

FOR THE RECORD

Firing fallout
Reaction to the firing of Russell Dilday as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary continued last week, with one accrediting agency officially censuring the school and more major donors withdrawing support. See page 2.

Sodomy law
Conservative groups calling for passage of a state law against sodomy gained a small victory when such a bill passed out of a House committee, but the likelihood of passage appears dim. See page 3.

Editorial
Help start a church where it's needed the most. See page 5.

Help the hungry
Baptists have been asked to help petition Congress to provide more preventive assistance in the war against hunger. See page 6.

River ministry
Volunteers who are willing to move outside their "comfort zones" are needed for the Mississippi River Ministry. See page 9.

Build better fathers, not more prisons, expert says

By Marv Knox
Editor

NASHVILLE—America would need fewer prisons if it had more fathers, family sociologist David Blankenhorn said during a Baptist Center for Ethics focus on fatherhood.

"We're building more and more prisons because we're asking prisons to do what fathers traditionally have done, especially with boys—keep them on the straight and narrow," said Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values in New York. "But what the father does with children is hard to replace with prisons and social workers."

Blankenhorn helped shine the spotlight on fatherhood during a session of the Baptist Center for Ethics' spring seminar March 14-15 in Nashville.

"We are living in an increasingly fatherless society," Blankenhorn warned. "Tonight, 36 percent of all American children are going to bed in homes where the fathers don't live. Before they reach age 18, half of them will live without their fathers for significant periods."

"This is a historically unprecedented massive separation of men from their offspring. The relationship of guys and kids is weak and getting weaker."

Divorce provides one cause of the

problem, he said, noting 90 percent of divorced fathers "drift away from their children" and fail to supply significant involvement with their children.

The "new face of fatherlessness—never-married fathers" also fuels the crisis, Blankenhorn added.

"Thirty-three percent of all American children are born outside of marriage," he explained. "We're talking about guys whose children would not recognize them if they saw them on the street. That's how fatherless these children are."

Noting many sociologists are claiming



fathers are not essential, he warned: "We're losing the idea of fatherhood. It's the second death of fatherhood—not merely the absence of the father from the home, but the very idea of fatherhood."

Absentee fatherhood is more difficult on children than death of a father, he stressed. "If the father dies, the mother and others keep his moral" See *Build better fathers ...*, page 7



TRAIL OF TREASURES Jeff Hicks of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday school department demonstrates the secret to building a simulated campfire during last weekend's Vacation Bible School Convention in Louisville. The convention featured an exhibit area called the Trail of Treasures, a take-off on the theme for this year's VBS materials produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

VBS gets a new look this year

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Vacation Bible school will take on a new look in most Southern Baptist churches this summer, and more than 600 VBS leaders got an early glimpse at the changes last weekend in Louisville.

A redesigned curriculum offered by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board was the focus of this year's statewide VBS Convention, held March 19 at Highview Baptist Church.

Representatives from the Sunday School Board joined specially

trained workers from Kentucky and beyond to introduce this year's VBS materials in age-graded sessions and special interest conferences.

Participants practiced this year's VBS theme song as a mass choir, watched a new promotional video about VBS and walked through a resource display area which included the VBS staples of snacks and juice.

Willie Beaty, VBS consultant with the Sunday School Board, highlighted the redesigned curriculum both in a large-group session and in a small-group conference. See *VBS gets ...*, page 3

Growing black churches break boundaries

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—In the midst of acute social problems and a growing black middle class, African American Baptist churches are broadening their focus.

The powerful preaching, vibrant worship and effective action ministries that for years have characterized black churches remain at the hub of many congregations, said T. Vaughn Walker, associate professor of black church studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Yet growing African American churches today are expanding their Christian education programs, providing job training and emphasizing their African heritage, noted Walker, who also serves as pastor of Louisville's First Gethesemane Baptist Church.

"Their ministry is holistic," Walker said. "They break traditional boundaries, and you usually find very strong social ministries."

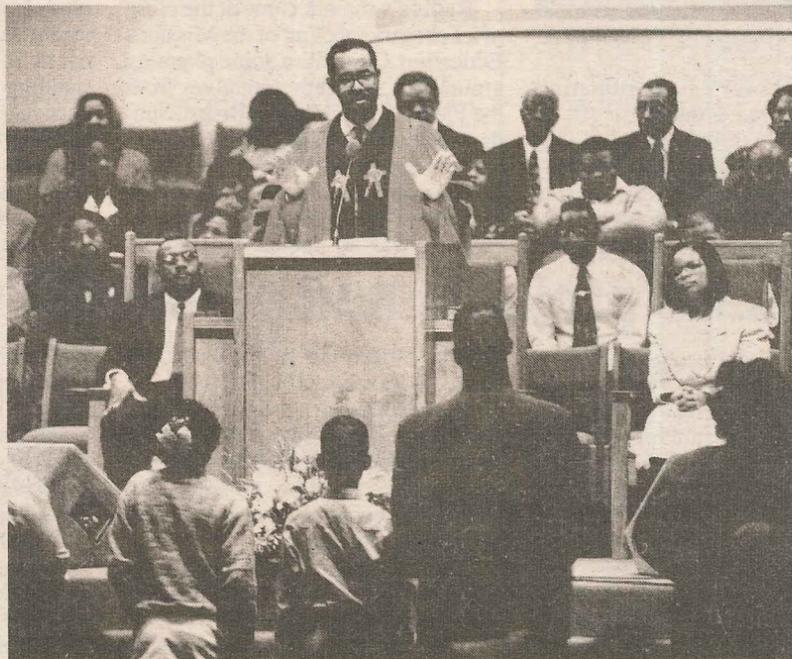
Black churches typically span the economic spectrum, and members tend to stay with the same church as their economic circumstances improve, Walker said. "Unlike the trend in white churches, when people unite with an African American church they tend to stay with that church even if they leave the neighborhood." Walker said this mixing of eco-

conomic classes is helpful to disadvantaged black youths who need models of how to break their cycle of poverty.

However, most African Americans are moving into the middle class by virtue of two-income households rather than a high-paying job from a

single breadwinner, Walker stressed. This fact, he said, heightens the importance of day care and after-school programs in black churches.

At Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in College Park, Ga., a congregation full of smartly dressed, See *Growing black churches ...*, page 6



POWER PREACHER Walter Malone proclaims a message of both "empancipation" and "evangelization" at Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville. The church has formed a non-profit corporation to help bring development to African American communities. (Photo by Gibbs Frazier)

Prejudices remain

NEW YORK (RNS)—While America's minority groups harbor strong negative prejudices toward each other, they are united in bitter feelings toward white Americans, according to a new poll.

At the same time, the survey also found that white Americans generally perceive minority communities to be better off than residents of those communities believe is true.

The survey was conducted last summer and fall by pollster Louis Harris on behalf of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

White people, according to a survey summary, are perceived by a majority of African Americans, Latino Americans and Asian Americans as "bigoted, bossy and unwilling to share power and wealth."

"Each minority group believes it is discriminated against by a white-controlled economy and educational system, and that the other groups also suffer from discrimination and serious inequities," the summary continues.

Yet, the summary says, "white America's vision of how minorities are faring is much more positive, diverging widely" See *Poll finds ...*, page 6

Moving? See page 4 (0322)

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary** has established the Bailey Smith Chair of Evangelism with a pledge of \$1 million from a Gastonia, N.C., couple who wish to remain anonymous. The chair is established in honor of Smith, a well-known vocational evangelist.

■ **Wes Forbis** has announced his early retirement as director of the church music ministries department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The editor of the 1991 edition of *The Baptist Hymnal* said he is choosing to retire from the board to continue his career in other areas. Forbis, 63, will be on the job until June 1.

■ **Don Aycock**, a former Kentucky pastor and graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has been named special materials editor for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission. Most recently, Aycock has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Gillis in Lake Charles, La.

■ **Howell Wayne Todd** has been named the 18th president of Mississippi College. Since 1989, Todd has been executive director of South Dakota's board of regents, which governs that state's institutions of higher learning.

Firing fallout continues; ATS censures trustees

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—A national accrediting agency rebuked trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary March 17 for abruptly firing the school's president.

"We view with utmost seriousness the dismissal of Russell Dilday," said the Association of Theological Schools in a rare letter of censure. "Such precipitous action on the part of any board of trustees is a clear violation of accepted governance practices and places in jeopardy the vitality and basic integrity of the institution."

The agency called on trustees of the Fort Worth, Texas, school to reconsider the March 9 firing but did not threaten to place the school on probation.

Southwestern's trustee chairman, Ralph Pulley, said the seminary's relationship with ATS is not threatened. "We are confident that that relationship will remain very strong when they receive significant information about the situation from us," Pulley said in a statement.

Trustees did not cite a reason March 9 for firing Dilday, president of the 4,000-student school since 1978. They later said "irreconcilable differences" produced the impasse. Trustees who opposed the action, however, said it was strictly political, reflecting a growing rift between Dilday and conservative trustees bent on steering a new course for the world's largest seminary.

ATS Executive Director James Waits, who wrote the letter of cen-

sure, said the trustees' March 9 action came without notice and without due process.

The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, which renewed Southwestern's status in 1990, is one of two agencies that accredits the seminary. The other is the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

All six Southern Baptist seminaries are accredited by ATS and one of the regional non-theological agencies. Accreditation is the primary way schools demonstrate adherence to high academic standards. It also is a crucial factor in soliciting contributions from foundations and other sources.

Although ATS did not threaten Southwestern with probation March 17, a similar episode at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary did result in probation for that school after conservative trustees forced top administrators into leaving.

The Southeastern Seminary situation was complicated by trustee attempts to change the way new faculty members were elected. A similar situation has not occurred at Southwestern Seminary to date.

Meanwhile, Dilday's firing brought more fallout from around the country:

■ Two Texas foundations, which have channeled \$700,000 to \$800,000 to the seminary in recent years, will stop those contributions because of the dismissal of Dilday. The seminary will not get a gift of \$6 million to \$10 million that was under consideration, said Kelley Brown, president of the Tom and Evelyn

Linebery Foundation and vice president of the Scarborough Foundation of Midland. Evelyn Linebery is the niece of Lee Scarborough, president of the seminary from 1914 to 1945.

■ The Panhandle Baptist Foundation, which has given almost \$370,000 to support seminary projects over the past 25 years, followed through on a commitment of \$20,000 to fund student-led evangelistic teams during the seminary's spring break. But the money probably won't be coming next year, said founder C.J. Humphrey of Amarillo, Texas.

"We had some of our board members that did not want to give this \$20,000, but because we made a commitment and students were already at the churches, we felt it was not a Christian thing to do," said Humphrey. Instead, they sent the check in honor of Dilday.

■ Mississippi pastor Frank Pollard, chairman of a committee to solicit alumni support for the seminary's \$36 million Vision for Excellence fundraising campaign, notified the seminary he could not "in good conscience" be involved in raising money for the school at present.

Pollard, a former president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and longtime Southwestern supporter, said he is "not stomping out forever" but feels "it is not a good time to be asking for gifts from Southwestern alumni."

"I am personally hurting because a friend I loved has been wronged, the seminary abused and the denomination once again embarrassed," said Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church

of Jackson, Miss.

■ Aerobics doctor and author Kenneth Cooper resigned his lifetime membership on Southwestern's Advisory Council, resigned as chairman of the council's "Vision for Excellence" effort, and cancelled his \$30,000 pledge to the campaign. Cooper said at least 10 other council members have resigned.

■ Many Baptist churches likewise passed resolutions protesting the firing. One was First Baptist Church of Carrollton, Texas, where Southwestern trustee and Dilday supporter Wayne Allen is pastor. Unless Dilday is reinstated, the church—which gave \$236,000 to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program in 1993—"may be forced to a designation of those Cooperative Program dollars," the resolution said.

■ Southwestern students, who were on spring break March 14-18, scheduled a meeting for March 21 to decide what response to make to the firing. No one anticipates a mass exodus of Southwestern students or faculty.

■ Truett Seminary, at Baylor University 90 miles south of Southwestern, will consider raising the 50-student limit on enrollment for its inaugural term next fall in response to inquiries from Southwestern students.

■ Mack Roark, who was elected to a faculty position at Southwestern during the same meeting in which Dilday was fired, has announced plans to remain at Oklahoma Baptist University, where he currently is vice president for religious life. Roark will move into a full-time teaching position at the Shawnee, Okla., school.

Rankin asks WMU not to accept \$100,000 Fellowship gift

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—Woman's Missionary Union should turn down a \$100,000 gift from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin told WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien at a meeting in Nashville last month.

Since then, WMU has undertaken a poll of its executive board to determine if the group wants to stand by or back away from a policy it adopted last year to accept such unsolicited contributions.

The Fellowship's coordinating council approved a one-time gift to WMU of \$100,000 from its global missions offering in mid-February. The gift was not at WMU's request and was offered without their knowledge, according to Keith Parks, the

Fellowship's missions coordinator.

Last year WMU agreed to provide missions material and prayer support—but not financial support—to the Fellowship and other non-SBC mission groups. The decision created controversy with some SBC leaders, including FMB trustees, who said it undermined the 106-year-old missions auxiliary's "exclusive" relationship with the convention.

Rankin's remark came at the close of a February meeting of the Missions Education Council, a joint planning group with staff representatives from the FMB, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission and WMU.

"It's very important for it to be reported in the context of what our meeting was all about," Rankin ex-

plained.

"We spend this two-hour meeting on an agenda that is talking about working together, cooperation (and) supporting Southern Baptist Convention missions, and of course the WMU is a very key player in that. In concluding the meeting, we were expressing various concerns. I just made the comment I would hope that the WMU does not accept this offer of funds from the CBF and therefore will send a very clear and unequivocal signal to Southern Baptists that they are standing behind the unified and exclusive support of the Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board."

O'Brien said Rankin's statement came at the end of "a wonderful meeting where we had planned good co-

operative ventures."

"I was a little surprised he would encourage us not to take it since we were the only entity in the SBC who had not taken money from the CBF," she said.

The FMB received \$1.6 million from the Fellowship in 1993.

The WMU finance committee decided to include the entire executive board in the decision about the Fellowship gift, even though the changes approved in 1993 gave the committee the authority to handle undesignated gifts, O'Brien said.

State WMU leaders were contacted by conference calls and fax. Their decision on what to do with the Fellowship gift is expected "in the next couple of weeks," O'Brien said March 16.

HMB says projects and personnel must be reduced in 1995

ATLANTA (BP)—A projected 6 percent drop in income will force the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to reduce missions projects and personnel in 1995, officials said.

"The revenue flow has just not caught up with the costs," said Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president for planning and finance.

The estimated income from all sources in 1995 is \$4.1 million less than 1994's total budgeted income, Kelley said. Much of the reduction

reflects a decrease in surplus funds carried over from previous years.

President Larry Lewis said the cuts must come both at the Atlanta office and in cooperative missions funding with state Baptist conventions. "We're all going to have to bear that burden," he declared.

Reductions initially will target unfilled positions and projects that are low on the priority list, Lewis said. "To me, taking money from missionaries and congregational support

funds will be my absolute last choice."

Nevertheless, HMB officials said they are not optimistic all cuts can be made without eliminating some filled positions.

Lewis said all options will be explored and HMB planners will negotiate reductions with state officials. "Nothing will be done unilaterally from Atlanta. Everything will be done cooperatively."

He repeated his call for Southern Baptists to redouble their efforts in

support of the 1994 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

"If the home missions offering this year is significantly above our projections, we can considerably reduce the impact of these budget reductions for next year," Lewis said.

