

WESTERN RECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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CHURCH LEADERS
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FOR THE RECORD

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Church gives man new van and new hope

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

ERLANGER—A van changed Mike Clark's thinking about the church.

"You know, you belong to a church for a long time. You like the people. You have a ministry there. You are a deacon. You get used to ministering to others, but then when you get into a situation like I'm in where you really need people to help you, you find out what church is all about," he said.

Clark's "situation" is multiple sclerosis.

About two years ago, he noticed the first signs of the disease. Then, it crept "from my toes upward," he said, moving "very aggressively" and swiftly. By the spring of 1995, he was confined to a wheelchair.

For the 40-year-old public school teacher, life never would be the same. His legs were gone; he was a paraplegic.

When fellow members at Erlanger Baptist Church noticed Clark having more difficulty, they wanted to help, Pastor Bill Crosby said. They realized Clark soon would have to take disability leave from his job, but that he wanted to continue to be as productive as possible.

That's where the van comes in. The church members knew a properly-equipped van would give Clark the mobility necessary to pursue a master's degree in counseling at Cincinnati Bible Seminary. They knew he wanted to continue to help people as a counselor.

A government vocational rehabilitation program would pay to handicap-equip a van, but not to purchase the vehicle.

And so, with little more than word-of-mouth advertising, \$22,500 poured in from church members within two weeks.

Coincidentally, Erlanger Baptist Church had just raised \$75,000 for



FAMILY VAN Mike Clark poses with his wife, Karen, and daughter, Keshia, beside the van they were given by fellow members of Erlanger Baptist Church. The van, which is to be specially fitted for Clark to drive, will allow him to remain mobile despite his multiple sclerosis.

the building fund one month earlier. Neither offering hurt the other, Crosby said.

Although the bulk of the van money came from Erlanger members, contributions also came from Clark's former church, Long Ridge Baptist in Owen County, as well as colleagues in the Owen County and Boone County public schools where he and his wife, Karen, have taught for 16 years.

"I couldn't believe it," Clark said. "You hear of churches taking up an offering to meet a need." But this "was unlike anything I had ever seen. Nobody even passed the hat."

All Crosby did was "pass the word" and after one week, the people had given \$13,000.

"I offered to pay the balance, but the church wanted to raise the entire amount," Clark said.

For Clark, the gift of the van has put the ministry of the church in focus. The church is about people who care, he said. "I didn't even know many who donated."

And it has put salvation into perspective, he said. "The van is like the gift of salvation that Jesus gave to us. There is no amount of work that I can do to work off this van; no way to pay the church back for what they have done for me."

Further, Clark said that when the future looks scary, he can look at the van as evidence of God's care.

"I have this disease. I can't change that," he said. "But I can go through this with or without Jesus in my heart and God at my side. Either way, I will still have the disease. I am convinced to stay with God, even though my disease passes my understanding."

Conference bridges gaps of race and politics

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)—The 17th Baptist World Congress became a family reunion for 8,000 Baptists divided by racial and political gulfs, such as Serbs and Croats and blacks and whites from South Africa.

"We have longed to be somewhere we can meet with one another," said Branco Lovrec, president of the Baptist Union of Croatia, as he put his arm around Dane Vidovic, a pastor in Belgrade, Serbia. It's not possible, he noted, for Baptists from those republics in the former Yugoslavia to meet in their homeland.

Although Serb and Croatian Baptists clearly disagree on many issues regarding causes of the civil war there, they agree strongly with a central theme which wove itself like a golden thread through the congress, held Aug. 1-6 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

That theme emphasized that Jesus Christ is the only hope for the world, that only he can transcend race and hue and mold humanity into a unified rainbow with himself as the primary color.

Baptists attending the congress came from vastly diverse backgrounds and were attired in an array of clothing. Some wore national garb; others wore minks and finely tailored attire. Some were refugees; others had recently broken free of the tyranny of communism.

The congress, held every five years, forged a necessary link for many, providing the love and support to remind them they belong to a larger family.

For example, Eleazer Zihrambere, a refugee in Kenya, said the congress broke isolation he felt after flee-
□ See Baptists find unity ..., page 13

Super Saturdays offer models of turnaround churches

By Marv Knox
Editor

OWENSBORO—Church decline is not a terminal disease, two Kentucky pastors are telling their colleagues.

Billy Compton of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington and Bret Robbe of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro lead churches that have started to grow after several years of stagnation. This month, they're leading seminars on church rejuvenation at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Super Saturday conferences.

Super Saturdays are sponsored by the KBC church growth and administration division. They're designed to provide training for church staff and lay leaders in a variety of programs and ministries. The first conferences

were held in Ashland and Owensboro Aug. 12, and another pair were held in Corbin and Erlanger last Saturday. They conclude in Lexington and Paducah this weekend.

"Tools for Caring Leaders" is the theme for this year's Super Saturdays.

"Our basic goal is to provide hope for church leaders," said Vernon Cole, the KBC's church growth and administration director. "We want participants to find hope that things can be done to transform the lives of individuals, which consequently will change churches and communities."

That concept permeates the seminars led by Compton in Owensboro,

Erlanger and Lexington and Robbe in Ashland, Corbin and Paducah.

Although their styles and techniques differ, they have enabled their churches to reach people in their communities.



That quality is needed across Kentucky, Cole added, citing the latest figures on KBC church

membership. From 1986 through 1993, about 37 percent of the churches grew by 7 percent or more. Almost 22 percent plateaued, ranging from growth of 6.99 percent to loss of 6.99 percent. And slightly more than 30 percent endured losses of 7 percent or more. (More than 11 percent of the churches did not report.)

Fortunately, the downward trend is not irreversible, Compton and Robbe said in their seminars.

Compton and his church have taken a disciplined, analytical approach to rejuvenating their ministry after 30 years of plateau. The church sits in the middle of a historically small community, but the area is being transformed by booming growth on the southern expanses of greater Louisville.

"A church often becomes stalled, plateaued and resistant to change," Compton said, noting this had occurred in Mount Washington. "The church is sometimes intimidated by the future and paralyzed by organizational stagnation. In short, the church lacks direction."

"A church must change in order to meet the challenges of the present and the future. The pastor must help such
□ See Plateaued churches ..., page 6

Moving? See page 4 (0822)

Carson-Newman, Samford interested in Carver School

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

LOUISVILLE—At least two Baptist colleges have expressed interest in obtaining the Carver School of Church Social Work from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A committee of seminary trustees currently is studying the future of the social work school and is to present a report and recommendations to the full board in October.

The trustee committee was formed last spring, after President Al Mohler fired Diana Garland as Carver School dean. The firing came the same day Garland told a group of social work students Mohler's faculty hiring policies were jeopardizing the school's accreditation.

The study committee's recommendation apparently could take one of three directions: to retain the school at Southern in some form, to close the school entirely or to transfer the school's assets to another institution.

Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., both have expressed interest in obtaining the Carver School, officials confirmed last week. Other institutions reportedly have been in conversation with the study committee as well.

"We would be interested in entering into conversation and dialogue about the possibility of the Carver School coming to Carson-Newman," said Michael Carter, provost at Carson-Newman.

Carter said he has had some "very preliminary" conversations with seminary officials but doesn't know what the outcome will be.

"The mission of the Carver School and our mission sound very much alike," Carter explained. "Carson-Newman was started to serve the people of East Tennessee, primarily a low economic region. We have historically done that pretty well since 1851."

Although it doesn't currently offer a degree in social work, Carson-Newman has a "very strong social ministry program through our campus ministry program," Carter said. There are "a lot of philosophical components that are very similar" between the Carver School and Carson-Newman, he added.

The college, with about 2,100 students, has a small but growing master's degree program, Carter said. The college currently offers master's degrees in school counseling, education and in teaching English as a second language.

The primary degree currently offered by the Carver School is the mas-

ter of social work.

Likewise, Samford University sees parallels between its mission and the mission of the Carver School, said Provost William Hull.

This interest in social work education predates the controversy over the Carver School at Southern Seminary, said Hull, who was provost at Southern during the presidency of Duke McCall. Hull said Samford hopes to expand its options in social work regardless of what happens with the Carver School.

With about 4,500 students, Samford is one of the largest Baptist universities in the United States. It currently offers graduate degrees in business, science, music, education, nursing and law and offers seminary-level degrees through its Beeson Divinity School.

Hull said he could not elaborate on any current discussions between Samford and Southern Seminary's trustees. "At this time, there are no discussions underway suitable for public dissemination," he said.

"We've been thinking about this long before" the current crisis erupted, he said. "Naturally, the issue of the Carver School has caused us to look at this more closely."

Seminary officials would not discuss the work of the trustee study

committee.

"The trustee-appointed committee is receiving a wide variety of information, and they will process it appropriately," said David Dockery, Southern's vice president for academic administration.

Trustee Skip Stam, a North Carolina attorney who heads the special study committee, did not return phone calls prior to press time.

For now, the Carver School remains open at Southern Seminary but is not accepting new students. The full-time faculty has dropped from six professors to two.

The Carver School's primary accrediting agency, the Council on Social Work Education, will make an on-campus investigation this fall, along with the seminary's two general accrediting agencies.

The Carver School faces accreditation problems on several fronts, including Garland's controversial firing, potential conflict between the opinions of seminary administrators and the National Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics and the low number of full-time faculty members remaining in the school. The Council on Social Work Education requires accredited schools to maintain a minimum of five full-time faculty members.

HMB trustees oppose WMU action

ATLANTA—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board voted by a 3-to-1 margin Aug. 9 to notify Woman's Missionary Union of their displeasure with WMU's plans to produce missions education literature for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"Our concern has nothing to do with the mission support of local church WMUs," said John Avant, a Texas pastor. "Our concern is over this serious mistake by the leadership of the national organization and the resulting deterioration of our historic relationship with WMU."

WMU announced earlier this summer that it would produce select materials on behalf of the Fellowship for churches which specifically order them. WMU will continue publishing its complete line of literature which exclusively supports Southern Baptist Convention missions programs.

HMB staff denies asking applicants about Carver protests

HOUSTON (ABP)—Students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary who oppose seminary President Al Mohler may have a hard time getting appointed home missionaries.

At least one trustee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board wants to exclude Mohler opponents from missionary appointment.

"At the Home Mission Board missionary personnel committee, we find out if any candidate who has just graduated from Southern participated in the protests against the president," said trustee Walter Carpenter, a Houston attorney and member of the committee. "If one ever has or does, he (or) she will not be considered."

"We agree with Mohler that students are there only to learn, not to participate in management or poli-

tics," Carpenter wrote in a recent issue of the Texas Baptist, a conservative newspaper which he edits.

Student protests, including a two-week sit-in and public rallies, erupted on the Southern campus in Louisville last March after Mohler fired Diana Garland, dean of the seminary's social-work school.

Apparently no home mission candidates have been denied appointment because of participation in the protests, but Carpenter said one has been investigated.

The Atlanta-based Home Mission Board has 4,913 missionaries under appointment in a variety of roles, including church starters and mission pastors. Members of the trustees' missionary personnel committee do not interview the candidates personally

but act on recommendations from the staff, which conducts interviews and background checks.

Both Everett Geis, chairman of the committee, and Dan Garcia, director of the HMB's human resources division, said the official criteria for appointment and the board's screening process for candidates do not address the Southern protests.

"It really hasn't come up, and I'm a little surprised by (Carpenter's) comment," Garcia said. "It's not a criterion."

"It is not policy, and I regret any implication that it is," conceded Carpenter in an interview Aug. 17. But, he added, "I am going to ask the question" of future Southern graduates who seek appointment.

In the case of one recent Southern

graduate, whom Carpenter would not identify "the HMB staff people had already asked that question," he said. Carpenter would not identify the staff member involved either, but he said, "he knew there had been no such involvement" in the protests. Carpenter's inquiry apparently was in private and not part of the committee's proceedings.

Both Geis and Garcia said they are unaware of any candidate coming under such scrutiny. "I don't have any idea where this came from," Geis said.

But Carpenter promised to keep the issue alive. If any missionary candidate is known to have participated in the campus protests, he said, "I would want to review those circumstances very carefully."



