

FOR THE RECORD

Fellowship giving

Kentucky ranks among the 10 top states in contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, according to newly released data. See page 2.

"Non-confronters"

A speaker at last week's Evangelism Conference said even "non-confronters" can learn to share their faith in Jesus Christ with others. See page 3.

Editorial

Don't like church-state separation? Think Bosnia. See page 5.

Annuity Board

The Annuity Board faced a double-barreled confrontation with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee last week, in part over abortion-related investment policies. See page 6.

School prayer

Recent actions by the United States Senate illustrate the confusion that exists today over the issue of school prayer. See page 7.

"Here's Hope"

A statewide prayer meeting has been called to kick off the 1995 evangelism emphasis called "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now." See page 9.



BUSY PASTOR'S WIFE In addition to being a pastor's wife, Deborah Reed is a full-time student at the University of Kentucky, a full-time parent and spouse and a full-time employee of the university. Here, Reed (right) visits on campus with representatives of the Donovan Scholars Gerontology Program, through which she receives a scholarship. (UK photo)

Harrodsburg woman models modern life of pastor's wife

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

HARRODSBURG—Deborah Reed has had to learn a few hat tricks in order to balance the many hats she wears as career woman, student, mother and pastor's wife.

And her new lifestyle has left a mark on the whole family, challenging everyone to try new roles on for size, she said.

Reed is director of a federally funded farm assistance project at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where she also is pursuing the doctor of philosophy degree in nursing.

But at home, she fulfills different roles, as mother to two teen-age daughters; wife to Don Reed, pastor of Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church near Harrodsburg; and active church member.

"Scheduling is a bit compacted" for the entire family, Reed acknowledged. "It's a crimp trying to juggle four people's schedules."

Before returning to school three years ago, Reed served for 16 years as a community health nurse.

In 1992, she received a master of science degree in nursing, then last December a master of science degree in public health.

Reed tries to make good use of all available time, including the one-hour commute to UK, she said.

And the rest of the family has been "exceptionally supportive," pitching in to help with responsibilities at home, she added.

Reed believes the traditional role of a pastor's wife is changing. And except for being unavailable during the daytime, she insists there isn't too much difference between her life and that of other ministers' spouses.

"I teach a Sunday school class and sing in the choir, and I'm active in WMU," she explained.

Her husband recalled that when he reminded Reed before their marriage about the responsibilities and pressures of being a pastor's wife, she replied by saying, "Yes, but I have a call, too."

"She's always had a commitment to nursing," he said. "She felt her call and commitment to that as" See Reed models ..., page 10

Evangelism Conference proclaims hope in Christ

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Christians must hold out hope to a hurting world by lifting up the name of Jesus, participants at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 1994 Evangelism Conference heard last week.

"Here's Hope in Christ's Name" was the theme for the conference, held at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville Feb. 21-22.

The theme pointed toward Kentucky and Southern Baptists' next major evangelistic campaign, the 1995 "Here's Hope" witnessing and revival emphasis, said Bill Jagers, KBC evangelism director.

The campaign will feature a 60-day "soul-winning" blitz, Jan. 9-March 9, Jagers said. During this phase, Baptists will be encouraged to share their faith with at least one unbeliever every day.

Then, during the spring and summer, Baptists will conduct "harvest revivals" to bring new Christians into the churches and baptize them, he said.

Jesus, whom those new Christians will claim as Savior, is worthy of love and adoration, said Anne Graham Lotz, a frequent conference speaker, founder of AnGel Ministries in Raleigh, N.C., and daughter of famed

evangelist Billy Graham. She addressed the Evangelism Conference and also preached to about 1,100 women who attended a special evangelistic luncheon.

Speaking to the conference on "The Worth-it-ness of Jesus," Lotz proclaimed, "In the end, love wins; in the end, Jesus reigns."

Jesus is worthy because he has an "unequaled position in the universe," she said. "There is one man who is able to rule the world and fulfill God's purpose for the human race. It is Jesus. Jesus is Lord of the universe. Who is your Lord?"

Lotz urged Kentucky Baptists to examine themselves as they prepare to participate in the "Here's Hope" campaign.

"As we present hope to America, would you look at your own life?" she asked, equating hope for the future with confidence in Christ. "Celebrate hope by choosing to remain faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ."

That becomes possible, and churches grow, when pastors equip laypeople for ministry, said Ike Reighard, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga., and president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Telling the story of "the giant that David could not kill," Reighard de- See Evangelism Conference ..., page 3

Women's meeting draws overflow crowd

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—More than 1,000 women crowded into the Hurstbourne Conference Center in Louisville Feb. 22 for a one-day seminar coinciding with the state evangelism conference. The first-time event turned away about 200 women for lack of room.

Bill Jagers of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism office, which sponsored the event, was surprised at the number. So was Anne Graham Lotz, the key-

note speaker.

Lotz, the daughter of evangelist Billy Graham, said the overwhelming turnout "in the middle of the week in the middle of the day" was an indication that women are hungry for spiritual food.

She told the group at a luncheon that God cares for hurting women and likened their plight to the experience of Hagar in the book of Genesis. She asked women if they sometimes felt estranged like Hagar, who with her son Ishmael was kicked out of Abraham's tent.

See Women's evangelism ..., page 8

Americans don't understand basic church terms, poll finds

GLENDALE, Calif.—The Christian church is preaching to the world in terms most people don't understand, according to results of a new poll by the Barna Research Group.

A nationwide survey of American adults in January 1994 found few could explain the meaning of terms such as "the Great Commission," "John 3:16," "evangelical" and "the gospel."

Even many adults described as "born-again" Christians had trouble explaining the four terms.

Only 9 percent of all the adults surveyed could correctly identify the Great Commission as Jesus' command to go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them.

The vast majority (86 percent)

were not even willing to hazard a guess at what the term meant. Only 5 percent offered incorrect descriptions.

Three out of four "born-again" Christians said they didn't know what "Great Commission" meant.

For the purpose of this poll, "born-again" refers to a person who claims to have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important today and who believes he or she will go to heaven as a result of accepting Jesus Christ as Savior.

Americans know little more about the term "evangelical."

Even the most inclusive of the possible accurate definitions—such as "people who spread God's word" or "people who spread their religious beliefs"—was offered by just 18 percent of those polled. Another 16 per-

cent gave incorrect answers.

Most Americans (66 percent) said they simply didn't know what the term meant. The pattern was roughly the same among "born-again" Christians, with 57 percent offering no answer.

Awareness of the most famous of Bible verses, John 3:16, was somewhat higher. The verses says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Only 17 percent of those polled could accurately recite the verse, while 25 percent could at least give the general meaning of the verse. Overall, 65 percent of the general population and 50 percent of "born-again" Christians said they did not

know what the term "John 3:16" meant.

Americans are likewise ignorant of the meaning of "the gospel," which literally means "good news" and refers to the message of Jesus that people's sins are forgiven by God through their trust in Jesus.

Overall, only 37 percent of those polled offered an answer that could be considered even remotely correct, researchers reported. The most prominent answer, given by 33 percent of respondents, was that the gospel is synonymous with the Bible.

Others offered a variety of incorrect answers, but 31 percent said they had no idea what the term meant. Among "born-again" Christians, 16 percent could not give a correct definition.

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Southern Baptists** have asked U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to lift a ban that ousted all Americans—including 22 Southern Baptist Convention missionaries—from Lebanon seven years ago. SBC Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin has asked Christopher to lift the ban, at least for those who want to perform religious, charitable or humanitarian services.

■ **Smyth & Helwys** Publishing, a moderate-backed publishing house based in Macon, Ga., has announced plans for a 30-volume Bible commentary. The project will take up to 15 years to complete, the company has said, and the first volume will debut in 1988.

■ **The number of missionaries** serving under appointment of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board increased by 14 in 1993. Although the 4,882 count at the end of 1993 held close to the previous year, a significant shift was seen internally. The number of Mission Service Corps volunteers within that count increased by 149, while the number of mission pastors receiving funding from the HMB decreased by the same number.

■ **Mobile feeding units** operated by Southern Baptist disaster relief workers had fed more than 1 million meals to victims of the Los Angeles earthquake as of Feb. 18. That is the third-highest meal count in the history of Southern Baptist disaster relief ministry.

Fellowship approves five missionaries & foundation

NASHVILLE (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship appointed five missionaries, approved five new staff positions, adopted a budget for half of 1995 and agreed to start a foundation to end the three-year-old organization.

Those were among the actions taken by the Coordinating Council, the 83-member group that directs the Fellowship's work. The council met Feb. 17-19 in Nashville.

An appointment service during the three-day meeting sent five new workers to the mission field, bringing to 31 the number of Fellowship missionaries.

Tom and Beth Ogburn will be strategic coordinators for an unreached people group in an unspecified country in Asia. Sam and Latha Bandela will work with the Chamblee-Doraville International Project, which ministers to internationals in northeast Atlanta. Rachel Stephen was commissioned for a two-year assignment teaching English as a second language in the Czech Republic.

Five staff positions were approved—a chief financial officer, a computer systems manager, an associate for missions education, and two secretaries to support the global missions staff. Once filled, the five staffers will join the 12 people already on the Atlanta-based staff.

Contributions to the Fellowship have grown rapidly in the past three years—from \$4.5 million in 1991 to \$11.2 million last year. While about a third of the money is designated by donors for traditional Southern Baptist causes, the rest funds the Fellowship and other moderate-backed ministries. The Fellowship spends about three-fourths of the money at its disposal on global missions.

The Coordinating Council, which

shapes Fellowship spending, adopted a budget for the first half of 1995, when the organization will shift its fiscal year to begin July 1 and end June 30.

The interim budget anticipates \$8.9 million in revenue during the first six months of 1995, of which \$5.6 million will be spent on Fellowship-sponsored efforts.

Also during the council meeting:

■ A one-time gift of \$100,000 for the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union was approved from the global missions budget. Keith Parks, Fellowship missions coordinator, said WMU did not request and was not aware of the donation.

■ A new ministry group was approved to address "the pressing needs" of ministers, as well as their families and congregations.

■ Gary Leazer, who was forced to resign from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board over his work on the issue of Freemasonry, was granted \$2,000 a month for six months from the Fellowship's "safety net."

■ Layman Pat Anderson of Lakeland, Fla., was nominated to be moderator-elect.

