

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

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CHURCH LEADERS
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FOR THE RECORD

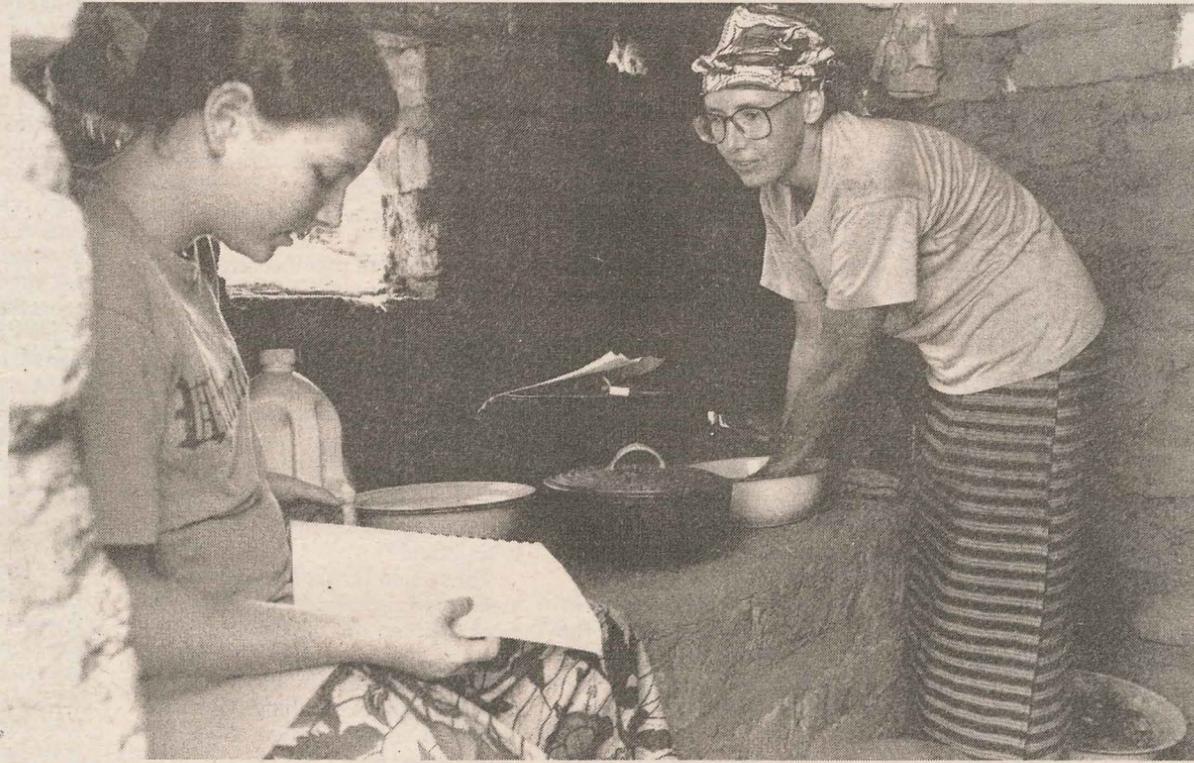
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Witnessing really is telling the story of what Jesus has done in your life. See page 6.

Japan relief
Southern Baptist missionaries in Japan, uninjured by last week's deadly earthquake, are reaching out in ministry. See page 13.



DETACHED KITCHEN Southern Baptist missionary Karen Austin (right) prepares the noon meal in her "detached kitchen" adjacent to the family's Gambian village hut while helping daughter Eryn with homework. The cooking technique mirrors that of the Mandinka people with whom the Austins live. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Mud hut is missionaries' dream home

By Craig Bird
SBC Foreign Mission Board

FARAFENNI, Gambia (BP)—"It's a great place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there" is the assessment most Americans would have of West African villages.

Life in the villages often is a hot, insect-infested, laborious existence.

But Southern Baptist missionaries Chris and Karen Austin decided a village in Gambia was a great place to live—not for the creature comforts, or lack thereof—but as the best way to

develop a living knowledge of village life among the Mandinka people.

During their first two terms as missionaries with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, the Austins worked full time doing community development and public health work in Gambia. Evangelical witness there must be tied to jobs that benefit the tiny coastal country's economy or health care.

"We felt it was time for us to drink the water from their wells and use the latrines we'd told them would make them more healthy," explained Aus-

tin, an Alexandria, Va., native with advanced degrees in science and public health.

"We also became convinced that to really develop a world view like theirs—so we can share the Christian faith with them more clearly—we needed to live with them."

Both Austins scored high on Mandinka language exams. But they knew they weren't really fluent.

"They speak in riddles and proverbs and half-sentences," pointed out Mrs. Austin, from New Orleans. "We

See *Mud hut becomes ...*, page 17

Spring Meadows on Nickelodeon

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Spring Meadows Children's Home will be featured Feb. 12 on "Nick News," a weekly news magazine for children on the Nickelodeon cable channel.

The six-minute segment uses children from the Spring Meadows campus to show what life in a modern children's home is like.

Spring Meadows, home to 48 young people, is part of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's ministry to children who have been abused or neglected, or whose families are in crisis.

The agency assists more than 1,200 children and adults each year.

The Nickelodeon segment, hosted by Linda Ellerbee, will air nationally at 8 p.m. (EST) Feb. 12. The program also is carried in syndication on other channels.

Moving? See page 4 (0124)

Campbellsville witnessing begins at home

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

CAMPBELLSVILLE—The first salvations reported at Campbellsville Baptist Church during the "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" campaign touched close to home.

Two couples have led their children to profess faith in Jesus Christ using "Here's Hope" materials.

"I thought it was wonderful," said Linda Ward, who led her 8-year-old son, Matthew, through the children's "Here's Hope" tract the first week of the campaign.

Ward treasures the "sweet" moment in the office of Pastor James Jones, when she and her son went to talk about his decision. "He said a prayer and had Matthew repeat it, and then had him look at each of us and tell us he was saved. I think Matt knows what he's talking about."

Her husband, Jim, said Matt had

been asking questions about church for several weeks, particularly about who could take communion. He said the tract helped lead their youngest child to Jesus.

"I like going directly and letting them know exactly what it takes to be saved," said the deacon and Royal Ambassador worker. "I know that had a bearing on Matt's decision."

The Wards, who led their 12-year-old daughter to Christ five years ago, hope soon to share their faith with other young people. Linda teaches kindergarten at Campbellsville Elementary, while Jim is the industrial arts teacher and baseball coach at Campbellsville High School.

"I think this campaign is good," Jim said. "I've given it some thought. There are a lot of kids I'd like to talk to at school, but it's hard sometimes to mix it in there."

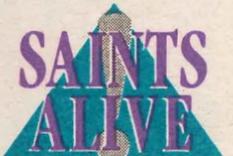
David McCullough, band director at Campbellsville College, reported a

Churches changing as population turns grayer

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

Churches may be singing the blues if they miss the new opportunities found in a graying America.

Ministers around the state affirm that Kentucky Baptist senior adult groups are becoming larger, more active and more ministry-oriented.



More on pages 3, 6 & 7

"In the '50s and '60s, the trend was youth ministry," explained John Lepper of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department. Today, however, "there are as many or more senior adults than youth."

From 1980 to 1990, the number of people 65 or older increased by 14 percent in Kentucky. In 25 more years—by the time baby boomers reach retirement age—the population of Kentuckians 65 or older is projected to be 50 percent larger than today.

Demographic changes dramatically impact churches as well as the society at large.

"First of all, there has been a change in senior adults themselves," Lepper said. "There are more of them, they're living longer, and they're staying healthy longer."

Society's perception of the older

See *New trends ...*, page 3



More on pages 8 & 9

BAPTISTS

Resolution on racism headed for SBC

"It's hard to address the sins of the fathers. But Nehemiah did it, so it's surely scriptural."

Mike Fahey, advocate of a resolution on repenting of racism

BALTIMORE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's resolutions committee is the next stop for a resolution of repentance for racism adopted by several state Baptist conventions last fall.

The resolution seeks to break down racial barriers, both real and perceived, between white Southern Baptists and African Americans, according to Mike Fahey, one of the document's co-authors.

The resolution "is not some bleeding-heart, ringing-our-hands statement," said Fahey, director of missions for Baltimore Baptist Association. "It's rather an attempt to say there is a barrier that exists and we need to remove the barrier."

The resolution or similar statements—an outgrowth of dialogue between directors of missions for 12 major metropolitan areas and several African American leaders—were adopted by state conventions in Georgia, Illinois, Maryland-Delaware, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, District of Columbia, California, New York and New England last fall.

Proponents plan to submit the document to the SBC resolutions committee at the June 20-22 annual meet-

ing in Atlanta, when the SBC celebrates the 150th anniversary of its founding. Whether the resolution will come to a vote will be determined by that committee.

The SBC adopted a resolution titled "On Racism" during its 1989 meeting in Las Vegas, Nev.

That resolution noted, among other things, that "Southern Baptists have not always clearly stood for racial justice and equality" and stated, "We repent of any past bigotry and pray for those who are still caught in its clutches."

The new resolution, as adopted by Maryland-Delaware Baptists last fall, states, "Our relation to persons of African descent has been less than ideal." It cites the desire to appoint slaveholding missionaries as a factor in the SBC's founding in 1845 and also notes the failure of the denomination to speak up for blacks during the civil rights movement.

The document concludes by repenting, apologizing and asking forgiveness for "condoning and perpetuating individual and systematic racism for which we may have been responsible."

The idea for the resolution began

two years ago when the directors of missions for 12 major metropolitan areas met in Atlanta to discuss issues facing Southern Baptists in urban areas.

Realizing that 42 percent of the nation's African American population dwells in those 12 cities, the group invited several black leaders to share their feelings about the relationship of Southern Baptists with their community.

As a result of that meeting, the 12 directors appointed a task force which ultimately drafted the resolution.

Fahey said the long, sensitive process of drafting the document was not without controversy.

Many felt the resolution dug up sins from the past in which they played no part. "It's hard to address the sins of the fathers," Fahey admitted. "But Nehemiah did it, so it's surely scriptural."

Fahey said he understands the reluctance of colleagues and peers who have opposed the document, but he believes it is important to express to African American Christians that "we genuinely regret the things that have happened ... and we want to put this thing behind us."

WMU votes to begin its own foundation

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP)—Woman's Missionary Union has announced plans to establish its own foundation to support missions work and ensure the future of WMU.

The executive board of the national WMU organization Jan. 10 accepted a report from its long-range planning committee, calling for creation of the Woman's Missionary Union Foundation.

The foundation will operate independently of WMU, with its own staff and board of trustees. However, the foundation's articles of incorporation and bylaws will require the WMU executive director and national presi-

dent to be members of the foundation's trustees, officials said.

Although the foundation will be a separate entity, its purpose will be to support national missions projects of WMU; to provide contingency funds for its own operations and WMU work within the states; and to assure the financial security of WMU into the future, executive board members were told.

The WMU's existing Second Century Fund, Vision Fund and various scholarships will be transferred to the foundation, although stipulations for the distribution of each fund or scholarship will remain the same.

WMU's executive board approved a loan to the WMU Foundation for start-up costs. The funds will be released to the foundation over five years with repayment due to WMU in 15 years.

"The WMU Foundation will allow gifted lay people who appreciate the work of WMU and desire to assure its ongoing ministry to assist us," said Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director. "It will also broaden the awareness of the many missions projects initiated by WMU, benefiting many at home and around the world physically and through the sharing of the good news of Christ."

Southern Baptist colleges report gains for fall

NASHVILLE (BP)—Enrollment at the 51 Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities showed an overall increase for the fall semester for the 13th consecutive year, according to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

Kentucky's three liberal arts colleges all posted enrollment gains this fall, while Clear Creek Baptist Bible College registered a small decrease.

Statistics for the 1994 fall semester show 113,065 students attended Southern Baptist colleges and universities nationwide, a 2.4 percent increase over the 1993 total of 110,384.

For the first time, two prominent Baptist schools are not included in the annual report of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools. Wake Forest University and the University of Richmond failed to renew their memberships in the voluntary organization, thus distancing themselves from the Southern Baptist Convention.

Among SBC-related schools, Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., showed the largest numerical increase from fall 1993 to fall 1994 with 599 additional students. University of Mobile had the largest percentage increase with 17.4 percent.

In Kentucky, Campbellsville College reported a fall enrollment of 1,251, up 7.5 percent; Cumberland College reported a fall enrollment of 1,550, up 2.1 percent; Georgetown College reported a fall enrollment of 1,405, up 1.6 percent. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College registered 128 students, down 3.1 percent.



BAPTIST BITS

■ **Study available in Spanish.** For the first time, the annual adult home mission study produced by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board is available in Spanish. The study may be ordered by calling (800) 634-2462.

■ **McCartney retires.** Richard McCartney has retired as executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission. Jerry Stamps, previously vice president for business services at the commission, has been named senior vice president for administration.

■ **Richardson to Samford.** Paul Richardson, professor of music and chairman of doctoral studies in church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named assistant dean for graduate studies in the school of music at Samford University. Richardson

has taught in the seminary's music school since 1983. He previously was the seminary's admissions director.

■ **1,400 volunteers sought.** The largest volunteer foreign missions project ever undertaken by Southern Baptists is slated for Nairobi, Kenya, this summer. The Foreign Mission Board is seeking 1,400 volunteers to work with 100 Kenyan Baptist churches. The project is twice the size of the 1990 Kenya crusade which led more than 55,000 people to faith in Jesus Christ. For information about participating, call (800) 888-8657.

■ **Strange dies.** John Olen Strange, 77, a Southern Baptist Old Testament and Hebrew scholar for nearly 50 years, died Jan. 11 in Slidell, La. Strange taught at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary from 1953-1990.

New trends in aging reshaping Kentucky's churches

Continued from page 1

population is shifting as well, Lepper added. Rather than being seen as frail, childish or invalid, more senior adults are known for staying active, participating in sports and launching second careers.

Longer life and health have caused another new phenomenon, Lepper said: multiple generations of senior adults.

This is evident in more and more churches, agreed Jim McMurtrie, minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church in Madisonville.

In addition to serving as unofficial minister to senior adults at the church, McMurtrie was the 1993-94 president of Kentucky Baptist Association of Ministries with the Aging, which offers fellowship and leadership assistance for senior adult leaders.

"We're seeing two distinct categories of retired senior adults," McMurtrie said.

The younger group usually consists of recently retired couples. "These people tend to be very physically active and have lots of energy," he said. "They're the ones wondering 'What am I going to do with my time?'"

The church can develop ministries to help these people channel their energies in meaningful and fulfilling directions, McMurtrie advised.

In contrast, members of the second group—usually a generation older—often prefer more routinely offered monthly dinners and programs, he explained.

Adding a generation in the senior adult category can create unusual dynamics when senior adults' children also become senior adults, McMurtrie said.

To meet the diverse needs of the new senior adult challenge, some churches may consider offering two different senior adult programs, McMurtrie said—"just like some churches offer separate programs for junior high and senior high kids."

Another trend Lepper has noticed is that more and more senior adults are finding themselves in caregiving roles. Grandparents are much more likely today to serve as primary caregivers or surrogate parents than in the past, he explained.

"Approximately 5 million grandparents are raising their grandchildren, according to the census bureau," Lepper said. "There are probably millions more not reported. ... The church can help by becoming an extended family for them."

While some grandparents may be

overwhelmed with caregiving responsibilities—to parents or to grandchildren—other seniors still struggle with an absence of family, Lepper said.

Again, churches can meet this need by becoming extended families, he suggested.

