

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

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**FOR THE RECORD**

## Russia partnership a success, but needs still vast

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

**Russia update**  
Western Recorder staff writer Melanie Childers recently spent two weeks in Russia, visiting sites where Kentucky Baptists have made a difference through partnership missions and other sites where Russians hope Kentucky Baptists will offer help in the coming year. Her report begins on page 1 and continues on pages 6-15. The report includes specific needs to be met by Kentucky Baptist churches and individuals in 1996.

MOSCOW—The 2-year-old missions partnership between Baptists in Kentucky and Russia already has been effective, but the task remaining is as vast as the huge country that spans 11 time zones, partnership leaders report.

Since January 1994, Russian and Kentucky Baptists have joined forces to strengthen the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, an organization of 1,180 churches across Russia. Nearly 1,000 volunteers from Kentucky already have helped build churches, support Russian home missionaries, set up medical clinics and train church leaders.

"We've received far more response than we ever anticipated, based on Kenya and Brazil partner-

□ See *Russia partnership ...*, page 6



**TENACIOUS BUILDERS** Women at Klinty Baptist Church outside Bryansk, Russia, spend a typical Saturday morning building their new church. Since women make up more than 90 percent of their congregation, and since they cannot afford to hire workers, they cheerfully do the work themselves. The Klinty church has requested Kentuckians' help during 1996. (See story on page 12)

## PARTNERSHIP

**UPDATE!**

**Seminary enrollment**  
Fall enrollment at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary dropped by the greatest percentage in recent history but not as far as some predicted.  
See page 3.

**Men's ministries**  
The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission is launching a new men's ministries program that picks up where the Promise Keepers movement leaves off.  
See page 20.

## State policeman and convict meet again through lay revival ministry

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

WEST LIBERTY—Although state policeman Dave Hoffman had seen "that face" in his mind's eye many times over the past 15 years, he had not expected to be eyeball-to-eyeball ever again. In fact, he thought the man was dead.

But there the man was, coming down the corridor of the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex.

"I recognized him immediately," Hoffman said.

After all, he said, it's hard to forget the face of a man who planned to kill you, the face of a man you encountered in a barrel-to-barrel confrontation when you were 29 years old and just five years into a law enforcement career.

There was another reason Hoffman hadn't forgotten this man. Over the years, "the Holy Spirit had brought his face back to me many times," he said. "He became a part of my testimony."

Often, Hoffman had told about how even though he was not a Christian at the time, God still watched over him. "It was not luck or skill that saved my life. It was God," he confessed.

The story began when the 39-year-old man was jailed on a stolen vehicle charge, but had escaped. Two weeks later, Hoffman located him and went alone to a residence

to make the arrest.

"He met me with a shotgun loaded with deer slugs," Hoffman said. "Both of us had our weapons drawn, getting ready to kill."

But "in the providence of God," Hoffman convinced the man to lay his weapon down and surrender, he explained. "He told me he had planned to shoot whoever came to arrest him, but surrendered instead because I treated him fairly."

And now, on an August weekend in the last 40 minutes of the last day of a lay-led revival at the Eastern Kentucky prison, the two were once again face-to-face.

Hoffman and 64 other laymen from Central Baptist Church in Winchester had spent the weekend ministering at the prison. Although they were tired and ready to go home, Hoffman's team decided to hand out a few more tracts.

It was then that Hoffman saw him. "At first he didn't recognize me," Hoffman said. But when Hoffman identified himself, the inmate said he had thought of Hoffman many times over the years. In fact, he said he had included Hoffman "several times" in the biography he is writing. And he said he had become a Christian.

Once again, in "that face," Hoffman saw the hand of God. "Sometimes the Lord gives an extra blessing to let you know his presence is still here," he said.

## Peacemakers promote help for battles on the homefront

By John Hagan  
Religion News Service

CLEVELAND (RNS)—Ginny Nagel wants to bring a little peace to her home, school and neighborhood.

