



WESTERN RECORDER

November 15, 1994
Vol. 168, No. 45

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children Thanksgiving Offering
■ See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Public education

Public education does not have to be void of religious reference, according to three panelists who spoke last week on religion and the public schools. See page 3.

Family Forum

My teens are as different as night and day. My 15-year-old daughter dreams of becoming a singer and movie star, but her 17-year-old brother has no plans beyond high school graduation. What can we do? See page 4.

Editorial

Alzheimer's victims and families need churches' help. See page 5.

Virgin birth

A Southern Baptist scholar says the controversial Jesus Seminar has gone too far in declaring the virgin birth of Jesus not historical. It's time for Christian scholars to speak out in defense of traditional theology, he says. See page 7.

Golden years

Senior adults need to pay attention to their self-esteem, the editor of *Mature Living* magazine says. See page 9.

Computer age brings changes of biblical proportions

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Ready or not, "cyberministry" is here.

Whether it's preparing weekly sermons with a laptop computer and a Bible software package or "chatting" on-line about theology with a colleague from across the country or around the world, a growing number of ministers are taking a leap of faith into the high-tech world of computers.

And while many ministers remain reluctant travelers, they are finding their way onto America's emerging Information Highway.

"I didn't know how to turn on a computer three years ago," said Ron Rowe, director of the Jacksonville (Fla.) Baptist Association. "But I realized if I was going to stay abreast of things such as communication and cutting-edge resources, I had to learn."

Rowe began his journey by finding a "computer guru" who could serve as his guide.

"I found someone who loves computers, knows all about them, and I asked him, 'Will you be my teacher?'"

He agreed and he did this at no charge. He came over and took two months to go over the basics with me and then I'd practice on my own and call him on the phone from time to time with questions."

Although he still doesn't consider himself a computer expert, Rowe said he is making progress. He's a frequent on-line communication

on SBCNet, the Southern Baptist computer communications network, and Leadership Network, an interdenominational computer network for pastors and church leaders.

"I simply download articles having to do with various aspects of the church and its ministry. And I use the message and conference areas to interact with people one-on-one or as a group about Sunday school, evangelism, a variety of topics. I've found it very helpful to me personally," he said.

Rowe's association also is setting up a data bank on a computer bulletin board service so pastors and other church leaders can record the names of the people they have assisted with such things as food or rent. Churches

then can access and add to the information 24 hours a day, allowing them to avoid duplicating services and alerting them to potential con artists who travel from church to church for

unnecessary financial handouts.

"It's very practical," Rowe said, "and it will save a lot of paperwork."

Several Southern Baptists are set-
□ See Computer age ..., page 10



On-line compassion saved a life

CENTREVILLE, Md. (EP)—Alert participants in the Christian Interactive Network helped prevent a tragedy this fall by responding to a suicide note left on the computer bulletin board service.

"Please pray for us," the electronic message began. "Last night Becky said she had no love left for me and money was the only thing stopping divorce. I am lost."

The message continued: "I have tried to end it tonight. I put the truck in the garage and turned it on. The Christian radio station playing is the only thing that pulled me back. I don't know how long I can resist the need to be free from the hurt."

Participants in CIN, a worldwide computer forum on CompuServe, read the message and began praying for the person who had posted it. But Kevin Tupper, a Christian from Centreville, Md.,

saw the message and put electronic feet to his old-fashioned prayers.

Tupper used the user identification number which accompanied the note to locate the sender's name and address in the CompuServe membership directory. Then he called police in the rural town of Miami, Ind., to tell them someone in their area was about to commit suicide.

"They didn't understand how I could know if someone was about to kill himself in Indiana," Tupper told the *Washington Post*. "I explained as quick as I could."

Police went to the address Tupper had given them and heard an engine running inside a closed garage. A 40-year-old man was found slumped inside his pickup truck. The police officer who dragged the man from the garage said the suicide attempt would have been successful in another 20 minutes.

'Super Sunday' sets new record for attendance

Kentucky Baptists set a new statewide record for Sunday school attendance Oct. 30, a day designated "Super Sunday."

By a conservative estimate, churches affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention counted 221,541 people in Sunday school that day, according to Chip Miller, KBC Sunday school department director. That's 31,541 more people than normally attend, or a 14 percent gain.

Miller's department has designed and promoted the annual high-attendance day for several years. But this year's turnout breaks all previous records, he said.

Several individual churches and associations set new records this year as well.

Enterprise Association in Eastern Kentucky recorded a 26 percent gain in Sunday school attendance for a total of 1,784 people.

"Some churches really worked," said Director of Missions Jim Smith.

And Miller noted one more reason to be happy with the high turnout. "If we had 221,541 people in Sunday school, that means we had at least a quarter of a million people in worship that Sunday."

Kentucky missionaries offer healing & help

By Kim Davis
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MMABATAHO, South Africa—At a time when the former Bophuthatswana homeland of South Africa is unstable with political changes, a Kentucky couple has a unique opportunity to share the gospel through veterinary medicine and discipleship training.

Dale and Ann Beighle, originally from Falmouth and Elkhorn City, are missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

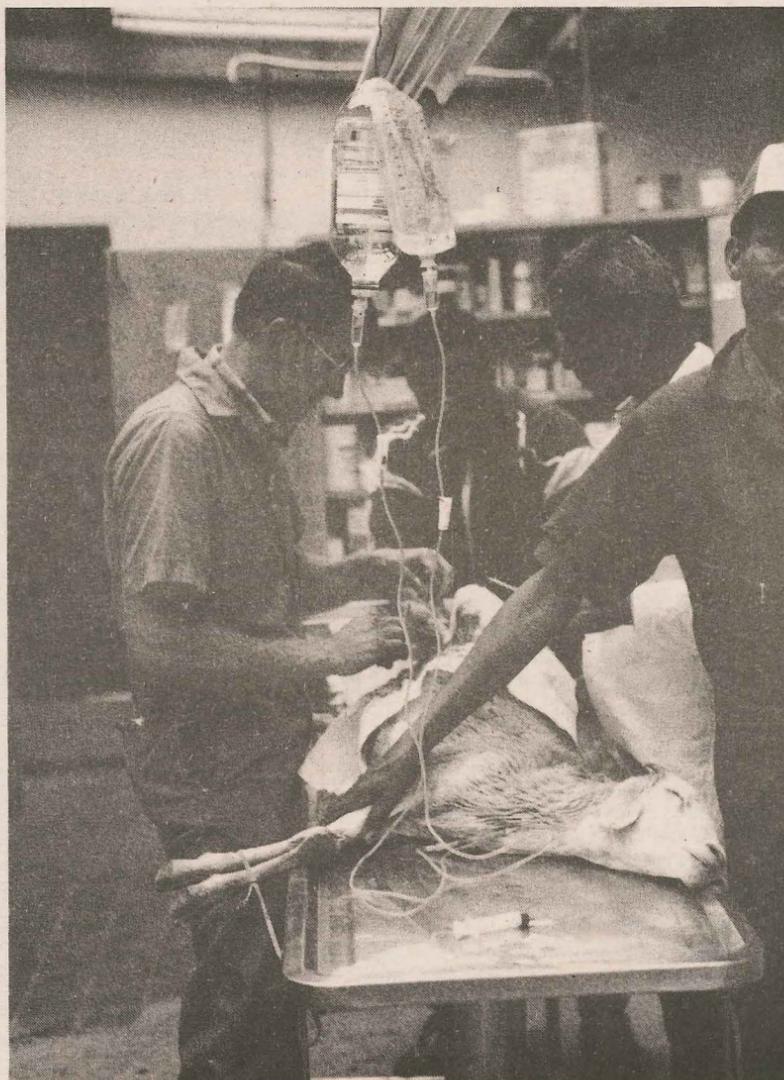
Beighle trains nationals at the University of Bophuthatswana in veterinary skills while also treating cows, goats and sheep in the local villages and at the university clinic. By doing so, he encounters unusual opportunities to share his faith, including one encounter with a witch doctor.

Villagers bring their animals to the clinic daily. But Beighle also goes into the villages three or four times a week to treat animals.

"I often get calls to tend to cows having trouble delivering calves," he explained. "One night recently, I was called to deliver a calf. Without help, the cow would have died. Losing a cow is a significant loss to a villager."

The missionary also treats uncommon diseases such as anthrax, red water and anaplasmosis. He teaches nationals who are training to be animal health officers how to prevent the spread of such diseases.

Each Wednesday morning, the veterinarian also leads a Bible study for the staff and students he works
□ See Missionaries offer ..., page 11



FARM AID Kentucky native Dale Beighle (left) operates on a wounded animal with assistance from South African veterinary personnel.

Moving? See page 4 (1115)

BAPTISTS

Baptist mission work in Zambia on trial this week

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—The future of Southern Baptist mission efforts in Zambia went on trial—literally—Nov. 11, while another long-standing issue in Zimbabwe over missionary work permits continues to simmer.

The Southern Baptist missionary organization in Zambia informed government officials Nov. 9 that it would proceed with its lawsuit over the refusal of immigration officials to issue or renew work permits to missionaries without the concurrence of the Baptist Convention of Zambia, a separately registered society.

The court case is expected to take about a week. The most extreme po-

tential outcome: All Southern Baptist missionaries would have to leave the country and all mission property—including cars, houses and institutions—would be turned over to the convention.

In Zimbabwe, meanwhile, Southern Baptist mission officials have requested a meeting with President Robert Mugabe over increasingly restrictive work permit policies that are decimating the Southern Baptist mission force there.

The U.S. Embassy in Zambia has taken the position that the Zambia Baptist Mission—a society legally registered with the government for 35 years—should be treated like any oth-

er such society. That means another group should not be allowed control of work permits.

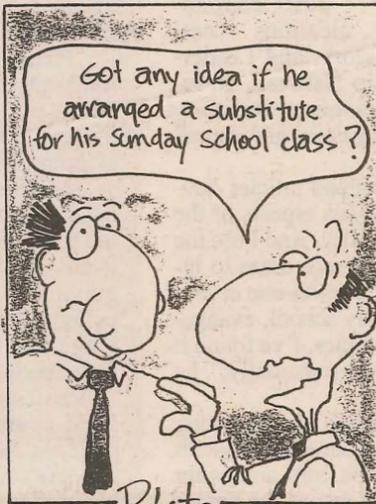
Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a popular friend of Zambia as well as an active Southern Baptist, has been asked to intervene.

In Zambia, mission spokesmen declined a Zambian government mediator's suggestion that the mission immediately begin working under a joint committee of five missionaries and six members of the Baptist convention's executive committee—and be bound by its decisions. The mission appealed to Baptist beliefs on autonomy.

"We cannot accept, as a matter of

church polity, that the executive committee of the convention has the right to unilaterally control the activities of another Baptist organization," explained missionary Bonita Wilson, acting mission administrator. "And we do not accept, as a matter of law, that one registered society has the right under Zambian law to interfere with the relationship of another registered society with the government."

Two missionary work permits expire Nov. 23. Six more expire the first week of December. No Southern Baptist missionary holds a work permit that runs beyond December 1996. Currently 47 missionaries are assigned to Zambia.



Belmont loses Southern branch

NASHVILLE (BP)—In an unexpected move, Belmont University officials have been notified the school no longer will house the extension studies program of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Effective with the 1995 spring semester, Southern's extension studies program will be located at the Baptist Sunday School Board and Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, according to Robert Hughes, director of extension studies at the Louisville-based seminary.

Steven Simpler, dean of Belmont University's school of religion, said the letter he received dated Sept. 29 was "a surprise because I had no idea

something like this was going to happen." The university has provided free facilities and staff support for the extension studies program since 1986.

Simpler said students in the program often expressed satisfaction about being on a college campus and having access to library and bookstore facilities. He said there are 20-30 students in the program.

The letter from Hughes noted the move "has nothing to do with the administration of the program that you have provided. It is rather an outgrowth of the changes that have taken place in our denomination in recent years."

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Graham to speak at SBC.** Billy Graham will speak at the Thursday morning closing session of the June 20-22 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta's Georgia Dome, announced SBC President Jim Henry.

■ **Henry asks for nominations.** Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has issued a letter to fellow Baptists seeking recommendations for people to serve on key committees for the 1995 annual meeting of the SBC, June 20-22 in Atlanta's Georgia Dome. The committees for which Henry is seeking recommendations are the committee on committees, resolutions committee, tellers committee and credentials committee. Recommendation forms may be obtained by writing to "Form," Jim Henry, SBC President, First Baptist Church, 3701 L.B. McLeod Road, Orlando, Fla. 32805.

■ **Illinois repents of racism.** Illinois Baptists passed a resolution Nov. 4 declaring "our corporate repentance before God for the sins of our forefathers and of ourselves" regarding racist attitudes. The resolution was presented by Jim Woods of Naperville, the great-grandson of a Confederate soldier.

■ **Falwell speech causes flap.** A controversy over Jerry Falwell speaking at the Arkansas Baptist Pastors' Conference spilled over into the state convention's annual meeting. A motion was introduced calling for the program committees of the

state convention and the Pastors' Conference "to seek and secure on their programs only Southern Baptists." The motion was defeated after extended debate.

■ **Billingsley to Montana.** Clyde Billingsley, executive director of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, has been elected to a similar position with the Montana Baptist Fellowship. Billingsley was instrumental in developing the partnership between Kentucky Baptists and Baptists in Utah and Idaho. Mike Gray, president of the Utah-Idaho executive board, has issued a call for nominations for a new executive director. Nominations may be sent until Dec. 31 to Gray in care of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, Box 1039, Sandy, Utah 84091.

■ **Morality charges dismissed.** A superior court judge has dismissed accusations of immorality in a case involving a Southern Baptist Foreign Board trustee fired from his high school teaching job in 1993. Judge Mary Green ruled that the school district failed to prove immorality on the part of Rodney Duncan. Duncan had steadfastly denied any wrongdoing, charging the school district wanted to silence his Christian witness in the school.

■ **New name chosen.** The Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention is now the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Messengers to the convention's annual meeting approved the

change with little opposition. Convention President Grant Hignight said the action was not a distancing from the Southern Baptist Convention but was necessary to enable the convention to do its work better in the North.

■ **Lynn May to retire.** Lynn May, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission since 1971, has announced his retirement for Aug. 1, 1995.

■ **Frank Black dies.** Frank Black, an employee of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission for 29 years, died Oct. 21 in Memphis. Black is credited with writing the Royal Ambassador pledge.

■ **College compromise approved.** After intense debate in their Nov. 1-2 annual meeting, Mississippi Baptists approved a compromise with Mississippi College that gives the school and convention a joint say in naming college trustees.

■ **Arizona reorganizes.** The Arizona Baptist Convention has reorganized its state executive board to incorporate two new separate entities, a church growth board and a mission board. Those two entities, along with three existing convention agencies, will have representatives on the newly streamlined executive board.

■ **Baylor nominee near.** Baylor University's board of regents has

scheduled a special meeting Nov. 17-18 to consider a nominee for the university's presidency. The Waco Tribune-Herald has reported that likely nominees are Thomas Corts, president of Samford University, or Paul Powell, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board.

■ **Whittaker elected in California.** Fermin Whittaker has been elected executive director-treasurer of the California Southern Baptist Convention. He is believed to be the first ethnic American to lead a state Baptist convention. Whittaker, a 53-year-old Panamanian-American, has been a regional coordinator with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board since 1987. He previously was a pastor and missionary in California.

■ **Missourians debate requirements.** Missouri Baptists defeated a motion that would have required people to be members of churches that support the Cooperative Program before they could be nominated for service to state convention boards and commissions. The motion would have excluded members of churches which designate any of their missions giving through the state convention. On another matter, action was delayed until next year on a motion that would require people nominated for state convention service to "acknowledge and consistently demonstrate adherence to the principle of the full inspiration and inerrancy of every part and every statement of the Bible as it was originally written."

Hester named academic dean at Clear Creek

PINEVILLE—Malcolm Hester has been named academic dean at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Hester was elected to the post by college trustees Oct. 18.

Hester came to Clear Creek last June from Korea, where he and his wife were foreign missionaries. He was president of Capital Baptist Seminary in An Yang, Korea.

He holds the bachelor's degree from Samford University and the master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In other action, trustees:

- Declared 1996 as a year of celebration marking the 70th anniversary of the school's founding and the 50th anniversary of the first diploma graduation class.

- Authorized a feasibility study on changing faculty contracts from 12 months to 10 months.

- Received an update on the self study for accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

- Re-elected officers Tom Prather, chairman; Frances Gambrel, vice chairman, and Anna White, secretary.

- Approved five changes to the Faculty-Staff Handbook related to a drug-free workplace, salary adjustment for extra instructional hours, music teaching load, extra-curricular activities and faculty rank.

- Expressed appreciation to outgoing trustees Bobby Barnes of Crittenden and Charles Dean of Pineville.

Panelists see room for religion in schools

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LEXINGTON—Public education should not be—and does not have to be—void of religious ideas, three panelists said at a Nov. 7 forum on the topic.

