

January 31, 1995
Vol. 169, No. 5**FOR THE RECORD****Religious publishing's success turns pages & heads**By Tim Palmer
*Missouri Word & Way*JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—
Read any good religious books lately?

If your answer is no, it's not for lack of titles to choose from and it's probably not for lack of places to buy them. America's \$2-billion-a-year religious publishing industry is growing at warp speed.

"It's one of the hottest genres in publishing," according to longtime industry observer Phyllis Tickle, religion editor for Publishers Weekly.

The statistics back up Tickle's claim. From August 1993 to August 1994, sales volume for religious books rose by 87.2 percent, according to the Association of American

Publishers.

"That kind of growth will get anybody's attention," Tickle noted. She said a conservative estimate is that religion accounts for 8 percent of American publishing.

Broadman & Holman, the trade publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been among those riding the boom, according to Vicki Crumpton, acquisitions and development editor.

Why so much interest in books about religion?

Tickle points to a number of factors, including a breakdown in trust of authority and institutions after the Vietnam War. Religious seekers turned to what they believed they could trust—their own experience, she said.

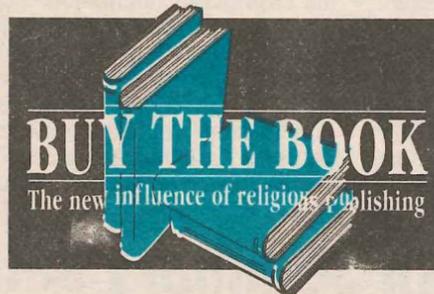
"What we used to take into the pastor's study, we're now taking into the book store," said Tickle, who started calling books "the portable pastor" in the

1980s.

She offered as her "proof text" James Dobson's "When God Doesn't Make Sense," which won this year's Evangelical Christian Publishers Book of the Year Award and had sold 600,000 copies by mid-1994.

Christian authors such as Dobson, Chuck Swindoll, Max Lucado and Charles Colson can take on a pastoral/counseling role through the "soft" medium of books, Tickle noted.

As baby boomers have returned to the church in the 1990s, they have continued to read religious books, Tickle said. "Often the pastors are handing them to them."

Crumpton said the portability of
□ See *Religious publishing ...*, page 6**Structure study**
A committee charged with recommending possible changes in the structure of the Southern Baptist Convention's agencies and institutions has completed its work and will make recommendations Feb. 20. See page 2.**Special delivery**
A team of Kentuckians has returned from Russia, where they delivered Christmas gift bags for children provided by Kentucky Baptists. See page 3.**Family Forum**
My wife is more private in her faith than I would like us to be with one another. How could we share more of our spiritual lives with one another? See page 4.**Editorial**
Do everybody a favor and help kill these rumors. See page 5.**Here's Hope**
Is there any hope in a troubled world like ours? See page 8.**Growth ideas**
Sunday school growth consultant Neil Jackson toured Kentucky earlier this month with a message of hope for smaller churches. See page 13.**SING ALONG** Children sing happily in a Baptist church in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Churches are organizing throughout the long-trodden land, where the communist Khmer Rouge once tried to destroy religion. Christians still make up a tiny fraction of Cambodia's 8.5 million people, who are predominantly Buddhist. Christian workers estimate Cambodia now may have from 10,000 to 20,000 evangelicals and perhaps 30,000 Roman Catholics. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)**Some childcare offices relocating downtown**

LOUISVILLE—The pregnancy counseling, adoption and foster care programs of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children soon will be housed in new offices in downtown Louisville, thanks to the donation of a Baptist group.

East Baptist Ministries is donating use of the building at 809 E. Chestnut for several Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children programs, including First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Service, the family foster care program and the family service division's administrative offices.

Renovation of the building was provided by Baptist Builders, supported by volunteers from area churches and children from Spring Meadows and Glen Dale children's homes. A move-in date is set for early February.

The programs to occupy the new

building currently are housed in the central administrative office of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children on the far eastern edge of Louisville. That office building is overflowing with workers, due to the agency's major expansions in services in recent years.

"The donation of the use of this building really has been an answer to prayer," said Larry Owens, family services director. "We have been expanding our services to meet the needs of more children but literally had no more space to put workers. Our newest foster care worker has been working out of his home and car since the fall."

Volunteer workers on the renovation came from Sligo Baptist Church in Sligo, Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, Westport Baptist Church in Westport, Centerfield Baptist Church in Centerfield and St.

Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Additional volunteers are needed to complete the renovation. For information, call Kathy Sanders at (502) 245-2101 or (800) 456-1386.

**NEW SPACE** Several programs of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will be housed in this building in downtown Louisville.**Russell Springs offering doubles and redoubles**

RUSSELL SPRINGS—First Baptist Church of Russell Springs doubled its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal last year, and then members nearly doubled that goal with their actual gifts.

The offering goal members thought would be a challenge was surpassed by 80 percent.

The 1994 offering goal was \$5,000—twice the 1993 goal of \$2,500. Actual receipts for the 1994 offering totalled \$9,001.

Church Secretary Brenda Aaron credited the influence of Interim Pastor John Wilson as one factor in the unusually large offering. Wilson and his wife, Marge, have served as volunteer missionaries in Namibia, Transkei, Swaziland and Somalia.

"The Wilsons' sharing of their experiences in the field has personalized foreign missions for the church family and brought a sense of immediacy to the need for sharing the message of salvation with the world," Aaron said.

The whopping gift to Lottie Moon does not come in isolation, however.

Also in 1994, the Russell Springs church gave \$2,500 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and \$1,500 to the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions. That's in addition to \$20,000—12 percent of undesignated receipts—given through the Cooperative Program unified budget to the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention.

The church also is participating in the KBC's Russia partnership, donating \$8,000 to Alexandrov Baptist Church near Moscow for installation of a heating system.

BAPTISTS

Committee to recommend changes in SBC structures

Some denominational leaders have said the SBC needs to streamline its operations and reduce the number of agencies and institutions it supports.

NASHVILLE—A study committee which could recommend a major reconfiguration of Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions has completed its work and will report to the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 20.

The seven-member "program and structure" committee announced Jan. 27 it has reached a unanimous recommendation, which will remain secret until the Feb. 20 presentation.

The study committee was appointed by the chairman of the Executive Committee in September 1993 in response to a motion referred from the 1993 SBC annual meeting. That motion was made by C.B. Hogue, now-retired executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention.

At the time, Hogue said the com-

mittee was needed to "study the program statements of SBC agencies and institutions and evaluate existing structures which are required to effectively implement such programs."

Some denominational leaders have said the SBC needs to streamline its operations and reduce the number of agencies and institutions it supports. One of the most frequently suggested changes would merge several smaller commissions—such as the Historical Commission, Education Commission and Stewardship Commission—into the Executive Committee. All three of these commissions currently are housed in the same building as the Executive Committee in Nashville, but operate with separate administrations and trustee boards.

A more radical idea reportedly at least considered by the study committee would merge the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board into one mission agency.

But for now, the study committee isn't saying which, if any, of these ideas it will recommend.

If the study committee's recommendations are approved by the Executive Committee in February, they will be recommended to messengers at the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta in June.

Any constitutional changes would require a two-thirds vote at two consecutive annual meetings. Bylaw changes do not require two consecutive votes and therefore could be enacted at the Atlanta meeting, with the exception of changes to bylaw 15,

which lists the agencies, institutions, commissions and auxiliary of the convention. Bylaw 15 can be changed by a simple majority vote at two consecutive annual meetings.

Members of the study committee are Mark Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., chairman; Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark.; William Hall, investments adviser from San Clemente, Calif.; Robert Sorrell, associate pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.; Rex Terry, attorney from Fort Smith, Ark.; Greg Horton, corporate executive from Simpsonville, S.C.; and Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Based on a Baptist Press report

Southeastern Seminary sells part of Wake Forest campus

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP)—Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary voted Jan. 4 to sell off 45 acres of wooded property near the seminary campus in Wake Forest, N.C., to an Atlanta-based developer that plans to build a shopping center on the site.

Neither seminary officials nor the developer would disclose the purchase price. The Raleigh News & Observer quoted sources familiar with the transaction as saying it will total about \$7 million.

Seminary spokesman Greg Kingry said it would be "inappropriate" for the seminary to reveal the sale price because doing so might affect negotiations with potential buyers of other seminary-owned parcels.

The sale grew out of a land-use master plan approved by trustees last

October. The plan calls for developing retail, office, industrial and residential parcels on sections of the 300 undeveloped acres owned by the seminary. The plan calls for selling off about 200 acres of land, leaving a buffer around the 25-acre campus.

Several trustees were reluctant to support the plan, but the 26 trustees summoned to a special meeting held behind closed doors unanimously approved the sale, said Paul Fletcher, the seminary's vice president for internal affairs.

The buyer was Baita International Inc., a fast-growing shopping center developer that plans to develop a 200,000-square-foot shopping center on the land, which sits adjacent to U.S. Highway 1, about a mile from the seminary's campus. It would be one of the largest shopping centers in

the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area.

Kingry said a report in the News & Observer that proceeds of the sale will go either into endowment funds or "to pay for a \$20 million expansion of the school" is inaccurate. While an expansion project was one suggestion offered for possible uses of proceeds, "there is no plan on the books for us to do a \$20 million expansion," he said.

Kingry said "nothing has been determined" about where proceeds from the sale will go. "The sale has not been completed. We think it would be inappropriate for us to designate funds when we have not received any proceeds," he said.

In the last two or three years, the seminary has been on the rebound from a financial crisis precipitated by

the mass resignation of President Randall Lolley and other administrators in 1987. Lolley had been in conflict with a new conservative majority on his board who wanted to change the way faculty members were selected.

In the aftermath of Lolley's resignation, student enrollment plummeted and fund-raising efforts faltered. To help Southeastern, the other five Southern Baptist Convention seminaries agreed to change the SBC's seminary funding formula to give Southeastern a temporary boost.

With the arrival of Paige Patterson as seminary president in 1992, student enrollment and finances began to improve. However, the special SBC subsidy ended last year, leaving a significant funding challenge for current administrators.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Patterson at New Orleans.** Morgan Patterson, former president of Georgetown College, is a visiting professor of church history this spring at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Missionary injured.** Southern Baptist missionary Keith Stamps is recovering from gunshot wounds sustained Jan. 20 in an attempted highway robbery in Guatemala. Stamps, 38, was treated in a hospital in Quetzaltenango and released Jan. 22.

A missionary to Guatemala since 1986, Stamps was shot in the right arm and shoulder while returning from teaching at a Baptist church in San Pedro, about an hour's drive from his home in Quetzaltenango. The injuries caused some nerve loss in two fingers on his right hand. Stamps was driving alone at night on an isolated stretch of road when someone tried to flag him down from the roadside in an apparent roadside robbery.

■ **Calvinist journal mailed.** Southern Baptist pastors, seminary professors and missionaries are to receive free copies of *Founders Journal*, a quarterly publication advocating Southern Baptists' roots in a theological system commonly known as Calvinism. Journal Editor Tom Ascol said 60,000 copies of a special issue are being distributed in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention's founding.

■ **Stanley to speak.** Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, will be the keynote speaker for this year's Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists June 21.

■ **Home Life on TV.** The Southern Baptist Convention's Radio & Television Commission and Sunday School Board are working together to bring the popular *Home Life* magazine to television in a talk-show format. The one-hour program will air on ACTS and FamilyNet the first week of March.

■ **English teachers sought.** A record number of volunteers is being sought for Southern Baptists' "Teachers to China" program this year. Volunteers will teach an intensive immersion program in conversational English in urban and rural settings across mainland China.

In most cases, certification and experience in classroom teaching or group leadership is required. Training in English as a Second Language and experience in working with international students is desirable.

Travel begins July 4, with volunteers returning to the United States Aug. 15. The cost is \$2,225 per person and includes transportation from Los Angeles plus housing, meals, teaching materials and orientation upon arrival in China. Prospective volunteers should call (901) 272-2461 or (800) 280-1891.



"Where is this amazing Grace you guys are always singing about?"

KENTUCKY

Conco named vice president at Campbellsville

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Paul Conco has been named executive vice president of Campbellsville College, replacing Ron Ellis who left last fall to become president of California Baptist College.

Conco last year completed the doctor of philosophy degree in educational administration from the University of South Carolina. From 1990 to 1993, he was president of Johnson and Wales University in Charleston, S.C.

President Ken Winters said Conco "brings with him a wide range of professional experiences ... which will further enhance our efforts at becoming one of the state's and region's foremost Christian private colleges."

As president of Johnson and Wales, Conco led the school to grow from 450 students to 1,100 in three years.

Before beginning his educational career in 1986, Conco was a food service executive.

In addition to his recently completed doctorate, he holds the bachelor of science degree in business and public administration from Central Michigan University and the bachelor of science degree from Southern Illinois University.

Conco's wife, Diana, is a registered nurse who has served as an assistant professor at the Medical University of South Carolina. The Concos have three children and have been members of East Cooper Baptist Church in Charleston.

Team delivers Christmas gifts in Russia

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

The latest team of Kentucky Baptists on mission in Russia didn't construct church buildings, conduct medical exams or teach in the pastor's school. These 12 missions volunteers helped distribute 15,000 Christmas gift bags to children.

The gifts, which included personal items and small toys, had been collected by Kentucky Baptists and shipped to Moscow last October. The distribution team left Kentucky Dec. 29 hoping to arrive in Russia at the same time the gifts did and help churches give them to children.

Most Baptists in Russia follow the Russian Orthodox Church's custom of celebrating Christmas Jan. 7. The volunteers represented the final step in a project that began a year ago in the minds of Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union leaders.

"A year ago, we had a team of 10 that went to St. Petersburg ... to help distribute gifts prepared by First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss.," explained Calvin Wilkins, KBC partnership missions coordinator.

