

FOR THE RECORD

High marks
Kentucky's Baptist campus ministries ranked high again this year in the annual report compiled by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.
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India insight
Four Kentucky Baptists recently traveled to India, where they followed in the footsteps of missions giant William Carey.
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Join the battle against casino gambling.
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School choice
Ken Dupre is leaving his post as director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky to head a new national effort pushing for public funding of private schools through parental choice.
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Super Bowl
A former youth minister hopes his company's unique product will help churches score a touchdown in youth ministry on Super Bowl Sunday.
See page 7.

Kids' cartoons high on violence, study determines

MOORHEAD, Minn. (RNS)—Children watching Saturday morning cartoons on television are exposed to a violent act every 47 seconds, on average.

And viewers of prime-time network and cable programming on American television see an average of more than 10 violent acts per hour.

These are some of the findings of a major study on television violence conducted at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., a school of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Students, faculty and staff viewed videotapes and compiled data over a recent 10-week period.

The project was conducted in cooperation with North Dakota Sen. Byron Dorgan, who is sponsoring legislation that would require the Federal Communications Commission to produce a quarterly report on the amount of violence contained in TV programs along with a list of sponsors of the shows.

The study at Concordia served as a demonstration project to show how Dorgan's bill might be implemented and the form the results could take.

The rating project reviewed three categories of television programming: prime-time hours of the four major networks; a Saturday morning session of animated children's programming; one night's offering on 12 cable television channels.

In the survey, violence is defined as "deliberate and hostile use of overt force by one individual against another."

Coalition states opposition to casinos

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

FRANKFORT—In the rotunda of the state capitol Jan. 6, Kentucky Baptists joined a coalition of religious groups publicly announcing their plans to oppose any effort to legalize casino gambling in the commonwealth.

Jim Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville and a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's public affairs committee, was one of four speakers at a news conference announcing the formation of the new coalition, Kentuckians Against Casinos.

He was joined by Claude Witt, also a Southern Baptist and executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky; Nancy Jo Kemper, executive director of the Kentucky Council of Churches; and Scott Wegenast, director of the Kentucky Charitable Gaming Association.

"Those who promote bringing casinos to Kentucky argue that it will provide increased tax revenue, more jobs, economic development and an increased standard of living for Kentuckians," Holladay said. "Like the promises of the lottery, we believe these promises are empty."

He predicted most of the financial gain that would be generated by casinos would flow out of the state rather than stay in the state. "That is not the kind of economic development we need," he declared.

"Those who promote bringing casinos to Kentucky will avoid the use of the word 'gambling' to describe their activity," Holladay continued. "Rather, they will tell us they are in the 'entertainment business.' That type of entertainment is something we do not need more of in Kentucky."

Holladay said gambling "undermines the values of work, stewardship and the responsibility of each person

to contribute to the welfare of the whole without expecting a return."

He cited a resolution passed by messengers to the 1993 KBC annual meeting which opposed casino gambling as a moral and social evil.

"The business of fleecing the sucker through casino gambling will not be good for Kentucky," added Kemper. She said gambling is a "less stable" way of generating revenue than other forms of taxation.

Witt spoke of the biblical basis for opposition to gambling, citing the Ten Commandments. He also echoed Holladay's statement that casino proponents avoid the word "gambling."

"Why do they never use the word 'gambling'?" he asked. "Because it suggests a way of life not compatible with family values."

Whatever words are used to describe casinos, Witt warned legislators to be cautious. "When you attack the true Christian value system, the church will rise up and say enough is enough."

Kemper echoed that comment lat-

er when she told reporters Kentuckians Against Casinos doesn't have much money to fight the well-funded casino developers in a media campaign.

"We may not have a lot of money for an expensive media campaign, but we do have weekly contact with a large number of voters," she said. Earlier Kemper had said the coalition represents religious groups that claim about 75 percent to 85 percent of the state's population.

Wegenast, whose Catholic-affiliated organization has been at odds with Baptists and the Temperance League on other gambling issues, cited economic reasons for opposing casinos.

"Legalization of gambling casinos will be detrimental to those organizations that operate charitable gaming," he said.

"The bottom line on this issue is dollars; it's economics," he said later, claiming money spent on charitable gaming stays in the local communi-

□ See Coalition calls ..., page 3



JUST SAY NO Jim Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville and a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's public affairs committee, tells reporters gathered in the Capitol rotunda why he opposes casino gambling.

Tragedy steals joy of Christmas for 4 Kentucky churches

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Tragedy stole the joy of Christmas for at least four Kentucky Baptist churches this year.

Baptists in Cadiz, New Concord and Monticello ushered in the new year believing 1994 has to be better than the way 1993 ended. It couldn't get much worse, they surmised.

In Cadiz, three of the seven teenagers killed in an automobile accident 10 days before Christmas were members of Kentucky Baptist Convention churches. Virtually every church in the close-knit community was hit hard by the loss of seven young lives all at once.

Then on a single night exactly one week later, Baptist churches in Monticello and New Concord felt the pain of unrelated church van accidents that killed four people and injured others.

Among the dead were two members of Sandusky Baptist Church in Monticello and the daughter and son-in-law of the pastor of Blood River Missionary Baptist Church in New Concord. The couple had been deliv-

ering Christmas presents to needy families.

The Cadiz accident happened the afternoon of Dec. 15 as the seven teens were taking a break from their after-school jobs at Knight & Hale Game Calls. For some unknown reason, the Honda Civic into which all seven boys had piled crossed the center line on U.S. 68 and crashed into another vehicle, killing all but the lone driver of the other car.

The driver of the boys' car was 17-year-old Steven Wallace, a member of Liberty Point Baptist Church.

Two of the other teens killed—Dale Garner, 16, and David Lawrence, 16—were members of Canton Baptist Church.

Among those left to help others deal with their grief was school superintendent Jim Wallace, a member of Cadiz Baptist Church.

"When you take seven young high

school men out of a community, it's a tragedy that most communities have never dealt with and hopefully will never have to deal with," said Bob Martin, director of missions for Little River Baptist Association. "It affected not just one church, not just Baptist churches, but all the churches."

Three weeks after the crash, Cadiz remained "a community in mourning," Martin said. "The whole community is going through grief."

Most Cadiz churches had planned Christmas music programs for the Sunday after the joint funeral but postponed them until after Christmas, he added. "Most of the cantatas were done Jan. 2."

Martin said local pastors first had to process their own feelings. "They had to deal with some very hard questions about death and grieving themselves."

All the churches and pastors have been offering counseling to grieving

members and others, especially children and youth, Martin said.

"Through it all I see a pulling of the community together," he continued, "not just the churches but the school, the children, the young people. ... When we find that we're all in a dark place, everybody tries to pull for the light. I think this is what has happened."

Most churches reported increased attendance the Sunday after the funeral, Martin said, and more people are asking spiritual questions.

"You don't hear the questions coming from the adults, but you do hear it coming from the young people. They are really asking questions about life itself and its meaning."

Royce Dukes, pastor of Canton Baptist Church, said one way his congregation responded was by being among the first to offer help the next week to Blood River Church after the van accident there.

Both communities are located in West Kentucky, across the Land Between the Lakes from each other.

The financial contribution sent □ See Tragedy steals ..., page 3



Moving? See page 4 (0111)

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program** showed a 2.68 percent increase in the first quarter of the current fiscal year over the same period last year. The first-quarter total was \$34.37 million, compared to \$33.47 million last year.

■ **Linda Johnson**, director of resort ministries for Greater Orlando Baptist Association, has been named director of Atlanta International Ministries, a Southern Baptist effort to provide ministry during the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. A newsletter with additional information about the ministry and needs for volunteers may be obtained by writing Box 78005, Atlanta, Ga. 30357.

■ **Baptist readers** calling a toll-free phone number they thought would provide information about Christian-based Marriage Encounter weekends got a surprise recently due to a typographical error. The number misprinted by one digit in the Louisiana Baptist Message actually was for a phone-sex service. "We often wonder if people read what is printed in the paper," said Editor Lynn Clayton. "This was an unfortunate way of discovering that they do."

■ **Jay Barker**, University of Alabama quarterback, says he's proud to have been labeled a "devout bore" by Sports Illustrated magazine. "I've never taken a drink, I've never taken drugs and I'm a virgin," Barker explained.

Sherman might return to Asheville

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (ABP)—After only two years as head of the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Cecil Sherman may soon resign to become interim pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C., a church he served for 20 years.

Sherman, 66, said Jan. 10 he has been approached by church leaders about the position and agreed to consider the job if it is offered. But, he emphasized, "It is not a done deal. There will be more conversation with them before anything is decided."

Charles Russell, chairman of deacons at the Asheville church, said the deacons were scheduled to vote on an interim pastor Jan. 10. He declined to identify Sherman as the nominee.

Sherman was pastor of the

Asheville congregation from 1964 to 1984. His successor, John Hewett, resigned suddenly last October for personal reasons.

Sherman said his familiarity with the church made it natural for the deacons to approach him. "I care about those people. ... They are very good people."

Russell said Sherman is highly respected in the church and community, making him an appealing choice for interim pastor. Sherman's selection likely would not require congregational approval, Russell said.

Sherman said if he takes the position he would serve about a year and a half or two years and then retire in Asheville. He is not interested in being the church's permanent pastor, he said.

The primary reason for considering the move, Sherman said, is his

health and the health of his wife, Dot. Although both are in good health, he said, the constant travel required by the Fellowship job is taxing.

"I have worked hard, and I needed to work hard," he said, noting he has derived "a great deal of satisfaction from this job."

He added: "I am convinced we are not at all through in the growth of CBF, not at all through."

If he takes the Asheville position, Sherman said, he will stay on as Fellowship coordinator until his replacement is named or until the organization's annual meeting May 5-7.

It is not known how soon the Fellowship would move to replace Sherman if he leaves. That topic likely would be at the top of the agenda during the Feb. 17-19 meeting of the group's Coordinating Council in Nashville.

Atlanta women's conference cancelled

ATLANTA—The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has unilaterally cancelled a women's conference it was cosponsoring next March with Woman's Missionary Union because a leading conservative church in the same area had planned its own women's conference for the same dates.

"Panorama of Purpose," a national Christian women's enrichment conference, was scheduled for March 24-26 in Atlanta. It was to be the second annual event co-developed by the Sunday School Board and WMU. Last year's conference, held March 5-7 in San Antonio, Texas, was attended by about 800 women.

However, the conference was cancelled after the Sunday School Board learned that First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., had planned a women's conference on overlapping dates. Snellville is located on the outer rim of suburban Atlanta.

The pastor of the Snellville church, James Merritt, is a member of the

powerful SBC Executive Committee and a prominent figure among SBC conservatives.

"The sponsoring church is an active Southern Baptist church supporting the programs and resources in the convention," explained Jay Johnston, acting field services director in the Sunday School Board's adult discipleship and family enrichment department. "It is the role of the Baptist Sunday School Board to support the local churches and not compete with them."

WMU leaders have said they were not consulted before the conference was cancelled. Apparently no attempt was made to reschedule the conference.

Trudy Johnson, WMU mission involvement specialist, said her reaction to the cancellation was "shock and disappointment."

Last spring's conference in San Antonio was "a very significant event," she said. "It was the only national conference for women with no

agenda other than to meet their needs."

About 100 staff members at the Atlanta-based Home Mission Board had planned to take a day off, with pay, to attend this year's conference, said HMB spokesman Martin King. The board was in the process of freeing up funds to pay registration costs for employees.

"Our folks were very disappointed it was canceled," King said. He said the HMB plans to put together its own one-day conference for its female employees in its place.

The unilateral decision to cancel the conference made by the Sunday School Board likely will stir already tense relations between the board and WMU. Last November the Sunday School Board announced it is starting its own women's enrichment ministry, which some observers worried would compete with WMU programs.

Based on reports from Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

Decreased funds cause HMB freeze

ATLANTA (BP)—A temporary hiring freeze and an internal study which could lead to some staff reductions have been announced by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Officials said these steps are necessary due to declining income from the HMB's two primary funding sources, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Cooperative Program, the unified missions budget of the Southern Baptist Convention.

