



WESTERN RECORDER

January 3, 1995
Vol. 169, No. 1**FOR THE RECORD****"Mission 95"**

More than 3,000 college students converged in Louisville last week for a student missions conference called "Mission 95."
See page 1, 8 & 9.

Compromise reached

A new music school dean has been named at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in what faculty and trustees alike are calling a happy compromise between their previously opposing viewpoints.
See page 2.

Family Forum

My husband and I have a 6-month-old baby. I adore him, but I also miss the closeness we shared before he was born. How can we renew the spark in our marriage and be parents too?
See page 4.

Editorial

A review of the Western Recorder's Top 10 stories for 1994.
See page 5.

**Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now.**

This week's Recorder includes the first edition of a special section designed to support the nationwide "Here's Hope" evangelistic campaign. This week's section includes information on how to become a Christian, how to participate in "Here's Hope," tips for sharing your faith and a preview of the Kentucky Evangelism Conference.
See page 6 & 7.

Moving? See page 4 (0103)

Mission conference teaches by words & actions

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

LOUISVILLE (BP)—While many of their peers made final preparations for New Year's Eve parties, more than 3,000 college students from across America and Canada spent the last week of 1994 in Kentucky learning about missions.

The students attended "Mission 95," a global missions conference sponsored by five Southern Baptist Convention organizations and held at Commonwealth Convention Center in Louisville.

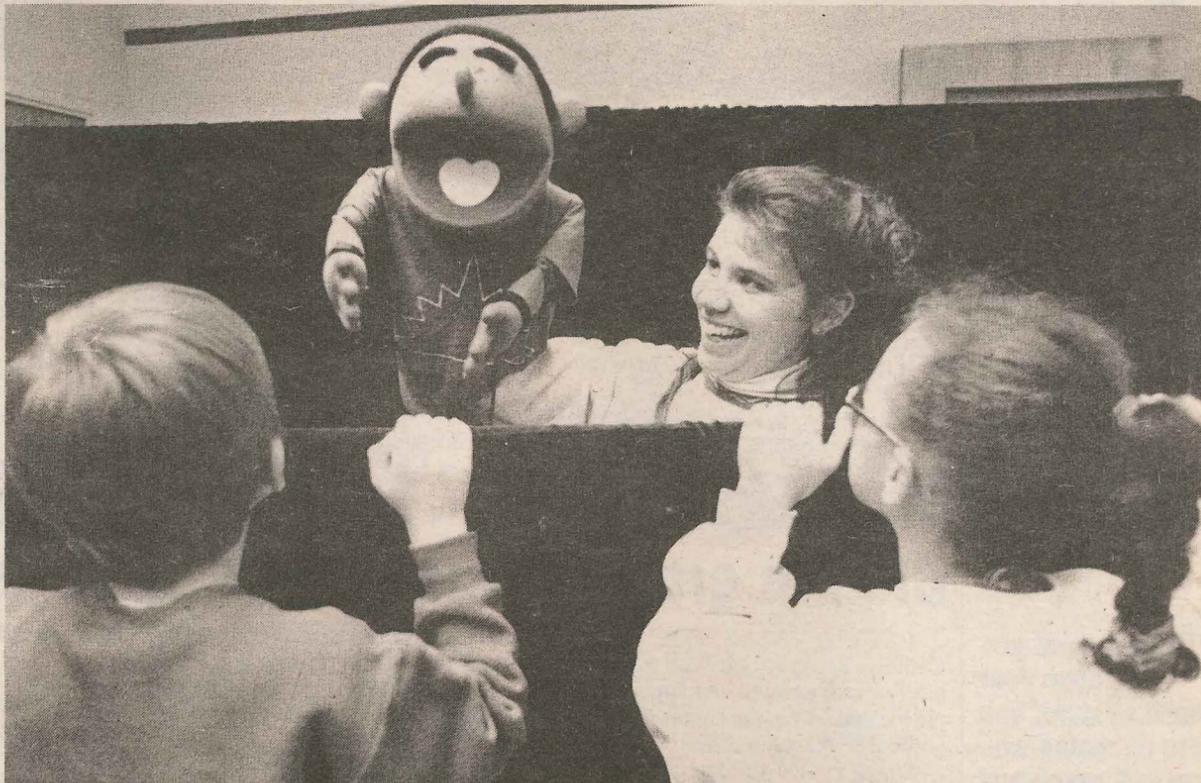
Participants heard from national and international missions leaders, chose from more than 90 missions-related seminars, met in small "family" groups to pray for unreached people groups and interacted with 100 home and foreign missionaries.

By week's end, hundreds of students had made public commitments to missions.

The conference goal of educating students about what God is doing in the world was achieved, said Bill Henry, director of the SBC's national student ministry program.

"When I looked around the hall during our last night's service and saw all those students walking down the aisle to make their decisions, I

See Mission conference ..., page 9



PUPPET TALK Shannon Haupt (center), a student at Murray State University, demonstrates the mechanics of puppetry to two children in the after-school care ministry of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville last week. Haupt was among about 600 participants in the "Mission 95" student missions conference who worked in a variety of mission projects during the Dec. 27-31 national meeting at the Commonwealth Convention Center. Students from across the nation volunteered their services in Louisville for projects ranging from painting a Baptist center to working with children. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Futurist says boomers misleading children

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Baby boomers are selling the wrong dream to their children, and it could have a devastating effect on missions, according to futurist Tom Sine.

Sine, a Seattle-based futurist and Christian author, told college students attending "Mission 95" last week many evangelical Christians have bought into the American dream at the expense of their faith.

"We've allowed the American culture to determine what's of value and importance," he said. "To define what the good life is really all about, we need to use the Bible.

"There are Baptists who believe the Bible literally, use it devotionally, but don't take it seriously," Sine said. "Most of us have embraced a disci-

plishment that trivializes the gospel."

And many Christian adults are passing that misguided approach to faith down to their children and teenagers, leaving them confused or ambivalent about what missions and a personal commitment to Christ are all about, he said.

"The under-30 age group is giving approximately 50 percent less at church, and it isn't because you don't care," Sine told the 3,400 students attending the conference. "It's because we've sold you the wrong dream—the American dream with a little Jesus overlay."

While praising Southern Baptists for their rich missions heritage, Sine said rapid global change, increasing poverty and exploding population growth will force Christians to "re-invent" missions to reach the world for Christ.

"We need you to lead, not just fill in and take places," he said. "We need new vision and creativity ... whole new approaches to missions."

He urged students to go beyond a "one-track" approach to missions where a small group of people devote themselves to full-time work while the majority of church members pray and offer financial support.

"In the New Testament, everybody was involved. It was 'whole life stewardship,' not tithing," he said.

Sine called on the baby buster generation to abandon the baby boomers' obsession with achievement and personal fulfillment and let Scripture determine their priorities and values.

"If you can reduce the amount you spend on houses and cars, you can increase the amount of time and money you have for the kingdom," he said.

U.S. elite more often Episcopal than Baptist

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (RNS)—Baptists and other evangelical Christian groups may be gaining in numbers but still lag behind in national influence, according to a study by James Davidson of Purdue University.

"If you stepped into a board meeting of a business giant, our research shows that you still would find several Episcopalians, a few Presbyterians, probably a Jew and a Catholic, and no Baptists," Davidson said.

Davidson studied religious affiliations listed in the 1960 and 1992 edi-

tions of "Who's Who in America." His research shows that white mainline Protestants remain firmly ensconced at the highest levels of American society, even though their numbers are rapidly dwindling in society.

Episcopalians are seven times more likely to be found in powerful positions than anyone in the general population, Davidson reported. And Presbyterians and members of the United Church of Christ are three times as likely to be in elite posts.

In sheer numbers, membership in the historic mainline churches has

fallen dramatically since the mid-1960s. This loss of membership has led many scholars to conclude there is a dramatic decline in mainline Protestant influence.

But Davidson said mainline Protestants have shown a remarkable ability to cling to power, despite the dwindling size of their ranks.

For example, membership in the Episcopal Church declined 29 percent in the last 30 years. But Episcopalians were even more prominent in the 1992 "Who's Who" than in the 1960 edition.

Kentucky ranks high again on student ministry

The campus ministries of the Kentucky Baptist Convention continued to rank among the top in the Southern Baptist Convention last year, according to data recently released by the SBC Sunday School Board.

In several key categories, Kentucky trailed only behind Texas—a much larger state with nearly three times as many campus ministry programs.

Kentucky ranked second nationally in number of students reached, attendance at state student conventions, students involved in discipleship training, students involved in Bible study groups and students involved in missions projects.

Here's a breakdown of some of the key statistics for last year's ministry on 45 Kentucky campuses:

■ Total students reached: 23,517.

■ College students baptized in Kentucky churches: 470.

■ Students involved in discipleship training: 2,328.

■ Students involved in Bible study groups: 6,351.

■ Students appointed as summer missionaries: 235.

■ Students involved in all mission projects: 5,030.

■ Student conversions: 711.

BAPTISTS

Southwestern picks compromise music dean

"The trustees and the music faculty are both enthusiastic about him, and I think that is significant."
Scotty Gray, acting dean

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has chosen Benjamin Harlan to fill the controversial position of dean of its church music school.

Harlan, who holds a doctorate from Southwestern, has been assistant professor of church music at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary since 1989. He was elected dean by Southwestern's trustee executive committee on the recommendation of the seminary's new president, Ken Hemphill, and the trustee academic affairs committee.

Harlan, 40, also won the endorsement of the music faculty he will lead, despite a history of differences between trustees and faculty over the philosophical direction of the music school.

While Harlan was trained at Southwestern in traditional and classical disciplines, he also is an accomplished composer, arranger and performer who is committed to the con-

temporary music styles and large-scale musical productions popular in conservative SBC churches. Both faculty and trustees found that blend pleasing.

"The trustees and the music faculty are both enthusiastic about him, and I think that is significant," said Scotty Gray, acting dean and long-time professor in the music school.

The selection of Harlan was "almost miraculous," Gray said. "It could have gone a lot of different directions, (but) all parties feel good about this decision."

