

MAY 17, 1994 VOL. 168, NO. 20

FOR THE RECORD

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Fallen star
Reaction to the fall of contemporary Christian singer Michael English illustrates how differently that industry operates in comparison to its secular counterpart. See page 7.

Board acts on building, budget and Foundation

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

CEDARMORE—Plans for a \$1.5 million addition to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Building and for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to gain full agency status topped the agenda of the KBC Executive Board last week.

The board also voted to recommend establishing a Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering to benefit Oneida Baptist Institute beginning in 1995.

Also, for the first time in four years, the board approved a KBC budget which does not implement provisions of a financial crisis plan. Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall reported that gifts to the KBC's ministries are showing the healthiest signs recorded in several years.

The \$20 million budget for fiscal year 1994-95 represents a 3.2 percent increase over the current budget. It projects income of \$17.86 million through undesignated gifts to the KBC Cooperative Program—a 3 percent increase. Of those undesignated gifts, \$11.25 million will be used in Kentucky and \$6.61 million will be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The largest single increase in projected income for the KBC, however, is the \$400,000 anticipated in designated gifts from churches who do not wish to fund the national Cooperative Program budget administered by the SBC Executive Committee. This is a 19 percent increase over the current year.

The remaining \$1.8 million in projected KBC income will come from various sources, such as the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions, the SBC Home Mission Board and program fees.

Dealing with positive budget trends is a switch for the Executive Board, which in recent years has

□ See Board acts ..., page 3

No. 1 mission field can be found at home, Asbury dean says

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

OLIVE BRANCH, Miss. (BP)—Where can you find the No. 1 mission field in the western hemisphere?

The answer, according to Kentucky theologian George Hunter, is "right here in the United States of America."

Pointing to Gallup polls conducted in the last two decades which reveal a continuing decline in religious training of Americans, Hunter said a secular mind-set "has been stamped into the American culture more than ever before."

Today, as many as 120 million Americans age 14 and older can be



LEADING THE WAY Bob Harper, Southern Baptist missionary in Marigot, St. Martin, guides new Christian Monique Gagneux out of the Caribbean Sea after baptizing her. Harper and his wife, Becky, minister among French residents on the island, shared by France and the Netherlands. The island is known as St. Maarten on the Dutch side. Lifestyles on the French side are influenced by atheism, the occult and New Age movements, according to Harper. It's been tough going for the couple, who have tried all kinds of evangelistic methods. In their four years on St. Martin, Harper has baptized three converts and started a congregation of about five people. "It's absolutely the prayers of Southern Baptists that have kept us here," Mrs. Harper said. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Kentuckians evacuate Yemen; one remains

SANAA, Yemen—One Kentucky missionary remained in war-torn Yemen late last week, while three other Kentuckians had evacuated.

A total of 16 Southern Baptist missionaries had evacuated Yemen by May 13 because of an intensifying civil war in the Red Sea nation.

Remaining in Yemen as of May 13 was Ruth Ann McConnell of Hopkinsville, a nurse at Jibla Baptist Hospital. All Southern Baptist missionaries except 30 remaining at the hospital in Jibla have evacuated the country.

Kentuckians who have fled include Al and Edna Lindholm and Leslie Durham. Durham, a nurse at the Jibla hospital, is from Owensboro. Mrs. Lindholm is from Cadiz.

Mrs. Lindholm and the couple's two children left Sanaa May 9, while her husband remained four days longer to tie up loose ends before an already-planned furlough. They are making their way to the missionary house in Lawrenceburg.

Durham left May 13, along with

five missionaries and 12 missionary children.

Another Kentuckian also escaped Yemen after being detained a few days by the uprising. Dottie Lane, a retired missionary to Japan who now lives in Hopkinsville, had been in Jibla visiting McConnell, who is her niece.

Months of clashes within Yemen's military broke into open warfare May 4 in the midst of feuding between the president, from the north, and his vice president, from the south.

Yemen became a new nation in 1990, uniting northern and southern kingdoms under a democratic reform program, but its military never has unified and tensions between power brokers have persisted.

After May 13, foreign governments were scheduling no more evacuation flights out of Yemen, the Foreign Mission Board reported. But the 30 missionaries remaining at Jibla Baptist Hospital—located in a remote mountainous area several hours south of Sanaa—said they have enough cars

and gasoline to make a run for Saudi Arabia if things heat up.

Officials with the FMB, which owns the hospital, have been making contact daily with workers' families who live in the United States. "We're telling them what the status is on a regular basis," said Gerry Volkart, associate director for Middle East operations.

Unless it becomes necessary to leave, the workers plan to keep the hospital in full operation. So far they have seen no cases of war injury. Fighting has been mostly limited to military action in a corridor between Sanaa and the southern port city of Aden, where southern forces have consolidated their power.

There are signs that could be changing, however. A Scud missile fired into a heavily populated area of Sanaa May 12 reportedly killed or wounded 53 people, dragging civilians into the war.

Foreigners who evacuated said the blast blew out windows all over the

□ See Kentuckians evacuate ..., page 9

categorized as "secular," said Hunter, dean of the school of evangelism and world mission at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore.

He defined "secular" as representing those who:

■ Have not been substantially influenced by Christianity.

■ Have no Christian history or "memory."

■ Are not "church broke" (don't know how to act in church).

■ Have only a superficial exposure to the Christian faith in a "diluted" form.

■ Are "inoculated" or "immunized" against Christianity.

Spiritual consciousness in America, he said, "is a lot like the Ganges

River—a mile wide, but not much more than an inch deep in many places."

How has the Christian church responded to this "secularization" of American culture? For the most part, Hunter said, it has "slept" through it.

"Not only are we surprised by the secularization of tens of millions of people in the U.S., but we are engaged in denial, (believing that) what has happened everywhere else in the western world could not possibly happen here," he said.

Hunter spoke to state directors of Southern Baptist Sunday school work at the group's May 9-11 meeting in Olive Branch, Miss. Much of his content was drawn from his book "How

to Reach Secular People."

Most Christian churches, Hunter said, still operate as if they have the "home field advantage" of early Christendom when everyone knew the basics of the gospel message, whether they believed the gospel or not.

"The harvest field has changed and we're still employing the methods that gathered the harvest as it used to be," he said, adding previously effective methods such as revivals, Sunday evening services and one-on-one confrontational evangelism "are largely spent forces."

The churches that are reaching large numbers of secular people today

□ See No. 1 mission field ..., page 8

BAPTISTS

Some new church starts aligning with Fellowship

About 31 new churches and missions have been started with relationships from the beginning to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

GREENSBORO, N.C. (ABP)—Deacon Ed Hinson served faithfully for many years at First Baptist Church in Rock Hill, S.C. When the congregation elected a new pastor he considered to be a fundamentalist, he lost more than a vote. He lost a home.

The new pastor's authoritarian style contrasted sharply with the old, democratic method of decision-making, Hinson said. Deacons who once enjoyed frank, collegial discussions at their meetings were told they now must submit any questions two weeks in advance.

Disenfranchised by the change, Hinson and his wife began looking at other churches, only to find nothing in their community resembling the old "moderate" Southern Baptist church they had known. At one point, they considered switching denominations. Then they discovered The NewKirk.

Last year, Oakland Avenue Baptist Church in Rock Hill voted to sponsor a mission congregation to provide an explicitly "non-fundamentalist" Baptist witness.

The NewKirk, which in Old Gaelic is "new church," was established in 1993 as an affiliate of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Historically, the 3-year-old Fellowship has appealed primarily to established moderate churches looking for alternatives to the Southern Baptist Convention's traditional missions and theological education programs.

But a growing number of churches are affiliating with the Fellowship from their inception, and a rising chorus of advocates insists that the organization's future lies more in intentional planting of new churches than in wooing tradition-bound churches out of the SBC.

"The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's future is not going to depend a great deal on the old churches that have been doing it the same way for 250 years. There is going to have to be some new birth," said Harold Shirley, pastor of The NewKirk.

Fellowship members are showing "more and more interest in new church starts," said Jack Snell, chair of the group's global missions ministry group. But, he added, consensus is lacking on how far the Fellowship should go to address the needs of fledgling congregations.

In the past 12 months, the tally of known Fellowship missions and new church starts grew to 31, and the indications from additional networking were the total might exceed 40.

The church planters say existing Southern Baptist churches greet them with suspicion, but they are not about wooing away satisfied members of SBC congregations.

"There are people in every community who are frustrated, dropped out, disillusioned, inactive," said Will Carter of Knoxville, Tenn. Those people, he added, are prime prospects for Fellowship churches.

Habitat founder writes book

AMERICUS, Ga. (ABP)—The success of Habitat for Humanity in providing affordable housing for low-income families is the subject of a new book by the organization's founder.

"The Theology of the Hammer" by Habitat founder Millard Fuller is published by Smyth & Helwys.

Habitat uses volunteer labor, often from churches, to build low-cost homes, which are then sold at reduced cost to families, who contribute at

least 300 hours of "sweat equity" to the construction. Interest-free loans make the homes more affordable.

Fuller, a millionaire lawyer from Americus, Ga., who gave away his wealth after a personal crisis, founded Habitat for Humanity International in 1976. He calls the program "a new, creative way to share the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Fuller's book got a boost from cable network CNN, which did a live interview with the author May 5.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Senior adult outreach.** First Baptist Church of Easley, S.C., has begun a successful ministry to senior adults in nursing homes and is willing to share its materials with other churches. "Each One Reach One" matches volunteers with seniors, adults who need special friends. For a copy of the guidebook, send \$12 to First Baptist Church, 300 E. First Ave., Easley, S.C. 29640.

■ **First faculty hired.** George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University has hired its first two faculty members. They are Abda Johnson Conyers III, a professor at Charleston Southern University, who will teach theology, and Ruth Ann Foster, a church education minister from San Antonio, Texas, who will teach Christian Scriptures.

■ **Call for change.** Two past presidents of the Baptist General Convention of Texas have endorsed a proposal to change the way the Texas convention defines Cooperative Program giving. Dick Maples, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bryan, and Phil Lineberger, pastor of First Baptist Church in Tyler, have endorsed the plan, which would allow Texas churches greater choice in determining where their mission money for non-Texas causes would go.

■ **NAC artists named.** The National Acteens Convention slated for Birmingham, Ala., June 21-24 will feature performances by Point of Grace, winners of this year's Dove Award for "New Artist of the Year." Other performers include Michele Wagner, Alicia Williamson and MissionsUSA Live. For further information about NAC, contact the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union office.

