



# WESTERN RECORDER

November 22, 1994  
Vol. 168, No. 46

## FOR THE RECORD

Most of this week's Recorder is devoted to coverage of the Nov. 15-16 annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Here's a summary of what messengers did and an index on where to find more information:

✓ **Elected** new officers: Billy Compton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington, president; M.A. Winchester, a medical doctor from Whitley City, first vice president; Tyre Denney, pastor of Alton Baptist Church near Laurenceburg, second vice president; Wilma Simmons, layperson from Ekron, secretary; Joe Priest Williams, retired pastor from Louisville, assistant secretary. See page 1.

✓ **Approved** a "statement of relationship" between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College. See page 1.

✓ **Approved** establishment of the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute. See page 10.

✓ **Declined** to appoint a special "harmony committee" to explore ways to build harmony between diverse factions of the KBC. See page 10.

✓ **Granted** the Kentucky Baptist Foundation full agency status. See page 10.

✓ **Approved** a Cooperative Program budget goal for 1995-96 of \$18.75 million, a 5 percent increase over the current year. Undesignated receipts through the KBC Cooperative Program will be divided, with 63 percent remaining in Kentucky and 37 percent being forwarded to worldwide causes through the Southern Baptist Convention.

✓ **Amended** the KBC's articles of incorporation to bring the documents up to date.

✓ **Admitted** a record number of 15 congregations seeking affiliation with the KBC, including 10 predominantly white church starts and five previously constituted African-American churches. See page 7.

✓ **Deferred** to the credentials committee an application for recognition of a new association of three churches in the Danville area. See page 7.

✓ **Adopted** only two resolutions, one on appreciation for the convention's hosts and the other on support for the 1995 "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" campaign.

✓ **Celebrated** the KBC partnership with Russia, the 125th anniversary of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and the upcoming "Here's Hope" campaign. See page 11.

✓ **Heard** messages from Bob Browning, Billy Compton, Calvin Miller and Ken Hemphill. See pages 3, 6 & 15.

## Billy Compton elected KBC president

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

FRANKFORT—Kentucky Baptists chose an "unaligned" president last week from a three-person field that also included candidates identified with both the moderate and conservative wings of the convention.

Billy Compton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington, was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 15 in a runoff with Bill Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. The vote on the runoff ballot was 1,159 (59.2 percent) for Compton and 799 (40.8 percent) for Hancock.

Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, was eliminated in a first ballot, in

which he drew 616 votes, Compton received 649 and Hancock got 809. The runoff was necessary because KBC bylaws require officers to be elected by a majority vote rather than a plurality.

Other officers elected were M.A. Winchester, first vice president; Tyre Denney, second vice president; Wilma Simmons, secretary; and Joe Priest Williams, assistant secretary.

Winchester, a medical doctor from Whitley City, received 563 votes in a race with Paul Blizard, who received 383 votes. Blizard is pastor of Reidland Baptist Church in Paducah and was president of this year's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Denney, pastor of Alton Baptist Church near Laurenceburg, won in a

runoff with Ross Bauscher, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro. Denney received 361 votes to Bauscher's 270 in the runoff.

Stanley Salchli, a layman from Frankfort, was eliminated in a first ballot in which he received 237 votes to Denney's 334 and Bauscher's 342.

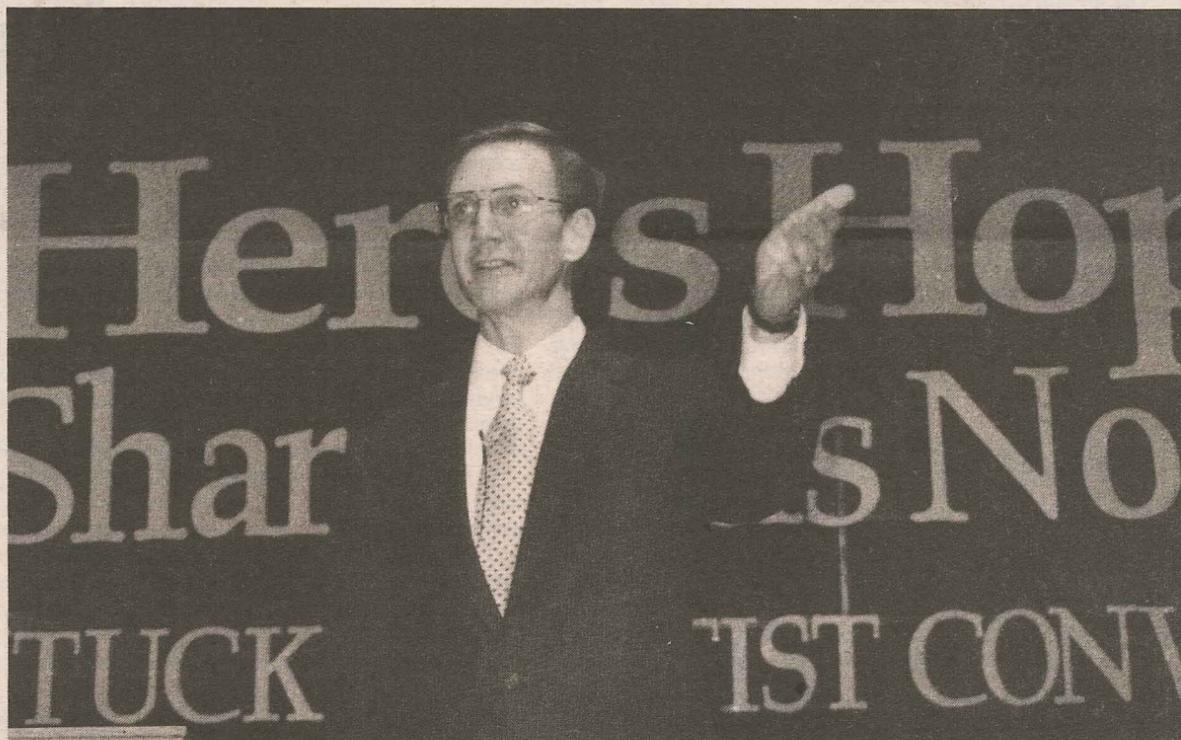
Simmons and Williams were elected to the secretarial posts without opposition.

The presidential race was the most widely anticipated, with the three candidates' names announced in advance of the convention. Compton staked out a middle-of-the-road course between DeFoor, a moderate, and Hancock, a conservative.

DeFoor is a former board member

■ Interview with Billy Compton, page 6.

□ See Compton, Winchester ..., page 6



**HERE'S HOPE** Outgoing President Bob Browning addresses the Kentucky Baptist Convention with an appeal for Christian unity. This year's convention theme was "Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now" in conjunction with next year's nationwide evangelistic campaign by the same name. Browning told messengers that the ability to work together despite differences provides a great witness to others. Story on page 3.

## Mid-Continent recognized but remains distinct from KBC

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

FRANKFORT—Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College received formal recognition from the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week in response to a year-long study by the KBC Executive Board.

The recognition approved Nov. 15 does not give the KBC any control over Mid-Continent's administration or provide Mid-Continent any KBC funding.

The primary benefits of the recognition were said to be greater awareness for the Western Kentucky school, enhanced fund-raising abilities for the school and increased opportunities for Mid-Continent students to receive scholarships.

Mid-Continent is a private school

in Mayfield supported and owned by 15 Southern Baptist associations in Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Missouri. The KBC owns five schools of its own, for which the convention provides financial support and elects trustees.

This year's action on Mid-Continent came in response to a motion made at last year's annual meeting seeking to "officially recognize" the school. That motion was referred to the KBC Executive Board, which in turn appointed a study committee headed by M.A. Winchester of Whitley City.

Winchester reported the committee had met numerous times in the past year and determined three possible courses of action. One would have been to take no action, he said. Another would have been to draft a cov-

enant agreement between Mid-Continent and the KBC similar to the governing agreements between the KBC and its five schools. But Winchester said neither Mid-Continent nor the KBC committee desired that option.

The third option, which the committee presented and messengers approved, was a "statement of relationship" between Mid-Continent and the KBC. The statement had been approved by the KBC Executive Board the day before.

The one-page statement lists the contributions of Mid-Continent to the KBC's work and cites ways the KBC has supported Mid-Continent. It says the KBC expresses "appreciation and affirmation" to Mid-Continent for its ministry in Kentucky and contributions to Kentucky Baptist life. It further encourages Mid-Continent to con-

tinue its work and encourages Kentucky Baptists to make financial contributions to the school through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Winchester called the statement a "bridge-builder" between Mid-Continent and the KBC.

During the time for debate, John Dunaway, pastor of First Baptist Church in Corbin, asked whether this meant the KBC would begin giving funding to Mid-Continent.

"There are no funds asked for and no funds received," Winchester replied.

However, a more detailed report of the study committee's work—distributed to the Executive Board but not to convention messengers—lists some financial gain as a possible benefit to Mid-Continent in the future. The document

□ See KBC approves ..., page 7

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **Alabama editor dies.** Hudson Baggett, editor of The Alabama Baptist newspaper since 1966, died of a massive heart attack Nov. 17. Baggett, 71, and his wife, June, were visiting Point Clear, Ala., for a day's vacation after the Nov. 15-16 annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist State Convention in nearby Mobile. Baggett previously was pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Meade County.

■ **Baylor coach fired.** The head basketball coach of Baylor University was fired Nov. 16 by school officials who said the basketball program had violated NCAA and school regulations. Darrel Johnson was terminated because "the program or those associated with the program had violated the policies and procedures of Baylor University and the rules, regulations or policies of the NCAA," said James Netherton, a Baylor vice president.

## Baylor regents deadlocked on presidential nominee

By Greg Warner and Ken Camp  
*Associated Baptist Press*

WACO, Texas (ABP)—The governing board of Baylor University met to elect a new president Nov. 17-18 but adjourned without a decision.

Thomas Corts, 53-year-old president of Samford University, was nominated by a presidential search committee to take the helm of Baylor, the nation's largest Baptist college with 12,000 students. But the Baylor board of regents, after a protracted two-day meeting, apparently deadlocked over the nomination.

The regents left the Waco, Texas, campus after issuing a terse two-sentence announcement: "The Baylor University board of regents has adjourned its special two-day meeting after receiving a report from its presidential succession committee. There will be no news conference and no statement from the board or Baylor University."

Regents Chairman Gale Galloway of Austin said, "Dr. Corts was con-

sulted and they mutually agreed that under the circumstances the best course of action would be to continue the matter."

Although the regents did not reach a decision, Galloway said, they adjourned their meeting "in a congenial environment."

It is unclear whether the regents ever voted on Corts. One regent said the nomination failed and the search committee resigned en masse. Another implied no vote was taken. A simple majority of the 38 regents was needed.

"The last thing they wanted was for it to come down to a split vote," said one regent who spoke on condition of anonymity. While Corts may not be out of the picture, the regent said, he may withdraw from consideration.

Corts could not be reached for comment. The Baylor regents are scheduled to meet again in January.

Corts, a popular and respected figure at Samford, is credited with making significant strides for the Birming-

ham, Ala., university during his 11 years as president. With 4,400 students, Samford is the fifth-largest Baptist college in the country.

But Corts is neither a Baylor graduate nor Texas native—factors some regents said were crucial. Others worried that Corts might be considered too conservative for the Baylor constituency.

As Corts' nomination became known in recent days, critics also uncovered complaints about his administrative style during nine years as president of Wingate College, a Baptist school in North Carolina. Some Baylor faculty expressed concern about his dismissal of several Wingate professors in the 1970s.

All those issues reportedly were debated by regents as they considered Corts' nomination behind closed doors in Waco. Corts met with the regents, as well as the faculty senate and student representatives.

A native of Terre Haute, Ind., Corts is a graduate of Georgetown College and holds master's and doc-

tor's degrees from Indiana University. He is the brother of John Corts, president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association; Paul Corts, president of Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla.; and Mark Corts, longtime pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., and conservative Baptist leader.

Thomas Corts has not been a key figure in the theological-political controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention. But he earned the respect of conservatives by assembling a conservative faculty for the Beeson School of Divinity at Samford.

On the other hand, he recently gained the respect of moderates when he led Samford's trustees to declare the school's autonomy from the Alabama Baptist State Convention. That action eliminated the convention's role in electing trustees in order to prevent a "fundamentalist takeover."

Herbert Reynolds, 64, intends to retire May 31, 1995. He has been president of Baylor since 1981.

## Conservative candidate wins in Georgia by 34 votes

MACON, Ga. (ABP)—Georgia Baptists elected a conservative president by a margin of only 34 votes, continuing a pattern of close elections that has prevailed in Georgia for several years.

John Yarbrough, pastor of First Baptist Church in Perry, was elected over James Ramsey, pastor of First Baptist Church in Albany. The two had announced their candidacies last spring, believed to be the earliest announcements in Georgia Baptist Convention history.

Balloting in the presidential election was confusing, with uncertainty about how and where to mark ballots. Messengers had to vote twice.

