


**PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**WESTERN RECORDER**

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**FOR THE RECORD**

**Fellowship challenged**

Members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee last week warned state conventions about links with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and sought information about services provided to the Fellowship by the SBC Annuity Board. See page 2.

**Mohler praised**

Al Mohler's work as president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was praised by members of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee last week. See page 3.

**18th trip**

Second Baptist Church in Greenville may have set a record with their 18th summer missions trip to Miami. See page 3.

**Editorial**

Is the fighting inside the American Christian tent more ruinous than the culture war raging outside? See page 5.

**Gregory speaks**

Joel Gregory has written a new book about his brief tenure as pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas and his reasons for abruptly abdicating the pulpit of what he calls "America's super church." See page 6.



**SMILING SECURITY** Jim Brown (center), a Baptist volunteer from Florida and on-site coordinator for Baptist Rwandan relief efforts in Tanzania, stands guard among a flood of people seeking food. Earlier, young thugs had organized gangs that snatched beans and corn from women and the elderly. The arrival of four Florida Baptist men acting as security guards has stopped the stealing. The Rwandan refugees in Tanzania have identified Baptist volunteers as their friends. (BP photo by Kevin Morley)

**Baptists from U.S. & abroad assist Rwandan refugees**

Baptists from the United States and abroad continue to offer relief ministries to Rwandan refugees settled in camps in neighboring countries.

But Baptists in Zaire, Kenya and Burundi may be ministering at the greatest personal cost.

"Baptist churches in Zaire have not had services for a month because they are full of Rwandese refugees they are serving," said Paul Montacute of the Baptist World Alliance. Montacute returned Sept. 2 from a visit to Kenya and refugee camps in Zaire.

"We have given up our churches and schools," said Mauke Mathe, legal representative of the Baptist Community of Kivu, Zaire. "We have given medicines. No radio or television

have mentioned this. All the pictures showed what the Westerners are doing. Zairians were even shelled, and some died from cholera."

"Churches and homes were flung open to take in refugees as Christian families took up to 20 people per family," said Lyn Lusi, a Zairian school-teacher.

"Food and water were shared, and rich Zairians cut down their fruit and floral trees for the refugees to use as firewood," added her husband, Joe Lusi, a Zairian doctor. "Before the international help arrived, it was the churches who did most of the work in Goma and Bukavu."

Joe Lusi saw firsthand in Rwanda the horror of the war.

On a recent humanitarian visit to  See Baptist volunteers ..., page 7

**Baptists ready to help in Haiti**

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—While the world breathed a sigh of relief after negotiators averted a U.S. invasion of Haiti, Southern Baptists stepped up relief plans to ease the pain inflicted on Haitians by an economic embargo.

Owensboro native David Heady, a missionary with Global Outreach, said the need for humanitarian work is great. He and his wife, Judy, have remained in Haiti during the recent conflict. Southern Baptist-supported personnel had evacuated but now are making plans to return.

"Yesterday in our (medical) clinics, three-fourths of the babies we examined were in states  See Baptists ready ..., page 7

**New SBC president calls for cooperative giving and living**

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

NASHVILLE—It's time for the Southern Baptist Convention to leave behind 15 years of controversy, "hold up our heads again" and rebuild trust for the future, SBC President Jim Henry told members of the SBC Executive Committee Sept. 19.

To rebuild trust, he called on the SBC's elected leaders to focus on cooperation rather than control and to give to the Cooperative Program unified budget rather than just seek to control it.

Henry also said he would take a step to rebuild trust by not hiring an outside parliamentarian for next summer's SBC annual meeting.

"It's time to get off our personal soapboxes that focus on concerns that are important but not primary," said Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla. He said these personal issues often result in "tying the hands" of agency leaders and "keep them in a sense of guerrilla warfare, taxing their creativity and energy, while a lost world could care less."

Henry, whose church is the No. 1 contributor to the SBC Cooperative Program, also challenged fellow conservatives to support with money the missions program they have fought to control.

"For too long, some of us in leadership, or who aspire to leadership, have given lip service," he said. "Our people in the trenches then question if

what we're about is that important.

"We've poured time, energy and resources in defending biblical integrity, and we should. But the question is, 'Why don't we support the vehicle that is our prime delivery system for that same good truth?'"

Henry said this past pattern "smacks of hypocrisy and leaves the faithful in the pews uncertain."

He said the Cooperative Program is worthy of support because it is "the pot of manna that has fed the most successful underwriting of missions, evangelism, seminary education and church planting in church history."

Henry was elected SBC president last June in a contest with Fred Wolfe, chairman of the Executive Committee and pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist

**Testimony of executed man lives on**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Stephen Nethery was executed by lethal injection four months ago, but his warning to teenagers will live on this week through broadcasts on two Southern Baptist networks.

Nethery's last interview, conducted in prison the day before his May 27 execution, sounds a somber warning about forsaking the teaching of godly parents for a life of sin.

The interview will be broadcast on "Close-up and Personal" on FamilyNet Sept. 28 and on the ACTS cable system Oct. 6. It will be simulcast on both ACTS and FamilyNet Oct. 5. Check local listings for times.

"This is the chilling story of a young man who had every Christian advantage, took the wrong road, then came to know Christ. I wish every young person in America could see and hear Stephen Nethery's testimony prior to his death," said Jack Johnson, president of the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission.

Nethery never denied killing Dallas police officer J.D. McCarty in February 1981. Instead, he expressed guilt and remorse for what happened. He became a Christian five months after the murder.

By his own account, at age 19 he and a drinking buddy left Soddy-Daisy, Tenn., to find "the good life" in the big city. They ended up in Dallas on a year and a half spree of drugs, alcohol, girls and robbery.

Nethery and a young woman were parked near White Rock Lake in Dallas when they were interrupted by Officer McCarty, told to get dressed and go home. As the policeman was returning to his patrol car, something snapped in Nethery's mind, he said. He got out of his car and started shooting wildly.

McCarty died from a bullet wound to his head. Nethery was convicted and given the death penalty.

McCarty said he fell into a life of  See Executed killer ..., page 8

Moving? See page 4 (0927)

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **Bob Melvin**, pastor of Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Va., has been elected president of Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. The organization of Virginia Baptists sympathetic with the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative turn also adopted a \$105,000 budget during their Sept. 15 meeting. Fifty-five percent of the budget will fund missions projects. About 30 percent of the budget will facilitate the work of Howard Baldwin, the group's executive director.

■ **A committee** studying what constitutes membership in the Georgia Baptist Convention has affirmed the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program as the state's "principle channel" of missions funding but recommends that churches which defund SBC programs should not be penalized in the state convention. The report of the Committee to Study Harmony and Cooperation will report to the state convention's annual meeting Nov. 14-16 in Macon, Ga.

## Executive Committee targets Fellowship, warns states

By **Mark Wingfield**  
News Director

NASHVILLE—The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee continued to express its concerns about the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship last week, launching an investigation into services the SBC Annuity Board is providing for Fellowship employees and advising state conventions not to process contributions to the Fellowship.

Some concern regarding the Fellowship has surfaced in most recent Executive Committee meetings.

The Fellowship is a group of moderate Southern Baptists who say they have been disenfranchised by the SBC's conservative leadership. Although Fellowship supporters generally view themselves as loyal Southern Baptists, most of the SBC's current leadership see things differently.

Because the Fellowship now processes several million dollars in missions contributions outside the SBC Cooperative Program, Executive Committee leaders have branded the Fellowship as a competing denomination. And last June, messengers to the SBC annual meeting directed SBC agencies and institutions to stop ac-

cepting contributions sent through the Fellowship rather than through the Executive Committee.

One current concern of some Executive Committee members is that the Annuity Board provides services to Fellowship employees. The Annuity Board executed a contract to serve the Fellowship several years ago.

The Annuity Board also serves employees of other non-SBC supported entities which have close ties to SBC churches. Among these are Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., and Criswell College in Dallas.

During their Sept. 19-21 meeting in Nashville, the Executive Committee passed a motion requesting that the Annuity Board provide "a written report of all contracts with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship" by February 1995.

The issue was discussed at length in a subcommittee session in which news reporting is restricted. The motion passed without discussion in the plenary session, which is considered on the record.

No immediate indication was available as to whether the Annuity Board would—or even legally could—comply with the Executive

Committee's request.

In a related action, the Executive Committee passed a resolution on the "historical" partnership between state conventions and the SBC through Cooperative Program giving. The resolution speaks to state conventions that have redefined or are considering redefining Cooperative Program giving to include outside causes such as the Fellowship.

"At no time in our Baptist past has Cooperative Program money been used to fund organizations having no accountability to state conventions or the Southern Baptist Convention," the resolution states.

The resolution requests that any state conventions "considering a departure from this God-given and time-honored approach to funding a world mission strategy" should "inform their constituents of the variances of theology and doctrine being embraced and espoused by some groups identifying themselves as Southern Baptists."

The printed resolution was accompanied by several handouts, including a sheet titled "Departures: CBF Leadership." This one-page paper highlighted brief excerpts from comments made by five individuals identified as

supportive of the Fellowship. The comments, which are not set in any context, date from 1962 to 1994.

"Though the CBF declines to publish a list of doctrinal commitments, individual members have stated theirs through the years," the paper says. "In many cases, such statements differ significantly from the doctrinal commitments of the Southern Baptist Convention."

David Wilkinson, communications coordinator for the Fellowship, dismissed the Executive Committee's charges as "the same old stuff that I think Southern Baptists are sick and tired of hearing about—false accusations, innuendos, exaggerated statements and unsubstantiated claims."

"The operative assumption for those who now control the Southern Baptist Convention seems to be: If you say it loud enough and pile it deep enough, sooner or later it somehow becomes believable," Wilkinson continued. "State conventions, local congregations and individual Baptist Christians are free under God to decide for themselves whom they will support and with whom they choose to cooperate."

With additional reporting from Associated Baptist Press

## Changes urged in Annuity Board policy on 'abortion stocks'

By **Mark Wingfield**  
News Director

NASHVILLE—The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee delved into a policy statement of the SBC Annuity Board last week, suggesting new wording related to abortion concerns.

This is believed to be the first time the Executive Committee has attempted to rewrite another agency's internal policies. The Annuity Board has its own governing board, elected by SBC messengers the same way Executive Committee members are elected.

That distinction was not lost on Annuity Board President Paul Powell, who said: "We have an invest-

ment policy, and the Annuity Board will set that policy. You will not."