BAPTIST BITS

■ **Martinez dies.** Evangelist Angel Martinez died Aug. 17 after being hospitalized for a respiratory infection. He was 73. Martinez was among Southern Baptists' best-known evangelists in local churches. He is survived by his wife, Robbie, of Fort Smith, Ark.; two sons, Kent and David; two sisters and a brother.

■ **Sehested resigns Memphis church.** Nancy Hastings Sehested, a pioneer woman minister in the Southern Baptist Convention, has resigned as pastor of Prescott Memorial Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., to become writer-in-residence for Sunset Ministries in Lake Junaluska, N.C. Sehested reportedly plans to seek another pastorate, after taking

time to write of her experiences.

■ **Bisagno to help FMB.** John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, has been named special assistant to Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin to promote foreign missions in churches and conferences. Bisagno will remain as pastor of the 22,000-member Houston church.

■ **Anna Stanley speaks out.** Anna Stanley says there is no chance of reconciling her 40-year marriage to Charles Stanley and that the prominent pastor's reports of progress in the troubled relationship are a "charade." Mrs. Stanley had written a letter to the members of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, where her hus-

band is pastor, that was to be read at an Aug. 13 church conference. However, the moderator of that meeting ruled her letter out of order. The next day, Mrs. Stanley released the letter to the press, in an attempt to explain why she is seeking the divorce. "Long ago ... Charles in effect abandoned our marriage," she wrote. "He chose his priorities, and I have not been one of them."

■ **Correction:** A Baptist Press correction has clarified that Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, labeled the current period in Southern Baptist history as the "contested generation" not the "mixed generation," as was initially reported in the Aug. 8 Western Recorder.

Bowling Green church moved by volunteer laborers

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN—With a lot of help from their friends, a West Kentucky church has a brand new building in which to worship—and a potentially brighter future.

For Calvary Baptist Church, it's a dream come true—thanks to the cooperation of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission and Baptist volunteers from Alabama, according to Pastor Jerry Gifford Jr.

Over the past 15 years, the 74-year old inner-city congregation had dwindled both in numbers and in financial resources, Gifford said.

They had tried "every form of outreach" in an effort to turn things around, he said. But when nothing worked, the church voted in May 1993 to purchase 15 acres along Bowling Green's William Natcher Parkway on which to relocate.

Even with the \$135,000 in hand from the sale of the original property to an interdenominational church, they knew they would not be able to build as large a facility as the one they were leaving.

But thanks to the Southern Baptist network, the church is constructing a

8,300-square-foot building—and has saved more than \$175,000 in potential costs in the process.

Armed with Sunday School Board architectural drawings provided at "reasonable cost," the church sent out a plea for help to the Brotherhood Commission and the Home Mission Board, Gifford said.

After the Brotherhood Commission featured the project in November 1994 as a possibility for summer 1995 mission teams, Calvary received more offers of help than they could accept. "We turned down more than 30 volunteer building teams," Gifford said.

But the three teams they chose, along with their own people who did all the plumbing and electrical work, have almost completed the building in the three months since the first group arrived on June 16.

The first team, 120 Bethel Baptist Builders from Linden, Ala., completed the framework and roof and dry-walled half the building in the week they were in Bowling Green, Gifford said.

The second team, 80 Ridgecrest Baptist Builders from outside Birmingham, Ala., hung drywall and did mudwork. In addition, they led three backyard Bible clubs.



HELPING HANDS Members of the Bethel Baptist Builders of Linden, Ala., work to frame the new home of Calvary Baptist Church in Bowling Green. The Alabama group is one of three volunteer groups to work on the project this summer.

The third team, 21 East Cullman Baptist Builders from East Cullman Baptist Association in Alabama, continued the finish work.

So far, Calvary only has had to contract for brickwork and the septic system. Upon completion, the land, building and a projected fellowship hall will be valued at \$530,000.

As Calvary plans to enter the new building within a few days, the congregation anticipates a bright future,

Gifford said.

The new location, along Bowling Green's growth corridor, will allow the church to focus on ministry to families who are moving into the seven new subdivisions located within a two-mile radius of the property. One development alone includes 800 single-family homes.

"Phase two of our relocation will be a major focus on outreach," Gifford said.

Kentuckians see progress in Idaho mission

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

MURRAY—When Wilma and Durwood Beatty made their first mission trip to Soda Springs, Idaho, five years ago, attendance at the only Southern Baptist church in town numbered 10—including four children. And the church met in "a tiny, ratty old house," the Beattys said.

Today, First Southern Baptist Church of Soda Springs averages 60 in attendance, has an age-graded Sunday school and worships in a building constructed by Southern Baptist volunteers from across the country—including some Kentuckians.

And during the first six months of 1995, Pastor Mike McGuire baptized 17 people.

To an outsider looking in, that may not seem like much progress. But to Baptists who have ministered in the

town of 3,600—where 95 percent of the residents are Mormon—it's a miracle.

Although Southern Baptists started the Soda Springs church in 1958, "it's been real slow going" trying to grow a church, Beatty said.

Even erecting a building has required perseverance. The church had four groundbreaking prior to being able to construct a building in 1992.

"But the need for the church is so great," Durwood said.

It's that combination of need and "slow-going" that has motivated the Beattys and other volunteers from Blood River Baptist Association to make the three-day journey west each summer since the Kentucky-Utah/Idaho mission partnership began in 1990, he said.

Continuing the tradition, last month, 17 members of First Baptist Church and Westside Baptist Church

in Murray worked in Soda Springs and in Malad City.

The towns are nestled in a valley of southeastern Idaho along the old Oregon Trail.

At Soda Springs, nine team members assisted with vacation Bible school and constructed roofs over both the main and rear entrances of the church building.

Fifty miles away, at Malad City, eight team members directed a community Bible school which was coordinated by the newly formed Victory Baptist Church and was held in the United Presbyterian Church. The VBS enrollment reached 64—double the 1994 figure.

Over the years, team members from Blood River have learned not to expect "too much headway" to be made, Beatty said. Nevertheless, they have learned that time spent in Idaho is time well invested, he added.

World Changers brings hope & help to state

PIKEVILLE (BP)—Richard Tackett and his wife could not hear the sound of hammers on their roof. Neither could they hear the laughter and excitement of the 11 youths and adults who were replacing the roof and painting their house.

Tackett and his wife are deaf and mute, and neither knows sign language or can write.

Yet despite the silence, the Tacketts had no problems communicating with the Baptist teenagers, who had come to Kentucky from all over the United States to offer their services free of charge as part of the Brotherhood Commission's World Changers program.

Tackett pointed and gestured with his hands to communicate with the

teenagers. And although he could not verbally express appreciation for the work World Changers was doing on his home, Tackett "spoke" volumes as he stood at the end of his driveway and pointed to his house, urging those driving by to stop and look.

The Tacketts' home was one of 20 renovated and repaired by World Changers crews working in Pikeville July 29-Aug. 5.

"The experience of making a stranger's house into a real home is one I will never forget," said 17-year-old Amy Jones of Chesapeake, Va. "To me, this is the ultimate gift of love."

This summer, the national World Changers program involved almost 7,500 youths and adults from 535

churches in 25 projects in the United States and Nicaragua. This exceeds last summer's participation of 5,955.

The theme for the summer, "We Make House Calls," was appropriate as almost 600 low-income or elderly residents received new roofs, fresh coats of paint, siding and other repairs on their homes. World Changers involves youth and adults in coeducational missions projects.

In addition to the World Changers project in Kentucky, several hundred Kentucky youths participated in a state-run version of the program called Kentucky Changers. Kentucky Changers projects involved youths from Kentucky churches helping fellow Kentuckians, with projects in Covington and Hopkinsville.

Foundation seeking president

The presidential search committee of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation has outlined eight general qualifications they are seeking in candidates.

"The committee is looking for candidates with strong leadership skills and people skills which will allow the president to place primary emphasis on marketing the services of the Foundation to Kentucky Baptist churches, church members and institutions," said Charles Barnes, chairman of the search committee.

"The Foundation has been very successful in the last few years," he added. "We want a person who can build on this strong record and even better serve Kentucky Baptist needs."

The eight specific criteria listed by the committee are:

- Public profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
- member in good standing of a cooperating Southern Baptist church; and a life "exemplary of traditional Christian values."
- Five years or more of experience in sales and marketing, with experience in planned giving desirable.
- Five or more years of administrative experience.
- Bachelor's degree as a minimum, with Certified Financial Advisor or Certified Financial Planner status desirable.
- Willingness to travel regularly.
- Strong family support.
- Highest ethical standards and "a personal attitude which will prevent any jeopardy to the Foundation's credibility or integrity."
- Record of demonstrated financial stewardship.

Nominations for the Foundation president's position should be submitted to the committee by Sept. 22, Barnes said. Correspondence should be addressed to Barnes at Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.



THANKS Charles Barnes (left), chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's board, congratulates outgoing Foundation President Richard Carnes during a farewell reception at the Baptist Building. Carnes left to head the new Woman's Missionary Union Foundation in Birmingham, Ala.

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

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'Pastor' defined

A pastor is:
A born-again believer.
A person called by God.
A person who puts God No. 1.
A person who loves God's church.
A person who loves God's children.

A person who loves and reaches out to unchurched.

A person who proclaims God's word.

A person who has compassion and a forgiving spirit.

A person who seeks reconciliation when problems arise.

A person of JOY—puts Jesus first, Others second and Yourself last.

Maureen Carroll
Louisville

Just penalty

It appears Editor Knox is taking God on! He calls it "common sense" to update God on capital punishment (WR, Aug. 8).

He calls us who take God seriously in Genesis 9:6 "wolves of vengeance (who) howled for the death penalty." Nobody ever said the death penalty was "a partial cure for society's woes." And who said the threat of death does (or does not) deter crime? God simply commanded it, that's all!

But Mr. Knox explained: "Ancient Hebrew society radically differed from our own." So what? God affirmed the sanctity of human life in the ordination of the dispensation of human government. Man is made in the image of God, and to kill a human being is to attack God's image. The satisfaction God required—and still requires—is nothing less than the blood of their own lives.

The Mosaic laws themselves established capital punishment, and the

Christian dispensation in which we find ourselves today in no way sets aside the provisions of the covenant God made with Noah. All of these are reaffirmed in the New Testament (Romans 3:4; Acts 25:11).

We live in a day when some neither recognize the sacredness of human life nor the fact that capital punishment is still the just and legal

penalty for murder. I can't believe I'm having to defend a biblical principle against the editor of a Christian periodical!

Julian M. Dyer
Lexington

Deterrent to crime

I would like to respectfully disagree with Marv Knox's call for rethinking the death penalty (WR, Aug. 8). I am happy the same issue reported that Susan Smith recently became a Christian, and I agree that the death penalty is not always appropriate, but I disagree with the editorial's statement that "the threat of death does not deter crime." I also disagree with the perception that only the Old Testament allows for capital punishment.

The Apostle Paul stated in Romans 13:3-4: "Rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? ... If thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

The late Dale Moody of Southern Seminary in "The Broadman Bible Commentary" elaborated on this passage: "There are always some who are motivated only by fear. They conform to the social standards established and executed by the state only out of the fear of consequences."

R.H. Mounce in "The New Amer-

ican Commentary" agreed: "It is the one who does evil who fears authority. ... Here we have the biblical basis for the use of force by government for the maintenance of law and order."

The problem of deterrence arises from human inefficiency in utilizing capital punishment. Justice is no longer swift and sure in many cases. Only the innocent are afraid.

Mike Morris
Wickliffe

Second-class citizens

While he is obviously still struggling with biblical interpretations regarding homosexuality, Tony Campolo should be commended for his remarks to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship regarding the church's relationship to gays and lesbians (WR, July 25). Finally, an evangelical leader who recognizes the damage the "hate the sin, but love the sinner" doctrine does to lesbian and gay Christians. I applaud the courage he demonstrated for calling such thought exactly what it is—gay bashing.

I also acknowledge his strength to admit he and his wife disagree on the issue. I hope his openness about their disagreement means they will continue to dialogue with each other in honesty and truth. Dialogue is the only way any resolution will come to this thorny issue.