■ **Crosby re-elected.** Bill Crosby, pastor of Erlanger Baptist Church in Erlanger, has been re-elected to a second three-year term on the Religious Liberty Council, an advisory and support organization of the Baptist Joint Committee.

■ **Student director named.** Bill Henry, associate director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministry, has been named director of the department. He succeeds Charles Johnson, who is retiring. As part of the board's streamlining, four positions in the division are being eliminated, officials said.

■ **New divinity school.** Wake Forest University has received a \$293,713 grant to open a divinity school. The grant is from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation of Philadelphia.

■ **Ingram dies.** Joe Ingram, 74, former executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, died May 8. He had been hospitalized since April 10.

Cause of death was diagnosed as Legionnaire's Disease.

■ **Financial officer named.** Gary Skeen, director of financial services and controller for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named coordinator of financial and administrative services for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Skeen, 41, is a certified public accountant with an MBA degree from Dallas Baptist University.

■ **Elder challenges trustees.** Lloyd Elder, former president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and former executive vice president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has mailed a six-page letter to seminary trustees challenging their firing of President Russell Dilday.

■ **Pulley criticizes protest.** Ralph Pulley, chairman of trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has charged that the chairman of the seminary's organization of community supporters is placing more importance on fired President Russell Dilday than the institution. In a May 2 memo to members of the community support arm known as the Southwestern Council, Pulley criticized council Chairman John McNaughton, a Fort Worth businessman, for appealing for funds to pay for a mid-April mailing to all Southern Baptist pastors deploring the March 9 trustee firing of Dilday. Pulley, a Dallas attorney, also noted that while 27 members have resigned from the council since Dilday's firing, 87 members have not resigned and evangelist Billy Graham remains an honorary member.

■ **Volunteers needed.** The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission is calling for volunteers with construction experience to serve on two major projects in Japan in a first-ever partnership with the Foreign Mission Board. The work will be done by teams consisting of six to 10 men and two women. Each excursion, which includes a tour of Tokyo, will last six weeks. For information, contact the Kentucky Brotherhood department.

■ **Shippey promoted.** Robert Shippey, former Louisville resident, has been named vice president for academic affairs at Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga. Shippey previously was director of continuing education and assistant dean of Boyce Bible School at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Ruschlikon move affirmed.** The executive committee of the European Baptist Convention has confirmed its earlier decision to relocate Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, to Prague in the Czech Republic. The school will be renamed International Baptist Theological Seminary and could open in its new location by the summer of 1995.



KENTUCKY

Valentine new trust counsel at Foundation

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

Lauri Valentine has been named trust counsel with Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

This is a newly created position on the Foundation staff. In this role, she will provide legal counsel to the Foundation; provide charitable giving expertise to the Foundation, KBC institutions and donors; and serve as administrator of third-party professional services.



Lauri Valentine

Along with Executive Director Richard Carnes, she will be available to counsel with any potential donor to Kentucky Baptist causes.

Valentine moved to Louisville last August from St. Petersburg, Fla., where she was a partner in the law firm of Fisher & Sauls. Her husband, Amos, is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Since moving to Kentucky, Valentine has been of counsel to her former law firm.

She holds the bachelor's degree in speech pathology from the University of Florida and is a graduate of the University of Florida College of Law.

Valentine began work with Fisher & Sauls in 1982, with primary emphasis in estate planning, probate and guardianship, complex estate tax planning and business succession planning.

She is a member of the Florida Bar and St. Petersburg Bar Association and has written and lectured on topics related to estate planning.

Valentine is a charter member of the Suncoast Estate Planning Council. She is former chair of the planned giving committee for St. Anthony's Healthcare Foundation in St. Petersburg and served three years as a trustee of that foundation.

The Valentines are members of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, where they have started a new adult Sunday school class and sing in the choir. Pastor Philip Christopher described her as a person of "deep faith and trust."

James Graves, her former pastor at First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg, Fla., likewise praised her as a committed Christian whom Kentucky Baptists will appreciate: "One cannot help but respond positively to Lauri. She conducts herself with a confidence that is contagious but not intimidating."

The Valentines have one son, Andrew, who is 6.

Board acts on building & Foundation

Continued from page 1

wrestled with sluggish giving and declining budgets. Marshall told the board he is heartened by trends in the current fiscal year. After eight months, gifts to the KBC are running 2.8 percent ahead of budget.

The Baptist Building addition will be funded entirely from funds already on hand in designated capital-improvement accounts, according to board action.

Marshall told the board the addition is necessary to facilitate expansion of several KBC entities, which the Executive Board wants to "keep in the family" by providing adequate space. The addition will house the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Woman's Missionary Union, Western Recorder and KBC archives.

Space vacated by those entities will be used by Executive Board departments, some of which also are in cramped quarters.

Bids for construction of the 15,000-square-foot addition will be let in late June, said Jerry Dooley, chairman of the building committee. Construction should take 10 to 12 months.

Godsey & Associates, a Louisville architectural firm, has completed plans for the building, which will sit on the east side of the existing building. The existing building was constructed in 1956, with an addition in 1978.

Regarding the Foundation, the Executive Board will ask messengers to this year's annual meeting in November to approve giving the Foundation more responsibility for its own work. The Foundation currently operates as a program unit of the Executive Board, but with its own board of directors.

Under the proposal, the KBC would continue to elect the Foundation's board of directors. But instead of being a program unit of the Executive Board, the Foundation would become a separate agency, a relationship similar to that between the KBC and its schools, Western Recorder and Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Charles Barnes, a Louisville layman and chairman of the Foundation board, said the change would enhance the Foundation's image, enhance service capability and protect the KBC's and the Foundation's future.

The Foundation board "is ready to accept a new level of responsibility and be responsible for the total operation of the Foundation," he said. "This would relieve the Executive Board of liability from trusts, estates and Environmental Protection Agency activities."

The Foundation has enjoyed tremendous growth in recent years under the leadership of Executive Director Richard Carnes. Assets under management now total \$46.1 million, up from \$36 million last August and \$18.4 million in 1988.

In the last fiscal year, the Foundation distributed more than \$1.5 million in income to Baptist causes.

If approved by messengers to the KBC annual meeting in Frankfort Nov. 15-16, the Foundation's move to full agency status would be effective Jan. 1, 1995.

tive Jan. 1, 1995.

On another financial matter, the Executive Board will ask the convention to establish the Barkley Moore Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute, to be taken on Father's Day every year, beginning in 1995.

Moore, who died in January, was the school's longtime president. Oneida Institute is a boarding school for middle school and high school students, located near Manchester in Eastern Kentucky.

In his report to the Executive Board, A.B. Colvin, Oneida's acting administrator, apologized for Moore's last appearance before the board prior to his death. Some board members had expressed disappointment with Moore's comments at their December 1993 meeting because they considered them defamatory toward Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

"Barkley was feeling deeply what he perceived as a lack of support for Oneida" and later regretted his actions, Colvin explained.

However, Colvin said Moore had been pleased to hear the proposal made during that meeting that a Father's Day offering be established for Oneida.

In other action, the Executive Board:

- Approved a new salary administration plan for secretarial and support staff of the Executive Board.

- Raised summer camp rates for Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore assemblies by \$1.

- Authorized the executive secretary-treasurer to execute a cooperative agreement between the KBC and Habitat for Humanity, whereby the KBC will work with Habitat to build homes for needy families as part of the Brotherhood department's "Hope for Homes" program.

Among the board's committees, several other actions were noted.

The business and finance committee appointed a group to study the question of whether the KBC's two assemblies should provide free food and lodging to volunteers who come to do work that benefits the assem-

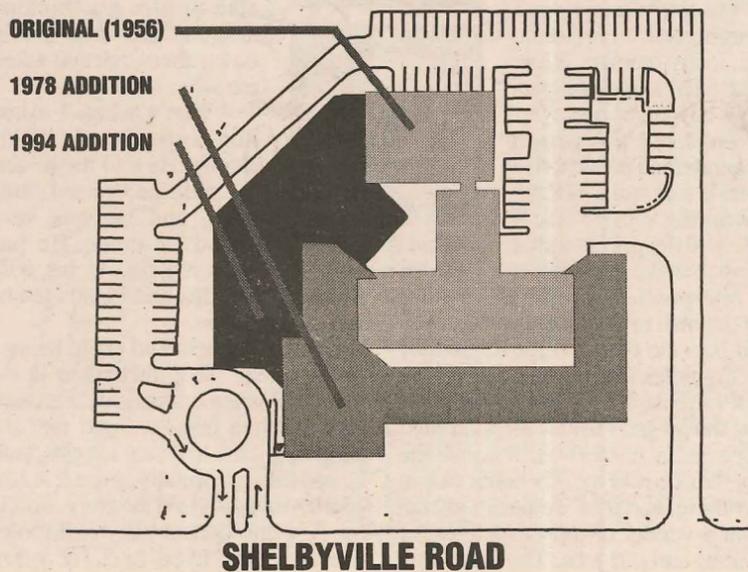
blies.

The board's administrative committee asked its legal counsel to file a formal inquiry with the Internal Revenue Service to determine whether it would endanger the KBC's tax-exempt status to participate officially in the Kentuckians Against Casinos coalition.

1994-95 KBC budget expenditures

■ Southern Baptist Convention	\$6,607,477
■ Kentucky Baptist Convention	\$13,493,036
Baptist Healthcare System	\$5,183
Ky. Baptist Homes for Children	\$233,240
Christian education	3,934,790
<i>(Divided between Campbellsville College, Cumberland College, Georgetown College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Oneida Baptist Institute)</i>	
Western Recorder	\$290,119
Ky. Baptist Foundation	\$249,588
Ky. Baptist Historical Commission	\$17,300
Ky. Woman's Missionary Union	\$398,524
Assemblies major repairs	\$45,000
Missions & evangelism division	\$137,279
Brotherhood	\$213,710
Direct missions	\$1,445,972
Evangelism	\$323,494
Student work	\$1,200,279
Partnership missions	\$86,618
Church growth & administration	\$176,321
Church music	\$206,322
Discipleship training	\$246,156
Sunday school	\$373,342
Minister/church support	\$129,014
Annuity	\$121,690
Family ministry	\$118,819
Business division	\$673,651
Cedarmore Assembly	\$658,589
Jonathan Creek Assembly	\$338,877
Executive office	\$563,794
Convention operation	\$117,517
Organizational services	\$249,206
Other general items	\$728,000
Contingencies	\$210,642

KBC building plans



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

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Thank you

During the week of March 21-25, a group from the Kentucky Baptist Convention came to Lexington and assisted elderly and disabled people with debris removal after the terrible ice storm. They also helped with the cleanup of Ashland, the Henry Clay estate, which was devastated by the same storm. I cannot tell you how much we appreciate your help.

