

FOR THE RECORD

Ministerial affairs
When ministers succumb to the temptation of extramarital affairs, the impact is far-reaching. A package of stories in this week's Recorder examines the problem, what causes it and how churches can protect themselves and their ministers. See pages 1, 6, 7 & 8.

Southeastern approved
The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has restored Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to full accreditation. See page 2.

Kentucky CP up
First-quarter receipts for the Kentucky Cooperative Program show gains on several fronts. See page 3.

Family Forum
How to handle conflict between husband and wife when children are present. See page 4.

Editorial
A review of the top stories of 1993. See page 5.

Somali Christians few and fearful, but committed



WET AND WATCHFUL "Public baptism" in Somalia is somewhat a misnomer because of the persecution of Somali Christians in the overwhelmingly Moslem country. Here a still-dripping Somali believer is embraced by a friend. Behind them hang various explosives that have been dug from the Somali sand and disarmed by U.S. military forces in Somali. (BP photo by Melissa Bird)

By Craig Bird
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MOGADISHU, Somalia (BP)—Abdul was baptized in late November—less than 100 yards from four Somali Moslems bowing toward Mecca for their afternoon prayers.

Across town, Ali slipped furtively from one hiding place to another. It was the third day since he had been condemned to death by four mosques for passing out Bibles and telling others about Jesus.

If any Somalis outside the small, tightly knit groups of local Christians find out what Abdul did, he could soon be living the same kind of life as Ali.

"I'm not yelling to the whole world what I've done, just telling a few people," Abdul said. "I have hesitated to be baptized for many years. But it is clear in the Bible that Jesus was baptized—not because he needed to be but as an example we must follow."

Abdul and Ali—not their real names—could well be the prototypes of the future for those who join the Somali evangelical Christian community.

One option is to aggressively—some would say foolishly—confront the Moslem culture of the country with the claims of Jesus.

The other is to "tell a few people" while building relationships and growing a strong, hardy core of believers. Some would say that lacks boldness.

□ See Somali believers ..., page 4

Clinton calls on churches to act more

By Pam Parry
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The nation's streets, schools and homes will be safer when its churches and synagogues become more active in the fight against violence, according to President Bill Clinton.

Clinton emphasized the religious community's involvement with the crime issue during a Dec. 17 media round table with nine religion reporters in the Cabinet Room of the White House. Clinton met with representatives from Jewish, Catholic and Protestant news media, including Religious News Service, Associated Baptist Press, Catholic News Service, Christian Century and Christianity Today.

The church is perhaps the only institution that can hold life together as economic and family structures continue to crumble, the president said.

"And it seems to me that to turn it around is going to require a massive, highly concentrated effort by all Americans, starting with the president but going down to every community ... but also really it requires almost a spiritual change."

Government policies alone will not curb violence, he said.

"I think (churches) can weigh in heavily on behalf of all the efforts that

□ See Clinton calls churches ..., page 2

Kentucky clerk urges Russians to vote & run

LOUISVILLE (BP)—When Jefferson County Clerk Rebecca Jackson was chosen as one of 25 delegates to observe the Dec. 12 elections in Russia, she knew immediately she wanted to leave behind a thank-you gift to people she met there.

She told her pastor, "I want Russian-language Bibles."

The request did not surprise Bill Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, who said he has witnessed Jackson's commitment to evangelism during her 16 years in the church.

Highview, which has a ministry to Russians in the Louisville area, provided Jackson with 20 New Testaments and 40 Gospels of John in Russian. Hancock also was able to put Jackson in contact with Norm Lytle, Southern Baptist representative in Moscow. On her arrival, Lytle met her with 24 children's Bibles.

After two days of orientation and briefings, the 25-member delegation was sent out in teams to observe the election process. Jackson was excited to learn she

□ See Kentuckian urges ..., page 3

Pastor's affair hurt more than two families

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

First Baptist Church lies in a small city on the East Coast. It is a 350-member Southern Baptist congregation. About 40 percent of its members are black. The church has deep roots in its community, going back 70 years. It is committed to staying in the neighborhood, which is rapidly transforming from suburban to urban in character.

But First Baptist has had little time to focus on challenges related to ministering in a changing community. Three years ago, rumors began to fly that the pastor of nine years was involved romantically with a married woman in the church.

Confronted, the couple admitted the rumors were true. The church asked for the pastor's resignation immediately. He was gone within a week.

"It doggone near killed the church," said his successor, who came to the church in 1992. He talked about the church's experience on the condition that the church not be identified.

Though he didn't know it until moving to the church, the pastor says it was not First Baptist's first experience with sexual misconduct by a minister. In fact, it was the third pastorate in a row marred by talk of immorality.

The former pastor's immediate predecessor survived an attempted firing amid widespread acknowledgment of an affair with a church secretary. The pastor before him was fired after being accused of molesting teenagers.

Still, neither of those episodes was as devastating to the church as the last, the current pastor said.

Based on reports he has heard involving friends and acquaintances over the years, First Baptist's experience may not be all that unusual, the new pastor said.

"It's an awesome epidemic. A lot of my buddies, they're falling like flies—liberal and conservative."

But the church is a case study of the devastation that can be left behind when a pastor falls from grace.

When he arrived, the new pastor was met by a great need for pastoral care. Some people, however, were reluctant to open up immediately, feeling if one pastor had betrayed their trust another should be suspect.

Pastoral care had been the previous pastor's Achilles' heel. He had a reputation for being very effective at counseling church members and offering spiritual direction one-on-one.

Those gifts placed him in situa-

tions ripe for abuse, his successor said. Women—many physically attractive—were drawn to what the counseling relationship offered them.

"He would be to them everything their husbands were not," the new pastor explained. "He would listen to them, take them seriously and give them respect"—often in stark contrast to husbands who took their wives for granted.

Adding to the vulnerability of the situation was "our priestly, prophetic role," the new pastor said. Hearing the



Ministers & sexual misconduct

preacher expound on deeper thoughts and insight, some admiring parishioners attributed heroic qualities to their pastor.

"It's like a power thing, in a sense. There's a power attached to the pastor and intimacy set up in one-on-one counseling. There's a set-up there, I believe. You're bound to get an opportunity. The best solution is to decide ahead of time it's not going to happen."

An affair developed with a key leader in the church. She was a pillar of the congregation. In terms of impact on the church, "it couldn't have been a worse person," the current pastor said.

She, her husband and children

□ See Effect of pastor's ..., page 6

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Dick Bumpass**, 60, for 24 years director of Baptist Student Union ministries at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., died Dec. 7 after a massive heart attack.

■ **Illinois Baptists** have been found not guilty of "willful and wanton misconduct" in a lawsuit filed by a man burned in a 1990 explosion at the site where the Illinois Baptist State Association's disaster relief van was working after a tornado. A jury in Will County, Ill., ruled against the claim of Scott Sharp, a propane company employee who was burned while refilling the disaster relief unit's tank.

Southeastern's probation lifted by SACS

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has been removed from probation and re-established as a member in good standing with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The announcement was made Dec. 16 at the annual meeting of the regional accrediting association.

Seminary President Paige Patterson said he "profoundly appreciated" the accrediting agency's affirmation of the seminary's academic program and sees it as "an invitation for the school to expand rapidly."

SACS placed the seminary on probation in December 1991, prior to Patterson's election as president. Major reasons cited by the accrediting agency were trustee involvement in administrative practices and lack of long-range planning.

From the outset of his tenure, Patterson said nothing SACS asked the seminary to do was beyond reason. The seminary actually fulfilled most of the requests last year, he reported, but SACS wanted to see Southeastern go through a one-year cycle utilizing its new procedures.

Accreditation is "often said to be

optional, but in our present society, there is nothing really optional about it," Patterson said. He called accreditation a "litmus test for credibility" within the academic world.

Accreditation also facilitates the transfer of academic credit and enables students to receive certain scholarships and vocational endorsements.

Seminary trustee Chairman Ned Mathews, pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C., said the seminary "can now focus on its primary task of training men and women for the ministry."

"For the short-term, we will continue to concentrate our energies on building the enrollment and endowment," Mathews said.

Despite accreditation difficulties, Southeastern has seen an increase in enrollment since Patterson arrived on campus in June 1992.

Currently, 688 students are enrolled at Southeastern—roughly half the enrollment the school recorded before the resignation of President Randall Lolley in 1987. Lolley, a moderate, resigned after conservative trustees determined to change the way faculty members were hired.

Lolley was succeeded by Lewis

Drummond, whose short tenure as president was marked by further controversy and the scrutiny of two accrediting agencies. Patterson succeeded Drummond as president.

Russ Bush, Southeastern's academic dean, said the seminary's academic program has remained strong despite turbulent times.

"Some of our record-keeping procedures and planning processes needed revision and improvement, but we have now taken care of that," Bush said. He said the seminary is involved in a curriculum review and will be implementing innovative delivery systems next fall.

One of the seminary's representatives at the SACS meeting in Atlanta, professor Keith Eitel, expressed "jubilation" that the school's accreditation had been reaffirmed. "This gives us the ability to grow and to expand many of our programs," Eitel said.

Although SACS has removed Southeastern from probation, the seminary remains on probation with the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada.

Patterson said he hopes to have that probation resolved within the next six months.

