

June 20, 1995
Vol. 169, No. 25

CHURCH LEADERS
See Events insert for news & help

FOR THE RECORD

Seminary cuts
Elimination of four administrative positions and eight secretarial positions were announced at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary last week, and the seminary also released the names of professors who will take an early retirement incentive. *See page 2.*

Family Forum
How do I get my 15-year-old son to respect me? *See page 4.*

Editorial
Many retired ministers are living on desperately low incomes, but the Annuity Board has a way for concerned Baptists to help. *See page 5.*

Churches honored
Four hundred and five Kentucky Baptist churches founded before 1845 will be honored in Atlanta this week as the Southern Baptist Convention its sesquicentennial. *See page 6.*

Vietnam missions
Kentucky Vietnam veterans are invited to participate in a special mission project to Vietnam. *See page 12.*



YOUTHFEST Contemporary Christian singer Alicia (left) invites the audience to get involved as she sings during YouthFest '95. Evangelist Jerry Johnston (above) speaks about the dangers of the world and the safety found in Christ.

6,000 teens rally to 'No Fear in Christ' theme

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

FRANKFORT—More than 6,000 Kentucky teenagers rallied to the YouthFest '95 theme "No Fear in Christ" at an electric event that left youth exhilarated and adult sponsors exhausted in its wake.

Three rousing sessions in this year's youth evangelism conference June 9-10 at the Frankfort Civic Center featured contemporary Christian musicians Point of Grace, Alicia, and Kyle and Susan Matthews; youth evangelist Jerry Johnston; and Kentucky Baptist Son team presentations.

The spirited crowd's cheering and singing punctuated guests' mes-

sages of Christian hope and confidence, amplified through large video screens and heavy-duty sound systems.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism office, the annual conference continues to grow in numbers, said Monty Carter, KBC evangelism associate.

"The conference keeps increasing so much that we're giving strong consideration to adding another conference in another part of the state or going to a larger venue," Carter said. "It's a great problem to have."

Carter said his office recorded 138 teenagers who professed faith in Jesus Christ during the event. "There were over 200 other deci-

sions for rededications and professional ministry," he added.

"We're not necessarily of the mindset that bigger is better," Carter said. "We would rather concentrate on the quality of the conference."

One reason YouthFest has seen such success is that young people "hunger" for the positive experience of celebrating and having fun with other Christian youth, Carter said. "It rekindles their fire and reminds them they're not alone."

Also, Carter added, YouthFest provides an ideal place for teens to bring their unchurched friends, who can see that Christians do have a good time, go to concerts and gen-
□ See 6,000 state teens ..., page 3

Theologians take bite from Eve's apple & other myths

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

If you think Eve ate an apple or that you have a guardian angel or that Jesus was born on the night Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, think again.

These are three examples of misconceptions commonly held by Christians about the Bible and the Christian faith, according to an informal poll of Baptist theologians.

The Western Recorder asked this group of theologians, each of whom preaches in local churches regularly, to identify and correct the misconceptions they most frequently encounter about the Christian faith and the Bible. Here are highlights of what they said:

■ **Eve probably didn't eat an apple.**

"It is very common for people to think the Bible says specifically that the forbidden fruit was an apple," noted Al Fasol, preaching professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. "But there's no indication at all which fruit it was, or even if it's a fruit that no longer exists."

Genesis chapters 2-3 refer to the forbidden fruit and its tree numerous times, but never in a specific way. Genesis 3:6 explains, "When the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."

So why do so many people think Eve ate an apple?

"It apparently goes way back," said Russ Bush, dean of the faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. "That's why they call it the Adam's Apple in your throat. The legend is
□ See Theologians take bite ..., page 7

Kentucky volunteers take the lead on Haiti relief projects

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

When the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission issued a call for volunteers for relief efforts in Haiti last November, Kentucky Brotherhood leaders knew it was just what they had been preparing for, KBC Brotherhood Director Bob Simpkins says.

Long known for their top-notch disaster relief work, Kentucky Brotherhood leaders had felt for some time God was preparing them for "ministry that extended beyond areas in which we were normally involved," Simpkins said.

But first, Kentucky Brotherhood had to overcome an inferiority com-

plex of sorts, he said. Kentuckians had no doubt about their effectiveness in stateside disaster relief—Hurricane Andrew had proved that—but they weren't so sure they could tackle the really big jobs on the international scene.

"We felt we weren't large enough," Simpkins said. After all, historically, the big jobs went to big states like Texas.

Unable to shake off the feeling that they "needed to open ourselves up to the entire world," leaders urged attendees at last fall's annual KBC Brotherhood convention to keep their shots and passports up to date.

It didn't take long to discover what God had in store, Simpkins explained. Soon after the U.S. military interven-

tion in Haiti in September and the return of ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide to power Oct. 15, the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission and the Foreign Mission Board organized a relief program and issued a call for volunteers.

Kentuckians immediately volunteered and, in November, formed the first two groups to go to Haiti. They built the mission compound on which volunteers would live in the ensuing months.

That was the beginning of what has been a steady stream of Kentucky volunteers in Haiti. From November through May, more than 43 made the trip. They worked on construction teams, repackaged and distributed food, dug and repaired water wells

and performed other handy-man type tasks.

In addition, several Kentucky medical personnel were scheduled to be among a group of 35 who planned to be in Haiti in May to conduct free rural medical clinics in cooperation with Haitian Baptists. However, the Haitian ministry of public health denied work permits, and the teams were reassigned to Jamaica.

"Without the Kentucky Brotherhood's involvement, we could not have done what has been done in Haiti in the past few months," said Mickey Caison, Haitian project manager for the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

For most volunteers, Haiti has
□ See Kentuckians serve ..., page 3

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Abner McCall**, who rose from a childhood in a Texas orphanage to lead the world's largest Baptist university, died June 11 of a heart attack. McCall, 80, was president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, from 1961 to 1981.

■ **Mary Jane Welch** has been named managing editor of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Commission magazine. Welch currently is assistant director of the FMB's news office. Louis Moore, the FMB's associate vice president for communications, will carry the title of editor.

Ten seminary professors retiring; layoffs slated

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Ten professors will take early retirement from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and 11 other positions will be eliminated this summer in a cost-cutting move.

Administrators must cut \$914,000 from the seminary budget by the start of the next fiscal year Aug. 1, due to declining student enrollment and revenue.

Seminary spokesman Mike Dudit said he didn't know how much money would be saved by the current round of reductions or if any cost-savings had been tallied. "We have not been given any numbers at this point," he said.

However, a Western Recorder analysis based on general information about the seminary pay scale and knowledge of the positions being eliminated shows the reductions totalling about \$780,000—assuming none of the retiring professors is replaced.

Another three professors already have announced retirements or resignations apart from the layoffs and early retirements. If those positions are not filled, the Western Recorder's analysis projects potential cost savings of \$147,000.

The early-retirement package was approved by seminary trustees last spring, after the idea was suggested by a faculty committee. To be eligible, a professor's age and number of years of service to the seminary added together must equal at least 65.

Benefits of the early retirement package include extended medical insurance, a year's salary, plus \$500 for each year served. The early-re-

tirement packages reportedly are to be funded through money already set aside and therefore would not be a drain on the next year's budget.

The professors taking the early retirement incentive are:

■ **Anne Davis**, professor of Christian social work and the founding dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work.

■ **Bill Rogers**, professor of Christian education and former dean of the School of Christian Education.

■ **Wade Rowatt**, professor of psychology of religion.

■ **Ron Boud**, professor of church music.

■ **Marvin Tate**, professor of Old Testament interpretation.

■ **Raymond Bailey**, professor of Christian preaching, who has been called as pastor of Seventh & James Baptist Church in Waco, Texas.

■ **Bill Cromer**, professor of Christian education.

■ **Betty Bedsole**, professor of church music.

■ **Donoso Escobar**, associate professor of social work.

■ **Maurice Hinson**, professor of church music.

The staff reductions, which were involuntary, were announced last week and will take effect July 31. Seminary staff members were notified of the reduction in a memo from President Al Mohler dated June 14. However, details of the layoffs were not disclosed until June 19.

The reduction eliminates eight secretarial positions, mostly filled by student spouses. Four of those positions were vacant; the four secretaries displaced apparently will be hired in other vacant secretarial posts.

Four administrative positions were eliminated, although two of

those are to be merged into one new position. That creates a net reduction of three administrative positions.

The positions eliminated and the employees laid off are:

■ **James Watson**, director of building maintenance and security.

■ **Mary Zimmer**, assistant to the dean in the Christian education school.

■ **Tish Gardner**, supervisor of office services. The entire office services department, primarily a typing pool, is being eliminated.

■ **Linda Besspiata**, supervisor of central services.

Gardner's position and Besspiata's position will be merged into a new position called manager of support services. Both Gardner and Besspiata will be considered for the new position, but no determination has been made about who will fill it, Dudit said.

Seminary sources predict last week's staff reduction will be the first of several in the coming months, as the seminary adjusts to its declining enrollment and declining income. Enrollment has dropped precipitously since Mohler became president in 1993 and began steering the seminary in a more conservative direction.

Sources inside the seminary administration project fall enrollment will be significantly reduced again due to this spring's controversy over the Carver School of Church Social Work and subsequent trustee actions limiting faculty speech. The seminary currently is under investigation by two of its accrediting agencies—the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Council on Social Work Education.

Seminary sources predict fall en-

rollment could fall below 1,000—less than half what it was two years ago.

All told, the seminary will begin the fall semester with at least 13 faculty members out of about 65 gone either due to the early retirements, resignations or previously planned retirements. Two new faculty members have been hired to begin in the fall.

Other faculty members known to be departing this summer include:

■ **Paul Richardson**, professor of church music, who has taken a position with Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

■ **Timothy Johnson**, associate professor of social work, who has joined the faculty of Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, N.Y.

■ **Greg Lewis**, assistant professor of social work, who is returning to his native Australia.

For the fall semester, several departments will face reductions in full-time faculty available to teach classes.

Hardest hit will be the social work school, which had six full-time faculty members in the spring but will have only two this fall. The two remaining full-time faculty members are Diana Garland, who was fired as dean of the Carver School last March, and Janet Spessart, acting dean.

The church music school also will take a hit, having lost at least four out of 15 faculty members. Other music faculty members are reportedly considering leaving and could announce resignations before the fall semester. However, the number of new students coming into the music school is projected to be down significantly in the fall, so the teacher-student ratio may not be worsened.

Colson warns of Republican Party split over abortion

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

ATLANTA—The Republican Party will split if opposition to abortion is removed from the party platform, former Nixon administration official Charles Colson predicted.

Abortion is a "non-negotiable issue" for conservative evangelical Christians, said Colson, who became a Christian after being imprisoned for his role in the Watergate scandal and now is a Southern Baptist.

Colson spoke about the abortion issue and the state of American morals in an address to the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference June 18 and in a news conference the same day.

Colson told about a recent meeting with Republican Party leaders in which he and Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, were the lone voices calling for the anti-abortion plank to remain in the party's platform.

Colson said he told the Republican leaders, "You leave us, and I'll tell you one thing, Southern Baptists and evangelicals will leave you."

In his earlier news conference,

Colson said the Republican Party is distancing itself from the anti-abortion concerns of evangelical Christians. "If that continues, you will see a split in the Republican Party," he declared, noting parallels to other pivotal points in the party's history.

Despite increasing media attention, the influence of the Religious Right on Washington is declining rather than increasing, Colson asserted. "Most politicians think they have the Religious Right in their hip pocket and are only paying lip service."

However, Colson said the only way to solve the abortion problem is through a "human life amendment" to the U.S. Constitution.

The Supreme Court's *Roe vs. Wade* decision legalizing abortion was cemented beyond reversal in the 1992 decision *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*, he said. That decision made abortion "an explicitly protected right" under the 14th amendment, he said.

The abortion debate is one indicator that the nation faces a "defining moment" brought about by a massive moral breakdown, Colson said.

Another indicator is the rampant

increase in crime, he said.

America's crime problem is primarily among juveniles, said Colson, who ministers in thousands of prisons annually. "If you took juvenile crime and inner-city crime out of our crime rate, it would be about the same as Belgium."