However, Powell said the Annuity Board is sympathetic to the concerns expressed by Executive Committee members and will do its best to accommodate them.

Richard Scott, chairman of Annuity Board trustees, told the Executive Committee he could not speak for the trustee board but did not perceive a problem with the intent of the Executive Committee proposal. "We feel about it the same way you feel about it," he said.

The Sept. 19 action was the fourth time in a year for the Executive Committee to wrestle with the Annuity Board's policy on abortion-related investments.

The motion "respectfully requests" the Annuity Board to revise its guidelines to prohibit investment in companies with connections to the "abortion industry."

Current guidelines forbid the Annuity Board from investing in "any company that is publicly recognized ... as being in the liquor, tobacco, gambling and pornography industries" or "whose products, services or activities are publicly recognized as being incompatible with the moral and ethical posture" of the Annuity Board.

The Executive Committee action requests the Annuity Board to add abortion to the list of banned industries in the first clause and that "contributions" be substituted for "activities" in the latter.

In past meetings, Executive Committee members have voiced concern to Annuity Board leaders about companies which contribute to Planned Parenthood, which they consider an abortion provider. Annuity Board representatives respond it is hard to implement such a ban, because almost every company participates in locally run United Way and similar programs, which may in some cases include funding for abortion-related services.

Likewise, Scott explained, many major corporations give local managers control over some portion of the corporation's charitable contributions.

With additional reporting from Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

## SBC motions heard & declined

NASHVILLE—Motions referred to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee by messengers to last June's SBC annual meeting were acted on Sept. 19-20 in this way:

■ Declined to recommend an official study review and updating of the Baptist Faith and Message.

■ Deferred action on a request to create a standing committee to act as liaison for Christian schools affiliated with SBC churches. The Executive Committee requested further input from the Sunday School Board and the study committee currently examining SBC programs and structures.

■ Declined to study possible procedures that would allow voting by people other than registered messengers in attendance at SBC annual meetings.

■ Declined to recommend amending SBC Bylaw 16 to exclude from election to the committee on nominations a person who is the spouse of

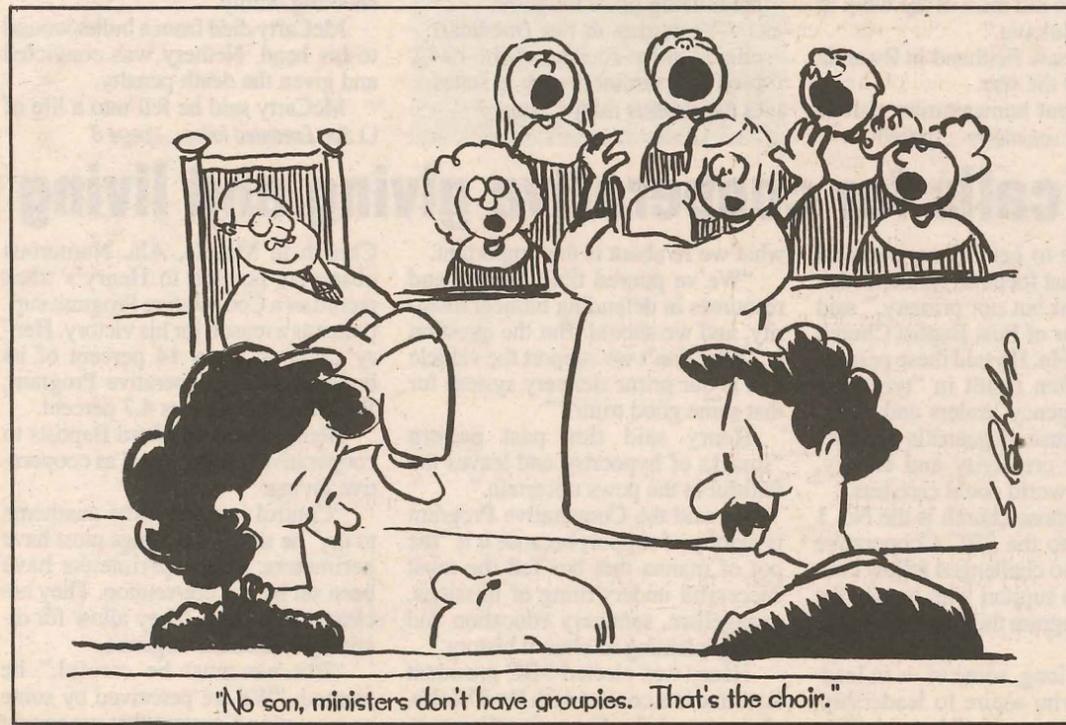
someone employed full time by a church or denominational entity.

■ Declined to recommend amending SBC Bylaw 21 to allow two members of the SBC committee on committees to be appointed by the presidents of state conventions.

■ Declined to recommend prohibiting the committee on committees, committee on nominations and the committee on order of business from nominating people who are from the families, churches or places of employment of the members of the respective committees making the nominations.

■ Declined to recommend a revision of the SBC Constitution to allow for removal of a trustee by a simple majority vote of the convention.

■ Declined to recommend a revision of the SBC Constitution to restrict mission boards from asking missionary applicants questions about inerrancy.



"No son, ministers don't have groupies. That's the choir."

## Mohler lauded for leadership of seminary

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

NASHVILLE—The president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was lauded by members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee last week for his leadership of the Kentucky school.

Immediately after President Al Mohler made his report to the Executive Committee Sept. 20, James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga., offered a resolution of support for Mohler. Committee members enthusiastically endorsed the resolution.

Although not citing the situation by name, Merritt alluded to Mohler's role in gaining the resignation of Molly Marshall, associate professor of Christian theology. Marshall, long a target of conservative critics, recently announced she would resign from the faculty rather than fight an attempt by Mohler and seminary trustees to fire her.

The Executive Committee motion praised Mohler for his "demonstrated statesmanship," "sensitivity" and "servant leadership." It further lauded Mohler for his "sense of responsibility that Southern Baptist institutions maintain confessional integrity."

Mohler had declared that Marshall's teachings fell outside the boundaries of the seminary's confessional statement, the Abstract of Principles. Marshall denies the charge. A major focus of Mohler's first year as president has been on interpreting and applying the Abstract.

Merritt, who holds two degrees from Southern Seminary, said Mohler's work as president had made him proud to be a Southern graduate for the first time. He especially praised Mohler for leading the seminary to produce students "who believe the Bible is the inerrant word of God."

That was not found at the seminary when he was a student there, Merritt said, recalling that his first Old Testament professor at Southern had said of Merritt's belief in inerrancy: "If you stay here long enough, you'll get over it."

In his report to the Executive Committee, Mohler said this is a time of testing for Southern and all theological schools. It is a time when schools are moving either away from the churches or closer to the churches, he said. And it is a time when schools are standing either with the truth or against the truth, he added.

"Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to stand with you as a denomination," Mohler pledged. "We will stand with the gospel."

## Greenville group takes 18th trip to Miami

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

GREENVILLE—Second Baptist Church in Greenville may hold the record for the longest-running short-term mission project among Southern Baptist churches.

For each of the last 18 summers, 15 to 40 youth and adults from the Kentucky church have spent a week ministering to inner-city children and others in Miami.

Although the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board does not keep records on every church group's years of mission projects, "I do not know of any other consecutive streak like that," said Elmer Goble, director of the HMB volunteer projects department. "It could be that this is a record."

"In terms of a group going to the same place every year, that's quite an amazing thing," he said.

Whether it's a record or not, the 18-year stint has enabled two generations of volunteers to reach out to two generations of street-tough Miami children, offering them a safe haven in Jesus Christ.

Two laypeople at Second Baptist, Greeba London and Shirley Rowe, have coordinated the trip each year. London owns a home in Boca Raton, Fla., just outside Miami. Team members usually take sleeping bags and use London's home as a headquarters, she said.

"It's always a good fellowship time," London explained. "It gives us time to work on Bible studies and crafts together in groups."

For many years, Second Baptist Church shouldered the financial responsibility for each member of the mission team, London said. More recently, individuals have paid their own way.

For the last two or three years, the trip has included members of several churches in the Lexington area, Lon-

don said.

London credits two retired HMB missionaries for a great deal of progress in Baptist work in Miami. Rosa Lee Franks and Mildred Womack directed the Little River Weekday Mission for 45 and 40 years, respectively. They stayed on 10 years after retirement, continuing the ministry until last month, when they "re-retired" to Tennessee.

"The Lord just kept keeping us there," the women explained. "We wanted to feel useful, and we think we were."

They certainly won the hearts of the Kentuckians, who kept coming back year after year to assist with vacation Bible schools, nursing home ministry and other services coordinated by the missionaries.

"We have formed a friendship with those two missionary ladies," Rowe responded. "They are like family to us now."

Franks and Womack characterized the Kentucky teams as congenial, prayerful groups that worked well together.

The missionaries supervised many mission teams. But each summer, they said, area children consistently asked, "Are those Kentucky people coming again?"

Many of the children who attended the mission Bible school have grown up in Miami's high-crime areas and drug centers, London said. "They are predominantly poor, and live in public housing."

"One family lived on the sixth or seventh floor of a building, and their children couldn't even come down the stairwells without assistance," she said. "The only place they had to play was an 8-by-10 foot balcony."

"You want to go out and save the world," she added. "We often left crying because of the tremendous needs. It was like scratching the very top surface."

London acknowledged that the team's impact, even over 18 years, was limited. "You couldn't have a lot of impact other than to bring about a habit and desire to come to church."

However, churches the teams helped reported increases in Sunday school attendance. "And there have been quite a few decisions each year," London said.

The team's effectiveness was reinforced during one of the most recent trips to Miami, when a young boy attended VBS. Missionaries Franks and Womack explained that the boy came because his father had attended the group's VBS years ago and remembered the impression it made.

"We were entering our second generation of ministry," London said.

Since Franks and Womack now have retired from Miami, the future of Second Baptist's annual trek there is uncertain, London said.

Although the church has begun to look at other possibilities for summer mission trips, London said, Miami experiences will remain with them. "It saddens me to think that maybe this year will be the last."

**MIAMI MISSION** Marla Fox (back right) of Second Baptist Church in Greenville poses with children in a crafts class she led in Miami this summer—the 18th summer for volunteers from the Greenville church to minister in Miami.



## Prayer can make a difference, Hunt says

By Suzanne Darland  
State Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN—Prayer makes the difference between countries like Korea, where spiritual revival is booming, and America, where morality is declining, according to T.W. Hunt.