Unfortunately, the body to which Campolo spoke didn't seem to be listening to his message; at least their debate about a statement affirming diversity would seem to indicate this. I wonder how much more pain the CBF has caused to gays and lesbians by fearing that "inclusion" might include us? I wonder how much longer we will be expected to sit idly by and be treated like second-class citizens of the family of God?

Eddie Mitchell
Louisville

It happened at church

Prior to building new in 1962, Lexington's Calvary Baptist Church had a small sanctuary with sound wired to amplifiers in anterooms for overflow crowds. One of the anterooms served also as a small wedding chapel.

Clifford Graham, a staff minister, had engaged to meet with deacon Henry Hodges, who understood electronics, to test the sound transmission from the pulpit microphone to one of the anterooms. I had a wedding scheduled for the same time in the chapel. Neither of us knew of the other, nor could we see each other.

As I got into the ceremony, Clifford began reading the 23rd Psalm into the pulpit microphone while Henry listened and adjusted in the other room.

"We gather here in this sacred place to unite this man and woman in holy matrimony," I said. And Clifford's voice (softer but clearly audible) comes in antiphonally: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

What to do? I decided to speak louder until he finished—a brief Psalm, my mind said.

So, "Marriage (I continued) is an honorable estate, instituted of God at the time of man's innocence...."

And again Clifford: "He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness ..."

On we thus went until at last he reached the "goodness and mercy" to "dwell in the house of the Lord...." Everyone in the room sighed in deep relief.

But just as the bride and groom started repeating the final marriage vows, Clifford's voice boomed: "Now Henry, let me read it again raising my voice and see how that goes."

I apologized humbly and hastened to the rear of the sanctuary from which Clifford fled upon seeing

me in the robe I wore for weddings. But wait! There's more. Maybe it was the shock of it all—maybe the groom had not eaten—who knows what caused him to faint?

Taking up the ceremony again I continued with, "Place the ring on her finger and repeat after me, 'With this ring I thee wed.'" He repeated: "W-with th-th-thiss r-r-ring I th-theee wed." His eyes rolled, his hands trembled.

I leaned forward and whispered, "Chuck, are you all right?" He shook

his head "no" and fell on me.

I caught him under both elbows and pulled him over to a front seat and put his head down between his knees to get blood to his brain—lame-ly assuring the audience, "He'll be all right soon, folks; men often faint in the military standing at attention." I felt I had to say something.

Finally, his color returned, and he came to himself. He declared he wanted to go on and believed he could. The well-poised bride was still "standing pat," a "maid-in-waiting."

Once more we resumed the ceremony, but by the time I got to the final pronouncements, "Husband and wife," he was wobbling again. I stepped slightly to the left and gave support under his bent right elbow. The alert bride did the same on the other side. I spoke the finalities and benediction quickly as thus we "led that lamb to the slaughter."

Seriously, it proved through the years to be a fine marriage of two wonderful people. They later moved to another state, but through mutual acquaintances we continued indirect contact.

Franklin Owen is the retired executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He also is pastor of Locust Grove Baptist Church in Bracken Association

ON MISSION TOGETHER



Franklin Owen



FAMILY FORUM: AGING

Stepgrandparenting

By John Lepper

The role of stepgrandparent is one that is seldom chosen. After all, stepgrandparents are not usually consulted about becoming a stepgrandparent. With little warning, children from infancy to adulthood and grandparents from middle age to elderly are brought into this new relationship.

What's a stepgrandparent to do? There are no easy answers to potentially complex relationships. Admittedly, many variables are present; no two stepfamilies are the same. In any case, a stepgrandparent can provide significant leadership and nurture in this new relationship. At least three major challenges face the stepgrandparent and the stepgrandchild.

The first challenge is to understand and be understood. To understand new relationships requires mourning the loss of the previous family experience. Stepgrandparents may have difficulty accepting a new stepgrandchild if they do not approve of their son or daughter's new spouse. Feelings about the past need to be resolved and new relationships cultivated. Sometimes stepgrandparents may use the grandchild as a carrier of information or as a way to get to the parent or stepparent. This only complicates an already complex family structure.

A second challenge for stepgrandparents and stepgrandchildren is to accept and be accepted. Positive and meaningful relationships take time to cultivate. Acceptance develops as trust is cultivated. Trust develops over time. It is a given that the stepchild may feel closer to the biological grandparent than to the stepgrandparent. Nevertheless, stepgrandparents can intentionally and gradually nurture a trusting relationship.

A third challenge for stepgrandparents and stepgrandchildren is to affirm and be affirmed. Stepgrandparents can take the lead by focusing on and paying attention to the grandchild. Stepgrandparents have a vital role to play as they cultivate a positive relationship with stepgrandchildren through understanding, acceptance and affirmation.

John Lepper is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department.

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

Tobacco trauma calls for positive, helpful solutions

A subject most Kentuckians would prefer to avoid has been placed on the national table: President Clinton has introduced measures to curtail the use of tobacco among American teenagers. It's a serious threat to the tobacco industry and the Kentucky way of life.

Kentuckians feel strongly about tobacco. Tobacco has placed food on our tables, clothes on our backs, books in our schools and asphalt on our roads. It has supplied countless dollars to our churches and enriched the state coffers. During the past 170 years, thousands of tobacco dollars have bought subscriptions and ads for this newspaper and provided it with Cooperative Program funds.

But in our hearts, we also know tobacco has killed millions of people, including countless Kentuckians. Recent statistics tell part of the story:

■ Smoking kills 419,000 Americans annually.

■ Three thousand young people start smoking each day; 1,000 of them will die because of it.

■ Every year, cigarette smoking kills more Americans than AIDS, alcohol, car wrecks, murders, suicides, illegal drugs and fires—combined.

Even in a state dependent upon the tobacco economy, we don't have trouble understanding why so many Americans urgently oppose the production and use of tobacco.

Still, most of us feel a great sense of empathy with and compassion for Kentucky's tobacco-farm families. Even the most strident anti-tobacco activist understands the dilemma of these farmers. For most of them, their families have lived on their land for generations. All their assets are tied up in tobacco farming, and they can't get enough money for those assets to afford to walk away. Beyond that, it's the only thing

they've been trained to do. Few among us are insensitive enough to blame them for holding on.

Nevertheless, those feelings do not justify the knee-jerk reactions of politicians toward any proposal to regulate the use of tobacco, especially by minors. Defensive posturing on behalf of the tobacco industry does little to preserve the long-term interests of the state, and even less to serve coming generations of farmers. The tide of history will erode the stability of tobacco economics, especially as increasing numbers of people realize the health care implications of tobacco use. With or without the president's policies, the day will come when tobacco will not sustain family farms, and farm families will suffer grievously.

So, rather than bellow against the proposals, our leaders—politicians, business executives and ministers—must take action to care for farm families and re-direct the state's economy toward a healthier future.

First, they should work with the University of Kentucky and other research institutions, channeling more funds to support research into alternative uses for tobacco farms.

Second, they should lend their clout to the support of churches and other groups, such as Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington, which are working with farm families to find other uses for their land.

Third, they should support a tax on tobacco products, with proceeds directed to fund alternatives for farm families and health care for tobacco users.

The tobacco issue will not go away. We must prayerfully direct our energies toward compassionate solutions that will help farm families and that will prevent future generations from smoking themselves to death.

Marv Knox

Rather than attack tobacco's opponents, Kentuckians should lead the way toward finding positive solutions to the looming tobacco-farm crisis.

A doctor's prescription for Kentucky students: Work hard

Editor's Note: This column is an excerpt from a letter written this spring by Georgetown College graduate and cancer specialist James Maze to his former professor, Jim Heizer, and shared by Georgetown President Bill Crouch. It offers sound advice for Kentucky Baptist students heading back to school this fall.

I have had conversations with other doctors who are leaders in their

fields here at one of the most famous cancer hospitals in the world (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City). When the topic of applicants for competitive positions arises, the most important factor they all discuss is how successful these people are outside of the classroom. What makes these people stand out?

Most of these people are student

athletes. These people are the students who practice, travel, perform and go back to the dorm with tired, aching, bruised bodies to begin studying. These are the hungry, aggressive, winning personalities that all employers look for. It is easy to perform well if all one has to do is go to class and study.

Here are some pointers that students don't want to hear, but the truth

hurts:

■ Eight a.m. is not early. Get out of bed.

■ You may not always be praised for doing well, but a poor performance is like a tattoo. It's permanent, and most employers don't forget it, especially if you are trying to make a first impression.

■ You should be out of college in

four years. Not four and a half or five.

■ You should average 16 hours per semester unless you have a job or are playing a varsity sport. Still, you should do it anyway.

■ Go to every class and take your own notes.

■ Study every day and organize your time. When you start working 12- to 16-hour days and still have to study for the most important exam of your life, you will understand what I'm talking about.

■ If you don't sweat, you're not working. Stretch your limits. You would be surprised that the busier you are, you will become more productive, intelligent and successful.

■ When you apply for your future, supervisors always look at your progress through the educational process. You must account for time off. Empty spaces in your resume are

signs of laziness and non-productivity.

■ Beside making good grades, the key to being competitive is standing ahead of the smart people. This could be anything from sky-diving, to speaking multiple languages, to varsity athletics, to tractor-pulling championships. Any competitive non-academic venture makes you look good on paper. But you must look good on the academic side, or you will never get there, I promise.

■ Party hard, if you deserve it. But skipping a frat party to study never hurt anyone; it usually builds character.

■ College is the easiest time of your life. Wait and see when you get out.

James Maze, director

Lake Charles Memorial Cancer Center
Lake Charles, La.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Is summer really endless? The answer depends upon how old you are

By this time next week, children everywhere will be back in school. Summer will be practically, if not officially, over. Let the cooling begin.

Don't get me wrong; I'm not knocking summer. It's when folks take time for really important stuff. That means summer's a great family time. Time for vacations. Trips to grandparents' homes. Picnics. Baseball games. Swimming. Watermelon. Ice cream.

But by the end, kids get awfully bored. Singer Beth Nielson Chapman remembers how she used to pace the porch, thinking those long days of summer never would end. She was bored.

Through the dim recesses of memory, I recall what she sings about. When I was a

kid, I would've sworn summer lasted an eternity.

Going in, that sounds great. A break from school equals a chance to loaf. Problem is, loafing only feels good for so long. Then it becomes tedious and chips away at your sanity. Pretty soon, you're longing for the good ol' days and looking forward to seeing school pals.

After several summers of observing my own offspring, I can testify that some things never change. Lindsay and Molly start each summer

with glee. School is the troll that lives under the bridge, and they're thrilled to escape its grimy grasp.

June usually is exuberant. They want to swim every day. Their toys and neighborhood friends, long ignored under the burden of homework, are fascinating. They even like each other in June.

After the fireworks go out on the Fourth of July, their attitude slips a notch. Suddenly, it's too hot to go outdoors. Swimming means they've got to

wash their hair, and they're tired of manual labor. Occasionally, they remember some-

thing fun or funny that happened in school. But if we've held out some vacation, they usually survive July.

By August, unfortunately, life as they know it has crawled to a stop. It's like summer weather: hazy, hot and humdrum. I've actually heard them counting down the days until school starts again.

When they're older, and they've put several dozen summers behind them, they'll realize what all grownups know: Summers blaze by like a comet. Hot as they are, they pass too fast.

That's because summer is a great family time. And even after this one is gone, I'm going to recall our summer memories for as long as their summer seems.

Marv Knox



CHURCHES

Plateaued churches can turn around, pastors say

"A church must change in order to meet the challenges of the present and the future. The pastor must help such a church dream a new dream, focus on a new challenge and get moving forward."
Billy Compton

Continued from page 1

a church dream a new dream, focus on a new challenge and get moving forward," he said.

Compton began this effort by preaching on "the nature, purpose and mission of the church," he recounted. After a year, he started working with a planning committee of church leaders.

The committee followed six steps, Compton said.

First, they discussed why they wanted to change and what they wanted to accomplish.

Then they redefined the purpose and mission of the church. The new mission purpose and objectives provide specific focal points for keeping the church on track, he said.