Two of those volunteers—Brenda Price of the Kentucky WMU office and Bob Simpkins of the state's Brotherhood department—brainstormed about the possibility of Kentucky churches preparing gifts for the upcoming Christmas, Wilkins said.

The partnership missions office endorsed the idea and ordered 15,000 plastic bags imprinted with the Kentucky-Russia partnership logo and the words "God loves you" and "Happy New Year." Brightly-colored Frisbee-style disks with the same message also were ordered.

Church mission groups, Sunday school classes or entire churches collected other items to fill each bag

with candy, toothpaste, a comb, a T-shirt, socks, pencils, pencil sharpener, crayons or pens, a note pad and a handkerchief. Oral-B, makers of dental products, donated children's toothbrushes.

Each participating church donated \$2 per bag for the purchase of a Russian-language New Testament for each child.

"The Brotherhood department rounded up the bags from various collection sites around the state," Wilkins said. They were boxed, weighed, strapped, labeled and placed on a truck for Pennsylvania.

But as is often the case with mission trips, volunteers on the distribution team were required to be flexible. The gifts didn't arrive until a week after the Kentuckians were in Russia.

A trucking strike and difficulties getting through customs contributed to the delay, Wilkins explained. But volunteers "accepted the changes in a good spirit," he added.

"We did church visitation, ... and worked with Central Baptist Church in Moscow," Simpkins said. "We also did a lot of team-building activities."

Once the gifts arrived, a flurry of activity followed, noted Brenda Price of Kentucky WMU.

Some of the bags went to Sunday school children at Central Baptist Church and other area churches. Others were given to homeless children and to children in rehabilitation centers.

"The Russian Baptists were very impressed with the quality of the contents of the bags," Price said. "They made the comment that the items could really be used, and that

the bags were well-prepared."

One of the team's most striking experiences occurred on the last day, when they visited a women's prison.

Inmates' children under age 3 are cared for in a separate building on the prison compound. The team led a worship service for the women and distributed Christmas bags to the children.

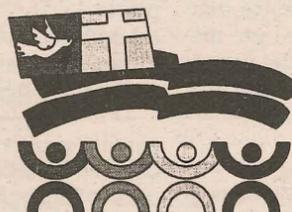
The service, which about 45 women attended, was especially memorable to Price, she said, "because I shared my faith with those people." After the service, several women sought out members of the team to talk with them through interpreters.

"You just have to depend on God to work through you, to give you the words to say to touch someone's heart," Price said.

This unique partnership effort also was significant for Kentuckians, Price said, because it provided "at least one project even our children could identify with."

A project such as this is effective in many ways, Wilkins added. It involved many people in the state who may not be able to travel to Russia; it benefitted children who might otherwise not have had gifts at Christmas; it helped build stronger relationships between Kentuckians and Russians; and Russian parents knew their children's bags came from Baptists in Kentucky, not simply from a government or humanitarian relief agency.

"A woman at one of the services we attended told us, 'Thank you for praying all those years for us,'" Price recalled. "That really hit me. God does answer prayers. He was working in Russia when we could not."



KENTUCKY / RUSSIA
BAPTIST PARTNERSHIP

Some of the bags went to Sunday school children at Central Baptist Church and other area churches. Others were given to homeless children and to children in rehabilitation centers.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Georgetown visitation day set.** High school juniors and seniors and their parents are invited to attend Georgetown College's "Visit in Person Day" Feb. 11. The full day of activities begins at 9 a.m. For information, call (800) 788-9985 or (502) 863-8009.

■ **Campbellsville visitation day set.** High school juniors and seniors are invited to attend Campbellsville College's spring visitation day Feb. 25. The afternoon of activities for prospective students and their parents begins at 2:30 p.m. For information, call (800) 264-6014 or (502) 789-5220.

■ **Pastor/staff conference planned.** The fourth annual Pastor/Staff Family Conference at Cumberland College will be July 17-19, the college announced. Program personalities include Bob Browning, pastor of First Baptist Church in Somerset; Kenny Faught, Cumberland College; Bradley Pope of Jackson, Miss.; and Donna Colegrove of Cumberland

College. The conference will include Bible studies on Amos, subject of the 1996 winter Bible study. For information, call Wayne Moore at (606) 539-4154.

■ **Campbellsville gets \$72,000.** Campbellsville College has received a gift of nearly \$72,000 from the estate of an anonymous donor from LaRue County, President Ken Winters announced.

■ **Southern honors Criswell.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will present the E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award to W.A. Criswell Feb. 7. Criswell, longtime pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, will preach at the 10 a.m. chapel service. The E.Y. Mullins Award is the seminary's equivalent of an honorary doctorate.

■ **Shipleigh elected chair.** Dan Shipleigh of Murray has been elected chairman of the trustee board at Campbellsville College. Other trustee officers include John Chowning of Campbellsville, vice chairman;

Jerry Bennett of Campbellsville, secretary; and Brad Johnson of Bowling Green, assistant secretary. Other trustee executive committee members include Roger Davis of Horse Cave, Lawrence Hall of Elizabethtown, Larry Noe of Campbellsville, Mary Frances May of Columbia, Ed Montgomery of Louisville, Chester Porter of Shepherdsville and Forest Shely of Campbellsville.

■ **Timerding graduates.** Eric Timerding of Louisville was omitted from the earlier Western Recorder listing of Kentucky graduates from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in December. Timerding received the master of church music degree.



Timerding

■ **Staley lectures set.** Charles Reese and Rebecca McCoy-Reese will deliver the annual Staley Lecture Series at Campbellsville College Jan. 31-Feb. 2. The

husband-wife duo will perform sketches and monologues on the theme of celebrating second chances and new beginnings.

■ **Accreditation reaffirmed.** The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has reaffirmed the accreditation of Campbellsville College. Further, the Baptist college has been upgraded to a Level III institution by SACS, which will allow the college to offer master's degree programs.

■ **Cumberland plays 100th game.** On Jan. 5, Cumberland College marked its 100th men's basketball game since becoming a four-year college in 1960. And Coach Randy Vernon reached a milestone of 400 career coaching wins when Cumberland defeated Lindsey Wilson College Jan. 12. Since arriving at Cumberland College in 1979, Vernon has led eight teams to the NAIA national tournament and one to the national quarterfinals.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Let intentionality be your guide

"Intentionality" may not be a word that normally enters into your daily conversation. It suggests there is a purpose behind what we say or do. In other words, it means there is a specific intention in mind when we say or do a particular thing. "Intentionality" refers to the motivation behind our actions.

As Christians, we should have a high degree of intentionality in our lives. The way we treat people, the things we do, the places we go, the things we choose to read, the things we choose to watch, the attitude we

choose to demonstrate, the things we choose to listen to—all these things reflect our intention.

If we are intent on bringing glory to God and growing closer in our relationship to him, then our behavior and attitude should all reflect this goal. When we approach life with an intentionality that causes us to be determined to view each situation in life as an opportunity for God to work in and through us, then our entire attitude toward life changes.

"Intentionality" also is a good

word for us to remember when we read God's word. For example, Scripture is a wonderful place for us to learn how to expand and cultivate our prayer lives.

Take the book of Psalms for example.

When you read a particular passage, keep your eye open for phrases that catch your attention. Perhaps this phrase or verse is something you can use during your prayer time as you talk to God.

Intentionally looking for verses to use during prayer time opens up the word of God in a new way, and it also enriches our prayer lives.

*Sanford K. Hill, pastor
Jeffersonton Baptist Church
Jeffersonton*

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

come a positive experience for the children when the BSU is here.

The highlight of the BSU contribution came when a drama team, a Southern gospel team and an ensemble did a worship service for the men. Over 30 worship people were involved in what had to be the best Christian worship experience ever afforded at our institution.

The inmate population was spiritually encouraged and enriched by the

program. The BSU group has promised to come back.

*John Ramsey, Chaplain
Eastern Kentucky Correctional Center
West Liberty*

Thanks for BSU

As chaplain at the state's largest prison, I coordinate religious programming for over 1,500 men. I have worked with many Christians who have ministered at the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex.

In November, we had a record 61 chapel-related services involving at least 114 volunteers. By far, the greatest contribution was made by the Baptist Student Union of Morehead.

The BSU helped in our visiting room all fall. During two Saturdays in November, they worked with the children of inmates. One Saturday, the BSU brought their puppet team and 50 large Christmas stockings filled with treats and a Bible for each of the children.

In an environment where the children are put through metal detectors and can be strip-searched for contraband, visits to their loved ones here could become negative events in their young lives. Thanks to the love and dedication of these young people, coming to the visiting room has be-

BAPTIST FORUM

Stick to KBC

I am writing in regard to the article about the Owensboro motorcycle church (WR, Jan. 17).

Certainly we Kentucky Baptists do not have salvation by grace nor church growth sewed up. Anyone who comes to Jesus with a repentant heart, convicted by the Holy Spirit and places their faith in Jesus will be saved, praise God.

*Joel C. Frizzell
Symsonia*

Preacher stories

More than a hundred local newspapers provide information to Kentuckians across this state.

Some of those carry "religious" material, including columns written by clergy, not a few of whom are Baptists.

One example is the Anderson News, in which J. Tyron Denney, pastor of Alton Baptist Church and second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention this year, has written a column for the past 12 years.

With his permission, I have selected one for you to enjoy:

"I spent several days the week before last in the land of my forefathers, around Carrollton, Ga. Places with names like Roopville, Tyus, Bowden, Roosterville and Lowell. Where they know how to pronounce 'Tyre' and spell 'Denney.' One day, I found the nursing home where my Aunt Isabell, the last surviving member of Mother's family, is living and had a wonderful hour with her. We spent much of the time talking about her daddy and my grand-

daddy, Willis Little.

"He was a great story-teller, and between the two of us, we re-told some of his classics. His generation believed in haints, ghosts, goblins and other kinds of strange beings. Many of his tales had some of them in them. But just before—with tears

in my eyes and a lump in my throat—I kissed her good-bye and left, as we fell all over ourselves, we tried to get ahead of each other telling about the protracted meeting when Uncle Willie and Aunt Sis got saved and were baptized.

They were not actually aunt or uncle to any of us—those were titles of respect that went with their advanced ages. And while their salvation was straight-forward enough, the baptizing was something else.

"We never could decide whether they were baptized in Grand-daddy's fish pond or in Yellowdirt Creek. I held out for the pond with its squeaking water wheel, but Aunt Isabell, because of the running water aspect, was positive it was old Yellowdirt Creek. She's probably right.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

"Anyway, Aunt Sis and Uncle Willie were the last two to be baptized; Aunt Sis and then Uncle Willie. She came up with the usual allotment of splutter, shoutin' and Hallelujahin'. But when Uncle Willie's turn came—well, as I've already said, Uncle Willie was something else.

"As the preacher lifted him up out of the water, something he was somewhat afraid of and not frequently exposed to, he was swinging both arms, stumbling, almost falling under again and shouting over and over: 'I seed my Jesus! I seed my Jesus! I seed my Jesus!'

"After more of this than she thought was really necessary, Aunt Sis grabbed him by the arm, shook him nearly hard enough to dry him out, and said: 'Hush yo' mouth, Willie! You ain't seen no Jesus. Twarn't nothing but a terrapin; I seed him too.'

"Which may go a long way in explaining the dilemma of the church today. There are too many Uncle Willies around who think they've seen Jesus when, in reality, it was something else."

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



Private faith

By Diana Garland

Q My wife is more private in her faith than I would like us to be with one another. Although we pray before meals together, she refuses to have a time of prayer with me as a couple. I wish we could share more of our spiritual lives.

A The Bible describes the vulnerability we feel before God as physical nakedness.

Sometimes partners have had experiences in family worship as children that turn them away from a similar ritual in their own families. Perhaps Bible reading and memorization were used as punishment or a parent prayed prayers such as "Please forgive Susie for being such a bad child today, Lord, and help her see how much she has hurt me."

If there is any hint you want to use prayer to communicate such messages, your partner will refuse to have anything to do with it.

Comfort in sharing our spiritual selves with one another can only come with time. Be gentle and encouraging. Recognize some people are simply more private than others.

If you both appreciate praying together at meals, then ask your wife if it would be all right to read a verse or two of Scripture before you pray together. You may share a devotional reading together at that time, but respect your spouse's reservations and ask her first.

You also can pray together in the everydayness of your lives together. You may find that sentence prayers of thanksgiving, "Thank you, O God, for every new morning with this woman you gave me!" may bring a smile of shared thanksgiving. Share your thoughts and concerns in small ways.

Prayer together will grow out of a carefully tended relationship in which you cherish your partner and communicate your willingness to know her and accept her and love her on ever-deeper levels.

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

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

EDITORIALS

Do everybody a favor, and help kill these rumors

Oh, to be as robust and resilient as a rumor! A strong rumor makes Superman look limpid. Missiles of fact bounce harmlessly off its hard hide. Armies of truth-tellers scream themselves hoarse trying to out-shout its noisy din. Marching across the landscape, a rowdy rumor devours truth, justice and plain-old common sense.

Unfortunately, two rapacious rumors have raided Kentucky Baptist churches in recent days. Be warned:

The FCC is NOT taking religion off the airwaves.

The "Madalyn Murray O'Hair is about to get religion thrown off TV" rumor is the strongest, most death-defying petty falsehood on earth. For almost 20 years, the Western Recorder has carried editorials and news stories telling Kentucky Baptists the rumor is false. The earliest clipping in our files dates to 1977, and its tired tone indicates Editor C.R. Daley already had written many words explaining how false this rumor was. The most recent anti-rumor editorial ran on this page less than three months ago. But the rumor bounced back, full of vigor and venom.