Hunt, prayer specialist with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, spoke at two Kentucky prayer rallies last week in preparation for the 1995 "Here's Hope" simultaneous witnessing effort. Hunt also is author of the "Mind of Christ" series.

He told about 80 people gathered at Severns Valley Baptist Church Sept. 20 that daily 5 a.m. prayer meetings in Korean Baptist churches are packed, yet Baptist churches in America can't even draw a crowd for Wednesday evening prayer services.

"Prayer costs," he said. "And we're not willing to pay the cost."

Hunt said many Americans have a mistaken idea about prayer, that its purpose should be solely to praise and worship God.

But a computer-aided study of Scriptures he did revealed that far

more praying in the Bible has to do with asking God for something than with praise and worship. Jesus depended on prayer and spent much of his time teaching his disciples how to pray, Hunt said.

"If the God of the universe, come to earth in human form, must pray, what about us?" he asked.

Hunt urged the group gathered at Severns Valley Church on both Sept. 19 and 20 to pray earnestly for revival in anticipation of the "Here's Hope" emphasis.

"Pentecost came when a little band of believers got together and prayed," he noted. "This is the way God works."

The 1995 witnessing effort, called "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," asks church members to commit to share their faith 60 times in 60 days, from Jan. 9 to March 9, 1995.

Sunday, Oct. 2, is a nationwide commitment day when pastors are asked to commit to the project. On the next Sunday, Oct. 9., church members are to commit to participate. The early commitment dates have been set to allow time for witness training.

"We need to sow America again

with the gospel," said Bill Jagers, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism office. "We're still reaping the results of sowing the gospel in the 1940s and '50s, but we've not been as faithful to do that more recently."

"Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now." is the first simultaneous Southern Baptist effort focused on personal evangelism. Previous "Here's Hope" emphases in 1990 and 1985 focused on simultaneous revivals.

Jagers said the prayer rally at Severns Valley Church could be a model for similar gatherings in churches and associations. All but three of the 77 associations affiliated with the KBC plan to participate in "Here's Hope," he said.

Jagers said he hopes the equivalent of 10 percent of each church's Sunday school enrollment will commit to participate.

After the 60-day emphasis is over, church members are encouraged to make witnessing a lifestyle, he said. And churches are asked to plan revivals for spring and early summer to harvest the seeds sown during the witnessing blitz.

# OPINION

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Help schools

As a veteran of 42 years in public education, I am grateful for Jim Holladay's Point/Counterpoint article (WR, Aug. 30) in defense of public schools.

In our multi-ethnic society, it is important that religious training be emphasized in the home and church. After all, even Baptists vary from fundamentalists to moderates.

All of us need to appreciate the fact early Baptists in America paid dearly for our religious freedom. They were our early leaders in the provision of our First Amendment to the Constitution and the very important provision relating to the separation of church and state. Early American Baptists were instrumental in these constitutional provisions.

Fortunately, Americans have the freedom to have private and parochial schools. To exercise that freedom, patrons must support them financially.

We Baptists should support our public schools. Few of us could or can afford a private or parochial education. We need to avoid trends toward elitism and racism which seem to motivate at least some of our good friends toward the creation of more and more parochial schools.

Some of the most devoted Christians I have known have been and are still active in the teaching and administration of our public schools.

Public, private and parochial schools are expensive to establish, operate and maintain. It is my hope that the establishment of church-related schools will not adversely affect our church budgets and mission programs. Today, as never before, our public schools need the support and full participation of all Baptists.

*Ted C. Gilbert  
Lexington*

## Faith assumptions

Mormon leader Joseph Smith claimed the books of the Bible were authoritative "insofar as they have been accurately translated from the original manuscripts." Thereby he initiated doubts that translations are trustworthy.

Many Southern Baptist leaders likewise guarantee only that the original Bible documents are "inerrant," thus agreeing with Smith that our translated Bibles are not trustworthy.

Arguments about inerrancy are Mormon, not Baptist. In degrading our Bibles, they splinter the body of Christ.

Other people today, including many Bible scholars, take a "reductionist" position, disregarding this or that section or story in the gospels as scientifically unproven or unlikely. Yet science is filled with concepts never absolutely proven.

The door to continuing spiritual progress relies on an assumption that both original documents and today's translated four gospels have been written by honest persons with access to facts and loyalty to truth in their writing. Experience and study lead us to assign dependability to the gospels as conviction grows that both great translators and original writers have been guided by the Holy Spirit.

On this basis as in the early church, children as well as men and women can build lives that increase faith, love and great hope, with the presence and encouragement of our Father's Holy Spirit, as promised by the Master Teacher of Life, Jesus Christ.

Those who never venture into an assumption make no progress in either science or faith. They live and die by questions, the deepest being unanswerable mental games, not spiritual food.

*Lewis V. Spencer  
Hopkinsville*

## Critical choice

The Point/Counterpoint articles examining public versus Christian education (WR, Aug. 30) were timely. Parents are increasingly being drawn into this debate as they experience outcome-based education now mandated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act. Kentucky parents are discovering an alarming curriculum containing secular humanism, lower academic standards and few beneficial changes.

I witnessed KERA's damaging academic and spiritual effects for more than one year through my own child. We have since made the transition to a private Christian school. Christian education has not been a retreat from the "real world" as some charge. Our school is both ethnically and economically diverse. Children there are from two-parent, single-parent and blended families. Some are Christians; others are not. Negative influences are still encountered. The crucial differences are high academic standards, spiritual training and committed parents.

During the past 30 years, public education has become a hostile environment for Christian families. Yet, as pointed out, the children are seldom the purveyors of spiritual principles in this atmosphere. More often, their own moral values become corrupted. Christian teachers and staff are the keys even while struggling with overwhelming restrictions. Parental involvement also is a necessity. Unfortunately, many already express disappointment as their influence is thwarted by a state-mandated system.

The choice of public, private, Christian or home schooling is critical. It is a decision best made with fervent prayer and a commitment to battle for the minds and souls of our children.

*Peg Poynter Jones  
Corbin*

## BAPTIST FORUM

## The making of a day

Something happened the other night that I must tell about.

Our three-and-a-half-year-old grandson, Marshall, has begun spending nights with us. No hassle. No crying. No extra hugging his mom and dad goodbye. Just get in "Grandmutter's car," climb into his car seat, strap him in, and we are out of there, reading numbers on the speed limit signs along the way.

Barely able to see over the dashboard, he calls out the colors of the cars we pass along the way; knows the difference between the "backhoe" and the "bulldozer" still active in our almost-full subdivision; tells me which way to turn to get to our house.

Inside, he makes for the cupboard where the jelly beans are, approved in advance by his mom and dad. He counts them—five—then slowly savors each one until they are gone. Sitting at the kitchen table, he looks at Grandmother and asks, "More?"

"No, Marshall, that's all for tonight."

Without a fuss, he heads for the stack of books beneath the lamp table in the family room, pulls out the big "ABC" book and the "bird" book, his current favorites.

It's past his bed time, so we take the books upstairs to read after his bath. The innocence of a 3-year old bather is a fresh visit with the Creator. No wonder grandparents, especially, want to freeze-frame those precious moments. It's one thing, when you're 29 and have moments (or days) when you can't wait for the children to grow up. It's quite another to be past 60 and know that when they grow up you'll be pushing 80! I refuse to apologize for wanting

them to stay young as long as possible—especially this innocent, precious, dependent age!

We wash his hair, his limbs; pull him out onto the rug and "hug him dry" through the big, soft towel wrapped around his squirming body. Medicine taken, teeth brushed, we head to the bedroom.

We sit on the bed, waiting for his usual word for Grandmother to read to him. We're both surprised. He

wants Granddaddy to read tonight, but he asks me not to make the loud noise that I make when I come to the picture of the "Tasmanian Devil" (big pig) in the ABC book. I promise. Next I read the bird book, the one he usually asks me to read when Grandmother has finished the ABC book.

We go through the birds for the umpteenth time, and he rubs his sleepy eyes.

"OK, Marshall, time for Bible stories." Without fail, Grandmother has been his choice for this, with Granddaddy kneeling on the side of the bed. "I want Granddaddy to read," he said.

Alice look surprised. Disappointed? I try not to laugh out loud. He turns the pages; I read. Finally, he grows more interested in the page numbers, and we call it quits.

We pray; he squirms and turns. I peek and see his eyes open, then close. Amen comes soon. He lets me kiss his eyes shut just as his mother once did; we both kiss him goodnight, and the lights go out. Grandmother stays beside him until he sleeps.

How do you tell a three-and-a-half-year-old that he made your day?

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



## FAMILY FORUM: AGING

### Targeting seniors

By John Lepper

Many church leaders wish to be up to date in their methods and programming. They are reaching out to a new generation of folks by developing "seeker-sensitive" worship services.

Churches need to be "seeker sensitive" to older people who have never been part of a church. While we may think of senior adults as churchgoers, the fact is, many are not. A beginning point for outreach would be to consider what mature people value.

American Demographics magazine reports that older people are motivated by five key values. These are: 1) autonomy and self-sufficiency; 2) social and spiritual connectedness; 3) altruism; 4) personal growth; and 5) revitalization (March 1994).

Older people wish to remain autonomous and self-sufficient. Some days now provide weekday programs for this age group. Some are even providing adult day care. Other churches help with transportation. These ministries help facilitate autonomy and self-sufficiency among older people.

Mature people respond to genuine social and spiritual attachment and not superficial hype. While they may desire to be honored, they quickly pick up on patronizing attitudes and actions. Churches have a grand opportunity to help persons of all ages develop deep social and spiritual connectedness.

Older people desire to give something to society. Churches can cater to older people by involving them in the ministries of the church. They desire more than just being recipients of ministry. Wise church leaders will help senior servants channel their talents and resources.

Older adults desire to continue their personal growth and development. Old dogs may have difficulty learning new tricks, but older people continue learning, growing and developing. They often combine leisure with productive pursuits.

Many senior adults are unchurched. Churches who respect the uniqueness of seniors are better able to reach them. These churches pay attention to senior adults by valuing their values.

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

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

# EDITORIALS

## The real enemies are outside, not inside, the tent

Is the fighting inside the American Christian tent more ruinous than the culture war raging outside?

