

MARCH 29, 1994 VOL. 168, NO. 13

FOR THE RECORD

Dilday firing

Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary made another attempt last week to explain the firing of President Russell Dilday, while protests continued and the school lost an estimated \$15 million in gifts. See page 2.

Apartment ministry

Two Hardin County churches take the church where people live through apartment ministries. See page 3.

Editorial

Letters can help alleviate malnutrition in America. See page 5.

Religion reporting

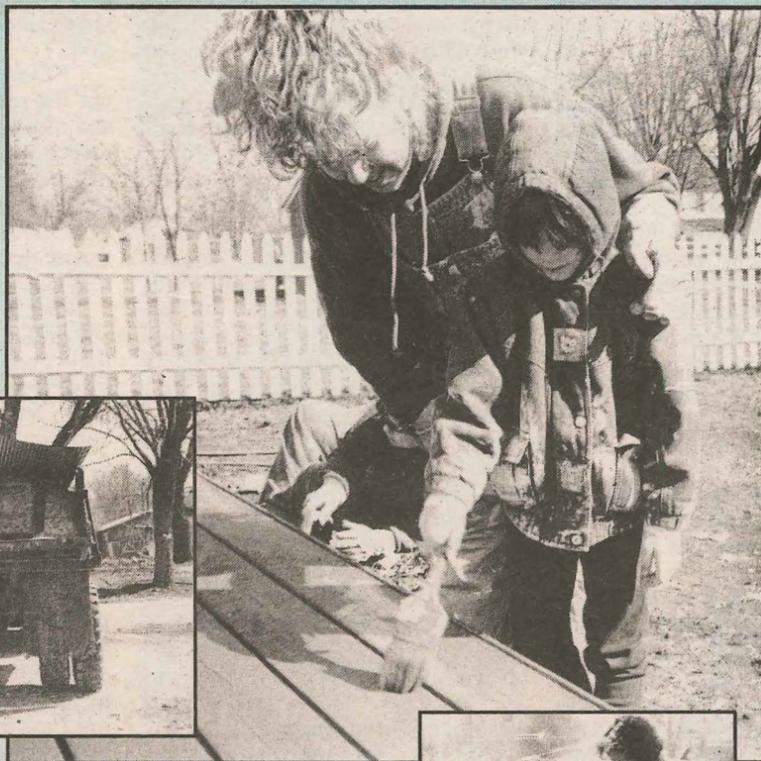
Two new studies give different slants on secular reporting of religion. See page 6.

Henry to run

Florida pastor Jim Henry has announced he will be a candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention, assuring a two-way race at the June convention. See page 8.

Spring break service

FLOOD RELIEF Nearly 50 students and staff from Campbellville College gave their spring break to help residents of Winfield, Mo., rebuild from last fall's massive flooding. Population of the Mississippi River town has dropped from 700 to 592 since the flood, which broke through a major levy and thrust muddy water into houses and businesses. About 80 percent of the town's homes are reported to be abandoned, and many people continue to live in homes still covered with mold and mud. The Campbellville group cleaned houses, conducted backyard Bible clubs for children and offered listening ears to flood victims.

**Is chastity making a comeback?**

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Chastity appears to be making a vocal comeback, thanks in part to a Southern Baptist program and extensive coverage in the secular media.

In the last year, tens of thousands of young people from across the United States and a few foreign countries have signed covenant cards pledging to remain sexually pure until their wedding night. The teens are part of the "True Love Waits" campaign organized by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Campaign organizers predict up to 500,000 young people representing 20 denominations and religious groups will take the public vow of chastity by mid-summer.

After initial reports on the novelty of the idea, news stories began describing abstinence as a "trend," "movement," or "sexual counterrevolution."

"Virginity Is New Counterculture Among Some Teens," a headline in the Nov. 21, 1993, edition of The Washington Post asserted. The related article reported on "a growing chorus of teen-agers calling themselves 'vocal virgins' who have taken on

□ See *Is chastity ...*, page 10

Don't face breast cancer alone, survivor advises

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

PRESTONSBURG—A Kentucky Baptist who has won a battle against breast cancer wants people to know this is one struggle women shouldn't have to face alone.

Church support, steadfast friends and Christian faith can make the difference in the fight against the disease, said Gay Herrin of Prestonsburg.

Herrin knows. About a year ago, a diagnosis of breast cancer threatened her otherwise healthy and satisfying life.

Longtime members of First Baptist Church in Prestonsburg, Herrin and her husband, Eric, have three adult children. She is an associate professor of writing at Prestonsburg Community College.

Herrin's pilgrimage from the loneliness of her diagnosis to the community she experienced in recovery attests to the blessings of seeking help through tragic times, she said.

Although mammograms in 1992 and early 1993 had revealed no problems, Herrin still

□ See *Don't face ...*, page 9

Moving? See page 4 (0329)

Boomers seek spirituality, not religion

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Imagine a society in which millions of people hunger for hamburgers but Wendy's, McDonald's and Burger King all are on the brink of closing their doors.

This unthinkable situation is a parable for what is happening today with the baby boomer population and organized religion, according to several speakers at a March 24-25 conference in Louisville. The conference, sponsored by the Louisville Institute of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, focused on baby boomers and the changing shape of American religion.

Millions of people are expressing a spiritual hunger today while churches struggle to keep their doors open, said Reginald Bibby, professor of sociology at the University of Lethbridge, Canada, and a former student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"The churches are going broke at a time when the people are going hungry," he said.

This supply and demand mix-up has happened because too many churches focus on religion and not spirituality, Bibby explained. "Baby boomers and their children aren't in the market for churches; they're in the market for spirituality."

Bibby, along with several other speakers, said it is time for churches to determine what kind of business they're in.

Successful churches, the speakers said, will be in the business of faith-sharing, not church-building. And they will be in the business of helping individuals do things spiritually meaningful to them, not expecting them to do things only meaningful to the organization.

"There's a real future for religious groups if they can address spirituality," Bibby said. "But if not, then good luck."

The fact that baby boomers are spiritual if not religious was highlighted in one of two books which served as the focus of the seminar. Wade Clark Roof, professor of religion and society at the University of California at Santa Barbara, uses this as a central theme of his book, "A Generation of Seekers: The Spiritual Journeys of the Baby Boom Generation."

"There is an important distinction between religious and spiritual," he told the group. "So many people I talked to made a great deal of it."

The fact that baby boomers are staying away from churches in droves does not mean they aren't interested in spiritual things, Roof said in explaining his research. "There is a widespread spiritual hunger today."

The question, he said, is, "Can

Christianity as we practice it in the late 20th century ... engage these deep spiritual concerns?"

The Protestant church lives with "a great deal of nostalgia for 19th century religious forms," Roof said. But that is not the only valid expression of spiritual matters, he added.

Religion is not in decline; it's just taking on new forms, added Dean

Hoge, professor of sociology at the Catholic University of America. Hoge is one of three authors of the other book upon which the conference was based, "Vanishing Boundaries: The Religion of Mainline Protestant Baby Boomers."

Although boomers are characteristically individualistic, they do seek community, the speakers said. However, the meaning of community is being redefined.

"Communities of the future will be formed in many ways," Roof predicted. "But they may not look like church as we know it today."

This kind of change is nothing new, he added. "American religion always has been fashioned by entrepreneurs who see new ways of doing church."

□ See *Baby boomers ...*, page 7

Boomers
and American
religion

BAPTISTS

Trustees explain firing further; conservatives split

"This appears to be the report of people who acted precipitously and then scratched around to find reasons for their action."

Russell Dilday, on accusations released against him by seminary trustees 12 days after his firing

FORT WORTH, Texas—Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary last week made their third effort to explain the firing of President Russell Dilday, even as some prominent conservative pastors called for Dilday's reinstatement and more donors backed away from the school.

After first refusing to give a reason for the firing, then citing "irreconcilable differences" between trustees and Dilday, trustee leaders March 21 issued a more detailed statement to a group of Fort Worth pastors.

The trustee news release said Dilday was guilty of "mismanagement" and "insubordination" and caused his own firing by refusing to accept a \$400,000 buyout.

In an interview, one trustee leader went so far as to say Dilday wasn't actually fired by trustees but "fired himself."

T. Bob Davis, a Dallas dentist and board secretary, said Dilday's "ego and pride" prevented him from retiring quietly, causing the public spectacle of his dismissal. Trustees had offered Dilday the \$400,000 early retirement package just moments before they voted to dismiss him March 9.

"We didn't want to fire him or what you say is firing him," Davis said. "We made it as sweet as we could, but he terminated himself. Whether that's a martyr syndrome or what, I don't know. I can't read the man's mind."

However, Dilday said he rejected the offer for early retirement as a matter of principle.

"The surprise offer of early retire-

ment was not at all something I could accept on the basis of integrity about my calling here," he said. His decision was not "pride or martyrdom" but "taking God's direction and call seriously and not allowing financial reward to tempt me away from what I believe to be God's direction and call in my life."

"I refused it in integrity because it isn't right to be bought out," he said.

Davis and the other board officers—Chairman Ralph Pulley of Dallas and Vice Chairman Lee Weaver of Fort Worth—drafted the March 21 news release in consultation with John Earl Seelig, a former seminary vice president they have hired as a public relations consultant.

This explanation—released 12 days after Dilday was fired and immediately locked out of his office—is a contrived attempt by trustees to cover their tracks, Dilday said.

"This appears to be the report of people who acted precipitously and then scratched around to find reasons for their action," Dilday said. "If I had been guilty of mismanagement, why would they offer me what they describe as a golden parachute?"

The four points cited in this latest trustee news release are:

■ **Mismanagement.** Weaver said in the release that a declining enrollment and growing staff are evidence of mismanagement. Southwestern, the world's largest seminary, dropped from 5,070 students in 1985-86 to 4,022 in 1992-93—a 20 percent decline—while the administrative staff grew 20 percent, from 96 to 116, Weaver said.

Weaver did not mention that the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries as a whole declined 13 percent in enrollment during the same period, according to published reports.

Nor did he mention that the seminary had grown to its largest enrollment under Dilday's 16-year presidency. According to records in SBC annuals, the school had an enrollment of 4,136 students when Dilday became president in 1978, peaked at 5,247 students in the 1986-87 school year and recorded 4,092 students in the current year.

Total enrollment at the SBC's six seminaries has followed a similar pattern, peaking in the 1986-87 school year and declining from there.

As for staffing growth, Dilday said that in the same meeting where he was fired, trustees turned down a "dramatic" reorganization plan that would have reduced staff size and saved \$200,000 a year.

Trustee Wayne Allen, a Dilday supporter, said the March 21 release was the first suggestion he had heard of mismanagement. "Even the trustees who voted to fire him said he was an excellent manager," he said.

■ **Insubordination.** "Disobedience of rightful and legal authority is unacceptable," the release said. "Dilday's style of management with those in authority and to anyone taking a different position on issues was one of arrogance, isolationism and disdain for authority."

Dilday regularly refused to take direction from the board of trustees, which led most of the members to dis-

cuss their frustration in handling their responsibilities as trustees, the release said.

"Never one time have I not carried out the official statements, policies and directives of the board," Dilday responded. However, he said some individual trustees expected him to act on their suggestions and requests even though they lacked any official trustee directive. "The board governs only when it sits in session," he said.

Allen agreed, suggesting trustees who differed with Dilday overstepped their authority. "It's one thing for trustees to come and make suggestions, but another thing for them to come on that board and tell you how to operate that institution," Allen said. "Because we don't agree ... is no reason to label someone as insubordinate."

■ **Management style.** "The president repeatedly criticized the convention and its elected officials and leaders," the release said. "He is on record constantly damaging the reputation of members of the board, who are leading business, professional and religious leaders. Dilday led by intimidation and confrontation."

Dilday responded that his management style is most often described as collegial, not confrontational as the trustees allege. "Anybody who has watched the work over the years would have a hard time matching those words with my approach toward leadership," he said.

■ **Doctrinal and policy differences.** The trustee release did not spell out Dilday's doctrinal shortcomings, except to say he discouraged dissent and debate on biblical reliability, abortion, ordination of women and the SBC's new conservative direction.

In conversation, trustees cited several examples: Dilday's opposition to formation of an anti-abortion group on campus, which trustees later overruled; his discharge of a professor's speech on the role of women, which trustees said was influenced by feminist thinking; his alleged indifference to charges that conservative students were being belittled by some faculty and students; and his reservations about using the term "inerrancy" to describe the Bible's authority.

In defense, Dilday said his actions and statements always have been consistent with the trustees' official doctrinal positions.

Allen said the biggest dispute between Dilday and trustees was over the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the rival group of moderate Southern Baptists that has become the focus of conservative ire in recent years.

Allen said Dilday was trying to keep some moderate churches and Fellowship supporters from abandoning the school. "The trustees finally came to the place where they didn't want anything to do with anyone identified with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship," Allen said.

Trustees blocked promotion and hiring of faculty members who attended moderate churches, Allen said. But since trustees had not adopted a policy statement on the Fellowship, Allen said, Dilday's hands were tied.

Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton, Texas, has been

so incensed by the firing that he led his congregation to pass a resolution denouncing the action of his fellow trustees. The resolution says the church could be forced to designate its Cooperative Program missions gifts in protest.

Allen, who ran an unsuccessful campaign for the presidency of the Baptist General Convention of Texas under a conservative banner last fall, said he is going to ask the SBC Executive Committee to investigate the board's actions.

He also has sent a letter to trustees calling for an emergency meeting to discuss Dilday's firing.

Meanwhile, Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, said Dilday's firing showed "little, if any, compassion" and could be harmful to the SBC's conservative movement.