T. Bob Davis of Dallas, a dentist and church pianist who serves on the trustee executive committee, predicted Harlan's "effervescent, gregarious approach" will be just what the program needs. Davis has been a frequent critic of the music school.

Harlan succeeds James McKinney, dean for 37 years, who recently retired.

Harlan promised to build on

Southwestern's strong academic tradition while exposing students to a broad range of musical styles. His philosophy of music, he said, is "excellence, regardless of style."

Harlan's election could quiet a long-running dispute over the dean's post—a dispute that played a major role in the firing of former Southwestern President Russell Dilday last March.

Conservative trustees, who twice blocked the election of Dilday's nominees for dean, had complained that Southwestern's devotion to traditional worship styles neglected the more contemporary music popular in many conservative churches.

Gray said Harlan's election will not produce wholesale changes in the school's curriculum but merely broaden its approach to teaching music leaders. "The academic integrity of the school is important, and I think we can address the (different) styles of church music," he said.

HMB approves study, names language head

ATLANTA (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved a six-month study of the agency's relationships with state Baptist conventions and elected Russell Begaye to direct the board's large ethnic missions program.

The report of the special state study committee offers 14 recommendations, including acknowledgement that "state conventions and fellowships are full partners in home missions work" and a pledge to "build relationships that foster mutual trust."

While not taking direct action against state conventions which process funds for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the report "strongly encourages those using alternate channels for funding home missions to renew their support through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering."

Trustee Chairman Bob Curtis said the HMB wants to "strengthen relationships and will not be a party to any body or any entity or any individual or philosophy that attempts to tear down the Cooperative Program support system."

Native American Russell Begaye was chosen as director of language church extension, one of the HMB's largest programs. A native of Shiprock, N.M., Begaye began his home missions career as a summer missionary in 1973. Since 1980 he has served as a national consultant and assistant director of the language church extension division.

He succeeds ethnic missions pioneer Oscar Romo who retired after 46 years in home missions.

Church growth expert holds dialogue on-line

"The moment you choose your musical style, you are choosing who you will reach and who you will never reach."
Rick Warren

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif. (BP)—California pastor Rick Warren gave a brief church-growth seminar to people located across the country Dec. 14 without leaving his office.

Using the technology of SBCNet, the Southern Baptist Convention's interactive computer information system, Warren was the featured guest for an on-line conference sponsored by the SBC Sunday School Board.

Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church of Laguna Hills, Calif., fielded a range of questions about his church, one of the SBC's largest and one of the nation's fastest-growing. Among his comments:

■ **On evangelism training.** "We encourage every member to develop relationships with neighbors. Build bridges. Over 90 percent of (our members) came this way. I teach a

simple plan of salvation outline to everyone on Sunday morning once a year. The last time I did this, we had 367 people saved in the service while I was training the rest."

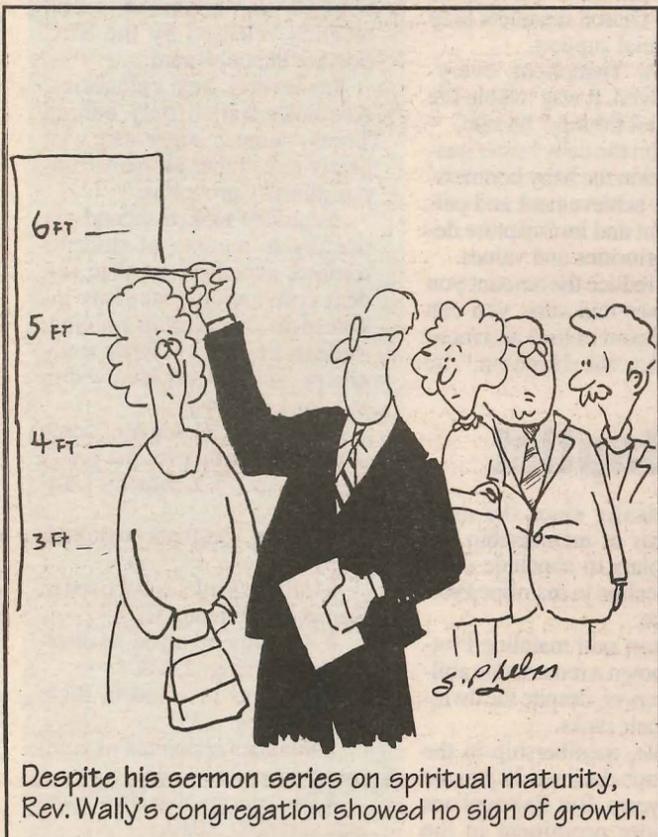
■ **On keys to growth.** "First, you need to make sure that your worship service is top-notch. Before working on anything else, sharpen up your service. Second, you need to focus on recruiting volunteer staff—all you can get—for specific assignments. You will never be able to afford all the staff you need, no matter how big you get. Third, it is important to develop your image in the community as a happening place, welcoming and friendly. But most important of all, work on developing and improving your sermon skills."

■ **On beginning new missions.** "We try to start one new mission a year, at least. New churches are far

more effective in reaching new people than older congregations. We have started 24 churches in our 14 years as a church."

■ **On musical style.** "The moment you choose your musical style, you are choosing who you will reach and who you will never reach. It is the most important positioning factor in your church. You must be willing to upset some for the greater good of reaching the lost. ... Rather than throwing out all the old, I suggest you simply start an additional service with new music."

■ **On preaching to baby busters.** "The jury is still out on what exactly the busters need. I've read a lot of theory and speculation, but so far we've found that thousands of busters will come to a baby boomer church if you include them in the program and put them on stage too."



BAPTIST BITS

■ **Corts selected.** Samford University President Thomas Corts has been named president-elect of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional accrediting organization that represents more than 12,000 public and private schools at all levels of education. He will become volunteer president of the association at the annual meeting in Atlanta in December 1995, the association's centennial year.

■ **Haiti relief continues.** Despite transportation problems and no electricity, Southern Baptist volunteers are continuing food relief efforts in Haiti. Two new generators were shipped to Haiti the week of Dec. 19, but it could be days before the equipment clears Haitian customs. Electricity in Port-au-Prince has been spotty since a fire swept through a major power plant Nov. 29. Transportation problems continue because of the damage done by Tropical Storm Gordon. Volunteers still are needed for teams set to go to

Haiti in January. For information, call the Kentucky Brotherhood department at (502) 245-4101.

■ **SBCNet kits now free.** Computer users now can try SBCNet and CompuServe free of charge. SBCNet, the Southern Baptist Convention's data communications network, may be accessed by using a computer, modem and a membership kit distributed by the SBC Sunday School Board. Kits, which provide access to services of both computer networks, previously were \$20 each. Kits are available in DOS, Macintosh and Windows versions and may be ordered by calling (800) 325-7749.

■ **"True Love Waits" cited.** USA Radio Network rated Southern Baptists' "True Love Waits" campaign among the top news stories of 1994 in the network's year-end wrapup. "The magnitude and the significance of having 25,000 youngsters proclaim their faith and their walk

with the Lord in a pledge of abstinence in the nation's capital is a monumental event in these dark days," said John Clemens, news director and vice president of the Dallas-based network.

■ **MSC volunteers reach 2,000.** More than 2,000 volunteers now serve through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Mission Service Corps program. In 1994, the board assigned 487 new volunteers to Mission Service Corps posts, a 17 percent increase over the previous year. Started in 1977, Missions Service Corps enlists Southern Baptists willing to volunteer at least four months in missions work.

■ **Dobson picks Rogers.** Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been named to the board of directors for Focus on the Family, the ministry of James Dobson.

Campbellsville band marches to success in 3 years

CAMPBELLSVILLE—After only three years on the field, the Campbellsville College marching band has become one of the largest among Southern Baptist colleges and universities.

The Tiger marching band has grown from 50 charter members to an 80-member band this year.

Band Director David McCullough said he combines musical instruction, discipline and Christian teaching to make an effective program.

"It's unusual for a college the size of Campbellsville to field a marching band," he said. "A typical college or university in America might have between one-half percent to 3 percent of its student body in the marching band. At Campbellsville College, we have slightly more than 6 percent."

Given the normal percentage of participation, small colleges usually don't form marching bands due to their limited enrollments, he explained.

At Campbellsville, the marching band has attracted students from a variety of academic backgrounds. Band members do not have to be mu-

sic majors or minors, although about half are.

Success apparently is breeding more success. McCullough said the

band's off-campus performances at competitions and exhibitions have proved to be a good student recruiting tool.

This fall, the band played at all home football games, in parades, at a high school band exhibition and at several competitions.



MARCH TO SUCCESS After three years, the marching band at Campbellsville College has grown to 80 members, including Shannon Kelty, Elisia Watson and Natasha Scott (Photo by Richard RoBards, Central Kentucky News Journal)

Seminary archivist hopes to make collection accessible

LOUISVILLE—The archives of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary tell the story of Southern Baptists' oldest institution and the family of Baptists which gave it birth.

"Central to the task of the archives is preserving the institutional memory," said Greg Wills, who in August became the Louisville school's first full-time archivist. "We are first of all responsible for the documents generated by the staff and faculty of the seminary, such as presidential papers."

"More broadly, we serve as memory for Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists in general. We have a collection that reflects both the institutional and broader Baptist histories."

Other notable items in the archives include an 11th century New Testa-

ment Codex acquired by the late New Testament professor A.T. Robertson and a Bible owned by 19th century British pastor C. H. Spurgeon. The archives also contain the Billy Graham collection, which consists of photos and scrapbooks from Graham's crusades.

The archives attract scholars who are researching topics in Baptist history and Baptist lay people attempting to better understand their heritage. They are a valuable resource for seminary students who are preparing for a lifetime of Baptist ministry, Wills said.

"Students can profit from reading the church or associational minutes, some of which date from the late 1700s," Wills explained. "Through these records, a student will gain a

broader historical and theological understanding on such issues as church polity and church growth."

This is important, Wills said, because "we must remember the utility of history in its ability to question us. Our history doesn't tell us what to be, but from where we have come. It questions our perspective if we allow it to."

