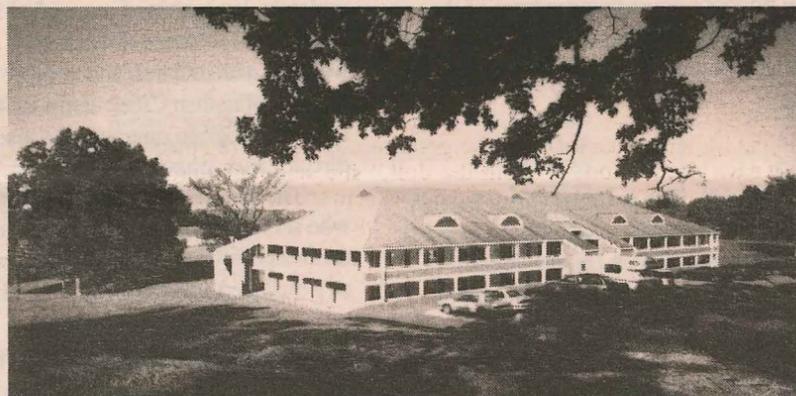
Jonathan Creek

Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly is located along the shore of Kentucky Lake in West Kentucky.

Facilities include a chapel, conference center, dormitory, motel rooms, dining hall, swimming pool and lake access.

Facilities are available all year, except for December and January.

For information, contact Deward Hurst, manager, at Rt. 1, Box 418, Hardin, Ky. 42048, (502) 354-8355.



Cedarmore

Cedarmore Baptist Assembly is located in north central Kentucky, near Bagdad.

Facilities include a chapel, conference center and other various size meeting rooms, dining hall, motel rooms, dormitories, swimming pools and plenty of secluded space for outdoor activities.

Cedarmore is open all year, except in December and January.

For information, contact Harold Barnes, manager, at Box 37, Bagdad, Ky. 40003, (502) 747-8911.

How to get there: Cedarmore is located on State Road 1922. From I-64, exit onto State Road 395 North. Turn right on State Road 1005, then left on State Road 12. At the intersection of State Road 1922, turn left. From I-71, exit onto US 421 South. Turn right on State Road 1922.



WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

"It's My Turn!"

Girls look forward to annual GA and Acteens Camp

Cedar Crest

June 20-24	GA
June 27-July 1	GA
July 11-15	GA and Acteens
July 19-22	Acteens
July 25-29	GA
August 1-5	GA

Jonathan Creek

June 13-17	GA and Acteens
June 20-24	GA
June 27-July 1	GA

What is Girls in Action and Acteens Camp?

Girls in Action (GA) and Acteens Camp is a self-contained camp which focuses on missions and spiritual awareness for girls in grades 4-12. The camping program is sponsored by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

What is its purpose?

The Kentucky WMU camping program is based upon the belief that missions-centered camping can provide a challenging combination of missions education, spiritual growth and recreational opportunities. A camper can grow in her knowledge of God, of herself and her world in a Christian environment and away from the distractions of everyday living.

The WMU camping program is intended to enforce and to be part of the total missions education program of the church. As such, the camping program seeks to assist the church in its task of "growing up" persons to be actively involved in missions.

Where is camp?

Two camps are available. One is Cedar Crest, located on the grounds of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly in Bagdad, Kentucky; the other is Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, located in the lake area near the west Kentucky town of Hardin.

What is camp all about anyway?

GA and Acteens camp offers opportunities for mental, physical, social and spiritual growth. Campers will be involved in:

- Large and small group activities
- Bible study
- Recreation
- Mission study
- Swimming
- Quiet time
- Meeting a missionary
- Making new friends
- Nature activities

What is the cost?

The total camp fee is \$75 which includes four nights lodging, 12 meals, insurance and crafts. It is recommended that the camper bring extra money for the missions offering, canteen (approximately 90 cents per day) and a camp shirt.

What about housing?

At Cedar Crest, each camper is housed with a counselor, assistant counselor and 13 other girls. Each cabin has full bathroom accommodations.

GAs at Jonathan Creek are housed in a dormitory. Various sized rooms house three-to-nine campers with one counselor in each room. Rooms are accommodated by a bath on the hall. Acteens at Jonathan Creek are housed in an air-conditioned lodge with a counselor and eight campers in each suite. Each room of a suite has a private bath.



How is camp staffed?

Cedar Crest is staffed by a camp director, assistant director, unit leaders, lifeguard, recreation director, counselors and assistant counselors. The staff is made up of 14 college-age young women and eight-to-ten high school juniors and seniors. These Christian young women serve under the leadership of a qualified and professional camp director and assistant director who are well-trained in working with children and youth.

The Jonathan Creek camp staff includes a camp director, program director, unit leaders, lifeguard, recreation director and volunteer counselors.

The central staff consists of college-age women or older who serve on staff all three weeks of camp. A volunteer counselor is 18 or older who may serve under the leadership of a qualified camp director and program director.

What about camp for younger girls?

The Mother-Daughter Overnight is a camp experience for girls who have completed the first, second and third grade (primary) and their mothers. The overnight is a mini-camp experience which includes fellowship, crafts, missionary friends, swimming, prayer times, campfires plus lots more. It provides the opportunity for mothers and daughters to renew their awareness of each other and their missions involvement as a family.

The total overnight cost is \$19 per person, which includes overnight lodging, three meals, insurance and crafts. Additional expenses are money for missions offering, canteen and camp shirt.

Cedar Crest

July 6-7
July 8-9
July 22-23
July 29-30

Jonathan Creek

June 17-18
June 24-25

Registration

What do I (we) need to know?

Pre-registration begins February 1. Forms are available from the Kentucky WMU office. Participants may register together as a church group. Camp information will be mailed to church GA and Acteens directors in January.



EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Thanks for your contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering!

Each year, only about one-half of Kentucky Baptist churches contribute to the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering. The 1992-93 \$700,000 goal is strictly allocated to Kentucky missions (see E. B. Magazine for allocations).

Kentucky WMU thanks the churches listed below as well as every church that contributed to the Eliza Broadus Offering.

A word to WMU Directors: On the form that your church treasurer sends to the Kentucky Baptist Convention each month are several codes for special designations. One is Eliza Broadus Offering; the one immediately below it is State Missions: General. That could be a bit confusing.

Many church members give their Eliza Broadus Offering in September and the church sends it to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. But some people write a check every month for EBO, realizing they can give more that way than by giving a one-time lump sum. If a check is written in April for EBO, it may be sent to the Convention as state missions since that month is not the "normal" time for Eliza Broadus. Check with your church treasurer to make sure she or he is sending the code for Eliza Broadus when appropriate.

This will ensure that the money goes where it is intended and that the state goal is reached. With the goal met, "extra" Kentucky ministries will happen.

TOP 50 CONTRIBUTORS TO ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING September 1, 1992-August 31, 1993

Church	Pastor	EBO Total
Severns Valley, Elizabethtown	J. Howard Cobble	\$8,472.19
Paducah First	J. Kevin McCallon	\$7,500.38
Somerset First	Robert Franklin Browning	\$7,252.66
Immanuel, Lexington	Ted Sisk	\$6,015.37
Central, Corbin	Terry Williams	\$5,815.65
Madisonville, First	James A. Weaver	\$5,376.52
Broadway, Louisville	Ronald Higdon	\$4,910.34
Murray First	Gregory Earwood	\$4,910.00
Bowling Green First	Richard Bridges	\$4,588.20
Erlanger	William Crosby, Jr.	\$4,341.19
Shelbyville First		\$4,131.93
Columbia	D. Gene Crowder	\$4,050.29
Beaver Dam	Glenn D. Armstrong	\$3,986.59
Richmond First	Curtis H. Warf	\$3,758.13
Cynthiana	Gabriel R. Collett	\$3,617.00
Frankfort First	Mark Edward Hopper	\$3,516.00
London First	Terry T. Lester	\$3,435.21
Hopkinsville First	James S. McKenzie	\$3,370.63
Hopewell, Harrodsburg	Barry M. Harmon	\$3,167.50
Hurstbourne, Louisville	Ron Ford	\$3,082.00
Latonia	James K. Abernathy	\$2,993.90
Whitesburg First	Thomas S. Stokes	\$2,987.25
Lone Oak First	Willis W. Henson	\$2,832.85
Central		\$2,830.72
Glasgow	Kenneth Morgan Murphy	\$2,752.82
Hopkinsville Second	Michael Kent Workman	\$2,705.55
Williamsburg First	Harold Mauney	\$2,559.56
Franklin First	Dennis R. Plank	\$2,544.64
Calvary, Lexington	Robert Gayle Baker	\$2,541.33
Campbellsville	James E. Jones	\$2,489.90
Ashland First	Bill Messer	\$2,426.83
Lexington Avenue, Danville	Timothy L. Noel	\$2,385.96
Buck Grove, Ekron		\$2,378.50
Crescent Hill, Louisville	David Garland, interim	\$2,347.41
Porter Memorial, Lexington	James K. Pierce	\$2,311.30
Russellville First		\$2,256.32
Walnut Street, Louisville	Robert H. Long	\$2,251.51
Owensboro Third	Dwight A. Moody	\$2,234.19
Liberty, London	William David Jones	\$2,221.75
Westport Road, Louisville	Michael Gilmore	\$2,197.65
Oak Ridge, Covington	Randy H. Wallace	\$2,165.00
Waco, Waco	Fredrick A. Livingood	\$2,137.65
Hindman First	Michael Caudill	\$2,106.40
Buena Vista, Owensboro	Robert Jolly	\$2,061.67
Whitley City First	David L. Varble	\$2,060.28
Corinth, London	James Blaylock	\$2,047.45
Barbourville First	Robert K. Lowry	\$2,005.21
Pikeville First	Rick Shannon	\$2,000.00
Calvary, Glasgow	James S. Jones	\$2,000.00
Hickory, Hickory (Graves Co.)	Jewell Duane Holland	\$1,984.01
Total:		\$166,115.38