Because many ballots were not clearly marked, an audit committee had to review several ballots to determine the intent of voters. The contro-

versy deepened when two moderate Baptists on the tellers committee were refused entry into the audit room to monitor the ballot counting.

The two tellers—David Key of Union Point and John Wyatt of Tucker—were prepared to issue a news release calling for a "reliable and objective system for validating ballots." But after an hour-long conference with top Georgia Baptist leaders, who promised to bring in outside auditors to monitor future elections, they withheld their press release.

Almost 5,400 messengers registered for the Nov. 14-16 convention in Macon.

Division also was reflected in voting over four convention vice presidents. Conservatives and moderates each nominated four candidates, and a ninth person was nominated from

the floor.

When the votes were counted, conservatives had elected two vice presidents—Tim McCoy of Macon and Mike Everson of Warner Robins—and moderates had elected two—Bob Patterson of Warm Springs and Napp Granade of Warner Robins. All four are ministers. One woman and one layman were nominated by the moderates, but neither was elected.

Georgia Baptists also approved a report of a special committee, appointed in 1993, related to "harmony and cooperation with the work" of the state convention.

The committee was created when messengers objected to convention presidents and nominating committees saying they would only appoint board or committee members whose

churches give at least 7 percent of their budgets to the Cooperative Program.

The committee report, approved without debate, said a church is in harmony with the Georgia convention if it is a member of a "cooperating association" or if it "makes current contributions to the causes of this convention." The report also asks the convention nominating committee to "always seek to reflect the diversity within the convention in its choice of nominees."

Messengers also approved a resolution calling for a major new effort to improve relations between whites and blacks in Georgia. The resolution urged "repentance" for the fact the SBC was organized in Georgia in 1845 over the issue of slaveholders being appointed as missionaries.

## North Carolina allows gifts to Fellowship, supports colleges

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (ABP)—North Carolina Baptists changed their budget structure Nov. 12 to allow churches to channel funds through their state convention to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Also at their annual meeting, North Carolina Baptists voted to provide more money to state Baptist colleges which now must compete with a new college to be established at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest.

Budget chairman Boyce Wilson said the new budget structure will change little other than to "recognize what has taken place" in recent years.

Already 265 of the state's 3,557 churches have decided to reduce contributions to the conservative-dominated Southern Baptist Convention by choosing an "option budget" that funds the SBC and moderate-backed ministries—but not the Fellowship.

A new \$29.4 million North Caro-

lina budget eliminates the optional section and instead asks churches to choose from three funding plans—one that supports the SBC, one that supports the SBC and some out-of-state mission ministries, and a third that funds the Fellowship and the out-of-state causes but includes nothing for the SBC.

All three plans earmark 68 percent of contributions to support traditional state convention ministries.

It was the third option—Plan C—that was the focus of debate during the Nov. 11-12 annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in Winston-Salem.

Bill Horton of Asheville argued the plan violates the convention's constitution—which says the state convention will cooperate with the SBC—by eliminating funding for the Cooperative Program, the SBC's traditional funding channel.

□ See North Carolina ..., page 12



I get all my best ideas when I fast ... like my Friday fish fry, Sunday burger bash, the Kentucky Fried Chicken pot-luck, ...

## Martin & Donnell named to Executive Board staff

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

FRANKFORT—Larry Martin and James Donnell Jr. were elected to positions on the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board staff last week.

Martin, 49, will become director of the KBC's missions and evangelism division Jan. 1. Donnell, 31, became the KBC's assistant business manager and director of administrative services Nov. 15.

Their appointments were approved unanimously by the Executive Board Nov. 14 in Frankfort.

Martin and his wife, Joyce, both are Kentucky natives. He is from Eubank, and she is from Waynesburg.

For the past two years, he has been vice president for the ministry section of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

For nine years before that, he was executive director of Greater Boston Baptist Association in New England, where he gained notoriety for creative ministries and phenomenal success in the use of volunteer workers from around the nation. The Boston association remains a nationally recognized model for using volunteer workers in home missions.

Martin previously served seven years as director of missions with Greater Detroit Baptist Association. Before that he served four Kentucky Baptist churches as pastor: Lynn Acres in Louisville, Long Ridge in Owenton, Sherman in Dry Ridge and Floyd Switch in Eubank.

He earned the bachelor of arts degree in history from Georgetown Col-

lege in 1967, the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1971 and the doctor of ministry degree from Southern in 1978.

Martin told the Executive Board how his parents started attending the Polly Ann Baptist Church near Eubank when he was 3 years old and how he professed faith in Jesus Christ during a vacation Bible school there as a 7-year-old.

He began his ministry as a 16-year-old doing supply preaching in Lincoln and Pulaski counties. Then in his senior year of high school, he became pastor of Floyd Switch Mission.

Martin has extensive experience working with churches in transition and with multi-racial and multi-ethnic situations. In Detroit, one-fourth of the association's churches were predominantly African American and three-fourths were predominantly Anglo. In Boston, the association's churches were 50 percent ethnic, 30 percent African American and 20 percent Anglo.

In his new role with the KBC, Martin will oversee the convention's work in missions, evangelism, student ministry, Brotherhood and partnership missions. This position has been vacant for nearly a year, since Benton Williams transferred to become director of partnership missions and help launch the Kentucky-Russia partnership.

Donnell will enter a newly configured position on the KBC staff.

B.J. Watts, who has been director of administrative services, was named director of support services, a vacant position. Some of his previous re-



**WELCOME HOME** Larry and Joyce Martin (right, facing opposite directions) greet old friends during the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Frankfort last week. He has been named director of the KBC's missions and evangelism division; she will work with the *Western Recorder*.

sponsibilities were transferred to him with the new job, while some remain in the new position Donnell will take.

Primarily, Donnell will serve as assistant business manager to work alongside Barry Allen, the KBC's business manager. He will have direct responsibilities for human resources, risk management, insurance, purchasing and short-term investments.

Donnell most recently has been administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Osceola, Ark., an 82-bed facility. Previously, he was administrative assistant at Baptist Memorial

Hospital in Union City, Tenn., and administrative resident at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis.

He earned the bachelor of science degree in marketing and management from Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and the master of science degree in health administration from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Donnell has been a deacon and discipleship training director at First Baptist Church of Osceola, Ark. He and his wife, Ginny, have a son, Cary, who is 15 months old.

## Browning appeals for Christian unity

By Marv Knox  
Editor

FRANKFORT—Baptists' Christian unity can demonstrate God's power to people across the state, Bob Browning promised in his president's address to the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week.

Browning appealed to Kentucky Baptists' concern for evangelism as he pleaded for unity despite their diversity.

He delivered his sermon amid contrasting forces that have impacted the convention: On one hand, the meeting featured strategic emphases on partnership missions in Russia and the 1995 "Here's Hope" evangelism campaign, causes around which Kentucky Baptists have rallied enthusiastically. And yet he spoke just hours before messengers were to choose a president from representatives of the convention's conservative, moderate and unaligned strains, following a season of unprecedented political activity.

Browning preached from Jesus' prayer in the 17th chapter of the Gospel of John, in which Jesus prayed that his followers would remain close to one another down through the centuries.

"Jesus knew we would be tempted to focus on our differences and fight rather than focus on what we

have in common and cooperate," said Browning, pastor of First Baptist Church in Somerset. "In fact, he says ... putting aside our egos, ambitions and feelings for a common goal would reveal the power of God."

Christian unity must be based on "three overriding truths"—Christians are all sinners, they have been saved by God's grace and they have a strong desire to share God's grace with others, he said.

"If Kentucky Baptists try to unite for any other reasons, they will set themselves up for a fall. No group of Christians can remain united by social status, intellectual interests, nationality, race, theology, ideology or mere sentiment."

Rather, Christians are united by recognizing they share a common need for salvation through Christ, Browning said.

And it is unity—"our ability to work toward accomplishing common goals in spite of our differences"—which provides Christians with their greatest opportunity to witness to others, he added.

Emphasizing his unity theme, Browning recalled an interview he gave shortly after he was elected KBC president a year ago.

"I told a reporter that I do not wish to see any 'homeless' Kentucky Baptists," he said. "I still do not and am convinced now more than ever that

no one needs to be. There is room under this shelter for all Kentucky Baptists who wish to do God's work with integrity and compassion."

Browning also reminded KBC messengers Jesus' prayer for his followers contained two other sections.

"He prayed that we would have a close relationship with him and his Father," Browning said. "Jesus knew how much we would need him and his Father in this evil, dangerous and unpredictable world. He knew for us to be bold witnesses we would need courage, strength, power, wisdom, stamina, perseverance, patience and love. There is only one source for all these virtues and necessities, and that is God."

And Jesus also prayed that Christians would "see clearly through spiritual eyes the glory of heaven and keep this goal directly before us," he added.

"I find goals to be very important. They are like the rudder on a boat and a motor in a car. They guide and direct as well as propel us forward."

"Jesus knows this is true for all of us. This is why he prayed we would see the end result of our hard work. He wanted us to see what was at stake and what life will one day be like with him and his Father in heaven."

"Surely, this vision would motivate us to be faithful."

## Recorder hires Joyce Martin

Joyce Martin has been named staff writer with the *Western Recorder*. Martin is a Kentucky native who previously served as editor of *The New England Baptist* and has written extensively for other missions publications.

She and her husband, Larry, are returning to Kentucky in January after an 18-year absence in which they have served as home missionaries. She was born and raised in Waynesburg, where she was a member of Double Springs Baptist Church.

In her new work with the *Recorder*, Martin will provide general news and feature coverage in addition to assisting with production and editing of several monthly newspapers the *Recorder* publishes in partnership with smaller state Baptist conventions.

Martin earned the bachelor of arts degree in history from Georgetown College in 1968 and the master of arts in Christian education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1971.

She served as editor and associate editor of *The New England Baptist* from 1987 to 1992, when she and her husband moved to Atlanta, where he became a vice president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

While living in Boston, she was an adjunct professor in Christian education at the Northeast Baptist School of Ministry and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. She also has served as minister of Christian education at First Baptist Church of Sudbury, Mass., and Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City, Mich. Earlier, she was director of the weekday preschool program at Lynn Acres Baptist Church in Louisville.

Martin is the author of two books, "You Are My Witness" and "Links to the Past, Designs for the Future," a history of Woman's Missionary Union work in New England.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Affirm 'different' churches

In "The New Realities," a book about global politics and society, Peter Drucker contends the 21st century is already here. His title and theme are appropriate to the Southern Baptist Convention today.

In the 1960s, we emerged from our greatest decade of advancement. We boasted of a certain "sameness." When a Southern Baptist wakened to an SBC church from Alaska to Alabama, he or she felt at home. We had our own liturgy, or non-liturgy, and we were successful at beginning new churches of similar styles. Outside the South, our strategy was to locate pockets of transplanted Southerners and Southwesterners. We led some to Christ, restored others to faith and gathered them into churches. They identified with our style, embraced our evangelism and were blessed by our organizations and methods. This continues today in many places.

In the 1970s, I traveled Illinois, preaching in a different church almost every Sunday. I could predict three out of five songs in most worship services. This no longer is true nationwide. In fact, the monolith of organization, method and style was never as pervasive as we assumed. The new reality is SBC churches differ vastly in style, organization and methods.

Most traditional churches use SBC base programs—Sunday school, discipleship training, music ministry, Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union, along with emphasis programs such as missions development, evangelism, stewardship, family ministries, etc. Most churches select some of these programs or adopt other approaches to meet their needs.

Consider these types of SBC congregations:

■ **Small-membership churches.** In 1991, 75 percent of SBC churches averaged 115 or less on Sunday mornings; 56 percent averaged 65 or less. Most never have had all of the traditional programs.

■ **Ethnic churches.** Since 1960, ethnic congregations have multiplied across the SBC. More than 6,000 ethnic congregations worship in more than 100 languages. Effective in evangelism, they baptize one new believer for every 10 members. Few ethnic churches have all the traditional SBC programs.

■ **Charismatic and praise churches.** Since 1970, the charismatic movement has impacted Southern Baptists. Few SBC churches exercise all the controversial gifts claimed by Pentecostalism, but many more use the style of worship common to these churches. They continue to support SBC causes and are in sympathy with its objectives. They rarely employ traditional SBC methodology.

■ **Independent-style churches.** Independent, fundamental churches were successful in reaching people in the 1960s and 1970s. Some SBC churches have adopted their structure and style. They use only a few of the SBC base programs.

■ **Black churches.** One of the fastest-growing segments of SBC life is in black communities. Today, about 1,400 black congregations are part of the SBC. In several states, the largest SBC churches are predominantly black, evangelistically effective congregations. Their worship, organizations and methods are characteristic

of black culture, not that of the traditional SBC church.

■ **Mega-churches.** The age of the mega-church is dawning. Five to seven SBC churches may each have 20,000 a Sunday by the year 2000. Most mega-churches create their own programs to meet perceived human needs. Employing some SBC programs, they alter, adapt and delete at will.