The forum, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, was held at Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington. Panelists were Thomas Boysen, Kentucky education commissioner; Brent Walker, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; and David Keller, executive director of the Kentucky School Boards Association.

"Public schools most certainly can teach about religion," Walker said in explaining constitutional limitations. "They just can't proselytize or do devotional exercises."

Walker drew a distinction between teaching about religion—which he said is constitutionally permissible in public schools—and teaching religion—which is not.

Walker and the other panelists agreed public educators at times have overreacted to this distinction and limited valid instruction about religion. Generally, this has happened due to fears of lawsuits brought by non-Christians, they said.

"It only takes one parent to sue," Keller explained.

On the other hand, Keller and Boysen sounded conciliatory tones toward Christian parents who believe public education in Kentucky has been scrubbed clean of all references to their faith.

"The moral tone of our young people is going to have to be dealt with in some creative ways," Boysen said.

"Schools need to be looking for ways to make a greater accommodation to parents with objections to current school practices," Keller said.

Keller built his case in terms of public schools having a product to sell on the open market: "We must find

ways to be more responsive to the needs of our consumers."

If public schools do not begin to accommodate the concerns of religious families, private education could become the norm for "people we can ill-afford to lose," he said. "If public schools are going to flourish, we need to at least look at how far we can accommodate parents with religiously based values."

Keller outlined three issues he said are the most current examples of tension between Christians and public education:

- Graduation prayers.
- Teaching of values.
- Attempts to mix elements of public and private education.

On the last point, Keller talked about a changing paradigm for how Americans do education.

He cited the example of a parent who homeschools her children but feels unable to teach mathematics adequately. Should this parent, he asked, be allowed to home school her children for all other subjects and then send the children to public school for math class only?

"We are seeing the beginning of the end of the philosophy of public schools that one size fits all," Keller said later in a question-and-answer period. "We must give parents more choice to opt in and opt out of various parts of school."

Boysen spoke directly to criticism he has received from some conservative Christians over implementation of the Kentucky Education Reform Act.

He noted the state board of education and the General Assembly responded to these concerns by eliminating plans to measure two controversial goals—responsible group membership and personal self-sufficiency.

On the issue of teaching values, Boysen said there are many "Christian" values that all parents could endorse regardless of their faith. Public

schools can and should seek to instill these common values, such as honesty, altruism, fidelity and respect, he said.

Further, concerned Christian parents should find more strength in KERA rather than less, Boysen said, because KERA places school control with local councils.

Also, Protestant churches in Kentucky have not made use of a significant provision of the law that could benefit them, Boysen said. He referred to the provision for students to use "release time" to receive religious instruction off campus for up to one hour per week during normal school time.

This would be a natural ministry for Baptist churches to offer, Boysen suggested.

Boysen also noted that public schools and churches share a common desire to strengthen families.

"The family desperately needs to be strengthened," he said. "Parents are the first and most influential teachers of children."

Walker outlined implications of the free exercise and establishment clauses of the First Amendment to talk about what public schools can and cannot do with regard to religion.

For example, while it is not constitutional to teach religion in public schools, it is permissible—and even desirable—to teach about religion.

Even religious holidays can be incorporated into public education in this way, Walker said.

To explain the distinction between teaching about religion and teaching religion, Walker said schools should offer:

- Academic rather than devotional study.
- Awareness of religion rather than acceptance of any one religion.
- Study about religion rather than the practice of religion.
- Education about all religions rather than promotion or denigration of any religion.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **James Porter**, pastor of Pleasant View Baptist Church in Russell Springs, was honored Oct. 20 on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry. Porter has been pastor of the Russell Springs church 28 years and also has served other Kentucky churches. He comes from a long line of Kentucky Baptists, including a great-grandfather who was a charter member of Somerset's First Baptist Church. He also is related to John W. Porter, editor of the Western Recorder from 1918 to 1925. Porter was honored in special services planned by Liberty Baptist Church and the Russell County Ministerial Association.

■ **"Amahl and the Night Visitors"** will be presented by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's church music drama theater Dec. 5 at 12:30 p.m. and Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. Both performances of the Christmas opera are free and open to the public.

■ **"Quest '94,"** an annual program for Christian youth, is planned at Cumberland College Nov. 18-19. Program personalities include Alicia Williamson, AVB, Kelly Green, Chonda Pierce and Abundance. For information, call Rick Fleenor at (800) 343-1609.

■ **Cal Thomas**, nationally syndicated conservative columnist, will speak at Cumberland College Nov. 28 at 10 a.m. in the Wayne Rollins Center. The speech is open to the public.

Mission trip expenses may be tax deductible, but be careful

Are travel expenses incurred by participants in partnership missions projects tax-deductible?

The answer is a qualified yes, according to a federal Internal Revenue Service attorney.

Mission volunteers may write off their travel expenses as long as their participation in the trip involves "no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation," said Karin Gross, a senior technician reviewer for the IRS chief counsel.

Gross cited Section 170-J of the Internal Revenue Code, as well as IRS Publication 526 as the rationale for her answer.

The tax issue has come up for some Kentucky Baptists who want to deduct the \$1,995 travel cost for their participation in the Russia-Kentucky Baptist mission partnership.

A partnership volunteer may claim the travel expenses as a deduction, as long as the volunteer can demonstrate that participation in the project was

almost exclusively a mission venture and not a vacation or sight-seeing trip, Gross said.

The best way to verify the purpose of the trip would be to keep a log of daily activities throughout the trip, she suggested. Such a log should account for the participant's entire waking hours, showing time spent in travel, mission work, worship, sight-seeing and other activities.

The other item that must be documented—the amount spent on travel—can be verified by the Kentucky Baptist partnership office or the partnership travel agent, said partnership Coordinator Calvin Wilkins.

Some partnership volunteers have asked their church treasurers or financial secretaries to validate their claims, but they are the wrong authorities, Gross said. She confirmed that the source which documents the expense should be affiliated directly with the trip, such as the partnership office or travel agent.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT Young residents at Spring Meadows Children's Home got a chance to learn about life in Russia Nov. 7 when Vasily Logvinenko, former president of the Russian Baptist Union, and his wife, Emilia, visited the campus. Boys from Moss Cottage asked questions about everything from school, sports and fashions to what it was like to be a Christian during times of religious persecution. The Logvinenkos (left) and translator Michael Belkin are shown sharing refreshments with cottage residents and staff members from the child-care agency.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969
Louisville, Ky. 40253
(ISSN 0043-4132)

MARV KNOX
Editor

MARK WINGFIELD
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

C. R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$10.60 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$8.50 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6472, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 250 words and may be edited for length.

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Don Mantooh, Morehead, chairman; Tom Curry, Louisville, vice chairman; Kay Trisler, Harrodsburg, secretary; Jim Abernathy, Covington; Glenn Durham, Harlan; Rusty Ellison, Benton; Frank Hatfield, Shepherdsville; Isaac McDonald, Elizabethtown; June B. Rice, Paintsville; John Searcy, Franklin; William Thurman, Lexington; James Weaver, Madisonville.

What should I do?

After reading "Is it OK for a Christian to celebrate Halloween?" (WR, Oct. 25), I think my answer might come from I Corinthians 6:12, "Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything."

Things are different than they were when I was growing up. I knew who lived in most of the homes in town, and the ones I didn't know certainly knew my parents and grandparents.

We do not live in a "kinder, gentler" world, nor should we be conformed to it. As I sat in my living room this All Hallows Eve, besieged by little goblins of all kinds, I wondered how many of these young lives have ever heard a word of the Bible? How many have had the love and support of a church family?

What should I do? Shut the door and turn out the lights? Refuse to greet these youngsters? Put a sign in the yard that says "Go Away, a Christian lives here!"?

Well, this year they got a little sack of candy with a Christian tract in it. It may be the only time they get to read John 3:16. Should I expect lives to be changed? Well, you know how the song goes—"It only takes a spark." I'm going to pray for these children; I hope you will too.

Ruthanne Boyles
Frankfort

Morality missing

The young couple pleaded for the safe return of their little sons. Appearing numb with fear and grief, they begged to have the boys back home.

Then the unbelievable was announced, the young mother was charged with murder. The worst scenario of the boys' fate was horrible. And we ask, "Why had the precious

gift of life suddenly become so worthless to warrant the act of murder, and by their own mother? Where was her morality?"

More and more violent acts involve the younger generation. Cruelly, it seems, the more shocking the crime—dropping a 5-year-old from a 14th-floor window, executions of young people by gangs, drive-by shootings—the more "macho" the malefactors appear to their peers.

Drastic change in morality of a whole generation requires a philosophical and/or spiritual shock-wave. The most notable shock in modern times occurred when the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortions.

The young learn by examples. When they see "life" inside the mother's womb is of little or no value, then what value will they place upon life outside the mother's womb? Who failed to instill morality, failed to lead?

Noble words such as in our Declaration of Independence should be an enforceable document. Note the word "life": "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life"

Ted A. Smith
Ashland

Satan's toehold

I have been so puzzled about the term "Abstract of Principles" quoted so often now in stories about Southern Seminary. So I looked in the dictionary. Webster defined "abstract" as "not in concrete" and "theoretical—a summary of a larger document."

God's word is a personal letter to each one of us. We must each search the Scriptures to find what God wants to tell us. How precious is that thought to me.

I have wondered how Satan, that

old deceiver, got such a hold on our denomination. Brother John A. Brodus, that giant among believers, compromised to keep peace.

How gleeful Satan must have been when the Abstract of Principles was adopted. Now he had a toehold. He could manipulate unsuspecting believers—Baptists—always known as "people of the Book."

Nellie Beach
Dry Ridge

Trust God's grace

In a recent Sunday school lesson, the author stated: "Sometimes sin is dismissed as an illness. Sometimes it is joked about as an action beyond our control." She then concluded that "sin is a choice."

I hope no one would read into these words justification for heaping condemnation, rejection and guilt on those who are unable to comprehend the difference between right and wrong or are incapable of making a freewill choice.

Whether we meet these individuals on the Alzheimer's wing of a nursing home, on the psychiatric floor of a hospital or sitting next to us at church, we should be slow to label as sin what may be the result of chemical imbalance of the brain or a neurological dysfunction.

The grace of God compels us to move beyond our religious prejudices and to free our faith from those elements that undermine the integrity of our Christian witness. We must not be afraid to challenge the traditional patterns of religious thought when they violate the integrity of men and women of faith.

Our security does not rest in our interpretation of Scripture but in the grace of God. We, like Christ, must look beyond the legalism of our day and trust the grace of God to be sufficient when confronting social issues.

Joseph S. Lovell
Florence

for home.

I suppose we must accept that reality in days like these when the secular and religious alike have concentrated on "getting out the vote."

And whether "winner" or "loser," those who leave after the presidential vote will miss the best of the occasion. For our Kentucky Baptist Convention is far more than an annual presidential vote, however important that is.

Indeed, we are a big, mission-active family—each with a story to tell, each with this "annual moment" to say thank you and to tell a little good news.

To leave after the vote is like getting up from a family birthday meal after we have had our opportunity to speak (vote), but leaving before hearing from the rest of the family. And by the time little Sarah gets her time to speak, many of the family have gone.

To those of you who have come only to vote, let me ask you as a granddad asks his children who seem to be in such a hurry to eat and leave: "Please stay. It will be a whole year before we have dinner together as a family again."

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

BAPTIST FORUM

ern times occurred when the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortions.

The young learn by examples. When they see "life" inside the mother's womb is of little or no value, then what value will they place upon life outside the mother's womb? Who failed to instill morality, failed to lead?

Noble words such as in our Declaration of Independence should be an enforceable document. Note the word "life": "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life"

Ted A. Smith
Ashland

Satan's toehold

I have been so puzzled about the term "Abstract of Principles" quoted so often now in stories about Southern Seminary. So I looked in the dictionary. Webster defined "abstract" as "not in concrete" and "theoretical—a summary of a larger document."

God's word is a personal letter to each one of us. We must each search the Scriptures to find what God wants to tell us. How precious is that thought to me.

I have wondered how Satan, that

After the vote, please stay!

As I write this column, I try to envision myself a messenger to the 1994 Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting in Frankfort.

Most will have access to this column (if, indeed, they read it) sometime on Tuesday when the Western Recorder will be distributed to roughly 2,500 messengers and visitors.

Another 50,000 Kentucky Baptist homes will receive the Western Recorder by mail one or two days later.

In 1993, the total membership of churches affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention was 774,082 with a resident membership listed at 560,397. Based on KBC requirements for "messaging," 15,884 Kentucky Baptists are eligible to vote as messengers this year. If an estimated 2,500 messengers register, it means 15.7 percent of the eligible messengers will register this year, up slightly from prior years.

Interestingly, not all of those who register as messengers vote, as attested by a comparison of the registration

with the final tally of a balloted vote.

Several observations may be generated from these statistics:

■ A relatively small percentage of eligible messengers participate in annual state convention meetings. An even smaller percentage participate in the annual Southern Baptist Convention meetings (under 10 percent).

■ Annual associational meetings, with some exceptions, generate a higher percentage of messengers than state or national conventions.

There are obvious reasons for this, including proximity and logistics. It is less distant, less expensive and less time-consuming the closer to home the meeting. And, in most cases, the closer to home, the more interest and ownership a messenger is willing to exert.

Undoubtedly, the additional interest in our state convention this year is focused on the election of a president. That will become even more evident if, after the presidential election, a significant number of messengers head

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM: TEEN - AGERS

Teens & goals

By Wade Rowatt

Q My teens are as different as night and day. One aims too high, and the other has no concrete plans. My 15-year-old daughter dreams of becoming a singer and movie star, but her 17-year-old brother has no plans beyond high school graduation. What can we do?

A Support your daughter's aspirations, but let her know she does not have to be a star—you will love her no matter what.

Try not to destroy her dream; just make it more realistic. Help her plan to go to a good college with drama and music programs. Help her plan one step at a time.

Also, what does she desire from stardom? Is it fame, money, admiration or beautiful clothes? If so, you can talk to her about deeper levels of happiness. Real joy and peace come from a right relationship with God, others and self. Keep her dreams alive, but help her find more.

About your son: He may be depressed, caught up in having fun, confused about his options, doubting his abilities or just not be ready to grow up.

Let him know of your concern. Tell him you care about him, but let him know what you expect after he graduates. Will he continue in school or be self-supporting? Do you expect him to help with food preparation, housework and pay rent?

If he remains in a fog, consider vocational testing and counseling. Most counselors will have options for him to consider and information for his decisions.

Be prepared for him to resist doing anything. Warmly but firmly insist on some action on his part. Offer to let him talk with people in different jobs, the military and colleges. Help him find himself. If he is left alone, he could just drift for years.

When he does have a new dream, nurture it like a small flame that will become a campfire. Protect it from too much wind (change) and rain (negative criticism) and give it the right amount of new fuel (encouragement).

Remember, they may both surprise you with their dreams coming true. Celebrate each goal accomplished.

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

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

Alzheimer's victims & families need churches' help

Ronald Reagan's touching announcement that he has Alzheimer's disease raised our national awareness regarding a most frightful malady. If anyone had not yet associated Alzheimer's with a face they know, now they can connect it with the Gipper's famous grin. Unfortunately, they can project how that grin will lose its sparkle as the disease drowns the former president's bright optimism in a whirlpool of debilitating dementia.

Although Alzheimer's eventually will isolate President Reagan inside his own mind, he is not alone. Four million Americans suffer from the disease, which cannot be prevented nor cured. Every year, 100,000 Alzheimer's victims die, and 250,000 new cases are diagnosed. Alzheimer's costs our society at least \$82.7 billion annually. Its victims live an average of seven years after contracting the disease, typically between the ages of 65 and 85. By the time the current generation of young adults reaches advanced age, 14 million Americans will have Alzheimer's.

The victims themselves represent only a fraction of Alzheimer's tragic impact. Millions more—their families and close friends—are cruelly victimized too. While the people who contract the disease slip into dementia and a benign ignorance of their state, friends and family must watch as someone they love is taken from them bit by bit and robbed of lifelong presence and personality. Researchers estimate Alzheimer's affects one-third of the families in the United States.

These families are an open mission field for our churches. In Matthew 25, Jesus talked about the importance of ministry to "the least of these" in society. Surely the people who love and care for Alzheimer's victims qualify for this category and desperately need the loving touch of Christian friends and neighbors.

While much of the treatment of Alzheimer's victims involves high-tech medicine, much of the ministry they and their families need is low-tech but high-touch. Seventy percent of Alzheimer's patients live at home, usually with a spouse or other family member. The person with Alzheimer's needs virtually full-time attention to prevent that person, whose powers of reason and comprehension have evaporated, from getting hurt. Both the victims and the caregivers need the help church groups can provide.

A testimony to the fear, frustration and fatigue of caregivers comes from Frances Hightower of Tampa, Fla., who cared for her mother with Alzheimer's for 15 years and who served on the federal health care panel. "I had no concept of what the future would hold," she recalled. "Had I known, I would have been totally terrified." Asked about the greatest need of Alzheimer's caregivers, she said: "It is difficult to pick just one, but respite comes to me first. Unless you can get away from the constant demands of caregiving, you cannot continue to endure."