Like Allen, Graham has been known as a supporter of the SBC's conservative movement. However, he told the Dallas Morning News that the way Dilday was dismissed only fuels the belief that conservatives are "unloving and mean-spirited."

"As a conservative pastor, and one who is highly identified with the conservative movement ... I feel this move does not serve the best interest in the cause of Christ, nor of the reputation of Bible-believing Christians," he said.

Graham's statements were not well received by trustee Davis, who is a member of Dilday's board. "I'm disappointed in his taking a political stance when the board has acted in good judgment," Davis said.

In related developments:

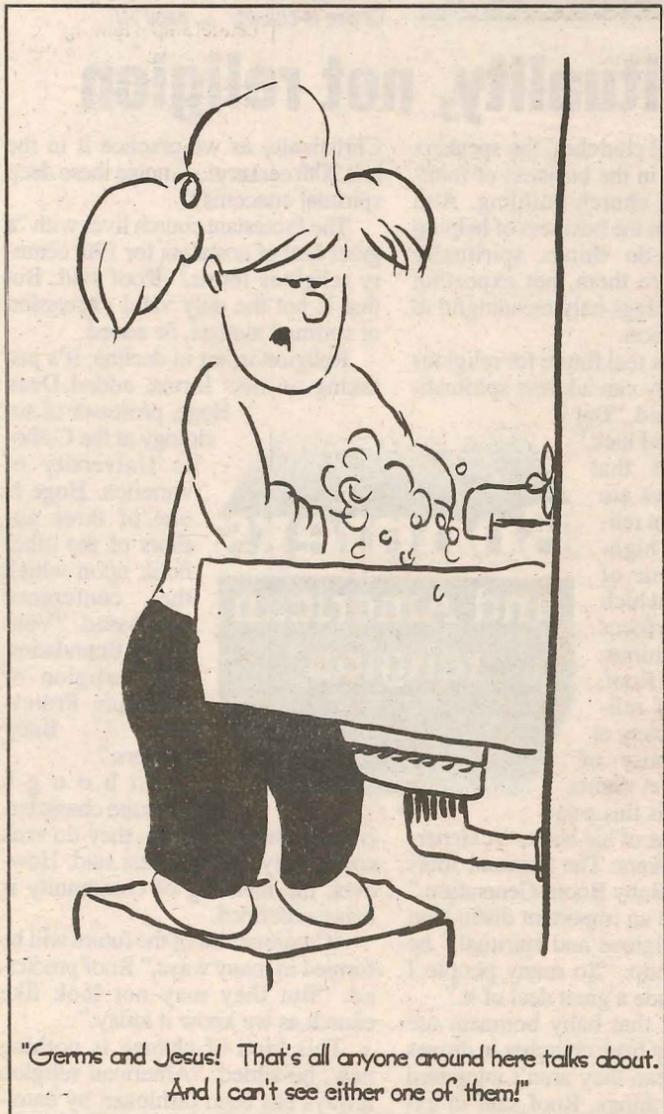
■ At least 20 members of the 114-member Southwestern Council have resigned, cancelling at least \$15 million in gifts and pledges, according to the council's chairman, John McNaughton, and past chairman, Jerry Yowell, both of Fort Worth. Other members of the select group of benefactors are resigning "daily," the two reported.

■ Seminary faculty issued a statement protesting Dilday's firing and disputing the charges leveled against him. Dilday was an "excellent administrator" who led Southwestern "with a spirit of Christlikeness" and kept the school doctrinally sound, the seminary's theology faculty said in a separate statement.

■ More than 600 Southwestern students joined in condemning Dilday's firing and asked trustees to repent of their "unchristian behaviors" and reverse the action.

■ Trustee Chairman Ralph Pulley declared the transition time as an opportunity for "all of us to re-evaluate our relationships to determine our support, concern and loyalty. Our commitment must be to the seminary, not to a personality. We anticipate the future with a conviction that the seminary will emerge a new and vibrant school of which all Southern Baptists will continue to be proud."

Compiled by News Director Mark Wingfield with reporting by Greg Warner and Bob Allen of Associated Baptist Press, Herb Hollinger and Art Tolston of Baptist Press and Staff Writer Melanie Childers



Volunteers deliver church to apartment dwellers

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN—The new mother stared wide-eyed. She'd just been presented with a bag stuffed full of baby sleepers, socks, washcloths, lotions and disposable diapers from the Baptist Women of Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

"You mean they don't even know me, and they've done this for me?" she asked.

That's the attitude adopted by two Hardin County churches who reach out to apartment communities near them, bringing Christ's love to people they don't even know.

Immanuel Baptist Church has had a ministry at the Pine Crest apartments, a 140-unit rent-subsidized community, for about 18 months. A dozen or so volunteers lead Bible clubs in the complex's community room, as well as a teen club and crafts, exercise and parenting classes for adults.

Vine Grove Baptist Church sponsors an almost 2-year-old ministry to Park Towers Apartments, a four-story retirement apartment building in Radcliff. The church's youth minister, Daryl Glass, leads Sunday afternoon worship services as well as shopping and touring excursions.

Research shows that only 3 percent of multi-housing communities nationwide attend church anywhere. Both churches say they got involved because they realized 97 percent of the apartment residents weren't being reached with the gospel.

Immanuel had begun a ministry to a nearby mobile home community three years earlier, when members realized that a week of backyard Bible clubs each summer there was not enough. The church held Sunday school classes and youth meetings and taught special classes for residents there. About 20 made professions of faith in Jesus Christ over the years.

When the mobile home park closed, it seemed a natural progression to move the ministry to another nearby mission field, church missions

leaders said.

As many as 20 preschoolers attend the Monday night Bible club, held in the complex's community room. Apartment management refurbished the room for the church group to use, adding a small kitchen and purchasing a television and VCR. A Sunday school class at Immanuel paid to carpet the room.

Teachers lead singing, tell Bible stories and help children memorize verses. Some weeks they make something to help them remember the lesson. Other days the children play a game to reinforce their learning.

"The seeds of Christianity we're planting will one day sprout and grow," said volunteer Devonda Edlin.

On Wednesday nights, the Baptist volunteers offer another Bible club for older children.

But by far the most popular class is crafts, which meets Wednesdays at 11 a.m., while many children are in school. Women make mop dolls, decorate wreaths or make fabric frames while their younger children play. They pray together, discuss concerns, and when they're done they have something to decorate their apartments or to give as gifts.

Immanuel volunteers say response often is slow, because residents must learn to trust a caring church group. Some have begun attending Immanuel, and a few have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, but most don't feel comfortable in a traditional church.

The ministry to senior adults at Park Towers began when Glass was minister to youth at Radcliff's Stithton Baptist Church. Several churches held Bible studies there, but none led worship services or offered more in-depth attention to residents.

"I was raised by a grandmother in a love relationship," he said, "and now I have about 40 of them."

When Glass moved to Vine Grove Church as youth minister, he moved the ministry with him.

Each Sunday at 12:30 p.m., Glass leads a half-hour worship service with anywhere from eight to 15 residents who sing and share concerns. The apartment management converted a



ON SITE ■ Above: Daryl Glass, youth minister at Vine Grove Baptist Church, chats with residents Connie Sherrard and Marguerite Palmer after a Sunday afternoon worship service at Park Towers apartments. ■ Right: Devonda Edlin, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, sings with children in a Bible club at Pine Crest apartments.

second floor community room into a chapel, with a cross hanging on the wall over a pulpit. A resident plays the keyboard as the congregation of mostly women sings hymns.

Glass asks about those who are absent, jokes about his diet, and reports on his infant son before he preaches. He also attends tenants' meetings and monthly potluck dinners and acts as advocate and pastor to the residents. He takes them on monthly shopping trips as well as excursions to places like Opryland, Joe Huber Farms in Indiana and the nearby Amish community.

Leaders from both churches said having a ministry to an apartment complex is good because it involves many church members in missions.

Vine Grove's youth choir sings at the worship services at Park Towers. Immanuel's youth hold monthly parties for the children at Pine Crest. Im-



manuel's Baptist Women recently held a shower for the six women in Pine Crest who are pregnant. The church also publishes a monthly newsletter for the apartment complex, welcoming new residents and announcing events.

"We have to do this to reach the lost," said Allen McNutt, a longtime missions worker at Immanuel. "Jesus told us to go out. We'll reach some lost at church, but that's not where they live, where they are."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Campbellsville College** has announced its participation in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions effort with Baptists in Russia. The school will send two faculty members and three students to Russia this spring. Kenneth Martin, associate professor of music, and Jerry Kibbons, retired professor of Christian studies, will teach courses in worship and church administration. The students—Brent Thornton, Tonya Morris and Gene Smith—will lead youth camps.

■ **Elizabethtown** will be the site of the first of nine birthday parties planned this year to celebrate the 125th year of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's ministry. The public is invited to the April 16 event at the Baptist Youth Ranch, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ **Correction:** The site listed for the April 8-10 Baptist Student Union Leadership Training Conference listed in the March "Events" insert should have been First Baptist Church in London, not Campbellsville College.

Committee named to study Mid-Continent relationship

By Marv Knox
Editor

A special committee has been created to study the relationship between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield.

The issue surfaced last November, when a retired west Kentucky pastor asked the convention to "officially recognize" the school.

Bill Dodson, a former chairman of the Mid-Continent board of trustees, said he was not speaking for the college, but for himself and the executive board of Graves County Baptist Association in the Mayfield area, when he presented his motion to the KBC annual meeting.

Mid-Continent President LaVerne Butler confirmed that position in a late-February meeting with the KBC Executive Board's administrative

committee. "This was not initiated by us—by staff, faculty or trustees," he said.

But in that meeting, Butler said the school's executive and finance committees had requested that the KBC "find a way whereby the Kentucky Baptist Convention can officially sanction Mid-Continent College."

At that time, the Executive Board's administrative committee voted to create a subcommittee to study the issue and empowered Jimmy Gentry, chairman of the administrative committee and pastor of Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro, to name the subcommittee.

During the administrative committee's March meeting last week, Gentry announced the members of the subcommittee.

They are M.A. Winchester, a physician from Whitley City, chairman; Richard Easterling, pastor of First

Baptist Church of Liberty; James Hunt, a businessman from Greenville; Tim Mathis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Danville; and Tommy Tucker, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Paducah.

Ex-officio members of the committee are KBC President Bob Browning, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, and Gentry. Staff assistance is to be provided by Bill Marshall, the KBC's executive secretary-treasurer; Barry Allen, the convention's business manager; and James Taylor, the KBC's attorney.

The subcommittee has not set a timetable for completing its work.

In other business, the administrative committee:

■ Named Bob Jones, director of the Executive Board's direct missions department, as acting director of its missions and evangelism division.

Jones temporarily will fill a vacan-

cy created when Benton Williams was elected director of the Executive Board's partnership office.

The division director's position requires election by the full Executive Board.

Marshall announced the vacancy is not likely to be filled at the board's next meeting in May, but that he hopes to propose a candidate for the post in November or December.

■ Renewed a contract with retired foreign missionary Jim McKinley, who has been the KBC's consultant for missions and Cooperative Program unified budget promotion for two years.

■ Elected a new campus minister for Campbellsville College, a KBC school in Campbellsville.

Release of the name of the new campus minister has been embargoed until he notifies his church in mid-April.

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MARV KNOX
Editor

MARK WINGFIELD
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

C. R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

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Whimper or act

Will the firing of Russell Dilday wake up Southern Baptists? Do we see that the "conservative resurgence" is a mega-church clique aimed at capturing Southern Baptist Convention leadership. It has little to do with "restoring" "conservative" theology.

Dilday's dismissal illustrates this point. Southwestern Seminary never was accused of "liberalism," nor was Dilday. I never heard a professor teach or preach anything "liberal." For 14 years, SBC leadership has had only positive remarks about Southwestern.

Additionally, Dilday was a superior leader, and Southwestern rose to new heights. His performance in all respects was superior. The only criticism raised by fundamentalists was that he disagreed with how they operated. He never challenged their doctrines and invited them to speak in chapel. He didn't think their political activity was the best way to run a Christian organization, and for that he was fired.

That flimsy excuse raises two questions: Who wanted his job and got tired of waiting? How long are we going to put up with this?

The first answer will come soon. The second is difficult in light of recent SBC life. So much injustice.

If alumni and Southern Baptists who disagree with Dilday's firing would go to the convention and vote their dissatisfaction, Dilday would be restored, and we would have leadership that would listen.

The choice is ours. We can whimper and do nothing or stop whimpering and act. Here is an opportunity to end the war, or at least to negotiate a cease-fire.

*R. Lee Saunders, secretary
Kentucky SWBTS Alumni Association
Bowling Green*

'Zero-sum' politics

Does any Christian doubt that God's supply of blessing is unlimited? Is God's storehouse diminished when others receive answers to prayers or spiritual nurture? Surely a tenet of the faith is God's limitless bounty.

Why, then, do our fundamentalist overseers insist on acting as though we are engaged in a "zero-sum game"? Any money given to the Fellowship is seen as given to Satan. Any teacher or administrator who doesn't hew to the fundamentalist agenda is seen as a traitor. Any speaker not in 100 percent agreement with fundamentalist dogma is anathema.

Could the old fundamentalist programs and methods be failing? Check any indicator of spiritual health—church attendance, baptisms, offerings, attendance at seminaries, toll-free telephone numbers for Jerry Falwell, etc.—and you will see a lost cause. No evangelism is going on; it is merely the redistribution of current church members. There is no breakthrough missionary activity, because the crowd running the SBC is tied to outdated strategy.

Rather than adopt forward-thinking strategies, we are seeing a "milking of the cash cow." Denominational resources, money and human, are being squandered in power plays which only enrich the institutional officers and trustees who add little or no value to any spiritual endeavor. The ouster of Russell Dilday is but the latest installment in this "zero-sum game."