No, infamous atheist O'Hair has not been granted a Federal Communications Commission hearing "which would ultimately pave the way to stop the reading of religion on the airwaves of America." Phony petitions perpetuating this problematic prevarication incorrectly link O'Hair to a formal request—RM 2493—asking the FCC to ban the broadcast of Sunday worship services. Similar petitions claim O'Hair "is campaigning to remove Christmas programs, Christmas songs and Christmas carols from the public schools."

The petitions are wrong on several counts.

To begin with, O'Hair never was associated with RM 2493. That distinction belongs to Jeremy Lansman and Lorenzo Milam, who asked the FCC to freeze licenses for television and FM radio stations that were to air only religious or quasi-religious programs.

Moreover, FCC commissioners unanimously denied RM 2493 more than 19 years ago. Citing the First Amendment's guarantees of religion and speech, the commission specifically stressed it could not prohibit radio and TV stations from presenting religious programs.

And the dates on the petitions prove they are at least 16 years old. The petitions typically claim O'Hair got Bible reading and prayer removed from schools "15 years ago." The Supreme Court handed down that decision in mid-1963—more than 31 years ago.

You can help battle this rumor by taking several easy steps.

First, clip this editorial.

Next, put it in a safe place.

Later, whenever you hear the "Madalyn Murray O'Hair is about to get Billy Graham thrown off TV" rumor again (and you will), pull this out and read it.

Then get a copy of the petition. Find the reference to RM 2493 or some combination of the numerals 2, 4, 9 and 3 (and you will). Find the reference to O'Hair's 1963 school-prayer victory "15 years ago" (and you will).

After that, tell whoever's peddling the rumor that it's been a dead issue for almost two decades.

Finally, ask for all the copies of the petition you can get, and go burn every last one of them.

Kentucky Baptists are NOT canceling camp.

This new rumor started making the rounds in December, when the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board voted to relinquish "ownership and management responsibility" of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. The KBC has owned Cedarmore since 1951 and has conducted hundreds of children's and youth camps at the rural Shelby County facility. Unfortunately, the camp's occupancy rate has been abysmally low. And after two extensive studies, the Executive Board determined the KBC's best interests would not be served by spending almost \$4 million to preserve the camp.

Despite the board's repeated explanations, many Kentucky Baptists so equate Cedarmore with summer camp—at least in the central and eastern parts of the state—that they believe the convention is getting out of the camping business altogether.

But that simply isn't true. The Executive Board never even considered discontinuing camp. The latest study and recommendations proposed the convention make "appropriate arrangements for summer camp programs to continue." A special transition committee will suggest how KBC camps still can be conducted.

Rather than "killing" camp, the latest decision may save camp. Studies show Cedarmore has not drawn campers from a wide geographical range. By spreading the camps across the state, the KBC may find its camping program rejuvenated, with more campers attending camps in better facilities, closer to their homes.

You can help rebuff this rumor by sharing the truth. The Executive Board did not decide to discontinue camping. It merely decided to do a significant part of its camping in a different way.

Well, there you have the lowdown on the rumors that have preyed upon Kentucky Baptists for the past few weeks. Several facts of life lend strength to rumors. They're usually more interesting than the truth, not to mention far more exciting. Consequently, passing on a rumor is more fun than killing it with facts. And finding the facts is much more work than feeding the rumor.

But in addition to perpetuating untruth, rumors also inflict other damage on those they contact. First, they sap valuable energy. If every minute that has been spent circulating anti-O'Hair petitions and writing letters to the FCC had been spent in prayer or witnessing, the Christian impact on this nation would be much, much greater. And second, they deflect attention from real answers to real problems. Kentucky Baptists who spend this year fighting the nonsensical notion that the KBC has given up on camp will not channel creative energy into solutions for lifting the level of camping to new heights.

Marv Knox

Two tough rumors have been rummaging through Kentucky Baptist life in recent weeks. One says Madalyn Murray O'Hair is trying to get religion thrown out of the nation's broadcast media. The other says the Kentucky Baptist Convention is abandoning its camping program. Both are false.

Nothing like a blow-dried sweater to warm up a cold winter morning

What's wrong with this picture? I'm minding my own business, brushing my teeth and getting ready for another day at the office. Joanna comes up the stairs, walks into the bathroom and turns on the hairdryer.

At first, I don't notice anything unusual. People run hair dryers in our bathroom morning and night. But then I realize Joanna's hair was dry at breakfast. So, I turn around to see if she washed her hair in the kitchen sink on an early-morning whim.

Not a chance. She's got the dryer poked down a sleeve of the sweater she just pulled out of the closet. She's blowing hot air on every fiber.

She read the question in my eyes. "This sweater's cold," she explained. "I'm heat-

ing it up before I put it on."

A sage once declared, "Necessity is the mother of invention." But around our house, Mother is the inventor of stuff that eventually comes to be considered necessity. I already envision the time when Lindsay and Molly won't pull their blue jeans on in winter without blasting the legs with hair-dryer air.

"It's too cold," they'll whine. "I can't put my pants on until they're warm."

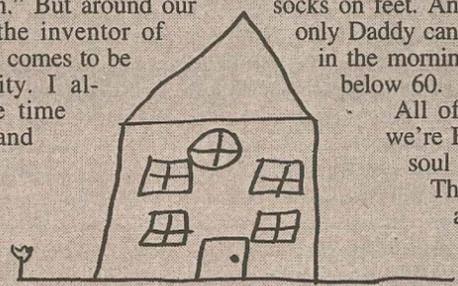
These are the same people who think

sleeping between the months of November and April is impossible without socks on feet. And people who believe only Daddy can go get the newspaper in the morning if the temperature's below 60.

All of which is fine, since we're Baptists and believe in soul freedom and the like.

They can sleep in socks as long as they don't make me sleep in socks. And I'll go get the paper in the cold as long as I get the front section while my coffee's still hot.

The fascinating thing about living in



down home

Religious publishing on fast-track to growth

Continued from page 1

books is part of their appeal.

"Books are an extremely convenient way of carrying information," she said. "And the price still makes them very accessible."

While \$19.95 may seem steep for a hardback book, it's still cheaper than weekly sessions with a therapist.

Rapid growth in religious publishing has meant heightened competition among publishers and retailers.

"There's a healthy tension and an awareness that the Christian consumer is more and more sophisticated," Crumpton said. Readers expect quality in writing and packaging, she noted.

Broadman & Holman publishes about 50 general interest titles a year. It also produces about 15 academic textbooks and one or two reference books, plus five volumes a year of the New American Commentary series.

The company releases four titles a year in its professional development line, whose authors include Calvin Miller and Ken Hemphill.

Broadman & Holman also has placed increasing emphasis on textbooks for the Southern Baptist market and beyond, Crumpton noted.

"We're aiming for the broader Christian, the broader evangelical

market," Crumpton said. "Southern Baptists obviously make up a large part of that market because there are so many. We see the Southern Baptist Convention as a launchpad for Broadman & Holman's efforts."

If that's the case, the Sunday School Board's missile silos are its 65 Baptist Book Stores in 22 states.

But Baptist Book Stores and other Christian retailers are having to adjust to dramatically changing marketplace trends, said Jim Gilliland, director of marketing for Baptist Book Stores.

Formerly, he noted, a Christian book store could set up shop and keep a loyal base of customers. Today that store faces competition from Wal-Mart and other mainstream retailers, from catalogs and from home shopping networks.

"Our challenge is to make sure we have relevant products in our stores," Gilliland said.

Although the Baptist Book Store chain began in 1912 as an outlet for denominational products, today's customers are shopping for more than Southern Baptist-produced products, he said.

While attempting to meet this diverse demand, the Baptist chain avoids selling products most Baptists might find objectionable. For example, Baptist Book Stores do not carry Betty J. Eadie's "Embraced by the Light," the best-selling religion book

of 1993, because of its Mormon-flavored theology.

"We're very careful about what's in the stores," Gilliland said. "There's a delicate balance between having relevant products and being faithful to our Southern Baptist heritage."

Future prospects look bright for Christian publishing, Tickle noted, since religious fervor historically increases near the turn of a century.

She cited a 1992 Gallup poll that

predicted religion as the second-largest growth area in publishing over the next 15 years, behind computers/economics.

Crumpton said men's books might represent the greatest opportunity and the greatest challenge for Christian publishers. "We've been watching the Promise Keepers movement very closely," she said.

Promise Keepers is a para-church movement that has attracted thousands of men to rallies across the nation. Promise Keepers has strong ties to one of the Christian publishing industry's foremost figures, James Dobson of Focus on the Family.

Most of the market for Christian books now is women, Crumpton explained. If men become serious shoppers, publishers and book sellers will have to accommodate their needs.

Tickle noted a continuing interest in "finding the sacred in the ordi-

nary" through angels and near-death experiences.

Historical saints may march in and bump angels from the pinnacle of popular culture, she predicted. "St. Augustine is big right now."

So is Pope John Paul II, whose book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," is an international best-seller. Tickle, an Episcopalian, said she believes many Protestants are buying the book because of "the need for religious heroes and the pastoral nature of this man—his public persona."

Fiction is another growth area for religious publishers, she noted. Some, including Thomas Nelson, offer readers alternatives in fiction genres such as romance, mystery and western with books that "give the story minus the sex, violence and profanity."

And despite America's plunge into the electronic age, Crumpton thinks books will be around for a while.

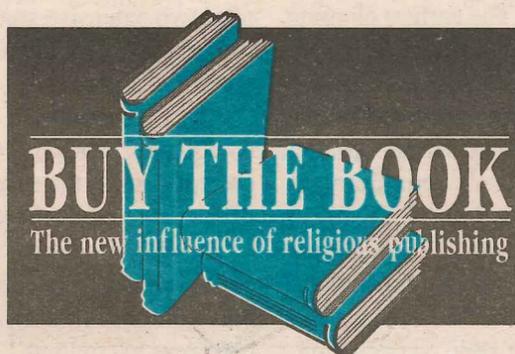
"There's something about curling up with a good book that meets a very basic need we have for spending time with something, and reflecting and enjoying rather than driving through McDonald's and having all of our needs met in three seconds."

She pointed out that in the recent "Star Trek: The Next Generation" television series, Capt. Picard often was seen reading a book on his 24th century starship. "He treats them as prized possessions," she said.

NOTE: All data on Christian best-sellers is based on actual sales in Christian retail stores in the United States and Canada during December 1994. Distributed by Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. Listing does not constitute endorsement by the Western Recorder.

Best-selling hardback non-fiction

1. *When God Whispers Your Name*, Max Lucado.
2. *My Utmost for His Highest* (updated), Oswald Chambers.
3. *Angels*, Billy Graham.
4. *The Finishing Touch*, Charles Swindoll.
5. *The Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper*.
6. *The Book of Virtues*, William Bennett.
7. *When God Doesn't Make Sense*, James Dobson.
8. *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers.
9. *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, James Strong.
10. *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado.



Religious books for kids abound, but look for content and quality

By Shari Schubert
Missouri Word & Way

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—The rapid increase in availability of "Christian" books for children has created a larger need for parents to screen what their children read, according to several experts in the field.

Baptist librarians and educators emphasize the importance of evaluating each book on its merits rather than making blanket judgments based on genre, topic, author, publisher or where the book is

distributed.

And just because a book is sold in a Christian book store doesn't guarantee its quality or its suitability for a church or Christian home library, noted Jacquelyn Anderson, media library director at First Baptist Church of Nashville.

Some of the most innocent things, on closer examination, may prove inconsistent with concepts parents and teachers want their children to be learning, she said.

Toddlers' picture Bibles—which aren't really Bibles, but just picture books with Bible verses—"are intended to be cute," said Barbara Freese, lead consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church media library program. But they may give small children the wrong impression of what the Bible actually is, she said.

Evaluation of children's literature—religious or secular—calls for paying attention to illustrations, as well as text.

Anderson, author of the forth-

coming book "Selecting Media," said one of the first illustrations she looks at in Bible story books is the baptism of Jesus—to see whether John is practicing baptism by immersion or sprinkling.

Cartoon illustrations of Bible stories concern many religious educators, who fear these may lead children to form inaccurate ideas of Bible people, places and events.

Freese also offered a word of caution about grotesque art. She explained that when children are exposed to bizarre art styles—perhaps in an otherwise innocuous context—it tends to break down sensitivities and make satanic imagery seem "not so strange."

At the same time, sometimes things adults are concerned about are things children don't notice, countered Jane Schafer, assistant professor of education at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo.

She gave the example of the 1969 book "Sylvester and the Magic Pebble" by William Steig. All the

characters in the story are animals. Sylvester and his parents are donkeys; the children in the neighborhood are puppies, kittens, colts and piglets; the policemen in the story happen to be pigs.

That didn't sit well with some adults who saw a double meaning in the illustrations. But Schafer, a former first-grade teacher, has read the story to children many times, she said, and they don't pick up on that aspect.

Books, videos and other resources for children should use language and concepts that are appropriate to the child's developmental level, said Barbara Tucker, minister of education at First Baptist Church of Greenwood, S.C. "Children think very literally," she explained.

Baptist educators also are concerned about excessive violence creeping into religious books for children. Even though the Bible includes violent stories, not all those stories are appropriate for teaching children, they contend.

Best-selling children's books

1. *The Crippled Lamb*, Max Lucado.
2. *The Door in the Dragon's Throat*, Frank Peretti.
3. *The Baby Bible Storybook*, Robin Currie.
4. *The First Step Bible*, Mack Thomas.
5. *The Preschoolers Bible*, V. Gilbert Beers.
6. *Escape from the Island of Aquarius*, Frank Peretti.
7. *The Tombs of Anak*, Frank Peretti.
8. *Trapped at the Bottom of the Sea*, Frank Peretti.
9. *The Tale of Three Trees*, Angela Elwell Hunt.
10. *Just in Case You Ever Wonder*, Max Lucado.