Read the religious monthly magazines; listen to Christian talk radio. You'll quickly learn about the foibles, peccadillos and alleged heresies of almost anybody with a public religious profile. Christianity Today columnist Philip Yancey lists a cadre of conservative Christian leaders wounded by "friendly fire" in recent months: ethicist Tony Campolo, Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson, spiritual discipline writer Richard Foster, the late author C.S. Lewis, broadcaster Karen Mains and New Testament translator Eugene Peterson.

"What bothers me ... is the vicious tone of the attacks, which are often dripping with sarcasm and angry invective," Yancey writes. "Campolo, Colson, Foster, Lewis, Mains, Peterson—are these really the 'enemies' of the kingdom? What has infected the Christian community with such outright meanness?"

In a word, power.

A significant portion of the Christian community has succumbed to the seduction of power. Power permeates the language and currency of our culture. It controls agendas of denominations and political parties. It acquires everything from prestige to material wealth. It even purchases its owners' places in history.

On its face, power is neutral. Noble people have marshaled its forces to spread the gospel and improve the lot of humanity. Conversely, evil villains have manipulated power to propel their victims into the very heart of darkness. Almost without exception, people who acquire power proclaim they will use it for good. Unfortunately, Lord Acton's proverb contains much truth: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

However, power remains attractive because it's eminently effective. Studying the culture war, Georgetown University researcher Leon Hooper notes the rhetoric of the combatants has polarized public discourse, reducing America to a confrontational society in which only power dominates. So, if your words cannot persuade others to adopt your point of view, get out the vote and force them to agree. Or else.

Against this backdrop, two very powerful Southern Baptists recently pleaded for a return to civility and for rehumanizing opponents.

President Bill Clinton sounded that theme to religious leaders Sept. 8. "The values we share are greater than the culture war that divides us," Clinton told the leaders, including some of his sharpest critics. Americans must learn to talk about important social and political issues "without screaming at each other," he said. "We shouldn't demonize our adversaries. ... Why can't people who disagree sit down together and say, 'What does the Bible say about this really?' ... Why can't we find some areas of agreement?"

One of Clinton's guests that day, Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, echoed those remarks last week. Southern Baptists—who have been fragmented by 16 years of denominational conflict—must recommit themselves to dialogue and civility, "talking with and

not shouting at each other," Henry urged. "We have brothers and sisters in Christ who have been unfairly judged and labeled because at some point they did not dot every 'i' nor cross every 't.' This intolerance has burned bridges rather than building them. It has caused anger, hostility and anxiety. This is not in the spirit of Jesus Christ. We must recapture civility again."

Henry's admonition to the SBC applies to the Kentucky Baptist Convention as well. If Kentucky Baptists don't cultivate civility and Christian charity, we will hear three fine pastors disparaged as they await possible election to the KBC presidency. Billy Compton, Bob DeFoor and Bill Hancock deserve better than that, and Kentucky Baptists do too.

Don't believe it can't happen. The Baptist battles have chalked up scores, if not hundreds, of casualties. Devout and godly Christians—moderate and conservative alike—have had reputations ruined by malicious rumoring. Friendships have ruptured. Glad hearts have been corroded by the acid of bitterness.

Yancey recalls an old editorial from The Wittenberg Door that illustrates the folly of Christians fearing and fighting each other.

The editorial described a Cub Scout camping trip in the woods of California, Yancey reports: "After swapping stories of the ferocious Scout-eating 'Bigfoot' that roamed the forest, the boys finally retired into a crowded 10-person tent at 3 a.m. One boy awoke with a full bladder a few hours later and fumbled his way toward the tent flap, but he was too scared to open the flap and step outdoors. The next morning, the other boys awoke to find their sleeping bags soaked in urine. The boy was so scared of the enemy outside that he ended up soiling his neighbors. ... Has our increasingly violent and pagan society so frightened us that we have forgotten the real enemies are outside, not inside, the tent?"

Marv Knox

## Look for positives in a negative world

A man once bought a hunting dog for a high price after seeing it walk out across the surface of a lake to retrieve a duck at his master's command. The man took a friend out to another lake, and the dog performed the same feat.

After the dog had walked out across the water and retrieved the duck and dropped it at his feet, the man turned to his friend and proudly asked, "Notice anything unusual about that animal?"

His friend paused for a moment and then frowned, "Well, now that you mention it; yes, that dog can't swim."

Many people are like that man. Rather than focus on all the wonderful things God is doing around them, they look for something negative to say.

As children of God who have had our sins forgiven, and who have been indwelt by God's Holy Spirit, we, of all people, should be praising the Lord for all the positive things God is doing in our world. In a world where it's so easy to focus on the negative, why not try looking for something positive to say to someone this week?

Grover Westover, pastor  
Burton Memorial Baptist Church  
Bowling Green

## MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

## Was she only gone 3 days? It seemed much, much longer than that

We just survived a Mr. Mom weekend, and nobody's worse for the wear.

Every mother/wife deserves time off once in awhile, and Joanna got hers last weekend. She flew the proverbial coop Friday and didn't get home until Sunday evening. By all accounts, she had a grand time. And since she spent most of her waking hours near the second-largest collection of outlet malls in this hemisphere and claims she didn't spend too much money, I'm glad.

By default, Joanna's departure left me in charge of managing our little family for three days. I was nervous at first but began to feel comfortable with the mantle of command after a few hours.

I know, I know: Everything from the

Bible to the U.S. Census Bureau says the husband/father is the head of the household. Don't bait me into a theological debate or call the IRS; we're talking practical, everyday real life here.

And in the real world, mothers head most households. If you don't believe me, take this little test: Who knows everyone's schedules down to the minute? Who can find the appropriate cough medicine for each child in 12 seconds flat? Who can tell which kid started the fight by gazing into several sets

of starry little eyes? Who decides if the budget will accommodate steak or Beenie Weenies? And, most important, who knows how to program the VCR to tape one show while watching another? I rest my case.

With Joanna gone, the biggest challenge was foraging for food.

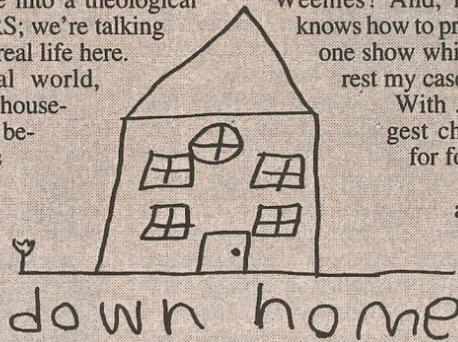
We only ate out once, and that was the typical drive-through dinner, about average for a weekend. Of course, Jo helped us in absentia by leaving chicken spaghetti to reheat. (Don't blast me with those male-won't-cook stereotypes. I

know top chefs are men and don't think it's sissy, but cooking's not my gift. I can clean like a demon though.) We got by for the rest of the meals, with help from a pot-luck dinner at church, for which Lindsay, Molly and I baked brownies. And we never once resorted to grubbing for roots and berries.

We also survived bedtime too. When the girls were younger, they would've cried. But they're older now, and besides that, I kept them up late enough so they just snoozed right off.

A wreck on the interstate held Joanna up several hours. I didn't think I was worried until I realized I glanced at every car that came up the street. I was glad she got to go, but gladder still she came back home.

Marv Knox



# BAPTISTS

## Gregory says megachurches foster 'temptation'

### The gospel according to Gregory:

By Marv Knox  
Editor

■ "A significant minority of the deacons did not want W.A. Criswell to cram his self-appointed successor down their throat. And they were exactly right. They had the prerogative to choose. My own blind ambition prevented me from seeing that at the time."

■ "First Baptist breathes the spirit of old Dallas. Power and money are taken for granted. ... However spiritual an aspirant to that pulpit might have been, it was impossible to separate the church from its setting. Every material security, emolument, perquisite and fetish that a powerful city could offer belonged to the pastor of its biggest church."

■ "... I longed for earlier, simpler days when I would play dominoes with humble folk after Sunday night church, sit on a front porch and crank homemade ice cream with a deacon or crawl around in the attic of the church trying to fix the air conditioning. ... The Baptist world and families from which I had come were in a different world from the one in which I now lived."

■ "To say that First Baptist had a high identity with the Republican Party is to say that fish have a high identity with the ocean. If there were Democrats in the church, they could have gathered in a janitor's closet."

■ "I never met any finer individuals than the Christians at First. ... Yet collectively, the people of First Dallas had created an icon in Criswell, a man whom they venerated to the point of worship. This shot the entire church through with a spiritual vertigo."

FORT WORTH, Texas—Why would a gifted, ambitious preacher walk away from the pinnacle of prestige?

Joel Gregory tries to answer that question in "Too Great a Temptation: The Seductive Power of America's Super Church." His book about why he forsook the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Dallas went on sale last weekend. He says it's his story, but also the story of power and temptation among the nation's hugest churches.

"The stated and actual reason for my departure was the dysfunctional transition with the previous pastor of 48 years, the legendary Dr. W.A. Criswell," Gregory writes. "I had been promised a transition of 'a few months.' After two years, he had announced his intention to remain for two more. I quit."

Gregory, 46, fell far from the peak of Baptist power. Now he sells funerals door-to-door in nearby Fort Worth.

The preacher had far to fall because he climbed so high. His ascent began in 1977, when he became pastor of Gambrell Street Baptist Church, next door to the mammoth Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He became an associate professor of preaching at the seminary in 1982. As a professor, he preached at some of Southern Baptists' largest gatherings. Then, in 1985, he moved to the pastorate of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, the largest church in Fort Worth, his hometown.

From Travis Avenue, Gregory admits, he was seduced by the allure of First Baptist Dallas. With 28,000 members, First Baptist is Southern Baptists' largest church. For almost 100 years, the church has had only two pastors—legendary statesman George Truett, and the already-mythical Criswell.

First Baptist and Criswell practically invented the megachurch. It's a giant congregation with full-service staff, programs and facilities. It has more millionaires than most churches have members. It owns five blocks of downtown Dallas.

The trappings, the opportunity and the sense of destiny seduced Gregory to leave a thriving congregation in his hometown. The glittery brightness of First Baptist blinded him to the perils of accepting a job where his predecessor held on.

"When Eve looked at the apple, she could scarcely have felt more ambivalence than I did in dealing with FBC," he admits. And just like Eve, Gregory bit.

When Gregory arrived, Criswell pledged to stay in the senior post "a few months," the younger minister claims. "It did not occur to me ... that I would be totally misled."

A short transition would be vital, Gregory contends, to chart a new course. The downtown church had lost members to suburban congregations, its facilities were in poor repair, its debt staggering and its direction out of focus, he insists.