Kelley said there is no connection: "There is nothing in the budget having to do with the new building. If we were staying where we are for eternity, we would still have a budget problem."

Sodomy bill out of committee, but passage unlikely

By Mark Wingfield & Marv Knox
News Director & Editor

FRANKFORT—Conservative Christian groups campaigning for a state law criminalizing sodomy gained a small victory March 14 but appear unlikely to win their fight this year.

Meanwhile, materials mailed statewide by one "pro-family" group have been deemed inaccurate by the Kentucky Department of Education.

House Bill 10 passed out of the elections and constitutional amendments committee March 14. Two amendments have been attached to it subsequently, and the bill currently is awaiting action in the House rules committee.

As passed by the elections committee, House Bill 10 would ask voters to approve a constitutional amendment which reads: "The General Assembly shall define the crime of sodomy and provide punishment for its commission, including between consenting persons."

The bill was proposed by Rep. James Bruce, D-Hopkinsville.

A subsequent amendment to the bill offered by Bruce would delete the requirement for the General Assem-

bly to define sodomy and insert a portion about "deviant sexual intercourse between persons of the same sex."

Legislative insiders said they see little hope of the bill passing in both the House and Senate before the current session ends in less than two weeks.

Some conservative Christian groups have been highly vocal in calling for the General Assembly to pass a sodomy law ever since the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled a previously enacted sodomy law unconstitutional in 1992.

Both the Family Foundation of Kentucky and the American Family Association of Kentucky recently produced mass mailings, calling on concerned citizens to lobby their elected officials on the issue.

Both organizations' fliers warn that the absence of a sodomy law opens the door for the teaching of homosexual sodomy in public schools and promotes the spread of AIDS.

The flier of the American Family Association of Kentucky warns that there is "a strong move in Frankfort" to put in Kentucky classrooms "text-books that promote homosexual behavior."

As evidence, the flier cites a por-

tion of the "Transformations" curriculum framework produced by the state Department of Education. The citation shows that on page 126, children are encouraged to join organizations such as ACT-UP, a radical pro-homosexual group, and the National Organization for Women.

Jim Parks, a spokesman for the Education Department, said that isolated reference did appear in the original version of the curriculum guide but was removed as soon as the mistake was discovered. An updated copy of that section was mailed to all Kentucky schools last December.

Further, Parks said he doesn't see how the absence of a state sodomy law could encourage the teaching of a homosexual lifestyle in public school classrooms.

"The decisions about what is taught in schools now are made by school-based decision making councils composed of parents, teachers and the principal," he said. "There is no state curriculum. The curriculum is decided at the local school level."

A call to the office of the American Family Association was answered by Dr. Frank Simon, a Louisville allergist and outspoken opponent of homosexual rights. Simon defend-

ed his flier's reference to the outdated Education Department literature.

"Because of the outcry against this, they've taken this out recently. But the same people who put it in are there, and there's no reason to think they wouldn't put it back in," Simon said.

A law against sodomy is necessary to give organizations such as his leverage on local issues, he said. "If someone tries to put this pro-homosexual curriculum in our schools, we can say, 'Hey, you're promoting something that's illegal.'"

Legislative approval of a sodomy bill would not be wise, countered George Edwards, a retired New Testament professor at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

He noted Simon has been the chief instigator of anti-sodomy laws in Kentucky. "The issue (Simon) keeps trying to impress upon people by repetition is that the gay/lesbian community is asking for special favors," he said. "This is an outright lie, because the gay/lesbian community is asking for fairness in legislation. It is asking for equity, for the same kind of rights in employment, housing and other spheres as are accorded to persons of heterosexual orientation."

Some conservative Christian groups have been highly vocal in calling for the General Assembly to pass a sodomy law ever since the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled a previously enacted sodomy law unconstitutional in 1992.

VBS gets a new look this year in most Baptist churches

Continued from page 1

The changes are the result of a five-year process during which more than 3,000 people gave input, he said.

Beaty said the Sunday School Board attempted to respond to four things churches repeatedly said they wanted changed:

■ **Materials easier to use by busy people.**

■ **Attractive materials with more color and photographs.**

■ **Materials distinctly different than Sunday school literature.**

■ **Materials flexible enough to be used in a variety of settings and time frames.**

The theme for this year's VBS is "Trail of Treasures," based on Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's and ev-

erything in it."

The Sunday School Board has published a new book, "New Horizons in Vacation Bible School," which highlights the new approach to this summertime standard.

Among the major changes highlighted both in the book and during the Kentucky conference:

■ **Length.** The basic materials are designed for three-hour sessions over a five-day period. Since 92 percent of Southern Baptist churches now hold a one-week VBS, the core curriculum has been changed from a two-week plan to a one-week plan, Beaty said.

■ **Flexibility.** Helps are provided for adapting this core schedule to either longer or shorter formats. For example, some churches will use the

materials for evening classes that last about 2 hours, while other churches will use the materials for day-long classes lasting up to seven hours.

■ **Organization.** The new VBS is built around a team concept. There are general officer teams and age-group teams. For example, in each age-group there will be a team leader instead of a director and team assistants instead of teachers.

■ **Music.** In addition to a snappy theme song, this year's VBS materials are supported by a mini-musical which may be performed before VBS as a promotional tool or during VBS as a learning project.

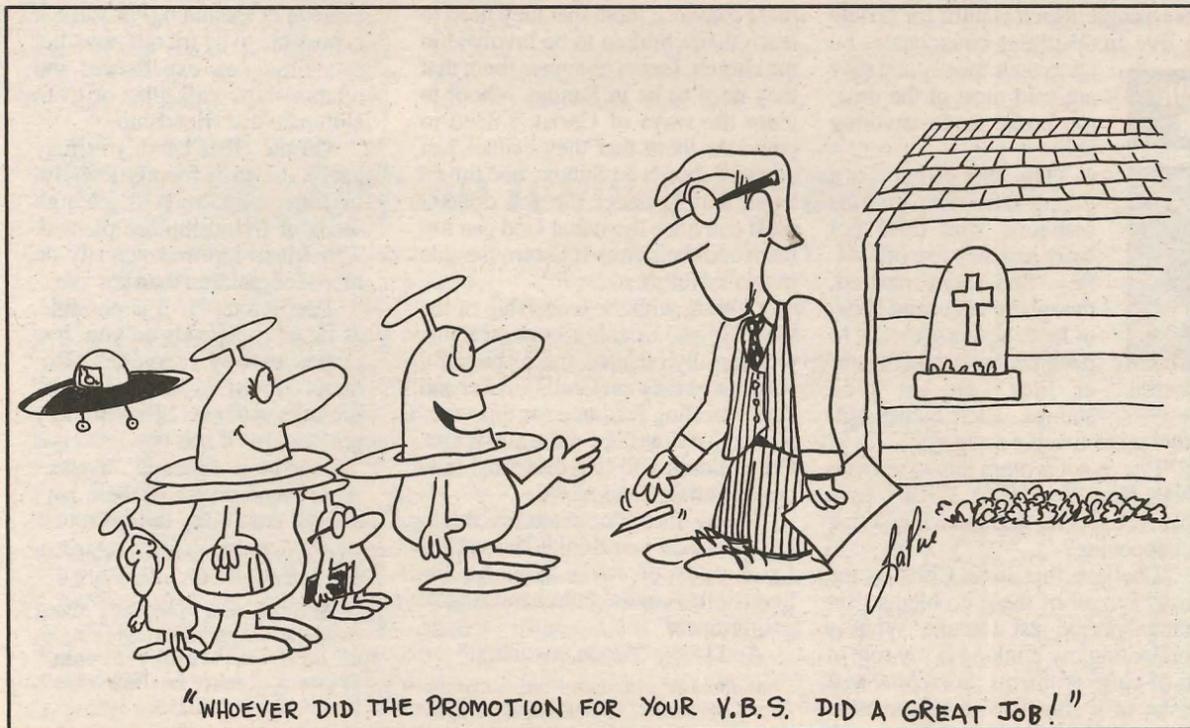
■ **Missions.** A new option for the missionary testimonies during the joint worship session is the use of vid-

eo. For \$14.95, churches may purchase a video package which includes on-the-scene interviews with the missionaries featured each day.

■ **Crafts.** Options for crafts projects have been added as an "enrichment activity" to the Bible lessons. Churches may follow the suggestions for gathering their own crafts supplies or purchase ready-to-use crafts kits from the Sunday School Board.

Of course, some things never change about VBS. Children still will be instructed by the sit-down and stand-up chords. The worship service still features the pledge to the flags and processional.

And even modernization can't improve on the traditional VBS snacks of cookies and Kool-Aid.



New VBS terms

- **Team:** The basic unit of organization, formerly called a class or department.
- **Team leader:** The person responsible for directing a team, formerly called directors.
- **Team assistant:** The person working with the team leader on a specific responsibility, formerly called a teacher in many cases.
- **Worship service:** The joint worship time at the beginning of VBS which includes the missionary testimony, processional and pledge to the flags. Formerly called the joint service.
- **Promotional theme:** A means of creating excitement and drawing the entire school together; also used for publicity and promotion. This year's theme is "Trail of Treasures."
- **Motto:** A short statement recited by the school at the beginning of the worship service. This year's is "The earth is the Lord's."
- **Theme song:** A short musical selection written to support the VBS promotional theme.

From "New Horizons in Vacation Bible School"

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

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Gate needed

Attend a Focus on the Family seminar concerning Christian involvement in government and plan one in your area.

Thomas Jefferson's wall of separation between church and state, created to protect religion, but which now keeps believers out of influencing government, is too high, and there must be a gate to haul a load of salt through.

Each one of you should go to Frankfort, and watch the legislature on Kentucky Educational Television at night. The government is made up of the people who participate; your influence counts!

Some of the things done are totally needless and a burden to citizens. Our governmental agencies have become Big Brother and grow like a business supported from the toil of the people, taxes. Bureaucracies have insider experts that go to the capitol and cry a practiced sad story that committees must pass legislation.

Government is not an option like the doctrines of a sect. You will do or else. Remember the Jew of World War II?

David Fletcher
Mayfield

Devil's plan

I re-listened to a tape from the 1977 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. Homer Lindsey was quite prophetic in light of "Kentuckians join conservative strategists for 4th meeting" (WR, March 1).

He said, "If I was the devil, and I was looking at America, the prime plum in America would be the Southern Baptists. I'd say I was going to stop them one way or another. I'm gonna either get them from the outside, or I'm gonna worm my way in on the inside, but I'm going to make them ineffective in America."

Two years later, the devil implemented his plan, using people on the

inside of the denomination. Now the devil is hoping to practice a form of the "trickle down" philosophy and move his chaos from the national level to the state level denominationally. It is so good to see that those he has moved on for leadership in this action are so ashamed of their actions that they have to tape napkins over the windows where they are meeting and throw out members of the press.

As I read the article, I had to ask myself if I wanted to throw support behind a school whose president would attend an unethical meeting like that. It also bothers me that members of the SBC Executive Committee—officers, at that—would continue to feed the controversy that has contributed to the devil's plan of making the work of Southern Baptists ineffective.

Rodger D. Eakin
Fulton

Wake up

Southern Baptists must wake up and smell the coffee. Many have been so swayed by rumors of liberalism and double-talk about defending the Bible that truth has remained far from them. The blatantly political firing of Russell Dilday at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is evidence enough of corruption in this convention.

This man was no liberal. He was a fine conservative leader who simply spoke his mind. He refused to be manipulated and controlled, and as a result he was fired.

If Southern Baptists have a conscience, it should be aroused. We must not ignore these actions as many did when Randall Lolley was forced out at Southeastern Seminary and when Southern Seminary trustees went after Paul Simmons with a vengeance.

How many men and women have to suffer the pain of dismissal and ruined reputations before we realize that the political actions which are being

used in defense of the Bible are immoral and un-Christian? We must let those in leadership know that they do not run the convention, but the people who put them in power do.

We must begin to elect representatives who will serve all Baptists and not the select few who fully agree with them. If we do not, we should quit calling ourselves a free church. Maybe we should even quit calling it church, because the Lord we serve surely would not recognize it as such.

Scott Frady
Louisville

What next?

I read a report of an endorsement of Fred Wolfe by a coalition of fundamentalists in his quest to become president of the convention (WR, March 8).

Having met last fall to endorse Mr. Wolfe, this group announced this candidate is their choice.

To keep the appearance of things spiritual, a "special" prayer was offered for this candidacy at the SBC Executive Committee, which Wolfe chairs. Did they pray for victory? Did they pray for continuing domination? Did they pray for favored election results, as if God had favorites?

Ah, Lord, what next? After receiving a request for "equal time," this group decided to pray for any other, as-yet-unannounced, candidate dumb enough to become embroiled in this political quagmire.

As this controlling group of Baptists continue to meet and plot their course of action, remembering at the last moment to insert some sort of prayer, including the mostly Christian gesture of granting "equal time" for non-endorsed seekers of control, we are reminded of a Bold Mission Thrust that has long since died from the lack of any leadership endorsement based on prayer—in equal time or at no time.

Edward Clark
Danville

Amen, preacher!

Occasionally a pastor's column in his church bulletin strikes a fire in my own heart. This one, by Pastor Floyd Price of Scottsville Baptist Church, was such a column.

"If I remain unaware of something, it is never a priority for me—even in my thoughts. But when I am made aware of anything that is important, that thing usually dominates my thinking process. I am like the professors they used to joke about at seminary: 'You can always tell what book they are reading; it's all they talk about.'"

"What is happening to people dominates my thinking right now. Teen-agers in our school engage in sex for recreation. Like drinking a Coke, going to a ball game, playing a game of cards, many of our youth engage in sex because it is fun.

"Young adults still do drugs for the fun of it. Just outside the doors of our church, stood a young man and his wife with a child in her arms sniffing glue. That same couple will come to us and ask that we give them food or

rent. We will give it because Jesus said to and because we don't want a child to be hungry.

"Down the street from my office, a very rich man rents property to very poor people which is unfit for people to live in. Without conscience, he takes their money and they are cold most of the time; too broke to do anything about it.

"Up the street is a young lady who marries someone who does not work and they live off welfare. She stays married, though he beats and abuses her; she has someone to go to bed with, and together they can get food stamps. Their babies will

grow up to live the same way. "I have not written this to tell you about New York City. What I have written happens in Scottsville. What is happening?"

"I believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to all of these problems. But that cannot be just a theme. What is dominating my thinking is my role in all of these problems. Somehow as a pastor of a church with resources to make a difference, I must convince a

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM: SINGLES

Dealing with an ex

By Harry Rowland

Q. I have been divorced for a short time. My ex wants to be friends, but I can't be, at least not now. Should I try to develop a friendship?

A. Divorce doesn't end problems or relationships; it merely changes them. One reason divorces occur is that many couples think that a divorce will solve their problems.

Regardless of the problems, divorce doesn't wipe the slate clean. There may be some immediate release of stress with a divorce, but the problems still have to be addressed.

All couples have problems. The choice is whether to deal with them as a couple or as individuals. Divorce only adds more problems.

Since problems as well as exes don't evaporate with a divorce, you must relate in some ways with your ex. Some manage to stay friends. They still have a lot in common—children and history. So they may spend some time together. Others aren't so fortunate. They find themselves relating negatively.

Harold Ivan Smith cites four such roles:

■ Grudge-matchers. You have unresolved issues, and it doesn't take much to fight.

■ Time-bombers. You feel like you're walking through a mine field. Any step could cause you to explode.

■ Guerrillas. You launch an attack and run.

■ Revengers. "He'll pay."

There are some who work hard on a friendly divorce. But that's not always possible to achieve or maintain. For some it is possible to be friends now, but over time, new experiences and relationships will alter or even eliminate that friendship.

