

## FOR THE RECORD

**Sherman staying**  
Cecil Sherman has declined an offer to return to First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C., and will remain as coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. See page 2.

**New WMU names**  
Woman's Missionary Union's executive board has approved changing the names of several of its organizations and publications, including the Baptist Women group. See page 2.

**Church constitutes**  
A Kentucky mission birthed by telephone constituted as a church Jan. 9. See page 3.

**Editorial**  
Make your will before the state of Kentucky does it for you. See page 5.

**Unique "bus ministry"**  
A volunteer who offers motorcoach tours of New England home missions sites calls her work a "bus ministry." See page 6.

**Condom campaign**  
A new series of public service ads developed by the Clinton administration has drawn mixed review from religious leaders. See page 7.

**No one came**  
A Mississippi Baptist group raised a surprising amount of money by hosting a banquet which no one attended. See page 9.

## Lexington teen sees missions future

By Don Martin  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

LEXINGTON (BP)—Parents often worry today's kids are growing up too fast. Not Adam Dedman's.

"He's a 13-year-old going on 40," explained Adam's father, David Dedman. "He has said he'd like to get this childhood out of the way so he could do some things."

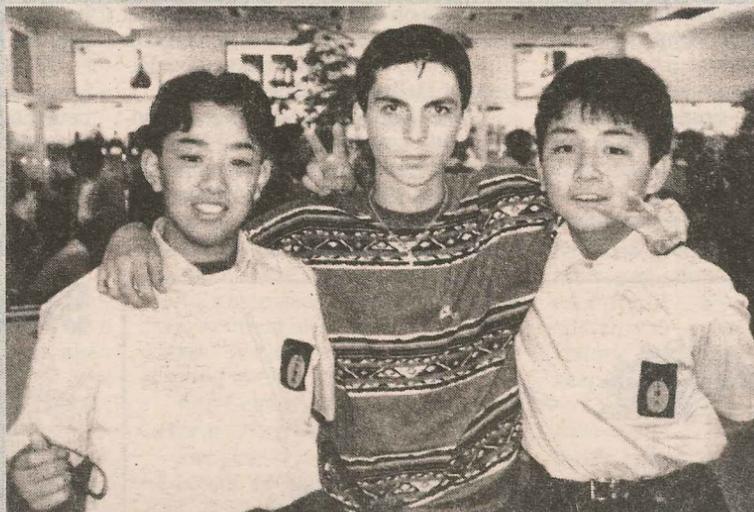
Adam isn't straining to break away from his parents but rather to break through to a culture. The 13-year-old member of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington believes God is calling him to Japan.

"I'm only 13 years old, but I have seen God work in my life, and I feel I could be of service in Japan," Adam said in a letter to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. "I feel that God is calling me to be a missionary to Japan. Japan needs more missionaries."

The teen-ager isn't just dreaming. He has learned to speak Japanese and visited Japan twice. He regularly talks about Jesus with Japanese classmates whose religious backgrounds include Buddhism, Shintoism and atheism. In his letter to the FMB, he asked for specific information on evangelizing internationally, especially Japanese.

"A lot of teen-agers think they can't do anything now. They have to wait until they get older," he said in a phone interview. "But I don't want to just hear about God's work, I want to do it. I want to go out and actually help spread God's kingdom."

Adam's exposure to Japanese culture began in 1987, when Toyota opened an auto assembly plant in Georgetown. Today about 800 Japanese people live in the area because



**YOUNG MISSIONARY** Adam Dedman (center), a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, greets friends Takashi Iyoda (left) and Hitoshi Shimizu at Nagoya International Airport during his trip to Japan last summer. The 13-year-old Kentuckian wants to be a missionary to Japan. (BP photo)

of the plant.

Adam was in second grade when the plant opened, so he didn't pay much attention to the economic fanfare over the plant opening. But he did notice a slightly dazed Japanese child who was ushered into his classroom one day.

The new student, Tonohiro Nakazawa, could only smile. He didn't know English.

"When he came into our class, I realized that not everyone spoke English," Adam recalled. "I thought that was neat. I went up to him and made friends with him, and we've been friends ever since. Later, after Tonohiro learned English, I began to think that since he had made the effort to speak English, I should make an effort to speak Japanese."

Adam began learning Japanese from a neighborhood friend who is Japanese. Soon he was playing with

Tonohiro's Japanese friends, who taught him more and more of the language. Today he can keep up with any conversation.

"My Japanese friends are just like anybody," Adam explained. "They have questions about who they are and what they believe in. And I've found that a lot of my Japanese friends don't believe in anything. So I just talk to them and witness to them because the good news is too good not to share with others."

Adam will get another chance to take his Christian witness to Japan when he visits friends this summer in Toyota City.

Besides seeing his friends, Adam is excited about another aspect of the trip: "I'm going to be staying with friends that live just one block from Southern Baptist missionaries (Mark and Wendy Hoshizaki) in Toyota City. Isn't that neat?"

## Legislation will touch on morals

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

FRANKFORT—Kentucky Baptists could have plenty of opportunities to speak out on issues of morality and ethics this winter, if predictions for the 1994 Kentucky General Assembly hold true.

The state legislature will be asked to consider issues such as abortion, gambling, gun control, health care, public education, euthanasia, child abuse and the death penalty during this session.

Here's a summary:

■ **Abortion.** Three abortion bills passed by the House in 1992 but left untouched by the Senate apparently will be offered again. Democratic leadership blocked consideration of the bills on the floor, saying they didn't want to force Senators to vote on such controversial issues.

The bills relate to requiring parental consent for minors seeking abortions, requiring state regulation of abortion clinics and requiring a 24-hour waiting period for women seeking abortions.

■ **Gambling.** Some legislators would like to place a question on the November ballot to propose a constitutional amendment that would legalize casino gambling in the state.

Most of Kentucky's racetracks are promoting the idea, but a coalition of religious groups has formed to fight any attempt to legalize casinos.

Opinions are mixed about whether the issue actually will surface this session, but most observers agree if it does come up it will be toward the end of the 60-day session.

□ See Legislation could ..., page 3

## Louisville man survives with little heart but lots of faith

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Twenty-nine-year-old Charlie Jones is staying alive with 12 percent of his heart and 100 percent of his faith.

When a rare heart disease struck the young Kentuckian more than a year ago, doctors told him he had less than a year to live. But Jones disagreed.

"I told them, 'I hope you don't mind if I don't agree with your prognosis, but this is God's way of getting my attention,'" he said. "God has called me back into the ministry."

A church music graduate from Campbellsville College, Jones had served in full-time music ministry for several years; then he accepted a position outside the church.

By 1992, at age 27, he had secured a successful career as manager of a music store. He was engaged to be married. Everything seemed to be coming together for him.

That's when he experienced almost complete heart failure.

In May 1992, Jones was diagnosed

with a rare virus known as viralcardiomyopathy, which almost completely had shut down the heart's functions on the right side.

With a heart three-and-a-half times its normal size, Jones' condition did not look hopeful to physicians. Some of the doctors took his fiancée, Anne, aside to warn her not to go through with a marriage to someone not expected to live.

"But you can't just not get married," Anne Simpson Jones explained matter-of-factly.

The outdoor wedding took place Sept. 26, 1992. Although they said they had no reservations about getting married, the Joneses admitted they have had to make more than a newlywed couple's typical share of adjustments.

Mrs. Jones, who is a nurse at Kossair Children's Hospital, brought four

teen-age daughters to the marriage.

"It has been difficult for them," Jones said of the teens' adjustment.

"The absolute biggest change for them is that there's a man in the house. That turns everything upside down."

But their father's serious heart condition is another big adjustment for Emily, Olivia, Sally and Agatha, Mrs. Jones added. "It's all very hard to cope with."

Jones' condition improved temporarily during the summer and early autumn of

1992. The collapsed portion of his heart even began to function again.

Physicians couldn't explain how that happened, but Jones said there was no doubt in his mind: "My heart improved to allow me to live to touch lives no one else could touch."

"I've always felt that God has wanted me to be a witness with my



Charlie and Anne Jones at their 1992 wedding

# BAPTISTS

## WMU will consolidate & rename adult organizations

TALLADEGA, Ala. (ABP)—In an attempt to modernize Woman's Missionary Union's adult organizations, the mission auxiliary's executive board has voted to drop its "Baptist Women" and "Baptist Young Women" designations for members.

They will be replaced with "Women on Mission," a single organization that can be customized by Baptist churches to target various ages, tasks, interests and needs.

WMU's executive board adopted the name change at its Jan. 8-13 meet-

ing at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly near Talladega, Ala.

"The changes will allow women and girls to focus more on missions and less on organizational structure as we seek to be on mission for God in the world," said WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien.

The board also voted to discontinue two magazines—its flagship "Royal Service" and "Contempo." A new periodical named "Missionosaic" will succeed the two age-graded publications beginning in October

1995.

"Royal Service" has been geared toward older women in WMU. It has been published 80 years. "Contempo" has been the magazine for the current Baptist Young Women organization.

WMU will retain its age-level designations for girls. However, another new magazine, "GA World," will target older members of Girls in Action, while an existing magazine, "Discovery," narrows its focus to GAs in grades 1-4.

The changes follow a revamping

of WMU's program design at last year's executive board meeting. They are projected to streamline WMU programs and make them more flexible, simpler and more relevant, O'Brien said.

In other business, the board approved its first three national projects on social issues, another emphasis incorporated in last year's program revamping. WMU will launch year-long projects on hunger in 1994, AIDS in 1995 and child advocacy in 1996.



## Sherman stays at Fellowship

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (ABP)—Cecil Sherman, head of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, has turned down an offer to leave the organization and become interim pastor of a North Carolina church he previously served as pastor.

Associated Baptist Press reported Jan. 11 that Sherman, 66, was considering the move to First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C., where he previously served a 20-year pastorate.