Wills recently completed a doctorate in church history from Atlanta's Emory University. "I didn't anticipate being a librarian, but I love libraries and it would be difficult to find a better theological library than the one we have here," he said.

Preservation is the major challenge facing the archives, according to Wills. "The staff has done an excellent job with the time and personnel

they have had, but the collection of records has matured to where many are in jeopardy of deterioration," he said.

In addition to upgrading storage and preservation methods, Wills aims to improve access to the records by developing a general catalog. He also noted that there is "a significant amount of uncataloged material." Even some of the papers of the first two seminary presidents, James P. Boyce and John A. Broadus, remain uncataloged.

Wills hopes that improved arrangement and access will lead to better service. This, he said, will enable the archives "to provide people with the information they need," which he called one of "the most rewarding aspects" of his job.

First Baptist of Russell marks 100 years with eye to future

RUSSELL—First Baptist Church of Russell looked to the past while it focused on the future during its 100th anniversary last month.

With a median age of just 32 1/2, First Baptist's current congregation should have plenty of years left to minister. But on anniversary Sunday, Dec. 4, the church paid homage to a century of ministry in Northeastern Kentucky.

A wide range of events, mementos and commemorative keepsakes marked the centennial, reported Pastor Chris Johnson. They included:

■ The City of Russell cited the church for its contributions to the community since 1894.

Mayor Kenneth Roberts read a proclamation that noted, "The members of First Baptist Church have continued to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the community for 100 years and ... sent hope from this city into other nations all over the world through its mission endeavors."

■ President Bill Clinton sent a let-

ter of congratulations.

"Our country was founded on a great tradition of religious liberty," he wrote. "... Your precious faith and freedom come with great responsibilities. This celebration is a reminder of the ways that God's gifts can be used to fulfill our obligation to help others."

■ Vernon Cole, Kentucky Baptists' director of church growth and administration, urged the church to participate in an exercise of "mental imaging" to create its vision for the future.

Cole, who led First Baptist in a spiritual directions weekend in 1991, encouraged the congregation to continue to be a Great Commission church, aiming to reach not only its community but the whole world with the gospel. The church set priorities in spiritual growth, outreach, marriage and family enrichment, youth ministry and increased Sunday school attendance, Cole recalled, noting it had made significant progress in all five areas.

■ Two former staff members and two Baptists active in the Russell community participated in the centennial celebration.

French Harmon, minister of youth and associate pastor from 1985 to 1989 and now pastor of First Baptist Church of Allen, congratulated members on 100 years of ministry. Emory Riley, minister of music from 1983 to 1985, sang "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

Charles Young, director of missions for Greenup Baptist Association, brought greetings from the 51 other churches and missions in the association. Harry Wheeler, a longtime leader in the church, led in a dedicatory prayer.

■ Participants viewed pictorial and historical displays that highlighted significant events, moments and leaders in the church's history.

■ Members and guests purchased copies of a centennial cookbook prepared by the Winsome Sunday school class and a centennial snowflake

Christmas ornament created by commissioned artist Becky Dodson.

■ The church produced a commemorative pictorial directory that includes 20 pages of church history in text and photos.

■ Squire Parsons, a Kentucky Baptist gospel singer, ended the celebration with an evening concert.

Even though the church enjoyed the anniversary celebration, it's excited about the future, Johnson said.

Since 1991, when First Baptist built new facilities on five acres across from Ashland Oil's headquarters in Russell, worship attendance has increased from 180 to 240, and Sunday school attendance has grown from 146 to 180.

Now, the church plans to enlarge its 300-seat sanctuary to accommodate more members in its second hundred years, Johnson said.

"I see no problem with us getting to 480 average attendance in three to five years," Johnson said. "The potential is unlimited."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Curtis Mooney**, president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, wrote an article published in the Dec. 19 issue of the Wall Street Journal. Mooney, who also is president of the National Association of Homes and Services for Children, wrote about the workings of modern-day children's homes in the article, titled "Inside a Modern Orphanage."

■ **Employees of Baptist Hospital East** adopted 37 families from Louisville's West End during the Christmas season, providing presents and turkeys through Baptist Fellowship Center.

■ **Don Mantooth**, pastor of First Baptist Church in Morehead, has been re-elected chairman of the Western Recorder's board of directors. Tom Curry, pastor of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville, was re-elected vice chairman. Jim Abernathy, pastor of Latonia Baptist Church in Latonia, was elected secretary.

■ **The debate team of Cumberland College** has received a national ranking for the first time. The Baptist college ranked 33rd out of 200 schools in the Cross Examination Debate Association. Cumberland, which began a debate program only two years ago, now is ranked higher than any other Baptist college in the nation.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Partnership policy

May I convey to the Baptists of Kentucky our heartfelt appreciation for the help received from so many of you through your churches and associations? Every church and association in the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention has benefited, either directly or indirectly, from your help. Only eternity will reveal the full impact our partnership has had in the lives and ministries of our churches.

May I also share the policy we have followed from the very beginning of our partnership in connecting needs with those who might be able to help? We always have encouraged pastors, churches and associations to seek help in the area of prayer and personnel in doing mission work. These requests relate to work in revivals, vacation Bible schools, surveys, building projects, student work, choir concerts and other ministries of a similar nature.

We do not encourage pastors or churches to ask for financial help from the churches of Kentucky. This is not our policy! Since, of course, we cannot keep it from happening, we ask your forgiveness and understanding when it does happen.

Again, thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for the hundreds of missionaries you have sent to our convention. God has blessed every effort.

*Lavoid Robertson, coordinator
Utah-Idaho/Kentucky partnership
Sandy, Utah*

Avoid pagans

Liberal religionists constantly work to break down walls that separate Christianity from pagan religions.

The cooperation of the Baptist Joint Committee with an interfaith coalition that includes Muslim and Buddhist adherents to oppose a prayer amendment is indicative of just how far liberal religionists are willing to go to accomplish one-world religion

'The Pond'

Among the gifts God gives to some is the amazing capacity to capture on canvas what one sees with the eyes.

Others "paint" what they "see" or "feel" with words of poetry or descriptive prose. And what is a "love-letter" except a lover's attempt to put feelings of love into words?

Those familiar with the Impressionist painter Monet will recall his multiple scenes of the Cathedral of Rouen, attempting to capture this magnificent architecture as it appeared at different times of the day, recognizing that one picture, at one time of day, does not capture the fullness of the reality.

I was attracted to a recent article by one of our Kentucky Baptists whose verbal reflections on his own small pond traverse each of the seasons. Harold Greenfield's "The Pond," somewhat edited from the original, reflects the response of one who takes time to observe and listen

goals.

Regardless of what liberal religionists think, pagan religions are the ways to eternity in the literal burning hell. On the other hand, the Jesus way is the only way to salvation. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

Born-again Christians have no business joining pagans in any endeavors. Paul addressed this issue: "What concord hath Christ with

Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? Come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not an unclean thing" (II Corinthians 6:15-17).

Christians, come out from among pagan religions and stay out.

*William R. Hagan
Taylorsville*

Shame

Shame on the Western Recorder! This (cartoon mentioning John the Baptist) is the most repulsive, sacrilegious and anti-Christian cartoon (WR, Dec. 6) you could possibly come up with!!!

*John Hierholzer
Louisville*

Don't make fun

I felt compelled to write and let you know the cartoon (WR, Dec. 6) disappointed me. I've experienced this before on other occasions with some cartoons appearing in the Western Recorder which I perceive as being disrespectful to great people of the Bible and to us as fellow believers.

Our Lord needs no defense, but we are told to be holy and show reverence to him, and the cartoons align us closely with those who would delight in laughing at what we believe and who Christ is.

We can delight in the Lord and

to life around him, unhurried and peaceful. I found myself beside his pond.

"The pond is so quiet, tepid with mud warmth. Yet a pond no bigger than mine attracts life.

"Dragonflies drift and dart through the air; nicklebugs whirl like bumper-scooters on the surface of the water. The frogs, tadpoles which have shed their tails and have crept up the bank, jump as I walk by.

"Slithering snakes and shy crayfish have fashioned holes and homes close to the water.

"The gaunt, great blue herons wade around looking for lunch. Bobtailed kingfishers, which have neither grace nor outstanding beauty, are a sight for their quick, spectacular efficiency.

"The turtle occasionally lifts his head to see where I am. Blue gill and striped bass follow me around, waiting for me to throw them a grasshopper or cricket.

"The greatest experience our pond has had was when our church baptized a radiant couple there.

have joy in our life, but not at the cost of making fun of one who loved and showed complete devotion to our Lord and Savior.

*Carole Johnson
Ashland*

Care for others

Cal Thomas' comments at Cumberland College (WR, Dec. 6) reflect a simplistic perspective on social problems in the United States.

While individual responsibility plays a part in the ability to transcend a situation, Thomas fails to consider systemic injustice. A relationship with God through Christ should lead the believer to address both personal and systemic evil.

Racial and social discrimination prevent many from living up to their potential. Environment and circumstances dominate physical and emotional development. Moreover, laissez-faire economics is a product of the Enlightenment. Contrary to popular opinion, capitalism is not the economic system of Christianity.

God repeatedly reminds believers of their responsibility to establish a just and fair society on earth as a preamble to the Kingdom of Heaven. Biblical principles emphasize the welfare of the community over individual achievement. Deuteronomic laws were enacted to protect society against the excesses of the rich and powerful. Prophets called for the people of God to implement justice on behalf of the outcast and disenfranchised. Jesus declared he came "to bring good news to the poor" and "let the oppressed go free." James warns the rich and powerful against greedy practices and exploitation.

Christians are their sisters' and brothers' keepers, whether inside or outside the church. It is time for followers of Jesus to place the welfare of others before their own, imitating Christ's own willingness to sacrifice his life for the world.

*Tony Aja
Louisville*

"Our pond is a watering place for deer and other wildlife whose tracks mark their favorite spots. Bees from nearby hives visit regularly, as does our Lab, who prefers his drinks while swimming.

"In autumn, I watch the glittering, gentle leaves drop slowly upon the surface of the pond and float like tiny boats.