Hundreds of adult day-care facilities have been created across the country, but many more are needed. Churches ought to consider this redemptive ministry to both Alzheimer's victims and their caregivers. In addition, churches need to form ministry teams that can sit with Alzheimer's victims in their homes while their caregivers get away for a few hours of rest and relaxation.

For free materials about Alzheimer's and how to help victims and caregivers, call the American Health Assistance Foundation at (800) 437-AHAF or the Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center at (800) 438-4380.

Marv Knox

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Month. Four million Americans suffer from the disease, which cannot be prevented nor cured.

Thanks, Kentucky

Thank you, Kentucky-Russia Baptist volunteers, for coming to work with us and our brothers and sisters in Russia. And thank you for all the American "goodies" you brought to us.

We love you all and hope to see you here again. Please continue to pray for us as we serve the Lord in the wonderful country of Russia.

Rob & Joan Robinson
Norm & Martha Lytle
Billy & Annette Jackson
Ken & Lou Ann Locke
Jamie & Vickie Elliott
Mel, Nancy, Sarah & Anna Skinner
Randy, Robin, Adam & Corrie Covington
Jack & Avah Shelby
Ed, Jeri, Adam, Anna, Rachel & Rebecca Tarleton

Paul, Lori, Rebekah, Sarah & Lydia Babb

Get involved

Praise God for the Russia/Kentucky Baptist partnership! As a member of an evangelistic team that recently went to St. Petersburg, I witnessed firsthand the great things God is doing in Russia. I am writing to encourage Kentucky Baptists to get involved in this wonderful ministry. You can be involved in at least three ways:

■ Pray fervently. Pray for our missionaries serving there. Pray for the believers in Russia. Pray for Kentucky Baptist partnership Director Benton Williams and Coordinator Calvin Wilkins as they coordinate our efforts. Pray for Kentucky Baptists who have answered God's call to

with a partnership team.

■ Give cheerfully. Bibles and Sunday school literature need to be printed. Churches need to be built. Ministries need to be supported. Volunteers must be sent to the towns and villages to proclaim the name of our Savior.

■ Go willingly. Is God speaking to your heart about partnership missions? Do not hesitate. Follow his leading. You will be glad you did!

Chris Platt
Henderson

Take inventory

Must we be reminded that as Christians our first allegiance is to God and not man? I am a Christian first, then secondly a conservative or a liberal or whatever.

It is my belief that most Baptists' positions relative to our convention issues are formed because of personal friendships and pastor influences.

How much better and nobler would it be if one's theological position were attained by sincere prayer and Bible study.

It has been my experience that when a major crisis occurs in a Christian's life, most turn immediately to God for help and seek afresh his promises in the Bible. We all seem to hold the same position then; namely, God is our only refuge and strength.

When we put God first, we are motivated by love. If motivated by love, there will be less subjective criticism directed at our denominational and seminary leaders and a more tolerant attitude toward all people in general. The Bible says if we love God, we cannot despise or hold bad feelings toward our fellow man. One can't have it both ways; let's take personal inventory.

Jack Strange
Louisville

We'll never, ever surpass the present Daddy gave Martha this year

No other Knox can top the gift Daddy gave my sister, Martha, this year. In fact, nobody in our family ever will surpass it.

Daddy presented his gift to Martha a couple of weeks ago. It came a bit early for Christmas, perhaps, but right on time as far as she was concerned.

Daddy's gift was just what Martha wanted. The right size and color. And it works perfectly. No way she'll ever take it back for a refund.

On a Thursday morning, Daddy and Martha laid down on tables in side-by-side operating rooms. Six hours later, Daddy's left kidney was hard at work in Martha's body, cleansing the toxic impurities from her blood. Meanwhile, his right kidney was adapting to the full load it had shared with

its left companion for 61 years.

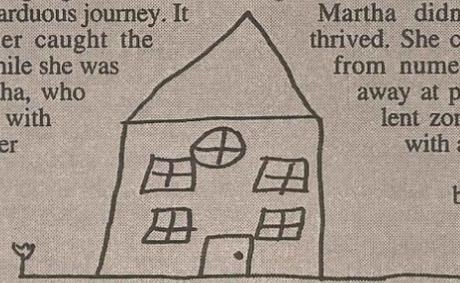
Their transplant highlighted the latest phase of a long and arduous journey. It began when Mother caught the measles from me while she was pregnant with Martha, who was born deaf and with severe kidney/bladder problems. It almost ended at the beginning, when Martha nearly died in infancy.

Mother and Daddy endured every parent's worst nightmare by placing their baby daughter in God's hands. And Martha sur-

vived, sustained by grace, prayer and courage.

Martha didn't just survive; she thrived. She cheerfully battled back from numerous surgeries, years away at private school and a silent zone slightly out of sync with a hearing world.

But last year, Martha's body dealt her a blow that grit and determination couldn't fend off alone. Her only functioning kidney rapidly deteriorated. Her doctor placed her on renal dialysis, hooking her up to a blood-cleaning machine three times a



down home

her on renal dialysis, hooking her up to a blood-cleaning machine three times a

week. And we prayed for a transplant.

She prayed that I, her big brother, would get the honor. Blood tests ruled that out; our body tissues are "complete mismatches." But when Daddy and Mother matched, he pulled rank and eagerly volunteered to donate a kidney.

We worried about his health, but he never wavered. If his kidney would lengthen her life, then donating it would be worth any risk, he reasoned.

So Daddy gave his left kidney to Martha. It was a life-saving gift, but more. If my daughters ever need a kidney, I hope I have the courage to give them one of mine. Even more, I hope I pass on to them Daddy's legacy of love.

Marv Knox

Voters speak on gambling and other moral issues

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—It was win some, lose some for gambling opponents in a number of state elections Nov. 8.

Voters in Missouri, New Mexico, South Dakota and the Virgin Islands approved gambling initiatives on state ballots, while those in Florida, Colorado, Wyoming, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Rhode Island and on Indian reservations said no to gambling measures.

In Florida, voters rejected casino gambling for the third time in 16 years despite being outspent 10-1 in the most expensive political campaign in state history. Voters overwhelmingly defeated a referendum, 62 percent-to-38 percent, that would have allowed casinos at 47 sites.

Gambling opponents didn't fare as well in Missouri, where voters allowed slot machines on riverboats, or in New Mexico, where both a state lottery and video gambling won approval. In South Carolina, only 10 of 46 counties voted to ban cash payouts from video poker games.

In a non-binding referendum, Virgin Islanders voted for casinos, hoping to boost an economy ailing since Hurricane Hugo in 1989. But Navajos turned down casinos on their reservation, which stretches over Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Rhode Islanders also voted down casinos in five cities, including Providence, the capital and largest city. Voters in western Massachusetts rejected a non-binding referendum for casino

gambling proposed in Hampden County.

Colorado voters turned down slot machines at commercial airports, while Wyoming said no to slot machines, video poker, blackjack and poker. Minnesotans rejected off-track betting on horse races. South Dakota, meanwhile, approved a video lottery.

A proposed amendment to the Arkansas constitution allowing a state lottery and casino gambling at two racetracks was removed from the ballot Oct. 14 by the state Supreme Court, which found the ballot titles "misleading."

Other moral and social issues on state ballots included:

■ **Euthanasia.** Oregon passed a law allowing the terminally ill to get

lethal medication, becoming the first state in the nation to exempt doctors from prosecution for assisting in suicides.

■ **Abortion.** Wyoming rejected a measure that would have banned abortion except in cases of rape, incest or to save the woman's life.

■ **Homosexuality.** Oregon and Idaho rejected propositions that would limit gay-rights protection, outlaw school programs that suggest homosexuality is acceptable and keep books on homosexuality away from minors.

■ **Obscenity.** Colorado refused to adopt the U.S. Supreme Court's definition of obscenity, which relies on community standards. Oregon rejected a similar measure.

Religious Freedom Act said to be faring well in first year

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Heralded as the most significant law affecting religious liberty since the Bill of Rights, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act has lived up to its billing a year after its passage, church-state specialists say.

RFRA has had a substantial impact since President Clinton signed the bill into law last Nov. 16, said Brent Walker, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee, a religious-liberty watchdog organization in Washington, D.C.

Backed by a 68-member coalition representing nearly every point on the religious and political spectrum, the law restored a high level of protection for religious practice. In 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court abandoned the standard it had used in previous rulings that said government must have a compelling interest, such as public safety, before restricting religious practice.

After the court handed down its decision in *Employment Division vs. Smith*—stripping the high level of protection for religious freedom—more than 60 church-state cases were decided with religious claimants losing in nearly every instance.

The Free Exercise Clause of the Constitution's First Amendment "was all but a dead letter after *Smith*," Walker said.

But in the first year under RFRA, the tide has turned. More than 30 cases involving religious liberty claims have invoked the bill's provisions.

And RFRA's impact goes beyond those numbers, said Melissa Rogers, the Baptist Joint Committee's associate general counsel. Under the law, the government is discouraged from adding restrictions on religious practice it might have tried to implement under the lower standard of the *Smith* ruling. There is no way to calculate the number of cases that will never go

to court because of RFRA, she said.

Texas law professor Doug Laycock said that while religious liberty claims stand a better chance of prevailing under RFRA, it's still too early to tell what the law's full impact will be. Cases are being argued differently under the statute, he said, but most have not yet been decided.

"It is still possible for this statute to make an enormous difference or to fizzle out," he said.

RFRA has clearly influenced a decision in only a couple of cases, Laycock said. In one, a District of Columbia zoning board tried to shut down a Presbyterian church's feeding program. The church sued, citing RFRA, and won the right to continue to minister to the homeless, he said.

Steve McFarland, director of the Christian Legal Society's Center for Law and Religious Freedom, said RFRA has "leveled the playing field for believers when confronted by

heavy-handed government regulations or laws burdening religion."

"I think it also sent a message to government officials that religious exercise no longer is a doormat," McFarland added.

In another recent development, Justice Clarence Thomas objected to a refusal by the Supreme Court to hear a case he believed had RFRA implications. The court, over Thomas' objection, declined Oct. 31 to hear a landlord's argument that Alaska's fair housing law should not force him to violate his religious beliefs by renting to unmarried couples.

The landlord, Tom Swanner, had asked the high court to reverse a ruling by the Alaska Supreme Court, which found that neither the religion clauses of U.S. and Alaska constitutions nor the Religious Freedom Restoration Act could excuse him from complying with Alaska's ban on marital-status discrimination in housing.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Christian Science book back.** The Mary Baker Eddy book which launched the Christian Science religion is the focus of a new mass marketing campaign by the church, which teaches that physical ailments are the result of spiritual conditions and should be addressed only with prayer.

■ **Lutheran sexuality study abandoned.** Bowing to a year of criticism, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has abandoned its effort to adopt a churchwide policy statement on human sexuality. A draft document on sexuality was released in October 1993 and drew immediate criticism for its soft stance on homosexuality, teen sex and other issues.

■ **Veiled woman ticketed.** In an incident critics have called religious discrimination, a Muslim woman was ticketed by police for wearing a veil over her face in a public mall in St. Paul, Minn. Tayyibah Amatullah was cited for violating a state law prohibiting wearing a "disguise" in a public enclosure.

■ **Cohabitation affirmed.** Rabbis in the Conservative branch of Judaism have

produced a proposed statement affirming the morality of unmarried men and women living together if they follow the same ethical norms expected of married couples. The "Pastoral Letter on Intimate Relations" marks the first time a major religious body—Jewish or Christian—has produced ethical guidelines that approve of heterosexual cohabitation.

■ **Americans United focuses on grassroots.** Prompted by the success of the Religious Right, Americans United for Separation of Church and State has begun rebuilding its network of local chapters. The separationist group had 125 local chapters in the 1960s, but moved to a more centralized strategy in recent years.

■ **English asks forgiveness.** Singer Michael English has issued a letter to Christian retailers and media in which he asks forgiveness for his much-publicized moral failure which caused his sudden departure from the Christian music world earlier this year. English also said he plans to continue singing, but not on a Christian label. He has signed with Curb Records and recently released a new single with

country star Wynonna Judd called "Healing."

■ **Psychologist penalized for praying.** The Rutherford Institute has filed suit against the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners and the Arizona Department of Economic Security for revoking a psychologist's license because he prayed for his patient. Kenneth Olson, a psychologist and Lutheran minister, reportedly prayed over an 8-year-old boy who had been referred to him as a victim of Satanic ritual abuse.

■ **Carman packs 'em in.** More than 71,000 people filled Texas Stadium to capacity Oct. 22 to hear Christian singer Carman. This was the largest attendance ever recorded for a Christian concert, according to the National Christian Promoter's Roundtable Box Office.

■ **Terry's conviction stands.** The U.S. Supreme Court has cleared the way for the jailing of Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry on a contempt-of-court conviction for showing a human fetus to Bill Clinton during the 1992 presidential campaign.

The court left standing Terry's conviction and five-month jail sentence without comment.

■ **Anti-abortion leaders cite harassment.** Complaining they and their followers have been harassed and intimidated in the wake of violence at abortion clinics, leaders of three high-profile anti-abortion groups met in October with top Justice Department officials. "We are concerned there is a political witch-hunt against the pro-life movement, and we want the Justice Department to call these kinds of actions off," said Patrick Mahoney of the Christian Defense Coalition. Others involved in the meeting were Flip Benham of Operation Rescue and Frank Pavone of Priests for Life.

■ **Graham's Atlanta crusade a record.** Average evening attendance at Billy Graham's recent Atlanta crusade set a new record for the evangelist's crusades in the United States and Canada. An average of 62,500 people attended each night of the Oct. 26-30 crusade in the Georgia Dome. A total of 17,259 spiritual decisions were recorded.

New survey probes views on abortion

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—Only 6 percent of American adults believe abortion is permissible “for any reason the woman chooses at any time during the pregnancy” with no legal restrictions and with the government picking up the tab for women who can’t afford it, according to a poll commissioned by Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council.

The nationwide poll was conducted by the Roper organization. Results were published in the November issue of “Focus on the Family” magazine.

National polls in the past repeatedly have shown that Americans express conflicting views on abortion depending on how the question is phrased. Generally, a majority of Americans has been found to oppose abortion on demand, but a majority also opposes government restrictions on such delicate matters.

The Focus on the Family poll asked this question: “Which of the following statements best reflects your view of abortion?”

The results:

■ 19 percent said abortion is wrong under any circumstances.

■ 7 percent said abortion is wrong, except to save the life of the mother.

■ 18 percent said abortion is wrong, except to save the life of the mother and in cases of rape or incest.

■ 11 percent said abortion is wrong, except to save the life of the mother, in cases of rape or incest and in cases of infant deformity, disease or retardation.

■ 11 percent said abortion is wrong, except to save the life of the mother, in instances of rape or incest, in cases of infant deformity, disease or retardation, and where the child is unwanted and will not have a good quality of life.

■ 9 percent said abortion is permissible for any reason the woman chooses until the fetus can survive outside the womb.

■ 4 percent said abortion is permissible for any reason, except as a way to select the sex of the child.

■ 7 percent said abortion is permissible for any reason the woman chooses, at any time during pregnancy, and no legal restrictions such as parental notification or informed consent should be imposed.

■ 6 percent said abortion is permissible for any reason the woman chooses, at any time during pregnancy, that no legal restrictions should be imposed and that the government should pay for the procedure for women who cannot afford the expense.

■ 8 percent were undecided.

Baptist scholar disputes Jesus Seminar

FORT WORTH, Texas (RNS)—The controversial Jesus Seminar has declared that Jesus Christ was not born of a virgin, a notion one Southern Baptist theologian has labeled “perilous” to the faith.

“The Bible’s report of the virgin birth of Jesus is reliable history,” said Bruce Corley, a New Testament scholar and dean of the theology school at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. “It is perilous (to the faith) to deny the virgin birth as part of the New Testament.”

Corley charged that participants in the Jesus Seminar are “driving a wedge between faith and history among people.”

He said scholars who affirm the traditional teachings of the Bible are planning to fight back by creating their own highly visible forum to counter the bizarre claims of the Jesus Seminar.

“We expect it to come from an international team of reputable scholars sometime in the next year,” he

said.

The Jesus Seminar is a group of about 80 scholars who represent various Protestant and Roman Catholic traditions. The group meets twice each year and votes on aspects of Scripture using paper ballots or colored beads dropped into a ballot box.

Few of the Jesus Seminar scholars are considered friendly toward the kind of evangelical or conservative theology known among Southern Baptists.

Last year, the Jesus Seminar decided Jesus actually spoke only 18 percent of the words attributed to him in the Bible.

Now a group of 27 Jesus Seminar scholars has studied the New Testament account of Jesus’ birth and determined that Mary had sexual relations before she became pregnant with Jesus. The group disagrees on whether Jesus’ biological father was Joseph or an unknown figure.

The virgin birth of Jesus is a cornerstone of the Christian faith. It is embodied in the Apostles’ Creed, a

confession of faith recited in the Roman Catholic Church and many Protestant churches, and in the Nicene Creed used in Orthodox churches.