N.C. convention eyes giving to other schools

ASHEBORO, N.C. (BP)—A committee has been named to study a possible funding relationship between the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and Luther Rice Seminary of Atlanta and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary of Memphis, Tenn.

Kathryn Hambrick, president of the convention's general board, named the committee, following instructions from the convention's annual meeting.

The 1994 state convention budget includes a small item in the optional section for Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, a move which prompted concern by some that other non-Southern Baptist seminaries also be considered for funding.

The Richmond seminary is supported primarily by Baptist moderates, while Luther Rice and Mid-America are supported primarily by Baptist conservatives.

Messengers to the state convention asked that a committee be appointed to consider adding a line item in the regular budget allowing churches to send designated money to Luther Rice and/or Mid-America and count that money as Cooperative Program gifts.

Currently churches may send money through the state convention to three non-Southern Baptist or state convention causes, the Christian Action League of North Carolina, American Bible Society and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, but may not count this money as Cooperative Program contributions.

The Luther Rice/Mid-America proposal would be similar to these three causes, except such money would be listed as Cooperative Program.

Clinton calls churches to more involvement

Continued from page 1

are being made to make the streets and schools more secure—putting more police officers on the street and having alternative punishments for young people that have a higher probability of working, the drug courts, boot camps and things like that."

Many churches could reach out more to troubled children and get them involved in their programs and worship services, he said. Some churches could be more involved in activities designed to help citizens take back their streets, he added.

"I'm convinced that first we have to reimpose security, but then we have to try to rebuild the lives of these young people."

In part, schools need to instill basic civic values that teach respect for

democracy, honesty, self, others and the environment, Clinton said. The schools can help carry the load, he said, but not without a strategy that includes the family and churches.

Clinton, who said his faith has sustained him during turbulent times, also encouraged Americans to see violence as a personal affront.

The president encouraged each American to "make the most of your life and the lives of those within your direct charge ... And then try to have the best possible connection with the larger humanity of which you are a part."

"It would be very difficult to define your lives solely in individual terms. And to me that is one of the teachings of the Scriptures."

Responding to a question about

how to reduce hate crimes, Clinton said he tries to set an example that promotes respect and diversity. Schools and churches also could be involved in teaching children and youth how to respect good people who are different from them.

People can have divergent religious views, but if they share civic values, honor the law and respect others, then they can bridge those differences, he said.

"America has the opportunity to become the world's first truly multi-ethnic rainbow society where we can embrace our differences—this is not an easy thing, by the way."

"If we get this done, I think, we will have to draw on the strength of our religious heritage and our basic sense of human kindness."

Fellowship supporter bumped

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (ABP)—A pastor who has expressed support for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has been bumped from a strategic planning committee charting the future of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Gary Cook, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lawton, Okla., had been selected for the committee in part to represent Oklahoma Baptists who feel disenfranchised by conservatives' control of the Southern Baptist Convention, committee chairman David Willets told the Baptist Messenger.

However, Cook's expressions of support for the Fellowship—a group of moderate Southern Baptists who say they have been disenfranchised by conservative control—goes too far, Willets implied.

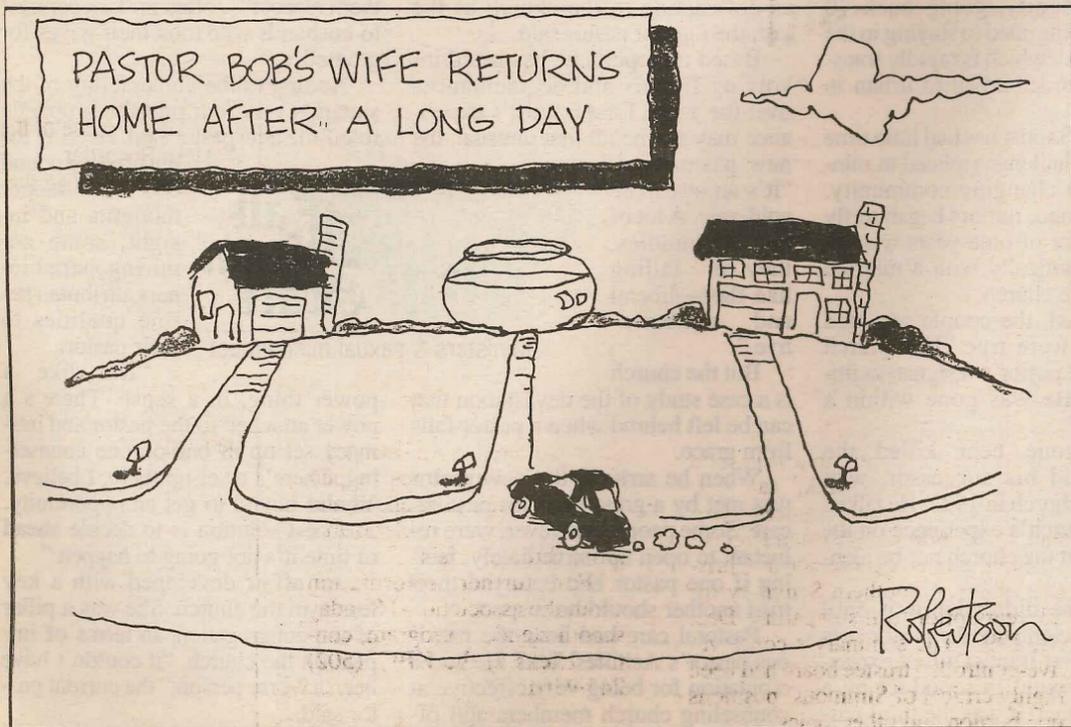
Cook reportedly has moderated a discussion group at an Oklahoma Fellowship meeting, introduced Fellowship Coordinator Cecil Sherman at a

regional listening session and agreed to serve on the state Fellowship's coordinating committee.

Cook's church remains one of the top contributors to the Cooperative Program unified budget which benefits the SBC and the state convention. The church also increased its gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for the SBC Foreign Mission Board by 25 percent last year.

"The climate of the annual convention was very clear that the CBF is perceived and is in reality a competing organization to the Cooperative Program," Willets said in explaining his removal of Cook.

Cook said he regrets being removed from the committee. "It is grievous to me that I can grow up and be nurtured in my own state by everything that Oklahoma Baptists stand for ... and now find myself unacceptable to serve Oklahoma Baptists."



KENTUCKY



RIVER MINISTRY Andrea Ramage says in her first four months as a US-2 home missionary she has adopted a cat, worked with several churches and adapted to working in a large city. The 24-year-old Kentucky native is assistant regional coordinator for the Mississippi River Ministry, an effort of seven state conventions to evangelize and minister to mostly low-income residents along the Mississippi River. A national convocation on river ministry is scheduled for March 11-12 in Jackson, Miss. Ramage is the primary contact person for churches wanting to get involved in river ministry, and she has assembled a directory of ministry projects churches may choose from. For more information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department at (502) 245-4101. (BP photo by David Winfrey)

Kentuckian urges Russians to vote & run

Continued from page 1

would go to Voronezh, where a centuries-old Baptist congregation was in the midst of a building project.

Voronezh, 100 miles south of Moscow, straddles the banks of the Voronezh River. During World War II, the Nazis advanced to take half the town, but the Russians held and stopped the invaders from crossing the river. Most of the town was leveled during the siege.

What the Nazis spared was destroyed by others. Nikita Khrushchev had the Baptist church dynamited, ordering the rubble carted away and another structure built on the site to discourage members from having anything to remind them of their church.

Despite Khrushchev's effort to blot them out, the congregation thrived during the years of repression. Meeting in homes, they continued to grow until today they number 1,000 members. A new three-story building

is near completion on property donated by the new Russian government.

After meeting all day with local election officials and candidates, Jackson squeezed time from her official schedule to contact the church's associate pastor, Vladimir Cheprasov. She was amazed to learn that Cheprasov had been a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville from September 1992 to May 1993 and had visited Highview Baptist Church several times.

Arrangements were made for Jackson to attend the two-hour-long Saturday evening worship service, followed by dinner with Cheprasov and his family.

Arriving at the church, Jackson was invited to meet with Pastor Alexeyev Oleg Alexandrovna and other church leaders.

Speaking through a translator, she described her mission as an election observer. Then the translator, a mem-

ber of a non-denominational church, spoke up.

"I never vote because I don't know if these people are Christians or not," she said. "So I just don't vote."

"God has a history of using both believers and non-believers to accomplish his purposes," Jackson replied. "Pray, and God will guide you as you vote. God also needs for his people to be willing to enter public service. Christians must be willing to offer themselves for such service."

The pastor asked Jackson to share this same message with the congregation, as many of them felt the same frustration.

With elections to be held the next day, Jackson readily agreed.

"They thought it was very unusual to have a Christian as an elected official," Jackson noted.

"Christians in public office is something they are only beginning to dream about."

Elizabethtown Youth Ranch getting facelift

ELIZABETHTOWN—The Baptist Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown is getting a much-needed renovation after 16 years of service.

The 10-bed facility, which helps boys who have suffered severe abuse, neglect or other family crises, is getting the \$59,000 facelift as funds become available, according to Brenda Gray, director of development and

communications with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Gray said a \$10,000 challenge grant already has been received from an anonymous donor. The donor will match all gifts received for the renovation project up to a total of \$10,000.