These machinations can have no spiritual or divine aspect. The kingdom of God is not a "zero-sum" affair. In God's economy, there's grace and blessing enough for everyone.

*Gary Millsap
Louisville*

Coverage biased

The coverage of the firing of Dr. Russell Dilday was spurious and disturbing (WR, March 15). Your coverage made two things very clear to me.

First, you are suffering from the martyr complex. Every time one of your own gets criticized, or fired as in the case of Dilday, you rush to their aid. Poor moderates, see how mistreated they are! There's no sympathy here. Your coverage was slanted to make your readers believe that Dilday was fired for no reason whatsoever. Marv, you know better.

The trustees at Southwestern have been more than fair to Dilday. If it hadn't been for Jimmy Draper, he would have been let go a long time ago. Dilday's sympathy with and support for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was the issue that landed him in hot water. This is another denomination competing for Southern Baptist money. That is the plain and simple truth.

Second, your reporting is biased and unusually slanted. The articles that you used in your coverage were ABP articles, the press controlled by moderates. Why not balance it out with Baptist Press articles? I received press releases from Baptist Press and then read the ABP articles, and there is no question you are leaning toward the moderate coverage.

Objectivity according to Webster is "expressing or involving the use of facts without distortion by personal feelings or prejudices." It's time that you give both sides of the issue.

*Ken Bolin
Manchester*

Editor's note: When Dilday was fired, neither Baptist Press nor Associated Baptist Press reported a cause for the action. Trustee Chairman Ralph Pulley told students the school "needed new direction to move us into the 21st century."

A riddle of the persistent flea

"The body of a coyote is the whole world of a flea," I have read somewhere.

It is one of those statements which not only "grabs you" but fairly forces one to contemplate its meaning. There being no accompanying meaning or definition, one is free to set out in any direction. And so I set forth here with the reader.

Presumably a flea is relatively satisfied with his (or her) space. After all, proportionately, a flea has about all he can chew on given those parameters.

However, if fleas act upon coyotes as they do upon dogs, a friend of dogs (as I am) can make some assumptions from simple observations.

First, one tiny flea can make a big or little dog very uncomfortable and can turn an otherwise pleasant day into a miserable one. Envision if you will, that favorite dog of yours on a hot summer's day, flattened out on a cool, concrete step by the back porch door, dozing off to sleep. First you see his eyes pop open; next you hear a slight whine; next one of his paws

starts scratching the spot where he thinks the flea is. Or if it's on his tail (assuming he has one), he starts biting at it with an irritated growl. So much for a pleasant afternoon nap.

Second, sooner or later a flea learns where he can be the most secure, often up near the face or under the collar, or somewhere where he is really hard to get to. It's amazing how smart a tiny flea can seem to be. And when a flea is on the move, you can almost sense the panic that the poor dog feels.

Third, fleas have an enormous propensity for multiplication. Give them

enough time, and they produce an army. I remember a basement couch which became flea infested once; so many that when we sat down, they rose by the hundreds, looking like black dust. Actually, that is how we realized what was biting the children—all because we had let our outdoor-indoor cat sleep where she wanted to in the basement. They were, of course, exterminated soon after—the fleas, that is.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM: AGING

Balanced program

By John Lepper

Churches need to provide a balanced program of ministries to and with senior adults. Such a program contains at least five elements: spiritual enrichment, learning opportunities, fellowship, ministry opportunities and ministries that are needed.

Churches tend to focus on one particular area and often fail to provide a comprehensive senior adult ministry. For example, some churches seldom do more than provide a regular fellowship meal for senior adults. Other churches focus only on the frail elderly by providing a positive ministry to those who are homebound or residents of nursing homes. Some groups focus on travel.

While each of these is valuable and important, churches need to look beyond a single focus to a more comprehensive ministry. Even smaller churches can provide more than a single emphasis.

Church leaders who wish to expand a ministry to senior adults would do well to evaluate their existing program. A second step might be to include several leaders in a group to brainstorm ways to develop a more balanced program. Be sure to allow senior adults a voice in planning and providing the program.

The basic philosophy undergirding such a program says that we never outgrow our ability and need to grow. Just as Jesus grew "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52b), so too, we as individuals continue to have a capacity and need to grow in these ways. Our need for learning, for physical care, for spiritual growth and for relational growth do not diminish with age.

As people are living longer today, churches need to take a positive approach by providing a balanced ministry to senior adults. What is your church doing? How could you be a part of such a ministry?

Two books are invaluable resources to guide you: "How to Minister to Senior Adults in Your Church," by Horace Kerr, and "Senior Adult Leader's Notebook," compiled by William Howse.

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

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

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

Letters can help alleviate malnutrition in America

Can you spare 29 cents to rescue millions of children from malnutrition?

That's all you'd spend to mail a letter if your church participates in Bread for the World's "A Child is Waiting" campaign to restore full funding for the government's Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Studies show 36.9 million Americans live in poverty. And nearly half of them are children. Poverty stalks one out of every four children under age 6 in this country—a child-poverty rate more than twice as high as any other industrialized nation. The problem is compounded, because the malnutrition these children suffer inflicts permanent damage on their developing minds and bodies.

The WIC program is designed to thwart the ravages of child poverty. It supplements the diets of pregnant women, nursing mothers and children up to age 5. It provides vouchers for high-nutrition foods most poor

families cannot afford.

Studies show the WIC program actually saves tax dollars. The General Accounting Office estimates the \$269 million spent on prenatal WIC benefits in 1990 will save \$1.04 billion in health expenses during the next 18 years. That's a savings of \$3.87 for every \$1 spent on WIC.

Unfortunately, the WIC program is underfunded. Only 60 percent of eligible women, infants and children currently receive WIC support. Nationwide, that level of support leaves almost 3.5 million women and children unable to receive help.

Bread for the World, a national Christian citizen's movement against hunger, has organized its "A Child is Waiting" campaign to collect letters urging Congress to fund the WIC program completely. To join the campaign, write to Bread for the World, 11000 Wayne Ave., Suite 1000, Silver Spring, Md. 20910. Campaign kits cost \$8.

Marv Knox

Send a message

Is there no limit to the dishonorable, destructive behavior of the Fundamentalists who control the Southern Baptist Convention? The malicious firing of Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday will live in infamy. The Sadducees and Pharisees could learn from the demonic spirit and shameful tactics of Southwestern's Fundamentalist trustees.

Is there no end to the list of honorable SBC leaders crucified by the Fundamentalists? Dilday joins Valentine, Cothen, Lolley, Dunn, Elder, Parks and Honeycutt as SBC martyrs.

Hundreds of non-Fundamentalist pastors and churches have said, "Enough, too much." They still support their state conventions but refuse to channel SBC support through the Fundamentalist establishment. They use the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and other channels to support Southern Baptist ministries.

It's time thousands more who cannot condone such ruthlessness send a message to SBC Fundamentalists. As long as fair-minded Baptists continue to send their mission gifts through traditional SBC channels, the Fundamentalists will assume their shameful conduct is approved. This is not so. However, these churches are unwitting accessories to the Fundamentalists' shameful acts.

Face it: With the Fundamentalist

takeover, the cherished Cooperative Program which has served us well has undergone radical revision. It's still the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists when it comes to giving; but once it's sent to Nashville, it becomes the Monopoly Program of the Fundamentalists.

If non-Fundamentalist Southern Baptist churches would continue to support their state conventions but use other channels to support Southern Baptist ministries, the Fundamentalists might get the message.

Chauncey R. Daley
Louisville

BAPTIST FORUM

'Ain't so'

SBC President Ed Young's concern about "investigative reporting" by the denominational press is highlighted by Russell Dilday's firing. It shows Young was right to be concerned.

Without "investigative reporting," the manner in which the trustees moved against Dilday would not have been told, and Southern Baptists would not have known about their pre-arrangements, which characterized their lack of integrity. The once-cherished Baptist admonition to "trust the Lord and tell the people" is all but lost.

The response of trustee Chairman Ralph Pulley to Dilday's request for reasons behind his dismissal is telling: "We don't need a reason. We can do

it. We have the votes, and we will ..." (WR, March 15).

If "persons in the pews" still believed the SBC controversy was a "preachers' fight," a "battle for the Bible" or a "return to our roots," Pulley's response and the actions of Southwestern Seminary's trustees ought to demonstrate "it ain't so."

I cannot believe the sentiments and actions of Southwestern's trustees reflect the attitude of grassroots Southern Baptists. We are obligated as Christians to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). Truth and love mandate that we deal redemptively with each other, while remaining accountable to each other in Christ. Redemption and the integrity of Christian accountability seem sorely lacking these days.

How many more women and men called of God will be sacrificed to those who "have the votes" and "don't need a reason" before grassroots Southern Baptists say, in truth and love, "Enough is enough"?

Lynn Traylor
Sonora

Nothing new

The Spanish inquisition shrouded its political persecution behind the cloak of "innerrant" Roman Catholicism.

The Salem witch trials engaged in political paranoia pursuant to "innerrant" Puritanism.

Nazi Germany made extensive use of propaganda—tell a lie long enough

and often enough—to achieve political domination by an "innerrant + superior" Aryan race. All suspect dissent was eliminated harshly.

The primary tactic of all communist takeovers was the seizure and control of all news media. By controlling dissemination of information, these autocratic rulers could invade and control private lives and actions of its citizens. Dissent was eliminated under the guise of "crimes against the state."

Tactical directors of the fundamentalist takeovers of the Southern Baptist Convention shrouded their political agenda behind the cloak of religious (biblical) innerrancy. They have since pursued total control of all news media and publications—including censorship and printed propaganda.

Further, total control of all training facilities—including harsh treatment of any and all dissent—has set the stage for "brown-shirt style" clone factories.

History has exposed the true nature of the inquisition and the witch trials. Communism failed after 70 years; the Berlin Wall fell after 30 years. A devastating world war was required to remove the canker of Nazi Germany.

As some still choose to believe, this fundamentalist stranglehold on the SBC will also pass. Perhaps, but will we ever be able to put Humpty Dumpty together again?

Oran Faris
Frankfort

'If'

Joe Cooper, former philosophy teacher at Mississippi College, shared this wisdom, "The little word 'if' is futile in relation to the past but fertile in relation to the future."

This is true for basketball teams when they lose. "If" we had done this differently. "If" only we had ...

What is true for basketball teams also is true for us. We may spend enormous time and energy playing the game "What if ...?" While we must learn from our mistakes, we must find ways to move past them. I remember the words of Scripture, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Our future, having put the past in perspective, can be guided by the little word "if." What if we choose to do this or decide to do that? Then we begin to unlock the door of possibilities. Again a word from Scripture, "One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13b-14).

Choose the fertile, not the futile, approach with the little word "if."

Greg Earwood
Murray

Winter's not over until the bathroom wall finally has been patched

At long last, we've almost recovered from the Great Storm of '94.

The thermometer edged back above freezing more than two months ago, and the snow has been melted for eons. You'd think we would have recuperated from the worst winter weather in history weeks and weeks ago.

We did, except for our bathroom.

Our water pipe froze the night the temperature dipped to a record -22 degrees. The next day, I was so grateful our house didn't flood when the pipe thawed and our friend Wes could come help patch the pipe, I didn't really care that we had to tear a 16-inch-by-8-foot hole in the bathroom wall to get to the pipe.

With the temperature still well below

freezing and our water back on, that hole didn't seem like a big deal.

But the hole didn't go away when the snow melted.

To make matters worse, I kept putting off the repair. Mostly, I blamed a busy schedule for the delay.

"Sorry I haven't fixed the hole in the bathroom wall, honey," I'd stammer, "but I just haven't had time."

Deep down inside, I knew fear kept me from the task. When it comes to household repairs, I'm just plain spastic.

Even the little projects never seem to come out right. And I absolutely knew an 8-foot hole was more than I could handle.

However, a countervailing fear offset that one—the fear of actually paying a carpenter to come in here and do something any halfway decent homeowner ought to be able to do during an ordinary weekend.

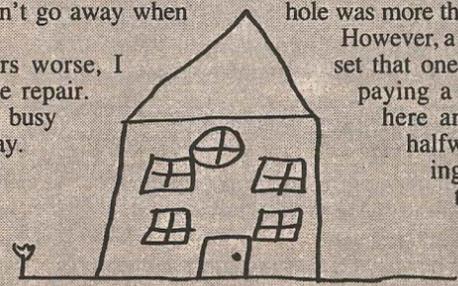
Wes kept telling me I could do it, and I finally figured the worst wall-repair scenario would have me turned around backwards and empaneled into the inside

of the wall. At least then I'd never find myself faced with another household repair job again.

Well, the short version of this repair story is that the hole has been patched and I didn't have a nervous breakdown. In fact, sealing the joints with the special mud-paste and drywall tape was sort of fun. And since wallpapering is Joanna's specialty, I don't even have to worry if the corner at the ceiling isn't exactly square.

Last night, lying in bed contemplating this long-put-off job that only took a few hours, I wondered why human nature constantly coaxes us to postpone doing the right thing. That probably exasperates God all the time.

Marv Knox



NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Mainline religious groups, along with faith-based hospitals and health-care providers, called Feb. 28 for health-care reform with universal coverage as a bottom line. Taking sharp exception to the conservative Christian Coalition, the groups said they are pleased President Clinton has made health care a top agenda, declaring it "unconscionable that any person in this land has to go without basic health protection." The Christian Coalition has launched a \$1.4 million campaign to defeat the president's health-care reform proposal.**

■ **Two teen-agers and their youth pastor are suing a shopping mall in Denver after guards ordered them to leave because they were sharing their faith in Jesus Christ with customers. The teens reportedly asked people in the Cherry Creek Shopping Center if they could speak with them. If the person said "no," the teens thanked them and moved on. If the person said "yes," the teens presented a tract and talked about Jesus. The suit claims the shopping mall's prohibition on trespassing and solicitation is unconstitutional.**

Studies differ on media's coverage of religion

WASHINGTON (ABP)—How well does the secular media cover religion? That depends on whom you ask.