In a statement faxed to ABP Jan. 13 just before he left on a trip to Europe, Sherman said he had decided to continue as coordinator of the Fellowship, a position he has held two years.

"I have come to the clear conviction

that staying at the CBF is the right thing to do," Sherman said. "I have a commitment to what we're about and I have a commitment to the people we've brought here."

The Asheville congregation's deacons voted unanimously Jan. 10 to offer Sherman the interim post, said Charles Russell, deacon chairman. He said the deacons hoped Sherman's good reputation would aid "a healing process" in the congregation.

Sherman was pastor at the church from 1964 to 1984. His successor, John Hewett, resigned suddenly last October for personal reasons. A second staff member since has been forced to resign, adding to the turmoil.

## Fellowship gifts up 53 percent

ATLANTA (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship took in \$11.2 million in 1993—a 53 percent increase over the previous year's receipts.

A record month of contributions in December boosted the Fellowship well over its own income projection of \$10 million for the year, according to preliminary year-end figures from the Atlanta-based group of Southern Baptist moderates.

The 3-year-old group received nearly \$10.95 million in contributions from churches and individuals during the year. Coupled with income from investments and other sources, total receipts reached \$11.2 million for the year.

The 53 percent increase for 1993 follows a 62 percent increase in 1992, when receipts totaled \$7.3 million. In 1991, the Fellowship took in \$4.5 million.

The Fellowship's Atlanta office

estimated contributions came from approximately 1,200 churches in 1993, compared to 841 in 1992 and 391 in 1991.

Churches and individuals who contribute to the Fellowship earmark their money for one of three funding plans that divide support among Fellowship-funded programs and traditional Southern Baptist causes.

Contributors in 1993 continued the trend of directing an ever-larger portion of their gifts toward the Fellowship's own programs. For the first time, more than half of the receipts went to fund Fellowship efforts—58 percent of the \$11.2 million total for 1993. That's up from 35.5 percent in 1992.

Additionally, 17 percent of the 1993 funds went to state Baptist conventions and Fellowship-endorsed agencies and organizations. And 27 percent went to the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## Southern offers Korean studies

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will become the first Southern Baptist seminary to teach doctoral courses in a language other than English.

In July, the Louisville school will begin offering doctor of ministry courses taught in Korean, said Kwan Lee, the seminary's coordinator of Korean language D.Min. studies. The program, he noted, will address the unique ministry issues facing the Korean-American community.

"This program is consistent with our commitment to the global mission of the church and to preparing people to minister effectively in any context," said David Dockery, vice pres-

ident for academic administration. "There is a great need in the Korean-American community for ... theological education."

Courses will be taught by Korean-American adjunct professors who hold earned doctorates and by Southern Seminary professors who will teach with the help of interpreters.

Koreans already compose the largest ethnic group enrolled in Southern's doctoral programs, Dockery said. At the master's degree level, Southern has about 25 students enrolled in courses taught in Korean. Students can take more than half of their course requirements for the master of divinity degree in Korean.

### BAPTIST BITS

■ **Enrollments up.** Fall enrollments at Southern Baptist colleges and universities showed an overall increase this year for the 12th consecutive year, according to a report by the Southern Baptist Education Commission. Nationwide, 120,329 students enrolled in Baptist colleges this fall, up 4.1 percent from the previous year.

Two of Kentucky's three liberal arts schools were among those showing gains: Campbellsville College was up 11.7 percent, to 2,205, and Cumberland College was up 1.3 percent, to 1,518. Georgetown College was down 6.4 percent, to 1,382.

■ **Rosenbaum selected.** Richard "Bucky" Rosenbaum Jr., director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's trade operations department, has been named editorial director of the board's Broadman & Holman Publishers. He will oversee development of product ideas, acquisitions and production of trade books, Bibles, academic books, reference books and commentaries.

■ **NAC registration open.** Registration opened Jan. 1 for the National Acteens Convention to be held in Birmingham, Ala., June 21-24. The convention is held once every five years for Acteens members who have completed the seventh grade, as well as adult

leaders. Registration forms are available in the January issue of "Accent" magazine.

■ **Ministers' wives to meet.** Tickets are on sale for the annual luncheon hosted by the Ministers' Wives Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention. Featured speaker at the June 14 event in Orlando, Fla., is Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham. For information, write Sherry Blankenship, Box 489, Paris, Texas 75461.

■ **Nominees sought.** Recommendations for members of four Southern Baptist Convention committees are being sought by SBC President Ed Young. As president, Young appoints members of the SBC committee on committees, credentials committee, resolutions committee and tellers committee. A nomination form may be obtained from Young by writing him at 6400 Woodway, Houston, Texas 77057.

■ **Bunch elected in Colorado.** David Bunch, assistant vice president for strategy planning with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been elected executive director of the Colorado Baptist General Convention. Bunch, 60, previously was executive director of the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship.

## Homes for Children plans birthday events

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, the oldest Baptist child-care agency in America, will celebrate its 125th anniversary throughout 1994 with events across the state.

The largest event will be a birthday party and reunion at the Spring Meadows campus in Louisville June 25. Spring Meadows began in 1869 as the Louisville Orphans Home and is the oldest program of what today is called Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Today, KBHC administers the largest private child-care program in Kentucky, helping children who have suffered abuse, neglect or other family crisis.

The agency also has begun expanding its services to include preventive measures through family counseling centers in several locations throughout Kentucky.

KBHC President Curtis Mooney said he hopes to accomplish two things through the anniversary celebrations this year.

"First, we want to say 'thank you' to the people of Kentucky for their faithfulness in reaching out to meet the needs of hurting children for 125 years," he said.

"Second, we want to raise the awareness level in Kentucky about the tremendous needs of children today," Mooney stressed.

"With 56,000 cases of abuse and neglect reported in Kentucky in 1992, we as a society have got to focus more time on dealing with problems facing our children and families."

A series of special events around the state will be developed as outdoor birthday parties, he explained.

"We'll be inviting families to bring their children and come out to the various sites for fun, food and fellowship," Mooney said of the anniversary events.

Sites for these birthday parties are:

- Elizabethtown, April 16.
- Pikeville, May 14.
- London, June 4.
- Louisville, June 25.
- Dixon, July 16.
- Morehead, Aug. 6.
- Erlanger, Sept. 4.
- Glendale, Sept. 17.
- Mayfield, Oct. 8.

Churches across the state will be encouraged to celebrate the anniversary with special emphases in their services June 26, he added.

A related public awareness campaign will feature print and broadcast advertising statewide, Mooney said.

## Centerfield constitutes after 2 years

By Marv Knox  
Editor

CRESTWOOD—A high-tech conception produced a high-touch birth for Centerfield Baptist Church.

The congregation got its start the second Sunday of 1992, after a state-of-the-art telemarketing survey of its Oldham County community. It constituted as a church Jan. 9, 1994, with friends and "relatives" from sister churches in Sulphur Fork Baptist Association standing by.

Baptists in the Centerfield community—located on the northeastern fringe of suburban Louisville—began talking about the need for a new church in 1987, reported John Lepper, the church's first interim pastor.

That need took root in reality in 1991, when DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church in LaGrange agreed to be the sponsoring church and 11 members of a "core group" began planning for a new ministry, added Lepper, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department.

They found other potential church members through the latest telemarketing techniques, he explained. Core group members made 4,700 telephone calls and discovered 566 homes who agreed to receive information about the church.

After six-month stints of leadership by Lepper and Bill Jagers, director of the KBC evangelism office, Centerfield called Scott Hamric as its first pastor in January 1993. And a year later, the congregation was strong enough to constitute into a church.

"God has been gracious to us," Jagers declared. Centerfield's minis-

try has been made possible because of the combined support of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the KBC, Sulphur Fork Association, DeHaven Memorial Church and the core group, he explained.

"I've been in the ministry a long time, and this could be the grand finale," added A.L. Meacham, director of missions for Sulphur Fork Association when Centerfield got its start.

The young ministry has been fruitful and exciting because Centerfield members have maintained "faith in God's abundance," stressed Sulphur Fork's current missions director, Rick Lucas. "We look forward to how God is going to work through you."

And Centerfield members also are looking forward, Hamric reported.

The church has 65 members, with 85 people enrolled in Bible study, he said. It has bought property and is making plans to move from Centerfield Elementary School to its own building. Growth seems likely.

In a move reminiscent of its high-tech telemarketing beginning, the church began advertising on local cable television this month. But consistent with its high-touch philosophy, the church is concentrating on reaching out directly to people.

"Ours is an open fellowship," Hamric said. "Everybody who comes is welcome, no matter where you come from or what you look like."

"Our goals focus around family—incorporating people into the family of God. That's the kind of atmosphere we're trying to create, a loving family."

The family emphasis permeates church structure. For example:

- Worship is planned to involve

the entire congregation, "children and everyone."

■ A family emphasis will dominate church activities from Mother's Day through Father's Day.

■ Although seminars and special emphases sometimes are planned for Sunday evenings, that time usually is left free for families to be together.

■ Many of the church's upcoming events will include family activities, such as outings and picnics.

"One of our great concerns is that when you come to church you come as a family, but when you get to church you spread out everywhere," Hamric explained. "We're trying to keep people together in family units."

"When we plan (an activity) we have to ask: 'What does this communicate, not only to our community but to our church membership? What are the implications of what we're doing here?'"

"Churches can keep people in activities all the time, but that doesn't communicate what we want to say about the importance of families. So, we're very conscious about doing our main programming on Sunday morning but giving families time to be together on Sunday evening."

Since Centerfield sees its community as an extended "family," the church also is developing a ministry based on the needs of people there, Hamric said.

"We're not projecting what we think they need, but getting out in the community and asking, 'What do you need?'"

The basic need is for the gospel, he said, so Centerfield is planning a one-day evangelistic event, "Magic Moments," for Feb. 27 at the school.