According to unaudited figures, the 1993 Annie Armstrong offering totaled \$36.3 million, down 3.5 percent from the previous year's \$37.6 million. At the same time, the HMB received \$676,000 less in Cooperative Program funds than projected for the year.

HMB President Larry Lewis said the Annie Armstrong offering decrease is disappointing but not surprising. The 1992 offering was a record, nearly a 7 percent increase over the previous year. "We knew it would be difficult to maintain that kind of increase, so we budgeted for an offering of \$36 million."

The amount received in 1993 actually fell 1 percent above that budget projection, despite the decrease in giving over the previous year.

"However, we are concerned about potential budget shortfalls from all income sources for this year and next, 1994 and '95," Lewis said.

The hiring freeze and call for study "should not be seen as an extreme measure," he said. "We are simply not filling vacant positions in Atlanta until we have a better feeling for 1995 income projections. It's simply prudent management."

Kentucky's campus ministries rank high again in year ended

NASHVILLE (BP)—Kentucky's Baptist Student Unions ranked among the top programs nationwide last year in several key areas, continuing a trend of several years.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's student department reported reaching 23,014 college students through campus ministries in 1993. That statewide total is the third-highest of any state convention, falling behind only Texas and Mississippi. The Kentucky total also is a 3 percent increase over the previous year.

The KBC ranked second this year among states in number of churches assisting with student ministry (309), campuses with evangelistic outreach projects (39) and students involved in Bible study groups (5,954). Kentucky ranked third in number of students involved in witness training, with 1,449.

Nationwide, Southern Baptist student ministry programs reported an increase in the total number of stu-

dents reached, involved in missions and preparing for church vocations.

According to the 1993 Student Ministry Information Report, compiled by the Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry, 193,094 students were reached by Southern Baptist campus ministries in 1993, up from last year's total of 191,919. The statistic includes all students who participated in a student-ministry related program or activity during the year.

While much of the 1993 report offered good news, decreases were reported in two important categories—baptisms and conversions.

Referencing Uniform Church Letter reports, the report showed the number of college students baptized in Southern Baptist churches decreased from 11,182 in 1992 to 10,411 in 1993. Student conversions reported through student ministry programs fell from 7,372 in 1992 to 6,396 in 1993.



Emily felt God calling Earl to the altar

KENTUCKY

Coalition calls legislature to avoid casinos

Continued from page 1

ties but money spent on casinos would not benefit communities.

The coalition used the news conference to thank six legislators who already have indicated their opposition to casino gambling. They are:

■ Rep. Kenny French, D-War-saw.

■ Rep. Stanton Cave, R-Lex-ington.

■ Rep. Michael Bowling, D-Middlesboro.

■ Rep. Tom Jensen, R-Lon-don.

■ Sen. Tom Buford, R-Nicho-lasville.

■ Sen. Nick Kafoglis, D-Bowling Green.

A written statement issued by the Temperance League also praised Lt. Gov. Paul Patton, former Senate minority leader Joe Wright and former Gov. Wallace Wilkinson for public statements made against casino gambling.

Whether the General Assembly will actually address the issue of casino gambling this year is not known. Numerous legislators have said they don't think it will be considered.

But Witt, Holladay, Kemper and Wegenast said they think it will be considered, perhaps late in the session.

That assessment was affirmed by Tim Mulloy, a lobbyist for Kentucky to the Front, a group comprising most of the state's race tracks. Mulloy responded to reporters' questions in an impromptu news conference after the anti-casino coalition's conference.

The goal of Kentucky to the Front is to get legislators to place a question on the general ballot in November 1994 that would ask Kentuckians whether they want to legalize casino gambling at race tracks only.

The "odds are long" that the General Assembly will do so, but the idea does have a "fighting chance," he predicted.

Mulloy argued that casinos are "a way to create a unique entertainment industry" in Kentucky and are vital to protect the interests of Kentucky's race tracks. "I'm talking about saving an industry that is vital to Kentucky, about saving jobs."

Casinos now operating in adjoining states threaten to pull income from Kentucky's horse tracks, Mulloy explained.

Placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot requires a three-fifths vote of both the Senate and the House. Democratic Whip Kenny Rapier told the Louisville Courier-Journal he currently counts no more than 40 votes in favor of such an amendment among the House's 100 members.

4 Kentuckians follow Carey to India

By Brian Smith
SBC Foreign Mission Board

BANGALORE, India—Four Kentucky Southern Baptists captured the spirit of pioneer missionary William Carey's ministry in India with a pilgrimage of their own to the land of cultural and religious contrasts.

Carey arrived in India in November 1793 and would come to be known as the father of the modern missionary movement.

Kentucky volunteers—Anna Baxter of Carrollton, Bob Hardison of Sebree, Ruby Mallory of Greenville and Kathleen Strader of Dunmore—traveled to India last November. They joined missionaries from throughout Asia and more than 200 other volunteers from the United States in a "Crossover India" partnership evangelism project with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Nov. 3-10 campaign preceded observance of the 200th anniversary of Carey's arrival in India. The 32-year old Carey spent the remaining 41 years of his life working to evangelize the Indian people.

The four Kentuckians teamed with local Baptist churches and ministered through house-to-house witnessing and nightly revival meetings.

The volunteers' first impression of India was its seemingly unending poverty. As the group made its way through the crowd at the Bombay airport after clearing customs, many small children elbowed their way

among them, tugging on the volunteers' shirttails, asking for handouts.

On the ride from the airport to the hotel for the orientation session, mile after mile of shanties passed by the bus windows. What appeared to be laundry spread out on the roof to dry actually was the roof. Anything residents could use to fabricate a shelter—tin sheets, corrugated Fiberglas panels, canvas, plastic—they used.

"In all my wildest dreams I never thought they could live like that," Anna Baxter said. "Hundreds of people live in those little huts."

Neighborhoods where Baxter's team of three ministered were unlike those she knows in Kentucky. Many homes had only one room. Dirt floors often were more common than electricity or running water.

Yet despite living conditions, Baxter was impressed with the openness of the people. "They're such a loving people. Everyone I met was so gracious," she said. "Even if they're Hindu they invite you into their homes."

Baxter's team—which also included Ruby Mallory—worked with Pastor N. Solomon and Yebukrupa Baptist Church in Bangalore.

The people in the neighborhoods were anxious to meet the American visitors. "We went to one Hindu home that had asked the pastor to bring us," Baxter said. "They had their entire family there; 15 people. They wanted to know all about God, so the pastor and Ken preached a sermon on salvation."

Tragedy steals Christmas joy for 4 churches

Continued from page 1

from Cadiz to New Concord was one of many received there after the Dec. 22 accident which killed Bryan and Carol Luffman.

Mrs. Luffman, 21, was the daughter of Jerry Norsworthy, pastor of Blood River Church. She met Luffman, 23, while working with the van ministry. They dated and fell in love on the church vans.

Norsworthy said the couple formed the backbone of the small church's successful bus ministry. "She and Bryan were two of the best church workers we had. I don't think there's a bus ministry in the state of Kentucky that would compare to what those two kids were doing."

Blood River, a church which averages about 85 in Sunday morning attendance, attracts about 70 children to their Wednesday night programs through the bus ministry, Norsworthy said. "Our biggest service is always on Wednesday night; that's when we have our missions programs for the children."

The bus ministry has been a "walk of faith" all along, the pastor said, but has filled an important need in the community nestled on the shore of Kentucky Lake. The ministry mainly serves children from poverty-stricken families.

"This is a real deprived area, a great mission field," Norsworthy said. "My daughter and our church know the only thing that can make a difference in these children's lives is the Lord."

On the night of the fatal van fire, the Luffmans had packed the church's 1974 Dodge van with Christmas presents and food they were to deliver to the families of the bus ministry children. Mrs. Luffman had collected and wrapped the gifts.

They were delivering the presents while the children were at church so the children would think the gifts were from their parents, most of whom couldn't afford to buy presents.

The van burst into flames after being hit head-on by another vehicle traveling on Ky. 444. The couple and all the gifts they were delivering were lost immediately.

"Our church really is devastated," Norsworthy said Jan. 5.

However, other churches and concerned citizens rallied to the cause and provided new gifts for the children.

A bus fund has been established in memory of the Luffmans and already has about \$7,000 in contributions, he added. The congregation's goal is to purchase a brand-new bus, something they've never had. They have built the ministry with well-worn vans either donated by or purchased from other churches.

All memorial contributions to the church will be used "to reach people for Christ," Norsworthy said. "We're not a fancy church, but our church is a hospital for sinners."

Norsworthy said he likes the comment a church member gave to a reporter the night of the accident. "She said they were on mission for Jesus



IN CAREY'S FOOTSTEPS Ruby Mallory of Greenville visits with a student at Serampore College in India. The school was founded by pioneer missionary William Carey in 1818 as the first school in India to offer higher education to poorer classes as well as the more affluent. (FMB photo by Brian Smith)

They left the home without the family making a decision, but the seeds of the gospel were firmly planted.

As they walked to the next home, another sight greeted Baxter that she won't see often in the streets of Carrollton.

"I never dreamed their cattle roam the streets like they do," she said.

and he called them home. That's the way I'd like for the world to remember her. She was out serving him; she was called home doing it."

The second van accident happened as members of Sandusky Chapel Church were traveling along Ky. 167 near Monticello. According to press reports, the driver, Pastor Anson Perkins, pulled the van onto the shoulder when it started smoking.

After the engine caught fire, the 10 or so passengers got off without incident. However, some of those passengers were hit by a fire truck which later arrived on the scene and broke loose when its emergency brake failed. The fire truck careened down a hill into the crowd of bystanders.

Killed were church members David Troxell, 51, and Dorothy Worley, 64. Several others were injured.

In the areas impacted by all three tragedies, grief still hangs heavily over pastors and their parishioners.

Norsworthy described Blood River Church as a congregation with a broken heart. "I've seen poor, old, tough men who never cried a tear in their lives stand there and cry."

In a Jan. 4 interview, Martin echoed a similar sentiment for the residents of Cadiz. "It's been tough, and it's still tough. The kids went back to school yesterday, and it was very hard. The young people there are still very emotionally upset."

"We haven't come out of it yet, and I don't know when we will. It's not going to be something that's just a week or two."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Cumberland College** is one of 10 institutions nationwide to receive a \$250,000 Excellence in Education grant from the John L. and James S. Knight Foundation of Miami this year. The grant is to be used in collaboration with the Whiteley County School System to develop a mentoring program which could be duplicated in other partnerships between colleges and school systems. The program will match Cumberland students with middle school students from Whiteley County.

■ **Terry Murphy** of Lexington has been elected president of the Kentucky alumni association of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Other officers for the year are David Head of Waddy, president-elect, and Bob Rush of Lancaster, secretary.

■ **Highview Baptist Church** will sponsor "A Woman's Conference" Feb. 25-26 with guest leaders Anne Graham Lotz, Kendra Cook and Nell Bruce. The conference begins with a 5:30 p.m. dinner on Feb. 25 and concludes at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 26. For information, call (502) 239-7711.

■ **Six Kentucky churches or associations** will be host sites for the Feb. 12 "Experiencing God" teleconference produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The conference relates to a popular study book by the same name. Kentucky sites include Airline Baptist Church in Henderson, Concord Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington, Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, First Baptist Church in Madisonville, and First Baptist Church in Williamsburg. For registration information, call (615) 251-2294.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Out of focus

I am not angry that an editorial about gun control would appear (WR, Dec. 14). In fact, I rather expected it. I am disappointed that the editor dwelled on the gun rather than the misuse of it.

It seems the focus of this editorial is wrong. It is aimed at the instrument of the crime rather than at the individual being responsible for his actions; rather than at the court's allowing this person to be free under such circumstances after being arrested and charged with rape and "kidnapping"; or rather at what circumstances would cause a former boyfriend to commit such a crime.

All Americans do have a vested interest in curbing crime, whether committed with a gun or other instrument. I question the statement that all Americans have this "vested interest in curbing the manufacture, distribution and use of guns and ammunition designed specifically for the purpose of killing people." The only firearms that I know of in this category are designed for the military; and even these are more often used for less-violent purposes.

I agree with the final statement of the editorial that Christians must be involved if our problems of crime and immorality are to be solved; we cannot leave it to our secular sector.