### Other theories about Gregory's departure

Joel Gregory claims he quit First Baptist Dallas because Senior Pastor W.A. Criswell thwarted his leadership. Close observers cite other views:

■ **He couldn't relate to people.** "Joel Gregory is not a people's man," says Criswell confidant Jack Pogue. "Joel is a lot like me; he's shy, an introvert. You can't be that way and be pastor of a major church."

■ **He couldn't handle the pressure.** First Baptist isn't just a church. It owns a college, two schools, a radio station, a homeless shelter and mission churches. "Only people who have business ability can do this thing," Pogue says. "He just drowned in it." Gregory acknowledges the job's immensity but says the reason he couldn't lead was Criswell wouldn't get out of the way.

■ **He was depressed.** A Texas Monthly article mirrors the Dallas

resignation with the time he quit an early pastorate due to ministerial burnout, painting him as what Gregory calls an "episodic depressant." He is "mystified" by that view, claiming the writer "made his own interpretation of my life."

■ **He was having an affair.** The Baptist grapevine buzzed with this rumor after he left. Gregory doesn't write about the rumor, although he has denied it vigorously. He writes that he and his first wife, Linda, divorced due to "long-term differences in our understanding of marital roles." But he declines to detail his divorce and remarriage, insisting that would "invade the privacy of others."

■ **It wasn't God's will.** "We chose to go outside the will of God" and should have hired new Pastor O.S. Hawkins to begin with, Pogue says. "In all fairness to Joel, because we were out of the will of God, he didn't have a chance."



W.A. Criswell



Joel Gregory

The pastoral transition would be crucial because a new pastor only has 12 to 18 months to establish leadership, Gregory maintains.

He soon realized a transition of "a few months" wouldn't materialize. After 21 months, Criswell still shared preaching duties and "remained constantly visible at every occasion." Gregory came to believe he had not been hired to lead the church so much as to relieve Criswell's load and allow the patriarch to reach his 50th anniversary at the church this fall.

To make matters worse, Gregory also felt the wrath of Criswell's wife, claiming she used the influence of her large Sunday school class to foment discontent with his leadership.

"Criswell and his wife, Betty, had been undermining me since I set foot in the place," Gregory asserts. Criswell second-guessed his decisions, blocked his complete access to church membership and threatened to "take back" the congregation, he says.

And even though significant numbers of laypeople favored Gregory's pastorate, the aura of Criswell's authority proved impenetrable, he adds.

"I began to see the Catch-22 for what it was," he writes. "The only way for the whole thing to work

would be a voluntary resignation by Criswell. ... The lay leaders would not fire him, and I was not about to sacrifice myself in a no-win situation that would brutalize me, enrage Mrs. Criswell, make W.A. a martyr, raise hell in the church, make headlines in the papers and polarize the entire conservative wing of the 16-million-member denomination.

"The power and glory of pastoring the big kahuna was not worth it to me."

So on Sept. 23, 1992, he quit.

With the book and Criswell's 50th anniversary pending, most First Baptist leaders declined to talk about Gregory's charges or disputed them outright.

"No one's going to say anything (officially) about it," says Tim Hedquist, the church's administrator. "We just don't have any comment."

Ralph Pulley, vice chairman of the search committee that called Gregory, stresses the church's focus is on honoring the Criswells' 50th anniversary and celebrating the first anniversary of its new pastor, O.S. Hawkins.

"All of that is past history," Pulley says of Gregory's assertion that he had to quit because of Criswell's intransigence.

But Criswell himself claims Gregory is wrong.

In a Fort Worth Star-Telegram story, he insists he supported Gregory. "Before God, I did everything in my power to help him before, during and after what happened. I tried everything."

And nobody wshed on a promise that Criswell would move out of Gregory's way "in a few months," says Ken Stohner, secretary of the search committee that brought Gregory to the church.

"The committee itself never discussed that issue and never made that representation to Joel," Stohner says.

"That is a false premise he based his book on," adds Jack Pogue, Criswell's business partner and one of the pastor's closest friends.

Furthermore, Gregory knew the night he resigned that Criswell was on the way out, Pogue adds. He recounts a meeting he had with Gregory shortly before the resignation, in which Gregory enumerated his frustrations with Criswell.

"I said to Joel, 'Let me go talk to Dr. Criswell and tell him about this meeting and tell him how you feel. ... If he knows you want him out, he will be the first to say he should move,'" Pogue says. He insists he had workers lined up to move Criswell from the church office three days after Gregory tendered his resignation and says Gregory knew it.

Gregory says Criswell and his supporters are not telling the truth.

"Dr. Criswell and those around him are giving a revisionist history that people in the pew by the thousands know is not the case," he says in response to his accusers. "They know that there wasn't supposed to be a four-year transition. I never would have gone under those conditions. I knew it would be dicey even trying it for a few months."

He points to a 1989 letter in which Criswell promises to move his office to the church's Criswell College in exchange for a large financial gift, which was made by the H.L. Hunt family. He also notes leaders in the church didn't deny their pledge of a short transition when he met with them a month before his resignation. And he claims Criswell would have validated their assertions the Sunday after the resignation if he had stepped down and moved his office.

"All this is revisionism to protect Criswell's presence, power and position," Gregory charges.

Fourteen months after his resignation, Gregory and his wife, Linda, divorced, citing "long-term differences in our understanding of marital roles." The First Baptist debacle inflicted agony on them and their two sons. Last year, he made \$120,000 less than his salary as First Baptist's pastor. He remarried this summer, but he no longer preaches in huge Baptist venues. He's still looking for a church where he can worship without becoming a spectacle.

But he claims the bungled transition and failed pastorate inflicted the worst injury on First Baptist.

"The loser was not Criswell or Gregory," he writes, "but the good people of the church."

## Baptists ready to help in Haiti

*Continued from page 1*  
of severe malnutrition," Heady said Sept. 16, two days before the arrival of U.S. troops. "We had a 4-year-old in last week who weighed 16 pounds and a 3-year-old yesterday who weighed 12 pounds. The embargo has had a devastating effect on the public."

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and Foreign Mission Board are working to send at least 150 U.S. volunteers to Haiti. First they'll distribute food to hungry Haitians. Additional teams may work in medical care, water well repair, water purification and construction.

Volunteers with disaster relief training who want to volunteer for Haiti projects should call the Brotherhood Commission at (800) 280-1891 or (901) 722-3787.

Financial contributions for the Haiti project may be sent to the human needs department of the Foreign Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230-0767 or to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Baptist volunteers assist Rwandan refugees

*Continued from page 1*  
Rwanda, he operated for five hours in the Kigali hospital on a Tutsi who had been macheted across the forehead. Later, when he asked the nurses how the man was doing, he discovered other nurses had pulled out his tubes and allowed him to die because of his tribal heritage.

Montacute heard many stories of Baptists who had suffered because they put their faith above their tribe. He also heard one as-yet-unconfirmed report of a massacre in a Baptist church. One Tutsi Baptist pastor in Rwanda was killed because he took in a Hutu pastor.

Meanwhile, Southern Baptists are focusing their relief efforts on other segments of the refugees outside the media spotlight.

One of these places is Karagwe, Tanzania, where the 125,000 Rwandan refugees huddled in camps don't even rate a dot on most news maps.

Karagwe is one of two places where Southern Baptists fund and staff relief operations for Rwandan refugees. The other is in high-profile Goma, Zaire, where at least 800,000 refugees battle for survival.

A team of Tanzanian Baptists, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries and volunteers

from the Florida Baptist Convention ministers to a variety of needs in the Karagwe camps.

Southern Baptists aren't just providing tons of beans, corn and cooking oil; they're making sure the food gets to the neediest people.

The vital task of interviewing each refugee and getting accurate information was assigned to Baptist Relief Services by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. The Baptists hired and trained 40 Rwandans who had at least a fourth-grade education. It took several weeks, but everyone in the camp is now documented. When new arrivals clear the reception point, they are recorded too.

The ecological wear-and-tear of refugee camps is immense. Already some people walk more than 15 miles daily to find firewood.

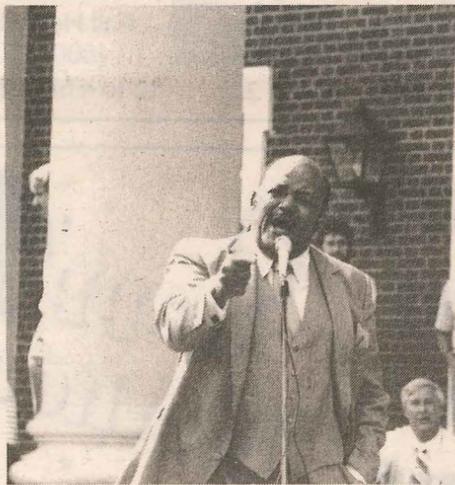
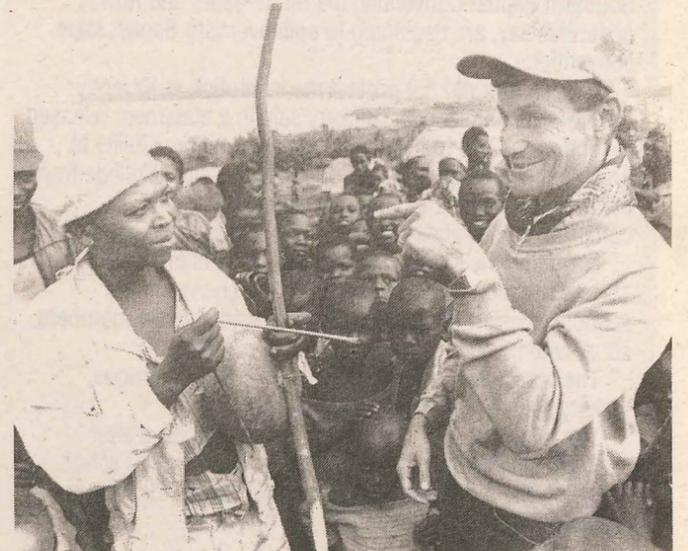
So Baptists sponsored a competition among 10 men to see who could design and build the most efficient stove—using mud from termite hills. The competitors helped pick the winner. Then six men were hired to build two stoves in each camp zone for people identified by the Baptist survey as "at risk" because of age or physical injury.

People were encouraged to come to the demonstration and now thou-

sands of the stoves are in use—burning half the wood of conventional fires.