He described an increasingly hardened population of young adults coming into the prison system with no understanding of right and wrong. Older prisoners often are asking for protection from the younger, more violent prisoners, he said.

While Americans are desperate to restore order out of this chaos, the quest for a political quick-fix could be even more devastating, he warned. "Crime and fear are so prevalent in American life that people are willing to make a Faustian bargain ... and trade liberties for order," he said.

Such repression of liberties would be dangerous not only for the nation as a whole but particularly for evangelical Christians, who would be labeled a rebellious minority—or terrorists—on issues such as abortion, Colson said.

"In the wake of Oklahoma City,

this is a real threat to America today," he said, citing proposed legislation severely limiting personal rights for the sake of preventing terrorist acts.

Colson called on Christians to respond to the current moral breakdown in two ways: by demonstrating overpowering love and by defending truth.

"The answer is overpowering love," Colson declared. He called on Christians to lay aside disagreements over minor issues and demonstrate to the world the love of Christ.

Assured of that love, Christians then must defend the truth of the gospel, he said. "We may disagree ... but what really matters is are we willing to stand together and defend truth."

He added, "The only way this culture will be turned around is when lay Christians and ministers equip themselves to go out and convince their friends and neighbors about the claims of Christianity."

Colson pleaded with Christians not to lose hope but to remember the sacrificial love of Christ, to "keep screaming so the world doesn't change us" and to "light the first candle in the darkness."

6,000 state teens rally to 'No Fear in Christ' theme

Continued from page 1
erally enjoy life.

Additions to this year's event included video projections—large screens placed on both sides of the expansive stage to increase visibility throughout the arena.

Also for the first time, two professional counselors from Cornerstone Counseling Center attended the conference and offered free counseling for teens who wanted help with any personal issue. Cornerstone Counseling Center is a ministry of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Registered participants wore laminated identification badges on chains around their necks. Leaders encouraged the teens to use the badges—which included the Roman Road plan of salvation on the back—to lead others to faith in Jesus Christ.

An expert in suicide issues and a widely known speaker in public schools, Jerry Johnston related the conference theme of "no fear" to God's message of love and hope.

Referring to American celebrities like Curt Kobain who recently have committed suicide or died of drug overdoses, Johnston pointed to their fear of life itself.

"Kobain's fear of life was greater than his fear of death," he said.

Johnston named the age-group 15-24 as one of the highest at risk of death. "More young people are dying than ever before," he said.

But the message of Christ offers the hope and freedom from fear and death, he added. "The source of our hope is the Holy Spirit, who is available to us."

Christians should be filled with the Holy Spirit on a continual basis, Johnston added. "It's not just once and that's it. Be being filled."

He enumerated ways teenagers can do that:

■ Be willing to deal honestly and completely with all known sin in your life. "This is what separates the men from the

boys. The thing that hinders the church of Jesus Christ most is not the big sins but the little sins."

■ Be willing to die to self. Johnston told of a service he led in Africa once where he was introduced to a man with no nose, no ears and some of his fingers missing. That man had been tortured because he had been told to reject Jesus Christ. "That's death to sin," Johnston said.

■ Be willing to yield yourself to God. "Spirituality isn't what we don't do, but what God does through us," Johnston said.

■ Pray and ask God to fill you with the Spirit. The test to know if a person

is filled with the Spirit is that they will begin singing and making melody to the Lord in their heart, Johnston said.

Other evidence of being filled with the spirit is discovering and using spiritual gifts, as well as the power to share Jesus Christ, Johnston said.

However, the Holy Spirit may not always continue knocking at the door of every person's heart, Johnston warned.

"It is completely biblical for me to say that the Holy Spirit will knock on a person's heart only so many times,"

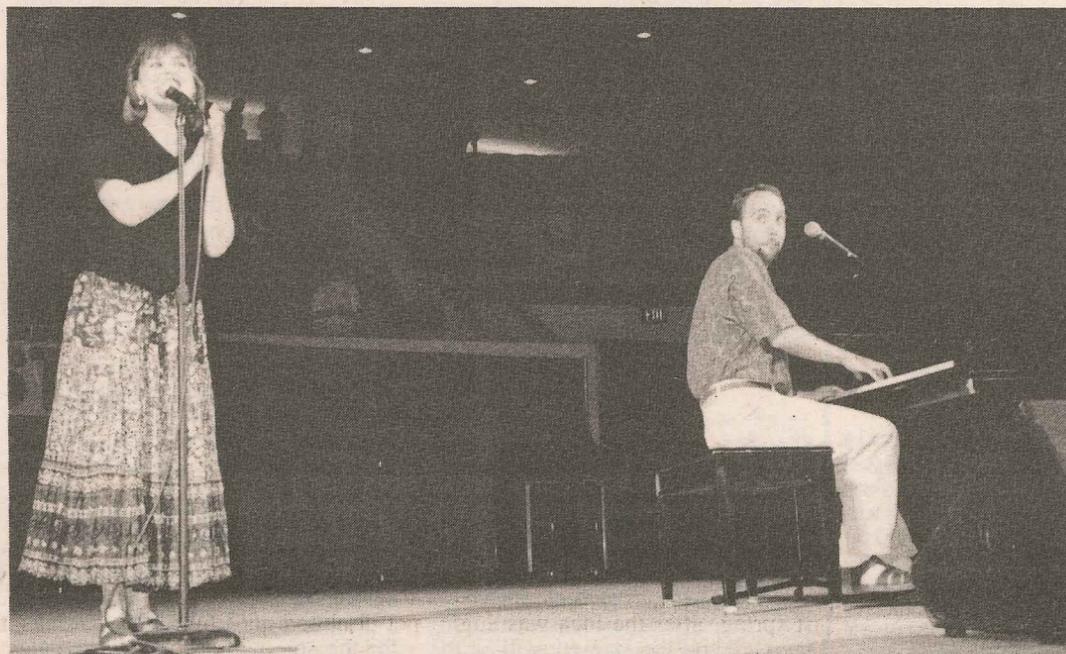
he said. "I believe I have preached to people that have so delayed responding to God's knock that their hearts have been hardened."

Weaving in the story of his own testimony, Johnston challenged youth to accept Christ in their own lives and share the message of the gospel with other young people.

"Baptist teen, how long has it been since you shared Christ with someone?" he asked. "It's time to set our house in order and make sure we're ready."

SING ALONG The music team of Kyle and Susan Matthews leads 6,000 teenagers attending YouthFest '95 in a sing-along session.

YouthFest '95



Youth evangelist says teens need parental support

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

FRANKFORT—Although Jerry Johnston has appeared on 3,000 campuses in the past 15 years, he says the "youth evangelist" label he often wears is a misnomer. If one word describes his concern for America, it's "family."

The word appears in the title of his ministry, Jerry Johnston Family Crusade.

He also believes the need to address family issues is why groups like Focus on the Family and Promise Keepers are "the rage of the moment."

The message for the church, he said, is that the more it gears itself to meeting the needs of the family, the more relevant it will become to modern culture.

"The problem is the condition of the family unit, both in Christian and non-Christian homes," Johnston said in an interview during YouthFest '95. "That seems to be the haven we're lacking, that causes susceptibility and vulnerability to all these other problems we often talk and write about."

"God has impressed on my heart that we have to address parents about the important role of parenting and their spiritual and familial responsibilities. We need to help interpret Scripture to let them gain insight and leadership in those ar-

eas."

Some of the issues teens struggle with, as outlined in his book, *Who's Listening*, are suicide, violence, homosexuality, alcoholism, abortion, drug abuse and Satanism.

Since Zondervan published the book in 1992, Johnston said, the good are getting better, but those who don't know God are getting worse.

Recent surveys indicate teen drug use is rising again, he pointed out, partially because young people don't know much about rock stars like Janis Joplin and other young icons who died from drug abuse.

"The only two contemporaries (who overdosed) are those I talked about tonight, Kurt Cobain and River Phoenix," he said. "They aren't as well known as these past figures, who were embraced, idolized and almost worshiped."

Johnston believes in being confrontational with the gospel and direct about the need to make a commitment to Christ. Teens are crying for honesty and openness, he said, which makes "sneak-up" approaches ineffective.

"I think young people are so near the edge of disaster they're just waiting for someone to preach the gos-

pel to them and help them understand the redemptive plan," he asserted. "What's effective is being honest and, in love, rearing back and preaching."

"We've got a lot of chatterers and talkers, but very few preachers to young people today. I feel like kids want to be committed to Jesus Christ. If our light can lead them, along with our words, they will follow."

The author of eight books and producer of evangelistic videos, Johnston comes from a background that can be understood by many young listeners.

Caught up in the drug scene in high school in Overland Park, Kan., at his lowest point he shrunk to 68 pounds. One night he called his parents, telling them he was about to commit suicide.

Today when his father attends one of his meetings and hears the story for perhaps the thousandth time, he is still overcome by what God did in his son's life, Johnston said.

"It's God's grace," Johnston declared. "My past life and what God saved me out of fits with this culture. God always knew that and has used it for his glory."



Jerry Johnston

Kentuckians serve in Haiti

Continued from page 1
been unlike anything they have ever experienced before.

"Of all the places I have been, Haiti is the most needy," said retired Kentucky dentist Bill Snowden, who recruits medical volunteers for the Foreign Mission Board. He has been on 19 mission trips, including two trips to Haiti.

"I had seen deplorable conditions in other parts of the world, but they pale in comparison (to Haiti)," said Barbourville pastor David Lyons.

Water well repair projects have made the most vivid impressions on the Kentuckians.

When volunteers enter a village to begin well repairs, the Haitians "start dancing in the streets, thanking God they came to fix the pumps," Southern Baptist missionary Tim Ziler reported.

At one well, after Kentuckian Bill Clark of Richmond led the traditional prayer of blessing on the repaired well, a Haitian mother handed her naked baby to him. Clark held the baby under the well's spigot while another volunteer pumped the first clean water the villagers had seen in months. Gently, Clark bathed the baby in that water.

For volunteer Lamar Lyon, also of Richmond, that scene says it all.

"Jesus said, 'I was thirsty and you gave me drink,'" Lyon said, quoting from the gospel of Matthew. "We're called to help our brothers in need. It's that simple."

■ Relief projects in Haiti are scheduled to continue through July. Volunteers—particularly handyman types—are needed through July to help repair simple hand pumps on about 500 wells. No experience in well-drilling is needed. To volunteer, call the SBC Brotherhood Mission (800) 280-1891.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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Keep camp

I am writing this letter in regard to the possible selling of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. I am the associational discipleship training director of Laurel River Baptist Association in London.

We currently use Cedarmore for our youth Bible drill and speakers' tournaments. We have a very hard time getting youth to participate in the Bible drill, much more so than in the children's Bible drill.

One way that encourages them is that they get to go to Cedarmore and spend the night and get a chance to meet all the other youth from the other associations. It is definitely going to hurt our youth participation even more if this opportunity is not available to them.

We at Laurel River Baptist Association ask the Kentucky Baptist Executive Board to please reconsider this matter, as it would certainly be a detriment to our plans to increase our participants in the youth Bible drill and speakers' tournaments.

*Sue Reed
London*

God's reality

The conversation of the next decade will reflect a growing awareness of the importance of economics, on both national and international scales.

People who have been objects of missions efforts and prayerful concern are and increasingly will be the fierce competitors of Americans in the marketplace for jobs and economic security.

The economic allegiance of some Americans is very narrow. Across America, a trend of foreign capital is deciding the destiny of American families and communities. As a na-

tion, we are losing our power of self-determination.

Where is the economic strength and moral business ethics to foster a true leader of America? Non-Christian cultures and philosophies are slowly but surely destroying the American way of life. A full revelation, when speaking about the Christian faith, cannot avoid the totality of the economic principles of the world in which we live.

One would hope that our Sunday school materials would provide lessons about the stewardship of life in all the phases. The deepest reality

is people, and one cannot spiritually face life without God's reality.

*David Fletcher
Mayfield*

Disgusting paper

I have read with anger and disgust the Western Recorder for the past several months. The majority of articles have shown the personal bias of the editor and the obvious compliance of the board of directors with your opinion.