There were many senior citizens on fixed incomes who simply could not afford to pay for private companies to come and prune their trees or take away the limbs and debris that mounted up in so many yards. A lot of people were hit hard, and your volunteers made all the difference in helping them get through this difficult period. More than 150 residents in Fayette County are thankful for your help, and I appreciate it more than I can say.

*Pam Miller, mayor
Lexington*

SBC patronage

Is Kentucky bereft of a large pool of capable and available Southern Baptists from across the state willing to serve their denomination?

The Western Recorder carried a quote from Kentucky's lay member of the SBC nominating committee upon publication of the committee's report, "We looked for things from all over the state, and these were the people we felt were best qualified."

I in no way question the abilities and dedication of those chosen for nomination to the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention meeting. I find it unusual, however, that a search from "all over the state" would lead this layperson to fill four of six positions with the wife of her boss, two business colleagues and her pastor.

Your paper sounds another inter-

esting note. It reported that President Ed Young named to the committee on committees a layperson whose pastor is concluding a term on the nominating committee.

Who controls denominational patronage in the state of Kentucky? Is the selection process fair?

*J. Howard Cobble
Elizabethtown*

All are equal

This arrogant attitude—that either one believes like me or one can leave the church—is destroying our Baptist faith.

What could be further from the truth of historical Baptist beliefs? I was taught that as Baptists there is no hierarchy in the church or denomination, and all believers are equal in the eyes of God. The present Baptist leadership meet in secret and talk down to laypeople as though we were stupid and that they know what is best for us. Well, we aren't stupid, and we know hypocrisy when we see it.

When any person or group sets themselves up as being the unquestionable spiritual leaders of a fellowship of Christians, they are cultish in nature and playing God. They don't deserve the recognition of independent free-will Southern Baptists. I, for one, will never back down from telling Baptist leadership when they are wrong.

This power play must end soon. The Lord will not allow our witness in the world to be crippled any longer because of fundamentalist egos. We must call for repentance by our self-righteous leadership. They don't control us, and we weren't formed as a denomination to yield to them. They are to serve the Lord within the tenets of traditional Baptist beliefs, and if they insist on dictating doctrine to us, we must as faithful Baptists remove them from leadership positions.

Unsung heroes

Charles Lauer is author of the book "Soar With the Eagles" and publisher of the weekly premier publication in the healthcare industry, Modern Healthcare.

My son-in-law, Steve Clifton, an attorney with Alliant Healthcare, shared with me Lauer's May 2 "Publisher's Letter." In a more abbreviated form, I share with the readers.

"On the plane ride, I encountered someone who, in my opinion, is one of the most successful persons I have ever met.

"Let's call this person the gentleman in 3A. I had the aisle seat and was busily working on my talk. I was a little preoccupied trying to make a few notes

for my speech, so I didn't really notice the man next to me until we were well into the flight. But eventually I got my notes organized and then sat back to relax a little. And you know how things go. I asked the man next to me if his home was in Salt Lake City. No, he told me, his home was in Wyoming, and then we began to chat about a variety of topics such as our families and our jobs. The man, who is director of facilities planning on an

Indian reservation, told me he had been in Chicago to visit his oldest son.

"As we talked, he wanted to know what I did, and I told him I was the publisher of a weekly business magazine covering the healthcare industry. I also gave him a copy of my book, "Soar With the Eagles."

"He told me about the son in Chicago who had become cynical about life and that in the conversations he had with him he didn't think he had been able to turn his thinking around. He was really down about that and asked me what I thought.

"That's when I asked him about the rest of his family. He told me he and his wife had raised three sons, and he was very proud of them. He has been married to his wife for about 36 years, and I could tell he was proud of her.

"And then he talked about being a foster parent. They had taken in the first child when he was only 5 months old, and had been warned that the child might not live very long because he had been so brutally abused. As the gentleman in 3A told the story, he told me how this Indian baby had fooled everyone and lived to 5 1/2 years. There were tears in his eyes and mine.

Pray that the Lord will remove their pride and arrogance so they may see the truth.

*W.D. Hall
Henderson*

Confusing state

I like the idea of men in charge in the church or home—if the home is a two-parent family. I understand there are exceptions.

As women, sometimes we get ourselves into a confusing state. We have tried to show men we can do as well as they in the workplace. We have stressed ourselves physically, emotionally, health-wise. Our homes and children are mishandled in some cases.

Sensing our own uniqueness as women has suffered. Men and women will never be the same in intelligence. Each is unique. Our talents are unique.

Can I be a man? My needs are different. We women have let ourselves be categorized "keeping up with men." We take away from our uniqueness. We are wonderfully created individuals. God chose us to bring Christ, "the salvation of the world," into this crazy world to make sense of it all when things are out of whack!

What is more beautiful and unique than a woman, not in step with galloping strides, but making her own special stride, softly, gently doing things in her own special way. It is out of character for a woman to be like a man in action.

In settling this fact within us, our own constitution can be even more special and defined. Who knows, someone may open a door for us or render a seat to us. Would we as women in 1994 know how to respond to such courtesy?

*Phyllis J. Barnes
Louisville*

"He then went on to tell me about their new foster son. The boy, who was suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome, joined them a couple of years ago when he was 7. The man also told me he and his wife hoped to adopt the boy shortly. As is common with children suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome, there had been some traumatic episodes of uncontrollable screaming and even violence, but things seemed to be straightening out now.

"I wish you could have been with me to hear this man's story. Aside from the tears over the death of the 5-year-old, the fellow related his story in a rather matter-of-fact way. In short, he didn't seem to understand the impact he was having on me. It was as though it was a pretty routine matter for a couple to raise three boys on an Indian reservation, send them off into the world and then turn right around and take in two foster children with multiple problems instead of sitting back, kicking off their shoes and relaxing. Thank goodness there are people like this in our midst. How much richer we are because of them.

"To the gentleman in 3A, I would say what a privilege it was to sit with him and visit with a truly successful individual."

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



FAMILY FORUM: TEEN-AGERS

Summer vacation

By Wade Rowatt

Q Should my 14- and 16-year-old teens be expected to get summer jobs?

A As school ends, teen-agers wonder about summer plans.

A job provides growth. Working gives experience in relationships. Youth relate to people beyond their families. This may help them appreciate their families more. Of course, they may learn interpersonal skills not picked up within their families.

A job teaches and increases skills. Youth can learn to operate machines such as cash registers, typewriters, computers, tractors, washers, etc. Many adults work at jobs that build on skills acquired in summer employment.

Having a job involves following a schedule. Youth learn to be on time and to use their work time productively. Usually they structure their time away from work more carefully.

At school, the structures are pretty tight. Rules are clear, and teachers, counselors and "the office" enforce the rules. This external control keeps youth more or less in line. A summer job usually has requirements, but less supervision. Teens can learn internal control. They can take care of themselves and become more personally responsible for their actions.

Sure a summer job provides money, but more importantly it gives teens a chance to do some growing. Families who do not need the money would do well to encourage their children to volunteer 10-20 hours a week in church or public service areas. If this is not possible, then at least they need an activity such as sports, dance, drama or music.

All teen-agers need chores and responsibilities around the home. Those who are employed may have fewer, but at least they can care for their own rooms. Those without jobs should increase the amount of work at home during summer.

Also, they do need some time off. Perhaps a week of vacation between school and work will help. They need some daily relaxation time and a few days a week for themselves. Keep the balance. There is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1-9).

Wade Rowatt is professor of psychology of religion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

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

Kevorkian decision deals blow to sanctity of life

A Detroit jury's decision to acquit Jack Kevorkian of assisting the suicide of Thomas Hyde dealt a grievous blow to the sanctity of human life.

The Kevorkian trial posed a painful dilemma. Sensitive people sympathize with the plight of the terminally ill. Hyde believed his life would be improved if he hastened his excruciating, certain death. Anyone who has anguished with a loved one dying painfully knows some parts of life are worse than death. But a physician's participation in suicide moves beyond empathy to active participation in the death of a human being. Who has the right to "play God" and determine another life should end?

The rationale for assisted suicide reflects a desire to end the pain that makes what's left of life unbearable. In its purest form, it is undiluted compassion. Kevorkian's supporters have affirmed this impulse. Moreover, criticism of this motive never rings with complete certainty. Who, except those who have endured identical circumstances, can say they would not want to die if they traded places with the ill person? And who, except those who have endured identical circumstances, can say they would not feel the impulse to alleviate such pain from a loved one?

Yet legalization of assisted suicide moves society toward affirmation of euthanasia. While death may be preferable to many circumstances of living, euthanasia ultimately asks: Who is to decide?

■ The strictest answer insists only God can decide. However, science and medicine have stretched the limits of this dilemma. Technology now creates and sustains biological functions within host organisms, but seri-

ous observers ask: Is this a living human being? Does God's will keep alive a battered woman who has not produced brain waves in seven years and breathes and eats through tubes? Or is this a scientific illusion? Medical science has stretched beyond the grasp of moral/ethical wisdom.

■ A broader answer suggests the afflicted person has the right to decide. Reality often confirms this answer. Most of the time, loved ones cannot prevent the suicide of someone intent on death. In other cases—such as the Kevorkian/Hyde suicide—the issue is complicated. Does a person too weak or otherwise unable to commit suicide have a right to request help? Such suicides beg the question of ethical complicity. Is participation in the suicide of another person ever justified, even when the person begs to die? Where is the line between murder and charity?

■ That leads to the broadest answer, which would say another person has a right to decide when someone's life no longer is worth living. The potential for abusing this power is enormous. And such a decision would violate both the clear intent of the Bible's affirmation of life and the Constitution's guarantee of the right to life.

Novelist Charles Sheldon posed a powerful question for solving moral dilemmas: What would Jesus do? His question staggers the imagination. I can see Jesus working to develop pain-management programs. I can think of Jesus helping with hospice programs. But for the life of me, I cannot imagine Jesus opening a bottle of carbon monoxide gas.

Marv Knox

Do you think Jesus would help a terminally ill person commit suicide?

'Marketplace missions' presents gospel in everyday world

Does the complaint "people just don't seem interested in coming to church anymore" sound familiar? Do friends and co-workers refuse invitations to attend church?

Are you frustrated by the lack of response to your church's outreach efforts? Is your congregation struggling to discover and develop new leaders?