Inside work already has begun as Baptist Builders volunteers worked to prepare the bedrooms to receive fresh

paint and new furniture. This entailed a temporary move of the residents to nearby Glen Dale Children's Home during October and November.

When completed, the renovation also will include new flooring, new window treatments, a new water heater, updated plumbing and electrical systems, exterior work, a new roof, new doors and outside lighting.

Abortion-rights group to honor Paul Simmons

LOUISVILLE—Paul Simmons, who resigned from the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary one year ago in part due to a dispute over his views on abortion, will receive an award from the Kentucky Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights Jan. 22.

Simmons will receive the organization's first David Gunn Award for "outstanding contribution to women's reproductive rights." The award is

named in memory of the doctor murdered last year outside an Alabama abortion clinic.

The recognition dinner will be held Jan. 22, a date that closely coincides with the 21st anniversary of the landmark Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in America. The dinner will be held in Louisville.

"Paul Simmons has been extremely helpful in giving us in the pro-

choice movement a sound theological, sociological and biblical ground for our position and work," said Gilbert Schroerlucke of Kentucky Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights.

Simmons was professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary for 23 years prior to his departure Dec. 31, 1992. The seminary's conservative-controlled trustee board had been highly critical of Simmons' positions on abortion and other topics.

Kentucky CP shows gains in first quarter of new year

First-quarter gifts to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget increased 8.5 percent over the same period last year and fell only slightly below the budget goal.

For the first quarter of the current fiscal year, which began Sept. 1, contributions sent from churches to the KBC totalled \$4.32 million, up from \$3.98 million during the same quarter last year.

The first-quarter CP total fell \$13,935, or 0.3 percent, below the budget goal of \$4.33 million.

Total receipts actually are running slightly ahead of budget due to the addition of \$95,314 in "Kentucky-only" gifts in the first quarter.

These funds are designated by churches to be used entirely in the KBC's state budget and not divided between the KBC and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Undesignated gifts to the Ken-

tucky CP are split, with about 37 percent going to the SBC and about 63 percent remaining with the KBC.

The KBC has started receiving "Kentuck-only" funds since some moderate churches have begun bypassing traditional CP channels to support the KBC but not all the agencies of the SBC.

"Kentucky-only" funds received by the KBC in the first quarter of this fiscal year increased 15 percent over the same quarter last year. The \$95,314 total is 13.5 percent above what the KBC Executive Board had budgeted in anticipated income from this category.

When the portion of undesignated CP funds that remains in Kentucky is combined with "Kentucky-only" funds, the KBC received a total of \$2.82 million in the first quarter that was available for use in-state. That combined total is \$2,535, or 0.009 percent, above budget.

Kentucky leads in associational standard awards

NASHVILLE—For the third year, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has been honored for having the highest rate of associations meeting requirements for a "standard" associational Sunday school program.

The award was presented to Jeff Hicks, KBC Sunday school associate, by representatives of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in late December.

This year, 42 of the state's 78 associations achieved "standard" status. Associations earn the designation by meeting requirements in five areas: organization, planning, programming, training and administration.

Kentucky associations achieving the standard this year reported seeing several benefits in the effort, especially in clarifying needs and demonstrating the need for additional outreach.

"The standard is a good guide to follow," wrote Larry Polston of Bracken Baptist Association. "This past year we planned three extra events because of the felt needs in reaching younger adults, youth and singles."

Doug Neuspickle of Northern Kentucky Baptist Association reported that following the standard's guidelines helped the association plan ahead and not just react to problems that arise through crisis.

For further information about the associational Sunday school standard program, contact Hicks at the KBC, (502) 245-4101.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Tony Aja**, ethnic/language consultant in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department, has resigned to accept another ministry position in Louisville.

■ **Michael Duduit** has been named director of public relations at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Duduit held a similar position with the seminary from 1984-87 and later was director of development and church relations at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. In addition to his new role, Duduit will continue as executive director of the American Academy of Ministry and as editor of Preaching magazine.

■ **Fred Durkin**, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg, died Dec. 27 of an apparent heart attack. Durkin, 51, is survived by his wife, Linda; two sons, Sean and William; and a daughter, Shannon.

■ **Grace Powell Freeman**, former Acteens consultant with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, gave birth Dec. 19 to an 8-pound, 13-ounce baby boy, named Robert Powell Freeman. She and her husband, Bob, live in New York City.

■ **Correction:** An article in the Dec. 7 issue of the Western Recorder incorrectly identified the director of the Danville Children's Choir as Nevalyn Moore. The director and founder of that choir is Bruce Richardson, minister of music at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville.

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

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Somali believers few & fearful but faithful

Continued from page 1

But in a country like Somalia, how do you apply the biblical concept of being wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove?

The last official government statistics before the outbreak of civil war in 1990 listed 2,000 Catholics and 1,000 Protestants out of a population of more than 5 million. Evangelicals estimated 600 "believers" in their ranks five years ago, but now say many, perhaps most, of those have fled the country.

A consensus among Abdul and his friends is that "probably 100" evangelical Christians live in Mogadishu, the embattled Somali capital. Abdul personally knows only 10. Perhaps 20 have been baptized; the average wait between profession of faith in Christ and immersion is seven years.

This tiny group attracts the interest of Christians on temporary duty in Somali with Western military units, as well as Christians who work for the secular aid organizations.

But it also attracts the intense interest of resurgent Moslem fundamentalist forces that have swept the country alongside the looting of Somali warlords.

"Before the war we could dress in Western clothes," said one Moslem woman who befriended some Christian aid workers. "Now we couldn't dare wear anything except traditional dresses or we would be punished."

The same holds true with tolerance of religious differences, according to Abdul. "Before, if you wanted to become a Christian, the government's attitude was, 'Go ahead, just don't bother anyone else.' Most people just thought you were stupid—but they wouldn't fight you over it."

Newspapers publish death threats against anyone who abandons Islam for Christianity. It's believed militant Moslem groups from Sudan and Iran have established themselves as en-

forcement squads in the holy war within the civil war.

Ali already has paid a terrible price, even if his current effort to flee the country succeeds. He had been a Christian for five years when he met some Western Christians who trained him in their style of evangelism and supplied him with Bibles. In the past few months he passed out hundreds of copies of Scriptures.

When his pregnant wife resisted pressure to leave him, she and their 4-year-old son were kidnapped. She was forced to have an abortion and, within days, was married to a wealthy Moslem businessman. Bereft of his family, Ali continued to evangelize.

He even gave Bibles to two of his uncles—who promptly turned him in to Moslem authorities. That Friday, death sentences for blasphemy were proclaimed by the imams of four mosques. Ali returned home to find his house looted. Neighbors warned him "people have been here looking for you every two hours." He fled to the home of another Somali Christian.

"Not only has Ali suffered terrible loss personally, but he's exposing other Somali Christians who now run grave risks by assisting him," one Christian said.

"By ignoring the cultural realities of Somalia, he may die and other Christians may die. People interested in hearing the gospel may be intimidated. And what will the church have gained?"

Abdul also stands ready to face persecution for his faith, but he doesn't plan to seek it unnecessarily. He doesn't accept someone's professed Christianity automatically. Because spies are a reality, he exercises great care before telling someone where he lives and works.

Even three Somalis who witnessed his baptism (two of whom were baptized a week earlier) have not been told where most other Christians live.



LONG-AWAITED BAPTISM This Somali man waited eight years after becoming a Christian before experiencing believer's baptism. Public profession of Christianity in Moslem-dominated Somalia can be life-threatening.

Instead, they will be visited by other believers in their homes and given the chance to prove the sincerity of their newly proclaimed faith.

Numbers aren't firm, but an estimated 75 percent of Somalis who convert to Christianity either revert to Islam under pressure or are killed once it is known what they have done.

"We need time to help new Christians mature and be ready to stand the persecution before too many people know," Abdul added. "I need a strong heart. Pray for me."

He didn't even tell his wife he had become a Christian in 1985 until they had agreed to be married. Then he offered to break the engagement. To his surprise, she was thrilled.

"Oh, I have been a Christian for years but was afraid if I told you you wouldn't marry me," she said.

Christmas because we get to decorate the house. Then I asked her, 'What is your favorite holiday?' I just knew she was going to say it was Christmas! She answered, 'It's the one that comes at the end of the year.' I thought, 'Ah, ha! Christmas.'

But she went on to add, 'You know, the one that comes after Christmas.' Puzzled, I looked at her and asked, 'You mean, New Year's Eve?' She said, 'Yes.' Since we normally don't go to New Year's Eve parties, nor do we have one ourselves, I was wondering what her little mind was thinking. I said, 'But, Kimberly, we don't do anything on New Year's Eve.' I could tell she was frustrated at me when she replied so emphatically, 'Yes, we do Mommy! We watch movies, we play games and we eat popcorn!'

"She was right. It's just the three of us at home together on that evening, and that's what we do. It surprised me to learn that she treasured the time we spend alone as a family above all the other festivities that holidays bring."

There are lessons to be learned from this ... for all of us!

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



Facing conflict

By Diana Garland

One of the times of greatest stress in marriages is the long, cold period of mid-winter, after the holiday season. The bills seem insurmountable and the cold keeps people inside.

Some of us grew up in families in which the rule about marital squabbles was, "Not in front of the children."

Others grew up in families where parents expressed their anger at one another with loud words, perhaps even physical conflict.