Next, they studied the church. They mapped where the members live; surveyed church leaders and members; analyzed key data, such as baptism statistics; developed suggestions for making the church more effective; and projected goals for the future.

They also studied the community. They looked at demographic trends, surveyed community leaders and questioned local citizens about community needs the church could meet.

With this information in hand,

they developed priorities. They set targets for church growth, leadership development, staff expansion, facilities and program development.

Finally, they presented the church with action plans based on the priorities, and they suggested what the church should do. They worked at helping members "own" the priorities and plans for the church's future.

The results have revitalized the church, Compton said, and the congregation is on the verge of setting a record for the number of baptisms and other additions in a single year.

Robbe and Bellevue have taken a different track, but with similar results.

Robbe consistently emphasizes the church's mission statement: "With God as our authority, we are seeking to help people from all walks of life to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ."

With their mission statement as a beacon, the church also emphasizes that every member, not just the staff,

is a minister, he added. "The people are the ministers. The pastors are the teachers, or player/coaches."

Robbe's choice of words reflects the church's philosophy that all members should be part of a team.

"We're moving toward team ministry, doing our work through ministry teams," he said. For example, Bellevue's audiovisuals are

managed by a sound team, and its grounds are kept by a landscaping team.

The difference between teams and typical church committees is direct, he explained. "Rather than sitting and talking about what needs to be done, a team focuses on doing it."

The team approach goes beyond a specific task, to involve team members in each other's lives. "When ministry teams get together, they begin by talking about how their week has been, sharing needs and praying together," Robbe reported. "Even our parking attendants meet early to share and to pray."



The best advice is to create situations where abuse cannot easily happen and where false claims cannot easily be made, Sells said.

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

OWENSBORO—Most churches are vulnerable to criminal predators such as child molesters and to criminal opportunists looking for an easy lawsuit to file, according to Mary Sells of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Sells, minister to children at Highview, led a session on "Legal Issues in the Ministry to Preschoolers and Children" during the Aug. 12 Super Saturday event at First Baptist Church of Owensboro.

Churches must take all the precautions they can to avoid both abuse and legal liability, Sells told a crowded room of children's ministry workers.

She cited three reasons the church is vulnerable:

■ The church exists as a community of trust.

■ Most churches are "ignorant of

the facts" of abuse and "are not aware of what's going on in the real world."

■ Most churches lack appropriate safeguards, because they never have thought about what is the best way to ensure safety and security for the children in their care.

Increased attention to legal liability has caused most businesses and organizations in American society to be more careful and cautious, Sells noted. "There's not any organization left that's vulnerable—except the church."

This creates the perfect environment both for the abusive adult and for the person looking to level false claims and file a quick lawsuit, Sells suggested. She urged churches to "take all the precautions you can" to prevent either problem.

Even if a false claim is filed, the resulting media coverage and turmoil within the church can be devastating to a congregation, Sells explained.

Start of school also signals start of new Christian clubs

By Marv Knox
Editor

OWENSBORO—As big yellow buses begin to roll again, Baptist students across Kentucky are gearing up to impact secondary schools with their faith in Christ.

They're planning to start M-Pact Clubs—named for the impact they hope to make on unbelieving students—as school-approved groups on campus, reported Monty Carter, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's youth evangelism director.

Youth leaders from churches throughout the state are learning how to help them by attending M-Pact Club seminars at the statewide Super Saturday church leadership conferences this month.

The greatest obstacle preventing students from forming Christian clubs on campus is ignorance of their legal rights, said David Preston, a youth consultant from Louisa who led an M-Pact Club seminar in Owensboro Aug. 12.

"Students have the right to meet with other religious students and to talk about their religious beliefs on campus," Preston said, citing a guide for starting Christian clubs on public school campuses.

In 1984, Congress passed the Equal Access Act, which guarantees student religious groups in public secondary schools the same rights granted to other campus groups that are not based on curriculum.

For example, a school that allowed the Boy Scouts or a chess club to meet

on campus could not deny its facilities to a Bible club.

Participants in the M-Pact Club seminars are learning how to help students form the clubs and boning up on the basic ground rules for operating campus clubs.

"The key word is 'student,'" Carter stressed. "Religious clubs must be student-initiated and student-led."

A schoolteacher or youth minister cannot start or lead a club, he said. Students must take responsibility for the group, Carter said.

As a supplement to the M-Pact Clubs, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board are developing materials for a new student-led venture called First Priority, Carter said.

First Priority materials are de-

signed to involve local businesses as sponsors for the student groups, Carter said. The materials are to be available before the end of the year, he added.

Meanwhile, Kentucky Baptists are moving ahead with M-Pact Clubs. Twelve youth ministers from across the state have been trained to teach youth leaders how to help their youngsters get clubs approved and started on their campuses. In addition, the concept behind the M-Pact clubs was taught to teens who participated in the KBC's youth camping program this summer.

For more information about M-Pact Clubs, First Priority and other youth evangelism programs, contact Carter at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253, phone (502) 245-4101.

Despite their differences, the turn-around approaches of Robbe and Compton have several key elements in common.

"We're different in style more than in substance," Robbe noted. Both approaches involve hard work, willingness to change, an understanding of the church and community, involvement of the membership and a focus on a churchwide vision, he said.

The approaches also latch on to a key spiritual dimension, Compton added. "God has empowered us to reach people for Christ. If you really want to touch lives for Christ, you have to have it in your heart to do so."

with children or youth, both for the protection of the children and of the worker.

■ Don't allow anyone to be a teacher in children's classes until he or she has been a church member for at least six months.

■ Develop screening forms for hired staff and volunteers in the children's area. Ask pertinent questions of all workers, and be willing to verify a newcomer's character with his or her previous church.

■ Install interior windows or glass doors between classrooms and other open areas.

■ Avoid creating obscure nooks and crannies or out-of-the-way classrooms where abuse could be perpetrated or alleged without possibility of a witness.

■ Develop permission forms for parents to sign when church groups take children away from the building or on overnight trips.

CHURCHES

Computer keyboards make music too, Tiemann says

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

OWENSBORO—Computers offer more to church music ministries than just electronic keyboards, according to a Kentucky music minister and computer buff.

Bill Tiemann, music minister at Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro, believes computers can revolutionize the music minister's life. He explained how in a three-hour conference during Super Saturday Aug. 12 in Owensboro.

"It's really difficult for me to imagine doing my job now without a computer," he said.

Tiemann, who never has taken a computer course, now uses his computer to manage his music budget, keep track of choir member information and attendance, generate publici-

ty, arrange music, write new music, transpose music into new keys and create instrumental parts to favorite anthems and hymns.

While this may sound overwhelming to the music minister who never has turned on a computer, the key is seeing the computer as a helpful tool, he said.

In the hands-on session, Tiemann demonstrated many computer applications that aid his music ministry. Here are some of the uses he has found for his computer in ministry:

■ **Worship planning.** Tiemann does his weekly worship planning in a word-processing program and keeps a file for each week. This gives

him access to orders of worship from past weeks, from which he can readily draw responsive readings, hymn texts and other items to use again.

■ **Communication.** Through word-processing programs, the minister may write articles for the church newsletter, write individual letters, create form letters, postcards and fliers, design posters and much more, Tiemann said.

■ **Budgeting.** Tiemann demonstrated forms he has developed in WordPerfect, a popular word-processing program, that help him do budget projections and budget requests and keep track of all spending.

■ **Member information.** Several

common computer programs can help the minister keep track of attendance, record information about each choir member, keep track of robe numbers and folder numbers, he said.

■ **Music library maintenance.** Computerizing the church music library offers greater convenience and speed when searching for a particular piece of music, Tiemann said.

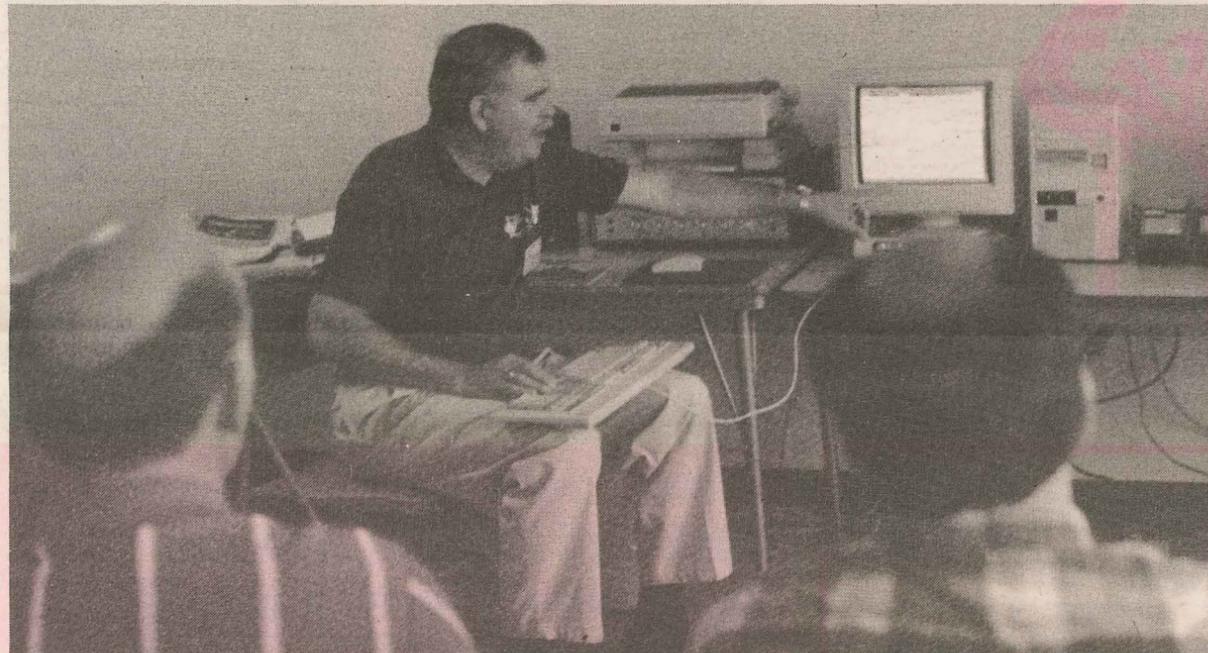
■ **Hymnal reference.** Reference software is available to help the music minister make better use of the hymnal, he explained. This allows the minister to search for hymns based on various criteria and to keep records of what hymns were used in worship.

■ **Writing music.** "With a computer, you can write your own music and print it out in such a manner that it looks as good as any music printed by publishing houses," he said. "You may want to write original compositions for your choirs and ensembles, or you may want to arrange previously composed music and hymns. You may want to write praise choruses and be able to print them right in the worship program for your congregation."

■ **Creating accompaniment tracks.** Using an interface with an electronic keyboard, computers can be used to make accompaniment tracks for soloists, ensembles and choirs, Tiemann said. These tracks may be customized to avoid duplicating live instruments used in the church while adding in the sounds of other instruments unavailable for live performance.

Hardware for a starter system for the music minister can cost as little as \$1,600, while an "excellent" system can be had for about \$3,000, he said.

Some software programs are available at discounted prices to educators and music ministers, Tiemann noted. For example, two of the most popular composition programs are available with discounts of more than 50 percent, he said.



DEMONSTRATION Bill Tiemann, music minister at Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro, conducts a tour of his computer system to show Super Saturday participants the many possibilities for using computers in music ministry.

Grandparents urged to provide stability

By Marv Knox
Editor

OWENSBORO—Grandparents can provide stability for today's families, which face unprecedented pressures, a family ministry consultant told participants in a "Grandparenting by Grace" seminar.

"Grandparents are the core of the family," Gay Camp, a member of First Baptist Church in Owensboro, told two groups of grandparents and ministers who attended her seminar during the Super Saturday church leadership conference at her church Aug. 12.

Grandparents can provide strength to help families stay together and even thrive, despite pressures which threaten to tear them apart, Camp said.

A brainstorming effort by seminar participants produced a variety of sources for pressure on contemporary families: two-career parents, divorce and blended families, financial crisis, media bombardment of children and changing expectations of the roles of family members. Those pressures

sometimes result in child abuse, and sometimes they result in children being turned over to grandparents to raise, she said.