Some churches have developed highly successful surrogate grandparenting programs in which senior adults and younger people in the church "adopt" each other, intentionally developing a mutual relationship of love and respect.

Ralph Thacker, senior adult director at First Baptist Church in Owensboro, has noticed a trend toward full-time ministers working with senior adults, or at least a staff adviser for senior adult ministries. This indicates a more intentional effort by churches to broaden choices for senior adults, he said.

"The majority of (large) churches in the SBC have a senior adult minister on staff," Thacker said. "We're one of the few who don't."

Looking at the senior adult situation from their children's perspective, churches stand in the unique position of reaching baby boomers by providing for the changing needs of their aging parents, Lepper said.

"Already, some churches are participating in adult day care," Lepper said. "More and more will do so."

Lepper also predicts more "link-ups" with the government in providing such care. For example, churches have been successful in requesting grants and receiving government funding to support corporations that provide housing.

Another continuing trend among senior adult ministries is trip-taking. Almost all churches' senior adult programs include regular opportunities for experiencing new places.

Ralph Thacker has developed a reputation for the many trips and tours he has organized for seniors at First Baptist Church in Owensboro. In 13 years, he has taken groups on more than 140 excursions, from day-trips to Louisville to three-week tours of Australia and Spain.

Brochures are provided for each big trip. About 30 people usually join tours outside the continental United States, Thacker explained. "The trips give us something to look forward to."

"We also go to state parks a lot,"

added Archie Dedman, senior adult minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington. "They have a good program for senior adults ... at very reasonable rates."

"I'm taking people as old as 93 traveling with me. They've learned they'll be taken care of."

Senior adults also need to be doing things for other people—to be involved in missions and ministry within their own group, McMurtrie added. Trends point to increased levels of

involvement in this area, as well, including participation in tutoring programs and Habitat for Humanity projects.

Lepper and others suggested additional ministry ideas that have found success in

Kentucky Baptist churches:

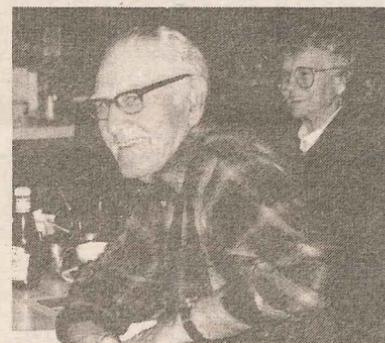
- Building facilities more accessible to senior adults—where their Sunday school classes as well as the fellowship hall and sanctuary are on a ground level, or elevators are provided. "Years ago, senior adults didn't live to be 90 and still come to church," McMurtrie said. Now that they do, churches need to make adjustments.

- Selecting Bible study and inspirational literature appropriate for senior adults' evolving place in life.

- Planning balanced programs that offer entertainment as well as spiritual guidance, inspiration and survival skills. Local police officers led a program at First Baptist Church in Madisonville on how to recognize scams. Other programs have highlighted health, nutrition, birthdays and Bible study.

- Offering exercise classes. About 25 seniors attend an exercise program which meets three times a week at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. The program, "Body Recall," was developed in Berea for older or maturing people. Slow movement emphasizes circulation, muscle tone and strengthening bone mass.

- Choirs and handbell groups. Choirs have long been a favorite for senior adult groups, and they can select from a growing repertoire of music written especially for them. The senior adult choir at First Baptist Church in Shelbyville has performed at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center and at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center meetings. The Senior Singers of First Baptist in Owensboro have sung during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.



FELLOWSHIP Senior adults from First Baptist Church of Shelbyville enjoy a group outing to a seafood restaurant in Louisville. The Shelbyville group plans regular meals and activities to build the fellowship among their senior adults.

- Drama, clowning and puppet teams also can serve as opportunities for ministry and for helping senior adults discover hidden talents they may never have used, McMurtrie said.

- Nursing home ministries. Senior adults at First Baptist in Shelbyville hold worship services and offer communion to nursing home residents.

- Community ministries. Senior volunteers from First Baptist in Madisonville issue skates to children in a community after-school club.

- Volunteer missions. Senior adults are involved in mission projects sponsored by their local churches, by the KBC Brotherhood and partnership missions departments and by the Southern Baptist home and foreign mission boards.

AGING IN KENTUCKY

- About 90 percent of Kentuckians age 75 and above live in their own homes, many alone. Less than 10 percent are institutionalized.

- Kentucky is home to 535 people 100 years of age and older.

- Half of Kentuckians ages 65 to 74 have annual incomes less than \$15,000, while 66 percent of

Kentuckians age 75 or older have incomes less than \$15,000.

- About one-fifth of Kentuckians ages 65 to 74 have incomes from \$15,000 to \$25,000, and another one-fifth have incomes from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

- 53 percent of Kentucky women age 65 and above are widows, while

15 percent of Kentucky men age 65 and above are widowers.

- Kentucky counties with the highest concentration of senior adults living in poverty are Monroe, Wayne, Jackson, Cumberland and Owsley.

- Kentucky counties with the smallest percentage of senior adults living in poverty are Oldham, Boone,

Kenton, Jefferson and Campbell.

- Counties with the largest total populations of people age 65 and above are Jefferson, Fayette, Kenton, Daviess, Campbell and McCracken.

- Counties with the highest percentage of residents age 65 and above are Hickman, Fulton, Carlisle, Caldwell and Cumberland.

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

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Disunity hurts

In response to Michael Barley, who has not seen examples where the Baptist controversy has caused anyone to not believe in Jesus (WR, Dec. 13):

Well, as I completed a sermon at the Salvation Army shelter during the most heated part of the controversy, a young man accepted Christ. After I prayed with him about his decision, he asked me what denomination I belonged. I told him Southern Baptist, and he said: "I don't want to be connected with you guys. You all can't get along." Whether he was saved is up to God, but the words "Southern Baptist" created anger.

We who call ourselves Southern Baptist must share some of the blame for this one who turned away from God.

I felt hurt and blamed God for a short time when I was asked to leave a Baptist church by my brothers and sisters in Christ. My sin was that I brought too many black children to church, and they were not welcome. Now, 14 years later, the streets of Lexington are in panic.

Often I am asked why. I tell them to look inside yourself to see if your house is clean. If not, sweep it quickly. All of us who share the name Baptist could again be proud, but we have a lot of sweeping to do first.

When the letter said denominational unity does not affect our witness for Jesus Christ, it was right; but dis-unity does affect that witness.

*Charles David Ransdell
Lawrenceburg*

Angelic meaning

"Fallen angels especially shrouded in mystery" (WR, Dec. 13) refers to Ezekiel 28 as talking about Lucifer falling from a position of guardian cherub to a corrupt state.

A close reading of this passage will reveal no mention of Lucifer but

instead will reveal a proclamation and lamentation concerning the king of Tyre. Tyre with all her Phoenician wealth was compared to a primitive Eden which was corrupted. However, Tyre surpassed the sin of Adam and Eve, who wanted to be like God. Tyre claimed to be a god. There once had been a close and protective relationship between God and the Tyrian king. Every splendor was prepared on the day of Tyre's creation, and the relationship was perfect until rebellion occurred and Tyre was excluded from this original relationship.

BAPTIST FORUM

Concerning Lucifer, Isaiah 14:12 gives reference to Lucifer (day star) and speaks of him falling from heaven. In this, Isaiah was referring to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and his impending destruction.

I feel there is a need for Baptists to proclaim our belief in the entire Bible, including angels. But we must never allow popular concepts to overshadow our thirst for biblical basis and understanding.

*June C. Wilson
Frankfort*

'Iron'-clad date

I read with interest the article about the Joshua commentary being withdrawn due to a dating debate (WR, Jan. 10).

Part of my life was devoted to a dig in Jerusalem, and I learned much there. I remember something I learned from a Jewish professor from Tel Aviv. "Barzel" is the word for iron, both in biblical and modern Hebrew. It means iron, any way you look at it.

We know iron was not introduced into Israel until 1200 B.C. All the digging we did for the five-year period I participated bore this out. It was probably introduced by the Philistines when they made the scene around 1200 B.C.

However, Joshua 6:24 clearly states that Joshua took iron booty after conquering Jericho. Jericho is 30

miles from Philistine territory. According to Stephen Wyrick's critics who dated the exodus at 1500 B.C., Joshua managed to find iron 300 years before it ever appeared. Quite a feat, even for one of the Bible's heroes. If you believe the Bible is inerrant, you have to remember that interpreters aren't.

As a layperson, I hunger for the insights modern scholarship and archaeology give me. It is a shame that people like Mr. Wyrick are censured when they present it.

*Gene Iglehart
Bowling Green*

Come home

Luke 15 presents three parables that contain parallel truths. The first portrays a sheep that had been lost from the fold. The second tells of a woman who loses a coin of special significance to her—a keepsake. The third story is of a son who rebels.

What truths do these stories share? One, the object that was lost was at one time a part of a whole. Two, the one who had suffered the loss diligently searches for the object or anxiously awaits its return. Three, there is a great sense of urgency to recover the lost object. And finally, there is an atmosphere of jubilation when the object is found or returns.

The love of the Father is constant in its expression and persistent in its search for the one who is lost. This truth can draw those who have never trusted Christ to the Father. In a broader sense, it is a message to those who are believers, part of a whole, and the possession of the Father. Believers at times still wander. Believers at times still get lost. Not in the sense of eternal security, but lost in that they are not where the Father wishes them to be. The Father is searching. Do not be afraid to return. He isn't waiting to punish you for wandering, but wants to embrace you for coming home.

*Johnny W. Collett
Louisville*

Patience and perseverance

I have for years considered Dr. Page Kelley a friend and mentor. An Old Testament scholar and humble Christian, he blesses the Sunday school class of which I am a member at Broadway Baptist Church.

In preparation for my teaching of "Hosea" at the annual gathering of European English-language Baptist churches at Interlaken, Switzerland, Page graciously shared with me his own lecture notes.

A few weeks ago, Page shared with our class an experience he recalled as a young boy growing up in south Alabama. Because the story was so meaningful to me, I asked him if he would be willing to share it with Western Recorder readers.

With gratitude for his permission, I share it with you now:

"It was June 9, 1936. Late that afternoon, my father finished cultivating a field of corn on our small farm in south Alabama, unhitched the mule from the plow and headed for the

barn. He passed me on the way and told me to finish my chores as soon as possible, for a line of storm clouds was advancing from the west.

"We had barely gotten home before the storm struck with all its force.

The house shook with the strong gusts of wind. Then large hailstones began to pelt down on the metal roof, sounding like a convoy of freight trains. The family huddled around a lone kerosene lamp and waited for what seemed like an eternity for the storm to pass.

"Only when the sun came up the next morning were we able to survey the damage. It was even more extensive than we had

feared. Tall stalks of corn had been beaten into the ground. Other crops had fared no better. I do not believe I have ever seen such devastation. Our crops and those of our neighbors were a total loss.

"It was what my father did next that I remember most about that experience. After we had surveyed the

damage, he walked slowly back to the barn, harnessed the mule, hitched it to the plow, and started preparing the soil for planting again, just as if it had been early spring. Of course, he knew that crops planted that late in the season would probably dry up in the heat of summer, but he was doing all he knew to do under the circumstances.

"Actually, he was doing more than he realized, for he was teaching his 12-year-old son the meaning of patience and perseverance. That lesson has been more important to me across the years than any I have learned from books."

This story spoke deeply to me on the Sunday morning Page told it. For I was feeling "beaten down" inside and somewhat discouraged. The story kindled a tiny flame of encouragement which, by the conclusion of worship that day, had become a fire by which I would be warmed again.

And I went home grateful to have been in my own Sunday school class rather than on the road as I so often am. Maybe folks forget that ministers also need ministering to.

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



Potty training

By Jewell Nelson

Q Our son is 16 months old. Can you give me encouragement as I begin potty training my child?

A In the "olden days" mamas who had to wash on scrub boards and hang diapers outdoors wanted to get rid of diaper duty as soon as possible.

We continue to perpetuate the idea that young children need to be potty trained to correlate with parents' needs.

Parents and care-givers must realize that all muscular and neurological development is not equal. To expect a child to be able to use muscles that are not yet mature is asking for trouble.

Dr. Barton Schmitt, director of the children protection team at Colorado General Hospital in Denver, says toilet training is one of the most common causes of the battered-child syndrome among toddlers.

In order for a child to control the bowels and bladder voluntarily, the nervous system must reach a level of development that may come by the age of 2, 3 or even later.

Too many parents cannot enjoy their children presently because they eagerly want them to move on to the next level of development.

For years I have taught 2-year-olds—the stage of parent panic and toilet training. I have observed that parents who get the best results in potty training seem to be those who do not set a time limit on when the child must be trained.

Please, realize that just as the physical, mental, emotional and social growth of each child is very individual, so is the ability to know when the urge to go to the bathroom means "Go the bathroom!"

Check with a library or book store and get the book "Toilet Learning" by Alison Mack. The first part of the book is for parents. The last half of the book is a child's picture story about the very natural need of taking care of bodily functions.

Be positive and calm as you guide your child in potty training. Then, when his ability and understanding come together, he will be much more cooperative.

Jewell Nelson is associate director of the KBC's Sunday school department.

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

Today's seniors get around, leave rocking chairs idle

Old age is coming of age, and it's having a tremendous impact on ministries in Kentucky Baptist churches.

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

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- Traveling across the country and overseas.
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"Give people of this age bracket an opportunity to do more than just sit in a pew," advised Archie Dedman, senior adult director at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington. He emphasized attending to seniors' particular needs and capabilities—physically, emotionally and spiritual-

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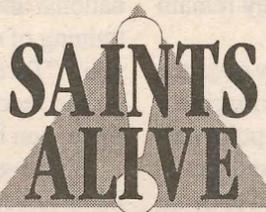
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- Family. Senior adults need the church to be family to them. In most cases, "they've experienced quite a bit of loss in their lives." They can find healing and sustenance from an extended family.

- Respect. Seniors want to be recognized as an integrated part of the church. Many have invested significantly in the church, and all have abundant wisdom to share. "They're deserving of respect," Lepper said.



Senior adults gain reputation as volunteers

In addition to local church ministries, Kentucky Baptist senior adults have found fulfillment in a variety of volunteer missions endeavors:

- **Disaster relief.** Senior adults compose the largest age group involved in disaster relief projects sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said John Lott, KBC Brotherhood associate. Despite the rigorous work involved, the average age of disaster volunteers is 72.

"For the longest time, (seniors) have been asked to do mundane things in the church," Lott said. "Now they go out and work hard and enjoy it. The ladies work just as hard as the men do."

Not only do seniors have more time than younger people, Lott explained: "In a lot of ways their commitment level is higher."

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Aker's desire is to create an environment that is well-lit, secure and accessible to the elderly and the physically handicapped.

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These homes feature senior-friendly touches such as high-grade, low-nap carpet that won't trip scooping feet and doors with handles rather than knobs, which can be difficult for arthritic hands to operate.

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EDITORIALS

Who will break our nation's moral, fiscal gridlock?

The saddest exhibit in Cumberland College's Henkelmann life science museum features two regal deer. Majestic bucks, they patrolled the woods in their day—powerful and graceful, swift and splendid. Either could have been the model for Bambi's magnificent father, the one Walt Disney called King of the Forest.

And yet, for all their majesty and splendor, they intrigue and horrify. The memory of their eternally ignoble pose lingers long after all the rest of Henkelmann's wildlife have been forgotten. They stand facing each other, heads down, haunches tight with ferocious energy. They remain locked in mortal combat.