Almost all of us vowed we would never put our children through the experience of parental conflict. But put them through it we must. Children must learn that love includes caring enough to face, resolve and sometimes live with conflict.

Conflict can be healthy and helpful, not destructive. That does not mean it is comfortable.

Jesus modeled this in his own close relationships. For example, Jesus said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan."

One of the things Jesus taught was to be direct—no hissing behind a closed door.

So too, much of our conflict needs to be addressed where children may witness or overhear our discussion. We teach our children and strengthen our marriages when we can confront conflict candidly and lovingly.

Provide children (and one another) with the assuring message, "I am committed to this marriage, and that means working through conflict." Tell children that conflict is just part of being a family, and that this conflict belongs to the two of you. If a child comes to your defense, gently but clearly say: "This is between us; we will work it out just as we have worked through lots of other problems. That's what it means to love one another. We do not need your help."

Parental conflict creates anxiety for children, but if you are good teachers, they also will learn that conflicts can be worked through; mature people make mistakes, apologize and change their ways; and hugs and kisses are good seals for the resolution.

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

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

New Year's Eve: A child's view

The chapel crowd was larger; more of our traveling staff are in the office the week before Christmas. Board meeting had ended the day before; a collective sigh of relief echoed through the building. Most would tell you it is the best time of year around here.

Our chapel leader that day was Debbie Terrell Bannon, administrative secretary for the student department. Debbie joined our staff three months after I arrived here.

Admittedly, I was both exhausted and exhilarated by the prior two days, and receptive to worship. Her brief devotional thought, concluding a medley of music, challenged my priorities. With her permission, I hope it blesses and challenges you as you begin this new year of reassessing priorities.

"Isn't it funny how the 'little truths' sometimes come out of the mouths of the 'little people' in our lives? This one comes from my favorite little person, my daughter, Kimberly, who is now 6 years old.

"It's Christmas time. Life is hectic. There are the programs, the choir rehearsals and the parties—not to mention the shopping. Yesterday, being the 'working mother' that I am, I left work at 4:30 and had a shopping

errand to run. After that, I had to pick up Kimberly at after-school care, get supper and teach a piano lesson at 7. My husband, John, was in a class and would not be home until late. Our schedule was tight, so the two of us decided to go to McDonald's for supper.

"While we were sitting there munching on our 'Happy Meal' and 'Daily Double Combo,' Kimberly

looked up and asked, 'Mommy, what is your favorite holiday?' Well, I thought for a moment. Now that I am older, Thanksgiving is becoming my favorite only because there is no Santa or Easter Bunny to take away from the true meaning of this holiday.

"Not wanting to dampen a 6-year-old's enthusiasm for Christmas by explaining all of this, I answered that my favorites were Halloween and

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

EDITORIALS

Religion stories took many twists & turns in 1993

Who can imagine what a year will bring? Last January, we peered into a blank chapter in history known as 1993. Here are some of the top stories that affected Baptists:

■ Faith and freedom.

Ratification of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act provided the most far-reaching event for American Christians and other people of faith in 1993. RFRA secured a principle taken away by the Supreme Court in 1990. Previous courts insisted the government must prove it has a "compelling interest" before it denies religious freedom to citizens. But in *Oregon vs. Smith*, a majority of the court said, in Justice Anthony Scalia's words, the compelling interest standard is "a luxury we no longer can afford." Americans of faith disagreed. And with support from the Clinton Administration, Congress passed RFRA. Baptists helped, particularly through the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Its general counsel, Oliver Thomas, spearheaded a broad coalition—including the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission—which promoted the act to ensure religious freedom for the ages.

Religious freedom was not so secure around the globe. In Russia, only Boris Yeltsin stood between diverse people of faith and forces that would crush religious freedom. Similar moves surfaced in other former Soviet and Iron Curtain countries. Religion was the cause and first casualty in the Balkan war. In the Islamic world, Christians were persecuted and killed for their faith.

■ Life's tough all over.

Real and imaginary violence captured its share of ink. Although overall crime decreased, murders and shootings escalated. And with the carnage, Americans couldn't tell when news reports stopped and movies began. They expressed their outrage, both at fictional media mayhem and neighborhood shootings. Lawmakers followed suit, considering bills aimed at TV violence and gun control.

Those problems seemed relatively simple compared to medical issues. Abortion topped this debate. But euthanasia, assisted suicide, genetic engineering and health care reform demanded attention.

In Kentucky, corruption and gambling continued their sordid waltz. The board and top administrators of Kentucky Lottery left amid charges of mismanagement and worse. A startling number of state legislators were indicted and/or convicted and/or decided not to seek re-election in the wake of BOPTR0T.

On a happier note, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board launched True Love Waits. This campaign—aimed at encouraging sexual purity—succeeded because it affirms teen-agers. True Love Waits has enjoyed phenomenal success—both in participation by teens across the religious spectrum, as well as national media attention.

■ Change can't quit.

Kentucky Baptists got a front-row seat for the transition of leadership at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Following the retirement of President Roy Honeycutt, conservative trustees—long critical of the seminary they called liberal—elected Al Mohler, four years out of the school's doctoral program, to lead the seminary into the next millennium. Mohler's election precipitated resignations of the provost, two deans and two vice presidents, which quickened the pace of change.

Southern Baptists' overseas missions efforts also modulated, as Jerry Rankin succeeded Keith Parks as president of the Foreign Mission Board. Parks retired in the fall of 1992 following an ongoing leadership dispute with trustees. Rankin, whose adult life has been spent as a foreign missionary and field-based missions administrator, has been hailed by missionaries as a leader who will decentralize decision-making.

A Southern Baptist institution that came out on the short end of change in recent years—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary—got a break in 1993. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools removed the seminary from probationary status, which followed a messy leadership transition from moderates to conservatives.

■ Getting along, or ...

Relationships played important roles within the Southern Baptist and Kentucky Baptist conventions.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship dominated this issue. Increasing numbers of moderates who have felt disenfranchised by the SBC's conservative majority joined the Fellowship. And it looked more like a de-

nomination-within-a-denomination, as it bolstered direct mission work and supported a variety of causes. SBC conservatives often raged at the fledgling group, blaming it for denominational woes, particularly anemic budgets. But the Fellowship added about one church per day, according to Coordinator Cecil Sherman.

The Woman's Missionary Union also came under scrutiny when it announced it would work with like-minded Christians who aren't Southern Baptists. Its decision was not without precedent—the Foreign Mission Board works with Great Commission Christians, the Sunday School Board relates to evangelical Christians and the seminaries train all kinds of Christians—but some Southern Baptists accused WMU of providing covert help to the Fellowship. The SBC's Executive Committee and two mission boards insisted WMU should maintain an exclusive relationship with the SBC. The Sunday School Board went a step further, launching a "ministry to women," which some observers believe will compete with WMU.

A vexing problem—tight finances—plagued several SBC agencies. The Sunday School and Foreign Mission boards decreased their staffs. The Executive Committee reported decreased support for SBC finances.

Kentucky was not immune to convention politics. Prior to the KBC annual meeting, conservatives and moderates worked hard to get like-minded Kentucky Baptists to attend. Conservatives accused moderates of using the state chapter of the Fellowship for political purposes, while moderates criticized conservatives for political activity, such as sponsoring an invitation-only rally in Louisa and hosting a national meeting of conservative state leaders. At the KBC annual meeting, both sides won some; moderates were pleased with the presidential election, and conservatives were glad the KBC rescinded its support for the Baptist Joint Committee.

■ Who's in?

Baptists encountered questions of inclusion on several fronts last year. Some Kentuckians questioned whether churches that support the Fellowship while also supporting the SBC and KBC are indeed loyal to the state convention.

South District Baptist Association narrowly failed to disfellowship Lexington Avenue Baptist Church for ordaining a woman to the ministry, but appeared at year's end on the verge of splitting in three.

At the SBC annual meeting, the convention turned back from unseating messengers from President Clinton's home church, Immanuel Baptist in Little Rock, Ark., but messengers did pass a resolution critical of his positions, particularly about gays in the military and abortion rights. At that same meeting, SBC messengers approved the final reading of a bylaw change that removes churches that officially endorse homosexuality. They also ratified a report that found some fault with Freemasonry but did not recommend removing Masons from Southern Baptist churches. Months later, the Texas physician who launched the anti-Mason crusade continued his quest.

■ Moving onward, reaching out.

Despite occasional political distractions, Baptists continued their focus on spreading the gospel and providing a healing touch in Jesus' name.

The most exciting development for Kentucky Baptists was the launch of a five-year partnership between the KBC and Russian Baptists. Kentuckians will build churches, supply medical care and provide training for both ministers and laypeople in the former Soviet country. And, if past partnership experience is repeated, the volunteers will receive much more than they give.

Kentucky Baptists also stepped forward in other areas. A couple of examples: Support for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's association-based family counseling centers grew rapidly, as did the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's assets, which escalated in the past two years.

Baptists looked beyond themselves in '93. Again, two examples: Guided by the Brotherhood, volunteers turned out in droves to provide relief for victims of the Midwest flood. And working through missionaries, Baptists supplied food to starving people in the Horn of Africa.

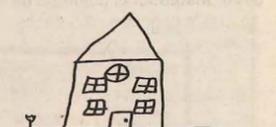
Who can imagine what a year will bring? As we peer into 1994, may we all pray that God will use us to bring hope and healing to a hurting world this year.