The UNHCR provides each new arrival with a bottle of high-protein drink and high-protein wafers. Baptists supplement that with water—often the first clean water the refugees have drunk for days. They also organize games to keep children entertained.

*Compiled from Baptist Press reports*



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**BUILDING BRIDGES** Rwandan refugees are always pleasantly shocked when a foreigner speaks their language. And when, like missionary David Hooten (right), that foreigner says he and his family also had to flee their home in Rwanda, bonds are quickly established. Hooten met a traditional singer (left) while visiting a refugee camp in Tanzania. Hooten told his story and a testimony to the power of Jesus Christ, and the singer composed and performed a ballad telling the history of Rwanda's civil war. (BP photo by Kevin Morley)

# PEOPLE

## Mississippi College changes charter

CLINTON, Miss. (ABP)—Trustees of Mississippi College voted Sept. 22 to alter the way trustees are chosen for the Baptist school in Clinton, Miss.

Under an amendment to the school's charter, no longer will the entire board of trustees be elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Instead, a majority of its members will be self-perpetuating.

Trustee Chairman Harry Vickery said the change is not intended to distance the school from the state convention, but to shield it from internecine struggles between conservatives and moderates, which have dominated Southern Baptist Convention life for 15 years and now, observers say, are beginning to spill over into Baptist state conventions.

"Our charter did not protect the institution sufficiently from outside influences," Vickery said in a statement released to reporters. "The trustees felt it was our responsibility to provide the necessary insulation for Mississippi College from the potential actions of various factions that could compromise our ability to serve all Baptists."

Formerly, the Mississippi Baptist Convention elected the 15-member board of trustees. With the change in the school's charter, the board will be expanded to 24 members, six of whom will be selected by the convention.

The vote approving the change was not unanimous, Vickery said, but "an overwhelming majority."

The Mississippi College action came nine days after Samford University's board of trustees took similar action, declaring the Birmingham, Ala., school independent from the Alabama Baptist Convention.

## Executed killer will speak beyond the grave

Continued from page 1

sin despite the Christian influence of his parents, members of Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church in Soddy Daisey.

"My parents tried very hard," he said. "I would come in at 1 ... 2 o'clock in the morning ... and sometimes my mother would be kneeling at the couch praying for me."

"I had every break in the world. We didn't come from a poverty-ridden family or ghetto or anything like that, where you could understand if anything went wrong. I had no good excuses. I had everything I needed. I had love and support ... a family. They took me to church and they tried to teach values to me. I just rebelled from an early age."

Nethery's family spent execution eve at "Hospitality House," a lodge operated by Texas Baptist Men for families visiting prison inmates in the Huntsville, Texas, area.

In contrast to the gloomy mood of his family, Nethery seemed upbeat the day prior to his execution. He said he had been comforted by the "peace and joy of Christ."

"Except for a few moments of anxiety or doubt, I've been ... it's been kind of indescribable ... been incredible, really ... a peace and joy. And I've received a lot of support from family

and from friends."

Nethery said that even though he had claimed God's forgiveness, he still felt guilt for taking McCarty's life and for all the suffering of the victim's family.

"As soon as I think about the victim's family," he said, "how they would feel, it just makes me feel bad because I've put them through a lot."

Nethery, who received two stays of execution during his 13 years of incarceration, was asked if he had requested God to save him from death.

"No, no," he said. "I've probably, in the last few days, been tempted to. But I feel like even if I did ask, or even if I didn't, if it's God's will for me to stay here for some reason, then I'm going to be here. Maybe he has somebody I need to preach to. Or witness to. Maybe to comfort my family. Or who knows what."

"I still feel like I've felt for years ... that it would be like a selfish request ... because I don't really want to concentrate on my life at all."

Nethery also said he had no quarrel with the death penalty. "It really is

amazing to me how Bible scholars can read the same Bible that I read and say that God is totally against the death penalty," he said.

Asked what advice he would give young people, Nethery said: "Well, I feel like the most important thing in life is to have that personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. And above anything, to make sure you have that intimacy."

Videotapes of the Nethery program may be purchased from the Radio & Television Commission by calling (817) 737-4011.

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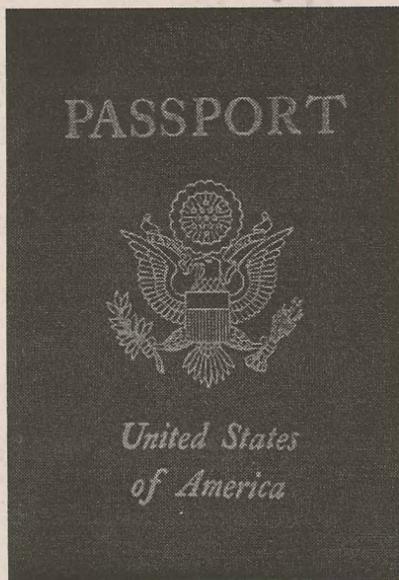


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# BAPTISTS

## New SBC president calls for cooperative giving and living

Continued from page 1  
to loose ourselves from some years ago, and it's not selling well on Main Street."

Trust has been the secret ingredient to the SBC's success, Henry said. "And you trust only that which you cannot control."

This trust is so deep that only "a few hundred" Southern Baptist churches out of 39,000 have "opted out" as a result of the controversy, he said.

"But many churches stand on the brink. They're committed to Christ, his church and our conviction, enunciated in the Baptist Faith and Mes-

sage and the Peace Committee report, but they desire more openness, more of an opportunity to participate and know that they're heard. We must see that that trust is earned again and kept."

This kind of recommitment to trust must "find us talking with and not shouting at each other," Henry explained. "We have brothers and sisters in Christ who have been unfairly judged and labeled because at some point they did not dot every 'i' nor cross every 't.' This intolerance has burned bridges rather than building them. It has caused anger, hostility and anxiety. This is not in the spirit of

Jesus Christ. We must recapture civility again."

As one step toward rebuilding trust in the SBC, Henry announced all parliamentarians serving next summer's annual meeting in Atlanta will be Southern Baptists.

Barry McCarty, a Church of Christ minister and professional parliamentarian, has been the chief adviser on procedural rules during every annual meeting since 1986. Moderates have assailed both the expense of McCarty's contracts and their perception that he has empowered some presidents to run roughshod over motions not favored by the SBC's conservative powerbrokers.

Henry based his message on Jeremiah 29:11-13, which says God has plans for his people to prosper and to have a hope and future.

In the first three months of his presidency, Henry said, he has received nearly 1,000 letters from Southern Baptists. He said a common theme of those letters is the question, "Is there any hope?"

"We do have a hope and a future," he declared, calling on Southern Baptists to remember, recommit and refocus.

Two Kentuckians on the Executive Committee said they deeply appreciated Henry's message.

C.C. Brasher, pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton, said he appreciated Henry's call for increased support of the Cooperative Program. Brasher's church has been a consistent leader among Kentucky churches in Cooperative Program support.

Terry Norris, minister of music at Sorgho Baptist Church in Owensboro, said he liked Henry's "spirit of cooperation and wanting to get on with God's work."

"It takes a boldness to come out and say that, and I really appreciate it. Certain issues have been addressed, and now it's time to get on with God's work," Norris said.

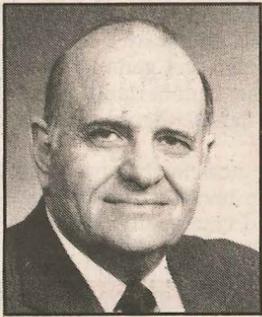
**"We have brothers and sisters in Christ who have been unfairly judged and labeled because at some point they did not dot every 'i' nor cross every 't.' This intolerance has burned bridges rather than building them. It has caused anger, hostility and anxiety. This is not in the spirit of Jesus Christ."**

*SBC President Jim Henry*

*You are cordially invited to Revival Services at Buechel Park Baptist Church with ...*  
**Keith Parks & Craig Loscalzo**

(Oct. 9, 10:45 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.)

(Oct. 10-12, 7:00 p.m.)



*Also ...*  
Reception for Parks  
Oct. 9, 5:00 p.m.  
In Fellowship Hall

Buechel Park  
is located at  
2403 Hikes Lane  
Louisville, Ky.  
(2 blocks east of  
Bardstown Road)



### HOME COMING

October 9, 1994

Celebrating 35 years

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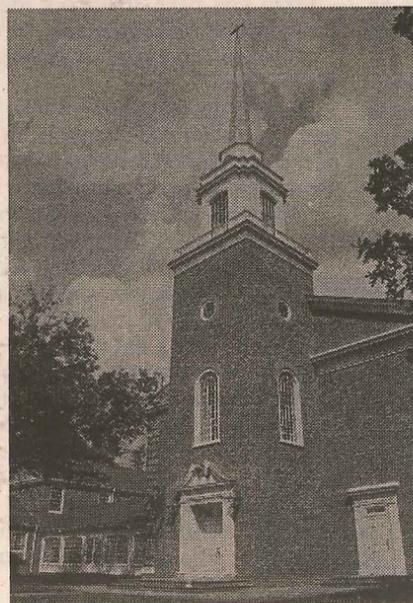
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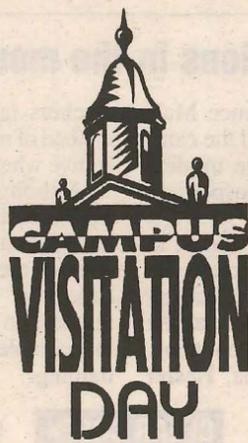
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The faculty, staff, and students of Cumberland College invite all high school seniors and their parents to this year's first campus visitation day.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1994

For further information contact:

Cumberland College

Office of Admissions

816 Walnut Street

Williamsburg, KY 40769

or call 1-800-343-1609



# PEOPLE

## KENTUCKY KERNELS

Since Hurricane Hugo smashed the South Carolina coast five years ago last week, the American Red Cross has served 18 million meals to victims of disasters in the United States. Of those 18 million meals, 80 percent were provided by Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers.

Source: Jim Williams, Brotherhood Commission president

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Taylor County Association elected **David Henderson** as moderator.

■ **CORBIN**—**Ross Halbleib** has been named medical director for Baptist Regional Medical Center. He previously was an attending pediatrician at the center and held the position of clinical assistant professor in the department of pediatrics at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine.

■ **GILBERTSVILLE**—Gilbertsville Church celebrated its 101st homecoming Sept. 18. **Terry Sills**, director of missions in Blood River Association, was the guest speaker.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Northview Church will celebrate its 35th anniversary homecoming Oct. 9. Call (606) 299-1596 for more information.