## Legislation could address moral issues

Continued from page 1

On a related issue, the legislature likely will develop regulations for charitable gaming enterprises, such as church bingo games. This is in response to a 1992 constitutional amendment legalizing charitable gaming—though it had gone on for years before—and giving the legislature power to regulate it.

■ **Health care.** With health-care reform hot on the national agenda, Gov. Brereton Jones' previous call for state health-care reform appears to be getting stronger consideration.

In addition to affecting the pocket-books of every citizen, health-care reform could impact moral issues such as care for the needy and underprivileged.

■ **Education.** State Education Commissioner Thomas Boysen last week called for changes in the Kentucky Education Reform Act, specifically citing concerns of some conservative Christian groups about the teaching of values. This has been a hotly debated issue in some Baptist circles, particularly in the western part of the state.

Various forces are at work seeking changes in KERA, but some of the legislature's most powerful leaders have opposed making any changes yet.

On a related front, the Catholic

Conference of Kentucky has said it hopes to get school choice legislation introduced. Such legislation would provide taxpayer-funded vouchers to parents of school-age children, which parents could use to send their children to public, private or parochial schools.

Baptists have been divided on this issue in recent years, with some saying vouchers violate the separation of church and state and others saying the state should create a level playing field between public and private schools.

Also, the Catholic Conference has asked Gov. Jones to include \$9 million to \$13 million in the state budget to fund transportation of private and parochial school students. If Jones doesn't put the money in the budget, legislation will be requested, Catholic officials said.

■ **Gun control.** As part of a crime package, Gov. Jones has called for a five-day waiting period for the purchase of assault weapons and a ban on possession of handguns and assault weapons by juveniles. The governor's proposal also would punish parents for gun violations by their children.

Other variations on gun-control measures have been suggested by various groups, including one supported by an unlikely source—the

Kentucky chapter of the National Rifle Association.

■ **Child abuse.** A package of 15 bills developed by an attorney general's task force to fight child sex abuse will be considered. While the package has been praised in advance, some legislators have expressed concern about the \$3.5 million price tag on the total package.

■ **Death penalty.** One representative has proposed a bill that would change the method of state execution from electrocution to lethal injection. The Catholic Conference of Kentucky, which opposes any form of capital punishment, has said it might promote a bill to abolish the death penalty. Life imprisonment would be suggested as the alternative.

■ **Assisted suicide.** Kentucky Right to Life Association is promoting a bill that never made it through the General Assembly's last session. The bill would make assisted suicide illegal.

Baptists with concerns on any issue may contact their senators and representatives by calling (800) 372-7181. To find out who represents your district, call your county courthouse.

This article is based on information gathered by Western Recorder staff, reports in the Louisville Courier-Journal and reports in The Record, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville.

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Mileage rates** paid by churches to ministers using accountable reimbursement plans tied to the IRS-allowed rate should be increased to 29 cents per mile in 1994, according to Don Spencer, annuity department director with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

■ **The "Golden Jubilee"** book first published in 1915 by the General Association of Colored Baptists in Kentucky has been reprinted in a limited edition by The American Baptist. The book may be purchased for \$24.95 by writing The American Baptist at 1715 W. Chestnut St., Louisville, Ky. 40203. Lincoln Bingham, superintendent of missions for the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, has endorsed the book as an insightful look at the history of African American Baptists in Kentucky.

■ **Baptist Healthcare System** has earned an A+ financial rating from Standard & Poor's Corp. of New York. The new rating reflects an upgrade of two points over the previous A-rating. Baptist Healthcare System also maintains its A1 rating from Moody's Investors Service Inc.

■ **College students** from across the South and Midwest will gather at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville Feb. 25-27 for the school's annual student missions conference. Speakers include Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, and Sam Cannata, Southern Baptist missionary to Ethiopia. For more information, call (800) 626-5525.

## 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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## Nothing sacred

I do not believe pastors' affairs should have been reported (WR, Jan. 4). It is what the world wants to hear, especially the media.

What do you think a report like this is going to do to those outside the church, or outside of Christ?

A preacher is God's man; he should be respected.

I have a relative that has always put down the church and crucified preachers. I would not want this individual to see this report.

A survey has to be made about everything. Nothing hidden, nothing sacred anymore.

Maybe this was written for the pastors, but the rest of us can read, too.

*Mrs. Howard G. Smith  
Burgin*

## Talk about taboo

I want to convey my thanks for the articles (WR, Jan. 4) on the topic of clergy sexual misconduct.

Healing the pervasive emotional and spiritual devastation and the almost paralyzing pain experienced by a congregation that has been betrayed by its minister may be the single-most challenging crisis any community of faith ever faces. It is my prayer that the courageous and constructive step you took in beginning to address the complex dynamics involved in the occurrences of clergy sexual misconduct will facilitate further efforts on the part of all communities of faith to make speakable a topic that has long been considered taboo, to the end that they may heal from any betrayal experienced and/or review personnel policies to better assure the honoring of appropriate boundaries by ministerial personnel in the future.

Finally, I would like to add the

name of James N. Poling to the list of resource persons cited in the articles that appeared in the Western Recorder. Poling's fine book, "The Abuse of Power: A Theological Problem," further examines how some of our long-held theological beliefs, and even how we often function as a congregation, can serve to make us vulnerable and even unwitting, complicit partners in a system ripe for an occurrence of clergy sexual misconduct. I recommend the book to those who are concerned and who are interested in learning more about the complex dynamics involved in structuring both safe congregations and clergy accountability.

*Janet G. Tharpe  
Louisville*

## BAPTIST FORUM

### Other abuse

I would like to comment on your article about adult abuse (WR, Dec. 14). I am incarcerated for assault against my former girlfriend.

I cannot refute the statistics on domestic violence, but I believe many were left out.

For instance, your article quoted Richard Newman as saying, "Many people ... may not be aware of other vulnerable adults who are victimized in physical, sexual, emotional and financial ways." This awareness is in part due to the media. Moreover, these are people we are speaking about, not just numbers.

Since my incarceration, I have had the tremendous privilege to accept the Lord as my Savior. I've made mistakes, but I love him as much as I am able.

My case was nearly the worst in Kentucky. Personally, I say that my shame is the Lord's glory, for many know the dramatic change which I have undergone—a witness to God's life-changing power.

My point is this: We as Christians

need to be aware of all the people in need when looking at an area of problems, such as domestic violence or abuse. We must remind ourselves that Jesus taught that our "neighbor" is anyone in need (Luke 10:29-37). Not all victims of abuse are lying on the road as in Jesus' story. Many must be sought out to receive the help they need.

*David Brantley  
Eddyville*

### Unimaginable joy

I'm "flabbergasted" with glorious praises and joy unimaginable.

Bill Marshall used Numbers 13 at our 1992 convention, challenging us just like Caleb to enter Russia. We "grasshoppers" accepted the partnership mission.

Benton Williams went through danger to that former "evil empire," searching for God's plan for victory. With great faith, he organized the best—the Lindseys to Moscow and the Bivinses for St. Petersburg.

My call to Russia in 1952 came from Jesus' words, "Love your enemies." I went on a mission trip through the U.S.S.R. with my wife and three of our five children in 1970 and again in 1975. Now, my home state Kentucky has experienced the same high calling of God!

CoMission is a group of over 70 evangelical mission agencies which have united to meet this unprecedented opportunity in the former U.S.S.R. They have over 300 one-year appointees who work alongside teachers in the public schools. Their main thrust is with the "Jesus" film and a course in morals and ethics.

Our hearts rejoice over the response of CoMission groups, such as our Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. However, our work is togetherness, here and now, in Kentucky.

*Edmon Burgher Jr.  
Clay City*

## To Cecil from Mama

The following "letter from heaven" was created by a colleague, Northwest Baptist Convention Executive Director Cecil Sims, whose mother died just before Christmas. It has been somewhat abridged because of space limitations.

"I have already been here over a month, but it just seems like a minute. This place is indescribable! I'm not talking about the streets of gold, but about the spirit of the place. It is full of love, joy and peace. No crippling ailments. No disease. No jealousy. No frustration. No disappointment.

"Cecil, I'm sorry I didn't get to tell you goodbye, but when the Lord sent that chariot, I knew it was an opportunity I could not miss. I was tired of living in an old, worn-out body, but I admit it outlasted most of those being issued in my generation.

"Passing through the 'gate' was a little fearful, but my human fear was just wasted emotion. A step into eternity was like the blink of an eye. From the pain of a worn-out body to the excitement of a home prepared by our

Lord was overwhelming.

"You would never believe the welcoming committee. You would have thought Billy Graham was being welcomed. I asked the angel, 'What is the crowd all about?' He replied, 'That's your welcoming committee. ... Everyone is here you ever touched.'

"Your dad and your son David were leading the welcoming committee. My mother and father were close behind. My sisters, Ruby and Ruth, were arm-in-arm with them. Hi Gran! Hi Shug! Hi Sis! Hi Mamie! Hi Neighbor! Hi Mrs. Sims! And on and on it went, and believe it or not, I could remember them all!

"After the welcoming committee finished, your dad and your son David wanted to play Scrabble. I still can't beat David, but I did beat Dad. It was so much fun. We did not have to hurry; our minds were clear. I thought of words that were full of Q's, X's and Z's.

"Your father-in-law, Bill Becker, was at choir practice. His voice has been restored, and his knees don't hurt anymore. It was great to see him.

"We are getting ready for Christmas, but not like you do on earth. We

have the real thing. Us first-timers get a real treat. We get to see a 3-D video of the Bethlehem experience. I'm looking forward to hearing the angels sing and finally finding out where the wise men came from. We are not fretting over gifts, because we don't have any 'wants.' Just to be in the presence of the Lord and our loved ones is enough.

"By the way, I left enough in the bank for you to make a nice gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and don't forget the grandkids.

"Tell the folks the real thing is better than words can describe. John did his best in the closing chapters of Revelation, but man's words just aren't adequate to depict heaven's glory.