Marv Knox

Looking back on the religion stories of 1993 reminds us that we cannot predict how things will turn out in 1994. Faith beckons us to move forward in the way of Christ, constantly asking ourselves, "What would God have me do?"

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ETHICS

Effect of pastor's affair 'like feathers in the wind'

Continued from page 1

were part of a close-knit circle of friends closest to the pastor and his family. The scandal, the new pastor believes, was hardest on that group.

When news of the relationship broke, both attendance and giving plummeted. Families left by droves—some who sided with the fallen pastor and others so offended by the situation they wanted no part of it.

Other members "saw it for what it

was and said it wouldn't prevent them from being a part of the church. Those are the type you can build a church around," the new pastor said.

The crisis devastated the youth group. One teen-ager who had admired and looked up to her pastor was crushed. She told him she could no longer trust him. Close friends to the former pastor's children, at one time the core of the youth group, are no longer involved in church.

The new pastor said any minister tempted to interject an affair into the life of a church ought to consider carefully, "Is it worth it?"

"It's not just a man and a woman.

It's far reaching. It's like taking a feather pillow and cutting it up and shaking it in the wind. How are you ever going to get all those feathers back in that pillow? You cause your church to lose its credibility."

Surprisingly to the new pastor, the most accepting people were the senior adults. Granted, they were shocked by their pastor's behavior, but they were the most willing to put it behind them and move on, he said.

Slowly the church has begun to recover. "After six months, we turned it around," the pastor said. "Now we're holding our own. We're not growing by leaps and bounds." For

the first time, new people are coming into the church that don't know about the previous pastor.

"We're back to where we were in '90, and it's a good feeling to be moving forward," the pastor said.

The former pastor, who happens to be an old friend of his successor, now works in a secular business, but he has performed pulpit supply duties in another church. That church was prepared to hire him, but he declined. "I wouldn't be surprised if he would go back to a church someday," his successor said.

"Other churches can be forgiving. This church will never forget."



Ministers & sexual misconduct

Warning signs of sexual misconduct

- Is the person doing a lot of counseling beyond his or her scope of responsibility?
- Is the person not taking care of himself or herself, canceling vacations, neglecting time with family?
- Does the person tend to sexualize conversations?
- Are mechanisms of accountability

being ignored? Is lay leadership discouraged? Does everything in the church focus on the pastor?

Source: Marie Fortune, sex-abuse specialist, author of "Sexual Violence: The Unmentionable Sin" and "Is Nothing Sacred?: When Sex Invades the Pastoral Relationship"

Precautions for ministers

- Don't engage in any physical touching in a private setting.
- Have some trusted person or people with whom you can talk freely about yourself and your work.
- Keep constant check on your marital and family relationships, since problems there put you at

greater risk in your other relationships.

- Allow adequate time off from the job.
- Follow common sense in applying self-care.

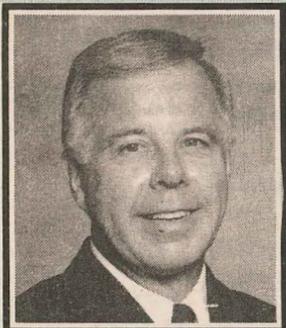
Source: Roy Woodruff, executive director of American Association of Pastoral Counselors

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Monday, Feb. 21
2 p.m. (EST)
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Theme:
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Dan Yeary
Pastor, North Phoenix Baptist,
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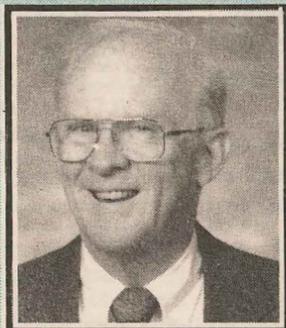
Frederick D. Haynes III
Pastor, Friendship West Baptist,
Dallas
Preacher



Dwight "Ike" Reighard
Pastor, New Hope Baptist,
Fayetteville, Ga.
President SBC Pastors' Conference
Preacher



Charles Lyons
Pastor, Armitage Baptist,
Chicago
Urban Evangelism



Reid Hardin
Coordinator for Marketplace
Evangelism, HMB, Atlanta
Marketplace Evangelism



Anne Graham Lotz
Christian Speaker, Founder of
AnGel Ministries, Raleigh, NC
Communicator—Bible Teacher



Celoria Family Singers
Music Vocational Evangelists, Jackson, Miss.
Music Evangelists



Esther Burroughs
Evangelism Strategist for
Women, HMB, Atlanta
1995 Here's Hope and
Baptist Women



Walter Bleecker
Author of *The Non-
Confronter's Guide to Leading
a Person to Christ*
Mt. Hermon, Calif.
Personal Evangelism and
Harvesting

ETHICS

Clergy sex scandals hit all faiths—even Baptists

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

While sex scandals in the Catholic priesthood have grabbed the headlines in recent months, Southern Baptists continue to be stung more quietly by revelations about the sexual dalliances of some of their pastors.

Increased attention to sexual misconduct has hit Baptists as well as Catholics, said Baptist counselor Roy Woodruff, executive director of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. "It's across denominational lines. We work with 60 to 70 faith groups, and we see no pattern."

Counselors and denominational workers say sexual misconduct has invaded big-city superchurches, small-town pastorates and both ends of the theological spectrum.

Counselors who work with wayward ministers agree more incidents of sexual misconduct are coming to light today. But they disagree on whether the problem is worse or if exposure is more common.

"What's changed is people aren't keeping quiet about this," said Mark Jensen, a Baptist chaplain and counselor in Winston-Salem, N.C. "We are in a cultural transition that won't

put up with it anymore."

Shifts in the public mindset on sex abuse and women's issues are making it harder to sweep ministerial misconduct under the rug, said Jensen, chaplaincy supervisor at North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

"It's been underground, but now the masks are coming off," agreed Norris Smith, a church-staff consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "It is documented. We can no longer ignore it. We need to address it."

Smith tracks minister firings, which averaged 116 a month in the Southern Baptist Convention during a 1988 study. Immorality was the second-leading cause of pastor firings in that study. Lack of communication was first.

In a survey in Christianity Today magazine, in which pastors of all evangelical groups told on themselves, 12 percent said they had engaged in sexual intercourse outside of marriage and 23 percent admitted to some other form of extramarital sexual contact.

"According to informed estimates, about 15 percent (of clergy) either have or are violating sexual ethical boundaries," reported Woodruff, a

member of Vienna Baptist Church in Vienna, Va.

"I don't think I would use the word 'epidemic' ... but I suspect the number of incidents is increasing. There is some cause if not for alarm at least for concern."

If virtually all pastors are tempted to sin sexually, why do some fall and others don't?

A decision to stray seldom is an isolated action, according to both counselors and offenders, but is more often a confluence of circumstances and motivations, few of them simple.

Pastors who succumb often fit one of two profiles—the "prima donna" pastor or the depressed pastor, Woodruff said. The prima donna pastor is one who operates out of a lot of power and control, loses touch with appropriate boundaries and overdirects people's lives. Such a leader "develops a sense of 'I can do no wrong.'"

Central to this type of thinking is the idea of entitlement, Woodruff explained, "that somehow they are entitled to certain behaviors that others are not entitled to. ... That's the most dangerous pattern because that person seems to be a repeat offender."

The modern megachurch presents an unusually ripe setting for prima

donna pastors, the counselors agreed. However, it is not limited to impacting megachurches.

The megachurch tends to flourish under a charismatic, authoritative personality. This leader often operates in a realm somewhat removed from his parishioners and therefore tends to become larger than life in their eyes—and ultimately his own.

Some of these pastors eventually begin "living above the law," concluding "the rules don't apply to me," explained sex-abuse expert Marie Fortune of Seattle, who has written a book on pastoral sexual misconduct.

The other extreme is the depressed pastor. Woodruff describes this pastor as one whose "judgment becomes cloudy because of very low self-esteem and a kind of depression in which he can function but not very well. So he becomes more vulnerable to relationships that provide gratification."

Counselors agree both groups share one fatal weakness—isolation. See *Accountability called ...*, page 8



Ministers & sexual misconduct



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Featuring Anne Graham Lotz

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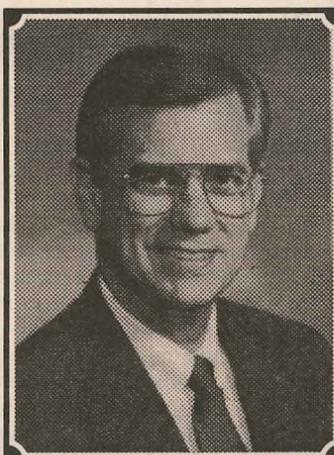
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President



YOUR BRIDGE TO THE WORLD

Accountability called key to preventing moral failure

Churches may be liable for misconduct

By Larry Chesser
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—When it comes to protecting churches from damages associated with sexual misconduct, the proverbial ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, according to a Baptist legal specialist.

Brent Walker, general counsel at the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee, said the reported incidence of sexual misconduct by clergy and other church employees is escalating and drawing greater legal and media attention.

Churches ignore this issue at their own peril, Walker warned, because many courts are making it easier for victims to recover damages from churches.

Churches' responsibility to exercise "reasonable" care applies not only to the hiring process, but also in supervising both employees and volunteers, Walker said.