*Arty E. Hardyman
Greenup*

Article misled

These statements reflect my convictions and not the views of any institution or organization. I appreciate Marv Knox for talking with me concerning this issue.

I understand and know that editorials express the opinions of the writer. I accept this as being right, but articles written concerning the events of

our convention should state the truths and not make assumptions. I am very disappointed with the job the Western Recorder did in reporting the "facts" of our state convention.

An article was misleading and did misrepresent the facts concerning Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College (WR, Nov. 23). Even the article's headline suggested that Mid-Continent would receive Cooperative Program money. At no time during our convention was there discussions or a motion that would grant Mid-Continent funds. The article makes unfounded statements that have sowed

seeds of controversy and stress on the college. Our convention ended in more harmony this year than in past years and yet, the next week our state paper caused controversy.

The Western Recorder should be professional and sow seeds of unity, not discourse through poor journalism. Our state paper should be objective, never taking sides, and state the exact facts. We do have brains and can think for ourselves.

I believe the Western Recorder owes apologies to Kentucky Baptists for these misleading statements and to Mid-Continent and its supporters for misrepresenting the facts.

*Daniel L. Belcher
Grand Rivers*

Restricted stand

I noted with much appreciation Mark Wingfield's article, "Resolutions address gambling, pornography, teens, mission" (WR, Nov. 23).

However, there is some concern that our Kentucky Baptist Convention's stand against gambling was restricted. We at the Pine Mountain Baptist Association feel it should have included off-track betting, the lottery and bingo. We appreciate our convention's stand against pornography, sexual abstinence before mar-

riage and sexual purity after marriage. We feel there should have been a stand taken against "legalized murder," abortion. Also, we were disappointed there was not a call to our schools within the classrooms to express and exercise a greater love for our God and our country.

And finally, a plea to our Baptist brethren statewide, both conservative and liberal, to join hands and activate the love of God that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Kenneth B. Gooch
Deane*

Medical 'advice'

Let's see if I understand the Associated Press report of a study which found that some alcohol can reduce risk of heart attack.

It seems that if you are willing to consume alcohol as a prescription drug up to three times per day and avoid the well-known hazards of alcohol abuse, cirrhosis of the liver, high blood pressure and strokes, you may be able to raise the body's supply of good cholesterol. In addition, we know alcohol is a major cause of auto accidents including approximately 40 percent of fatal accidents in Kentucky during 1993. It is the No. 1 cause of infant mental retardation, and ironically, alcohol use causes heart disease.

Medical reports suggest moderate use of alcohol may increase the risk of breast cancer, colon cancer and is extremely harmful for those who suffer with diabetes. Also, the continual daily use of alcohol almost guarantees becoming addicted to the drug.

Yes, I think I finally understand the recent study. It is far more safe to have a physician prescribe medicine and exercise to control cholesterol to guard against heart attack than to let the liquor dealer get involved.

*Claude M. Witt, executive director
Temperance League of Kentucky
Louisville*

I have failed that "resolution." Starts and stops; consistent periods and extended gaps; journal entries with days, sometimes weeks, in between. Still, I am grateful God listens and speaks in the in-between times to those of us who are inconsistent.

■ Exercise every day for at least 30 minutes, preferably an hour. It's not that I hate people who are disciplined enough to do this, my wife, Alice, being one of them, but I just can't seem to do it (or want to badly enough)! The most consistent I have been (since my athletic days) was when I had a ruptured disc and my healing depended on it! I hate to admit that it might take something like that to force my consistency.

Enough of my reminiscing about my most-frequently-failed New Year's resolutions. I do plan to make some improvements in 1994 even with an unimproved body!

I have the gifts of good health, a good job with a Christian calling, a loving mate and children, my grandson, Marshall, and his sister, Sarah, on the way!

What more could a man want to start a new year?

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

BAPTIST FORUM

The trouble with resolutions

As I begin a new year, I struggle between the polarities of "giving it all I've got" and "coasting along for a few more years." This polarity is no stranger to any pastor past the age of 55.

It is difficult for me to let up and slow down. Even at my age, I have difficulty letting short shots on the tennis court go without a run for them—even when I know the price I'll pay for a few days after a couple of sets. And I simply won't get in a basketball game again because I know I will probably try too hard and pull a hamstring, sprain an ankle or break a tooth while trying to block out a 20-year-old.

Yes, my body says "slow down," but my spirit is as much alive as it ever was. My challenge is to blend the two into the useful, growing person which everyone wants me to be.

Somewhere back there, at a place I failed to mark, I stopped making New Year's resolutions. I still believe they can make a positive difference in the lives of some people, and I sus-

pect that for many, a New Year's resolution marked significant life changes.

My "resolutions" are simple reflections upon what I would like to see improved about my life which would help me be that "useful, growing person" I have said I wanted to be.

Some changes which would probably help, but with which I have been unsuccessful in years past, include:

■ Getting up before or no later than 5 a.m. The only time I can do that is when I must catch an early plane or I've eaten too much popcorn and drunk too much liquid the night before. I had to get up really early as a paper boy, and my body told me then as it does now, an "early morning person I am not."

■ Spend an hour each day contemplating, reading the Bible and in prayer. That one is worth the effort, and I have, at times, come close to making it a "habit." But for whatever reasons—travel, schedules or other legitimate and illegitimate excuses—

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM: SINGLES

Worry-free New Year

By Harry Rowland

Q. I'm beginning this year single-again. All I see ahead are fearful times—bills, no relationships, failures, rejections. How am I to do it?

A. Our worries are based on our fears of what might happen. You need to realize that these fears might not happen at all. Each of us has a few fears that plague us. But if we allow these to run our lives, we become immobilized. This can take place when we try to look at an entire year all at once. It has been said that "fear is the darkroom where we develop our negatives." If our worries rule our lives, we won't ever enjoy the positives of God's created life.

Can you name one positive thing that has been accomplished by worry? I can't. Worrying not only doesn't change what is going to happen, but also fails to prepare us for the future. The first step in controlling our worries is to dispel some myths. Worrying doesn't prove that we care. Worry doesn't keep us from unpleasant tasks. Worry isn't a good excuse to indulge. Worry doesn't get us more attention from others. Worry doesn't protect us from risks.

To live worry-free doesn't mean we become oblivious to the harsh realities of everyday living. It does mean that we have a right perspective on the realities of life. Being worry-free means moving on, reaching out, embracing life, and facing what comes. Here are four "worry-less lessons":

■ Let God handle the big things. We can't prevent an earthquake, a recession, war, death or even major illness. God is able.

■ Let God handle the small things. We are to "cast all our cares" on God and let him do our caring for us. Our worries can't change things, but God can.

■ Let God handle the future. We know God's plan for us, "plans to prosper you ... to give you a future and a hope." We can take comfort about our future, knowing God has a plan for us.

■ Thank God for today. Learn to view each new day as a day for God's blessings. You'll find the blessings of 1994 when you look for them.

Harry Rowland is pastor of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

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

EDITORIALS

You need to join the battle against casino gambling

It's time once again for our biennial battle against good-for-nothing gambling. Sure, we have lottery tickets available in virtually every convenience store, and racetracks are in easy driving distance from every Kentuckian. But the something-for-nothing peddlers will try to sell Kentuckians an even bigger piece of pie in the sky.

The general assembly convened last week, and the gambling gang sees its big chance. This time, gambling pushers are likely to go after casinos located at many of our race tracks. They say it's a way to save the horse industry and part of Kentucky's heritage. Horse hockey.

Kentucky Baptists already have spoken out against casino gambling. Messengers to our state convention last fall unanimously passed a resolution against casino gambling. Here's what we said:

■ "Gambling violates God's perfect will for humanity by diminishing reliance upon the sovereignty of God in favor of dependence upon chance and luck, by discrediting the ideal of support for others in favor of a 'something-for-nothing' attitude, by disdaining stewardship of resources in favor of reckless abandon, by replacing spiritual values with covetousness and materialism, and by seeking personal gain at the loss of others."

■ "The Kentucky Baptist Convention historically has affirmed the biblical principles which define gambling as inherently evil and grossly immoral."

■ "Gambling activity, particularly government-sponsored and government-endorsed gambling, is on the rise across the nation."

■ "The specter of land-based and riverboat casino gambling looms before Kentucky as pro-gambling forces search the countryside for new sources of revenue. These forces prey upon legislators' need to discover new sources of revenue and upon their desire for quick-fix solutions to complex problems."

■ "The legalization of casino gambling has led to increased involvement of organized crime, government and corporate corruption, prostitution, and street crime in the cities and regions in which casinos are located."

■ "The influence of casino gambling has crippled countless numbers of locally owned businesses, concentrating wealth in the hands of casino owners and vendors, driving up the taxes and rent of local business people and thwarting development of legitimate new business."

■ "The predominance of casino gambling has changed the character of the communities in which they exist, creating a gulf of disparity between the rich and the poor, breeding a 'get-rich-quick' mindset among the youth, and masking the traditional culture and virtue of the communities."

■ "The artificial aura of casino gambling has overshadowed legitimate tourism and other natural attractions to their host communities."

■ "The predatory nature of casino gambling victimizes increasing numbers of compulsive gamblers, naive citizens and defenseless teenagers, trapping them and their families in webs of addiction, debt and even crime."

■ "These evils of casino gambling would destroy our communities and further erode the productive values of our state."

■ "The messengers to the 1993 Kentucky Baptist Convention urge our churches and their members to oppose the legalization of casino gambling within our state."

■ "We encourage our churches to educate their members regarding the evils of gambling and the danger it poses to our state."

■ "We exhort our lawmakers to vote against any and all proposals to legalize casino gambling in Kentucky."

The resolution also put the KBC on record as joining forces with the Temperance League of Kentucky and the Kentucky Council of Churches "and other groups of good faith which oppose the legalization of casino gambling."

That's exactly what happened last week in the rotunda of the state capitol. Representatives of four groups—Jim Holladay, a member of the KBC public affairs committee and pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville; Claude Witt, executive director of the Temperance League and a member of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville; Nancy Jo Kemper, executive director of the Kentucky Council of Churches; and Scott Wegenast, executive director of the Kentucky Charitable Gaming Association—declared war on casino gambling in Kentucky. (A report of their press conference begins on page 1.)

You can be a soldier in that war. Pick up a pen or the phone, and contact your representative and senator. Ask them to oppose any legalization of casino gambling. If you want to cite reasons, provide them with the dangers of casino gambling listed in the KBC resolution.

All legislators can be reached by writing to them by name at Legislative Offices, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Ky. 40601, or by calling them at (800) 372-7181.

Marv Knox

Respect sanctity of human life

The children at our house spent mealtimes last week memorizing an important verse from the Bible: "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27).

That's an important verse to remember as Southern Baptists observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Jan. 16. When we violate the sanctity of human life, we desecrate God's image created in the forms we see in girls, boys, women and men.

For many Southern Baptists and others, "sanctity of human life" is a euphemism for talking about abortion. That controversial practice is indeed one element of the sanctity of human life discussion. But others also are worthy of serious ethical consideration by people of faith. They include euthanasia; capital punishment; violence; bio-medical techniques; organ donation; handgun control; poverty; care for the aging; physical, sexual and emotional abuse; alcohol and drug abuse; and other issues that affect the human body and spirit—the flesh-and-bones "temples" of God's Spirit.

These issues merit our best thinking and action throughout the year.

Marv Knox

Kentucky Baptists have gone on record opposing the legalization of casino gambling in the commonwealth. Kentucky legislators need to know their constituents will not tolerate increased gambling activity.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is Jan. 16.

When it comes to separating adults from kids, snow piles up OK

These snows we've been having sure know how to separate the men from the girls. Probably the women from the boys, too.

Have you noticed how kids and adults react totally differently to snow?

When the weatherperson predicts snow, a kid starts wondering: Will it be wet enough to pack? Will we get enough to build a snowman? And (hope of all great wintertime hopes) will we get enough to let out school?

When a daddy hears snow predictions, he starts wondering, too: Do we have any liniment to put on my back after I shovel off the driveway? How treacherous are the roads going to be? Where are the chili and crackers? Can I get a job in Florida?