On the other hand, you may not be able to be friends now. But in time, you may—if enough seeds of friendship are planted. This friendship may actually do more for children than for you.

Paul wrote, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18). And "everyone" includes your ex. But the key phrases are "if it is possible" and "as far as it depends on you." After some divorces, there isn't a lot of possibility left over.

Harry Rowland is pastor of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church.

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

EDITORIALS

Help start a church where it's needed the most

Drive across Kentucky, and look for steeples. A Baptist church seems to pop up on almost every corner. Some people see all those steeples and claim our state is over-churched. But looks can be deceiving.

A Southern Baptist Home Mission Board report indicates 17 Kentucky communities with 5,000 or more residents do not have a Southern Baptist church. That doesn't even count the neighborhoods, subdivisions and apartment complexes where language, lifestyle, race or ethnic background define people who have not been reached by the gospel—be it the Baptist version or any other.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention has been trying to meet this need. Mission Kentucky, the KBC's church-starting emphasis, has produced more than 400 congregations since it began in 1985. Encouraged by this success, KBC leaders have launched Mission Kentucky II, aimed at starting even more churches. A key focus of Mission Kentucky II is multi-housing units—the most under-churched sectors of society.

Start-a-Church Commitment Sunday, March 27, will be a great time for your church to take a hard look at your community. Countless people need to hear the good-news story of Jesus Christ, and new churches have proven to be the most effective way of sharing it with them.

"Serve People. Start Churches" is the Home Mission Board's church-starting theme for 1994. "Starting churches in under-churched communities is one of the greatest ways we can serve people," said David Wigger, a leader of the board's church-starting program. "A community with groups of people not being reached by existing churches is under-churched.

Examples of such groups include mobile home, apartment or condominium dwellers, lifestyle groups; homeless people; illiterate people; blue-collar workers; affluent people; and intellectual people."

And they all need a church that is convenient, that meets their needs and that is capable of proclaiming the gospel and touching them.

Providing new churches to do just that is not easy. Nationwide, 3,464 communities with 5,000 or more residents are not served by Baptist churches. And, like Kentucky, many more do not have adequate numbers and kinds of churches to reach all the people.

Wigger suggests Baptists take three primary steps to identify under-churched communities:

■ Conduct research through demographic, psychographic and lifestyle databases.

■ Minister to the felt needs of people.

■ Use research methods that put names, addresses and faces together, such as telemarketing, door-to-door surveys, religious opinion polls or inventories of individual and community needs.

Chances are, your church will discover a neighborhood or group of people who need a church started especially for them. You can change lives forever and contribute to God's kingdom by starting a church for them.

For information about starting churches, contact the KBC direct missions department at (502) 245-4101.

Marv Knox

Start-a-Church Commitment Sunday, March 27, will be a great time for your church to consider the need for other congregations in your community.

Baptists need more, not less, investigative reporting

Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young's remarks about the denominational press to the SBC Executive Committee are quite troubling.

"I personally do not believe that those who are in the business of being editors of Christian papers, journals, etc., need to be in the business of investigative reporting," he said. "In other words, as a man who seeks to understand and live by the Bible, I should not in any way seek to uncover anything about your life and publicize it in a negative way, whatever you have done, whatever I have done. We are to cover our brother's nakedness."

Most Christian journalists would agree we should not seek to uncover things about one's life and report it in a negative way. And even an avid reader of state Baptist newspapers and magazines would be hard pressed to find such examples.

Most Christian journalists would agree that we should seek to cover our brother's nakedness. Yet it is difficult to find a Bible reference which exhorts us to "cover up" our brother's nakedness. That is a grave situation in some denominations today and is becoming a major problem in Southern Baptist life.

Young urges editors to major on the "fabulous things" that are happening in the kingdom and not to "zero in on some little knot on a log ... and give it a prominent place in our Southern Baptist publications."

Such a philosophy of the role of the press, religious or secular, would preclude reporting on one or two students carrying guns or pushing drugs at school because hundreds of other students do not.

The overwhelming majority of space in state Baptist papers is used to share positive, good news. Occasionally, however, there is the need to in-

form Baptists of events and/or situations which may be harmful if ignored.

It is imperative to publish the "fabulous things" taking place in Baptist life, for that is primarily what we are about. But we need to be mature and honest enough to face reality and deal with those issues and events which will bring harm to the family of faith if "covered up."

Young's assessment of the role of the denominational press is shared by many in religious circles. And while the press is not perfect, Baptists and Americans have always preferred an imperfect press to one controlled by the government and/or a denomination.

A major cause of the confusion in Southern Baptist life today is the failure of the denominational press to investigate more thoroughly and vigorously the claims and actions of spokesmen on all sides of the controversy. In far too many instances, we have "covered up" rather than "cov-

ered" nakedness in the denomination.

Why, for example, should the program and budget subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee not allow the editor of the Florida Baptist Witness to sit in on the deliberations of how the 10 million-plus Cooperative Program dollars from the state are to be spent? Is it to cover or cover up the actions of certain committee members?

And why would a meeting which includes the officers of the SBC Executive Committee require the taping of napkins over the windows in the door? To cover or cover up?

As long as Baptist leaders continue the use of "executive sessions" to cover up their actions, Baptists journalism will need more, not less investigative reporting. When there is no longer a need to cover up our actions, then we can concentrate on covering our brother's nakedness.

Jack Brymer, editor
Florida Baptist Witness
Jacksonville

Baptists must distinguish between "covering" and "covering up" significant actions and events in our life together.

GUEST EDITORIAL

They say fashion follows logical patterns, but it's all geek to me

We need a rule that says civilized people can't talk about fashion at the dinner table.

Unfortunately, we don't have one, and the subject of clothes came up the other night. Lindsay, our 10-year-old, and I somehow got to discussing what kids wear nowadays. Inevitably, the conversation turned to T-shirts.

You've probably noticed T-shirts are the bumper-stickers of fashion. They come in every size and color, and you can buy them with just about every picture and/or message ironed on them. In the novel "Texasville," writer Larry McMurtry created a character who shaped her personality by the quotes she emblazoned on her T-shirts.

But our discussion focused upon the

garden-variety plain, white T.

"I can't believe they're so popular today," I said, imperceptibly disclosing my fashion not-with-it-ness.

"Yeah," Lindsay added. "Teen-agers wear them with everything."

I'd noticed that. Visit a mall or fast-food joint or other place where teen-agers hang out, and you'll see T-shirts underneath everything. They even wear them under cotton knit polo shirts, which would've been a fashion faux pas of the worst order

in the polyester days of my youth, when the ultimate fashion statement was a slinky-slick shirt with a mural printed on it. We who were hip would've avoided a plain, white T-shirt like the plague.

"Back when I was a kid," I said, pretending my child could imagine that far into the recesses of history, "only geeks wore white T-shirts."

"You know what geeks wear now?" Lindsay asked, with only the slightest of grins foreshadowing her mischief.

"What?" I asked gamely. (Why do I do things like that? Asking "What?" like that

is the verbal equivalent to boxing with both hands tied behind your back.)

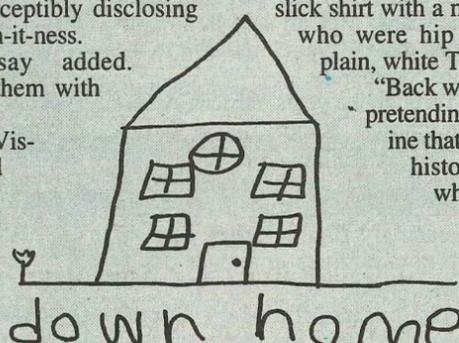
"Button-down shirts," she replied, smiling as if she just check-mated the world chess champion.

Ouch! Kids sure know how to hurt a guy, and Lindsay knew full-well that buttons anchor the collars of 90 percent of my shirts.

She must've seen the geeky-sad look on my face, for she quickly turned compassionate. "It's OK," she soothed. "You've got to wear them with your ties to work, and I love you anyway."

And God does too. Wasn't the Apostle Paul the one who said God loves everybody, "Jew and geek" alike?

Marv Knox



SBC member & giving gains rate high in comparison

NEW YORK—Among the major religions of the United States, Southern Baptists experienced the fourth-highest rate of membership growth and the second-highest rate of increase in total giving for 1992, according to new data published in the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches 1994.

The reference volume, released last week by the National Council of Churches, shows that membership in most of the 10 largest U.S. denominations increased slightly or remained stable from 1991 to 1992.

Total giving increased from 1991 to 1992 in seven U.S. denominations that regularly report giving patterns, but the increase did not always keep pace with the 3 percent inflation rate. Two denominations, the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Church of Christ, saw a decrease in giving even before factoring in inflation.

From 1991 to 1992, membership in the Southern Baptist Convention increased 0.83 percent, to 15.36 million.

The SBC was outpaced in membership growth by the National Baptist Convention USA (2.5 percent), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/Mormons, (2.16 percent) and

the Roman Catholic Church (1.63 percent).

Other groups holding steady or showing lesser gains include the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (0.09 percent), United Methodist Church (0.04 percent) and African Methodist Episcopal Church (0 percent).

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America decreased 0.20 percent in membership. The two other bodies among the nation's 10 largest—the Church of God in Christ and the National Baptist Convention of America—did not report new data for 1992.

Among the largest U.S. denominations, the largest increase in giving was reported by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (4.89 percent).

The SBC came in second, with a 3.97 percent gain, for a total of \$5.2 billion given to local churches.

Other groups reporting increased giving include the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (1.76 percent), Christian Church/Disciples of Christ (1.36 percent), and American Baptist Churches (0.76 percent).

On the down side, the Presbyterian Church USA lost 2.72 percent in contributions and the United Church of Christ dropped 3.54 percent.

Barna examines Hispanic religion

NEW YORK—The religious expressions of U.S. Hispanics differs from the rest of the nation's population in at least four ways, according to George Barna, president of the Barna Research Group in Glendale, Calif.

Barna authored one of four special articles on Latino religion in the newly released edition of the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches. His article is titled, "Perspective on the Spirituality of Hispanics in the United States."

The differences he cites are:

Church attendance. Hispanic adults are less likely than the typical American to attend a church service or read the Bible outside a church service during a typical week. However, they are less likely than black or white adults to be unchurched.

Eternal assurance. Hispanic adults are less likely than others to say they believe they will go to heaven when they die because they have confessed sins and accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. But Hispan-

ics are just as likely as others to say they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their lives today.

Reality of Jesus. Hispanics are more likely than other adults to concur that "Jesus Christ was crucified, died, rose from the dead and is spiritually alive today." They also are more likely than others to agree that "the Bible is totally accurate in all that it teaches."

Homosexuality. Hispanic adults are more likely than evangelicals and most other adults to decree that homosexuality is a private matter that is nobody's business. In fact, they are 48 percent more likely than all adults to strongly disagree that "homosexuality is immoral."

In the article, Barna predicts an increasing number of Hispanics will leave the Roman Catholic Church for Protestant churches. He also identifies the Hispanic market as a "growth" market for theological education, Christian literature sales and revival evangelists.

Letter-writers sought for campaign to help hungry children

WASHINGTON—A nationwide campaign to seek full funding for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children was launched earlier this month by Bread for the World, a advocacy group composed of Christian citizens.

"Without writing checks—just letters to Congress—Southern Baptists can help win nearly a billion dollars for vital nutrition and health-related services for low-income women and children," said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World. The targeted program, known as WIC, has proved to be more cost-effective than treatment for the results of hunger, he explained.

More Americans now live below the poverty level than at any time since 1962, Beckmann said. Nearly half of these 36.9 million Americans are children, he added.

The U.S. now has a child poverty rate more than double that of any other industrialized nation, Beckmann reported. "One in four U.S. children under age 6 lives in poverty. An estimated 12 million children in the United States are hungry."

Beckmann said letters written from Southern Baptists and other Christians could make a difference. "If just a fraction of the more than 70 million Americans estimated in the pews on a given Sunday wrote letters on this issue, Congress couldn't ignore the massive outcry," he said.

The effort has been endorsed by Nathan Porter, hunger consultant with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"Bread for the World's 'A Child is Waiting' campaign can help transform our faith into action and make a lasting difference in the lives of hungry children and mothers," he said. "I encourage all Southern Baptists to actively and prayerfully support this life-saving offering of letters."

During the past two years, Bread for the World organized churches to help win nearly \$2 billion to expand three U.S. childhood hunger programs: WIC, Head Start and Job Corps. That action aided about a million low-income people.

To facilitate this letter-writing, Bread for the World offers a packet of literature to help churches produce an offering of letters. The kits are available for \$8 by writing Bread for the World at 1100 Wayne Ave., Suite 1000, Silver Spring, Md. 20910.

Growing black churches break boundaries

Continued from page 1

highly educated people is evidence that the black middle class is growing in that community. The Atlanta suburb, once predominantly white, is now nearly 60 percent black.

Born two years ago in a schism, the church has grown from 200 members to nearly 900. At the heart of the church's growth is an array of ministries represented by more than 40 multi-colored, handmade banners which line the church's atrium.

Congregational participation has been a key for the church's rapid growth, said Pastor Emmanuel McCall. "The word has gotten around that at Christian Fellowship you can be involved," said McCall, a Southern Seminary alumnus and a visiting professor of black church studies at the school for more than 20 years. The church sponsors various social ministries, missions organizations and educational programs as well as innovative drama, art and music ministries.

While most members at Christian Fellowship are middle class, others in the congregation are less affluent. With problems such as poverty, violence and drugs still plaguing black Americans, McCall said he is concerned that the church minister to the entire community.

Through the years, African American church leaders have distinguished themselves as advocates for social change. Although churches still enlist government support, they are increasingly finding other ways to help communities empower themselves, Walker explained.

At Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville, the congregation has formed a non-profit corporation for the "expressed purpose of bringing economic development to the African American community,"

said Pastor Walter Malone, also a Southern Seminary graduate.

One of the corporation's first projects is computer literacy classes taught free of charge.

"We are not waiting for city government to give us a future or change our community," Malone said. "We are going to change the community ourselves. It's what we call black self-determination."

In addition to ministries of empowerment, advocacy and social action, Canaan also has a powerful evangelistic thrust. "Jesus had a dou-

ble 'e' ministry," Malone said. "He preached both emancipation and evangelization."

Under Malone's leadership, Canaan was constituted a decade ago with only a handful of members. Now that congregation tops 1,000 in membership and recently moved into a new \$1.2 million facility.

"There may be economic shortages, but I tell people there is no sinner shortage," Malone said. "The only question is, 'Who will love people enough to go out after them and tell them about Christ?'"

Poll finds racial prejudice remains

Continued from page 1

from the assessment of people of color about their own prospects."

It is as if "most whites are sleepwalking, either unaware of the hard reality of discrimination or blind to its tangible impact in the daily lives of minorities," the survey summary suggests.

But the pollsters also found reason for hope about race relations.

"Despite the ugly stereotypes that scar the American landscape, the study reveals that overwhelming majorities of each group express a willingness to work with other groups to deal with pressing community issues like education, child care and violence," the summary says.

Among the survey's findings:

■ 66 percent of all minorities believe whites are insensitive to other people and have a long history of bigotry and prejudice.

■ 80 percent of African Americans feel they lack the same opportunities enjoyed by whites, as do 60

percent of Latino Americans and 57 percent of Asian Americans.

■ 67 percent of all whites believe African Americans are given an equal opportunity to receive quality education.

■ Minority groups tend to be strongest in expressing prejudicial views about other minority groups. For example, 54 percent of African American respondents agreed with the statement, "When it comes to choosing between people and money, Jews will choose money." Only 27 percent of non-Jewish whites agreed with that statement.