But these ancient Christian creeds, the Jesus Seminar said, should be understood as theological statements and not historical fact. A close reading of the Gospel accounts suggests the writers never intended to say Jesus was born of a virgin, said Daryl Schmidt, a seminar participant and professor at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

In other controversial declarations out of their latest meeting, the Jesus Seminar determined:

■ Jesus probably did not descend from King David, and the genealogies purporting to show the Davidic lineage are inventions of the author of the Book of Matthew.

■ Jesus probably was not born in Bethlehem, and the visit of the Magi is a fabrication.

■ The slaughter of infants by Herod the Great as described in Matthew did not happen.

Abortion pill now being tested in U.S.

WASHINGTON (BP)—The French abortion pill, RU 486, is currently being used in the United States through clinical trials in more than a dozen cities.

More than 2,100 women over the age of 18 and in the early stages of pregnancy will participate in the trials, which were announced Oct. 27 by The Population Council in New York City. In May, The Population Council received the United States patent to the drug by donation from Roussel Uclaf, the French company which developed RU 486.

RU 486, also known as mifepristone, is used in combination with another drug, misoprostol, to induce abortion in women in the early weeks of pregnancy. The procedure is legal in France, Great Britain and Sweden.

While The Population Council said more than 150,000 women have used RU 486 safely in Europe, the National Right to Life Committee has said the drug has caused the death of one woman and injuries to others.

The Population Council’s presi-

dent, Margaret Catley-Carlson, said the organization believes RU 486 “will provide an equally safe alternative to surgical abortion ... Women who have used this regimen report it is similar to a natural miscarriage.”

The council hopes to have RU 486 on the U.S. market in 1996, a spokesperson said.

Organizations opposed to abortion decried the trials.

“It is a tragedy that pro-abortion advocates want to use women as guinea pigs,” said National Right to Life President Wanda Franz.

“By bringing RU 486 into this country, ‘The De-Population Council’ has effectively taken aim and fired at women’s and children’s health,” said Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

But Planned Parenthood President Pamela Maraldo hailed the trials and those responsible for them.

“Credit must go to President Clinton and to Health and Human Servic-

es Secretary Donna Shalala for standing by their commitment to make mifepristone a reality for American women,” she said in a written release.

On his third day in office, Clinton directed the Food and Drug Administration to determine if the import ban on RU 486 should be lifted.

The procedure for RU 486 requires at least three visits to a clinic, according to The Population Council. On the first visit, the woman takes three tablets of RU 486, then returns two days later for two tablets of misoprostol. After a four-hour stay at the clinic on this second visit, about 70 percent of women expel their unborn child from the womb. The remainder of women will expel the embryonic child after they leave the clinic. Two weeks after the first visit, the woman returns to make sure the abortion is complete. If it is incomplete, a surgical abortion is done.

RU 486 causes the lining of the uterus to release the human embryo, while misoprostol causes the uterus to contract, expelling the body.

Ethicists search for ‘just peace’ theory

By Pat Cole
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—A Southern Baptist professor helped organize a panel of Christian ethicists and international relations experts who are attempting to build a basis for peacemaking in the post-Cold War era.

“We want to see if we can agree on a new method of Christian ethics called ‘just peacemaking,’” said Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. “For centuries, we’ve had just war theory and pacifism, which argue whether it’s all right to make war.” He emphasized, however, neither of these theories address what steps to take to make peace.

The 20 scholars met Oct. 28-30 at the Abbey of Gethsemani near Bardonia. Another meeting will be held next summer or fall. In the meantime, several members of the committee will be refining a working document that listed eight principles of peacemaking. Some of those principles are:

■ Act so as to spread democracy and human rights.

■ Take initiatives to decrease an adversary’s distrust and fear.

■ Encourage international agreements, initiatives, networks and relationships that decrease anarchy in the world.

■ Get those who have a stake in a conflict to talk “eyeball to eyeball.”

The idea of a “just peacemaking theory” has been discussed for several years by ethicists, Stassen said, not-

ing four major denominations issued statements in the 1980s calling for such a theory.

“We realize that we went through a 50-year period of the Cold War without any war between the major powers, and in fact it has been 100 years since there has been a war between democracies,” Stassen said. “Furthermore, we’ve seen countries like Poland, East Germany, South Africa, the Philippines and even Iran have revolutions by non-violent methods. So we are wondering if some new peacemaking initiatives are spreading that are moving us away from war.”

The gathering brought together some of the nation’s foremost scholars in diplomacy and ethical decision-making and 20 invited observers.

EEOC vows to push ahead on harassment

WASHINGTON (ABP)—With or without interpretative guidelines, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will enforce the federal ban against religious and other types of harassment in the workplace, the commission’s new chairman said Oct. 26.

In his first press conference, Gilbert Casellas emphasized that the commission’s decision last month to withdraw controversial workplace-harassment guidelines does not mean the agency will retreat from its mission to combat discrimination.

“Guidelines or no guidelines, we’re going to enforce the law,” Casellas said.

EEOC is charged with enforcing the 1964 Civil Rights Act’s ban against employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Last year, the commission drafted guidelines designed to help employers and employees understand what types of behavior constitute harassment ruled unlawful under the 1964 act.

The agency eventually withdrew the entire package of guidelines over pressure from Congress not to implement guidelines dealing with religious harassment. The proposed religious harassment guidelines had drawn heavy criticism, largely from conservative religious groups that charged they would lead to “religion-free” workplaces. Other religious groups urged EEOC to keep religion in the guidelines but to clarify them to make sure religious expression was not muffled.

1994-1995 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

MAY REPORT

At-large (Southern Region)

1996 unexp. term: Kenneth Park, Franklin Central Association

1995 unexp. term: Ed Hamlin, Springfield

East Lynn Association

1996 unexp. term: Jerry Lacefield, Campbellsville

Enterprise Association

1996 unexp. term: Drew Martin, Paintsville

Irvine Association

1996 unexp. term: Monty Carney, Annville

West Ky. Association

1996 unexp. term: Lewis Atwill, Fulton

Georgetown College Board of Trustees

1995 unexp. term: John Pettus, Lexington

FALL REPORT 1994 BOARDS OF AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Baptist Healthcare

Terms ending 1998: Gene Cravens, Lexington; William Daniel II, Corbin; Jim Rickard, Corbin; Don Walker, Paducah. BHS elects Paul Parker, Corbin and Thomas Dedman, Louisville.

Campbellsville College

Terms ending 1998—in-state: A. B. Colvin, Louisville; Stephen Branscum, Russell Springs; Ralph A. Tesseneer, Campbellsville; Charles L. Westray, Louisville; Mark C. Green, Frankfort; J. Kevin McCallon, Paducah; Mike Pope, Somerset; D. Michael Richey, Lawrenceburg; and Donald L. Zuberer, Valley Station.

Terms ending 1998—out-of-state: E. Bruce Heilman, Richmond, Va.; Jack J. Tichenor, Westchester, Ohio.

Clear Creek

Terms ending 1998—in-state: Gabriel Collett, Cynthiana; Ron Morgan, Frankfort; Anna White, Versailles; Mary Lou Salter, Richmond; Curtis Corey, Barbourville; Dudley Pomeroy, Pineville.

Terms ending 1998—out-of-state: Jeffrey Pound, Granville, Ohio; Jack Stewart, Morristown, Tenn.

Cumberland College

Terms ending 1998—in-state: Robert F. Browning, Somerset; Mrs. Jo Florence Cordell, Williamsburg; Mrs. Judy Rose, Lexington; Lynwood Schrader, Lexington; Edgar Croley, Williamsburg.

Terms ending 1998—out-of-state: J. Charles Smiddy, Knoxville, Tenn.; Tom Raper, Richmond, Ind.

Georgetown College

Terms ending 1998—in-state: John Holston Jr., Louisville; Mrs. Susan Keith, Elizabethtown; Mrs. Rachel King, Lexington; William Kugel Sr., Owensboro; Lee T. Todd Jr., Lexington; Robert G. Baker, Lexington; James W. Barnett, Harrodsburg; E. R. Purdom, Danville; Rebecca Simpson, Lyndon.

Terms ending 1998—out-of-state: Kenneth Mahanes, Centerville, Ohio; R. G. Puckett, Raleigh, N.C.)

Kentucky Baptist Foundation

Terms ending 1997 (3-year terms): H. C. Baker, Louisville; C. C. Brasher Jr., Benton, Mary Pat Price, Paducah, John D. Trisler, Harrodsburg.

Terms ending 1998 (4-year terms): Leigh A. Jones, Berea; James C. Hales, Cold Spring; D. Scott Neal, Lexington; Curtis Warf, Richmond.

Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission

N.E. Region: 1997 terms: Stan Williams, Ashland.

S.C. Region: Fred Engle, Richmond.

Southern Region: Stephen Lile, Bowling Green.

At-large members: 1995 terms: Joe Cornwell, Fountain Run; Andrew Rawls, Louisville. 1997 terms: Joe Priest Williams, Louisville, Alma Blair, Clinton.

Kentucky Homes for Children

1995 unexp. term: Bailey Taylor, Mt. Washington.

1997 unexp. term: Mrs. Cheryl D. Walker, Louisville.

Terms Ending 1998: Reginald L. Ayers, Bowling Green; Gary Scott, Frankfort; Gerald Sharon, Ft. Thomas; Ken S. Reinhardt, Jr., Louisville; Mrs. Diane Wilson, Madisonville.

Oneida Baptist Institute

Terms ending 1998: Don Robinson, Corbin; Thomas A. Moore, Louisville; Mrs. Carolyn R. Redding, Georgetown; Ken B. Hinton, Maysville.

Temperance League

Terms ending 1997: Billy Craddock, Louisville; Wilbur C. Powell, Franklin, Robert Sutton, Taylorsville; Ty Clenney, Greensburg; Orion Bell, Louisville.

Western Recorder: Terms ending 1997: Thomas T. Curry, Louisville; Mark Boes, Cecilia; Sherry Hignite, London; Kenneth Wells, Somerset.

EXECUTIVE BOARD: FALL, 1994

(All are 1997 terms except where noted)

At Large (Northeastern): Mrs. Dorothy Crace, Ashland

At Large (Southwestern): Mrs. Mary Pat Price, Paducah

At Large (Western): Stephen E. Thompson, Morganfield

Associations:

Allen: (1995): Unfilled

Bell: (1995 term): Jerry Tracy, Pineville

Bethel: Ronnie Grace, Trenton

Blackford: (1995 term): Roger Willoughby, Lewisport

Blood River: Glenn Cope, Benton; Gary Cruse, Benton

Booneville: Claude S. May, Big Creek; Johnny Adamson, Manchester

Breckinridge: George Tichenor, Falls of Rough

Caldwell-Lyon: (1997): Unfilled

Casey Co.: Major Nolan, Somerset

Christian Co.: Charles Burgett, Pembroke

Daviess-McLean: Larry Barker, Utica; Linda Hopson, Owensboro; (1997): Unfilled

East Lynn: (1996 term): Robert Batcher, Campbellsville

Elkhorn: Chuck Overton, Lexington; Jean Cravens, Lexington; Harold Polk, Lexington; Mike Osborne, Lexington; Anna White, Versailles; (1997): Unfilled

Goshen: (1996 term): Eugene R. Logsdon, Big Clifty

Graves: Larry Smith, Boaz

Green Valley: (1996 term): Stephen L. Dickerson, Henderson; Alan Witham, Henderson

Greenup: (1995 term): Tom Melvin, Catlettsburg; Robert M. Donovan, Olive Hill

Jackson: (1995 term): Unfilled

Liberty: Ray Woodie, Glasgow

Lincoln Co.: (1995 term): Gary D. King, Waynesburg; (1996 term): Curtis G. Brock, Hustonville

Little River: Steve Hardy, Cadiz

Logan: Bob Barnes, Russellville

Long Run: Mike Diggs, Louisville; Jerry Browning, Louisville; Steve Spencer, Louisville; Bill Groover, Louisville; Joana Johnson, Louisville; (1995 term): Unfilled; (1995 term): Unfilled; (1997 term): Unfilled; (1997 term): Unfilled

Unfilled

Lynn: Dan King, Hodgenville
Mercer: Mark Baldauff, Harrodsburg
Middle Fork: (1995 term): Unfilled
Mt. Zion: Jerry D. Lowrie, Williamsburg
Muhlenberg Co.: Leroy Rearden, Central City; Kenneth Galyen, Greenville

Nelson: (1996 term): Ray Armstrong, Shepherdsville; Billy Compton, Mt. Washington

North Concord: Robert K. Lowery, Barbourville

No. Kentucky (1995 term): Herbert Booth, Florence; Arnold Caddell, Burlington; Mark Keith, Burlington

Ohio Co.: (1996 term): John Cashion, Beaver Dam

Ohio River: Ray Gilliland, Smithland

Ohio Valley: Garey Mitchell, Sturgis

Pike: Rick Shannon, Pikeville

Pine Mountain: (1996 term): Unfilled

Red River: John Ramsey, Wellington

Rockcastle: Mark A. Whicker, Brodhead

Russell Co.: Frank Merrill, Campbellsville

Russell Creek: Ray Acree, Greensburg

Salem: Gary Kasey, Rineyville

Severns Valley: Bob Owsley, Cecilia

Shelby: David Head, Waddy; Ann Harmon, Shelbyville

Simpson: Billy F. Randolph, Franklin

South District: Rodney Lynch, Danville

South Union: James Jones Jr., Williamsburg

Sulphur Fork: Ferrill Davis Sr., Milton

Tates Creek: Dennis Brewer, Richmond; Douglas Cobb, Richmond

Ten Mile: Donald Bingham, Dry Ridge

Union: Lynn Bertram, Cynthiana

Warren: James Doyel, Bowling Green

Wayne Co.: (1997 term): Unfilled

West Union: (1995 term): Richard Edmiston, Paducah; Terry Mitcheson, Kevil; Harley Dixon, Paducah; Bettie Wright, Barlow; Coley Bradley, Paducah

Whites Run: Kenneth Massey, Ghent

Preacher of the 1995 Annual Sermon: Dr. Roy Honeycutt, Louisville; Alternate: A. B. Colvin, Louisville

Committee on Nominations

Billy Compton, chairperson; Howard Wilson; Michael C. Rogers; French Harmon; Otis L. Greer; Wayne Kuhner; Ben Baird; Monty Carney; Carl Evals; Kim Johnson; Dennis Plank; David Wilkerson; Ken Graham; Jeff Eaton; Rusty Ellison; Larry Kemp; George (Buddy) Crabtree; Charles Midkiff; Alan Chamness; Edgar E. Hatfield; Donald R. Cole.

1994-95 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

Committee on Nominations

North Central Region

1996 term: Mike Osborne, Lexington

Northeastern Region

1996 terms: Donald F. Coleman, Flatwoods; Drew Martin, Paintsville

Southeastern Region

1996 terms: Jerry Lowrie, Williamsburg; James R. Vandy, Barbourville

Southern Region

1996 term: John Nunley, Glasgow

South Central Region

1995 unexp term: Bob R. Rush, Lancaster

1996 term: Lester Caldwell, Mt. Vernon

Western Region

1995 unexp term: Jerry Tooley, Henderson

1996 terms: Scott Ford, Maceo; Guy Deane, Owensboro

Southwestern Region

1996 term: Archie Brock, Marion

Central Region

1996 terms: Geoff Lacefield, Louisville; Eddie Reynolds, Shepherdsville

Committee on Arrangements

1997 terms: Velma L. Hovekamp, Paducah; Rick L. Shannon, Pikeville

Committee on Constitutions & Bylaws

1997 terms: David T. Gray, Radcliff; Donald E. Phelps, Barlow; C. Wyman Copass, Owensboro

Committee on Credentials

1996 terms: Paul Saalwaechter, Owensboro; Ken Whitehouse, Louisville
Jim Grable, Hopkinsville

Committee on Order of Business

1997 terms: Bill Fort, Bowling Green; Ron Wells, Oak Grove

Committee on Public Affairs

1996 terms: Ronnie Grace, Trenton; Ray Roaden, Corbin

Committee on Resolutions

1996 terms: Scott Kilgore, Woodburn; Roger Eaken, Fulton, Tenn.

Persons to report

Convention-wide Education
Person to Report - Eddie Hatfield, Louisville; Alternate - Charles Rice, Pineville

Home Missions

Person to Report - John M. Bond, LaCenter; Alternate - Gary Southard, Ashland

Foreign Missions

Person to Report - Jim McKinley, Louisville; Alternate - Larry Baker, Hopkinsville

Cooperative Program

Person to Report - Kevin McCallon, Paducah; Alternate - Jewell Pruitt, Glasgow

Obituaries

Person to Report - G. Allen West, Louisville; Alternate - William L. Kaufman, Louisville

Committee on Committees

James McKenzie, chairperson; Robert K. Lowery; Geraldine Montgonery; James M. McGee; Chris Johnson; Gene Crowder; William Hancock; Ross Bauscher; Walter Davis

THANK YOU! For Giving to the Lord

Supplement to the Western Recorder ■ Nov. 15, 1994 ■ Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

Need additional information? To learn more about the ministry of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, write to us at 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Ky. 40243, or call (800) 456-1386 or (502) 245-2101.