It's not that Nagel's life is consumed by heavy crime. "It's not the violence of guns and knives," she said. "We don't have that."

What she and other parents must often deal with is the kind of violence that disrupts schools and turns homes into verbal battlegrounds.

Dealing with everyday acts of conflict at home, in the school or in the neighborhood is a daily concern among many parents. What should you do about the bully at school who is picking on your son or daughter? How do you handle teens who talk back and escalate every disagreement into a major knock-down argument? Are there measures that can be taken to increase the chances your child will learn to respond non-violently to conflict?

Nagel and two friends, Judy Delagrang and Paula Zagorski, dealt with questions like these and then worked together to secure a grant to provide lesson plans for teaching peacemaking in their school, St. Leo the Great Elementary School in the Old Brooklyn section of Cleveland.

"We wanted to teach our children to be peacemakers and not be part of the violence in the world," Nagel said.

They hung posters around the school and taught a weekly lesson

about resolving conflicts without fighting.

Nagel is trying to incorporate what she has learned from the lessons being taught at the school into her everyday life. She found lessons on the win/win guidelines for resolving conflict especially useful in dealing with her son Joe, 17, and her daughter, Maura, 12.

Those guidelines include taking time for cooling off, finding alternative ways to express anger and using so-called "I messages," where each person states his or her feelings and the problem as he or she sees it.

The guidelines further suggest that each person state the problem as the other person sees it, and each person state how he or she is responsible for the problem. The discussion should be followed by brainstorming for solutions and choosing a solution that satisfies both.

"There is so much conflict in our lives, and so many of us are unable to deal with it," Nagel said. "Conflict is difficult for all of us. It takes a lot of work. It takes a lot of practice, patience and takes some creativity to think of ways to resolve issues full of conflict."

She posts the win/win guidelines on her refrigerator as a daily reminder to try to resolve conflict peacefully. A copy is also in her son's room.

That's exactly what Naomi Drew hoped parents would do with the guidelines when she wrote the book

□ See \_\_\_\_\_, page 17

Moving? See page 4 (0912)

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **"Home Life,"** a television program produced by the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission, will move from a once-a-week schedule to a daily half-hour schedule. The new version will begin airing on FamilyNet Oct. 2 at 9 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.

■ **Jim Henry,** president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has requested recommendations for people to serve on the SBC's committee on committees, resolutions committee, tellers committee and credentials committee. Nominations should be submitted on a special form available by writing to Henry at First Baptist Church, 3701 L.B. McLeod Rd., Orlando, Fla. 32805. Nominations must be received by Nov. 15.

■ **A conservative group** of Texas Baptists has announced a slate of candidates they hope to get elected as officers of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in November. The group, called Southern Baptists of Texas, also issued a resolution claiming elected leaders of the state convention in the past have "promoted a sympathetic drift away from our historical Southern Baptist roots."

■ **Jimmy Draper's** former church, First Baptist of Euless, Texas, has given \$100,000 toward a new academic chair being established in his honor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Draper served the church as pastor for 16 years before becoming president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

## Mohler urges students to cling to faith

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Seminarians who have sacrificed financial security and secular success to pursue their ministerial callings stand with generations of faithful saints who have selflessly served God, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler told students Aug. 28.

In his convocation address opening the fall semester, Mohler urged students to cling to the faith that brought them there.

"Around you and in you is testimony to God's calling and to the faithfulness of those who come and to the faith which has propelled you here," Mohler said. "This is not a place where the majority of your college classmates are to be found. This

is not a place where the corporate headhunters are waiting to bestow executive suites, corporate jets and golden parachutes.

"And the world, and perhaps not only the world, but some in the church and not only the church, but perhaps even some in your own family, wonder why it is that you are here."

In his address, Mohler directed students' attention to the faith of the biblical characters listed in Hebrews 11. Faith, he explained, is necessary to gain God's approval.