■ 80 percent of Americans as a whole believe African Americans "have made valuable contributions to American society," "will work hard when given a chance," "believe strongly in American ideals and the American dream" and are "deeply religious."

■ About 90 percent of all Americans endorse the idea that different groups should learn to understand and appreciate other groups.

INSIDE Ministry Emphasis Calls All Churches to Action

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Student Ministry: 81 students chosen for summer missions. **Archives:** Learn to preserve your church's history. **Clerks:** Uniform Church Letter changes name and form in 1994.

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Brotherhood: Fishing tournaments and track meets. **Minister/Church Support:** It's never too early for holiday gift ideas. **Evangelism:** David Garrard and Mark McClintock added to YouthFest program. **Family Ministry:** Last call for senior adult retreat registration.

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Annuity: Minister's money matters. **Foundation:** Proof of charitable contributions. **Church Music:** All State Children's Choir and children's music camp.

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Partnership Missions: Russia partnership prayer concerns. **Jonathan Creek Assembly:** Quality is our pledge. **Cedarmore Assembly:** Weather plays havoc with repairs.

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Church Growth & Administration: Super Saturday conferences. **Sunday School:** Church weekday education seminars and help for special education ministries.

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Discipleship Training: Discipleship week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. **Stewardship:** Resources to help your church's financial stewardship needs.

Beginning next month, every Kentucky Baptist church is being asked to plan at least one ministry project to complete during 1994.

This is part of the nationwide "Hope for Hurting Humanity" emphasis supported by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union.

"Hope for Hurting Humanity is an effort to involve you and your church in practical projects to meet real needs in your community," explained Tony Hough, associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department.

"From mid-June through July of 1994, Baptist churches all over the United States will unite to feed, clothe, encourage and enrich the lives of people in need," he said. "The good news of Christ still gives hope for hurting humanity, but many people around us cannot hear the gospel for the growling of their stomachs or the crying of their children.

"We can open their ears with the loving touch of Christ through practical ministry to their needs," Hough said.

The goal of Hope for Hurting Humanity is for every Southern Baptist church to engage in at least one ministry project this year. A project may be a single activity done by the church as a whole, a larger activity divided into components assigned to various classes or organizations, a series of programs to meet a variety of community needs.

If no other structure exists to direct this, churches are encouraged to form a Hope for Hurting Humanity task force. This task force may include the pastor, WMU director, Brotherhood director, missions council director and other church leaders.

Bob Simpkins, Kentucky Brotherhood director, said the na-

for existence, Simpkins said.

"Brotherhood has developed programs in Baptist Builders, disaster relief, Hope for Homes, and jail/prison ministry," he explained. "Each of these areas represents mission activities which are extensions of the local church."

Likewise, Kentucky WMU has enthusiastically embraced Hope

needs during the six-week emphasis—and that ministry will continue to enrich the life of that church."

This is an exciting way for churches to lay groundwork for the 1995 simultaneous revivals, Byrdwell added. "As entire churches become concerned for persons with special needs, the

helper and the receiver can experience a new realization of what God is like."

A guide for planning participation in Hope for Hurting Humanity is available from the KBC direct missions department or from HMB customer services at (800) 634-2462.

A suggested schedule includes these components:

- Committing to spiritual preparation and prayer.

- Conducting a community-needs survey to determine where a church best can offer a helping hand.

- Selecting one or more priority projects for congregational approval.

- Committing the necessary financial and personnel resources to make the project happen.

- Recruiting and training volunteers.

- Conducting the ministry project.

- Evaluating the project.

The Hope for Hurting Humanity guidebook includes tips for conducting the community-needs survey. It offers step-by-step directions for an in-church survey, community survey and agency/institution survey.

Additional resources are available to provide detailed suggestions on a variety of potential ministry projects.



tionwide emphasis mirrors a program adopted by Kentucky Brotherhood several years ago. In Brotherhood program structures, Hope for Hurting Humanity is a term for what previously was called "human needs," he said.

Kentucky Brotherhood views Hope for Hurting Humanity not as a one-time project but as a reason

for Hurting Humanity, said Anna Mary Byrdwell, associate in the Kentucky WMU office.

"This special emphasis calls attention to activities in which many Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women are involved in ongoing work," she noted. "We hope every church will choose to meet one or more of the special

25 Ideas for Ministry Projects

- Teaching adults to read
- Ministering to deaf people
- Working with disabled people
- Helping homeless people
- Working with immigrants
- Working with international students
- Ministering to latchkey children
- Working with migrants
- Ministering to people in resort settings
- Helping substance abusers

- Hosting a health fair
- Providing respite care for disabled people and their families
- Teaching conversational English
- Hosting a backyard Bible club
- Hosting a Big A club
- Offering crisis pregnancy care
- Doing construction work for a mission church, ministry center or people who can't afford to repair their own homes

- Sponsoring a day camp
- Distributing food
- Distributing Scripture portions in various languages
- Ministering in nursing homes
- Conducting a vacation Bible school in partnership with a needy church
- Resettling refugees
- Offering volunteer chaplaincy services to law enforcement agencies
- Offering summer recreation programs for youth

STUDENT MINISTRY

81 students chosen for summer missions

Summer Missions Commissioning Service

April 9 • 7:30 p.m.

London • First Baptist Church

Baptist Student Union peers, Kentucky Baptist Student Ministry staff, parents, relatives, home church pastors and friends will be among the anticipated 700 in attendance as 81 college students are commissioned for summer missions during a special service on Saturday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. EDT. First Baptist Church, London, is the host site for the commissioning service.

Terry Lester, pastor of First Church London, will deliver the commissioning service message. Each student missionary shares some brief personal information and then asks an influential person in their lives to stand beside them as they encircle the auditorium. A dinner honoring the student

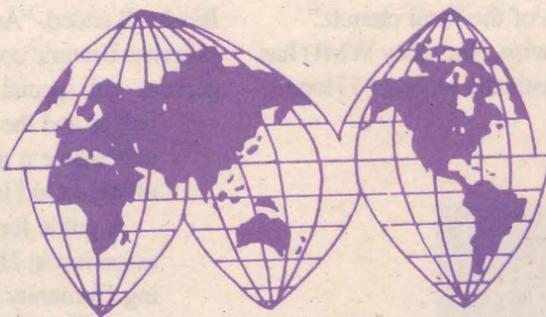
missionaries and their special guests precedes the commissioning service.

The 81 students will serve 10 weeks as volunteer missionaries in various places around the world, the United States as well as Kentucky. Of the 81, 55 will serve in Kentucky—27 on five Son Teams and 28 in other areas of the Commonwealth.

Ralph Hopkins, associate director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Student

Department, is the student missions coordinator.

For more information, contact:
KBC Student Department
(502) 245-4101, extensions 320 or 321.



ARCHIVES

Learn to preserve your church's history as a congregation observes its bicentennial

Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission and Friends Meeting

April 15-16 • Burlington • Bullittsburg Baptist Church

The Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission and Friends are hosting a special meeting which coincides with Burlington's Bullittsburg Baptist Church's Bicentennial celebration on April 15-16. Those interested in writing and preserving Kentucky Baptist and local church histories and also observing a congregation's anniversary celebration are invited.

The event begins with a 6:30 Friday dinner at Bullittsburg Church, located at 2616 Bullittsburg Road in Burlington. A program follows that evening which features "The Relationship of Kirtley Family to Bullittsburg Baptist Church" and "When Edgar Young Mullins Succeeded William Whitsitt." Dr. William Ellis, a professor at Eastern Kentucky University, is the guest speaker.

The Saturday program begins at 9:30 a.m. Donna Colegrove, a professor at Cumberland College, will sing five short hymns which were heard in early Baptist life. A monologue depicting the life of Lewis Craig, an early Baptist pioneer, will be

portrayed by Richard Vaughn, assistant pastor, First Baptist Church of Williamsburg. The event concludes with visits to one of the oldest known baptismal pools in Kentucky as well as an old burial vault.

Advance reservations for the Friday dinner are needed by April 11. Check the appropriate box on EVENTS page 8a if you plan to attend the dinner. The meal cost is \$6 per person and it may be paid at the door.

For more information, contact Archives, Attention: Doris Yeiser, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 209.

Another upcoming event:
A "How to" Workshop for Church Celebrations and History
June 4
Burlington
Burlington Baptist Church

CLERKS IN CHURCHES & ASSOCIATIONS

Uniform Church Letter changes name and form in 1994

Changes in the Southern Baptist Uniform Church Letter, to be effective in 1994, were unveiled last September 23, to make the annual statistical report easier to complete, result in more accurate statistics at the national level, and be of greater benefit locally, according to Tom Carringer, denominational statistics specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

In addition to providing a statistical report to the association, state convention and Southern Baptist Convention, Carringer told members of the SBC Coordinating Committee the UCL will be a more effective tool for churches to measure their health, growth and progress.

To better describe the dual purposes, Carringer said the name of the Uniform Church Letter will change to "The Annual Church Profile."

As Carringer surveyed church, associational, state and SBC leaders who have church letter responsibilities, he said he repeatedly was told that the appearance and number of items of information requested were intimidating to those unfamiliar with the process. As a result, some churches simply

didn't complete the forms, necessitating telephone and mail follow-up at the associational or state convention level.

Respondents also asked that the UCL be reformatted with items in a more logical sequence. As a result, The Annual Church Profile will reverse the order of enrollment figures, requesting the total first, followed by age group breakdowns.

Confusion also has existed in churches reporting statistics on mission-type churches they sponsor. Through 1993, mission statistics are reported in the totals for sponsoring churches. Beginning with 1994, churches and mission-type churches will be reported separately and then totaled together.

Carringer said more churches and associations are using computer software to complete church letters—approximately 30 percent in 1992—and the number is expected to increase this year.

"Since the software has built-in error checking capabilities, it has become the preferred method of collecting data for those churches and associations having computers," Carringer said. The result is a higher accuracy rate and lower cost.

For the future, he envisions wedding denominational statistics and geo-demographics information whereby a church or association could, among many things, analyze its own growth patterns and identify growth and ministry opportunities in a specific community.

He called the changes for 1994 "the beginning of a process. I believe the statistics will not only become more accurate but more meaningful on church, associational, state and denominational levels.

Associational Officers Briefings

West April 30
Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly

East May 14
Winchester First Baptist Church



"UCL...ACP...UCL...ACP.
I think I've got it!"

EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

BROTHERHOOD

Ah! Spring events at last

Fishing tournaments

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department again will host two fishing tournaments this year. The first tournament is April 15-16 at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly; the second is May 6-7 at Laurel Lake Camp.

Both fishing tournaments will include a category for rough fish and another for bass only. Prizes will be given each day, with accumulative prizes awarded on Saturday afternoon.

Terry Chupp, a professional fisherman and evangelist, will speak Friday evening at the Laurel Lake Camp tournament site.



Chupp is currently on the tournament road this year, having fished with the greatest casters. He will display his new bass boat to the tournament attendees at Laurel Lake and also provide helpful fishing technique instruction.

AOB meetings

Associational Officers Briefing meetings—west region meets April 30 at Jonathan Creek Assembly and east region meets May 14 at Winchester's First Baptist

Church—can provide associational Brotherhood leadership with updates on newest materials and programs.

State track meets and conclaves

The state track meets and conclaves are also planned for this spring. Lads and Crusaders meet and conclave is May 13-14 at Jonathan Creek. May 20-21 is the meet and conclave event for Pioneers, High School Baptist Young Men and adults. The Around

the World Missions Basketball Shootout and RA Racer State Finals are scheduled on Friday evenings at each of these track and conclave event sites.

Please contact your associational office for more specific track information.

MINISTER/CHURCH SUPPORT

It's never too early for holiday gift ideas

By the end of February, I recall that most of our girls' Christmas toys had lost their "shine", the batteries had run down several times and the new clothes had been washed more than once. Thoughts of next Christmas had also probably entered those little heads. Not a bad idea, really, to do some advance planning about what we need to give or receive in another season of sharing. The gifts could be more fitting and reflect more thoughtful love if we avoid the last minute rush or resort to the routine "useful" gift.

Many churches give good gifts to their pastors and staff ministers each December. Some are in the habit of providing a cash bonus as part of the regular budget. Others receive a love offering or buy a gift to express their appreciation and affection. There is no doubt that these gifts are received with gratitude and serve useful purposes. Now, with almost a year before the next Christmas holiday season, begin considering what would be a good, creative gift for these servants of the Lord.

If we wanted to express our gratitude in a way that says, "We truly do appreciate who you are and what you do," what shape would our gift take?

Whatever way you choose to express your love and support would be a memorable gift.

Some suggestions from Guy Futral

1. Time is money, so consider some more vacation days. Most ministers live away from their larger family. If that's the case with yours, they would enjoy a few days to visit their loved ones during Christmas. Others would use the "gift days" at another time of the year.
2. Look for specific needs. Years ago, a congregation gave our family a set of oak chairs to go with our table. We still use them daily. I've reglued them and repaired them and remember with deep appreciation the friends that gave them.
3. Be personal. If the gift is a fixed item in the budget, you can add words of affirmation and blessing during a service, but in some way let them know the gift is special and represents your care.
4. Remember every staff person. Support staff are sometimes overlooked. Secretaries have a special ministry, not merely helping the ministers. So do custodians, cooks and child care employees. They should be included in the gift giving.
5. Give a gift of yourself. Your words may be the best you could do—a note, card or spoken word.

EVANGELISM

David Garrard and Mark McClintock added to YouthFest '94 program

The February EVENTS Evangelism feature promoted headlining program personalities—evangelist Rodney Gage and popular contemporary Christian recording artists 4 HIM—scheduled to appear at this year's Kentucky Baptist YouthFest at Frankfort's Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center. Two more program personalities have also been added to the June 24-25 event, both of whom will bring their unique gifts in sharing the gospel message.

David Garrard, minister to children at Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church, also travels the country as a professional illusionist. The Georgia native is a graduate of Samford University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He joined the St. Matthews staff in 1975.

Mark McClintock, minister to children at Louisville's Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, is a professional ventriloquist. He is a graduate of the University of Texas and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The YouthFest is expected to draw over 6,000 people.



David Garrard



Mark McClintock

Pre-registration is \$4; cost at the door is \$5. Overnight accommodations information will be emphasized in Evangelism's April EVENTS features.

If further information is needed, please check the appropriate information box on EVENTS page 8a or contact the Office for Evangelism, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 330.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Last call for senior adult retreat registrations

1994 Senior Adult Retreats



May 16-18

Bagdad
Cedarmore Baptist Assembly

May 23-25

Hardin
Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly

Senior adult retreats offer participants unique opportunities for fellowship, spiritual renewal and worship. These retreats are held in the relaxed setting of a Kentucky Baptist assembly.

A variety of workshops will be offered which relate to the theme: "Growing Older, Growing Wiser."

Retreats begin with supper on Monday and end with lunch on Wednesday.

Retreat costs

Overnight guests - \$86 per person. Fee includes two nights lodging (double occupancy) and six meals.

Commuter guests - \$6 per person per day plus costs of meals.

For more information about these events, please complete the form on EVENTS page 8a or call the KBC Family Ministry Department at (502) 245-4101, extension 250.

ANNUITY

Minister's money matters

IRS continues review of ministers

Last year the IRS examined returns of many Kentucky ministers as part of its market segment specialization program. Since this effort is to continue during 1994, there are three key issues for which the IRs is looking:

1. **Employee status for income tax purposes**

Thus, the minister should receive a W-2 form and report taxable wages from the church on Form 1040. (Ministers are still self-employed for Social Security.