Do you want to be involved in missions, but you just don't have the time to go off to some mission field?

The answer to these and similar concerns is all around you.

Just take a fresh look at communities, especially at those places where church members spend time away from church. While only a few hours of the week find them at "church," most of their time is spent at work, school, home, stores, civic clubs or sporting events and other recreation.

These settings all provide Christians the opportunity to live out their faith in the "real world" where people need to experience God's good news

in Jesus Christ.

Missions in the marketplace means touching people with the reality of God's good news where people carry out the "commerce" of their daily lives—where they work, shop, teach, learn, play, relax and live.

This approach to evangelism can help unbelievers who are around

Christians each day see the reality of the gospel. Many people are unaware of

God's purpose for their lives because they live, work, shop or play in settings where the good news of Jesus is not being "fleshed out" by the Christians around them.

All too often, the gospel story is kept within the walls of the church buildings or the confines of a closely knit group of believers and not lived out daily in the world.

The vast world outside the church simply does not get to see and experience God's love in those ways that would have the most meaning and that could best be understood.

When Christians are equipped and

encouraged to take their faith out into those marketplaces, their lives are changed and the life of their church is renewed and empowered.

As believers learn to share their faith in natural, personal and creative ways throughout the normal course of their daily lives, they become the witnesses God calls them to be.

And some Christians who experience the thrill of ministering in their own marketplace settings soon feel led to accept other leadership responsibilities within the church.

This approach to outreach and ministry offers several important strengths:

■ It follows the Great Commission model—make disciples as you go, wherever you go.

■ It touches people out in the "real" world.

■ It reaches those who need to hear the gospel in terms they can understand and who might never come to any event inside a church building.

■ It's natural. It works through established relationships and settings.

■ It challenges church members to

discover and develop the gifts, talents and abilities entrusted to them by God—gifts they might never have been called on to use in more traditional church programs and ministries.

Individual Christians or mission action groups can lead lunchtime Bible studies at work, help friends and co-workers deal with the crises and stresses of everyday life, offer children's activities and care during special events, or lead creative worship or family programs in special settings.

This "fleshing out" of the good news of Jesus Christ through tangible expressions of Christian concern validates Christians' verbal witness to the message of God's redeeming love.

As churches challenge their members to respond to the many opportunities for outreach in each area of life, they will learn the church can be relevant in today's marketplaces.

Sam Schlegel, director
Resort missions/special ministries
Hawaii Baptist Convention
Honolulu

"Missions in the marketplace means touching people with the reality of God's good news where people carry out the 'commerce' of their lives—where they work, shop, teach, learn, play, relax and live."

GUEST EDITORIAL

Who was that masked bandit who broke in while we slept?

Victims say burglars are getting bolder these days, and I believe them. We were robbed while we slept.

The masked bandit crept in under the cover of darkness, during a break in a driving rainstorm. He probably would have robbed us blind if he hadn't bumped into the trash can and raised a ruckus. As it was, he dashed away before I could catch him and got off Scot free. We all felt so violated that none of us slept much the rest of the night. But he must've been more scared of us than we were of him, because we haven't seen hide nor hair of him since.

Raccoons are like that.

Our perpetrator stealthily sneaked into Cabin 36 of the Mingo Village of Camp Piomingo, where the Kiowa Tribe of the

Algonquin Nation of the Woodlands Federation of the YMCA's Indian Princesses was trying to get some sleep.

He must've sniffed the remains of granola bars or marshmallows or an old apple core, because he was busy ravaging the garbage when he woke up Mark, who set off the alarm system.

"Marv!" he hollered. "Molly's asleep over here in the bottom bunk and a raccoon is inside the cabin, just around the corner from her bed!" I think he also reported that he had climbed into the

top bunk of his bed with his daughter Rebecca.

Half-awake but fully concerned for the safety of my kid, I did what any self-respecting daddy would do when a wild beast threatened his child. I hitched up my boxers, grabbed a lawn chair as the weapon of choice and stormed out to battle the enemy.

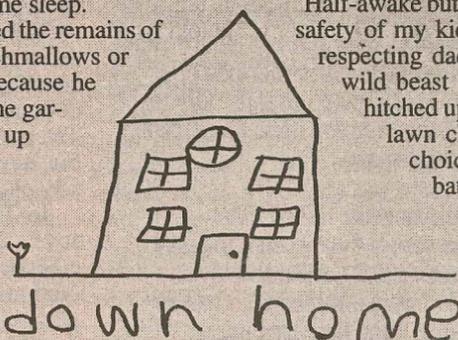
Meanwhile, the non-violent part of my brain prayed fervently the 'coon would just go away. God must hear the unspoken prayers of sleepy warriors, because the thief slipped out the door before I

could engage him in mortal combat. (I'm not sure I could've slain him with that lawn chair, but I think I could've kept him from chewing off my nose while we stumbled out of the cabin and protected the other Indian "braves" and princesses from harm.)

Unfortunately, our cabin door didn't have a lock, but we managed to get it wedged shut tight and stumbled back to bed, much less sleepy than we had been two minutes earlier.

As I crawled back into my bunk, I told Lindsay no, she couldn't sleep "up top" with me. Then I heard Jeff locking the remains of the Oreos in his suitcase. "At least we won't starve," I thought as I tried to get back to sleep.

Marv Knox



Congress votes to restrict abortion clinic protests

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Senate approved May 12 a bill that would make it a federal crime to block access to abortion clinics, damage property and physically intimidate patients and clinic workers.

The vote in the Senate was 69 to 30 in favor of the bill.

The U.S. House of Representatives previously approved the measure, and President Clinton is expected to sign it.

Bill supporters say the measure is needed to combat a growing epidemic of "vigilantism" employed by some anti-abortion groups.

Opponents counter that the measure violates their right to free speech, effectively chilling their peaceful abortion protests.

The measure would impose up to six months' imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine for first-time, non-violent offenders (those who block access without damage to property or people).

Violent offenders would receive stiffer penalties—a maximum of \$100,000 in fines and one year in prison. Bodily injury and/or death would carry the stiffest penalties.

The bill also would establish the right to bring civil suits to stop such activities, as well as to collect damages.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said that in the last 15 years more than 1,000 violent acts against abortion

providers, more than 100 cases of arson and bombings and hundreds of blockades, invasions and vandalism against clinics have been documented.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., also supported the bill, saying, "The freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution does not include bombings, vandalism, assault, arson, destruction of property and physically preventing people from entering medical clinics. Unfortunately, it took the murder of Dr. David Gunn in Pensacola, Fla., for many people to recognize the danger in the escalating pattern of violence that has been directed against abortion providers in this country."

But Sen. Robert Smith, R-N.H., strongly opposed the bill. The penalties for non-violent protesters are far too harsh, he said.

"This senator recognizes, of course, that acts of civil disobedience are, by definition, sometimes unlawful," Smith said. "But I firmly believe that acts of politically motivated, peaceful civil disobedience should only be punished in generally the same manner as would the same underlying unlawful conduct when it is engaged in by anybody else."

The bill also contains a provision, offered by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, that would make it a crime to block access to churches and synagogues or to vandalize those facilities.

Critics of the bill have said they fear it singles out one type of protest activity for discriminatory treatment. They also have expressed concern that the bill will result in suppression of legal activities such as sidewalk counseling and picketing.

"This is a major victory for pro-abortion forces and a crushing defeat

for pro-life dissent in America," said James Smith, director of government relations for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "The ramifications of this law will be tremendous and impact pro-life forces far beyond the 'rescue movement.'"

With additional reporting from Baptist Press

Abortion protesters fined \$1 million

HOUSTON (ABP)—A jury in Houston awarded Planned Parenthood more than \$1 million in punitive damages May 9 from groups that protested at Houston-area abortion clinics during the 1992 Republican National Convention.

The verdict, coupled with the finding last week that the groups and their leaders acted with malice, allows the judge to consider making permanent the restrictions she placed on how close protesters can demonstrate around clinics.

Planned Parenthood praised the verdict as a victory for women, but Rescue America leader Don Treshman vowed never to pay the judgment.

"We believe this is a totally invalid verdict," Treshman said, adding that it would not change anti-abortion activists' tactics. "I

would go to jail rather than pay a dollar to the people who profit off the blood and mangled bodies of babies."

The verdict clears the way for District Judge Eileen O'Neill to make permanent the restrictions she imposed on demonstrators during the Republican National Convention nearly two years ago. Those restrictions require protesters to maintain buffer zones around clinics and prohibit them from blocking patient entrances to the clinics.

O'Neill said Friday that she likely will wait until the U.S. Supreme Court rules in the Florida case of *Madsen vs. Women's Health Center*, which challenges the constitutionality of buffer zones to keep protesters away from abortion clinics.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Here's the beef.** Dave Thomas, founder of the Wendy's hamburger chain, will write a book filled with short stories and anecdotes communicating his philosophy of life: If you work hard, do the right things and really try, you can be anything you want to be within the laws of God and man. "In this book, we'll have the opportunity to see how a nice guy like Dave created an international company and still retains his charm and personal Christian faith," said Publisher Scott Bolinder.

■ **Lottery defeated.** Oklahomans bucked a national trend and defeated a campaign for a state-run lottery May 10. With a 60 percent negative vote, Oklahoma became only the second state to turn down a lottery in a statewide vote. An odd coalition fought against the lottery: Baptists, Catholics, Unitarians, horse racing interests, business leaders, state legislators and newspapers.

■ **Giving encouraged.** Legislation designed to encourage charitable giving has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Charitable Contributions Encouragement Act (H.R. 4356) introduced by Rep. Michael Huffington, R-Calif., would remove a limitation on charitable gift tax deductions for high-income givers, as well as allow non-itemizers to deduct charitable contributions.

■ **HUD to work with churches.** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will set up an office to relate to the nation's churches on issues such as homelessness, fair housing and community rebuilding. HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros said in a recent conference at Harvard University that government

and the church should work together to solve urban ills.

■ **Clinton criticized.** Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Young and 10 other evangelical leaders have asked President Clinton to overturn a recent U.S. State Department cable seeking greater support from other countries for liberalized abortion policies. The cable seeks support for the U.S. position, which is described as "access to safe, legal and voluntary abortion (as) a fundamental right of all women."