TOP 50 PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTORS TO ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING September 1, 1992-August 31, 1993

Church	Pastor	Resident Members	Per Capita
Haymond, Neon		3	\$66.67
Sano, Russell Springs		13	\$36.08
Old Salem, Salem	Jerry T. Thurman	58	\$17.24
Kelly, Hopkinsville	Michael W. Hail	33	\$12.06
New Union, Russellville	Reed Buntin	175	\$10.82
Davis Memorial, Louisville	Harold Craig Smith	65	\$10.00
West Providence, McHanry	Duncan Smith	20	\$10.00
Concord, Dry Ridge	Ralph Barnard Boume	70	\$9.79
Mt. Gilead, Allensville	Charles L. Nail	73	\$9.45
Hustonville		167	\$9.11
Buffalo Lick		135	\$8.87
Hurricane		195	\$8.49
Hickory, Hickory	Jewell Duane Holland	236	\$8.41
Columbia	D. Gene Crowder	482	\$8.40
Liberty, London	William David Jones	283	\$7.85
Clinton Second	Roger James	106	\$7.85
Mallard Point, Georgetown	Mark Sewell Pennington	43	\$7.79
Hopewell, Harrodsburg	Barry M. Harmon	412	\$7.69
Stone, Stone	Sidney E. Copley	110	\$7.27
Salem, Hanson	Harlin Loggins	260	\$7.26
Sparta, Sparta	David Hammond	120	\$7.22
Hampton, Hampton	James Edward Wring	109	\$7.17
Trinity, Paducah	Don Presley	211	\$7.17
Malvin Hill		62	\$7.06
Christiansburg, Bagdad	David George Campbell	140	\$7.00
Sulphur Spring, Franklin	Russell A. Trotter	239	\$6.97
Salem		226	\$6.86
Sutton, Shelbiana	David A. Gooch	74	\$6.76
Clear Fork	Gilbert Larimore	34	\$6.47
Squiresville, Owenton	David Parlow	98	\$6.38
Pleasant Ridge, Frankfort	A. J. Hensley	145	\$6.34
Mortons Gap First		94	\$6.33
Mt. Zion		75	\$6.29
Riverview, Calvin	Grant E. Lee	38	\$6.28
Dover, Shelbyville	Joel Flowers	154	\$6.23
Chestnut Grove		81	\$6.19
Little Clifty		77	\$6.19
Bethel, Pine Knot	George Harold Sexton	54	\$6.18
Poole	David Jeff Burke	106	\$6.11
Friendship, Harned	Wayne Basham	99	\$6.06
Good Hope	J. Alvin Hardy	154	\$5.90
Pleasant Home, Glencoe	H. Dale Clark	89	\$5.87
Bonnieville, Bonnieville	Stiles Glenn Routt	261	\$5.87
Smithland First	Ray Gilliland	170	\$5.71
Glencoe, Glencoe	Hardin Lowe	112	\$5.63
West Hickman	Anthony L. Steele	215	\$5.63
Hindman First	Michael Caudill	376	\$5.60
Liberty, Leitchfield	Wayne Wilson	69	\$5.51
New Friendship	Horrell Dudley Moseley	328	\$5.49
Somerset First	Robert Franklin Browning	1,326	\$5.47
Total			\$58,034.46

PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

FOUNDATION

For your prayer concern list



Dolores Spears

Mrs. Dolores Spears, former president of Kentucky's Woman's Missionary Union and prayer coordinator of the Kentucky/Russia Baptist Partnership, encourages everyone to remember the new missions emphasis in prayer.

"We need to involve Kentucky

Baptists in prayerful support of the needs in Russia as we begin the partnership.

Prayer needs include: Russian Baptist churches, pastors, home missionaries of

Russia, our Southern Baptist missionaries, Kentucky field

coordinators, Larry and Joy Lindsey and Lee and Sarah Bivins, serving in Moscow

and St. Petersburg, volunteers

responding to project requests and the lost people of Russia."



KENTUCKY / RUSSIA BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP

Exercise your right: Make a will

Americans have many rights. One is the right to make a will. Yet, many fail to exercise this right. It has been estimated that seven out of ten adults die without a will. This includes Christians, many of whom claim to be good stewards.

Many people do not realize that when one does not exercise his or her right to say through a prepared will how their possessions are to be distributed, the state has a statutory will already prepared for them. The state will make the necessary decisions concerning their estate. The state's decision may not be what you would have wanted and could impose a great burden and expense to the settling of your estate.

You may have many options as you plan for your will. Through a will:

- (1) You can provide for special needs of your spouse and other loved ones for whom you are responsible.
- (2) You can legally take full advantage of tax savings which are available, such as the unlimited marital deduction.

- (3) You can name the guardian of your minor children as well as establish a trust for their support



- and care.
- (4) You can eliminate unnecessary expenses and court costs involved in the administration of an estate without a will.
- (5) You can choose the individual or institution to serve as executor of your estate, to manage and settle your estate according to the law and the terms of your will.
- (6) You can include Baptist causes and other charitable organizations.

Your Last Will and Testament is the final expression of love for your family and your God and will be your final act of stewardship on earth.

To receive more information on planning your Christian will, call the Kentucky Baptist Foundation at (502) 245-4101, extension 205.

CHURCH GROWTH & ADMINISTRATION

Growing through caring

Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreats - February

February 11-12
Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
P.O. Box 37 • Bagdad • 40003 • 502/747-8911

		Boone Lodge	Motels
Friday			
5:00	Registration	2/room 36.50	27.00
6:30	Valentine's Day Banquet	3/room 35.50	26.00
	Feature message	4/room 33.50	24.00
8:45	Conference (choose from 6)	private room 55.25	39.00
10:00	fellowship		

Saturday
7:30 Breakfast
8:30 Worship & special message
9:45 Conference
10:45 Break
11:15 Conference
12:30 Lunch and Dismissal

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

For commuters: There is a \$1.00 insurance fee per person in addition to cost of meals while at retreat. Meal prices: Breakfast \$4.60; Lunch \$4.95; Dinner \$5.95. Please inform Cedarmore in advance if you plan to commute and which meals you are requesting.

Note: An advance deposit of \$15.00/person must accompany lodging reservations. Cancellation must be made two weeks prior to event for full refund; or 48 hours in advance for a refund of \$5.00.

February 25-26
Kentucky Dam Village Resort Park
P.O. Box 69 • Gilbertsville • 42044 • 502/362-4271

Friday
5:50 Registration
7:00 General Session to include Feature message, worship
8:30 Conference (choose from 6)
9:45 Fellowship
Saturday
8:30 Worship & special message
9:45 Conference
10:45 Break
11:15 Conference
12:15 Dismiss

For overnight guests: Please mail one night deposit to Ky Dam to hold reservation. Prices reflect lodging only. Meals can be enjoyed off-site or in the dining

room. When making reservations, indicate you are with the KBC deacons group.

Lodge: 1 person \$31.55
2 people \$40.83

Cottages: 2-BR deluxe (4) \$83.52
3 BR deluxe (6) \$92.80
Executive \$111.36

Commuters: You will be charged only the conference fee of \$8.00 per person. Please indicate to KBC that you will commute.