Murderer turned priest tells story of repentance

By Christopher Rose
Religion News Service

NEW ORLEANS (RNS)—In short, the Vaughan Booker story goes like this: It's the 1940s and he is a model youth, a child of great promise, good grades and rigorous spirituality. Altar boy. Eagle Scout.

He gets a good job, marries a good woman, has good kids. Something snaps. They fight. He drinks. He spirals down. It's bad.

He comes home in a rage one night in 1967 and puts his Boy Scout skills to work by firing five arrows into his wife's neck and torso. The press dubs it the Robin Hood Murder.

He confesses, gets life.

He repents. Becomes a spiritual counselor in prison, studies for the ministry, becomes a deacon. He wins praise and commendations from outside counselors and ministers.

He is paroled in 1982, gets a job, attends a seminary and, 10 years later, becomes an Episcopal priest. He is named rector of Meade Memorial Episcopal Church in Alexandria, Va., where he preaches the degradation of sin and the plight of modern family; he knows whereof he speaks.

He writes a book, published in November, that tells this story, and that's where it stands today: He is Vaughan Booker, priest, author, celebrity, killer. Coming to a talk show near you.

One stop on his city-to-city tour was New Orleans, where he pitched the story to television, radio and print media.

To him, it's a story of redemption—his book is called "From Prison to Pulpit."

"This book isn't about Vaughan Booker," he insists. "It is a book about everyone in the midst of our pain, our anger, our rage, in the midst of our shame and our guilt. It is a story of how God can reach down and lift us up."

Many folks find solace in this story—a happy ending, the triumph of good over evil, the restoration of faith and hope.

To others, it leaves a bad taste. It is chilling, to be sure. How can a brutal killer walk among us like this in vestments, treated with respect and accolades?

It is a walking contradiction, the Vaughan Booker story. He presents the ultimate conundrum.

"What are your views on the criminal justice system?" are his first words at an interview, then, "Do you believe in redemption?"

Maybe you do—in theory—but here is the real deal. This is not a former junkie or reformed car thief talking.

Do you believe in redemption?

He had no prior criminal record and has shown no violent proclivities since that autumn night in '67. But ...

"There will always be people for me and people who are against me," Booker says. "I have a problem with people who think we must remain in the mire of our sins. There is scrip-

tural precedent to all this. The Bible is replete with people who have—yes—killed, and have repented and returned to the Lord.

"We're told all our lives that if we sin we should repent and turn back to the Lord and better ourselves," he says. "I find that, once you do that, it is not enough for some people, but it is enough for the Lord."

It is not enough for many of Anabelle Booker's surviving relatives, who speak in the book of their lingering resentment.

It is not enough for some talk-radio callers who say they want to kill him when he visits their town.

But it certainly

is enough to draw the nation's attention. The book hit stores in November and everyone from Phil Donahue to the Washington Post has moved in for a closer look. Booker has done 150 interviews in the past three months.

He is comfortable in the face of cameras and tape recorders, almost cocky. He claims he is no celebrity and seeks no fame, only that his message is too strong to leave undelivered.

"I don't want the focus on me," he says. "I'd rather the focus be on the message, not the messenger. There are many people like me who have been in prison and got out and

done well—but they want to live nice, quiet lives. They don't want to talk about what they went through, and that's all right. But I am a repentant sinner and one who knows the power and grace of Jesus Christ."

To an audience of about 100 at the Christian Unity Baptist Church in New Orleans, he explained it this way: "When you are overwhelmed by grief, by guilt, by shame, then take it somewhere, don't keep it in. Take

it to the counselor. Take it to the pastor. Take it to God."

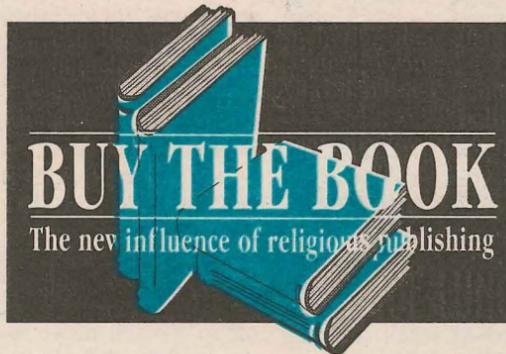
But there's more to Booker's story. His son was shot to death in the streets of Philadelphia four years ago. He is remarried and has reconciled with his daughter by his first wife. Someone with a gun in his pocket came to Booker for counseling at the church where he is rector. He said he was going to kill his wife. Booker changed the man's mind.

A man at a recent book-signing party bought three copies of Booker's book. One for himself, one for a friend and one for Susan Smith, the South Carolina mother charged with strapping her kids into her car and drowning them in a lake.

Booker inscribed a message of hope for her, and the man who bought the book said he will send it to her.

Best-selling paperback non-fiction

1. *God's Little Instruction Book.*
2. *Mama, Get the Hammer,* Barbara Johnson.
3. *God's Little Instruction Book 2.*
4. *God Came Near,* Max Lucado.
5. *Planet Earth—2000 A.D.,* Hal Lindsey
6. *Stick a Geranium in Your Hat and Be Happy!* Barbara Johnson.
7. *No Wonder They Call Him the Savior,* Max Lucado.
8. *Amazing Grace,* Kenneth Osbeck.
9. *More than a Carpenter,* Josh McDowell.
10. *What the Bible is All About,* Henrietta Mears.



Christian woman develops alternative romance novels

CANDO, N.D. (BP)—One mark of a successful author might be that she can't remember how many books she has published.

"Forty-plus" was the best estimate Judy Baer could come up with. With the myriad demands on her time—as wife, mother, public speaker, writer and confidant to hundreds of letter-writers each month—she can be forgiven.

Half or more of the Cando, N.D., resident's titles are in Baer's "Cedar River Daydreams" series for young adults.

Through 24 books in this series, protagonist Lexi Leighton and her

young friends have encountered everything from eating disorders to environmentalism to Down's syndrome to suicide.

"Publishers Weekly" said the series is considered the "Christian alternative" to the secular marketplace's popular "Sweet Valley High" books.

Baer, a Lutheran, is comfortable with the Christian label but doesn't view herself as an alternative.

"It's a biblical directive that we reach out," she noted. So she tries to write books with "take-away" value—"to plant seeds in people's minds that there are other ways of thinking

about things."

Bethany House, Baer's publisher, asked her to start a new series for young adults while continuing "Cedar River Daydreams." The result is "Live from Brentwood High," which chronicles the lives of a group of big-city teenagers who are members of a television production class.

Baer gets ideas for stories by watching television, reading newspapers and reading magazines that teenagers read. She also spends time talking to and listening to young people, including her 18- and 15-year-old daughters.

Barb Lillund, Baer's editor at Be-

thany House, said Baer's success stems from her ability to speak directly to young adults. "She doesn't speak down to them—she speaks at their level. They really view her as a best friend."

Her young readers share their hurts and feelings with the author in 200 letters a month. She reads and answers every letter—most with a newsletter and a brief note; some with a longer message. She often includes verses of Scripture in the advice she gives.

Best-selling fiction

1. *Christy,* Catherine Marshall.
2. *The Twilight of Courage,* Bodie and Brock Thoene.
3. *This Present Darkness,* Frank Peretti.
4. *Piercing the Darkness,* Frank Peretti.
5. *Too Long a Stranger,* Janette Oke.
6. *Shadow of the Mountains,* Lynn and Gilbert Morris.
7. *Escape to Freedom,* Michael Phillips.
8. *Prophet,* Frank Peretti.
9. *Hinds' Feet on High Places,* Hannah Hurnard.
10. *Joshua,* Joseph Girzone.

Baptist professor gets notoriety with book on occult

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)—An Arkansas Baptist professor who wrote a book on the occult from a Christian perspective said the book has generated notoriety both in secular and religious circles.

William Viser, author of "The Darkness Among Us, A Look at the Sinister Growth of the Occult and How Dangerously Close It Is to You," said the book recently entered its second printing with a run of more than 10,000 copies.

Viser, associate professor of religion at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., said he had mixed feelings about writing the book.

"The subject matter has made it an interesting experience and what has happened as a result of the writing has excited me, but I don't know of anyone in their right mind who would want to write a book of this nature unless the Lord led them to it," he said.

"It's so dark and oppressive," he said. "When you ... research evil and you see all of the manifestations of it, it works on your spirit. I really felt depression."

He emphasized, however, that his aim in writing the book was not to be sensational. Beyond the frightening facts, the book includes suggestions for countering occultic influences.

"What I felt like the Lord wanted me to do was to send a wake-up call

and tell people that this is not just fun and games," he added.

Viser wrote that many people refuse to acknowledge the occult because they are "too sophisticated, too spiritually blind, too scared, too naive or too doubtful."

Here's Hope TODAY



Providence Church wins one a day

"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.

FRANKLIN—The first seven days of the "Here's Hope" evangelism campaign brought seven new converts into Providence Baptist Church of Franklin.

The professions of faith resulted from an overarching emphasis on evangelism rather than just a one-time emphasis, said Pastor Steve Curtis.

"Everything we do is geared to winning somebody to Christ," said Curtis, pastor for 12 years at the church which averages 200 in Bible study attendance. "Ten years ago we were averaging 42 in Sunday school and that's how we've grown."

The seven people who professed faith in Jesus Christ during the first week of "Here's Hope" include four women and three men, ranging in age from a pair of teenagers to three people over 40.

Three of the new Christians were baptized Jan. 15 at the church, located near I-65 and the Tennessee border. One of the teenagers was baptized at another church.

Curtis said baptism will be a difficult issue for the other teen, the

daughter of a local leader in the Mormon church.

"We'll never see her baptized but when she becomes an adult we hope to see the fruit in her life," Curtis said. "Her parents will let her come to special events here."

The "Here's Hope" campaign's impressive beginning at Providence Baptist Church wasn't inspired by the use of commitment cards, Curtis said. He simply promoted the event from the pulpit and challenged members to get involved.

Providence members have responded in a variety of ways. Some are developing relationships with neighbors, and others are baking bread to give away with the gospel. Some are redoubling efforts with friends and relatives.

The church has planned several events during the Super Bowl party this past Sunday. It featured the showing of an evangelistic video at halftime.

The church also sponsored "Telephone Sunday," where members committed to call five people during

the week to share their faith. Sunday school teachers were encouraged to contact all their prospects.

Women and men will take turns cooking for each other at outreach dinners the first two Saturdays of February.

On Feb. 18 the church plans a game night, with members asked to bring as their playing partner someone who is not a Christian.

Teenagers are taking an active role too. At a recent lock-in, half the 40 youth in attendance were not Christians. And the group is preparing for a "pizza blast" next month. It will include entertainment and a worship service, with a goal of 50 participants.

The church hopes to baptize at least 20 people during this year's "Here's Hope" emphasis, which is off to a much faster start at Providence than the 1990 evangelism campaign, which focused on simultaneous revivals.

"Most of our decisions then came during the revival," Curtis said. "I anticipate most of our responses this time will come before the revival."

This waiter was waiting to hear about Jesus

MOUNT WASHINGTON—Evangelist Philip Bradshaw was "off duty" the night he took his family to dinner at a Cracker Barrel restaurant in Louisville. But when he gave the gospel with his tip, a waiter responded to the invitation.

"I hadn't even thought about witnessing that night," Bradshaw said. "But I do it as a lifestyle. When I travel, I witness to waiters, busboys or bellhops. I've noticed a lot of those people are willing to listen."

On this night, Bradshaw and his family were so impressed with Jim, the young man who waited on them, that Bradshaw complimented him on the exceptional service.

After Jim told the family his name, the evangelist asked whether he was a Christian. Suddenly Jim stopped cleaning up the table.

"Well, not really," he said softly. "I'm a Catholic but I don't go to church much."

"Religion doesn't make you go to heaven, regardless of the religion," explained Bradshaw, former pastor of Kings Baptist Church near Mount Washington. "You need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ."

Bradshaw gave a brief explanation of how God provided the way to eternal life, but paused to say the busy waiter probably didn't have much time.

"I'm going to take the time," Jim replied. "I've been waiting for someone to tell me about Jesus."

"I couldn't believe it," Bradshaw said. "He just stood there and listened. Finally I said, 'Would you be willing to give your life to the Lord?'"

"Man, you're really getting next to me," the waiter said. "You're giving me goose bumps."

"That's not me, Jim. That's the Holy Spirit. Is there any reason you wouldn't be willing to give your life to the Lord?"

"Right now, I can do it?" he asked.

"Right now, you can," Bradshaw nodded.

"I wanted to do that. What do I do?"

After Jim prayed a simple prayer of repentance, Bradshaw stressed to him the importance of finding a church and being baptized.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," the man said, shaking Bradshaw's hand. Then he returned to the kitchen.

Soon the manager appeared at the Bradshaws' table.

"I'm a Christian," the woman said, "and I just want to thank you so much. We've been praying for Jim for so long, and now he's found Jesus."

WHERE'S HOPE?

Is there any hope in our world today? The Bible says there is hope because Jesus cares for you.

■ **The first stop on the road to hope is power.** There is a power capable of giving you hope. The Bible tells us that power belongs to God.

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16)

■ **The second stop on the road to hope is change.** The release of God's power results in change. The biblical word for change is repentance. This means allowing God to change the direction of our lives. This is necessary because of a universal problem the Bible calls sin. Sin means "missing the mark" or failing to meet God's standard for how we should live.

"God's kindness leads you toward repentance." (Romans 2:4)

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

■ **The third stop on the road to hope is God's love.**

Although God is not pleased with us as we are, God loves us and wants to help us. Unfortunately, our sin carries the penalty of death, both physical and eternal. God is willing to forgive us by accepting Jesus as our substitute. Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty of our sin. His resurrection from the dead provides our eternal life.