■ **Abortion doctor suspended.** Thomas Tucker, the primary abortion doctor in Mississippi, was suspended April 22 for professional misconduct. The Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure lifted his license for five years after finding him guilty on 32 of 34 charges. Most of the charges were filed after inspectors found controlled drugs unlocked in drawers at his clinics, outdated drugs, and hundreds of signed, undated prescription forms. The board heard testimony that Tucker's employees routinely altered patient records to circumvent Mississippi's 24-hour waiting period and overestimating the ages of unborn children so Tucker could charge more for the abortions. Tucker performed up to 60 percent of all abortions in Mississippi.

■ **Tilton guilty.** Televangelist Robert Tilton defrauded a Florida couple by misusing ministry funds, a jury decided April 21. Mike and Vivian Elliott of Tampa, Fla., were awarded \$1.5 million after a jury found that Tilton had used their \$3,500 donation, and donations generated by a video about them, for his personal expenses rather than for a crisis center as promised.

400 religious leaders call for end to school-prayer war

WASHINGTON (ABP)—More than 400 U.S. religious leaders, including at least 34 Baptists, have called for a permanent cease fire in the battle over prayer in America's public schools.

In an open letter to school board presidents and superintendents on the threshold of spring graduation activities, representatives of mainline religious bodies urged widespread efforts "to prevent our public schools from becoming a battleground over religion and to promote true religious liberty."

The religious leaders oppose attempts to reinstate organized prayer in public schools.

"We write as religious leaders serving millions of Americans of faith to express our opposition to such activities, and we do so on the basis of our faith and our belief in the sanctity of prayer," the letter states.

The letter notes that communities and legislatures across the nation are adopting resolutions urging the return of organized prayer in public schools. Ten states plus the District of Columbia have passed or are looking at school-prayer legislation.

In Texas, more than half of the state's 254 counties and more than 60 cities have approved non-binding resolutions calling for renewed school prayer.

"While such actions may have been undertaken in an attempt to strengthen religion, they will have precisely the opposite effect," the religious leaders said.

"These activities not only weaken the principle of the separation of church and state that has ensured religious liberty in our country for over 200 years, they also engender conflict in our public schools and seriously erode religious freedom in America," their letter stated.

Baptist signers of the letter include Roger Lovett of Birmingham, Ala.; John Buchanan, James Dunn, Brent Walker, Tyrone Pitts and Stan Hasteley of Washington, D.C.; Paul Norcross of Palm Harbor, Fla.; Henry Strube of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Melvin E. Schoonover of Miami; John Binder and Charles Weber of Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.; Clara Thompson of Montgomery, Ill.; Dwight Jessup of Upland, Ind.; Sarah Frances Anders of Pineville, La.; Dan Ivins of Silver Spring, Md.; Lamar Wadsworth of Baltimore.

Roger Paynter of Jackson, Miss.; Lee Berg of Meridian, Miss.; Paul Duke of St. Louis; Horace Hunt of Livingston, N.J.; Edward Harper of Newark, N.J.; Carl Flemister of Carmel, N.Y.; James Melvin Washington of New York City; W.W. Finlator of Raleigh, N.C.; George Reed of Cary, N.C.; William Angell of Winston-Salem, N.C.

Dan Weiss and Aidsand Wright-Riggins of Valley Forge, Pa.; Kenneth Burnette of Lancaster, Pa.; Michael Morrill of Philadelphia; George Mason of Dallas; Charles Johnson of Lubbock, Texas; Dean Majette of Chantilly, Va.; and Glenn Hinson of Richmond, Va.

Fall of Michael English reveals industries differences

By Ray Waddle & Sandy Smith
Nashville Tennessean

NASHVILLE (BP)—After Bruce Springsteen split with his wife and married his pregnant backup singer, no one remotely suggested that his record label drop him like damaged goods.

But when a top Christian music performer like Michael English admits to his own serious character lapse, the reaction is radically different. And swift:

A week after English swept the coveted Dove Awards of the Gospel Music Association, he banishes himself from musical Eden. His label, Warner Alliance, yanks its most profitable franchise.

(His six Dove Awards included artist and male vocalist of the year, best contemporary album and, with Christian music legend Bill Gaither, two awards in Southern Gospel.)

Taken along in English's fall is Marabeth Jordan, a singer with the gospel-jazz group First Call. The two, married to others, had an affair and Jordan is pregnant with English's child, according to the Gospel Music Association's president, Bruce Koblish.

Neither English nor Jordan has been reachable to confirm the details of these reports. She has been replaced in First Call.

The sudden, sensational fall of Michael English from the contemporary Christian music scene has numbed his fans. But it also points up the profound paradoxes felt every day in the business.

"You have to be in the world, but not of the world," said Mike Smith, a

minister at Christ Community Church in Franklin, Tenn., spiritual home to many Christian music professionals. "Companies stay in business by selling a product, but artists have a higher calling."

Unlike anything else in the entertainment world, the Bible and the bottom line coexist in the Christian music industry in a strange, uneasy commerce.

But the strong sense that this tinsel, high-stakes business also is a Christian "ministry" pushes professionals to expect a higher standard of public moral behavior from its high-profile performers.

So while Nashville's musical corporate phone lines were choked with talk and speculation about English of recent, no one questioned that his sudden withdrawal from the scene was improper.

"Context is everything. If Michael English had been a secular performer, his indiscretion or whatever would have drawn 50 words in the gossip column," said Dan Daley, a locally based writer on various facets of the Nashville music industry.

Pondering the place of the Christian in the world of entertainment, Daley said. "The question is, 'How do you keep high moral standards in one of the sleaziest businesses around?'"

And there's the rub for the Christian artist.

"It's really hard to walk humbly with your God when people are telling you how great you are," minister Smith said. "They have to recognize daily, hourly, the grace of God."

Christian performers who win vast popularity singing exalted messages about God find themselves in an ironic fix: Their godly success surrounds them with the same fleshly and material temptations pursued by their secular counterparts.

Their ministers worry there are too few people in the industry to help artists keep their moral integrity.

"Especially if you're on the road a lot, if you want to sing and glorify God, you're certainly obligated to live above reproach," said Bob

Augsburg, general manager of one of Nashville's religious radio stations.

English's minister at Christ Church in Nashville, L.H. Hardwick, met with the singer in a lengthy counseling session May 6.

"I'm distressed and saddened," Hardwick said. "But Christ Church preaches forgiveness—not cheap forgiveness, but when people who have fallen say they're wrong, we do what we can to rebuild them and control the destruction."

Hardwick said he would like to assemble the pastors of several local

churches to talk about how better to bring God's "message of purity" to the Christian music industry.

This is an industry where it is not unusual for a minister to accompany a Christian artist on the road. Don Finto, minister at Belmont Church, has done just that with several Christian singers over the years, notably Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith.

"Accountability is the key," Finto said. "I try to alert people to danger. We're a sex-saturated society. We all have to take precautions."

Finto's counsel to performers includes urging them never to put themselves in tempting situations, even lunch alone with the opposite sex, and to have a network of friends or pastors to hold them "spiritually accountable."

Ironically, the higher moral standards expected of Christian artists are accompanied by a vast fund of forgiveness that Christians teach to each other, with many fans of English speaking in terms of feelings of forgiveness for him.

"It's a bold statement to withdraw and say he can't in full integrity espouse the things he sings about," Smith said.

Will this disclosure torpedo English's career? Corporate insiders were practically impossible to reach for comment, but Daley, an observer of the scene, speculated English represents too much money to the recording industry to vanish into obscurity.

"He might re-emerge as a chastened, wiser Christian artist or, for all we know, he might come back as a crossover to pop. I don't think you've seen the end of an act that big."



Michael English



On the beat: Contemporary Christian music update

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Baptist label signs Brent Lamb for 'positive country' twist

By Charles Willis
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Brent Lamb will tell you he is an unlikely candidate to spread God's message through music.

He cannot read music; as a left-handed child, he learned to play right-handed stringed instruments upside down; and he stutters.

Yet Lamb has just signed a contract with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Genesis Records as a recording artist, songwriter and producer.

"I'm not special, and I'm not qualified," he said at his private recording studio in Nashville recently. "I'm obedient. It's just about showing up for work."

Born 34 years ago in Nashville to working-class parents, Lamb grew up around a family of singers and pickers who loved to sing gospel. But he recalled never having considered music as a career.

But through an advertisement posted on a bulletin board at a Nashville grocery store, Lamb connected with another musician who wanted to sing and travel. After a year and a half, his musical partner filed for bankruptcy, and Lamb was back home.

While working for his father weld-

ing door frames, Lamb said he first heard God tell him he wanted him to sing and speak for him full time. After getting married, Lamb recorded an album in 1983. Since then, he has worked almost nonstop, never having to solicit engagements or recording opportunities.

His first contract came from a producer who heard him sing in a country church.

In the intervening years, Lamb and his wife, Laurie, have become parents of twin boys, Hunter and Hayden, 8, and daughter Haley, 4. The challenges and events of marriage and parenthood have become topics for many of his musical works.

His original music has been sung by Harvest, Truth, Rex Nelon and Steven Curtis Chapman. Lamb's "This Is America" is the title song for Walt Disney World's patriotic show at Epcot Center.

For Genesis Records, Lamb's first release in July will be a collection of "positive country" and Christian songs.

"In the past, I didn't listen to a lot of country music because I didn't like what it said," he recalled. "All this new country music is called 'positive country' by people in the music industry. We didn't label ourselves. They labeled us. My first thought is, if you call what we are doing positive,

then is what you are doing negative?"

"Our dog doesn't get hit by a train; our dog comes home," he jokes to illustrate the difference between some forms of country and positive country. "After work, we don't go down to the bar and get drunk. We go home to be daddy and husband."

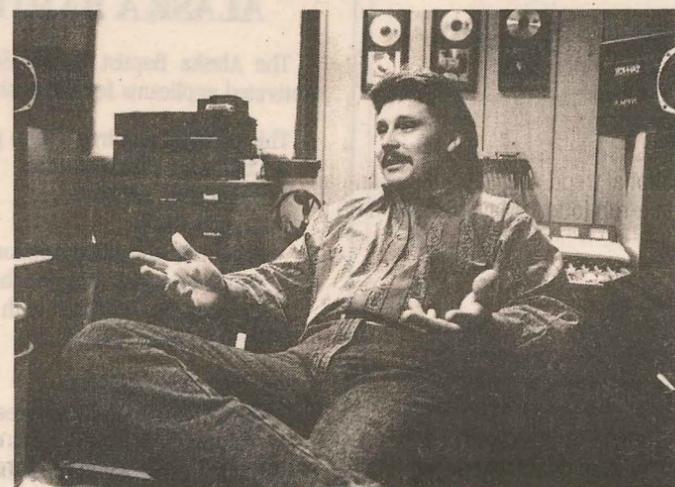
Lamb said the shift in his musical direction from messages aimed at teen-agers to lyrics about family came in 1989 when he began to realize the weighty responsibility of parenthood.