2. **Is housing included in computing SECA?**

Ministers must include the value of a parsonage, utilities paid by the church on that parsonage, and any housing allowance in the amount used to calculate SECA (self-employment Social Security tax).

3. **Does Schedule C include self-employment income?**

The IRS will generally assume most ministers have income from such events as participation in weddings, funerals and revivals to be reported on Schedule C as self-employment income.

Excellent earnings continue in the Church Annuity Plan

Depending on their fund selection, participants in the Church Annuity Plan realized earnings as high as 13.25% during 1993. Every Kentucky Baptist minister should participate in this plan for benefits that cannot be matched in any other plan.

Listed below are the earnings for 1993 and for the past 10 years in the four investment funds available in the Church Annuity Plan:

	1994	10 yr. average
Fixed Fund	7.07%	9.45%
Variable Fund	10.51%	11.99%
Balanced Fund	13.25%	11.41%
Short Term Fund	2.92%	6.84%

FOUNDATION

Proof of charitable contributions

Starting in 1994, a person claiming a charitable deduction for a gift of \$250 or more must have written substantiation of that gift from the charity prior to filing a tax return claiming this deduction. The substantiation must state the amount of the gift and whether any goods or services were provided to the donor. If any goods or services were provided, a good faith estimate of the value of these goods or services must be included in the written substantiation.

The new substantiation rules apply to gifts of cash as well as gifts of property. A canceled check will no longer be an adequate substantiation of a gift.

The charity is not required to place a value on a gift or property. It is only necessary that the property be described in the written substantiation.

The new law also requires charities that solicit contributions in exchange for goods or services to state in the solicitation—and in a gift acknowledgment—that the charitable contribution is limited to the amount of the gift less the value of the goods or services

YOUR GIFTS THROUGH YOUR BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Work Around the Clock Until the End of Time

provided by the charity. This new requirement affects most *quid pro quo* contributions of more than \$75 made after December 31, 1993. The charity must also provide a good faith estimate of the value of the goods or services that it provides.

For more information on this topic, call the Kentucky Baptist Foundation office at (502) 245-4101, extension 354.

CHURCH MUSIC

Children are a priority

Kentucky Baptist All State Children's Choir in concert

April 17

Shelbyville, First Baptist Church
Morning worship service

3:30 p.m.

Louisville, Southern Seminary
Heeren Recital Hall

Some of the finest musicians in the state comprise the 60 voice Kentucky Baptist All State Children's Choir. The choir, selected by audition, consists of fourth, fifth and sixth graders. June Bailey, children's music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is the choir director; Kathy Collier, of Louisville's Highland Baptist Church, is the choir accompanist.

Rehearsals begin with April 15-17 weekend retreat at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. The Louisville Youth Choir (preparatory group) will present a Friday evening concert for the All State Choir. The Louisville Youth Choir, directed by Donna Barnett, has sung numerous concerts in and around Louisville.



The Kentucky Baptist All State Children's Choir makes its debut during the Sunday morning worship service at First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, April 17. Following worship, the choir will present a concert in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Heeren Recital Hall at 3:30 p.m. All family members, friends and interested persons are invited to come and hear this outstanding children's choir.

Summer Music Fun

Children in grades 4-6 have the unique opportunity this summer to experience a variety of musical activities. The Older Children's Music Camp, scheduled for July 18-22 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, will feature the following:

- Singing
- Worship
- Handbells
- Recorders
- Orff instruments
- Instrumental ensemble

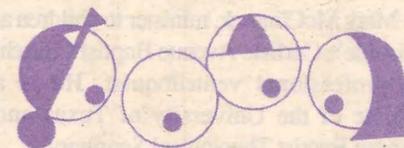
Those who have prior training on handbells, recorder and Orff instruments may participate in an ensemble.

- Recreation
- Swimming
- Banners and crafts
- Campfire
- Talent/skit nights

Naomi King Walker, assistant music minister at Louisville's Lyndon Baptist Church and a recent doctoral graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's School of Church Music, will direct the Older Children's Music camp.

The camper fee is \$80, which includes 12 meals, four nights' lodging, insurance and music materials.

For more information, please check the appropriate box on EVENTS page 8a or contact June Bailey, Church Music Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 325.



PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

Add these Russian needs to your daily prayers

The following are Kentucky/Russia Partnership prayer concerns which have been submitted:

From Gloria DeLeon in St. Petersburg

- Annette Jackson, a missionary in Moscow (her husband is Billy Jackson, construction missionary) has had surgery and radiation therapy; the prognosis looks good. Annette will remain in America for two months; Billy will return to Moscow in a few weeks.
- Visas—Renewed visas are required for the Stubbs family and the ESL teachers in Gatchina. Pray that the visas issued will be long term.
- Stubbs family adjustment - Pray that the Stubbs children will adjust to life here. Phillip and Brandy are attending a Russian school. Thus far, the children seem to have adjusted well.



Kentucky/Russia Partnership
Your church or group can send financial help. See the commitment form on EVENTS page 8a.

- Pastor training school - We have started a new session with 21 students and two visiting professors. Professors from Kentucky arrived in February to train leadership for St. Petersburg churches. Continue to remember potential pastor training schools in other parts of Russia.
- Sunday School - Pray for teacher training sessions that began in February. Teachers have a great opportunity to spread the gospel. Some instructors have as many as 200 students and 6-10 classes throughout the week.

- Pray for ESL teachers Aimee Roebuck, Derek Atkins and Michelle Robinson in Gatchina and Linda Sims and Kimberly Pierce in Sosnovi Bar as they begin new semesters. Their curriculum is based on the Gospel of Mark. Pray that God will use this to speak to the hearts of young people and that teachers will recognize the influence of their wisdom to the many people they are daily in contact with.
- Language study - Pray that God will give us the ability to learn the language in order to minister more effectively.

From Martha Lytle in Moscow:

- A Baptist pastor's wife whose family (husband and four children) was murdered last December 31.
- Visa problems in Belarus.
- Housing for missionaries in Moscow and St. Petersburg
- Money to assist Compassion Ministries located at Central Baptist Church in their feeding program for poverty level Muscovites. It now costs \$400-\$500 a month for one kitchen to operate. They have had to close five kitchens during this time of great need.

If interested in receiving more information on the Kentucky/Russia Partnership, contact the KBC Partnership Missions office at (502) 245-4101, extension 339.

JONATHAN CREEK ASSEMBLY

Quality is our pledge

Quality accommodations

- Modern furnishings, full bath and air conditioning
- Multi-purpose large meeting areas
- Hot homemade meals

Quality savings

- A special discount rate is offered through April. During this time, a rate of \$29 per person (two persons per room per day) includes three meals and use of campus facilities—a savings of 21%! It's never been as easy to get so much for so little.

Quality service

- With some service it's just "a lot of lip." Not with the dedicated staff at Jonathan Creek! The only "lip" you'll get from them is a smile.

Nestled along the shore of beautiful Kentucky Lake, Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly offers the serenity of a quiet retreat and the excitement of one of America's most enjoyable recreational settings, *the Land Between the Lakes*

Plan to use Jonathan Creek for your retreat or conference needs. For more information, contact:

Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly
3043 Beal Road
Hardin, KY 42048 (502) 354-8355

CEDARMORE ASSEMBLY

Weather plays havoc with repairs

The hail storm

It all began on the first day of camp last summer. Four and one half inches of rain and enough hail to do more than \$100,000 of damage to roofs in addition to thousands of dollars damage to vehicles. Before we had time to order materials and supplies to finish roof repairs the area was hit hard during the January '94 blizzard.

The snow storm

While record snows in north central Kentucky were set between 16-17 inches, Cedarmore received over 20 inches. The bitter cold snap during the blizzard week registered as low as 38 degrees below zero. It took four days of pipe repair and road clearing for Cedarmore to "break out." No recuperation time followed due to frequent ice storms.

The ice storms

Ice storms took their toll, especially on the pine and cedar trees on the assembly property. Broken limbs lie in piles everywhere. Electric lines were crossed and power was out three times.

Volunteer help needed

All of the weather-related damage listed above confirms the decision made last fall to accept invitations from churches and groups interested in assisting in repairs. There are still available dates in march and April. Give our staff a call at the telephone number listed in this feature.

Events continue

Only one retreat was cancelled during the winter of 1994, the first weather-related cancellation in five years. The staff regrets this unfortunate occurrence but travel conditions proved hazardous.

The calendar is open for more group dates this spring.

For more information, contact:

Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
P. O. Box 37
3083 Cedarmore Road
Bagdad, KY 40003-0037
(502) 747-8911

EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

CHURCH GROWTH & ADMINISTRATION

Serving Today's People . . . Super Saturday Conferences 1994 August and September Six regional locations

Serving today's people through the church encompasses a vast array of needs requiring specialized skills and ministries. Today's "people" expect quality programs, up-to-date education opportunities with proficient teachers and a moral cause or purpose allowing for meaningful and fulfilling investment. They also look for compassion and guidance in times of crisis, occasions for spiritual expression and well-trained leadership. In addition, all these expectations apply to every age group! Serving today's people is not only "vast," it's challenging for church leaders, teachers and workers.

Each Super Saturday conference will offer Leadership Conferences where church leaders, teachers and workers can receive in-depth instruction and train-

ing in their particular area of responsibility and age group. Interest Conferences for awareness and information will also be offered. These 55 minute conferences provide multi-responsibility leaders extra training with a key age group or new ministry. Other church leaders may find the interest conference a valuable supplement to plans for new ministries or programs. Both the Leadership Conferences and Interest Conferences will strengthen and develop the vital skills it takes to meet the needs of your "today's people."



Six Super Saturday Locations

August 13
First Baptist, Madisonville

August 20
Florence Baptist, Florence

August 27
Immanuel Baptist, Lexington

September 10
Unity Baptist, Ashland

September 17
Lone Oak Baptist, Paducah

September 24
First Baptist, Somerset

These departments will participate in the 94 Super Saturday Conferences:

Church Growth
Church Music
Discipleship Training
Evangelism
Family Ministry
Pastors/Staff/DOMs
Sunday School
Stewardship

Super Saturday conferences will be offered at six regional locations throughout Kentucky, three during August and three held in September. Choose a Super Saturday near you. Begin plans to bring your leadership to this one-day training event of the year.

For more information, call 502/245-4101 and say, "Super Saturday!"

SUNDAY SCHOOL

An apple for the teacher

"An Apple for the Teacher" is the theme of the 1994 Church Weekday Education Seminars. The theme was chosen to bring attention to the many unrecognized positive words, actions and influence teachers bring daily into the lives of children.

The seminar dates, time, sites and schedule are provided in the box shown at the right.

Good teachers cannot be paid enough monetarily. The influence on young lives never ends. Think back to your first teachers. Even today those teachers affect your thinking. Here are some examples:

"A teacher told me I was beautiful. She changed my life."

"I remember a teacher who influenced me by her smile and her happy disposition."

"My nursery school teacher made music a continuing part of my life."

"I couldn't run as fast as others in my class. My teacher told me to do my best because that was what was important. She gave me words to live by."

"When I was young, my teacher told me I could do anything I set my mind to. Even today, I recall the very situation that remark generated. It still encourages me."

Attendees at a CWE seminar are eligible to earn six hours of Kentucky church weekday education state approved credit.

The seminar will cost \$10 per person.

For more information, contact Jewell Nelson, associate director, Sunday School Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extensions 300 or 301.



Church Weekday Education Seminars

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

June 4

Louisville

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

June 11

Hopkinsville

First Baptist Church

June 25

Ashland

Rose Hill Baptist Church

Schedule:

8:30-9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00-9:15	Greetings
9:15-10:00	An Apple for the Teacher; A Teacher Appreciation Time Break
10:00-10:15	Workshop I
10:15-11:30	Core Conferences "Bushels of Teaching Ideas"
11:30-12:15	Lunch
12:15-1:30 p.m.	Workshop II
1:45-3:00	Repeat Workshop II

Introducing Pamela Thrift

Special Education Consultant
KBC Sunday School Department

The KBC Sunday School Department recently named Pamela Thrift as a special education consultant. Currently a minister to special needs at Louisville's Highview Baptist



Pamela Thrift

Church, she will offer consultation to families and those in churches with special education disabilities.

The South Carolina native received a bachelor of science degree in special education from Winthrop College, Rock Hill, South Carolina, and a master of divinity degree in Christian education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to serving on staff at Highview, Thrift taught severely multi-handicapped in York, South Carolina and served the Home Mission Board as a worker to handicapped skiers in Colorado.

If interested in receiving more information about special education, contact Pamela Thrift, special education consultant, Sunday School Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

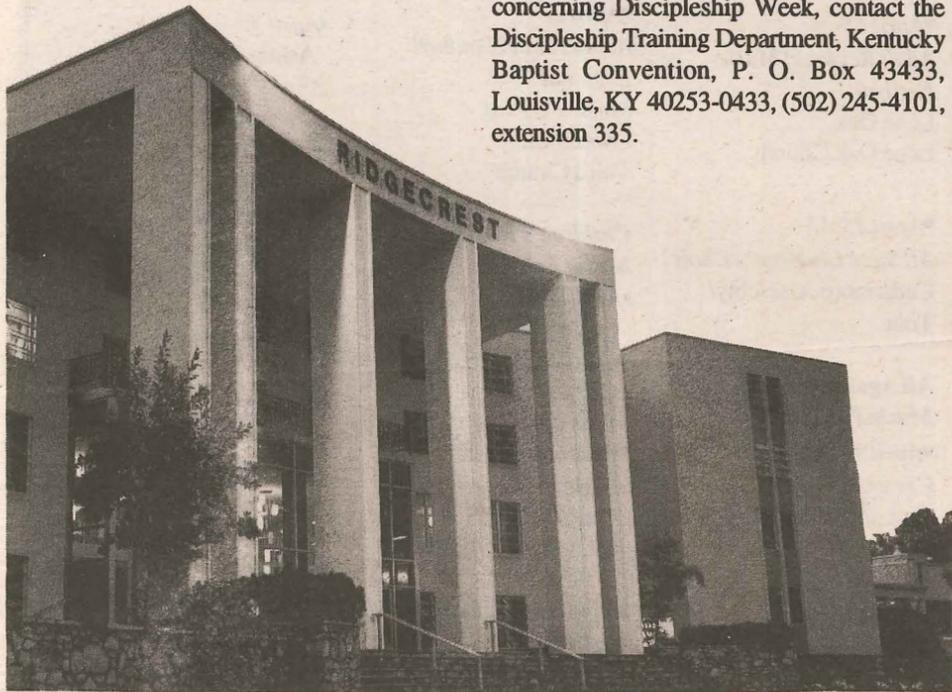
It's a bonus: Beautiful scenery, time of enrichment

The western North Carolina mountains surrounding Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly provide a beautiful backdrop for those attending Discipleship Week July 16-22.

Many new resources will be introduced during Discipleship Week, including the 1995

Baptist Doctrine Study, Partners with God: Bible Truths about Christian Giving, Fresh Encounter, The Mind of Christ and TeamKID as well as several exciting new entries in the LIFE Support series.

For a brochure or additional information concerning Discipleship Week, contact the Discipleship Training Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 335.