Since I've never been a mother, I can't guarantee it, but I imagine moms start wondering as well: How long will I have to hear him whine after he shovels off the driveway? Where did we put the kids' long underwear after the last big snow? When're they going to start school up again? Why can't we move to Florida?

Of course, snow brings out the kid in daddies and mothers too. Like last year, when we got six inches and the big hill over at the golf course became Sledders' Heaven.

Being the careful, responsible daddy, I volunteered to "drive" the sled down the hill for our girls. They annoyed the fire out of me when they insisted they could do just fine without me. Especially when they expected me to walk down the hill to pull the blasted sled back up. Walking down hills and pulling sleds back up is about as much fun as shoveling off the driveway. Only more dangerous, what with all the other sleds zooming by, scattering dawdlers like bowling pins.

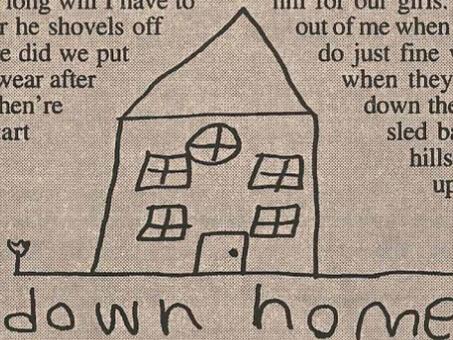
Riding on a sled also can be dangerous.

A friend of ours broke her wrist on a sled the other day. We haven't talked about it yet, but I assume she broke it on account of the way she got off her sled. People who wait until the sled stops and stand up usually do OK. But people who fly off of sleds going 40 miles per hour usually wind up with broken bones. Maybe sleds should come equipped with ejection seats and parachutes for riders over age 30.

Come to think of it, snow kind of reminds me of sin.

They both look pretty and inviting but turn ugly after they lay around for awhile. They're both soft on top and slick underneath. And if you slip or get stuck, you sure can get messed up.

Marv Knox



Mississippi Baptists in fight over lesbian camp

"If I am characterized by the fact that my opposition to them stems from my biblical morality, then I'm thrilled. ... There is a biblical moral standard in our community. We don't all reach it, but these people—the whole focus of their organization is opposed to that."

Paul Walley, a Baptist who opposes a Mississippi camp operated by a lesbian couple

CHICAGO (BP)—Baptists in rural Overt, Miss., are unhappy with media portrayals of them. Local and national newspapers, magazines, and even the "Oprah Winfrey" television program have described them as narrow-minded haters trying to drive two lesbians from their community.

The Overt Baptists—including a prominent trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—are crying foul and seeking to get their story heard.

The events that brought Overt national attention started in July 1993 when Brenda and Wanda Henson bought 120 acres in Overt and began clearing the land. Townspeople became alarmed when they saw the Oct. 11 issue of the Grapevine, the Henson's newsletter, in which the women announced plans for Camp Sister Spirit, which they described as "being created from Lesbian Vision."

"We're talking about a very rural, very church-and-family oriented type of community. We're talking about an activist group coming in here to change this community," says John Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church in nearby Richton and a leader of local opposition to the retreat. Allen is a

trustee of Southern Seminary in Louisville, where he is first vice chairman and chairman of the executive committee.

Brenda Henson has written that Sister Spirit is a charitable organization committed to addressing social issues, ranging from hunger to "homophobia, ableism, fat oppression" and class conflict.

Paul Walley, a member of Allen's church active in the opposition to Sister Spirit, says the women are misguided. "They claim they're going to feed the hungry and take care of homeless people. They're out at a very rural setting; there are no homeless (or) hungry people out there.

"And they say they want to help adult education," Walley continues. "Well, eight miles down the road, we have free adult literacy training, and we have more teachers volunteered than we have people signed up to take the course. They say they are offering these services, but they are certainly about as far removed from where these services are needed as you can get."

Sister Spirit's founders claim they are being harassed because the town is intolerant of their homosexuality.

Media interest in their case blossomed when a dead dog was found draped over their mailbox in early November. The Hensons also report they have received threatening phone calls.

When producers of the "Oprah Winfrey" show heard about the controversy, they invited the Hensons and their critics to Chicago in mid-December to tape an episode of her program. The Hensons faced off with Allen, Walley, and another First Baptist Church member, James Hendry, who lives near Camp Sister Spirit.

The program, which aired Dec. 21, began with a description of the Hensons as two privacy-seeking lesbians persecuted by conservative Christians. Though the hour-long exchange became heated at times, Allen believes his side was able to make its case.

"I felt like we were able to establish our positions and hold our ground," he says. "I felt like (Sister Spirit) exposed themselves as being actively involved in the implementation of the gay agenda."

Allen explained to host Oprah Winfrey that he opposes the women's activities because homosexuality is

condemned by the Bible, and he therefore fears for the souls of vulnerable Overt residents and of the lesbians in the camp.

The Bible-based argument was met with skepticism from the studio audience, which included gay and lesbian activists as well as a busload of Overt residents. Allen feels the audience was stacked against him, with critics of Sister Spirit shunned by Winfrey.

Walley takes in stride the many anti-Christian comments made on the show. "If I am characterized by the fact that my opposition to them stems from my biblical morality, then I'm thrilled. I'm the fourth generation of my family to reside here. This camp is about eight or ten miles north of us. There is a biblical moral standard in our community. We don't all reach it, but these people—the whole focus of their organization is opposed to that."

For now, things remain uneasy in Overt. Sister Spirit has asked U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to investigate harassment of the camp's owners. Allen says anonymous threatening phone calls have been received by anti-camp activists, too, and he would welcome an investigation.

Two communities face school prayer issue differently

By David Anderson
Religious News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A public school district in Pennsylvania has agreed to drop its practice of daily Bible readings, but in Jackson, Miss., citizens have mounted a highly visible campaign to permit prayer in the public schools.

In the first instance, members of the Warrior Run Public School Board in rural Northumberland County in Pennsylvania voted Dec. 6 to drop the practice of reading the Bible over the public address system of the district's middle school.

The practice apparently had been a longstanding tradition in the school despite the 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court rulings that barred state-sponsored prayer and Bible reading as a

violation of the constitution's ban on government establishing religion.

According to community residents, officials in the Warrior Run schools refused to abide by the Supreme Court rulings, with older students reading Bible passages over the public address system and teachers conducting Bible readings for elementary-age children.

Before the school board meeting, Steven Green, legal counsel for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, warned the board that they were opening themselves to a lawsuit "that it stands virtually no chance of winning."

"If this matter were to go to court, tens of thousands of taxpayer funds would be wasted."

Green said the fact that the board has received expressions of support

for the Bible reading practice from some segments of the community "is irrelevant. The civil liberties of Americans do not depend on the opinions of the majority."

The Mississippi case could test a new wrinkle in church-state relations—the question of "student-initiated" prayer that has risen as a tactic among conservative religionists to restore prayer to the public schools.

It arose after the dismissal of Bishop Knox as the principal of Wingfield High School in Jackson on Nov. 24. He had allowed a student to read a prayer over the intercom.

The student body had voted to allow the prayer to be read, but school district officials decided the action violated the Constitution.

Knox's suspension resulted in an intense reaction in support of the prin-

icipal, including a walkout by 300 students and a proposal by Gov. Kirk Fordice to bar education money to any school that bans voluntary prayer.

"Any place that Americans want to pray ought to be the place for religion," Fordice declared on CNN's "Larry King Live" program.

The Jackson case provides a sharp focus on the turbulent question of school prayer that has been left in limbo since the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal of a ruling from the Fifth Court of Appeals, which covers Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

The lower court ruling allowed voluntary, student-initiated prayers, an apparent departure from the High Court's rulings of the 1960s and, more recently, its 1992 ruling in Lee vs. Weismann banning prayers at public school graduation ceremonies.

"The civil liberties of Americans do not depend on the opinions of the majority."

Steven Green, legal counsel for Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Catholics pick Kentuckian for new school-choice group

By David Anderson
Religious News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As the national debate over government aid to private and parochial schools heats up, the U.S. Catholic Conference has launched an effort to mobilize Catholic school parents on behalf of the controversial proposal.

The USCC, social policy action arm of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, announced it would open an Office for Catholic School Parent Associations to be headed by Kenneth Dupre, currently executive director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky.

Dupre has headed the Kentucky Catholic Conference since 1983 and in 1991 spearheaded establishment of the Kentucky League for Educational Alternatives.

"It is my hope that Mr. Dupre will

help parents and all of us recognize that parents, in exercising their responsibility for their children's education, have a natural and constitutional right to choose an education that accords with their values and religious beliefs," said Bishop Robert Banks of Green Bay, Wis., chairman of the USCC education committee.

"Parents, in turn, can use help in reminding their local, state and national legislators that the government has a duty to enable parents to exercise this right of choosing their children's system of education," the bishop said.

Although the church's hierarchy long has supported state aid to Catholic schools, the issue has taken on new political prominence as a number of high-visibility conservative politicians—including former Reagan-Bush education secretaries William Bennett and Lamar Alexander—have

joined the crusade.

As criticism of public schools has increased in the 10 years since the publication of "A Nation at Risk," the Reagan-era indictment of U.S. public education, so has the political campaign for a system of vouchers that would give parents tax money to pay tuition costs at private schools.

But the drive recently faltered in California, where voters—by a 7-to-3 margin—rejected a proposal to provide vouchers worth about \$2,600 for each of the state's 5.3 million secondary school students that could be used at any public, private or parochial school.

Vouchers are opposed by public school unions and administrators, as well as church-state separationists and a number of education reform advocates who believe the proposal will sap needed funds necessary if public schools are to be reformed.

In launching the new office, Robert Lynch, general secretary of the USCC, hailed Dupre's "proven ability as an organizer and his dedication to church efforts."

"Catholic schools have made great contributions to U.S. society," Lynch said. "It is important that every effort be made to keep them as a viable option for families at every economic level."

The future of the country rests on revamping U.S. education so that parents have choices," Lynch added. "No one school system can serve an entire nation."

Dupre's office will work on mobilizing parents at the state and national level to work on legislative issues such as the voucher proposal and create a National Coalition of Catholic School Parent Associations to facilitate lobbying activity at all levels of government.

Cumberland College Today

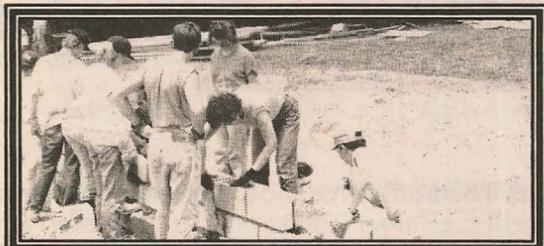
A Supplement to the Western Recorder

Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Kentucky



MISSIONS AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

Williamsburg



Cumberland College students and Baptist church groups from across the country have joined hands in a project we call Mountain Outreach. Since 1981 thousands of students and volunteer church groups from Kentucky and surrounding states have built 65 homes and installed 32 wells for needy families through the summer building program.

In addition, during the school year, our students have worked on hundreds of other homes: repairing the roofs, building porches, insulating the walls, installing electricity, installing sewer systems, and the list goes on.

The program has received national recognition, the most notable being when it was named the 220th Point of Light by President George Bush.

Brazil

The Kentucky/Brazil Partnership continues at Cumberland College! Cumberland alumnus Ralph Hopkins who serves as Coordinator of Student Missions Work for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has been very supportive of the Kentucky/Brazil Partnership and has been instrumental in bringing two Brazilian students who served as interpreters for the partnership to Kentucky to attend college. Through the support of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program Funds, Cumberland College has been able to provide tuition support for Andrea Freitas and Dircon Costa. Andrea enrolled at Cumberland last fall and Dircon will enroll this spring.



China

Through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Services International program Cumberland College faculty and students have an opportunity each summer to spend six weeks in China.

The educational program allows an exchange of language and culture, but traditional mission activities such as street witnessing or the distribution of Bibles are forbidden by the communist country. The ten students and seven faculty who have already participated in the program feel that although they were not allowed to openly witness for Christ, they were able to touch lives through lifestyle witnessing.



Summer Missionaries

For several years Cumberland College students have filled the maximum number of Baptist Student Union summer missionary positions allowed by the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board. This past summer 27 students participated in summer missions in Alaska, California, Florida, Kentucky, South Carolina, Virginia, Brazil, and Kenya.