"God changed my heart. The boys were 4 years old, and I was getting into being Dad. I was finding out quickly that you have to learn to be a dad, and there isn't a manual that comes with your kids to tell you this is what you do."

"My whole thought process was about being dad and husband, so I started writing about that. A lot of the songs came to be what is now called positive country. It's just about what I want to be as a husband and what I want to be as a daddy. And if you know me and you know my heart, you can understand that it comes from the Lord."

Lamb said the message he would like to give other men is, "Guys, love your wives. Dads, Michael Jordan shouldn't be your kids' hero. You ought to be your kids' hero."

Despite a lifelong struggle with



stuttering, when Lamb stands before a crowd to speak or sing, he does not stutter.

"I used to pray to the Lord to heal me, and God always said, 'My grace is sufficient.' That's not what I wanted to hear. Knowing what I know now about his grace, not stuttering on stage is my walking in his grace in obedience."

"I don't just trust him to help me play the right notes or to sing the right words. I have to trust him for every syllable. I no longer pray to be healed. It would scare me to death to know I was on my own. He's there, and he just takes over."

ON BAPTIST LABEL Brent Lamb is the newest artist signed by Genesis Records, the music recording label of Genevox Music Group of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. In his Nashville studio, he talks about the marriage and family lyrics that have come to characterize his "positive country" music. (BP photo by Jim Vene-man)

TRENDS

No. 1 mission field can be found at home, dean says

Tips for reaching secular people

OLIVE BRANCH, Miss. (BP)—“Active listening” is the place to begin for churches truly interested in reaching secular people, George Hunter said.

Among his other suggestions to Southern Baptist state Sunday school leaders:

- Begin where they are, with their felt needs and at their knowledge level.
- Explain basic Christianity in their language from a reduced canon. For example, part of the Bible, such as portions of the Old Testament, will not be immediately useful. A good place to start is with the gospels, especially Luke.
- Practice the miracle of dialogue. Realize you already have the answers to some of the questions people are asking; you do not have, for now, the answers to others; and you cannot find intellectually satisfying answers to still others, such as “Why does God allow suffering and pain?”
- Understand the principle of cumulative effect. Nobody gets all the message the first time.
- Understand the principle of creative

redundancy. Find new ways to share the same message over and over.

- Realize assimilation usually precedes commitment.
- Apply the truth that Christianity is more caught than taught.
- Invite an experiment of faith. Encourage them to try living for a time as if Christianity were true.

Hunter, author of “How to Reach Secular People,” has conducted numerous interviews with secular people and church leaders who are reaching them.

He reported several facets of the Christian message have been found especially to engage the unchurched, such as: “You matter to God;” “You can experience appropriate self-esteem;” “You can make sense of your life;” “You can experience the power of God over addictions;” “You can cooperate with the kingdom of God;” and “You can become the person you were born to be.”

Continued from page 1

are those employing new ministry methods and strategies, Hunter said.

Describing those churches as the “new apostolic congregations,” he said they are “willing to be culturally flexible in order to reach people.”

“These churches are dramatizing a truth that mission scholars and strategists have known for decades: To reach non-Christian populations, it is necessary for the church to become as culturally indigenous in Europe and North America’s mission fields as it is in any field of mission in Asia, Africa, Latin America or Oceania.”

Hunter cited three ways the new apostolic congregations are different from more traditional churches:

- They are reaching and making faith possible for significant numbers of secular people who lack a Christian memory in America’s mission field.
- They tend to be “on the edge” of their denomination or have no denominational attachment at all.
- They make both the conservative

and liberal Protestant establishments “anxious” and often are criticized, yet envied, for their capacity to reach unchurched people.

He cited as two examples of this new type of congregation: Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago and Saddleback Valley Community Church in Orange County, Calif.

“They are probably the most copied and most criticized churches in the United States, and that’s unfortunate. They would suggest, ‘Don’t copy what we’re doing, but replicate our process of interviewing enough unchurched people (in your area), finding out what their hang-ups about church are and then designing your worship and outreach with that in mind.’

“We’re not talking about taking the worship service you’ve already got and throwing it out, but adding alternate ‘seeker’ services that will attract the unchurched,” Hunter said. Attention should be paid to the type of music included, he said, and terminology and issues used in sermons.

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Telephone: (907) 349-2222 • Fax: (907) 349-5335

Application package must be received by June 1, 1994. Projected hire date is September 1, 1994.

AA/EOE

Plan to celebrate June 26!

What a special year this is for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children! This ministry of love to boys and girls is 125 years old and we have already had a joyous time celebrating the Lord's goodness and faithfulness. Our latest birthday celebration, for the Big Sandy area, was held Saturday in Pikeville and provided great fun.

The celebration will continue throughout the year for two purposes: 1) to allow us to say “thank you” to Kentucky Baptists for prayers and support that have spanned generations and, 2) to help increase the awareness of the people of Kentucky of the great needs facing children and families today.

We're hoping that each Baptist church in Kentucky will celebrate this wonderful heritage of love on Sunday, June 26. It was on June 30, 1869, that the first three children were received into care by Kentucky Baptists. This milestone is especially significant because Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is the oldest of all of the Southern Baptist childcare ministries. This means that not only have Kentucky Baptists had an important impact upon Kentucky's children, but upon the many children cared for

by other Southern Baptist childcare ministries across the country that have followed Kentucky's lead.

This week we are shipping materials to each church which we hope will be a help and a blessing in the celebration of the 125th birthday. Included in the materials is a videotape entitled “One Child At A

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Time” that I think will be of special value with mission and other groups. The tape is approximately 11 minutes long and shares some of the personal stories about how Kentucky Baptists have impacted the lives of children and families. The package also contains bulletin inserts, a script for a brief drama that would be ideal for a group to

present in church, and several other pieces of helpful material.

I'm looking forward to being a part of celebrating on June 26. I think it will be a special and meaningful time as churches all across this commonwealth use their worship hours to praise God for His faithfulness and leadership in this ministry of love!

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

PEOPLE

Kentuckian among missionaries appointed by Fellowship May 6

GREENSBORO, N.C. (ABP)—A couple with Kentucky ties was among 10 people commissioned as missionaries by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship May 6.

Donald and Carolyn Berry will serve in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, where he will direct the Institute for Missions and Evangelism.

He is a native of Guston in Meade County and previously served as pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Campbellsville. He also has been interim pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Brandenburg.

Berry is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Currently, he is professor of religion and philosophy at Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla. Mrs. Berry also is a graduate of Southern Seminary. They have two children, Katherine, 10, and Rebekah, 6.

Berry has two sisters who live in Meade County, Carol Rudd and Patsy Thompson. His parents are Jim and Margaret Berry, also of Meade County. His home church is New Highland Baptist Church near Brandenburg.

All the missionaries appointed May 6, who will be working in a

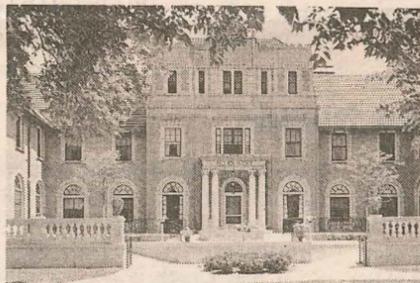
range of capacities from agriculture to theological education, have previous missions experience. Others are Richard and Ellen Burnette, Athens, Ala.; Arville and Shelia Earl, Prairie Village, Kan.; Preston and Nell Green, Van, Texas; and Jerry and Lorraine McAtee, Henderson, N.C.

The new missionaries were challenged by two speakers to take the gospel to the hopeless and downtrodden. Keith Parks, Fellowship global missions coordinator, reminded them of people who never have heard Jesus' name. Parks encouraged the crowd "to take God's perspective of this world."

Mike Massar, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clemson, S.C., said today's church needs to start talking about hell again because people are living in it.

Retelling the story of Jonah, Massar said, "I want to take you to hell and back. The story of Jonah is a tragic story, because Jonah goes (to hell) and he never returns.

"Our lives will become tragedies if we don't go to hell for heaven's sake," Massar said. "We need to go into hell holes. We have to reach people there."



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Charles L. "Larry" Smith,
Administrator
Barbara Schmitt, Director of Nursing

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Goings appointed.** Lee and Sarah Going were appointed to mission service with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in April. They will continue to live in Louisville, where he has been director of ministries for Long Run Baptist Association since April 1993.



Goings

Previously, he was pastor of First Rock Haven Baptist Church in Vine Grove and First Baptist Church of Eastwood. He is a graduate of Mercer University in Atlanta, as well as the University of Louisville and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Going, a teacher at Oldham County High School, also is a graduate of Mercer and the University of Louisville.

■ **Gillespie honored.** Cumberland College honored Charles Gillespie of Midland, Texas, May 2 with an honorary doctor of laws degree. The geologist and independent oil producer was cited for his contributions to the Kentucky Baptist college.

■ **Greynolds awarded.** Margaret Greynolds, professor of communication arts at Georgetown College, received this year's Cawthorne Excellence in Teaching Award from the college. The award was endowed in 1989 by Georgetown graduates Don and Chris Kerr Cawthorne.

■ **Mr. & Miss Campbellsville named.** Two students from different cultures were named Mr. and Miss Campbellsville College this spring. Kristen Annette Roark of Scottsville was named Miss Campbellsville College, while Kazi Rafiul Islam of Bangladesh was named Mr. Campbellsville.

■ **Georgetown honors three.** Georgetown College has honored James McCormick, art department chairman, Jack Donovan, campus safety manager, and Garvel Kindrick, admissions director, with the Rollie Graves Technology Excellence Award. The awards were established by Douglas Graves and Georgetown alumna Diane Grave Smith, the son and daughter of Rollie Graves.

■ **Bennett to Morocco.** Bryan Bennett, a Campbellsville College junior from Finley, has been selected as one of four American track athletes to participate in a worldwide athletic/missions event in Morocco this summer. Bennett was selected by the International Sports Federation, which is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

■ **Boyce reunion slated.** Boyce Bible School will host a 20th anniversary reunion for alumni and friends July 14-16 on the Louisville campus. For information, call (502) 897-4693.

■ **Daley honored.** Chauncey Daley, editor emeritus of the Western Recorder, will be given an honorary doctor of divinity degree by Brewton-Parker College during commencement ceremonies June 8 on the Mt. Vernon, Ga., campus. Daley is a Brewton-Parker alumnus and has been a visiting professor there since 1986.