Please be aware your thoughts are not those of the majority of Kentucky Baptists. I am especially displeased with the apparent eagerness the Recorder has to publish any account which has even the faintest hint of controversy. Furthermore, your constant slander of "conservatives" is getting old.

I now read the Western Recorder for the sole purpose of determining who are the most controversial personalities in our convention and to see just how far this once-great state paper can sink.

No longer do I recommend persons to subscribe to our paper for the embarrassment it presents. I believe the Western Recorder should be un-

biased in presentation and theme. I do not accept the right of the editor to present articles and news releases with his unrelenting prejudicial remarks included throughout. If you feel so strongly, Mr. Knox, then at least limit your opinions to editorials and offer the remainder of the paper as informative news and not as a forum of personal prejudices.

*Bill Mays
London*

Genuine fellowship

I almost love my neighbor as myself. Pray for me to actualize our Lord's second commandment.

If I achieve his first commandment (Matthew 22:37-38) more completely, my chance for success on his second is greater.

In Eastern Kentucky, without personal stress, I love all my Christian brothers, none being classified as separated or departed brothers, but those holding onto traditions and doctrinal emphases that most certainly were the mold in which they saw the light. They found eternal life in Jesus.

I name some of those communions: Missionary Baptist, Old Regular Baptist, Southern Baptist, Primitive Baptist, Regular Baptist, Freewill Baptist, Fellowship Baptist, Hardshell Baptist. And God my Father shows me many of his children classified as non-Baptist, who I love also.

Because my personal joy and celebration of life in Christ are the highest (the highest that I know; small me), I naturally am tempted to question or evaluate just any brother, not hoping to establish my superior position in the righteousness of God by grace through faith in Jesus, but to identify equal humility—to establish the basis of genuine fellowship (1 John 1:7).

*Ed Burgher
Campton*

From James and Abby

"All of us often go wrong; the man who never says a wrong thing is a perfect character, able to bridle his whole being. If we put bits into horses' mouths to make them obey our will, we can direct their whole body. Or think of ships; large they may be,

yet even when driven by strong gales they can be directed by a tiny rudder on whatever course the helmsman chooses. So with the tongue. It is a small member but it can make huge claims.

"What an immense stack of timber can be set ablaze by the tiniest spark! And the tongue is in effect a fire. It represents among our members the work with all its wickedness; it pollutes our whole being; it keeps the wheel of our existence red-hot, and its flames are fed by hell. Beasts and birds of every kind, creatures that crawl on the ground or swim in the sea, can be subdued and have been subdued by mankind; but no man can subdue the tongue. It is an intractable evil, charged with deadly venom. We use it to sing the praises of our Lord and Father, and we use it to invoke curses upon our fellow-men who are

made in God's likeness.

"Out of the same mouths come praises and curses. My brothers, this should not be so. Does a fountain gush with both fresh and brackish water from the same opening? Can a fig-tree, my brothers, yield olives, or a vine figs? No more does salt water yield fresh.

"Who among you is wise or clever? Let his right conduct give practical proof of it, with the modesty that comes of wisdom. But if you are harboring bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, consider whether your claims are not false, and a defiance of the truth. This is not wisdom that comes from above; it is earth-bound, sensual, demonic. For with jealousy and ambition come disorder and evil of every kind.

"But the wisdom from above is in the first place pure; and then peace-loving, considerate, and open to reason; it is straightforward and sincere, rich in mercy and in the kindly deeds that are its fruit. True justice is the harvest reaped by peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace. (From the third chapter of James)

My name is gossip. I have no re-

spect for justice.

I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.

I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.

The more I am quoted, the more I am believed.

My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face.

To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.

I am nobody's friend. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same.

I topple governments and wreck marriages.

I ruin careers and cause sleepless nights, heartaches and indigestion.

I make innocent people cry in their pillows.

Even my name hisses. I am called Gossip. I make headlines and headaches.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself:

Is it true? Is it harmless? Is it necessary?

If it isn't, don't repeat it.

(From Dear Abby, May 5, 1995)

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



FAMILY FORUM: TEEN-AGERS

Anger & disrespect

By Wade Rowatt

Q How do I get my 15-year-old son to respect me? When he gets upset, he yells at me and argues if he disagrees. It has gotten worse since his father and I divorced last year.

A Your son's actions may not be so much disrespect as just anger out of control. If you expect him never to be angry, that is unrealistic. It's too much to ask him to hide all forms of anger. The Scripture tells us to be angry, but not to sin (Ephesians 4:26).

Your son probably gets upset about the divorce and a number of issues related to all the changes. See if he will share his feelings about the divorce sometime when he isn't already upset. Perhaps he needs to talk with a counselor.

Try to see his point of view. His world has been turned upside down. Normal adjustments of the teen years add to his frustrations.

Tell him he can be angry, but that you expect him to be fair, respectful and not abusive. Don't let him name-call, use foul words or make threats. Those certainly are disrespectful.

Also, with his father gone, he may be trying to test your power. He may want to "fill his father's shoes" so to speak. Let him know you are still the parent and are in control. Clear structure and lines of authority stabilize a family. One-parent families especially need straight-forward rules and open expectations.

I am not sure he is being disrespectful in disagreeing. Teens need the freedom to disagree and state their point of view with parents. Hear him out and ask that he listen to your side of issues. Parents who force their teens into agreeing or keeping a silent position harm their relationship.

According to the Bible, parents are to instruct and discipline their offspring in a manner that does not make them angry. Children are to honor and obey in the Lord, but we have to be sensitive enough not to provoke their anger (Ephesians 6:1-4).

As you respect him in your listening, he will respect you more. As you provide clear yet firm guidance, he will respect you more. As he grows in his ability to be angry but fair, you will feel less concerned.

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

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

EDITORIALS

Change some numbers, and paint a happier picture

If you paint by some numbers, you'll paint an unhappy picture of need.

The picture particularly is painful if you paint by numbers that represent thousands of retired Southern Baptist ministers, who now live on fixed incomes. For many of these faithful servants, the numbers to their annuity benefits just don't add up to a decent income.

That's why "Providing Adequate Benefits for All" is the theme for the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board Sunday, June 25.

"Nearly 10,000 of the 25,000 retired Southern Baptist pastors, missionaries and their widows receive \$200 or less each month from the Annuity Board," reports board President Paul Powell. "Nearly 5,000 retired ministers or their widows receive \$100 a month or less. They, or their churches, did not prepare for old age."

Kentucky Baptists' 1,061 retirees receive an average monthly benefit of \$417.04, notes Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department. However, the numbers look much worse in a couple of categories, he adds. Widows of former ministers receive an average of only \$213.01 per month, and the 24 retired ministers age 90 and older get an average of only \$93.57.

Of course, some retired ministers' Annuity Board benefits supplement the pensions and retirement income they built up from other sources. But thousands of retired ministers subsist only on small Annuity Board benefits, which never did grow because they and their churches did not put money away for retirement.

To help retired ministers in need, the Annuity Board has developed

the Adopt an Annuitant program. It specifically targets hundreds of retired ministers whose monthly income falls below the federal poverty level. The program provides an extra \$50 per month to 1,625 of the most needy annuitants.

A contribution of \$7,500 can provide perpetual funding for one Adopt an Annuitant supplement. But most of the \$960,000 currently distributed by the program comes from small gifts. "There are 1,800 more annuitants we need to help," says Joe McIntosh, director of the Annuity Board's endowment department.

The Annuity Board also channels all of its share of Southern Baptist Cooperative Program funds—slightly more than \$1 million—to help the very most needy retired ministers. More than half the retirees on the relief role have no annuity because they never were enrolled in an annuity program. Some of them do not even receive Social Security.

This is a need Kentucky Baptists can help alleviate.

First, we can provide funds for the board's Adopt an Annuitant program. The funds we contribute will directly impact needy and deserving retired ministers.

And second, we can make sure our churches enroll our current ministers in the annuity program. The money invested today will provide multiplied benefits in the future.

For more information about the Adopt an Annuitant and regular annuity programs, contact Don Spencer, KBC Annuity Department, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433; phone (502) 245-4101.

Marv Knox

The Southern Baptist Annuity Board's Adopt an Annuitant program provides aid for retired ministers whose income is inadequate to provide a decent standard of living.

The Genie Effect: 'As you think in your heart, so you are'

On Feb. 12, 1993, James Bulger was a Liverpool child, just one month short of 3, strolling in his gray trainer pants, in a shopping mall in Bootle, Liverpool.

The entire world watched in horror as the mall's security video captured the picture of two boys holding James' hand and leading him out of the mall. They walked him some 2 1/2 miles across Liverpool to a railroad track, where he was beaten to death with stones, bricks and a 22-pound fishplate, then strapped to the rails for an oncoming train.

Two boys age 10, Jon Venables and Bobby Thompson, were arrested and found guilty. The imprint of one of Bobby's shoes was clearly defined on James' cheek. What made these 10-year-olds do what they did?

The judge at the trial, Sir Michael Morland, believes he knows. It seems

that Jon Venables' father had just rented (one month earlier) "Child's Play 3," a slice-and-dice horror movie featuring a demonic doll named "Chucky" come to life. In the judge's words, "It is not for me to pass judgment on their upbringing, but I suspect that exposure to violent video

films may in part be an explanation."

In "Aladdin," a thought to the genie (Robin Williams) was an experience which altered his being, even his shape. Think of Groucho Marx, and the genie became Groucho Marx. Think of Arsenio Hall, and the genie became Arsenio. Think of hell, and the genie became a fiery inferno.

I can come up with no better illustration of the biblical principle, "As you are in your heart, so you are" than the "Aladdin" genie. The thoughts and images we choose to let into our being literally change us into their

likeness. When we watch child-murderer Freddy Krueger at work in those Elm Street movies, we become, in a significant way, Freddy Krueger.

I challenge you to find the trial of one child-murderer or child-molester where there is no evidence of child-pornography.

One researcher put the violence on the screen into historical perspective in an attempt to see if things had actually gotten worse. What he found was that in the 1931 movie "Public Enemy," there were eight on-screen killings. By the late 1980s, this figure had increased exponentially. In "Robocop" (1987), there were 32 killings, in "Total Recall" (1990), 74; and in "Rambo III" (1988), 106. In the United States, children's television programming averages 25 violent acts each hour.

Is it any wonder each day in this country 13 children die from gunshot wounds? Is it any wonder that in 1985

the majority of cases in New York City's family court were misdemeanors, and in 1994 more than 90 percent were felonies? Is it any wonder that, on a typical day in 1993, 100,000 juveniles were locked up across this country? Is it any wonder we live in a society of drive-by shootings, fly-by surveillance, brief-case bombs and mailbox-delivered deadly letters?

"As you think in your heart, so you are," said Jesus. In today's language, that might be rendered "garbage in, garbage out."

Again the question: What are you feeding your soul?

Leonard Sweet
Dayton, Ohio

Reprinted with permission from "Sweet's SoulCafe," Vol. 1, No. 2. Subscriptions, \$19.95/year, \$34.95/two years; SpiritVenture Ministries, 1405 Cornell Dr., Dayton, Ohio 45406; (513) 278-5817, ext. 207.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Our children don't realize Sunday is supposed to smell like roast beef

"I thought you weren't cooking on Sunday anymore," Molly told her mom as we hustled through the kitchen toward the garage, on a dead run to church.

Molly's confusion sprang from our Crockpot, which sat on the kitchen counter, working its tender way upon a pile of pork chops. The slow simmer filled the room with succulent aroma, promising breakfast wouldn't be the gastronomical highlight of the day.

But Molly's tell-tale comment trumpeted a generational shift.

Back in the days when Joanna and I were kids, our moms always cooked on Sunday. In fact, a big Sunday lunch (which we appropriately called "dinner," since it was the big meal of the day) was an almost-

religious ritual, just as much a part of our routine as handing in those little offering envelopes on which we pledged that we were on time, staying for church, studied our lesson, brought our Bibles and read them every day.