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ." (Romans 6:23)

■ **The fourth stop on the road to hope is commitment.** Commitment means to turn away from sin to follow God's new direction for your

life, trust Jesus as your Savior, acknowledge Jesus as the supreme authority over your life and ask God for forgiveness, eternal life and hope.

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:9,13)

This commitment is expressed in a prayer to God. Use your own words, but you might pray something like this:

"Dear God, I believe Jesus is your Son and that he died on the cross and was raised from the dead to pay for my sins. Because I have sinned and need forgiveness, I ask Jesus to come into my heart. I am willing to change the direction of my life by acknowledging Jesus as my Lord and Savior and by turning away from my sins. Thank you for giving me forgiveness, eternal life and hope. In Jesus' name, Amen."

■ **Finally, you can be assured of hope and eternal life in Jesus.** You can trust God's promise.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

■ **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.**

His witnessing opportunity came knocking

OAK GROVE—On the first evening of the "Here's Hope" evangelism campaign, Pastor Ron Wells was so tired his secretary talked him into going home before weekly church visitation.

The pastor of First Baptist Church of Oak Grove felt bad, but he felt even worse about not being able to participate in the weekly visitation effort.

But just as Wells' family was getting ready to eat dinner, the parsonage doorbell rang. Standing there was a woman, crying and distraught over some personal problems.

A U.S. Army soldier, two years ago she had visited the church, located a mile from Fort Campbell. On this night, she said God had sent her to this place for help.

Wells counseled by the woman for 45 minutes. He closed with leading her in a prayer to trust Jesus Christ as Savior.

"I was overwhelmed because I wanted to go out and witness that day and instead the Lord led someone to me," Wells said. "I'm constantly telling the congregation if we ask God to give us opportunities to witness, he will. That was a neat experience because I wanted to lead by example."

The church apparently followed the pastor's lead from that point, because in the next two weeks, three people joined the church, two as candidates for baptism. The woman Wells counseled also is expected to return soon for baptism.

Here's Hope TODAY



Many new tools available to help ease fear of witnessing

The vast majority of Christians—maybe as many as 97 percent of them—never share their faith with non-believers, according to a study by Darrell Robinson, Southern Baptists' evangelism leader.

And fear is the biggest factor in that failure, believes Monty Carter, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's associate director of evangelism.

"Christians are afraid to tell others about Christ," Carter explained. "They're not sure they know how; they don't know what will happen. They're just afraid."

That's why Kentucky Baptist churches need to be training people to witness naturally throughout the course of day-to-day living, he added. "Many new lifestyle evangelism and relationship evangelism tools can move people beyond their fears. They can help us share our faith through our own gifts and strengths."

Carter suggests a variety of resources to help Kentucky Baptists share their faith during the "Here's Hope" campaign and beyond:

■ Training & studies for adults.

■ "Witnessing through Your Relationships," by Jack R. Smith and Jennifer Kennedy Dean, is a 13-session training unit designed to help Christians learn to share their faith with family, friends and neighbors. It's part of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's popular LIFE series.

■ "Friends Forever," a book by Smith, extends the concept of relational evangelism. It helps Christians identify their circle of friends who need to hear about Christ. "Friends Forever" is published by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

■ "Learning to Share My Faith," by Chuck Kelley, is a six-week course that teaches Christians how to use the "Roman Road" plan in witnessing. It also offers tips on how to overcome barriers to sharing one's faith, and it's produced by the Sunday School Board.

■ "Out of Their Faces and into Their Shoes," is a brand-new book published under the Sunday School

Board's Broadman and Holman label. Author John Kramp discusses the concepts of "lostology," helping Christians understand their non-Christian friends.

■ "Conspiracy of Kindness" explains how to be a Christian whose style of servant-evangelism follows Jesus' parable of the sower. Author Steve Sjogren is pastor of Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Cincinnati, one of the nation's fastest-growing churches. Vineyard Fellowship reaches people by doing tangible acts of kindness. "Conspiracy of Kindness" is published by Vine Books.

■ "Gentle Persuasion" and "Lifestyle Evangelism," two books by Joseph Aldrich, offer creative ideas for sharing faith in natural, non-confrontive ways. Aldrich developed the concept of "gentle boldness" and says Christians should be "attack lambs of the world." These books are published by Multnomah Press.

■ "People Sharing Jesus," by Darrell Robinson, is an overall training program that incorporates creativity

and humor in video to train Christians to witness. Its applications are bountiful and flexible; it can be used in a variety of church settings. "People Sharing Jesus," produced by Thomas Nelson/Word and the Home Mission Board, will be out later this year.

■ Training & studies for youth.

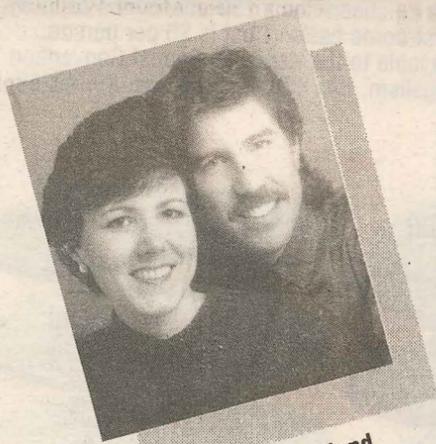
■ "Dare to Share," Roy Fish's five-session training program, was updated by the Sunday School Board's Convention Press label in 1993. It presents youth with a simple and straightforward challenge to share their faith in their circles of influence.

■ "The Road to Hope" is a youth training resource designed for the "Here's Hope" campaign but will be useful well beyond this year.

■ "Edge TV," a video series from Youth Specialties, and videos by Group Publishing provide witness training that hits home for today's youth.

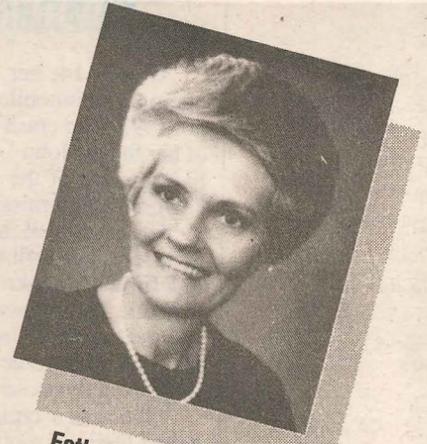
■ "Disciple Youth" provides 13-week Sunday School Board studies.

□ See *New tools ...*, page 10



Ken & Lois Holland

A Special Event for Women



Esther Burroughs

During the Kentucky Evangelism Conference
Tuesday, February 28, 1995
Hurstbourne Conference Center
9700 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville

Seminars

Faith Shaping the Home	Debbie Lloyd
Coping with Grief	Joyce Marcy
Dealing with Your Feelings	Jo Vaughn
Making the Most of Your Time	Carolyn Crumpler
Lifestyle Evangelism	Mary Anne Poe
Prayer: The Untapped Resource	Nell Bruce
Conflict Management Skills	Dee Gilliland
Nurturing Creative Aloneness in the Midst of Loneliness	Jane Kendrick-Lites

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Luncheon (\$10) with
Esther Burroughs and Ken
& Lois Holland

1:15 - 2:15 p.m.
Seminars

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Seminars

NOTE: No nursery provided

Register

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

This form may be duplicated. Luncheon cost: \$10, transferrable but not refundable. Make checks payable to Kentucky Baptist Convention. Deadline for reservations is Friday, Feb. 17. Tickets, motel information and map mailed upon request. Questions? Call KBC evangelism office at (502) 245-4101. Mail registration form to KBC Evangelism Office, Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433.

Pivotal child pornography case settled

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld the conviction of a Pennsylvania man for possession of child pornography in a case that caused a furor between the Justice Department and Congress.

The Supreme Court announced Jan. 17 it would not grant a review in the case of Knox vs. United States, thereby upholding the conviction of Stephen Knox.

That decision delighted opponents of pornography who feared an earlier argument put forth by the Justice Department could have weakened federal laws against child pornography. The crux of the dispute was over whether a child model could be considered engaged in a pornographic act while still clothed.

In 1993, the Justice Department argued against Knox's conviction, contending child pornography must "show minors engaged in the conduct of lasciviously exhibiting their (or someone else's) genitals or pubic areas" and must include visible depiction of the genitals.

As a result, the Supreme Court returned the case to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in November 1993.

A large contingent from Congress strongly opposed the Justice Department's interpretation

of child pornography laws, however. Three days after the Supreme Court sent the case back to a lower court, the Senate unanimously passed a non-binding resolution saying the Justice Department's brief "did not accurately reflect the intent of Congress" in enacting child pornography legislation.

The appeals court also disagreed with the Justice Department argument and again upheld Knox's conviction. That sent the case back to the Supreme Court, which upheld the conviction by declining to grant a review.

After the appeals court upheld the conviction for the second time, Attorney General Janet Reno announced the Justice Department had changed its position and opposed Knox's appeal to the Supreme Court. Reno said she agreed with the appeals court's ruling and not with the earlier position of her solicitor general.

Videos confiscated from Knox's apartment showed young girls in unnatural poses and clothed in bathing suits, leotards and underwear beneath short skirts. The videos contained extended closeups of the girls' covered genital areas. The literature promoting the videos describes the young girls as sexually enticing.

Based on a Baptist Press report

Church loses zoning fight

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A Florida congregation has lost its final appeal against a zoning ordinance that forced it to close a shelter for the homeless.

Without comment, the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 9 let stand a ruling of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that upheld zoning ordinances enacted by Collier County, Fla.

After it was forced to close a shelter that did not conform to the county requirements, First Assembly of God of Naples, Fla., filed suit contending the zoning laws violate the First Amendment's guarantee of the free exercise of religion. Sheltering the homeless, the church argued, is an essential aspect of the Christian religion.

In siding with the county, the lower court said the zoning regulations

were neutral and applied to all group homes, not just those operated by churches.

A federal appeals court said the county had not prohibited shelters but had defined where and how they may operate. The intent of the ordinance was not to inhibit religion but to address health and safety concerns, the appeals court said.

In an order rejecting the church's petition for rehearing, the appeals court noted that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act "may apply to this case," but declined to discuss it since it was not raised by either party in the lawsuit.

The 1993 religious freedom act requires government to show a compelling reason to restrict religious practice, even through neutral, generally applicable laws.

Fund honors Jessica Loftis

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Jessica Powell Loftis' life ended too soon.

At only 14, her life was snuffed out in an automobile accident on Oct. 30, 1993. The crash also took the life of her father, John Loftis, then executive director of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission.

Although Jessica's life ended prematurely, her influence will live on indefinitely thanks to a fund established in her memory through Woman's Missionary Union, with interest the fund earns to be used for Acteens projects and scholarships.

"She was a typical teenager," recalled Jessica's mother, Deborah Loftis of Birmingham, Ala. "She loved to watch television and to be with her friends. She hated homework and her room was always a disaster."

Jessica also was a talker and thinker, Loftis explained to WMU's executive board during their Jan. 7-11 meeting. "She and her father often had long conversations on everything from governmental issues and sports to theology and convention politics.

"But the focal point of her life was Acteens," her mother said. "She became aware of world events and of God's special plan for her life.

"I am very proud of Jessica's involvement in Acteens and how much it meant to her," said Loftis, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and former staff member in several Louisville-area churches. "I very much want Acteens work to go in every area where it can."

To that end and in memory of Jessica, Loftis told the board that she and her parents, Capt. and Mrs. David Stear of Midlothian, Va., would make initial gifts of \$20,000 to WMU to establish an endowed fund for Acteens. Loftis also pledged to contribute another \$10,000 to the fund over the next 10 years.

"It is my desire that in her death, Jessica will achieve part of what she might have accomplished by her life," Loftis said. "Through this scholarship will come hope for young women who find purpose and direction through Acteens."

New tools available for evangelism

Continued from page 9

Volume I introduces youth to keys of discipleship and evangelism. Volume II helps youth use their gifts in witnessing to friends.

■ "Keep Giving Away the Faith" is a part of the Sunday School Board's Disciple Youth library, prepared by veteran youth leader Dave Bennett.

■ Summer Youth Celebrations and Win Our World conferences provide experience-based discipleship and witness training.

■ "People Sharing Jesus," patterned along the lines of the adult version, will be available in late

1995 or '96.

Other resources.

■ "One-Day Soul-Winning Workshop," developed by the Home Mission Board, is an excellent in-church training event.

■ Search Ministries, founded in 1977, provides materials that help business and professional people impact their areas of influence for Christ. Seminars, literature, small-group workshops and church consultations are available.

For more information about evangelism-training resources, contact the KBC evangelism office at (502) 245-4101.

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

Personal Evangelism and the Church
John Sullivan

Renewing the Church
Thom Rainer

The Theology of Lostness
John Kramp

Reaching through Drama
James Blevins

Vocational Evangelism
Steve Hardy

The Evangelistic Invitation
Roy Fish

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

Strategies for Reaching Youth
Dean Finley

REGISTRATION FORM

Send this form, along with a check for \$6 payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, to Evangelism Office, 10701 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40253.

Yes, I will attend a dialogue luncheon!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Ogilvie named Senate chaplain

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Lloyd John Ogilvie, a prominent Presbyterian minister and popular religious broadcaster, is the new chaplain of the U.S. Senate.

Ogilvie, 64, senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, is the latest in a long line of Presbyterians to be appointed to the 205-year-old job. He was chosen from a pool of 200 candidates by a search committee led by Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore.

The chaplain opens each Senate session with a two-minute prayer and is available to counsel the 100 senators and 6,000 Senate staffers.