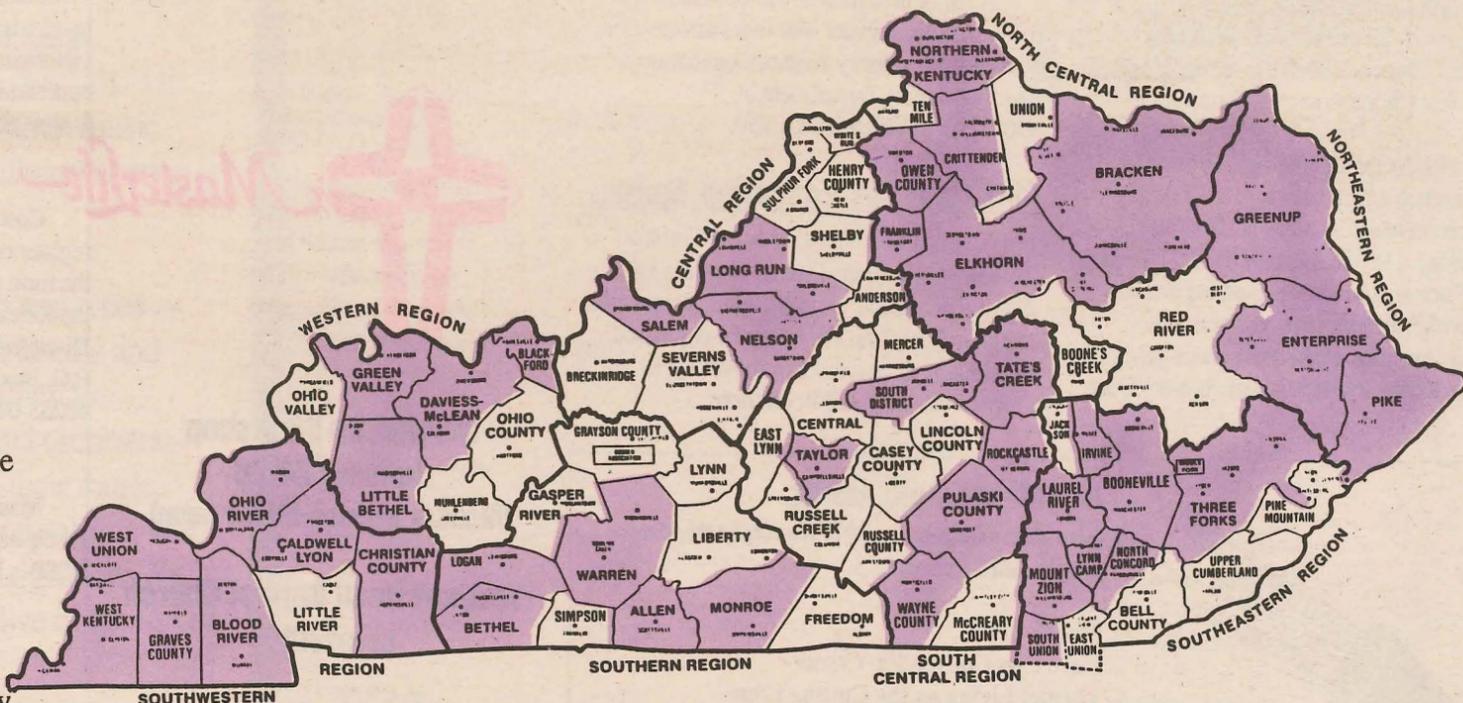
When planning your accommodations, make all lodging reservations directly with Cedarmore or Kentucky Dam Village. An \$8.00 per person retreat fee should accompany all reservations to the Church Growth & Administration office. Make checks payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Maps to retreat locations will be mailed to participants.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

KBC's Sunday School Department "threepeats" with SBC award

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department has received the James W. Chatham Associational Sunday School Standard Award. Kentucky ranked first among state conventions in the Southern Baptist Convention, achieving the largest number of associational Sunday School standard recognitions.

For more information on how your association can improve its work through the standard, call Jeff Hicks, associate director, KBC Sunday School Department, (502) 245-4101.



Congratulations to the 42 associations highlighted above that received standard recognition this year.

Help for traveling the 1994 VBS *Trail of Treasures!*

Vacation Bible School Convention/Extravaganza

March 19 • Highview Baptist Church, Louisville
Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Conference Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Pre-registration is required in order to know count for free, provided lunch. To pre-register, contact the KBC Sunday School Department at P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101 or fill out appropriate registration form on EVENTS page 8a.



Want to see your church grow?

Growth workshops designed for smaller churches will be led by Neil Jackson, retired Baptist Sunday School Board senior growth consultant, and Jeff Hicks, an associate director in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department. The workshops are designed for pastors, Sunday School directors, church staff, volunteer workers and others interested in seeing their church grow.

A free supper for pastors, Sunday School directors and church staff will precede each scheduled workshop at 5:30 p.m. A training rally for all workers and leaders begins at 7:00. There is no fee for this workshop.

The dates for the event are:

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

EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

FAMILY MINISTRY

Learn how to teach children and teenagers about sex

Parents and church leaders can find help in the important area of sex education at an upcoming conference sponsored by the Family Ministry Department. The Haworth Conference scheduled for January 28-29 at Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, offers training in a new Christian sex education series.

Now is the time to register for this conference which begins at 3:30 Friday afternoon and concludes at noon on Saturday. Use the form on EVENTS page 8a. Enclose a \$10 per person registration fee which includes the cost of dinner Friday evening. Make your check payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Cost

of materials is additional and may be purchased at the conference or ahead at a Baptist Book Store.

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

Christian Sex Education Series

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

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

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

MasterLife has already equipped hundreds of thousands to live a fuller, more victorious and useful life. It is an excellent opportunity to minister to others. MasterLife is now being utilized worldwide.



Cost of the workshop is \$95.00. To register or to receive more information, use the form on EVENTS page 8a or contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training Department at P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 335.

MasterLife Workshop

January 24-28

(Monday evening-Friday noon)

Westport Road Baptist Church
Louisville

MasterLife is sponsored by the KBC Discipleship Training Department and the BSSB's Discipleship Training Division.



Attention Single Adults

Plan now to attend the 1994 Kentucky Baptist Single Adult Retreat!

March 11-13

Cave City Convention Center

Theme: Living on the Cutting Edge

For more information or to receive a brochure about this event call, the KBC Family Ministry Department at (502) 245-4101, extension 250.

ANNUITY

Need answers to your minister/church tax issues?

Monday, February 14
Elizabethtown
Sevems Valley Baptist Church

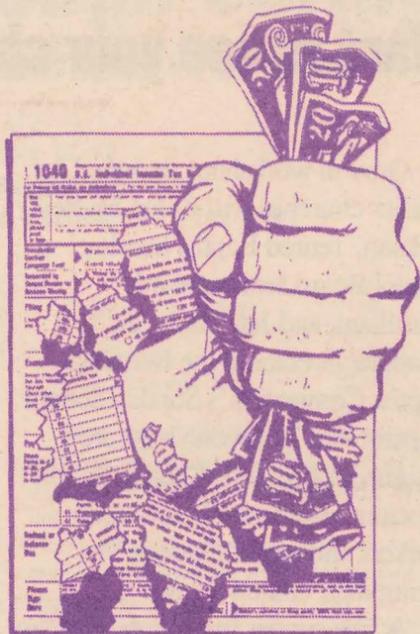
Tuesday, February 15
Madisonville
First Baptist Church

Thursday, February 17
London
First Baptist Church

Friday, February 18
Fort Mitchell
Fort Mitchell Baptist Church

Conference Leaders:

John Hancock, Manager
Annuity Board, SBC
Tom Adkisson, CPA
Middletown
Don Spencer, CFP
Director
KBC Annuity Department Director



One conference will be held for ministers and church leaders. Each conference site will also have a conference for certified public accountants and other tax preparers.

Watch next month for more information regarding conference fees and registration.

MINISTER/CHURCH SUPPORT

Finding needed support

During the summer I discovered the deck on our house was a little shaky in a certain spot. Underneath I found a main timber had begun to rot. A replacement board and more support to the ground made my deck solid and secure again.

Many people have found that when shaky spots develop in their lives, a support group is the strength they need. A group of five or six people who commit to meet regularly, can feed, nurture and help us see life in balance. Some minister support groups are active across Kentucky. If you do not have one, perhaps these comments will motivate you to look into the possibility of getting it started.

Here are some of the things a support group can do for you according to Roy Oswald in "How to Build a Support System."

BLANKETS

There are times when our need and brokenness call people to protect and comfort us. Our insecurity and weakness are real and a caring group accepts that.

SANDPAPER

Sometimes we get locked into non-productive or even destructive patterns. Then we need folks who care enough to confront.

AUTHENTICATION

Questions come to our minds occasionally about the value of what we are doing and whether it amounts to anything. The caring group helps us to see that the things we are doing are important and we are worthwhile persons.

PERSPECTIVE

This is one of the great strengths of a good support group. We are far more effective when we bring a healthy perspective to troubled situations. Left to ourselves, it is easy for our vision to be cloudy and distorted.

If you are interested in beginning a support group, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Minister/Church Support office would like to help you. Write us or give us a call for more information. We'll be glad to provide personal consultation to assist you in getting started. Here's the address and phone number:

Guy Futral
Director
Minister/Church Support Division
Kentucky Baptist Convention
P. O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253-0433
(502) 245-4101, extension 243

EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

CHURCH MUSIC

Regional festivals offer an assortment of sorts

Now is the time to begin thinking about attending this year's regional music festivals. The purpose of the festivals is to help strengthen your local church music program and to enrich the fellowship among churches in your area.

Church choirs of all sizes and types—adult, senior adult, youth, children's and handbells—have the opportunity to participate. Soloists (vocal and orchestral instruments) may also share their music. Adjudication of the choirs and soloists will benefit them by providing suggestions on how they can be more effective in the use of music in worship.