Take "locked" and "mortal" literally. Once upon a time, they engaged in battle, and it cost them far more than either could have imagined. Their weapons were their sources of pride—marvelous multi-point antlers. And their duel turned deadly when those antlers interlocked, never to be separated. Neither killed the other. They probably starved to death or died of exhaustion when they could not pull free from the other's rigid embrace. And so they stand there, dead and dumb.

Those bucks have come to mind lately. Congress is back in session, and our lawmakers have engaged in battle with their sources of pride—their tongues. Their jousts are verbal. They fire explosion-upon-impact rhetoric at their political opponents, careful to make sure the trajectory of their words blazes past a public tuned to C-SPAN, the evening news and talk radio. Back and forth they struggle in a seemingly endless dance of democratic death.

They are locked at the lip. Neither can let go, because that might allow the opponent to gain the advantage. So they'd rather go down together than let the other go free. Unlike the deer, whose interlocking antlers refused to give, they could choose to relent. But they won't. You don't need the imagination of Steven Spielberg to envision their exhibit in a political science museum of the future. Let them be represented by House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Minority Leader Richard Gephardt. There they are, face-to-face: Hoary, scowling eyebrows knit together; each with one hand on the enemy's throat and the other clutching a copy of the latest public-opinion poll. They're awash in a sea of partisan bills, faxes from political action committees and cash. And they're dead.

Unfortunately, Henkelmann's bucks and the Gingrich/Gephardt exhibit merely represent much of what's wrong with America today. The deer died of antler-lock. And the politicians flail away in political gridlock, but they're locked down because Americans suffer from greed-induced communal gridlock. The politicians, with faxes and poll results in hand, represent the constituents who are rich enough and powerful enough (how redundant) or numerous enough to get their attention. And our national wishes throw them—and, inevitably, us—into political, democratic, moral gridlock.

The reason is plain and simple. We're culturally conditioned to expect something for nothing, or at least a lot for very little. Americans have sent their legislative lackeys a clear message: "Cut my taxes. Decrease the deficit. But don't you dare touch a thing that's coming to me."

We're a nation of 257 million special-interest groups, each with a membership of one. We're a nation of self-centered I's. I expect government to do my bidding, to bring home my pork—and forget my neighbor, let alone the next generation.

So, what's all this politics got to do with a religious newspaper? Good question. Much of the responsibility for our national gridlock lies at the feet of people who claim Judeo-Christian values, or "traditional family values," to use a phrase more en vogue. That's us. When we deal with national and community interests, we often abandon much of the moral training of our youth: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." "Turn the other cheek." "If he bids you to come with him one mile, go the second mile." "Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me."

With everybody feeding at the same political trough, we assume those inconvenient teachings don't apply to our behavior in the political community. Besides, if we "let go" first, the other guy will just clobber us.

Well, Jesus was nothing if not a risk taker. He risked scorn, ridicule, advantage and, ultimately, his very life. If we say he's our model, are we to do less? For the good of our national community and generations to follow, perhaps middle-class U.S. Christians should take the high road of moral leadership.

The problem is larger than a single area of government, but as an example, let's look at our most popular entitlement. (And I realize this is sacred, touchy and taboo.)

Suppose Christian seniors who also have pensions, annuities and/or other savings were to say: "I've paid Social Security all my life, and I deserve every penny promised to me. But if it will reduce the deficit, break the gridlock and give my grandchildren hope for the future, I'll get by on a modest cut in my Social Security—for the common good."

And suppose those of us in the middle generation were to say: "Mom and Dad and I have paid Social Security for as long as I can remember, and we're due every penny promised to us. But if trimming Social Security will make a difference in the future of our country, I'll be the one to guarantee that my parents never go homeless or hungry. They've already done that for me; it's the least I could do for them, and for the common good, and for my grandchildren yet to come."

Scary, huh? We can imagine that every con artist, politician and neighbor would show up to take advantage of anybody foolish enough to say something like that. "This would never work," we can say, and cite a litany of reasons, from human nature to government waste and inefficiency. And we might be right.

But who is going to take the risk to lead our nation back toward a sense of respect for the common good? Who among us will take the risk to care for "the least of these"—not just the dependent welfare class, but generations of our own offspring yet unborn? Who will testify to the power of faith that not only lives, but thrives, in the public square? Who will break the death-dance of gridlock? Who?

Marv Knox

Like those dead bucks in the Henkelmann museum, our nation is locked in a dance of mutual destruction. Who will "let go" first and break the deadly gridlock? Perhaps now is the time for Christians to do some really risky witnessing—with their lives and their futures.

How do you teach really significant stuff to a glassy-eyed kid?

Have you ever noticed how hard it is for children to grasp historically significant stuff?

Just the other day, I was trying to teach Lindsay about her place in cultural history. This was one of those rare daddy-daughter moments, when lifetime lessons are taught. Or so I thought.

"Daddy," my firstborn child interrupted, "did they have football before the first Super Bowl?"

Call hers the myopic generation. They have a hard time imagining the world before their births. They have a hard time conceiving how people cooked before microwave ovens, how they wrote books before computers and how they watched movies before VCRs.

Lindsay and I were talking football. Specifically, I was trying to explain the significance of the horrible gridiron tragedy, the defeat of our Dallas Cowboys to the talented—and healthy—San Francisco 49ers.

Somehow, we got to talking about the First Glory Days of the Cowboys—the days of my youth, when the Super Bowl belonged to the Cowboys and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

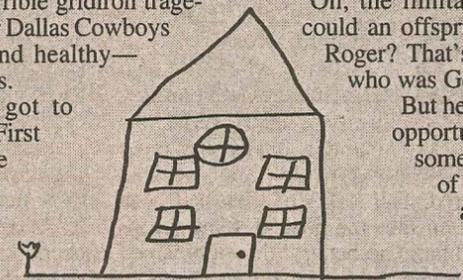
"Who's this Roger Staubach you keep going on and on about?" she asked of the

greatest two-minute drill quarterback who ever touched pigskin.

Oh, the limitations of youth! How could an offspring of mine not know Roger? That's like asking, "Daddy, who was George Washington?"

But her question gave me the opportunity to tell her about some of the Cowboy heroes of my youth. Like Roger and Bob Lilly, Drew Pearson, Walt Garrison, Calvin Hill, Bullet Bob Hays and Don Meredith.

Pretty soon, her eyes glazed over, and our little history lesson came to an end. And since I'm such a



down home

nice dad, I didn't even give her a pop quiz the next morning at breakfast.

A few days later, I visited with a friend who teaches religion at a Baptist college. He described how students come to him appallingly ignorant of basic Bible facts.

As I hung up the phone, I remembered my talk with Lindsay. I wondered how many kids can name the starting five of the Kentucky Wildcats but don't know anything about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And how many youngsters can quote Denny Crum but not Jesus. And how many can explain the rules to baseball but can't name three of the Ten Commandments.

We've got a young generation to educate, and not just about sports.

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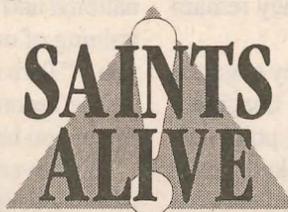
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AGING

First Baptist Church of Owensboro

■ **Leadership.** Ralph Thacker, a layman and volunteer coordinator, serves as chairman of the senior adult committee. His wife, Dorothy, assists him. "We coordinate with all the ministries in the church," he said.

■ **History.** The senior adult program began 13 years ago to meet the needs of that growing segment of the church. Thacker estimated that about 40 percent of the church members are senior adults.

■ **Organization.** A 12-person senior adult committee includes a representative from each dimension of the

ministry.

■ **Program and activities.** A "Young at Heart" monthly luncheon meeting, a prayer chain, breakfast Bible studies, "Senior Singers," a flower ministry, an exercise class, visitation, continued learning opportunities and a variety of traveling.

■ **Traveling.** In 13 years, Thacker has developed a reputation for escorting seniors on more than 140 trips and tours, from day-trips to Louisville to three-week tours of Australia, Alaska and Spain. "We've never repeated a trip," he said.

Porter Memorial Baptist Church of Lexington

■ **Name.** Jolly Keenagers.

■ **Leadership.** Bob Justus is full-time minister of senior adults and evangelism.

■ **History.** Organized in 1984.

■ **Purpose.** "The senior adult program here is centered around ministry to others," Justus said. "It's not just a one-way ministry. We try to involve them in ministry to other senior adults and other age groups."

■ **Organization.** Justus serves as facilitator, working with the senior adult president, secretary, program

chairman and associated committees.

■ **Activities.** Volunteer in church's Mother's Day Out program, sitting with the ill, bereavement committee; teaching Sunday school; monthly luncheons; entertaining and informative programs; senior adult choir; "Body Recall" exercise program; learning opportunities; weekday Bible study; visitation.

■ **Traveling.** Frequent day and overnight trips to places like Shakertown and Ridgecrest, N.C.

First Baptist Church of Madisonville

■ **Name.** Young at Heart club.

■ **Leadership.** Jim McMurtrie, minister of music and youth, helps guide the church's senior adult program. "I asked for this," he said. "I just love senior adults."

■ **Organization.** Current President Roy Love is assisted by a vice president, secretary, group captain leader and 10 group captains.

■ **Activities.** Conferences; monthly luncheons, programs and business sessions; volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, tutoring and other ministries; programs with physical, spiritual, informative and

humorous objectives; nursing home visitation; birthday parties; health fairs; choir, handbells and puppet teams; exercise program.

■ **Traveling.** A mix of short and extended trips: Kentucky Lake; Washington, D.C.; Ridgecrest, N.C.; Michigan and the Bahamas.

■ **Communication.** The leader of each of the 10 groups contacts group members before each meeting and to remind them about other plans. Also, concerns and prayer requests may be shared quickly with the group.

Calvary Baptist Church of Lexington

■ **Leadership.** Archie Dedman is director of senior adult ministries. He and his wife have worked together in the part-time position ever since he retired from working for the federal government in 1974.

■ **History.** Dedman began the ministry 20 years ago with 34 members. "We now have over 200 members," he said. "Our group is probably one of the largest in the state."

■ **Purpose.** The ministry at Calvary strives to provide a way of life for senior adults that puts a little more zest in life, allowing them to do things they couldn't do otherwise and to touch all types of people.

■ **Organization.** Calvary's group is organized much

like Sunday school class officers, Dedman said: "We have a president, a vice president and a secretary/treasurer."

■ **Activities.** A monthly luncheon meeting at the church; senior adult Sundays; banquets; programs and conferences; annual memorial service.

■ **Traveling.** "We take at least one luncheon trip a month" and a couple of two-day trips a year, Dedman said. Once or twice each year, they charter a bus for a week-long trip to places like Washington, D.C.

■ **Communication.** A monthly newsletter keeps the senior adults up-to-date about trips and other activities.

First Baptist Church of Shelbyville

■ **Name.** Young At Heart.

■ **Leadership.** The president of the organization works to coordinate activities, usually in conjunction with the church's minister of music.

■ **History.** The group was organized Sept. 19, 1989, by former Minister of Music Clark Sorrells and laywoman Martha Beatty.

■ **Purpose.** The group exists to deepen senior adults' Christian faith through service, fellowship and participation in the life of the church. "Our basic purpose is to share whatever talents we have with others and serve our church and the community in the name of our Savior," Beatty said.

■ **Organization.** Young at Heart operates according to the group's bylaws, which call for the annual election of officers (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer) and a steering committee for planning.

■ **Activities.** Weekly pot-luck luncheon meetings; choir rehearsals; outreach to nursing homes; "Crafty Ladies" arts and crafts group; monthly trips; annual Harvest Festival for children; fundraising for the church.

■ **Communication.** Each quarterly newsletter provides a calendar, birthday reminders, messages from officers, puzzles, news of past and future events, original poetry and a highlight of a member.

How old is old?

How do you know when you're getting old? The human body has its ways of revealing the aging process. But assigning a specific number to "old age" is becoming increasingly difficult.

"The definition of a senior adult is a moving target," explained John Lepper of the Kentucky Baptist Convention family ministry department. "The AARP says one thing, social security says something else. Basically, we target people who are retired."

A 1993 report in the Louisville Courier-Journal confirms that age is a matter of perception:

50

■ You're old enough to join the American Association of Retired Persons and the Galen Hospitals' National Association of Senior Friends.

55

■ A Sizzler restaurant will grant you a senior's discount.

60

■ You're a senior citizen according to the federal Older Americans Act that provides assistance in developing new or improved programs to help older people through grants.

■ You're also eligible to participate in Elderhostels—short-term academic programs for senior citizens sponsored by education institutions around the world. Your spouse only needs to be 50.

65

■ You're old enough for full retirement benefits in the Social Security system.

■ The U.S. Preventive Health Services Task Force calls you old.

■ But according to two Kentucky professionals, you actually fall into a classification known as "young old." Graham Rowles, associate director of the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging at the University of Kentucky, and Ruth Paton, assistant professor and gerontology specialist in the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville, agree on this classification.

■ Dairy Queen restaurants will give you a discount now.

Given the ambiguity of when a person becomes a senior adult, it is not surprising that few churches have hard-and-fast age requirements for their senior adult programs. Some, like First Baptist Church in Owensboro, use age 55 as a general figure. Others choose not to set an age requirement at all. "We don't set a specific age," said Archie Dedman at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington. "If you feel comfortable with us, you're welcome."

Here's Hope TODAY



WHERE'S HOPE?

Have you heard this story?

Evangelistic campaigns are not new to Baptists; we grew up on them. The Greek word for "evangelism" actually means the "good message." (I looked it up.) We also call it the "good news," the "gospel." This gospel we all hold in common.

But how do we meet the challenge of "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now?"

Many good church members no longer feel comfortable with the idea of evangelism. Fallen TV evangelists, the threat of facing a skeptical world and our own inadequate feelings make most of us closed-mouth about this "good message."

I suspect the majority of us feel ill-equipped for the task. We have difficulty memorizing Scripture and knowing how and when to share it. Still, the desire to share our experience of faith with others runs deep within all of us.

So how do we meet this challenge?

Several years ago a friend told me how to do good evangelism. "Just tell the story," he said. "Tell it in your own words, and tell how it affected you."

I think he got the idea from Jesus, the story teller. When Jesus wanted to tell us something about the nature of God and his kingdom, he told a story.

All of us have been affected by Jesus' stories. One in particular changed my life forever.

Jesus told the story of a father with two sons. The younger asked for his share of the family inheritance. He wanted to go away and live on his own, to be his own man. You know the story; we call it "The Prodigal Son."

But the story is misnamed. Grady Nutt once said it should be called "The Story of the Loving/ Forgiving Father." He was right. The father is the essential character of the story. He represents the nature of God.

In my own telling of the story, I usually add another adjective to Grady's title. To me it is "The Story of the Loving/ Forgiving/ Waiting Father."

All of us have played the prodigal

role at one time or another and in one way or another. The greatest message out of heaven is that our Heavenly Father loves us, forgives us and is anxiously waiting for us to come home.

I grew up in a Christian home in a small town in northern Georgia, population about 1,300. I was related to almost everyone in my neighborhood. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins were everywhere. I knew above all else that my father and mother loved me and wanted nothing but the best for me. I knew the love and forgiveness of a good father. Jesus' story struck a chord with me and made me feel welcome in the family of God.

But one of my uncles who lived a couple of houses down the road was an alcoholic. His son, Allen, was both my cousin and my best friend. Allen's father, my uncle, died young and left Allen with no father and some bad memories of having to spend the night in my house when things were bad at his. I often wondered how the story of a loving, forgiving and waiting father would affect folks like my cousin.

A few years ago I attended a family reunion in my hometown. Allen was married by then and had two small children. He and his wife were active in the local Baptist church. As he shared something about his own faith and his church experience, he said, "I realized I was the prodigal son who needed to come home to the Father."