"And yet faith is one of the most abused words in the contemporary vocabulary," he said. "It has often been reduced to mere bromides."

Mohler added that too often society's message is simply to "have faith."

"But we should not be concerned with faith in faith, but with faith in God, and in particular, faith in Jesus Christ our Great High Priest and Mediator," Mohler said.

Today's students at Southern Seminary follow in a tradition of faith that began with the school's founders and continued through successive generations, the seminary president asserted. Seminary founding faculty member John A. Broadus' commitment to serve Christ at the seminary was so strong that he turned down the presidencies of prestigious colleges and the pastorates of large churches, Mohler said.

## FMB now back to 'Journeyman classic'

By Mary Speidel  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—When Wendy Norvelle talks about changes in the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's journeyman program, she borrows an analogy from the Coca-Cola Co.

In 1985 it introduced a new soft drink known as New Coke, replacing the traditional cola popular worldwide. The new drink tasted sweeter, more like Pepsi, one of Coke's major competitors. But when the revised product hit the markets, unhappy customers voiced their complaints.

The Coca-Cola Co. listened. Three months later, they repackaged the original cola as Coke Classic and took the new product off the market. In 1993, the company reintroduced the product as Coke II.

So what does all that have to do with the journeyman program, a two-year foreign mission opportunity for young college graduates?

"We're back to 'Journeyman Classic' now," says Norvelle, who directs the FMB's international service department.

Well, it's actually a slightly revised version of "Journeyman Classic," but the program is still pretty close to the original. The original journeyman program was created in 1964 to allow recent college graduates to serve overseas for two years alongside career missionaries. The program kept the same basic identity until 1989, according to Norvelle, a former journeyman to Zimbabwe.

That year the mission board made the journeyman experience part of a newly created International Service Corps, formed to send non-career personnel overseas for four months to two years. Under that umbrella, it became known as the journeyman "option" of International Service Corps.

As the new journeyman option took shape, it drew criticism from some Southern Baptists who felt it weakened the original program.

In response to the backlash, a task force on journeymen was formed to survey a sampling of Southern Baptists familiar with the program.

"Overwhelmingly, respondents wanted to retain that journeyman identity and camaraderie" from the original program, said Norvelle, a

task force member.

Like the Coca-Cola Co., the FMB listened and restored the "real thing."

But for many Southern Baptist young people like Todd Lowe, a former journeyman in Haiti, the repackaging of the journeyman program doesn't make that much difference. The important thing is what they gain from going.

Lowe, who worked in an agricultural program, saw intense need during his service in Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere. During much of his time there, he lived in a small, tin-roofed house without electricity. He hauled drinking water a couple of miles from a well. And in the summer of 1994, he and other missionaries left Haiti because of political turmoil. He returned to the island nation in October 1994.