"I have just been given my first responsibility. I am on the welcoming committee for a man from Wenatchee. He is one of your friends. He lived up the street from you when you lived on Garfield. We haven't been given the date, but the angel said it might not be long.

"Thanks for all you did to make my last days comfortable."

Love,  
Mama

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



## Long distance

By John Lepper

The holidays are over, and many families have returned home after visiting extended families. If you are a grandparent, you may be feeling a bit relieved to have a little peace and quiet, but you may also feel lonely, knowing it will be some time before you will see your grandchildren again.

Geographical distance has become the norm for many extended families. It takes creativity and energy to keep geographical distance from bringing about emotional distance. I'm thinking here about grandparents who live at a distance from grandchildren (though the application could be made to any loved one).

Communication strengthens the link between the older and younger generations. Regular communication can work wonders to bridge the distance between you and your loved ones.

Allow me to offer suggestions regarding tone, content and method of communication.

Regarding tone and content of communication, grandparents can offer encouragement and guidance and share important insights to young people. Your thoughts should not aim at taking the place of a parent. Be yourself and allow yourself the freedom to express your love and adoration to your grandchild. Be specific in offering compliments. Express genuine interest in the child's activities.

Be creative as you communicate. Make telephone calls if you can afford to do so. Resolve to write regularly. You might clip and send cartoons, pictures or articles of interest to your grandchild.

If you have a computer (many older people do), sign up for an on-line service like Prodigy or CompuServe. Available for a small monthly fee, one of the many benefits of these services is the ability to send and receive electronic messages. Cost for the computer and the on-line service is amazingly low. It's also easy to learn how to use!

Expanding your horizons in this area might be just the link that will help you maintain communication and important emotional bonds with family members who live at a distance.

*John Lepper is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department.*

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

## ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

# EDITORIALS

## You can't 'take it with you,' so write a will today

If you don't have a will, Brereton Jones will write one for you.

OK, maybe the governor won't decide who gets the house and the family heirlooms. But the state of Kentucky already has it figured out—and it probably would make you roll over in your grave.

For example, suppose you die without a will and are survived only by your spouse and that nephew you haven't seen in 32 years. Your spouse gets half of what's left of your estate, and the nephew gets the other half.

Or imagine your spouse already has died, you have no children and "everyone knows" you want half your estate to go to the neighbors who have been like children to you for 25 years, one-fourth to your church and one-fourth to foreign missions. Tough luck. That nephew will get it all, after the court has paid itself for finding him.

"There's just no such thing as 'not having a will,'" insists Richard Carnes, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. "The state's beneficiary formula will probate your will—after the state deducts its legal costs and expenses—no matter what you intended."

January is Make Your Will Month, and a fine time to decide for yourself what's to be done with your earthly possessions. If Kentucky Baptists are much like the rest of the population, 70 percent of us die without making valid wills.

You should make a will for several important reasons:

■ A will allows you to dictate how your estate will be handled after you die. You can choose the people and organizations that should receive portions of your estate, and you can disburse your estate in the proportions you choose. The state doesn't care if some of your family have greater needs than others. The only "charity" the state's will would recognize is the state itself.

■ A will allows more of your estate to reach your inheritors. If you die without a will, the state will conduct a legal search to locate your heirs. And the searching is not free; it comes "off the top" of your estate. Consequently, every dollar spent in preparing a will saves many dollars in

the eventual settlement of your estate.

■ A will allows you to determine when your property will be received. For example, some wills create trusts which provide income for you or people you designate for a stated period of time before transferring completely to the destination you designate.

■ A will can perpetuate the stewardship of your resources indefinitely. If funds from your estate are used to establish an endowment, the income earned on that fund can provide support for the cause or causes you choose—such as your church, a school or mission work—until the Lord returns.

■ If you have minor children, a will allows you to determine who will care for them and manage the funds they inherit. If you die without a will, the state will name someone, usually a close relative, as guardian of your children and administrator of their inheritance. The state does not guarantee the guardian and administrator will be the people you would have chosen.

Every individual who owns anything at all needs a will. Wives and husbands both need wills that reflect their individual and joint concerns. Single people need wills to protect their interests after they die. People with small estates need wills, because a will vitally preserves the value of their holdings.

Beyond all that, wills simply are good stewardship. As Christians, we believe all we have comes from God. We know we cannot "take it with us" when we die. But we also can continue our stewardship by designating the beneficiaries of our blessings. That's true not only for our children, but also for the religious and charitable causes we hold dear.

A will is not as difficult, nor as expensive, to prepare as you might think. For more information about preparing a will, contact the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433; (502) 245-4101.

Marv Knox

**January is Make Your Will Month. Don't wait until February to get one.**

## Christians ought to take Christ out of Christmas this year

Time is overdue to take Christ out of Christmas and accord him the singleness of recognition that should accrue to the Son of God. In a nation marked more by hedonism than spirituality, Christ has become just another elf manipulated by earthlings paying homage to the materialism of the great Santa Claus.

This suggestion represents a departure from the position of today's clerics who babble to a deaf church and/or community about keeping Christ in Christmas. In many churches, they erect Christmas trees and allow programs more secular than

Christ-centered, then wonder why their congregations gorge on merriment as inappropriate to Christ's birth as to his death. It was not "party time" in the Bethlehem stall.

The message should be: "Get Christ out of Christmas!" Let the year-end bash be exclusively secular, with gift-giving, parties, celebrations, designated drivers and a grand orgy leading to the New Year's bowl games.

An incontrovertible fact: No one knows the time of year in which Christ was born. So why celebrate his birth Dec. 25? Why observe his birth

among the trappings (yule log, holly and ivy, Christmas tree, mistletoe) that have been co-opted from pagan practices?

Perhaps the so-called evangelical churches could take a page from more liturgical denominations, using their emphasis on worship to single-mindedly honor Christ—his birth, ministry, crucifixion and resurrection. Since most scholars agree on an April date for the crucifixion, why not incorporate into the 40-day period prior to the celebration of Resurrection these elements of observance?

For instance, in 1994 why not celebrate Christ's birth during the week

or two preceding a new Christmas March 13? His ministry could be emphasized on March 20; Palm Sunday, March 27; Maundy Thursday, March 31; Good Friday, April 1; and Resurrection, April 3.

This would allow the total thrust of love and worship to be so compact and devoid of distraction as to be otherworldly.

This will not happen, of course, since there is too much of the world in the church. But for some gutsy practitioners of the faith, one never knows.

James L. Clark  
Danville

**Why not celebrate Christ's birth closer to Easter?**

### VIEWPOINT

## 'How does gravity work?' and other important questions kids ask

"Daddy, why does a fat lady always sing at the end of an opera?"

Poor Lindsay. She's been learning culture from sportscasters again.

She picked up this snippet of sophistication from some guy yakking at the end of a football game. The underdog had just scored with mere seconds left on the clock, going ahead by three points. Pandemonium was breaking out in the stands, and the play-by-play announcer was starting into his closing rendition of "This program is the exclusive property of ...," when the color commentator advised, "The opera ain't over 'til the fat lady sings."

He meant, of course, what baseball legend Casey Stengel used to say, with self-defining logic, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

Either team can score as long as time remains in the game; don't slap your high-fives until the referee blows that final whistle.

Lindsay didn't seem very satisfied with my explanation of this mixed metaphor, which happens to be sexist, weightist and operaist. But true in its athletic application.

Fielding questions is part of a parent's job.

"Daddy, why are gorillas so hairy?" Molly asked the other day. I get stuff like that all the time:

■ "Why is the sky blue?"

■ "How come Santa looks different in Oxmoor than he does in Mall St. Matthews?" (That's an old one. Now that they don't believe, they don't ask.)

■ "Why are there only eight notes on a musical scale?"

■ "What makes the wires in the toaster get hot and turn red?"

■ "How can boys be so yucky?"

■ "What's the first element in a food chain—a leaf or a mushroom?"

Parenthood should come with a set of encyclopedias. A friend's son once asked,

"Dad, why do praying mantis mothers kill their husbands and eat them?" I'm not sure I want to know.

But just wait until we get to heaven. My kids and I are going to sit down with God and get answers to a whole host of questions that accumulate through a lifetime down here. Like:

■ Why did good people die young?

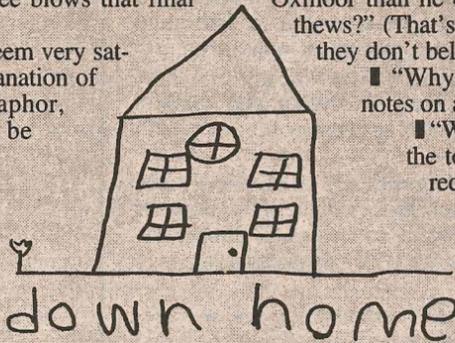
■ How did you make splendid sunsets?

■ Why did good things happen to bad people, while bad things happened to good people?

■ How did you think up chocolate?

Then again, maybe we won't ask. Maybe questions won't seem important. But I'd like to think we'll know.

Marv Knox



# BAPTISTS

## Kentucky ranks 8th in awards

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Church Study Course, a Southern Baptist educational system designed to support the training efforts of local churches, reached a record enrollment of 1.67 million people in 1993. That total is a 5 percent increase over the previous year's 1.59 million enrollment, according to figures released by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Kentucky ranked eighth among all state Baptist conventions for total study course awards, with 30,492, a 5.42 percent increase. Long Run Baptist Association, which encompasses Louisville, ranked 13th among all associations nationwide for total study course awards, with 2,570.

The most popular courses for the year included "Experiencing God," the Adult Winter Bible study book "Design for Discipleship," "MasterLife," "Survival Kit" and "PrayerLife."

## Anti-witness line too popular

DANVILLE, Va. (BP)—A toll-free phone line offering recorded criticisms of Jehovah's Witnesses' beliefs was too successful to continue, its sponsor said.