■ **Innovative/seeker-driven churches.** All growing churches are innovative, and many are "seeker-sensitive." They develop ministries to meet the felt needs of unchurched people. In most cities, churches are targeting specific groups of unchurched people and designing ministries to reach these specific people groups. They make little use of programs as such. They multiply ministries to impact their target groups. Other ministries are designed to develop new believers toward maturity. They are seeker-driven, not program driven, and consequently non-traditional.

Churches in these last five groups often feel isolated and viewed with suspicion by SBC leaders.

Southern Baptists have identified themselves with clear doctrinal parameters and a commitment to God's kingdom, expressed in evangelism and missions. Style, method or organizational basis never have been defining factors. To reach this nation with its mixture of cultures, all kinds of churches will be required. These "different" churches need affirmation, not antagonism. At all levels, the denomination must serve and encourage them.

*Charles Chaney, vice president  
SBC Home Mission Board  
Atlanta*

## Thanks, ministers

In recent years, many of us within the Baptist family have seen a tremendous change in what many of our preachers consider to be their "calling" as shepherd, minister, pastor.

As the son of a Baptist minister, I can readily understand that every pastor cannot meet every need or demand of his congregation. There is just not enough time to go around.

I recall those nights our family sat down at the dinner table and Dad's

chair was empty. He was at the hospital with a sick or dying member, or comforting the bereaved members of a family whose loved one had gone on to glory.

I remember missed ballgames, concerts and family functions at which he was absent or late because "my ministers have to come first."

I resented it at the time, but now as the years have passed and a member of my own immediate family faces a terminal illness, I understand and better appreciate that dedication to a call-

ing that somehow seems to have been lost or minimized. I can thank God for a dad who cared enough to be a pastor, not just a preacher.

Allow me to say thanks to all of you Baptist ministers who are truly pastors and shepherds in every sense of the word. There is no higher calling than to serve our Lord. How sorry I am that all too many ministers appear to believe their calling begins and ends behind a podium.

*William O. Skinner  
Bowling Green*

## The encourager

Dr. Guy Futral, who has endeared himself to lots of Kentucky Baptist ministers and churches, is one of those "special" people on our staff to whom others sometimes turn for counsel. He's been used of the Lord to do a lot of good for a lot of folks.

During his more than 10 years of ministry as an executive board staffer, countless pastors have experienced the encouragement of his efforts in their behalf. For some, this encouragement has made a significant difference in a difficult situation.

Recently, Guy shared with me a writing which a friend had shared with him some years ago. It ministered to me.

"This is your first game, son. I

hope you win. I hope you win for your sake, not mine. Because winning's nice. It's like a good feeling. Like the whole world is yours. But it passes, this feeling. And what lasts is what you've learned.

## ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

"And what you learn about is life. That's what sports is all about. Life! The whole thing is played out in an afternoon. The happiness of life. The miseries. The joys. The heart-break.

"There's no telling what'll turn up. There's no telling whether they'll toss you out in the first five minutes or whether you'll stay for the long haul.

"There's no telling how you'll do. You might be a hero or you might be absolutely nothing. There's just no telling. Too much depends on chance. On how the ball bounces.

"I'm not talking about the game, son. I'm talking about life. But it's life that the game is all about. Just as I said.

"Because every game is Life. And life is a game. A serious one. Dead serious.

"But that's what you do with serious things. You do your best. You take what comes. You take what comes, and you run with it.

"Winning is fun. Sure. But winning is not the point.

"Wanting to win is the point. Not giving up is the point. Never being satisfied with what you've done is the point. Never letting up is the point. Never letting anyone down is the point.

"Play to win. Sure. But lose like a champion. Because it's not winning that counts. What counts is trying."

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



## FAMILY FORUM: MARRIAGE

### 'Church' weddings

By Diana Garland

Q We frequently receive calls from people who want to use our sanctuary for weddings. Should we allow our church to be used in this way?

A People who have no connection to a congregation often seek the beauty and symbolism of a church wedding. Churches find stated policies helpful.

The use of the building is not really the issue for the church. Instead, the church must recognize that use of the building symbolizes the church's blessing of what occurs there.

In our society, weddings are the sealing of a legal contract between two people. When the terms of the contract are broken, spouses can end their marriage. As a consequence, half of marriages end in divorce.

The marriage of Christians, however, is founded on different principles and guided by a different vision. Jesus said God's intention is for marriage to be permanent. Paul's letter to the Ephesians describes marriage as a picture of Christ's love for the church. The marital relationship is a living public witness of Christ's sacrificial love, a picture of the love that endures all things and never fails.

Churches need to stand firm in this biblical definition. There are two ways to do this. First, couples who want to marry in the church should be examined to determine that they understand and accept the commitment they are making if they marry "in the church."

Second, churches should ensure that couples have the knowledge and skills they need to begin such an awesome commitment. Insisting on discipleship training in marriage living is an appropriate prerequisite for those who would marry in the church. That can take place in an educational group or in a several-session counseling relationship with a church leader. This should be required before the wedding and expected afterward.

These may seem to be hard requirements. Marriage is hard, however, and churches need to be sure they communicate what is expected of couples.

*Diana Garland is dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work and director of the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry at Southern Baptist Seminary.*

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

## Kentucky Baptists nix politics, choose middle ground

Kentucky Baptists gave the boot to denominational politics last week in Frankfort.

Meeting in the cradle of state politics, messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention chose a non-aligned centrist presidential candidate over standard bearers for the KBC's conservative and moderate political parties. New President Billy Compton, who has avoided taking sides in the theological/political controversy that divided the Southern Baptist Convention, is respected by conservatives and moderates alike. He defeated Bill Hancock, the state's leading conservative pastor and former chairman of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, and Bob DeFoor, a founding member of the moderate Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and an advocate of moderate causes, such as women in ministry.

Hancock took almost 40 percent of the first ballot, while Compton and DeFoor trailed with about 30 percent each. Compton edged out DeFoor by 33 votes and moved to the second ballot against Hancock. But on that ballot, Hancock stood still, while Compton picked up almost all DeFoor's support. The moderate/non-aligned coalition gave Compton the strength he needed to swamp Hancock's conservative base by a 60-40 margin.

Moderates and Compton's non-aligned supporters all felt a surge of victory after the election. Moderates had worried that a conservative victory could launch Kentucky on a political trajectory similar to that traced by the Southern Baptist Convention during the past 16 years. By controlling the presidential election, conservatives in the national convention gained control of all SBC agencies and effectively removed moderates from participation in the national denominational process. Against this backdrop, moderates were delighted with the election of Compton. They perceive in him an inclusive leader who will work with and represent all Kentucky Baptists and who will not push them away from the KBC table.

Although they ultimately backed the winning ticket, savvy moderates acknowledged their candidate also would have lost a run-off against Compton. Compton would have picked up Hancock's conservative votes to top DeFoor. And the result would have been the same: A victory for the middle-grounder over a candidate perceived as a banner-carrier for one of Southern Baptists' national parties. (Coincidentally, no one can know how a DeFoor-Hancock runoff would have turned out.)

This election sends a strong and clear message to Kentucky Baptists, especially leaders of the political wings. Yes, conservatives and moderates each can count on support from a sizable core group. However, the real power resides with non-aligned Kentucky Baptists, who don't want the KBC to veer off center. The 30-percent middle-ground group can form a coalition with either political party to offset the strength of the other party. As long as non-aligned Kentucky Baptists hold the balance of the voting majority, they are in a position to ensure that a non-aligned candidate is elected president. And as long as that happens, all Kentucky Baptists can participate in the convention without feeling threatened.

If the presidential election weren't enough to demonstrate that Kentucky Baptists favor harmony over politics, several other events at the KBC annual meeting buttressed the theme:

■ The portions of the program that drew the most enthusiastic response were the ones around which all Kentucky Baptists gather. The report of the KBC's missions partnership with Russian Baptists was a huge success. The theme interpretations and reports on the 1995 simultaneous evangelism campaign, "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," were received with overwhelming affirmation. And Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's final 125th anniversary report was heard with heart-warming gratitude for a ministry that has changed thousands of lives.

■ Resolutions, which have been divisive points of contention at the national level and sometimes in state conventions, were downplayed significantly. The resolutions committee only offered two non-controversial statements. And none were offered from the floor, an accomplishment virtually unprecedented in recent history.

■ Messengers turned down a proposal to form a Kentucky Baptist "peace committee." Most voted against the proposal because they prefer to allow the KBC to chart its course naturally. Other peace committees—in the SBC, Virginia and Georgia—have spawned continued fighting.

■ Presiding President Bob Browning's gentle humor and soft answers turned away much wrath. Messengers responded warmly to a key point in his address: "There is room under this shelter for all Kentucky Baptists who wish to do God's work with integrity and compassion."

■ Most importantly, Kentucky Baptists immersed this annual meeting in prayer. Numerous longtime observers expressed the sentiment that this was the most prayed-for annual meeting in living memory. Small wonder, then, that the 1994 KBC turned out to be a harmonious event in which Kentucky Baptists signaled they want to leave seats at their table for everyone in the convention.

Marv Knox

## The Martins: A double blessing

Kentucky Baptists received a double blessing last week. The KBC Executive Board elected Larry Martin as missions division director, and the Western Recorder announced it has hired Joyce Martin as a staff writer.

After four Kentucky pastorates, Larry Martin distinguished himself as a home missionary. In Detroit and Boston, he turned struggling causes into national models of ministry, and he provided stellar leadership to the Home Mission Board. His return to Kentucky is an incredible coup; KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall could not have found a better strategist and motivator to lead our missions efforts.

Joyce Sweeney Martin also is a distinguished Baptist leader. In Boston, she was editor of *The New England Baptist*. She also has been a minister of Christian education and has taught Christian education at the seminary level. She will help the Western Recorder with its publishing partnerships with other Baptist state papers, and she will write about KBC partnership ministry.

God smiled on Kentucky Baptists by sending Joyce and Larry Martin back home to us.

Marv Knox

## Thanksgiving 1994 will be a special event for transplant patients

*Editor's Note: Many readers have asked how my dad and sister are doing after their kidney-transplant surgeries. The following article, written by Toby Druin, associate editor of the Baptist Standard in Texas and a longtime family friend, provides a perceptive answer.*

Marv Knox

Thanksgiving has always been special in the Knox family; this year, however, "Thank you, Lord," will mean even more.

On Nov. 4, Marvin Knox, pastor of First Baptist Church in Stratford, Okla., gave one of his kidneys to his daughter, Martha, at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. At 61, Marvin is the oldest donor the hospital has ever worked with. Martha Knox Scott is 36.

Martha has had kidney problems since

birth. She also was born deaf but graduated from public school after finishing Jane Brooks School for the Deaf in Chickasha, Okla. For 16 years, she has been a teacher's aide at a school for the deaf in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Two years ago, her kidney problems worsened, and in April of this year the decision was made that she would have to have a transplant.

Martha has two brothers: Marv is editor of the Western Recorder, and Martin is pastor of First Baptist

Church in Justin, Texas.

"We talked about all of us being potential donors," said Marvin. But tests indicated he and his wife, Margaret, and Martin were the most likely choices. Marvin took on the responsibility "because I'm bigger, meaner and uglier," he said.

During three days of testing, he was told by one doctor that if he felt he was under pressure to give up his kidney a medical reason could be found to relieve him of the re-

sponsibility.

"I told him not to look for it," said Mar-

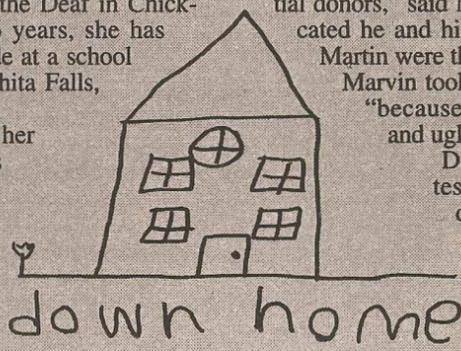
vin. "In reality, it seemed more logical for me to do it, and it was very reassuring to know that at 61 I am in good enough health to be able to do it."

"And he said he didn't feel he could walk around with two good kidneys when Martha had none," said Margaret.

Following surgery, Marvin was out of the hospital in a few days, going back for checkups for about three weeks. He expects to be back in his pulpit Nov. 27.

Martha will have to be checked twice weekly for the next three months but hopes to soon resume her job.

The outlook, one doctor at Parkland told them, is for her new kidney to serve her for 20 years. Hopefully, then there will be other options.



## Compton sees vote as appeal to center

By Marv Knox  
Editor

FRANKFORT—Billy Compton believes Kentucky Baptists elected him as their president because they want to focus on missions and evangelism and avoid the political division that has mired the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979.

Compton provided a non-aligned alternative between moderate and conservative candidates for Kentucky Baptist Convention president last week. He won in a runoff, when moderate voters, whose candidate lost the first vote, joined with his middle-of-the-road supporters to give him a 3-to-2 edge over the conservative candidate.

The election sent Kentucky Baptists a positive, unifying message, said Compton, 46, pastor of First Baptist

Church in Mount Washington.

"My observation is that the messengers felt comfortable voting for me because they didn't want to get bogged down in the same activities that affected them in our convention," he explained.