Don't miss your chance to participate! For more information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Music Department at (502) 245-4101, extension 325. A complete list of locations and dates is provided in the box to your right.

1994 Regional Music Festivals



Central	April 22 April 24	Adult/Youth Children	Louisville, Walnut Street Louisville, Walnut Street
Eastern	April 22	All Ages	Prestonsburg, First
Northeast	March 24	All Ages	Louisa, First
Northeast Central	April 22 April 23	Adult/Youth Children	Lexington, Gardenside Lexington, Gardenside
Northern	March 11 March 13	Adult/Youth Children	Cold Springs, First Cold Springs, First
Purchase	March 18 April 15	Youth/Children Adult	Paducah, Reidland Paducah, Lone Oak
South Central	April 16	All Ages	Campbellsville, Campbellsville
Southeast	April 22 April 23	Adult/Youth Children	Corbin, First Corbin, First
Southern	April 22 April 23	Adult/Youth Children	Bowling Green, Living Hope Bowling Green, Living Hope
Southwest	April 22	All Ages	Hopkinsville, First
Western	April 22 April 23	Adult/Youth/Handbell Children	Owensboro, Third Ohio County, Mt. Carmel

Perfect for your church's musically gifted children

Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir • Cedarmore Baptist Assembly • April 15-17
 Director - June Bailey, KBC Church Music Consultant
 Accompanist - Kathy Collier, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville

This event is the perfect opportunity to highlight those musically gifted children in your church!

The 60-voice Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir consisting of fourth, fifth and sixth graders will be chosen by audition only. The choir will sing for worship at Shelbyville's First Baptist Church during morning worship on April 17 followed by a 5:30 p.m. concert at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Heeren Recital Hall that same day. Friends, family and interested persons are welcome!



Cost for participation will be \$65.00. This includes two nights' lodging, meals, music, commemorative shirt and certificate of participation.

In order to register, a taped audition and registration form must be submitted. Audition tapes are due to the KBC Church Music Department by no later than January 21. Sorry, no late auditions will be accepted.

For copies of audition requirements, contact the Church Music Department at (502) 245-4101, extension 325 or check the appropriate information on form provided on EVENTS page 8a form.

New anthem's premiere highlights upcoming state youth choir festival

February 25-26 • Immanuel Church, Lexington

This year's participants will have an unusual opportunity: the premiere performance of a new anthem! The anthem, composed by Mary McDonald, was commissioned especially for Kentucky Baptist youth choirs. Your choir will prepare four other anthems will have the opportunity to get together with several other youth choirs (grades 7-12) for several rehearsals. A final worship service and concert will also be given.

Dr. Milburn Price, a professor at Samford University, will be the guest conductor. Mary McDonald will serve as accompanist.

The registration fee is \$25.00 per choir (\$30.00 after February 1). Registrants will also receive a list of music to rehearse, directions to church and a list of hotels and restaurants in the area. A demonstration tape is also available for youth choir directors.

Contact the Church Music Department at (502) 245-4101, extension 325 for a registration form or fill out the appropriate form on EVENTS page 8a.

OTHER EVENTS

Cedarmore

March and April have been designated for mission projects at Cedarmore. If your group or church is interested in doing work/repair tasks at this assembly, please contact Harold Barnes at (502) 354-8355.

Office for Evangelism

State Evangelism Conference
February 21-22
Louisville
Walnut Street Church
A Special Event for Women—February 22
Louisville
Hurstbourne Conference Center

Sunday School

1994 Winter Bible Study
Emphasis: Hosea—God's Redeeming Love

WMU

Interested in serving on a camp staff next summer? Positions available: unit leader, lifeguard, counselor, assistant counselor, volunteer counselor, volunteer nurse or recreation director. Contact the KBC WMU office.

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

Emphasis:
Foreign Missions
Student Day at Christmas

Student

•December 18-31
Friendship International House

•December 26
Student Day at Christmas

JANUARY

Happy New Year!

Emphasis:
Make Your Will month

Brotherhood

•January 5-8
Brotherhood Steering Committee and Blitz

•January 23
Baptist Men's Day

•January 26-29
Brotherhood Leadership Meeting, SBC

Church Growth & Administration

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

Church Music

•January 6-7
State Music Council
Louisville
Hurstbourne Hotel

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

Discipleship Training

•January 24-28
MasterLife Workshop
Louisville
Westport Road Church

Evangelism, Office for

•January 9
Soul Winning Commitment Day

Family Ministry

•January 28-29
Haworth Conference
Louisville
Melbourne Heights Church

Student

•January 20
Deadline for student missions applications

Sunday School Regional One Day Small Church Growth Tour Workshops

•January 6
Leitchfield
First Church

•January 7
Henderson
Zion Church

•January 8
Princeton
First Church

•January 17
Covington
Crescent Springs Church

•January 18
Crittenden
Crittenden Church

•January 19
Lexington
Parkway Church

•January 20
Berea
Upper Silver Creek Church

•January 21
Corbin
Hopewell Church

FEBRUARY

Emphasis:
Baptist seminaries, colleges and schools

Listed are alphabetized program events through mid-February. A more complete calendar will be printed in the January issue.

Annuity

Minister/Church
Tax Conferences
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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

Brotherhood

•February 4-6
Gatlinburg, TN
HSBYM Rally

Regional Mission Congresses:

•February 5
North Central Region
Independence
Hickory Grove Church
•February 5
Southern Region
Hodgenville
South Fork Church
•February 12
Southwestern Region
Gilbertsville
Bethel Church
•February 12
South Central Region
Campbellsville
Campbellsville College

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

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

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

To Receive More Information

- Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
- Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly
- Church Music**
- Registration form, All-State Youth
- Audition form, All-State Youth Choir
- Audition form, All-State Children's Choir
- Discipleship Training**
- MasterLife Workshop

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Office _____ Home _____

Church _____ Association _____

Leadership Position _____

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

To Register

- Discipleship Training**
- \$95 per person
- MasterLife Workshop
- Family Ministry**
- \$10 per person registration fee
- Haworth Conference
- Sunday School
- VBS Extravaganza

RUSSIAN HOME MISSIONARY SUPPORT AGREEMENT

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

1. Name of your church _____
2. Address _____
3. Telephone Number () _____
4. Pastor's Name _____
5. Your Name and Address _____
_____ Zip _____
- Telephone _____
6. Our church, Sunday School, WMU, Brotherhood or other organization (circle one) agrees to support a Russian home missionary or pastor for two years at \$200 per month.
- Date: _____
- Signed: _____
- Address: _____
- Telephone Number: () _____

Mongolian law could restrict Christians

By Erich Bridges
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HONG KONG (BP)—A new law passed by the Mongolian Parliament could confine Christian activities inside churches, require churches to register with the government and ban religious activities in state-owned buildings or schools.

The law reportedly takes effect Feb. 1 in the once-isolated Asian nation surrounded by Russia and China. It also will give the state final say over the location of churches and number of church workers and bar foreigners from engaging in religious activity.

The Mongolian people were the focus of the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization last May. Many Southern Baptist churches participate in the campaign.

The legislation acknowledges the right of Mongolians to believe in any religion they choose. But it recognizes Buddhism alone as essential to Mongolia's long history and heritage

and decrees Buddhism "shall be given its rightful place."

Other religious activity judged to be against Mongolian "customs and tradition" can be forbidden. Islam and Shamanism receive special exemption from the restrictions.

"Apart from Buddhism, Islam and Shamanism, it is forbidden to carry out any religious teaching ... or any other activity, anywhere other than in churches and monasteries," the law states.

The law has alarmed the fledgling Mongolian Christian community, now estimated at between 800 and 2,000 members, which began barely three years ago with fewer than 10 known believers. But a Western Christian observer with high-level government contacts counseled against panic.

"It sounds a lot worse than what it may turn out to be," said the observer. "No one is panicking right now. It's very difficult to predict what could occur."

The observer, who requested anonymity, cited three possible factors behind the law:

■ The influx of all kinds of mission and para-church groups, some of which perform public service while others engage in aggressive evangelism without credibility.

■ The threat some Buddhists feel because Christianity is growing and has attracted the interest of many young Mongolians.

■ Spiritual forces at work. "Mongolia was the last country in the world to have a (Christian) church," the observer reminded. "It's only been in the last two and a half years that a church has ever been established. Satan does not give up his territory without a fight."

Southern Baptists provide medical aid, humanitarian assistance and English teaching in Mongolia through Cooperative Services International. CSI workers also are helping Mongolians develop a family practice medical program.

Arab pastor gets visa to return to Israel

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Arab Baptist pastor Alex Awad just received a long-awaited Christmas gift—one that took more than four years to secure.

Awad, an ordained Southern Baptist minister, has been working to obtain a visa so he can return to his homeland of Israel and serve as pastor. The Israeli government repeatedly has refused to grant him a work visa or even a temporary tourist visa—until recently.

He has been granted a tourist visa to return home for the Christmas season, and Awad hopes it will lead to a permanent visa. Awad said he believes the recent action represents a change in policy and attitude that will allow him to return to the West Bank perhaps this summer.