The budget adopted for the first half of 1995 employs a new method for funding Fellowship efforts. Previously contributors picked one of three budget plans, which distributed funds according to established percentages. Beginning in 1995, all of the Fellowship's programs, as well as the independent organizations it supports, will be approved for a specific dollar amount. The funding plans will be adjusted to reflect the dollar allocations.

The change will give Fellowship leaders more control over how money is spent, finance officials said.



PLEASE TELL ME THAT I DIDN'T HEAR HIM SAY
"PRAISE THE LORD, OH BABY"

Kentucky among top Fellowship supporters

NASHVILLE—Kentucky is among the 10 top states in contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, according to statistics released by the Fellowship's Coordinating Council.

In 1993, the Fellowship received \$502,281 from Kentucky churches and individuals—\$56,357 from 132 individuals and \$445,924 from 88 churches.

Kentucky ranks fifth among all states in number of churches giving money to the Fellowship and ninth in total dollars given in 1993.

Texas leads the way in total dollars given in 1993, with \$2.18 million given by 165 churches and 377 individuals. But Virginia leads the way in number of churches contributing, with \$809,603 given by 216 churches and 219 individuals.

Funds from churches may be designated gifts from individuals and do not necessarily indicate church-approved support for the Fellowship.

Six states account for 70 percent

of all Fellowship support: Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina and Virginia. Rounding out the top-10 list are Florida, Alabama, Kentucky and Oklahoma.

Contributions to the Fellowship have grown rapidly in the past three years—from \$4.5 million in 1991 to \$7.3 million in 1992 to \$11.2 million last year.

Although the dollar amounts continue to rise, the annual increase has gotten smaller each year—from 62 percent in 1992 to 53 percent in 1993. The number of churches contributing has grown as well—from 391 in 1991 to 841 in 1992 to 1,210 in 1993—but those increases, though still significant, likewise are getting smaller.

Despite the Fellowship's growth, only 3.2 percent of the nation's Southern Baptist churches support the organization.

In 1993, the Fellowship received contributions from 40 states and the District of Columbia.

Kentuckians join conservative strategists for 4th meeting

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Conservatives desiring to gain control of their state Baptist conventions met to share information for the fourth time last week, this time with nine members of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in attendance.

At least two Kentuckians—Mike Routt of Shepherdsville and LaVerne Butler of Mayfield—attended the meeting. Other Kentuckians were thought to be present, but their identities could not be confirmed.

The Feb. 23 meeting at the Club House Inn in Nashville convened the day after the Executive Committee ended a two-day meeting. All three Executive Committee officers attended the closed-door meeting, including Chairman Fred Wolfe, a candidate for SBC president this year.

The state strategists have met at least four times during the last 18 months in their continuing effort to extend conservative control to the states. The last meeting was in Louis-

ville last October, in conjunction with the inauguration of Al Mohler as president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

T.C. Pinckney, Executive Committee secretary, has organized all four meetings, although he said he did not issue the invitations this time.

Pinckney, a retired Air Force general from Alexandria, Va., said the latest meeting was a loosely structured, informal gathering of Baptists active in their state conventions.

Routt, pastor of Eastern Gate Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, declined to elaborate on the meeting's agenda or participants. "I don't really have any comments to make. ... It was similar to previous meetings we've had."

Organizers refused to open the meeting to reporters. Napkins were taped over the windows of the conference room where the meeting was held after a reporter was expelled from the room.

National CP recipients will get 1.23 percent less next year

NASHVILLE—Most national agencies and institutions funded by the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget will receive a 1.23 percent cut in the 1994-95 budget proposed by the SBC Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will recommend to the SBC at the June 14-16 annual meeting a budget of \$136.54 million, which is the same as Cooperative Program receipts in the 1992-93 fiscal year. By policy, the Executive Committee cannot recom-

mend a budget that exceeds the receipts of the last year of record.

In the budget, all SBC entities were given the same decrease of 1.23 percent. However, because the six seminaries receive a joint allocation which is then subdivided according to a different formula, the net effect on the seminaries will be different.

In other action, the Executive Committee:

■ Defeated an attempt in subcommittee to reduce funding for the Baptist World Alliance by \$20,000 to pro-

test a BWA-sponsored conference at which former Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks was a speaker.

■ Voted to ask Executive Committee officers and staff "to study the impact of monies coming through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to Southern Baptist Convention entities" and then recommend the "acceptance or rejection of said funds."

■ Approved St. Louis as the site of the 2002 SBC annual meeting.

■ Heard a report that a contract has been renegotiated with Barry Mc-

Carty for another year as SBC parliamentarian. The new contract, under which McCarty will provide the same services as before, will cost the SBC a flat fee of \$10,000 rather than a daily fee totaling from \$12,000 to \$16,000 in recent years.

■ Authorized representation from the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention, having reached 15,000 members, on the SBC Executive Committee, the Committee on Committees and Committee on Nominations.

Based on a Baptist Press report

Evangelism Conference proclaims hope in Christ

Continued from page 1

scribed how the ancient giant-killing king of the Jewish people met a giant, Ishbibenob, on the battlefield.

Unfortunately, King David did not have the strength to fight the giant because he "got very tired trying to do everything all by himself" for his people. He had to rely upon a friend, Abishai, to kill the giant for him.

That story sounds a lot like ministry today, he admitted. "One hundred twenty to 130 Southern Baptist pastors quit the ministry every month, (because they're) just as weary as David was. The 'giants' just keep on coming. ... A lot of preachers feel just like David."

The key to effective ministry is training laypeople to be "giant-killers," Christians who can spread the gospel and serve the church in ways a pastor never could, he said.

"It's the process of multiplication," Reighard stressed. "Find ways to mobilize your laity. They're the best army you've got."

"Army" may be the operative word, noted Reid Hardin, renewal and marketplace evangelism coordinator for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

"Believers today work at all levels of industry and commerce. They're the key to evangelism today," Hardin said. "God has deployed a vast army of evangelists, but we've never acti-

vated them."

God wants and needs ministers to prepare laypeople to "represent God where they work," he added. "God is calling us to produce courageous pioneers," people who will share their faith in their workplaces and neighborhoods.

"God is creating networks of opportunity through which Christ can be shared. This raising of Christ in the marketplace will win people to Christ."

To laypeople, Hardin urged, "Be God's missionaries in the marketplace."

That message goes for women as well as men, said Esther Burroughs, women's evangelism strategist for the Home Mission Board, who also addressed the women's luncheon.

"Many women are afraid to share Jesus Christ," Burroughs admitted to the conference crowd. "They're afraid they don't know enough Scripture; they're afraid they don't know all the answers."

But such fear is only prideful, she said, stressing that people who witness should not worry about whether they're successful, but leave God the work of salvation.

Turning her attention to the pastors in the audience, Burroughs pleaded: "Equip the saints in your church to tell the story of what Jesus did. ... Empower your women. Tell them not to

be afraid."

One reason not to be afraid is the realization that Christians are "on the Lord's prayer list," said Bob Wilson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church of Christ in Dallas.

"Jesus told his disciples he's praying for them," Wilson reminded.

"Satan regards God and all who follow him as fair game," he acknowledged. "Satan is real; he is not just a theological opposite of good."

And Satan particularly marks pastors, he added. "If you believe God has called you to preach, Satan has written your name down on the list of his particular adversaries. He knows who you are; he knows you're a field commander in God's army."

"Satan is powerful, but God is all-powerful. ... And Jesus has committed to pray for you. I don't know about you, but I'm glad he's praying for me."

People need to hear that Christ is stronger than Satan and sufficient for every need, said Lincoln Bingham, superintendent of missions for the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Noting he was raised "in ethnicity, poverty and obscurity—black, poor and country," Bingham recalled, "I couldn't understand how my mama and daddy were so caught up in Jesus. But I came to believe it too."

Consequently, he believes pastors

should preach to empower their people. "We are not called to be wimps and weaklings. The preaching of the gospel of Christ will lift us up."

That preaching needs to have Jesus for its content, warning and teaching for its context and maturity in Christ for its conclusion, he advised.

"People need to be taught Christ really is all you need," Bingham said. "He's bread when you're hungry and water when you're thirsty."

"I was stigmatized by ethnicity, paralyzed by poverty and traumatized by obscurity. But I came to Jesus. He removed the stigma of my ethnicity, the pains of my poverty and the shame of obscurity."

Musical leadership for the conference was provided by Alan Celoria, a music evangelist from Jackson, Miss., and his family. Special music also was presented by the Kentucky Baptist Chorale, Instrumental Ensemble and Singing Women, as well as Unity, a women's trio from Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Two scheduled speakers could not attend due to last-minute illness. They were Freddie Haynes, pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas, and Dan Yearly, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix.

Their places on the program were filled by Bingham and Wilson.

"God is creating networks of opportunity through which Christ can be shared. This raising of Christ in the marketplace will win people to Christ."

Reid Hardin, SBC Home Mission Board

Are you a 'non-confronter?' You can witness, Bleeker says

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Only one in 10 American Christians has led another person to faith in Christ, Walter Bleeker told participants at the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference last week.

But one in four non-Christians in the nation is ready to accept Christ, if only someone would ask, reported Bleeker, president of Harvesting Ministries, an evangelism organization in Scotts Valley, Calif.

"Ninety percent of the Christians have never 'let' a receptive non-believer come to Christ," he said. "We're talking about one-on-one verbal communication of the gospel. We're all commanded to do that."

Unfortunately, characteristics such as temperament, personality and level of commitment prevent the majority of Christians from telling other people about Christ, he noted.

"Only the 10-percenters are loving confronters," people who will confront people with the gospel message and a challenge to become a Christian, he said.

"We've been trying to make 10-percenters out of 90-percenters, and you cannot do it," he insisted. "Every Christian has a desire to see somebody come to Christ, but it's not strong enough, and they don't do it."

Fortunately, non-confrontational people—the "90-percenters"—don't have to develop a confrontational personality in order to tell others about Christ, said Bleeker, author of a

book that describes how "non-confronters" can lead people to Christ.

Every day, people encounter a "divine appointment," the time in which a receptive person meets someone willing to describe the plan of Christian salvation, he said.

All a Christian needs to know to tell someone else how to become a Christian is really simple, he said. "Tell them you must: Believe Christ died on a cross and rose from the grave. Admit you're a sinner. Agree to turn from sin. Acknowledge Christ is able to run your life. And accept the free gift of salvation. I call it the 'BAAAA Method.' Believe. Admit. Agree. Acknowledge. Accept."