"Their vote said: 'We want to stay the course. It's OK to express our convictions, but let's don't swing one way or another in our convention.' That came through loud and clear in the vote."

That attitude reflects a longstanding tradition among Kentucky Baptists, Compton added.

"We're diverse, but our heritage has been one of working together and refusing to allow ourselves to become divided over national issues. Kentucky Baptists have repeated, 'Let's don't move too far in either (political) direction.'"

"And that's fine with me; it's who I am—a person who relates to and is open to all Kentucky Baptists."

Compton's gentle grin, easy-going manner and passion for reaching people with the Christian gospel are well-known to Kentuckians. He has been pastor of churches in various parts of the state for almost three decades, and he preached and taught in churches of all kinds and sizes when he was a KBC evangelism staffer before joining the Mount Washington congregation a couple of years ago.

That background in evangelism makes his election this year particularly special, he said. In less than two months, Kentucky Baptists will participate in "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," a nationwide evangelism campaign that will encourage church members to share their faith with oth-

ers every day for 60 consecutive days.

"I didn't set out this past year to be president in 1995," he said. "I'm humbled and honored by the responsibilities given me. But I'm also really excited to be president this year during 'Here's Hope.'"

Compton also is excited about the work Kentucky Baptists are doing in missions, human crisis relief and church growth, he said.

"My heart was stirred by the Russian partnership we have going," he said, mentioning the contingent of Russian Baptists and missionaries who attended the KBC annual meeting and reported on Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Baptists in the former Soviet country. "I also see so many exciting things happening for many churches growing and in our Brotherhood's ministry to the real physical needs of people."

"I want to promote these ministries. ... Good days are ahead for Kentucky Baptists."

Compton wants to strengthen those "good days" because Kentucky Baptists have given him so many good days, he said.

He grew up in a Kentucky Baptist home. His father is deceased, but his mother, Margaret Compton, still is a member one of his former pastorates, Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow.

He believes Kentucky Baptists have blessed his life, and he wants to return that blessing by being a peacemaking president who will help unify all Kentucky Baptists.

"Please pray for our convention," he asked. "And pray for me, that I would provide good leadership that would keep our focus on our work together."

## Compton also KBC preacher

FRANKFORT—Christians are prone to live ordinary lives, but Jesus calls his followers to be extraordinary, Billy Compton said in the annual sermon during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Compton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington, delivered the annual sermon less than 24 hours after he was elected KBC president. This was an unusual twist, since the preacher of the annual sermon is elected one year in advance.

Compton spoke from John 15, where Jesus said, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."

This was a reminder from Jesus to his disciples not to live ordinary lives, Compton explained. Yet most disciples are "more prone to live like the ordinary," he said.

Jesus offers no ordinary calling, because his is a call to humility, Compton said. In the same way, Jesus is no ordinary Savior, he said, because he embodied a "riches to rags story" of voluntary demotion.

Jesus presents his disciples with no ordinary challenge, Compton said.

He specifically cited the upcoming "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" evangelistic campaign as an example. This is no denominational slogan, he declared. "It's a gospel imperative."

### The Compton file

- **Name:** Billy Compton
- **Age:** 46
- **Position:** Pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington since 1992.
- **Previous positions:** Associate director of Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism office (1989-1992); pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green (1980-1988), Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow (1972-1980), Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Horse Cave (1969-1972), Antioch Baptist Church and Hardyville Baptist Church (1966-1968).
- **Education:** Bachelor of arts degree from Campbellsville College; master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; candidate for doctor of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary of Pasadena, Calif.
- **Family:** Married to Sue Ann Bailey in 1967; they have two children, Margo, 18, and Will, 15.

## Compton, Winchester & Denney elected to KBC offices

Continued from page 1  
for the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and has advocated keeping the KBC from experiencing the kind of conservative movement seen in the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979. Hancock is a prominent conservative pastor who served as chairman of the SBC Foreign Mission Board from 1990 to 1992.

In to nominate DeFoor for the presidency, Kay Trisler of Harrodsburg called him a "peacemaker" who could help the KBC maintain unity. Trisler, president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and a longtime member of DeFoor's church, said her pastor exhibits qualities of "kindness and leadership and love."

Former KBC President Charles Stewart of Ashland nominated Hancock. Stewart cited the growth of Highview Baptist Church under Hancock's leadership, Hancock's commitment to missions and evangelism, and his "wisdom and fairness" as FMB chairman.

Howard Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, nominated Compton, whom he said "has not chosen sides in the denominational controversy." Cobble said Compton's "only agenda is what's set forth in God's word" and predicted his appointments as president "will exclude no one."



**NEW OFFICERS** Officers elected to serve the Kentucky Baptist Convention this year include M.A. Winchester, first vice president; Billy Compton, president; Wilma Simmons, secretary; and Joe Priest Williams, assistant secretary. Second Vice President Tyre Denney was preaching a revival and could not be present for the photo.

Due to space restrictions, coverage of the Pastors' Conference will appear in next week's Recorder.

## KBC welcomes 15 churches, delays on 1 association

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

FRANKFORT—The Kentucky Baptist Convention welcomed a record number of new churches into its fellowship last week but deferred action on recognizing a newly formed association.

During the opening session of the annual meeting Nov. 15 in Frankfort, the convention approved 15 requests from churches for affiliation. That is a record number of churches to be added to the KBC in a single year, said David Aker, credentials committee chairman.

Ten of those churches are predominantly Anglo church starts. Five are predominantly African-American churches that are not new starts. This also is a record number of African-American churches to enter the predominantly Anglo KBC in a single year, Aker said.

All five of the black churches are in Louisville: Saint Stephen, Bethel Missionary, Saint Paul, Deliverance and Energized. Saint Stephen, the largest black congregation in the state, sought sole alignment with the KBC while the other four churches sought dual alignment with the KBC and other state Baptist bodies.

The newly admitted Anglo churches include Calvary of

Manchester, Royal Oak of Berea, Southside of Bowling Green, Southside of Manchester, North Fork of Whitesburg, Palomar of Lexington, Centerfield of Crestwood, Eastside of Russellville, Valley View of Irvine and Community of Murray.

All 15 congregations were accepted into the KBC's fellowship without opposition, upon recommendation of the credentials committee.

A different story unfolded, however, for a newly formed association seeking recognition from the KBC.

Central Point Baptist Association is composed of three churches in the Danville area: Mount Freeman, Forks of Dix River and Gethsemane. All three churches left South District Baptist Association last year in a dispute over the ordination of women.

South District Association became embroiled in a controversy after Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville ordained a woman as a deacon and another woman as a minister. When the association narrowly refused to kick out Lexington Avenue Church for its actions, the three churches listed above removed themselves from the association in protest.

Subsequently, Lexington Avenue Church also voluntarily left South District Association, but the three other churches chose not to return.

Those three churches voted to

form Central Point Baptist Association Sept. 7 of this year. They petitioned the KBC for recognition in a letter mailed the next day. The KBC credentials committee began considering the request Sept. 29.

After meeting with representatives of the new association immediately prior to this year's convention, the credentials committee declined to take action on the request until further study was complete.

Unhappy with that outcome, which meant the association would have to wait a full year before possibly receiving recognition, a representative of the association made a motion on the floor of the convention that the association be accepted immediately.

During debate on the motion, Aker, the credentials committee chairman, explained that his committee was concerned about the precedent that would be set by recognizing this association. His sentiments were echoed by Bob DeFoor, KBC first vice president and pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

"Any number of churches can come together and call themselves an association," DeFoor explained. "The only thing this action would do is give these three churches a seat on the KBC Executive Board. That would set a tremendous precedent."

Most associations in Kentucky are composed of anywhere from a dozen to more than 100 churches. Each association recognized by the KBC is eligible for one representative on the KBC Executive Board for every 5,000 church members in the association.

DeFoor said admitting Central Point Association with only three churches in its body would open the door to potential fragmentation of associations across Kentucky and a vastly expanded Executive Board.

Greg Earwood, pastor of First Baptist Church in Murray and chairman of the order of business committee, made a motion that the application be referred back to the credentials committee.

Two members of the new association opposed that motion, urging messengers to hear their case rather than defer it another year.

Bob Kiper, pastor of Forks of Dix River Church, reminded messengers that the association had its paper work to the credentials committee before the stated deadline and that this was the only time for the association to address the KBC without waiting another year.

Ultimately, messengers sided with Earwood and voted to refer the application back to the credentials committee.

**"Any number of churches can come together and call themselves an association. The only thing this action would do is give these three churches a seat on the KBC Executive Board. That would set a tremendous precedent."**

Bob DeFoor, KBC first vice president

**REGISTRATION** Jo Ledford, one of the many volunteers helping in the registration process, offers assistance to messengers at the registration table last week. A total of 2,235 messengers registered for this year's annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Including guests, the total attendance reached 2,721. That set a new record for total attendance, beating the 2,692 messengers and guests who attended the 1993 annual meeting in Elizabethtown. This year's total number of messengers is the second-largest registration in KBC history. The largest number of messengers ever to register at a convention was 2,262 at the 1990 meeting in Paducah.

## Individuals elected to boards & named to committees

FRANKFORT—Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week approved several hundred people to serve as trustees of KBC agencies and institutions and to guide the work of the convention.

All names presented by the KBC nominations committee to serve on the KBC Executive Board and as trustees of KBC agencies and institutions were approved without amendment. Those names were printed in last week's Western Recorder.

Likewise, the report of the KBC committee on committees was approved without amendment. New KBC President Billy Compton also announced his appointment of chairs for these standing committees of the KBC. Newly elected members and newly named chairs of these committees are:

■ **Nominations committee:** Mike Osborne, Lexington; Donald Coleman, Flatwoods; Drew Martin, Paintsville; Jerry Lowrie, Williamsburg; James Vandy, Barbourville; John Nunley, Glasgow; Bob Rush, Lancaster; Lester Caldwell, Mount Vernon; Jerry Tooley, Henderson; Scott Ford, Maceo; Guy Deane, Owensboro; Archie Brock, Marion; Geoff Lacefield, Louisville; and Eddie Reynolds, Shepherdsville. Ken Graham of Springfield was named chairman.

■ **Arrangements committee:** Velma Hovekamp, Paducah; and Rick Shannon, Pikeville. Shannon was named chairman.

■ **Constitutions and bylaws committee:** David Gray, Radcliff; Donald Phelps, Barlow; and Wyman Copass, Owensboro. Copass was named

chairman.

■ **Credentials committee:** Paul Saalwaechter, Owensboro; Ken Whitehouse, Louisville; and Jim Grable, Hopkinsville. Steve Thompson of Morgantown was named chairman.

■ **Order of business committee:** Bill Fort, Bowling Green; Ron Wells, Oak Grove. Dan Garland of Henderson was named chairman.

■ **Public affairs committee:** Ronnie Grace, Trenton; Ray Roaden, Corbin. Roaden was named chairman.

■ **Resolutions committee:** Scott Kilgore, Bowling Green; and Rodger Eakin, Fulton. Bob White of Clay was named chairman.

Outgoing KBC President Bob Browning also announced his appointments to fill three vacancies on the KBC committee on committees.

He named Delores Spears of Paducah, Andy Reese of Barbourville and Gayle Toole of Nicholasville. They will serve with previously appointed members Chris Johnson of Russell, Gene Crowder of Columbia, James McKenzie of Hopkinsville, Bill Hancock of Louisville, Ross Bauscher of Owensboro and Walter Davis of Glasgow. Reese was named chairman.

Messengers also elected Roy Honeycutt, chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, to preach the annual sermon at the 1995 KBC. The alternate preacher is A.B. Colvin of Louisville.

Messengers also approved the recommendation of the arrangements committee to hold the KBC's 1997 annual meeting at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

## KBC approves statement on Mid-Continent

Continued from page 1

document notes Mid-Continent could receive assistance in four areas without a covenant agreement:

■ Advocacy for membership in the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

■ Recommending, "if possible, all or part of the Bethel Memorial Fund income be distributed to Mid-Continent." This fund was established after the KBC closed one of its former schools in Western Kentucky, Bethel College. This fund, an investment of \$151,000, currently provides annual benefits to Campbellsville College, Cumberland College and Georgetown College.

■ Encouragement for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and Kentucky

Woman's Missionary Union "to consider making, where possible, scholarships available to Mid-Continent students."

■ Consideration for allowing Mid-Continent to get exhibit space at the annual meeting on equal footing with the KBC's five schools.

The study committee's full document, approved by the Executive Board, calls for the committee to continue working until it has explored the four kinds of possible assistance listed above.

But it also declares that it would be "inappropriate to recommend a 'blank check' approach for Mid-Continent to receive a portion of any gifts (past and future) designated for 'Kentucky Baptist schools and colleges.'"

Aside from Dunaway's question, there was no debate on the KBC floor about the statement of relationship with Mid-Continent. However, Bill Dodson, pastor of Bell City Baptist Church in Graves County and the person who made the motion about Mid-Continent at last year's meeting, rose to thank Bill Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer, for guiding the motion through the study process.