The line received more than 20,000 calls from almost every area code in the nation during its 15 months of operation, said George Kesterson, director of Watching the Watchtower.

Lack of financial support, however, failed to pay more than \$6,000 worth of phone bills, said Kesterson, a former Jehovah's Witness.

Kesterson, a Mission Service Corps volunteer with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department, had worked full time in the ministry he set up with the help of inheritance money.

Established in September 1991, the line had weekly messages challenging the teachings and beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses. Southern Baptists consider the society, based in Brooklyn, N.Y., to be a cult.

## 'Bus ministry' aims for missions impact

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

AUBURN, Maine—Ever wished you could follow your offerings to the mission field and see what they accomplish?

That's the idea behind a unique ministry developed by volunteer missionary Mary Beth Caffey in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Baptist Convention of New England.

Caffey is a Mission Service Corps tentmaker, which means the Texas native generates her own financial support to serve as church development director for Maine Baptist Association. This year she also serves as president of the BCNE.

To generate financial support, Caffey has developed her own business, VPS Tours. She serves a number of secular clients but concentrates a portion of her business on missions awareness tours.

That's why she calls her bivocational work her "bus ministry." Throughout the year she has opportunities to share her faith with clients who don't know she's a Baptist missionary. And then in the summer and fall she escorts Baptists across New England to highlight the needs of

home missions.

"The purpose of the tours is to help folks come to New England to see where their gifts through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are being invested—and to see that those gifts truly are making a difference," Caffey explained. "A secondary purpose is to help folks catch the excitement of missions involvement again, to see that it can be fun, challenging and just flat-out exciting."

This year, Caffey plans to conduct 10 missions awareness tours, many of them the first week in October when fall foliage is at its peak. This combination of fall foliage and missions awareness makes the package "two trips for the price of one," she said.

Without exception, past participants in the awareness tours have gained a greater appreciation for missions and returned to be more involved in missions at home, Caffey said. "We have seen every life changed when they leave here."

Caffey especially likes the story about a Texas woman who returned from the awareness tour to find her church engaged in a debate about whether to help sponsor a new mission. Some in the congregation believed their church was not large

enough or strong enough to help.

"Because she had seen what could happen here, her input led that church to sponsor the new work," Caffey recalled.

The standard missions awareness tour is an eight-day package that includes seven nights of lodging, 10 meals, motorcoach transport and sightseeing admissions for \$849 per person. Transportation to and from New England is not included.

Stops on the tour include Boston; Providence, R.I.; York, Maine; Portsmouth, N.H.; Freeport, Maine; Lincoln, N.H.; Stowe, Vt.; Burlington, Vt.; Woodstock, Vt.; Hartford, Conn.; and other points along the way.

"We see every area of home missions ministry Southern Baptists support in New England," Caffey said. "We meet both fully appointed missionaries as well as missions volunteer leadership, bivocational pastors and various types of ministries. We also worship in a New England church on Sunday."

While the standard tour is available for any individual or group, Caffey also arranges special tours for groups.

For further information, contact Caffey at (800) 446-4627 or call the HMB at (800) 634-2462.

## Unseated California church responds with warning to all

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)—The exclusion of San Francisco's 19th Avenue Baptist Church from last November's California Southern Baptist Convention meeting "bears implications that reach far beyond" California, the church has warned in an open letter.

Church leaders said 19th Avenue will continue cooperating with the state convention despite the convention's exclusion of the church's messengers to this year's annual meeting.

"We see this action as an alarming first step toward a convention in which criteria for participation are narrowly defined by the theological interpretations of a specific group," the letter stated. "The autonomy of every Southern Baptist church" could be affected.

Written by three of the church's deacons—Francis DuBose, Elise Pryor-Harden and Michael LaPrade—the letter states it "summarizes the thoughts of those present" at a church business meeting Dec. 5.

"We reaffirm that 19th Avenue Baptist Church is a Spirit-led family of faith that believes and follows the teachings of the Bible as the authoritative word of God," the letter declared. "We do affirm and consider ourselves to be in full agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message."

Reference to pastors in the Baptist statement of beliefs "is not gender specific," said the letter, which requested "that those who claim we are out of harmony" with the statement cite their references.

According to the letter, 19th Avenue follows what its members "believe to be the soundest, most widely accepted principle of biblical interpre-

tation, which is to take into account all the scriptural references relating to a doctrine of faith or practice, and not to rely on one or two proof texts that support our view."

Thus, the letter stated, members of the San Francisco church "believe it is clear that the New Testament affirms women in ministry in numerous ways."

Dan Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Camarillo, Calif., and the person who brought the motion not to seat 19th Avenue's messengers, said he disagrees with the church's statement.

He disputed the claim that Scripture is not gender-specific in describing the role of pastor. "There are all kinds of masculine references," he said.

Nelson said he has "no bitterness" toward Julie Pennington-Russell, 19th Avenue's pastor, and regrets all the controversy his motion brought.

He acknowledged 19th Avenue's right to call a woman as pastor even though he believes it is not scriptural. But he said the state convention should have the right to determine what churches to cooperate with.

Nelson said he was surprised at the reaction of denominational workers who have spoken in favor of 19th Avenue.

He specifically cited action taken by Karl Ortis, director of missions for San Francisco Peninsula Baptist Association, which includes 19th Avenue.

Before surrendering his own credentials as a messenger, Ortis offered a motion calling for the convention to refund missions gifts which 19th Avenue had given during the past year.



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## Bill calls for alcohol safety messages

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Congress could take its first-ever vote on an alcohol advertising bill early this year, according to Robert Parham of the Baptist Center for Ethics.

The Sensible Advertising and Family Education Act, S. 674, which requires rotating health and safety messages on broadcast and print alcohol advertisements, will go to the Senate Commerce Committee for a vote as early as late February.

The messages are similar to but more far-reaching than those already required to be placed on tobacco products and advertisements.

"This bill ensures that Americans, especially young people, will receive balanced information about the leading alcohol-related problems," Parham said. "The primary source of information about alcohol comes from alcohol advertisements which promote drinking as risk-free activity that advances social acceptance, sexual attractiveness and athletic success."

In 1992, Anheuser-Busch spent more than \$315 million promoting alcohol consumption, compared to the \$12 million communication budget of the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, according to the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

The votes of 10 members of the Senate Commerce Committee are required to move the bill to the Senate floor.

Four senators already are considered supporters of the bill, Parham said: Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, John Rockefeller, D-W.Va., and Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, are considered supporters of the bill.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest, a leading proponent of the bill, has identified eight Senators as key votes to pass the bill out of committee: John Breaux, D-La., Bryon Dorgan, D-N.D., James Exon, D-Neb., Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, John Kerry, D-Maine, Trent Lott, R-Miss., Larry Pressler, R-S.D., and Charles Robb, D-Va.

Another member of the Senate Commerce Committee is Wendell Ford, D-Ky.

"Southern Baptists can push this much-needed bill through the Senate Commerce Committee onto the Senate floor, if they will call their Senators' Washington offices in January, expressing support for the SAFE bill," Parham said. "Now is the time for Southern Baptists to speak loudly for health and safety messages in alcohol advertising."

The Senate switchboard number is (202) 224-3121.

## Baptists dislike condom ad campaign

WASHINGTON—The Clinton administration, in search of blessings for its new media campaign aimed at encouraging condom use to prevent AIDS, has drawn both praise and criticism from major church organizations in the United States.

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala has invited religious and community leaders to join the administration's AIDS prevention program.

She made the pitch during a Jan. 4 news conference where she unveiled a series of public service television ads promoting condom use among young people to protect themselves from AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Some of the ads are said to encourage abstinence.

Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics have been among the first critics of the ads. United Methodists and other mainline Protestant groups have reacted more favorably.

"Southern Baptists believe 'True Love Waits.' The Clinton administration believes true love wears a condom," said James Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"True Love Waits" is the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's highly popular program which calls for young people to pledge to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

"According to this administration, one is only sexually irresponsible when failing to use a condom no matter what type of sexually deviant act he or she would choose to perform,"

Smith continued.

"These ads advance the faulty, and tragically deadly, notion of 'safe sex,'" he said. "Even in the recycled 'abstinence' ads, there is no attempt to set a high moral, or even public health, standard of fidelity, chastity and monogamy."

Smith's criticism was echoed by Ed Young, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston.

Speaking during the Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference Jan. 10, Young said the administration's strategy is flawed. Studies indicate condom use does not result in truly "safe sex" and that abstinence is the only answer, he reported.

But Young said the main reason people should refrain from sex outside of marriage is not because of fear of pregnancy or disease but because it is morally wrong.

"God has not abandoned the moral absolutes of his holy word, the Bible," he declared. "The answer is 'No,' not because you are afraid you might end up in jail or you might end up in an AIDS ward, but because it is wrong."

A spokesman for the U.S. Catholic bishops predicted the ads would backfire and encourage more young people to engage in at-risk sexual activities.

"It is irresponsible to present condoms as the answer to the AIDS threat or to suggest that they are a sure safeguard against HIV transmission," said Robert Lynch, general secretary of

the U.S. Catholic Conference. "Neither is true."

A different view was expressed by Joe Leonard, executive director of the Commission on Family Ministries and Human Sexuality with the National Council of Churches.

"Churches are key in telling the truth to young people," he said. "To not fully inform young people about HIV and how to protect themselves from it is not just immoral, it's criminal."

A middle ground was suggested by Ronald Sider, a professor at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and president of Evangelicals for Social Action.

Sider said he could not say "yes or no" to the new initiative because he sees the moral dilemma but also believes the ads could save some lives.

Sider said he would like to see an ad featuring a Rock Hudson-like celebrity, dying of AIDS, looking somberly into the camera and advising: "The only safe sex is within a life-long covenant, with one partner. But if you want to play Russian roulette with your life, then condoms will improve your chances."