Every Sunday of my young life I returned home from church to the splendid smell of roast beef. It was so powerful it permeated every corner of our little Baptist parsonage. It captured me and convinced me I would starve if I didn't eat immediately.

I doubt Mother ever had to tell me twice to set the table at noon on Sunday; I always was ready for dinner.

On Sundays, I understood why early Hebrews celebrated by "killing the fatted calf."

As a child and youth, I was certain this roast-and-mashed-potatoes-after-church ritual was a part of our heritage that dated all the way back to John the Baptist. Later, as a college student in love with a strawberry blonde coed from Fort Worth, I was startled to learn that some city Baptists occa-

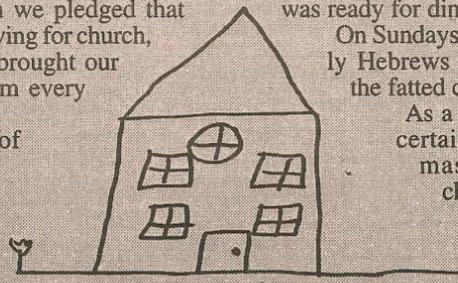
sionally substituted ham for roast beef on the Lord's Day.

Although shocked at first, I quickly enjoyed my first taste of Baptist diversity. Over time, I grew accustomed to this unorthodox tradition and consumed large quantities of Sunday ham at the Jarchow table.

But alas, our children have lost the aroma of this religious rite. Lindsay and Molly think Sunday smells like Burger King or the Italian Oven, not the sensuous scent of roast beef.

True, we don't spend all Sunday afternoon cooking, eating and cleaning the kitchen. But when I remember the smell of Sunday roast, I'm not so sure that's progress.

Marv Knox



down home

Theologians take bite from Eve's apple & other myths

Continued from page 1

that he ate it and it stuck in his throat."

Fasol added he's not sure anybody knows where the apple legend began. But it likely has European roots, because shiny red apples are more common there than in the Middle East, scholars note.

■ **The Bible makes no reference to guardian angels.**

"The idea that everybody has a guardian angel has no justification," Bush said.

Angels are mentioned several times in the Bible as having special functions, he noted, "but no place I know of does it say 'guardian angel.'"

Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, concurred.

"There's nothing specifically in the Bible about a single angel over one person," he said. "One of the roles of angels is to be guardians, but that doesn't mean everyone has a guardian angel."

■ **Jesus probably wasn't born the first night Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem.**

Bush said explaining the roots of this misconception is easy: Too many Christmas pageants with a need to compact many events into a brief drama.

Luke 2 explains that Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem and "while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth."

"While they were there" is an indefinite," Bush noted.

It is not likely Mary would have been able to travel any distance on a donkey—much less the rugged terrain from Nazareth to Bethlehem—at full term, he said. So it is more likely Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem some time earlier.

"It appears to me they had to leave Nazareth because the baby was being born in a shorter amount of time than would have been permissible—having been married a short time," Bush explained. "It looks to me like they were planning to stay there in Bethlehem. The reason I say that is because they were still there when the wise men came later."

And that points to another Christmas drama misconception: The magi didn't visit the newborn Jesus. Scripture says the shepherds came at the time of Jesus' birth, but the magi came much later, perhaps several years later.

■ **Reincarnation isn't a Christian concept.**

A recent Gallup poll found 26 percent of American Protestants and 28 percent of American Catholics believe in reincarnation. Nearly one-fourth of Americans who attend church weekly believe in reincarnation, the poll found.

Yet the notion of reincarnation is "fundamentally inconsistent" with the Christian faith, said James Chancellor, professor of world religions at Southern Seminary. "The biblical record is quite clear that persons who live on the earth, when they die, they have an eternal kind of destiny, but not one in which they will recycle through the process."

Chancellor said he "cannot think

of any biblical reference at all that would even hint at the concept of reincarnation."

■ **Astrology does not support the Christian faith.**

"Astrology is probably the most widespread religious practice in the world," Chancellor noted. "If there is a common religion of all mankind, it is probably astrology. ... But as a religious practice it has been rejected by the church from the beginning."

Polls show few Americans believe horoscopes accurately predict the future, yet in practice it appears Christians read their horoscopes in the newspaper along with everyone else.

Chancellor noted the prominence astrology gained during Ronald Reagan's presidency due to his wife, Nancy's, extensive reliance upon astrology to find the best times for key meetings.

Chancellor pointed to Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter 4, as giving a clear biblical statement on astrology: "But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain."

In this passage, "elements" and the observance of days and months and seasons are references to astrology, Chancellor said. "To me, that's a clear passage that not only denies the truth of astrology but instructs Christians to stay away from it."

■ **The King James Version of the Bible was not "authorized" by God.**

The word "authorized" imprinted on the cover of the King James Version is a reference to the authorization of Britain's King James in 1603. The king authorized a new English translation of the Bible after some Puritan leaders requested it. No act of parliament ever was passed authorizing the translation.

The Bible's original manuscripts were written primarily in Hebrew and Greek. But even the latest books of the New Testament were written perhaps 1,500 years before the King James Version was translated.

Nonetheless, in the nearly 400 years since the King James Version appeared, it has become the standard English translation worldwide. It is revered by millions and considered the only true English Bible by some.

But the King James Version is "not God's only choice of Bible translations," said Rainer of Southern Seminary.

"There's a sense that a 16th century Bible may have had more of a first century origin than it really did," Rainer said, adding he holds a positive view of the King James Version. "But it is not the original manuscript."

■ **Bad things happen to good people.**

Christians are prone to think only good things should happen to those who love God, noted Dan Kent, Old Testament professor at Southwestern Seminary.

"You see that in the fact that peo-



ple react when something doesn't go well. The first question they ask is, 'Why did this happen to me?'" he said. "The question implies that it shouldn't be happening to me. It's almost like (Christians) should be exempt."

To dispel this misconception, read the Bible, Kent advised. "You'll find people having normal life experiences, regardless of who they are. Paul had all kinds of problems: ill health, persecution, shipwrecks and long, hard journeys."

■ **Big numbers don't always indicate success.**

Christians, and Southern Baptists in particular, often operate under the assumption that the bigger a church is, the more successful it is, said Kent of Southwestern Seminary.

But there is a difference between

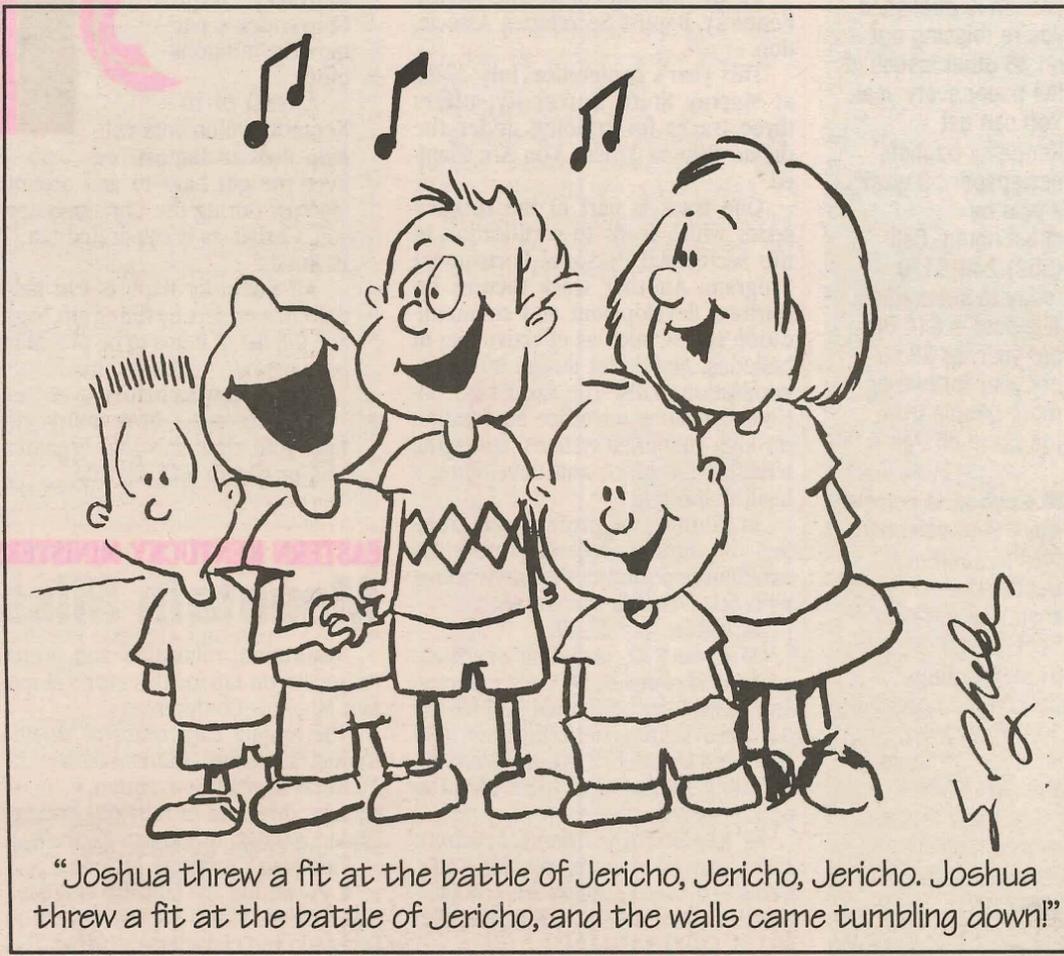
gathering people and reaching people, he added.

In his Old Testament classes, Kent asks students to write a one-paragraph answer to this question: "When my ministry comes to an end, how will I know it has been a success?"

He then uses the biblical example of Jeremiah to show that numbers do not indicate success. The prophet's warnings of Israel's impending destruction went unheeded by the people, and Jeremiah hardly drew a following or built a mega-church.

"If you use those standards, Jeremiah was not a success," Kent said. "Neither was Jesus. You have to use some other standard, which is faithfulness to the Lord."

Success cannot be determined by majority vote, he said. "The majority has been wrong too many times."





Build a church Opportunities still exist for Kentucky Baptist churches to help build a church in Russia. For details, call the KBC Partnership Missions office at (502) 245-4101.

Marriage retreat Kentucky's annual Fall Festival of Marriage is set for Sept. 22-24 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. For registration information call (615) 251-2277.

Mountain meet Ministers and their families from Eastern Kentucky are invited to the annual Mountain Missions Conference at Oneida Baptist Institute July 31-Aug. 2.

Golf retreat The annual Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Golf Tournament will tee off July 31-Aug. 1 at Gibson Bay Golf Course in Richmond.

Get the paper If you receive the Western Recorder only once a month when the Events section is published, you're missing out on 38 other issues of the paper every year. You can get Kentucky Baptists' newspaper 50 weeks a year by subscribing. Call (502) 244-6470 today to subscribe. The cost is \$10.60 per year, or \$8.50 per year for two or more people from the same church.

Keyboard retreat Mark your calendars for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's keyboard retreat Sept. 22-23 at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville. Concert artists will include Ron Boud and Don Phillips. For details, call the KBC church music department at (502) 245-4101.

PASTORS, CHURCH STAFF, DOMs, MUSIC & STEWARDSHIP LEADERS

Super Saturdays train caring pastors and church staff

Pastors, church staff members, directors of missions, music leaders and stewardship directors will find special help at this year's Super Saturday conferences.

Super Saturdays, the biggest one-day training event in Kentucky this year, will feature a number of special-interest conferences for these leadership groups.

A unique conference for pastors and directors of missions is designed to help you evaluate your personal gifts and your church's strengths. Then you'll learn how to maximize this knowledge for personal growth and church growth.

Directors of missions will gain new tools for guiding pastors and ministerial staff in setting personal direction and evaluating ministry opportunities.

Music leaders will find help to prepare all church music leaders for the

coming year, from preschool workers to adult workers. Music workshops also will offer a variety of creative tips for ministry.

Stewardship leaders will gain help to inspire church members toward greater giving and personal financial management.

Super Saturday conferences will be offered in six locations this year. The theme of this year's sessions is "Church Improvement: Tools for Caring Leaders."

Dates and locations: See the adjacent box for dates and locations.