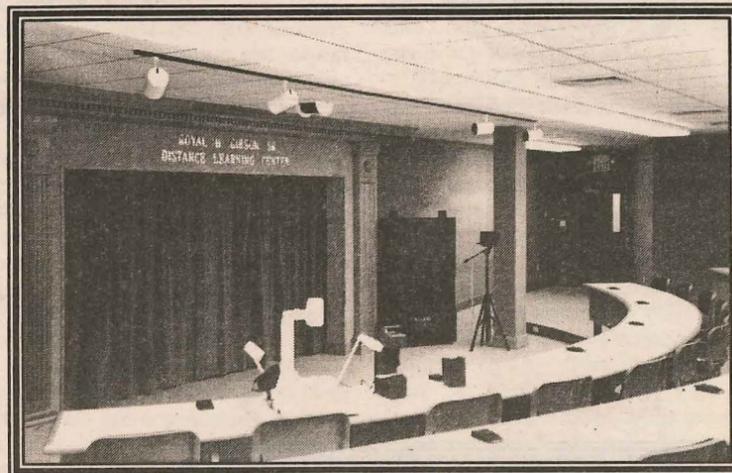
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Distance Learning Comes to Cumberland College

Over the next few years, the distance barrier will be broken for Cumberland College faculty, students and community who use the college's new Distance Learning Center. Through advanced technology, linking and networking, up to 45 people per setting will be able to supplement their classroom learnings. While still on the campus, the Center's users will be able to talk to the CEO of a major corporation, set-in on a corporate meeting, or hear and interact with a guest lecturer. The possibilities abound.

The Center is equipped with an interactive video system which consists of monitors, cameras, microphones and supplemental equipment such as overhead projection and video tape.

In addition to the enrichment the Center will bring to the academic program, it will also serve as a training laboratory for television production for our students.



Upsilon-Upsilon: The Nation's Best Chapter

For an unprecedented 16th year, the Cumberland College Upsilon-Upsilon chapter of Phi Alpha Theta achieved the top honor in the Best Chapter Award Program in Division I, covering student enrollment under 3,000, in the annual Phi Alpha Theta competition.

In a letter notifying the college of the award, the International Secretary-Treasurer stated, "This award is a fine compliment to the student members and especially the faculty of the Department of History, who continue to work with and encourage the students in all of their activities. It is recognition of the strong support of your administration who believes in academic excellence, otherwise the achievements evidenced by your chapter would not be possible."

"Upsilon-Upsilon's record of winnings has given the organization a high degree of notoriety on the national level," says Dr. Eric Wake, faculty sponsor. The Chapter's national success is due to the willingness of the entire group to give "something extra." Says Wake, "It's a good feeling to be recognized nationally and to see our students strive to maintain that recognition."

In order to maintain their winning streak, Upsilon-Upsilon students must go through much hard work and preparation. President Jim Taylor, remarked, "We're certainly proud of our Chapter and of the outstanding accomplishments of our students as well as of the excellent support and guidance of the faculty and staff of the History Department. We have a marvelous team as evidenced by their accomplishments!"



Upsilon-Upsilon Officers for 1993-94 are: (L-R) Rose Fox, Secretary; Veronica Carmical, Vice President; Lee White, President; Mike Hatfield and Aaron Purcell, Co-Historians.

Studying Abroad



Cumberland College students shown on the South bank of the River Thames with Big Ben in the background are: Steve Roell, David Hurst and Eric Thurman.

For the third consecutive year Cumberland College, in conjunction with International Enrichment Incorporated, is offering the London Semester Program.

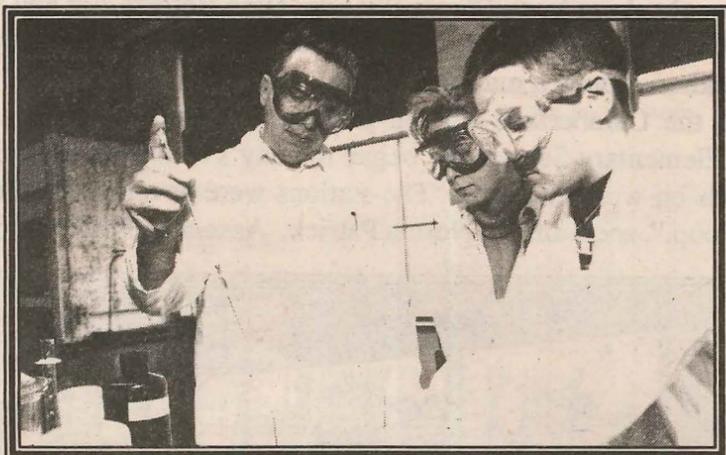
Dr. Brian Austin, Religion professor at Cumberland College, is the college's International Studies Coordinator.

During the spring semester, senior faculty members Dr. Harold Wortman and Mrs. Lois Wortman, along with two Cumberland College students, will be spending a semester at Imperial College of Science and Technology, one of Europe's most prestigious colleges, for a learning experience of a lifetime.

The course covers the entire British spectrum, and will allow the Cumberland College students who participate fourteen hours of college credit.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Chemistry in the Community

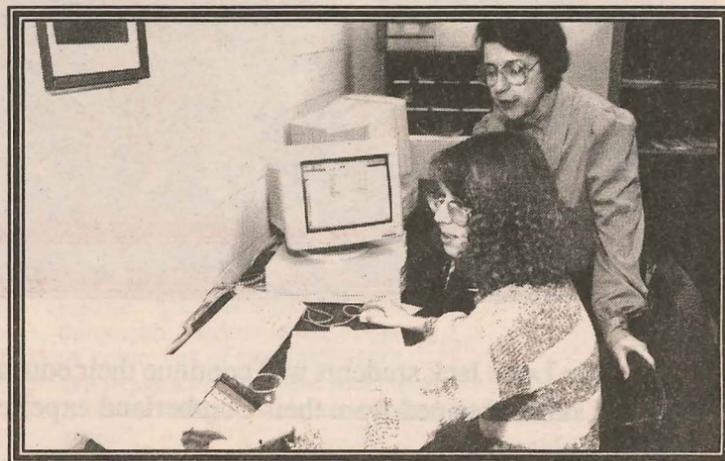


The Cumberland College Student Chapter of the American Chemical Society was recently awarded a Community Science Program Grant. As evidenced by the recognition in *U.S.A. Today*, Cumberland's chapter was the only student ACS chapter in the nation to receive this grant. This program grant will cover the cost of materials for Cumberland's students and faculty to volunteer their time to work with children, parents and community members, motivating and encouraging them to "Turn on to Science" with hands-on science activities. "This is truly a rewarding experience for all of us. Chemistry is not only a vital part of our everyday lives, it's fun to

study and do," said Dr. Ann Hoffelder, Cumberland College Chemistry Department Chairperson.

Chemistry is everywhere and Cumberland College's Chemistry Department with its tradition of academic excellence prepares students for rewarding careers in chemistry related fields. Many students have graduated from Cumberland College with a degree in chemistry and have gone on to become doctors, pharmacists, dentists, medical technologists, research scientists, industrial chemists, teachers, professors and environmentalists.

Success and service go hand-in-hand in our Cumberland College Chemistry Department as our graduates become significant leaders in their communities.



A Recognized Part Of The Curriculum

All colleges have a goal to train future leaders by providing them with knowledge. But at Cumberland we have gone a step beyond to turn knowledge into action.

From the time students arrive on the Cumberland campus until graduation, they participate in a minimum of 55 clock hours of leadership training and service. The goal of this program is to teach them leadership principles and how to apply the principles to life, to instill respect for dedication to a strong work ethic, and to use knowledge and leadership to help others through various forms of service. We call this program the Leadership and Community Service Program.

In addition to the 55 required hours, students who wish to go beyond the requirement and who participate in an additional 45 hours of service will be recognized at graduation.

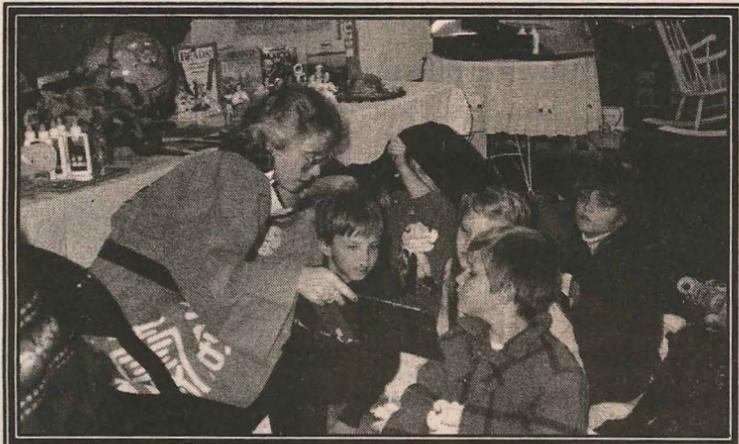
Students will receive two transcripts: one will list the academic courses and grades and the other will list the student's leadership involvement while at Cumberland College.



PROGRESSING WITH PROGRESS

KERA at Cumberland

The Education Department at Cumberland College is adapting to changes brought about by the Kentucky Education Reform Act and is incorporating the KERA guidelines into its teacher training program. Recently 98 future teachers planned, implemented and evaluated a project for elementary school children around a museum theme.



To participate in the Cumberland student project, 131 students came to campus from Lone Jack Elementary School and began the day's activities in small group rotation of 16 hands-on work stations. "The stations were developmentally appropriate for the age group," according to Norma Patrick, Associate Professor of Education, "and consisted of such varied topics as wildlife, geology, ethnic groups, and environmental safety." The day's activities were culminated with a visit to the Cumberland Museum.



museum.

The Lone Jack students will continue their education by applying the knowledge and skills obtained from their Cumberland experience to prepare a museum in their own classroom.

Cumberland Lodge, Museum and Center for Leadership Studies

As Cumberland College was celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1988-89, President Jim Taylor was thinking of ways to provide opportunities for present and prospective students and at the same time to help the Williamsburg area.

The Cumberland Lodge, Museum and Center for Leadership Studies was born from his idea. President Taylor wanted an area where additional work stations would be available for students who want to work to help pay for their education, a program that would enhance the college's curriculum in the area of business management by allowing students real-life experiences, and an attraction that would draw additional visitors to the Williamsburg area. The new facility is adjacent to Interstate 75. Phase I, which opened July 30, 1992, contains the Cumberland College archives, the Carl Williams Cross Collection, Blair's Christmas Land, Henkelmann's Life Science Collection, a Craft Shop, and various other collections including prints, coins, stamps and nutcrackers.

Phase II, The Cumberland Lodge, is scheduled to open around April 1, 1994, and will feature 17 guest rooms, five of these being suites. Additionally, the Lodge offers a dining room to seat 135 people, two conference facilities, 2 elevators, a beautiful stairway, and an upstairs balcony large enough for weddings and other events.

For reservations and/or information, contact: Doyle Gilbert, General Manager, (606) 549-2200, extension 4236.



We Are Looking Forward To Your Visit!

New Super Bowl package targets youth ministries

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

DALLAS—A former Baptist youth minister hopes to help churches nationwide use the Jan. 30 Super Bowl to score a touchdown in youth ministry.

Mitch Beckman of Compass Communications in Dallas is directing an effort called "Let's Party Super Bowl Sunday."

The company hopes to sell about 500 churches a package of videotapes, promotional items and party guides to create a unique Christian emphasis on the highest holy day of America's favorite armchair religion.

The foundation of the program is a one-hour pre-game party video featuring sports celebrities such as Herschel Walker, Bobby Bowden, Bill Bates, Spencer Tillman, Cody Carlson and Gene Stallings, along with Christian entertainers 4-Him, Stephen Curtis Chapman, Al Denson, Pam Thum and Dennis Lee. The sports figures and entertainers will offer humor, music and testimonies about their faith in Jesus Christ.

The kit also includes a 12-minute video to be used at halftime. This vid-

eo features Spencer Tillman, running back with the Houston Oilers, talking specifically about what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Churches which purchase the \$95 kit also receive a party planning guide with suggested activities for non-sports fans.