Northview Church ordained **David Hewitt** to the ministry Sept. 18. He is pastor of Dallasburg Church in Wheatley.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Carlisle Avenue Church called **Tommy Hellams** of Williamston, S.C., as minister of music.

**Keith Parks**, missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, will preach at Buechel Park Church Oct. 9. at 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. There also will be a reception at the church at 5 p.m.

Long Run Church celebrated its bicentennial homecoming Sept. 25.

■ **META**—Meta Church licensed **Keith Sands** to the gospel ministry Aug. 7. He is a student at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Brookside

Church called **Daniel Mackey** as youth minister.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Temple Hill Church ordained **Morton Tanner** as a deacon Aug. 28.

■ **PROSPECT**—**Sue Kersey**, long-time member of First Church, died recently. She was very active with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and Cedar Lake Lodge. A memorial service will be Oct. 2 at 3 p.m. at First Church. **Russell Bennett**, director of missions of Long Run Association, will deliver the message. **Bill Hancock**, pastor of Highview Church, also will participate.

■ **UNION**—East Bend Church celebrated its 175th homecoming anniversary Sept. 25.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Clover Bottom Church called **Earl Bell** as interim pastor.

■ **WEST PADUCAH**—Harmony Church called **Harley Dixon** as interim pastor. Dixon is a retired chaplain at Western Baptist Hospital.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**MISSIONS:** Youth groups needed in Atlanta, Orlando, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Toronto and Buffalo for 1995 summer mission projects. We provide meals, lodging, assignment. For more information, costs, call Dr. Harry Fowler, Youth on Mission, Box 2095, Rocky Mount, NC 27802. (919) 985-4499.

**NEEDED:** Minister of youth, music and education being sought by Calvary Baptist Church, 1001 Rountree St., Hillsboro, IL 62049. Please mail resumé to the attention of Dr. Ronald Rhodus.

**AVAILABLE:** Full- and part-time sales positions with Christian radio stations. Experience not necessary. Central and northern Kentucky areas immediately available. Send resumé to Hammond Broadcasting, Inc., 13297 Green Rd., Walton, KY 41094.

**FOR SALE:** 1988 Eldorado 28-passenger bus w/air/tag-air front and rear, low milage; \$28,000. Call (502) 269-2504.

**NEEDED:** Church custodian, 40 hours/week, with benefits. Contact Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, (502) 451-3735.

**FOR SALE:** 2 chair caddies—\$75 each; 1 round and 2 rectangle table caddies—\$70 each. Call Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, (502) 454-4681.

**WANTED:** All trades needed for remodeling. Steady work, competitive pay, full benefits available. Insured subcontractors also needed. Call (502) 267-4222.

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

## Cumberland dedicates new football stadium

**WILLIAMSBURG**—Cumberland College dedicated a new football stadium Sept. 10 named for James Taylor II, the son of college President James Taylor killed in a 1991 automobile accident.

The James Taylor II Stadium is the Baptist college's first home field since starting a football program nine years ago.

**Bill Nighbert**, mayor of Williamsburg, read a proclamation declaring Sept. 10 as "Jim Taylor II Day" during the dedication ceremony. **Jerry Davis**, president of College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Ark., gave the dedicatory address.

After Davis spoke, Taylor's horse, Benito's Pearl, was led around the stadium riderless by two of Taylor's cousins. The National Anthem was sung, and the game got underway.

In their first game on home turf, the Cumberland Indians routed the Sue Bennett Dragons 41-14.

The new facility has drawn positive reviews from the campus and community. The stadium will be "one of the best places available at the NAIA level to watch a football game," wrote **Jay Stancil**, sports writer for the Williamsburg Times-Tribune.

## 'I was naked and ye clothed me ...'

How does one go about explaining the many dimensions of Oneida Baptist Institute? It is so unique. Why has God chosen to bless us and meet our many needs?

There is no easy answer to this question. Oneida simply goes about the Lord's business each day, trusting that our offering will be acceptable in his eyes. It has, from its very beginning, put the needs of young people first. We have never looked at our checkbook to decide if we were in a position to minister.

A child comes to us in great need. His parents cannot afford to pay the modest room, board and tuition. Many times the parents cannot even afford to give their child spending money. Historically, we know that when we accept this child there will be many more expenses than meals, housing and an education. Often we have to provide shoes and other clothing. Glasses may be needed and sometimes dental work. Needless to say, we encourage parents or guardians to meet these needs, but often we are the ones who have to supply the funds.

Meeting a person's need when he has one is what giving is all about. If we wait for a more convenient time, or when our resources are more plentiful, we will have missed the blessing and so will the person to whom we minister.

Recently two boys enrolled and their mother told me she could not afford to pay anything for enrollment. It was obvious from their appearance that they did not have much. I asked the younger boy if he had any other clothing. He said he had one other pair of underwear and nothing else. I asked him if he had sheets and a pillow. He said,

"No."

"Do you have shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap?" His reply was, "No."

"Do you have paper and pencil for school?" Again, "No."

I asked the other brother if he had clothes. He had three other pairs of pants, two extra pairs of socks, one pair of underwear and two extra shirts. He did not have personal items or school supplies.

Though I felt sorry for the boys, I must confess I rejoiced at the opportunity to meet their needs. I took the younger one to our storage area and was able to give him many of the items he and his brother lacked. I also called the dorms and told the deans to give them as many other items as they had in stock.

As I gave them toothbrushes and toothpaste, I thought of those who had provided them. I gave them socks, bookbags, paper and pencil, and my spirit rejoiced that there were those who had shared with us in order for us to minister.

Last month as I became president, a new responsibility fell on my shoulders. For the first time, I began to sign the letters that go to those who have supported our ministry. Attached to each letter is the contribution record of these people or groups. I must confess that tears came to my eyes as I saw how many years these wonderful people have supported this ministry. It is because of your support we are able to meet many needs. You have made these blessings possible. Thank you for helping us "clothe the naked."

W.F. "Bud" Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Modeling missions in the mountains

Missionary in residence Malcolm Hester recently told the campus Brotherhood, "Role models help us implement the gospel in a practical way."

Hester came to Clear Creek in July on furlough from Korea. His classes in missions, New Testament and eschatology are one way he models missions in the mountains.

A native of Alabama, Hester earned a BA from Samford University. While there he met Brenda Jones, a mathematics major from Talladega. They were married Dec. 27, 1970, and have four children. He received his PhD from Southern Seminary in 1981.

The call to foreign missions came while he was pastor of Spray Baptist Church in Eden, N.C. In 1985 the family moved from a mill town pastorate to a mission language school in Seoul, Korea. In 1987 he became assistant professor at Korea Baptist Theological Seminary in Taejeon and later acting president of Capital Baptist Theological Seminary.

In oriental culture, "Elders serve as role models who lead by example. They tend to talk less and do more," Hester said. Western culture values verbal expression more and

teachers talk more. The oriental method of modeling is especially effective where language is a barrier.

Although he sees similarities with teaching ministerial students in America, Hester notes that Korean culture has a higher esteem for education. It is rare for a Korean minister to be ordained until having completed formal theological training.

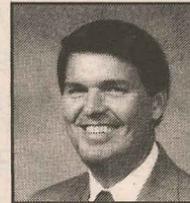
Capital Seminary is much like Clear Creek, however, because of its emphasis on adult education. The An Yang school has the only night program in the country, providing the opportunity for students to attend after work. Hester sees the same motivation in Clear Creek students who are often pursuing their education in addition to heavy family and employment obligations.

Learning by doing has been a unique characteristic of Clear Creek. Hester has found a natural setting in which to serve as a role model and point others to the master role model.

Written by Mike York, campus workshop writer

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# PEOPLE

## Missionaries face loss, look for hope far from home

By Julie Nall  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Dana Nottingham was living her lifetime dream—serving alongside her husband as a missionary to Burkina Faso in west Africa.

Then, in what seemed the twinkling of an eye, her world shattered.

Everything was gone—her house, her friends, her new language and culture, her calling. But all that paled in comparison to the greatest grief of all: the loss of her husband, Barry.

The Nottinghams, from Texas, completed nine months of language study in France and their first year of service in Burkina Faso as Southern Baptist missionaries with the Foreign Mission Board. Then Barry fell ill with hepatitis Oct. 21, 1989. He died two days later.

Nottingham returned to the United States with her three children, ages 10, 7, and 1.

"I hated what grief did to me—the constant sorrow, the being overwhelmed by the simplest of tasks, the uncertainty of what God was about," she said. "I needed to find out if God really keeps his promises. If he didn't, I wasn't going to make it."

Gradually, Nottingham discovered a God she never really had known before.

"When my life totally crumbled, God put it back together piece by piece in a whole new way, full of new hopes and dreams," she said.

She met Bryan Bullington, a former "missionary kid" from Africa, and they married in October 1990. Today she's back in Africa, where they serve as FMB missionaries in Namibia.

Far away from family and friends

in the United States, foreign missionaries may feel overwhelmed when dealing with the death of a loved one or other personal tragedy.

The ways missionaries deal with personal tragedy and grief are as different as their experiences. Family members die from diseases, accidents, occasionally even murder overseas. Some missionaries decide to stay or return to the mission field after such losses. Others choose to return to the United States. Many admit they do not understand the reasons for such tragedies, but they believe God remains in control of the situation.

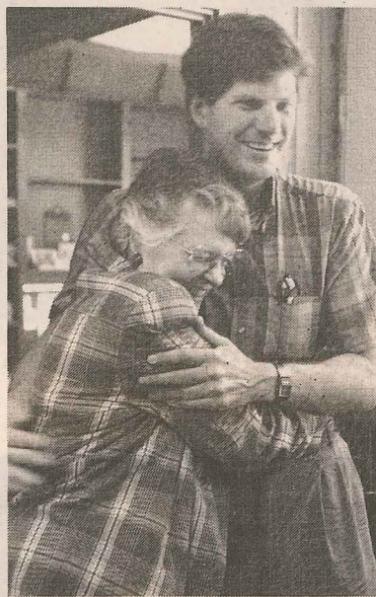
The death of Ted and Sue Lindwall's oldest son, Tim, sent them through times of faith and patience, love and sorrow. The Lindwalls serve as missionaries in Guatemala.

Tim, 36, a vibrant Christian and a chaplain for a police department in Texas, died from Hodgkin's disease Sept. 18, 1993.