Two recent studies on religion coverage in the media yielded contrasting views. One study, conducted by The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University, showed a healthy objectivity toward religion required by the profession.

The other survey, conducted by the Media Research Center, a Virginia-based watchdog group headed by conservative activist Brent Bozell, suggested a media bias against religion.

The Freedom Forum report found that "an anti-religious bias in the media is a myth," said John Seigenthaler, chairman of The First Amendment Center. "Journalists fail their readers because they don't know and won't find out, rather than because they are

hostile to religion."

The Freedom Forum report, titled "Bridging the Gap: Religion and the News Media," concluded that often journalists and clergy largely misunderstand each other.

The report, written by Jimmy Allen, former president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, and John Dart, religion writer for the Los Angeles Times, is based on responses from clergy, editors and religion newswriters.

The Media Research Center enlisted 12 researchers to study nightly news shows from five networks, as well as morning news and magazine news shows. The study "confirms the concerns of the religion community: religion in general is just not a matter of interest to the media," Bozell said.

"There is a chasm separating the journalistic community from the church-going community," Bozell charged. This chasm, he said, is re-

sponsible for the media's failure to cover religion as a serious topic.

"We never see the good things religious groups are doing, whether it's helping the homeless, the abused or homosexuals suffering from AIDS," he said.

He recommended the media take several courses of action, such as hiring reporters who are religious.

The Freedom Forum study, however, said faith of reporters is not the controlling factor. "Whether a person is Christian is not definitive," Allen said. "The news will be well reported if journalists 'are professional, truthful and even-handed.'"

Allen found that journalists report news according to what they perceive is the real story, regardless of their faith. It is not a matter of religious conviction but of good journalism, he added.

Both Allen and Bozell responded to the findings of the 1980 Lichter-

Rothman survey of journalists but with different conclusions.

Bozell said the Lichter findings parallel his organization's study. He noted 50 percent of journalists in the Lichter study did not believe in God and 86 percent rarely attended synagogue or church, making it hard for them to "reflect or understand the role of religion in America." The media should "spend more time learning about religious organizations so they can separate nonsense from truth," Bozell said.

Allen and Dart said the Lichter study "has been quoted and misquoted to characterize the overwhelming majority of U.S. journalists as irreligious people, thus allegedly explaining the biased reporting of religion."

The Freedom Forum study found that faith is "very important" in the lives of three-quarters of the religion newswriters and to 72 percent of editors.

Church buys abortion clinic

SOUTHAVEN, Miss.—Members of a Mississippi Baptist church have claimed victory in their fight against abortion after buying out the only abortion clinic in the region.

Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Southaven, Miss., negotiated a three-year lease/purchase agreement with the owner of the building occupied by Tri-State Women's Medical Center in Southaven, reported Pastor Steve Bennett.

The clinic's owner, Thomas Tucker, has agreed to vacate the building by April 29, Bennett said.

"We had a word from God," the pastor explained.

"People grabbed their water guns and ran toward hell. They just believed God could do anything," he said.

A pair of church members originally approached him about buying

the clinic property, Bennett said, so he prayed about it and decided to present the idea to the church body during a Wednesday night prayer meeting.

When an invitation was given at the end of the prayer meeting, hundreds of people came forward for more than an hour to donate money, jewelry and other items to the cause, the pastor reported.

"People gave their wedding rings. One person brought the title to his car and another donated 10 acres of land. We had over \$40,000 in cash alone," he said.

Despite their joy at driving out the abortion clinic, church members realize Tucker's clinic could make a comeback elsewhere in the city, Bennett conceded.

"We can't control what he does, but God told us to get this building and we got it," he said.

Court upholds flag-burning case

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The act of burning the American flag is constitutionally-protected speech and cannot by itself be the basis for convicting a person of inciting violence, according to a ruling left standing by the U.S. Supreme Court March 21.

The court declined to review a ruling by the Ohio Supreme Court which reversed an Ohio woman's conviction for inciting violence.

The woman, Cheryl Lessin, protested U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf at a demonstration in downtown Cleveland in 1990, burning an American flag during the protest.

Ohio's top court threw out her conviction, saying the jury should have been instructed that "flag burning in the absence of a call to violence is protected speech" and that jurors could not consider the fact that Lessin burned the flag in determining whether she incited violence.

When criminal charges arise from conduct protected by the Constitution, jurors must be told that a conviction cannot be based on constitutionally-protected acts, the court said.

The case was sent back to the trial court for proceedings consistent with the Ohio Supreme Court's opinion.

Churches' project unites races

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (ABP)—Two Baptist churches—one predominately white and one black—are working together to build a house and to tear down racial barriers in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The churches are Wake Forest Baptist Church, an anglo church which meets on the campus of Wake Forest University, and First Baptist Church of Highland Avenue, a 114-

year-old African-American congregation with a long track record of social involvement.

They have formed a partnership to sponsor construction of a house for Habitat for Humanity.

"We are on the leading edge of a great new adventure," Wake Forest pastor Richard Groves said. Beyond building a home, "ours is a ministry of reconciliation," he said.

Ready to feel good about being Baptist?

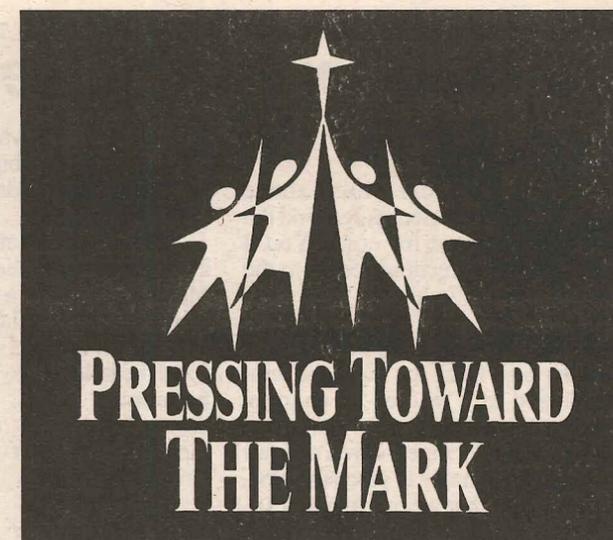
Come join free and faithful Baptists for worship, learning, and fellowship

at the

1994 General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
May 5-7 in Greensboro, N.C.

To pre-register, call

1-800-352-8741 or 404-455-7379
and ask for your **Registration Xpress** form.



KENTUCKY Women on Mission

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Agenda for the annual meeting of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, April 22-23 in Winchester

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Highlights on the featured speakers at this year's WMU annual meeting

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Baptist Nursing Fellowship event; Girls in Action event; Acteens events; Special interest conferences

TAKE NOTE



KENTUCKY WOMAN
FEATURED *Etta Butcher* (right) of Franklin is featured in the April issue of *Royal Service* magazine, in an article written by *Stuart Calvert* (left).

Take a New Look at Woman's Missionary Union

The adult organizations of Woman's Missionary Union are made up of women who are truly 'women on mission.' They are the missions heartbeat of the local church.

Research conducted for WMU by the Birmingham advertising firm Lawler Ballard Van Durand pointed out that WMU members are an asset to Southern Baptist churches.

"The presence of WMU in a church is a healthy thing for the church," stated Chris Bonney, one of the researchers.

"WMU groups and their members can be a tremendous asset to a pastor," Bonney continued. "WMU may be, as some have suggested, not only the 'missions conscience' of the SBC, but also its 'loving heart.'"

The development of a woman's organization was encouraged in 1876, when a statement of support was included in the report of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky (now the Kentucky Baptist Convention). "To further this work (state missions) we would recommend to our churches the formation of female missionary societies, or the employment of such other means as shall enlist the sisters."

The Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission

Board recommended that committees of women take up the work in each state. Thus, the Central Committee, through which the female members of the churches could give mission support, was begun in 1878. From these relatively obscure beginnings, the Woman's Missionary Union in Kentucky has grown to more than 60,000 members. WMU, SBC has a membership of more than 1.2 million.

Throughout the succeeding 115 years, the women have kept missions as their main focus, teaching about missions, supporting missionaries and their families,

witnessing to the lost and ministering to those in need. Providing prayer support for missions work is a primary endeavor.

Since its earliest days, WMU has been responsible for promoting giving to missions causes and the substantial support of the missionaries. Since 1888, WMU has helped raise more than \$2 billion for SBC missions causes.

Truly, these women have been—and continue to be—women on mission.

Society and the church have changed much since Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women organizations were begun in 1970. The

members of both Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women are concerned that women of today and tomorrow discover the purpose of missions in their lives. This has instigated the frequent question, "How can we involve more women in missions today?"

The viable response is found in the development of the two organizations as one, Women on Mission. The women look forward to this positive update in September of 1995.

— *Dolores Gilliland*
Executive Director
Kentucky WMU

I WOULDN'T MISS WMU ANNUAL MEETING BECAUSE ...

"... I enjoy seeing everybody throughout the state with similar interests in missions."—*Laverne Sublette, Fulton*

"...It renews my spirit, friendships, and my commitment to missions."—*Bettie Wright, LaCenter*

"...of the inspiration I receive while I am there."—*Bonnie Ginter, Louisville*

"...I never fail to be convicted anew regarding state and home missions as well as foreign missions."—*Billie Emmons, Ashland*

"...I receive the inspiration that helps me continue serving through WMU when I get back home."—*Doris Mullendore, Bowling Green*

"...of the inspiration, the information, and the fellowship."—*Dixie Mylum Lusher, Berea*

Women to Hear Jerry Rankin, the 'Ultimate Demotion Man'

In June of 1993, Jerry Rankin became the 10th person to head the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

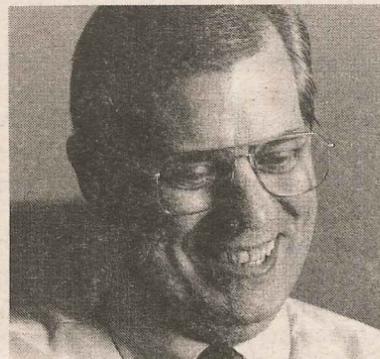
In June of 1970, Rankin and his wife, Bobbye, were appointed as missionaries to Indonesia. There they would serve as general evangelist and church and home worker until 1980, when Jerry became associate to the area director of South and Southeast Asia.

In 1987, he became director of the board's Southern Asia and Pacific area. In that role, based in Singapore, he oversaw the work of 480

missionaries in 15 countries.

The Rankins are both graduates of Mississippi College, a Baptist college in Clinton, Miss. Both attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received the master of divinity degree. They have two grown children, Lori and Russell.

Rankin explains his call the following way: "I often find myself reviewing God's call upon my life—a call to preach the gospel, a call to be a missionary, a call to start churches overseas. Fulfilling that call has taken unexpected directions. It is a



joy to see others bearing fruit and making the gospel known to a lost world ... because you have provided equipping, channeled resources, given encouragement and guidance and been willing to serve in a leader-

ship position.

"It is an honor to be entrusted with leadership of the foreign mission efforts of Southern Baptists, but becoming president of the Foreign Mission Board is another step further removed from the high calling of a missionary. It is further removed from where the action is overseas and, in a sense, I guess it's the ultimate demotion!"

Come hear the "ultimate demotion man" Friday evening during the annual meeting of Kentucky WMU at Central Baptist Church in Winchester.

CONTACT

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union offers missions programs for children, teens, young women and adults. For more information about WMU resources or the upcoming WMU annual meeting, call the WMU office at (502) 245-4101 or write WMU at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

KENTUCKY *Women on Mission*

Agenda for Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting

Central Baptist Church, Winchester

Hearing Impaired Seating. There will be a section reserved in the front of the sanctuary for those who have difficulty hearing. Also, interpretation for the deaf will be provided.

Nursery. A nursery will be provided during the sessions and the conferences. However, children should be picked up during meal times. Those attending the BYW luncheon on Saturday may leave their preschoolers in the nursery over that lunch period.

Meals Offered. Avoid looking for a place to eat during the annual meeting. Purchase box lunch tickets at the registration desk before 10 a.m. each day. Cost is \$4 per ticket.

New Song. A new song, "Jesus Can Make a World of Difference," will be the featured theme song throughout the WMU annual meeting. The lyrics and music were written especially for this meeting by James "Jimbo" Stevens, who will receive a master of church music degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in May. The president of StevenSong, a music publishing company, Jimbo has composed and arranged more than 100 published songs. He received the 1993 AS-CAP standard award for musical composition. An accomplished pianist and choral conductor, Jimbo will serve as pianist during the annual meeting in Winchester.