The "Let's Party" program is being produced and packaged by the same folks who delivered Ross Perot into America's living rooms with his charts and graphs during last year's presidential campaign. Compass Communications is a for-profit production company owned by Lee Martin, the brother of Larry Martin, ministry section vice president with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Beckman, who is the company's new specialist in religious marketing, is a graduate of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn. The Lake City, Fla., native has served Southern Baptist churches in Texas and Mississippi as youth minister and currently is a member of First Baptist Church of Coppell, Texas.

"The major influence on Ameri-

can teens today is media," Beckman explained. "They're selling everything."

Instead of complaining about this, the church should find a way to capitalize on it, he said. "Why don't we take where kids are anyway and create something positive?"

The Super Bowl is an event in itself—and one that's likely to draw teens and their families away from Sunday night church, Beckman said.

This is the first year for Beckman's company to produce a teen-oriented Super Bowl package for churches. A different organization, Sports Outreach America, began offering a Super Bowl outreach emphasis to churches last year.

But Beckman says the two organizations aren't competing in the same market. Beckman's program specifically targets youth groups, while the other program is more adult-oriented.

Compass Communications offered a similar package for churches to use last Halloween. About 100 churches paid to participate, Beckman said.

The Halloween event was different in that the program aired on a cable channel available to anyone who

could receive that signal, regardless of whether they bought the kit or not.

"We lost our shirts and everybody enjoyed it," he said. "A lot of other people wanted to do it, but it wasn't broadcast in their area. That's why we've gone to video."

Similar projects could be developed for Valentine's Day and New Year's Eve programs, Beckman said.

The Super Bowl program has some sponsorship from Rapha Treatment Centers, a chain of Christian-based counseling and substance-abuse treatment services. The video presentation includes mention of Rapha's toll-free help line.

Although the package is being marketed by a for-profit company, the goal is not to make money, Beckman said.

The company is concerned about helping Christians have an influence in the secular marketplace, he explained. "If Christ is going to do anything with America again, it's going to come out of our teen-agers. ... We're just a tool for these youth ministers to bring teen-agers together again."

For more information, call (800) 947-6411.

"Why don't we take where kids are anyway and create something positive?"

Mitch Beckman, coordinator of "Let's Party Super Bowl Sunday"

Study predicts demise of giving but others disagree

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (RNS)—A Christian research organization that tracks trends in religious giving says the institutional church in America might be dead within 200 years, but some prominent religious researchers say reports of the church's demise are greatly exaggerated.

A report from empty tomb inc. of Champaign, Ill., falls short of flatly predicting the end of local congregations and denominational bureaucracies. But it warns that church giving patterns point in that direction.

"The extinction of the national and regional structure of the church as it is constituted today is not inevitable. The financial giving data suggests, however, that it is entirely possible," the report concludes.

The report is titled "The State of Church Giving through 1991."

Data show a tendency of withdrawal from national to regional to

congregational levels, according to empty tomb. "The next state," the research group warns, "may be from the congregational to the individual."

However, two well-known researchers in the field of church membership and organization challenged the report.

William McKinney of Hartford Seminary in Connecticut called suggestions of reaching absolute zero in giving, based on extrapolating statistics, "silly."

And Lyle Schaller of Chicago, an authority in the field of church growth, called the report flawed for assuming that all money given to congregations and denominations shows up in church treasurer reports.

However, Sylvia Ronsvalle, executive vice president of empty tomb, defended the report in an interview and said her hope is that it will create a "healthy anxiety" about church giv-

ing that will ultimately lead to a healthy and dynamic church.

The empty tomb report shows a steady decline in church giving from 1968 to 1991.

In 1968, church members gave 2.44 percent of their income to the local congregation and 0.65 percent to church work beyond the congregation.

By 1991, empty tomb said, those figures had declined, respectively, to 2.09 percent and 0.44 percent.

Extrapolating from those figures, the report projects that by the year 2048, giving to the denominations will reach zero. By 2187, it says, giving to local congregations could dry up.

McKinney said a critical flaw is that a purely statistical analysis fails to take into account the strongly held beliefs of some Christians that compels them to give.



CBN-backed project draws critics with plea for tax relief

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (RNS)—The Christian Broadcasting Network's plans to sponsor a retirement community featuring units costing up to \$490,000 is stirring questions about the relationship between Christian ministry and the poor.

Backers of the \$64 million, CBN-backed Founders Village project are hoping to get a property tax exemption from the state. But the Virginia Beach City Council has voted to recommend against an exemption—in part because some council members questioned Founders Village's commitment to the poor.

Entry fees to the project would range from \$95,000 to \$490,000, depending upon apartment style, and monthly fees would start at \$1,070 and go as high as \$4,200.

The Dec. 14 vote came after John

Waters, 73, a retired construction worker who lives about a mile from the proposed development, approached the lectern with the help of a walker and said, "This is for the rich. There is no charity involved whatsoever."

Waters' reference was to Pat Robertson, the CBN founder whose "700 Club" television program is beamed into homes across the country on the popular Family Channel.

Robertson's visibility was stretched far beyond evangelical and fundamentalist church circles when he ran for president in 1988. And his grassroots political organization, the Christian Coalition, has become a Republican power broker in state elections across the country.

The request for a local real estate tax exemption failed on a 5-5 vote,

with one member of the council absent. The state has ultimate authority on property tax exemptions—which are allowed for religious and charitable organizations—but it would be unusual for an exemption to be granted over the opposition of local officials.

The exact nature of the financial relationship between CBN and Founders Village is unclear.

A brochure says the retirement community, which would employ 179 people with a payroll of \$2.6 million, is "sponsored" by CBN but provides no details.

The village is incorporated as an independent organization with its own board of directors. While Robertson is not a director, his name appeal is being used to encourage Christians from across the country to sup-

port the project.

The council member who missed Tuesday's vote, Robert Dean, had said he opposed the project and apparently would have sided with other opponents on the council.

Dean had said he opposed the project because it would ignore the poor, noting, "Christ said, 'Do unto the least of them as you do unto me.'"

After the council decision, John Chappell, president of Founders Village and vice president of land development for CBN, said, "We're obviously disappointed. We just feel we have such a good project for the city of Virginia Beach that one day it will be reconsidered."

If the real estate exemption were granted, city officials estimate it would cost the city about \$727,000 per year.

PEOPLE

Kentucky graduates of Southern Seminary in December

Agee calls graduates to integrity

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptists must renew their collective commitment to be "a people of biblical integrity" if they are to make an impact on the world, Bob Agee told December graduates at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "It is time to stop arguing about how to describe the Bible and make a fresh commitment of ourselves to understand it properly and apply it diligently to every area and every facet of our lives," said Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. A total of 170 graduates received degrees at the Dec. 17 service. Agee noted that problems such as "greed, materialism, self centeredness and an irresponsible treatment of the environment" pose tremendous challenges for future Christian leaders. "If there is not a spiritual awakening in this land, a fresh willingness to allow the laws of God to become a significant force in shaping the (country's) standards of ethics, morality and decency ..., this nation as we know it will not last past our grandchildren's lifetime," Agee declared. Agee stressed to members of the graduating class that their task is to "build foundations for reconstruction" of a better society and more effective churches.



Steven Nicholas Adams
Master of divinity
Falmouth



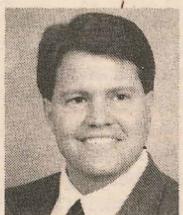
Steven Boyd
Master of divinity
Brandenburg



Chee-Keong Chan
Master of divinity
Georgetown



Jimmy Gentry
Doctor of ministry
Owensboro



Mark Hazle
Master of divinity
in Christian education
Elizabethtown



Keith Ferguson
Doctor of ministry
Bowling Green



Kimberly Isley
Master of divinity
Louisville



Patricia Jackson
Master of divinity
in Christian education
Frankfort



Christopher Johnson
Doctor of ministry
Russell



Terry Keith
Master of divinity
in church music
Lexington



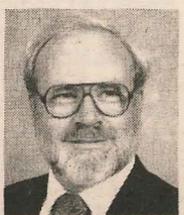
Jana Knight
Master of divinity
Louisville



Geraldine Lucas
Diploma in
Christian ministry
Louisville



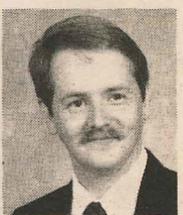
William Page Jr.
Master of divinity
Walton



Gerald Peake
Master of divinity
in Christian education
Louisville



Dale Raines
Master of arts in
Christian education
Brandenburg



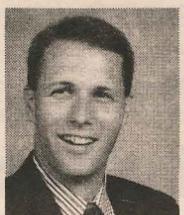
Rodney Redmon
Master of divinity
Bloomfield



Carol Rubarts
Master of divinity
Louisville



Stacy Spencer
Master of divinity
Russellville



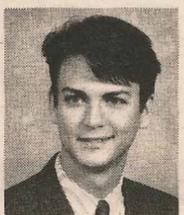
Michael Spivey
Master of arts in
Christian education
Richmond



Charles Stepp
Diploma in
theology
Louisville



Robert Ward
Master of divinity
Hardyville



Richard Wiggington
Master of church
music
Princeton



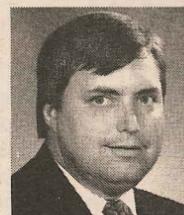
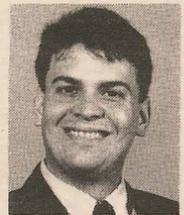
Jeff Woolum
Diploma in
theology
Ludlow



Patrick Wren
Master of divinity
Hardinsburg

Other graduates

Three Kentuckians received degrees from Southern Baptist seminaries outside the state in December. They are, clockwise from top, Jay McIntosh of Paducah, master of divinity degree, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Kenneth Rose of Monticello, master of divinity degree, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; James Smith of Paducah, master of arts in religious education, Southwestern Seminary.



CLASSIFIED ADS

SBC TOUR: Orlando, Fla., June 12-16, 1994. Airfare, room and shuttle as low as \$449 per person. Extensions available. Ray Hayes (502) 477-2379.

SEEKING: Camp Director for 1994 GA/Acteens summer camp at Cedar Crest, Bagdad, Kentucky. Send resumé to Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253.

FOR SALE: 33 choir robes; eggshell colored with deep green stoles. Broadway Baptist, Lexington, 276-2592. Call on Monday or Wednesday and ask for Joel.

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.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Full-time electrician. Must have completed an apprentice program or have at least three years of residential or commercial experience. \$7.73/hour plus generous benefits. Apply in person between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. 2825 Lexington Road, Carver Building, room 201.

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

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

Spring Meadows' heritage of caring

During 1994, you'll be hearing a lot about Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's 125th birthday. A very special part of this celebration will focus on the work of Spring Meadows Children's Home in Middletown. It is this part of the ministry that had its birth in 1869 and represents the oldest child care work in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Spring Meadows traces its beginnings to the tragic breakup of families caused by the Civil War. Soon after the war ended in 1865, it became apparent to a group of ladies from Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville that there was a great need to help orphaned and destitute children.

They formed the "Orphans' Aid Society" in 1866 and began working to raise money to help children. The women sought to find suitable families for the children and in some cases paid children's rent in boarding houses.

In 1869 the work was broadened to include other churches through an organization called "The Society of the Baptist Home for Helpless Children." On June 30, 1869, three children were received into care in a rented house at 828

West Walnut Street.

The ministry continued to grow and through the generosity of Mrs. J. Lawrence Smith of Louisville, who donated a lot at First and St. Catherine streets, work was begun on a new building. The first wing of the Louisville Orphans Home was dedicated on Dec. 19, 1870.

Baptist child care work continued at that site in Louisville until 1948 when the program moved to a modern, and more spacious campus in Middletown called Spring Meadows.

Spring Meadows' history is a rich one but we certainly shouldn't think of it only in the past tense. This vital part of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children continues to reach out to help children each day. As the Spring Meadows staff shares hope and healing with hurting young people, the ministry represents a tangible link between previous generations of caring Kentucky Baptists and those who continue the great heritage of faithfulness today.