I knew Allen had heard the story, too. It affected him the same way it did me.

Just tell the story, the "good message," and tell what it means to you. People who need hope need to hear about the loving, forgiving and waiting Father.

— Don Mantooth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Morehead and chairman of the Western Recorder board of directors

■ 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.

Homeless man finds shelter in Christ and church's help

"HERE'S HOPE TODAY"

is a joint effort of the Western Recorder and the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism office. This supplement will appear in the Recorder through the end of March to support the "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now" campaign.

The supplement is produced by the Recorder staff and State Correspondent Ken Walker. If you have a "Here's Hope" success story to share, please tell us about it by calling (502) 244-6470.

SALYERSVILLE—The Sunday after Licking River Baptist Church mailed 150 letters to people whose names appeared in its "Here's Hope" prayer box, a man walked forward to say he needed Jesus as his Savior.

Since he's been living in his truck, members took up a collection that night to provide motel accommodations—the first step toward finding him a permanent home. Although they weren't able to locate him immediately, Pastor David Proffitt said the man has promised to return to church for baptism.

"I feel like his coming was a result of the people committing themselves to this," said Proffitt, who came to the church as a bivocational pastor in 1990 and became its full-time pastor last November. "It's really excited our people."

Proffitt said he expects to see another public profession of faith in the near future as a result of the "Here's Hope" campaign. A man who prayed privately to trust Christ after a co-worker who attends Licking River witnessed to him said he will come to church soon to announce his decision.

Members at Licking River know

the potential of evangelism and re-birth.

When Proffitt arrived as pastor in June of 1990, only 13 members were left. The second Sunday night he preached, fewer than 20 people attended, but 11 came forward to confess sins and repent. Since then, the church has grown to 235 members, with Sunday morning attendance averaging 120.

"They made a commitment to God, and he honored that," said the pastor, who recently gave up his bivocational job as manager of Martin's Department Store but is still chairman of the board. "This is about God and the people, not me."

Two weeks ago, 51 of the 99 people who attended worship at Licking River committed to be part of "Here's Hope." Proffitt believes Licking River will be one of this year's success stories.

"'Here's Hope' has given us a focus," he said. "As we have talked and prayed and committed ourselves, it has revived an evangelistic focus. If it stops today, our church has been re-focused on the necessity of evangelism."

Robinson: Don't get discouraged in witnessing

ATLANTA (BP)—As Southern Baptists' first simultaneous witnessing effort gets under way, Darrell Robinson urged participants not to get discouraged.

Robinson, vice president for evangelism with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said he sometimes shares the gospel 15 or 20 times before he leads anyone to Christ.

When people do not make a profession of faith, Robinson said he gives them a gospel booklet and his phone number. He tells them to call him if they change their minds.

People's response to the gospel is a work of the Holy Spirit, Robinson said. "We can't determine that, but we can be a faithful witness."

The effort for Southern Baptists to share Christ every day for 60 days began Jan. 9 with the theme of "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now."

While one goal is for people to make professions of faith, another goal is for Christians to obey the command to witness, Robinson said.

Last fall David Zimmerman, pastor of Atkinson Road Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, trained members to share their faith by using the "Roman Road" material. The main thing members learned, Zimmerman said, was "they don't have to get people saved to be successful."

"Jesus said, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' Our job is to follow."

Zimmerman said he also wanted to teach his members they don't have to have answers to every spiritual question to share Christ. "All of us who come to Christ do so with many unanswered questions, and we still don't know all the answers," he said.

Union City man finds 'great feeling' in sharing his faith

UNION CITY—David Thurman never knew life could feel so good.

Though a member of Union City Baptist Church for less than six months, he was one of the first to help lead a friend to Christ during "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now."

"I had been out talking to people and telling them what I did," said the Madison County conservation officer, who grew up in Frankfort. "But it was nothing compared to the effect that Tuesday had."

Though raised in church and baptized at age 9, Thurman realized last September he never had made a personal commitment to Jesus as Savior and Lord. Salvation messages at two

funerals let him know he wasn't saved and needed to do something about it.

After church one night, he approached Pastor Rick Brown and invited Jesus into his heart after they talked. Not only did his church gain a new member, but a very eager participant for the 60 days of witnessing in the "Here's Hope" campaign.

Earlier this month, Thurman attended a witness training session at the church in preparation for the "Here's Hope" kickoff. Three days later, Gina Cottongim, a family friend, brought her two young children to see Thurman's new puppy.

As they played with the pup, Thurman noticed the Bibles and tracts he

had received at church lying on the mantle. Something told him to get the materials and go through them with her, he said, a prompting he later realized came from the Holy Spirit.

"It wasn't long before she looked up and said I had made her cry," Thurman said. "I said I didn't do that, the Lord did. I asked if she wanted to receive Christ, but she said no."

Not discouraged, he called longtime deacon Johnny Covington. That night they visited the Cottongims and reviewed the tract with the family. This time, Mrs. Cottongim said she wanted to become a Christian.

"It was a great feeling when we went and witnessed to them again that

night," Thurman said. "I never experienced anything of that nature, that could make you feel so good."

In addition to that profession of faith at Union City Baptist Church, another rededication was recorded and an active church visitation effort inspired many thought-provoking encounters, Covington said. He expects the excitement to increase as the church prepares for revival services beginning April 23.

"I had a double blessing," Covington said of his visit with Thurman. "First, that I was even there. And to watch Dave do the things he did as a young Christian. It's a thrill to watch him work."

Maintenance man talked so much he got a new job

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga. (BP)—Richard Dzio is living proof there is no retirement age when it comes to sharing the gospel.

The 73-year-old Dzio—now a staff member at New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga.—remains just as excited telling people about Jesus now as he was when he became a Christian 10 years ago.

Dzio's zeal for the Lord was so intense he couldn't stay away from church and soon was hired as a maintenance man there.

Yet it wasn't long before Pastor Ike Reighard realized Dzio was in the right place—but with the wrong assignment.

"When Richie came to work on our maintenance staff, we noticed anytime someone came on church property Richie would begin witnessing to them," Reighard said. "I quickly saw he needed to be out of maintenance and into evangelism. We could find other maintenance people, but it's not as easy to find persons who have such a strong desire to share the gospel."

Retired after 43 years in the grocery profession in Lakewood, N.J., Dzio is now assistant outreach minister at New Hope, giving his full energies to the work.

A Roman Catholic most of his life, Dzio always felt something was miss-

ing. "I was more than just a pew warmer in the Catholic church," he explained. "I was a pillar of that church. Yet I never learned the Bible. People would come to my door and want to talk to me about Jesus, but I felt my life was right with God."

He moved to Fayetteville with his wife soon after retirement to be near their daughter.

A prospect card brought two deacons from New Hope to Dzio's door in December 1984—a visit that would eventually propel him to the realization he was hopelessly lost without a personal relationship with Christ.

"I was sitting in my living room with my grandchildren," Dzio recounted, "and my attention was drawn to a little nativity scene we had on the shelf. I looked at that little Christ babe in the manger and, strange as it seems, I began to think how much he had done for me and how little I had done for him."

At almost that very moment a knock came on his door. It was the pair from New Hope who proceeded to share the plan of salvation.

"It all began to come together. I realized what I needed to do," Dzio said. "I accepted Christ, and my wife was saved the following day."

Dzio is not bashful about his faith,

saying he takes any opportunity he can to share the gospel. "I was finished working at my job—now God has a job for me right here. My heart is burdened for people because I was lost myself for so many years. The fact God saved me simply humbles me."

Dzio's most difficult prospect since his own salvation was someone near to his heart—his 50-year-old son.

"My son was a good boy who went to parochial school. After he married, he drifted away from anything to do with God, developing a real hatred for anything to do with religion," the father explained. "His family and business life began to deteriorate."

When Mrs. Dzio was diagnosed with terminal cancer, the son came to Georgia to visit his parents. A chance meeting at a grocery store with a member of New Hope Baptist Church brought an invitation to attend church—which Dzio's son surprisingly accepted.

Reighard said Dzio's son had come to Georgia from New Jersey to "find out what this crazy cult was doing to his father."

Yet after the morning service, Dzio noticed his son in a very contemplative mood. "We drove home and pulling into the driveway he said

to me, 'Dad, let's walk the dog.'"

Dzio knew something serious was on his son's mind: "He hated the dog. He never walked him a day in his life. So we walked and talked and finally I asked him, 'Do you really want the Lord in your life?' He said yes, and so right there, walking the dog, he prayed and accepted Christ."

Dzio said his son is a different man today. His wife and daughters professed their faith in Christ as well, and the son is witnessing to people in his office.

"The results are fantastic," Dzio added. "He might be my son, but what he got, he got from Christ. He didn't get it from me."

Dzio's reputation as a soul-winner at church has spilled over into his neighborhood. People constantly give Dzio names of friends and relatives to visit.

He said the thrill he received in accepting Christ as Savior is multiplied each time he sees another person won to the Lord.

"Sitting in church on Sunday morning, I sometimes look into the choir and see the different people I have spoken to and the Holy Spirit has led to the Lord. It's those folks—who are growing, becoming Sunday school teachers, deacons and church leaders—who give me the enthusiasm to go out and do more for Jesus."

"Sitting in church on Sunday morning, I sometimes look into the choir and see the different people I have spoken to and the Holy Spirit has led to the Lord. It's those folks who give me the enthusiasm to go out and do more for Jesus."

Richard Dzio

DIALOGUE LUNCHEONS

**At the Kentucky Evangelism Conference
February 28 - 11:45 a.m.
Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville**

Each year the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Office for Evangelism hosts a Dialogue Luncheon during the state evangelism conference. The event enables Kentucky Baptists to enjoy a good fellowship meal together at a reasonable cost as well as meet and dialogue with program personalities. The luncheon has a 250-attendance capacity, so reservations are on a first-come basis. Cost is \$6 per person. Please make your check payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention and mail to Office for Evangelism, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

Reaching through Marketplace
Evangelism
Terry Chupp

Renewing the Church
Thom Rainer

Reaching through Drama
James Blevins

The Evangelistic Invitation
Roy Fish

Strategies for Reaching Youth
Dean Finley

Personal Evangelism and the Church
John Sullivan

The Theology of Lostness
John Kramp

Vocational Evangelism
Steve Hardy

The "Nuts and Bolts" of Small
Church Kingdom Work
Ken Carter

41. Invite an unsaved family member, friend or neighbor to view a Billy Graham crusade program with you in your home.

42. Host a Christmas, Easter or other Christian holiday celebration, inviting neighbors and community public servants. Share a brief devotional and tell how Christ has made this holiday season special to your family.

43. Write a letter of thanks to your local elected officials. Tell them you will pray for them as they seek to be of service to the community.

44. Demonstrate the love of Christ with the giving of a gift.

45. Offer your yard for a backyard vacation Bible school or backyard Bible club.

46. Plan a wild-game dinner and invite hunters in your community to bring a dish. Ask a popular Christian sportsman to tell stories of interest and share his Christian testimony.

47. Conduct a small-scale health fair in a low-income housing area. Use Christian professionals to screen cholesterol and blood pressure levels. Conclude the screening with a Christian doctor or nurse sharing a gospel presentation.

48. Host a financial planning seminar. Advertise in the community. During a refreshment time, ask a Christian in the financial community to share a brief testimony, including the parable of the rich young ruler.

49. Sponsor a marriage and family class or seminar for engaged couples in your community. Enlist a qualified Christian counselor to teach and also share a Christian witness.

50. Host a seminar on writing your will, led by a Christian lawyer. Ask him to conclude with his personal testimony on spiritual preparation for death.

51. Sponsor a golf tournament. Ask participants to invite a friend who needs to know Christ. Before awards are given, have a Christian layman share his testimony.

52. Offer a basic car care and simple mechanics course. Ask a layman to give a brief devotional, sharing how he came to accept Christ.

53. Put an evangelistic message or invitation in high school football programs or other events to promote your church and the gospel.

54. Challenge your local high school athletic team to play your deacons, church staff or other ministry group. After the game, provide a pizza dinner and give a devotional or other Christian book to the team.

55. As a church group, set up a booth at community festivals or fairs. Give away cold water. Offer free Bibles.

56. Give a lost friend a cassette from a Christian musician.

57. List 10 people you would like to see saved. Send each person an inspirational postcard with a note that you are praying for him or her today.

58. Encourage your church or Sunday school department to host an appreciation banquet for local law enforcement officers or other community servants. Use a layman to share a personal testimony.

59. Sponsor a sports clinic for young boys and girls in your community. Before or after the session, ask a Christian coach to share the importance of both physical and spiritual development.

60. Take a friend to lunch. Ask him or her to discuss why most people do not go to church. Give reasons why you do.

Adapted from the Home Mission Board booklet, "Sixty Ways in Sixty Days"

20 MORE IDEAS FOR SHARING YOUR FAITH



EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

Evangelism encouragement

Plan now to attend the annual Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Feb. 27-28 at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

Musical witness

Full-time, part-time and bivocational ministers are invited to attend special training sessions on effective use of evangelistic music during this year's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. The seminars are scheduled for Feb. 27 and 28.

Act fast

Now is the time to request help from one of the five student ministry teams sent out across the state every summer by the KBC student ministry. See this Events section for details, and remember the Feb. 24 deadline.

Senior adults

Warm up the church van and get ready to bring a group of friends to the senior adult retreats scheduled for May 15-17 at Cedarmore Assembly and May 22-24 at Jonathan Creek Assembly. The retreats offer a variety of workshops, worship sessions and more. Keynote speaker at Cedarmore will be Robert Baker, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington. Keynote speaker at Jonathan Creek will be David Nelson, former pastor of First Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Senior celebrations

One-day senior adult celebrations are planned for Paducah, Madisonville, Ashland and London in March. See this Events section for details.

PASTORS, DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS, MISSIONS LEADERS

Multi-housing conference opens doors to ministry

Have you thought multi-housing ministry sounds like a good idea but were afraid to try it?

Or have you tried unsuccessfully in the past to reach apartment dwellers or mobile home residents with the gospel?

Three of the most successful authorities on multi-housing ministries among Southern Baptists will be in Kentucky Feb. 20-22 to answer your fears and explain how multi-housing ministry can be done successfully.

They'll also highlight the urgent need for multi-housing ministry.

For example, did you know more than one-third of Kentuckians now live in multi-housing units, and the number is growing daily? And did you know existing churches reach less than 5 percent of multi-housing residents in most communities?

Starting new congregations inside multi-housing complexes is the key strategy behind Mission Kentucky II, which aims to start 200 multi-housing congregations statewide.

Keynote speakers for this conference include:

■ Barbara Oden, director of multi-housing ministries with the New York Metro Baptist Association, a former

apartment manager and one of Southern Baptists' pioneer multi-housing ministers.

■ Tillie Burgin, director of Mission Arlington, the multi-housing ministry of First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, and another pioneer among Southern Baptists.

■ David Palmer, associate director of new church extension with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and a former church-planting missionary.

"Congregationalizing the Multi-housed: Practical Skills for Ministry" is the title of this conference, to be held on the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in conjunction

with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department.

The conference is intended for pastors, directors of missions, interested laypeople, students and college and seminary faculty.

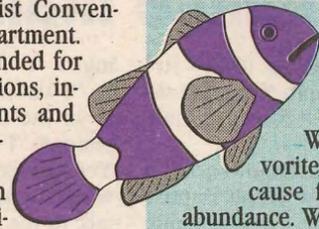
■ **Where:** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ **When:** Feb. 20-22, from 1 p.m. Monday through noon Wednesday.