Cost: \$8 per person pre-registered or \$10 per person at the door.

How to register: Send registration to KBC Church Growth and Administration, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

Information: Call (502) 245-4101.



Super Saturday dates and locations

August 12: Owensboro, First Baptist Church

August 12: Ashland, First Baptist Church

August 19: Corbin, Central Baptist Church

August 19: Erlanger, Erlanger Baptist Church

August 26: Lexington, Porter Memorial Church

August 26: Paducah, First Baptist Church

CHURCH SECRETARIES

Training set for church secretaries

Where do church secretaries go to get training, encouragement and spiritual development unique to their work?

To the annual conference of the Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association.

This year's conference, July 27-29 at Murray State University, offers three tracks for training under the theme "Bloom Where You Are Planted."

One track is part of the rotating series which leads to certification in the Secretarial Personal Enrichment Program. Another track focuses on spiritual development and communication issues, such as effective use of bulletins, newsletter design and communication skills. The third track includes sessions on office automation through computer systems, managing stress in the office and developing a healthy lifestyle.

In addition to professional training, the annual conference provides excellent opportunities for networking with other church secretaries.

Dates: July 27-29.

Cost: \$70, including overnight accommodations or \$45 for commuters. There is an additional \$20 fee for the track leading to certification and another \$15 fee for first-time students enrolling in this three-year certification program.

Registration: For a brochure and registration form, contact Cathy Heberer at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253, (502) 245-4101.

Help us send 15,000 Christmas gifts to a Russia

Kentucky Baptists will make Christmas brighter for 15,000 Russian children through the third annual Children's Christmas Gift Project.

Kentucky Brotherhood and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union are sponsoring this project in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions office.

A team of 10 Kentucky volunteers will help Russian Baptists deliver the gift bags in and around Moscow during the Christmas season. Christmas is celebrated Jan. 7 in Russia.

All Kentucky Baptists can help with this project by filling gift bags. See the list of items to be placed in bags below.

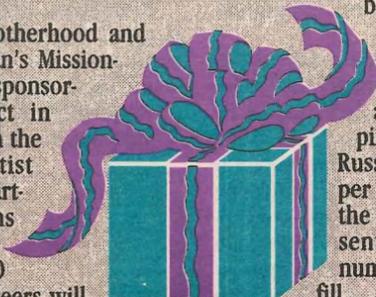
Here's how to help: 1. Determine how many gift bags your class, missions organization or church will provide.

2. Send \$3 per bag to Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433. The money will pay for the gift bag, a yo-yo and Russian New Testament to be placed in the bag and for the shipping to get the bag to Russia. After your \$3 per bag is received by the KBC, you will be sent the appropriate number of gift bags to fill.

3. Purchase new items according to the lists below and fill each gift bag.

4. Deliver your filled gift bags to the drop-off point designated in the information you receive by mail from the KBC.

Even though Christmas is several months away, now is the time to begin planning to participate in the Children's Christmas Gift Project. For more information, call (502) 244-6489.



Gift bag items for younger children

- 1/2 lb. hard candy, individually wrapped and put in a Ziplock bag
Child-size toothbrush, taped together with a tube of toothpaste
Comb
T-shirt (medium or large youth)
Two pairs of white children's socks
Two pencils
Pencil sharpener
Box of eight crayons
Notepad (no larger than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2)
Inexpensive handkerchief

Gift bag items for older children

- 1/2 lb. hard candy, individually wrapped and put in a Ziplock bag
Adult-size toothbrush, taped together with a tube of toothpaste
Comb
T-shirt (medium or large adult)
Two pairs of white adult-size socks
Two pencils
Pencil sharpener
Ballpoint pen
Notepad (no larger than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2)
Inexpensive handkerchief

EASTERN KENTUCKY MINISTERS

Mountain Missions Conference July 31-Aug. 2

Inspiration, relaxation and preparation are on tap for this year's Mountain Missions Conference.

The annual conference at Oneida Baptist Institute, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is for all pastors, directors of missions and lay leaders serving in Eastern Kentucky.

This year's program includes: Preaching by Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul's Baptist Church in Louisville and consultant with the KBC

evangelism office.

Bible study on Amos in preparation for next year's January Bible Study led by Larry Martin, KBC director of missions and evangelism.

Information about using computers in ministry by Al Griffin, pastor of Oneida Baptist Church.

Tips for working with deacons by Dan Garland, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.

Counseling for pastors and wives

offered by Bob and Eddie Fields of Cornerstone Counseling.

Music and children/youth sessions led by Son Praise.

Dates: July 31-Aug. 2.

Place: Oneida Baptist Institute.

Cost: Free.

To register: Write to Bud Underwood, Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972, and include information about family members who will attend with you.

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

EVENTS



DISCIPLESHIP LEADERS

Life Support offers help for people's hurts

Turn your church into a life-saving station by offering a vibrant discipleship training program using new Life Support programs.

Through these short-term courses, you can offer a spiritual life raft to people struggling with sexual abuse, alcoholism, overeating, divorce and other life problems.

Resources in the Life Support curriculum include:

- Leader's handbook to help you administer the program, select group leaders and facilitators.

- "Making Peace with Your Past," a study to understand how your past affects your life today.

- "Search for Significance," which teaches the forgiveness and unconditional love of Christ.

- "Conquering Chemical Dependency: A Christ-Centered 12-Step Process," a course to help participants understand the painful problem of chemical dependency and a 12-step, Christ-centered process toward recovery.

- "First Place," a Bible-based nutrition program with emphasis on valuing the body as the temple of God.

- "Shelter from the Storm: Hope for Survivors of Sexual Abuse," a study with emphasis on grieving the emotional pain, learning to let go of the past, reclaiming trust, control and intimacy.

For information about how to enrich your church's ministry with help from discipleship training programs, call Doug Strader or Jim Clontz at the KBC, (502) 245-4101.

PIANISTS AND ORGANISTS

Keyboard Retreat features Boud and Phillips in concert

Church pianists and organists are invited to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's first Keyboard Retreat this fall.

The two-day event will offer instruction at basic and advanced levels, separate reading sessions for pianists and organists, small-group discussions on a variety of topics, a roundtable discussion on the role of musicians as ministers and a concert by Ron Boud and Don Phillips.

Boud, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Phillips, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Franklin, will lead sessions in addition to their con-

cert. Other clinicians include Richard Dwyer, minister of music at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, and David Slinker, minister of music and education at Corinth Baptist Church in London.

The retreat also will offer time for fellowship and networking with other church musicians.

- **Date:** Sept. 22-23.

- **Location:** Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville.

- **Cost:** \$19 per person, including the Friday night meal.

- **To register:** Obtain registration form from KBC church music department, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253, (502) 245-4101.



Week of prayer for state missions

You don't have to go far in Kentucky to be a missionary. Mission needs exist all around us.

This year's week of prayer for state missions and Eliza Broadus Offering focuses on five specific ways Kentucky Baptists are helping meet these needs at home:

- Deaf ministry in Pike and Enterprise Baptist associations.
- Literacy missions.
- Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union executive board.
- Infant Resource Project.
- Language missions.

The Eliza Broadus Offering goal for this year is \$800,000. The annual week of prayer for state missions is Sept. 10-17.

CHILDREN'S WORKERS

New Flexible Curriculum adds variety to summer

If you're looking for fresh ideas for summer activities for children, consider the new Flexible Curriculum designed by Jewell Nelson of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday school department.

Eight units are available, and each unit contains many ideas for teaching children ages 6 to 12. Each unit is built around a Bible character.

Here are some possible applications:

- "Joseph" can teach children about the bullies in life and building self-esteem.

- "Paul and Barnabas" teaches about missions and working together.

- "Timothy" helps children learn about intergenerational relationships and single parenting.

- "David" teaches how God can use each person when that person is dedicated to God's purpose.

- "Mary and Martha" teaches hospitality, what is important and that sibling rivalry was alive and well even in Bible times.

- "Joshua" teaches qualities of a good leader.

- "Ruth and Boaz" teaches about family roots, hard work and faithfulness to the family.

- "Lydia" gives credit to a businesswoman and her ministry as a layperson.

Flexible Curriculum is just what the name implies. Any unit can be used by itself and can be adapted to various study times.

And the materials are undated so they can be used again and again. Each unit may be used with one child or a large group of children.

- **Cost:** \$5 per unit.

- **To order:** Send requests to KBC Sunday school department, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

- **More information:** Call Jewell Nelson at the KBC Sunday school department, (502) 245-4101.

- **Space available**
Fall dates are open for church special events at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly in West Kentucky. Plan your church retreat or meeting at this Baptist camp located on Kentucky Lake and nearby many other attractions.

- **Super Saturdays**
The annual Super Saturday training conferences are scheduled for six locations in August. See the article in this Events section for details.

- **Secretaries**
Church secretaries from across Kentucky will gather in Murray July 27-29 for their annual training conference. Call Cathy Heberer at (502) 245-4101 for details.

KBC Calendar

June 24

- Church weekday education conference at Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland

June 25

- Annuity Board Sunday

June 25-July 2

- All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra

July 2

- Christian Citizenship Sunday

July 4

- Independence Day

July 6-19

- Kentucky Baptist Chorale and Kentucky Baptist Singing Women tour of Russia

July 7-8

- Brotherhood Steering Committee meeting, Hopkinsville

July 8-16

- Kentucky Changers event in Hopkinsville

July 27-29

- Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association annual conference, Murray

July 31-August 3

- Mountain Missions Conference, Oneida Baptist Institute

August 5

- WMU associational council training

August 6

- Day of Prayer for World Peace

August 6-10

- BSU On-to-College retreat

August 12

- WMU Associational Council training
- Super Saturday at First Baptist Church of Ashland and First Baptist Church of Owensboro

August 13

- Language Missions Day
- On-to-College Day

August 15

- KBC committee on committees meeting at Baptist Building

August 19

- WMU Associational Council training
- Super Saturday at Central Baptist Church of Corbin and Erlanger Baptist Church in Erlanger

August 20-27

- Church Music Emphasis Week

August 22

- KBC public affairs committee meeting at Baptist Building



Ministers invited to the fore!-front

The annual Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Golf Tournament will tee off at Gibson Bay Golf Course in Richmond July 31 and Aug. 1.

All Kentucky Baptist clergy are invited to participate. Laity are welcome to play, but only ministers will compete for prizes.

Information on tee times will be sent to each participant after registration is received.

- **Cost:** \$55, including two days of green fees and two days of cart fees. Each player is responsible for his or her own lodging and meals.

- **To register:** Contact Rick Howerton at 1805 West- en Ave., Bowling Green, Ky. 42104, (502) 843-9462.

Baptists take opposite sides at hearing on religion

"We are told that some are offended by having to hear prayers offered at school functions, assemblies and commencements. What about the profanity and vulgarity heard in school hallways, locker rooms and along the sidelines?"

Charles Fuller

HARRISONBURG, Va. (ABP)—In two hearings on a proposed religious-liberty amendment to the U.S. Constitution, both sides agreed that students' rights are sometimes violated in public schools. But witnesses—including two Virginia Baptist pastors—differed on how to remedy the problem.

Some argued an amendment is needed to restore free exercise of religion guaranteed in the First Amendment but trampled on by U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

Others countered that the problem is not what courts have ruled, but that school boards and administrators do not know that some forms of religious expression are permitted. They advocated education and contended meddling with the Constitution could lead to state establishment of religion, which the First Amendment forbids.

The House Subcommittee on the Constitution held its first hearings on the issue June 8 in Washington and June 10 in Harrisonburg, Va. The witness list included clergy, constitutional lawyers, students, a congressman, parents and other concerned citizens. The hearings are designed to precede congressional debates on the amendment.

The amendment, proposed by Rep. Ernest Istook, R-Okla., is one of the 10 items in the Christian Coalition's "Contract with the American Family" and is supported by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. The Baptist Joint Committee opposes the measure.

The issue of public school prayer has polarized the nation, a fact illustrated poignantly when two Southern Baptist pastors took opposite sides before the June 10 panel meeting at Harrisonburg High School.

Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church in Roanoke, spoke on behalf of the amendment, and William Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Waynesboro, urged the panel to reject it.