The committee's proposal related to Mid-Continent passed on a show of hands with little opposition.

"All of us at Mid-Continent are elated at this positive step toward Mid-Continent," President LaVerne Butler said in an interview afterward. "It makes us feel more a part of the Kentucky Baptist family."





**Learn a lesson**  
Take advantage of an often overlooked resource in your church by having a Student Day at Christmas service this year.

**Here's Hope**  
The annual Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference is just around the corner. Plan now to attend the largest annual gathering of Kentucky Baptists Feb. 27-28 at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

**Present Bibles!**  
Get back to one of the basics of biblical education in your church by sponsoring a Bible drills for children and youth.

**"M" Night alert**  
If your association hasn't yet held its annual "M" Night for discipleship training, plan to attend. These programs are designed to aid all church leaders and members in becoming better disciples and teaching others to be better disciples.

**Deacon retreat**  
Take advantage of an outstanding opportunity for refreshment and inspiration during the annual retreats for deacons, pastors and spouses at Cedarmore Assembly Feb. 10-11 or Jonathan Creek Assembly Feb. 24-25.

**Take a trip**  
If your church has a vocal ensemble for youth or adults, send them on tour Jan. 28 to the Adult/Youth Vocal Ensemble Festivals scheduled in Owensboro and Frankfort.

# EVENTS

## FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

PASTORS, EVANGELISM LEADERS, CHURCH STAFF, OUTREACH LEADERS

### Evangelism Conference a Here's Hope Celebration

Something's "fishy" about this year's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

First, there's keynote speaker Roy Fish, evangelism professor from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who will preach three times during the Feb. 27-28 event at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

Then, there's Terry Chupp, who takes Jesus' call to be fishers of men seriously. Chupp combines his two passions in life as a professional fisherman and evangelist. After seven years of ministry to fishermen, Chupp has led 1,600 people to Jesus in Jesus Christ. At this year's evangelism conference, he will speak on marketplace evangelism and lead a dialogue luncheon.

The remaining speakers for this year's conference may not have the same "fish" identity as these two men, but they all know something about winning people to Jesus Christ. Their purpose at this conference will be to

inspire you and give you practical tips for being a better witness in preparation for the "Here's Hope" evangelistic campaign.

You'll hear:

■ John Sullivan, executive secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention.

■ Ken Carter, associate vice president for evangelism with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

■ Thom Rainer, dean of the new Billy Graham School of Evangelism, Church Growth and Missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ Ed Vaughn, president of Baptist Healthcare System.

■ Lincoln Bingham, superintendent of missions for Central District Baptist Association.

■ Esther Burroughs, a specialist in evangelism strategies for women employed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

■ Steve Hardy, a vocational evangelist from Cadiz.

■ James Blevins, professor of New



Roy Fish



John Sullivan



Lincoln Bingham



Esther Burroughs



Hollands



Celoria Family



Squire Parsons



Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary.

■ Ken and Lois Holland, vocational music evangelists from Nashville.

■ The Celoria Family Singers, one of Southern Baptists' most-used resources for local-church evangelism.

■ Squire Parsons, well-known gos-

pel singer and baritone with the Kingsmen Quartet.

Watch Events and the Western Recorder for more information about this year's Evangelism Conference. Or call the evangelism office at (502) 245-4101.

DEACONS, PASTORS

### Retreat helps deacons reach out and touch

"Touching and Being in Touch" is the theme of the annual retreats for deacons, pastors and spouses at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assemblies.

All deacons, pastors and their spouses are invited to attend.

Keynote speaker at Cedarmore will be Billy Compton, Kentucky Baptist Convention president and pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington. Keynote at Jonathan Creek will be Monty Carter, associate in the KBC's evangelism office.

Sessions will inspire you to see how your touch can free, cleanse, quiet, reassure and affirm others. Learn how God touches you and

how through his power you can touch others.

Additional sessions to be offered



Compton



Carter

include:

■ Reaching young adults through preschool ministry.

■ Beginning and building a gift-

based deacon ministry.

■ Deacon and spouse: a ministering couple.

■ The power of personal touch.

■ Drop-out track.

■ Touch through prayer.

The retreats will be offered Feb. 10-11 at Cedarmore and Feb. 24-25 at Jonathan Creek. Sessions begin at 6:15 p.m. on Friday and conclude with lunch on Saturday.

■ Cost: Rates for lodging and meals vary.

■ Registration: For registration information, contact the KBC church growth and administration office by calling (502) 245-4101 or writing to Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

PASTORS, FAMILY MINISTRY LEADERS

### Is your church prepared to face divorce?

Last year in Kentucky, 21,711 marriages ended in divorce.

These 43,422 adults and their 16,844 children lived through one of life's greatest traumas and perhaps had no place to find spiritual help.

Your church could provide help and hope to these broken families through a divorce recovery ministry. To find out how, attend a divorce recovery leadership training event planned for Jan. 27-28 by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department.

Workshop leaders and their topics:

■ James Stillwell, minister with sin-

gle adults at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, keynote speaker, focusing on the basics of a divorce recovery ministry.

■ Tina Cundiff, director of children's ministries at Immanuel Baptist Church, on how to help children cope with divorce.

■ Mike Thomason, pastor of Temple Hill Baptist Church near Glasgow, with an inspirational message about the need for divorce recovery.

■ Bonnie Booher, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, with a testimony about her participation in a divorce recovery ministry.

■ Date and times: Jan. 27 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Jan. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

■ Place: Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Rd., Louisville.

■ Cost: \$25, which covers the cost of two resource books, refreshments and a continental breakfast. A special fee of \$7 is available for anyone who already has the books.

■ Registration: Pre-register by sending your name, address, phone number, church name and fee to the KBC Family Ministry Department, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

PASTORS, COLLEGE MINISTERS, YOUTH MINISTERS

### Celebrate Student Day at Christmas

Give your congregation a special gift this Christmas by planning a Student Day at Christmas service.

This is a great way to enlighten church members about student work on local campuses and to encourage college students who either are members of your church or are just home for the holidays.

The suggested date for this service is Sunday, Dec. 25, in either morning or evening worship.

Here are some suggestions for planning a Student Day at Christmas service:

■ Enlist students to share in the service through testimony, prayer, drama, music or as ushers or greeters.

■ Allow three or four testimonies to be the message for the evening.

■ If time allows, the pastor might bring a brief devotional from Colossians 3:12-17.

■ Get additional tips, including a suggested order of worship, from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's student department by calling (502) 245-4101 or writing to Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.



# EVENTS

## FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS



### YOUTH MUSICIANS

## Auditions set for youth choir and orchestra

High school youth who sing or play an instrument are invited to audition for this year's Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra.

The 80 singers selected for the choir and the 50 instrumentalists selected for the orchestra will gather for a retreat Jun 25-July 2 at Cumberland College. Then each group will tour the state performing concerts.

This year's choir will be conducted by Hugh Sanders of Baylor University. The orchestra will be conducted by Doug Smith of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

This is an outstanding opportunity for Baptist youth to sing or play under professional direction, meet other motivated Christian musicians and see Kentucky as well.

■ **Audition registration:** Audition forms must be submitted to the Kentucky Baptist Convention church music department at least two weeks prior to audition dates. Forms are available by calling the church music department at (502) 235-4101 or writing to Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

■ **Audition dates:** Feb. 25 at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green; March 4 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; March 11 at Southern Seminary in Louisville; March 18 at First Baptist Church in Madisonville.

■ **Cost:** There is a \$10 fee for the audition. Individuals selected for the choir and orchestra will pay \$250 for meals and lodging during the retreat and tour.

### ACCOMPANISTS, MUSIC MINISTERS

## Keyboard Festivals open to all ages & levels

Pianists and organists of all ages will benefit from participating in regional Keyboard Festivals planned this spring by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church music department.

The festivals are open to children, teenagers and adults from all denominations and of all proficiency levels.

All participants will play a hymn

and a recital-type piece of their choice. Advanced pianists and organists have additional requirements. A panel of judges listening to each player will offer helpful critique. The festivals are designed to provide self-esteem, encouragement and learning in a supportive environment.

■ **Dates and locations:** March 18 at First Baptist Church of Ashland; April 22 at Lone Oak First Baptist

Church in Paducah; April 29 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; May 13 at First Baptist Church of London.

■ **Cost:** \$5 per participant.

■ **Pre-registration deadline:** One month prior to each event.

■ **Registration forms:** Write to the KBC church music department at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253 or call (502) 245-4101.

### PASTORS, DEACONS, SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS

## Church growth tips for smaller churches

If you're tired of church growth conferences that only tell you what works in big churches, here's good news.

The annual Small Church Growth Tour sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday school department is coming your way.

This is a one-stop seminar that teaches simple and effective ways to start growing your church today. You'll learn tips to:

- Increase attendance.
- Increase missions.
- Increase baptisms.
- Increase quality.
- Increase contacts.
- Increase enrollment.
- Increase stewardship.
- Increase ministry.

■ **Dates and locations:** Jan. 16 at Hardin Baptist Church in Hardin; Jan. 17 at Wing Avenue Baptist Church in Owensboro; Jan. 19 at Eastwood Baptist

Church in Bowling Green; Jan. 20 at North Side Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; Jan. 21 at Woodland Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ **Times:** All conferences are from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., except in Louisville, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

■ **Cost:** Free.

■ **Reservations:** Pre-registration is important. Call (502) 245-4101, ext. 300 today.

### CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORKERS

## Teach Bible basics through Bible drills

Give the children in your church a gift that can last a lifetime by planning a Bible drill emphasis.

Bible drills help children begin a pattern of studying and applying God's word. It helps children increase their knowledge of the Bible and begin developing memory skills.

Bible drills also help youth increase

their knowledge of Scripture, deepen their understanding of Scripture, learn all the books of the Bible and memorize selected verses.

Bible drill materials are now available in both the King James and New International Version formats. King James Bibles may be obtained from the Baptist Book Store. New Interna-

tional Bibles may be obtained from the International Bible Society by calling (800) 524-1588.

■ **Information:** For additional information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Discipleship Training department by calling (502) 245-4101 or writing to Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

### MUSICIANS

## Festivals help adult & youth ensembles

Take your singing group on the road in January: Participate in one of two Vocal Ensemble Festivals for adults and youth sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church music department.

Ensembles will sing two selections for a guest clinician who will provide helpful evaluation. You'll also have the chance to learn from hearing other groups sing.

The event is open to any ensemble of three or more members. And churches may bring more than one ensemble.

■ **Dates and locations:** Jan. 28 at Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro and Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort.

■ **Pre-registration:** To get a registration form, contact the KBC church music department by calling (502) 245-4101 or writing to Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

■ **Guest clinicians:** In Owensboro, Phillip Landgrave of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; in Frankfort, David Dale of Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ **Play along**  
Regional Keyboard Festivals scheduled for four locations around the state this spring will provide motivation and affirmation for church accompanists of all ages and experience levels. Plan now to attend March 18 in Ashland, April 22 in Paducah, April 29 in Louisville or May 13 in London.

■ **Audition**  
Get ready to audition for the Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra. Auditions are slated for Feb. 25 in Bowling Green, March 4 in Lexington, March 11 in Louisville and March 18 in Madisonville.

■ **Singles retreat**  
"Growing Stronger in Life" is the theme of this year's Single Adult Retreat, slated for March 17-19 at Cave City Convention Center. This is a great time for personal enrichment and refreshment for single adults, single adult ministry leaders and singles groups. For a brochure, call the KBC family ministry department at (502) 245-4101.

■ **Small churches**  
The annual Small Church Growth Tour is headed your way in January. See the article in this Events section for the date and location best suited to serve you.

■ **Divorce recovery**  
A training workshop for leaders of divorce recovery programs will be offered Jan. 27-28 at Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville.

## KBC Calendar

### November 29

■ KBC Executive Board nominating committee meeting at Baptist Building

### December 4-11

■ Week of Prayer for foreign missions

### December 8

■ Kentucky Baptist Foundation board meeting

### December 11

■ Foreign missions day in Sunday School

### December 12-13

■ KBC Executive Board meeting at Baptist Building

### December 17-31

■ Friendship International House

### December 25

■ Christmas Day

### December 27-31

■ Mission '95 student conference at Galt House in Louisville

### January 1

■ New Year's Day

### January 2-6

■ Winter Bible Conference

### January 5-6

■ State Music Council meeting at Hurstbourne Hotel in Louisville

### January 6-7

■ Brotherhood steering committee

### January 8

■ Soul Winning Commitment Day

### January 9

■ Beginning of "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," 60 days of personal evangelism

### January 15

■ Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

### January 16

■ Martin Luther King Day  
■ Regional Tax Conference at Prestonsburg  
■ Small Church Growth Tour at Hardin Baptist Church in Hardin

### January 17

■ Small Church Growth Tour at Wing Avenue Baptist Church in Owensboro

### January 19

■ Small Church Growth Tour at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green  
■ KBC committee on order of business meeting at Baptist Building

### January 20

■ Small Church Growth Tour at Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown  
■ KBC audit work group meeting

### January 21

■ Small Church Growth Tour at Woodland Baptist Church in Louisville

## Proposal for peace committee rejected

By Marv Knox  
Editor

FRANKFORT—A proposal to create a Kentucky Baptist "peace committee" failed to gain support of messengers to the 1994 Kentucky Baptist Convention last week, although messengers said they weren't rejecting the notion of peace.