"On a cool morning, the mist works its way up from where it has been hiding at the bottom of the pond.

"On a recent wintery day, the pond was visited by some migratory travelers. When I described them to my son over the phone, he quickly identified them.

"Now the silence of winter is upon the pond. There is no fly-buzz or beehumm even in the midday air, no insect whir or rasp. The owl hoots from a tree on a lonely hillside, and on some nights, one can hear the yapping of a coyote. But their voices only punctuate the predominant silence. The thin ice on the surface is the pattern of winter's breath. It is as if the pond sleeps, a necessity for all life."

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



FAMILY FORUM: MARRIAGE

Shared parenting

By Diana Garland

Q My husband and I have a 6-month-old baby. I adore him, but I also miss the closeness we shared before he was born. How can we renew the spark in our marriage and be parents too?

A Marriage can continue to be full of spark and romance, but most new parents experience a change in the relationship so that there is a little less romance but instead a deepening sense of intimacy and family belonging.

Many married couples, particularly wives, experience a sharp decrease in marital happiness during years when infants and preschoolers are in the home. Parenting them creates fatigue and stress that take their toll.

The fact wives experience this more than husbands suggests it may not be parenting itself but the degree to which couples share the tasks of parenting.

It is healthier if parenting responsibilities are shared. Instead of being a barrier to time together, child care becomes a way to share time.

Shared parenting means both can parent alone as well as together. Encourage your husband to care for the baby. If you have trouble letting him do things his way, leave the baby alone with him for a few hours at a time on a regular basis. All three of you will be better off. Your husband will feel competent as a parent, you will get time to yourself and the baby will have the security of two capable parents.

Love and intimacy do not have to be all linen tablecloths and candlelight. They can be the result of joyfully singing baby songs and rolling balls on the floor in family fun. Find ways you can spend enjoyable time together as a family.

Finally, find times to trade child care with friends or leave the baby with grandparents and spend the evening alone. You may even choose to send the baby out to someone else's house so you can have some guaranteed quiet time together in your own home. The momentary sparks depend on keeping the coals of love and commitment glowing.

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.

Southern Baptists' franchise system faltered in '94

Baptists witnessed their share of news last year. You read about it on 828 Western Recorder pages. Choosing the top stories out of thousands borders on the impossible. But since newspaper editors jump in where angels fear to tread, here's the WR Top 10 for 1994:

1 Franchise system falters. For most of this century, state conventions basically operated as franchises of the Southern Baptist Convention. According to Baptist polity, each sphere of denominational life—from church, to association, to state convention, to national convention—is autonomous. But in reality, a top-down hierarchy often prevailed. The SBC developed priorities, set policies and wrote the national budget. And state conventions, with 38,000 affiliated churches, willingly maintained exclusive support for the SBC.

But in 1994, the franchise system began to crumble.

Most notably, Texas joined moderate-leaning Virginia and North Carolina in bucking the SBC-or-nothing plan. Angered when politically conservative SBC power brokers fired the president of their favorite school, Russell Dilday of Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, thousands of Texans echoed the sentiment of state President Jerold McBride: "We're not the SBC's farm team." They overwhelmingly voted to let churches decide how to spend their cooperative missions money. They provided options for omitting the SBC and leaving all the money in the state, or even sending a portion to the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. If other states do likewise, the SBC's financial stability will be imperiled.

In other re-stratification moves, conservatives unhappy with the moderate direction of their state conventions revolted in Virginia and Texas. The Virginians went so far as to begin forming an alternative state convention. The Texans chartered a new convention, "just in case," but did not implement it. Those actions presented the specter of multiple state conventions affiliated with multiple national conventions.

2 SBC dis-Fellowships. Last summer, messengers to the SBC annual meeting vented their anger at the 3-year-old moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Although the Fellowship provided a pipeline of support for several new moderate ventures, it continued to funnel funds to SBC causes as well—until SBC messengers put a crimp in the conduit.

They voted to tell SBC agencies not to take money from the Fellowship. Some saw the vote as a matter of integrity, saying the SBC should not accept money from dissenters. Others saw it as politics, predicting it would force fence-sitting churches away from the "renegade" Fellowship.

By year's end, the SBC agencies did as they were told. The Fellowship lost its direct tie to the SBC. Still, the two are not that easily severed; almost all the churches that support the Fellowship also affiliate with the SBC. The struggle for denominational loyalty continues.

3 Kentucky keeps in the middle. In November, the Kentucky Baptist Convention held its most significant annual meeting in at least a generation. With the SBC division as a backdrop, KBC messengers faced a clear choice of presidential candidates: One supported the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, another had connections with the SBC's new conservative leadership, and a third refused to align with either group. Some Kentucky Baptists feared a political Donnybrook, reminiscent of the SBC conflagrations of the '80s. In those meetings, political/theological conservatives carried the day and carried the SBC to the right. Conservatives who want the same thing to happen in the KBC hoped their candidate would win. And moderates who fear a rightward shift in the KBC hoped their candidate would win. In the end, centrist candidate Billy Compton won handily.

Middle-of-the-roaders declared victory for all Kentucky Baptists, sensing everyone still has a place at the KBC table. Moderates also claimed a win, noting the conservative juggernaut that had excluded them from the SBC had not pulled Kentucky into its orbit. And conservative leaders, disavowing any such movement in the state, claimed the threat of a KBC "takeover" never existed.

4 Battered "wall" still stands. As 1994 began, the brand-new Religious Freedom Restoration Act buttressed the wall of separation between church and state. RFRA reversed a disastrous 1990 Supreme Court case, *Oregon vs. Smith*, in which the justices declared the government no longer must show it has a "compelling interest" before interfering with religion. With the new law in place, citizens with religious-freedom claims began winning court cases again.

However, 1994—an election year—was not entirely kind to religious liberty. By year's end, renewed calls for organized school prayer echoed through the nation's capitol. Baptists historically have opposed coerced religion, which would describe many school board-written, teacher-enforced "prayers." This saga will continue in 1995.

5 Kentucky loves Russia. The KBC officially launched its five-year mission partnership with the Russian Baptist Union last January. Through the year, scores of Kentucky Baptists journeyed to the former seat of communism to minister with Russian Baptist brothers and sisters. Projects focus on training ministers and lay leaders, providing medical/dental assistance, building churches, and helping with evangelism and discipleship.

The Russian partnership also provided a highlight of the KBC annual meeting this fall. Russian leaders Pyotr Konolvalchic and Vasily Logvinenko mesmerized messengers with their words of encouragement and appreciation. And the Good News music ensemble inspired repeated standing ovations.

6 Theological torch passes. On March 9, trustees of Southwestern Seminary fired President Russell Dilday, charging him with liberalism. Countless Baptists, particularly in the Southwest, saw the belated accusations as preposterous politics. But the SBC operates under a trustee system, and the firing stuck.

Dilday became one of three SBC seminary presidents whose days were numbered in 1994. Milton Ferguson of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., announced he will retire by July 1996. And Landrum Leavell of New Orleans Seminary announced Dec. 13 he would retire Dec. 31. When Ken Hemphill, Dilday's successor, is joined by the successors to Ferguson and Leavell, all six SBC seminaries will be administered by presidents hired by the convention's new conservative leadership.

If anyone thinks that doesn't make a big difference, consider Southern Seminary in Louisville. Al Mohler, who came to office in 1993, forced the resignation of theology Professor Molly Marshall before he reached his first anniversary. For a decade, Marshall fought off charges of liberalism and was exonerated by administrative and trustee inquiries every time. But under a favorable new administration, conservatives finally ousted the school's first female theology professor.

7 Newest boys defeat new old boys. From 1979 through 1993, a handful of elite conservative leaders hand-picked the pastor who would be the SBC's next president. But they were undone in 1994. Their candidate, Fred Wolfe of Mobile, Ala., lost to equally conservative Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla.

Henry enjoyed several advantages: The convention took place in his town. His church is a leader in SBC financial support. He relates well to a younger generation of pastors. Many messengers were angered by the firing of Dilday, which came at the hands of trustees put in place by the conservative elite. And some Baptists said they were tired of the SBC's sharp political rhetoric.

But the shift to a "kindler, gentler" president marked a change in style rather than substance. Yes, Henry is the most winsome president in a decade. But he made clear he would maintain the same basic requirements for SBC participation established by his predecessors. Fellowship supporters and theological moderates need not apply.

8 Baptists embrace Catholics, sort of. When two SBC agency heads—Larry Lewis of the Home Mission Board and Richard Land of the Christian Life Commission—signed a pledge of cooperation between Catholics and evangelicals, they succeeded in making almost everyone mad. Conservatives criticized them for making compromises that might implicitly damage the convention's evangelistic task. And moderates raked them for signing a document that primarily touted a right-wing political agenda.

But the event proved God can bring good out of even the most ticklish situations. Messengers to the SBC annual meeting approved a resolution that affirmed the convention's commitment to evangelism and the "historic Baptist doctrine" of salvation through grace alone. But the resolution also made several positive ecumenical assertions—that born-again believers may be found in all Christian denominations, that conversation with other religious groups is beneficial, and that Christian organizations should cooperate on moral concerns.

9 Search for spirituality intensifies. Baptists joined Americans in expressing a hunger for spirituality during the past year. Two movements particularly illustrated this quest.

First, Promise Keepers, a new organization aimed at strengthening male spiritual maturity and responsibility, consistently packed out sports arenas with 50,000-plus men for weekends of Christian praise and spiritual growth. Promise Keepers chapters sprang up nationwide, and Promise Keepers materials became best sellers in Christian bookstores. Second, Experiencing God, the SBC Sunday School Board's spiritual growth series, continued to escalate in use and effectiveness in churches across the convention. Across theological/political lines, pastors reported Experiencing God had changed their churches radically.

Unfortunately, many other Americans on a quest for "spirituality" eluded Christian churches, instead falling in with New Age movements and personalized religious systems.