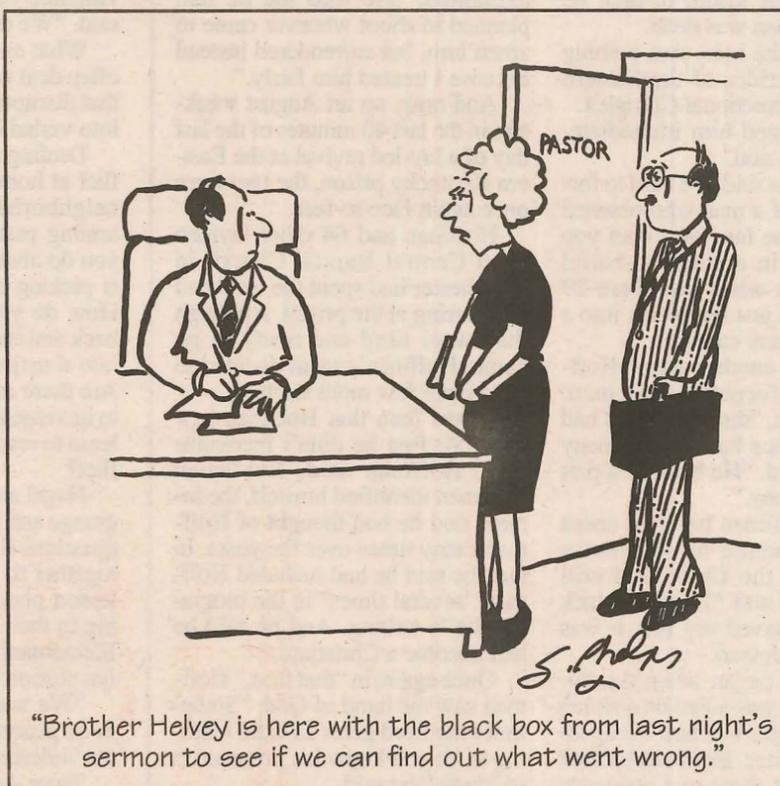
When Lowe came back to his hometown of Belton-Honea Path, S.C., this May, he was a changed young man. "I realized a lot of things in my life which were just unnecessary. Some of the ways I'd viewed other cultures before and some of the ways I'd stereotyped others were totally wrong," Lowe said.

## ACTS still on Faith & Values until Dec. 31

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission has reached agreement with the Faith & Values channel for its ACTS programming to continue on the cable channel through Dec. 31, 1995.

"This is a temporary measure," said RTVC President Jack Johnson. "We are still negotiating. As to whether ACTS will continue to play a vital role on the Faith & Values channel, I just don't know."

On Aug. 8, Johnson had declared that negotiations between ACTS, National Interfaith Cable Coalition and Liberty Media were at an impasse over how to continue including ACTS programming on the Faith & Values channel. National Interfaith Cable Coalition owns 51 percent of the Faith & Values channel, and Liberty Media owns 49 percent.



"Brother Helvey is here with the black box from last night's sermon to see if we can find out what went wrong."

## Southeastern takes interest in town council

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP)—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, rebuffed in its bid to rezone prime property it owns, now is taking an active role in the election of the town commission that turned down its rezoning request.

Southeastern is encouraging students to register to vote and is polling commission candidates about their opinions on commercial development in Wake Forest, N.C., the small town that is home to the school.

Paul Fletcher, the seminary's vice president for internal affairs, recently wrote candidates for town commissioner, enclosing a list of 13 questions.

Among the questions: "Do you favor the seminary effort to sell land along Route 1 ... for commercial development?"

The land was to be sold to a shopping-center developer, but the sale was blocked by vote of town commissioners March 21.

At the time, seminary President Paige Patterson, who lobbied for the rezoning, was accused of strong-arm tactics by some commission members.

But seminary officials insist their involvement in the zoning vote and election is appropriate and justified.

Southeastern Seminary "is an important part of the town of Wake Forest and has a stake in the services of our community," Fletcher wrote in the recent letter. "As a result, we are asking each of our candidates for commissioner to fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the enclosed envelope."

During orientation this fall, the seminary encouraged students living on campus or in town—about half the 1,000 students enrolled—to register to vote, the Raleigh News & Observer reported.

The seminary employs another 150 people full time, many of whom are Wake Forest residents, the newspaper reported.

A seminary ethics professor, Daniel Heimbach, is among 12 candidates running for the town council this year.

But the seminary does not plan to endorse candidates, Fletcher said. "We're issue-oriented, rather than candidate-oriented."

He said the seminary administration does plan, however, to inform students and employees of candidate responses to the questionnaire.

## Doctorate in hand, pastor moves to a smaller church

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

SPOKANE, Wash.—With seminary finally behind him and a doctor's degree in hand, Paul Smith thought his next move would be to a "large, successful church" or a professorship at a college or seminary.

In the meantime, however, he and his family were content at Ovesen Heights Baptist Church just outside Hodgenville, where he had served as pastor since 1988. In fact, they had purchased their first home just two years ago and were "quite satisfied" with their situation, Smith said.