Need Thanksgiving Offering materials? Call us toll free at (800) 456-1386 or (502) 245-2101 and we'll ship them to you right away!

Need a Speaker? A limited number of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children speakers are still available for the period between now and Christmas. Call now and have someone from the children's ministry come share firsthand with your congregation about how they are changing the lives of hurting children and families! Call toll free (800) 456-1386 or (502) 245-2101.



Thanksgiving Offering goal set at \$950,000

An ambitious goal of \$950,000 has been set for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's annual Thanksgiving Offering from churches.

The goal represents a \$50,000 increase over last year's goal of \$900,000, which Kentucky Baptist churches exceeded.

"We are so grateful to our churches for their tremendous outpouring of support last year," said KBHC President Curtis Mooney. "I think God's people felt challenged to go out and make a real difference in the lives of children, and they did just that."

Mooney said that because of Kentucky Baptists' faithfulness, the children's ministry has been able to add a new shelter in Somerset, three new Cornerstone Counseling offices and 24 new foster homes. The children's agency grew from assisting just over 700 children and families in 1993 to more than

1,200 in 1994.

Brenda Gray, vice president for development and communication, said all churches should have received material for promoting the offering by now. Included in each packet for the churches were bulletin inserts, posters, pew envelopes and sheet music for the song "Thank You" which is serving as the theme for this year's offering promotion.

Gray said any church that has not received materials can do so by calling Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children toll-free at (800) 456-1386.

"We want this to be the best offering ever," Gray said. "Kentucky Baptists did so much last year, and we made real progress in bridging the gap between the needs and our ability to meet them with Christ's compassion and love. This year it is important that we maintain the momentum and build upon that progress."

'Thank You' Theme Has Special Meaning This Year

"Thank You" is a phrase the staff of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has been using a lot this year as the children's ministry has celebrated its 125th anniversary. So it seemed only appropriate for that phrase to be incorporated as the theme for this year's Thanksgiving Offering as well. "Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am a life that was changed," is the theme printed on all of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's offering materials this year.

If it sounds familiar, you may be thinking of the Ray Boltz song titled "Thank You" from which the line came.

"Although there was never a

concerted effort to make it a theme song for us this year, individual musicians seemed to select this song time and time again as we shared in churches and at our celebration parties around the state," said Kathey Sanders, the staff member who suggested it as an offering theme. "When we contacted Ray Boltz's representatives about our using it, they were thrilled. It really is special because it

helps people to realize their offering gifts go to help real people who may not have had the opportunity to know God's love if Baptists hadn't been willing to give."

It was because of this special message that the children's home de-

ecided to include the sheet music to the song with the Thanksgiving Offering materials this year.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children President Curtis

Mooney said he's excited about the theme because it helps share with Kentucky Baptists something of what he and other staff are privileged to see every day—lives being changed.

"It's not just a trite phrase or a slogan," Mooney said. "Kentucky Baptists really are making a difference in so many lives."

"When I hear the stories from staff, read the responses to questionnaires, and talk to the children and families we're working with, I get so excited," he continued. "It makes me very proud to be a Kentucky Baptist. And that pride is what I want all Baptists to feel in this ministry."

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children Offering Goal: \$950,000

Thank
You!

For Giving to the Lord

Where Is the Thanksgiving Offering Used?



* Harold opening Jan. 1, 1995

Ever wonder where the funds collected through the annual Thanksgiving Offering are used? Here's a quick look at Kentucky Baptists' extensive childcare ministry.

■ **Baptist Youth Ranch, Elizabethtown.** The Baptist Youth Ranch provides treatment care for 11 boys with severe emotional and behavioral problems stemming from abuse, neglect or other family crisis. *Baptist Youth Ranch, P.O. Box 4075, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42702-4075; (502) 737-3888.*

■ **Baptist Youth Shelter, Morehead.** The Baptist Youth Shelter provides short-term care (90 days or less) for 10 boys and girls who need to come out of their homes. The home helps provide stability while decisions about long-term care are made. *Baptist Youth Shelter, 2495 Cranston Road, Morehead, Ky. 40351; (606) 784-3969.*

■ **Center for Independence, Louisville.** The Center for Independence provides independent living skills training, college and career assistance and a transitional living apartment program for young adults. Thirteen Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children students are attending colleges this year. *Center for Independence, 1143 South Third Street, Louisville, Ky. 40203; (502) 585-1452 or (800) 585-0093.*

■ **Cornerstone Counseling.** Cornerstone Counseling provides professional Christian counseling for individuals, couples and families. Offices are opened in partnerships with Baptist associations or other Baptist groups within the area of service. Offices are now open in Ashland, Bowling Green, Erlanger, Frankfort, Hopkinsville, London, Louisville, Madisonville and Pineville. Offices will soon be opening in Berea, Harold, Henderson and Somerset. *Cornerstone Counseling, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Ky. 40243; (502) 245-2101 or (800) 456-1386.*

■ **Dixon Temporary Shelter, Dixon.** The Dixon Temporary Shelter provides short-term care for 10 girls who need to come out of their homes. The home helps provide stability while decisions about long-term care are made. *Dixon Temporary Shelter, 86 Burnt Mill Road, Dixon, Ky. 42409; (502) 825-2191.*

■ **Family Foster Care.** Homes across Kentucky provide foster care for children under the supervision of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Workers are now based in Madisonville, Middletown and Paducah. Foster care workers will also soon be working from offices in the Glendale, Harold and Somerset areas. *Central Kentucky Office, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Ky. 40243; (502) 245-2101 or (800) 456-1386.*

Western Kentucky Office, 436 North Main Street, Madisonville, Ky. 42433; (502) 825-2191.

■ **First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Service.** First Step assists birth parents facing unplanned pregnancies and works with couples seeking to adopt. Workers are based in Middletown with an office soon to open in Harold, near Pikeville. *First Step, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Ky. 40243; (502) 244-9319 or (800) 928-5242.*

■ **Genesis Home, Mayfield.** The Genesis Home provides treatment care for 15 girls with severe emotional and behavioral problems stemming from abuse, neglect, or other family crisis. *Genesis Home, Route 4, Box 153-1 Old Dublin Road, Mayfield, Ky. 42066; (502) 623-6144.*

■ **Glen Dale Children's Home, Glendale.** The ministry's largest residential campus, Glen Dale Children's Home provides residential care for 70 children in a rural setting. Glen Dale has one of the largest 4-H programs in Kentucky. *Glen Dale Children's Home, P.O. Box 97, Glendale, Ky. 42740; (502) 369-7380.*

■ **Regional Services.** Regional offices in Madisonville, Middletown, Morehead and Somerset provide administrative support for the programs in their areas and refer-

ral services for all Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children services. Residents of Kentucky can receive services from any Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children program no matter which part of the state they live in. *Central Kentucky Office, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Ky. 40243; (502) 245-2101. Eastern Kentucky Office, 123 E. Main Street, Morehead, Ky. 40351; (606) 784-3969. Southern Kentucky Office, 212 White Street, Somerset, Ky. 42501; (606) 679-4270. Western Kentucky Office, 436 North Main Street, Madisonville, Ky. 42431; (502) 825-2191.*

■ **Southern Region Shelter, Somerset.** The Southern Region Shelter provides short-term care for 12 boys and girls who need to come out of their homes. The home helps provide stability while decisions about long-term care are made. *Southern Region Shelter, 212 White Street, Somerset, Ky. 42501; (606) 679-4270.*

■ **Spring Meadows Children's Home, Middletown.** Southern Baptists' original childcare ministry founded in 1869, Spring Meadows provides residential care for 48 children and youth. A Family Life Education program conducted through this ministry helps teach parenting skills. *Spring Meadows Children's Home, 10901 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Ky. 40243; (502) 245-2161.*

Thank
YOU!

For Giving to the Lord

'I Am a Life That Was Changed!'

Numbers sometimes seem abstract. So here are some of the stories of the children and families whose lives are being changed because Kentucky Baptists care. To protect the privacy of the individuals whose stories these are, names and some identifying details have been changed. Also the photo is representative and not of the individuals in the stories.

Tommy

Tommy is only 4 years old but has already seen a lifetime worth of violence. His mother provided very little structure, very little discipline, was neglectful of his needs, and often chose boyfriends who were abusive. Tommy says he once watched when someone was shot in his home.

Violence is all Tommy had known, and he carried those lessons of violence with him once social workers removed him from his home. He was aggressive with other children and adults and quickly went through a series of placements before coming in to the care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

In a Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children foster home, he has found structure, discipline, care and, maybe for the first time in his life, love. Tommy still has many problems. He's receiving help through a special therapeutic daycare program

and demands much in the way of patient, firm attention from his foster mother.

But he's making it. Tommy is a life that's been changed.

John

John is a teenager who had to fend for himself for most of his childhood. His father often was drunk and would lock him out the shack they lived in. When this happened, John would get inside by crawling under the house and squeezing in through a hole in the bathroom floor.

At Glen Dale now, John has discovered that he has many talents. He works well with animals and walked away from the Kentucky State Fair this year with several top awards. He's also found that he's a talented artist who is being given a chance to develop his skills. John also bears witness to faith in Jesus Christ through the Homeland Singers.

John will tell you that he himself is still "a work in progress" but he is definitely a life that's been changed.

Teri

Teri can't believe she's in college now. A victim of abuse, she never had much motivation to do her best before coming into the care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for

Children. But once she found herself in the stable care of people who wanted and expected her to do her very best, she excelled. She worked hard in high school and by working with the college and career counselor in Kentucky Baptist Home's for Children's Center for Independence, she was able to receive a scholarship to one of Kentucky's top colleges.

Teri says the work is hard and living on a college campus has been a difficult adjustment. The continuing support of the college and career counselor and a local church has carried her through, however. A life that's been changed, Teri is nearly finished with her first semester and already looking forward to the next!

Cheryl

Cheryl's life has been a roller-coaster ride. She's a teenager who never had a chance to be a child. Unwanted and neglected by her mother, she was sexually abused by her brother. She became angry,

bitter, hostile and self-destructive. She thought so little of herself that she would give herself to men in return for cigarettes.

Her life is being changed at Genesis Home as skilled and caring staff are loving her back to life.

Her journey will be difficult as she faces the things that have happened to her and she learns better ways to deal with her pain. But because of Kentucky Baptists, she



won't be facing the long road ahead alone.

And Cheryl is finally getting a chance to be a child again. She smiles now as she rides her bicycle and she's becoming comfortable with the knowledge that there are people who really care about her.

Cheryl is truly a life that's been changed.

An Impossible Task? With Your Help We Are Making a Difference

As you can tell from this insert, the Thanksgiving Offering is important to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. We depend heavily on Kentucky Baptist individuals and churches to make this ministry possible, and Thanksgiving has been for many years the traditional time for focusing on the needs of children and families.

The goal of \$950,000 set for this year is a very ambitious one but also very attainable. It needs to be reached—not because we're in some kind of competition to always top last year's mark or because the number has a nice ring to it—but because reaching it will enable us to continue reaching out to more children and families in need. The Thanksgiving Offering is one of a number of critical funding sources for us that include other gifts from churches, the Cooperative Program, return from invest-

ments on our endowment, gifts from individuals, bequests and resident support from the child's family or the state Cabinet for Human Resources.

Last year we challenged churches by asking: "Which child would you turn away?" It was a powerful message that called on all of us to do a little soul searching because as Christians we don't ever want to turn away someone in need—especially a child. The churches responded fantastically and exceeded the \$900,000 goal. The results of that wonderful outpouring of love are what you are seeing on these pages. Because you cared last year, this ministry was able to dramatically extend services and reach out to more hurting children and families than ever. Acquir-

ing the shelter in Somerset, the opening of multiple new Cornerstone Counseling offices in partnership with various Baptist groups, and the growth in the number of foster care families could not have occurred without our knowledge that Kentucky Baptists were behind this ministry and doing more than ever what they could to support it financially. We are grateful. Because of you lives are being changed!

I would be remiss if I led you to believe we solved all of the problems last year, however. We didn't. As we increased dramatically the number of children and families helped, even more came to us. The families in our state are hurting and continue to cry out to us for help. And it so hard for me

and the rest of the staff to say "no, we can't help." Each of these individuals is loved by God and I am constantly reminded that if we ever are to meet their spiritual needs, we first must be willing to meet physical and emotional ones.

Will there ever be an end? Will there ever be a light at the end of the tunnel? Sometimes it seems as if there won't be. But every time I start to think that, I hear my Lord when he told his disciples to feed more than five thousand people gathered on a hillside. In their minds it was an impossible task. But Jesus took what was given by a little boy and shared it so that everyone was full.

It is our dream and vision that there will come a time when families are strengthened to the place that this ministry will no longer need to grow. That time has not come yet, however. Please give generously this year.

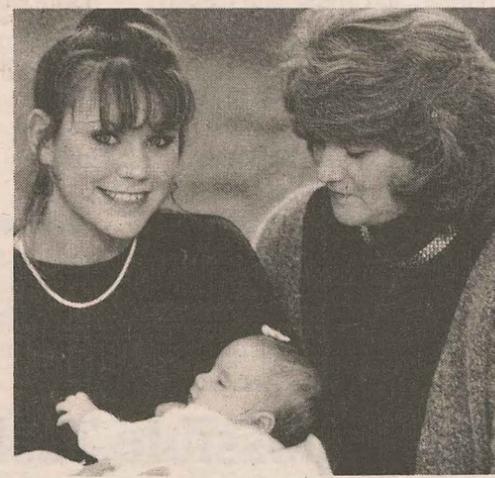
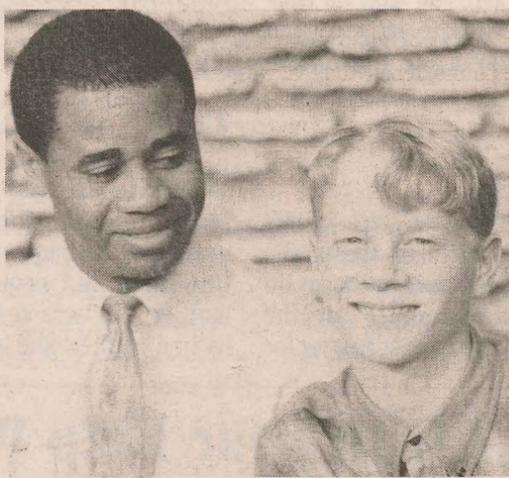
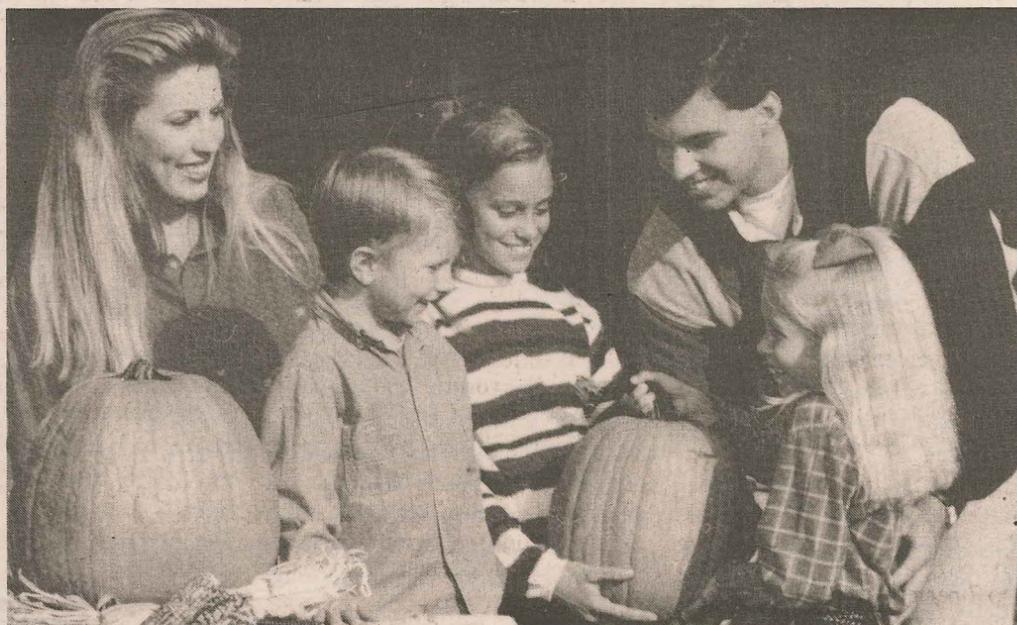
HOMES FOR
CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

"Thank you for giving to the Lord, *I am a life that was changed!*"

Each day Kentucky Baptists are changing the lives of hurting children and families who come to feel the compassion and love of Jesus through Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Through a wide array of ministries that include pregnancy counseling and adoption services, foster homes, residential campuses, crisis shelters, treatment homes, college and career services, and professional Christian counseling, you touched the lives of more than 1,200 children and families last year!