10 "True Love" explodes. Southern Baptists made their biggest headlines and greatest impact on the younger generation in 1994 through another Sunday School Board program, True Love Waits. The sexual abstinence campaign caught fire, spreading to at least 25 denominational and youth ministry groups across the United States and in other countries. Hundreds of thousands of teens pledged they would remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

Now that 1994 is done and 1995 is less than a week old, we can pray that the news (and Baptist actions that make up the news) of this next year will be inspiring, uplifting and pleasing to God.

Marv Knox

Now that 1994 is done and 1995 is less than a week old, we can pray that the news (and Baptist actions that make up the news) of this next year will be inspiring, uplifting and pleasing to God.



will return next week

Here's Hope TODAY



WHERE'S HOPE?

God and sinners 'reconsmiled'

During the Christmas season, my 2-year-old twins delighted in watching a videotape of "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

You recall the story of this animated Christmas classic: Bumbling Charlie Brown is named director of the town Christmas play, but no one pays him any respect and he can't even pick out a decent Christmas tree.

The story ends with all the other children redeeming Charlie Brown's pitiful Christmas tree, dressing up its few weak branches to look better than the White House Christmas tree. As an astonished Charlie Brown views the amazing transformation, all the children burst into a chorus of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

Our boys love that part, largely because they love to sing. But somehow Felix Mendelssohn's tune sticks better to 2-year-old minds than do Charles Wesley's words.

Luke and Garrett have paraded around the house for a couple of weeks proudly singing, "Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners 'reconsmiled.'"

"Reconsmiled" may not be a theological word, or even a word at all. But it does convey an important message about the Christian gospel.

The Bible teaches that all people have sinned and continue to fall short of the glory of God, regardless of good deeds, family connections or church membership. Our sin has created a gap between the Holy God and an unholy people.

The good news of the gospel

is that Jesus Christ has bridged that gap and created a way for sinful people to be reconciled with God.

As God's Son, Jesus was born into human form 2,000 years ago in the little village of Bethlehem and walked on earth for about 33 years. He was killed on a wooden cross and buried. But he rose from the grave on the third day, thus conquering death and evil on our behalf.

That's certainly something to smile about. Jesus has turned the frown of death and sin into the smile of God's gracious forgiveness. We are "reconsmiled" in Christ.

The Apostle Paul says in the Bible that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. ... He made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in him."

Will you be reconciled with God?

The price has been paid, and the decision is yours. Just as the children made something beautiful out of Charlie Brown's scraggly Christmas tree, so Jesus stands ready to make something beautiful out of our lives, if we will allow him to reconcile us with our Creator.

— Mark Wingfield, news director

■ For more information about how to become a Christian, or for spiritual assistance, please contact a Baptist church in your community or call the Western Recorder collect at (502) 244-6470.

Kentucky Baptists launch 60-day evangelism effort

This special "Here's Hope Today" section will appear in the Western Recorder every week through the end of March as a joint effort of the Recorder and the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism office. Future issues will include features on Kentucky people and churches participating in the "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" campaign. If you have a "Here's Hope" success story to share, call the Recorder office at (502) 244-6470 or write to Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

Next week marks the beginning of a massive evangelism campaign across Kentucky and the United States.

Thousands of Southern Baptists will commit to share their Christian faith every day for 60 days beginning Jan. 9 as part of the "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" campaign.

The campaign, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Kentucky Baptist Convention, has both an inward and outward focus.

The inward focus encourages church members to share the gospel with friends, relatives, neighbors and others on a daily basis. Many churches have provided special training and encouragement for their members to be witnesses. The theme associated with the inward focus is "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now."

The outward focus is the simultaneous witnessing going on from coast to coast during January, February and March. This effort will be supported by national and state media campaigns around the theme of "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You."

Another outcome of the campaign should be an increased number of people who continue to share

their faith throughout the year, said HMB President Larry Lewis. "Anybody who seriously makes an attempt to share Christ every day for 60 days will want to do it the rest of their lives," he predicted.

The HMB has set a national goal for participation of 600,000 people, or 15 percent of Sunday school enrollment in Southern Baptist churches.



Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now.

If 600,000 people commit to share their faith 60 times each, that would result in 36 million presentations of the gospel message, Lewis noted.

Any Christian can commit to participate in "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now," according to Bill Jagers, director of the KBC evangelism office.

A commitment card is printed below. This card may be saved as a daily reminder of the pledge to be a witness.

For more information on the "Here's Hope" campaign, contact the KBC evangelism office at (502) 245-4101 or write to Jagers at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

Additional resources and literature are available from the HMB customer service center by calling (800) 634-2462.

Commitment Card "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now."

I understand that when the Lord Jesus said, "Ye shall be my witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8), he made it clear that every Christian has the responsibility to continually share the good news about him with lost people everywhere. Because I love him and desire to be an obedient Christian, I make the following commitment:

With God's help, I will attempt to share the gospel each day for 60 days, Jan. 9-March 9, 1995.

Signed: _____

Some people who need to know God's hope:

1. Invite a friend to a concert, revival or special worship service at your church. After the service, go out for dessert and talk about the message presented in the service.

2. Send a birthday card to a friend. Enclose a personal note sharing your spiritual birthday.

3. Clip an article from a daily devotional guide and mail it to a friend who needs to know Jesus. Include a personal note conveying love and compassion.

4. Subscribe to a favorite devotional guide or Christian periodical for a friend.

5. Write a letter of encouragement to a college student.

6. Write a letter or note of thanks to one who serves in the military. Include a Scripture reference of I Corinthians 2:9.

7. Design a business card to introduce yourself. Include a gospel presentation on the back of the card.

8. Take contemporary Chris-

tian tapes and CDs to a juvenile detention center, youth-receiving home or shelter. Attach a note to each item sharing John 3:16.

9. Leave copies of Christian magazines in a laundromat. Write the name of your church and a note on each copy.

10. Leave a sealed candy bar or snack near the electric meter attached to your home. Attach a tract or a note of "Good News" to the candy bar and state that you would like to share both.

11. Leave a cold drink of water for the person who picks up your garbage. Attach a note including John 4:14.

12. Leave a "Here's an Extra Tip" tract (available from Broadman Press) with your gratuity at restaurants.

13. Ask your pastor to make a 10- to 15-minute video presenting the plan of salvation. Share the video with a lost friend.

14. Go to the local place where neighborhood boys shoot basketball. Ask if you can join the game. Ask if

you can share a Bible verse with them before you leave.

15. Use the tract "Thank You" (available from Woman's Missionary Union) to express appreciation to one who has served you, such as a hairdresser or clerk.

16. Visit a lonely senior adult living at home, in a retirement center or in a nursing facility. Share John 14:1-6 and present the gospel.

17. When someone greets you with "have a good day" respond with, "Thank you. That makes me feel good. Now, let me give you some good news. Has anyone told you today that Jesus loves you?"

18. Wear a T-shirt with a Christian message.

19. Give your personal testimony. Practice giving it by sharing it with a friend. Ask if your friend has had a similar experience.

20. Write a note of congratulations when a friend, neighbor or family member is recognized for success.

Adapted from the HMB brochure "Sixty Ways for Sixty Days."

20 IDEAS FOR SHARING YOUR FAITH

Here's Hope TODAY

Pro Bass fisherman casts for souls as well as fish

ATLANTA (BP)—Terry Chupp believes God spoke to him on a lake in Alabama about the need to become a "fisher of men."

Chupp was competing in a bass tournament where the first prize was \$25,000. He had caught 6 pounds of fish that morning. But he felt an urge to stop for a moment.

"Terry," God seemed to say. "There's your big one. I want that one in the boat."

Chupp was fishing with another contestant, and the pressure was intense. But he set his rod aside and faced the man.

"Joey, you're safe in this boat," Chupp said. "But there are a lot of stumps in this lake. We could hit one and die."

He paused. Rain had caused the lake to rise 11 feet in 36 hours. The water was cloudy.

"I know for certain where I'd be going, to heaven," Chupp continued. "How about you?"

The man looked troubled. "I'd go to hell," he said.

Chupp then explained the gospel, and the man became a Christian.

"I didn't win the tournament," Chupp recounted. And his partner didn't either.

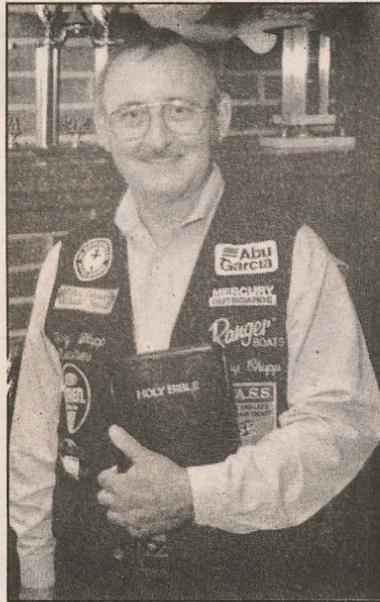
But his partner "won eternal life by accepting Jesus Christ," Chupp said. "There's no \$25,000 prize worth eternal life."

Chupp, who lives in suburban Atlanta, has developed a ministry through his work as a professional bass fisherman. He not only fishes for bass but for the souls of men and women who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior.

He will tell his story during the annual Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Feb. 27-28 at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

Chupp was raised in Georgia, where his father taught him how to fish by example.

The elder Chupp was a railroad carpenter and was gone much of the time. But days off found him and his son in the woods with a shotgun or



FISHER OF MEN Pro Bass fisherman Terry Chupp has developed a ministry as a chaplain to the pro fishing circuit. He'll tell his story during this year's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

fishing pole. They even built a small boat together.

Chupp worked for a bank after school and continued to fish as an interest. Later a television producer saw him on a lake and took some film. That exposure led to a regular

spot and the opportunity for tournaments.

Then Chupp felt the tug of God's line during a revival service several years ago. The fisherman invited Jesus Christ to take control of his life.

Soon afterward, he found opportunities to witness at bass tournaments. That led to revival services and a chaplain's ministry with professional fishers. In the last year he's led 190 men to become Christians.

Chupp still competes on the fishing circuit as well. And that can be stressful with the travel and long hours, he said.

"Professional fishing is probably as technological as any sport," Chupp said. "We literally stand on one leg all day long, with the other one on the trolling motor. It's not like fishing out of a barrel."