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

Paid Column

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Curtis C. Mooney

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Research on Dead Sea Scrolls enters 'golden age' of access

By David Anderson
Religious News Service

NEW YORK (RNS)—Research on the Dead Sea Scrolls, the biblical-era manuscripts discovered in the Judean desert more than 40 years ago, has entered into a "golden age," according to a top scrolls scholar.

"To begin with, we should remark that today there is total and open access to the scrolls," said Lawrence Schiffman of New York University's Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. "The fact is that there are no secrets."

Schiffman made his comments Dec. 19 at a one-day conference called "New Perspectives on the Dead Sea Scrolls."

Schiffman's observations come at the end of one of the most controversial periods in scroll research since the texts were discovered by Bedouin shepherds on the shores of the Dead Sea.

The scrolls—generally written during a period from 200 years before Christ to 68 years after his birth and including some of the earliest manuscripts of biblical books—have provided immense amounts of information about the formation of rabbinic Judaism and early Christianity.

For the last two years, however, a bitter battle has been waged between members of the scholarly team charged with editing and translating the scrolls and text fragments—"an entrenched monopoly," in Schiffman's words—and other scholars seeking access and impatient for the editing team to publish.

The battle brought "pirated" editions of the texts, court cases and acrimonious debate that spilled over from academic and special interest journals into the mainstream media.

"When the dust settled," Schiffman said, "full access had been achieved, and the field of Dead Sea Scrolls research entered into a golden

age.

"A vigorous debate on the meaning of the scrolls had been joined, and the public shared the rare opportunity to follow the ins and outs of scholarly politics and academic discourse," he said.

Schiffman said "tremendous progress" is being made in publication, analysis and conservation of the scrolls. All of the unearthed material, with the exception of some discovered in early December during a controversial search by Israeli archaeologists, is now available for scholars and others to study.

The Israeli Antiquities Authority, which has control of the scrolls collection, believes only members of the official editorial team should produce formal editions of the scroll texts. However, according to Schiffman, the authority "will take no action against those who violate its wishes."

And, he added, the official publication team, which has been accused of foot-dragging in bringing texts under its charge to publication, has been expanded to 60 members. The team's work, the NYU scholar said, "is now progressing nicely."

Schiffman listed a number of important new publications, including Oxford University Press' important multi-volume series, "Discoveries in the Judean Desert," which will make much of the biblical material available to the public.

"All of this means that in some form, in five years, virtually every Qumran text will be available in some edition, he said. "Qumran" refers both to the place where the scrolls were found and the community which kept the texts and hid them in caves off the northwest shore of the Dead Sea.

At the same time, Schiffman warned that ready access to the scroll material is likely to result in "a spate of sensationalist volumes" propounding a host of unfounded ideas about Judaism and early Christianity.

German synods OK gay pastors

NEW YORK (RNS)—The synod of a regional Lutheran church in Germany has approved a proposal to allow homosexuals in the pastorate, an action with possible repercussions for Lutherans in the United States.

Under the proposal adopted by a one-vote margin by the synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haver, pastors and their companions who live in single-sex partnership would be eligible for church employment, including service as pastors.

But implementation of the proposal remains uncertain, as some church authorities have questioned the synod's jurisdiction to act on the issue.

The synod vote capped three years of controversy in the regional church following the removal of an openly gay pastor from his pulpit and comes as Lutherans throughout Germany and now in the United States are hotly debating homosexuality.

In the United States, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America released the first draft of a proposed

statement on human sexuality in October that holds up the possibility of the church affirming and celebrating same-sex relationships.

The proposed statement has come under intense fire from social conservatives within the 5.2 million-member denomination, drawn frowns of disapproval from the denomination's Council of Bishops and prompted the Church Council to appoint a special panel to monitor the work of the task force that wrote the paper.

In Germany, home of Martin Luther and the 16th century Reformation that gave the world the Lutheran movement, Lutheran bodies are debating the issue as fiercely as the ELCA, the fourth largest Protestant body in the United States.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, for example, has come out against the blanket blessing of same-sex partnerships while allowing "pastoral advice" that includes "blessing through accompaniment" of "responsibly conducted partnership."

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PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Americans spend more on legal gambling in a year than they do on going to movies, buying books and buying recorded music combined. An estimated \$330 billion is wagered legally in the U.S., compared with \$4.9 billion spent at the box office, \$8.8 billion spent on books and \$9 billion spent on recorded music.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Dwayne Martin resigned as minister of music and youth at Pleasant Hill Church.

Eastside Church called Ivan Jones as pastor.

■ **ELKTON**—Calvary Church called Randy Davenport as pastor. He previously served at Locust Grove Church in Cadiz.

■ **FORDSVILLE**—Pleasant Hill Church called Joy Staples as pastor. He formerly was a member of Fordsville Church.

■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church ordained Jeff Crabtree as minister of youth and children.

■ **HICKORY**—Pleasant Grove Church ordained Steve Baumgardner as a deacon Dec. 12.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Alex Littlefield retired as director of music at Hillcrest Church Jan. 2. A special service was held in his honor of 20 years' service to the church. He started a gospel quartet called the Gospelairees in 1950, and later sang with the Traveler's Trio out of Nashville, and the Leader's Quartet. Later he and other family members formed The Littlefields and sang throughout the Southeast.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Amy Mears resigned as associate pastor for youth and recreation of Buechel Park Church, effective Jan. 16. Also, Paul Brown and Carla Fentress were ordained as deacons Jan. 2.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Jeff McCall,

minister of education and youth at Buena Vista Church, was ordained at Broadway Church in Louisville, Jan. 9.

■ **PLEASANT VIEW**—Pleasant View Church called Brad Porter as pastor Jan. 2.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Sandra Wheeler, currently an Ohio resident with family ties to Williamsburg and Richmond, earned the diploma in biblical studies from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. The institute is the correspondence arm of Seminary Extension, a joint project of the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Greg and Shelly Bruckert**, missionaries to Indonesia, are on the field at Jl. Dr. Cipto 37, Solo 57139, Jateng, Indonesia. He is a native of Louisville.

Willis Bennett dies of apparent heart attack

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Willis Bennett, retired provost at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Jan. 5 of an apparent heart attack.

Bennett, 74, joined the faculty of the Louisville school in 1959 as an associate professor of Christian ethics. He was named professor of church and community in 1969, a position he held until 1990.

Prior to becoming provost in 1987, Bennett served the seminary in a variety of administrative capacities including dean of the school of theology, director of graduate studies, director of advanced professional studies and director of field education. He retired as provost in 1991 but continued to teach.

A recognized authority on urban ministry, Bennett frequently served as a consultant to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as well as Baptist associations in metropolitan areas. He was the author of several books and numerous journal articles.

Bennett is survived by his wife, Caroline, three daughters and six grandchildren. The family requests memorial gifts be directed to the Willis Bennett Student Scholarship Endowment Fund at Southern Seminary.

Missions leadership all in the family in Henry County

Missions leadership is all in the family in Henry County Baptist Association.

When Sharon Potts became associational WMU director there last October, she joined her son, Chad, on the associational council. He has served several years as Henry County's Brotherhood director.

Sharon Potts explained that one of the emphases for the year will be to increase the number of churches with missions programs, and to strengthen existing programs.

To encourage the association's 16

churches to expand these programs, the mother and son indicated they are considering teaming up to visit and worship with each congregation this year.

Local WMU and Brotherhood ministries focus a great deal of attention on migrant ministries in Henry County, Potts continued. In addition, the Brotherhood regularly sends mission teams out for special projects.

For example, an annual New Year's Day dinner for senior adults in the area offers fellowship and helps bring cheer to about 100 people dur-

ing the lonely days after the Christmas season, the younger Potts explained.

Both generations of the Potts family are longtime active members of Smithfield Baptist Church in Smithfield, where Chad Potts was ordained a deacon in 1992.

Although family ties are commonplace and expected among Baptists in Henry County, Director of Missions Pam Cobb said, "This is the first time I know of a mother and son sharing the responsibilities" on the associational level.

Making a difference

One of the most eloquent of greetings at Christmas were these few words: "Thank you for the positive difference each of you made to our son and family. What a difference it has made to us."

Gene (not his real name) came to us from a middle-class home in a central Kentucky town. A loving father and mother told us that he was the oldest of three sons. "Very unmotivated, rebellious, belligerent over school work, somewhat reserved and withdrawn," they said.

Gene came to us with a barely passing average. He first studied algebra and made a "B" and maintained that average all throughout his sophomore year taking the normal subjects. Also, he studied German, got into our award-winning drafting program and participated in drama. Already a Christian, Gene steadily matured in "walking the walk" with our many spiritual growth opportunities.

Now back home in his county high school, Gene is going forward and his parents and he have a very warm spot in their hearts for Oneida and for those who invest themselves here.

On the same day the above greeting came to us, there was another from Ashland with a \$50 donation. "It is like a drop in a bucket, but it may help someone. I am 89 years old and have worked in my past over three weeks for \$50." Such a sum is more than a "drop" for Oneida where the dollar is stretched manifold as the Lord blesses as he did the loaves and fishes of long ago.

Two doctors came from Richmond several months ago. A generous gift at Christmas came from one and this note: "I really enjoyed the tour of your campus. It is much larger than I expected. It's great what you are doing with the young people."

A \$500 gift from London from a blind widow had this note: "I am a retired teacher, 84 years old. I have known about your school since I was a child. Professor Burns (OBI founder) would spend the night at our home as he went from Oneida to East Bernstadt." That was the closest railroad station to Oneida—40 miles taking two days by horseback or wagon. Often our founder, owning neither, walked the entire distance as he went out seeking help.

Transplanted Kentuckians writing from sunny Florida (while we were fighting near-blizzard conditions): "Oneida Baptist Institute is one of a kind. You all are in our prayers." And to help put wings on their prayers was a \$10,000 gift. There are few gifts so large, because as Scripture reminds us, "few of the mighty" hear the call.

From LaCenter a beautiful letter: "Our son Chuck died in 1989. We still want very much to give him something for Christmas and feel we are doing so by giving to the children of Oneida."

From Philpot: "I only wish my 12-year-old granddaughter was growing up in an atmosphere like Oneida. I hope to keep this \$25 coming every month. It's not much but I know it won't go mostly for administrative costs as in so many places. Just look at all the children you put on the right track."

Echoing the same thoughts in a beautifully typewritten letter with one dollar enclosed: "For years I have carried Oneida to the Lord as a matter of prayer. My financial situation has not changed, but this is one dollar you would not have had otherwise." It all helps make a difference in young lives. What greater goal for 1994?

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

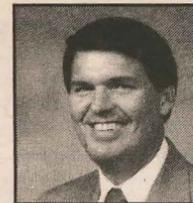
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ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Cummingses return to Clear Creek

This new year marks the 10th anniversary that Fred and Marge Cummings first came to Clear Creek. He was saved at age nine and was active in church. Shortly after high school, Fred realized the Lord was calling him into the ministry. "I began running and it lasted almost 17 years. During this time I was active in my home church and did just about everything a church member can do short of preaching. In 1983 I surrendered my life completely to the Lord and thus my real spiritual journey began in January 1984 at Clear Creek," Fred recalls.

"I tell anyone who will listen that Clear Creek was the best thing that ever happened to me. While there the Lord blessed my family and me in many wonderful ways." During his student days, Marge was assistant director of library services and piano lab instructor. They all sang in campus choirs. Fred was president of the campus Brotherhood, a student housing representative, student body president and received the President's Award.

After Clear Creek, Fred pastored Shawnee Run Baptist Church in Harrodsburg for six years and earned an MDiv degree at Southern Seminary. Marge completed an MS in education and taught school

for five years, the last two as librarian/media specialist for grades K-12. She will receive the Master's degree in library science from University of Kentucky in 1995.

Last August the Cummingses joined the staff, an opportunity Fred described as "a dream come true." He is director of student life and she is director of library services. The campus family has found them to possess spiritual depth, a redemptive spirit and a "second-mile" commitment to help others.

Like most of us, their lives are full. Fortunately a December weekend isn't typical. After a Friday evening campus Christmas fellowship, Fred's car overturned on a slick hill near the campus. He escaped with only one cut on the head which has healed satisfactorily.

Early the next day the Cummingses left for Lexington where Marge took the Graduate Record Exam required for study toward the master's degree.