The series of 13 ads reportedly cost \$300,000 to make. Some feature actors and rock music personalities encouraging the use of condoms, and in one an animated condom package jumps out of a dresser drawer for a couple in a nearby bed.

Based on reports from Religious News Service, Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press

**"Southern Baptists believe 'True Love Waits.' The Clinton administration believes true love wears a condom."**

*James Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission*

## Government awards fetal tissue research

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The federal government has awarded a \$4.5 million grant to study the use of cells from aborted fetuses as a treatment for Parkinson's disease.

The grant is the first since President Clinton lifted a five-year-old ban on federal funding for fetal-tissue research.

The grant funds a program at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and other study sites to determine the effects of implanting fetal tissue into the brains of Parkinson's patients.

Parkinson's is a progressive brain disorder affecting about 500,000

Americans, most over 60. It causes tremors, an inability to walk and difficulty in speaking. The disease is caused by the gradual loss of nerve cells which produce dopamine, a chemical which aids brain communication.

Currently Parkinson's is treated with drugs such as L-dopa, which provide substantial relief for most patients but tend to lose their effectiveness over years of use.

Scientists believe fetal implants will replace dopamine-producing cells, restoring more normal movement and providing better response to drug treatments.

Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush prohibited federal funding of research with fetal tissue from elective abortions. Clinton lifted the ban.

The Southern Baptist Convention has gone on record in annual meetings as opposing fetal-tissue research. In a resolution adopted at last June's convention in Houston, SBC messengers stated they "remain morally opposed to the use of electively aborted fetal tissue in all experiments conducted by the federal government and urge President Clinton to reconsider his decision to advance such reprehensible research."

## Court rules park may show religious display

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court left standing Jan. 10 a lower court's ruling that a privately-sponsored religious display in a public park is constitutional.

The court declined to disturb a federal appeals-court decision allowing a private group to display scenes from the life of Christ during the Christmas season in San Diego's Balboa Park. The city's policy permitting the display does not offend the First Amendment's requirement of church-state separation, the court said.

Since 1953, San Diego officials have allowed the private group to display eight life-sized statuary scenes of Christ's life.

For years city workers erected, removed and stored the display. But

since the city attorney warned in 1988 that the city's involvement was unconstitutional, the private group has handled those duties.

The city maintained that the 1,200-acre park featuring theaters, museums, a zoo, picnic areas and sporting fields is a traditional public forum open to all speakers. The appeals court agreed.

It also found that the city's policy meets all three prongs of the legal test for determining whether an action meets the constitutional standard for church-state separation.

To be constitutional under the so-called Lemon test, governmental actions must have a secular purpose, neither advance nor inhibit religion, and avoid excessive entanglement

with religion.

The court said San Diego's policy serves the secular purpose of promoting freedom of expression in an open forum and does not entangle church and state.

As for Lemon's middle prong, the court said the city is neither favoring nor disfavoring religion by allowing the display of a religious message in a forum open to all forms of speech on a first-come, first-served basis.

The appeals court said a reasonable person would not conclude that the city's tolerance of the Christmas display amounts to an endorsement of religion, and that messages expressed in a public forum should be viewed as those of the speaker, not the government.

# PEOPLE

## West Kentucky associations plant seeds in migrant ministry

PRINCETON—Six associations in West Kentucky have embarked on successful ministries with migrant farm workers, reported J. Bill Jones, church starter strategist with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The success of these ministries was due in part to a migrant ministries workshop hosted by Blood River Baptist Association, Jones said.

Blood River had a weekly ministry to 83 migrants last summer, he explained. Eleven churches shared responsibility for the weekly program, which included Bible study, worship, English classes, meals and distribution of care packages and New Testaments.

Daviess-McLean Baptist Association ministered to more than 100 migrants. The association provided activities for children, health kits, clothing and a dental clinic.

Christian County Baptist Association sponsored two separate weekly ministries that reached a total of 68 people. The programs included worship, Bible study, meals, English classes and some help with legal counsel and medical needs.

Fifteen of the association's 39 churches were directly involved in the

ministries, with others assisting in different ways. At least six migrants made professions of faith in Jesus Christ, and one was baptized.

West Union Baptist Association's ministry was led by Juan Cavallini, a student at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College. His salary was paid cooperatively by 13 churches. Cavallini and a layman from Oscar traveled to Mexico early in the year to visit the men before they came to Kentucky to work. Their goal is to establish a Baptist church in Mexico.

After the association's third year of migrant ministry, 19 men have recorded professions of faith and one has acknowledged God's call to ministry.

Bethel and Logan Baptist associations together sponsored a one-time ministry with a Bible study, worship, meal and distribution of care packets and Spanish New Testaments. Additionally, First Baptist Church of Elkton offered a weekly English class for five migrant children.

For further information about migrant ministry opportunities and resources, contact Tony Hough at the Kentucky Baptist Convention office in Louisville, (502) 245-4101.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Church furniture: 30 cushioned pews, 19' long, and pulpit furniture. Contact Fred Boatright, Calvary Baptist Church, Granite City, IL (618) 877-0066.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music/education. Approximate church membership is 1,000. Send resumé c/o Wally Shelton, Hillcrest Baptist Church, 920 Skyline Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240. For more information, call (502) 886-6017.

**WANTED:** Assistant pastor to work in the area of music and youth. Seminary training is desired, but not required. Please send resumé to Pastor Carl A. Riley, Plainfield Baptist Church, 1575 Reeves Road, Plainfield, IN 46168.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

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

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

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## A Special Event for Women

During the Kentucky Evangelism Conference  
Tuesday, February 22

Hurstbourne Conference Center, 9700 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville

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

1:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Seminars

### Speakers



Anne Graham Lotz



Esther Burroughs

### Music

Laura Hammack Chipe

Seminars: (Choose Two)  
 Career and Children ..... Ava Bingham Reynolds  
 Chemical Dependency and the Family ..... Jo Vaughn  
 Dealing With AIDS ..... Chip and Nancy Miller  
 Depression and Loneliness ..... Jan Cox-Gedmark  
 Lifestyle Witnessing ..... Esther Burroughs  
 Time Alone With God ..... Anne Graham Lotz

### THIS REGISTRATION FORM MAY BE DUPLICATED

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

Cost: \$ 8.00 Transferrable but not refundable. (Make checks payable to Kentucky Baptist Convention)

Please return this registration form to:

Office for Evangelism, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433 (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for RESERVATIONS is Friday, February 11. Ticket/s, motel information and map will be mailed to you upon request.

Questions? 502-245-4101 Office of Evangelism, KBC.

# PEOPLE

## Pastor's wife overcomes wrongful arrest

A West Kentucky pastor and his wife believe God was at work to rescue them from a Christmas incident that potentially could have damaged their reputations and future ministry.

The couple, who wish to remain anonymous, said they want Kentucky Baptists to know how easily a reputation could be lost due to the thievery of others.

The story begins nine days before Christmas, when the pastor's wife was on her lunch break from her job at a retail store. While hurriedly doing some last-minute shopping at a mall, some shoplifters managed to swap shopping bags with her without her noticing.

As the pastor's wife left the mall to get in her car, she was arrested for possession of stolen property.

Not until the next day—after she had been released from jail on bond and news of the charges had spread throughout the small community—did the couple realize what had transpired with the bag-swap.

The pastor searched frantically for his wife for two hours before discovering she had been arrested. And the wife spent seven hours in custody.

They had to appear in court a couple of days after Christmas. But when the full story was heard, all charges were dropped and the pastor's wife's name was cleared.

Another issue that potentially could have complicated the case is that the pastor had just resigned his church to accept another pastorate less than 50 miles away. "We both were very concerned as to how that new church would deal with this business," the pastor explained.

Unknown to the couple, a prominent family in the new church had experienced a similar incident while vacationing in another state in the past. "The church understood how nightmarish things can happen, and they assured us they were completely supporting us and could hardly wait for us to arrive on the field," the pastor said.

"One of the deacons expressed that when the church was told the story, there was not one word of opposition to our coming as pastor, and that they were holding us up in prayer." With that news, he added, "a tremendous load was taken from us both."

Members of the church the pastor is leaving reacted similarly, the couple said.

"The support and prayers of so many people were used by the Lord to see us through one of the worst nightmares either of us has ever experienced," he reported. "Every pastor who is honest knows his wife can make his ministry or break it."

"My wife is probably the very best pastor's wife in the state of Kentucky, and she has spent 20-plus years building that good name. We realize how easily Satan can take it all away if we aren't careful."

## This was not just another banquet

BILOXI, Miss. (BP)—"Nobody came and nobody was disappointed," said Tim Thomas, organizer of a Christmas eve banquet which raised approximately \$7,500 for Mississippi Baptist student summer missions.

The "Not Another Banquet" banquet was sponsored by the Baptist Student Union of Gulf Coast Community College. If anyone had come, it would have started at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24, said Thomas, BSU director at the Biloxi, Miss., school.

The banquet would have taken place at Mary Mahoney's, a restaurant which catered to President Reagan on the White House lawn. "We were glad not to host the banquet," said owner Bobby Mahoney. "We're just sorry everyone missed our Lobster Georgio."

Two noted individuals paid not to entertain. Mississippi author John Grisham, whose novel "Pelican Brief" is a current hit movie, paid "significantly," not to come, Thomas said.

And concert pianist Philip Fortenberry paid not to play. Fortenberry, who performed twice for President and Mrs. Bush—once when the Gorbachevs were visiting—currently is director and a performer with the touring company of the Broadway hit "Cats."

Nancy Pasternack, reporter for television station WLOX, paid not to cover the event. Former First Lady Rosalyn Carter paid not to attend.

The banquet, designed not to interfere with other Christmas events, attracted 118 participants who paid good money to stay away. Tickets were \$10, but some paid more.

One attorney sent \$100, saying he really didn't want to come.