"I am stunned and thrilled and expectant," Ogilvie told the Los Angeles Times. "I have emphasized all through my ministry that my role is to ... encourage and develop and enable leaders. I now have this privilege ... with key people who are making decisions, who affect the destiny of the world."

For 22 years, Ogilvie has led his 4,000-member Hollywood congregation, one of the three largest Presbyterian churches in the nation and part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination.

Outgoing Senate Chaplain Richard Halverson, 78, held the job for 14 years and is retiring due to poor health.

Ogilvie's appointment was confirmed by the full Senate last week.

Abortion opponents look to Congress

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Opponents of legal abortion, seeking to distance themselves from the recent spate of violence that has marred the movement, pointed to the halls of Congress as the true battleground in their effort to end abortion Jan. 23.

"We must not ever tolerate terrorism on either side," Rep. Robert Dornan, R-Calif., told thousands of cheering demonstrators assembled on the White House Ellipse for the annual March for Life. "We don't assassinate. The bombers and assassins are not part of our movement."

The march, which commemorates the Supreme Court's Jan. 22, 1973, Roe vs. Wade decision making abortion legal, came at a time of increasing debate over violence at abortion clinics.

March leader Nellie Gray said she had received "peculiar calls from the media ... trying to implicate us in the violence" as well as requests from abortion-rights supporters to either cancel the march or soften its language.

"Now you know I'm not about to

do that," Gray said of canceling the event. "The babies need us."

Gray blamed the recent clinic violence on what she said was violence committed by abortion doctors. "The violence of abortion does beget violence," she said.

Gray's anti-violence theme was echoed by other speakers. A number of freshman Republicans promised action on anti-abortion bills shortly after they have dealt with the Republican's "Contract with America" economic package.

"Yes, we condemn violence at the front door" of clinics, said Rep. Steve Largent, R-Okla., but abortion supporters should "walk around the corner to the back door and see ... human life thrown out into the garbage."

Dornan told the crowd that "you've got a pro-life Congress now."

"Let's get all the economic 'Contract' issues out of the way," he said. "This summer is the summer of life."

Dornan, to the loudest cheers of the crowd, said the centerpiece of his agenda would be an effort to "defund the (abortion-rights) movement itself.

We're going to see that there is no federal money for Planned Parenthood."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., said abortion opponents picked up 40 seats in the House and six or more in the Senate but said, "I have no illusion" that overturning abortion-rights laws will be easy.

"The tide is turning, but it must turn further," Smith said. "Clearly, we must push the envelope in this Congress."

More than a dozen members of Congress outlined an agenda that included, in addition to cutting off funds for Planned Parenthood, strengthening the ban on federal funds for abortions, re-enacting a ban on fetal tissue research, instituting parental notification laws for minors seeking abortions and blocking abortion as an approved procedure in health care reform.

March for Life organizers seek a "human life amendment" to the Constitution that would extend human rights to the fetus beginning at conception.

"The tide is turning, but it must turn further. Clearly, we must push the envelope in this Congress."
Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J.

Supreme Court will hear Klan cross case

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review a lower-court order permitting the Ku Klux Klan to erect a cross in front of the Ohio statehouse.

At issue is a ruling by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that private religious speech in a public forum does not violate the First Amendment's requirement of church-state separation.

Klan officials filed suit after the organization's November 1993 application to erect the Latin cross was denied. Ohio officials previously had

approved unattended displays on statehouse grounds that featured a Christmas tree and a menorah.

A federal district court, in a ruling upheld by the appeals court, sided with the Klan.

Ohio officials want the high court to consider whether unattended religious displays convey the endorsement of government when they are located close to the seat of government.

The appeals court rejected that argument, finding that "truly private religious expression in a truly public

forum cannot be seen as an endorsement by a reasonable observer."

The appeals court said that absent a compelling interest, "the government may not discriminate against private speech in a public forum on account of the speaker's views. Speakers with a religious message are entitled no less access to public forums than that afforded speakers whose message is secular and otherwise non-religious."

The court distinguished between private religious speech and a government-sponsored display.

NATIONAL NOTES

Adventists appeal for women's rights.

The leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has sent a message to the United Nations urging the world body to do more to end sexism and uphold the rights of women.

The three-page statement also called on "all Seventh-day Adventists and others of good will to help create an atmosphere of freedom, growth, equality and good will toward all women ... that will lead to the ability of each woman to use her individual gifts to the fullest potential."

Creationism flap hits school board.

People for the American Way, the liberal religious and civil rights advocacy group, has warned a New Hampshire school board it will be sued if it adopts a proposal to have creationism—the literal biblical account of creation—made a part of the school system's science curriculum. People for the American Way told board members the teaching of creationism is unconstitutional "even if used to balance the teaching of evolution."

A proposal to include creationism as part of the Merrimack, N.H., schools' science courses was made by Paul Norwalt, a Baptist pastor.

Methodists consider restructuring.

A 19-member task force within the United

Methodist Church has recommended a radical downsizing and restructuring of the nation's third-largest Protestant denomination. The proposal would affect every level of church life, from congregations to national divisions and agencies.

At the heart of the proposal, being distributed for comment among church leaders, is a plan to reorganize the denomination's 13 churchwide agencies into three "service" units and sharply cut the 1,200 staff positions in the 13 agencies.

AMA reverses policy on homosexuality.

The American Medical Association reversed a 13-year-old policy in December when it adopted a report calling for "non-judgmental recognition of sexual orientation by physicians." In 1981, the AMA supported treatments designed to change the sexual orientation of homosexuals and said the notion that homosexuals could not change was a myth. The new report suggests psychotherapy to help homosexuals "become comfortable with their sexual orientation."

Religious T-shirts approved.

An elementary school in Spring, Texas, has agreed to allow students to wear T-shirts with religious messages on them, a reversal of its earlier policy. School officials had told two boys they could not wear T-

shirts that depicted Jesus' bloody, nail-pierced hands with the slogan "His pain, your gain." School officials initially said the shirts promoted violence.

After facing the threat of a lawsuit from the Rutherford Institute, a religious liberties group, the school policy was changed.

Churches foster small groups.

America's small-group movement has close ties to churches, according to the Gallup Poll. Recent surveys found 54 percent of members of small groups said their ranks are drawn primarily from religious congregations. Nearly half of small-group participants said their group receives material support from a congregation.

Sandi Patty cancels tour.

Gospel music superstar Sandi Patty has pulled out of a scheduled tour with co-headliners 4HIM, which was to have begun in February.

"Although it seemed like the right step to go back on the road and I began making plans to do so, I have felt God's leading on my heart that this is not the time, and I know I am not ready to go on tour," she said.

"I know there have been decisions and choices I have made in my life, especially when it comes to relationships, that have greatly hurt the name of the Lord and the cause of his people. As I continue to grow

daily in the Lord, the far-reaching effects of my wrong and sinful choices also continue to be made evident to me, and my heart is deeply grieved."

Patty divorced John Helvering, her husband of 13 years, in 1992 and soon after announced she had been sexually abused as a 6-year-old.

Orthodox shun Pentecostals.

Pentecostals and members of the Assemblies of God are "not of the Christian tradition," according to a new encyclical on interfaith marriage issued by Bishop Iakovos, leader of the Greek Orthodox Church in North and South America. The bishop defined Assemblies of God members and Pentecostals as "not a Christian" in the same category as Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Christian Scientists, Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh-day Adventists.

NAE president confesses racism.

In one of his first acts as president-elect of the National Association of Evangelicals, Don Argue confessed white evangelicals' sin of racism and asked for forgiveness from his African-American brothers and sisters in the faith. At his request, officers of the National Black Evangelical Association laid hands on Argue and prayed for him as he knelt before them at a convocation of black and white evangelical leaders in Chicago.

Threat to Russian religious liberty considered weaker

By Marty Croll
SBC Foreign Mission Board

The latest version of the law was developed in a more open process than before, allowing input from evangelicals who previously were shut out.

MOSCOW (BP)—A few vocal legislators are still working to limit non-Orthodox religious activity in Russia, but their latest attempts lack the punch of earlier days.

Winds of change appear to have carried Moscow too far into freedom to allow even politically astute lawmakers to pass laws openly opposing Russian evangelicals.

Still, a proposed new law spells out restrictions that would limit foreign religious influence. And it leaves gray areas concerning how Russians can worship within legal guidelines, according to Moscow religious liberty experts.

The latest religious legislation would require foreign religious work-

ers to show an official invitation from Russian counterparts. It also would require them to meet certain accreditation standards. And it could affect some who travel to Russia from the West on tourist visas and engage in religious work.

A select committee of the Russian Parliament's lower house, the Duma, recently sent a draft of the new bill to President Boris Yeltsin's legal staff.

When Yeltsin will take action on the proposed measure is unclear, but Duma member Vitaly Savitsky told Baptist Press in mid-January it probably would be at least another month. The government is preoccupied with its military action in the breakaway southern republic of Chechnya.

Religious liberty experts in Moscow say the law specifically seeks to curtail the activity of Western evan-

gelicals who developed campaigns to teach Christian values in public schools after atheism, along with communism, started losing popularity several years ago.

The experts report little real interest in the law, however—except from a small group of extremists hoping to pass it through Parliament without attracting attention.

Earlier proposed religious legislation drew the ire of evangelicals worldwide two years ago. Russian Orthodox and communist-fascist lawmakers teamed up behind the scenes to draft it, then used an all-out media campaign to raise support for it. Many top Orthodox leaders publicly supported it. Even Patriarch Alexei II wrote a letter backing restrictions. The letter was read on the floor of Parliament just before lawmakers vot-

ed in favor of them.

But Yeltsin refused to sign the bill twice. It died as its most fervent supporters lost power when Yeltsin disbanded Parliament in September 1993 and squelched an armed coup against him.

Legislators favoring more freedoms have formed a coalition during the past year to stand against communists and fascists in Parliament. The latest version of the law was developed in a more open process than before, allowing input from evangelicals who previously were shut out.

Still, all members of the committee that framed the law favor it except Gleb Yakunin. Yakunin is a former Orthodox priest defrocked by Patriarch Alexei after he opposed restrictions the first time and then refused to vacate his Duma seat.

Missionaries help after Japan quake, hope for new vision

KOBE, Japan (BP)—The earthquake that devastated Kobe, Japan, in the early morning hours of Jan. 17 jolted people awake to spiritual as well as physical realities, according to a Southern Baptist missionary assigned to the area.

Elaborate earthquake precautions gave Japanese city dwellers a false sense of security, and affluent lifestyles distracted them with material possessions.

But 20 seconds of predawn terror shattered those illusions and left hundreds of thousands with only the clothes on their backs.

"Most people in Japan have no interest in spiritual things. They're completely wrapped up in their humanistic goals for themselves," said Kobe-based Southern Baptist missionary Ron Reynolds.

Reynolds was among thousands driven from their homes by the earthquake, which measured 7.2 on the Richter scale. It has left more than 5,000 people dead and up to 300,000 people homeless.

"Sometimes it takes something like this to wake people up," he said. "You can't help but be thankful you're alive and realize material

things mean nothing. I hope this will help Japanese people realize that what we have in our hand is not as important as what God can give us in our heart."

Reynolds starts churches in the Kobe area through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

After the quake, he and his family joined as many as 10,000 people evacuated to the Canadian Academy, a large boarding school for children of missionaries and other foreigners. In the midst of chaos, they found open doors for ministry and witness.

Meanwhile, a Japanese Baptist

church has opened its doors as a distribution center for relief supplies flowing into Kobe, and Southern Baptist missionaries are helping out.

Kobe Baptist Church, which survived the earthquake, will distribute food, water and other relief supplies being received from various sources.

FMB missionaries Bob Sherer, Tak Oue, Bob Dilks and Mike Brooks are assisting with distribution of the much-needed supplies to residents of the area around the church.

Contributions designated for Japan quake relief may be sent to the FMB at Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

Few Christians in Chechnya

GROZNY, Chechnya (BP)—If the war in Chechnya seems far-removed from most Americans, it is especially far-removed from most American Christians.

Only 30 Christians were known to be living among about 1 million Chechens last year.

The Chechens are predominantly Muslim—of the Sunni branch of Islam. Ancient ruins of churches hint that some Chechens became Christians more than 1,100 years ago. But Islam came to the region in the 1500s, and Christianity had disappeared from the area by the end of the next century.

Russian imperial conquest of the Caucasus in the 19th century was followed by Soviet communist rule in the 20th century. In his genocidal campaign to rule the Soviet empire by dividing and terrorizing whole peoples, Josef Stalin deported the entire Chechen population to Soviet Central Asia during World War II.

More than 200,000 people died during the merciless forced move. The communists also attempted to eradicate Chechen culture and Islam in the area.

But the oppression only increased the religious fervor of many Chechens, who are among the most devout Muslims of the former Soviet Union.

The Chechens eventually were allowed to return home, and the Checheno-Ingush republic was reinstated in 1957 after Stalin's death. Two Muslim mosques reopened in 1978, and

rising nationalism strengthened Islam even more.

In 1991, the Chechens declared their independence from Russia, which rejected the declaration. Russian President Boris Yeltsin eventually responded by starting the current conflict.

In this violent, unstable environment live 1 million or more Chechen men, women and children. They have no established Christian churches and no Bible in their own language, although translation is in progress. Portions of the New Testament have been translated into Chechen.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board published a free prayer guide for the Chechen people last year. After the prayer guide was published and committed Southern Baptists "prayer warriors" began praying for the Chechens, their situation began appearing on the front pages of newspapers around the world.

The same pattern has developed with numerous other unevangelized people groups most Americans had never heard of, said Terri Willis of the FMB international prayer strategy office. "It's almost uncanny," she added, "unless you believe in the power of prayer."

We need foster homes!

Each day we get calls asking us to help children who need to be cared for outside their homes. There are many we are able to help through our seven residential programs across the state. Too often, however, we have found ourselves in the position of not having the space or the program that a particular child has needed. One effort to remedy this has been to greatly expand our foster care program.