Friday Morning — April 22 Making a World of Difference

9:10	Music for Worship Slide Presentation Call to Order Prayer Special WMU Annual Meeting Song	Instrumental Kay Trisler Doris Mullendore Bill Ellis By: Jimbo Stevens Bill Ellis University of Kentucky BSU H.K. Kingkade, Director Kay Trisler Don Mathis, Pastor Judy Crowe Bobbie Patterson Congregation Dee Gilliland Kay Trisler	8:55
	Testimony in Word and Song Theme Interpretation		
	Introductions Welcome to Central Baptist Church Recognition of Local Committees Making a World of Difference Hymn Announcements Special Recognitions		
	<i>Ministers and Spouses, Directors of Missions and Spouses, Home Missionaries, Foreign Missionaries, Parents of Missionaries, Missionary Kids, and Volunteers in Missions</i>		
	Hymn Making a Difference in Hong Kong Testimony and Prayer Introduction of Conference Leaders	Congregation Larry Harris W. Robert DeFoor Dee Gilliland	

Conferences: 11:15 - 12:00

Friday Afternoon — April 22 Making a World of Difference

1:30	Presiding Officer Slide Presentation Prayer Special WMU Song Theme Interpretation	Sara Billups, Vice President Billie Emmons Congregation Kentucky State University BSU Mikel Robinson, Director Bobbie Patterson Sara Billups Jim McKinley Larry Nobles Dee Gilliland	11:25
	Making a World of Difference Introductions Bangladesh Testimony in Word and Song Re-introduction of Conference Leaders		

Conferences: 2:45 - 3:30 & 3:45 - 4:30

Friday Evening — April 22 Making a World of Difference

6:45	Music for Worship	Central Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir Jimbo Stevens, Director	3:55
	Slide Presentation Prayer Flag Processional Special WMU Song Theme Interpretation	Kathryn Akridge Kentucky Acteens Congregation Morehead State University BSU Gene Parr, Director Kay Trisler	
	Introductions Greetings from Kentucky Baptist Convention and Prayer Announcements Making a World of Difference Actens . . . Making a World of Difference Hymn Christmas Gift to Foreign Missionaries Prayer	Robert F. Browning Dee Gilliland Bobbie Patterson Julie H. Keith Congregation Betty Smith Anna Mary Byrdwell	

Offering	Central Baptist Church Trio
Special Music	Sandy Jude, Donna Wainwright, Linda Snowden
Guest Speakers Introduction	Gerard Howell
Foreign Missions . . . Making a World of Difference	Jerry and Bobbye Rankin
Testimony and Prayer	Kenneth Bolin Jr.

Saturday Morning — April 23 Making a World of Difference

8:50	Music for Worship Slide Presentation Special Prayer WMU Song Introductions Theme Interpretation	Instrumental Bill Ellis Carolyn Ellis Congregation Kay Trisler Georgetown College BSU Jack Birdwhistell, Director	11:25
	Kentucky Baptist Convention and Woman's Missionary Union, Laborers Together	William W. Marshall	
	Special Presentation for Freeda Harris Center	Kay Trisler & Dee Gilliland	
	You Can Make a Difference Girls In Action Announcements Business Recognition of Retiring Board Nominating Committee Report Electing Officers and Executive Board Making a World of Difference Installation of 1994-95 Board Serve The Lord With Gladness Thank you from a Baptist Nurse MK Prayer Offering	Nathan Porter Brenda Price Dee Gilliland Kay Trisler Mary Wallace Bobbie Patterson Congregation Lee Ann Matthews Pat Schmidt	
	A World of Difference	Central Baptist Church Youth Choir Lewis Willian, Director Ken and Beth Perkins Stephen L. Hadden	

Saturday Afternoon — April 23 Making a World of Difference

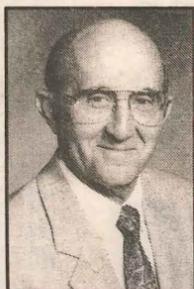
1:20	Music for Worship Slide Presentation Special Prayer WMU Song Introductions Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children Announcements Appalachian Ministries Education Resource Center	Instrumental Alicia Lyles Julia Woodward Congregation Kay Trisler Brenda Gray Dee Gilliland Brian Cole	3:55
	WMUs Achieving Distinguished Status Associations and Churches 1995, Bowling Green! Testimony and Prayer Making a Difference in Canada Hymn Testimony in Word and Song Making a World of Difference Theme Interpretation	Carol Noffsinger & Dee Gilliland Martha Copeland John Wallace Kellie Hooker Congregation Alicia Lyles Mildred McWhorter University of Louisville BSU Angela Perkins, Director	
	Closing prayer		

KENTUCKY *Women on Mission*

WMU Program Personalities



BOBBIE PATTERSON



JIM MCKINLEY



KELLIE HOOKER



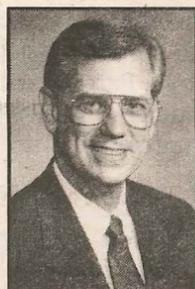
MILDRED McWHORTER



KEN PERKINS



BETH PERKINS



JERRY RANKIN



ROBERT BELLINGER



PAT BELLINGER



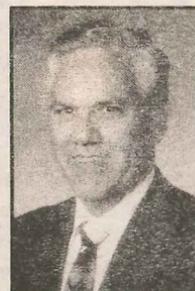
CHIP MILLER



NANCY MILLER



NATHAN PORTER



WENDELL SMITH



BETTY SMITH



LARRY HARRIS

Bobbie Sorrill Patterson. Bobbie Sorrill Patterson, associate executive director for Woman's Missionary Union SBC, directs the missions program system, which is responsible for designing and implementing the church and associational WMU pro-

grams. A native of Washington, D.C., she came to WMU in 1968. Patterson will be leading the Bible studies during four sessions of the annual meeting. A gifted speaker and writer, she is the author of *Annie Armstrong, Dreamer in Action*.

Man with A Mission. James F. McKinley, Jr.—or just Jim to all who know him—is a man with a mission. For 34 years, 1958-1992, he and his wife, Betty, served as Southern Baptist missionaries in the country of Bangladesh.

They and their five children lived through political turmoil, earthquakes, mud slides, hurricanes, tidal waves and other physical disasters. But always, there was the mission: showing and telling the Bengali people about the love of God expressed in Jesus Christ.

Jim also is an author. He has writ-

ten three books. About 100,000 copies have been sold of *Death to Life: Bangladesh*. It was published in English, Bengali and Japanese in 1992. His second book is *Help, Helpers and Hope*. About 30,000 copies have been sold.

Now he has a new book, published in the fall of 1993: *Missionary Stories and Comments*. The price of the new book is \$10, with all profit going to the Foreign Mission Board.

To learn more about Jim's mission, come hear him April 22, both in conferences and from the platform, at the WMU annual meeting.

Always A Friend. For almost 30 years, Mildred McWhorter directed the work of several mission centers in Houston, Texas.

Mexican-Americans make up 98 percent of the people with whom she worked; 30 percent of the adults cannot read; only 50 percent of the children graduate from high school; 70 percent of the adults speak only Spanish; most have a Roman Catholic background but don't know what they believe about religion or God.

Many of the people in these areas had seen do-gooders come and go, and they thought McWhorter would be no different. But this Southern Baptist missionary proved them wrong. She came and she stayed.

She distributed food and clothing. She provided fun and games and education to the children and youth of

downtown Houston. But she gave even more—she told them and their families about Jesus.

She was always a friend.

Mildred McWhorter, home missionary from 1963-1992, will be a featured speaker during the Kentucky WMU annual meeting. She will be the final speaker on Saturday afternoon, April 23.

Those who have heard her speak will want to hear her again. Those who have never heard her are in for a first-time treat!

At present, McWhorter is serving as a special assigned missionary for the Home Mission Board. Prior to retirement, she was a missionary serving as director of the Baptist Center, Gano Center, Mason Drive Center and Joy Fellowship Center, all in Houston.

Some of Kentucky's Finest. Ken and Beth Perkins are no strangers to Kentucky Baptists. Beth was born in Louisville and Ken was born in Owenton.

This furlough, although they are missionaries in residence at Georgetown College, they call First Baptist Church, Owenton, their church home.

Both are graduates of Georgetown College (where they met) and Ken is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. They have three sons: Jeremy, Benjamin and Jesse.

For 10 years, they have been foreign missionaries in Africa: Malawi, 1984-85; Transkei, 1985-91; transferred to Kenya in 1991 to work with Somali people.

The Perkinses have a fascinating story about their life and work with the Somalis. They will lead conferences on Friday and then share some of their story on Saturday morning during the annual meeting.

To know Beth and Ken is to love them. Their Christian compassion and attitude shines through the moment you meet them. Their dedication to the people of Somalia is evidenced in everything they say and do.

Before going to Africa, Ken was pastor of several churches in Kentucky. During high school and college, Beth was on the camp staff at Cedar Crest, working with Kentucky GAs and Acteens.

They really are our very own, some of Kentucky's finest.

KENTUCKY Women on Mission

Gift presentation. The executive committee of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union has voted to give initial grant of \$25,000 for the new building at the Freeda Harris Baptist Center. An additional \$5,000 is to be allocated through the 1994-95 Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering. A special presentation of the \$25,000 grant will be made during the Saturday morning session of the annual meeting.

Acteens Will Participate in Annual Meeting

Kentucky Acteens will play a vital part in the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting in Winchester. Approximately 200 Acteens are expected to attend the dinner on Friday evening, April 22, at Central Baptist Church. The dinner theme will be "LOVE: Give It Away." Becky Castle, a student from Morehead State University, will be the speaker.

The Acteens will be involved in many facets of the Friday evening session of the Kentucky WMU annual meeting at Central Baptist Church, immediately following their dinner.

All of the Acteens will par-

ticipate in a flag processional ceremony which opens the evening session. During the session, the six State Acteens Panelists will participate in a theme interpretation. The National Acteens Panelists and the National Top Teen

also will have a spot on the program.

All who are interested in learning more about Kentucky Acteens are encouraged to go by the Acteens booth, where the panelists will visit with them.



ACTEENS PANELISTS Pictured left to right are the Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panelists: Sybil Dawahare, South Elkhorn Baptist Church, Lexington; Lee Anne Gregory, Elk Spring Valley Baptist Church, Monticello; Kara Bevil, Hartford Baptist Church, Hartford; Carrie Chiles, Short Creek Baptist Church, Falmouth; Melissa Bryant, Beaver Dam, Calvary Baptist Church in Central City; and Carrie Bell, Murray First Baptist Church, Murray.



NATIONAL HONORS Melissa Bryant, National Acteens Panelist, Graefenburg Baptist Church, Shelbyville; Jennie Bell, National Acteens Panelist, First Baptist Church, Murray; Courtney Adams, National Top Teen, First Baptist Church, Murray.

We've Also Got Something for Younger Girls

Can members of Girls in Action be involved in the WMU annual meeting?

Yes, because GA is a part of WMU, there is a special GA Missions Event planned for GAs and leaders on Saturday, April 23, at Central Baptist Church in Winchester. The event begins at 9 a.m. and concludes around noon.

As the general meeting is in session for everyone else, GAs and leaders will be having their own "event" with opportunities of meeting missionaries, singing and having all kinds of GA fun! Featured at the conclusion of the event will be ventriloquist Mark McClintock and Friends.

The event will be held in the old sanctuary of the church. Participants are encouraged to use the Lexington Avenue entrance.

GAs and leaders attending the GA Missions Event can be involved in mission action by bringing canned food (one per person) with them to the event. The collected food will be distributed to needy families in the Winchester area.



Baptist Nursing Fellowship

The Kentucky Chapter of Baptist Nursing Fellowship will have a dinner meeting on Friday, April 22, at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 32 E. Main St., Winchester.

Brian Cole of the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center will share with participants information about volunteer opportunities for nurses in the Appalachian Mountain area of eastern Kentucky.

Evelyn Mottram of Lexington will complete her two-year term as president of the Kentucky group, and President-elect Pat Schmidt of Leitchfield will become president. Other officers will be elected.

The national organization of Baptist Nursing Fellowship started in 1983. The organization is for RNs, LPNs, student and missionary nurses. Nearly 1,000 persons are members, with 25 organized state chapters. Annual membership dues for the national organization are \$10 for students and \$35 for others.

The Kentucky Chapter is supported by an allocation from the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering, therefore we have no state dues. Membership in the national organization is not a requirement for being a part of Kentucky BNF.

BNF is organized to provide worship and Bible study opportunities with other nursing professionals; to encourage participation in volunteer missions opportunities; to give prayer support for each other and for missionary nurses; to encourage career missions in the medical field; and to help equip nurses for lifestyle witnessing.



PRESIDENT ELECT Pat Schmidt, Kentucky Chapter of Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Special Interest Conferences

- International Development Relief—Beth and Ken Perkins
- Hope for Hurting Humanity—Nathan Porter
- Disaster Relief—Etta Butcher and Bob Simpkins
- *Habitat for Humanity—Suzanna Jones
- *A Time to Grow—Anna Mary Byrdwell
- *Bangladesh—Jim McKinley
- AIDS Awareness—Nancy and Chip Miller
- *Literacy—Elaine Ozment
- Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund, 2nd Century Fund and Vision Fund—Mari-beth Hambrick
- Migrant Ministry—Stacy Cruse Pennington
- Partnership Missions—Delores Spears and Calvin Wilkins
- Missions Reaching the World, Making A Difference—Marv Knox
- Time, Money, Personality—Barry Allen
- Infant Resource Project—Bonnie Ginter
- *Liberia—Pat and Robert Bellinger
- *Friendship International—Lib and Benton Williams
- *Hong Kong—Larry Harris
- *Philippines—Betty and Wendell Smith

* Indicates steps required for access to these conferences.

'Innovative' churches respond to boomer market

By Ken Walker
Freelance Writer

NASHVILLE (BP)—Contemporary music. High-tech, multi-media presentations. Drama. Blue jeans. Sometimes no altar calls or "Baptist" in the name. Swimming pool baptisms. More people at services than there are members.

What in heaven's name is happening?

The nontraditional—some prefer the tag "innovative"—church is changing the body of Christ. And the Southern Baptist Convention.

The non-traditional church is dominating all areas of church starting, said Jim White, pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, N.C. "Everything from Nazarene to Presbyterian. It's clearly dominating the SBC. It's the most profound movement impacting evangelistic strategies for the '90s."