■ **Cumberland awards degrees.** Cumberland College awarded 165 undergraduate and graduate degrees in commencement ceremonies May 14. Honorary doctorates were awarded to James Bowling, Norbert Hill Jr. and Richard Gaylord Briley. The Presidential Scholars Award was presented to Elizabeth Rittenberry of Hopkinsville and Karen Manning West of Williamsburg. Cynthia Goodman of Austin, Ind., and Roy Michael Markham of Elkton received the Berger Outstanding Male and Female Graduate Award.

■ **Georgetown gets \$1 million.** Georgetown College has received \$1 million from the Geoffrey Hughes Foundation of New York, the largest single unrestricted gift in the Baptist college's history, President Bill Crouch Jr. announced during commencement ceremonies May 14. Crouch also announced that Georgetown has received a Baccalaureate College I ranking from Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This places Georgetown in a select group of Kentucky schools, along with Centre College, Transylvania University and Berea College. Baccalaureate I colleges are selective in admissions and award 40 percent or more of their baccalaureate degrees in the liberal arts.

Kentuckians evacuate Yemen

Continued from page 1

city. Other Soviet-built Scuds had been fired by the south but had failed to explode.

This Scud, however, landed at about 1 a.m. and destroyed several mud-and-brick homes. The area of destruction was about a mile away from the homes of Southern Baptist

workers Stephen and Kandi Edwards and Drew and Martha Whitson.

Apparent calm in the hospital region has been marred by the sound of gunfire throughout the night since May 9.

Written by News Director Mark Wingfield with reporting by Marty Croll of the FMB



Attention Baptist Nurses: Mark July 30 on your calendar!

The 1994 Summer Luncheon of the Kentucky chapter of Baptist Nursing Fellowship will be hosted by nurses in the Somerset area. Exciting plans for this meeting may include the opportunity for you to receive CEUs. Just think how nice it would be to share a summer lunch with compatible Christian friends in an enjoyable setting, expand your missions awareness, AND receive continuing education credit!



Reservation information will be mailed directly to all nurses on our Kentucky Baptist Nurses mailing list by mid-June. PLEASE SEND NAMES AND ADDRESSES of Baptist nurses we may not have to: Baptist Nurses, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433 (502)244-6485.

PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

For the first time in several years, gifts to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Cooperative Program are on track to place income ahead of budget at year-end, if current trends continue.

An analysis of giving trends by association projects receipts of \$17.57 million by Aug. 31—a 1.3 percent advance over the budget goal of \$17.34 million—if giving continues at the current pace.

Source: KBC business division

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Warren Association will hold a reception honoring the retirement of **Frank and Joyce Dorris** at 6:45 p.m. May 24 at Clear Fork Church.

■ **BREMEN**—Mount Pisgah Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary May 15. Lunch will follow the morning services. **Henry Johns**, former pastor of the church, will be the speaker in the special afternoon service.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville College's church relations council has inducted five new members: **Forrest Kelly** of Greensburg; **James F. Smith** of Banner; **James L. Smith** of Buffalo; **David Walters** of Goshen, Ohio; and **Terry Sills** of Hardin.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Buechel Park Church called **Chip Jenkins** as minister to youth. He previously served in the same capacity at Lyndon Church.

Maurice Hinson, professor of church music at Southern Seminary, has won the 1994 Achievement Award from the Music Teachers National Association.

■ **NASHVILLE, Tenn.**—**John Flynn**, 89, died May 3. From 1954-69, Flynn served as superintendent of missions for West Union Association. He also was pastor of several West Kentucky churches, including Eddy-

ville Church, Livermore Church and Audubon Church of Henderson. He served on the advisory board that bought the property and developed Jonathan Creek Assembly. At the time of his death, Flynn was a member of First Church in Nashville. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn; two daughters, Jayne Rone of Kansas City, Kan. and Mary Beauregard of Nashville; a son, Riley Flynn of San Antonio, Texas; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

■ **NEW CASTLE**—Henry County Association held a world missions conference May 14-15, including a children's mission fair, banquet and missionary presentation in area churches. Host churches included Lockport Church, Eminence Church, Campbellsburg Church, Franklinton Church, Port Royal Church, New Castle Church, Pleasureville Church, Smithfield Church and Sulphur Church.

■ **VERONA**—**Rob Turner** has been called as minister of youth at New Bethel Church. He currently is Baptist Student Union president at Northern Kentucky University.

■ **CORRECTION**: The May 10 issue incorrectly listed the name of Grover Waller's wife. Her name is Martha, not June. The Wallers are retiring from music ministry positions at First Church of Owensboro.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Full-time preschool ministry director position. Contact Bro. Rodney Burnette, Ninth & O Baptist Church, (502) 636-5576.

WANTED: Song book, "Great Gospel Songs & Hymns." Call (502) 538-3910, leave a message.

FOR SALE: Bound 344-page book (history) "Campbellsville Baptist Church 1791-1991" by Dr. J. Chester Badgett. 30 pages of photographs, pastor biographies, lay leadership, ordinations, activities, membership lists for 1828, 1910, 1991. Send \$31.50 to CBC, Box 279, Campbellsville, KY 42719, or call (502) 789-2092.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor/minister of Grant's Lick Baptist Church, Campbell County, Kentucky. Send resumé to Search Committee, Robert Miller, chairman, 6098 Hissem Ave., Alexandria, KY 41001. Phone (606) 635-7420.

FOR SALE: 1980 Ward/GMC 17-passenger bus. Just 35,000 miles and \$6,000. Good condition. Call (502) 896-0302.

SEEKING: Cloverport Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of youth and music (25-30 hrs/wk). Apartment and utilities provided. Send resumé to Cloverport Baptist Church, Cloverport, KY 40111. Phone (502) 788-6650.

WANTED: Part-time minister of music. Westport Baptist Church in Oldham County. Send resumé to Westport Baptist Church, 6415 Washington St., Westport, KY 40077. (502) 222-0745.

FOR SALE: Solid oak pews in excellent condition. 20 pews 10'; 4 pews 9'; Lord's supper table and pulpit. Call Bill Cook, (502) 526-3639.

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SEEKING: Frontier Baptist Church, Michigan, is seeking a retired or bivocational pastor. Send resumé to: P.O. Box 821, Hilldale, MI 49242.

VACATION: Sanibel Island, Fla., 2BR, 2B condo available for vacation rental. Pool, tennis courts, bikes, screened porch, lovely secluded beach. Call Pat Owen (502) 895-8752.

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Eventful week for Oneida

Of special interest to Oneida was the meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board at Cedarmore on Monday and Tuesday.

The board heard a review of the events surrounding the homegoing of Barkley Moore. It also heard a report from the two meetings of the Oneida Board of Trustees. Words of appreciation came from many members.

The administrator expressed appreciation for the many letters of encouragement, special memorial gifts and the assurances of prayer interest. The Agencies and Institutions Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee and the Executive Board gave unanimous approval to an annual offering for Oneida on Father's Day honoring Barkley Moore. The final action will come from the convention in November.

The popular musical "Cinderella" was presented on campus by the drama group on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Each presentation was attended by full-house audiences, all expressing high praise for the beautiful costumes and sets, the superb acting of the drama group and the excellent work of the director and assistants. It was acclaimed by many as "the best ever."

A reception on Saturday evening honored Amir Tabatabai and his family. Barkley Moore had known the family since his days in Iran. A close personal friendship has grown through the years.

Amir, a graduate of Oneida, has completed his doctor of medicine degree at the University of Louisville. He will be going to the Washington University medical center in St. Louis for his residency. Many friends from school days at Oneida congratulated him and expressed keen interest in his continuing preparation for the ministry of healing. He spoke to the audience at the closing night presentation of "Cinderella."

The week was climaxed by graduation activities on Sunday. Sixty-seven of our finest young people received their diplomas. Thirty-seven received standard diplomas while 30 were given advanced diplomas. All of them had successfully completed their programs of study at one of the nation's most comprehensive high school programs.

In the Oneida Church building baccalaureate activities were conducted in the morning worship hour. Larry A. Gritton, teacher, coach and principal at Oneida 1973-1993, brought the challenge to the graduates.

In the chapel Sunday afternoon, the graduation was attended by families and friends from across the state, the nation and the world. Four fathers of as many graduates led in special prayers in the two programs.

In addition to special recognitions made on Awards Day, special accomplishments were the basis of awards to students from each class. Years of service, in multiples of five years, called for special awards to faculty and staff.

Kevin Thurman delivered the salutatory address, while the valedictory address was delivered by Sarah Perrine.

The choir and several students gave their talents to the completion of a beautiful program. Our interests and prayers will follow these excellent young people as they continue their preparation for life or accept responsibilities in work assignments.

In the midst of the busiest week of the entire academic year, we were making plans and working at programs for summer school, which begins on June 5, and our homecoming activities for July 2. What a week! And what a blessing to be a part of it!

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



A.B. Colvin

With the help of our friends

For 68 years Clear Creek Baptist Bible College has trained God-called servants sent to us by churches. This vital ministry continues because friends believe in us and provide essential financial support.

In 1992 Raymond Lawrence retired from Southwest Baptist University, Mo., and joined our efforts to secure new friends. As a former pastor in Corbin, Mt. Vernon, Crittenden and Shelbyville, and as president of Mid-Continent, Lawrence knows Kentucky. His successful contacts brought major funding for the new Hemlock Heights student village and the Child Development Center. Raymond recently wrote to 50 of his friends. Some of them encouraged me to share his letter with you.

"During the winter of 15 major storms closing schools and effectively ending all commerce, your school at Clear Creek remains.

"During theological conflicts in our convention, with churches seeking new alignment and professors moving from school to school, your school at Clear Creek remains.

"While some of our large col-

leges have only a dozen or so ministerial students, Clear Creek is training 145 men and women for effective work in the ministry.

"Clear Creek is neither fundamentalist nor liberal in its theological stand, but takes the old Baptist tradition of the inerrancy of the Scriptures. Through thick and thin, through ups and downs, Clear Creek turns neither to the left nor the right. She deserves your support.

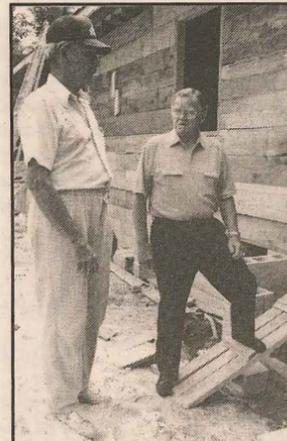
"Clear Creek is now fully accredited by the American Association of Bible Colleges and is working hard to have the same recognition from Southern Association. The graduates of Clear Creek are fully accepted in our seminaries.