In 1990, 3.2 million American children were left in the primary care of their grandparents, she reported. By the year 2000, that number is expected to swell beyond 13 million.

These acute challenges, as well as routine interaction between grandparents and the rest of the family, provide grandparents with a vital responsibility, Camp stressed.

"What is our greatest role as grandparents?" she asked. "We are teachers of God's plan of salvation. We exist to serve the Lord and love."

"We know God loves us unconditionally, and we can help children understand unconditional love," which prepares them to understand the love of God, she said.

Unfortunately, the word "love" has multiple implications in today's society, Camp added. She described "healthy love" as unconditional, disciplined, respectful and unfailing, and "love that hurts" as materialistic, temporary, manipulative, indulgent and

conditional.

Grandparents have a unique opportunity to be models of healthy, helpful love, and those models can help children understand God's love and grace, she said.

"God's saving grace is a gift freely given," she explained. "It's what brings us back to the love of God."

It cannot be earned, and people don't deserve it, but it is inclusive and available for repentant sinners, she said, noting grandparents can introduce their grandchildren to that kind of grace from God.

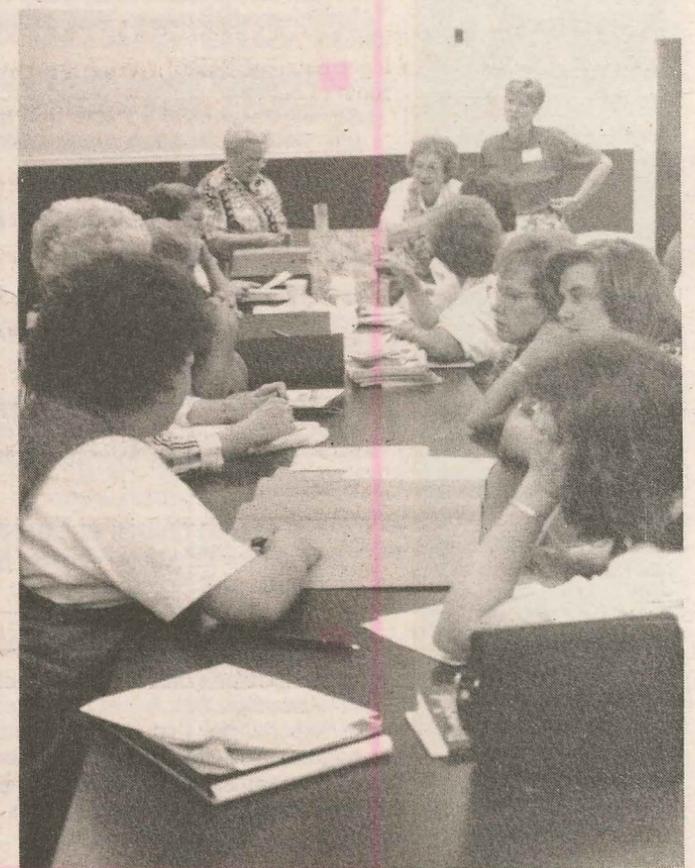
"As grandparents, we must leave a legacy of God's love and grace," Camp urged. "We can be witnesses of God's goodness from generation to generation."

"Grandparenting by Grace" materials are produced and distributed by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

More information about the program is available from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry director, John Lepper, at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253, phone (502) 245-4101.

"It's really difficult for me to imagine doing my job now without a computer."
Music minister Bill Tiemann

BRIGHT IDEAS Participants in a Super Saturday conference in Owensboro listen to Mary Sells (far end of table) describe ideas for pre-school and children's projects on a shoestring budget.



HOT TIPS

■ **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.

■ **Keyboard retreat**
The Kentucky Baptist Keyboard Retreat Sept. 22-23 is designed for church pianists and organists. Call the KBC church music department at (502) 245-4101.

■ **Resource packets**
The 1996-96 music ministry resource packets are available. Call the KBC church music office at (502) 245-4101 to receive packet full of information about upcoming activities and events.

■ **Library workshop**
The Fall Church Media Library Workshop is Oct. 7 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. See the column in this Events section for details.

■ **Free concert**
The Kentucky Baptist Chorale and Kentucky Baptist Singing Women will present a "Home from Russia" concert Sept. 9 at 5 p.m. at Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ **Banner conference**
Learn how to make banners for worship at a workshop Sept. 8-9 at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. Call (502) 231-2763 for details.

EVENTS FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

MARRIED COUPLES, FAMILY MINISTRY LEADERS

Fall Festival considers romance in marriage

Whether you're newly married or you've been married a lifetime, the Fall Festival of Marriage offers a refreshing weekend retreat to strengthen your relationship with your mate and with God.

Fall Festival of Marriage is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention and the Kentucky Baptist Sunday School Board. This year's retreat is scheduled for Sept. 22-24 in Louisville.

Sessions will be held on the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Lodging is available at area hotels.

Keynote speaker will be Steve Pettit, director of Commission Ministries in Melrose, Fla. The weekend schedule also includes a variety of small-group sessions, worship, recreation and fellowship.

"Regarding Romance" is the theme of this year's sessions. Issues to be addressed include romance, friendship, intimacy, communication, stress, sexuality, finances, conflict resolution, defensiveness and more.

The retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22 and concludes with a worship celebration Sunday, Sept. 24.

This is an ideal retreat to attend as a couple, but also consider inviting other couples from your church to attend. Groups of 10 or more couples may qualify for a \$20 discount per couple.

■ **Cost:** \$100 per couple, not including lodging. Significant discounts are available for advance payment and when groups of 10 or more couples register together.

■ **Information and registration:** For a brochure or more information, contact the KBC family ministry department at (502) 245-4101.

DISCIPLESHIP LEADERS

New manual offers help for discipleship

Do you want to lead your church members to develop spiritually? Do you want to assimilate new members into the congregation better? Do you want to equip believers for leadership and ministry? Do you want to strengthen family relationship?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, you need the new Discipleship Training manual, "Leading Discipleship in a Church."

This book is a valuable tool for pastors, ministers of education, Discipleship Training directors and leaders and other lay leadership.

The new manual updates and replaces "Disciple All: A Discipleship Training Manual."

The new book includes chapters explaining what discipleship ministry is, how the discipleship process works, who needs to be disciplined, resources available for discipleship, how to organize a discipleship ministry and more.

This practical resource is available from the Baptist Book Store for \$1 each.

Help us send 15,000 Christmas gifts to 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.

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. Call (502) 245-4101 immediately to order bags, at \$3 per bag. 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 provided 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. *The need is urgent, so please act quickly. The deadline already has been extended.*



Brotherhood offers events statewide this fall

Regional bass fishing tournament

Laurel Lake □ Sept. 23 □ Prizes given by region □ \$30 per boat
Contact Laurel Lake Baptist Camp for lodging: (606) 528-3522
For information contact Mike Sexton at (606) 623-8146

Brotherhood Mini Rallies

All rallies are from 2-9 p.m. and include an evening meal. The rallies offer training in adults areas, mission action and youth and children's areas.

□ First Baptist Church of Hazard, Sept. 2

Music by New Directions

□ Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, Sept. 9

Music by New Directions; message by Brad Johnson, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green

□ Cynthia Baptist Church, Sept. 16

Music by New Directions; message by Billy Compton, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

□ First Baptist Church of Paintsville, Sept. 30

Music by New Directions; message by Don Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Winchester

Brotherhood Convention

□ Golf scramble at Gibson Bay Golf Course Oct. 5 (\$30/player)

□ Convention Oct. 6-7 at First Baptist Church of Richmond, with theme of "Experiencing God," including testimonies and preaching. Program personalities include The Regals, a nationally known quartet, Douglas Beggs of the Brotherhood Commission, and Lincoln Bingham, KBC liaison to the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky

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 training 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

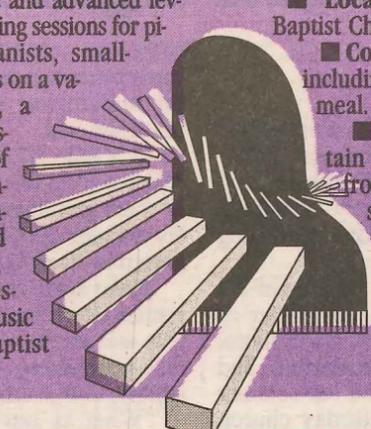
Theological Seminary, and Phillips, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Franklin, will lead sessions in addition to their concert.

■ **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.



Sunday school director seminar

A national seminar for Sunday school directors is coming to Kentucky Oct. 27-28.

The goal of this National Sunday School Director Seminar is to equip Sunday school directors in administration, growth, outreach-evangelism, teaching improvement and training. The two-day event will offer the equivalent of a week of training at Ridgecrest.

The seminar also will benefit pastors and ministers of education.

■ **Hurstbourne Baptist Church** in Louisville.

■ **Cost:** \$59 per person.

■ **Registration:** Call (615) 251-2477, call the KBC Sunday school department at (502) 245-4101 or sent payment to National Sunday School Director Seminars, Box 24001, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

EVENTS

FOR ALL KENTUCKY BAPTISTS

MINISTERS' WIVES

Ministers' wives retreat to celebrate blessings

Ministers' wives from across Kentucky will "Celebrate the Blessings in Good Times in Bad" during the ninth annual ministers' wives retreat.

Keynote speaker is Dixie Mylum Lusher, a minister's wife, mother, grandmother, former college professor and author of "Centennial History of Kentucky WMU." She will talk about "joy stealers" and "joy restorers" in sessions throughout the retreat.

In addition to worship and fellowship times, the retreat will offer a variety of conferences, including "The Ministry of Hospitality," "Your Personality Style," "Money—Madness or Mercy" and several classes related to crafts.

- **Dates:** Oct. 20-21.
- **Location:** Cedarmore Baptist Assembly.
- **Times:** Retreat begins at 5:30 p.m. Friday and concludes at 2 p.m. Saturday. Early bird conferences start at 3:30 p.m. Friday, and bonus conferences will extend until 3:30 p.m. Saturday.
- **Cost:** \$45.
- **Registration:** Pre-registration is due by Oct. 2. Send \$15, which will be deducted from the \$45 total, to Peggy Berry, KBC minister/church support division, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.
- **Information:** Call (502) 245-4101, extension 243.



If your church currently uses banners in worship, or if you're interested in beginning to use banners, help is available at a banner conference this fall.

Highview Baptist Church and the Kentucky Baptist Convention are co-sponsoring this conference, with keynote speaker Carolyn Higginbotham. Higginbotham coordinates the banner ministry at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

The program will include discussion of the philosophy and scriptural basis for banners, guidelines for forming a church banner ministry and instruction in banner-making techniques. The day will con-

clude with a field trip to a fabric store, with a 20 percent discount available to all participants.

- **Dates:** Sept. 8-9.
- **Place:** Highview Baptist Church, 7711 Fegenbush Lane, Louisville.
- **Cost:** \$25 per church if pre-registered by Aug. 21; \$35 per church after Aug. 21. Lunch will be provided on Saturday for an additional \$6 per person.
- **Registration:** Send pre-registration information and payment to Roxanne Nanney, Highview Baptist Church, 7711 Fegenbush Lane, Louisville, Ky. 40228.
- **Information:** Call (502) 231-2763.

Language leadership training set

Anyone involved or interested in language or ethnic missions work will benefit from this year's Language Leadership Conference.

Keynote speakers are Ignatius Meimaris, director of missions for Greater Boston Baptist Association, and David D'Amico, evangelism professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The conference will offer training in language leadership skills, cross-cultural awareness and strategy planning.

- **Dates:** Sept. 22-23.
- **Place:** Baptist Building in Louisville.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **Pre-registration:** Call (502) 245-4101 or write to KBC direct missions department at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40243.



Kentucky Baptist Chorale & Kentucky Baptist Singing Women

'Home from Russia' Concert

Gardenside Baptist Church
1667 Alexandria Drive in Lexington
September 9 at 5 p.m.