■ **Cost:** \$40 (\$20 students).

■ **Registration:** Send registration fee to KBC direct missions department, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

■ **Information:** Write to the direct missions department or call (502) 244-6461.



Let's go fishing

We fish in our favorite fishing holes because fish live there in abundance. We will "fish" more successfully during the "Here's Hope" campaign if we dig new fishing holes, or plant new churches.

Kentucky especially needs new churches in apartment buildings, mobile home courts and condominium complexes. These are places where the "fish" are, and they are biting.

Start-a-Church Commitment Day, March 26, is a good time to dig the Master a new fishing hole. Make a commitment today.

For information about celebrating Start-a-Church Commitment Day or church-starting opportunities, contact the KBC direct missions department at (502) 244-6461 or Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.



SENIOR ADULTS & SENIOR ADULT LEADERS

Celebrate with senior adults!

One-day celebrations for senior adults will be held in four locations across the state this spring by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department.

These celebrations offer:

■ A boost in self-worth and sense of usefulness.

■ Opportunities for fellowship with new and old friends from all size churches.

■ Challenging and inspirational programs to deepen your spiritual life.

■ Support for senior adult ministries in local churches.

Each celebration includes lunch, two general sessions and two periods for special interest conferences.

Seminar titles vary by location but include topics such as "Fitness for Seniors," "Grandparenting by Grace," "Safety, Scams and Security" "Making the Most of Your Money" and "Retreading, Not Retiring."

■ **Cost:** \$5 per person in advance or \$6 per person at the door or less than a week in advance.

■ **Information and registration:** Contact the KBC family ministry department at (502) 245-4101 or Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

Paducah

■ **Where:** Lone Oak First Baptist Church.

■ **When:** March 21, from 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

■ **Program:** John Laida, speaker from Clarksville, Tenn., and Joe Mason, humorist.

Madisonville

■ **Where:** First Baptist Church.

■ **When:** March 23, from 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

■ **Program:** Drama group from First Baptist Church of Mount Washington and Joe Mason, humorist.

Ashland

■ **Where:** First Baptist Church.

■ **When:** March 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

■ **Program:** Creative worship led by Rose Marie and Bob Lehman, humorous presentation by Joe Mason.

London

■ **Where:** First Baptist Church.

■ **When:** March 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

■ **Program:** Dramatic worship led by James Blevins, music by the Penny Loafers.

MINISTERS

The tax conference cometh

All Kentucky Baptist ministers will benefit from this year's Ministers' Income Tax Conferences, to be held across the state the week of Feb. 13.

Conference leaders are Bruce Sides, vice president for member services with the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, and Don Spencer, KBC annuity department director.

The conference will cover ways to reduce your tax liability, how to file your 1994 taxes, why ministers are being audited by the IRS, how churches should report ministerial pay and how recent IRS ruling affect the ways churches should compensate their ministers.

The dates and locations of this year's conferences are:

■ **Louisville,** Feb. 13, Highland Park First Baptist Church, 10 a.m.

to 12:30 p.m.

■ **Bowling Green,** Feb. 13, First Baptist Church, 6:45-9:15 p.m.

■ **Owensboro,** Feb. 14, Bellevue Baptist Church, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

■ **Paducah,** Feb. 14, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, 6:45-9:15 p.m.

■ **Somerset,** Feb. 16, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

■ **Prestonsburg,** Feb. 16, First Baptist Church, 6:45-9:15 p.m.

■ **Winchester,** Feb. 17, Central Baptist Church, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

■ **Erlanger,** Feb. 17, Erlanger Baptist Church, 6:45-9:15 p.m.

For registration information, call the KBC annuity department at (502) 245-4101 or write to Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

Literacy volunteers needed

If you can read this sentence, you can teach someone else to read—and help them learn more about God.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is looking for volunteers to teach literacy courses as a ministry. Literacy missions volunteers work with adult reading and writing programs, conversational English courses and tutoring programs for children and youth.

You can become a literacy missions volunteer by:

■ Praying for literacy missions.

■ Praying about your role in a literacy missions program.

■ Attending a 16-hour workshop for training or updating your training.

■ Tutoring people who want to improve their reading and writing skills, to understand and speak English better or to develop better study habits and stay in school.

■ **For information:** Contact Elaine Ozment at the KBC direct missions department by calling (502) 244-6461 or writing to Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS



EVANGELISM

Understand how it feels to be lost

What is "lostology," and why do Christians need to understand it? According to John Kramp of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, lostology is the study of being lost and what that experience can teach Christians about evangelism.

Kramp has written a book on the subject, "Out of Their Faces and Into Their Shoes." He will speak on the topic of "lostology" during the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference Feb. 27.

Kramp believes Christians must understand lost people before they can reach them for Jesus Christ.

"Unfortunately, most Christians do not understand non-Christians," he said. "We do not know what they think or how they feel, so we do not know how to help them. Even though we know what they need—a personal relationship with Jesus—we cannot get the conversation started. So, often we say nothing."

Kramp will address the Evangelism Conference in the evening session, Monday, Feb. 27. He also will speak during a dialogue luncheon Feb. 28.

The Evangelism Conference is free. The dialogue luncheon costs \$6, and advance reservations are necessary.

■ **For information:** Contact the KBC evangelism office at (502) 245-4101 or to reserve a place at the dialogue luncheon send a check for \$6 to the evangelism office at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

SINGLE ADULTS & SINGLES LEADERS

Singles retreat set for March 17-19

"Growing Stronger in Life" is the theme of this year's single adult retreat sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention family ministries department.

Single adults of all ages and from all parts of Kentucky will gather at the Cave City Convention Center March 17-19 for this retreat.

Keynote speaker will be Mike Thomason, pastor of Temple Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow. Worship leader will be Joe Mason, minister to single adults at First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga.

Two special opportunities will be

offered during this year's retreat.

Singles in the "twentysomething" group are invited to a gathering on Saturday morning led by James Stillwell, single adult minister at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

In another session, lead-

ers of single adult programs in local churches will receive tips from Tim Cleary, single adult ministry specialist with the Sunday School Board.



PASTORS, MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, DISCIPLESHIP LEADERS, DEACONS

Learn to assimilate new church members

Would you like to ensure that new members who come into your church through the "Here's Hope" campaign remain active in the church a year from now?

To support the "Here's Hope" emphasis, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's discipleship training department has scheduled a special series of conferences on assimilating new members.

While the "Here's Hope" evangelism emphasis may open the front door to your church, learning to assimilate new members can help close the back door by which new converts often slip out unnoticed.

This conference will address questions such as:

- When do most new members drop out?
- Why is it important for new members to make several new friends as quickly as possible?
- Whose responsibility is the assimilation of new members?
- How do church sub-systems "make or break" our assimilation?
- What do spiritual gifts have to do with new members?

Leadership for these seminars will be provided by Jim Clontz and Doug Strader of the KBC discipleship training department. Clontz has completed

Other seminar titles include "Dealing with Conflict," "Spiritual Wellness" and "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts."

The retreat setting provides an ideal time for building community among your church's singles group and among a large network of single Christian friends from across the state.

■ **Date:** March 17-19.

■ **Place:** Cave City Convention Center.

■ **Cost:** \$20 per person registration fee before Feb. 25, not including lodging. The fee is \$25 after Feb. 25. A list of area motels is available upon request, but participants are responsible for securing their own lodging.

■ **Registration:** Advance registration is suggested but not required. To register, send \$20 per person (or \$25 after Feb. 25) to Family Ministry Dept., Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

a dissertation for the doctor of education degree on the subject of new member training in Kentucky Baptist churches.

■ **Dates and places:** Feb. 7 at Second Baptist Church in Madisonville; Feb. 13 at Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro; Feb. 14 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; Feb. 20 at Pulaski Baptist Association office in Somerset; Feb. 21 at Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland.

■ **Time:** 7 p.m.

■ **Information:** Call the KBC discipleship training department at (502) 245-4101.

BIVOCATIONALS

Bivocational fellowships set

Three fellowship meetings have been scheduled for bivocational ministers in the coming months.

Fellowships are slated for Crittenden Baptist Association Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. at the Country Inn; Warren Baptist Association Feb. 21 at 6 p.m.; and Bracken Baptist Association March 6.

These fellowships are sponsored jointly by the associations and the KBC church growth and administration division.

All bivocational ministers and spouses in these associations are invited to attend the fellowship dinner at no cost. At each fellowship, a program will offer affirmation of bivocational ministry and practical information about fresh approaches to ministry.

The KBC church growth and administration division co-sponsors up to 10 associational bivocational fellowships each year. Additional opportunities exist for seven more fellowships to be scheduled this year.

■ **For information:** Contact the KBC church growth and administration division at (502) 245-4101 or Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

Multi-housing

Three of the Southern Baptist Convention's most noted authorities on multi-housing ministry are coming to Kentucky Feb. 20-22 for a practical conference on starting multi-housing ministries. See this Events section for registration information.

Keep them

A series of conferences on assimilating new members into churches will be offered statewide in February to support the "Here's Hope" evangelism campaign.

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.

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.

Auditions coming

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.

KBC Calendar

February 3-5

- Summer missions interview weekend
- High School Baptist Young Men rally in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

February 4

- Hearing Persons Ministering with Deaf, Baptist Building
- North Central region Mission Congress at Southside Baptist Church in Covington
- Southern region Mission Congress at South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville

February 5

- Baptist World Alliance Sunday

February 6

- School of Discipleship at First Baptist Church of Hazard

February 6-7

- WMU finance committee

February 7

- KBC Executive Board's administrative committee
- How to Assimilate New Members conference at Second Baptist Church in Madisonville

February 8

- WMU executive committee

February 10-11

- Deacon/Pastor/Spouse retreat at Cedarmore

February 11

- BSU volleyball tournament
- Southwestern region Mission Congress at First Baptist Church of Calvert City.

- Southeastern region Mission Congress at Swiss Colony Baptist Church of London

February 12

- Race Relations Sunday

February 12-18

- Focus on WMU

February 13

- How to Assimilate New Members conference at Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro
- Tax conference for ministers at Highland Park Baptist Church in Louisville and First Baptist Church in Bowling Green

February 14

- How to Assimilate New Members conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown
- Tax conference for ministers at Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro and Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah

February 16

- Tax conference for ministers at Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset and First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg

HOT TIPS

■ **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.

■ **Blow your horn**
The Church Music Instrumental Workshop for Kentucky Baptists is April 28-29 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ **Tax tips**
Eight regional tax conferences for ministers are scheduled across the state in February. See this Events section for the date and location that's best for you.

■ **Do you have a will?**
January is "Make Your Will Month" in the Southern Baptist Convention. The Kentucky Baptist Foundation provides free resources to encourage the writing of wills.

■ **Youth Choir Festival**
Youth choirs from across Kentucky will gather at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green Feb. 24-25 for the Kentucky Baptist State Youth Choir Festival. The deadline for pre-registration is Feb. 20.

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS EVENTS



Summer may seem far off in these cold days of winter, but now is the time to make plans for summer camps for children and youth.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention sponsors a variety of camping programs for boys and girls and for youth. Most of these camps are held at Cedarmore Assembly near Shelbyville and at Jonathan Creek Assembly on Kentucky Lake.

The KBC Executive Board's recent decision to terminate its ownership of Cedarmore does not impact this summer's programming. Camping programs will continue this year at both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

For questions about camp programs, contact the appropriate KBC department. To make camp reservations, contact the appropriate campground directly.

Youth camps

- June 12-16 at Cedarmore
- June 19-23 at Cedarmore
- June 26-30 at Cedarmore
- July 3-7 at Cedarmore
- July 10-14 at Cedarmore
- July 10-14 at Jonathan Creek
- July 17-21 at Cedarmore
- July 24-28 at Jonathan Creek
- July 31-Aug. 4 at Cedarmore

■ **Cost:** From \$89 to \$102 per person.

■ **Program information:**
Contact KBC student ministry at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253, (502) 245-4101.

■ **Reservations:** Send proper request forms directly to Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek postmarked March 1 for best preference.

Boys' camps

- June 12-16 at Jonathan Creek
- June 19-23 at Jonathan Creek
- June 26-30 at Cedarmore
- July 10-12 at Cedarmore
- July 12-14 at Cedarmore
- July 17-21 at Cedarmore
- July 24-28 at Cedarmore
- July 31-Aug. 4 at Cedarmore
- Overnights for younger boys offered July 21-22 and July 28-29 at Cedarmore

■ **Cost:** \$18.25 for overnights, \$73 for full weeks and \$36.50 for half-weeks.

■ **Program information:**
Contact KBC Brotherhood department at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253, (502) 245-4101.

■ **Reservations:** Send requests directly to Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek.

Girls' camps

- June 12-16 at Jonathan Creek
- June 19-23 at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore
- June 26-30 at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore
- July 10-14 at Cedarmore
- July 17-21 at Cedarmore
- July 24-28 at Cedarmore
- July 31-Aug. 4 at Cedarmore
- Overnights for younger girls offered at Cedarmore July 7-8, July 14-15, July 21-22 and July 28-29

and at Jonathan Creek June 16-17 and June 23-24.

■ **Cost:** \$19.50 for overnights, \$76 for full weeks and \$38 for half-weeks.

■ **Program information:**
Contact Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253, (502) 245-4101.

■ **Reservations:** Send requests directly to Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek.

MUSIC LEADERS

Workshop offered on evangelistic music

Musicians preparing to lead "Here's Hope" revivals this spring are invited to a special workshop on evangelistic music Feb. 27 and 28.

Ken and Lois Holland, vocational music evangelists from Franklin, Tenn., will lead the sessions.

Conferences will be offered to meet the specific needs of bivocational and part-time music directors as well as full-time music leaders. The sessions will include tips on using vocalists,

keyboardists, handbells, revival choirs and music evangelists in revival services, as well as information on using electronic music technology to the fullest.

The workshop is sponsored jointly by the KBC evangelism office and church music department and will take place during the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

■ **Where:** Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

■ **When:** Feb. 27 and 28. A session for bivocational and part-time music leaders will be offered from 7-9 p.m. Monday and then repeated at the same time Tuesday. A continuing session for full-time music leaders will meet from 9-10:30 a.m. and from 2-4 p.m. on Tuesday.

■ **Cost:** Free.

■ **For information:** Call the KBC church music department 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. Keynoter 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.

CHURCH STAFF

Deadline near for Son team scheduling

Now is the time to schedule Kentucky's student mission teams for summer ministries in local churches and associations.

The deadline for requesting one of the five Son teams is Feb. 24. Traditionally, the teams are in high demand and the schedules fill quickly. Getting your request in before the deadline is essential.

The teams are available on all weekends and certain weekdays from June 12 through Aug. 4.

Host churches are responsible for hospitality for the student teams at each location. Although the student teams do not receive payment, churches often provide an honorarium for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's summer mission ministry.

The five teams available are:

■ **SonBurst**, a creative ministries team equipped to lead Bible studies, worship and other events using drama, clowns, multi-media and more.

■ **Son Bound**, a sports team equipped to lead sports day camps, recreation days, retreats and other activities as requested.

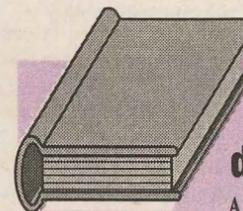
■ **Son Celebration**, a music team equipped to lead in a variety of settings.

■ **Son Praise**, a five-person team equipped to lead revivals in local churches.

■ **Son Share**, a drama team equipped to present a variety of plays, monologues and skits in worship and other settings.

Scheduling request forms have been mailed to churches statewide. For additional copies of the request form, contact the KBC student ministry office at (502) 245-4101.