Discipleship Week gives opportunities for growth and family enrichment in the following ways:

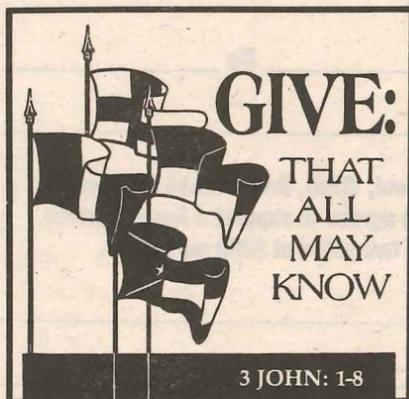
- Preschoolers profit from the best in preschool education while their parents attend conferences and worship
- Leaders and parents of preschoolers discover practical resources and leadership techniques
- Elementary school-aged children can enroll in Day Camp
- Leaders and parents of children improve skills and increase knowledge through workshops and by observing expert leaders
- Grades 7-12 youth (with their parents at Ridgecrest) will join with hundreds of others in the '94 DiscipleLife Conference, *Anchor Deep*
- Pastors and ministers of education will receive inspiration and valuable help to build disciples in their churches
- Discipleship Training directors, adult leaders, new member training directors and other leaders will learn how to more effectively carry out their responsibilities
- Conference for Associational Leaders - Included in this are directors of missions, directors of church development and Discipleship Training directors. The conference will assist in helping to develop an effective program in the association.

STEWARDSHIP

Resources to help your church's financial stewardship needs

The KBC Stewardship Department has many resources to assist local churches in meeting their financial needs. The two listed at the right are representative of the varieties of resources available.

If interested in receiving more information, please contact the Stewardship Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, (502) 245-4101, extension 335.



Simplified budgeting for ministries

A guide for planning ministries and developing spending for them. It can be used by all size churches but is especially helpful to those with smaller memberships.

What are its advantages?

- Helps a church prioritize its mission/ministry objectives
- Guides a church to focus on its immediate, short term and long term future
- Encourages members to be better stewards
- Causes a church to plan its ministries
- Is proactive rather than reactive

Church ministry budgeting

A process by which a church identifies its mission, plans ministries and determines the financial support needed for those ministries.

For the individual steward, church ministry budgeting...

- Helps a member to know what the church is and why it exists
- Leads a member to realize that the ministries of the church are worthy of the sacrifice called for
- Builds confidence in the management of the resources of the church
- Leads a member to understand that giving is related to supporting the ministries of the church which enables the church to fulfill its mission

EVENTS

OTHER EVENTS

Brotherhood

The Bagdad, KY zip code on Camp Rabro applications should include this correct number: 40003-0037.

Discipleship Training

Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assemblies both are hosting Youth Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournaments March 25-26.

WMU

Needed:

GA/Acteens volunteer camp counselors at Jonathan Creek for the dates of June 13-17, June 20-24, June 27-July 1.

Needed:

GA/Acteens volunteer camp nurses at Cedar Crest for the dates of June 20-24, June 27-July 1, July 11-15, July 18-22, July 25-29 and August 1-5.

Call the Kentucky WMU office for more details-- (502) 245-4101, extension 280.

Upcoming Events

MARCH

Emphasis:
Home Missions

Church Music

•March 24
All Ages Regional Music Festival
Louisa
First Church

Family Ministry

Senior Adult Celebration

•March 24
Lexington
Porter Memorial
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Student

•March 21-23
Missions Supervision Workshop
Cedarmore
•March 24-27
National BSU Retreat
Atlanta

APRIL

Emphasis:
Life Commitment and Church Vocations;
Church Media Library

April 1
Good Friday

April 3
Easter Sunday

Archives (Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission)

•April 15-16
Bicentennial Celebration of Bullittsburg Baptist Burlington Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission and Friends meet also

Associational Officers Briefing

•April 30
Hardin
Jonathan Creek Assembly

Brotherhood

•April 15-16
Fishing Tournament
Hardin
Jonathan Creek Assembly

Church Music

•April 15
Adult Regional Music Festival
Lone Oak
Lone Oak Church

•April 15-17
All State Children's Choir
Cedarmore Assembly/
Tour

All Ages Regional Music Festivals

•April 16
Campbellsville
Campbellsville Church

•April 22
Hopkinsville
First Church
Prestonsburg
First Church

Adult/Youth Regional Music Festivals

•April 22
Corbin
First Church

Lexington
Gardenside Church
Bowling Green
Living Hope Church
Louisville
Walnut Street Church

•April 22
Adult/Youth/Handbell Regional Music Festival
Owensboro
Third Church

Children's Regional Music Festivals

•April 23
Lexington
Gardenside Church
Corbin
First Church
Bowling Green
Living Hope
Ohio County
Mt. Carmel Church

Regional Keyboard Festivals

•April 23
Louisville
Southern Seminary
Paducah
Lone Oak Church

•April 24
Children's Regional Music Festival
Louisville
Walnut Street Church

Regional Keyboard Festivals

•April 30
Ashland
First Church
Owensboro
First Church

Evangelism

Here's Hope: Churches launch prospect discovery and cultivation process

Student

•April 8-10
Leadership Training Conference and Student Missions Orientation
Campbellsville College

WMU

•April 22-23
WMU Annual Meeting
Winchester
First Church
•April 23
GA Missions Event

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

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

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

To Receive More Information

- Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
- Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly
- Brotherhood**
- Fishing Tournament
- AOB meetings
- State Track Meets & Conclaves
- Church Music**
- Older Children's Music Camp

- Evangelism, Office for
- YouthFest '94
- Family Ministry**
- Reservation form/info
- Senior Adult Retreats
- Partnership Missions**
- Kentucky/Russia
- State partnerships
- Sunday School**
- CWE Seminars

To Register

- Archives (Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission & Friends)**
- Advance reservations for April 15 6:30 dinner (pay cost at door)

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone: Office _____ Home _____
Church _____ Association _____
Leadership Position _____
Registration fee (if applicable) \$ _____ Number in group (if applicable) _____

RUSSIAN HOME MISSIONARY SUPPORT AGREEMENT

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

1. Name of your church _____
2. Address _____
3. Telephone Number () _____
4. Pastor's Name _____
5. Your Name and Address _____
_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

6. Our church, Sunday School, WMU, Brotherhood or other organization (circle one) agrees to support a Russian home missionary or pastor for two years at \$200 per month.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: () _____

Higgins: Top Ten roles dads play with their kids

By Marv Knox
Editor

NASHVILLE—What's a dad to do?

"Genuine fathers play many parts" in raising their children, seminary professor Ray Higgins told participants at the Baptist Center for Ethics' spring seminar March 14-15 in Nashville.

Higgins, assistant professor of ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, helped shine a spotlight on fatherhood during one session of the meeting.

Using a countdown presentation, Higgins described the Top Ten roles dads play with their kids:

10. Friend. "Children need friendly fathers who accept them as they are, enjoy being with them and understand them," he said. "Absentee fathers destroy their children at the soul level. They can't conceive of God as father."

9. Coach. "Children need playful dads who enjoy life, prepare them for challenges and teach them how to compete," Higgins insisted.

However, some fathers only relate to their children through sports, he

said. This narrows the dimensions of their relationships and can inadvertently tell children they are "losers" if they're not successful in sports.

8. Protector. "Children need protection; they need help in anticipating dangers before they encounter them," he reported.

7. Disciplinarian. "Children need boundaries," he noted, adding that dads must steer clear of two extremes—dumping all the discipline chores on the mother or relating to children only as the disciplinarian.

"The wise father isn't too strict, nor too lenient," he said. "He isn't too tight with boundaries, but he's not afraid to set boundaries. The wise father knows how to raise better, not bitter, children."

6. Teacher. Fathers need to raise children in the "training and nature of

the Lord," Higgins reminded. "The most powerful way fathers teach children is through who they are."

5. Caregiver. Modern fathers' increasing role as caregivers is illustrated by their presence in hospital labor-and-delivery rooms and their greater involvement in the daily lives of their children, he observed. And although this role has been seen by some people as "anti-masculine," it presents children with a model of compassion and concern, he said.

4. Provider. Although physical provisions are important, they are not exclusive, Higgins said. "Many fathers have been too narrow in their view of what it means to be a provider," he stressed. "We focus on bringing home the bacon, but not on bringing up the kids. ... The truth is, kids need our presence more than they need our presents."

3. Mate. The relationship between mom and dad is important to children, Higgins reported, adding that the distinctions between the two also are important. "Our children mean something different when they say 'dad' than when they say 'mom.' And they need both," he said.

2. Leader. Children need direction, and their father can and should supply much of it, Higgins said.

A father who leads his children well teaches them to "take healthy risks, dream dreams ... and direct their lives through complex issues with balance," he explained.

1. Christian. Fathers must give attention to "spiritual needs" and help children develop a relationship to God through Christ, he said.

But Christian dads should avoid two temptations, he urged. They should not "make (children) become Christians on our timetable," but they also must not remain uninvolved with their children's spiritual concerns.

"Children need fathers who talk to them about God," Higgins stressed. "We must make our faith a way of life in the family. None of us is perfect, but for the sake of our children, we've got to give it our best shot."



Build better fathers, not more prisons, Blankenhorn says

Continued from page 1

presence alive for his children." But with divorce, the children feel guilty for the departure and feel they are unlovable, he said.

Despite the changing views of sociologists and other critics of the nuclear family, a father's contributions to his children are unique and irreplaceable, Blankenhorn claimed.

"Fathers are not second parents or assistant mothers," he said. "Fathers give shape and character to their children in ways that cannot be replaced."

For example, while mothers usually are soothing and gentle with infants, fathers are more playful and provide rough-and-tumble activity that physically stimulates the child, he said.

In addition, the father is the "first other"—the first person beyond the mother—that the child knows, he re-

ported. "Children who have good relationships with their fathers are more comfortable and less shy with others."

The absence of fatherhood produces severe social problems, such as "14-year-old boys with guns and 14-year-old girls with babies," he said. "It's kind of a trend."

The absence of a father is the most significant factor in young males' criminal activity—beyond race, social or economic status, and education, Blankenhorn stressed.

Unfortunately, the churches are not doing much to solve the crisis, he admitted. "Churches are letting the problem be defined by the secular culture. Churches ought to take this a lot more seriously than they are" and provide more help for marital preparation and enrichment, as well as lessons on responsibility, to keep marriages intact.

That theme echoed through a presentation by Don Garner, chairman of the religion department at Carson-Newman College.

"Can the church offer a Dad's University to teach and model fatherhood?" Garner asked.

The concept of fatherhood is a biblical one, and should be handled by the church, he said.

"Fatherlessness is a key point in Scripture," he added, noting the Bible's teachings pay particular attention to the care for widows and orphans.

The biblical model of fatherhood stresses that fathers are to be good economic fathers for their children, he said. But the Bible also shows fathers are to be emotional providers, "an even more important" role.

"How are we equipped today to deal with the role of the emotional

provider?" Garner asked. "There are absentee workaholic fathers among us who need to learn how to provide emotional nurture."

This fact was demonstrated by his own 5-year-old child, who came up to him as he was grading papers and said, "Dad, I hope you retire before I grow up, so we can have some time together."

Churches should help fathers provide emotional nurture by enabling them to evaluate success and their own priorities, he said. With capable fathers, families should be places "to find love, belong and be one's best self."

Of course, all fathers need help, he admitted. "None of us is a perfect father. None of us had a perfect father." But God can redeem every situation, even between fathers and children, he promised.

Beware ministry 'sins': poor sight, no priorities, no hope

By Marv Knox
Editor

NASHVILLE—Three "sins" continually plague ministers and teachers of religion, John Killinger told participants at the Baptist Center for Ethics' spring seminar in Nashville.

They are beset by failing to "see," setting wrong priorities and losing hope and courage, said Killinger, professor of religion and culture at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

"So much hinges on seeing, and we are prone to darkness," said Killinger, a former pastor. He quoted an eye surgeon who told him many people "actually resist surgery ... that will make them (see) better." That's because people "have all of the world they can handle the way it is, and don't want to be made more receptive."

Unfortunately, non-seeing is a vocational hazard for ministers, Killinger conceded: "Life becomes habit, and seeing becomes restricted. Even in the church. Even among ministers and teachers. We learn the motions, and then go through them. Thoughtlessly. Routinely. Insensitively."

It's also an old hazard that affected Jesus' disciples, he said, noting they "were blind to the real immensity of what was happening around them."

Recalling the story of when Jesus had to touch a blind man twice before sight was restored, he claimed hope in Jesus' abiding presence. "Thank God for those extra touches, for the fact that he doesn't abandon us in our stupidity, any more than he abandoned the disciples in theirs."

Turning to the sin of "screwing up the priorities," Killinger warned

against the institutional downpull of the ministry.

"We never mean to become insensitive to human problems in the carrying out of our duties. It just happens," he said. "We start out with good intentions. We think we love everybody the way Christ loved us. We are even eager to lay down our lives for others. But somewhere along the way, the center of gravity shifts."

Churches tend to begin as movements and become institutions, he said. Along the way, their focus shifts from the cause for which they started to self-preservation. That change can cripple priorities, he stressed.

"Institutions have to be too careful," he explained. "It is hard to be a Christian in an institution. There are too many things to think about. Life is too complicated. Someone can always think of a reason why not."

The answer lies in focusing on the radical love of Jesus, which never failed to remain "part of a movement," not an institution, he said.

Discussing the sin of losing hope and courage, Killinger said the problem is simple: "Most of us live on the wrong side of Easter."

He cited a poll that revealed less than 10 percent of ministers are completely happy in their professional roles.

"We're living in the crucifixion mode, aren't we?" he asked. "Confused, buffeted, defeated. Lost our hope and courage. Don't know where to go from here. Lost, broken, spiritless. The wrong side of the resurrection."

As a cure, ministers must return to "the experience of the burning heart, the sense of a resurrection presence that can visit us," he urged.

"Many fathers have been too narrow in their view of what it means to be a provider. We focus on bringing home the bacon, but not on bringing up the kids. ... The truth is, kids need our presence more than they need our presents."

Ray Higgins, ethics professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

"Dad, I hope you retire before I grow up, so we can have some time together."

Comment of a 5-year-old son to his father

"Most of us live on the wrong side of Easter."

John Killinger, professor at Samford University

Christians called to touch others with God's love

"Traditionally, the religious community has responded to domestic violence with silence—silence of complicity."

Reba Sloan Cobb, executive director of the Center for Women and Children in Louisville

By Marv Knox
Editor

NASHVILLE—Christians can—and must—channel their cares into commitments, experts on contemporary social issues urged during the Baptist Center for Ethics' spring seminar.

The theme focused on ways to turn hurting hearts into helping hands. The seminar attracted about 175 people to Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville March 14-15.

"Our objective was to provide inspiring and practical handles for how Christians could transform their compassionate concerns into concrete actions," said Robert Parham, the center's executive director.

Seminar speakers were asked to define a range of issues and describe how Christians can respond, Parham said.

Domestic violence is a major national problem, claimed Reba Sloan Cobb, executive director for the Center for Women and Families in Louisville.

"The American Medical Association reports battery by males is the most serious form of injury to women in the United States," Cobb said. "The most dangerous place for a woman in America is her home. The most dangerous person to a woman is a person she knows and loves."

Four million American women will be battered by their male partners this year, and between 2,000 and 3,000 of them will be killed, she reported. In Kentucky last year, domestic violence produced a homicide every five days.

"Traditionally, the religious community has responded to domestic violence with silence—silence of complicity," she charged. But churches must confront the problem by challenging the theological presupposition that women are subordinate to men and by re-examining Scripture interpretations of violence, divorce and anger, she said.

Churches can help victims by setting up task forces to study the problem, helping abused women and children gain access to abuse centers, raising awareness of domestic violence, providing literature on the issue and establishing peer-support groups, Cobb urged.

Church people also can volunteer to work at local domestic-abuse centers, contribute to the financial support of victims, advocate laws to prevent abuse and open their homes as "safe houses" for abused women and children, she said.