"Clear Creek deserves your prayers and your financial support."

Many of you visited with Raymond and Eula Lawrence at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Elizabethtown. He continues to recover from a stroke. Clear Creek thanks our Lord the Lawrences are among our friends.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



He took her name, and that wasn't the oddest part

By Terri Lackey
SBC Sunday School Board

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP)—The strangest part about the May 1 wedding of Ruddy Taylor and Devron "Ronnie" Watson is not that he took her last name.

That's just one eccentricity of this touching love story that has a ring of Tinsel Town.

The couple was married at the conclusion of the April 29-May 1 Spring Festival of Marriage in Anchorage just after 225 other couples had renewed their vows in a closing candle-light service. It was the first wedding conducted in the 15-year history of Festivals of Marriage sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Ruddy Taylor, wearing a wedding gown for the first time, walked the aisle in a Hilton Hotel meeting room and took Ronnie as her husband—for the second time.

"In our first marriage, we took my last name, and it didn't work," said Watson, who had completed a jail sentence for assault just three days before the wedding. "We are starting all over with a totally new format. We are building from the ground up."

The new wedding bands the couple exchanged have a cross on them. They will wear those on their right hands and the original bands on their left hands, Taylor said.

"We believe that the two bands will provide an opportunity to witness to others as they ask questions about them," she said. "We desire to share our testimony of restoration as well as the fact that God is truly the head of our lives."

The Taylors had been married seven years before an Alaskan judge in 1991 granted them a dissolution—a kinder term for divorce between spouses who have no children or property to divide.

Taylor and Watson name two very different reasons for the split up.

He says he was losing mental and emotional ground as problems of abuse in his childhood surfaced. She says it was because he found another woman shortly after the separation.

Watson said he is unsure what triggered the painful memory of his abusive past. But in 1990, he went home to Texas to talk about it with his parents. His mother was unwilling to talk to him, evading his questions. She also kept him from his father.

Watson said the grief that followed that "betrayal" sent him into a tailspin. That's when he left Taylor, moved to another apartment and eventually began dating another woman.

Three or four months into the relationship, Watson said he wanted out, but his new girlfriend did not want to let him go. Finally, after 10 months, he left her. She retaliated by calling the police and accusing him of sexually assaulting and beating her.

Watson maintains his innocence. The evidence against him was flimsy at best, he claimed. But he received a charge of third-degree assault and a sentence of three years. The sexual assault charges were dropped, and he served 14 months in an Anchorage-area jail.

There, Watson said, is where he found new life.

"So many good things happened to me in jail that I had mixed emotions about leaving," he said. "My

Father utilized that time by putting me aside and working on me.

"When I was put in jail, I truly did not view myself as being arrested, but instead I viewed myself as being rescued."

At 30, Taylor, who has been a Christian since 1982, calls herself a religious woman. In their first marriage, she wanted from Watson someone equally devoted to God. But she said she noticed they weren't "growing together spiritually" and they were not communicating.

"Ronnie was inconsistent in his church attendance, and our communication was breaking down," she said. Within his first few days in jail, Watson's cellmate led him back to the Bible and to God.

It wasn't long before Watson was leading other inmates to God. "During jail, I ministered to a lot of people. My Father had initiated within me a Bible study program and 65 people came." Fifty-six of those remained faithful to the program, he said.

Taylor visited Watson for the first time in June 1992, five months into his incarceration, to tell him she was going to Haiti to perform summer missionary work.

"When he agreed to pray with me, that's when I knew our spirits had met," said Taylor, who remained in contact with Watson after that. Eventually, they agreed to remarry.

Taylor had attended a home missions conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center in the summer of 1993 and found a brochure offering a Spring Festival of Marriage at the conference center in April 1994.

"I asked Ronnie if he wanted to go,



but he said it was too expensive," she said. "Then in January of this year, I saw an advertisement in the Anchorage newspaper that a Spring Festival was going to be here.

"When I saw that it was going to start three days after Ronnie would be released, I knew it was God."

When they asked local Spring Festival task force members if a licensed minister would be available to marry them there, the original answer was no. But Herb Cotton, one of the workshop leaders and a member of the task force, agreed to secure from state officials the one-day license he needed to marry the couple.

Both Watson and Taylor agree God was working in their lives to bring them together again as a devout Christian couple.

Watson said he was thankful Taylor never "gave up on me nor on her belief that Jesus had a plan for her and me. From this experience I will share with other couples to communicate. Never stop communicating."

SECOND CHANCE Newlyweds Ruddy and Ronnie Taylor (right) speak with Herb Cotton after their wedding ceremony at the conclusion of a Spring Festival of Marriage in Anchorage, Alaska. The unusual event was requested after the previously married couple agreed to reconciliation. (BP photo by Terri Lackey)

Couple spreads help to teens through tape ministry

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

PERRY, Maine (BP)—In this sleepy little New England town halfway between the equator and the North Pole, it's not uncommon to find Roger and Marge Asselin inside their small business trailer, using a high-speed duplicating machine to make hundreds of copies of audiocassette tapes.

They pack them in envelopes and mail them to people across the country—to a mother in Utah whose daughter is experimenting with drugs or a parent in California concerned about problems in local schools.

The tapes are copies of "The 24-Hour Counselor" audiocassettes produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Counseling resources for youth and their parents, they feature information, advice and support from leading Christian counselors on a number of contemporary issues such as self-esteem, alcohol abuse, suicide, loneliness, teen-age pregnancy, depression and sexual abuse. Churches and individuals are free to duplicate the tapes for use in their own congregation and community after buying a set of master copies from the board.

"These tapes are a wonderful ministry tool; they really work. Kids out

there are hungry for help and the tapes are a good way to help meet their needs," said Asselin, a bivocational minister and founding member of the Bible and Prayer Educational Association, a nondenominational evangelical ministry based in Washington County, Maine.

The Asselins' interest in "The 24-Hour Counselor" was piqued last year when Roger read an article in The New England Baptist newspaper about a youth minister in Mississippi who had placed a display board of the counseling tapes in a local restaurant. Within a short time, the Asselins had a similar board in place at Happy Landings, a family owned seaside restaurant in nearby Eastport.

"It's a good way to give help because it's confidential. The kids can come in, take a tape and leave without being noticed if they want to.

"But I have to be honest," Asselin said. "I really never figured we'd have the results we've had. But once we put up the board, we couldn't keep up with the demand (for tapes)."

Though the amount of cassettes taken each week varies, Asselin said more than 2,300 have been distributed since the board was placed in the restaurant in May 1993. The town has a population of 1,965.

"At first I thought a lot of the kids were just taking the tapes and then re-

corded over them," restaurant owner Marion Brown said. "But then it got a lot more serious. The kids started asking us if it cost anything to take one and they kept coming back. ... I'm really happy we decided to do this because I feel like they are doing some good."

The tape ministry caught the attention of an Associated Press reporter who was in Eastport earlier this year to work on a story related to the local fishing industry. His story about the counseling tapes appeared in newspapers across the United States.

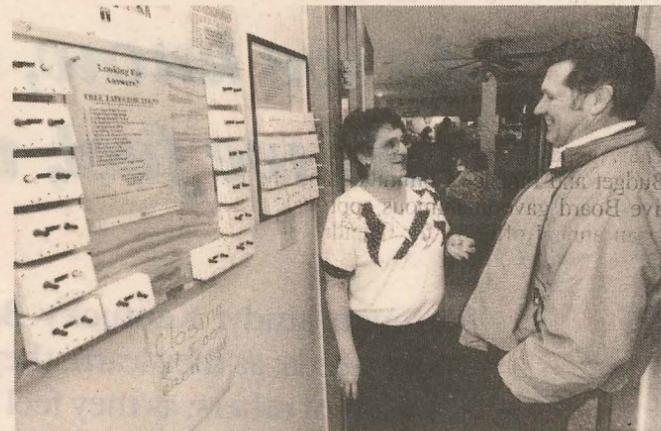
The article quoted an expert in psychology of religion from the University of Denver who agreed the tapes could be a good counseling tool.

"It's very possible they've gotten onto something that has considerable meaning" to listeners, professor Bernard Spilka was quoted as saying. "It certainly sounds creative and different from anything I'm familiar with."

The article also quoted Marye Moreshead of Baring, Maine, who said she found two of The 24-Hour Counselor tapes "extremely helpful" in improving communications with her teen-age son.

"They helped me see that at different times my son was trying to tell me something without coming out and telling me," she said.

As a result of the AP article, the



Asselins received requests for additional information about "The 24-Hour Counselor" tapes from 39 states, from Porterville, Calif., to Stuart, Fla.

The restaurant owner even got a call from Honolulu.

The Asselins are responding, at their own expense, by sending sample tapes and information on how to order master copies from the Sunday School Board and begin a display board ministry.

Based on letters received from the public, they've learned The 24-Hour Counselor tapes are being used in public libraries, campgrounds, day care and community health centers, local schools, grocery stores, shopping malls and restaurants.

CAN WE TALK? Roger Asselin (right) talks with Marion Brown, owner of the restaurant where he and his wife display a set of teen-oriented counseling tapes free for the taking. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Coming Soon to a Church Near You!

State Missions Week of Prayer Materials

In July, every Kentucky Baptist Convention church will receive a sample packet of state missions materials from Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. It will include a poster, bulletin insert, Eliza Broadus envelope and copies of all age-level programs. There will be study material for adults, youth, children and preschoolers. A card for ordering extras of all materials also will be included. If there is WMU in a church, the packet will be sent to the WMU director; if there is not WMU, the packet will be sent to the pastor or church.

State missions work across Kentucky depends strongly on the Eliza Broadus Offering. This year the goal is \$775,000. Only 1199 churches contributed to this offering last year—1093 did not. Just think what would happen if all KBC churches gave to the offering. Over a million dollars could be given for mission work in Kentucky! The study materials support the offering because they inform people about needs in Kentucky.

*As we know, we feel.
As we feel, we do.*

Through study, Kentucky Baptists will learn about needs; as they learn, they will begin to feel the pain of others; as they feel the pain, they will begin to do something to alleviate the pain. Pray, give and get involved personally in ministry.

DARE TO BE A DISCIPLE

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR STATE MISSIONS
SEPTEMBER 11-18

1994 ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING GOAL: \$775,000
OUR CHURCH GOAL: _____

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