Walker said the price for churches failing to act responsibly as employers can be high in a number of areas, including shattered lives, wrecked marriages, scarred children and derailed careers. And financial costs can be staggering.

Walker suggested five precautions churches should take:

- Conduct a thorough background check when hiring ministers and other employees and soliciting volunteers, paying particular attention to any allegations of sexual misconduct.

- Someone accused of sexual misconduct ordinarily should be suspended while a full investigation is conducted. Because the church has an obligation to protect from unsubstantiated charges, the investigation should be conducted as carefully and privately as possible.

- Professional rehabilitative treatment should be required for ministers and other employees not terminated after their involvement in sexual misconduct.

- Churches have a moral and legal obligation to disclose substantiated sexual misconduct when a prospective employer inquires about a former minister's employment record.

- Maintain adequate liability insurance.

Continued from page 7

"Isolation is the greatest enemy," said chaplain Jensen, who has dealt with wayward pastors in his counseling practice, as a member of a church personnel committee and in hospital psychiatric wards.

In his own field of pastoral counseling, Jensen said, those practitioners most likely to become romantically involved with their clients are "those who are practicing in isolation, not talking every day at work with a group of colleagues."

"That really defines the high-profile pastor," he explained. "He seems to be in front of everybody all the time, but he seems to himself to be very much alone."

Couple that with a heavy workload, Woodruff said, and you have the most common recipe for sexual misconduct.

"You are giving out a lot and not doing anything to take in—spiritually, emotionally, relationally—and you are probably having diminishing positive interaction with your own spouse and family," he explained. "It creates more possibility of burnout."

Ironically, a pastor can become vulnerable to an affair at a time when, for all appearances, he is at the height of his career, having achieved most all of his goals. It is then that some pastors wake up suddenly and ask themselves, "Is this all there is?"

David Matthews was a prominent Southern Baptist pastor in 1986, at the peak of a promising career, when his extramarital affair became public. It

cost him his job, his marriage, his reputation and very nearly his livelihood.

"You can reach a point in ministry where those career goals have been met, the striving that goes with a growing career dies off and other needs tend to surface," he recalled in an interview. He spoke on condition that the name of his former church not be used.

Matthews said he did not consider himself sexually vulnerable at the time and in fact was unaware of the personal needs that prompted his fall.

"A self-sufficient person has a tendency to fail to deal with a lot of emotional issues because you really are not aware they are there until you discover it in some unfortunate way."

The spark for his relationship with a female church member was "the capacity to trust another person emotionally, which I had not allowed myself to do in other relationships," Matthews said.

The relationship was not sexual at first, he said. But it became sexual, and eventually became known.

He was left with neither his wife nor his lover. "From that point forward, the marriage was broken. And I had no further contact with the other person involved."

He was able to salvage something of his career, however. He now is pastor of an interdenominational church in another state. He volunteers to tell church members about his past, but few have asked. He remarried four years ago.

Matthews counts himself blessed,

since many fallen ministers emerge with less.

He said he misses the contact with his former pastoral colleagues, but he also feels sorry for them, many of whom are afraid to confront their needs, even with each other.

But opening up—confiding in a trusted counselor, colleague or peer group—is precisely what most pastors need, according to counselors Jensen and Woodruff.

"I wish every pastor had a trusted consultant with whom he could talk," Woodruff said. Such an arrangement provides support, accountability and a break from the isolation that goes with the profession, he said.

Jensen, an associate with the Baptist Center for Ethics, said he has seen pastor-support groups work. "These are people who love you enough to tell you the truth, who will let you be who you are, instead of needing you to be someone you're not."

It is equally important, however, for pastors to deal honestly with their personal needs—physical, spiritual and emotional—the counselors said. They should attend to the "ordinary things" that constitute self-care, Jensen said, including prayer, family time, vacations, time apart from the congregation, continuing education and time alone.

"We need the courage and grace to face ourselves," Jensen concluded. Those who end up in extramarital affairs, he said, are finally forced to do just that, "to say, 'I'm a needy soul too.'"

Celebrating 125 years of love

1994 looks to be an exciting new year for Kentucky Baptists and Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. This year marks the 125th anniversary of this ministry of hope and healing.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is the oldest Southern Baptist child care ministry. It was born in 1869 out of the heartbreak of the Civil War. A group of women at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville were concerned about the plight of orphaned children and began reaching out to meet needs. Their work led to the founding of the Louisville Orphans Home (now Spring Meadows Children's Home in Middletown).

Today, nearly 125 years later, Kentucky Baptists have a ministry that spans the state with residential facilities in Middletown, Glendale, Dixon, Elizabethtown, Morehead and Mayfield. In addition, Kentucky Baptists are reaching out with pregnancy counseling and adoption services, individual and family counseling services, foster care homes, independent living services, and college and career services.

We want to make 1994 a time for praising the Lord for his bless-

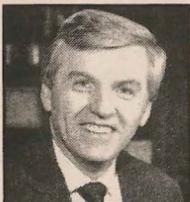
ings and saying "thank you" for the faithful prayers and support that has now spanned generations of Kentucky Baptists. We plan to do this in a number of ways and encourage you to mark your calendars now and plan to join us.

The single most important date to mark is Sunday, June 26. On this day, we'll be asking each Kentucky Baptist church to celebrate the 125th birthday in a special way. This spring, we will be sending churches a packet of material that will include items useful in celebrating Baptists' strong heritage of child care.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is also planning a series of celebration events around the state. The dates and cities are: April 16, Elizabethtown; May 14, Pikeville; June 4, London; June 25, Middletown; July 16, Dixon; Aug. 6, Morehead; Sept. 5, Erlanger; Sept. 17, Glendale; Oct. 8, Mayfield. You'll receive more information about these family-oriented events as the dates draw nearer!

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Paid Column

January is 'Make Your Will' month

It has long been a fact that literally millions of Americans have not made their wills. Actually, published reports tell us that as many as 60 percent of the more than 2 million people who die each year in our country do not have valid wills.

When someone dies without a will, his or her state's laws of "descent and distribution" take over. They amount to a state-written will for those who haven't prepared their own.

These laws are unpersonal and expensive. They don't make exceptions. They may deplete an estate unnecessarily.

Such laws are written to predict your desires concerning who should administer your estate, or who should be guardians of your surviving minor children.

A well-drafted will is a simple but extremely important document. Still, it is a key planning tool to express your estate planning desires.

To make a workable will, it might be helpful to follow these basic guidelines:

- List your property (including life insurance, real estate, securities, works of art—everything). Then list the people you want to provide for, along with their ages, addresses and relationships to you.

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

- Summarize your wishes for your heirs and property. Take these notes to your attorney and ask him or her to put your wishes in legal form.

January is "Make Your Will" month. When you consider the importance of having your estate distributed according to your wishes, the cost of preparing a will is a priceless investment.

Baptist Healthcare Foundation has prepared a brochure that may be helpful as you consider your personal estate plans.

The *Promises to Keep* brochure gives a proper perspective on the importance of preparing a will and explains how tax laws provide favorable consideration concerning estate planning.

You may request a copy of the *Promises to Keep* brochure or other estate planning information by calling or writing Baptist Healthcare Foundation, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, KY 40207, (502) 896-5003.

Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Healthcare System or Baptist Healthcare Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., president of Baptist Healthcare Foundation, Corporate Complex, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207 (502) 896-5003.

Paid Column

PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Kentucky is one of the nine U.S. states with the highest ratio of Southern Baptist churches to population. That means most Kentuckians are more likely to live near a Southern Baptist congregation than are residents of 41 other states. The eight other states with the highest church-to-population ratios are Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

Source: *Southern Baptist Handbook, 1993*

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- **BAGDAD**—Beechridge Church called **Kathy Wallingford** as minister of music and youth.
- **CADIZ**—Wallonia Church called **Norman Ellis** as interim pastor. **Randy Davenport** resigned as pastor of Locust Grove Church Dec. 19.
- **CRESTWOOD**—**Phil Rector** resigned as minister of music at Baldardsville Church to accept a similar position at Wytheville Church in Wytheville, Va.
- **FAUBUSH**—**Murrell Crockett** resigned as pastor of Mount Pisgah Church Nov. 21.
- **FINCHVILLE**—**Clint Scott** resigned as minister of youth at Finchville Church.
- **FRANKFORT**—Calvary Church recently ordained **Ed Henson, Jimmie Johnson, Jim Colyer, Don Hart, Les Mulder** and **Ross Rainwater** as deacons. Also, **Gary Dawson** and **Joe Morris** were elected deacons.
- **GILBERTSVILLE**—First Church elected **Sam Austin** to become an active deacon.
- **HICKMAN**—**Anthony Steele** resigned as pastor of West Hickman Church to become chaplain at Lourdes Hospice in Paducah.
- **HICKORY**—**Ronnie Glisson** resigned as pastor of Hopewell Church.
- **HIGHLAND HEIGHTS**—First Church ordained **Minister to Students**

- Mark Schuerman** to the gospel ministry.
- **HOPKINSVILLE**—Christian County Association is hosting a regional WMU banquet at First Church Jan. 8, with noted Christian author and speaker **Barbara Joiner**. Joiner is an active member of First Church in Columbiana, Ala.
- Pleasant Hill Church called **Thomas Kirkwood** as pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Clifton Church called **Marvin Sartain** as associate pastor/minister of youth. Sartain is a second-year student at Southern Seminary.
- Baptist Healthcare System promoted **Andy Sears** to vice president of planning. He previously was director of planning.
- **MORNING VIEW**—Piner Church called **Richard Collins** as pastor Oct. 31.
- **MURRAY**—**Sue Darnell**, church secretary of First Church retired Dec. 31, after 22 1/2 years. During this time, Darnell worked directly with three pastors, including the current pastor, **Greg Earwood**. She and her husband, **Ralph**, have one daughter and three grandchildren. She is a longtime active member of the church.
- **RADCLIFF**—Stithon Church will celebrate its 107th anniversary Jan. 9.
- **SHELBYVILLE**—First Church will celebrate its 175th anniversary

- Jan. 23 with **John Dever**, professor at Southern Seminary, as guest speaker.
- **SOMERSET**—Burnetta Church called **Randall Smith** as pastor Jan. 1.
- Malvin Hill Church called **Loyd Senters** as pastor Nov. 14.
- Sloans Valley Church ordained

- Floyd Stout** as deacon Nov. 21.
- **WALTON**—First Church called **E.L. Alder** as pastor Jan. 1.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Ken and Beth Perkins**, missionaries to the Somali people, are in the States at 514 E. Main St., Georgetown, Ky. 40324.