Fred and Marge Cummings are letting the Lord use them to "make the most of the time" (Ephesians 5:16). Clear Creek is fortunate to have them as part of our ministry training team.

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

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MINISTRY

Disaster relief work started 14 churches in Mexico

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Mexican villagers felt helpless. Hurricane Gilbert was pushing high rains into the mountains near Monterey. It was late September 1988.

"Rivers that didn't have any water in them for years suddenly became raging torrents," recalled Al Wallraven of Oklahoma.

"It was the most severe flooding I've ever seen," he added. More than 100,000 people were affected. One policeman saw a village covered.

"They had no place to go," Wallraven said. "No clothes, they had nothing."

Wallraven is a retired toolmaker who directs volunteers for the Oklahoma Baptist Brotherhood disaster unit. In Mexico they set up their feeding unit and served several thousand at each meal.

But supplies came through the Mexican government. And elections complicated the process. Each politician wanted endorsement from the Baptist volunteers.

Wallraven refused.

"We're here to help people," he said.

The food supply slowed. Then there was none. Wallraven had enough for one more meal and some leftover beans.

"We'll stay as long as we have something to cook," he told the crew. But flood victims still needed help.

Then an old truck pulled up. A man with deep wrinkles got out.

"Are you in charge?" he asked.

"Yes, I am," Wallraven said.

"Is any of this food going to the Mexican government?"

"No."

The man was a farmer. He donated 100 dozen eggs and 240 pounds of potatoes. The team now had enough to cook for lunch.

"We fed on time," Wallraven recalled. And 2,000 people ate.

But dinner approached and all they had left was hard tortillas. "They were so tough the kids were using them for frisbees," Wallraven said.

"The Lord provides," Wallraven said. "He's never failed me."

A government truck drove up to the unit. They had 100 kilos of frozen hamburgers and 100 kilos of hot dogs. It came from a government cooler that somehow lost power.

"Why it broke, I don't know," Wallraven mused. "But I know the Lord caused it."

He got an idea to steam the tortillas. That night 7,300 people ate from the Oklahoma team.

"You have to draw on a lot of prayer just to go on one of these things," Wallraven said. "The Lord works in mysterious ways."

Pete Walmer started the Oklahoma unit back in 1978. He's a retired truck driver who helped build the mass feeding trailer. They've been on 30 major disasters since then.

One of the most difficult was the Mexico City earthquake in 1985.

Approximately 19 million people lived there. The quake killed 6,000 and injured up to 40,000. Mexican government officials asked the Texas

Baptist Men for help.

They in turn invited feeding units from Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma.

Local relief agencies had shelters for the victims. They just needed help with feeding.

Disaster units from four states offered to leave equipment. That would allow Mexicans to continue the relief work. But the government there imposed a tax on each item listed.

Volunteers from Oklahoma then offered to build kitchens. They worked in a soccer stadium with an old cutoff torch.

They bought pots and pans locally and had other materials flown in. The result was five separate kitchens in operation with Mexican Baptists. The

U.S. disaster teams went home.

Years passed and Jim Furgerson was talking with a Southern Baptist representative in Mexico. Furgerson was then the national director of Southern Baptist disaster relief. He wanted to check the results from the earthquake.

"What happened to those field kitchens?" he asked. "Do you have five churches there now?"

"No," said the worker. "We don't have five churches."

There was a pause. "We have 14 churches and five missions."

Each came from a kitchen left behind. Those feeding sites grew into Bible studies and preaching points. Now villagers could spread the gospel themselves.

The stories on this page are excerpted from a book to be released this summer tentatively titled "Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief." The book and stories mark the 25th anniversary of Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission disaster relief ministry.



ON THE LINE Bob Simpkins, Kentucky Brotherhood director, and Violet Hardison of Seabee coordinate multi-state disaster response to help New Englanders after Hurricane Bob in this 1991 photo. (BP photo by Jim Burton)

Volunteers find humor amid the sadness

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Volunteers tell some unusual stories about disaster relief.

"You've got to have something to laugh about," said Ed Lauderdale. "There's so much sadness going on."

Lauderdale owns a fiberglass shop in Heber Springs, Ark. But he also volunteers with the Arkansas Baptist Convention's Brotherhood feeding unit.

One morning a train derailed in Rison, Ark., and Lauderdale's unit responded. It was a chemical spill, so everyone in town had to evacuate.

Lauderdale pulled close to the overturned train and set up camp. He had pots on tables and a tarp overhead when a man walked up in a space suit.

"You've got two minutes to get that thing out of here," the man said.

"We noticed an odor in the air," Lauderdale recalled. "(It was) kind of green looking."

The crew was in danger. Lauderdale flagged a pickup truck, threw pots in the back and then raced out to safety.

Lauderdale also has seen some unusual meals in disaster relief. They included breakfast cucumbers in South Carolina and prison take-outs in Arkansas.

One day they were called to Glenwood, Ark., after high winds damaged a state park. Federal disaster officials used prisoners to clean the area. Lauderdale's unit would feed the crew.

One prison lieutenant overheard

the menu and had a question about breakfast.

"What'd you say you're having?"

"Grits."

The man shook his head. "Not good enough."

"We're not here to fatten 'em up," Lauderdale replied. "We're here to feed 'em."

The lieutenant stuck his chest out. "My men have to have three or four eggs a morning. They have to have one-quarter pound of ham or sausage. They have to have hot biscuits or toast with butter and jelly—two or three pieces a man. They have to have fruit juice, milk and coffee."

"We're not set up to cook that kind of food," Lauderdale argued. "We're set up for one or two items." He paused. "Maybe I need to be in the prison. I don't eat that good at home."

The lieutenant dropped his expression. "If I don't feed them that good, they'll sue me."

Red Cross officials told the team to pull out. They paid for disaster relief supplies and couldn't afford that type of menu. Prison leaders had to arrange their own meals.

Another strange case happened with Jerry Kersey and the Missouri Baptist Men several years ago. Hurricane Hugo had just hit South Carolina, so Kersey took his team to help with feeding.

At the disaster scene, a man walked into the feeding unit and wanted to see the leader.

"He looked like a real estate sales-

man," Kersey recalled. The man was neatly dressed, drove a 280-Z and had a Red Cross patch.

"We got some pockets of mobile homes that aren't being reached," the man said. "I'm Donny Davis and I'm a liaison with the state senate. Tomorrow a helicopter is coming down to check things out. We want you to come along and take a look."

"Wait," Kersey replied. "We've got vans that make deliveries. Just tell me where the areas are."

"I'll show you in my truck."

"We go at 4:45."

"Too early," the man argued.

Kersey began to wonder. The man seemed pushy for a volunteer. "Look," Kersey said. "We have a schedule. We're going with or without you."

The man decided to follow their van. He had a truck and loaded it with food from the Red Cross warehouse. Kersey grew suspicious and called officials.

"You're the fourth person that called today about him," Kersey was told. "We don't know who he is."

It came out later that night. Some National Guard troops were able to watch TV's "Unsolved Mysteries." And they recognized "Donny Davis." He was on the FBI's most wanted list.

Davis had 28 aliases across the country and specialized in scams with money. The troops called police.

They caught Davis in Surfside Beach, S.C. He had a restaurant there and used Red Cross food to fill orders.

Kentucky now relief leader

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Disasters can change the way you see life.

That certainly has been true for Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood and the development of their disaster relief ministry.

Back in 1977, Bob Simpkins was a new pastor in Kentucky. Today, Simpkins is director of Kentucky Brotherhood and a leader among national relief efforts.

There had been a flood in Pike County. Simpkins had a friend named Lat Crum who owned a house there and suffered flood damage. Simpkins decided to stop by and check on him.

The house was quiet. Simpkins called his name. Brother Lat walked up from the basement with several men behind him.

"I want you to meet someone," Crum said. They were disaster relief volunteers from the Mennonite church.

"These men love the Lord and will do anything to help in disasters," Crum added. "Why don't we have anything like this?"

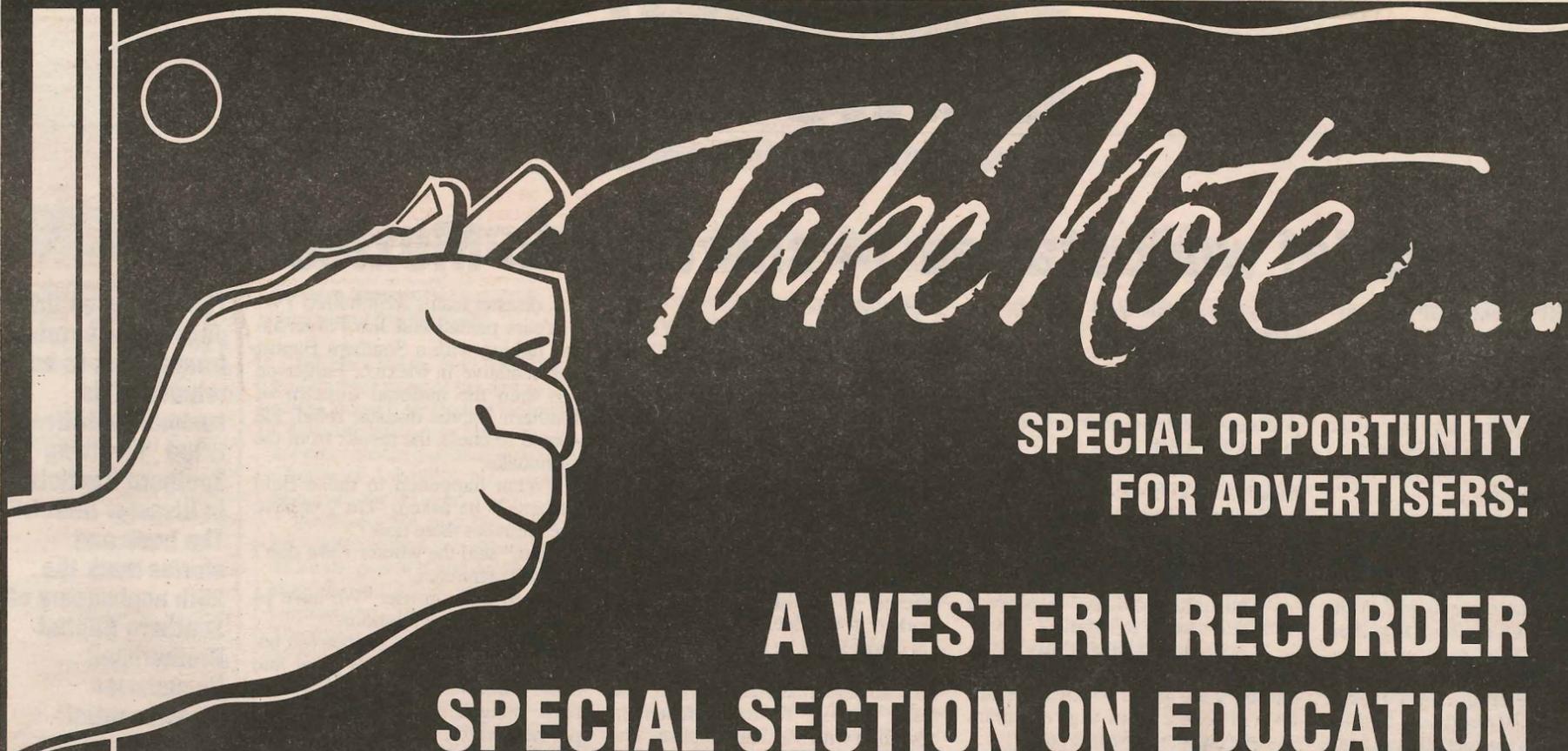
"One of these days Kentucky will," Simpkins replied.

Other states had Baptist disaster units then. Kentucky used the Tennessee crew for a model.

Now Kentucky has 1,400 volunteers and a 22-foot trailer with steam line cookers. The Kentucky volunteers can put out 65,000 meals a day. That's more than any disaster unit in the world—including the U.S. Army.

"We proved that at Hurricane Andrew," Simpkins said. Kentuckians served 328,000 meals there. The Army didn't have portable kitchens with that capacity.

Brother Lat has since passed away. But he saw Kentucky Baptists grow in disaster relief. "He was certainly pleased to know what we were doing," Simpkins noted.



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