Fuller said he opposes both sponsorship and suppression of religion by government.

"I do not believe it is the government's responsibility to help me evangelize America or to help someone else to propagate whatever his faith may be, but it is the responsibility of

government to keep the ground level on religious terrain," Fuller said.

Current interpretations of the First Amendment do not provide such equality, Fuller maintained. He also called allegations that the proposed amendment's hidden agenda is to reinstate government-prescribed prayer and Bible reading "a misrepresentation of my intent and the intent of others."

"Though I would be the first to say I believe the very survival of our nation is dependent upon nothing short of a moral and a spiritual awakening, it is not the duty of government to engineer or accomplish that awakening," Fuller said.

On the other hand, Fuller argued, the government also "does not have the right to instigate or to encourage the suppression of the religious expressions of its citizens."

The government is inconsistent in protecting free speech, Fuller observed.

"We are told that some are offended by having to hear prayers offered at school functions, assemblies and commencements. What about the profanity and vulgarity heard in school hallways, locker rooms and along the sidelines?" he said as the crowd roared in approval.

Wilson, a board member of the Baptist Joint Committee—a Washington-based religious-liberty watchdog group—said he spoke not only as a Southern Baptist minister but also as the husband of a public school teacher and father of public school children.

"I am deeply troubled by the decay and erosion of morality that seems to beset our nation at this time in our history," said Wilson, a self-described evangelical conservative. "Having said that, I want to urge you to resist those who advocate the government as the instigator, promoter and advocate of religious faith."

He told the panel many Virginia pastors were jailed for preaching their brand of the gospel before the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791. Baptists, along with others, he said, rose up to help secure the First Amendment protections.

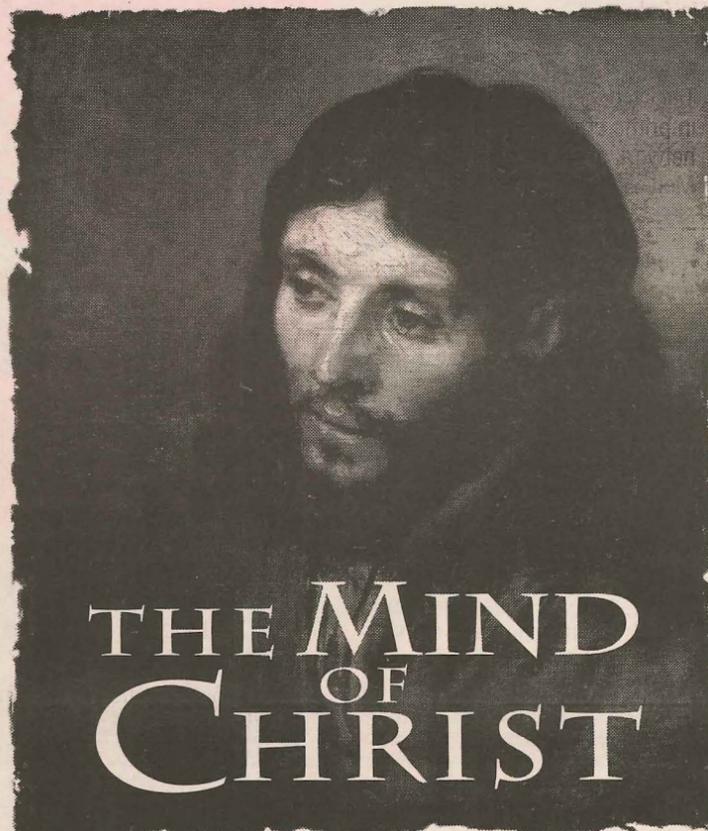
"So, when I hear the clamor for weaving together religious doctrine and legislation, I say: 'Been there,

done that.' Please don't send us back," he pleaded.

Religious leaders "are blaming the government because that is easier than accepting responsibility for a history of self-serving religion" that has "helped create this crisis in our na-

tion's soul," Wilson added.

"I know you want to provide some needed and necessary treatment and healing, but please, do not apply the Band-Aid of a constitutional religious amendment of some type to this critically ill patient," Wilson said.



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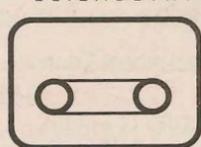
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NATION

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Catholic laity could be cut off.** U.S. Roman Catholic bishops are studying a proposal to eliminate their public-policy arm, which allows lay leaders to help shape political and social positions of the church, and put those decisions solely in the hands of bishops. The proposal leads the agenda for the spring meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops this month in Chicago.

■ **Religion gains in prime time.** Television's treatment of religion improved in prime time last year, but declined on network news programs, according to the Media Research Center's second annual study of how the networks deal with

religious issues. The study found the number of portrayals of religion in prime time more than double, from 116 in 1993 to 253 in 1994. And positive depictions outnumbered negatives by almost two-to-one. Coverage of religion on network news programs remained numerically insignificant.

■ **New Jersey abortions increase.** During the first eight months of a new law in New Jersey denying additional welfare benefits to mothers who have more children, abortion rates increased among New Jersey women on welfare. A government report said abortions among women on welfare increased 4 percent during the

period. Abortion opponents and abortion-rights advocates disagree about whether there is any correlation between the new law and the increase in abortions.

■ **AIDS resource available.** The Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and the T.B. Maston Foundation have produced a videotape-based curriculum to help churches begin ministries to people with AIDS. "Echoes From the Valley: Beginning an AIDS Ministry" is an hour-long video divided into three 20-minute sections. For information about the material, write to the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission at 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798.

■ **Tilton suit dismissed.** A lawsuit charging ABC News with destroying Robert Tilton's television ministry was dismissed by a federal judge in Tulsa, Okla. The network received a summary judgment, ruling that Tilton's lawsuit was groundless.

■ **Kropp dies.** Arthur Kropp, 37, president of the controversial group People for the American Way, died at his home in Washington, D.C., June 12 of complications from AIDS. People for the American Way was founded in 1984 as a liberal advocacy group to battle the Moral Majority and other politically conservative religious groups.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, Ky., is currently receiving applications for a minister of youth/college students/singles. MDiv preferred but not required. Salary and benefits commensurate with qualifications and experience. Send resumé to: Dr. Tim Noel, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, 339 W. Lexington Ave., Danville, KY 40422.

FOR SALE: Hammond organ; traditional; model H-111; mahogany; suitable for small church; (502) 895-6936.

FOR SALE: 1981 Ford Super-van, 15-passenger, 6-cylinder. Only 61,529 miles; no AC. \$2,675. (502) 451-7220.

FOR SALE: 1984 Dodge Maxi-van, 15-passenger, front & rear AC. Only 76,242 miles; \$3,575. (502) 451-7220.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Baptist church. If interested, send resumé to: Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Part-time music director for Sunday services and adult choir at this time. Warm, music-loving church. Crescent Spring BC. Northern Kentucky association. Send resumé to: Crescent Springs BC, 627 Buttermilk Pike, Crescent Springs, KY 41017-1301. Attn: Ben.

FOUND: Camera in a case at the Youth Evangelism Conference on June 9 & 10. Contact the Office for Evangelism at (502) 245-4101.

WANTED: Full-time minister of music/youth position open; Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage, Alaska. Send a letter of interest to Herb Cotton, Search Committee, 3389 Checkmate, Anchorage, AK 99508. You will be sent a packet of information needed to apply. The deadline for mailing letters of interest is July 31.

FOR SALE: Double-entry baptistry with plexiglass window; aqua; 32" x 10'9" (inside dimensions). Candidate baptized from seated position—minister stays dry. Used, but excellent condition; \$250. Phone (502) 633-0734.

NEEDED: Part-time church secretary, 30 hours per week. Gethsemane Baptist Church, (502) 969-3191. Call the church office between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

NEEDED: Full-time artist/publications assistant. Will assist in preparing materials for typesetting and printing and perform general clerical duties. Some knowledge of desktop publishing necessary, 1-2 years experience preferred. Computer experience required. \$6.56/hr. plus generous benefits. Apply between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., room 201, Carver Building.

TOUR: 12-day Holy Land pilgrimage into Egypt, Israel and Jordan. Sept. 12-23, only \$1,995 from Louisville, Nashville, Memphis areas. Call Pastor Jack R. Studie for a color brochure and more information (502) 247-8331. Experience you can trust!

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WANTED: Caregivers to assist elderly. Full-time, part-time and live-in. Call (502) 499-7777.

SEEKING: Hickory Grove Baptist Church seeks a full-time pastor. Please send resumé, tapes and videos to Bob Winter, 3051 Magnolia Ct., Edgewood, KY 41017.

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BAPTISTS

Kentucky Vietnam vets invited to return on mission

Southern Baptists among highest givers

NASHVILLE (BP)—A national congregational giving study shows two conservative denominations, Southern Baptists and Assemblies of God, with the highest per-capita giving.

The American Congregational Giving Study was commissioned by the Lilly Endowment Inc., and surveyed 625 congregations, 125 in each of five major church bodies in the United States.

Participating denominations in the 1993 study were Assemblies of God, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Roman Catholic Church and Southern Baptist Convention. Among preliminary findings recently reported:

- Higher levels of giving are most often associated with evangelical or religiously conservative beliefs.

- Those who give the most make a pledge or commitment in advance. People dedicated to give a tithe give the most, followed by those who decide on an annual percentage of income to be donated. Those who decide how much to give on the spot each Sunday give the least.

- Opinions about the national or international denomination have little influence on the amount given.

- Level of family income clearly influences the level of giving to the congregation. But as income increases, the Assemblies and Southern Baptist members increase their giving faster than the others.

- Giving varies by age, with the highest giving generally by people 45 to 65 years old.

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

Kentucky Baptists who served in the Vietnam conflict have a unique opportunity to return to that country on a mission of love.

Chuck Ward, a war veteran and member of Memorial Baptist Church in Murray, has participated in two recent trips to Vietnam, where he has ministered in homes for polio victims and the homeless. He also has worked in a street ministry, helped establish health clinics and helped develop churches.

The trips were made possible by a group called Vets with a Mission, a charitable, non-profit organization founded by Vietnam veterans dedicated to bringing healing and reconciliation to Vietnamese people.

Vets with a Mission has coordinated 13 mission trips during the last seven years, with more than 300 individuals participating.

At the invitation of interested Baptists in the state, Ward is organizing a Baptist contingent to participate in the next trip, scheduled for Jan. 17-29.

Blood River Baptist Association, where Terry Sills is director of missions, recently invited Ward to come to an associational Brotherhood breakfast to share his testimony and speak about his 1994 mission to Vietnam.

"That's how this idea all got started," Ward explained. "The interest began to develop for a mission trip for other men."

The 13-day trip will include two segments, the "Southern Cross" and the "Northern Lights."

The Southern Cross group will complete construction projects on clinics and in villages across a 150-mile radius of Ho Chi Min City. Some medical personnel will accompany this team.

In addition to joining the southern team for part of the trip, the Northern

Lights team will fly north to work on a clinic project in the DaNang province.

Cost for the 13-day trip ranges from \$1,650 to \$2,000.

Blood River Baptist Association will host an information session June 27 at 7 p.m. for those interested in joining the January mission team.

A local connection to the upcoming tour strengthens the case for Kentucky Baptist involvement, Ward said.

"We are planning a memorial service at Firebase Tomahawk, where a Bardstown national guard unit was sent," he said. "We suffered tremendous casualties there. ... We will remember all Kentuckians and Baptists who served in the war."

Ward said his two trips back to the country offered a positive outcome to an otherwise devastating experience.

"Personally, I have struggled with guilt that my friends died for nothing," Ward said. "It used to haunt me. But the Lord has shown me that out of this experience, ... if I can go back there and help lead one person to Jesus Christ, my friends didn't die for nothing."

The trip has the potential to help some veterans close the last chapter in their Vietnam experiences, he added. "God can take something that was a negative experience and turn it around for something good."

For further information or to join the team, contact Ward at Murray State University, (502) 762-3001.