The proposal surfaced during an annual meeting in which candidates representing the KBC's conservative, moderate and unaligned segments competed to succeed KBC President Bob Browning.

Eugene Siler, a federal judge and member of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, proposed the committee shortly after Browning delivered the annual president's address, calling for denominational unity and harmony.

Siler's motion would have given Browning authority to appoint a 15-member "ad hoc special committee on denominational harmony and peace." The committee would have been charged with "exploring ways to enhance cooperation, trust and mutual respect in Kentucky Baptist life so that all Kentucky Baptists continue to work together in a spirit of harmony and peace."

The committee would have been

composed of "an equal number of unaligned, moderate and conservative pastors and laypersons from throughout the state." It would have been charged to bring its findings and recommendations to the KBC annual meeting next year.

"This is an attempt to reconcile our body," Siler said. "If a marriage is on the rocks, you try and try again to reconcile and save the marriage. The convention must continue to try to bring ourselves together."

Two efforts to amend the proposal failed.

Lee James, pastor of Bellview Baptist Church in Paducah, unsuccessfully urged that the money that might be spent on such a committee instead be allocated to the KBC's partnership with Russian Baptists.

"I'm in favor of unity, but ... we know the ways we could work together already," he said.

Ken Bolin, pastor of Manchester Baptist Church in Manchester, urged that if the committee were approved it would be instructed to hold its meetings at Oneida Baptist Institute in Clay County.

"Oneida was born out of the feud environment of southeastern Kentucky," Bolin said. "I can't think of a better place to resolve Kentucky Baptist issues than the place where a Ken-

tucky feud was resolved in the early 1900s."

Quentin Lockwood, a retired home missionary and member of First Baptist Church in Ashland, spoke against the committee proposal on three counts.

"First, we have had a very harmonious, beautiful convention," he said. "There is a sense of harmony, so I raise the question: Why mess with it?"

Second, the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a similar proposal in 1985, and the committee produced a report in 1987. "But there was no peace," he said.

Indeed, the SBC continued to fragment after its peace committee concluded its work. And similar initiatives in Virginia and Georgia resulted in similar acrimony.

Finally, Lockwood noted that Browning had preached on Jesus' prayer for unity among his followers. "If we cannot heed the prayer of our Lord Jesus, what makes us think we will pay attention to anything a committee could bring us?" he asked.

Afterward, messengers generally agreed their vote was not against the concept of denominational peace. Rather, it rejected the notion of institutionalizing the peace process, they said.

## Foundation granted full agency status

FRANKFORT—The Kentucky Baptist Foundation gained full agency status with the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week.

Messengers to the KBC annual meeting approved a recommendation to amend the Foundation's governing documents. That action puts the Foundation on the same footing as the KBC's other agencies—Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and Baptist Healthcare Sys-

tem. It also makes the Foundation accountable directly to the convention rather than to the KBC Executive Board. Before the change, the Foundation was a hybrid of agency and Executive Board department.

Begun in 1945, the Foundation handles endowments for various Baptist agencies and institutions and assists donors of all types who desire to make charitable contributions. The Foundation has experienced extraor-

inary growth in recent years, with total assets under management nearing \$50 million. The Foundation gained \$14.1 million last year alone.

"It took 36 years for the Foundation to attain the first \$10 million in assets, eight years to attain the second \$10 million, three years to attain the third \$10 million and now only two years to attain the fourth \$10 million of assets," said Richard Carnes, Foundation President.



**CELEBRATION** The Kentucky Baptist Foundation kicked off its 50th anniversary celebration last week with a birthday cake for messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Frankfort. At the same meeting, the Foundation received full agency status with the KBC. Each tier of the specially decorated cake symbolized 10 years and the increasing assets under management by the Foundation. Shown cutting the cake are Bill Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer; Bob Browning, KBC president; Richard Carnes, Foundation president; and Charles Barnes, chairman of the Foundation board.

## New offering approved for Oneida school

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

FRANKFORT—Although he is not here to witness it, Barkley Moore's dream of establishing an annual offering for Oneida Baptist Institute has become a reality.

And that offering will bear Moore's name as a means of continuing his legacy as president of the Southeastern Kentucky school for 22 years.

The Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering was approved Nov. 15 by messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting. Oneida is one of five educational institutions owned by the KBC.

For years before his sudden death last January, Moore had advocated creation of a special offering to benefit Oneida, a boarding school for junior high and high school students.

Previously, the KBC sanctioned only six special offerings annually: the Thanksgiving Offering for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, the Mother's Day Offering for charity work in Baptist Healthcare System, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions and the Southern Baptist Convention's annual World Hunger Offering.

Opponents of creating a special offering for Oneida have argued that churches already are deluged with too many special appeals. That was the very argument presented on the convention floor last week by Russell Bennett, director of missions for Long Run Baptist Association.

"We have a significant number of offerings already," Bennett said. "Our pastors are bombarded. Wouldn't it be more appropriate for Oneida to be included in the state missions offering?"

But Ken Bolin, pastor of Manchester Baptist Church near Oneida, spoke in favor of the offering.

Oneida makes a "unique contribution to our convention," he said. "And what better way to continue the legacy of Barkley Moore than to have this offering in his name?"

Messengers approved the offering on a standing vote that appeared close but was declared in the affirmative by the chair.

The first offering will be promoted and collected next June.

## KBC celebrates Russia, children & evangelism

By Marv Knox  
Editor

FRANKFORT—Russian Baptists received four thunderous standing ovations last week as they sang about Jesus and talked about partnership during the 1994 Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The focus on the KBC's missions partnership with the Russian Baptist Union provided one of three key celebrations during the annual meeting in Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center.

The KBC also celebrated 125 years of child care through Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and looked forward to the 1995 "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" evangelism emphasis.

Russian Baptists count their partnership with Kentucky Baptists as one of the great blessings of recent years, said Vasily Logvinenko, the retired longtime president of the Russian Baptist Union.

"We have experienced many unexpected events," Logvinenko said. "The Soviet Union fell. We experienced freedom. And God gave us our brothers and sisters in Kentucky—a great miracle.

"It is only because of what Jesus has done" that freedom came and the partnership developed, he added. "God has united us as one family, and we have seen your open faces and open hearts. We pray to draw closer to Christ and to each other. Please come to Russia."

As Logvinenko concluded, messengers jumped to their feet and applauded their approval. They also gave two standing ovations to the Russian Baptist music ensemble Good News and gave another to the new union president, Pyotr Konolvalchic.

"The history of Baptists in Russia is a history of the persecution of God's people," Konolvalchic said. "The way of the church in Russia was paved with thorns, and yet you never abandoned us," he added, noting Russian Baptists felt the prayers of U.S. Christians and received the Scriptures that were smuggled to them during the communist oppression.

"Today, we live in a totally different day," he stressed. "God has heard the prayers of his little ones."

Today, Russian Baptists preach the gospel in the streets, civic centers, stadiums, prisons, on radio and TV, and even in schools, he reported.

"These unexpected opportunities have come to us," he said. "We have prayed for ones to come and help us utilize them. ... God has encouraged you to come help us go into these fields which are white unto harvest."

Konolvalchic expressed gratitude for the work Kentucky Baptists have done in the first year of their partnership with Russian Baptists. "The blessings of God have come upon this agreement because we see the fruit of our labor," he said.

But he pleaded for Kentucky Baptists to persist with church construction, medical ministry and leadership training.

"How long this time of grace will last only God knows," he conceded. "Our concern is to preach Jesus Christ.

"You are more blessed than we are, because Jesus said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive,' and God blesses those who give," Konolvalchic said.

During the session, KBC President Bob Browning collected an offering to support the ministry of the Good News ensemble. Messengers contributed \$3,781.91, an amount almost equal to the seven-member group's combined salary for eight months.

The Russians invited KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall to attend their executive committee meeting in October 1995. And KBC partnership leaders Benton Williams and Calvin Wilkins distributed information about priority needs for the partnership in 1995.

In other phases of the annual meeting program, messengers also completed the 125th anniversary celebration of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and heard inspiring testimonials about the upcoming "Here's Hope" evangelism emphasis.

The children's home celebration also moved messengers to their feet, as Becky Schroll, a former resident, gave her testimony and sang the anniversary theme song, "Thank You for Giving to the Lord." The Ray Boltz song emphasizes how lives are changed by those who give to the Lord, even though they may not know the results until they get to heaven.

Homes for Children never was far from messengers' minds throughout the two-day annual meeting. At the end of each session, a young resident of one of the child-care facilities stood at the podium and offered the benediction.

At the conclusion of the Homes for Children celebration, workers and residents of the agency's homes flooded the platform and surrounded KBC President Bob Browning and KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall.

As messengers looked to the future, they contemplated the "Here's Hope" campaign that will begin shortly after the beginning of the new year.

The first phase of "Here's Hope" will be 60 days of personal witnessing, to be conducted from Jan. 9 through March 9, said KBC Evangelism Director Bill Jagers. During this phase, Kentucky Baptists are urged to commit to tell one person about Jesus every day.

The second phase will be simultaneous "harvest" revivals, which will begin March 12 and run through September, Jagers added. During these revivals, churches will receive and baptize the people who will be led to faith in Christ during the witnessing phase.

The '95 "Here's Hope" campaign, to be conducted throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, will be unique because it will be the first SBC evangelism emphasis to



**THANK YOU** Residents of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children facilities gather around KBC officials Bob Browning and Bill Marshall and present them with roses in celebration of the child care agency's 125th anniversary.

focus on personal evangelism, Jagers reported.

And it's designed to continue well beyond the nine-month "Here's Hope" time span, Jagers added, noting, "We think anyone who witnesses every day for 60 days will develop an evangelistic lifestyle and continue in the habit of sharing faith in Christ."

"Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" was the theme for the annual meeting in Frankfort.

The theme was interpreted by two members of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, which helped develop the pilot project for the emphasis.

Mike Williams, director of Rose Hill's bus ministry, and Rick Frazier, pastor of its South Point Mission in South Point, Ohio, described their joyous experiences with telling people about Jesus every day for two months.

The emphasis drove home an important Christian principle, Frazier said: "Whoever we meet, we are accountable for sharing that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of receiving Christ. ... It is not an alternative or even a variable. It is a mandate from our Lord, Jesus Christ."



**RUSSIAN CELEBRATION** Members of the Russian musical group Good News (middle photo) perform for messengers at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting last week. During a reception, KBC Partnership Missions Director Benton Williams (above) presents certificates to Russian Baptists Vasily Logvinenko and Pyotr Konolvalchic making them Kentucky Colonels.

# BAPTISTS

## Virginia bases representation on state gifts alone

**"Churches which do not support Virginia Baptist ministries should not decide the issues among us."**  
Virginia Baptist messenger Roy Thomas

SALEM, Va. (BP)—Virginia Baptists voted Nov. 16 to base representation of churches to the state convention on gifts to state causes alone, instead of on contributions to state, national and international ministries.

The 600,000-member Baptist General Association of Virginia thus becomes the first state Baptist convention to make contributions to state ministries the sole basis for church representation. Unlike many other state conventions, Virginia congregations qualify for state representation only through financial contributions, not through a combined formula based on money and church membership.

Meeting in the southwest Virginia city of Salem, the 3,375 messengers also elected as president Marga-

ret Wayland of Danville, Va., a moderate and Woman's Missionary Union leader.

The change in representation, proposed by the Virginia Baptist general board, garnered 73 percent of the vote, above the two-thirds majority necessary for approval. Similar proposals had received majorities in each of the past two years but fell short of the required two-thirds.

Proponents said the change was needed because Virginia's previous financial plan permitted churches to contribute money only to national ministries—such as the Southern Baptist Convention or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship—and still be represented at the annual state meeting.

"This is neither right nor fair,"

said Roy Thomas of Crozet during debate on the constitutional amendment.

"Churches which do not support Virginia Baptist ministries should not decide the issues among us," Thomas insisted.

But opponents said the proposal was aimed at diminishing representation from conservative churches, many having reduced or eliminated gifts to the state convention to protest what they claim is a weakening of ties between the moderate-controlled state body and the conservative-controlled SBC.

"This proposed action is one of exclusion and division designed to keep conservatives from participating," said Terry Collier of Pound, Va.

"It will send us on a course of division from which we will not return," he added.

But Reginald McDonough, executive director of the state convention, said afterward he doesn't think the change will exclude anyone. "The issue was to adjust our system to the changing scene in the (national) denomination," he said.

"I don't see that this makes us any less Southern Baptist. My hope is we will continue as Virginia Baptists to reach out to other Baptists in cooperation to advance the Redeemer's kingdom."

At a later press conference, McDonough told reporters, "This takes away the threat of a small group with a political agenda trying to take over" the state convention.