Completed request forms must be received at the KBC no later than Feb. 24. No assignments will be made until after the deadline.



Book for deacons

A new booklet called "Gift Based Deacon Ministry" is now available from the KBC church growth and administration division.

The booklet was written by Vernon Cole and Monty Carter of the KBC staff, along with Dan Garland, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.

The content helps deacons claim the gifts God has given them and become excited about their ministry as deacons by focusing on those gifts. The booklet also has a strong biblical base.

■ **Cost:** \$2.50 per booklet.

■ **To order:** Call the church growth and administration division at (502) 245-4101 or write to Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

Missionaries offering help in quake-shaken Japan

By Mark Kelly
SBC Foreign Mission Board

KOBE, Japan (BP)—Spared from injury themselves, Southern Baptist missionaries are finding opportunities to minister in the aftermath of Japan's deadliest earthquake in 47 years.

The Jan. 17 earthquake rocked Awaji island, 20 miles from the major port city of Kobe in western Japan. The quake, which registered 7.2 on the Richter scale, shattered Kobe and damaged nearby Osaka.

In the hours immediately after the earthquake, missionaries Mike Brooks and Danny Hinson joined rescue crews digging survivors out of the rubble and taking them to hospitals, reported Tokyo-based missionary Linda Whitworth in a telephone interview.

Meanwhile, missionaries Ronald and Cynthia Reynolds translated for international relief teams at Kobe's Canadian Academy, a large school for children of missionaries and other foreigners, where up to 10,000 people have been evacuated from the devastated city center.

Missionaries also are exploring ways to assist as a massive relief effort gears up in the devastated city of 1.5 million located 280 miles west of Tokyo. Initial discussions have centered around water purification, medical assistance and possible establishment of a distribution center at Osaka for food, water and other supplies from military and relief organizations.

All missionaries of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board are safe and accounted for, Whitworth said. The FMB has 182 missionaries assigned to Japan and 14 families assigned to the Kobe-Osaka-Kyoto area affected by the quake. Earlier reports that an unidentified missionary suffered a broken leg proved untrue.

While mission properties sustained some damage, all were "still standing," Whitworth said.

All Japanese Baptist churches also are intact, although two reportedly sustained some damage, she said. Missionary Charles Barham, pastor of an English-language church in Kobe, reportedly was searching for missing church members whose homes had collapsed during the quake.

Men launch water program

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—A major program to place water purification units in the homes of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries worldwide has been launched by the denomination's Brotherhood Commission.

The effort—called "Pure Water-Pure Love"—will allow missionary families to have pure water and will help them minister more effectively in countries where water can be a major health problem, said James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

"We're excited about the fact that churches can help provide our missionaries the basic physical need of life, water, and that the missionaries can then tell the people about Christ, the living water," Williams said.

The men's mission agency hopes to purchase 2,500 units at a cost of \$250 each, he said.

The program brings missions closer to home, Williams said.

As donors purchase each unit, a label will be attached with the donor's name. Missionaries receiving the unit will provide some basic information to the church about their family and country. This information will allow a church to know how to pray specifically for the missionaries and their country, Williams said. Each time the

missionaries take a drink of pure water, they will be reminded of people in the United States praying for them, he explained.

The first recipients of a water purification unit said the gift will help them share the gospel in Togo, a small country in west Africa.

"I may not be a medical missionary, but I give water on my porch to people every day," said missionary Gaye Coleman. "We give water to everyone who comes to our house. It's a cultural part of welcoming visitors."

Her husband, Dale, an agricultural specialist, said the unit will provide another step toward changing the way the Togo villagers look at health, sanitation and water.

"In this part of the world, just the availability of water has been a big boost in public health," Coleman said. "We have a six- to seven-month dry period. The quality of water drops so greatly. The people have come to realize the necessity of having pure water free of contamination. This is a new idea to them. It has shown them the way to a better life."

For information about "Pure Water-Pure Love," call the Brotherhood Commission at (901) 272-2461.

Missionary force declining

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Missionary opportunities have never been greater, and mission leaders say God is calling Christians to seize the moment to bring the gospel of Christ to the world. But fewer people, it seems, are answering the call.

The world needs 200,000 new missionaries now, and "half should come from the United States," declared George Verwer, a leader in the A.D. 2000 and Beyond Movement. More recently, European Christians

suggested they need 20,000 missionaries to "re-evangelize" Europe.

Yet Western evangelical missionary ranks are shrinking, not growing. As late as 1988, 50,000 career missionaries hailed from America alone. Four years later, that number had plummeted to 41,000. As post-World War II missionaries have retired, not enough members of a younger generation have stepped forward to take their place. And those who do don't stay as long on the mission field.

Look What's Happening: Kentucky Brotherhood in 1995!

Winter

1995 Regional Mission Congresses

Two Royal Ambassador Congresses are scheduled simultaneously in two different regions of Kentucky each Saturday in February. Each congress features such activities as an "Around the World Missions Shoot Out" (basketball) and a RA Racer Pinewood Derby for RAs, Challengers and adults.

Chapters registration begins at 10:00 a.m. (local time) and the congress concludes by 3:45 p.m.

The following are dates, regions and church host sites for the congresses:

- *February 4
North Central Region, South Side Baptist, Covington
Southern Region, South Fork Baptist, Hodgenville
- *February 11
Southwestern Region, Bellview Baptist, Paducah
Southeastern Region, Swiss Colony Baptist, London
- *February 18
Central Region, Southside Baptist, Louisville
Northeastern Region, First Baptist, Louisa
- *February 25
South Central Region, Campbellsville Baptist
Campbellsville
Western Region, Hyland Baptist, Henderson

Youth Missions Workshop "Transporting Missions into the World"

The Youth Missions Workshop, a coed event for ALL Youth, is scheduled for March 3-4 at Severns Valley Baptist in Elizabethtown. The Workshop is co-sponsored by the state Brotherhood Department and the Woman's Missionary Union. Leadership skills, games, crafts and music are just a few available workshops offered.

Early registration is encouraged. There is a \$30.00 PER CHURCH FEE. The registration deadline is February 28, 1995. Housing is NOT included in the registration fee. Listings of area hotels are available in the Brotherhood Department.

Spring

Fishing Tournament

The Annual Brotherhood Fishing Tournament is divided into two divisions. This year's dates are: **April 14-15** at Lake Cumberland, Eastern Division; and **April 21-22** at Jonathan Creek, Western Division.

Shaw Grigsby, professional Bass Fisherman, will speak at the Friday evening rally at Jonathan Creek.

Both Bass and free Catch Tournaments are scheduled. Awards will be presented at Both Divisions.

Pre-registration is required.

Conclaves and Track Meets

The State Conclaves and Track Meets are two day events held at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. The Conclave is a time of fun and excitement for all who attend. The RA Racer State Championship is decided during the meeting Friday night. Saturday's events include associational run-offs for tug-of-war teams and other track events.

Dates and Locations
May 5-6 Lad/Crusaders,
Jonathan Creek
May 12-13 Challengers
Cedarmore

Summer

ACCEPT
the
CHALLENGE!

Royal Ambassador/Challenger
Camp 1995

Do your boys and young men enjoy high adventure, ropes courses, canoeing, hiking and other outdoor adventures?

RA/Challenger Camp is the place where campers can learn life skills and experience fun in these and other areas.

Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp: The Camping and Missions Experience for Guys Grades 1-12 In Kentucky!

Pre-Registration is required.



KY Changers is a coeducational mission project sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood. Youth become personally involved in an intensive week of hand-on home repair for families in low-income neighborhoods.

1995 Projects
Covington, KY June 17-24
Hopkinsville, KY July 8-15

For more information, contact your regional Brotherhood Director or the Brotherhood Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, Ky 40253-0433

Algerian hijacking illustrates threat to Christian work

'Year of Prayer' set for Muslims

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—This year has been designated a "Year of Prayer for Muslim Peoples" by a joint task force of the Southern Baptist home and foreign mission boards.

With 1 billion adherents, Islam now claims one in every five people on earth.

And despite deep and sometimes violent disputes among themselves, Muslims are growing in strength and numbers in many areas—including the United States.

They believe in one God—the God of Abraham and Moses. The Koran, Islam's holy book, recognizes and honors Jesus as a prophet, sinless and born of a virgin.

But Muslims do not believe Jesus is the Son of God. And many live in places or cultures where they seldom, if ever, get the chance to hear and respond to the Christian gospel. Those who do often risk their lives.

Prayer is the only thing that ever will change these realities, Christian mission strategists believe.

The most intense time of Baptist prayer for Muslims will unfold during Ramadan, the annual 30-day Muslim period of prayer and fasting beginning Feb. 1 this year. For the third year, Southern Baptists and other Christians will pray for Muslims as Muslims themselves are praying.

Last year, on the very day Christians around the world were praying for a particularly resistant Muslim people group, Christians baptized the first converts ever among that group, reported Lewis Meyers of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"They attribute it almost solely to focused prayer," he said. "Because in the Muslim environment, people might express some interest in Christ or even say 'I believe in him.' But the decisive issue for them is baptism. That's the break point" with one's traditional religion, culture, even family.

Special resources for people who want to pray effectively for Muslims in 1995 are available from the FMB's customer services by calling (800) 866-FMB1 or writing to FMB Customer Services at Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

PARIS (BP)—The deadly hijacking of a French airliner in Algeria Dec. 24 was just one skirmish in an Islamic religious war that threatens Christian missionary efforts across North Africa.

The four armed Algerians who took over the Air France plane were Islamic fundamentalists. They possibly were members of the Armed Islamic Group, dedicated to giving Algeria a fundamentalist Islamic government along the lines of Iran's. They killed three of the 227 passengers and released 63 others before flying to France on Christmas Day.

That afternoon French commandos stormed the plane, killing all four hijackers. French authorities said later the hijackers had planned to blow up the wide-body Airbus in the skies over Paris.

For most Americans, the story slipped out of the newspapers and off the 6 o'clock news at that point.

But Christian workers assigned to North Africa say the hijacking episode was part of an ongoing, bloody struggle by Islamic fundamentalists to take political control in North Africa. Algeria already is caught up in civil war, and the worsening struggle could destabilize Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt as well.

Algeria began its slide into civil war in 1992 when the Islamic Salvation Front, a militant Muslim group, was threatening to win enough votes to take control of the country. These hard-liners seek to turn Algeria into an Iran-style nation guided by the

Koran, Islam's holy book—as interpreted by Shiite Muslim leaders. Most North Africans—including most Algerians—are Sunni Muslims who reject control by Shiite beliefs.

With a population of 28 million and an economy bleeding from high unemployment and runaway inflation, Algeria has become a hard place to live in recent years. Even before the current crisis, the capital city of Algiers plunged toward poverty. Downtown department stores that once displayed the finest French perfumes had begun carrying cheap bubble bath.

Things were so bad that any prospect for change—even change mirroring Iran's dubious model—looked good to many people.

Algeria's military junta rejected the 1992 elections that favored the Islamic Salvation Front. It declared 1 million votes fraudulent, canceled the second round of elections and clamped down on the front and several other groups. Violence flared.

As the fourth year of conflict begins, no signs indicate peace is near.

Between 11,000 and 30,000 people have died in the fighting. That includes nearly 80 foreigners—favorite targets of Muslim extremists—and more than two dozen journalists.

Many of the dead are simply murdered. That was the case Dec. 27 when four Roman Catholic priests were killed by six gunmen in Tizi-Ouzou, 60 miles east of Algiers.

Tizi-Ouzou is the capital of the Kabyle Berber people. About 5 million Kabyle Berbers live in Algeria, part of the larger group of 20 million Berbers spread across North Africa.

It's in this mountainous region of northern Algeria that response to the gospel of Jesus Christ has been highest and in recent years. The response—and other signs in the Mideast and North Africa—has led some observers to wonder if Christian revival might be beginning in the region.

Southern Baptists have joined other evangelical Christians in praying for the Berbers, designated by missions strategists as one of the peoples least exposed to the gospel.

In December, Christian workers in Europe received dozens of requests

ANALYSIS

for Bibles and other helps from inside Algeria. Despite such responses, Christian workers caution that the Algerian civil war threatens their efforts just as it threatens every institution in the country.

One worker succinctly declared that all of the fundamentalist Muslim groups struggling for control in Algeria are equally dangerous to Christianity. "They will all kill Christians if they come to power," he explained.

Already Christians in Algeria have been targeted by the Islamists, especially in the west. Algeria's one Christian bookstore, in Algiers, shut its doors last March after workers were told they would "disappear" if they didn't close.

Algeria's strife also is spilling over into other countries in the region. For example, it was no accident that the airliner hijacked in December was French. France ruled Algeria for 132 years; Algeria became an independent country in 1962 after a bloody war. Today, France backs Algeria's military-led government.

SonRise '95 Goes On The Air



See the Good News Network team of Bill Cox, Michael Ward, and Mike & Kim Blackwood. Also hear from Dean Finley, Craig Williams and others!

What:

SonRise is an exciting and in-depth three-day conference for youth and youth leaders.

Where:

Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, North Carolina

When:

April 13-15, 1995 (The conference begins with dinner on Thursday evening and concludes with lunch on Saturday.)

Cost:

\$93 per person (4 per room rate); \$20 per person deposit (applied to total cost of \$93). Includes two nights lodging, six meals, and conference fees.

Counselors:

Youth (under 18) must be accompanied by a counselor 21 years or age or older. Counselors must be housed in the same area with youth - one counselor for every five youth of the same sex. Counselors are responsible for the conduct of the youth they bring.

Cancellations:

Refunds will be made only if cancellation notice is received (By mail or phone) by March 15, 1995.

REGISTRATION FORM

SonRise '95

April 13-15 1995

GROUP REQUEST

Please copy this form and mail to: Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770 or call: (704) 669-8022

CHURCH NAME _____

CHURCH ACCOUNT _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

GROUP LEADER _____

Number of Male Reservations, Including Counselors _____

Number of Female Reservations, Including Counselors _____

Total Number in Group _____

Please reserve _____ rooms (4 per room) at \$93 per person.

This cost includes two nights lodging, six meals and conferences. If fewer than four people will occupy a room, call for additional rates. Enclose a \$20 deposit per person. Refunds will be made only if cancellation is received by March 15, 1995.

U.S. church attendance takes hard hit in new study

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (RNS)—A new study has cast suspicion on the often-reported statistic that 40 percent of Americans may be found in church every weekend.

Two University of Notre Dame sociologists spent a year and a half studying how many Catholics actually go to church each week and how many say they do.

They found that only about 27 percent of Catholics attend church in a given week—far below the 51 percent attendance rate for Catholics suggested by a 1991 Gallup survey.

"Our study shows that half of those who say they are weekly churchgoers aren't," said co-author

James Cavendish. "It's startling because it's conventional wisdom that Americans go to church on a pretty frequent basis. It's written up in several scholarly reports that high attendance means Americans are perceived as highly religious."

Cavendish and fellow researcher Mark Chaves used head counts of people in church at 48 Catholic dioceses on a typical weekend in October 1990, then compared those counts to the total number of people in the dioceses who described themselves as Catholic. The 48 dioceses represented 38 percent of the U.S. Catholic population.

In only two dioceses was the

church-attendance rate at or above the 51 percent reported by Gallup—in Owensboro, Ky., (67 percent) and Belleville, Ill. (58.4 percent).

The study was reported in the December 1994 issue of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

"It's always been widely believed that upward of 40 percent of Americans are in church on any given weekend," Chaves said. "That makes us look a lot more religious than the rest of the world. The study corrects the picture of how religious we are in terms of weekly church attendance."