Christians shouldn't be afraid to share the gospel, he said, claiming, "People today are more open to talk about spiritual things than at any time in history."

In addition to his speech, Bleeker led a noontime session and a post-conference seminar. He taught participants how to:

- "Go to their own receptive, casual acquaintances rather than the more difficult prospects.

- "Change the subject from secular to spiritual.

- "Talk about spiritual things rather than everything else under the sun.

- "Present the simple gospel message tactfully.

- "Recognize God's divine appointments and stop listening to Satan's 'not now.'

- "Ask simple, non-threatening questions rather than questions that offend.

'Reach the cities to reach the world'

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Charles Lyons wept as he described his church and its neighbors in inner-city Chicago.

With tears streaming down his face, he talked about Betty, who was high on drugs for 20 years before she let Christ become her Savior; Tony, who accepted Christ at a Christian rap concert and was shot and killed on his way home; a stripper whose wild parties disturbed the neighborhood until she became a Christian; a kid named Julio, who was murdered in the street in the melee following the Chicago Bulls' third NBA championship; Jimmy, a 15-year-old gang member who accidentally shot himself in the face while cleaning his gun; young professional couples; owners of small, struggling businesses; and homeless people.

Remembering the rows of "gang-bangers"—teen gang members—who cried openly as they attended Jimmy's funeral, Lyons recalled, "I was overwhelmed by the lostness of the lost, the hopelessness of people without God."

But Lyons and the church where he is pastor, Armitage Baptist in Chicago, are working hard to bring hope to their hopeless neighbors.

Lyons talked about the challenges of ministry in the city in two sermons during the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

"Every place God may plant us has its unique difficulty," he said. "But in the city you've got more sin per square inch because you've got more sinners per square inch."

He read from two letters the Apostle Paul wrote to urban Christians in the first century—in the cities of Corinth and Ephesus.

"Paul had one thing on his mind—to bring the

hope of Christ to the perishing city," Lyons said. "He set up a rescue shop called the church of Jesus Christ."

Today, almost 2,000 years later, God has a strategy in bringing many of the world's people into the cities, he claimed. He told how 350 cities worldwide will have populations of 1 million or more by the end of the decade, and how another 4,200 cities will have populations of 100,000 or more. His own hometown, Chicago, has more residents than 42 states and 100 of the world's 170 countries.

"God is urbanizing his world," he said. "Why? To make it easier for us to reach people with the good news in these final days that Jesus still forgives sin."

Acknowledging Kentucky primarily is rural, Lyons still stressed the importance of helping city churches reach city people with the gospel.

"Cities affect the nation," he insisted. "If you can impact the city, you can impact the cornfield. It will work where you are."

The key to success is proclaiming the truth—that God is creator of the world and Christ is the way to salvation, he said.

The Apostle Paul "didn't have a computer; he didn't know what a telephone was," Lyons said. "What did Paul have that emboldened him? He had the truth of God in him."

Christians have the responsibility to tell that truth, he added. "It's up to us to reach out and touch in the name of Jesus."

And even Christians in rural areas can help reach urban sinners, he stressed.

"God may not call you to the city, but you can pray for us, link up with a city church, become prayer partners," he said. "Together, we will pull them from the flames and rescue them for eternity in heaven."

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

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Sin diagnosis

As I read "America's children under violent attack" (WR, Feb. 8), I thought of God's diagnosis of ancient Judah's sin crisis. In Jeremiah 2:13 God said, "My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

The diagnosis for modern America's sin crisis is essentially the same. About 30 years ago, America began the trend of forsaking her Christian heritage and replacing it with the broken cisterns of humanism, liberalism and materialism. That caused the breakdown of the American home, produced a generation in crisis and has now thrust America into the worst crisis in her national history.

When a child's conscience has been burned out by the evils of humanism, liberalism and materialism, that child will pull the trigger regardless of who may be hurt or killed. There will be no remorse for the killing of another child, for a killing during an armed robbery or for a random drive-by killing. The attitude toward the victim will always be a "so what" attitude.

The only way that America can survive as a free nation is to forsake the broken cisterns of humanism, liberalism and materialism and return to her Christian heritage—to "the fountain of living waters."

William R. Hagan
Taylorsville

Welcome sight

Praise God, there are still believers in the inerrant word of God!

I saw someone actually not misquoting, misinterpreting, adulterating or misusing the word of our precious Lord (WR, Feb. 15)! Behold, on page 2 in the bottom right corner was a small story about the California

Revisiting dad

The following appeared in the Jan. 19 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle:

"If a man stays in the fatherhood business long enough, eventually the words he hears himself saying to his children will have a familiar ring to them.

"He might not recognize them at first. But after a while, if his brain has not turned to grits from the noise blasting out of his teen-ager's stereo, he will remember where he first heard them.

"They will be, almost verbatim, the same words his father used.

"But sounding like your father is only the first step. As a friend of mine admitted, 'One day I looked at myself and realized that, not only did I sound like my father, I had become my father.'

"Not that it is such a bad thing for a man to become his father. It's better, certainly, than a man becoming his sister. Or his next door neighbor's Schnauzer.

Southern Baptist Convention stating it will not return money sent to it due to the church which contributed the funds had a female pastor!

In our modern, prideful, egotistical "you believe your way and I'll believe mine" religious society, it is a truly welcome sight to see someone stand up for what is really right!

Think maybe we could work out a few kinks now?

David Brantley
Eddyville

Proud of church

In its February business meeting, West Point Baptist Church in Centertown voted to support monetarily both the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The church took this action not primarily because the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention does not share its view of what it means to be Baptist, but because it believes in what the Fellowship is doing.

On the national level, the church wishes to be a part of the work God is doing through the Fellowship's missions program led by Keith Parks. The congregation wants to provide Baptist ministers the best theological education in an environment where they are free to confront difficult issues. The church wants to support an organization that believes in the priesthood of all believers and seeks to empower the laypeople.

On the state level, the church wants to identify with a group that seeks to bring peace rather than division in our state convention, as shown by recent efforts that turned what appeared to be a rancorous state convention meeting in Elizabethtown into a harmonious one. The congregation wants to work with a group that endorses and promotes gifts to a trust fund to ensure that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs retains funding to argue histor-

ic Baptist positions on religious liberty. The church wishes to take part with others in exploring opportunities for creative missions within our state.

I am proud of my church.

Robert M. Fox Jr.
Centertown

Challenged ...

I was challenged, enlightened and dismayed by various articles in the Feb. 15 Western Recorder.

Challenged, and at the same time disappointed, by the article "Kentuckians needed now for Russia." It seems the action by messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention to participate in the Russian partnership is similar to what happens many times in the local church. We will vote for it; let someone else pay for it and do it!

Enlightened by the fine articles related to casinos in our state. It will become a reality at some point unless we as Christians "wake up now" and do a much better job than we did with the lottery!

Dismayed by the article "FMB trustees take aim at Parks again." This, at the same time our leaders are perplexed with the decrease in Cooperative Program gifts and continue to plead for churches to increase their Cooperative Program gifts!

Why should any elected official, while using Cooperative Program funds to attend meetings, use their time to make charges against former administrators of the Foreign Mission Board and other Southern Baptists who are doing missions! How long would Southern Baptists continue to give as much as they presently give if they knew how many hundreds of thousands of Cooperative Program dollars are used for such meetings. The average Southern Baptist church member has no idea how much "mission" money is spent for salaries and for trustee meetings of our boards and agencies.

Ernest L. Martin
Danville

why your family is on the verge of bankruptcy.

■ "When you hear a song on the radio and ask someone what language they're singing.

■ "When you see a singer on MTV and ask someone if that's a boy or a girl.

■ "When you don't understand 'how anyone can call that stuff music.'

■ "When a 30-year-old song becomes 'real music.'

■ "When you're at the dining-room table and you notice chairs being tilted back on two legs and elbows on the table.

■ "When the jokes that used to make your kids roll on the floor now merely make them roll their eyes.

■ "When a kid who has been in the shower for more than 30 seconds has been 'in there all day.'

■ "When 50 percent of your sentences begin with, 'When I was your age ...'

■ "When none of the things your kids say makes sense to you.

■ "When all the things your father used to say make sense to you."

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

BAPTIST FORUM

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

"Still, becoming your father is a humbling experience. It forces you to admit you were wrong when you were a kid and you vowed, 'I'll never say those things when I have kids.' Fathers may not be forever, but fathers' cliches are.

"Here's how to tell when you have become your father:

■ "When a stereo playing just loud enough to be heard four inches from the speakers becomes 'enough racket to wake the dead.'

■ "When one dirty sock left on the floor turns a kid's bedroom into a 'pigsty.'

■ "When a kid who stays in bed past 7:45 on a Saturday morning is 'sleeping his life away.'

■ "When a kid who would rather watch TV than read great literature is 'frittering his life away.'

■ "When two green peas and a grain of rice left on a kid's dinner plate becomes 'enough food to feed India.'

■ "When a hallway light left burning unnecessarily for more than 10 minutes becomes the major reason



Carpet vs. tile

By Jewell Wells Nelson

Q. My child's room at church has a tile floor. How can I get the church to carpet the preschool rooms?

A. There are pros and cons about carpet in educational space for preschoolers and children.

■ Carpet:

+ Is softer and warmer than tile.

+ Cuts down on noise.

+ Can be more attractive than tile.

+ Cushions a fall.

- Spots easily and can become unattractive.

- Is difficult to keep odor- and bacteria-free.

- Harbors allergens and is a breeding place for teeny creatures such as dust mites. Many preschoolers are allergic to dust and other allergens in carpeting.

- Carpet fibers can cause allergic reaction in some children and adults, or a combination of carpeting and solutions used in cleaning carpet can cause allergic reactions.

■ Tile:

+ Is easier and quicker to clean and keep bacteria free.

+ Lasts longer than carpeting.

+ Can be more conducive to creative art activities than carpet, because of the ease in which it can be cleaned.

+ Does not require expensive cleaning equipment.

+ Is less likely to stain.

+ Can be cushioned.

- Does not give the emotional warmth of carpeting.

- Is a harder surface.

- Does not muffle sound.

- Is cooler than carpet.

You may not want the preschool rooms carpeted once you look at the pros and cons.

Carpet squares may be used, on tile, for older preschoolers to sit on during group time or snack time.

Washable, non-skid rugs may be used in the block area, or in the book area. The rugs should be wash regularly.

If carpeting is used anywhere in preschool, it should be of the finest quality and cleaned regularly. Warning labels regarding allergic reactions are now put on carpeting. Read and heed.