He planned to spend Christmas Eve with his wife and children in the United States and then travel to Bethlehem Dec. 25 to spend Christmas

with his extended family.

Awad, 47, was born in Jerusalem and spent more than 10 years in the United States, becoming an American citizen.

In 1979 he returned to Israel to become dean of students at Bethlehem Bible College and worked among Palestinian Christians.

In 1987 the Israeli authorities refused to renew work visas for Awad and his wife, Brenda, so they returned to the States. In 1988 East Jerusalem Baptist Church called him as pastor. He traveled there on a temporary visa to iron out details, but the Israeli government would not renew his visa.

Two major factors impacted the government's recent decision, he said. First, the religious community rallied around him. The volume of support from American Christians made the Israeli government understand that "my case was not going to go away," he said.

The United Methodist Church has been his principle sponsor, but the Baptist Joint Committee and Baptist Peace Fellowship also have worked on his behalf.

The Baptist Joint Committee became involved at the request of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. BJC General Counsel Brent Walker has written to and met with government officials and religious leaders to solicit support for Awad.

Another reason the Israeli government granted the visa, according to Awad, is the changing political atmosphere in the region as its leaders are seeking peace.

Awad said he hopes his Christmas visit will set the stage for a work visa. If all goes well, he plans to return to his homeland this summer with his family to begin his new ministry as a New Testament professor at Bethlehem Bible College and a minister among Palestinian Christians.



Zambia crusade sees 945 people trust in Jesus

MONGU, Zambia (BP)—It took four-wheel drive vehicles and boats to get them there, but four Indiana Baptists are glad they made the trip to Mongu, Zambia—350 rugged miles west of the capital city of Lusaka.

The volunteers recently teamed with two Zambian Baptists and Southern Baptist missionary Fred Allen for five days of singing, preaching and showing evangelistic films. By the conclusion of the crusade, 945 people had publicly declared a desire to become Christians, and a church was organized in Namushakende village.

No Southern Baptist missionaries live in the area, which is split by the Zambezi River.

The difficulty of travel there is one reason most of the residents remain "virtually an unreached people group," according to Allen, who lives in Lusaka.

Mongu Baptist Church was started in 1980 by James Sianga. The Zambian pastor had taken Theological Education by Extension courses in his home church elsewhere and became concerned for the Western Province of the country. Eventually his church commissioned him as a home missionary, and he resettled his family in Mongu.

Economic decline in the African country caused Sianga's financial support as a missionary to dwindle almost to nothing. For several years he has had to support his family by making and selling cement blocks.

Yet his congregation has set a goal of starting 12 churches with 5,000 new Baptist members in the next decade.

BELLS OF BETHLEHEM
Christmas bells overlook the Church of the Nativity and Shepherds' Field in Bethlehem, the place of Jesus Christ's birth. (RNS photo)

Carter & others call for more effort on hunger

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The world needs a new generation of abolitionists willing to break the bondage of hunger, according to speakers at a conference on Overcoming Global Hunger Nov. 30-Dec. 1.

The World Bank-sponsored conference at American University in Washington drew international leaders and hunger experts. Among the participants were former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist; Boutros Boutros-Ghali, secretary-general of the United Nations; Rep. Tony Hall, D-Ohio; and Sir Ketumile Masire, president of the Republic of Botswana.

Carter, who has championed international human rights—including the right to food—challenged the crowd to do more than talk about hunger.

"My dream is that we will prepare specific ideas that can be tried in a specific place, perhaps Ethiopia," Carter said.

He urged the representatives of various humanitarian groups to work together, noting that almost all the non-governmental agencies working against hunger "guard their turf." If these groups worked together, then inroads to eradicating hunger could be made, he noted.

He said such conferences usually result in the adoption of goals or perhaps a couple of new agencies that fade into insignificance. Carter reminded the audience that at a similar conference in the 1970s, goals were adopted to eradicate hunger within the decade. If that had been accomplished, today they would be celebrating rather than re-examining the problem, he said.

Several factors have contributed to the lack of progress, he said. First, there is a reluctance to change basic policy even in the midst of failure. Second, hunger programs fail to be country-specific. Third, too many

fragmented, uncoordinated efforts in a country can aggravate the problem.

Many hunger programs also fail to involve local people. People must be given the capacity to meet their own need rather than charity, he said.

Ultimately, global distribution, not food production, is the problem, Carter said, citing protectionism, deforestation and overpopulation.

Boutros-Ghali echoed Carter: "The world now produces enough food to feed its population. The problem is not simply technical. It is a political and social problem. It is a problem of access to food supplies, of distribution and of entitlement."

"Above all, it is a problem of political will."

Hunger's existence violates the "most basic of human rights—the right to survival," Boutros-Ghali said. "And it is our responsibility as an international community to guarantee that right."

Board alters funding formula for KBC's 3 colleges

The new formula divides the liberal arts colleges' share of the budget into two portions. Half is divided evenly among the three schools; half is based upon student credit hours.

Continued from page 1

amount—into two portions. Half is divided evenly among the three schools; half is based upon student credit hours.

The change acknowledges Campbellsville's rapid growth. Its enrollment is 1,163, which reflects an average of 12 percent growth for each of the past six years.

Under the new formula, Campbellsville will receive \$871,646, or 22.699 percent of the education budget. That compares to the current \$767,999, or 20 percent. Campbellsville's operating budget for the 1993 fiscal year is \$10.2 million.

Georgetown will receive \$1,083,906, or 28.227 percent of the education budget, compared to the current \$1,075,199, or 28 percent.

Georgetown's operating budget is \$15.7 million. The school's fall enrollment was 1,382.

Cumberland will get \$1,193,242, or 31.074 percent of the education budget. It currently receives \$1,305,199, or 34 percent.

Cumberland's budget includes \$14.8 million in unrestricted funds and \$5 million in restricted funds, such as money designated for scholarships. Its enrollment is 1,518.

According to the colleges' latest audits, they granted the following number of credit hours in the 1992-93 school year: Campbellsville, 26,389; Cumberland, 43,458; and Georgetown, 39,993.

Cumberland will get some financial relief during the next two years. The Executive Board voted to make

\$100,504—which had been set aside to support the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs before the KBC rescinded that action—available to ease the transition to the new funding formula.

The vote on the new funding formula almost got delayed during consideration by the board's agencies and institutions committee.

In that committee's meeting, the formula's opponents questioned the wisdom of ratifying it under the circumstances in which it was developed. At issue was membership on the workgroup of Forest Shely, a Campbellsville physician and Executive Board member who also was chairman of the Campbellsville College trustees when the workgroup was founded.

While committee members took pains to say they were not questioning Shely's integrity, they noted his presence on the workgroup—without complementary representation by the Cumberland and Georgetown boards—created a perception which could cloud the credibility of the proposal.

Committee member Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, recommended sending the proposal back to the nine-member workgroup and adding the chairmen of the Cumberland and Georgetown trustees to the group.

"Even if the final decision is the same, it would take care of the perception problem," DeFoor said. His motion failed 11-13.

A similar motion was offered later, when the funding formula was presented to the full board. But that suggestion died for lack of a second.

When the funding formula was considered by the full board, it passed by a wide margin.

The new formula also made another change in the funding structure, although it does not involve a change in dollars.

Since the original formula was drafted in 1976, Clear Creek and Oneida have been linked together in a "special purpose" category. Together, they received 18 percent of the KBC's education budget.

The workgroup determined the purposes of the two schools are significantly different to warrant separate status, White reported. Consequently, they should be considered separately when funding is allocated, he added.

The new formula classifies Clear Creek in a Bible college category and Oneida in an academy category.

In 1994-95, Clear Creek is to receive \$414,720, or 10.8 percent of the KBC's education allocation. Oneida is to get \$276,479, or 7.2 percent.

But Oneida may get more money from Kentucky Baptists. The agencies and institutions committee approved DeFoor's proposal to create a workgroup to study "the establishment of a special offering for Oneida, to be taken on or around Father's Day." Creation of such an offering would require approval of messengers to a KBC annual meeting.

Field coordinators bound for Russia

Two couples have been appointed to assist the Kentucky Baptist Convention with its new partnership with Russian Baptists.

Larry and Joy Lindsey will live in Moscow, and Lee and Sarah Bivins will live in St. Petersburg. Both couples will assist Kentucky volunteers traveling to Russia in the partnership.

Benton Williams, director of the KBC's partnership missions office, introduced the two couples to the KBC Executive Board Dec. 13.

The Lindseys currently live in Taylorsville, where he is pastor of Plum Creek Baptist Church. They also have served Union Baptist Church in Pleasureville, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Mayfield, New Hope Baptist Church in LaCenter, and Bell City Baptist Church in Farmington.

Lindsey has studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and earned degrees from Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College and Western Kentucky University. Mrs. Lindsey has studied at Southern Seminary and holds degrees from Mid-Continent and Volunteer State Community College. Both are natives of LaCenter.

For 12 years before becoming a Christian and surrendering to full-time ministry, Lindsey was a management supervisor in Old Hickory, Tenn.