KBC Calendar

August 24

■ KBC committee on committees meeting at Baptist Building

August 26

■ WMU associational leadership training at Second Baptist Church of Madisonville
■ Super Saturday at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington and First Baptist Church of Paducah

September 3-9

■ Brotherhood Leadership Week

September 5

■ Southwestern region Brotherhood leadership Hope for Hurting Humanity workshop at Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton and central region workshop at Bardstown Baptist Church

September 7

■ KBC committee on constitution and bylaws meeting at Baptist Building
■ Southeastern region Brotherhood leadership Hope for Hurting Humanity workshop at First Baptist Church of Hazard and western region workshop at Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro.

September 7-8

■ Church recreators retreat at Park Mammoth Resort

September 8

■ KBC business and finance committee meeting at Baptist Building

September 8-9

■ Banner workshop at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville

September 9

■ Kentucky Baptist Chorale and Singing Women concert at Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington

September 10

■ Single Adult Day

September 10-17

■ Week of prayer for state missions

September 12

■ Associational Sunday school leadership night
■ North central region Brotherhood Hope for Hurting Humanity workshop at Cynthiana Baptist Church and southern region workshop at Munfordville Baptist Church

September 14

■ South central region Brotherhood Hope for Hurting Humanity workshop at First Baptist Church of Somerset and northeastern region workshop at First Baptist Church of Paintsville

MEDIA LIBRARY WORKERS

Fall workshop offers tips for church library

Church media library workers will find help and friendly conversation at the Fall Church Media Library Workshop.

The workshop will offer training in many facets of media library work, networking with other workers from across the state and opportunities to purchase new resources at the workshop book store.

Workshops will include information on topics such as Advanced Master Library System, church media library administration, computer vs. card catalog, Dewey Decimal System, video cameras, media library furnishings and design.

- **Date:** Oct. 7.
- **Times:** 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (EDT)
- **Place:** Immanuel Baptist Church, 800 Rhodes Drive, Elizabethtown.
- **Cost:** \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.
- **Registration:** Send payment to KBC media department, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.
- **Information:** Call Ruby Morgan at (502) 245-4101.



■ **Marriage retreat**
Kentucky's Fall Festival of Marriage is Sept. 22-24 in Louisville. For details, see the column in this Events section.

■ **Ministers' wives**
The annual retreat for ministers' wives will be Oct. 20-21 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly.

■ **Language leaders**
Language missions workers and others interested in learning more about language ministry are invited to the Language Leadership Conference Sept. 22-23 in Louisville

■ **State missions**
You don't have to go far in Kentucky to be a missionary. Mission needs exist all around us. The Eliza Broadus Offering goal for this year is \$800,000. The annual week of prayer for state missions is Sept. 10-17.

Prison Fellowship founder supports death penalty

Prison Fellowship's national and international boards of directors have not taken a position on capital punishment because they cannot reach a consensus.

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. (RNS)—Before and after he spent time in prison for his role in the Watergate scandal, Chuck Colson believed the death penalty was always wrong.

But Colson, an influential leader among evangelical Christians and the founder of an international prison ministry, has had a change of heart.

Cases like that of Susan Smith, recently convicted of drowning her two children in a South Carolina lake, have convinced him that the death penalty is sometimes the "only possible punishment."

"Had I been the judge (in the Smith case), I probably would have sentenced her to death," Colson said in an interview. "No one is secure when your own parent would kill you."

The switch in Colson's stance reflects ongoing disagreements over capital punishment within religious circles—including Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministries, a Christian group that aims to help prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families, and its overseas offshoot, Prison Fellowship International.

At an August meeting of Prison Fellowship International, speakers from across the globe voiced strong opinions for and against the death penalty. The group's national and international boards of directors have not taken a position on capital punishment because they cannot reach a consensus.

Robert Johnson of Nassau, Bahamas, a member of Prison Fellowship International's board in the island nation, cited numerous Bible verses in support of capital punishment. Among them was Genesis 9:6: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed."

"Capital punishment ... is the divine institution of Almighty God himself," Johnson declared, noting later that he was relating his personal opinion and not that of the organization.

Former Minnesota Gov. Al Quie spoke up for the other side. He recalled that political decisions he had to make about capital punishment were "the most difficult."

"Every time I had a chance to vote on it, I voted against it," Quie said. "I believe there is the hope of redemption."

Quie spoke of one criminal who

raped and attempted to murder a member of Quie's own family. The man later asked for forgiveness and began attending a Bible study.

"The redemption of Jesus Christ reaches the most hideous criminals," Quie said.

Dan Van Ness, a criminology professor at the University of Malta in Europe and a former senior vice president with Prison Fellowship Ministries, moderated the workshop.

The discussion, he said, "typifies the depth of feeling and maybe the depth of disagreement ... not just among Christians but among people generally," he said.

Van Ness, author of "Crime and Its Victims: What We Can Do," noted there is a third option besides being for or against capital punishment: seeing the death penalty as permissible under some circumstances.

Colson seems to have chosen that option.

He said he had historically opposed capital punishment partly because "there is no evidence that it is a deterrent." Now, however, he believes there are instances when it is

the "only possible punishment."

"There are some crimes so heinous that no other punishment is satisfactory," Colson said.

He cited as examples the cases of mass murderer John Wayne Gacy; the perpetrators of the Oklahoma City federal building bombing; and Jeffrey Dahmer, the cannibalistic serial killer who was beaten to death last year.

"John Wayne Gacy changed my mind about capital punishment," said Colson, who visited the convicted killer on death

row. "He was arrogant, unrepentant, ... (and) felt that the world had mistreated him."

Gacy, convicted of killing 33 boys and young men in the 1970s, was executed last year in Joliet, Ill.

Colson said Smith also exemplifies the occasional need for the death penalty. He called Smith's murderous acts "ultimate barbarism" and said they were "worse than blowing up the federal building in Oklahoma."

The prosecutor in Smith's case sought her execution, but on July 28 a jury sentenced her to life in prison.



Colson

REGIONAL MEETINGS WITH DR. CECIL SHERMAN

Coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

September 3-8, 1995

Come learn about the work of the
Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Sessions are open and all inquiries are welcome.

Call 502-863-2329 if you have questions prior to the regional meeting in your area.

(Call for directions.)

Sunday	September 3	11:00 a.m.	Crescent Hill Baptist, Louisville	Church phone: 502-896-4425
		7:00 p.m.	Calvary Baptist, Danville	Church phone: 606-236-5350
Monday	September 4	Noon	Picnic with the KBF Board KBF Office: 502-863-2329	
			Game Farm in Frankfort	
Tuesday	September 5	Noon	Trinity Baptist, Lexington	Church phone: 606-254-6795
			Bring a lunch; drinks and dessert provided.	
		7:00 p.m.	Holiday Inn Somerset US 27	Bob Leidelmeijer: 606-678-7196
				Linda Biggs: 606-679-5797
Wednesday	September 6	Noon	Lexington Theological Seminary	KBF Office: 502-863-2329
		6:00 p.m.	Bagdad Baptist	Church phone: 502-747-8725
Thursday	September 7	7:00 p.m.	First Baptist, Brandenburg	Mary Louise Jenkins: 502-422-2115
Friday	September 8	Noon	Broadway Baptist, Louisville	Church phone: 502-895-2459
			Bring a lunch; drinks and dessert provided.	

YOUR RESERVATION WILL HELP IN OUR PLANNING.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

I will attend the regional meeting at _____

Please add my name to the mailing list.

Mail to Kentucky Baptist Fellowship P.O. Box 11160 Lexington, KY 40574-1160

Urgent Deadline!

6,000 children in Russia will *not* receive a Christmas bag from Kentucky Baptists unless you respond *immediately* to the Children's Christmas Gift Project. To order bags, instructions for filling included, call the Brotherhood Department at (502) 244-6489 or (502) 245-4101, ext. 319. You will be billed \$3 per bag.

Abortion opponents analyzing conversion of 'Jane Roe'

DALLAS (RNS)—When Operation Rescue opened an office in Dallas adjacent to the abortion clinic where Norma McCorvey worked, the woman who had by then become the symbol of the abortion-rights movement would telephone Operation Rescue's leader, Flip Benham, a former bartender and recovering alcoholic, with taunts and gallows humor.

"Hey, Flip, I've been over here killing babies all day—ya got any new recipes for Manhattans?" Benham's co-workers recall her saying.

Now McCorvey—once the anonymous plaintiff Jane Roe in the 1973 landmark Supreme Court decision guaranteeing abortion rights—has been baptized by Benham and gone over to the other side.

"The primary significance for this is to Norma herself, and it points up the unflinching kindness of Flip Benham in the face of her taunts," said Helen Alvare, a spokeswoman for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Operation Rescue, long known for its vociferous demonstrations outside abortion clinics, could be perceived in a new light in the wake of McCorvey's conversion, Alvare said, particularly now that Benham, rather than firebrand Randall Terry, is the organization's most visible spokesman.

"Abortion-rights advocates will characterize the kindness of Flip Benham as an insidious tool used to manipulate a confused woman," Alvare said. "But it may cause others

(to see) ... that it may have something to do with the Christian beliefs of Flip Benham, who has not received the coverage Randall Terry did."

Other leaders in Christian anti-abortion circles also applauded McCorvey's decision to switch, though they differed on how great an impact her move would have on the anti-abortion movement generally.

"A devastating moment for the pro-abortion movement," said Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition. "You cannot underestimate the symbolic significance of this."

Michele Arocha Allen, spokeswoman for the National Right to Life Committee in Washington, D.C., said she hopes McCorvey's transition will help educate people about abortion at a time when its realities are "covered up by rhetoric."

"More than any other person, Ms. McCorvey has symbolized legal abortion in America, and I think it's very heartening to see someone like her come into the same realization that many other Americans have come to, once they are educated about abortion," Allen said.

But Ben Mitchell, a medical ethicist and consultant to the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said, "What one person may do, as delightful (as) it is, in our view, probably isn't going to ... change the law. We still have much to do to change the law."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ The two largest Mennonite denominations in the United States and Canada—the Mennonite Church and the General Conference Mennonite Church—have voted to merge. The action will create a denomination of about 160,000 members. Mennonites and Baptists come from the same Anabaptist tradition resulting from the Protestant Reformation.

■ Thomas Nelson, one of the largest commercial publishers of the Bible in the English language, has announced a major reorganization to combine the company's recently purchased Word Publishing with its Nelson publishing unit. The combination of Nelson and Word into the Nelson/Word Publishing Group will make the company one of the top 10 general book publishers in the United States.

■ The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) continued its membership decline in 1994, despite an increase in baptisms and membership transfers. At year's end, the denomination had 940,843 members, a 2.1 percent drop from the previous year. The increasing number of baptisms and transfers of members from other denominations, while encouraging, was not enough to offset other losses, said Richard Hamm, the denomination's general minister and president.

1995 Annual Meeting • November 14-15 • Owensboro

KBC ACCOMMODATIONS

The 158th Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting is November 14-15 at Owensboro's Ramada Resort and Conference Center, formerly the Executive Inn Rivermont. The hotel and meeting complex is located at One Executive Boulevard on the banks of the Ohio River west of downtown Owensboro.

The facilities listed below represent hotels and motels with blocked rooms. Room rates are for 1-4 persons per night. Pay close attention to reservation deadlines. Individuals making reservations must identify themselves as attendees of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in order to receive established room rates. Make your reservations early!

Please note: The Executive Office of the KBC Executive Board makes every effort to advise Convention messengers concerning good lodging at a variety of prices in any host city. Messengers should be aware, however, that lodging other than that listed may be available. Also, individuals are expected to exercise personal discretion in the selection of appropriate accommodations. Telephone a hotel if you have specific questions about its services or policies.

Facility	Rates + 9.18% tax	Blocked Rooms	Deadline
Ramada Resort & Conference Center* One Executive Boulevard 1/800/626-1936; 1/502/926-8000	High rise: \$51 single; \$55 double; \$100 suite Pool area: \$48 single; \$52 double East/West wing: \$45 single; \$49 double	600	October 30
Holiday Inn* 3136 West Second Street 1/502/685-3941	\$52 singles; \$52 doubles (2-4 persons, 2 beds)	80	October 31
Days Inn* US 231/US 60 Bypass 1/502/684-9621	First level: \$38 single; \$42 doubles Second level: \$36 single; \$40 doubles \$4 per additional persons	60	October 31
Hampton Inn** 615 Salem Drive 1/502/926-2006	\$60 flat rate (singles and doubles)	25	October 23

*Restaurant on site

**Continental breakfast

PEOPLE

CLASSIFIED ADS

Wren says changes to hymns nothing new

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Internationally known hymn writer Brian Wren says the practice of altering the words of "the good old hymns," attacked by traditionalists each time a denomination seeks to update its hymnal, is not unusual.