Competitions run from sun-up until 3 p.m. "We don't eat. We don't drink," Chupp said. "Our job is to catch fish."

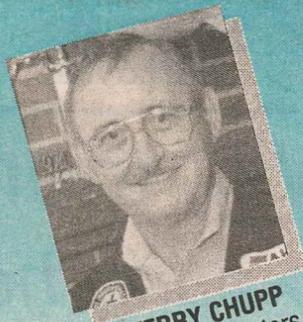
Witnessing is hard work too, Chupp said, drawing a parallel between his two callings. "Fishing is just like sharing the gospel ... no cast, no catch."



ROY FISH
Evangelism professor



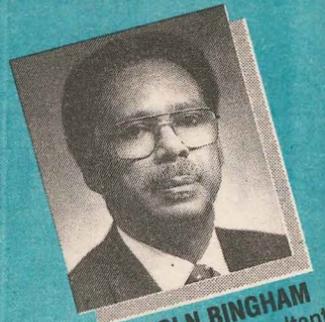
JOHN SULLIVAN
Florida executive secretary



TERRY CHUPP
Pro Bassmasters



ED VAUGHN
Healthcare executive



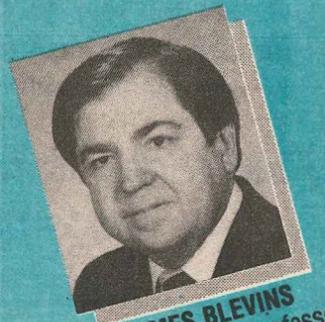
LINCOLN BINGHAM
Evangelism consultant



CELORIA FAMILY
Music evangelists

EVANGELISM CONFERENCE A Celebration of "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now."

February 27-28, 1995
Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville



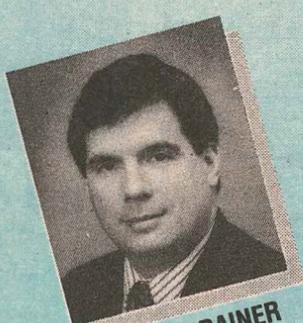
JAMES BLEVINS
New Testament professor



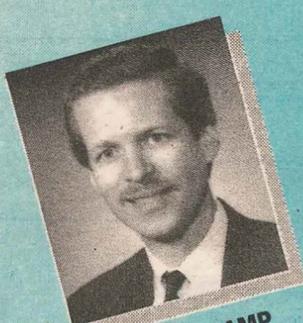
KEN & LOIS HOLLAND
Music evangelists



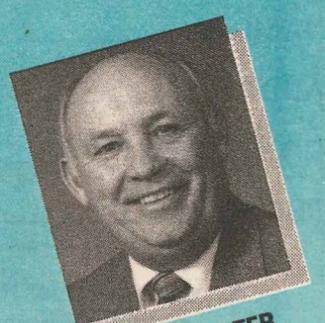
SQUIRE PARSONS
Gospel singer



THOM RAINER
Evangelism professor



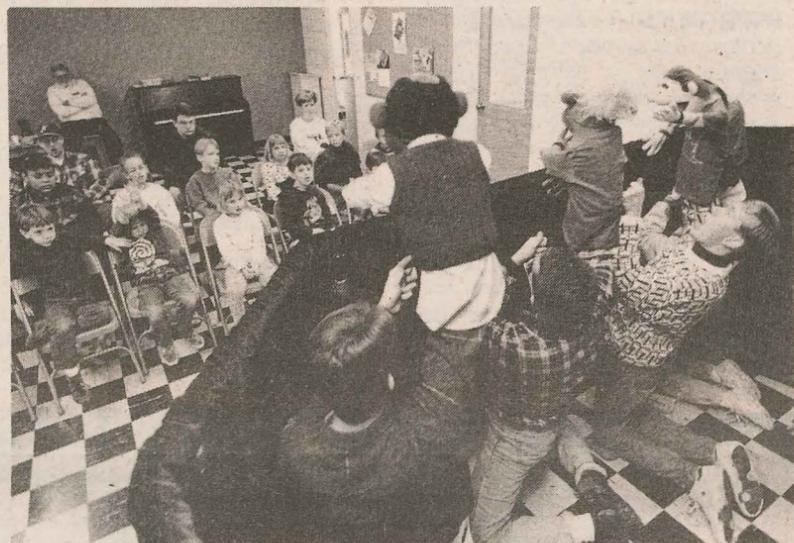
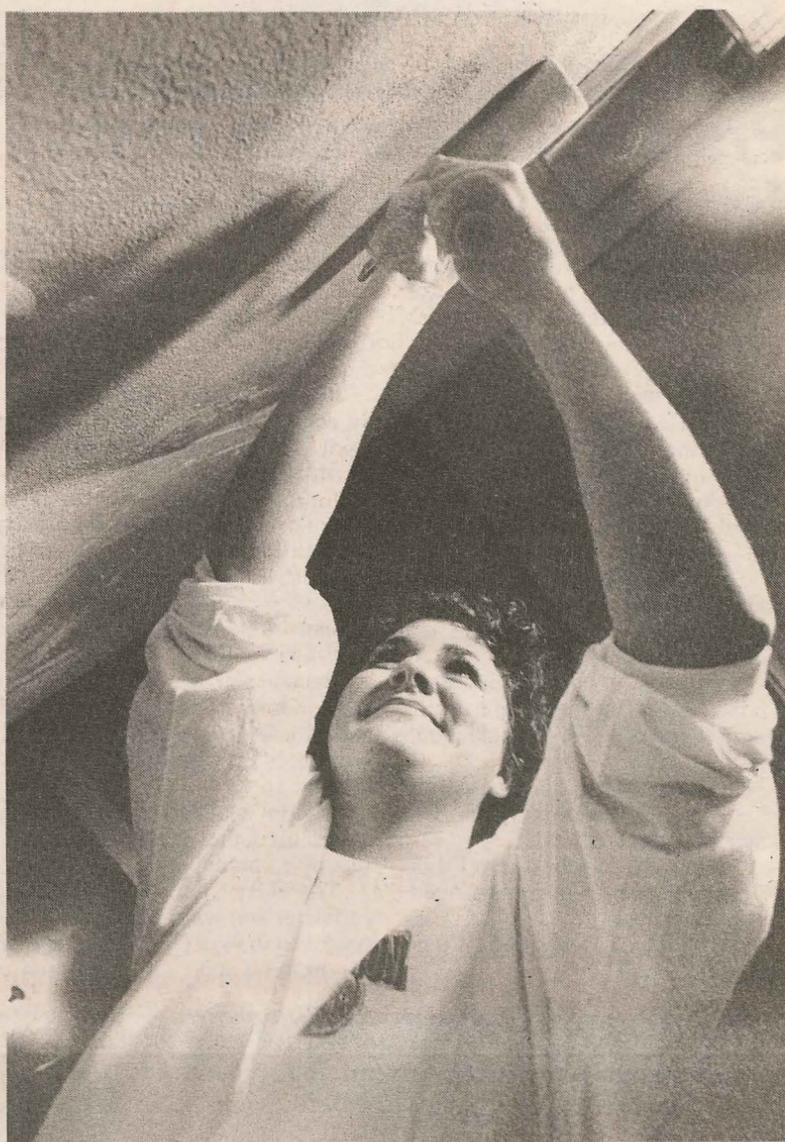
JOHN KRAMP
Sunday School Board



KEN CARTER
Home Mission Board

MISSIONS

"MISSION 95" SCENES ■ **Right:** University of Kentucky student Julie Carrier uses a "power bead" bracelet to witness to a street vendor during the "Global Venture" exhibit/game. Carrier's plastic hat indicates she was assigned the role of a foreigner in the make-believe nation. ■ **Far right:** Stephanie Kersey, a student at Morehead State University, paints a hallway at the Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville during one of the "Mission 95" work projects. ■ **Below:** The Kentucky Baptist Student Union puppet team performs for a group of children in an after-school program. Team members include Matt Robertson, University of Louisville; Knox Thames, Georgetown College; Kelly Graybeal, Western Kentucky University; and Shannon Haupt, Murray State University. (BP photos by Jim Veneman)



Where there's a Will, there's a way ...to bring hope to hurting children

January is Make-Your-Will Month. Maybe you've thought about it. Maybe not. But your careful preparation today can mean less hassle for your family tomorrow. And it can mean a bridge to a new beginning for children who need hope and healing.

*Plan today to make a lasting difference
for tomorrow's children!*

Yes, I want to make a difference in the lives of children. Please send me (at no cost or obligation) information on will and estate planning.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, Kentucky 40243



Why a will?

- * To provide for your children and family
- * To prevent hardships and misunderstanding
- * To have assurance that your wishes will be followed
- * To make a difference in the lives of hurting children

MISSIONS

Mission conference teaches by words & actions

Continued from page 1

leaned over to the person next to me and said, 'There's our next generation of missionaries.' It was an incredible feeling," he said.

A number of widely-known mission leaders challenged conference participants. Among them was FMB President Jerry Rankin, who told the students they might be the "final generation" before Christ's return.

"The gospel is touching people and nations that have never even heard the message of Jesus Christ," Rankin said, pointing out more than half of the 12,000 missionaries appointed in the FMB's 149-year history began serving in the last 18 years; many in areas previously closed to a Christian witness.

"Jesus told us he would return when the gospel is preached to all nations. You have the privilege of living in a generation that will possibly see that actually come to pass," he said.

HMB President Larry Lewis told

students he would love to see Southern Baptists renew their commitment to achieve Bold Mission Thrust. That initiative calls for 50,000 churches and 10,000 home and foreign missionaries in the field by the year 2000.

More than 600 "Mission 95" participants got "hands-on" ministry experience during the 95 conference by participating in mission projects around the city. Work ranged from distributing clothes to the homeless and cleaning and painting area mission centers to door-to-door witnessing and youth programs.

About 1,500 students donated items to a clothing closet at the convention Center during the week. The closet was operated by students who distributed garments to about 200 homeless people during a two-day period.