Please give prayerfully and generously to the

1994 Thanksgiving Offering

Statewide Goal: \$950,000

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

For information about other ways you can get involved, dial 1-800-456-1386!



Strong family still possible, speaker says

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Despite the changing nature of American families, "strong, life-shaping families are as possible today as they were 50 years ago," according to research psychologist and Lutheran minister Merton Strommen.

"The one difference is that today parents must become more intentional in their desire for a Christian family, more intentional with respect to what is done or not done as family," Strommen said in a recent address at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Strommen, founder of the Augsburg Youth and Family Institute and Search Institute, both in Minneapolis, spoke to a conference on youth and family ministry.

In recent years, family life in America has gone through a drastic transition, Strommen said. For example, Strommen noted the percentage of American households consisting of a working father, a housewife mother and two or more children dropped from 60 percent in 1955 to 7 percent by 1985.

Churches can help build closer family relationships amid changing demographic patterns, Strommen said. He cited four "ingredients" necessary for close family relationships which churches can help nurture—parental harmony, communication, parental discipline and attitudes of love.

Strommen said his research has shown "where there is love and affection adolescents are less likely to be involved in drug and alcohol use and in sexual activity." Youth who grow up in caring environments usually make friends easier and are more likely to be involved in service activities and take matters of faith seriously, he said.

In addition to encouraging solid family relationships, churches must focus on shaping "close God relationships," Strommen emphasized. "One side encourages bonding between parents and children," he explained. "The other side encourages bonding with Jesus Christ. Our research shows that when these two relationships characterize a family, you have a strong, life-shaping family."

However, Strommen said one recent survey of youth whose parents are members of mainline Protestant denominations revealed 75 percent of the youth came from families that rarely, if ever, talk about faith in the home.

Churches no longer can conduct "business as usual" when it comes to family ministry, Strommen said. "The time has come to make family ministry a focus of our congregations."

Senior adults urged to improve self-image

By Terri Lackey
SBC Sunday School Board

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Senior adults who suffer from a low self-image can take practical steps even in the winter of their lives to combat feelings of unworthiness, the editor of a national senior adult magazine said.

"Sometimes we wonder how in the world we can get to this stage of our lives where we have witnessed so many blessings and still have low self-esteem," Al Shackelford, editor of *Mature Living* magazine, said at a senior adult Chautauqua at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Shackelford said today's senior adult males grew up associating their self-esteem with their jobs and senior adult females linked it to their families.

"Well, for most of you, both of those are gone. You're retired by now probably, and your children have left the home to start their own lives," he noted.

Shackelford said some senior adults suffer from low self-image because the world doesn't treat them with proper respect. "The world says, 'These people are from another day. They don't know anything about our new technology.'"

As Christian senior adults, Shackelford said, they should accept the challenge to see themselves as very

important people.

"God created you in his image. He could have created us all with a dull gray finish, with the same eyes, the same weight, the same abilities and interests, but he made us all different. He made us all like him, but with our own stuff. That's important for us to remember wherever we go and whatever we do."

Shackelford offered some practical steps for senior adults interested in working on their self-esteem, including improving the quality of their lives in three specific areas—physical, mental and spiritual.

He said senior adults should start by toning up their physical lives. That includes eating right, getting plenty of rest and regular exercise.

"Our bodies are not as pretty as they used to be, and we have a lot of aches and pains. Maybe we can't run marathons, but the main purpose is to keep our body in good order so God can use it for his work," he said.

Eating right means starting off with a good nutritious breakfast, eating a lot of vegetables and fruit and drinking a lot of water, he said.

"Plan activities you enjoy doing to keep you from snacking all day. I know when it's raining or cold outside and I don't want to get out there, I'll grab a handful of cookies every time I pass the kitchen. Just keep yourselves busy so you won't do what

I sometimes do."

Older adults need more rest in their senior years than they did when they were young, Shackelford said.

"You need at least eight hours and maybe more. I know a lot of people like to brag about how little sleep they need, but feeling rested contributes to a higher self-esteem."

As far as regular exercise, Shackelford said nothing can beat walking for its convenience and low cost. "All you need is a good pair of shoes and some loose clothing. As your body feels good, your self-esteem goes up."

Shackelford advised senior adults who live alone to get up and get dressed each morning "to feel better about yourselves."

"Don't go around the house all day in your grungy bathrobe. It's nice to be lazy, but that does something to your self-image. Get up, eat breakfast, take a shower and put on some nice, bright clothes. You need to care about how you look even if nobody is looking at you."

Shackelford told the senior adults they could help their self-esteem by exercising their minds. "You need to set some goals and plans and things you would like to accomplish. That's what keeps us going."

"Remember when you used to say, I wish I had time for more Bible study and prayer and devotion? Well, now you do."

Single Parent magazine starts

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—Despite the public debate that has pitted conservative Christian groups against single parents, one prominent Christian organization has launched a new initiative aimed directly at single parents.

Focus on the Family has launched a new magazine called "Single Parent Family."

The 32-page monthly magazine is similar in format to Focus on the Family's other magazines, such as the flagship "Focus on the Family."

In a November letter announcing the new product, Focus on the Family founder James Dobson writes at length about the plight of many single parents today and the need for Christian organizations to reach out in love.

"How incredibly difficult it is to be poor, lonely and stressed to the limit by the responsibilities of parenting,"

he writes. "I can hardly imagine how teenage girls and women in that situation are able to meet the challenges of everyday living."

While not all single parents fit that profile, he admits, an enormous number do. "Half the unmarried mothers in the United States live below the poverty line. Many others teeter on the brink of economic disaster from month to month. Indeed, divorce is the primary contributor to poverty, producing a drastically lower standard of living for most women and children."

This magazine, he says, will provide inspiration and encouragement to all single parents, both male and female.

For information about subscribing to the new publication, call Focus on the Family at (800) 232-6459 or write to Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80995.

Teenage birth rate declines

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The rate of teenagers giving birth in the United States dropped for the first time since 1986, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Oct. 25.

Officials hailed the 2 percent drop in the 1992 teen birth rate as a turnaround. From 1986 to 1991, the rate had increased 27 percent.

The center reported 60.7 births for every 1,000 women aged 15-19, down from the 62.1 births per 1,000 women the year before.

"We feel it's a real change," said Stephanie Ventura, a statistician with the CDC's National Center for Health

Statistics. "It reverses a pattern where it has been going up 5,6,7 percent a year from 1986 on."

Ventura speculated that a trend toward sexual abstinence and increased use of condoms might explain the drop.

But the CDC study also found bad news, reporting that 7.1 percent of babies are born at low birth weights, the same percentage as the year before. Among other factors, underweight births are associated with lack of prenatal care and mothers who smoke while pregnant. Low birth weight can contribute to developmental problems in infants.

Pray for children, mother urges

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Learning to trust God for your children's welfare is one of the most important, and sometimes most difficult, aspects of parenting, Sarah Maddox said during a recent women's conference.

Maddox, from Brentwood, Tenn., led a seminar on how to pray for children during Dayspring, a conference co-sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Alabama Woman's Missionary Union.

While her son and daughter were growing up, Maddox said she found that "my pride and my will stood between my answered prayers. God said, 'Let go of your plans and submit to my perfect will for your children.'"

Parents also must let go of their fretting, Maddox said. Parents tend to think "if only I had ..." or "if only the child had ...," she noted.

"The 'if only' circle of regret gets you nowhere," Maddox said. "We must move from 'if only' to 'only God.' Believe that only God has the solution."

"We must come to know God. The more we know him, the more we love him and the more we can trust him with these children of ours."

Maddox suggested several ways to pray specifically for children, along with related Scripture:

■ Pray for their salvation and never give up. Romans 3:23.

■ Pray for deliverance from evil. Matthew 6:13, Psalm 97:10 and Hosea 2:6.

■ Pray for children to have discernment in relationships and activities, to discern between good and evil, better and best. Ephesians 3:16 and John 17:15.

■ Pray for discipline in their lives so they are not ruled by emotions or instinct. Proverbs 16:32.

■ Pray for determination to finish what they start. This is especially needed, Maddox said, because "we live in a day of casual commitment." Colossians 3:17 and 23.

■ Pray for them to discover God's will for their lives. Psalm 32:8 and Jeremiah 29:11-13.

■ Pray for them to be dedicated to the Lord. Romans 12:1-2.

Computers generate creative means for ministry

■ An estimated 13 million Christians have computers in their homes, and a slew of companies have sprung up to target the estimated \$25 million Christian computer market.

■ About 200 companies now produce software for churches and individual Christians.

■ More Americans rate computers and technology as a source of positive influence on the country than churches, a 1992 Times Mirror survey found. Of the 3,517 people age 18 and older who responded to the poll, 85 percent said churches have a good influence on the way things are going in America, placing them ahead of most other groups but behind computers and technology (87 percent).

■ All of the nation's major computer networks—America OnLine, CompuServe, Prodigy and GEnie—have religious offerings, ranging from information and discussion forums to religious journals.

Computer technology already has brought about a revolution in the way many churches keep track of contributions, analyze attendance and maintain membership lists. But a growing number of individuals and churches are finding creative ministry applications to suit their unique situations:

■ **Electronic evangelism.** Steve Brown, a member of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, views his computer as a unique platform for evangelism. Through electronic forums on a computer bulletin board service, he frequently dialogues about his Christian faith with people he might not have access to through traditional means. Some people ask hard questions about the Christian faith, he said, while others may only need encouragement to find a church.

■ **Bible study.** "With the Bible study software programs they have out now, a preacher can go into his computer and within a matter of seconds list verses he might need for certain subjects," said Dan O'Donnell, pastor of Canyon Del Oro Baptist Church in Tucson, Ariz. "Instead of going into the Bible and long-hand writing down every verse, I can get it from the computer. I've cut my study time as far as research in half."

■ **Church newsletters.** The availability of easy-to-use desktop publishing programs has been a boon to church secretaries who produce weekly or monthly newsletters. It also has become an asset to churches who publish their newsletters through the Western Recorder. A growing number of churches now submit their newsletters to the Recorder electronically on Monday mornings. This allows churches from all parts of the state to participate in the Recorder's church newspaper plan and still get a quick turnaround, said Editor Marv Knox.

■ **Missions education.** Simply by touching a computer screen, the 1,450 people attending the Jericho missions festival last summer could find out what foreign missionaries share their birthday, choose one, call up a screen with the latest address, print it out and take it home to write a letter to that missionary. They also could learn the names of area directors with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and see their photos on the screen. They could choose an area of the world and see a 30-40-second video with music from the region, narra-

tion and on-screen facts and figures.

■ **Community inspiration.** Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif., sends out a one-page inspirational fax called "The FAX of Life" to anyone in the business community of Southern California who asks for it. The computer-generated fax currently goes to more than 10,000 business people, including Disney CEO Michael Eisner, Ken Blanchard, author

of "One Minute Manager," and motivational speaker/author Anthony Robbins.

■ **Worship.** In Rowland, Texas, Lake Pointe Baptist Church uses a computer and video projector to produce wall-sized images of hymn texts and background graphics designed to help churchgoers follow the choir during services. In addition to hymnal information, the projection screen regularly features pre-service announcements of upcoming events and even sermon-related visuals.

■ **Sunday school outreach.** Leaders at Lakeland Baptist Church in Lewisville, Texas, use a computer

and fax machine to conduct their adult Sunday school outreach. Every Monday, church leaders fax or E-mail Sunday's prospects to the outreach leaders for each Sunday school class at their home or office.

■ **Encouragement.** At the beginning of each school year, John Garcia, associate minister to youth, college and singles at Temple Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., makes a list of the E-mail addresses of the members of his college Sunday school class. During the year, he sends them messages via his computer modem about upcoming events. He also plans to send birthday greetings, words of encouragement and possibly a preview of the following Sunday's Bible study lesson.

■ **Missions.** "Bridges of Friendship," a pen-pal project sponsored by the para-church group Aid to Special Saints in Strategic Times, links Christians around the world in discipling relationships. The program aims to link new Christians in all the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union with believers in North America who will help their new friends grow in faith. The ministry reports it already has received 47,000 letters from new Christians requesting American and Canadian pen pals.



Computer age brings changes of biblical proportions

Continued from page 1

taking up their own computer bulletin boards, a means of connecting one computer to another by telephone using a device called a modem.

In Brattleboro, Vt., pastor Ben Armacost started "The Mission Board BBS" which features a database of regularly updated directories for

Green Mountain Baptist Association and is being expanded to include information from all of the associations in the Baptist Convention of New England and Southern Baptist Convention agencies. Regular on-line participants also share computer software, Bible study helps and computer games and also communicate with

one another by electronic mail.

"It really started out of an evangelistic desire I had to reach out in an innovative way," said Armacost, pastor of Brattleboro Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist Fellowship of Hinsdale, N.H. "I've already received messages from all over the world—Canada, France, Ireland, South Africa. This has the potential of becoming the international mission field of the future."

Armacost also has had an ongoing on-line dialogue with two teenagers who have questions about Christianity. He has been able to share Scripture and words of encouragement, leading one of the teens to attend some youth-related events at the Brattleboro church.

Churches are finding other creative ways to plug in computers for a personal ministry touch.

Rick Ramsey, minister of music and youth at Grace Baptist Church in Asheville, N.C., sends the text of each week's church bulletin, newsletter and other news to two blind couples who are members of the church. He sends the text files via electronic mail on the CompuServe computer network. The couples then download the files to their computers and use a special software package and a speech synthesizer that actually "reads" the information to them line by line.

One of the couples, James and Vicki Burke, also sing in the church choir, so Ramsey sends them the texts of hymns or anthems they will sing the following Sunday. They listen to the files and use a special machine to record the information in braille.

"It's really a pretty good way to transmit information," Vicki said. "It's been a real help to us."

Several state conventions are be-

ginning to take advantage of computer technology, too. Four years ago, the Alabama Baptist State Convention's Sunday school department staff developed its own church growth computer software. "Alabama ChurchGrow" is made available free of charge to cooperating Southern Baptist churches in the state.

"This program allows us to analyze the growth status of a church on a day-to-day basis," department director Bruce Hose said. "It can help us determine everything from whether a church has too few parking places to how many new Sunday school classes it needs to start. It really helps us stay in touch with churches and provide them a better quality of service."

While the number of Southern Baptist churches exploring "cyberspace" continues to grow, the majority still don't use computers in their day-to-day operations. One recent survey found only 12,450 Southern Baptist churches out of 35,490 currently use computers to handle money, membership or other record keeping.

Why aren't more churches taking advantage of computer technology?

"The issue appears to be less a matter of fear of technology and more one of compelling need on the part of the consumer," explained David Haywood, SBCNet coordinator at the Baptist Sunday School Board. "The technology industry as a whole has not yet provided consumers with the facts that would lead them to see personal benefits. For now, particularly with SBCNet, persons who use technology and experience its benefits are the best salespersons to convince others to come on-line."

SBCNet thriving

By Charles Willis
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—SBCNet has become Southern Baptists' express lane on the Information Highway, with more than 800 hours logged on the system each week.

About half the user base—far more than that of other networks—logs onto the system at least once during each week. And the number of people joining SBCNet has made a substantial jump this year, adding more than 700 new users in a four-month period.

Total membership increased during this year from 2,000 in mid-May to 2,725 by Sept. 21, according to David Haywood, coordinator of the denomination's data communications network at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The increase followed an earlier doubling of SBCNet members in slightly more than eight months from 1,000 on Sept. 1, 1993, to 2,000 on May 19, 1994.

Among users, approximately 65 percent are churches and individuals, 15 percent are SBC agencies, 15 percent are state conventions and state Baptist newspapers and 10 percent are associations.

"A lot of pastors are kind of isolated out there," said Robert Westcott, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mims, Fla. "SBCNet provides a place to

meet other ministers, discuss theology, find encouragement and new ideas. I think it can help ministers from getting stale."

Services available on SBCNet for both church staff and lay leaders include:

■ Supplemental teaching helps for adult and youth Sunday school lessons in Life and Work, Bible Book and Convention Uniform series.

■ Baptist Press news service.

■ News and feature stories and photos from Southern Baptist agencies and state conventions.

■ Facts & Trends, the Sunday School Board's newsletter for church and denominational leaders.

■ Church newsletter articles from several SBC agencies.

■ Clip art.

■ Requests for prayer from missionaries.

■ Innovative Ministry Library and Minister's Corner, a collection of sermons and illustrations.

SBCNet may be accessed by using a computer, modem and a membership kit distributed by the Sunday School Board. Kits, at \$20 each, contain software, account information and a \$15 credit toward usage, plus a free month of CompuServe's basic services. Kits are available in DOS, Macintosh and Windows versions and may be ordered by calling (800) 458-2772. People who already are members of CompuServe may join SBCNet by simply typing "GO SBCNet" at any CompuServe prompt.

MISSIONS

Kentucky soldier helped start miraculous church

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

BEREA—Don Smith's military service in Vietnam ended in 1963, but a Baptist church he served there continues to make a positive impact, he recently discovered.