Another group of people who need help are families of prisoners, said Mary Friskics-Warren, director of Reconciliation Ministries in Nashville.

But she warned against several pitfalls of ministry to them. For example, helpers can become too task-oriented, focusing on the job of providing help without praying for and really caring about the people they are helping.

Helpers also are prone to create an over-under situation, with the person being helped dependent on the helper. Such a situation weakens, rather

than empowers, the person, she said.

And sometimes helpers remain too distant from the people being helped, she stressed. The helpers give their money but fail to get to know the other people personally and "fail to see the image of God in those people."

To avoid those pitfalls, Friskics-Warren called on churches to work with broken hearts. "It is our common brokenness out of which we go to others," she said. "We also yearn for healing, and it's only in the healing that we have our brokenness put back together."

She urged pastors to preach on the church's own brokenness as it relates to the needs of others, promising that people who minister this way will receive more healing than they offer.

William Sloan Coffin honed in on global brokenness as he examined whether the United States should intervene in the affairs of other countries.

Coffin, a visiting professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, former pastor and university chaplain and longtime peace activist, said the international community has a responsibility for human rights that takes precedence over national sovereignty.

But the U.S. experience in Vietnam produced a "new kind of isolationism," he added. Faced with possible military casualties, Americans say, "Bring our boys home," even when that means continued clan warfare and genocide," he insisted.

To prevent the need for future intervention, the nuclear nations must act to disarm themselves and others, he said. "The whole planet must become nuclear-free, or the planet becomes a nuclear porcupine."

People of goodwill also must work to protect the environment and "narrow the ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor," Coffin urged. "No one makes a bigger mistake than those who do nothing because they can do little."

The media can help by enabling people to set priorities, said Sandra Roberts, editorial editor for The Tennessean, Nashville's morning newspaper.

"Journalists need to point out the vast array of options we have today" for resolving world problems, she said.

When deciding about editorials on foreign intervention, The Tennessean's editorial board asks four primary questions, Roberts said: What chance does intervention have of working? What is the United States' interest in this conflict? What will it cost? And are U.S. lives at stake?

Beyond these, the board asks, "Is this the right thing to do?" she said. "If there's a moral imperative, you can throw the other questions out the window."

The next generation might not rec-

ognize moral imperatives if they are not taught in public schools, insisted Charles Haynes, executive director of the First Liberty Institute at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Citing increased alarm over assault, robbery, rape, suicide, pregnancy, and alcohol and drug abuse among school students, Haynes said the moral breakdown of the young generation threatens the nation.

"The primary task of teaching moral education lies with our families," he said.

"Moral and spiritual breakdown

has to do with

the break-

down of

families

and faith ...

and the ir-

respon-

sible behav-

ior of the

media. It's a shared responsibility,

and schools play a part."

America is engaged in a debate over whether schools can and should teach moral values, Haynes acknowledged. But he claimed moral teaching has been a historical part of public education.

Schools should teach "character education," he said, noting that phrase is not as volatile as "values education" and more clearly focuses on the task—developing character in young people.



Helping young people become adults

Down on Third Street in old Louisville is a special program for young people preparing to go on their own. We call it the Center for Independence and it is located only two blocks from our original home at First and St. Catherine streets. The focus of this program is to provide young people with the crucial skills they will need to live by themselves.

The staff, headed by Jeannette Stratton, teach young people such skills as how to find a job, how to open and handle a checking account, and how to shop for groceries and prepare healthy meals. The youth also learn such things as how to find a place to live, how to use public transportation, and how to shop for a car. Over the last three years we have helped hundreds of young people make the crucial transition to young adulthood.

In addition to the training classes, the College and Career program is also a part of this unit of our work. This program, led by Scott Shouse, helps the young people in our care make decisions about furthering their educations or entering the work force.

For those young people going on to college or trade schools,

Schools ought to teach civic virtue, a trait that can be adopted by all segments of society, he insisted. "We want to graduate people who know what it is to be a good citizen, to work for the common good."

Schools also should teach the "core moral ideals" of honesty, compassion and courage, which can be done without invoking religious authority, he said.

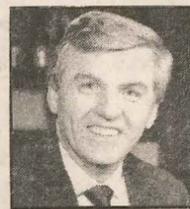
However, schools are well within their constitutional bounds when teaching that "many people look to religious authority" as a guide to moral behavior, Haynes added. Public schools can teach about religion without endorsing a particular religion, and this is constitutional, he added.

The most difficult area of moral values involves beliefs about sex, AIDS and abortion, he said. "If schools tackle these, it must be done fairly."

The local community must be allowed to decide a consensus on these issues, he added. "When you talk about divisive social issues with kids, a variety of perspectives must be presented, including religious perspectives, which have a place."

Stressing the importance of teaching about religion in schools, Haynes said: "Character education is hollow when religion is not part of the information. A complete education must include education about religion where appropriate in the curriculum. ... It helps to create the school culture where character education can take place."

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Scott works to help the students complete the entrance applications and to search for the funds needed to pay tuition, buy books and meet living expenses. He takes the young people to college and visits them regularly to provide advice, support, and, sometimes, just a listening ear.

The transition to young adulthood is not an easy one and some young people are not quite ready to be on their own when they leave a children's home or foster care. For these young people, we have several transitional-living apartments. To be eligible to stay in the apartments, the young people must either be enrolled in school or working. A seminary couple in a near-by apartment provides guidance and supervision. Living in the apartments is time limited as the goal is to help the young people become independent as quickly as possible.

We are pleased that we can provide these programs. They meet a critical need in the lives of young people.

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

MISSIONS

River ministry calls volunteers out of their comfort zones

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)—Christian volunteers must be willing to cross their comfort zones if they are to successfully minister along the Mississippi River, speakers said during a missions conference.

"It's nice to be a missionary on the mountains of Colorado during ski season, but it's not fun to be a missionary in the Delta during mosquito season," said Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

During the meeting on the Mississippi River Ministry, March 11-12 at First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., Moore and others challenged Southern Baptists to overcome racism, poor working conditions and other barriers.

More than 200 Southern Baptists attended the conference, which highlighted the problems, resources and possible solutions for ministering to and evangelizing residents along the Delta region.

More than 125 counties and parishes from Illinois to Louisiana have been targeted for ministry, particular-

ly to the poor. A 1990 federal government study found what many describe as "Third-World" living conditions in this region:

■ One-third of families live in substandard or dilapidated housing.

■ Almost half the adults have not graduated from high school.

■ Fifteen counties and parishes have infant mortality rates worse than Chile and Cuba.

Despite such daunting statistics, Moore said Christians should not be satisfied with the possible.

"God's not accustomed to asking us to do what we can do in our own

ability," he said. "I believe God is ready to do things through Baptists in these states that never have been done before."

Concentrated efforts in the region began in August 1992. In the first 18 months, about 1,000 volunteers have worked in more than 65 ministries, said Andrea Ramage, a Lexington native who now serves as assistant regional coordinator for the project.

For more information about volunteer ministry opportunities in the Mississippi River region, contact Bob Jones at the Kentucky Baptist Convention by calling (502) 245-4101.

Baptists continue feeding ministry amid Mexican turmoil

LAS MARGARITAS, Mexico (BP)—While Zapatista guerrillas and the Mexican government negotiated for peace in early March, Baptists continued feeding hundreds of refugees from earlier fighting who fled to relief centers on the edge of the combat zone.

The government provides most of the food, while Baptists set up food kitchens and will supply volunteers to operate them until July. Baptists start-

ed setting up the kitchens in early February.

The Baptist Aid Committee of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico is one of the civilian relief organizations recognized by city officials in Las Margaritas and La Independencia—and by the civil protection arm of the federal government.

The government estimates 8,000 hungry refugees have flooded into those two towns in Mexico's Chiapas

state—site of guerrilla-government battles over land reform, poverty and oppression of indigenous people. About 12,000 additional refugees are scattered in other parts of Chiapas. They fled guerrilla violence that swept down on their towns and villages in the early hours of Jan. 1.

In Las Margaritas, a town of 29,000 people, 12 relief centers and 40 private homes help to house and feed refugees. In the relief centers, refugees eat meals prepared by a central kitchen; at the homes, each refugee family prepares its own meals with firewood outside.

Besides feeding 135 people at relief center No. 3 in Las Margaritas, the Baptist kitchen there provides hot meals to groups or families in two other relief centers—more than 450 people. The Baptist Aid Committee also opened another kitchen in Las Margaritas Feb. 25.

At another relief center in La Independencia, about 12 miles away, a Baptist kitchen feeds 246 people.

Baptist volunteers—Mexicans as well as Southern Baptist workers—are responding to an appeal recently distributed among all Mexican Baptist churches. The volunteers come from Mexico City, Guadalajara, Ciudad Juarez, Jalapa, Veracruz, Cintalapa and Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas. No volunteers from the United States have been requested so far.

The volunteers pay their own expenses. They eat in the kitchens where they work.

Because the Baptist volunteers work in buildings owned by the government, they're reminded they should talk about their faith only when a refugee asks. In spite of this limitation, they have given out Bibles to many interested refugees. Several have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.



BIG MEAL Southern Baptist representative Peggy Templin (left rear) and Mexican Baptist volunteers serve a meal of rice, beans and tortillas to refugees in Mexico's Chiapas state. These indigenous people fled their homes in Chiapas after an uprising of Indian guerrillas there in early January. (BP photo by David Daniell)



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CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: David's Fork Baptist Church is seeking a permanent part-time minister of music. Primary job responsibilities are on Sunday. A professional individual living in the local area with experience and some music education is desirable. Send resumé to 3245 Cleveland Road North, Lexington, KY 40516.

FOR SALE: Used, unpadding church pews, excellent condition, seating capacity approx. 300. Calvary Christian Center, Mt. Washington, KY 40047. (502) 955-9886.

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.

SBC HOUSING: Here's a "suite" offer! Ramada Suites, two-bedroom, two-bath with fully equipped kitchen,

living room with sleeper sofa. Complementary continental breakfast, three pools, four jaccuzzis, lake with paddle boats. All this and more located only 5 minutes from Convention Center, 5 minutes from Sea World, 10 minutes from Walt Disney World, 10 minutes from Universal Studios at a special promotional rate only available through Community Travel. Promotional airfare also available. Call Debbie collect at (606) 441-7993.

SEEKING: Part-time music director, also pianist for The Grand Rivers Baptist Church. Contact: J. Webb, 1286 J.H. O'Bryan Ave., Grand Rivers, KY 42045, or call (502) 362-4519.

WANTED: Pastor, Locust Grove Baptist Church. Contact Mike Williams, chairman, Pastor Search Committee, 1510 Middle Creek Rd., Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and education. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Springfield Baptist Church, P.O. Box 286, Springfield, KY 40069. (606) 336-3544.

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

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Easter Drama
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First Baptist Church
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PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Despite medical evidence of possibly causing severe birth defects, at least 10 percent of pregnant women in Kentucky continue to use illegal drugs. Also, about 25 percent of Kentucky women smoke while pregnant and about 10 percent drink alcoholic beverages while pregnant. Alcohol and tobacco use during pregnancy has been shown to be as potentially devastating to a developing child as illegal drug use.

Source: Partnership for Healthy Futures, a statewide campaign to prevent birth defects due to substance abuse

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BRONSTON**—Eldon Smith resigned as minister of music at First Church March 13.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Lyle Road Church called Walt Sanderson as interim pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Highland Park First Church will hold Easter revival services April 3-7 with Homer Martinez as evangelist.

Anthony Burns resigned as minister of music at Valley Station Church to become minister of music and associate pastor at Rice Memorial Church in Greenwood, S.C.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Gayle Toole celebrated his 21st anniversary as pastor at Edgewood Church.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Seven Hills Church ordained Ellis Hall and Ron Oliver as deacons March 20.

■ **PADUCAH**—Immanuel Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary homecoming June 11-12. Highlights of the centennial are being held throughout the year, with the return of former pastors as speakers.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church called Quentin Lockwood as interim pastor. Also, Thomas Foy resigned as youth and music director to accept a similar position at Brookside Church in Memphis, Tenn.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Little Flock Church held revival services, led by Evangelist Don Short, March 6-9. There was a total of 62 decisions.

■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant Hill

Church called Jeff Litton as minister of education and Christian activities, beginning March 21.

■ **UTICA**—Glenville Church ordained Jimmy Brigance as deacon.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church called Stephen Allen Price of Fresno, Calif., as minister of youth. He currently is a student at Southern Seminary.

Correction

Information provided to the Western Recorder for a Cooperative Program story in last week's paper contained two errors.

The statistical box which accompanied the story should have indicated the Kentucky Baptist Convention's year-to-date budget goal was \$5,629,442 at the end of February, and that the KBC had received \$103,798 over that amount.

Clarification

Molly Marshall, theology professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has issued a clarification of her remarks as reported in last week's Recorder in a story about the women's conference held at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Marshall said the three reasons she cited are illustrations of feminist thinking and do not represent her own opinion. The Bible and Christian tradition have "ample resources to answer these criticisms."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Minister & family conference set.** Cumberland College has announced plans for its third annual conference for church staff members and their families. The July 18-20 event will feature Kenneth Mahanes, pastor of Far Hills Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio; Garland Young, New Testament professor at Cumberland; and Ed and Kay DeKalb Smith of Nashville. For information, contact Wayne Moore at Cumberland College, 7934 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, Ky. 40769.

■ **\$100,000 to Campbellsville.** Campbellsville College has received \$101,550 from the estate of Lois Meece for future expansion of the campus. The gift recently was presented to the college by Russell Reese of Jamestown, the donor's brother. Meece was a member of First Baptist Church of Jamestown before her death.

■ **Moore remembered.** Barkley Moore, former president of Oneida Baptist Institute, was honored in the United States House of Representatives Feb. 3 by Rep. Harold Rogers. "The people of Kentucky and the nation lost one of its most revered educators and servants when Dr. Barkley Moore of Clay County passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 25," Rogers told the assembly. The congressman further praised Moore's

influence by saying his greatest contribution was to children. "Teaching by example, Dr. Moore has shown generations of young people that hard work, devotion to community and service to God are the most honorable and everlasting pursuits."

■ **Garland honored.** Diana Garland, dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has received the Kentucky Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's "Distinguished Contribution to Marriage and Family Life Award." Garland is a regular writer for the Western Recorder's Family Forum column on marriage.

■ **Georgetown women to tourney.** The women's basketball team of Georgetown College advanced to national tournament play in NAIA division II but lost in the opening round March 10 to Tennessee Wesleyan University. After the 77-66 loss, the Lady Tigers ended their season with a 19-11 record.

■ **Class goal set.** The senior class of Campbellsville College has set a goal of \$5,000 for their joint contribution to the school's current capital campaign. Last year's senior class set a similar goal and surpassed it, donating more than \$11,000 to their alma mater.

Where does Oneida go from here?

For many reading this article and for scores of others, the most often-asked question is "Where does Oneida go from here?" Will Oneida be able to continue the wonderful work that has been done under Barkley Moore's leadership?

Is it possible for any one person to have the vision, sense of commitment, compassion for young people, wisdom, wit, depth of faith and oratory that he had? Those of us who watched him daily, worked with him and felt a great desire to do whatever he asked, feel the answer is "no."

I doubt there is anyone anywhere who knew him who thinks there will be another like him.

So then, what's next? Because there is not another like him, does that mean our days are numbered? Do we start the process, consciously or otherwise, of bringing this work to an end? Did the Lord bring Barkley Moore here to do this great work only to see it crumble in ruin? Are there now no more young people in need of this special place? Does this mean for all of those who serve here now that our call was for "temporary" service? For the thousands of guests who have come to our campus over the years and have seen the great work that has been going on, is this now to come to an end? For the hundreds of volunteers who have worked here in various projects and for the scores who serve here daily, are you no longer needed?