In 1993 we began recruiting families to provide foster homes for children. We began this work in Western Kentucky and in the Louisville area and have seen God bless it tremendously by providing a number of wonderful Christian families with true hearts for children. Because these families were willing to give of themselves, numerous children we would not have been able to help otherwise have felt the compassionate touch of our Lord.

Now we are expanding the work into Eastern Kentucky with a foster care worker in Harold (near Pikeville) and in Southern Kentucky with a worker based in Somerset. We also hope to add a worker in central Kentucky.

In each of these areas, we need

families or single individuals who can open their homes to young people who need a lot of love, discipline and structure. It is not an easy task, because the effects of abuse, neglect and other family crises often are revealed in a child's behavior.

All the families must go through an extensive training program. They must be able and willing to work as part of a team with our foster care worker, the child's social worker and the child's family. A small stipend is paid to offset expenses, but foster parenting is certainly not a way to make money.

Being a foster parent is a demanding task, but there is no greater reward than realizing you helped a young life at a critical time.

If you think you might be interested in this form of ministry, please give us a call at (800) 456-1386. You'll be put in touch with the worker closest to your area who will be glad to share more information!

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

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BAPTISTS

Set goals, focus on baptisms for growth, expert says

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Smaller churches can grow by focusing sharply on Sunday school and baptism goals, Neil Jackson said in a statewide tour Jan. 16-21.

Jackson, a church growth consultant now retired from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, spoke in five locations across the state.

A total of 889 people attended the regional conferences. According to statistics compiled at the meetings, the 214 churches represented hope to baptize 1,807 people this year and enroll 5,421 people in Sunday school.

While enrolling people in Sunday school is important, seeking to baptize new converts is more important, Jackson said.

Research shows that most churches need to enroll 36 new Sunday school members in order to baptize 12

people.

Simply inflating Sunday school rolls for the purpose of having a larger enrollment will not help a church grow, Jackson said. In fact, enrolling people who never will step foot in the church can create a demoralizing climate for church leaders, he said.

In a healthy church, Sunday school attendance averages from 40 percent to 60 percent of enrollment, Jackson said.

The key to growth, he said, is focusing on baptism goals more than enrollment goals. This should not be promoted with a sense of guilt but as a way of sharing the love of Christ with all people, Jackson explained.

"Guilt is the lowest level of motivator," he said. "It's the love of Christ that constrains me."

Jackson's three-hour presentation at Woodland Baptist Church in Louisville Jan. 21 included a whirlwind of practical suggestions and inspira-

tional thoughts. Among them:

■ "Ideas last only three months. Start an idea, but have another in the back of your mind."

■ When setting goals, choose goals that give specific numbers, are measurable, attainable, rewarding and tangible.

■ Translate broad goals into smaller segments, such as "one baptism per month," so people will more readily understand.

■ Visualize church goals on signs all over the church building as constant reminders of the congregation's mission.

■ Involve lay leadership in goal-setting for their specific areas of responsibility so they will feel ownership and a commitment to help meet the goals.

■ Maintain a prospect file equal to Sunday school enrollment.

■ "The building controls the program. The saturation point is 80 per-

cent of capacity."

■ "Furniture talks." If a Sunday school class has 15 people on roll but only seven chairs set up, that sends a message that not everyone is expected to attend.

■ Placing happy, friendly people as greeters at the church doors is essential. "If I get sour grapes at the door, I can't hear the sermon or the lesson."

■ "The proof of good teaching is not the size of the class. The proof of good teaching is how many people have gone out from your class" to lead other classes.

■ Pastors should consider spending one hour every week calling church members to ask for prayer concerns and then spend a period of time praying for those needs.

■ Longtime inactive members should be moved from the membership rolls to the prospect files, so they will receive more appropriate contacts.

Arkansas campus minister removed over doctrinal views

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP)—A veteran Baptist campus minister in Little Rock, Ark., has stepped down because of questions about his beliefs.

Dan McCauley, 50, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock since 1977, reportedly was asked by supervisors to resign or face firing after recent complaints about his theology by two students and their pastor.

Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, described McCauley's views to state Executive Board members at a meeting Dec. 13.

McCauley believes the Holy Spirit, and not the Bible, is the final authority for the Christian, Moore said. "Whatever ... the Holy Spirit reveals to him, that is his authority," Moore said. Such "subjective criteria ... leaves us with no absolute truth" and "subverts the faith of young believers," Moore charged.

Moore said McCauley believes in divine inspiration for writings other than the Bible. He said McCauley has studied extensively a New Age religion called Urantia, which Moore called "a mixture of space science, Hinduism, mysticism and Christianity which was supposed to have been

given by extra-terrestrial beings."

McCauley's "openness to receive truth wherever he finds it is frightening," Moore said.

Concerning the security of believers, McCauley breaks "with our commonly held faith that personal redemption is once for all secured to those who by repentance and faith are born into the Kingdom," Moore said.

Moore told the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, however, that McCauley's disputed views "have not been taught in formal settings but have been communicated in conferences with individuals and with the staff from time to time."

As a condition of his severance agreement, McCauley is not free to discuss details of the resignation. He is on leave with pay until March 31.

However, in a text of a sermon he preached Jan. 15 at a Little Rock church, McCauley said he believes "there is some misunderstanding" about his views.

McCauley said he believes the Bible is "fully inspired by the Holy Spirit" and "totally sufficient in leading us into an understanding of who God is and our responsibility in that relationship."

However, he said: "I believe the Bible is a tool to lead us to God, not a substitute for a relationship with God. We are not 'born again' through our

relationship to the Bible but through our relationship with God. My position is that ultimate authority should only be given to God as revealed in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit."

Without the Holy Spirit's role to "convict" the believer of the truths contained in Scripture, commitment to the Bible can descend into "bibliolatry," a "heresy (that) is hindering people from entering the kingdom of heaven," he said.

McCauley said he does believe God is revealed outside the Bible as well.

"Even though I believe the Bible to be sufficient, I do not believe the Bible to contain all there is to know about truth," he said. "I believe the Scriptures when they testify that God is truth. And whereas neither science nor philosophy nor religion can contain the whole of God, where there is truth in science, it is of God; where there is truth in philosophy, it is of God; and where there is truth in religion, it is of God."

Concerning the possibility that believers may "fall from grace" and lose their salvation, McCauley said: "I believe that what God holds in the palm of his hand cannot be snatched by any other power on earth or in the spiritual realms, but I believe we do not lose our free will just because we are saved or born-again."

Acknowledging that some people regard the possibility of apostasy as being "contrary to Scripture," McCauley countered that the issue "is just a matter of interpretation and emphasis."

"Why would I even suggest to a student that it may be possible to reject our covenant with God?" McCauley asked. "Cheap grace. For decades we have been baptizing young people in our churches who see Jesus only as Savior, not Lord."

"Can I, in good conscience, sit back and allow my students to believe that all God desires from us is our name on a church membership role somewhere?" he asked. "I think not."

Some of McCauley's supporters say his views not only were misunderstood but did not get a fair hearing before he was asked to resign.

Other than the two students who initiated the complaint against McCauley, "no other student from the BSU was ever talked to," said BSU President Joey Cobble. Cobble said he never was invited to meet with state convention leaders about concerns over McCauley's alleged teachings, even though he faxed a letter to the state convention office asking for a meeting.

Neither Moore nor David James, state BSU director, were available for comment.

Church-starting group forms as 'friend' of Fellowship

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. (ABP)—An organization for starting new churches on behalf of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship formed at a meeting Jan. 19-20 in Cartersville, Ga.

A group of church planters sympathetic to the Fellowship voted to establish "Friends of New Churches," an autonomous corporation designed, according to a purpose statement, "to serve God through the birthing and nurturing of new free-and-faithful Baptist churches."

The group intends to seek recognition and funding as a "friend" of the Fellowship, an organization formed in 1991 by moderate Baptists to offer

alternative ministries to those provided by the conservative-dominated Southern Baptist Convention.

The 26 participants who convened at Heritage Baptist Church in Cartersville, Ga., were drawn from an informal network of about 45 new churches which affiliate primarily with the Fellowship and in some cases not at all with the SBC.

They advocate the intentional establishing of new Fellowship-affiliated churches, an emphasis they say is lacking in the Fellowship.

"There's a group in the CBF that says, 'We're not a denomination. We don't start new churches.' There's

another group that says, 'We're going to do this. Somebody's got to do it.' Now we're here to say, 'We'll help start churches,'" said Will Carter, pastor of First Fellowship Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., and the group's first chairperson.

Unlike the SBC, which helps fund about 2,000 new churches and missions through its Home Mission Board, the Fellowship currently offers no funding for the starting of churches in the United States.

Some Fellowship members oppose church-starting efforts because they fear reopening the hotly debated question of whether the Fellowship

has become a new denomination.

Keith Parks, the Fellowship's global missions coordinator, said Friends of New Churches helps allay that concern by taking up the church-starting mantle as an autonomous "friend" of the Fellowship.

"I personally think there are some ecclesiological issues that become a problem if, from the office in Atlanta, we try to sponsor new churches," Parks said. "Many of our people are concerned about that. Basically we feel churches start churches."

The process of planting churches should be centered in the local church as much as possible, Parks said.

Prayer needs go on-line

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—CompassionNet, a worldwide electronic prayer network sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, went on-line Jan. 1 with SBCNet, Southern Baptists' computer network.

Urgent prayer needs—from the most remote mission fields—can be communicated instantaneously to Southern Baptists worldwide, said Randy Sprinkle, director of the FMB's international prayer strategy office.

Prayer requests from missionaries will be posted on CompassionNet as quickly as they are received, Sprinkle said. CompassionNet users will find the requests filed under such categories as country, unreached people group and mega-city.

Access to CompassionNet requires only a personal computer equipped with a modem and subscriptions to CompuServe and SBCNet. For a limited time, a free introductory subscription may be obtained by calling SBCNet at (800) 325-7749. The kit includes a free month on CompuServe and a \$25 usage credit that can be applied toward SBCNet access.

PEOPLE

KENTUCKY KERNELS

The Gallup Poll reports 79 percent of American adults would not object to public schools offering courses in comparative religions and 75 percent would not object to the Bible being used in classrooms.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BENTON**—**Hershell Spears** resigned as pastor of Sharpe Church.

■ **FAIRDALE**—Cove Church elected **James Crowe** as an active deacon Jan. 8. Roger Hodge is pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Lyle Road Church called **Joe Kyser** as interim pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Lee Warf** resigned as pastor of Lakewood Church to pursue his education and fulfill a calling to work in mission churches.

Southern Seminary named **Martin Hill**, native of Raleigh, N.C., circulation and systems librarian. He previously served for six years as computer systems librarian and

manager of the audio visual learning center at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bobby Woods resigned as associate pastor and youth minister at Jeffersontown Church to become pastor at Mount Pleasant Church in Orleans, Ind.

■ **MURRAY**—**Dennis Norvell** resigned as pastor at Poplar Springs Church.

Spring Creek Church will ordain **Dave Watson** and **Terry Lee** as deacons Feb. 5. Also, the church's fellowship hall and sanctuary have been remodeled.

■ **WHITESBURG**—**Tom Stokes** resigned as pastor of First Church.

25,000 Kentucky children abused

FRANKFORT—Nearly 25,000 Kentucky children were abused or neglected by their caretakers last year, and 29 of those children died as a result.

From July 1, 1993, through June 30, 1994, the Kentucky Department for Social Services confirmed 24,877 cases of abuse or neglect.

The number of Kentucky children killed by domestic abuse and neglect has nearly doubled since 1988, from 15 to 29.

Of the 29 children who died due

to child abuse or neglect last year, 28 were 5 years old or younger. The victims most often were caucasian males.

"People are often shocked to find out that the biggest threat to America's children is not a stranger lurking in the dark, but rather a person known to the child and often a parent," said Social Services Commissioner Peggy Wallace.

To report child abuse or neglect, call the state abuse hotline at (800) 752-6200.

Potatoes in the Pot

Since the nearest mall is several miles away, Oneida doesn't have the luxury of a food court. We have to make our own. One of the most popular places on our campus is the cafeteria. Food, fellowship, jokes and tall tales abound. What a wonderful place to gather!

Our food service director is Melissa Underwood. She supervises a staff of 15 cooks. Ada Abner has served in our kitchen for 25 years. Archie Couch has cooked for us the past 20 years.

In addition to cooking for students and staff, these ladies are often called upon to put out extra servings for guests. Usually large groups will let us know they are coming, but our cooks always have extra portions for unexpected visitors. When anyone has driven to Oneida, the least we can offer him is a fine meal. If you have ever driven the mountain roads to Oneida, you'll agree that no one arrives here by accident! Our staff is always on standby to add another potato to the pot.

As important as our cooks are, we could not provide the meals we do without our students. Our kitchen and dining hall are primary areas of service for the many girls in our work program.

Kitchen and dining hall duty gives students the opportunity for advancement. Those who do especially well may be promoted to the clerk position, overseeing other girls. Clerks, in turn, are supervised by cooks.

Girls may choose to work in one of three areas of food service. The dining hall staff cleans the dining halls, supplies the serving line and fills the milk coolers.

The kitchen workers wash pots and pans,

sweep and mop, help with salad preparation, and put food in coolers for storage.

Girls in the dishroom prepare dishes for the dishwasher, check dishes and trays for cleanliness and restock the tray cart for the next meal.

We participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. Underwood follows the guidelines from this program in planning our school day breakfast and lunch menus. She uses an assortment of colored posters to promote the new food pyramid. Bulletin boards in each dining room display information about nutrition facts. Some classes participated in a poster contest and Underwood fixed healthy snacks for the winners.