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Project HELP: AIDS is the national ministry project of Woman's Missionary Union for 1996. The purpose of this national ministry project is to share the gospel while meeting both physical and spiritual needs, and mobilizing WMU resources to develop ministry models for meeting needs of those affected by the AIDS epidemic. Kentucky WMU is designing a resource kit for this project. *OND Kentucky Notes* will contain information about the kit and an order form.



A home for Vicki

Foster parents are extraordinary people. They open their homes to children who have been hurt and out of that hurt have many needs. They rearrange their lives and give of themselves in tremendous ways to help children find hope and healing.

I feel fortunate to have been able to see first hand the difference that foster parents make.

One of my first jobs in child care was working with foster parents and in my present job I have the opportunity to talk to and meet Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children foster parents on a regular basis.

Let me tell you about one recent high school graduate to whom foster parents gave a real sense of belonging:

Vicki (not her real name) had been adopted as a young child but the adoption later became disrupted. Unfortunately, however, the parental rights were never terminated so Vicki spent much of her childhood and adolescence in a series of placements that never quite fit.

Each placement brought change and confusion for Vicki and she was finally characterized as "out of

control." That's when she came into the care of Kentucky Baptists at Genesis Home in Mayfield. She was there less than three months. She responded well to the program and we realized that she did not need the intensive setting of a treatment home nearly as much as she simply needed a family who would love and accept her.

We helped Vicki find that family in the form of one of our Baptist foster homes. It has made all the difference in the world as over the past 18 months Vicki has found the love, acceptance and permanence for which she has long searched.

Vicki now has a family, a part-time job at a local store and, this fall, will be attending vocational school. For the first time, her future looks bright.

We are very proud of Vicki and her accomplishments. We are also proud of her foster parents and the great love and dedication they have shown her. They truly show Christ's love in action.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

WORLD VIEW

■ **Shroud study perhaps flawed.** The Shroud of Turin still could be proved to have been the burial cloth of Christ, according to researchers Leoncio Garza-Valdes and Steven Mattingly of the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. Though earlier carbon-dating tests had shown the cloth to be of more recent origin than the time of Christ, those tests probably were flawed, the Texas researchers report. The carbon-dating could have been thrown off by a coating of microbes found on the shroud, the researchers reported to the American Society for Microbiology.

■ **British church downplays "living in sin."** A controversial Church of England report says couples who live together without marrying should not be viewed as "living in sin." The report, "Something to Celebrate," published in June by the Church of England's Board for Social Responsibility, studies changing family patterns in Britain. The study affirms marriage as central to the Christian tradition of

family life but calls on churches to recognize other ways in which people live together. It urges the church to welcome all people, whether single, married, separated or cohabitating in either heterosexual or homosexual relationships.

■ **Koreans to ordain women.** Women may be ordained as ministers and elders in the Presbyterian Church of Korea, due to an amendment recently approved for the church's constitution. Forty-eight of the 51 South Korean presbyteries have approved the constitutional amendment.

■ **Lethal injections OK in Australia.** A regional parliament in Darwin, Australia, approved the world's first lethal-injection bill May 26 after a 14-hour debate. Northern Territory, a sparsely populated, politically conservative frontier state, approved the measure in a 15-10 vote. The measure legalizes physician-assisted suicide and allows for lethal injection.

■ **Temple replica found.** An Israeli archaeologist has discovered what he says is an exact replica of Israel's second temple. Yitzhak Magen, chief archaeologist for Judea and Samaria, said the Samaritan temple appears to match the description of the second Jewish temple described in the Dead Sea Scrolls. The second temple was a reconstruction of the Jerusalem temple built by King Solomon in the first century B.C. Its site cannot be excavated because it is located beneath the Dome of the Rock, a holy site for Muslims. The recent discovery could provide a better understanding of what Solomon's temple looked like.

■ **Crucifixion investigated.** Amnesty International is investigating the crucifixion-like killing of an unidentified 22-year-old Christian in India's eastern state of Bihar. According to new reports, 10 men seized the victim, tattooed his face, broke his backbone and ribs, nailed his hands and feet to a cross, then forced him to drink motor oil.

Saudi Arabia most restrictive

STRASBOURG, France (ABP)—Saudi Arabia tops a list of nations in which Christians face the strictest repression for their faith.

Christians in Iran, Sudan, the Comoros Islands and China also face severe religious-liberty restrictions, according to the 1995 international survey by Portes Ouvertes, a religious organization based in Strasbourg, France.

Using an index with a possible maximum of 100 for total religious repression, the survey estimated Saudi Arabia at 86 points, Iran at 75, Sudan at 73.5, the Comoros at 70, China at 68, North Korea and Qatar at 65, Oman at 64 and Libya at 63.

Of the 30 countries at the top of the persecution list, 24 are predominantly Muslim. Four of the 30 are communist.

The index is based on 25 different criteria including the country's constitution, the attitude of the authorities to Christians and the liberty of churches to go about their own affairs and to play a role in society at large. Discrimination and persecution of individual Christians and other factors such as local conflicts are also taken into account.

Jerusalem embassy proposal divisive

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Republican presidential hopeful Robert Dole's bill to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem has pushed the volatile issue of that city's political future to the top of the agenda for American Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders concerned with the Middle East.

Christian and Jewish support for the bill is split.

Within the American Muslim community, however, there is no debate. Muslims are uniformly and adamantly opposed to the measure.

Muslim leaders cast the Dole legislation as a bid by the Kansas senator to gain support within the politically influential and increasingly conservative American Jewish community. They likewise see it as an insult to the politically weak Muslim community.

Dole thrust the issue to center stage May 8 when he announced during a speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a leading Jewish lobbying group, that he was introducing legislation that would move the embassy from its current location in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by May 31, 1999.

Israel has long claimed Jerusalem as its capital, but only Costa Rica and El Salvador have located their embassies in that city. Other nations, including the United States, have kept their embassies in Tel Aviv on grounds that Jerusalem's final status has yet to be worked out to the approval of the United Nations.

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Thursday, June 29, 7:00 p.m.
Bellevue Baptist Church
Owensboro, Kentucky

Friday, June 30, 7:00 p.m.
Latonia Baptist Church
Covington, Kentucky

Sunday, July 2, 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Little Flock Baptist Church
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Philip L. Copeland
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Jim Cordell
Church Music Director

PEOPLE

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- Pastor Nikolai Prisiazhniuk who lives more than 700 kilometers from his church and is separated from his family for weeks at a time.
- A Kentucky couple who are considering serving as additional field coordinators in Moscow.
- Vacation Bible school teams going to First Baptist Church in Kearns, Utah, and Alta Canyon Baptist Church in Sandy, Utah, this summer.
- Churches in the Color Country Baptist Association in St. George, Utah.
- Directors of missions in the Utah/Idaho convention.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **CADIZ**—Rocky Ridge Church ordained **Larry Lancaster** as deacon May 21.

Canton Church ordained **Jeff Harrison, Mike Sadler, Greg Mitchell, Doug Taylor and Barry Littlejohn** as deacons June 4.

■ **ROBERT MCFADDEN**, 71, died June 6. McFadden was ordained to the ministry in 1961 and was a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. He was pastor of several churches in Kentucky for 20 years, including Kelly Church in Hopkinsville and Mount Zion Church in Trenton.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—White Sulphur Church called **Jared Daniel** as associate pastor.

■ **GRAYSON**—First Church celebrated its 75th anniversary June 4 with morning and afternoon services. **Charles Davis** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Porter Memorial Church called **William Crawford** as minister of music.

The youth and young adults of Trinity Church will host contemporary Christian singer/songwriter **Nia** in concert June 28 from 7-8:30 p.m.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church will host YouthQuake '95 June 26-29 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The event presents positive solutions and encouragement to teens in dealing with current issues. For more information, call Jacky Newton at (502) 368-5806.

■ **META**—**Leon Greer** will retire as pastor of Meta Church June 25. He can be contacted for pulpit supply, interim pastorates and revivals at 173 Bunker Hill Dr., Winchester, Ky. 40391, (606) 744-2890.

■ **MOREHEAD**—**Don Mantoath** celebrated his 13th anniversary as pastor of First Church June 10.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Nicholasville Church called **Patrick Wren** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Shawnee Run Church in Harrodsburg. He began his new ministry June 4.

■ **PARIS**—Central Church will kick off its year-long 50th anniversary celebration June 25. Former pastor **J. Bill Jones** will be guest speaker and a potluck lunch will follow.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Little Flock Church will offer a prophecy conference with **Roger Best** of Sign Ministries Aug. 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

■ **SOMERSET**—First Church called **Mark Hazle** as minister of youth. Hazle previously was associate pastor of youth and Christian education at Mount Washington Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—**Rick Vaughan** resigned as associate pastor for youth/college ministries at First Church June 4, to become minister of youth and single adults at Spring Hill Church in Columbia, S.C.



HERNDON AWARD Ruth Walters, a member of Woodland Baptist Church in Louisville and a longtime treasurer of the Spring Meadows Auxiliary, receives the J.D. Herndon Award from Mike Dixon, director of Spring Meadows Children's Home, part of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children ministry. The award, named for a former director of the children's home, is given each year to a person who has gone the "extra mile" in supporting the Spring Meadows ministry.

Hankins Parker dies in Louisville

LOUISVILLE—Hankins Parker, director of estate planning at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died of a heart attack June 10. He was 77.

Parker joined the seminary staff in 1980 after more than 30 years of pastoral ministry.

His pastorates included Melbourne Heights Baptist Church and Highland Baptist Church, both in Louisville; First Baptist Church of Paducah; Walnut Street Baptist Church in Owensboro; Miami

Springs Baptist Church in Miami Springs, Fla.; and First Baptist Church of Barton, Ala.

Parker was a native of Brewton, Ala. He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Samford University and the master of theology degree from Southern Seminary. Prior to entering seminary, Parker earned the doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Auburn University.

He is survived by his wife, Frances, three daughters and three grandsons.

Hard at work!

When school ends for the summer, most kids are not thinking of work. But many Oneida boys and girls begin work right away.

Nearly 200 of our students are on full or nearly full scholarships. These young people come from low-income households and cannot pay the modest room, board and tuition. The actual cost for each student is over \$800 per month. We feel that our total program is worth much more than \$800, but that is the "actual cost." Virtually every student receives a scholarship worth over \$400 per month. The room, board and tuition for the 1994-1995 school year was \$325 per month for Kentucky students.

I recently read about a Christian day school in Kentucky that charged just over \$3,500 per year, or nearly \$400 per month. We care for our students 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We do many things to keep costs down. First, it is well known that our faculty and staff work for much less than normal salaries.

Second, they work far more hours than most people. Third, students clean our buildings, mow grass, work on our farm, wax floors, paint, wash dishes, clean the dining room, work in the garden and green house, repair tables and desks and help raise most of our pork and beef.

Every summer we ask many high school students who are on full or nearly full scholarships to work three weeks after the other students have gone home. We can then do many things that cannot be easily done at other times.

One day last week I took a walk around the campus just to see all that was going on. Right outside the office door I saw Tommy hard at work. This is Tommy's first year at Oneida. He is from Louisville and will be in the ninth grade

next year. He was busy cleaning the rest rooms and halls in the administration building. He always has a smile and is willing to do about anything.

Next I walked down to the garden. I watched two students transplant tomatoes, peppers, squash and other plants. Earlier in the spring students had planted several hundred cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce and cabbage plants that had been raised in our greenhouse during the winter.

Next I walked across the swinging bridge to see what the farm boys were doing. Some were taking care of the pigs. We normally have about 87 sows, eight boars and 300 little pigs at any given time.

Out in the fields I saw several other students baling hay. One was driving the tractor while the farm manager and other boys loaded the wagon. I watched the boys throw the bales onto the wagon. It was so good to see them hard at work. The wagon was nearly full. As they came near me to get the last of the hay, one of the boys said, "Hey, Dr. Underwood, how about you loading the last bale?" I was not sure I wanted to. It had been some

time since I had baled hay! Right away all of the boys chimed in, "Come on Dr. Underwood, you load the last bale, but it will have to go on the top. Can you get it up there?"

Well, what could I do?