After the Dec. 30 worship celebration, students also participated in the recording of a live praise and worship album by contemporary Christian artist Scott Wesley Brown.

CHILDREN'S MINISTER (Full time)

Provide education and music leadership for preschool and children's divisions (birth through sixth grade). Appropriate education and experience required. Part-time bivocational staff may be considered for each division if full-time minister cannot be found. Send resume to: Personnel Committee, West Lynchburg Baptist Church, 3031 Memorial Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24501.

Costly mistake

By Charles W. Cox Jr.

Through the years the names of Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, John Wayne and Robert Kennedy have become synonymous with wealth and influence.

Like you, they had families and friends, hopes and dreams.

But, with all their fame and fortune, each made at least one costly mistake that profoundly affected their family and loved ones...none had an adequate estate plan.

As a result, the estates of these famous people experienced extremely high settlement costs and unnecessarily large shrinkage. As a matter of fact, Elvis Presley's sizable estate shrank by a whopping 73 percent because of inadequate planning!

If you haven't planned for your estate, at least two people have ... Bill Clinton and Brereton Jones. The federal and state governments will decide what to do with your estate if you do not have a plan.

A lack of planning will cost your family and loved ones considerable expense and countless hours of unnecessary work and frustration. However, appropriate estate planning will prove to be an incalculable blessing for the persons and institutions you cherish.

Baptist Healthcare Foundation

wants to help you and help you help others. We are offering a free brochure titled "Planning Your Will" that will give a brief overview of the positive implications of proper planning. Please call or write our office for this important blueprint to securing the future for your loved ones.

Another free option for you to consider is an upcoming Baptist Healthcare Foundation asset planning seminar. Programs are being planned in Louisville, Lexington, Corbin and Paducah.

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

You may contact the Foundation for more information about Christian financial stewardship.

As you consider requesting a brochure or making seminar reservations, please remember that your gifts to Baptist Healthcare Foundation support the ministries of Baptist Hospital East, Louisville; Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington; Western Baptist Hospital, Paducah; Baptist Regional Medical Center, Corbin; and Tri-County Hospital, LaGrange. Your gifts are making a difference in the lives of patients and families experiencing some of life's greatest challenges.

Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Healthcare System or Baptist Healthcare Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., president of Baptist Healthcare Foundation, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207 (502) 896-5003.

'MISSION 95' QUOTES

■ "God's not looking to you for a better idea. He's looking for people who will let him take control of their lives. ... God has a greater desire to reveal his will to you than you have the desire to know it."

Erwin McManus, senior pastor of The Church on Brady in Los Angeles

■ "The challenge of the child is the great avenue of Christian service for the future." Eighty percent of children around the world live in underprivileged countries and about 100 million "are living in virtual slavery to satisfy the debts of their parents."

Catherine Allen, president of the Baptist World Alliance's women's department

■ "The real movers and shakers are those who pray. There's no place on earth you can't touch through your prayers."

Sammy Tippit, president of God's Love in Action, an international evangelism ministry based in San Antonio, Texas

■ "We need you to lead, not just fill in and take places. We need new vision and creativity

... whole new approaches to missions." Christian author and futurist Tom Sine

■ "For a long time, I thought missions was going and saving people. But the focal point of missions still is worshipping God. ... Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't."

Contemporary Christian singer Scott Wesley Brown

■ "There probably isn't anything you can't do in foreign missions if you put your mind to it. Whatever you are, you can use that—either in the States or abroad. ... There really isn't a profession that is the blessed profession, the holy profession that God wants to use."

Peter Stillman, missionary to Indonesia

■ "Some of the most creative people I've met are my sisters and brothers in Third World countries. ... There is a radical new brand of Christianity coming out of Third World countries. God is present in all cultures. We need to look for the presence of God there and learn to affirm that."

Medical missionary Christine Sine

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Minister of youth and music, part-time position. Send resumé to Ashby Lane Baptist Church, 6617 Ashby Lane, Louisville, KY 40272.

WANTED: Youth groups in Atlanta, Orlando, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo for 1995 summer mis-

sion projects. We provide lodging, assignment. For more information, costs, call Dr. Harry Fowler, Youth on Mission, Box 2095, Rocky Mount, N.C. 27802. (919) 985-4499.

POSITION: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will make a faculty appointment during the academic year for the following position. Nominations and applications are invited by Jan. 31, 1995. All candidates must be members to a Baptist congregation and emphasize conservative-evangelical theology. Send biographical information to: Search Committee Dean, Office of the vice president for academic administration, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., Box 319, Louisville, KY 40280. **CHRISTIAN MISSIONS:** Associate or full professor, tenurable or tenured position, Ph.D. or D.Miss., with 5 years minimum experience in an overseas setting essential.

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PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Americans' overall health could be greatly improved if people did not drink alcohol, according to a report by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. For example, the report says 27 percent of all brain tumors could be prevented if alcohol consumption were eliminated. Likewise, 74 percent of cirrhosis cases could be eliminated, as could 80 percent of esophageal cancer, 50 percent of head and neck cancer, 85 percent of oral cavity cancer, 47 percent of chronic pancreatitis and 29 percent of liver cancer.

Source: "The Cost of Substance Abuse to America's Health Care System," Columbia University.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- **BEAVER DAM**—Slaty Creek Church called **Truman Johnson** as pastor.
- **BEREA**—Westside Church and In Christ Ministries cosponsored "Youth Stand '94" Dec. 10, with 1,000 youth attending. Church youth raised the money to sponsor the event, which resulted in 50 decisions for Jesus Christ. Program personalities included **Jay Austin, Newsong, the Cumberland College drama team, Janet Shrum and Kevin Shrum.**
- **CROMWELL**—Mount Zion Church ordained Pastor **Daniel Howard** to the gospel ministry.
- **DANVILLE**—Calvary Church called **Doug Wesley** of Casey County as minister of youth. He began his new ministry Jan. 1.
- **ELKHORN CITY**—Elkhorn City Church called **Michael York** of Arjay as pastor. York previously was campus writer at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.
- **EMINENCE**—Eminence Church recently celebrated its 200th anniversary. **Pam Cobb**, director of missions for Henry County Association, spoke about the history of the church and association.
- **HARTFORD**—Barnetts Creek Church called **Merle Ford** as pastor.
- **INDEPENDENCE**—Hickory Grove Church called **Terry Ward** as minister of youth Dec. 4.
- **LEXINGTON**—**Jim Stanhope**

resigned as pastor of Highlands Church to serve as a missionary in the Dominican Republic.

- **NARROWS**—Narrows Church called **George Barker** as pastor.
- **PELLVILLE**—Pellville Church

- called **Guy Gordon** as interim pastor.
- **SHELBYVILLE**—Buffalo Lick Church called **Ron Cooper** of Marion, Ohio, as minister to youth and children. He is a graduate of Cumberland College and a student at Southern Seminary.
- **SOMERSET**—Immanuel Church ordained **Bill Meece** to the gospel ministry Dec. 11.
- **WEST PADUCAH**—Harmony

Church called **Jerry Howerton** as pastor. He began his new ministry Jan. 1.

■ **WHITESVILLE**—**Dick Campbell** resigned as pastor of Old Panther Creek Church to become pastor at McGrady Creek Church in Ohio County Association.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—First Church ordained **Todd Cooper** as deacon Dec. 4.

Stanhopes appointed missionaries

RICHMOND, Va.—James and Karen Stanhope of Lexington were among 44 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Dec. 13.

The Stanhopes will live in the Dominican Republic where they will start and develop churches.

Since 1985, he has been pastor of Highlands Baptist Church in Lexington.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arch Stanhope of Winchester. He considers Corinth Baptist Church in Winchester his home church.

Stanhope received the bachelor of arts degree from Morehead State University and the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He previously served as pastor



James & Karen Stanhope

of Faith Baptist Church in Crystal, Riverview Baptist Church in Cynthiana and Mount Zion Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Also raised in Winchester, Mrs. Stanhope is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Bowling of Winchester. She considers Northside Baptist Church there

her home church. Mrs. Stanhope earned the associate of arts degree from Eastern Kentucky University, the bachelor of science degree from Spalding University and the master of religious education degree from Southern Seminary.

The Stanhopes have five children: David Lee, 10; Sarah Elizabeth, 8; Rebekah Jo and Benjamin Joseph, 3; and Rachel Ann, 4 months.

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'Where two or three shall gather together'

(continued from last week)

Last week I told you of a recent school choir trip to a small country church. The congregation of about 30 enjoyed our choir's concert, then I spoke to them about our Oneida ministry.

We had an invitation, closing prayer and then went to the basement for a wonderful meal. I have found that our kids eat about anything—the important thing is to have plenty of whatever is being served. Some in the church may have thought that our kids had not eaten for days, but we do feed them three times a day!

At the end of the meal, we made our way back to the bus and started back to Lexington. We had been given 40 tickets to the 1994 Living Christmas Tree ministry sponsored by the Southland Christian Church.

What a contrast; from a small country church to a very large city church. That morning a gravel parking lot with about a dozen cars, now a paved parking lot holding several hundred, possibly several thousand cars. The country church did not have a line of cars waiting to enter the parking lot. As we entered this parking lot, there were attendants with radios assisting everyone into the church and telling us where to park.

The church that morning had a capacity of about 100 compared to this one that seats about 2,500. A big contrast from a church that did not have inside restrooms, to a beautiful church that had all of the latest modern facilities. In the morning service we sat in old, well-worn pews, and this evening we were sitting in beautifully padded pews. The offering in the morning Sunday school was less than \$100. I am sure the Sunday school offering in this church was several thousand dollars.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

We sat in this large, beautiful church, with every seat filled and others standing, and saw a wonderful production of "The Gift of Christmas." I was impressed with all of the people who had come from far and near to see the presentation.

Many different churches and groups were represented. Pastor Wayne Smith recognized the various groups, and each leader told where they were from. My mind drifted back to the morning church service in that very simple country church. Both congregations were God's people, who had

assembled to worship and praise him. I was reminded of the words of Jesus when he said "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." We had worshiped God in each of these churches and felt his presence.