"Certainly there were no complaints about the amount or quality of food and there were no problems with scheduling," Thomas said. "In fact, no one complained about anything."

"It was an idea whose time never came."

### Get in the Act—Attend NAC

National Acteens Convention

June 21-24 • Birmingham, Ala.



Once every five years a National Acteens Conference is held so that Acteens from throughout the United States can meet together. Kentucky WMU wants to make it possible for every Acteen (completed 7th-12th grade) in Kentucky to participate, so we are offering the Kentucky Tour Group. The cost for each participant is \$259 which includes hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, NAC registration fee, four continental breakfasts & four sack lunches, insurance and special gifts for Kentucky Acteens. For more information, contact the Kentucky WMU office: NAC Tour Information, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433; or call (502) 245-4101.

## Where there's a Will, there's a way ...to bring hope to hurting children

January is Make-Your-Will Month. Maybe you've thought about it. Maybe not. But your careful preparation today can mean less hassle for your family tomorrow. And it can mean a bridge to a new beginning for children who need hope and healing.

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for tomorrow's children!*

Yes, I want to make a difference in the lives of children. Please send me (at no cost or obligation) information on will and estate planning.

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Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children  
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### Why a will?

- \* To provide for your children and family
- \* To prevent hardships and misunderstanding
- \* To have assurance that your wishes will be followed
- \* To make a difference in the lives of hurting children

# PEOPLE

## KENTUCKY KERNELS

Only 32 percent of non-Christians see church as a place where they might make new friends. That compares to 75 percent of Christians who see church as a place to make friends. More non-Christians (45 percent) see work as a better place to make friends than church. However, non-Christians view church as a better place to make friends than clubs (22 percent) or school (20 percent).

Source: *The Barna Report 1992-93*

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **FLATWOODS**—First Church ordained **Walter Bramlette** and **William Runyon** as deacons Jan. 9.

■ **IRVINE**—Valley View Church called **Joe Tuttle** as pastor. He is a student at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

Friendship Church called **Charles Miracle** as pastor.

New Harmony Church celebrated its first homecoming with a church-wide dinner.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Bardstown Junction Church called **Ray Hayes** of Fisherville as bivocational pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Hurstbourne Church ordained **Glen Laffoon** as deacon Jan. 9.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—Howard's Mill Church called **Chris Skidmore** as youth director.

■ **WINSTON**—**Leonard Dunn** resigned as pastor of Providence Church.

### MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Mike and Becki Glenn**, missionaries to Venezuela, are on the field at Apartado 80920, Edo, Miranda, Caracas, Venezuela. She is from Louisville.

## Minister survives on faith, not heart

Continued from page 1  
speakers, she added.

Full-time work eventually became too stressful for him. But in August 1993, Jones returned to church ministry. He was called as part-time minister of music at Bethany Baptist Church in Mount Washington.

"Since August, we've begun an adult choir ... and they've allowed me to teach them about music and about hymnology," Jones explained.

Mrs. Jones, who has a degree in piano from Asbury Seminary in Lexington, plays the piano at the church now.

Jones said the church has been supportive and understanding of his

condition.

"Terry Candler (the pastor) and Bethany Baptist Church are such special friends. They've poured out their hearts to us even though we've only been there a short time," he said. "They've been Christians—what Christ would expect us to be—to me."

"Bethany is where God has led me in the midst of this crisis—to heal me spiritually, emotionally, as a husband and in all ways—to take care of me."

"Christian faith is absolutely the only way we could get through this," Mrs. Jones added. "It's the only thing you have left. It's what gets us up and gets us going; it's what's keeping him alive."



**CHRISTMAS HELP** Pat Scott and Elizabeth Davis of First Baptist Church in Loyall sort through bags of apples donated by a truck driver who was impressed by the church's plans for a Christmas ministry to needy families. The truck driver had delivered 276 turkeys the church ordered last Thanksgiving and was touched by the needs he saw in southeastern Kentucky. So he returned before Christmas with a truckload of assorted items, including 600 pounds of potatoes, as well as apples, meat and other supplies. First Baptist worked with about 20 other churches in the area to distribute the goods, said Pastor Chuck Lovejoy. (Photo courtesy of Pat Rigney/Harlan Daily Enterprise)

## West Point celebrates centennial

**WEST POINT**—West Point Baptist Church will look back and forward as it celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

The church, which was organized Jan. 29, 1894, has set aside the fourth Sunday of every month for centennial celebrations, said Pastor D.E. Jones.

"The first Sunday celebration will be Jan. 23, when we will have the

immediate former pastor, Dennis Cherry, as our speaker," Jones reported.

"Then, following the morning service, we'll have a fellowship dinner, and everybody is invited. In the afternoon we'll have an informal time of gospel singing.

"We're also preparing a history of the church to give out during the celebrations."

## On our knees

Many of our staff were on our knees in the Oneida Baptist Church the last moments of the old year and the first of 1994. Then, as has become tradition in recent years, we encircled the auditorium holding hands and impromptu we sang "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine."

New Year's Day marked the 95th anniversary of the first day of classes at Oneida, and the school's first worship service. The text that snowy, long-ago morning was "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Surely every day of the past 94 years is proof that our Lord is the Rock on which Oneida is built.

It was fitting that our teaching and houseparenting staff, over 80 strong, assembled in our library at 9 a.m. on New Year's Day to pray, discuss and evaluate dozens of students. We finished our meeting at 5:45 p.m., having taken 45 minutes for the noon meal. Our cooks outdid themselves with a varied menu that included fried chicken and black-eyed peas, traditional mountain fare on New Year's Day.

Later in the evening, six of our houseparenting and administrative staff reviewed dorm room assignments.

We entered 1994 with many gifts and letters like the following from Dunmor:

"I feel an identification with your work. As a retired teacher I am always encouraged to hear good things about the education of young people. As a Christian layperson I am thrilled with the level of spiritual guidance proved at Oneida. Your comments are usually my first selection from the Western Recorder and I enjoy the bulletins you send from time to time. Several friends and I have planned a spring trip to your campus."

From Mt. Vernon: "I am 91 years old and have

seen so many things happen. I am so thankful for your wonderful school that still teaches the good old standard of Christian love and discipline and the dignity of honest work."

From Greenville: "Your school is the only one I know that can stretch a dollar as far as I can."

With \$100 from Owensboro: "I am on Social Security and my husband of 55 years is in a nursing home. We have no children, so why not invest in the children of Oneida. The Lord went to the cross for them. Oh, he has been so good to me."

From Frankfort: "It has been seven years since our son attended Oneida. He is working with us in our business and we'll be adding on after the first of the year. Enclosed is \$500 to help support your children."

From Hawesville: "Would you believe our church decided to send you this money on Wednesday. I didn't have your address. The next day I got your letter."

From Frankfort a doctor and his wife sent \$300 and this note: "We are so concerned for the public schools in our land. May God continue to bless you daily as you serve him through providing for so many precious children. We pray for you that God will provide for all your needs in 1994."

From Orlando, Fla.: "Please keep up your work. The results speak for themselves." Enclosed was \$100.

A man wrote from Franklin forwarding \$200: "I know without a doubt God truly blesses gifts to Oneida. You stretch each dollar 2-3 times more than organizations I've given to before."

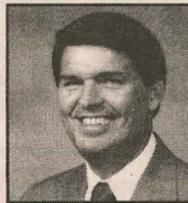
Barkley Moore is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

### ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Your will affects our future

The smallest and largest estate gifts Clear Creek received from October 1992 to July 1993 were \$51.22 and \$92,764.45. Our annual budget is planned with the hope that about 10 percent of it will come from estate bequests. In the past decade the yearly estate gifts averaged \$150,000. Preparing a will that remembers the Lord's work does make a difference.

Today's estate gifts are the legacy of leaders like founder L.C. Kelly. Former Pinevillian Paul F. Green remembers Kelly as "a man I would suggest is capable, consecrated and concerned. His thesis was that mountain boys were going to preach, and he hoped to polish them before they entered into this holy mission. No human being could have been more loyal to a cause than was this preacher. He walked through doors of faith. He believed that prayer must have feet, and he shook the money tree to get the preachers' school started.

"As a Pineville citizen and a member of another faith, I did not always agree with Kelly. However, I never doubted his contribution to the whole program of mountain preaching, and if I can escape catastrophic illnesses, I have provided some small help for Clear Creek in

my will. Dr. Kelly was a man of God." Thanks, Mr. Green.

In recent weeks two long-time supporters shared their estate plans. One couple established an irrevocable trust with the interest providing retirement income. At the death of both, the trust comes to Clear Creek.

Another family plans to deed a residence to the school while retaining living rights until their death. Contact our staff or Richard Carnes of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for estate counseling.

We thank God for those who left estate gifts in the last fiscal year: Evelyn Alford, L.C. Allender, Mattye Bailey, Virginia Floyd, Fred Gribbens, Minnie Herrod, Alice Puckett, Addielu Mosley, Daisy Yearly.

It has been said people give to people rather than to institutions. Someone reading this article has experienced the personal result of Clear Creek's ministry. Your estate gift will help train God's servants to minister in the twenty-first century. Your will invests in people who will change the world. Your will does affect our future.

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

Paid Column

Paid Column

# PEOPLE

## Burger King executive serves others God's way

By Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

MIAMI (BP)—Twenty-four hours after her divorce was final, Rachelle Hood-Phillips moved from Chicago to Miami with two suitcases and a 2-year-old daughter.

Drowning in debt and loneliness, she had a job but remembers all she wanted was peace.

Hood-Phillips grew up in Detroit, where she says she had many encounters with God. But it wasn't until she reached the end of her rope in Miami that she made a commitment to him.

"I pulled over to the side of the road and prayed, 'Jesus, if you're real, you've got to help me out. I can't hold on any longer.'"

Now Hood-Phillips exemplifies the growing number of laypeople who consider their jobs their mission fields, says Reid Hardin, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board coordinator of marketplace evangelism.