The answer to these questions is simple. No, there is no other like Barkley Moore. No, the work that has been going on now for 95 years does not end with the passing of Moore. There are just as many—more in fact—young people who need this special place. Those who have dedicated their lives to this work are to continue. For those who have been here in the past and those

who will come in the future, you will see that we are still ministering in a most unique way to these young people.

One of our staff reminded me recently that there was only one Moses, but there was a Joshua to carry on. God used Moses to do the part that was expected of him, but then gave Joshua the challenge to take the Israelites into the Promised Land.

Barkley Moore, under God's leadership, has done his part. He brought this school back from the brink of collapse. He worked night and day to get our enrollment at its current level. Buildings have been built, equipment purchased, a dedicated faculty and staff brought together, school curriculum upgraded and our athletic program expanded. Continued financial stability has made it possible for us to serve and answer a special calling.

Barkley Moore had a vision which consisted of the belief that every child possesses a wealth of potential—the potential to find one's self, to reach higher goals, to run a faster race, to come up from the depths of despair and to find happiness in knowing that God knows all about us and still loves us. That vision will continue! There are many battles to be fought and won. The devil is still at work, and we do not concede one inch or one soul to him. We will work harder and show more commitment and dedication than ever. Continue to help us now and in the future, as you have in the past. Remember us in your prayers. With God's help we will continue on.

Written by W.F. (Bud) Underwood, dean of boys, work program supervisor

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



A.B. Colvin

Internship helps define call

"Before you can help others, you need to know yourself. This chaplaincy internship is like a research project on myself, and I am learning a lot," third-year student Bill McCabe testifies.

McCabe's voice choked with emotion as he described an emergency room counseling session with a young woman who threatened suicide. "Her life was a result of religious abuse. It's scary. Sound doctrine is essential for helping others."

Clear Creek provides Bill McCabe an opportunity to know sound doctrine and to gain practical ministry experience. Chaplain Dan Clevenger supervises his internship at Baptist Regional Hospital in Corbin. Three days a week McCabe sits in on substance abuse classes and observes individual counseling sessions with the chaplains. He also conducts initial interviews prior to counseling. "I love doing room visitation."

A Code One emergency call usually involves him. One patient's heart stopped while he was checking out of the hospital. McCabe ministered to the patient's wife and sister until his condition stabilized.

After 31 years in grocery management, McCabe came to Clear Creek at age 49. His call to minis-

try came on a Sunday during an hour drive to work. He was managing a Food Lion store in Beauford, S.C. "My prayer time was driving time. I complained to the Lord about Sunday work and having to miss church. That morning he called me into the ministry."

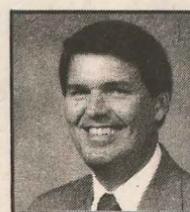
Bill's pastor was 1977 graduate Richard Adams. Adams told Bill, "The Lord will handle all the problems and get you to Clear Creek." Bill thought of many reasons he could not come. When he arrived, he discovered his story was not unique.

What does he like about Clear Creek? "I have more time with my family, especially my grandson. My prayer time is very special. I am very thankful for new insights into my Lord and the tremendous blessings I have gained from the professors and the campus family. My wife, Sandra, likes her work at the Child Development Center.

"Chaplaincy is the last thing I thought I would be doing. The hospital environment has increased my awareness of the needs of people. I look forward to working as a chaplain after graduation."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

SINGLES

Churches 'missing the bus' on single-parent ministry

By Terri Lackey
SBC Sunday School Board

GULF SHORES, Ala. (BP)—Single parents are the fastest-growing population segment in America today, and churches that aren't ministering to them are "missing the bus," according to one Baptist leader.

"About 50 percent of American adults are single, and a high percentage of those are parents," said John Sissom, who works in discipleship and family ministry for the Missouri Baptist Convention. Sissom recently spoke to the National Single Adult Leadership Convention and the Southern Baptist Association of Ministers to Single Adults.

He said statistics show anywhere from one-in-four to one-in-seven of today's unmarried single adults are parents.

"In 1990, 27 percent of all children lived with only one parent, and 50 to

60 percent of all children will spend some portion of their childhood in single-parent homes," Sissom said. "Thirty percent will have had two to three different living arrangements by the time they are 18."

These statistics verify the fact that churches need to be dealing with this specialized population, both the parents and their children, Sissom said.

"Single-adult families are our neighbors, our friends, our co-workers," he said. "Folks, they is us. And I think the church is still missing the bus with this population."

Sissom listed several ideas for churches wanting to begin single-adult ministries. Most of the ideas were taken from the workbook "Developing Ministries with Single Parent Families" by Jerry and Lana Wilkerson.

Successful models for single-parent family ministry are built around well organized Sunday morn-

ing Bible studies, complimented by needs-focused programs through the week.

The ministry will vary with the size of church, the community demographics and the availability of resources, including finances, leadership and space.

Start where you are with who you have and trust God to build it from there. "Indicate to single-adult parents you care," Sissom said. "It only takes two people to start a support group ..."

Utilize existing inreach and outreach programs.

Focus on life-relevant Bible teaching with sensitive leadership.

Recognize that single-parent ministry must be family ministry.

Make sure children's program leaders are aware of the unique needs of single-parent children.

Examine the financial ramifications of your programs. "Some rea-

sons your single parents aren't involved is because of the price tags," he said.

Recognize that single parents do not come in "one-size-fits-all."

Lay off the guilt trips when attendance is sporadic or non-existent. "Single parents are already strapped for time," he said.

Carefully consider the days to schedule events. "Steer clear of Sunday nights because it could conflict with the custodial parents rights."

Involve single parents in outreach and leadership. "You get more involvement when people have ownership. You can build confidence, excitement and self-image."

Develop a needs-based ministry. "Survey needs and meet them."

Think holistic. "There are lots of support groups in our society, but the church is the only institution that can meet their spiritual needs too," Sissom said.

"Single-adult families are our neighbors, our friends, our co-workers. ... And I think the church is still missing the bus with this population."

John Sissom, Missouri Baptist Convention

Friendship should precede marriage, counselor suggests

GULF SHORES, Ala. (BP)—One of the worst mistakes married couples make today is failing to become intimate friends before they exchange wedding vows, according to a marriage and family therapist.

When a couple skips the friendship part of a relationship, they can easily slip into divorce, said Jim Talley, who operates a private counseling practice in Oklahoma City.

And what's worse, according to Talley, who has been a minister of single adults for Southern Baptist churches in California and Oklahoma, is the advice couples get when they aren't happy.

Talley recently led classes at the National Single Adult Leadership Convention and the Southern Baptist Association of Ministers to Single Adults.

"The five most destructive words to the American family and the most popular words of marriage counselors today are: 'Get on with your life,'" Talley said.

"Ninety percent of counseling is not paid for; it comes from a non-qualified person across the backyard fence," Talley said. "And the advice people give is equal to one thing: Get divorced quickly and remarry ASAP."

When Talley counsels couples heading toward divorce, he said he advises them first to "stabilize yourselves spiritually, emotionally, lovingly and financially. Don't get into another relationship until you've stabilized yourself."

Talley labeled successive marriages or relationships as inversely proportional to longevity: When people who are going through divorce or separation fail to stabilize themselves, they can expect their next relationships to get shorter and shorter.

"The more times a person gets married, the shorter the marriages tend to be," he said.

One reason for the high rate of di-

vorces and remarriages is ease of obtaining the papers for both, he said.

"The person who is responsible for putting marriages together (the pastor) is not making it hard enough for people to get married," he said, explaining that pastors must begin taking more responsibility for making the marriage commitment more strenuous.

Another reason is that "couples get too close too soon," Talley said.

"Friendship should be genderless, a bond of commitment between two friends," he continued, outlining four levels of friendship:

Acquaintance. "You know enough to say hello."

Casual. "You know them better because your schedules put you together."

Close. "You share more than general interest. You determine when you will see each other."

Intimate. "You mutually agree to share intimate details of your lives."

"Until you reach step four with someone, where what you see is what you get, you have no business even dating," he said. Men and women are so different that "learning how to build a relationship without the first floor of friendship is futile and leads to divorce."

Talley said couples who already are married and going through bad times can back up and try to become friends the correct way.

"Just go back and start all over and build your friendship," he suggested. "We tend to think marriages are disposable, but you can go back and rebuild friendships. I've known people who have remarried after five years of divorce."

The common rule in divorce and remarriage, according to Talley, is "if at first you don't succeed, lower your standards."

"But I'm telling you, the only thing worse than waiting (to get married), is wishing you had."

"The only thing worse than waiting to get married, is wishing you had."

Baptist marriage counselor Jim Talley

'Don't play Beach Boy music to a Conway Twitty crowd'

GULF SHORES, Ala. (BP)—Advice for single adult ministries: Don't play Beach Boys music to a Conway Twitty crowd.

Doug Dees, minister of single adults at First Baptist Church of Harrison, Ark., believes that is an important rule of thumb in rural areas.

Dees, whose church is located in a town of 9,500, said he learned some hard and fast rules about rural single adult ministry when he found himself transplanted from a church in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to Harrison.

One rule: Don't fight the social mores of the area.

"There is no reason to fight a battle you don't need to fight," he said. "Work within the structure you have, and change things from the inside out. Don't plan a square dance if dancing is taboo. And don't

play the Beach Boys if your single adults grew up with Conway Twitty."

Dees led a workshop on rural single adult ministry at the National Single Adult Leadership Convention held recently in Gulf Shores, Ala.

Single adults are a different genre in rural areas, Dees said. "There is a mix of social, economic, ethnic, educational and family factors to consider."

"Birds of a feather flock together, and so do singles. But in rural areas, there are less of each flock, so sometimes you have a mixed flock."

"In a large metropolitan area, you can find several single adults who meet the same criteria," he continued. "They might be in their late 20s, college-educated, all never-married, with no immediate families within 200 miles. So it is easier for

them to mix socially."

But in rural areas, church singles groups may have a blue-collar guy who is divorced with two children, a young widow who has been to technical school and a million-dollar-a-year real estate salesman, Dees said.

Challenges are plentiful in rural single adult ministry, he said.

The first is among the single adults themselves. Many rural single adults have "plenty of relatives and aren't in the same type of need as a single-indeed."

Dees describes a "single-indeed" as one who has no family in the immediate area to care for them and relate to them.

"They are single indeed and really need solid, Christian relationships," he explained.

Those who have many relatives nearby don't "feel" single and con-

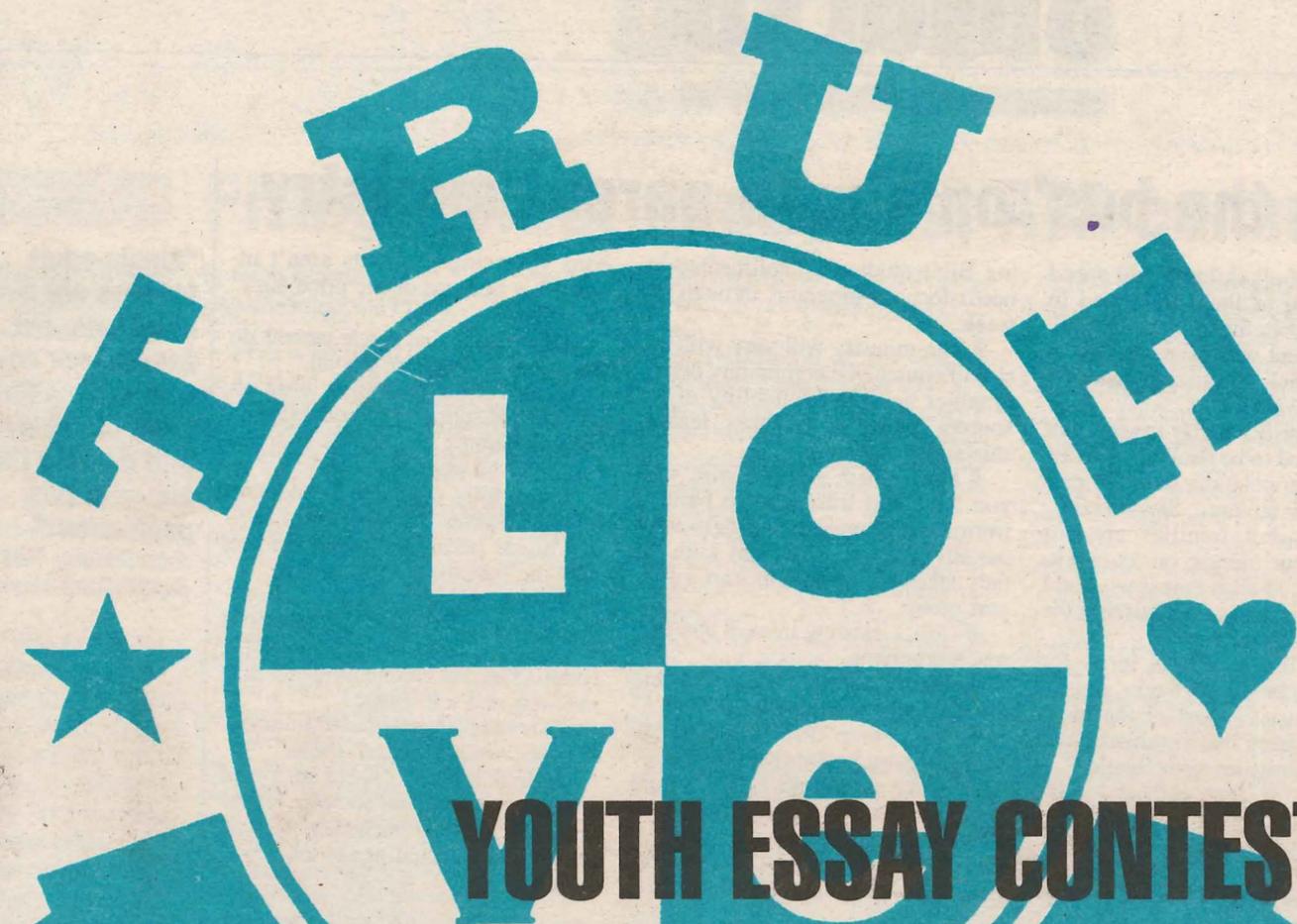
sequently may not feel they need the fellowship of other single adults, Dees said.

"I am not trying to pigeon-hole every person who is not currently married; some of them will never let you care for them," he said.

Dees said single adult ministers in rural areas should get used to being called the youth pastor.

"Sometimes people in rural areas don't have a concept of what singleness is," he said. "I have been at First Baptist Church, Harrison, for almost four years and am pretty well known in the community, yet I am still introduced as the youth pastor a lot of the time."

Dees said the most important rule of rural single adult ministry is tenacity. "If the single adult ministry is where God is telling you to be, then you just stay after it, no matter the results or the heartaches."



YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

TOPIC: *"Why I Believe True Love Waits"*

GRAND PRIZE: *\$100 and publication of winning essays in the Western Recorder*

CATEGORIES: *A—9th-12th graders
B—College students and other singles above 18*

DEADLINE: *All entries must be postmarked no later than May 1, 1994*

THE FINE PRINT: This contest is sponsored by the Western Recorder. Entrants must be members of Kentucky Baptist Convention churches who have signed "True Love Waits" commitment cards to abstain from sex until marriage. Entries will not be returned. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges named by the Western Recorder staff. Essays must be 500 words or less in length. Mail entries to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253. Please include church name.