Chaves and two other researchers did a similar study in 1993 that included Catholics in 18 dioceses and

Protestants in one county in Ohio. They found an average weekly attendance at mass of 28 percent for Catholics, and 20 percent at Sunday services for Protestants.

Why the discrepancy between actual church attendance and what many people claim in surveys?

"I don't think it means people are liars," said Chaves. "It's a well-known phenomenon in survey research that people over-report what they think is socially desirable behavior."

Despite the Notre Dame study's conclusions, the Gallup organization stands by its data, said Robert Bezilla, editor of its newsletter.

Congress has 65 Baptists

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Baptists make up the second-largest religious affiliation group in the new Congress.

Overall, the 104th Congress includes 65 people who identify themselves as Baptists, compared to 148 Catholics, the largest religious group.

Thirty-three members of Congress describe their religious affiliation as Southern Baptist. Several others who belong to Southern Baptist congregations are among another 24 Congress members described simply as Baptists. Five members are American Baptists, two are Missionary Baptists and one is an independent Baptist.

Behind Baptist groups rank United Methodists, with 63 members; Presbyterians, with 62; the Episcopal Church, with 49; Judaism, with 34; Lutherans, with 22; Mormons, with 13; and United Church of Christ, with 13.

Another 20 Congresspersons describe their religious affiliation simply as Protestant.

Three members of Congress report no religious affiliation, and one does not specify a religious preference.

Christian Coalition lobbies for Republican 'Contract'

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Christian Coalition will spend \$1 million to lobby Congress for tax and spending cuts and a balanced budget amendment, according to director Ralph Reed.

Although the conservative Coalition, founded by Southern Baptist televangelist Pat Robertson, has focused in the past on such religious issues as abortion and school prayer, Republicans have enlisted the 1.5 million-member organization to help push

their "Contract With America," USA Today reported Jan. 18.

The \$1 million lobbying campaign began Jan. 18 when Reed and 50 state Coalition officials met with the Republican leaders of the House and Senate.

Reed said he will urge Coalition members to help pass the Contract, which Republican leaders have promised to address in the first 100 days of the new Congress. Once action is taken on the Contract's issues of tax-

ation, spending, crime, welfare reform and term limits, Reed said, the Coalition can turn Congress's attention to its own agenda.

That agenda includes restoring voluntary prayer to schools; eliminating government funding of the arts, public broadcasting and legal services that promote divorce; and abolishing the Education Department and approving tuition vouchers for private schools.

Critics say the Coalition's lobby-

ing for the Contract With America, though not illegal, is deceptive.

"It's a smoke screen to try to divert attention from its strict and unpopular moral agenda," said Rob Boston, assistant director of communication for Americans United for Separation of Church and State. While that moral agenda "frightens people," Boston said, the economic issues in the Contract have broad public support and make the Coalition appear mainstream.

Religious groups see old challenges in new Congress

By David Anderson
Religious News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The new Republican-dominated Congress will change some of the dynamics but few of the issues that historically have concerned Capitol Hill lobbyists for religious organizations.

"The rhetoric changes, the faces change, but it doesn't change the issues," said Ruth Flower, legislative secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Quaker lobby.

For Reform Judaism and liberal Protestant denominations, the biggest issues are beating back a Republican-sponsored balanced-budget amendment, seeking "humane" welfare reform and trying to save foreign aid.

For the Catholic Church, the issues include welfare reform, limits on

abortion and a tax credit for low-income parents with children.

For groups such as the National Association of Evangelicals and the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, the big priorities are restrictions on abortion and passage of a school-prayer measure.

"I think there is a strong constituency out there among Americans who say (the issues are) more than 'just my pocketbook,'" said James Smith, director of the Christian Life Commission's Washington office.

"They are concerned about the distribution of condoms, the breakdown of the family, the training of children within the public schools, gay rights and the rampant availability of abortion. We will not let this Congress go by without addressing these issues at some point."

Tim Crater, a policy analyst at the National Association of Evangelicals, said his group's top priority is passage of an amendment allowing student-led, student-initiated prayer in public schools. The NAE has drafted a proposed bill and is circulating it among members of Congress.

While most religious groups work both sides of the partisan aisle and count members of both parties among their supporters, liberal denominations acknowledge the Republican sweep of Congress makes it harder to achieve their goals.

Nearly all of the mainline Protestant groups surveyed have made defeat of the proposed balanced budget amendment a top priority, contending it would harm the poor.

"We are aware of the need to reduce the deficit," said Kay Bengston, a domestic policy expert with the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. "But it is this strategy of using the inflexibility of a constitutional amendment that we oppose. And when you look at the specific programs that would need to be cut to achieve the balanced budget, it all comes out of programs to help low-income people."

The other major domestic agenda item for the mainline groups is welfare reform.

"Welfare reform is going to be a real test of values," said John Carr, secretary of the department of social development and world peace at the U.S. Catholic Conference. "We want to see genuine welfare reform, but we are concerned that it serve the needs of poor families, not the needs of politicians. ... There needs to be more personal responsibility, but not just for the down and out."

BJC & CLC take opposing sides on student journal case

WASHINGTON (ABP)—As is often the case when church-state disputes reach the U.S. Supreme Court, religious groups again are lining up on opposite sides of a key First Amendment conflict.

This time the division is over the University of Virginia's refusal to subsidize a student religious publication. The university, which disburses student activity funds for a number of student publications, argues its refusal was justified by the Constitution's church-state separation mandate.

The nation's high court will hear arguments March 1 and is expected to decide the case by summer.

Lower courts upheld the university's policy barring use of student activities funds for religious organiza-

tions and activities.

The policy was challenged by Robert Rosenberger and other students in 1991 after university officials rejected their \$5,862 request to pay the printing costs of *Wide Awake*, a student Christian publication.

In friend-of-the-court briefs, U.S. religious groups have argued both sides of the dispute.

A brief written by Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel Brent Walker and joined by other religious, civil-liberties and educational groups, sides with the university.

The BJC brief argues that while state universities must give religious groups equal access to campus facilities and forums, they may not subsidize religious messages.

Siding with the students in a brief written by University of Texas law professor Douglas Laycock is the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The university policy violates the First Amendment's requirement that government "minimize its influence on religious belief and practice," Laycock wrote in his brief.

Governmental neutrality requires the university to fund *Wide Awake* because it is private speech rather than government speech endorsing religion, the brief argues. The no-funding principle would be better served by funding all student groups or none. The "worst possible policy is discriminatory funding, which is the university's policy," Laycock wrote, noting

the university funded ethnic/religious publications.

The brief filed by the BJC argues that the direct subsidy for religion sought by *Wide Awake* is at odds with both the views of the nation's founders and Supreme Court rulings.

The Supreme Court "repeatedly has affirmed the principle that public funds should not be used to advance or inhibit religion," the brief states.

"The free-exercise clause (of the Constitution), at times, requires that religion be granted special accommodation," the brief states. "Conversely, the establishment clause sometimes imposes special limitations. One is the stern prohibition against the use of public funds to advance religious doctrine."

Laymen recycle church literature

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Recycling isn't just for newspapers and milk cartons. It's also important for church literature, according to Irwin McLendon, an Oklahoma Baptist layman.

McLendon is the visionary behind Project Africa, which has sent more than 73,000 pieces of recycled church literature to African churches in the past year.

Project Africa began three years ago through a tape ministry, headed by Jim Messick, a friend of McLendon's at Village Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Messick distributed tapes for the blind to 26 countries. Messick started getting inquiries for more literature. That's when McLendon stepped in with his idea to ship used literature to the African countries. Messick said he gets about 30 letters a day from Africans requesting literature.

"The literature we send goes from church to church," Messick said. "Average per capita income there is \$250 a year."

Literature sent ranges from Bibles to Sunday school quarterlies to devotional magazines. Messick said there is no language barrier because in the three major countries receiving the literature—Ghana, Malawi and Kenya—English is the major language.

Project Africa now sends recycled literature to 447 locations. Twelve volunteers from Village Baptist Church work two days a week mailing the literature.

"This would be an excellent foreign mission project for churches, because once they send the literature, they will be the ones who hear from the Africans who receive it," Messick suggested.

Diversity sought in chaplaincy

ATLANTA (BP)—Despite religious plurality among military personnel, "We don't need generic chaplains," the Navy's chief of chaplains said.

While visiting the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's chaplaincy division Jan. 17, Rear Adm. Donald Muchow said chaplains must represent their faith with conviction and still meet the religious needs of people with other beliefs.

"It's cooperation without compromise. It's part of the richness," said Muchow, a member of the Missouri Synod Lutheran denomination.

Currently, 249 faith groups—from evangelical Christian denominations to groups such as Mormons and Buddhists—endorse chaplains for military service, Muchow said.

While religious plurality increases, the number of personnel who adhere to no faith group also increases, Muchow said. He said he expects chaplains to be missionaries to those people.

One of Muchow's responsibilities is to recruit military chaplains, he said, and this year his goal is 100 new chaplains.

But the chaplains must come from a diversity of religious backgrounds, Muchow said. "We want the chaplain

corps to reflect the face of the armed services."

For example, an aircraft carrier has a crew of about 6,000, including four chaplains, Muchow said. Ideally, the chaplains would include one woman, one Roman Catholic, one person from a Protestant liturgical denomination and one person from a free church or non-liturgical Protestant faith.

More women and more ethnic chaplains are needed, Muchow said, but the main three characteristics he looks for in chaplains are spirituality, competency and team building skills.

For information on military chaplaincy service, contact Lew Dawson at the HMB by calling (404) 898-7423.

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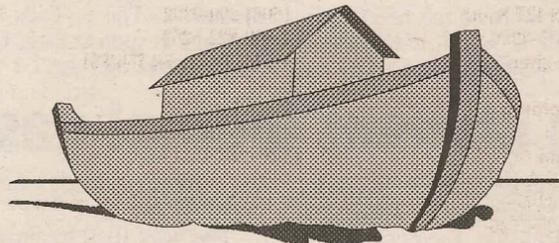
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February 17 and 18

Friday: 6:00 Light Supper Served, 7-9:30 Workshop
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Special Children's Workshop "Kids of the Book"
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For Registration, call 502-589-5290 by February 13.

**A Walk Thru the Bible Seminar*

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and education; First Baptist Church, Pineville, Ky. Interested? Send resumé to P.O. Box 710, 40977.

WANTED: Full-time minister of music and education. Send resumé to Bullitt Lick Baptist Church, c/o minister of music/education search committee. P.O. Box 924, Shepherdsville, Ky. 40165.

SEEKING: The Greater Dayton Association of Baptists is currently seeking a director of church development. Our association consists of 88 churches, 10 missions and 7 mission ministries. The DCD's job description basically relates to equipping the churches to accomplish their mission. Resumés should be forwarded to: Ron Mitchell, 5310 Packard Dr., Huber Heights, OH 45424.

SCANDINAVIAN TOUR: Visit Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Helsinki July 1-15. Tour hosts: Dr. Stephen McSwain and Mrs. Bettye McSwain. Cost: \$3,498 per

person from New York. Optional 3-day St. Petersburg tour available. For details and brochure, call (502) 423-1342 or 367-9155.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for young loving church near Maysville, Ky. Contact Allan Stears, Box 4643, Germantown, KY 41044, or phone (606) 883-3608.

SEEKING: Youth director, part-time position. Send resumé to Caneyville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 446, Caneyville, KY 40271.

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

NEEDED: Youth groups in Atlanta, Orlando, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo for 1995 summer mission 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.

Looking for a Challenging Mission?

Spring Meadows Children's Home is accepting applications for live-in Christian couples (teaching-parents). Teaching-parents will receive training in a nationally recognized child care model; active participation in treatment planning; on-going consultation and, most importantly, the opportunity to make a difference in a young person's life. We offer a competitive salary plus benefits. Please send resumé to Mike Armbrust, 10901 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville, KY 40243.



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A new partnership

I'm excited to share with you that a special ministry is beginning to come to life in eastern Kentucky.

A new partnership between two local associations—Pike and Enterprise—and Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will provide a Cornerstone Counseling office, a First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Service office, and a new foster care office to serve children and families in the Big Sandy region of Kentucky.

Thanks to a group of generous and committed laypeople, a new building to house the programs has been completed in Harold, Kentucky (between Pikeville and Prestonsburg) and services are coming on line just as quickly as staffing arrangements can be made.

I'm excited because while there has been a tremendous need for services in this part of the state, our ability to help there has been limited. I once wrote a column about a young girl for whom there was no placement. She was raped and badly abused when she was at home and eventually had to be held in jail for her own protection while she awaited placement else-

where. I made a commitment to myself then that someday Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children would have a program in eastern Kentucky.

Last year, at our 125th birthday party in Pikeville, many different people asked us to come to the Big Sandy region. They not only asked though, they also began to work to make it possible. They made it clear to us that they wanted to be full-fledged partners in meeting the needs of their region.

It is my hope that the opening of these new programs is only the first step toward the development of a complete range of services for the region.

We hope to be able to build a small residential program in the area within the next few years so that children in need of such services can be served closer to home.

We are excited to be in eastern Kentucky and applaud our new partners for their tremendous commitment to meeting the needs of hurting children and families in the Big Sandy region.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

PEOPLE



PATIO DINING Missionaries Chris and Karen Austin and their daughter, Eryn, pray together before eating a traditional West African meal outside the mud hut where they live in Gambia. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Mud hut becomes dream home

Continued from page 1

missed all the deeper meaning underneath what they were saying, or else they just wouldn't talk about meaningful topics if we were around."

So, for more than a year, the Austins have lived in Tankanto for 10-day stretches, interspersed with four-day stays at a mission compound six miles away, where they keep development ministries going.

Mom, Dad, 14-year-old daughter Eryn and 17-year-old son Gabriel (when he's home from boarding school) sleep in a three-room, 10-by-20-foot hut with mud walls.

They cook over a wood fire in a separate kitchen hut. They haul water from communal wells and gather firewood from the bush. And yes, they drink water treated with the Clean Water Medicine Austin developed and use the latrine he designed—now the standard design adopted by the Gambian government.

Over the first six months, they noticed three distinct phases in their relationships with the people.

First came a honeymoon period when the villagers were "almost too nice" because "no one felt we would stay very long," Mrs. Austin said. A rude stage followed when people—especially women—seemed to go out of their way to irritate these strange white people settling among them. Eventually, acceptance came.

"Being willing to get dirty helped," Mrs. Austin said. "When we went into the community fields on work days and did everything they did for as long as they did, they were impressed. We didn't run home when it got tough. Now we are included in discussions and even serve on (village) committees."

To fight the temptation of iced tea and cool showers waiting just miles away at the mission compound, the Austins don't keep their truck at the village.

"This is obviously much harder on Karen physically than it is on me," Austin insisted. "She has to do 90 percent of the manual labor, which takes a toll on her back and gives her tremendous headaches at times."

Despite cultural norms, he does help haul water—much to the amusement of the village males. "But he's allowed to do that since he has only one wife and only one daughter," Eryn explained.

"Actually," Mrs. Austin corrected, "he does it because he chooses to be nice to his wife."

It's a hard life, physically and emotionally. After 10 days in Tankanto to the Austins are ready to "go home," but the same isn't true after four days in the relative comfort of Farafenni.

"Every time, it's a battle," Mrs. Austin admitted of the trek back to the village. "We battle ourselves, each other and Satan. Once we get back out it's OK and we can enjoy it, but until then it's tough."

"Moving here was an act of obedience, not choice. We chose to be obedient to what we felt God wanted us to do. But scratching mosquitoes is not my idea of fun."

Other cultural insights come as the Austins participate in the nightly, three-hour village tea ceremonies or note the reactions when they deviate from normal practices.