"I was born again and then I jumped in with both feet," recalls Hood-Phillips, a member of Wayside Baptist Church in Miami. Nearly 10 years later, she adds, "My life is so full of miracles."

One miracle is her marriage. As she began to study the Bible, she became convicted about divorce. "I prayed, 'If it's your will, get us back together.' But I thought, 'There's no way.'"

But God found a way, she says. "Little by little God removed the barriers and we were remarried seven years ago."

Hood-Phillips moved to Miami to

work at Burger King Corp.'s world headquarters. She since has been promoted to vice president for human resource development and diversity affairs.

Part of her task is leading management to respond appropriately to more women and non-Anglos entering the work force. In essence, she's paid to be a peacemaker, and she uses the opportunity to share Jesus Christ.

"I wanted to leave the work place and go into full-time ministry. Now I realize I can't separate the two," Hood-Phillips says. "It's a lifestyle. If I'm going to be here, I'm going to make a difference.

"I've made a commitment to witness to everyone I work with, but not every one has accepted," she says. She quit counting how many people made professions of faith because God convicted her it was becoming a matter of pride.

The length of her daily quiet time is determined by what Hood-Phillips faces at work that day. She prays over meetings, deals, people and proposals.

As a result of her prayer, she believes she has seen changes in the way her company treats people. "This is a more compassionate, caring company" because of prayer, she says.

As one evidence she cites the response Burger King made in 1992 when 300 employees, including Hood-Phillips, lost their homes to Hurricane Andrew. The corporation created a relief fund to help employees get re-established, and Hood-Phillips was named chairman of the committee to distribute the grants.



**GOD'S WAY RIGHT AWAY** Rachelle Hood-Phillips, a vice president with Burger King Corp., has a personal mission larger than her company's famous Whopper. She sees her marketplace as a mission field. Here, she stands in front of a display at Burger King world headquarters that counts the number of Whoppers sold each day. (BP photo)

**"I wanted to leave the work place and go into full-time ministry. Now I realize I can't separate the two."**  
Rachelle Hood-Phillips, vice president of Burger King Corp.

## Baptist couple have been parents to 286 children

By Alberta Lindsey  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Charles and Martha Carter are good at loving children and letting go.

They should be, having done it more than 280 times.

During the past 28 years, the Baptist couple has cared for 286 foster children in their Richmond-area home.

"Our mission is to take a child, get it ready to go on to its 'forever home' and we move on to the next one. But a little piece of your heart goes with every one of them," Mrs. Carter said as she sat beside her husband on the porch of the family's three-bedroom house.

The Carters, who are members of Richmond's Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, share their home with one of their own three children; three foster sons—ages 16 months, 4 months and 1 month; an 11-year-old granddaughter; and a cat, dog and fish.

In addition, Mrs. Carter cares for three children—5 years old, 10 months and 8 months—while their parents work.

"I would like to have a big house in the country and be able to take all of the children nobody wants. My heart is bigger than my house," she said.

Race is not an issue for the Carters, who are white. They take in chil-

dren who need a home. Currently they have two black foster children and one who is biracial.

Although the average stay is six months, some children stay longer.

"We like to have the babies placed within six months," Mrs. Carter explained. "It's easier on everybody. They have not grown so attached to us. They bond better when they are younger. When they leave us, they go with a set of grandparents."

The Carters—he's 58 and she's 53—are a special needs foster home for Children's Home Society of Virginia. They take care of children who may be premature, have such problems as Down's syndrome or are HIV positive. They've also cared for babies born addicted to drugs or alcohol. Their 4-month-old biracial foster son is small for his age; his mother was a drug addict.

The 16-month-old tested HIV positive at birth. A more recent test was negative. The child's mother has AIDS.

"When we first started, there were not a lot of special needs, but with the drugs, alcohol and AIDS, it's becoming more and more."

Her husband added: "It's sad to say we are one of a few (foster families) who will take HIV positive children. We don't see it as a threat to our family or to us if we take the proper precautions. People are afraid of it because of a lack of knowledge."

While Children's Home Society has several foster families who have been with the agency for years and years, "we rarely encounter someone as committed as the Carters," said Peter Pufki, the agency's director. "We are pleased to have them on our team. They are good folks. We have seen their willingness to meet new challenges."

The Carters share the child-care responsibilities. He is the lead electrician in the engineering department at a local hospital. She is a part-time usher and receptionist at Bliley's Funeral Home.

"When she works on the weekend, I take care of the children," Carter said.

They have many stories to tell about their foster children—some good, a few sad.

Carter recalled a foster son who went through the legal process of emancipation at 16.

"He was searching for something in his life that he couldn't find. ... He was shot and killed on Franklin Street when he was 21. He had been in 20 some foster homes before we got him," Carter said.

On a happier note, Mrs. Carter recalled a foster daughter who joined the family at age 4.

"She was not liked by her father and had been terribly abused. He would hold her head under water. We had her for eight months and she got

to be so secure and loving she could swim under water. We went to a picnic one day and met a couple interested in adoption.

"They talked to us and called the agency the next day. Three months later, she was theirs. She's doing fine," Mrs. Carter reported.

Twenty years ago, when the couple took in their first black baby, "People were nasty," Mrs. Carter said.

"They were very, very hostile and curt to us," her husband added.

"This is a ministry. These are children who need love. Those who know us know the situation. Those who don't know us, I really don't care," Mrs. Carter said.

"These children are part of our family. They go where we go. They go to church with us. They go to restaurants, on vacation."

Some of the children stay in touch with the foster parents.

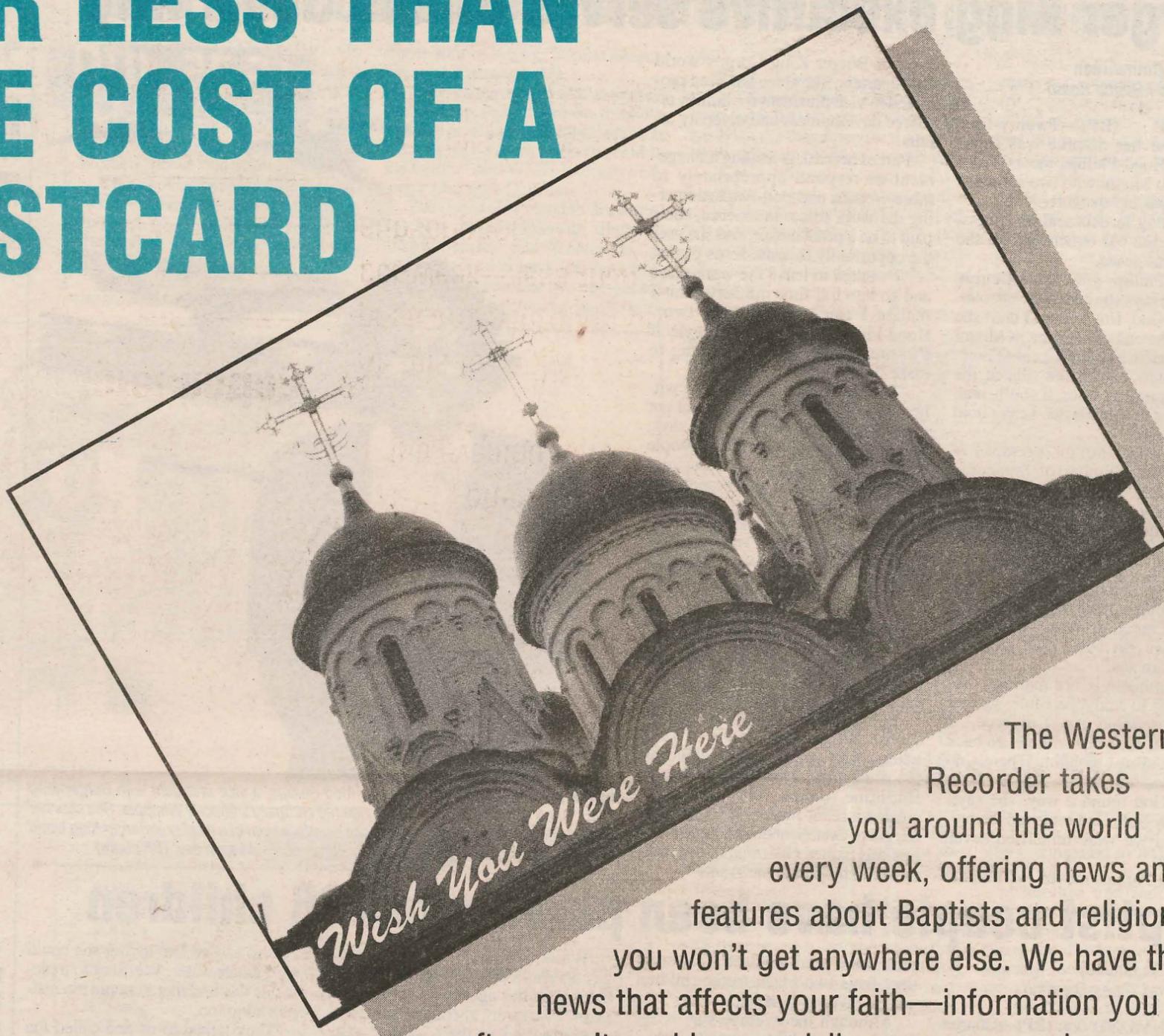
Carter said every so often he answers the phone and a former foster child says: "Hi, Granddaddy. How are you?"

When grandparents day is held at school, Mrs. Carter sometimes gets invited by former foster children. And she goes.

"People say to us: 'You are so wonderful. You are so great.' That's not true. The children are great," she said. "We are just there to meet the needs when it's necessary."

**"I would like to have a big house in the country and be able to take all of the children nobody wants. My heart is bigger than my house."**  
Martha Carter, foster parent to more than 280 children in 28 years

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