Iranian tried for being a Christian

BRUSSELS, Belgium (BP)—As Christians everywhere prepared to celebrate Jesus' birth, a Christian man in Iran already imprisoned for almost nine years prepared to face possible death because of his faith.

The fate of Mehdi Dibaj was unknown Dec. 22, Christians inside Iran reported. But they feared the worst after Dibaj's Dec. 3 trial, during which he refused to renounce Christianity and presented a strong testimony to his faith in Jesus Christ.

Security concerns delayed getting news of Dibaj to the outside world, but a written copy of his message to the court has been sent to churches in the West.

Once a nominal Moslem, Dibaj became a Christian years ago. He has served as evangelist and also helped translate the New Testament into Farsi, the main language of Iran. He was arrested and charged with apostasy from Islam. Christians in Iran say Dibaj spent two of his eight-plus years of imprisonment in solitary confinement in a 3-by-3-foot cell with no lights.

"I am a Christian, a sinner who believes Jesus has died for my sins on the cross and who by his resurrection and victory over death, has made me righteous in the presence of the holy God," Dibaj told the court trying him.

He also responded to the charges leveled against him:

"I have been charged with 'Apostasy.' The invisible God who knows our hearts has given assurance to us Christians that we are not among the apostates who will perish but among the believers so that we may save our lives. In Islamic law an apostate is one who does not believe in God, the prophets or the resurrection of the dead. We Christians believe in all three.

"They say, 'You were a Muslim

and you have become a Christian.' No, for many years I had no religion," he continued. "After searching and studying I accepted God's call and I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ in order to receive eternal life. People choose their religion but a Christian is chosen by Christ. He says, 'You have not chosen me but I have chosen you.' From when? Before the foundation of the world."

Iranian Christians fear for Dibaj's life because Iranian law was changed in 1993 to prescribe death for Moslems who openly declare they are Christians. Now, under Islamic law, a judge is required to issue a death sentence against converts charged with apostasy—defined as "blaspheming the Prophet Mohammed."

Christians outside Iran who follow events there have feared the policy change will make evangelistic outreach even more difficult. No reports of widespread executions of Christian converts have followed the law change, but such a sentence has been carried out before.

The most recent known execution of an Iranian Christian occurred Dec. 3, 1990, when Hoosein Soodmand, an Assemblies of God pastor, was hanged.

In November the Iranian government demanded that all Christian congregations sign declarations promising not to evangelize Moslems.

At the same time, ministers are being intimidated. Some have received threats by phone that their children will be kidnapped. Some churches have been told to discontinue worship on Fridays and that Sunday worshippers would have to show identity cards indicating their religious affiliation—Christian or Moslem.

Iranian Christians inside and outside Iran have called for believers to pray for Dibaj.

Oneida Christmas Roundup

The last thing we do each year before our more than 700 students and staff scatter for the 17-day Christmas break is to worship in our chapel.

Of course, we worship there every day, but the Christmas service is extra special. This year each one who had a part simply outdid themselves. Our students studying Russian read a part of the Christmas miracle in Russian and then in English, and sang several carols in Russian.

Not to be outdone was the German class singing "Silent Night" on the 175th anniversary of its first being sung in its original tongue. Then the Spanish classes all joined together on stage to sing.

Our band performed beautifully as a group, then a duet of instruments, and a solo performance by one of our younger band members. Our choir sang three carols.

But the ones that really stole the show were our 25 girls and boys in our staff school, kindergarten through grade five. One of our teachers for this age group grew up in three Arab countries where her parents served as foreign missionaries. She had taught the children several songs familiar to Arab Christians. The little ones did these beautifully as well as others in English.

Then came the benediction and the shout of "Home for Christmas" for all, many who live hundreds, even thousands, of miles away from home for the sake of a Christian education here at Oneida.

In the weeks of December there had been so many events. Our Oneida Players had brought Scrooge and the others of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" to life on three memorable evenings before very appreciative audiences.

Our international students from nine countries

had a memorable evening of eating and singing in their own languages. This night in the home of our German and Russian teacher was sponsored by the WMU ladies of our church as they do annually.

Our dorm houseparents went all out in three dorm parties of fun and fellowship and a special treat for each girl and boy from the youngest to the oldest.

Our choir sang in churches in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The Ensemble put up the chapel tree early in December and covered the great 6,500-pound beams with garlands as is their annual custom. The choir pianist, one of our elementary teachers, and her husband, our assistant farm manager, hosted all to a two-hour party in their home three miles from the main campus.

Another annual tradition is an event for the daily boys farm crew in the home of the farm manager. Held on a Friday night, they fellowshiped together until midnight.

On a Saturday evening, a special dinner was held for our campus doctor who is in his 10th year of faithful service. Eighteen of his relatives were our guests coming from four states, staying the night and enjoying an old-fashioned country breakfast the next morning. Not only has the Lord blessed us with a dedicated medical doctor, but also with three registered nurses, a paramedic and a physician's assistant, all living in campus housing. I wonder if there is a university in the land so blessed.

We also had trees, a contest for best-decorated classroom doors, windows and bulletin boards, all of which had their Christmas finery.

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

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Roger Cowen, music evangelist, is taking dates for winter concerts, retreats, one-day revivals, music for mid-winter Bible studies, etc. Some January dates left. Call (502) 267-7247 (answering machine—4th ring).

SEEKING: Experienced, full-time pastor for First Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Bardstown, Ky. Send resumé to Vince Crady, 2011 Shannon Dr., Bardstown, KY 40004, or call (502) 348-1991.

FOR SALE: 1978 Ford 41-passenger bus; air-conditioned, cassette, 39,000 miles, excellent mechanical condition; \$5,000. Phone (502) 237-3451.

SEEKING: Applicants for part-time minister of music; send resumé to Cynthia Baptist Church, P.O. Box 355, Cynthia, KY 41031, or call (606) 234-1575 or 234-1548.

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.

AVAILABLE: Steve Crumpler Preaching Ministry. Focused on Christ, the church and revival. P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. (606) 847-4718.

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

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

PEOPLE

Bobbye Rankin still considers herself a missionary

By Marty Croll
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Crossing an ocean does not a missionary make, according to Bobbye Rankin. Nor does coming back mean a missionary stops being one.

From the time high school-age Rankin voiced her dream of being a missionary teacher during a beauty pageant, she says God has shown her how his missionary plan weaves itself through her life—whatever her title.

Just months ago, she took on a new title, though unofficial: wife of the president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. She acquired it when Jerry Rankin, her husband of 27 years, was elected FMB president June 14.

Actually, it's been six years since she has held the title of foreign missionary. In 1987 she had to resign after 17 years as a missionary when her husband was elected to the FMB staff as area director and based in Singapore to administer mission work in Southern Asia and the Pacific.

Still, she's no less a missionary now than she's ever been, she said. "I definitely do have a call on my life, and that call hasn't been revoked."

In 1982, when the Rankins took a mission assignment in Thailand, they left Indonesia after 12 years. Since they went to Indonesia expecting to retire from there, she felt a great loss at being separated from the work that had become so much a part of her.

But God showed her then that—even with new responsibilities—she always would have a role in Indonesia as a missionary who could pray intelligently about needs there.

In her new life in Richmond, nerve center of FMB worldwide outreach, she plans a similar prayer role—only

this time for the entire mission field. She also plans to confront Southern Baptists with the needs of a dark world.

"I feel God has equipped us by helping us to see the world and putting it on our hearts," she said. "One of my main roles will be to become informed about all our missionaries so I can pray for them and encourage other people to pray."

The Rankins are buying a house less than a block from the FMB's main building. They sought a home with an open floor plan to allow them to entertain guests from around the world. Throughout their missionary career, hospitality has been one of her loves.

But her ministry never has stopped there. On the mission field, she also helped start churches, led Bible studies for Moslem women, taught seminary extension and English classes, and led in student work.

In fact, she found the missionary wife role particularly liberating. "The title 'church and home' missionary ... is not an excuse to be uninvolved with people overseas," she said.