Jewell Nelson is associate director of the KBC's Sunday school department.

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

Don't like church-state separation? Think Bosnia

People who question the wisdom of separating church and state need look no further than the carnage in Bosnia.

Reports of fighting in the region describe activities of Serbs, Croats and Bosnians. But if you listen closely, you also hear about the fate of Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Muslim people. What once was Yugoslavia has been divided along religious/ethnic lines, with adherents of each major group grabbing for land and power with all the fervor of the Crusades. The result has been the slaughter of tens of thousands of innocent civilians and genocidal "ethnic cleansing."

By most accounts, Serbs, Croats and Bosnians—and the faith groups they represent—got along peacefully for centuries. But when world forces created a leadership vacuum, they divided along religio-ethnic lines and started carving up the region, as well as each other. The result is the bloodshed you see on the nightly news or in the pages of your morning paper.

Of course, we shouldn't be surprised by Bosnia. Most of the fighting and/or wars today revolve around religion. Protestants and Catholics blow each other up in Northern Ireland. Muslim and Hindu believers battle in India. Muslims slaughter Christians in Sudan. Jews and Islamic Arabs fight in the Middle East. Religious persecution stalks residents of

Indonesia and remnants of the Soviet Union.

This is nothing new. James Madison, father of the Bill of Rights, declared church and state were separated in order to "keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe in blood for centuries."

More recently, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, "The Establishment Clause (of the First Amendment) is a specific prohibition on forms of state intervention in religious affairs. ... The explanation lies in the lesson of history that was and is the inspiration for the Establishment Clause, the lesson that in the hands of government what might begin as a tolerant expression of religious views may end in a policy to indoctrinate and coerce. A state-created orthodoxy puts at grave risk that freedom of belief and conscience which (is) the sole assurance that religious faith is real, not imposed."

And yet many U.S. Christians—almost without exception those who represent the majority in their regions—keep wanting the government to impose their religious views upon society. Bosnia should teach us such an approach will produce carnage, not faith. We must reach the world through evangelism and spiritual persuasion, not the sanctions of state.

Marv Knox

"A state-created orthodoxy puts at grave risk that freedom of belief and conscience which (is) the sole assurance that religious faith is real, not imposed."

Justice Anthony Kennedy

Declare war on the worst enemy of our families: Divorce

Nearly two years ago, my daughter and her husband announced their intention to end their marriage of seven and one-half years. It seems only yesterday they announced their engagement, their marriage, the birth of their first and second children—and then the world's most beautiful and sweetest daughter and the world's most wonderful and handsome son-in-law were making plans to divorce.

Through the preceding years of my ministry, I had counseled with many people in trying to save marriages, prevent divorce and help those whose marriages ended to try to find life after divorce. I really thought I could understand their pain. Now, nearly two years after my daughter's divorce, I realize I did not really understand the awful pain and feelings of sorrow, betrayal, anger, sympathy and hopelessness. The pain is worse than the pain I felt at the deaths of my mother and father. Divorce pain never ends!

Sometimes divorce may be the only choice, but it is still a bad choice, because it produces so much pain, frustration, helplessness and a host of

other emotions (some of which I can't even identify).

Michael McManus, a syndicated religion columnist, wrote an article in the recent Southern Baptist Sunday School Board Facts & Trends newsletter that everyone should read.

Let me sum up the statistical part of his article. He says, "Saving marriages is the job of the church which is not doing an effective job. Pastors side-step tough topics like chastity, cohabitation and divorce. Gallup Poll shows two-thirds of Americans are members of a church and 42 percent are in church on Sunday, and yet we have the highest divorce rates, highest teen-pregnancy rates and the highest criminal rates. States with the highest divorce rates are in the South. Sixty percent of children born today will see their parents divorce by the time they are 18, and half of these children will see a second divorce before they are 18. Less than 20 percent of American couples have premarital counseling. People who cohabit before marriage are 50 percent more likely to divorce than those who do not. Sixty percent of those who marry

today live together first. Forty percent who do cohabit do not marry. Forty-five percent of those who marry after cohabiting will divorce before year 10. The number of never-married adults has doubled from 21 million in 1970 to 42 million today. Cohabiting couples contribute to this situation. Six out of 10 marriages performed today will end in divorce. One million children will see their parents divorce this year. One-half of marriages performed today are remarriages. Sixty percent of remarriages fail."

Divorce produces endless, unrelenting pain in so many lives—especially innocent happy children. Divorce creates economic disaster in many lives. Divorce produces guilt, low self-esteem, depression and often leads to substance abuse and suicide. Divorce prevention should be a major ministry in our churches. Premarital counseling should be required before people can marry in our church buildings. Marriage enrichment opportunities should be advertised and scholarships provided to those who cannot afford to attend. Support groups for parents of divorcees should be ongoing. Special helps for children of divorcees are desperately

needed.

We declare war on drugs, crime, AIDS, etc.; why not declare war on divorce?

Now I understand the pain of divorce when it hits the lives of those we love. My daughter used to come to me when she was a little girl in tears over a hurt finger. She would say, "Daddy, kiss it and make it better." Her divorce pain is one that I can't kiss and make better—but I can love her with unconditional love, and I can listen to her and be an even better grandfather to her two little boys, and I can still love and be a friend to my former son-in-law and share his pain. I can pray for each member of that precious family. I can hold my wife a little tighter as our tears flow but fail to wash away divorce pain. I can be a friend and a listener to others who are going through the same pain.

Yes, there is life after divorce, but it will never be the same. Divorce changes everyone it touches. May our churches make a special place for these hurting people who desperately need to feel accepted and loved.

Jim Spaulding, director of missions Daviess-McLean Baptist Association Owensboro

"Divorce changes everyone it touches. May our churches make a special place for these hurting people who desperately need to feel accepted and loved."

Jim Spaulding

GUEST EDITORIAL

Don't be overly jealous if your winter pajamas don't sparkle too

My trip to the bathroom in the middle of last night was more exciting than usual.

Some folks would try to tell you I must be getting old if I have to wake up and go you-know-where. Age may be part of the reason; I'd rather blame it on decaffeinated coffee.

See, Juan Valdez roasts decaf in all these terrific flavors now. Cinnamon Hazelnut. Caramelle. French Vanilla. Tip of the Andes. Pralines 'n' Cream. Raspberry Chocolate. Stuff like that. (He also has one called Kentucky Bourbon, but you'll be glad to know I can't vouch for how it tastes.)

So, when the kids go to bed on a cold night, Juan hollers from the cupboard. "Make some of my wonderful coffee! It's

the richest kind!"

He sure knows how to tempt a guy. He realizes I'll go right to the coffee pot and brew up several cups of hot yummy. No caffeine. No fat. Juan's happy; Joanna's happy; I'm happy.

Until about 2:30, when the coffee begins to call. "Let me out!" it screams. "What kind of a prison are you, anyway?"

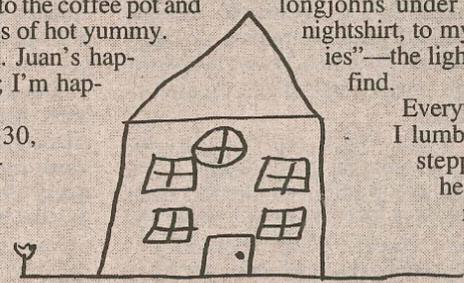
Which brings us to last night and a new phenomenon I had never experienced before—sparkling jammies.

The weather's been a little warmer, so I switched from my Sears Best heavy-duty longjohns under my Penney's flannel nightshirt, to my new L.L. Bean "silksies"—the lightest cotton pair I could find.

Everything seemed normal as I lumbered out of bed, side-stepped the dog cage and headed toward the bathroom.

As I got close to the window and my legs moved, I noticed my longjohns sparkled. Kind of like fireflies running up and down my legs.

At first I thought they were moonbeams



down home

BAPTISTS

Executive Committee scrutinizes Annuity Board

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

NASHVILLE—The Annuity Board faced a double-barreled confrontation with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee last week but negotiated a last-minute cease-fire on one conflict.

The other conflict—which also pits the Annuity Board against the Southern Baptist Foundation and state Baptist foundations—has not been resolved.

The first conflict relates to the Annuity Board's investment in companies perceived to be supportive of abortion. The second conflict relates to the Annuity Board's operation within its program statement.

Program statements are the guidelines given to all SBC agencies, institutions and commissions to outline the boundaries within which they have authority to operate. In this case, the Southern Baptist Foundation and state Baptist foundations have charged the Annuity Board is encroaching upon their territory by offering endowment management services. Further, the Executive Committee expressed concern about the Annuity Board providing services to three non-SBC entities.

All the concerns were aired in meetings of the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee Feb. 21-22 in Nashville. During that meeting, the subcommittee was charged with developing a 1994-95 budget for distribution of Cooperative Program unified budget funds.

The abortion debate first surfaced in this context, during the time when agency executives make their appeals to the subcommittee for budget funds. The Annuity Board receives \$1.06 million in the current budget, used primarily for relief to underfunded annuitants.

In recent years, a small portion of this CP allotment has been used for educational and promotional work. However, the Annuity Board already had announced that 100 percent of the allocation would be given to relief beginning in 1995.

During Annuity Board President Paul Powell's initial presentation to the subcommittee, several members questioned him about the board's investment policy related to abortion.

Because press representatives are allowed in the subcommittee meetings on "background rules" only, no direct quotations or attributions of comments may be reported. However, Powell granted permission for some of his later comments to the subcommittee to be quoted.

The Annuity Board has a policy against investing in any companies producing liquor, tobacco or pornography. But tracking down companies who contribute either directly or indirectly to Planned Parenthood, for example, is difficult, he said.

From an investment standpoint, Powell said, "there is no abortion industry." Thus, divesting from abortion-related stocks cannot be done.

"What you're asking is illogical and unreasonable and simply cannot be done," Powell said.

Further, Powell argued, not all par-

ticipants in the Annuity Board's plans oppose abortion. Therefore, an improper screening of investments could expose the Annuity Board to lawsuits from some clients who would charge that social-policy screening had resulted in a lowered return on their investments.

Powell made the same points over two days of meetings, effecting little noticeable change in the positions of subcommittee members. Members expressed frustration that surely something more could be done to make a stronger statement against abortion.