Southern Baptist missionaries, assisted by Smith and numerous other Christian servicemen assigned to the area during the early years of the Vietnam conflict, started Grace Baptist Church in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).

"I had lost all contact with the people in (the Vietnamese) congregation," said Smith, now back in Kentucky and a member of Berea Baptist Church. Recently, he read in the Western Recorder that despite 30 traumatic years, the church still flourishes today.

"I was very surprised it was still functioning," he said.

Military personnel were instrumental in helping the missionaries begin an English-language service, which laid the groundwork for Grace Baptist Church, explained Sam James, former missionary to Vietnam.

James, the first pastor of Grace Baptist Church, now lives in Richmond, Va., where he serves as vice president for creative leadership development with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"We had some fine Christian servicemen in Vietnam in the '50s and '60s who wanted to worship," James said. "That English language service was what attracted Vietnamese, 'who wanted to learn English.'"

"In one of the Bible studies that grew out of that English service, Vietnamese began making professions of faith," he said.

Smith said he helped secure funds for the church building, functioned as a deacon and helped lead a weekly men's group. Others also taught English to the Vietnamese.

Smith first visited the Vietnamese mission by mistake, he said. After arriving in Saigon to assume his post as provost marshal, he asked directions to the Army chapel. He was misguided to take the wrong city bus, which led him to the mission instead.

"After that, I never left," he said. After the city of 6.5 million people—and South Vietnam—fell to the communists in 1975, contact with foreigners was outlawed, although the church remained open. Christians from abroad weren't allowed to visit until 1986. Missionaries still cannot serve in the country.

Yet with a large sign announcing its presence on a main street near the airport, there's nothing secretive about Grace Baptist.

As early as 6:30 on a Sunday morning, motor scooters and bicycles

pack the courtyard of the church.

By the time the first hymn is sung, about 350 adults and scores of children crowd the building and spill over into a covered patio.

Partly due to a miraculous chain of events, Grace is the only Baptist church permitted to meet openly in the city.

"When Vietnam was taken by the communists, almost immediately they came into the Foreign Mission Board office in Saigon," James explained. Communist officials confiscated all the church files and took them out into the street to burn them.

For some reason, the papers were not burned immediately. A man in the neighborhood—a Buddhist—saw the papers and shuffled through them. He reclaimed one official-looking document that appeared to be a deed to the church property.

The next week, the man found the address listed on the document and gave the deed to a deacon who was living in the back of the church.

"One week later, communist leaders came to the church to take over the building," James continued. When they tried to force the deacon to leave, however, he was able to show proof of ownership of the property and the facility.

As a result, the church "never closed its doors one Sunday."

"My reaction to that is ... certainly

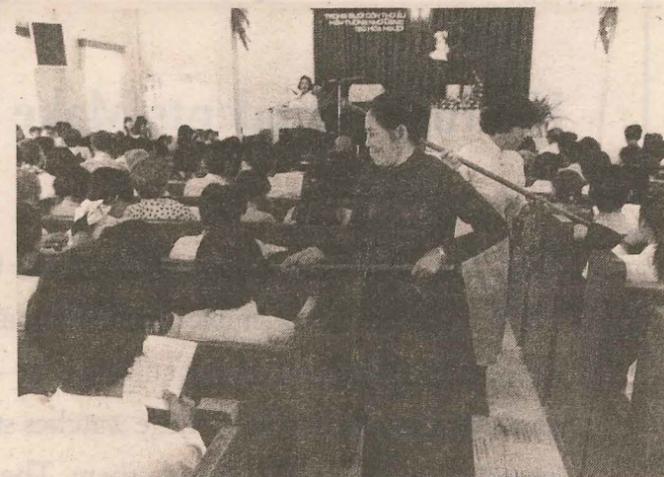
the Lord was at work there," Smith said after learning how the church survived. "The whole thing is really God-directed. That it has lasted all these years is really phenomenal."

Smith had been a Christian only two years when he was sent to Vietnam. Helping start Grace Baptist Church "gave me new insight and new ideas of the church and our work in the church," he said.

"It was a wonderful experience. It showed me that we should carry the word to the uttermost parts of the earth. Everyone can do that—you don't have to be a missionary."

With additional reporting from Baptist Press

THEN AND NOW The top photo, taken by Don Smith in 1962, shows the entrance to Grace Baptist Church before the fall of Saigon. The bottom photo, taken by FMB photographer Warren Johnson this year, shows the thriving congregation at worship—more than 30 years after other churches were closed by communists.



CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education/youth. Send resumé to: Lancaster Baptist Church, 201 Richmond St., Lancaster, KY 40444. Phone (606) 792-2781 or 792-2993.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Pineville, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumé

to: First Baptist Church, c/o Mark Terry, P.O. Box 710, Pineville, KY 40977-0710.

CHURCH BUS: GMC 4905 coach, 47-passenger, restroom, excellent AC system, front and rear caps, large luggage capacity, new paint, tires, etc. See to believe! Call David

at (606) 233-3407. If no answer, please leave message.

NEEDED: Full-time secretary/treasurer (computer experience in Lotus and WordPerfect). Send resumé by Nov. 20 to South Jefferson Baptist Church, 6505 Pendleton Rd., Louisville, KY 40272.

SEEKING: Large bus for working bus ministry. Call (606) 865-2584.

SEEKING: First Baptist Barbourville seeks resúmes for full-time minister of music and senior adults. Mail to FBC, 201 North Main, Barbourville, KY 40906.

NEEDED: Part-time youth minister. Please send resumé to: Rineyville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 197, Rineyville, KY 40162.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music for exciting, fast-growing, mid-sized church. Resumé or calls should be addressed to: FBC, P.O. Box 339, Belfry, KY 41514, (606) 353-4645.

FOR SALE: Used church pews; pine with gothic design ends, seat and back padded in red fabric. 13 10-foot pews; 25 8-foot pews. Seats approximately 200 people. Call (502) 732-4396 or 732-6311.

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



Available in 20', 22', 24' & 28'

Church Buses New & Used

Metrotrans Corporation

Brentwood, Tenn.

Call Henry Headden

(800) 370-6180

12 to 41-Passenger Buses

We take trade-ins



It's a Small, Small World in Mission Friends

An international ministry sponsored by the Long Run Association WMU meets weekly at Walnut Street Baptist Church. As internationals meet to learn English their preschool children

are learning about missions. The Mission Friends curriculum is used and a seed is being planted about God's love and care. About 15 countries are represented in the group. This is proof that "it is a small world", but that they are all "precious in His sight!"

Anytime, any place you find preschoolers, if parents agree, you can have Mission Friends. For more information contact: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433 or call 502/245-4101.



Missionaries offer hope

Continued from page 1

with at the university. Together, he and his wife teach the "MasterLife" discipleship course.

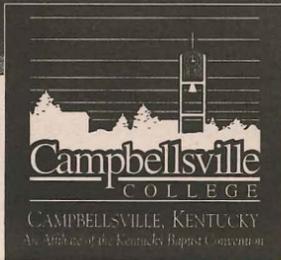
Mrs. Beighle also has developed ministries with youth and women.

Working in this former South African homeland isn't always easy, the Beighles said.

"The church has suffered greatly in the recent exodus of people from Mmabatho, the capital city we live in," Beighle said. "Several church members have left, and most are fearful of their future."

Before the recent free elections in South Africa, widespread violence and looting nearly destroyed the city's commercial district, and many innocent people were killed.

But this kind of instability is nothing new to the Beighles, who have been missionaries for 19 years.



Kentucky Students Make Us 'Hot.'

Why do certain schools get 'hot' like Campbellsville College? The answer is simple: Students come first. Our leadership is vibrant, energetic and on the cutting edge — always working to improve. ■ Campbellsville College watches students. We see what's important to them. We listen to them. The barometer that tells how well we're doing is based on student satisfaction. ■ Maybe that's why *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges (20th edition)* named us one of this nation's "competitive" liberal arts colleges. And *Success Stories*, the national television show for business, said that Campbellsville "has stirred excitement statewide over its staggering 91% increase in enrollment, not to mention its growing reputation for delivering fresh, innovative and personal education." ■

Campbellsville College in Campbellsville, Kentucky. Discover why our students describe us as "family." Call us toll-free at 1-800-264-6014 or at 502-789-5220.

Baptist relief work starts in Haiti as supplies arrive

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—As the C-97 cargo plane loaded with more than 30,000 pounds of supplies took to the air for a humanitarian mission to Haiti, Brotherhood Commission staffers breathed a sign of relief.

"Only the Lord could have worked all of this out," Brotherhood Commission President Jim Williams said as he watched the plane gain altitude. "Now we must trust in him to speak to the people who can help respond to everything that is needed."

Williams and other staff members of the Brotherhood Commission spent several hours Nov. 8 at the Memphis International Airport loading the plane bound for the troubled Caribbean nation.

"The magnitude of pulling together the volunteers and the equipment necessary for the Haiti project is beyond anything we have attempted before," said Brotherhood staffer Rusty Griffin. "But this is not missions as usual."

It took a heroic effort, but in 10 days all the supplies to do renovation work on the Baptist Convention of Haiti annex offices in Port-au-Prince

were gathered and loaded onto the plane owned by Grace Air Medical Foundation of Texas. The aircraft arrived in Memphis from Fort Worth, where it was loaded with additional supplies provided by Texas Baptists.

On Oct. 21, a team of Southern Baptists returned from a six-day assessment visit to Haiti. While there, the team met with missionaries Mark and Peggy Rutledge and with Haitian Baptists. The group formulated a plan to respond to the physical and spiritual needs of the Haitian people. The first phase of the effort will focus on food distribution through churches.

The frantic effort to gather supplies for the Haiti project is only half the story, according to Mickey Caison

of the Brotherhood Commission. Caison, who is overseeing volunteer recruitment for the project, will lead the construction team that will renovate the Baptist facilities there. The crew of 11 construction volunteers was scheduled to arrive in Haiti Nov. 9 and begin work the next day.

Already, many of the teams needed to do food distribution have been enlisted or soon will be, he said.

The convention annex will be used as a staging area for volunteers and supplies in relief efforts to come, including food distribution, water well repair and medical teams. The renovation work is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 19, when the first 10-

person food distribution team arrives in Haiti and serves for two weeks.

"Now we are asking for the prayers of Southern Baptists that God would provide health and safety for our team," Caison added. "It will be an awesome task to get the job done on time under the best of conditions. Pray, too, that he will strengthen us for the spiritual warfare we will face. Voodoo is very prevalent there."

During the food distribution effort, 17 teams of 10 people each will be needed. Kentucky has been asked to enlist two of those teams. For information on volunteering, call the Kentucky Brotherhood office at (502) 245-4101 immediately.

In early 1995, volunteers with plumbing skills will be needed for repair and replacement of about 500 water wells. Plans also call for medical teams to work with Haitian churches and schools next year.

Financial contributions for the relief effort may be sent to Southern Baptist World Relief at the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104 or to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



SINKING FEELING Baptist volunteer Ed Brentham (center) helps sink a new water well in Haiti. Providing clean water and simple agricultural education will save more lives in the long run than food distribution. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

WORLD VIEW

■ **Sailors baptized.** Eleven American sailors were baptized in Caracas Bay in eastern Curacao recently. U.S. Navy chaplain Dwight Webster and his assistant baptized each man by immersion. The sailors had become Christians through the ministry of the American Baptist chaplain.

■ **Baptists and Orthodox talk.** In an attempt to help Baptists and Orthodox Christians understand each other and peacefully coexist in Eastern Europe, representatives of the two groups began exploratory

discussions Oct. 22-24 in Istanbul, Turkey. The 13 members of the Baptist team attended under auspices of the Baptist World Alliance.

■ **English-speaking churches carry on.** English-speaking Baptist churches in Europe say they are feeling a financial pinch because so many members with the American military have left but still have a zeal to start new churches. Two churches of the European Baptist Convention closed in the last year, but the convention has started 15 new churches in the last three years.

Marriage Savers covenant coming to Louisville area

LOUISVILLE—The "Marriage Savers" movement will gain a foothold in Kentucky Nov. 28, when ministers from the Louisville area meet to affirm a document called "Recommended Guidelines for Marriages in Kentuckiana."

Ministers and churches signing on to the plan will agree to abide by certain guidelines when they perform wedding ceremonies. The document is inspired by the Michael McManus book "Marriage Savers."

Similar guidelines have been developed in other communities nationwide, but the Kentuckiana region is believed to be the largest area to adopt such a plan.

The project has been endorsed by some Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Eastern Orthodox, Episcopalians, Assemblies of God and other evangelicals.

In his book, McManus argues that churches need to take greater responsibility for the marriages they bless, especially in the area of marriage preparation and enrichment. If pastors in any given community will band together and agree to a certain set of

standards, it will ensure greater enforcement, he adds.

Pastors signing on to the Kentuckiana guidelines will agree to:

- Encourage sexual abstinence before marriage.

- Require a minimum of four months of marriage preparation, including Scriptural teaching on marriage; tips on how to strengthen the marriage relationship; sessions on communication, finances and sexuality; use of a pre-marriage inventory; and connection with "mentor" couples during engagement.

- Follow up with newly married couples at six months and 12 months after the wedding.

- Provide programming, counseling and assistance for married couples to strengthen their marriages.

- Work toward greater cooperation with clergy of other faith traditions, especially in inter-church marriage preparation and enrichment.

The Louisville signing ceremony will be held at Walnut Street Baptist Church at 1 p.m. Nov. 28. For more information, call Gary and Sherry Hendricks at (502) 361-2155.

Hymn Society elects second Southern Baptist president

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Members of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada may be as diverse as music from plainchant to praise choruses, but Southern Baptists still constitute the largest denominational group in the organization.

Southern Baptists make up about 20 percent of the Hymn Society's 3,000 members, noted President Paul Richardson.

Richardson, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, recently became the second Southern Baptist to be president of the society.

The first was William J. Reynolds, a professor in the music school at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and editor of the 1975 Baptist Hymnal.

While the Hymn Society is not a purely "professional organization," neither is it merely an amateur one, Richardson explained. "We accomplish professional aims, but membership is voluntary and includes all levels of expertise."

Membership is open to church musicians, pastors, scholars, hymn writers, poets, composers and those who simply love hymns and congregational singing.

The organization's main purpose—"to promote congregational song"—is accomplished through workshops, a journal of congregational song, annual conferences, tours, a book service and hymn searches.

"We sponsor research on one end and practical help on the other," Richardson said. "The two main features of the society are the journal and

the annual conference."

The journal, *The Hymn*, is published quarterly and distributed to all society members. It reflects diverse cultural and theological identities in scholarly and practical articles, reviews, historical studies, interviews and current news.

Annual conferences feature eclectic worship, lectures, discussion groups, workshops and hymn festivals. Last summer's conference in Maryville, Tenn., attracted high numbers of Southern Baptists, Richardson said. "The worship experiences that take place are indescribable. They are quite varied, but always inspiring."

Almost every Christian group is represented in the Hymn Society, including Catholics, Episcopalians, mainline Protestants, Assemblies of God and Nazarenes.

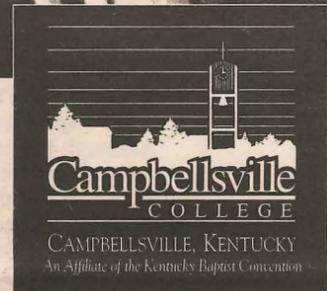
The line of presiding officers also highlights the organization's diversity, Richardson noted: "My predecessor was a Canadian Anglican; my successor is a Catholic nun."

The society's diversity is one of its strengths, because it allows people of different traditions to learn from and contribute to each other, he explained.

Long-range planning has propelled society leaders to examine critical questions dealing with the uncertain future of congregational song and of worship, Richardson said.

Rather than determining definitive answers to such questions, "we are trying to ... raise awareness and provide resources on one hand, and provide an opportunity for conversation on the other," he explained.

"Of all the professional organizations I participate in, this is not only the one I benefit most from, it's the one I enjoy most," he said.



Come to Campbellsville and Toot Your Own Horn... Along with Eighty Others!

Pride and excitement are evident everywhere you turn whenever you see and hear the "Pride of South Central Kentucky" – the Campbellsville College Tiger Marching Band! ■ Eighty members strong, the Tiger Marching Band is supported by a music program accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). ■ Membership in the marching band is open to all students whether you are a music major or not. What's more, performance grants and scholarships are available to band members regardless of academic major. ■ For more information contact: Dr. David McCullough, Director of Bands, Campbellsville College, 200 West College Street, Campbellsville, KY 42718-2799. ■

Campbellsville College in Campbellsville, Kentucky. Discover why our students describe us as "family." Call us toll-free at 1-800-264-6014 or at 502-789-5220.

PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Last week's Recorder wrongly reported that the Kentucky Baptist Convention had met in Frankfort only once before. In fact, the KBC annual meeting was held in Frankfort in 1989. So this week's convention in Frankfort marks only the third time Kentucky Baptists have met in that city. The first was in 1874.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BEDFORD**—Gerald Nuzum resigned as pastor of Pleasant View Church.