But over the last year, his family's goals have changed.

After much prayer and soul-searching, Smith, his wife, Valerie, and their four children left Kentucky in July to start a church in Spokane, Wash.

Events of several years converged to compel them to move to an area where 70 percent of the population does not attend any church, he said.

Smith had been "enamored with the Northwest" since he visited his brother in Washington more than 20 years ago. But it was not until June 1994 that he seriously began considering moving there.

When he heard a newly forming church in Spokane was seeking a pastor, he sent his resume to the director of missions, Norman Ford.

Three families planned to start a contemporary-style church in rapidly growing upper-middle-class north Spokane. Ford was among that group.

Meanwhile, after hearing pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Valley Community Church in California speak, Smith was impressed that a successful church can be planted in highly unchurched places.

And the seven years at Ovesen Heights had reaffirmed Smith's commitment to the local church and to God's call to him as pastor, he said. Although he had not considered himself "prime pastoral material," he fell in love with the pastorate at Ovesen Heights.

A visit to Spokane in March 1995 not only confirmed God's call, but also allayed some of Mrs. Smith's fears. Practical issues like distance from family in Missouri, uprooting the children (ages 11, 10, 6 and 2), the high cost of living, limited financial backing and leaving behind the security of a close-knit church family all concerned her.

But as they "prayed through it," she began to recognize the possibilities, Smith said. "She always has been willing to do what the Lord asked of us."

Now, after almost two months in

Spokane, the Smiths are settling in. They have a core group of seven families and hope to have 10 families this month. They host Sunday and Wednesday evening Bible study in their home. Sunday mornings, they and the core families visit area churches.

And they are getting accustomed to the different church culture. In Spokane, "you don't go up to people and announce you are pastor and expect them to do handstands," Smith said. The largest religious group in the city of 300,000 is Roman Catholic; the most active is Mormon.

The Smiths are making plans for a seeker-sensitive church that is intentional about reaching what Smith calls "the entirely unchurched."

They envision a "rapidly growing church, relevant to the culture which will become a regional church with many daughter congregations."

### BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Ten Mile Baptist Association** voted at its fall annual meeting to express opposition to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board's proposed plan to dispose of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly.

■ **Caroline Dillard Bennett**, widow of former Southern Baptist Theological Seminary administrator Willis Bennett, died of cancer Sept. 6 in Louisville. She was 74. Mrs. Bennett was a retired public school teacher and a former secretary at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville. She was a member of Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church.

■ **Five Kentucky churches** recently received recognitions for church media library achievements in 1994. Those honored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board were Latonia Baptist Church in Covington, Florence Baptist Church in Florence, First Baptist Church of Fulton, First Baptist Church of London and Highland Park First Baptist Church of Louisville.

■ **Campbellsville College** has appointed five new members to its 100-member Board of Advisors: Carol Black of Middletown, Ben Cook of Louisville, Don Evans of Louisville, Kimble Jessie of Campbellsville and Harry Nurse of Louisville. The Board of Advisors is an honorary group dedicated to promoting development of the college and advising the administration.

## Prison ministry inspires Winchester man

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

WINCHESTER—After 65 men from Central Baptist Church in Winchester spent three days ministering at the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex in West Liberty, "we couldn't shut them up," according to Mark Miller, coordinator of the lay-led revival.

Most of the men never had been behind a prison wall, much less inside a prison cell. And although four of them told the others they had nothing to worry about, most still were apprehensive, Miller said.

"We didn't know what to expect," said Brotherhood director Bill Blakeman, who "button-holed" some of the men to get them to go to the 1,500-bed state prison.

But once they got past the tight security screening—some even had to remove their rings and false teeth—they had an eye-opening experience which they still talk about, according to Blakeman.