Such practices, he said, go back at least as far as the 18th century and the hymns of Charles Wesley and Isaac Watts. The reasons for change advanced then are similar to those advanced today—

changes in language and changes in politics, Wren told the biennial meeting of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts. He cited the well-known Christmas carol by Wesley, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," as an example. As originally penned by Wesley, the song read, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." But "welkin," which means the vault of heaven or sky, soon became archaic and was changed.

Political correctness was another reason for change, Wren said. Many of Watts' songs were altered because "they only made sense if you were a colony of Great Britain."

Wren said the current effort to make hymns more inclusive of women and minorities is "not a fad." He also said writers should broaden their language about God to include the many images of God in the Scriptures, such as shepherd, potter, rock, mother, eagle, judge and midwife.

NEEDED: Russell Cave Road Baptist Church in Lexington is in need of a part-time pianist. Contact Gene King at (606) 299-4611 or Veronica Tichenor at (606) 293-1478.

SEEKING: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is seeking candidates for the position of accounting supervisor with general ledger and payroll responsibilities. BS in accounting with 4+ years experience preferred. Send resumé and salary history to Personnel Services, Box 82396, Louisville, KY 40280-2396.

FOR SALE: 22 padded church pews, 3 choir pews, pulpit and altar rail. Call (502) 358-3876.

NEEDED: Associate pastor in education and outreach. Principal function: The associate pastor will be responsible to the senior pastor for planning, organizing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive program of education and outreach for the church and community. Preferred

qualifications: 1) Clear articulation of conversion experience, subsequent faith journey and previous commitment to and involvement in a Southern Baptist church; 2) Graduate of a nationally recognized and accredited seminary or divinity school; 3) Two to five years of directly applicable experience; 4) Effective interpersonal skills; 5) Strong organizational and managerial skills; 6) Computer literate; 7) Knowledgeable of educational trends and age-group teaching/learning processes. If interested, please submit a resumé and a cover letter that addresses the preferred qualifications. Send to: Associate Pastor Search Committee, Georgetown Baptist Church, 207 South Hamilton St., Georgetown, KY 40324. All inquiries will be handled in strict confidence.

SECURITY: Need security at church, business or home? Call Bob at ADT Security Systems, Lexington, (606) 254-0837 or (502) 343-4056.

WANTED: Pastor's position open. If interested, send complete resumé to: Search Committee, Ballardsville Baptist Church, 4901 S. Hwy. 53, Crestwood, KY 40014-9745.

FOR RENT: Sanibel Island, Florida: 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental. Large pool, tennis courts, bikes, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely secluded beach. Weekly rates August-December 16, \$550. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752.

SEEKING: Mothers' Day Out program director and teachers for a licensed, 2-days-a-week program. Call (502) 447-2591 for more information. Send resumé to Rockford Lane Baptist Church MDO, 2006 Rockford Lane, Louisville, KY 40216.

TOUR: 10-day Holy Land pilgrimage; includes Athens and Corinth, Greece. March 12-21, 1996. Only \$1,795 from New York. Call Pastor Jack R. Studie for a color bro-

chure and more information, (502) 247-8331. Experience you can trust!

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky., is seeking resúmes for a minister of youth and college students/director of the Christian Life Center. Seminary degree required. Send resumé to: Dr. Marty Brooks, 230 S. Fifth St., Williamsburg, KY 40769.

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AUGUST 27-30

Services Nightly At 7 P.M.;
Noon Services On Aug. 28-30

A special place of hope

If you look out the big picture window at the Baptist Youth Shelter in Morehead you see the beginnings of the Eastern Kentucky mountains. The steep hills covered in trees present a beauty that even a flatlander like me can appreciate. For the children in care there, the shelter is a quiet place of refuge from the turmoil of difficult home situations.

The Baptist Youth Shelter was opened seven summers ago during the first month I was here. Eldred Taylor and Edna Woofter had worked a long time to bring Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children back to Morehead after an earlier home closed. Don Mantooh, the pastor at First Baptist Church of Morehead, had helped to secure the land and used his architectural skills to design the building based on plans from our shelter in Dixon.

The person who has been the stable leader of the program for the past seven years is Regional Coordinator Dean Harney. His area of responsibility has now expanded to include our new work in the Big Sandy area, but he still provides the day-to-day leadership at the shelter.

Tim and Donna Dixon serve as the teaching parents. They and the staff who work with them provide the love, structure and discipline the children need. It takes a lot of patience to provide for the unique needs of 10 young people who are all wondering what is going to happen to them next.

Most of the children in care at the Baptist Youth Shelter attend First Baptist Church of Morehead. This church has made a special effort to reach out to our children. They give each young person a Bible and periodically hold special Bible classes at the shelter.

Bill Booth, the associate pastor, has provided a great deal of spiritual counseling for our young people.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is a ministry where individuals and churches reach out in partnership to help children and families.

There is no better example of that partnership than in Morehead.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

Baptists find unity at 17th World Congress

Continued from page 1

ing for his life from war-torn Rwanda. "Taking part in this congress is somehow another opportunity to allow us to indeed realize that we are human beings," said Ziherambere, now regional secretary for the All Africa Baptist Fellowship of the Baptist World Alliance.

Unity appears to be on the horizon even for black and white South African Baptists. Baptist World Alliance officials announced preliminary plans to send a "friendship" delegation to South Africa later this year to help build bridges in the Baptist community.

The plan emerged from a meeting of Baptist World Alliance leaders with the white and black South African groups, after a conflict had been sparked between the two during the meeting. Both sides agreed they must rely on their common bond in Jesus Christ to heal their pain and division.

"We have a way to go, but with the power of God, we will walk together," said one South African leader. "We will show the world how races can stand together as one. With hope for the future and the Holy Spirit, we can move to reconciliation and then forgiveness."

Meanwhile, congress participants

from 124 countries, spanning six continents, focused on such issues as evangelism, social action, human rights, justice, peace, religious liberty, human need and church development. They heard speakers; attended meetings for women, men and youth; took part in workshops; sang and mingled culturally.

And they put words into action through such activities as the "True Love Waits" campaign for premarital sexual abstinence for young people, "Love in Action" projects including local hospital visits, building benches for churches and street evangelism.

They also paused to view brief videotaped messages from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and evangelist Billy Graham. The Baptist World Alliance presented Carter its first human rights award and approved a resolution of appreciation for Graham, who has spoken at almost every Baptist World Congress since 1950.

Speakers—beginning with Carlos Menem, president of Argentina, and ending with Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper of Nashville—urged world Baptists to put Jesus Christ ahead of worldly gain, service ahead of self and justice ahead of oppression.

"Christ's abiding presence with us will inspire us to be missionaries, not mercenaries," declared Noah Masimba Pashapa of Zimbabwe. "It will inspire us to be disciple makers, not personal empire builders; men and women of compassion, not men pleasers."

Another speaker, Beverly Dunston Scott, vice president of the American Baptist Churches USA, said: "No Christian should believe that God will take care of injustices and unfairness and that he or she can do nothing. It's a sin to close our eyes to human needs, to walk away from an outstretched hand and to maintain silence when voices of justice, humanity and love desperately need to be heard."

Nilson Fanini of Brazil, elected to succeed Knud Wumpelmann of Denmark as Baptist World Alliance president, issued a challenge to world Baptists to engage in a concerted evangelism thrust through the year 2000.

Baptists comprise the largest army on the face of the earth today, Fanini said, outnumbering 2-1 the combined military forces of the United States, Russia, England, Israel and other military powers.

"With this army can we win the world for Jesus Christ?" he asked. "Yes, we can."

No 'comfort zone' in missions

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (BP)—There's no "comfort zone" in missions, discipleship leader Henry Blackaby told Southern Baptist missionaries in Uruguay during a recent visit to South America.

He said he thought the best image of Christ is the "suffering servant" described in Isaiah 53. "We try to eliminate that from mission service," Blackaby said. "We don't want to hurt, and we don't want to serve. Many of us want to be a servant but be treated like a king."

Blackaby spoke to Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Uruguay during their annual mission meeting in Nueva Helvecia, about 70 miles from the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo.

He cautioned missionaries against neglecting personal Bible study. And he pointed out that God seldom does the same thing twice, giving biblical examples of Joshua, David and Jesus himself.

"God only brought down one city (Jericho) by marching around it," Blackaby said. Citing 1 Chronicles 14, Blackaby noted that God directed David to change his strategy the second time he battled the Philistines.

Also, Blackaby said Jesus used different methods to heal blind people. In some cases he touched them and in others he simply spoke to them, while in other cases he used mud.

If Jesus did these miracles today, Blackaby suggested three denominations would emerge: "the touch denomination, the speak denomination and the mud denomination."

The point, he said, is that "God rarely does the same thing twice because he doesn't want us to put confidence in the method."

Christmas Joy Begins with You!



More than 14,000 churches like yours provided Christmas gifts last year for more than 431,000 children of prisoners. This year even more prisoner-parents have asked that their children receive gifts. You can help. Church volunteers in Kentucky are needed to buy and/or deliver Christmas gifts in the prisoner-parent's name, or volunteer one day a week in the Prison Fellowship office during the months of August-November. Children also receive an age-appropriate booklet that gives the gospel message.

Will you
or your
church
help?

Prison Fellowship
P.O. Box 23063
Louisville, KY 40223
(502) 426-7291

Prison Fellowship was founded by Chuck Colson in 1976 and today is the world's largest prison ministry

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City, ST & ZIP _____

Home phone () _____

Work phone () _____

Name of pastor _____

Name of church _____

Street Address _____

City, ST & ZIP _____

Church phone () _____



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 - Campus ministers on Boston-area campuses.
 - Executive Director Ken Lyle and the staff of the Baptist Convention of New England.
 - Campus ministers as they share Christ on Utah/Idaho campuses.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- **BENTON**—Sharpe Missionary Church called Gary Fannon of Fort Worth, Texas, as pastor. He began his new ministry Aug. 14.
- **COVINGTON**—Latonia Church ordained Greg Wingate to the gospel ministry. Wingate is associate pastor at Cropper Church in Pleasureville.
- **FRANKFORT**—Irvin E. Souder, 87, a retired pastor who was assistant to the pastor of Thornhill Church in Frankfort for the past 20 years, died Aug. 11. He is survived by his wife, the former Lorena Lisby of Waddy; three adult children; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.
- **GREENSBURG**—Greensburg Church will celebrate its 175th homecoming anniversary beginning Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m. and continuing Oct. 1 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Former pastors and friends will share a time of renewing old acquaintances and fellowship at this event. Call (502) 932-4495 for more information.
- **JAMESTOWN**—Welfare Church called David Renfro as pastor. Renfro is a first-year student at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.
- **LOUISVILLE**—George Beverly Shea, soloist in Billy Graham crusades for 50 years, will present a concert at 7 p.m. Sept. 10 at St. Matthews Church in Louisville. He will be accompanied by his longtime colleague, Don Hustad, senior professor of church music at Southern Seminary.

Mary Mays, 80, of Highland Park First Church, is celebrating 47 years of continuous teaching in the children's department at Highland Park First Church. Mays still boards the church van every Sunday to make a 44-mile round trip picking up children and returning them home.

Jeffersonton Church will celebrate its sesquicentennial Oct. 8-15. Also, the church will enter a float in the annual Gaslight Parade Sept. 14 to commemorate this event. Call (502) 267-1123 for more information.

■ **MEMPHIS, Tenn.**—Former Kentucky Baptist pastor Darrell Richardson has been awarded the Good Shepherd Award, the top honor given by the Baptist Committee on Scouting. In Kentucky, Richardson was pastor of Ormsby Village Church in Anchorage, associate pastor and acting pastor of Walnut Street Church in Louisville, and pastor of Fort Mitchell Church in Fort Mitchell.