"It is appealing," agreed Ralph Hodge, contemporary churches leadership specialist for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "It allows the individuality of people to be expressed. In an innovative service, there will be nine different ways a message is delivered and nine different filters receiving it."

However, Hodge said it is impossible to gauge the growth in numbers of new, non-traditional churches.

Whatever the figures, innovative churches appear to be doing something right. One of the field's pioneers, Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif., averages Sunday attendance of 8,000 (with only 3,000 members).

That comes 14 years after its humble origins as a seven-member Bible study group led by Pastor Rick Warren. In addition, Saddleback has started approximately two dozen missions. More than 13,000 pastors have studied the story of the church, which hosts a five-day church growth con-

ference each summer.

Warren's 1980 move to Mission Viejo, midway between Los Angeles and San Diego, illustrates the innovative church's belief in targeting a market. Praying for God to show him a place where he could invest his whole life, Warren arrived at one of the nation's fastest-growing areas.

Once there, he used an old-fashioned Baptist tool, the door-to-door survey. But it contained a new-fashioned twist, trying to discover why the unchurched didn't attend services.

Their four primary objections:

- Sermons are boring.
- Church members are unfriendly.
- The church is more interested in money than people.
- A lack of quality child care.

Warren set out to meet those objections, noting, "People didn't seem to have problems with Jesus, but they did have problems with the organized church."

So did White, the North Carolina pastor. He served in two different pastorates before spending two years as a Sunday School Board consultant for preaching and worship. That work became the basis of his book, "Opening The Front Door." It hit the market just after Mecklenburg's first service in a Hilton hotel.

The underpinning for Mecklenburg's growth is its focus on unchurched, unsaved people. From a handful in October 1992, attendance is nearing the 500 mark.

More than 50 percent are converts, White said; another 40 percent are prodigals or others who had stopping going to church for various reasons.

This contrasts to most churches, which White said grow through transfers—newcomers to the community

or those dissatisfied elsewhere.

"Our fundamental mission statement is reaching the non-churched, non-believer. We want to turn the irreligious—the people who don't give a rip about Jesus—into fully devoted followers of Christ."

White designed a 10-step strategy for Mecklenburg. The first is to build relationships with non-believers. Most Christians don't do that, he said, even treating the lost like the enemy.

The second step is for believers to look for an opportunity in that relationship to share faith in Jesus Christ and what he means to their life. That leads to the third step, the church's "seeker" service on Sunday mornings.

Among the remaining steps are baptism, "mentor" relationships between converts and mature Christians and small Bible study groups.

White said the church also stresses getting people to discover their spiritual gifts. Because of perceived abuses in charismatic circles, most Southern Baptist churches ignore this area, he said, which he compares to "throwing out the baby with the bath water."

The practice that would surprise most Baptists is a call for decisions that does not include walking forward at the end of the service. Yet this successful church makes a stronger demand of converts than most traditional Baptist churches: To be baptized at Mecklenburg, a person must give a personal testimony of faith in Jesus, either verbally or in written form.

"Public profession is not the same as an altar call," the pastor said. "Biblically it was baptism, an outward sign of an inward change. We think we're going back to tradition."

Boomers and American religion

Should all churches change?

NASHVILLE (BP)—If innovative churches represent the "wave of the future," does that mean the thousands of traditional Southern Baptist congregations should scrap their approach?

Church growth officials say no. However, they believe some modifications, such as adding some contemporary music or Saturday night services, may be worth considering.

But don't take a traditional church and make a wholesale change to innovative approaches, said Ken Westbrook, director of church growth for the Florida Baptist Convention. "It causes a lot of conflict."

Yet there are churches where changes are occurring, such as First Baptist of Naples, Fla. In recent months it added Saturday night services and other innovations, according to Ralph Hodge of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Second Baptist of Houston is another, Hodge said, though if you asked members there what type of church it is, most would say, "Traditional."

This dichotomy illustrates another problem with trying to define non-traditional churches, officials said: The methods don't always fit into neat categories.

"Innovative churches are a growing trend in Florida," observed Leon White of the state's church extension department. "We're still trying to identify what that means, though."

Interestingly, in Florida the fastest-growing segment among Southern Baptist churches is not innovative, but Haitian. The latter is the leading group of the ethnic congregations which accounted for nearly half of the state's 101 church starts in 1993. Another 12 were African American, while of the 40 Anglo churches, 15 (or 38 percent) were non-traditional.

Regardless of style, Westbrook said growing churches incorporate six key principles: Bible study, worship, evangelism, building a strong sense of community, maintaining a high sense of purpose and having a strong vision of who they ought to be and where God wants them.

"The focus is what's important," Hodge added. "Any church that's growing in this day and time is innovative in some way."

Baby boomers seek spirituality

Continued from page 1

One aspect of the current change is that "denominations are becoming irrelevant, except for entering and exiting ministry," said Herb Miller, executive director of the National Evangelistic Association and Net Results Resource Center.

Part of the problem here is a decreased interest among boomers in the finer point of doctrine, speakers said. This is seen in West Coast groups such as Calvary Chapel and Vineyard Fellowship, said Donald Miller, professor of religion at the University of Southern California. In these fast-growing clusters of churches, "the pastor and people are uninterested in doctrine, but not uninterested in studying the Bible," he explained.

In addition to sociologists and researchers, the conference included panels of theologians and local church leaders. Funded by the Lilly Endowment, it drew a diverse crowd of Presbyterians, Baptists, Episcopalians, Methodists, Roman Catholics, Jews and others.

Boomer bits

LOUISVILLE—What's a church leader to do amid all the data, opinions and guaranteed success formulas for reaching baby boomers?

Here's a sampling of data, do's and don'ts from panelists at a March 24-25 conference on baby boomers and the changing shape of American religion held at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary:

■ Baby boomers seek to experience things themselves, not just read or hear about them. Further, spiritual issues that touch on life as they know it are more important than doctrine or denominational heritage.

■ Yuppies are a thing of the past. Even though boomers are characterized by individualism, they generally seek to become engaged in issues larger than themselves, especially on the local level.

■ The No. 1 stress on evangelical women today is a lack of time—

even more than a lack of resources—due to dual-career families and overextended schedules. However, research shows women who work outside the home donate no fewer volunteer hours to churches than women who do not work outside the home.

■ Crisis still is a prime time for all people to seek interaction with the church. Churches seeking new ministry should ask how they can meet the needs of people in their communities.

■ Families on the go with jobs and school and extra-curricular activities often seek more family-together time, not less. Yet families report they feel like church programs segregate family members rather than promote togetherness.

■ Research on baby boomers largely has ignored minority populations.

■ Baby boomers have fond

memories of their own childhood exposure to church programs such as Sunday school and often want their children to experience the same.

■ Baby boomers seek spiritual education for their children, but not indoctrination.

■ When surveyed on what has caused their own spiritual growth, baby boomers routinely rank music higher than preaching and devotional books higher than the Bible.

■ In theory, boomers express a high level of tolerance for people of all beliefs and lifestyles but demonstrate a much narrower personal comfort zone in practice.

■ Boomers are looking not only for "teaching places" but "caring spaces."

■ The best way to attract people to the gospel is one of the oldest: Transformed people tend to attract other people.

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

Henry to run for SBC president

ORLANDO, Fla. (ABP)— Orlando pastor Jim Henry said March 27 he will be a candidate for president of the Southern Baptist Convention when the annual convention meets in his hometown this summer. Henry's likely opponent is Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., who threw his hat into the ring Feb. 8. Both men are considered leaders in the conservative movement that since 1979 has captured the Southern Baptist Convention by controlling the presidential election. But unlike most previous presidential elections, which have pitted SBC conservatives against moderates, the Henry-Wolfe showdown reveals differences among conservatives over what type of leadership their movement needs in the future.

Wolfe, a highly visible figure in the 15-year political fray, carries the endorsement of at least two previous conservative presidents and is endorsed by a group of state-level political strategists who want to extend conservative control into state Baptist conventions.

Henry, though he supports the SBC's conservative swing, has shied away from denominational politics.

He told the Orlando Sentinel March 27 he wants to "build community and fellowship and love in this (denominational) body."

"I will not have a structured campaign effort but trust the Holy Spirit to speak to the hearts and minds of my brothers and sisters in Christ as they choose their leadership for the near future," Henry told his congregation March 27. "In that process and in the sovereignty of God I have complete trust."

■ **WMU to take money.** A \$100,000 gift from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will be accepted by Woman's Missionary Union, despite criticism from the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative leadership.

WMU's executive board voted unanimously to accept the unsolicited gift, reaffirming their January 1993 decision to accept contributions from any outside source interested in promoting missions. The \$100,000 will be channeled to WMU's Vision Fund, used for projects not funded through other channels.

Taking money from the Fellowship does not mean WMU is taking sides in the long-running conflict between moderates and conservatives in the SBC, said WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien.

■ **Award to Elliott.** Ralph Elliott, the professor fired 32 years ago from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for writing a controversial book, will receive this year's "Courage Award" from the Whitsitt Baptist Historical Society. His 1958 book, "The Message of Genesis," used methods of biblical interpretation generally acknowledged as conservative and scholarly but offensive to some Southern Baptists. The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board halted publication of the book due to protests. Midwest-

ern's trustees fired Elliott in 1962 for insubordination after he found another publisher for the book.

■ **Piland to Dallas.** Harry Piland will leave the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board April 30 to become associate pastor/minister of education at First Baptist Church of Dallas. Piland, 65, is the second major program head to announce his departure from the board in recent weeks. Wes Forbis, head of the church music unit, also is retiring this spring. Piland has become well-known as one of the Southern Baptist Convention's foremost authorities on Sunday school.

■ **Leavell affirmed.** Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary passed a resolution affirming President Landrum Leavell during their March 15-16 meeting in New Orleans. The resolution cited Leavell's "dynamic and creative leadership" and "faithfulness and integrity."

■ **Duke to North Carolina.** Irma Duke, a 19-year employee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has been named executive director of North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union. Duke, who will assume her new duties May 1, has been associate vice president for communications at the FMB since 1989.

■ **Laity luncheon.** A luncheon for laypeople is planned in conjunction with the annual gathering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Greensboro, N.C. For information on the May 6 event, contact Helen Moore Montgomery at (405) 946-4689.

■ **Gambling consultant named.** Frank Stark of Stafford, Mo., has been named gambling ministry consultant with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He has served through the Mission Service Corps program in a ministry to the stock car racing circuit.

■ **True Love spreads.** The Baptist World Alliance has announced plans to spread the "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence campaign abroad through 165 Baptist groups representing 38 million Baptists in 150 countries. English-language materials will be translated into three additional languages: Spanish, German and French.

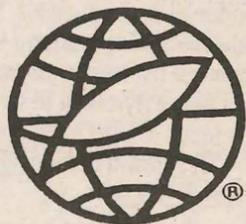
■ **Great "stake out."** To support the "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence campaign, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has agreed to sponsor the "Great Stake Out" display in Washington, D.C., July 29. On that day, youths from across the nation will display their signed "True Love Wait" pledge cards on the Mall in front of the U.S.

Capitol. About 500,000 signed cards are projected to be part of the display.

■ **Flanagan to Luther Rice.** James Flanagan has been named fourth president of Luther Rice Bible College and Seminary, based in suburban Atlanta. Flanagan has been vice president for academic affairs at the conservative, independent school since 1982.

■ **School won't play on Sabbath.** The Big South Conference has filed suit against Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., for \$300,000 in damages because the Baptist college plans to leave the conference. Campbell officials said they are leaving the conference rather than be forced to play conference championship games on Sundays.

■ **Europeans give to Lottie.** Churches affiliated with the European Baptist Convention gave more than \$100,000 to the 1993 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, surpassing their goal of \$99,999. Churches affiliated with the convention have about 4,700 members, which means each member gave an average of about \$21 to the offering. If the 15 million Southern Baptists in the United States would match this per capita giving, gifts to the Lottie Moon offering would total \$315 million.



Evangelism Explosion III International Leadership Clinic May 20-25

Ashland Avenue Baptist Church
Lexington, Kentucky 40502

"Any church that has a heart for the lost and a desire for perennial long-lasting growth should use Evangelism Explosion. Ashland Avenue has grown 18 percent a year the last two years, and EE is the tool God used. It is biblical, practical and essential to train not only soul-winners, but trainers of soul-winners."

— Hershael W. York, Senior Pastor



Request for Registration Information

YES, I am interested in what EE III can do for my church!
Please send me Clinic registration information.

Fill out form and send to: Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, 163 North Ashland Avenue, Lexington, Ky. 40502 (606) 266-4341.

Name _____ Title _____
Church _____
Pastor _____
Church Address _____
City, State _____ ZIP _____
Denomination _____
Church Membership _____ Phone () _____

Helping others find new life

Easter is one of the most special times for Christians as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. We celebrate because Christ's death on the cross for our sins and his ensuing victory over death means that each one of us can have new life.

I think it is significant that we celebrate Easter during the first part of spring. Even as we celebrate the new life we find in Christ, we see new life springing up all around us.

Helping children and families discover new life is what Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is all about.

For a couple experiencing tremendous conflict in their marriage, this new life can come to their relationship when they sit down with a Cornerstone Counselor and begin to share openly the feelings of hurt, pain, and love.

For a young woman facing an unplanned pregnancy, the new life may not only come from the child in her womb, but from the peace she finds when she, her family, and possibly the father, sit down with a First Step counselor and face honestly the situation before them.

For a young person who has known the shame, the fear, and the tremendous pain of abuse, new life

might come with finding a place of hope and healing in a Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children facility.

Everything that we do to minister in situations like these and many, many others is designed to help children and adults know that there are people who care about them and want the best for them no

matter what the hurts they have experienced in their lives have been.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's ministry is all about showing Christ's love and compassion in practical ways that let people see that Jesus loves them.