The men were in the prison at the invitation of Chaplain John Ramsey to lead a fast-paced weekend of witness patterned after the Bill Glass "Parade of Stars" prison ministry. While Miller, Bill Kennon, Louis Atchinson and Dave Hoffman from Central Baptist and people from other area churches regularly minister in the prison, this was the first time a local church had taken on such an intensive weekend of activities, Ramsey said.

On Friday afternoon, three music groups performed rap, rock and traditional music on the prison yard to "draw the inmates out," Miller said.

Interspersed with the performances were testimonies from three ex-convicts who had become Christians.

On Saturday, Central's men mingled with the inmates in the dorms and on the yard, counseling and witnessing. "For the most part, the inmates were willing to listen," Blakeman said.

On Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sunday morning, the 200-seat chapel was full for the services in

which Central's pastor, Don Mathis, and two other staff members preached.

Not only did 30 inmates find freedom through making professions of faith in Christ, but Central's men were no longer held captive to their preconceived notions about prisoners, Blakeman said.

Stereotypes of "unkempt, dirty, tattooed" prisoners didn't hold up, he said. "What we saw were all kinds of men, including some clean-cut Ivy-league types. We saw the very young and the very old."

Miller agreed. Central's men discovered the inmates were real people, he said. That change in attitude was his greatest thrill.

"They even found lots of inmates who knew more about the Bible than they did," he said.

And the laymen gained new personal insights as well.

"I looked on the prison yard and thought, 'There but for the grace of God go I,'" Blakeman said. "It could be any of us up there."

## Foster families and adoptive parents needed

FRANKFORT—Every day, approximately 113 African-American and biracial Kentucky children wait for adoptive homes, while another 1,100 are in foster care.

"The need for African-American foster and adoptive families for these children is critical," said Masten Childers II, secretary of the state's Cabinet for Human Resources.

African-Americans comprise 7.1 percent of Kentucky's population, but African-American and biracial children make up 28 percent of all children in foster care.

For information on becoming a foster parent or on adopting these children, contact Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children at (800) 456-1386 or the Cabinet for Human Resources at (800) 232-KIDS.

## Seminary enrollment drops, but not as far as predicted

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Fall enrollment at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary dropped by the largest percentage in recent history this fall, but not nearly as much as some predicted.

Total on-campus enrollment this fall is 1,241, according to preliminary data provided by the seminary's public relations office. That is a drop of 197 students, or 13.4 percent, over last fall. The fall total includes 286 new students, a drop of about 100.

Observers both inside and outside the seminary community had predicted a significant drop in enrollment this fall, due to controversies that erupted last spring. The seminary has been undergoing a significant shift toward a more conservative direction that started about 1990 and has accelerated since 1993.

Based on fall on-campus enroll-

ment figures, Southern has lost 40.2 percent of its student body since 1990, a pivotal year on two fronts.

That was the year of the Southern Baptist Convention's New Orleans convention, in which conservatives consolidated their control and moderates symbolically washed their hands of the fight by launching the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. It also was the year conservatives gained control of Southern's trustee board and earnestly began their push to change the school's direction.

The seminary's enrollment dropped 9.2 percent the next fall and another 10 percent the fall after that.

This year's enrollment drop comes on the heels of a spring full of controversy on the Louisville campus, including Mohler's firing of Diana Garland as dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work and trustee adoption of far-reaching changes in the faculty hiring process.

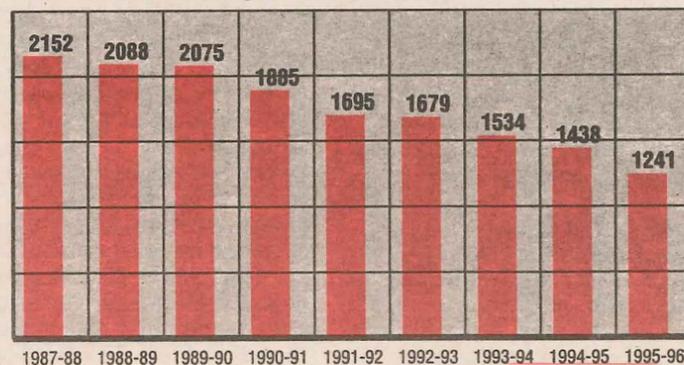
Seminary insiders predicted enrollment this fall could drop precariously close to the 1,000 mark.