## North Carolina allows Fellowship gifts, supports colleges

Continued from page 2

Horton, a member of the SBC Executive Committee which controls the Cooperative Program budget, called the proposal "provocative and divisive" and a product of "dictatorial leadership" in the state convention.

However, budget chairman Wilson, a layman from Winston-Salem, said, "This does not reflect—absolutely not—any change in relationship between the Baptist State Convention and the national convention."

The budget was approved by an estimated 2-1 margin.

If a church does not choose one of the three funding plans, its gifts will automatically be assigned to the traditional Plan A. Those that choose Plan C—the Fellowship plan—will not qualify for membership in the Southern Baptist Convention unless they make some other contribution to SBC causes, messengers were told.

More churches from North Carolina contribute directly to the Fellowship than from any other state—274. The state convention's leaders believe allowing those churches to channel their Fellowship gifts through state offices will make those churches more likely to support the state convention budget as well.

The Fellowship will receive 10 percent of all funds contributed to Plan C. Likewise, the SBC gets 10 percent of contributions to Plan B.

Other mission causes receive 22 percent of both plans.

The SBC will receive 32 percent of the traditional Plan A.

Convention President Alfred Ayscue, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mount Airy and a Fellowship leader, was challenged in his bid for re-election by two conservative candidates. Ayscue prevailed, drawing 61 percent of the vote against Ted Stone (21 percent) and Lynn Buzzard (19 percent).

In his presidential address, Ayscue defended the rights of all churches to support the SBC or the Fellowship. "Those are the decisions of local congregations, not to be interfered with by this or any other convention," he said.

Messengers later passed a resolu-

tion affirming the autonomy of the local church and the principle of voluntary cooperation, citing the Baptist Faith and Message and other Baptist documents. They also turned back an attempt to amend a long-range planning report to pledge loyalty to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers agreed to create a fund to subsidize the state's seven Baptist colleges with at least as much money as now goes from North Carolina to the six SBC seminaries through the national Cooperative Program—about \$1.9 million. It was left to the convention's General Board to

determine where the money will come from for the new fund.

Those colleges complained that a new college-level program at Southeastern Seminary will be subsidized by SBC Cooperative Program funds, lowering tuition and placing the seven colleges at a disadvantage for recruiting students.

The SBC Cooperative Program allocates about \$6,000 per year for each seminary student, while the seven Baptist colleges in North Carolina receive about \$350 per student from the state convention, messengers were told.

**More churches from North Carolina contribute directly to the Fellowship than from any other state—274. The state convention's leaders believe allowing those churches to channel their Fellowship gifts through state offices will make those churches more likely to support the state convention budget as well.**

### The road ahead

We brought Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's 125th celebration to a close last week at the Kentucky Baptist Convention. I must admit I definitely have mixed feelings about this special time coming to an end. It was certainly a wonderful year as we sought to say "thank you" to Kentucky Baptists and the many others who help make this ministry possible.

People responded in a tremendous way to our anniversary. More than 5,500 attended one of our nine celebration events. Hundreds of churches across the state held celebration services, hosted speakers and commemorated the birthday in special ways. And so many Kentucky Baptists responded warmly to us at the convention last week as we tried to share from the bottom of our hearts our great thankfulness. The 125th celebration has been one of those mountain-top experiences that I feel very privileged to have been a part of.

One of the realities about attaining the mountain top is that the time must come to move on. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children certainly didn't stop taking care of children while we celebrated. (In

fact the number of children and families served increased dramatically during the last year.) But it has been a time of focusing on the past.

The time has now come to look to the future and to celebrate what the Lord will do through this ministry if we are all faithful to his calling. The future is as unknown to us today as it was for those ladies who first began this work 125 years ago. The task ahead looks daunting as we continue to watch families struggle in a society that has de-emphasized the importance of family. The challenges ahead are going to be great.

But having said that, I also want to say I am excited about the future because I know that we are not facing these challenges alone! The same God who makes mountains and calms stormy seas and brings new life to broken hearts is in the driver's seat. Just think of the miracles he will perform! Just think of the lives he will change through Kentucky Baptists! I, for one, am looking forward to the ride!

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

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



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*Celebrating our 100th Year of Ministry*

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*Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Squire Parsons Concert 7:30 p.m.*

# PEOPLE

## Longtime Kentucky pastor T.L. McSwain dies at 66

LOUISVILLE—T.L. McSwain, a prominent Kentucky pastor and former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, died in Louisville Nov. 14.

McSwain, 66, suffered a stroke while preaching Oct. 30 and had been hospitalized ever since.

His funeral was held Nov. 17 at Shively Baptist Church in Louisville, where his son, Stephen, is pastor.

McSwain retired last year as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville, where he had served three years. He returned to Kentucky from

Augusta, Ga., where he was pastor of Warren Baptist Church for four years.

In addition to Bethlehem, McSwain served as pastor of a number of prominent Kentucky Baptist congregations. His longest pastorates were at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville and First Baptist Church of Richmond, each of which he served nine years. It was while pastor at Richmond that he was elected KBC president in 1972.

McSwain also was pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah, Third Baptist Church in Owensboro

and Southside Baptist Church in Louisville.

As pastor of many growing congregations, he oversaw at least seven major building or expansion projects throughout his ministry.

McSwain was active in denominational life, serving as vice president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in 1962, as a trustee of Georgetown College from 1968 to 1985, as a trustee of Kentucky Board of Child Care from 1965 to 1969 and as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board from 1977 to 1986.

He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Wake Forest University, the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the doctor of ministry degree from Lexington Theological Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, Betty McSwain; three sons, Lawson McSwain of Louisville, Stephen McSwain of Louisville and Douglas McSwain of Lexington; two brothers, Wade McSwain of Jackson and Lawrence McSwain of Modesto, Calif.; and six grandchildren.



T.L. McSwain

## Georgetown to launch ministry center to honor Marshalls

GEORGETOWN—Georgetown College has announced plans to launch a Center for Christian Ministry named in honor of Bill and Alice Marshall.

Bill Marshall serves as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Both he and his wife are Georgetown College graduates and former missionaries to the Middle East.

"The center will be committed to helping Baptists understand who we are and to translate that understanding into tangible ministry and mission," President Bill Crouch said.

Crouch said the Marshalls "exem-

plify what being Baptist is all about."

Bill Marshall said news of the new center has been a "very humbling experience" for the couple.

"It was as a student at Georgetown College that my Christian calling and vocational mission were experienced," he said. "It is a holy place in my pilgrimage. Alice and I are thrilled with the intention of Dr. Crouch's vision for a Center for Christian Ministry at Georgetown College and are honored to be associated with it in this very special way."

Georgetown trustee Dwight Moody, pastor of Third Baptist Church in Owensboro, called the new

center a reaffirmation of the college's historical purpose. "It will help clarify our identity as a Christian college and intensify our commitment to Kentucky Baptists," he said. "This is the right thing at the right time."

Crouch said the college has begun a campaign to raise a \$1 million endowment and \$100,000 in operating expenses for the center. A board of directors should be named by April 1, 1995, and a director for the center should be employed by Oct. 15, 1996, he added. The center is projected to open by Jan. 1, 1997.

In other news, Crouch said Georgetown's trustees recently approved

several other initiatives to strengthen the school's Baptist ties:

■ Plans to recruit a Baptist studies scholar for the faculty.

■ Creation of a Baptist Scholars Award named for Paul and Phyllis Parks. Paul Parks is a physician from Bowling Green and longtime trustee of Georgetown College. Mrs. Parks is recently deceased. This award will provide full tuition, room and board for four years to a top-ranked Baptist student.

■ Creation of a ministerial scholarship named for David Nelson, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro.

## KBC-related groups elect officers during annual meetings

FRANKFORT—Several professional groups met in Frankfort last week in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting and elected new officers for the coming year. The groups and their new officers are:

■ **Kentucky Baptist Association of Ministries with the Aging:** Kelly Beaver, president, minister of music

at First Baptist Church of Sturgis; Larry Cook, vice president, minister of music and adult education at First Baptist Church of Frankfort; Ludema Scott, secretary/treasurer, layperson from Harrodsburg Baptist Church in Harrodsburg.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Music Conference:** Bill Tiemann, president, minister of music at Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro; Ken Go-

forth, vice president/president-elect, minister of music at Scottsville Baptist Church in Scottsville; Steve Fegenbush, secretary/treasurer, minister of music at Calvary Baptist Church in Danville. New council members elected are Richard Dwyer of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, David Slinker of Corinth Baptist Church in London and Jim Krutza of Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association:** Daryl Wilson, president, minister of administration and education at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green; Terrie Springer, president-elect, minister of

education and youth at First Baptist Church of Fort Thomas; Tom Pelfrey, secretary, minister of education and administration at Third Baptist Church of Owensboro.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship:** Bill Willham, president, South District and Mercer associations; David Aker, president-elect, Pulaski Association; John East, treasurer, Ohio River Association; Harold Greenfield, editor of VitaLink, Caldwell-Lyon Association.

■ **Ministers' Wives Fellowship:** Glenda Copass, president, Philpot; Linda Hopson, vice president, Owensboro; Judy Robbe, program chairwoman, Owensboro; Virginia Bauscher, publicity, Owensboro.



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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**FOR SALE:** 1981 Chevrolet 12-passenger church van, 53,000 miles. For more information, phone (502) 542-4296, Mon.-Fri.

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

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

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

**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.

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

## Smith & Profitt honored for bivocational ministries

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

FRANKFORT—Donald Smith and David Profitt were honored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 14 as outstanding bivocational ministers.

Smith, minister of music at Elm Grove Baptist Church in Benton, and Profitt, pastor of Licking River Baptist Church in Salyersville, were guests of honor at a recognition banquet held the night before the KBC annual meeting began in Frankfort.

Smith owns a construction business in addition to his church work. He also travels as a music evangelist.

Profitt has been manager of Martin's Department Store in Salyersville for 20 years. In the past five years he has led Licking River Church to grow from 13 active members to 225 active members and baptized 67 people. Previously, he started Bushy Fork Baptist Church in the same association.

Guest speaker at the banquet was Dale Holloway, a bivocational pastor in Mississippi and bivocational ministries consultant with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Holloway encouraged ministers to have a Paul, a Barnabas and a Timothy in their lives, all references to New Testament figures.

The Paul in a minister's life is a mentor, he said, while the Barnabas is a person who remains an honest friend. Then each minister should seek out a Timothy, some younger minister to whom he can become a mentor, he said.

Holloway offered several tips for ministers of all kinds:

- Make frequent trips back to your call.

- Go where you're sent. "I can't believe the present distribution of ministers in our convention is God's plan," he said. "We're all bunched up" in the South.

- When a boulder falls on you, don't quit, because it may become a

stepping stone.

- Be sensitive. "It's more important to be sensitive than to be sensible," he said.

- Keep a constant connection to your childhood.

- Don't let the necessary or urgent overwhelm the important.

- Fill every minute with 60 seconds of distance running. "Ministry is not a preacher in a pulpit," he explained. "Ministry is a Christian in the world."

- Don't ever quit learning.

- Don't let your finances or your romances ruin your ministry.

- Gladly share your ministry with others.



**BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER** Donald Smith, accompanied by his wife, Phyllis, receives an award as bivocational minister of the year from Vernon Cole of the KBC.



**BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR** David Profitt, accompanied by his wife, Darlene, receives an award as bivocational pastor of the year from Vernon Cole of the KBC.

### A crown for a queen

On Oct. 29, Loramca Capati was crowned 1995 Oneidian yearbook queen by President W.F. "Bud" Underwood.

"Lor" is a 17-year-old from Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia. Born in the Philippines, she has lived in Saudi Arabia since age 6. This is her second year at Oneida Baptist Institute.

Capati has participated in volleyball, basketball, track, pep club and softball. She also has tutored international students in English.

Her future plans include attending Western Kentucky University to major in psychology. Her long-term goal is to counsel children.

Nine senior girls participated in the pageant this year after being selected by student vote. The girls completed resumés, wrote brief essays and were interviewed by three judges before the pageant. The pageant consisted of an introductory procession, talent and evening gown competition.

Capati played the clarinet for her talent. She was surprisingly calm throughout the day of the pageant, perhaps because she was not concerned with winning or losing: "I felt it would be an honor just to be in it, whether I won or lost." She admitted being very surprised when her name was called as the new yearbook queen: "I was just listening for somebody else's name, not mine."

"Being at Oneida has made me a stronger person. Going to chapel, church, Sunday school—all have increased my faith," she said, noting she has really enjoyed studying at a Christian school.

Melissa Pruitt, an 18-year-old from Bowling Green, was named first runner-up in the pageant. A cross-country runner and basketball player for three years, she also ran track two years. Pruitt has been in choir the past three years, participated in drama and BETA Club, has been a member of

Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and is currently a dorm hall monitor.

After-graduation plans for Pruitt are to attend Western Kentucky University and become a registered nurse. She added, "It's not only my plan, it's my dream. My mother has always told me anything is possible, even your deepest dreams."