"Sorrow remains, and will do so until our final glorious family reunion," Lindwall said. "In all of the trials, we felt God's strength and blessing. ... We do not ask why Tim's death was necessary, but we do ask what should be done as a result of it."

They are waiting for the answer. Who comforts grieving missionaries? Fellow Christians and mission colleagues often reach out with open arms, seeking to sympathize and often being comforted in return. This proved true for missionaries Wayne and Elinor Pennell, who served in Indonesia for 21 years before transferring to the Philippines.

When their oldest son, Mark, was in graduate school in 1983, he came to Indonesia for the summer. After a day with friends, he was hit by a truck and killed while riding home on a



**TALL HUG** When fellow missionary Roger Grossman comes to the Baptist mission office in Guatemala City, Judy Billings takes advantage of the situation to get a "tall hug." She explains that she doesn't get many "tall hugs" since her husband, Herb, who was 6-foot-11-inches tall, died in 1988. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

motor scooter.

Missionaries and Indonesian friends heard about the accident and rushed to the hospital. Looking back on that time of shock, confusion, grief and loss, the Pennells also remember the warmth and love that surrounded them.

Friends handled the police report. Their house helper and two pastors' wives prepared Mark's body for burial, required within 24 hours in Indonesia. Other friends made funeral arrangements. Church women decorated the simple wooden casket with sat-

in and garlands. Others notified people in Indonesia and around the world of Mark's death.

"At a time when it was hard to find reason to praise the Lord, we could let the Psalms express praise for us," Mrs. Pennell said. "Mark had brought a greeting card with him which a friend said he bought just before he came." Verses quoted on the card were from Isaiah 61: "He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted ... to comfort all who mourn."

When Elizabethtown natives Richard and Carmela Bartels' 2-year-old daughter, Victoria Rose, drowned Nov. 23, 1991, grief came with sudden intensity.

"I thank God for the shock we went into automatically," Mrs. Bartels said. "It buffered us from the profound grief at first and gave us opportunities to minister to those who were trying to share our grief."

But after the Bartelses returned to mission work in Benin two months later, Mrs. Bartels was overcome with sadness and hopelessness as she tried to organize Victoria's toys and clothes. It grew to an overwhelming crescendo before gradually subsiding after the first anniversary of Victoria's death.

"I no longer wanted comfort—I wanted Victoria," she said.

A missionary friend told her not to be afraid of what she felt. So each day she went to her room to pray, read her Bible and meditate. She spent time with the Lord, seeking his comfort and asking him why.

"I was especially comforted as the Lord revealed the depth of his love to me," she said. "I gave my sorrow, anger and bitterness to Jesus. He took it, destroyed it, comforted me and gave me peace, joy and hope."

**"I gave my sorrow, anger and bitterness to Jesus. He took it, destroyed it, comforted me and gave me peace, joy and hope."**

*Kentucky native Carmela Bartels, on the death of her 2-year-old daughter on the mission field*

**NEW OPPORTUNITY**  
*Southern Baptist missionary Iracema Kunkel holds her son Steven, now 5, at their home in Salto, Uruguay. Just six months after the missionary family arrived on Uruguay, Steven was afflicted with autism. To help herself cope, the missionary mom looked for other parents of autistic children and found a tremendous opportunity for ministry. (BP photo by Wally Poor)*

## Missionary kid's autism reveals new ministry opportunity

By Betty Poor  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

SALTO, Uruguay (BP)—What does a mother do when her 18-month-old son suddenly stops speaking, and can no longer drink from a cup or hold a spoon?

What does she do when it happens on the mission field—only six months after her arrival as a new missionary?

Southern Baptist missionary Iracema Kunkel in Uruguay faced that crisis with her husband, Tim, and their two older children.

At first they assumed—and were told by doctors—that their son Steven suffered simply from "culture shock." Mrs. Kunkel is Brazilian-born and speaks Portuguese as her native language. Her husband, from Oakland, Calif., speaks English. When the family came to Uruguay after appointment by the Foreign Mission Board in 1990, they were immersed in a third culture and yet another language: Spanish.

But then Steven's real problem was diagnosed: autism, a severely incapacitating developmental disability caused by physical disorders in the brain.

"I didn't accept Steven's autism when I first found out," Mrs. Kunkel

admitted. "I went through a denial stage and had grieving times."

When the shock subsided, though, she began studying about the problem, and turned what could have been a family tragedy into an opportunity for ministry.

First she searched for other autistic children in Salto, the northwestern Uruguayan city where the Kunkels work in evangelism and church planting. She found 62 parents of autistic children who needed help.

For five years, the parents had been trying to start a school for autistic children; their children weren't accepted in regular schools.

"They asked me to talk to their group, and I opened with Jeremiah 33:3: 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know,'" Mrs. Kunkel said.

"I told them I was shocked with the news about Steven, but that God had given me peace, and I knew he had a plan in this. No one else there was an evangelical Christian."

They had not been a support group before—their meetings were strictly business. But the missionary soon changed that.

She invited the other parents to her home, and about 15 came to the first

meeting. She began teaching them what she had learned through books, articles and videos—sent by the FMB and an American doctor—about teaching and communicating with autistic children.

She focused on "facilitated communication," a technique in which a "facilitator" supports the hand of an autistic person, enabling him to tap letters on a keyboard or specially designed cardboard alphabet.

The parents have reported encouraging benefits. One 16-year-old autistic daughter also is blind, but her mother has learned to treat her like an adolescent rather than a 5-year-old. The daughter is much happier and behaves better. The mother of a 13-year-old autistic girl once did everything for her. Now the girl is learning to do things for herself.

Until she left for a furlough in June, Mrs. Kunkel met with the parents every Tuesday night. She prayed for each of the children and their families and told them God loves them.

Mrs. Kunkel believes her ministry in Salto has only begun. When the Kunkels return there next June, she hopes to use new training and experience gained on furlough to help the parents of autistic children fulfill their dream of a special school.



# GEORGETOWN COLLEGE STUDENTS HONE MISSION SKILLS AS SUMMER SERVANTS



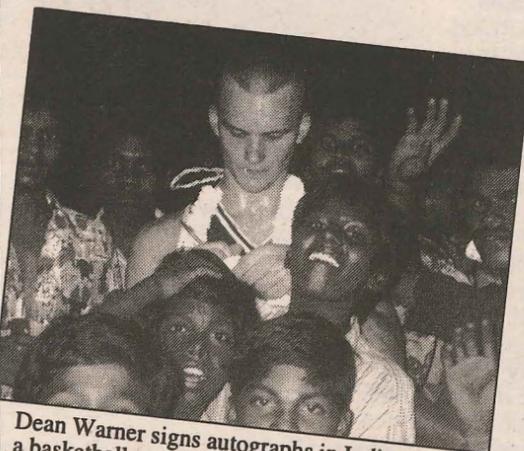
## Beckie Rasdall

*Hometown:* Smiths Grove, Ky.  
*Home church:* Smiths Grove Baptist Church  
*Class year:* Junior

*Major:* Secondary education  
*Where served this summer:* Arizona  
*Responsibilities during your summer mission experience:* Led Vacation Bible Schools and youth ministry; served as pianist and soloist.  
*What you enjoyed most:* Playing with the children and representing my Christian faith.  
*What you learned that will benefit you most:* To enjoy all the gifts God has given me and appreciate all of my surroundings.  
*One moment this summer that stands out in your mind:* Leading a boy to Christ and comforting him as he cried.  
*What you would do differently next year:* I would like to be a youth minister for one church.  
*Advice for students considering a summer missions experience:* Let God use you and open your eyes to God's blessings.



Beckie Rasdall shares in the fun with children on their last day of Vacation Bible School in Arizona.



Dean Warner signs autographs in India after a basketball game. "I was an American who played basketball; that was enough for them," he said.



## Dean Warner

*Hometown:* Union, Ky.  
*Home church:* Big Bone Baptist Church  
*Class year:* Senior  
*Major:* Business

administration/communication arts  
*Where served this summer:* India  
*Responsibilities during your summer mission experience:* Played basketball for Athletes in Action where sports are used as a platform to share the Gospel.  
*What you enjoyed most:* I prayed with four boys to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.  
*What you learned that will benefit you most:* Patience, understanding of others, and that God is in control.  
*One moment this summer that stands out in your mind:* The entire India experience.  
*What you would do differently next year:* Commit sooner.  
*Advice for students considering a summer missions experience:* If God calls you, respond to His call. Don't let an experience of a lifetime slip out of your grasp.



## Tony Shouse

*Hometown:* Whitesville, Ky.  
*Home church:* New Panther Creek Baptist Church  
*Class year:* Junior  
*Major:* Religion

*Where served this summer:* In Kentucky as part of the Georgetown Summer Team.  
*Responsibilities during your summer mission experience:* Preached several weekend revivals, and helped with music and counseling at camps.  
*What you enjoyed most:* Working with the youth and adults.  
*What you learned that will benefit you most:* I learned a lot about how to improve myself as a speaker and also how to deal with different personalities.  
*One moment this summer that stands out in your mind:* A young boy I had become close to made a profession of faith along with his brother during one of our Sunday morning services.  
*Advice for students considering a summer missions experience:* Let God lead you in whatever you do. He will guide your path and never let you down.



Amanda Gruner touched many children's lives while performing at camps in Smolensk, Russia.



Pam Maffet spent the summer working with children in Blackwater, Australia.



## Pam Maffet

*Hometown:* Frankfort, Ky.  
*Home church:* Buck Run Baptist Church  
*Class year:* Senior  
*Major:* Math

*Where served this summer:* Blackwater, Australia  
*Responsibilities during your summer mission experience:* Worked with the youth in Blackwater.  
*What you enjoyed most:* Seeing Australia, learning about the culture and getting to know the people.  
*What you learned that will benefit you most:* How to really trust God in all situations.  
*One moment this summer that stands out in your mind:* Sharing the plan of salvation for the first time with youth on a retreat.  
*Advice for students considering a summer missions experience:* I have participated in summer missions for four summers and have learned something different each time. I wouldn't trade my experiences for anything. Summer missions is something I would recommend to everyone.

# GEORGETOWN

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Beckie, Tony, Dean and Pam are just four of the 55 Georgetown College students who ministered this summer at home and abroad as youth leaders, camp counselors and Christian envoys in Russia, Australia, India, Israel, Africa, Florida, Arizona, Alabama, Ohio, Utah, South Carolina and Kentucky.