During this Christmas season our minds will be taken back many times to the greatest gift. We will see plays depicting the birth of Jesus. We will hear sermons about that precious night long ago when Jesus was presented as a gift to us.

It is a wonderful blessing to know that wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is present.

On behalf of the 575 students, 150 faculty and staff at Oneida, we want to express our sincere thanks to each of you for your wonderful support and prayers.

All that we have to share is made possible by our faithful friends. As we pray for you during the coming year, we would ask you to remember us each day.

You will not know until we are in heaven the number of lives you have touched.

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

Clear Creek Russia partnership

1995 brings Clear Creek's participation in the Kentucky-Russia Partnership. On Jan. 27, Assistant Academic Dean Charles Rice departs to teach pastoral care at the pastor's school in Ufa. Five of the campus family will join five volunteers from Immanuel Church, Danville, on a construction project at Vyborg Baptist Church on the Gulf of Finland, April 26-May 10.

The construction team will build and erect seven trusses on the two-story church. Volunteers from Western Kentucky will follow and finish the interior.

The Vyborg congregation has 75 members. The pastor is a carpenter who has built windows and doors for the building. \$8,000 will be needed to purchase materials for the roof construction. Immanuel and Clear Creek are committed to raise \$4,000 each.

The volunteer team will stay at a hostel near the church. Members will prepare meals with some taken in a nearby restaurant. The team will also be used in area churches and some evening services. Team members include Director of Student Affairs Fred Cummings (member of First Church, Pineville), campus operations student supervisor Ronnie Washam (New-

town Baptist, Pineville) senior Johnny Skeans (First Baptist, Pineville, and originally from Floyd County). Two junior students complete the team: Dan Brinker (Old Yellow Creek, Middleboro), a native of Elsmere, and Gary Baker (Hosman Baptist near Pineville) from Harrodsburg.

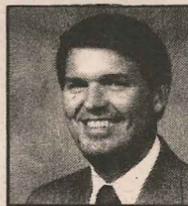
The trustees approved some funds in the current budget to help faculty, staff and students participate in the partnership. Each of the team members will be responsible for raising some of the trip cost.

Johnny Skeans will forgo a "once in a lifetime" event for another—his graduation is scheduled for May 5. He hopes on that day they will be finishing the job assigned to the team. At a Vyborg celebration service they will recognize Johnny's graduation.

The Kentucky Russia Partnership will be a part of our plans for the coming years. An additional connection is first-year student Anya Krivosheeva. We hope to take a team to her home area of Kazakhstan. The partnership provides us an opportunity to be on the front lines of mission service.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MISSIONS

Interactive exhibits draw students into missions

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Some college students attending "Mission 95" in Louisville last week were jailed for sharing their Christian faith.

But don't worry. They were released in less than 10 minutes, and the jail was only a makeshift area in the exhibit hall of Commonwealth Convention Center.

The experience was part of "Global Venture," an interactive exhibit of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to help students "view the world from a different perspective."

"Interactive" was the unstated theme of the exhibit area at the giant student missions conference. Elsewhere in the exhibit area, students could call missionaries anywhere in the world at no charge, interview missionaries and receive a videotape of the interview to share with friends, help build church furniture for a mission or record an audio-tape message to a missionary.

But "Global Venture," designed by the FMB especially for this conference, was the centerpiece of the exhibit hall. It was part exhibit, part game and part theme-park ride.

Students "boarded" a "Venture Airways" flight in an area designed to look like an airplane. Then they exited the airplane to visit one of four geographical regions: Asia, South America, Africa or the Middle East.

Missionaries guided the student tourists through regional displays with the assistance of personal cassette players and earphones.

From there, the students gathered in a large area representing an unnamed country where each person was assigned a role to play. Some were declared nationals; some foreigners. Some were assigned to be Christians; some non-Christians.

Participants had to fend off the

pleas of child beggars and street vendors, then were jolted by a decree from the country's president that anyone caught talking about Jesus Christ would be jailed. Security personnel in military uniforms roamed the crowd searching for Christians, snatching anyone caught witnessing.

Some participants randomly were chosen to be crippled or killed by an earthquake. Others were made more receptive the gospel by the tragedy and were forced to search all the harder for someone to tell them about Jesus.

In a debriefing session after each round of the journey, students saw how many participants became "Christians" through the process and how many searched in vain for someone to tell them about Jesus.

Billy Kruschwitz, a Kentucky native and the FMB staffer responsible for coordinating "Global Venture," exhibit, said the goal was for students to see and feel missions in a way that would touch both head and heart.

Beyond "Global Venture," students were exposed to a variety of home and foreign missions needs in the exhibit hall.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief team displayed its equipment, along with information about disaster relief work. The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission set up a woodworking shop where students helped build 20 wooden tables and dozens of wooden toys for Jefferson Street Baptist Center in Louisville.

Students could play missions video games in one area or use computers to search for names and addresses of missionaries around the world in another.

Some of the interactive experiences were more pleasant than others. Besides the prospect of being jailed in "Global Venture," students also were bombarded with hard facts about the



spiritual condition of their world.

A "population clock" in one area graphically demonstrated the increasing number of non-Christian people in the world. A video monitor displayed the rate of increase in world population every second, along with the rate of increase in the world's Christian population.

While symbols moved rapidly across the screen to mark the 11,117 person-per-hour growth in world population, other symbols moved more slowly to demonstrate the 4,766 person-per-hour growth in world Christian population.

But students had to stand in front of the video monitor nearly 8 minutes to see any change in the number of Christians in World A, that portion of the world most untouched by the gospel. The World A Christian population increases at the rate of only eight people per hour.



INTERACTIVE EXHIBIT Lisa Hoff (above left) of Louisville plays the part of a street merchant inside the Foreign Mission Board's "Global Venture." Hoff's character was part of a make-believe country where participants had to act out certain roles. At left, the Englehart family of Las Cruces, N.M., talks together by phone to their friend, Beth Butler, a missionary in Nairobi, Kenya, at another exhibit during the "Mission 95" conference. (BP photos by Jim Veneman)

Contemporary Christian singer blends music & missions

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—A beat-up old guitar with fragile strings changed Scott Wesley Brown's life.

Brown already was a successful contemporary Christian musical artist with a string of No. 1 hits when he journeyed behind the Iron Curtain in 1983 to conduct a series of "covert concerts." He told his story Dec. 27-30 to participants in "Mission 95," a conference for college students sponsored by five Southern Baptist agencies.

On his first trip to Moscow, his guitar was confiscated by the Soviet secret police, he reported. Ready to sing but with no instrument to accompany him, Brown asked a Russian pastor if he could borrow a guitar.

The pastor spoke to a young man in the congregation, who scurried off. About 15 minutes later, the man returned, out of breath and sweating, but carrying a tattered duffel bag.

"Inside was the most beat-up guitar I ever saw in my life," Brown recalled. "It was so twisted and bent I

thought, 'I'll never be able to play this old thing.'"

But not wanting to offend his hosts, he began pounding out a rhythm, just as he would on his own guitar. Almost immediately, the owner began waving his arms and talking excitedly.

Brown asked what was wrong, and the pastor explained, "He says he waited a whole year for a pack of strings, and you're playing so hard he's afraid you'll break them."

Although Brown's guitar didn't make the trip, several sets of replacement strings he had packed did. He reached into his bag and handed the young man the packs of strings.

The man looked at the strings with wonder and then told Brown, "Now I will be able to worship Jesus forever."

In that instant, Brown found renewed purpose for his life. He went back home to Nashville and founded I CARE Ministries, an acronym for International Christian Artists Reaching the Earth.

The organization distributes musical instruments and equipment to

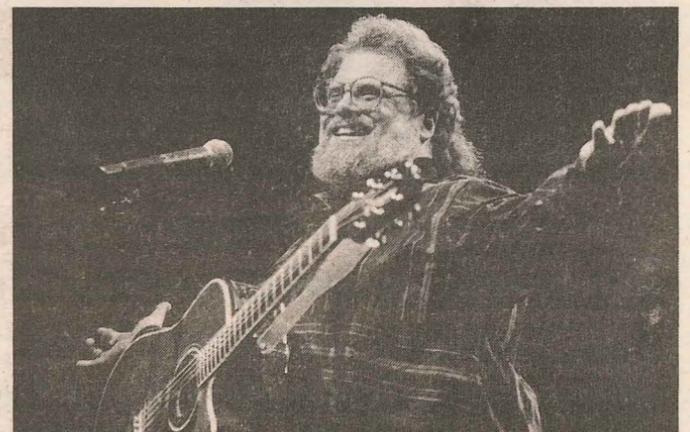
Christian musicians in Third World countries, and it trains the musicians for ministry.

"My goal is to disciple the nations," Brown explained in an interview. "We Christians disciple others in the area of our gifting—some in agriculture and some in dentistry. As for me, I'm a musician. I disciple the musicians."

He has traveled to 37 countries and taken more than 100 professional musicians with him. They have conducted seminars for as many as 3,000 Africans and as few as a dozen Germans.

"We train the nationals to reach their nations for Christ," he noted. "That's the trend in missions today. We can be with them and their people for only a little while. But if we train them well, they will provide a lifetime of ministry."

Brown's I CARE ministry blends his two passions—worship and missions. A self-styled "musicianary," his specific focus is on helping people worship and praise God. And that focus has shaped his vision for reaching others.



He emphasized both passions during his "Worship with a Mission" seminar at "Mission 95."

"For a long time, I thought missions was going and saving people," he told college students from across the country. "But the focal point of missions still is worshipping God."

Brown quoted missions strategist John Piper: "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't."

ALL SMILES Contemporary Christian singer Scott Wesley Brown greets more than 3,400 students during the opening session of "Mission 95," held in Louisville last week. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

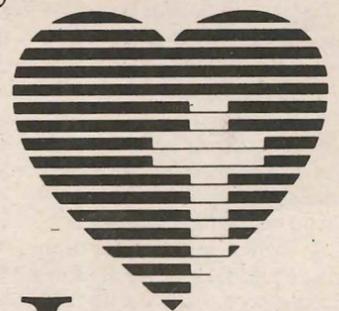
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