Jennifer Beller won both second runner-up and best talent. Beller is from Corbin, 17 years old and currently our yearbook editor and newspaper editor. She is active in BETA Club, Baptist Student Union, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Spanish Club. She also has participated in cross-country, cheerleading, track, basketball and drama, and she is a dorm aide.

Post-high school plans for Beller are to become a third-grade teacher. She explained: "In the future we need to start enriching society's minds with more rights than wrongs. ... I would like to see myself take part in this."

Six other young ladies also participated in the yearbook queen pageant: Mary Moore from Inez; Anne Hanson from Greenview, Ill.; Tonya Leger from London; Mandy Hicks from Hopkinsville; Renae Barger from Oneida; and Sara Newbury from Lexington.

Capati noted that most of the girls in the pageant were close friends. The competition never got in the way of the friendships, however. She described it as "a competitive group, but we praised each other, and we helped each other through it all."

We are proud of each of our pageant contestants, both for their team spirit and for their many accomplishments here at Oneida.

Written by Denise Spencer, OBI publications  
W.F. "Bud" Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

#### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

### Ministry after flight 4184

When flight 4184 crashed in the cornfields of northern Indiana, '91 alumnus Randy Gaskey was at church involved in a fall festival for children. A church member heard about the crash on a scanner and brought them the news. It was another hour before they realized it was a commercial plane and the extent of the tragedy.

Gaskey is pastor of First Baptist, Roselawn, four miles from the crash site. That evening he contacted disaster officials and extended an offer to provide facilities and help in any way.

One church family had several frantic moments before confirming that a family member was not on the flight. Two church members worked at the site with the volunteer fire department. Involved in his fourth crash, Larry Luchene said, "One plane crash is too much for anyone to see."

On Tuesday a church member who owned a local restaurant contacted several ladies of the church. They prepared hundreds of sandwiches for the volunteers. Ten days after the crash, five women in the church cooked turkey and casseroles for Red Cross volunteers.

The Wednesday service following the crash was a very solemn one. "We had a special prayer time for the families and the volunteers,"

Gaskey said. "It was very difficult for the volunteers." His Sunday morning service included a message on the brevity of life, the certainty of death and hope in Christ.

Officials working with the crash were overwhelmed with the community's response. One positive side of the tragedy is the way the community pulled together. Much of the heavy equipment used at the crash site was donated by a son of one church member.

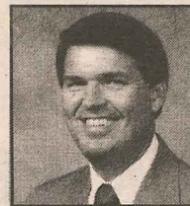
Roselawn is a community of about 3,000. Many of the residents commute to work in Gary, Hammond and Chicago.

First Baptist has 130 in worship attendance with Sunday school attendance of 80. The Baptist Women's group ministers in the nursing homes. Baptist Men had a summer carpentry outreach, working on the homes of elderly members. The church has purchased a van for a growing youth ministry.

Last month Gaskey and his wife observed, "Nothing big ever happens around Roselawn." The crash has reminded them that no community is immune to tragedy and disaster. They are thankful for a church willing to minister.

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

#### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Never stop trying to reach the world, speakers say

By Marv Knox  
Editor

FRANKFORT—Christians must never quit trying to reach their world for Christ, a pair of speakers from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary told messengers to the 1994 Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"I get so tired of this plastic world," admitted Calvin Miller, professor of communication and ministry studies and writer-in-residence at the Fort Worth, Texas, school.

"I believe God wants me to care for a plastic world," he said. "But it's so hard. We don't even understand it, much less appreciate it."

Miller decried a world of bland mediocre sameness, epitomized by Disney World in Florida, where the "cost per fun hour" is more than \$500.

"Wouldn't it be great (for Christians) to say we've got a reality that's better than Disney World?" he asked.

To do so, he advised Christians to follow the example of the Apostle Paul, who said, "I become all things to all people, so that I might win some."

"We will never win somebody to Christ until they see us as real people," Miller stressed. "Until you listen to them, you can't talk them into anything. ... We're going to listen a lot more people into Jesus than we're going to talk into Jesus."

Reaching people for Christ requires discipline, he added. "Evangelism is a discipline. You don't win people to Christ because it's so fun to buttonhole them and feel like a fool. You do it because Jesus said to do it."

Unfortunately, few Southern Baptists practice that discipline of evangelism, he said.

"It takes 47 of us a year to win somebody to Jesus," he lamented,

noting that the discipline "is the gift you give back to God" for God's gift of salvation.

Southwestern Seminary President Ken Hemphill pointed out the irony that people will get upset over dying animals but Christians cannot work up compassion for people who will go to hell when they die.

"If the world is so concerned about dying whales and dolphins, why are Southern Baptists so unconcerned about dying souls?" he asked.

"Last year, only 4 percent of Southern Baptists ever witnessed their faith, and 6,000 Southern Baptists didn't baptize a single soul."

Stressing another irony, Hemphill insisted the lack of baptisms is caused by Christians, not unbelievers.

"The problem is not the receptivity of the (non-Christians), but the willingness of the witnesses," he said. "People are more willing to listen than we are to witness."

Hemphill urged Kentucky Baptists to look to Jesus as a model for sharing their faith.

Jesus taught his followers to pray, believing in "God's supernatural action to reach people and change lives," he said. Jesus also gave them authority to act in his name, equipped them for the task of witnessing, prom-

ised them all the resources they need and encouraged them to keep at the task, he added.

But beyond all that, he stressed, Christians need the key element Jesus had that propelled him to reach out to people—compassion.

"If we don't see people the way Jesus did, we'll never feel for them the way Jesus did. He was moved with compassion," Hemphill noted. "We're not reaching lost people because we don't understand their eternal condition—lost without Christ."

"We'll never reach the world until we accept responsibility for the fate of lost people."

**BE A WITNESS** Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, urges Kentucky Baptists to share their Christian faith.



## Bible paraphrase for golfers raises eyebrows at KBC

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

FRANKFORT—When Alan Medders wrote a paraphrase of the Gospel of Matthew for people who like to play golf, he never dreamed anyone would get teed off over it.

But that's just what he encountered upon arrival at the Kentucky Baptist Convention book store last week, where he was supposed to sign copies of his new book, "The Golfer's Good News."

By the time Medders arrived Wednesday afternoon, his book had been pulled from the Baptist Book Store due to complaints from messengers who thought it was in poor taste at best and blasphemous at worst.

One messenger made a motion on the floor of the convention that the book store be instructed to stop selling the book. President Bob Browning eventually ruled the motion out of order since the convention had no jurisdiction over the book store, set up by the Louisville Baptist Book Store.

But that same day, the book store manager voluntarily removed the remaining copies of Medders' book.

Medders, a former Kentucky pastor who holds a master of divinity de-

gree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said he was inspired by Clarence Jordan's popular paraphrase of the Bible, "Cotton Patch Gospel." As an avid golfer, Medders wanted to set the gospel message in a context non-Christian golfers would read as a first step toward deeper inquiries about the faith, he said.

The paperback's color cover features a drawing of Jesus holding a golf club and walking over a golf course water trap dressed in red-and-white golf shoes.

In the book, Jesus is called The Great Golfer, the Holy Spirit is called The Special Golf Instructor, the Pharisees are called the Rules Committee, the Saducees are called the Jewish Golfers Association and the angels are called caddies.

Medders paraphrases Matthew 1:18 this way: "Now the birth of The Great Golfer was as follows: After his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, before they were married or played a single round of golf together, she became pregnant by the Special Golf Instructor of God."

And the Lord's Prayer recorded in Matthew 6 is paraphrased this way: "Our Father in the clubhouse on the golf course in heaven, holy is your

name. Your golf course will come. Your swing will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily pars and forgive us our bogeys as we forgive those who distract us and cause us to bogey. And do not lead us to hit a slice, but deliver us from the hook. For yours is the golf course and the power swing and glory forever. Amen."

Duane Holland of Gilbertsville made the motion that KBC messengers remove the book from the convention book store. Although Browning ruled the motion out of order, he allowed Holland a point of personal privilege to explain his concern.

Holland read messengers a few excerpts from the book and said, "I'm all for fun and humor and satire, but when you satirize the Scripture, you've gone too far."

His comments received a round of applause from many messengers.

Later that afternoon, during the time he was supposed to have been signing books, Medders fielded questions from reporters.

He said he was surprised by all the controversy he had caused but had no hard feelings. The book store manager, he said, was very gracious.

This was his third scheduled ap-

pearance at a state Baptist convention this fall, he said. Book signings in Missouri and North Carolina went well, he noted.

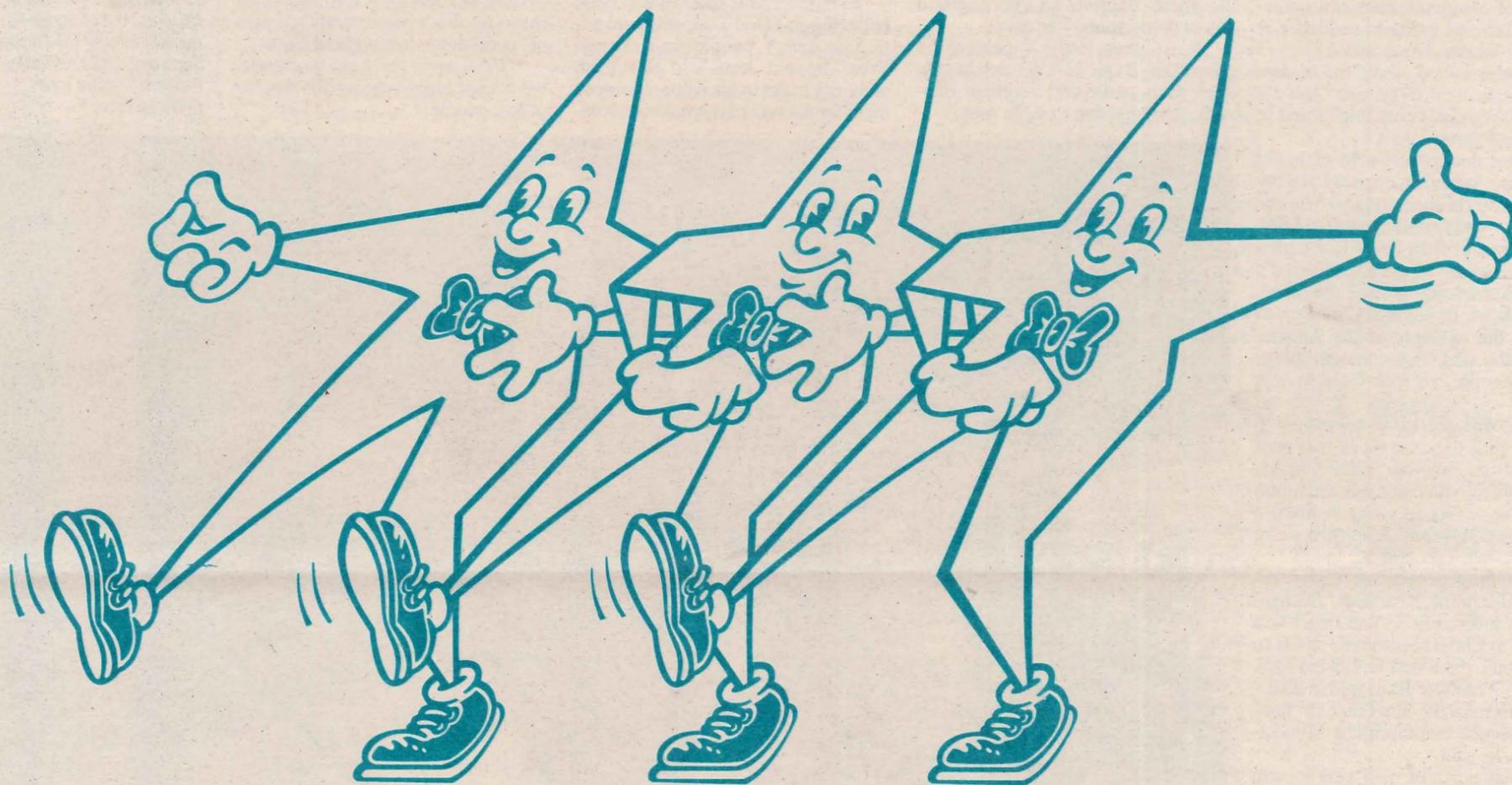
Medders said his book was intended to be a "serious, funny book" that would appeal to Christian and non-Christian golfers and prompt them to read more in the real Bible. "I'm not making fun of the Bible or of Jesus," he said.

Medders, who said he came to golf late in life and carries a handicap of 12 to 20, now lives in Birmingham, Ala., where he sells convention exhibits. During the 1993-94 school year, he was director of admissions at Southern Seminary. Previously, he was pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Sterling and Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Mount Eden.

Medders said last January's big snowstorm in Kentucky gave him his break on the book, which he had thought of a month earlier. Stranded inside his Louisville home for a week, he began writing the volume, which he completed before the spring thaw.

Although sold in Baptist Book Stores, the book was not published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The publisher is a Louisville company, Butler Book Publishers.

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