If you have been to a meal at Oneida, you know our students eat well! We do offer a variety of incentives to encourage them to clean their plates and not be wasteful.

One of our favorite foods is the homemade rolls. We have them at least once per day, often twice. Nearly all of the pork and beef we eat is raised on our farm.

We have been blessed with many ongoing contributions of food. Bakeries, grocery warehouses and several other outlets have been very generous in keeping us supplied with items from donuts to yogurt. Since we serve nearly 2,100 meals daily, it doesn't take long to use up these foods.

Come visit us any time. You are always welcome in our food court. We'll make sure there will be enough potatoes in the pot.

Written by Melissa Underwood, food service director

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: First Baptist Hopkinsville accepting resumes for full-time minister of music. Mail to FBC, 1400 S. Main St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240, Attn. Minister of Music Search Committee.

TOUR: Baptist heritage tour, Britain; July 26-Aug. 8. Cost: \$1,800. Contact Bill Leonard, Samford University, Birmingham, AL 35229. Phone (205) 870-2839.

WANTED: Part-time minister of music, Sunday morning and evening worship and choir leadership. Send resume to: Personnel Committee, Midlane Park Baptist Church, 6500 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40218.

TRIP: For single adults, June 15-27. France, Switzerland and Spain. \$1,995 double occupancy. For more information, contact single adult ministry, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, (606) 254-3491.

NEEDED: organist. Part-time position available. Wicks pipe organ. Send resume to: Organist Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 246 N. Main St., Madisonville, KY 42431. Resumes accepted through March 1, 1995.

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

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

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

SEEKING: Minister of youth and music, part-time position. Send resume 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.

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

Share Jesus Now—Week 1

The first chapel of this semester emphasized "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now." Members of the campus family were asked to make a commitment with God's help to share the gospel each day for 60 days.

In a Bible college, surrounded by Christians, it is easy to become isolated from the lost world. Opportunities do come; we must be

alert to them. I sincerely asked the Lord for freedom to share as he gave opportunities. One afternoon I pulled into a self-service filling station. A young man also stopped at an adjoining pump. We exchanged greetings about the weather and soon the door opened for me to ask him about Christ. It turned out he had gone to school with

one of my daughters. He was a Christian. He expressed concern about his mother who needed to make some spiritual decisions.

The next night at church, two teenage girls inquired about my son; one was a young lady I did not know. As we talked, it was natural to include a question about her relationship to Christ and his church. She was saved but needed to be baptized.

At Thursday visitation, my prospect had moved, but the new resi-

dent, Debbie, a mother with a small child, let me talk with her on the front porch. She was not a Christian.

On my way back to town, I stopped at the hospital. Darrell was standing on the front steps. His daughter had surgery earlier in the day. We talked about family crises. It was natural to ask about his relationship to Christ. He was not a Christian. He talked about

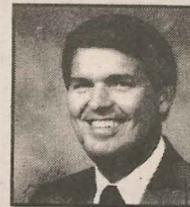
his godly mother, but was unwilling to trust Christ. As I left, Perry's nephew came out. His wife had just had a baby and I received a cigar. The new dad was a Christian, but his wife was not. "She's hard-hearted, and right now is not in any shape to talk." I wrote a note on the back of a tract and told him to give it to her.

The next night my wife and I went out to eat. Our server frequently asked us, "Is everything alright?" Before we left, I asked her if everything was alright.

In our second chapel I asked for "Here's Hope" testimonies. Student Darrell Everly told of two people saved in a home visit. That's the hope we have to share. Now is the time.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Refugee baby a product of shame & a redemption

BUKOKA, Tanzania (BP)—Annamary Neema is a product of the great shame of Rwanda—an orphan refugee deprived of her family by last year's ethnic slaughter and of her mother by death just days after she was born.

Yet she's also the redemption of the much lesser—but still very real—"shame" of William and Feliciana Caroli, a Tanzanian Baptist pastor and his wife. They help lead ministry in Rwandan refugee camps in northwestern Tanzania.

Just days before Annamary was born last summer, her mother joined the surging scramble across jungles and swamps to flee the killing in Rwanda. Nine days after her August birth, Annamary was orphaned. Her mother probably died from meningitis, and there were numerous indicators she had AIDS.

The infant, facing as bleak a future as almost any baby in the world, was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Isingiro, Tanzania, where the Roman Catholic nurses fell in love with her.

Meanwhile, another "homeless" refugee from Rwanda got involved: Southern Baptist missionary Janet Hooten.

Hooten also was forced to flee Rwanda with her family during the civil war. She and her husband, David, were working with other Foreign Mission Board missionaries in the Kagenya Refugee Camp in Tanzania.

Told of Annamary's plight, she and her husband walked from hut to hut for days in the refugee zone where the baby's mother had lived, looking for relatives. But no one knew anything about the dead woman or her baby. No one claimed the mother's body for burial.

The day after their unfruitful search ended, Hooten was visiting with Feliciana Caroli, who was working as a cook for the Baptist Relief Services refugee camp. Caroli, married for six years to a Baptist pastor, had no children.

Being childless "is a shame for us" in Tanzanian culture, she told the missionary. The couple wanted either medical help to overcome their inability to have children or help to adopt a child.

Hooten hadn't mentioned the orphaned baby girl before. But when she did, Caroli eagerly agreed to pray with her husband about adopting the infant. Early the next morning they answered "yes."

But the United Nations High Commission on Refugees has ruled that Rwandan orphans should be placed with Rwandan families. The fact that there were more orphans than families willing to take them—and that any such adoption would doom Annamary to years, if not a lifetime, in a refugee camp—didn't change the administrative decision.

So while Annamary grew fat and spoiled at the hospital in the care of fiercely protective nurses, Hooten

and others looked unsuccessfully for a "suitable home" by U.N. standards—all the while praying the Carolis would get to adopt the child.

Twice when the Carolis felt they were on the verge of becoming Annamary's parents, they instead absorbed emotional body blows. First they were informed the baby might be HIV-positive.

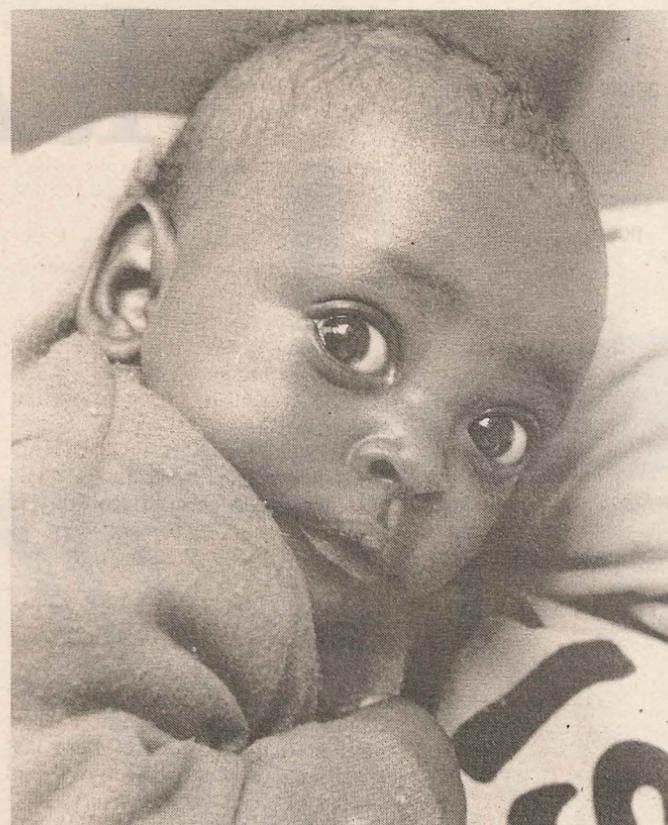
After several days of prayerful struggle, they still felt they wanted to take the girl and trust God to care for her needs. HIV tests won't show definitive results until the baby is older, Hooten said.

Later the Carolis were told they would have to foster-parent Annamary for two years to give time for any relatives to be found. If any appeared in that time, they would have to surrender the child immediately. Again, they were willing to take the risk.

Finally, on Dec. 14, the last signature was affixed to the last form and Annamary, for the first time in four months, had a mother. And for the first time in her life, she has a father.

Her new parents have a good farm, and her father is employed as an evangelist by the Baptist Convention of Tanzania. He is pastor of Nykabwera Baptist Church, a mission congregation just outside the Kagenya camp, and is one of the leaders in evangelistic outreach to the refugees.

Annamary is one of almost 200



unaccompanied, abandoned or orphaned children Baptist Relief Services has placed with suitable families within the refugee camps in Tanzania. That's in addition to the hundreds of Rwandan children being cared for by missionaries and Baptists in a Zaire camp.

SHAME REDEEMED Annamary Neema didn't suffer the fate of countless children who died in Rwanda's civil war. But she is a product of the nation's shame. She has been adopted by a Tanzanian Baptist couple, who, in their culture, felt another kind of shame from being childless. (BP photo by Kevin Morley)

Couple believes God wants more than the convenient

PINE, Ariz.—Lee and Bonnie McClanahan started with a single goal about 45 years ago: a church nursery for their infant son.

Now, about 50 church construction projects later, the Mission Service Corps volunteers talk about how fun it is living a simple life totally committed to God.

The McClanahans are consultants with Arizona Southern Baptist Builders, which helps churches construct economical facilities by acquiring building materials and coordinating volunteer labor.

As volunteers for more than two years, they are also considered home missionaries and receive ministry support from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

When not living in their converted 1957 International bus at a job site, they make their home in the forested mountains of Pine, Ariz. The bus becomes McClanahan's home away from home for weeks at a time.

Mrs. McClanahan runs a gift shop five days a week and then joins her husband on construction sites the other two days of the week.

The McClanahans dedicated their lives to full-time Christian service in 1954. "We realized God wanted something more than just attending church and doing that which was convenient," Mrs. McClanahan said.

But first, God had to speak rather pointedly to get McClanahan's attention. He owned a profitable cabinet business in Tucson, Ariz. Al-

though there were many church building projects in town, he never found the time to help.

"My goal was never to be hungry again," he said, explaining that his father died when he was 3, leaving him to pass through a series of 11 foster homes until the age of 13, when he struck out on his own.

Suddenly, though, sent to bed for 90 days with valley fever, a collapsed lung and pneumonia, McClanahan had time to listen to God.

"I realized that the important things in life were not what I had desired—the money, fancy cars and the big home—but the reality was that only what lasted for eternity counted," he said.

Because of his illness and inability to work, the McClanahans lost their business and almost everything they owned. With their remaining \$1,300, they moved to Phoenix for McClanahan to attend Grand Canyon University.

Then, rejected for mission service by the Foreign Mission Board because of his health history, the couple moved to Pine one year after he graduated from college. The small Mormon town, along with the rest of the state and sometimes neighboring states, became their mission field.

After hitting bottom, the McClanahans discovered a new lifestyle.

"We are minimalists," he explained. "We believe we should live on as little as possible for our own use and then everything else should

go back into God's work.

"In reality, we don't have any money; it all belongs to the Lord anyhow," he said.

It's a lifestyle to which they're both committed. "If people could just understand how much fun it is to learn to depend totally on God and not worry about all these little things, and big things," Mrs. McClanahan added.

That dependence on God is evident in their ministry, also.

"We see over and over that God is in charge of scheduling what we do," McClanahan said. "He sends the materials. He sends the people and the equipment we need at the time we need it. God will furnish anything you need to accomplish his purpose."

The McClanahans tell story after story about God's timing and provision:

■ A man in Washington donated a wood-fired furnace to White Mountain Apache Baptist Church in Whiteriver, Ariz., after McClanahan led the church to pray for one.

■ A welder from Kentucky unexpectedly showed up at an Arizona church building site on the day it was time to weld brackets on steel beams.

■ A construction worker, whose truck broke down by a church building project in Winslow, Ariz., helped with the building and gave his life to Jesus Christ while waiting for truck parts.

The McClanahans see their job as

more than constructing church buildings. "The building is just a tool, and even the building process is just a tool to reach people for Christ and to help people grow as Christians," McClanahan said.

Today, the McClanahans face a transition in their ministry. In July 1993 he was diagnosed with cancer. The cancer is in remission now, but he suffers some neurological impairment.

Their main goal is to stay home and build a warehouse to store building supplies and equipment for the Arizona Southern Baptist Builders. Right now the supplies are stored in various piles and buildings on their property.

Some people might look at the conglomeration as a junkyard, but the McClanahans see a multitude of un-assembled new church buildings.



SIMPLY SERVANTS Lee and Bonnie McClanahan, shown here in their simple house in Pine, Ariz., have chosen to live a "minimalist" lifestyle in order to devote their time and resources to building churches. (Photo by Paul Obregon)

The Hardest Part Of Loneliness Is Facing It All Alone.

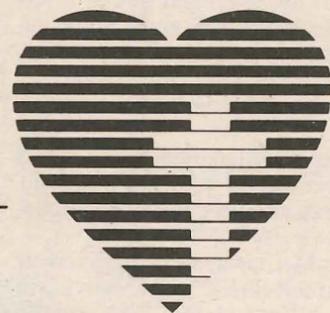


Loneliness. It's one of life's most difficult struggles. But it doesn't have to be. Because not far from you, there's a place where you can beat that sense of hopeless isolation.

Our church. It's a place full of people who love. People who look for ways to support each other through life's struggles. People who make faithful friends. Friends who last a lifetime.

That's why we're inviting you to join us in worship. To experience firsthand the love that Christ has given us. And realize that loneliness is not something you have to face all alone.

No matter how bad it's been, there's hope because Jesus cares for you.



Here's Hope.[®]

A message of life from Southern Baptists.

© A national revival emphasis sponsored by Southern Baptists and the Home Mission Board