"When I first arrived on the mission field, I was challenged by missionary homemakers whom I considered role models. I saw what fruitful ministries they had even though they would not ever be called, quote, 'professionals.'"

Many missionary wives she served with in Indonesia were trained as nurses. While some might consider their talents wasted, Rankin found it refreshing they chose to design ministries around their homes.

She studied to be a schoolteacher and taught in Texas before missionary appointment in 1970. But she became a full-time mother after the first of her two children was born in 1968.

Her views about women and the role of wives seem to fly in the face of modern-day theory. But they have worked in her family to provide the backbone for a fruitful missionary partnership and to rear two children who have gone on to their own productive lives.

"A woman is naturally a nurturer of relationships," Rankin said. "I see this as one of our strongest resources on the mission field, that our women have such strong relational skills. Women have such needs of relationships that they're eager to reach out to others who need relationships."

Rankin grew up in a family with faith. Born the second child to educator parents—a high school principal father and teacher mother—she said there was never any question about her attending college.

As a freshman at Mississippi College, she became active in the Baptist Student Union and made her debut in student government—quite by accident—with her election as freshman dorm president. She was campaigning for a new friend when she heard her name had been written in on the ballot. She won.

And she won the heart of Jerry Rankin.

She remembers as a freshman wearing a red silk dress the day they were introduced on the steps of the library. He didn't ask her out until the next year. That's when her roommate's fiance told Jerry at lunch one day that—even though everyone thought she was serious about another boy she was seen with frequently—in fact she would like to be considered available.

The way he tells it, he left his unfinished lunch right there and went to call her. They married about two years later, the same month she grad-



uated, and they set out on a path which led to the mission field.

Nearly seven years later, more than two years into their missionary career, they got word her father had been killed in an auto accident. It culminated months of other heartaches and struggles that would have sent some fleeing from the field.

But they never considered it.

And even now, without the title, Bobbye Rankin remains a missionary.

STILL A MISSIONARY Although she now carries only the title of wife of the president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Bobbye Rankin still considers herself a missionary. (BP photo by Sandy King)

Luby's president says faith sustained him amid crisis

DALLAS (BP)—Baptist layman Pete Erben, chief executive officer of the Luby's Cafeteria chain, shrugs off praise for his compassionate, hands-on response to the Killeen, Texas, massacre two years ago.

Doing the right thing—the Christian thing—shouldn't be anything out of the ordinary, he insists.

But the events of Oct. 16, 1991, and the days that followed were anything but ordinary.

When George Kennard rammed his truck into the front of the Luby's in Killeen and began firing into the lunchtime crowd, he shattered more than a plate glass window.

He shattered the world of 45 families whose loved ones were killed or wounded, of a close-knit central Texas town that was thrust into the national spotlight, and of a 168-cafeteria chain that saw one of its locations become the centerpiece of a tragedy.

But when Erben learned about the carnage Kennard inflicted before turning his gun on himself, the corporate executive determined he would do everything in his power to help the hurting put the pieces of their world back together.

Soon after the shooting, Erben received phone calls from his pastor,

Buckner Fanning, at San Antonio's Trinity Baptist Church, and from Southern Baptist chaplain Gil Stricklin, president of the Dallas-based Marketplace Ministries Inc. Both offered their services as needed.

Erben asked for their prayers and thanked them for their concern, but told them dealing with the situation was his responsibility. "I assumed it was something I needed to do myself as leader of a company that had been victimized," he said.

Soon after arriving in Killeen, Erben contacted a psychiatrist at Scott and White Hospital in nearby Temple, Texas, asking him to join in a meeting he had scheduled with cafeteria employees.

"We all prayed together and searched our souls together," Erben said.

Why the seemingly senseless, random tragedy occurred was a question that defied easy answers then and now, he said: "Why? We're not going to learn that for awhile. But I do know Christian faith was something we relied on a great deal through those days."

From its founding, Luby's had been committed to Christian principles, particularly in regard to fair

treatment of its customers and its employees, Erben said.

That commitment took on new meaning in the days after the Killeen shooting. Luby's donated \$100,000 to a fund to assist families of the 22 people who had been killed and the 23 who were wounded. Bills for their food and lodging were paid by the company.

At the request of community leaders in Killeen, Luby's reopened the cafeteria after extensive remodeling. During the five months the building was being renovated, cafeteria employees continued to receive full pay.

Erben learned Christian principles early in life. Although his parents were not members of a church—at least in part because they were embarrassed by their poverty—he said they were believers who instilled in him a devotion to Christian ideals of fairness, compassion and respect for others by which he still lives.

Erben made his public profession of faith in Christ at Trinity Baptist Church in the early 1950s during a weekend visit to his hometown. At the time, he was a student at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Erben has served on the personnel committee at Trinity Baptist Church,

but he is reluctant to speak of his contributions to the life of the church. He is not at all reluctant to speak of the church's contributions to his life.

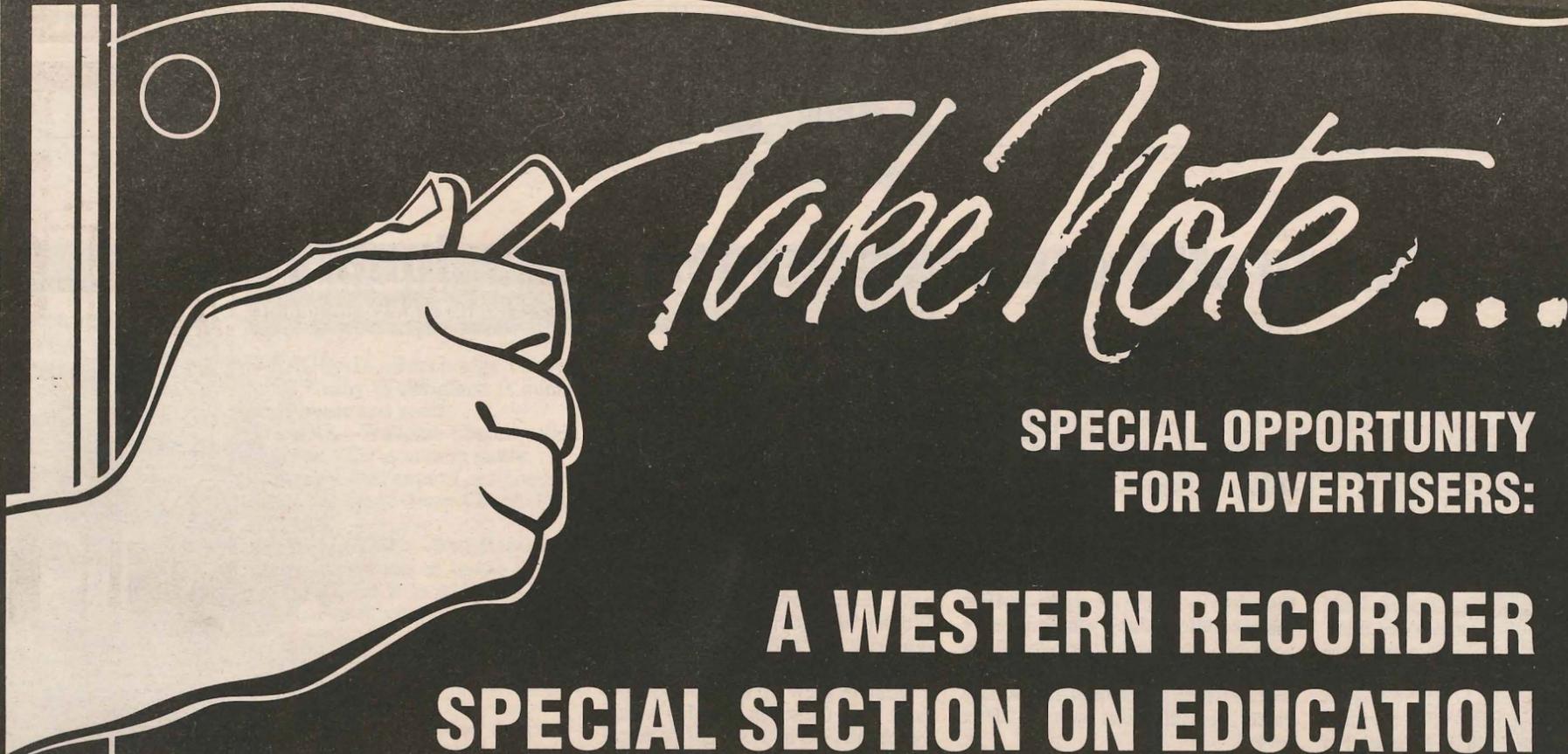
He points with pride to the fact his three children who grew up at Trinity Baptist Church are all "mature, good Christians." His daughter and son-in-law are members of Trinity, one son is a deacon at Second Baptist Church in Houston, and another son is an active member of a Methodist church in Little Rock, Ark.

Trinity Church was "a tremendous strength" to Erben not only during the Killeen crisis, but also during a more recent, personal heartbreak—the death of his wife with cancer.

"The church ministered to us—personal visits, prayer groups, anything we could have asked for."

Through his wife's long ordeal, Erben was touched by seeing something special in her. Though he will not say it himself, it is the same quality others have seen in him at times such as the Killeen tragedy—a grace under pressure growing out of a strong, quiet faith.

"In such a world as we are in today," Erben says, "I don't know how anybody survives without a Christian faith."



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