■ **BENTON**—Sand Hill Church celebrated its 105th anniversary Nov. 13.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Living Hope Church called Scott Kilgore as minister of education and administration. He previously was pastor at Woodburn Church.

■ **BROWDER**—Browder Church called Fred Harrison as pastor. He

previously was pastor at New Hope Church in Mayfield.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Ballardsville Church called Jennie Day as minister to youth and children. She is a student at University of Louisville.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Calvary Church will hold revival services Nov. 25-26 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 27 at 11 a.m. Jack Fannin of Ashland will be the evangelist.

■ **FALMOUTH**—Turner Ridge

Church ordained Chuck Beigle to the gospel ministry Nov. 13.

■ **HARLAN**—Upper Cumberland Association of Baptists is hosting a retirement reception for director of missions Nasby Mills Dec. 4, 2-4 p.m. at Harlan Church. Everyone is welcome.

■ **HENDERSON**—Watson Lane Church called Jeff Dixon as minister of music.

■ **MILTON**—Ray Ammons resigned as pastor of Corn Creek Church.

■ **PARIS**—Spears Mill Church ordained Bill Stites as a deacon Oct. 23.

■ **RUSSELL**—First Church is cele-

brating its centennial anniversary with a homecoming this year. All former members and friends are invited to a centennial service Dec. 4 at 10:45 a.m. and a concert at 7:30 p.m. Call (606) 836-5111 for more information.

■ **SPOTTSVILLE**—Spottsville Church ordained Mike Nunnally to the deacon ministry Oct. 17.

■ **WESTPORT**—Westport Church called John Orr as minister of music. He is a student at Southern Seminary.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church called Tony Cecil as associate pastor/youth.

Cane Run moving into new sanctuary after 15-year wait

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LEXINGTON—A church sanctuary under construction for 15 years finally is nearing completion this month.

Finishing touches were a long time coming to the new sanctuary of Cane Run Baptist Church, which first began its building project in 1979. In fact, some members of the Lexington congregation wondered if they ever would move from their church's 166-year-old original sanctuary.

Although the sanctuary was almost complete, little work had been done on the interior of the new facility.

"That thing had been an eyesore for about seven or eight years," explained Charles Barrineau, pastor of the church since May. "People got

tired of seeing it sitting there," and decided the time had come to finish what they started.

Slow, deliberate work on the building had come to a dead halt in 1986, when disagreements about the building caused friction among the members—some of whom eventually left the church.

Barrineau said members who stayed displayed a great deal of trust and commitment by deciding to complete the facility. "They hung in there when it got tough," he said. "They felt this is where the Lord wanted them."

Now, "we're looking forward instead of backward," the pastor added. Hard feelings have dissipated and members are moving in harmony.

When work resumed, however, the church discovered building codes had changed so much during the in-

terim that some of the work already done had to be torn out.

The church is financing the construction through its regular tithes and offerings, Barrineau said. "And a lot of church folks are pitching in to do a lot of the work—cleaning, painting, electrical work. Everybody from youth to senior adults is involved."

The new sanctuary is connected to the old building through an educational wing, added in 1952. The structure's exterior is brick, with crinkle glass providing a stained-glass window effect. A traditional interior includes a balcony and seats 450 comfortably. The room will feature all-new furniture, including a new piano and organ.

Underneath the sanctuary are rooms for additional Sunday school classes, a fellowship hall, kitchen and

nursery.

With an active membership of about 150, the congregation will have plenty of room for growth, the pastor acknowledged. "But the church's potential is super," he added, noting six families have joined the church recently.

The church is in an excellent location just across from the Kentucky Horse Park on the border of Scott and Fayette counties, Barrineau said.

The congregation hopes to be worshipping in its new sanctuary by Nov. 20. Dec. 4 is the day set aside to dedicate the building.

Former members and pastors, as well as people in the community, are invited to a 2 p.m. service, where several guests will assist in the dedication. A reception will be held after the service.

Back in the 'groove' again

At Oneida, we always have done well in our sports program. It is so rewarding to see young people work and train in order to excel.

We had a difficult time in our 1994 spring sports, however. After the death of Barkley Moore, we just could not bring ourselves together in athletic competition. When school ended in May, we had experienced one of the most discouraging seasons in many years.

I had some apprehension about this year's teams, but boy have we made a comeback!

The girls' volleyball team did not have their best season, but did well and gave a good showing most of the time. We had more girls participating this year than in any other year I can remember.

The boys' soccer team won the district and played two games in regional competition. "Coach Harold," as the boys call my son (in order to not get confused with two "Mr. Underwoods"), had taken the soccer team to regionals before, but had never won a game at that level. The team gave Coach Harold his first-ever win in the regionals!

The boys' and girls' cross-country teams also have had a wonderful season. Coach Dora Phillips is in her first year of coaching here. We have a smaller team than usual, but a team determined to win. We won the district, then the regionals. We went on to state competition Nov. 5.

Our swimming and diving team is preparing for a great season. Our swim coach, Mike Bisbee, is in his second year and has many of the "bugs" worked out from last year. We also have an assistant coach who will be a great asset to our program.

Our middle school boys' basketball team is off

to a wonderful start. We are 10-0 at this time with expectations of having another great year. There are about 25 boys in this program.

Our wrestling program is underway. We have had a very strong team for several years. Oneida has been Class A state champ for the last three years. This program has come a long way in the past few years. We are very proud of the number of boys involved and the accomplishments they have made.

The girls' and boys' basketball season also is in full swing. It is too early to tell how we will do, but basketball is very serious business here in the mountains.

Our middle school academic team has a larger number than in recent years. One of the special things Oneida does is to try to involve as many students as possible. We do not normally cut students because of lack of ability. If the student comes to practice and gives his or her best effort, he or she is a part of the team. We have many young people who have never participated before, but discover they have real talent and ability. So we are

pleased that our academic team has a 3-2 record at this time.

The choir has already been to several churches this year, and has presented beautiful programs. We have about 35 young people in the choir, and we travel many Sundays to churches that have invited us. Dianne Blades has been leading the choir the past four years. The students present a 15-minute concert, and then normally I speak to the congregation. We appreciate the opportunity to share with them some of the wonderful things going on here at Oneida.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

A ministry in Christian radio

"Brother Asher is going to be in Christian radio," former Professor LeRoy Peterson commented in a 1976 class. Student James Asher considered it an off-hand comment. Another student worked in the communications department, and he cleaned Kelly Hall.

Six months after graduation in 1977, Asher was on the road between Florida and Ohio doing supply preaching. In Columbus, Ga., the program director of a Christian station asked, "Do you know anything about radio?" Asher told him he only knew how to turn one on and off. "Have you ever done any recording?" He had not. "What do you know?" Asher said, "The Lord!" He landed a job and soon secured a license that was required in those days.

From 1985 to 1991 Asher was on the air with WROS, "the rose of Jacksonville." He attended night school at North Florida Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1991 he became public relations director of WAYR, a 24-hour Christian station in north Jacksonville.

At Russell Creek Baptist Church Asher teaches an adult Sunday school class and a Wednesday morning Bible study. On Thursday evenings he teaches a three-hour

seminary extension class. Area churches call on him for supply and interim preaching.

"Christian radio is a tremendous outreach. People will call the station to talk about a problem they wouldn't discuss with a pastor. We have to know good Christian resources to refer them for additional counseling." Asher estimates their listening audience covers one and a half million people.

One of those listeners is a Jacksonville mother who had parked in a secluded spot, intending to take her life. She turned on the radio to muffle the gunshot. The program featured a preacher who had died four years earlier. The tape included his plea, "There's somebody out there right now who is about to take their life.

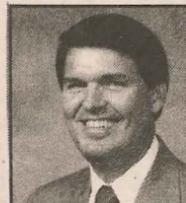
Don't do it! Christ can help you. Call on him right now."

The woman trusted Christ and later called the station. Two days later she secured a job and is now an executive with a Florida food company.

"The Lord never put me in a pastorate, but he gave me Christian radio," Asher said. "Brother Peterson was certainly right."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MISSIONS

Baptist workers see renewed hope in troubled Gaza

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

GAZA (BP)—Violence still swirls around the new relationship between Israel and the Palestinians, but conditions are much better than during the bloody Intifada resistance movement against Israeli occupation, Southern Baptist workers in Gaza say.

"People here are just waiting to see what's going to happen," said Dona Fitzgerald, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist representatives working in Gaza.

Baptist workers have seen promises of peace come and go before during 40 years of Southern Baptist work in Gaza. But with the end of Israeli occupation of Gaza—and of the Intifada—earlier this year, pressure-cooker days and nights have ended for a time. Palestinians are beginning to think about the future, Baptist workers say.

But all agree it's a wary optimism. "Right now people are rejoicing around the campfire, but out in the darkness beyond the light there are some glowing eyes," said Southern Baptist representative Dean Fitzgerald, a surgeon at Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City.

Southern Baptist representatives pursued teaching and Christian work as much as possible during the Intifada. But simply staying in Gaza was perhaps their biggest victory. Now, with relative peace, they look forward to building more relationships and sharing the gospel with more people.

"We're praising the Lord that we were able to stay during the difficult time and see the new government take over," Mrs. Fitzgerald said.

But the number of Southern Baptist workers has shrunk from more than 30 seven years ago to just 12 today.

The Intifada strengthened Islam among Gaza Palestinians. The wearing of Muslim-style scarves became a political act; appearing to be a devout Muslim became patriotic. During those tense days the mosques were filled for prayer services; people sometimes had to stand on the sidewalk. Now attendance has slacked off.

Religion is somewhat less a politicized topic than during the Intifada, said Southern Baptist representative Debbie Peterson. "Now you can discuss God without it having to be a political thing, and that's a big freedom," she said.

During the Intifada it was hard to get people to even consider hearing about spiritual matters. "They were afraid of what their neighbors would do to them," she said.

"Peace has opened doors for effective ministry," added her husband, David. He teaches English at Gaza College, a high school program which has developed an accelerated program for motivated students.

For Southern Baptist workers Paul and Harriet Lawrence, peace has meant their son, Ben, 12, can play with friends and ride his bike without fear of getting shot. And it's easier for their daughter, Bonnie, 14,



to attend school in Jerusalem and come home for weekends.

When peace finally came, "things just lightened up. People could breathe again," Mrs. Lawrence said.

Stores are stocked better and shopping is easier without constant strikes, she said. The Lawrences knew things were improving when they found American-style potato chips in a market recently.

Peace also has moved Gaza Baptist Church out from under a dark cloud.

Members meet on Sunday mornings and sing spirited hymns with the doors and windows open. With no curfews, members can worship freely—unlike the days of the Intifada, when they had to cancel services or meet secretly.

"Now there are no soldiers, no checkpoints, no wires, no shooting, no stones thrown," said Jaber El Jildah, one of the church's leaders. "We think it will be easier to reach out now, but we must have wisdom."

Official estimates count perhaps 3,000 Christians in Gaza, mostly members of the Greek Orthodox Church. But some Baptists believe the actual number of adherents is much lower. Gaza Baptist Church has only about 30 members, but more than 100 people attend services each week.

Despite their small numbers, Gaza Baptists have strong believers, especially among the youth and young adults, Lawrence said.



One-man nursing school needs help

GAZA (BP)—Southern Baptists gave up a nursing school in Gaza in 1993, but instructor Paul Lawrence still teaches nursing and would like some help.

The Baptist Nursing School, a force in Palestinian nurse training for many years, closed in 1993 after graduating its final class of 14 students. It closed because too few Southern Baptists were willing to serve as teachers in a land where violence had become a daily event.

Lawrence and Dean Fitzgerald, a surgeon, are the only Southern Baptist medical workers left in Gaza.

The nursing school was turned over to the United Nations, which is continuing to teach nursing.

Over the years graduates of the Baptist school won recognition for their high-quality training. That made it easy for Southern Baptist teacher Lawrence, a nine-year veteran in Gaza, to continue teaching.

A year ago Lawrence opened

his own "one-man institute," teaching needed courses. In fact, he has certified all the nurses at Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza as well as about 70 medical workers at the government-sponsored nursing school.

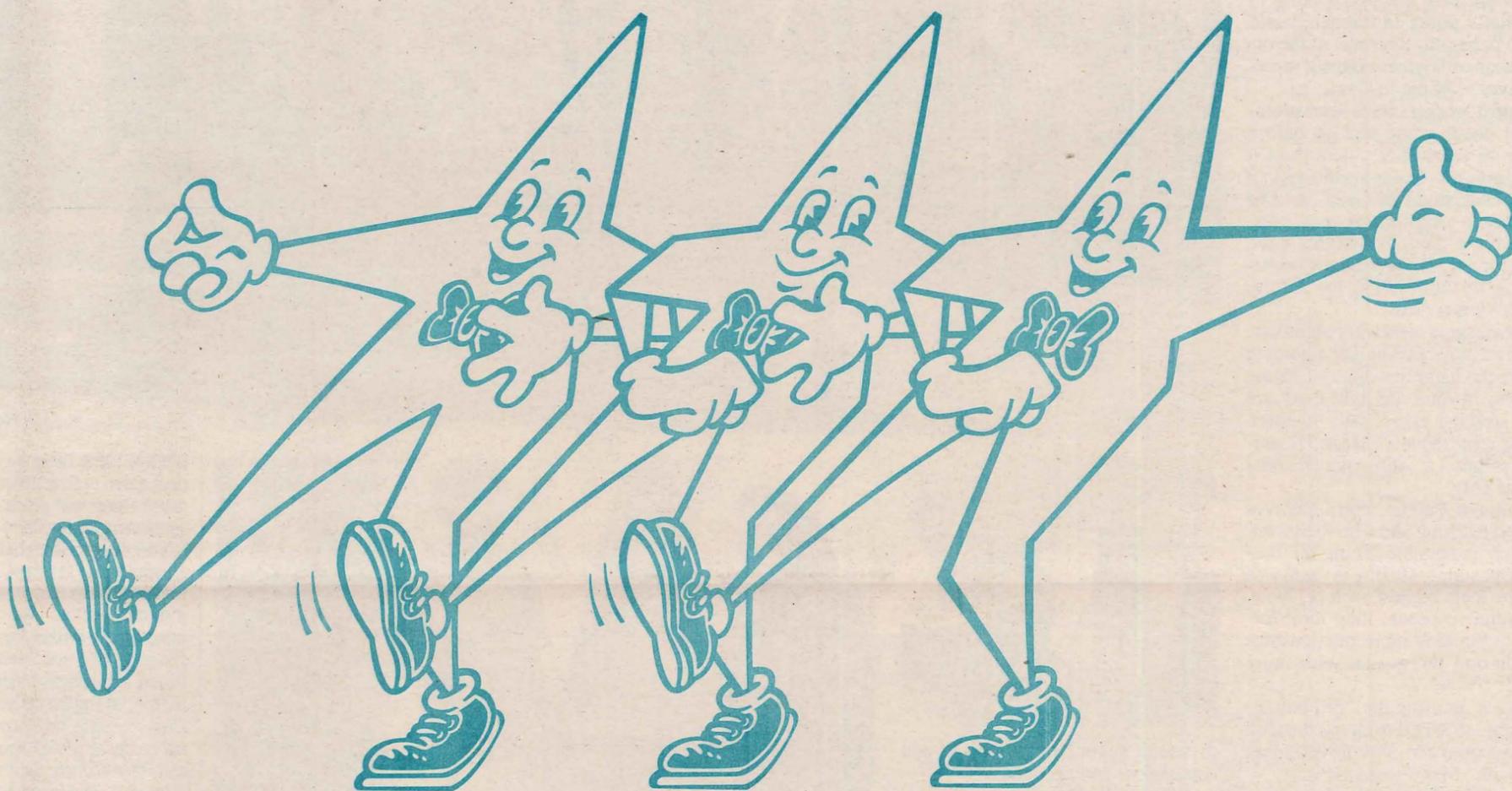
Lawrence is committed to helping improve Gaza's nursing—an area of medical care considered weak in most Middle Eastern countries. But by being a one-man school, he avoids the cost of maintaining an institution.

But he's seeking Southern Baptist volunteers to help him teach nursing. His background is in intensive-care nursing, but he would like to have one or more volunteers help teach courses in cardiac intensive care, clinical oncology and newborn intensive care.

"I could use one person for three months or a couple of people six weeks each," Lawrence explained. "In fact, I could use someone with advanced teaching skills in any nursing specialty."

OPEN DOORS Tensions have eased in Gaza after the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. So Southern Baptist worker Glenn Glover (above) can talk freely with two young Palestinian men on the street. Likewise, Baptist worker Nancie Wingo (at left) now maintains a more stable schedule for her English classes. Here, she visits with two of her students, Manar Hamad and Faten Hamad. Southern Baptists have discovered teaching English is a good means to minister in the war-torn region. Baptist worker David Peterson (far left) teaches English at a private school. (BP photos by Don Rutledge)

We're bending over backward to serve you



Now you can print your church newsletter
on the outside of the Western Recorder.

A good deal just got better.
Call (502) 244-6473 today
and ask about the new
Reverse Fold Newspage

Western Recorder

Practical Resources for Christian Living