A variety of punitive actions against the Annuity Board were discussed, ranging from completely defunding the board, to asking a different agency to administer relief funds. Ultimately, the subcommittee proposed giving the Annuity Board funds but with a notation that they were to be used exclusively for annuitant relief "until such time as the Annuity Board approves a position on abortion-related activities that is consistent with that of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Debate on this issue was intense throughout several sessions. At one point, a subcommittee member revealed a chart showing the salaries of top Annuity Board administrators. Some members suggested there was a stark contrast between those salaries and the appeal for CP funds to assist struggling annuitants.

According to the chart, which apparently had been given to Annuity Board trustees last October, eight of the Annuity Board's top administrators draw base salaries ranging from \$100,000 to nearly \$200,000. The average salary of the board's 12 top administrators is \$122,312.

Also during the debate, a committee member who has provided leadership in conservative SBC causes suggested that the only way to get the Annuity Board's attention would be to gain control of its trustee board the same way conservatives gained control of the Executive Committee and several other key trustee boards in recent years. This member said the Annuity Board previously had been left alone because it was not a center of power.

At the final meeting of the program and budget subcommittee, Powell introduced William Willis, an Arkansas layman who serves as chairman of Annuity Board trustees.

Willis engaged the subcommittee members in a lively debate. He specifically decried the release of salary information, which he said Annuity Board trustees had voted to keep confidential.

Further, Willis expressed his disappointment that the Executive Committee would attempt to dictate policy to another SBC body and make the agency appear to favor abortion.

Subcommittee members sat in silence during Willis' fiery speech. Afterward, several downplayed the subcommittee's earlier discussions. Several expounded on their opposition to divulging any salary information, and one offered an apology to the Annuity Board for what had happened.

But even so, the recommendation

to chastise the Annuity Board on the abortion issue was passed and sent on to the full Executive Committee.

At some point between that afternoon meeting and the evening session of the full Executive Committee, Powell presented subcommittee Chairman Guy Sanders a statement. When he stood to present the subcommittee's report, Sanders read Powell's statement and then called for a motion to delete from the budget recommendation the censure of the Annuity Board. That motion was made and carried unanimously.

Powell's statement reads: "The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has long held a position of opposition to the wanton destruction of life inherent in the practice of abortions. Several years ago the trustees approved a staff recommendation to deny medical plan benefits for abortion. In our investment decisions we will avoid, or divest in orderly fashion, equities in any company that is found to have a service or product that is publicly perceived as uniquely aiding, supporting or promoting abortion. This commitment grows out of a deep personal, biblical-based conviction that is shared by the president, the trustees and the officers of the Annuity Board."

Two days later, the Annuity Board charged Powell's statement had been misconstrued in a report by Baptist Press, the Executive Committee's news service. In a Feb. 23 report, BP editors Herb Hollinger and Art Toalston said the Annuity Board had agreed not to invest "in corporations which actively contribute to organizations involved in abortions, such as Planned Parenthood."

Thomas Miller, Annuity Board vice president for public relations, immediately faxed a clarification to BP and state Baptist paper editors, accusing BP of a "gross error."

"The Annuity Board cannot police the charitable contributions of corporations," Miller said. "Dr. Powell's statement related only to equity investments. The stock purchase decision would rest upon finding the 'service or product' of the company being 'publicly perceived' as 'uniquely aiding, supporting or promoting abortion.'"

"A contribution by a corporation or a charitable foundation of a corporation to a charitable organization is neither a product nor a service of that corporation."

In the 1994-95 CP budget, the Annuity Board will receive \$1.05 million, the same 1.225 percent decrease given to all CP recipients.

Intertwined amid the abortion debate, the same subcommittee also challenged the Annuity Board about working within its program statement. The board's assignment is expressed in three areas: management of retiree annuities, administering a program of ministers' relief and offering insurance plans and related services.

The subcommittee raised two points of contention. The first charge was that by offering investment management services to some Baptist agencies and schools, the Annuity Board was encroaching upon the assignment given the foundations.

The second was that the Annuity Board had stepped beyond its assignment by managing annuities for employees of Criswell College, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Criswell and Mid-America are independent schools closely affiliated with Southern Baptist churches. The Fellowship is a group of Southern Baptist moderates displeased with the SBC's new conservative leadership.

Several directors of state Baptist foundations were present at the meeting, and two specifically testified against the Annuity Board. One said he believes the Annuity Board has been aggressively soliciting schools in his state and therefore working against the state foundation.

The Annuity Board countered that while it may have accidentally strayed from its program assignment, it did not intend to harm any other Baptist group. Rather, the intent was to help Baptist entities achieve the best possible return on their investments.

The gist of the Annuity Board's defense is that because it manages about \$4 billion in annuity investments already, it has the leverage to obtain better returns on other investments as well. One example given was that an unnamed SBC board—presumably the Foreign Mission Board—could earn up to \$4 million more on its money next year if placed under Annuity Board management instead of its current management.

The Annuity Board contends it would not be drawing business away from the Baptist foundations but from secular investment companies.

On the other hand, the foundation executives contend the Annuity Board should be held strictly to its program statement for the sake of preventing confusion. Further, they argue allowing the Annuity Board to enter management of agency and board endowments would encroach upon their own business. And, they added, some Baptist foundations can match the Annuity Board's performance.

Annuity Board representatives have said they plan to return to the September Executive Committee meeting with a proposed change in their program statement that would allow them to offer these services. For the time being, however, the board has agreed to "discontinue expanding" such services.

Upon the subcommittee's recommendation, the full Executive Committee passed a motion requesting this of the Annuity Board. Further, the committee asked the board to stop expanding its management of annuity services beyond specifically sanctioned SBC churches, agencies, associations and state conventions.

Apparently this means the Annuity Board will not discontinue its accounts with Criswell College, Mid-America Seminary and the Fellowship. However, adding any more such accounts would be prohibited for now.

Powell indicated the Annuity Board would abide by both requests.

Bob Terry of the Missouri Word & Way contributed to this story.

"In our investment decisions we will avoid, or divest in orderly fashion, equities in any company that is found to have a service or product that is publicly perceived as uniquely aiding, supporting or promoting abortion."

Annuity Board statement to SBC Executive Committee

Tonya Harding reportedly prays for forgiveness

PORTLAND, Ore. (EP)—Olympic skater Tonya Harding made a surprise visit to First Church of the Nazarene in Portland, Ore., Feb. 13 and walked the aisle to ask God's forgiveness.

The Portland Oregonian reported that Harding sat quietly in the balcony through most of the service, then walked to the altar during an invitation time.

Pastor Gary Henecke said Harding approached him and said, "I need to pray."

When the pastor offered to take Harding to a private room to talk and pray, Harding declined, saying, "No, I need to go to the altar like everyone else."

Henecke said he talked with Harding about God and salvation, then led her in a simple sinner's prayer: "I have sinned and I need your forgiveness, and I want to live my life for you, and I accept you as my Savior."

The pastor said this was the first time Harding had been in his church.

The theme of his sermon that Sunday: "Regardless of the scars of life, Christ can give you a new beginning."

Henecke said he believed Harding was sincere in her repentance.

"I got no feeling of staging," he said.

School prayer issue gets more confusing

By David Anderson
Religious News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Not since the mid-1960s, following Supreme Court rulings in 1962 and 1963 barring state-sponsored prayer and devotional Bible reading, has there been as much controversy—and confusion—over the school prayer issue as Americans face today.

The confusion is dramatically demonstrated in recent actions by the U.S. Senate.

On Feb. 3 the Senate adopted by a 75-22 vote an amendment proposed by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., that would deny federal aid to schools that bar "prayer in public schools by individuals on a voluntary basis." But the Senate acted on the amendment only after adding the phrase "constitutionally protected" before the word "prayer."

Church-state experts said the amendment was meaningless, in effect saying that what is legal is legal.

But proponents of the measure hailed action on the Helms amendment as a new day.

"There is definitely a prayerful spirit on the floor of the Senate these days," said Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice, an advocacy group based in Virginia Beach, Va. "It's nice to see that legislators are beginning to recognize that people of faith have rights, too."

But less than a week later the Senate, this time by voice vote, passed an amendment by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., which stipulates that school boards cannot lose federal funds if they adopt constitutional provisions limiting school prayer.

Levin said the amendment was

meant to neutralize some of the impact of the Helms proposal, which he said "put a club to heads of local school boards to protect the rights of only one group of students: the group wishing to have organized prayer in school."

Under current interpretations of the Constitution and court rulings, all students are free to voluntarily pray at any time they choose.

What is forbidden are state-sponsored or -encouraged public group prayers that would involve those who do not want to pray—such as prayers read over school intercoms or publicly recited prayers at events like graduation exercises that students are either required or expected to attend.

In 1992, in a 5-4 ruling, the Supreme Court underscored that distinction, ruling that invocations and benedictions at graduation ceremonies violate the First Amendment's bar against establishing religion.

But the constitutional waters were roiled again when the high court refused to accept for review a Circuit Court of Appeals ruling affecting the states of Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. That ruling said it was permissible for students to choose and deliver prayers at graduation.

Groups such as the Center for Law and Justice have seized on the case to argue that school boards must permit student majorities to sponsor prayers.

Meanwhile, resolutions urging that prayer be reinstated in public schools have been approved by commissioners courts in 134 Texas counties, city councils in more than 50 towns and a number of school districts. The resolutions argue that reinstating public school prayers would move the nation back to its religious-

based moral foundation.

But the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission is fighting the move, arguing that politicians are willing to trade religious liberty for social and religious control.

In Mississippi, meanwhile, the state legislature is considering a bill, sparked in response to an incident in which a school principal was suspended for his involvement in a "student-led" prayer movement, that would require all state public schools to permit "non-sectarian, non-proselytizing student-initiated voluntary prayer" at all school events.

Critics, however, argue that passage of the bill violates the Constitution and could force students, regardless of religious faith, to attend a daily prayer service.

In would also, they argue, place school officials in the role of reviewing and editing the content of proposed prayers.

"The Mississippi politicians behind this bill are trying to score political points at the expense of the Constitution and their own constituents," said Arthur Kropp, president of the People For the American Way Action Fund, which is opposing the bill.

When local officials confront school prayer, they are anguished, divided and reluctant to spend scarce school funds to press the issue.

Nevertheless, the Center for Law and Justice and other conservative Christian groups plan to continue their aggressive promotion of student-led public prayers in the schools.

And, as the time for planning graduation ceremonies draws near, the controversy, the confusion—and likely court involvement—is certain to increase.