The Lindseys have three adult children: David, Daniel, and Mark.

The Bivinses currently serve as directors of the cleftRock Retreat Center in Mount Vernon, a privately owned Christian retreat.

The couple also work together in marriage counseling. In addition, Mrs. Bivins does pastoral counseling in London and Berea.

He originally is from Atlanta; she is from Con-



RUSSIA PARTNERS Larry and Joy Lindsey (left) of Taylorsville and Sarah and Lee Bivins of Mount Vernon will move to Russia and serve as field coordinators for the Kentucky/Russia Baptist partnership.

way, S.C. They were Southern Baptist missionaries to Israel from 1961 to 1976, working at Baptist Village.

Bivins holds two degrees from Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., and a master's degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Mrs. Bivins holds degrees from Coker College in Hartsville, S.C., and Southeastern Seminary.

They are members of First Baptist Church in London and have three adult children: Lynn Bivins Anderson of Winston Salem, N.C.; Simona Burchell Derr of Albuquerque, N.M.; and Ruth Ann Bivins Geiger of Lexington.

Both the Lindseys and the Bivinses will serve under appointment of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's International Service Corps unit, pending final approval by the FMB.

Extending Baptists' love

The past year has been an exciting one for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. The Lord has enabled us to extend our outreach to boys and girls and their families in several areas of ministry.

It was such a blessing to attend the dedication service for Genesis Home in Mayfield. This ministry for girls who have suffered severe abuse, neglect, or family crisis is already reaping big benefits in the lives of hurting girls. I am reminded of one young girl who constantly wanted to be held. "When I'm held, I feel safe," she told a staff member. She's now learning that she can feel safe even outside the physical arms of a worker in the wider arms of Kentucky Baptists.

Three new Cornerstone Counseling offices have been opened. This is such an important ministry as Kentucky Baptists seek to help individuals and families solve problems before they become overwhelming.

Our foster care program has expanded as well. It was such a special time when we gathered to commission new foster families. The sense of mission they expressed showed to me a true calling from

the Lord to provide solid Christian homes for children in desperate need of a family.

Growth in the First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption program also occurred in 1993 to allow us to help more birth parents and prospective adoptive families.

One worker described "the jar full of tears" that are cried in the process of building new families through adoption. Some of the tears are of sadness as a birth mother makes a courageous decision to do what is best for her child. But many others are tears of joy as a child finds a loving family.

There have been other areas of growth as well. But despite the stretching, the needs also continue to grow.

As you rejoice with your family during this Christmas season and plan your year-end giving, please remember the lives that are being touched by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Your prayers and your support can make the coming year a better one for Kentucky's children and families.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

KENTUCKY WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION
wishes you a glorious holiday season.



May we continue
to labor together so
that the world may know
today and every day,

"The Father sent the Son
to be the Savior of the world."



PEOPLE

Executive Board dwells on money and missions

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Money and missions dominated the winter meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board Dec. 13-14.

Here's a summary of what the board did:

■ Distributed year-end funds.

The board distributed more than \$1 million in year-end funds. This pool of money comes annually from three sources: investment income on the state mission reserve fund, income on unrestricted investments and funds budgeted but not spent. (See chart at right for distributions.)

■ Reallocated \$100,504 in a fund originally set aside for the Baptist Joint Committee.

This fund had been established in 1992 with Executive Board year-end funds, to fulfill a motion passed by messengers to the KBC annual meeting. The \$98,000 set aside has earned \$2,504 in interest. At this year's annual meeting, messengers rescinded the earlier action, thereby denying the Joint Committee the funds.

The Executive Board, upon recommendation of its business and finance committee, approved using the \$100,504 as a cushion for Cumberland College, which will experience a sharp decrease in KBC funding due to a new funding-formula approved at this Executive Board meeting. (See story on page 1.)

Both in the business and finance committee and in the full Executive Board meeting, motions were made from the floor to give the interest earned to the Joint Committee. The motion failed in committee 11-15 and was ruled out of order when raised before the full board. KBC President Bob Browning said the motion was out of order because it asked the Executive Board to act contrary to what the convention had directed.

Another motion made before the full board would have directed the total amount to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. The motion died for lack of a second.

■ Revised the way the KBC funds its three liberal arts colleges.

A new formula was adopted to divide Christian education appropriations between the three liberal arts colleges—Cumberland College, Campbellsville College and Georgetown College—and two other schools, Oneida Baptist Institute and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. (See story on page 1.)

■ Approved further work toward constructing an addition to the KBC Executive Board building.

The board authorized its executive secretary-treasurer to engage the architectural firm of Godsey Associates to develop plans for the addition, which are to be presented to the board for approval next May.

The addition would provide expanded space for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Woman's Missionary Union, Western Recorder and KBC archives. Areas vacated by those offices would allow for reallocation of space among Executive Board staff.

The business and finance committee is to present a plan for financing

the construction at the May Executive Board meeting. Building Committee Chairman Jerry Dooley of Louisville estimated the building would be about 10,000 square feet and would cost about \$1 million.

■ Heard reports on foreign missions.

In what has become a tradition at the December board meetings, members met foreign missionaries furloughing in Kentucky and attended a reception in their honor. The missions presentation this year also recognized two couples on their way to Russia as on-site coordinators for the Kentucky-Russia partnership as well as one board member, Ed Tarleton of Louisville, who with his family recently was appointed to serve in Russia with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

■ Extended a partnership.

Board members voted without dissent to extend Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Baptists in Utah and Idaho another two years. The partnership, begun in 1990, will extend through Dec. 31, 1995.

■ Authorized a study.

To facilitate a request made by the KBC Brotherhood, the Executive Board appointed a work group to study the possibility of a formal affiliation with Habitat for Humanity. "Hope for Homes," a new program of Kentucky Brotherhood, calls for a partnership with the international organization known for building affordable homes for low-income families.

■ Approved a BSU building committee.

The board named eight members to a committee assigned to oversee construction of a new Baptist Student Union building at Northern Kentucky University. The voting members are Ken Bolin of Manchester, Richard Easterling of Liberty, Tom Prather of Louisville, Larry Purciful of Louisville, Ruthanne Boyles of Frankfort. Three ex-officio members are KBC President Bob Browning, state student director Don Blaylock and KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall.

■ Approved disbanding the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society.

Upon recommendation of the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission, the board voted to disband the society and combine its functions with those of the commission.

■ Distributed assets remaining in the Brazil partnership missions account.

The four-year partnership with Baptists in the state of Espirito Santo, Brazil, concludes the end of this month.

The KBC will donate to Brazilian Baptists a phone line and fax machine, as well as a van used to carry volunteers around to church sites. About \$17,000 in remaining funds designated for the partnership will be spent to purchase a van for the Brazilian convention's orphanage, to construct a chapel at a Baptist camp and to help a church in Guacui.

■ Heard the executive secretary's report.

KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall outlined five areas the board will address in the coming year: construction of the new building for WMU, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Western Recorder and KBC archives; reclassification of the Executive Board's secretarial staff; naming people to fill vacancies on the Executive Board professional staff; moving the Foundation to full agency status; and "exciting new projects in missions and ministry."

Marshall reported that gifts to the Cooperative Program unified budget for the first quarter of this fiscal year were 8.5 percent higher than the same quarter last year. Although receipts fell \$14,000 below budget, this is the best financial position for this quarter since 1981, he said.

Marshall reported on several gifts from individuals and foundations to assist in KBC missions work. He also said he senses an exciting spirit among Kentucky Baptists.

"Something is happening here like nothing I've ever seen happen in my lifetime," he said. "It's not just the money. ... Is it possible that these are early signs of the Lord stirring us to be unselfish, ... possible early signs of awakening?"

■ Received a gift from Central

Baptist Hospital.

Larry Gray, vice president for mission effectiveness with the Lexington hospital, presented the KBC with a check for \$19,890 to be used to support missions and new church work in Kentucky. The money came from the sale of stone salvaged from the former building of Centenary United Methodist Church in Lexington, which the hospital bought for expansion.

■ Heard a report on a request related to Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

A motion approved by messengers to this year's KBC annual meeting asked the Executive Board to study the possibility of giving Mid-Continent "official" recognition.

The board's administrative committee received a copy of a letter written from Mid-Continent President LaVerne Butler to Bill Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer. Butler asked that "any discussion related to Mid-Continent be delayed until after the first of the year," apparently to give the school's trustees time to determine how they should respond to the KBC motion.

The December Executive Board meeting set two attendance records. The 146 board members in attendance represented the best attendance for any board meeting, and the 218 members and visitors present set a record for total attendance.