The essence of Easter and Christianity is new life. This year hundreds of children and

families will experience Easter and it will change their lives forever.

Please pray for our children during this Easter season.

Pray that each one who has not done so already will discover new life in Christ.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

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

PEOPLE

Don't face breast cancer alone, survivor advises

Continued from page 1

felt like something wasn't right, she said. So she scheduled a third test in Lexington for March 5, 1993, to be certain of the results.

She had gone by herself, so she alone had to face the news that she had breast cancer.

"At first, I was very intellectual about it," she said. "I was almost in shock. I began to probe as if it were someone else I was talking about."

Herrin said she began to grieve for herself, but it was not until the afternoon of the long day of procedures that she lost her composure.

"Then it hit me," she said. "I have a disease that kills people. I'm in the best of my life right now, and this has struck me."

"Everyone else had someone with them," she remembered. "I felt so alone, I began to cry."

As soon as she was able to get home, Herrin shared the news with family members.

The next Sunday, her Sunday school lesson focused on when tragedy strikes good people. After the lesson, she told her class about the cancer.

Herrin also told her best friend, Marie Parsons, a colleague at the col-

lege. Eventually, she shared her condition with her classes at the college.

"Some people keep it a secret, and if I had done that, I would have missed a lot of blessings," she said. "I have been most blessed with family and friends caring."

Herrin was a candidate for a lumpectomy, a procedure she preferred because it doesn't cause disfigurement.

But the months of radiation treatments that followed were extremely difficult, Herrin said. From March through May of 1993, she had to relocate to Lexington. Every morning for six weeks, she survived the treatment by silently quoting Psalm 23, she said.

She saw her family only on weekends. She tried to keep herself emotionally and mentally well, but she soon experienced depression despite her efforts, she admitted.

The situation was further compli-

cated by severe stomach problems that didn't go away after she completed the radiation and returned home, she said.

That conditioned worsened and eventually resulted in emergency surgery to remove part of her intestine.

After a week in the intensive care unit at the hospital, Herrin began the longer recovery process from both major ordeals.

In addition to family support, Herrin said, prayers, cards and visits from friends and church members helped her recover.

"One of the most helpful things was just knowing people were thinking about me," she said. "I kept all my cards in a big shopping bag, and on long afternoons I would pull them out and re-read them."

Parsons also spent many hours with Herrin, she said, listening, taking her to lunch, feeding ducks at the lake—"helping me to do whatever I could do."

During one visit from Mike Taylor, who then was pastor of First Baptist in Prestonsburg, Taylor led the deacons of the church in a service of healing for Herrin at her home.

Herrin had asked Taylor to consider leading a service of prayer and anointing based on James 5.

"It was a very intense spiritual experience," she said. "It definitely

made a difference in my recovery as a whole person."

Herrin acknowledged that this particular type of cancer makes many people uncomfortable. She said she has seen some friends change aisles at the grocery store to avoid meeting up with her.

Herrin suggested that people who want to minister to women with breast cancer first must overcome the temptation to pull away from them.

"Some people pulled back, when what I needed more than anything was their presence," she said. "Even if you have nothing to say, just a hug or a handshake really helps."

Telling people they look good, even if they don't look their best, also is comforting, she said: "It feels good to know you don't look like the walking dead."

Today, Herrin said, she's "doing just fine. There's no evidence of any recurrence. ... I lead a fairly normal life again."

Her attitude toward life has changed because of the experience, though.

"I try to live each day as though I have no regrets," she said. "If I want to tell someone I love them, I tell them."

Herrin also has become an activist—speaking to groups, writing articles and helping organize Prestonsburg Community College's cancer awareness week.

"It really has opened up a lot of avenues for me to witness," she added. "People ask me 'How on earth did you handle that?' and I say, 'Just with God's help and with Christian friends.'"



Gay Herrin

"Even if you have nothing to say, just a hug or a handshake really helps."

Advice from breast cancer survivor Gay Herrin on how others can help

Are you bothered by giving your money to support actions such as the firing of Southwestern's RUSSELL DILDAY?

Did you know that there are alternative ways of giving to Southern Baptist life?

Want more information?

**Contact the
KENTUCKY BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP
P. O. Box 11160
Lexington, KY 40574-1160
502-863-2329**

Giving plans are available for churches and individuals. Resource people are available to meet with you and/or your church.

The FELLOWSHIP has something positive to offer Baptist life. Plan to attend the Spring Gathering and Annual Meeting of the KY Fellowship.

**Saturday, April 16
Erlanger Baptist Church**

Registration at 8:30 a.m. Childcare provided

Registration and Lunch Reservation Form

Name _____ Church _____

Address _____ City _____

_____ lunch reservations at \$6.00. Enclose check and names for all reservations. Mail to KBF P.O. Box 11160 Lexington, KY 40574-1160.

Please send current Kentucky Baptist Fellowship News with complete program details. QUESTIONS? Call 502-863-2329.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Portable sound system, includes four SM-58 microphones with cables; 12-channel EV board with travel case; two Bose 802 speakers and speaker stands; QSC 325-watt-per-channel power amp.; Alesis MEQ 230 graphic equalizer; travel case; speaker cables; and ProCo 20-4 100-foot snake. Call Tony at (502) 636-5576.

NEEDED: Part-time minister of youth/children. Prefer someone in the Frankfort area to disciple youth and coordinate children's ministries. Send resumé to Youth Committee, St. John Baptist Church, 720 Harvieland Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601, or call (502) 875-7771 for information.

WANTED: Youth minister, 20 hours/week average. Contact Mark Johnson, pastor, Midway Baptist Church (606) 846-4514.

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, unpadded church pews, excellent condition, seating capacity approx. 300. Calvary Christian Center, Mt. Washington, KY 40047. (502) 955-9886.

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.

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



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KENTUCKY KERNELS

Ninety-seven percent of Americans believe parents should have the greatest influence on their children, but only 30 percent believe that actually is the case. Likewise, 21 percent of Americans believe the church should have a strong influence on children, but only 1 percent believe that actually is the case. Friends of the child and the media are perceived to be among the strongest influences on children.

Source: "The Future of the American Family," George Barna

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BENTON**—New Bethel Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary June 26. Former pastors and members are invited.

Bethlehem Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary April 24.

■ **JELICO, Tenn.**—Kentucky Hill Church called **Steve York** as pastor.

■ **LILY**—Lily Church called **Jeff and Karen Jackson** as minister of children and youth.

■ **LONDON**—**Arthur Benge** resigned as pastor of Bald Rock Church

to become pastor at Weaver Church.

Calvary Church called **Jamie Maxey** as minister of children and youth. Also, **Glen Toney** was called as minister of music.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Gene and Anne Sutherland** will resign their music ministry at Walnut Street Church, to take early retirement July 30. He has served as minister of music 27 years, and she as pianist 23 years.

■ **PARIS**—Spears Mill Church ordained **Bob Rainey** as deacon.

Charlie Jones dead of heart failure

LOUISVILLE—Charlie Jones, the 30-year-old Kentucky music minister who refused to be stopped by heart disease, died March 22 of cardiac arrest.

Jones was featured in the Jan. 18 issue of the Western Recorder.

The Campbellsville College graduate was diagnosed with a rare virus known as viralcardiomyopathy in 1992. Doctors told Jones he had less than a year to live, but he determined to view the illness as God calling him back to ministry.

Jones had begun his career as a church music minister but left the church for a secular career.

Four months after the diagnosis, Jones married his fiancée, Anne Simpson, and soon afterward became music minister at Bethany Baptist Church in Mount Washington.

He also became a persuasive spokesman for Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates.

"I've always felt that God has wanted me to be a witness with my special testimony," Jones said in the earlier Recorder interview. "God has used this to touch lives."

Funeral services were held March 25, officiated by Terry Candler, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, and Hugh Goldsby, a longtime friend from Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville.

Jones is survived by his wife, Anne; his father and stepmother, Charles and Judy Jones of Anderson, Ind.; his mother and stepfather, Sheila and Steve Leathers, also of Anderson, Ind.; a sister, Carmen Brumback; and four step-daughters—Emily, Olivia, Sally and Agatha Simpson.

Is chastity making comeback?

Continued from page 1
chastity with a new attitude."

A Dec. 30, 1993, Associated Press article carried in newspapers across the country reported "the great American teen-age sex-out is gathering steam."

A Page One headline in the Jan. 16 edition of The New York Times heralded "New Virtue in Chastity." The article reported young people "in classrooms, community centers and church basements ... are being encouraged to resist the messages of rap lyrics and the bullying of their peers and to prepare for success rather than settle for pregnancy and poverty."

Chastity, the article concluded, "appears to be making a comeback."

Richard Ross, a spokesman for the "True Love Waits" campaign, said he believes media coverage is playing a key role in the turnaround.

"There's no way the campaign could have reached the national and international audience it has without the media's help," he said. Reports about "True Love Waits" had been carried in more than 400 media outlets with a potential audience of 200 million people.

The campaign has been featured in small-town newspapers and national outlets like NBC's "Today" show, the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN Radio Network and the Associated Press news service. Among foreign media covering the emphasis are the British Broadcasting Corp., German Public Radio, the French Press

News Agency and The Daily Telegraph in London.

Baptist and other Christian media also have provided heavy coverage of the campaign, with reports appearing in almost all of the 39 Baptist state newspapers as well as on national programs such as James Dobson's "Focus on the Family" radio show.

Some newspapers, both Christian and secular, are going beyond merely reporting on the campaign.

A July editorial in the Miami Herald carried the headline "Baptists' sex ed: Bravo!"

A July editorial in the Washington Times said programs like "True Love Waits" may accomplish what years of sex education and condom distribution in schools could not.

An October editorial in The Palm Beach Post in West Palm Beach, Fla., said one of the greatest values of "True Love Waits" is that it offers teens "relief from pressures that insist everybody does it, and support from those who declare that everybody doesn't."

"The pledge may be only a promise, but we need such promises these days," the editorial stated.

"The overwhelmingly positive news coverage of the campaign has been an enormous help in encouraging other denominations and religious organizations to participate," Ross added. "I think it also is beginning to prompt many Americans to re-examine their thoughts on abstinence and sex education."

Basketball at Oneida Baptist Institute

Our boys' varsity Mountaineers finished third in the Three Rivers Conference tournament and second in conference regular season play, ending the season with a 9-19 record. Our boys were defeated in the district tournament 69-64 by Jackson County.

Two players were on the district all-tournament team; David Barkes and Marcellus Travers. David is a junior from Oneida; Marcellus is a sophomore from Detroit. David had a career high of 30 points against Jackson County.

The team had only one senior, Shane Franklin. With the rest of the team returning, we should have a good season next year.

The team was coached by Oliver Hawkins, who also is our athletic director and a high school teacher.

The boys' junior varsity team finished its season with a 17-4 record. It was one of the best for the junior varsity in the history of the school. This team was coached by David Robinson, our assistant principal.

The 1993-94 Lady Mountaineers improved their varsity record fourfold, and the girls' junior varsity also had a winning record.

Over 20 young ladies and managers worked together with a team theme of Philippians 4:13, "I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength." Our varsity girls were coached by Ed Lowdenback, our middle school principal. The junior varsity team was coached by Ann Bottoms, a middle school teacher. We encouraged the girls to set the following priorities for their lives: God first; building positive family and friend relationships second; school third; basketball fourth.

Many of our OBI ladies had a rewarding season. One outstanding achiever was Stephanie

Clark. She was awarded All District Tournament and All Three Rivers Conference Tournament honors. Stephanie also had three season games in which she scored 30 or more points.

Julie Wade was awarded All District Tournament honors, while Amanda Lowdenback was awarded All Three Rivers Conference Tournament honors.

From the top 14 players, eight were 9th-graders and two were 7th-graders. Many times our first varsity five were four freshmen and one senior.

Every basketball club needs good cheerleaders and our teams were supported this year by three squads involving 28 girls.

Jolena Sizemore, one of our middle school teachers, was cheerleader sponsor; she held tryouts in the fall to determine which squad each of the girls would join. She explained, "The tryouts did not exclude anyone. Any girl who stayed with the program could participate."

The captain of the squad for the boys' varsity team was Jennifer Beller, with Tiffany Farley co-captain. Arlene Johnson led the squad for the girls' varsity. The squad for the junior varsity was captained by Kammie Farley, assisted by Carla Dillard, co-captain.

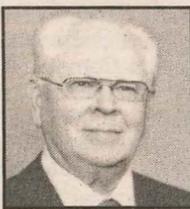
Our cheerleaders won a special honor in November when they were chosen to make a TV commercial for WKYT in Lexington. They made up a cheer to advertise meteorologist Brian Collins' "Snow Go Report."

We thank God for a safe, happy season.

Written by Oliver Hawkins and Ed Lowdenback with Denise Spencer

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



A.B. Colvin

Bennett calls for moral education

William J. Bennett, in a new book called "The Book of Virtues" (1993, New York: Simon & Schuster), calls for the training of heart and mind toward good. Bennett presently serves as co-director of Empower America and is a distinguished fellow in cultural policy studies at the Heritage Foundation.

Bennett previously served as director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and as Secretary of Education and chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

According to Bennett, the traits of responsibility, courage, compassion, loyalty, honesty, friendship, persistence, hard work, self-discipline and faith are essentials of good character. In order for children to develop such traits, he says, we must offer them examples of good and bad, right and wrong. These traits also work well for students at Clear Creek and are emphasized by their professors in precept, habit and example.

In "The Book of Virtues," Bennett has collected hundreds of stories in an instructive anthology that will help children understand and develop character—and help adults teach them. He includes stories from the Bible, American history, biographies, philosophy, fiction

and fables, providing a reliable moral reference point that will help anchor everyone in our culture, our history and our traditions.