As the time for planning graduation ceremonies draws near, the controversy, the confusion—and likely court involvement—is certain to increase.

House protects home schools after avalanche of protests

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The federal government will not license parents who teach their children at home. That message resounded loudly from Capitol Hill last week as lawmakers scrambled to quell a controversy that generated a public outcry.

The U.S. House of Representatives Feb. 24 attempted to end the controversy by twice amending an education-spending bill. Both provisions were adopted overwhelmingly.

The furor began when the House Education and Labor Committee approved a bill with language indicating teachers must be certified in the subjects they teach. Some home-schooling proponents interpreted the language as requiring parents to be licensed to teach their children at home.

That interpretation led several Religious Right groups to campaign against the bill. The bill quickly became a hot topic on Christian radio stations nationwide.

"I do not know of any issue in recent time that has generated so much constituent awareness, concern and phone traffic as this one," said Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y. "The American people, by the tens of thousands, have flooded both our district and Washington offices with phone calls

and faxes."

In fact, the outcry was so strong that it prompted lawmakers to adopt what Rep. William Ford, D-Mich., described as "an unnecessary solution to a non-existing problem."

Ford offered the first amendment that struck out the original language and added a phrase that said nothing in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (H.R. 6) applies to home schools.

Ford said the amendment was designed to end a false perception, because the original language "had nothing at all to do with home schooling."

Solomon disagreed with Ford. "Anyone who has ever had any experience with the federal bureaucrats who write the regulations to implement our laws knows just how legitimate some of the fears expressed over this legislation are," he said.

Rep. Dick Armey, R-Texas, offered another amendment that was broader in scope. Armey's amendment said that nothing in the bill would "require the certification or regulation of teachers in any private, religious, or home school."

The two amendments were approved 424 to 1 and 374 to 53.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **CLC opposes Cooper plan.** The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and six other organizations have expressed opposition to the health-care reform plan of Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., because it would not exclude abortion coverage. The CLC has said it will oppose any reform bill that does not specifically exclude abortion coverage.

■ **Pension fund sued.** A Lutheran pastor has sued the pension board of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, charging that it illegally used social-screening criteria to avoid investments in companies doing business in South Africa. Minnesota Judge Harry Crump gave a green light to the trial Feb. 7 by denying motions for summary judgment that would have dismissed the case.

■ **Activists deported.** Norwegian officials reportedly deported 12 Americans who planned to stage anti-abortion activities during the Winter Olympics. The activists were detained at the Oslo airport upon their arrival Feb. 10 and ordered to leave on the first available flight to the United States. Police charged the 12 were "planning to commit criminal offenses in Norway."

■ **Operation Rescue leader quits.** Keith Tucci resigned as executive director of the anti-

abortion group Operation Rescue Feb. 9, citing a need for new leaders to come forward. He will be succeeded by Phillip "Flip" Benham, founding pastor of Garland Texas Free Methodist Church.

■ **Women's status called key.** Enhancing the status of women and recognizing the role religion plays in reproductive choices are critical to the task of stabilizing population growth, ethicists told an interfaith conference on population and consumption Feb. 11-13. "For moral and practical reasons ... the most important area of social reform involves improvement in the lives of women," said James Martin-Schramm of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. "As women have received increased educational opportunities and equal rights, the fertility rate has dropped markedly."

■ **Dove nominees announced.** Steven Curtis Chapman and DC Talk lead the nominations for the 25th annual Dove Awards. Chapman and DC Talk each garnered six nominations. The group 4HIM and Wes King each received five nominations. Artists receiving four nominations include Michael English, Wayne Watson, Margaret Becker and the Gaither Vocal Band. The awards ceremony will be broadcast live from the Grand Ole Opry at 8 p.m. April 28 on the Family Channel.

Women's evangelism meeting draws overflow crowd

"One in four people are ready to receive Christ. The problem is we don't have four people who are witnessing."

Esther Burroughs

Continued from page 1

"Are you a second wife? Do you work in someone else's family business? Are you a stepmother?" she asked.

Rejected by her son's father, Hagar suddenly found herself responsible for herself and a child. She was wandering in the wilderness with no direction or purpose, Lotz said.

She said many women identify with the feeling of rejection because of a divorce or job layoff as well as with an overwhelming new sense of responsibility for their children.

"Sometimes we're looking for people to do for us what Jesus should," she continued. "We're looking for too much from a husband, a pastor."

Hagar felt rejected by God because she felt rejected by God's people, Lotz pointed out. So in Genesis 21 she couldn't even pray. But God heard the voice of Ishmael, just as "so often God deals in a life because of the prayers of others," she said.

Lotz emphasized that God's presence brings healing for "a world filled with women who are hurting." Hagar was told to obey God's instructions, open her eyes to what God was showing her and offer water to her son.

"The primary need our children have is not for a good education or happiness or friendships, but for living water that satisfies," Lotz interpreted.

She continued teaching an in-depth method of Bible study in a workshop—one of six offered.

She encouraged women to hear what God is saying to them through diligent, daily Bible study.

The women also heard from Esther Burroughs of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board staff. She advocated "going out of your way on your way" to witness to others. She said women should find it "natural to share Christ" with those around them.

As an example, Burroughs said she picks the longest checkout line in the grocery store, looking for young mothers who are exhausted. She plays peek-a-boo with the child in the seat, distracting him from the candy and gum in the aisle and giving the mom a respite from his whining.

She's usually gratefully thanked, and uses the moment as an opportunity to tell the woman she'll pray for her to be the mother God wants her to be. The mom often leaves the store renewed and with a seed planted about God's care for her and her family, Burroughs said.

"And if you're obedient to share Christ and other women are obedient to share Christ, the Holy Spirit draws the circle together," and God draws nonbelievers into a saving relationship with him through the connections they have with Christians, she

said.

Burroughs noted that Jesus' ministry was devoted to encounters with individuals he met as he traveled. In John 4, for example, Jesus made a deliberate choice to talk to the woman at the well.

So, too, women can seek out spiritual conversations with those they come in contact with, she suggested.

Burroughs also said women don't have to confine themselves to speaking only with women. Jesus broke the sex barrier at the well, too, she said.

Sometimes men will be more honest and vulnerable if they speak to a woman, Burroughs said. She told of a store clerk who confided to her that he was shaken because his fiancée had just called to tell him she was pregnant. Another time, a seat-mate on a flight to Atlanta confessed, sobbing, that he was having an affair.

"One in four people are ready to receive Christ," she said, quoting evangelist Bill Bright. "The problem is we don't have four people who are witnessing."



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Crisis care is a vital service

One of the most critical needs in child care today is for places of temporary stability during a crisis.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children now operates three such facilities: the Dixon Temporary Shelter, the Baptist Youth Shelter at Morehead, and, our newest facility, Operation Hope in Somerset.

A number of situations create the need for temporary care. Sometimes, during the investigation of an alleged abuse by the state, a child needs a place to go until his or her safety can be assured.

At other times, when a foster home or other placement does not work out, temporary care is needed until a new long-term placement can be arranged.

Another need for emergency or temporary placement occurs when a child has been arrested. This could be for a status offense, such as running away or truancy, or for a non-violent criminal offense. Placement is often needed until the judge can determine what to do.

This latter need is especially applicable to the shelter in Somerset because there is no other facility within an entire 16-county region that is able to meet the needs of these young people.

We are therefore adjusting our programing ideas to meet their needs as well as the children we have traditionally served in the shelters.

To help us look for better ways to minister to young people and to lead us in the development of other services in southern Kentucky, I am pleased to welcome to our staff

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

George Page, a native of Monticello and a veteran of over 25 years of working with children through the Department of Social Services.

George is a member of Immanuel Baptist in Monticello and began talking with us two years ago about his vision of developing much needed programs in southern Kentucky once he retired from

state service. He comes highly recommended and with a strong sense of mission.

I know he will make a tremendous difference for children at our new shelter in Somerset and ultimately in that entire region of the state.

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

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

KENTUCKY

Statewide prayer meeting to kick off 'Here's Hope'

LOUISVILLE—Prayer will provide the launching pad for Kentucky Baptist participation in the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention "Here's Hope" evangelism campaign.

Kentucky Baptists will gather for a special "Here's Hope" prayer meeting Tuesday, Sept. 20, at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, announced Curtis Warf, pastor of First Baptist Church of Richmond and statewide prayer coordinator for the campaign.

Portions of the prayer meeting will be led by T.W. Hunt, national prayer

consultant for the SBC Sunday School Board, Warf said. "A part of the time we're going to study about prayer, but we're going to do a lot of prayer too," he promised.

The "Here's Hope" campaign will feature two phases, said Bill Jagers, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism director.

The first phase, from Jan. 9 through March 9, will feature 60 days of personal witnessing, he said. Members of Kentucky and Southern Baptist churches will be urged to commit themselves to presenting the Christian

message to someone each day of that period.

The second phase, to be held during the spring and summer, will feature "harvest revivals," designed to welcome into Baptist churches the people who accepted Christ as their Savior during the witnessing phase of the campaign.

Within the churches, the campaign will be called "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now." To the public, it will be billed as "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You."

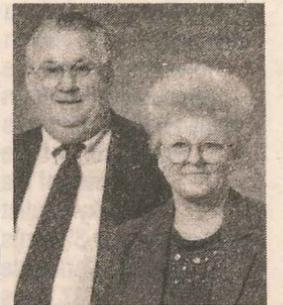
Kentucky's statewide "Here's

Hope" coordinator will be James Jones, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

Jagers and Jones encouraged all Kentucky Baptist churches to participate in the evangelism emphasis.

Their goal is for 10 percent of the members of Kentucky Baptist Sunday schools to participate in the personal witnessing phase of "Here's Hope."

That would mean 36,451 Kentucky Baptists would make almost 2.2 million personal evangelistic contacts during the 60 days of that phase of "Here's Hope."



Cundiffs appointed by HMB

ATLANTA—Kentucky natives Stu and Jan Cundiff have been appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The Cundiffs will serve in Hope, Ind., where he will be director of missions for South Central Baptist Association.

A Louisville native, Cundiff is a graduate of the University of New York in Albany and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Since serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1958 to 1980, he has been pastor of churches in Kentucky and Indiana. He has been a missions strategist in Hope since 1991. Mrs. Cundiff is a Corbin native. She has been involved in literacy work, teaching reading to adults and English as a second language.

Valley Creek Church sees new growth

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

ELIZABETHTOWN—An appeal to the visual in worship has "new people coming from everywhere" to attend Valley Creek Baptist Church, its pastor said.