Allocation of year-end funds

Russia partnership	\$225,000
Mission Kentucky II	\$151,000
"Here's Hope" 1995 evangelism project	\$30,000
Student missions conference 1995	\$30,000
Temperance League of Kentucky	\$25,000
Hopkinsville College of the Bible	\$5,000
Archives endowment	\$42,000
Baptist Building operating and improvement ..	\$250,000
Retirees group insurance	\$125,000
Executive Board special projects	\$77,000
Student centers repair and replacement	\$75,000
"Ministers in Need" fund	\$30,000

Redistribution of Christian education funding

Institutions	Current		New				Difference	
	\$ Amount	% Total	Basic \$ Amount	Student \$ Amount	Total \$ Amount	% Total	\$	%
I. Bible College Category								
Clear Creek Baptist Bible College	414,720	10.8	414,720	x	414,720	10.8	0	0.0
II. Academy Category								
Oneida Baptist Institute	276,479	7.2	276,479	x	276,479	7.2	0	0.0
III. Liberal Arts Colleges Category								
Campbellsville	767,999	20	524,799	346,847	871,646	22.699	103,647	13.5
Cumberland	1,305,596	34	524,799	668,443	1,193,242	31.074	-112,354	-8.6
Georgetown	1,075,199	28	524,799	559,107	1,083,960	28.227	8,707	.8
Total	3,148,794	82	1,574,397	1,574,397	3,148,794	82	0	0
IV. Total All Categories	3,839,993	100			3,839,993	100	0	0

All figures will change as the variables change; the variables are (a) student credit hours and (b) total dollars available. Proposed distribution formula is to be implemented in the 1994-95 budget beginning Sept. 1, 1994.

PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

About 36 percent of Americans attend church on Christmas Eve, and about 25 percent attend church on Christmas Day.

Source: The Gallup Poll

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Robert Grass resigned as pastor of Nelson Creek Church effective Jan. 1.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Immanuel Church ordained Sara League as deacon Nov. 7. Also, Timothy Richerson was ordained as pastor/minister of

music Nov. 7.

■ **GRAHAM**—Graham Church called Tony Mercer as pastor.

■ **LEITCHFIELD**—Grayson County Association called Allen and DeLores Baugh as directors of missions.

■ **LONDON**—Long Branch Church called Fountaine Jones as interim

pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Baptist Healthcare System has named Jackie Lucas as clinical/ancillary manager for information services and Kevin Ludwigen as operating systems and database manager for information services.

Two Baptist Regional Medical Center employees—Jim Lyons, director of planning, and Debra Anderson, program director of adult psychiatry and chemical de-

pendency treatment—were recently named to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

■ **OWENTON**—First Church called Paul Lee as pastor. Lee formerly served on the staff at the Kentucky Baptist Convention where he was director of the media department.

■ **PADUCAH**—Jack Naylor, former pastor of Oaklawn Church, has retired and is living in Shepherdsville. Grant Jones has been called as interim pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Financial secretary; Victory Memorial B.C., Louisville. Call (502) 368-2521.

NEEDED: Church needs person to sign sermon for deaf group on Sunday morning. Salary provided. (502) 895-5006.

SEEKING: Third Avenue Baptist Church is seeking a church secretary, part-time (30 hours/week). Those interested in this position should send a resumé to Jonathan Bishop, pastor, 1726 S. Third Street, Louisville, KY 40208.

WANTED: Minister of music/education—full-time staff member. Send resumé to: Rev. Jack Reynolds, P.O. Box 185, Pooleville, MD 20837.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for church in Frankfort, Ky. Send resumé to: Pulpit Committee, P.O. Box 3164, Frankfort, KY 40603-3164.

FOR SALE: 1994 15-passenger Dodge vans. Also 15-passenger program and used vans. Frankfort Chrysler (800) 289-8223.

Sounds of music still fill the season in Kentucky

The emphasis on the visual in this year's Christmas celebrations hasn't interfered with the sounds of the season.

Music continues to play an important role in churches at Christmastime, said Karen Meredith, music sales counselor at the Baptist Book Store in Louisville.

"City of Lights," a four-part musical by Tom Fettke, was one of the first cantatas that sold out in the Louisville store, Meredith said. Other popular pieces this year included two musicals by the late composer Joe Parks: "Beloved Son," his last Christmas release, and "The First Noel."

Meredith said that in the last couple of years, a surprising trend she's noticed is that "older things have

sold almost as well, if not better than, the new" material.

"Emmanuel, Your Light has Come" is one example. This is one of the few two-voice-part arrangements available for Christmas, Meredith explained. "That might have something to do with its popularity."

Meredith also noticed fewer churches putting together their own programs this year. In previous years, she said, the trend had been more toward churches singing collections of anthems than complete cantatas.

At least one Kentucky Baptist church invited well-known choirs to come help celebrate the Christmas season. Florence Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky hosted the

Christian contemporary group "Truth" in a Saturday evening Christmas concert, and also the Cincinnati Boys Choir in concert Dec. 19.

Other churches have chosen different ways to present their music, like combining church choirs for large cantatas, scheduling handbell groups to perform concerts in shopping malls or planning Christmas pageants and living Christmas trees, said Jim Cordell, KBC church music director.

Many communities also have begun a "Messiah sing-a-long," he added. For these events, a sponsoring group would arrange for orchestra or other accompaniment, as well as solos. The chorus parts of Handel's work then would be sung by the gathering congregation—usually amateur singers who are familiar with the work and bring their own music.



Please don't drool as you read

One of the highlights of the Oneida Christmas season is the one-day-long reception hosted by our home economics girls and boys. The three foods classes worked for one-and-a-half weeks preparing the food, decorating a tree and the home economics department, handwriting invitations and hand-delivering them to teachers and staff.

Appetizers included sausage balls, potato skins with cheese and tomatoes, bacon rolls and sandwich loaf. The bean-pot fondue looked like a large, deep cake. It was multi-grain bread baked and filled with cheese, ham and onions. It was simply delicious.

Then there were pumpkin rolls, fruit dip made from apples, and cheese balls with crackers.

There was a type of bread called Russian Krindle which was filled with fruit. Other types of bread included egg nog, banana, and a combination pumpkin-cranberry bread.

The spreads included cherry, honey butter (mixed with cinnamon), coconut and pineapple, marmalade and cream cheese.

There also was a wonderful concoction called Chocolate Pizza which included melted chocolate chips, marshmallows, coconut, nuts and cherries.

Other cookies included Buckeyes (peanut butterballs), two-flavor fudge, peanut brittle, chocolate-covered cherries and snowballs (butternut cookies). There were six-layer cookies. In these were coconut, chocolate, butterscotch, chips, nuts and graham cracker crumbs.

Also there was something called Berliner Kramser. These were Christmas wreath cookies with the dough dyed green.

Drinks included Wassail, which is made of apple juice, sugar and spices and pineapple juice.

The Coffee Borgia was a mix of hot coffee, hot chocolate and whipped cream.

Picture all of this spread out on three large tables. Wrinkle your nose; can't you just smell the aromas? The hallways were filled with the appetizing scent all day.

Kitty Stidham is in her 10th year of teaching home economics at Oneida. A native of Florida where she earned her degree, she is a devout Christian. Her oldest son and daughter are both OBI graduates, and sophomore Chad has reached six feet in height and is still growing.

We doubled the area of our home economics department eight years ago. We have a very large sewing area, an area where students are taught how to set a table and to prepare for events like this one.

There are three mini-kitchens, complete with stove, refrigerator, microwave and cabinets. Also, there is an area for washing and drying clothes.

Our academic year is divided into four nine-week quarters. During the course of the year there is an emphasis on foods and cooking, clothes and sewing, child care and family living.

When I became president in its 73rd year, it was still traditional to have only girls taking home economics.

That all changed many years ago.

Often we have more boys than girls in our classes, and the boys can be more enthusiastic as well. Over recent years we have had about an even number of girls and boys earning the highest honors in home economics and receiving awards on Awards Day.

Sorry you missed all the good eating!

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

Good News in South Africa

The Lottie Moon Christmas offering theme is "Change the World Now." 1981 graduates James and Dorothy Ditty are helping to change the world in South Africa. They returned to the country in August after eight months of furlough as missionaries in residence.

The first good news they received was that friend Julia had broken all ties with Jehovah Witnesses. She now attends a weekly Bible study and is so excited about what she is learning about the Lord.

The Dittys soon will complete 13 weeks of study of the Xhosa language and culture. They acknowledge "there is no way we will speak fluently, but we are able to greet the people, introduce ourselves, ask simple questions, understand a little of what they're saying and read the Bible. Language study is difficult! Especially at our age we must rely totally on the Lord. We are grateful to all of you who have been faithful praying for us. Your labor has not been in vain."

Home during this term will be the tribal homeland of Ciskei. Jim will begin the February term at the Baptist International Theological Seminary. He will teach Old Testament survey, church history and Hebrew. Dorothy is in charge of the

daycare center if there are children on campus. If not, she will be praying for God to open a ministry for her in a nearby village.

Seven students graduated from the seminary Nov. 20. They will fill pulpits in the country of Namibia and in South Africa.

The political situation in South Africa continues to be tense. Leaders of 21 political groups signed the

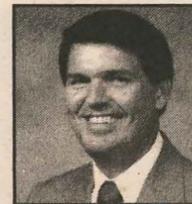
first democratic constitution. It brings with it a new beginning and many changes for all the South African people. Several of the very powerful political groups refused to sign, and threats of a civil war still hang over the country.