Bennett emphasizes that moral education must affirm the central importance of moral example. Nothing, he says, is more influential, more determinant, in a child's life than the moral power of quiet example. For children to take morality seriously they must be in the presence of adults who take morality seriously.

Along with precept, habit and example, the need exists for moral literacy.

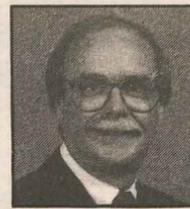
Bennett states that the purpose of the book is to show parents, teachers, students and children what virtues look like, what they are in practice, how to recognize them and how they work.

The greatest book of all, of course, is the Bible, from which Bennett has drawn extensively for moral stories contained in his book. The Bible is the textbook for all students at Clear Creek, and they soon learn it is the greatest book of virtues ever published.

Written by K. Maynard Head, assistant to the president

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



K. Maynard Head

CHURCHES

Churches called to help people deal with change

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

BAYTOWN, Mo. (BP)—What can the church do to help families dealing with change? Quite a bit, according to psychologist Daniel Keyser.

"There are so many problems out there—psychological, financial, physical. And in almost every church, you have a number of experts in these areas and they can provide help," said Keyser, a member of First Baptist Church of Raytown, Mo.

For example, accountants could conduct financial planning seminars, psychologists and counselors could lead support groups, and attorneys could volunteer their time to help families facing complex legal problems, Keyser said.

He practices what he preaches by leading a weekly support group at his church for people suffering from emotional distress.

"It started as a grief recovery group because we had a number of deaths in our church," he explained. "But after (participants) got through dealing with their grief, they found they had other things they wanted to talk about."

To date, a number of problems

have been addressed, including marital conflict, sexual abuse, depression, fear and anxiety.

Jim Stuck, minister of weekday activities at Wyatt Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Mo., also has led a grief support group at his church.

"We try to help people go through the stages of grief—denial, bitterness, anger at God, depression and acceptance," he said. "Group members form really strong bonds and offer encouragement to each other."

In his Bible studies with senior adults, Stuck helps participants focus on a biblical perspective on aging.

"Many senior adults look at aging and retirement as being put out to pasture, and they feel rejected by society. Others use it as a 'cop out' to sit back and 'let the young people do it for awhile,'" he said.

Stuck encourages seniors to enjoy hobbies or learn new ones, but also to find new opportunities for ministry.

"Some of our seniors visit others who can't get out. One lady reads to a blind woman," he said, adding others have been involved in "Connections," a tutoring program that links church volunteers with local school children. He's also looking into the possibility of involving senior adults in a reading

and storytelling program at a local school.

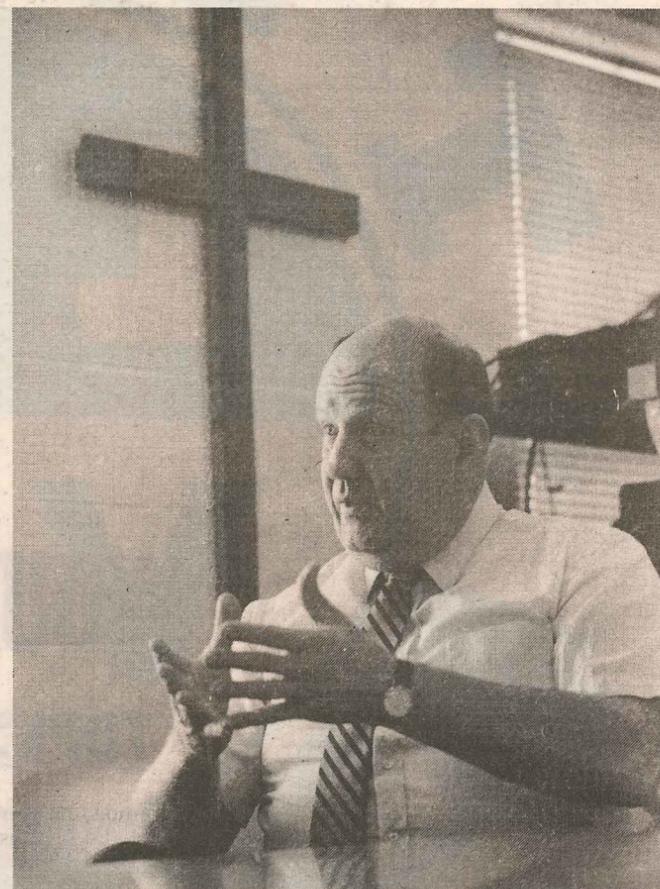
Stuck, Keyser and Gerry Peak, minister to single adults and new members at First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Va., also offered other suggestions for churches interested in helping families deal with change:

■ Offer special classes, seminars, conferences or retreats on improving/strengthening marriages, parenting, the unique problems faced by blended families, dealing with divorce, mid-life crisis or the loss of a loved one.

■ Encourage the pastor to address transitional issues from the pulpit, sharing principles for dealing with change drawn from Scripture.

"Some think that because you're a Christian you shouldn't have any problems," said Peak, who also is author of the 1994 Christian Home Emphasis textbook, "When a New Day Dawns: Families Dealing with Change." "That's ridiculous. Everybody has problems."

"The church needs to realize that families are tested during times of transition. They will either be weakened by the change or use it as an opportunity for growth. The church has a responsibility to help provide some direction, leadership and support."



CHANGE AGENT Jim Stuck, minister of weekday activities at Wyatt Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Mo., believes churches ought to help people deal with change by offering life-relevant ministries. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Birmingham firm specializes in 'marketing' the church

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Jesse Palmer regrets the term "marketing the church" when it comes to his job description.

"Some churches want to do cosmetic surgery, but we're not into that," said Palmer, president of Details, a Birmingham, Ala., firm that specializes in marketing and design for churches. "You can create an image, but unless the person has the same experience within the church, you're worse off than before you paid all that money."

Palmer said he believes marketing the church is more than just advertising; it is a comprehensive, intentional strategy for reaching people—the preaching, the friendliness of the people, the programming, as well as its public relations in the media.

"I see it as a parable of communication," he said. "This is the cultivating of the soil to receive the seed, to

use the parable of the seed and the sower. I have a deep belief there is no substitute for personal evangelism or for sharing the gospel one-on-one. But you can prepare the soil so that when you sow the seed, there is a better chance it will fall on fertile soil."

In 1991, Palmer teamed with Brian Jones, the firm's vice president and creative director, to create Details, whose clients include several Baptist churches in Alabama as well as both Baptist and non-Baptist churches in other parts of the country.

Palmer and Jones know the territory of church life well. In fact, Palmer, with a degree in religion from Samford University in Birmingham and a master's degree in religious education from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was the first staff member at The Church of Brook Hills in Birmingham, serving as minister of church growth dur-

ing the church's first two years.

Details' brochures promote "becoming a market-driven church," but Palmer said that doesn't mean the firm is "selling the holiness of God" or cheapening the gospel.

"I am committed to being true to Scripture," he said. "The biblical background for us is that the church is the body of Christ in the world. I see the life of Christ and see him responding with compassion to those who have needs. Our goal is to help churches impact the lives of people today."

Palmer calls this "interpreting" the church to its unchurched audience. "Sometimes what we do is not so much using the medium, but in helping a church communicate its ministry and message. We ask what the church has to offer people for their lives."

With Jones' graphic design talents,

Details produces carefully crafted work, professional brochures, ads and mailouts with quality pictures and a conversational, engaging prose style.

"There has to be a certain vitality to the look," said Palmer, who avoids "churchy, preachy language" or promises that can't be delivered.

"You can't compete with all the other messages in the mailbox if you have a mimeographed or xeroxed piece of paper from the local church. You have to arrest a person's attention first. Visually, we focus on people by using photography with drama and action. Color-wise and layout-wise, we create action so that the piece has a video feel."

"We work aboveboard," he said. "That's the only way to go. We never think about Jesus being a product. We think about the kind of life that comes from accepting Jesus. But our faith is one of the marketplace."

New dean speaks on growth for traditional churches

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Traditional Baptist churches must begin to see ministry as people-based rather than program-based, according to the dean of a new church growth school at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"We need to have an outward focus, looking beyond structure, unleashing the church to discover spiritual gifts. The vision then must be defined, and ministry growth becomes a natural process that will define the organizational structure," said Thom Rainer, new dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Seminary.

While most of the church growth movement to date has focused on

starting "innovative" or "contemporary" churches, something must be done to help the vast number of traditional Southern Baptist churches grow, Rainer declared.

"The aching question out there is, what is going to happen to these 90 percent to 96 percent of churches?" Rainer asked. "How will they be renewed? I think the church growth movement will have a role in that."

Rainer, Southern Seminary President Al Mohler and two other professors recently taught a doctor of ministry seminar on church growth at the seminary.

Lengthy pastorates, a definitive long-term strategy and a willingness to move incrementally are essential elements in growing a traditional

church, Rainer told students.

Pastors and other church leaders should nurture a climate of openness while discussing church growth plans, he said. "You must allow for lengthy discussion, both formal and informal. Sometimes what is said at the coffee shop on Thursday morning is as important as what's said at the business meeting Wednesday night."

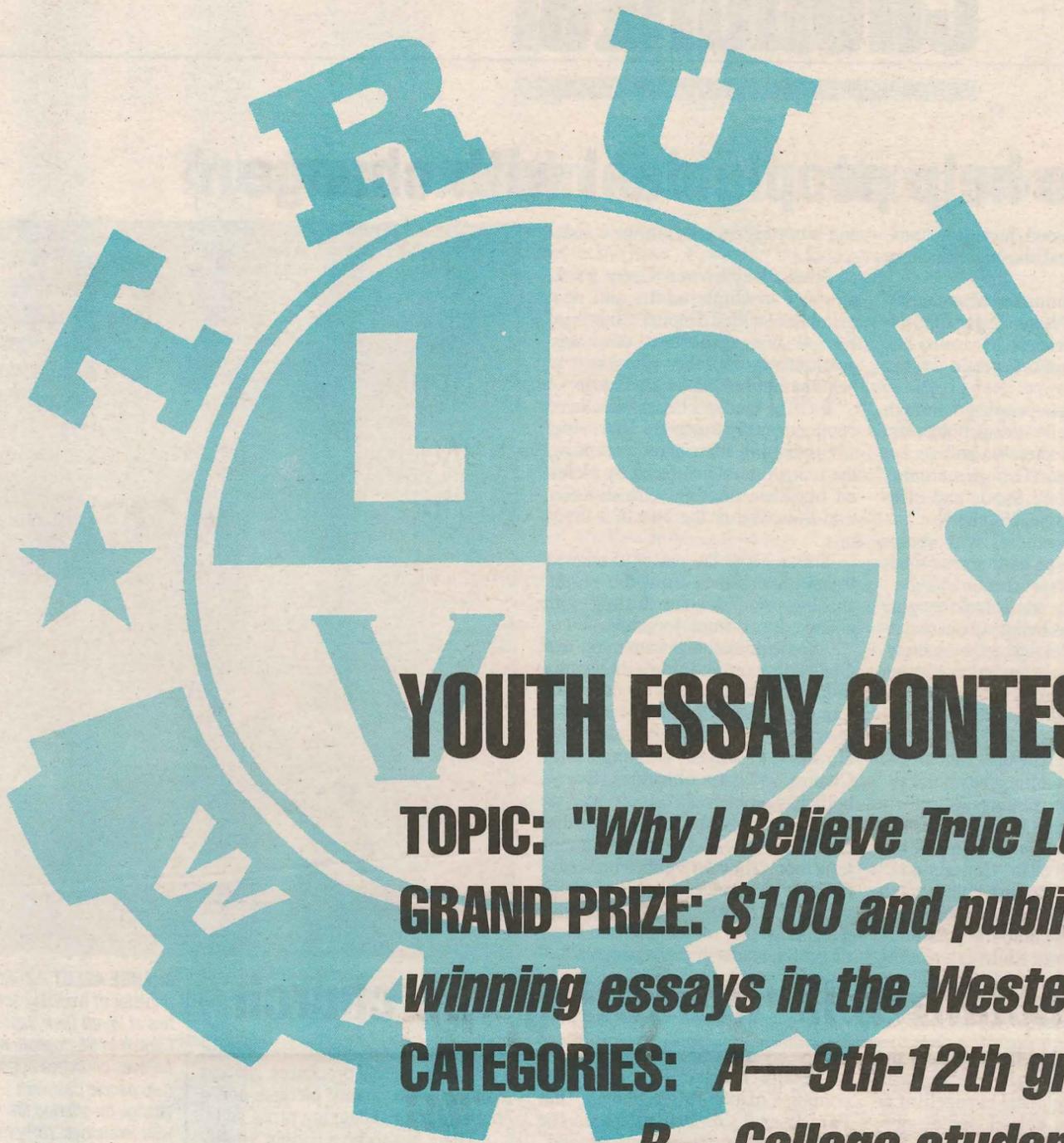
Dependence on God and patience also are important, Rainer noted. "In the 21st century, tenacity may be the key to whether or not churches turn around."

While marketing methods can be useful tools to help grow churches, such strategies must not compromise the central message of the gospel, Mohler told the seminar.

Mohler cited the "danger of marketing the gospel to remove its offensiveness to modern society and thereby committing the heresy of reducing the gospel."

Many of the marketing methodologies of the church growth movement can foster genuine growth in churches, when those churches are well-grounded theologically, motivated biblically and concerned to see the church grow not just as an organization but as the body of Christ, Mohler added.

"What marketing cannot do for the authentic church is to establish the content of the message," he said. "Programs can be marketed. Products can be marketed. Jesus can't be marketed."



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.