An ambitious program—including developing a logo, a theme and colorful banners—was launched last October and already has shown striking results, said Steve Hill, pastor of the Elizabethtown church.

Combined with an intentional effort to bring more people into the church, this visual emphasis has helped double the average worship attendance from three years ago.

That increase to an average of 275 led to an additional morning worship service, the pastor said. The church also has begun plans to build a larger sanctuary.

Valley Creek decided to adopt the phrase "Fellowship of New Beginning" to describe its congregation and purpose, Hill explained.

"By this we're saying God allows new beginnings," he said. Guests and people in the community should know when they come to Valley Creek that "your past is behind you; you're loved here; you're cared for here."

The accompanying logo for this theme, based on 2 Corinthians 5:17, is a butterfly intermingled with a cross.

Also, the church designs banners for regular use during worship.

Hill explained that accenting the visual is a way to offer a more comprehensive worship experience that utilizes more than just one sense.

"We live in an age of seeing. People watch TV," he said. "Even when they come into a worship service, they want to see it, not only feel it."

Visual elements are attractive and reinforce the teaching of the church, Hill said, but they don't do all the work.

In order to inspire Sunday school leaders and workers to strive for increased membership, the church also has developed a strategy known as "100 more in '94."

"So far, we've had 60 new people" this year, Hill reported. "We've started four new Sunday school classes."

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As we enter the 1994 Season of Home Missions, Southern Baptists are being called upon to meet the challenge of home missions in America.

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Give to the Annie Armstrong
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PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

For every dollar a Kentucky Baptist church forwards through the Cooperative Program unified budget, 63 cents is used for in-state ministries of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and 37 cents is used for worldwide ministries. The 37 cents forwarded to worldwide ministries through the Southern Baptist Convention gives about 18 cents to the Foreign Mission Board, 7 cents to the Home Mission Board, 7 cents to the six SBC seminaries, 1 cent to the Radio & Television Commission and 2 cents to the remaining boards and commissions of the SBC.

Source: SBC Executive Committee

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **LIVINGSTON**—Union Church called **David Spires** as pastor.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—New Salem Church ordained **Richard Houk Phelps, Kenneth Ranes Jr.** and **James Vance** as deacons.
Paul and Diane Davidson, missionaries to Nigeria, were guest speakers for the morning worship service at Rockford Lane Church Feb. 27.

Clifton Church called **Richard Williams** as minister of music. He is a native of Mobile Ala., and currently a student at Southern Seminary.
 ■ **HODGENVILLE**—Middle Creek Church ordained **Donald Reynolds** as deacon Jan. 9.
 ■ **LONDON**—White Oak Church will ordain **Steve Wilkerson** and **Earl Proffitt** as deacons March 6.
 ■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First

Church called **Steve Kellough** as minister of music Feb. 13. Also **Daryl Laferty, Cully Harlow, Lloyd Dooley** and **Mike Johnson** were ordained as deacons Jan. 30.

■ **MURRAY**—Memorial Church licensed **Randall Winchester** to the gospel ministry.
 ■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Christian singer **Dallas Holm** will be in concert at the O. Wayne Rollins Center of Cumberland College April 8 at 7:30 p.m. Admission: A \$2 donation at the door and can of food for local food pantry. A love offering also will be received.

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEEDED: Minister of music/children and youth, full-time position. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 239, LaCenter, KY 42056.

SEEKING: Casas Adobes Baptist Church announces search for a principal/minister for our day school of grades K-8. Our school is 23 years old with 320 children. Call Pat Thompson at (602) 297-7238 or write 2131 W. Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ 85741-2699 for additional information. Starting date will be July 1, 1994.

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Reed models changing role of pastor's wife

Continued from page 1

strongly as I felt mine to the ministry. I've encouraged her with that."

Still, the pastor admitted, "I've had to work a lot harder" during the last three years. "I've cooked more meals and cleaned house more."

His specialty in the kitchen is what one might expect a Southern Baptist pastor to enjoy: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, apples and green beans.

As for the girls, "they've learned to lead pretty independent lives," Mrs. Reed said.

Reed often spends evenings doing homework alongside her two daughters. Donna is a senior in high school, and Susan is a freshman.

"Sometimes school projects coincide, on different levels," she explained. "A lot of (the girls') science projects have come out of my study" of the farming industry.

"Every aspect of my life contributes to my ministry," Reed continued, emphasizing integration rather than segmentation of responsibilities.

And she has plenty of opportunities to integrate her faith and her work as director of the Kentucky Farm Family Health and Hazard Surveillance Project at UK.

The project is designed to assess the health status of Kentucky farm families and make recommendations to medical and industrial professionals about ways to improve the quality and longevity of farmers' life and work.

First, she and her husband live in a rural area, where opportunities to apply her studies abound. Most members of Bruner's Chapel Church are part-time farmers who benefit from her project research.

And church members naturally

call on Reed when they have general health questions.

Church members have been "very supportive, and see my work as an advantage, because I've been able to take back things I do in my job and help them make life better," she said.

Reed makes it a priority to return the support her family and church have offered her, she said.

In addition to studying with her daughters, Reed attends as many band competitions and other events as she can. And the family signed up to go on a church ski trip together this winter.

"One of the better things we do is to close out each day with a devotion time," Don Reed added. "It's a good way to come together" and catch up on the events of the day, sharing concerns and praying together as a family.

Athletes excell at Oneida

■ **Oneida sends four wrestlers to regionals, one to state.** Harold Underwood is our wrestling coach and this is his eighth year of coaching at Oneida. He also coaches soccer and teaches welding, small engine repair and basic auto maintenance.

The wrestlers took part in the 1994 Lexington district wrestling tournament. Oneida had a total of 12 wrestlers—four middle-schoolers, four freshmen, one sophomore, two juniors and one senior.

One hundred-and-nineteen-pound freshman Stefan Ximenes finished in fourth place. This is Stefan's third year on the Oneida team. He is from Brazil. Though very busy with sports, Stefan manages to maintain an honor roll grade point average.

One hundred-and-thirty-pound freshman Jack Elliot finished fifth. Jack has been a wrestler for two of his three years at Oneida. He is a second-generation Oneida student from Felicity, Ohio.

One hundred-and-forty-pound freshman Rex Boblett finished fourth. This is Rex's second year wrestling for Oneida. He is from Lawrenceburg.

One hundred-and-eighty-nine-pound senior Tony Staats finished second. This is Tony's fourth year on the Oneida wrestling team. He is from Dayton, Ohio. Tony finished second in the region last year, qualifying for state competition.

The Lexington district is the largest in the state. Oneida finished sixth out of 11, and these four won the right to advance to the regional tournament.

They traveled to regional match on Feb. 12. Tony Staats placed fourth, qualifying him for state competition again this year. He also went on to place sixth at the state competition Feb. 19.

Tony is one of Oneida's leading seniors, and one of our finest wrestlers ever. He plans to join the Navy after finishing high school.

Rex Boblett expressed disappointment that the other three did not earn the chance to compete at the state level. He hinted that they are already looking forward to trying again next year. "We're just freshmen," he noted with a twinkle in his eye. "We still have three more years."

All four of these young men are in their second sports season with Underwood. They were all on his soccer team last fall.

Oneida is proud to have a wrestling team in an area where the sport is not as popular as in surrounding states.

■ **Swimming season ends.** Our Oneida swimmers and divers have just finished their season. Their team is coached by Michael Bisbee, who also teaches computer. Oneida finished 20th out of 25 in the regional swimming and diving competition.

In the 200-yard free-style relay, our swimmers were only six seconds short of being able to advance to the state contest. Senior Mike Mullins came in seventh in the regional diving competition, while sixth-grader Ricky Belcher finished eighth. Bisbee hopes to see Ricky

advance to the state competition next year. The Oneida divers finished just eight points away from the chance to go to the state meet.

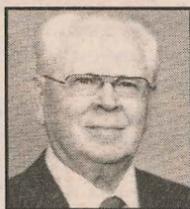
Oneida completed the season with two divers and 30 swimmers. Most of these students will earn letters for their participation.

Besides Mike Mullins, only two other swimmers are seniors—Adulis Beyenne and James Hefelfinger. Many are middle-schoolers, so they may swim for Oneida for several more years.

Written by Harold Underwood and Michael Bisbee with Denise Spencer.

A.B. Colvin is administrator of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

THIS IS ONEIDA



A.B. Colvin

Results from a 1962 conversion

"My word will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

Isaiah's promise encourages every preacher, and sometimes the results come long after the preacher has moved to another place.

Eleanzer Benenhaley graduated in 1961. He held a student pastorate at Concord Baptist in Flatlick (near Barbourville). Six-year-old Deborah Jarvis came one night and told him she was accepting Jesus as Lord. She went home and told her daddy about it.

The pastor remembers "her father was a sinful man. He drank and was unfaithful to his family. He was drinking on the day of his daughter's baptism and left the church before she was baptized. One of the men followed him outside and witnessed to him."

The next morning Mr. Jarvis was at the pastor's home.

"He wanted to know if there was any work at the church that needed his help. He was a carpenter so I let him work on the young married people's Sunday school class. This was the class he would be attending if he were coming to church. He did an excellent job.

"He started attending church and would sit in the back. One night

during the invitation he got up from his seat and made his way to the front, surrendering his life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The ladies at Concord had witnessed to him and I am sure the Lord used the witness of his six-year-old daughter to cause him to see his need of the Lord."

Caleb Jarvis Jr. died June 4, 1974. He was a faithful leader and song director of the Concord congregation until his death.

Deborah and her husband, Charles Evans, recently endowed a student scholarship in her father's memory. The fund, managed by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, provides financial assistance at a time when other aid is declining.

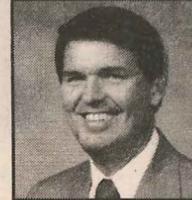
The federal Pell Grant assisted 119 students in 1993. This year only 96 students qualified, and the average grant decreased nearly \$200 per student.

We need more endowed scholarships.

Thank you, Lord, for the way you use your word in the lives of our students.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

PEOPLE

Chaplain helps hotel staff & homeless

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

BALTIMORE (BP)—Ask for Bill Viel at the Inner Harbor Day's Inn and you'll likely receive a blank stare.

But ask for "Rev. Bill" and employees will know you're referring to the man who helps them clear tables, the person the cook called when her son was on the way to the hospital and the man who leads them in a ministry to the homeless.