The Dittys request prayers that peace will prevail. "Pray the people will turn to God. ... Pray for the safety of all missionaries in South Africa."

The Dittys encourage us to put the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering on our shopping list. "There are so many people that need to be told of the love of Jesus." This outstanding missionary couple would appreciate a New Year greeting from you. Write them at P.O. Box 2155, King William's Town 5600, Republic of South Africa.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Paid Column

MISSIONS

Group studied Bible, decided they're Baptists

ONDARA, Spain (BP)—A new church that formed after a group of people studied the Bible has decided Baptists are most like a New Testament church.

The church began last year when a group in a town near the coastal Spanish city of Denia began studying their Bibles on their own. Eventually, they talked to different church groups to see if any corresponded to what they had discovered in the Bible.

After investigating several, they decided Baptist teachings were most biblical.

Joiquim Lahuerta, the group's pastor, his wife and their two daughters were baptized at Holy Trinity Evangelical Baptist Church in Denia on Easter Sunday. Lahuerta later baptized about 80 others who make up the new group.

The group's members represent a wide range of income levels and backgrounds. Some came from Catholic backgrounds; others had no church background. Some were dropouts from the hippie movement.

A delighted assistant in the whole process has been Jorge Pastor, pastor of Holy Trinity and director of Montgo Christian Center, a Baptist retreat center in Denia. The center includes a Christian school.

Pastor first learned of the new group when the father of a student began asking questions about Baptist beliefs. "He began to show he was interested in speaking to me on a deeper level. He asked me about baptism, church organization, the divinity of Christ, salvation. But he never told me what he thought about any of this," Pastor explained.

Puzzled by the depth of the questions, Pastor eventually met Lahuerta. He learned how the group had spontaneously organized into a New Testament church after Bible study. They had had no contact with evangelicals.

In the following months Pastor met many times with the group. They asked extensive questions on biblical faith. "With Bible in hand, we went looking passage by passage at what the Bible said," Pastor explained.

After the group had studied Baptist doctrinal materials, Lahuerta told Pastor, "We're exactly like you are!"

Several of the group were stunned when Pastor told them 70 million Baptists worship around the world. "You mean there are 70 million as strange as we are? Now we can feel more normal in our faith," one man told him.

FMB appoints first deaf missionary

By Mary Speidel
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Yvette Aarons heard God's call in the sounds of silence.

Her response made history: On Dec. 7 she became the first deaf person appointed as a career missionary by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. She'll return to the Caribbean island of Trinidad, where she has ministered to the deaf as a mission volunteer for three years.

"I've found my niche," said Aarons, 34, who has been deaf since birth.

Aarons grew up in Jamaica. She became a Christian as a teen-ager at a hearing church on the island. Later she began attending a deaf church, where she first sensed God's call to missions.

Aarons moved with her family to New York City when she was 16. Her first exposure to Southern Baptists came when she started attending a Long Island church of the deaf during college. Leslie Bunn, then the church's assistant pastor, became an important mentor for her.

Bunn, who said he is hard of hearing, has watched Aarons overcome obstacles as she followed the path toward foreign mission service.

"Communication is the biggest struggle of any deaf person," Bunn said. "But Yvette persevered. And I think the reason she persevered is because she has a very close relationship with the Lord."

Aarons received the bachelor of arts degree from Long Island University in Brooklyn, N.Y., and master of education degree from Western Maryland College in Westminster, where she majored in deaf education.

After completing her education, she taught deaf, mentally retarded and physically handicapped children in

New York City for about a year.

With her goal of foreign missions in mind, Aarons moved to Fort Worth, Texas, to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Her first year was tough; she had no interpreter for classes. But she survived by reading lips and borrowing notes from students she enlisted to help her.

"I knew this was where God wanted me. I just stuck with it through thick and thin," said Aarons, speaking through interpreter Becky Walker of Richmond, who interpreted for her during her later seminary years.

More hurdles awaited. When she contacted the FMB about possible service, officials replied they had no personnel requests for a deaf person to work as a career missionary.

"The board didn't have a policy (against appointing the deaf), but it was seen in practical application as a problem. We didn't know how it would work," said FMB administrator Clark Scanlon, who has led the board in studying deaf ministries around the world. "The main thing was that there was no request."

But Aarons didn't let that stop her. "I said, 'Well, I didn't make myself deaf,'" she recalled.

She kept at it, earning a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern. Then she worked with the deaf for two years as a Mission Service Corps volunteer at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church in Houston. She also worked with Deaf Opportunity Outreach, a Louisville-based organization that promotes deaf missions.

Then the FMB offered her an assignment as an International Service Corps volunteer among the deaf in Trinidad. Aarons spent three years there.

"She's been a wonderful inspiration to the deaf—for them to see a deaf young person who can live on

her own, handle her own business affairs and carry herself in a mature Christian manner," said FMB volunteer Lisa Bruce, who worked with Aarons in Trinidad for several months.

Besides sharing her faith and discipling new Christians, Aarons has tried to help Trinidadian deaf people build self-esteem and improve their lives.

"In Trinidad there aren't the equal-opportunity experiences (for the deaf) like here in America," she explained. She helps them "aim to go forward in their lives, instead of staying in the same situation, saying, 'I can't.' I went (there) trying to say, 'You can.'"

During her assignment there, she worked closely with Southern Baptist missionaries Willard and Doris Goforth, who already were ministering to the deaf in Trinidad. The Goforths had no previous experience in deaf ministry, so Aarons helped them improve their signing skills.

Aarons struggled with the choice of returning to Trinidad or looking at possibilities in other foreign countries. She sought counsel from Carter Bearden Jr., pastor to the deaf at First Baptist Church of Richmond.

"He said silence from God is an opportunity to build my faith, a time to put the brakes on the concerns and frustration of where I should go," she recalled. "That helped me decide to stay with the plan of going to Trinidad."

Aarons' appointment is a "major, major step" for the Southern Baptist deaf community, said Bearden, who interpreted for deaf worshippers attending the Dec. 7 missionary appointment service in Richmond.

"It's saying to other deaf Southern Baptists that there are opportunities within our own (mission) agencies. It's saying that when God calls, there could be a place for you."



MAJOR STEP Yvette Aarons, the first deaf career missionary appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, will work among the estimated 10,000 deaf people in Trinidad. (BP photo by Sandy King)

Beer-guzzling bar owner now Baptist pastor

KISORO, Uganda (BP)—Most folks in Kisoro thought Aloys Ntamugabomwe was perfectly matched with a job: he owned several bars and enjoyed consuming beer as much as selling it.

But fear of becoming the town drunk, and rumors of a "magic pill" that could take away the desire to drink, led him to another job that seems to suit him perfectly: Baptist pastor.

The transition from heavy-drinking bar owner to preacher, however, was neither direct nor quick.

Ntamugabomwe grew up in Kisoro, a town tucked into the southwestern corner of Uganda.

After trying a variety of jobs, Ntamugabomwe decided to build bars. The businesses thrived, but he recognized the harm his product was doing to some of his customers.

He also realized his own drinking was getting out of control.

About this time local gossip told of a pill available in Zaire that could make people stop drinking. But an uncle from Zaire refuted the rumors of the pill. Zaire was as full of drunkards as anyplace else, he insisted.

Disillusioned and still desperate, Ntamugabomwe raised the question again weeks later. Was his uncle certain that somewhere in Zaire there wasn't such a pill?

This time the uncle sensed the deep need in his nephew.

There is no pill, he said flatly. But there is help to stop drinking—the power of God through Jesus Christ. The uncle led Ntamugabomwe to pray to accept Christ as Savior, then told him God gives power as people pray and study the Bible.

Ntamugabomwe didn't own a Bible, but his wife had one she never read. They began to read it together and pray. Before long his thirst for beer was gone, replaced by a thirst for knowledge about God.

He wound up moving his family to Rwanda to attend Bible college. After two years he had to return to Uganda after an unsuccessful attempt to get a passport.

In Kampala, Uganda's capital, he met Southern Baptist missionaries and saw that their understanding of Scripture matched his. In 1979, when the Baptist Union of Uganda asked him to begin a church in Masaka near

Kampala, he agreed.

By 1985 the Baptist union was deeply concerned for the southwestern part of the country—Ntamugabomwe's home region—where there was no established evangelical Christian witness. Ntamugabomwe's co-workers had been impressed by his maturity and skills as a church starter. When they recommended he return home to start churches, he agreed.

He had retained his buildings that once had housed bars. His old friends and former customers became his first converts. The bars reopened—not for drinking but as places to gather and study the Bible.

For six years Ntamugabomwe and his converts hauled volcanic rock by hand and by bicycle to one plot until a building was ready for the new Kabuhungiro Baptist Church to use.

Today seven Baptist churches worship in the Kisoro region. Four have their own buildings and land and three meet in homes. Seven pastors have been trained in Bible schools; others will begin Bible school or seminary in the next few months.

And Ntamugabomwe still has a perfect job—pastor.

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