For example, when they moved into their village home, they knocked more holes in the walls for extra windows and doors.

"Aren't you afraid to do that?" they were asked. The traditional Mandinka home has one door and often no windows. All openings are shut tight at night to keep out evil spirits.

When the missionaries attribute their lack of fear to faith in a loving, protective God, even the extra windows and doors become a testimony.

And other paybacks come from time to time.

One afternoon Austin walked to a neighboring village to visit the chief, a longtime friend. Upon arrival the old man was faithfully reading his Koran, the Muslim holy book.

"Will you read the Koran for me?" Austin asked the chief, who proudly did so. "What does it mean?" the missionary asked. "Oh, I don't understand Arabic," came the reply. "The blessing is only in the reading."

Then Austin asked the chief to read the Gospel of John, written in Arabic script but using Mandinka phonetics. The man began reading in the same singsong cadence he used with the Koran. But after a few words he realized he understood what he was reading. His face lit up with a mixture of pleasure and surprise.

That's what the Austins live for—the dawning of understanding of the good news of Jesus Christ among the Mandinka.

YouthFest '95

YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

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WHAT IS YOUTH FEST '95

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Where Can We Stay?

When making reservations, please confirm the rates below by telling the reservations clerk you are attending Youthfest (KBC). We do not necessarily recommend any of these motels, but make the information available to you.

ACCOMODATIONS

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*No special rate given unless indicated. When making reservations, please verify rates.

Other housing is available on the campuses of Georgetown College in Georgetown and KY State University in Frankfort. Each person will need to provide his/her own bed linens and towels. Reservations must be made directly through each college during day working hours. For reservations, call between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (EDT)

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Cost: \$8 per person
Advance reservations requested.

Vaughn Little
Kentucky State University
1/502-227-5951
Cost: \$10 per person
Advance reservations requested.

PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

Kentucky is home to 466,816 people age 65 and above. This represents 12.7 percent of the population. Source: Sanders-Brown Center on Aging of the University of Kentucky

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- **ASHLAND**—Rose Hill Missionary Church called **Michael Routt** as pastor. Routt previously was pastor at Eastern Gate Church in Shepherdsville.
- **BAGDAD**—Christianburg Church called **Vic Johnson** as interim pastor for one year.
- **CARROLLTON**—**Frank McGee**, deacon at First Church, announced his call to the gospel ministry Jan. 8. He is attending Boyce Bible School.
- **EDDYVILLE**—First Church ordained **Carroll Dorroh** as deacon Jan. 22.
- **FAIRDALE**—First Church called **Roger Seekell** as associate pastor/minister of music. He previously was part-time minister of music.
- **GRAND RIVERS**—Calvary

- Church called **Bill Marret** as pastor.
- **GREEN ROAD**—Green Road Church called **David Lyons**, retired director of missions of Lynn Camp and North Concord associations, as pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Walnut Street Church called **Doug Crawley** as minister of music and ministry Jan. 12. He previously was associate pastor of music and worship at Far Hills Church in Dayton, Ohio. He will begin his new ministry in Louisville Feb. 19.
- Gethsemane Church called interim pastor **David Livingston Jr.** as pastor.
- Midlane Park Church ordained **Kevin Blansette** as deacon Jan. 15.
- **MARION**—**Terry Fortner** resigned as pastor of Caldwell Springs



HONORARY DEGREES Cumberland College awarded honorary degrees Jan. 16 to **Bud Underwood** (left), president of Oneida Baptist Institute, and **Charles Stewart**, former pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland and former Kentucky Baptist Convention president. Underwood received the honorary doctor of administration degree, and Stewart received the honorary doctor of divinity degree.

- Church.
- **PLEASUREVILLE**—**Shawn Proffitt** resigned as pastor of Elmburg Church.
- **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Liberty

Church called **Bill Clement** as pastor. Clement served the past eight years as a naval chaplain. Also, **Marshall Stephens** was ordained as deacon Nov. 27.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Seminary choir to sing.** The Seminary Choir of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will conclude a three-state tour with a campus concert Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. in Alumni Chapel. The program will include classical and contemporary music around the theme of "Creator and Redeemer."

■ **Worship workshop set.** Campbellsville College will offer a wor-

ship workshop Feb. 9 with leadership from Raymond Bailey and Phil Landgrave of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bailey and Landgrave will lead a creative worship session on the theme "Living Water." A discussion will follow. The workshop will be held at Campbellsville Baptist Church at 7 p.m.

■ **Cumberland honors students.** Amy Denise Cummins and Christo-

pher King received top honors at Cumberland College's Jan. 16 Founder's Day. Cummins, of Covington, received the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award for her significant contribution to college life and demonstration of spiritual values. King, of Jellico, Tenn., received the Algeron Sydney Sullivan Award for the same criteria.

■ **Scholarship offered.** Feb. 1 is the

deadline to apply for Georgetown College's new scholarship to honor a top Baptist student. The full scholarship will be awarded to a student affiliated with a Baptist church who demonstrates a high potential for completing a degree at Georgetown. The recipient also must commit to participate in Christian service opportunities while receiving the award. For information, call the college at (800) 788-9985.

January 25, one year later

One year ago this week, most of Kentucky, and a large portion of the east coast, was under siege from one of the worst winter storms in history.

We had begun to make progress with clearing the sidewalks and streets. We had been blessed by not losing electricity, and even though the gas pressure had gotten very low at times, we never were without gas.

We were beginning to feel we had weathered the worst of the storm. We had no idea that the worst "storm" was yet to come.

Early that Tuesday morning I received a call and was told to rush to Anderson Hall, commonly known to us as the White House. Dr. Moore had just returned from the hospital the evening before. I ran upstairs to Dr. Moore's room to find him lying on his bed. Our best efforts to revive him were in vain; he had gone to be with the Lord.

The next several weeks and months were difficult for faculty, staff, students, friends, family members, alumni and many others. We were saddened at the loss of such a wonderful friend. Dr. A. B. Colvin, who had been the assistant to the president, was chosen to be the administrator. Under his experienced and understanding leadership, we prepared for graduation, a new school calendar, homecoming and other events.

One thing became very clear from the beginning; it was much easier to take one day at a time. Many of us found ourselves being drawn closer to the Lord. We took less for granted and confessed daily our need for the Lord's leadership and wisdom.

Winter gave way to spring and spring quickly turned to summer. Graduation was over, the school year had come to an end, and we were very busy with the many activities of the summer.

Volunteers came from seven states and from across Kentucky. More volunteers came than at any other time in the history of our school. Their help was not only needed, but the support they gave us during those days was very comforting.

Some financial support had fallen off soon after the passing of Dr. Moore, but many others increased their giving. Those gracious people have no idea how uplifting their extra financial support has been. It not only helped us financially, but was a tremendous spiritual boost.

When the trustees asked me to serve as the next president, my biggest concern was whether or not I would be able to lead the Oneida ministry forward. Nearly every day I think of Dr. Moore. I wonder what he would say about things that have been done or the advice he would give for those decisions about to be made.

I believe most would say Oneida is still doing what we always have done. We are still caring for that young person who has some special need. We are still helping that young person who is not doing well academically. We are still ministering to that student who is having social or behavioral problems. That young person who is hurting because of a tragedy in his home life still finds in Oneida a warm, loving environment.

This past year has been a year of real spiritual growth for all of us. We have seen that in everything God has a plan. While I confess I still do not understand why these things have come to pass, I am happy to know that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Thank you, God, for your word!
W.F. "Bud" Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Keep on rocking

The generation that launched this ministry in 1924 is about gone, but we are grateful for continuing support from their children and grandchildren.

Middlesboro dentist J.H. Brooks was on the first board of trustees. His son Jerry and grandson Michael are among our strongest financial supporters. This father-son team operates Brooks Furniture Manufacturing Inc., in Tazewell, Tenn., the country's second-largest manufacturer of glider rockers.

In 1963 Jerry's father manufactured bedroom furniture. When illness forced his retirement, Jerry went to the factory for a year to determine its liquidity or to sell it.

"We had 23 employees, and I knew nothing about the business. That first year I got sawdust in my hair—I saw the potential," Jerry said. He bought the business in 1964 and has seen it expand to 150 employees with double digit growth the last five years.

Michael saw the concept of a glider rocker at a furniture convention in 1986. "Business was tough. We needed something else to do. Solid wood bedroom furniture was a big-ticket item. We decided on manufacturing a chair that would appeal to the masses and was not a major family decision to purchase."

Michael took the best ideas of every glider rocker on the market. "We developed the best chair and sales skyrocketed. We got out of everything except glider rockers."

The Brooks are quick to credit their success to the Lord. "We are instruments. He is the way. In return, we have tried to recognize that and share his blessings. We believe in Clear Creek. Your students step out more on faith. They go where others won't go. I am not one who can go preach," Michael said, "but I recognize my need to help pay the way for those who do go. Some of those whom God has blessed have the position to send others. If we don't do our jobs, God will find someone else, and we will be the loser."

I grew up with a rocker and now enjoy a Brooks glider rocker in my study. Clear Creek is grateful for these Christian businessmen who follow in the steps of their father and grandfather. Our campus now has a new student complex, remodeled student housing and Crossroads Counseling Center because of the generosity of Jerry and Michael Brooks.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MINISTRY

Mississippi man wagers his career on ministry

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

GULFPORT, Miss. (BP)—While many Southern Baptist pastors in Mississippi were adjusting to the invasion of dockside casinos, John Landrum was preparing to minister to those involved in the gambling industry.

Landrum left the pulpit of Biloxi's Pops Ferry Baptist Church in September 1992 to offer an outreach to casino employees, gambling addicts and their families. The 54-year-old pastor said his ministry centers on loving the hurting, not preaching against gambling.

"We don't judge the people in the industry," he said. "We don't even get into the politics of it. We just get into the need of helping hurting people."

Landrum's work involves 14 casinos along a 34-mile stretch of Mississippi's Gulf Coast. Reachable by phone or beeper, he and his wife walk through the gaming halls at all hours, nodding to a blackjack dealer or chatting with a security guard.

"Our standard line is, 'If you run into anybody who needs a minister or a friend, we are available and we are free,'" he said. "We try to have at least one employee in each casino who will keep our (business) cards on the employee bulletin board."

Casino employees have the same problems as other residents but often are more lonely, Landrum said.

"Most of them don't have anybody to turn to unless it's a clinical psychologist or a bartender," he said. "We deal with people who don't have a clue that the Lord loves them. They don't even know who the Lord is sometimes."

Many employees in the Mississippi casinos are from Atlantic City, N.J., or Las Vegas, and don't have the same religious background as Mississippians, he said.

"We have to constantly define Christianity," he said. "They have a religious concept of Christianity but not a relational concept of Christianity."

Some Mississippi pastors have ignored the casinos after a losing political campaign to keep them out, Landrum said.

"Many people feel if you try to minister to the industry you condone the industry," he said. "We say you can keep your doctrinal integrity and still minister to hurting people. And boy, there are a lot of hurting people in the industry."

Landrum said he averages at least one counseling session a day, many times with gambling addicts.

"Most of the gambling addicts we deal with are Christians, and we didn't expect that," he added.

More churches will become involved in gambling-related ministries as they realize the impact it has on their churches, Landrum predicted.



Gambling communities need gospel too

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

LAUGHLIN, Nev. (BP)—Christians should respond to the drastic changes in gambling-impacted communities by planting churches that target casino employees and gamblers, speakers said during a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board-sponsored conference.

"Churches working in a gambling-impacted community must find a way to take the gospel into that community," said Ebbie Smith, professor of Christian ethics and missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Speakers at the conference, "A Church for Glitzville," said objections to gambling should not prevent Christians from trying to reach the non-Christians in that setting.

"The church itself must come into the very heart of the gaming community just like the church in Caesar's house," said John Allen, adjunct professor of missions at Southwestern Seminary.

"The Holy Spirit is at work in gaming-impacted communities," Allen said.

Speakers offered such models as church-sponsored Gamblers Anonymous meetings, Bible studies in casino employee lounges and creative worship services to reach new residents drawn by the jobs and action of casino gambling.

Evangelism, discipleship and ministry in gaming communities contrast the attitudes of some churches that have retreated from these settings, Allen said.

After Cripple Creek, Colo., approved casino gambling, the local Baptist church closed when members moved away, he said.

"The town was growing. People

were there. They were in turmoil, they were in trouble, they were hurting. But the church was not there to be found," Allen said.

More churches will face gambling in their communities as the industry continues to grow, an economist suggested.

In 1978, only Nevada and Atlantic City, N.J., offered casino gambling, said Bill Eadington, director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming at the University of Nevada, Reno.

"We've gone from that extreme position to the other extreme of saying we should have gambling virtually everywhere in virtually every form," he said.

Casino gambling is allowed in at least nine states and Puerto Rico. In 1992, it generated more than \$11 billion in gross revenues, Eadington said. "The gambling industry has gone from an outlaw industry to a mainstream industry very quickly."

Factors that pushed gambling toward acceptability were the advent of state-run lotteries and the investment in casinos by such respected corporations as Hilton and MGM.

Today many local governments see casinos and lotteries as a cure for economic woes, Eadington said. "A lot of people are basically saying, 'Let's go for that poor, old, stupid money that's coming out of these weak, degenerate gamblers.'"

Widespread gambling, however, means most gambling will attract only locals, at the expense of other area entertainment, such as restaurants and movies, he said. "It's foolish and deviant to argue that you can solve your major problems with gambling."

Smith noted while the Bible contains no explicit ban on betting, several passages imply gambling opposes both Christian character and God's

design for the proper use of material wealth.

"Every aspect of gambling expresses materialism and greed rather than responsibility, productivity and service," Smith said, citing Ephesians 4:28, Isaiah 65:11-16 and Matthew 6:24 as discouraging gaming. "Gambling cannot reach the biblical ideal of honest, productive toil with its social and moral values."

While some Christians may oppose being a part of a "sin city," Allen compared church starting and ministries in gambling communities to the early efforts in Rome, China or Russia. "We've had 2,000 years of history of opening up closed communities to the gospel."

Gambling ministry booklet available

ATLANTA (BP)—A guide to starting ministries in gambling communities is available from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's special ministries department.

The booklet was designed to help directors of missions and pastors who want to minister to people in the gaming industry, said author Tommy Starks, chaplain on the Las Vegas Strip and pastor of Tropicana Christian Fellowship.

The booklet offers information about the growth of gambling in America and some facts to help readers understand the industry.

Starks, who has observed casinos for 10 years in Las Vegas, also includes dos and don'ts for ministering in a gaming setting.

Starks said the greatest misconception about a gambling community is that it is full of corrupt people intent on importing evil.

"Employees of casinos are just plain folks who have families at home and bills to pay," he said. "They are people with the same set of problems as someone in a factory or industry. They need salvation, they need counseling, they need listening ears."

The guide, "Developing Ministries to Gaming Communities," may be ordered by calling (800) 634-2462.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY
Communities impacted by casinos and other forms of gambling need ministry from compassionate Christians, according to speakers at a Southern Baptist conference on the topic. (BP photo by David Winfrey)

Now That You've Got Your Body In Shape, How About Giving Your Spirit A Lift.



Physical fitness is a wonderful thing. But you've got more than a body to work on. You've got a spirit too.

And that's the part of you that has a desire to know God. Until you get in touch with your spirit, you'll never be fully developed.

That's why we're inviting you to come and join us in worship. To get to know God. To experience His love firsthand through Jesus Christ.

And give your spirit a lift. Regardless of your relationship with God right now, there's hope that it can be richer, because Jesus cares for you.



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