Hotel chaplaincy and homeless ministry are anchors of Inner Harbor Ministry, which Viel founded in 1988 after being a pastor 25 years. He still considers himself a pastor, but his congregation is more diverse.

Viel, a volunteer, also is available to hotel guests, but the mainstay of the hotel ministry is with the staff. Each group has unique needs which must be addressed in different ways.

For example, housekeepers are typically women who are struggling financially. The receptionist is often

working at the hotel as a second job. Members of the security staff are "a special breed of people," Viel says, while the management typically stays behind closed doors.

"I deal with employees on a business level, while he deals with them on a personal level," says Joylyn Conklin, former general manager at the hotel.

Viel visits staff at the hotel five or six days a week. The first person he sees is the doorman, whom Viel says knows everything happening at the hotel. As he makes the rounds, he might end up washing dishes in the kitchen or folding towels in the laundry room.

"If he comes in to get a cup of coffee and sees they're busy, he gets his own cup," Conklin says. "He plops down in the middle of employees. He's accepted everywhere."

Viel says helping the employees opens doors. "Chaplains don't have a pulpit. Their life is their pulpit."

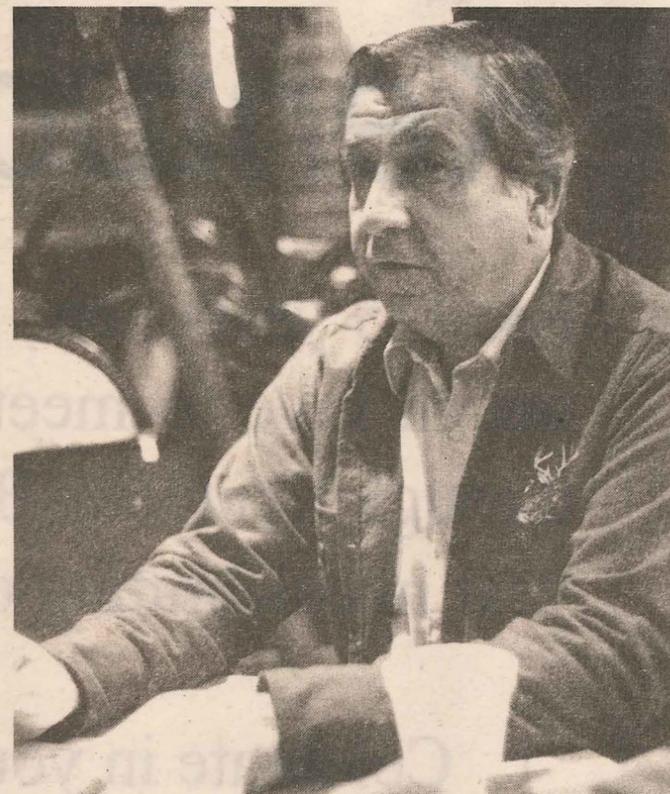
Baltimore's Inner Harbor is a ren-

ovated downtown area with a waterfront convention center, tourist attractions and shopping centers. It also is a gathering place for the city's homeless.

When homeless people came to the hotel looking for a place to stay, hotel employees turned them away without assistance. When Viel realized the staff wanted to help but didn't know how, he told them about nearby homeless shelters and how to help people get to the shelters.

That led the hotel staff to be more involved in Viel's homeless ministry, which includes two worship services on Sunday mornings. Chefs in the hotel's restaurant prepare soup for Viel to serve to the homeless, and the hotel donates used linens to homeless shelters. The staff also has gathered clothes for the city's homeless.

Among the hotel staff Viel finds many people who were "turned off by church." With a chaplain among them, "Christians are coming out of the woodwork," he says.



HOTEL CHAPLAIN As chaplain for the Inner Harbor Day's Inn in Baltimore, Bill Viel ministers to the hotel staff and has led them to help the area's homeless people. (BP photo)

Police chief says faith in Jesus helps him survive

By Dave Parker
Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Dealing daily with humanity's inhumanity often takes a toll on police officers. Many become hardened and angry.

But Oklahoma City Police Chief Sam Gonzalez has found strength for his job through a close relationship with Jesus Christ.

Gonzalez came to Oklahoma City as chief in October 1991, after 28 years with the Dallas Police Department. From August 1990 to March 1991 he was acting chief in Dallas, one of the country's largest police departments.

The last few years would have been too much stress to handle, Gonzalez said, except for a close walk with God.

"The Dallas Police Department has 3,000 police officers in a city of 3 million people," he explained. With-

out God's leadership, "I'm not smart enough with my own wisdom to be making decisions there...."

"But the last six or seven years we have had a really close walk with the Lord. My wife and I decided to be more active Christians, and everything seemed to be smoother.

"There are a lot of problems that face our nation today as a result of our sinful nature," he said. "Our leaders all need to be part of a prayerful America that turns back to God."

Although his father died when Gonzalez was very young, he said he was raised by a godly mother and has been a Christian most of his life. He had been committed to serving Christ for a long time, but he said one of his biggest decisions had to do with tithing.

He made the decision while he and his wife, Barbara, were members of Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church in Dallas. At the time, both of his children were attending Baylor University.

"We had been tithers for many years, but my salary was such that I felt very comfortable about it," he said. "When our pastor preached on tithing, I did not feel guilty. But one Sunday he said if you are giving out of your excess, the Lord can't bless it."

That struck home, so Gonzalez and his wife committed to increase their tithe every year for five years.

Although he said he tries to avoid the message of giving just to get something from God, he said his faithfulness was rewarded every year.

"Every time it came time for us to make that yearly increase, I either got a promotion or a pay increase."

Sticking to his commitment brought him into the closer relationship with God, he said.

"That commitment of our tithe turned into a commitment of day-to-day living for God," he said. "Finances are the first thing we need to give to the Lord, but it is not because the

Lord needs my money. It is because he needs my obedience."

Gonzalez said his personal relationship with Christ is very important in dealing with the pressures of police work.

"I don't know how you can deal with the daily miseries of humanity you see" without that personal relationship, he said. "You may be loading a 5-year-old boy on a stretcher, knowing that you have a 5-year-old like him at home. Then, the next moment you may be out directing traffic."

"There are two ways of dealing with it," he said. "Either the Lord helps you or you turn somewhere else and become cold without any passion or compassion. The police profession has one of the highest divorce rates of any profession. It is because of all the problems we see."

"If you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, there is no place to take the pent-up emotions and anger."

'Fatal Attraction' led actor to discover eternal life in Jesus

By Michael Dudit
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—"Fatal Attraction" was transformed into "Eternal Life" for actor John McFarland.

Now a master of divinity student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, McFarland spent a dozen years as an actor in New York City, where he performed for stage, film, television and radio productions.

McFarland's credits include three Woody Allen films, prime-time TV (including "Law & Order" and "Molly Dodd"), soap operas (with recurring roles on "Guiding Light" and "One Life to Live") and commercials.

As with many actors, one of the greatest frustrations was the work that ended up on the cutting room floor. For example, McFarland had a speaking role in the movie "Crocodile Dundee" but the whole scene was cut.

The same thing happened to his role in the movie "Fatal Attraction," but that experience resulted in a life-changing encounter far more significant than anything Hollywood could produce.

During filming of the feature film in November 1987, he was waiting for his scene—"drinking Pepsi and eating doughnuts"—when another actor struck up a conversation about his beliefs.

"He asked me what I thought about Jesus," McFarland recalled. "I told him I grew up Methodist and he's my Savior—he's everyone's Savior."

The other actor invited McFarland to a Bible study in the neighborhood on Manhattan's Upper West Side where both lived.

McFarland showed up at the Bible study the next Tuesday night and quickly became a regular.

"The simple truths of the Bible

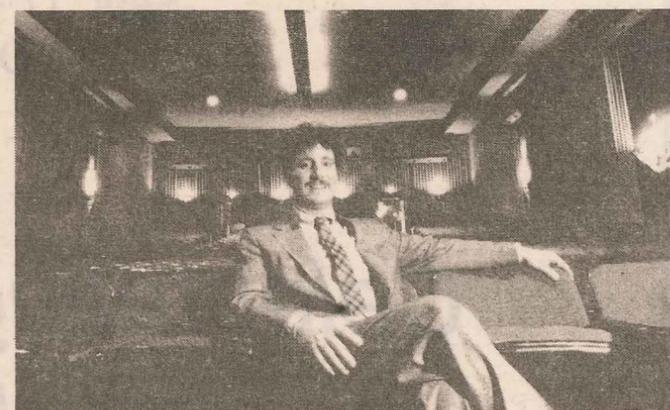
were taught," McFarland said. "I learned the first night that it didn't matter what my legacy was—that wouldn't help me with God."

After three months in the Bible study, he made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

His wife, Judy, also began attending the study. With his work as an actor and hers as a stage manager, each often attended while the other worked, but both grew in their faith through the weeknight study and through participation at Calvary Baptist Church, located across the street from Carnegie Hall.

During a conference at Calvary in January 1991, McFarland sensed a clear call into ministry.

As a young minister, McFarland initially tried to shun his past experience as an actor. While he's still not proud of some of the films—like "Fatal Attraction"—from those times be-



fore his conversion, he now recognizes that God wants him to use those experiences, not ignore them.

"It took Southern Seminary to teach me that I should be using those dramatic gifts and experiences," he said. "As a pastor and preacher, I've been able to do that."

PLOT TWIST Actor John McFarland's life changed when he entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

Thank You Kentucky Baptists!

For 125 years now, Kentucky Baptists have been reaching out in love to meet the needs of hurting boys and girls through Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Join us this year in celebrating our Lord's faithfulness and goodness!

1. Celebrate in your church on our anniversary Sunday!
June 26, 1994

Each Kentucky Baptist church will receive special materials this spring to use in a special church celebration. Materials will include a bulletin insert and videotape.

2. Attend the 125th Birthday Party nearest you!

April 16 - Baptist Youth Ranch, Elizabethtown
May 14 - First Baptist Church, Pikeville
June 4 - First Baptist Church, London
June 25 - Spring Meadows Children's Home, Middletown
July 16 - Dixon Temporary Shelter, Dixon
Aug. 6 - Baptist Youth Shelter, Morehead
Sept. 4 - Erlanger Baptist Church, Erlanger
Sept. 17 - Glen Dale Children's Home, Glendale
Oct. 8 - Genesis Home, Mayfield

*Celebrating 125 Years
of Love*