As I walked toward the bale, I prayed that it was a light one. As I reached for the strings I knew the moment of truth was here. I picked up the bale and was thrilled to find it was very light. I smiled and threw it to the top.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Moving to a new Pineville

Drive 300 miles east of Pineville and you will end up in Pineville, W.Va. The two county-seat communities have similarities. Although the hills surround us, we can get into town without navigating hairpin curves across the mountain. In West Virginia, you have a choice of several mountain entrances.

Turn right at the courthouse and go one mile to find Pineville Southern Baptist Church. Like many mountain congregations, the facilities have close neighbors and very little parking. The lovely auditorium, decorated in worshipful blue, was built by Baptist volunteers. A mobile home houses Sunday school rooms and the pastor's office. A fellowship hall offers plenty of room for dinner on the grounds.

After Saturday night at Cedar-more for the BSU Son teams' dinner theatre, I did not push to arrive earlier. Lunch was still on the table. It was too early for garden vegetables, but I found more than enough to test my resolve as a First Place diet program participant.

We gathered to install Mark Barnett as pastor. That morning he told the church "the occasion marked a work of God's sovereignty. You prayed and sought a pas-

tor. As we approached my graduation from Clear Creek, we prayed for a place of service. God brought us together."

Mark is a West Virginia native. At lunch, they told of answered prayers which further confirmed their calling to Pineville. Angela got a bank teller job. "No one gets a job that quick over here." Their children, Michelle and Steven, already have made friends and seemed to be at home. Before they moved in, the local pastor's association elected Mark as president.

Leadership and responsibility is nothing new to Barnett. He came to Clear Creek with six years as manager at Roses. He worked his way through school at Belk-Simpson, Middleboro.

The faculty awarded Barnett the R.P. Mahon Founders Award for his cooperativeness and "response to God's call and preparation for ministry in the midst of adult life." This fall Mark celebrates his 37th birthday. Each day he rejoices in the assurance of being in the Lord's will. You should also rejoice in having a part in his preparation for ministry.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Schoolteacher happily gave all she had for missions

BURGAW, N.C. (BP)—Mary Taylor cared more about others than she did herself.

The daughter of a Southern Baptist preacher, Taylor never married. Instead, she devoted her life to her church and community.

But more than anything else, she devoted herself to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the world—in life and in death.

"Mary Taylor was a very gentle lady who had a real compassion for people," said Francis Chesson, pastor of Burgaw (N.C.) Baptist Church, where Taylor was an active member for most of her adult life, until her death last year. "She wanted us to be sensitive to the physical and spiritual needs of people here in our own backyard, but she also always held our feet to the fire as far as missions was concerned."

Taylor's first love was children. Her small, wood-frame, white house stood just a block from the Burgaw school, where she taught first grade for about 40 years. Her door always was open to neighborhood children who wanted to visit or play a board game.

"Mary loved children. You could see it in the way she spoke to them," said Margaret Harrell, her next-door neighbor. "Occasionally, she would give the children's sermon at church. They would just sit there spellbound and listen to her."

When mandatory retirement forced her to leave the classroom in 1969, Taylor devoted her time to the community. She delivered meals to the homebound, taught in a literacy program sponsored by the Wilmington Baptist Association and volunteered at the local hospital. There she ran errands, gave directions and did other chores even when her own health began to fail.

Taylor also cared about principle and conscience, Gary Trawick, her attorney and executor of her estate, told the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, a recipient of her generosity over the years.

She gave up income from a building leased to a grocery store—refusing to renew the lease—when its management decided to sell alcohol. She was one of the first teachers to volunteer for service in a black school when North Carolina schools were

integrated in the 1960s. And when she remembered an injustice she had committed against a student, she ran a public apology in the newspaper—even though the slight was 60 years old.

She also paid for a standing newspaper ad that read: "Anyone wanting to know how to become a Christian, contact Mary Taylor."

Perhaps the most striking thing about Taylor, however, was her love of missions.

"Mary always wanted the church to do the right thing when it came to missions," Chesson said. "She was always encouraging us to increase the missions budget and the missions offerings."

In fact, Taylor refused herself basic necessities so she could have money to meet mission needs, said another neighbor, Jewell Harrell.

"Mary loved mission work, and did without so she could give to missions," Harrell said. "She wouldn't spend money on her house; the door swung large enough you could throw a cat through it. She went around with holes in her shoes, but she kept a metal box with money in it for gifts to

others."

If the church wasn't meeting its goal for a mission offering, she always gave extra to reach it. When a young woman in the church couldn't afford to take a volunteer mission trip to Brazil, Taylor wrote a check to pay her airfare and expenses.

Despite her modest means, Taylor gave \$27,000 to the Foreign Mission Board in the last 10 years of her life. Those gifts were above and beyond her tithe and local offerings.

And when she died one week short of her 89th birthday more than a year ago, her friends and family weren't surprised to discover she left her entire estate—about \$115,000—to Southern Baptist mission work in Mexico.

"I'm constantly gratified by the number of people who include the Foreign Mission Board in their wills," said David Coleman, FMB director of development. "And I'm humbled by the lifestyle they live to fulfill the commitments they have made to the Lord. Mary Taylor lived simply and sacrificed her own comforts to provide more money for the Lord's work."

"Mary loved mission work, and did without so she could give to missions. She went around with holes in her shoes, but she kept a metal box with money in it for gifts to others."

Vegetable grower takes stand for Jesus

SPEARVILLE, La. (BP)—Selling fruits and vegetables along Highway 15 in north Louisiana, 85-year-old Leonard Poston quietly aims for lofty results among his customers.

For the past 20 years, Poston has become a local celebrity of sorts, passing out 2,000 to 3,000 tracts a year from his roadside mission.

Like Jesus, Poston was a carpenter. After retiring, Poston planted a garden and sold his harvest in the back of his truck on the side of the road. Business picked up for Poston's vegetable stand just outside Spearsville, and he wondered how he could witness to all of his customers.

"There are about a million people a year and about 45 trucks an hour that pass my stand, and I wondered how in the world I could reach them," Poston says. "So I ordered 50 little Bibles. I gave them to truckers (who stopped) and told them about Jesus."

Poston was inspired to order 1,000 more tracts when a truck driver professed faith in Jesus after Poston witnessed to him. And he has not slowed down since.

Poston had many problems in the beginning of his efforts, one being what to say when people stopped.

"When people stop at my stand, they are moving fast and sometimes I have only two minutes to talk to them," he explains. "Sometimes I only have the chance to say 'God loves you' or 'Jesus loves you,' but I try to ask them if they know Jesus. They answer 'yes,' 'no,' or 'I want to know more.' It gives me a chance to tell them how wonderful Jesus is."

Another problem was with the

tracts. Poston found he needed nondenominational tracts.

Poston passes out "Romans road" tracts and little Bibles with popular verses. He also gives out Bibles to children and Spanish translations.

"Last summer a trucker stopped to tell me how he kept the little Bible I'd given him," Poston says. "He pulled out of his pocket the old Bible ... It was old and worn, so I gave him a new one. He said I had asked him if he knew Jesus. Jesus Christ does the work. I am just a servant."

Sometimes Poston says he feels as if he is a counselor.

"I remember one time one of my regular customers stopped coming by, and I started to worry about her," Poston says. "When she finally stopped, she told me her husband died of cancer. She got a cryin' and she told me she had no money. I told her how my wife had died of cancer a few years before, and I told her everything was going to be all right. And we prayed together in the midst of heavy traffic. God cares, so I care."

Poston says he feels his humble way of life is beneficial to his work as a layman. "I don't drive a fancy truck, and I don't talk fancy," he says. "I do talk to all kinds of people, and if I talked fancy or had a fancy education, I don't think I would be able to reach them the way I do now."

Poston believes Christians need to exert their influence beyond the walls of the church. "When you go to church you see the same people," he explains.

"They all know the Lord. You need to get out and talk to people in the grocery store, the barber shop, anywhere."

Reluctant church starter excels

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

FREMONT, Calif. (BP)—Starting a new church was the furthest thing from Ray Jones' mind in 1987 when, at age 25, he was presented that challenge.

Eight years later, Fremont Bible Fellowship—a growing congregation of 1,200 members with an enlarging vision for the future—stands as a tribute to the reality that God uses people to point others in the direction of his will for their lives.

Elgia Wells, now manager of the black church development section at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, was Jones' reflection group leader at Emmanuel Baptist Church in San Jose, Calif., when he posed the question to Jones about starting a new church.

"At first I laughed," Jones recalled during a Sunday morning interview in his study between worship services. "I didn't know anything about church starts. The Lord really led us."

After he and his wife, Florence, became convinced God was indeed leading them to start a new church, two existing congregations, Pilgrims Rest in Oakland and Emmanuel of San Jose, agreed to serve as sponsors. The next question became, "Where?"

Jones found the answer not on a California map, but in the Bible, Acts 16:6-10, where the Apostle Paul had a vision in which he saw a Macedonian saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

"The Lord just said no, not San Jose," Jones said. "He laid on our hearts Fremont," a town about 20 miles up Interstate 880. "There was only one predominantly black church in Fremont and the community was growing."

Since enrolling 34 charter members on Nov. 9, 1987, the church has met in seven locations. They bought



PRAISE LEADER Ray Jones, pastor of Fremont Bible Fellowship in California, leads his congregation in a time of praise and worship. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

their present building, located on one acre of land in an industrial park, in November 1991 and moved in 1992.

The story of obtaining rezoning to allow a church to meet in the industrial park without adequate on-site parking was another miracle, Jones said.

"By law, we would have had to have a minimum of five acres for parking. God moved and the city changed the codes," he said.

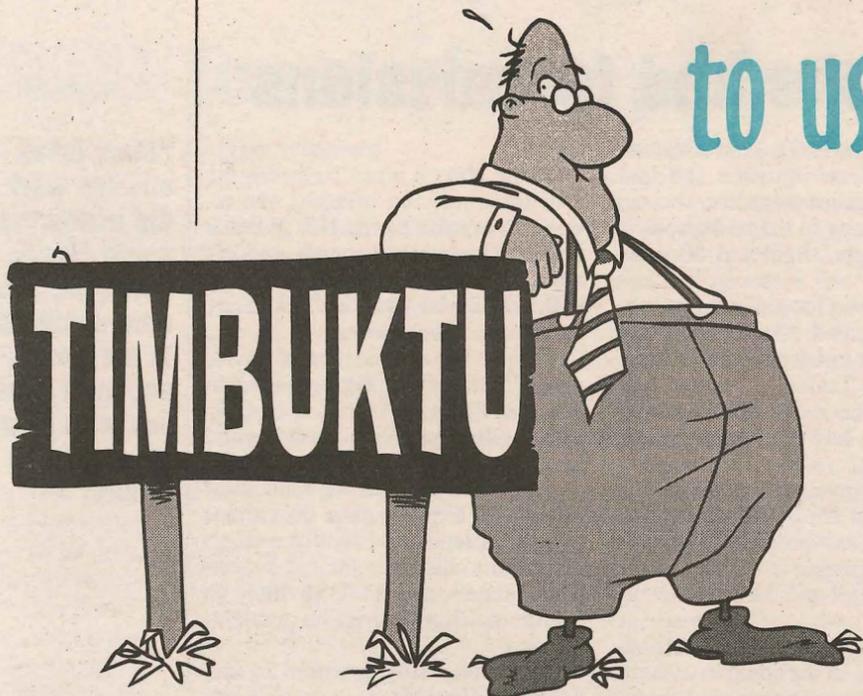
Since the businesses around the church are not open on Sunday, members park on the street, making creative use of a circular turn-around.

Fremont Bible Fellowship has about 1,200 members, adding about 10 per month. In addition to a strong focus on Sunday school, the church carries out 25 ministries, including Woman's Missionary Union, men's and women's Bible study and sharing ministries, Friday night family activities, discipleship courses and others.

"The target of our evangelism is to go to all apartment complexes," said Minister of Education Edwin Holton. "We're trying to reach the lost."

After initial contact in a complex, "we want to go back and start a ministry—Bible study, children's activity or something else to meet needs. We believe we are the body of Christ and must reach out to the community."

You don't have to drive to Timbuktu to use the Western Recorder's news page plan



And answers to other myths

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