■ **MURRAY**—Coldwater Church ordained Joe Baker, Lee Rogers and Albert Bazzell Jr. as deacons Aug. 6.

■ **OWENTON**—First Church or-

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ained Minister of Youth Mark Webb to the gospel ministry July 30. Webb is a recent graduate of Southern Seminary.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—First Church called interim minister of music David Hedrick as permanent part-time minister of music. Hedrick will also continue working for the local

school system.

■ **SMITHFIELD**—Smithfield Church ordained Brad Evans as deacon Aug. 6. Also, Robert Morgan Sr. was named deacon emeritus.

■ **WACO**—Ed Jones resigned as pastor at Panola Church due to health problems. Phil Ronk was called as interim pastor.

POSITION OPENING

KENTUCKY
BAPTIST
FOUNDATION

President and Chief Executive Officer Kentucky Baptist Foundation

The Presidential Search Committee of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation is seeking applications from interested persons.

Anyone interested in being considered should send a current resumé by September 22, 1995, to:

Charles D. Barnes, Chairman
Kentucky Baptist Foundation
P. O. Box 43433
Louisville KY 40253-0433

School starts today!

I am writing this as our fall term begins. It will be our busiest day of the year.

There has been much preparation for today. Literally the day after school was out in May, volunteers came to begin working. We not only finished many projects from last summer, we also completed a tremendous number of new projects. We did several things we had not even planned on, because some folks came at the last minute to help. We thank God daily for the wonderful friends who come and work with us.

This summer we have also found new faculty and staff to replace those who have moved to other fields. They have come from Maine to Minnesota. While we are still short two teachers, we have made many needed additions to our faculty and staff.

One area with which I am especially happy is the English Department. We have added English as a Second Language for those many students who come to us from around the world. In December we began a pilot program to see how much it would help our international students. The improvements in their grades have been most gratifying. Many of these students come to us from Christian families, and are seeking one or more years of Christian education here in the States before entering college. Many colleges require a year of high school in the U.S. before the admission process can begin. Still other international students come to us with the same spiritual needs as American students; they have never invited Christ into their lives.

A second addition has been six classes of Developmental English for those weaker students. These classes are for students who do not intend to go to college, but want a high school educa-

tion. Traditionally we have offered regular English classes and Advanced Placement classes for the gifted students. With the addition of the Developmental English classes, several students will be able to receive more intensive help. We will keep the class size to a maximum of eight students, with six being our preferred number.

We have also made a tremendous improvement in our cross country and track program. For most of the past several years, there has been only one coach for each of these sports, with an assistant at times. This year there will be a coach and an assistant for the girls and an additional coach and an assistant for the boys. It is not uncommon for 100 to 125 students to go out for cross country, so these additions will be a great blessing.

We have also added several house-parents this year. These extra house-parents will be out walking on the campus and visiting students in their rooms and around the dormitories. The extra house-parents will be able to keep an eye on what's going on. They will also be able to help homesick students, and prevent the normal problems that occur with 450 middle school and high school students living together away from home.

We look forward to our opportunities. We will be able to teach, discipline, love, encourage and share Christ with each youth. It is a privilege to know that for this time in life's journey we will be able to walk with them.

Please pray that our staff can meet their many needs. Pray that we will be sensitive to each child, remembering that in God's eyes they are all part of his creation.

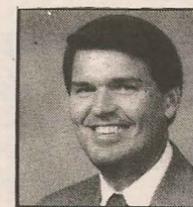
W.F. "Bud" Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Reaffirming our biblical heritage

Aug. 4-16, 1924, was the first official gathering of Baptists at Clear Creek. The fellowship and inspiration of that initial assembly continues at the annual alumni reunion on the first Monday and Tuesday of August.

More than 200 alumni from 15 states came back this year. Eleven former faculty/staff returned, including President Emeritus and Mrs. D.M. Aldridge. Anna Starkey, English teacher and Kelly Hall hostess for 20 years, who came from Kingman, Kan. It was truly a homecoming with all the program personalities a product of Clear Creek or on staff.

The theme, "Our Biblical Heritage," was a prelude to our 75th anniversary. Emeritus professor of Old Testament Robert Fitts challenged alumni to remember Baptist distinctives: The supremacy of Christ; authority of Scripture; soul competency; and the mission of the church. My message offered a biblical model for Christ's ambassador: willing to go anywhere; willing to do any work; and willing to pay any price. I have seen these characteristics in so many Clear Creek graduates.

Sullivan Association, Tenn., director of missions Tommy Holtzclaw preached on the spiritual

transformation God performs in our daily lives. H.C. Chiles professor of New Testament Earl Clark spoke from his favorite book, 1 John, on the place fellowship has in our faith.

The class of 1975 had more graduates in attendance than any other. The group presented the school \$1,000 for student housing remodeling. Fred Tongate, '72, Hawesville, presented a life insurance policy with the college as chief beneficiary.

Several alumni enjoyed a pre-conference golf scramble at the Pine Mountain course. Many others came early for the dedication of the Health Services Center.

Alumni chose as their officers Ohio pastor, Ron Hopkins, '83, president; Somerset pastor, David Evans, '92, vice president; Cumberland College employee, Beth Wyatt, '75, secretary; and Manchester pastor, Ken Felty, '81, treasurer.

I wish every Kentucky Baptist could come. You would leave with a deeper appreciation of the investment made in the lives of God-called servants who are keeping our biblical heritage.

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

Senior adult choirs growing

Senior adult choirs are growing and becoming more diverse, according to a veteran director of such groups.

Rather than the stereotype of keeping retired people busy singing silly songs, today's senior adult choir is more likely composed of people who are not yet retired to people in their 90s who enjoy doing something mentally challenging and of value to others, said Philip Sherrod, minister of music at Central Baptist Church of Carthage, Texas.

Sherrod said he "respects the intelligence of senior adult choir members" and leads them to work hard on musical principles. "We don't sing just funeral kinds of songs that give the idea we don't think we have much time left to live," he observed with a grin.

And singing isn't the only purpose for a senior adult choir, he said. "Unless they are a ministry group, they have no reason to exist."

Sherrod said he believes senior adult choirs demonstrate to everyone who sees and hears them, "You don't outgrow being a Christian witness."

Your children aren't possessed; they're teens

The most emotionally intense ages of adolescence—13 to 15—may lead some parents to wonder if their children are possessed by evil forces, a child and family therapist said.

"We can walk out of a hospital with a newborn child and not have to have any sort of license, like we do for cars and other things," observed Barry McCarty, a therapist in private practice and member of South Main Baptist Church in Houston.

McCarty offered suggestions to help harried parents survive the teen transition toward adulthood: Try not to take their moods personally; break through their walls with humor and games; have adult conversations; treat them as adults, but expect them to act like children; compliment them on their mature moments; don't expect them to be parent to younger siblings; think of creative ways for them to pay off mistakes; don't confront every behavioral infraction; do not give up.

Worship styles likened to language dialects

The debate over how many worship styles exist is really confusion over the difference in language and dialect, according to Harold Best, dean of the conservatory of music at Wheaton College.

Western music has no more than 12 pitches, Best explained, which creates one language with an inventory of 12 pitches

that can be used in countless ways. The different musical styles are dialects of the one musical language, he added.

Trouble arises when people label a musical dialect a different language which cannot connect with other musical styles, Best said.

"We would do well to quit talking as though there are theological implications of a musical dialect," he asserted. "There is nothing that is inherently religious or non-religious in music. The struggle is to produce quality within the dialect."

Churches urged to care for children

When it comes to the welfare of children of all ages, Dessie Dixon says, "It's not how much we do, but it's important that we do something."

While children are considered innocent and dependent, many today are put in situations where they are expected to respond as adults, said Dixon, Woman's Missionary

Union director at El Bethel Baptist Church in Fort Washington, Md. She cited as an example placing a 7-year-old in

charge of caring for smaller children at home while the parent is away.

Understanding the needs of children creates difficult questions, she said. "Technology can put a man on the moon, but it can't tell you how to feed the children in your neighborhood. Some children live in poverty while others have all they want. This can lead to killing for clothing and shoes."

Dixon said Jesus set the example for his followers by making time for children. "He requires of us to do justice and to speak out for those who have no voice. The Bible calls us to minister to the needs of persons and to speak out against injustice."

Chitchat won't attract women to meetings

Offering idle chitchat as a program won't get women to attend women's events at your church, according to Chris Adams, women's enrichment ministry specialist for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Relevance is the key ingredient for women of the '90s seeking spiritual fulfillment, she said. "You've got to make the ministry you offer women in your church worth their while.

"Women are not going to come just to chitchat. You have to see where they are, ask them their needs and reach out."

Women are struggling for time and balance in their lives, Adams said, adding 90 percent of women ages 16-65 are employed outside the home.

Black churches called to empowering ministries

African-American churches must pursue economic empowerment as illustrated in Jeremiah 29, according to George McCalep, pastor of Greenforest Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga.

"Build your own houses, plant your own gardens, take care of your own children and increase instead of decreasing," he said to paraphrase verses four through six of Jeremiah 29.

Economic development is not a means to build bigger barns in which to store money, McCalep said. What he more often calls "economic empowerment," he said, is "the networking and synergizing of a people for the purpose of self-help and of creating initiatives, opportunities and advantages to minister holistically and bring to fruition abundant life."

McCalep said he wants to see the economic power of African-American congregations channeled into providing

more ministry opportunities, helping people to help themselves and helping the community in which it ministers.

"The black church is much stronger than it gives itself credit for," he observed. "Our tradition is that 90 percent of charitable donations come through the church. The money is there. We can't complain about the impoverished community we're in."

McCalep said he would like to see church members put their resources into church auxiliaries and ministries to improve the community and help people on a practical level. Among the possibilities he cited are church-owned senior citizens' housing facilities, credit unions, bookstores and wellness centers.

Christians can save the family, therapist says

History has set the stage for the cast of characters who play the modern-day family, and it is up to Christian playwrights to determine whether the final story line of that long-lived production will be death or survival, a family therapist said.

Divorce, poverty, absentee fathers and America's television viewing habits are the four plots that "cry out for change" above all others, according to Stephen Sumerel, director of Family Life and Substance Abuse for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

"Too many families live in poverty; too many children have no father present in their lives; too many marriages end in divorce; and too much violence and depersonalization have robbed us of our

hope," Sumerel said.

However, he added, "I sense that families cannot be, nor should they seek to be, what they were in times past. On days when I experience families struggling with harsh realities and finding their own capacity for healing, I then marvel at the resiliency of the American family."

"Our faith informs us not to treat the family as a victim of our society, but to work to empower the family to become an agent of change," he said. "This is our call to minister to the family."

Drama and art should glorify God, Tullos says

When art, drama and music are used to glorify God, they strengthen worship. But when they begin to glorify the artist or the art form, they detract from the worship of God and no longer belong in the church, according to drama consultant Matt Tullos.

"The more we glorify the artist or the art form, we will be caught in the cycle of worldliness," Tullos said.

A strength of drama in worship, Tullos said, is that it can be used effectively to appeal to the five senses, enhancing the impact of worship.

He cited the life and ministry of Jesus as a continuing illustration of the use of drama. Jesus told stories. He healed a blind man by mixing mud and placing it over his eyes. He used well water to tell a woman about living water.

Church librarians urged to consider preschoolers

Church media librarians were challenged to open their hearts and their libraries to preschoolers and, in the process, help young children develop positive attitudes about church and God.

"It would be great if the library were the friendliest place in the church," said Morlee Maynard of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Maynard urged librarians to demonstrate they value preschoolers by broadening their understanding of preschoolers' common characteristics, including being imaginative, creative, active and sensitive.

Also, media librarians should accept preschoolers "just the way they are. And they are active, noisy and obnoxious sometimes," she said.

Maynard challenged media librarians to see themselves as partners with parents and teachers of preschoolers. "The teachers and parents have battle fatigue. You can help by letting them know of helpful resources they can check out," she said.

Summer Sampler

Tips from Ridgecrest & Glorieta conferences

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