"We're thankful for the students who are here, those who have returned and the new students as well," said David Dockery, vice president for academic administration. "We're especially excited about the enthusi-

asm of our new students and the positive spirit they have brought to the campus. We believe it is an indicator of good things to come as we move out of this time of transition."

Even with its overall decline in enrollment, Southern remains one of the larger seminaries in the United States.

Southern Seminary fall enrollments



## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## BAPTIST FORUM

### Tribute to Martinez

In 1944 at a tent revival, I heard the Lord through the message of Angel Martinez.

I felt that stir and feeling in my heart as I read of his call by the Lord to heaven (WR, Aug. 22). That 8-year-old in me offered thanks to my mother and grandmother for that summer evening so many years ago.

*Viola Berry  
Waddy*

### No right to criticize

I am ashamed the Foreign Mission Board has felt it necessary to criticize the Woman's Missionary Union and to waste over \$9,500 of mission money by sending out a letter spreading that criticism to every Southern Baptist church.

WMU has simply "enlarged the tent" to include all Southern Baptists, and they should be commended for that!

Why can't WMU print missions education materials for all Southern Baptists? The Sunday School Board now prints generic materials so that other denominations will buy its products. Various departments promote "non-SBC" materials to be used in our churches. The Baptist Book Store is full of non-SBC materials. So why the commotion about WMU printing materials for all Southern Baptists who care about a lost world? If the Foreign Mission Board and

the Home Mission Board continue to criticize Woman's Missionary Union, they should not be surprised when the mission offerings drop. You can't have it both ways.

The FMB wouldn't have to hire expensive "money-raisers" if they didn't have such a bad attitude toward WMU and other Southern Baptists.

The FMB and HMB have no right to criticize WMU, who has been faithful and accountable to God.

*Paula Settle  
Owensboro*

### Futile musing

Interpretations concerning predestination are futile and pointless, because all of us worship God individually, and only the Father knows what is in our hearts.

Furthermore, great minds over the centuries have interpreted different meanings to the study of the predestination wording mentioned in the epistles of the Apostle Paul.

Because of the different literal or metaphorical meanings, there is a danger the selected interpretation will be of human origin. Christ condemned similar practices of the Pharisees.

Any term such as this will become, or should become, clear as we read the context and background of the Scriptures if we apply literal interpretations.

Is predestination important? If so, maybe one should, in addition to the epistles, consider Genesis concerning Abram and the gospels where God revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ, with teachings which provide the basis for our Christianity. For instance, a person might give consideration to the third chapter of John, as "who believeth not in their heart is

condemned already" or "Whosoever believeth (that Jesus is Lord) in their heart is saved."

Only through diligent study of the complete contents of each book of the Bible can one come to know, or better understand, the complete revelation of God.

*Joseph A. Tinoco  
Elizabethtown*

### Unafraid of truth

"Bitting the hand" (WR, Aug. 8) was critical of your paper for printing information on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

As an open-minded Baptist for over 50 years, I want to thank your paper for being honest enough to print the facts.

Like many other Southern Baptists, I considered myself conservative until labeled otherwise by the "true conservatives" in their quest for domination of the Southern Baptist Convention.

I have attended the SBC annual meeting as well as a meeting of the Fellowship, and one cannot miss the contrast.

The SBC was more like a political convention, whereas the Fellowship was more about Christian love and fellowship.

If the writer believes the information printed in the Western Recorder relative to the Fellowship interests only a small fraction of Kentucky Baptists, then that conclusion is grossly off the mark and perhaps delusional.

Keep up the good work. There are plenty of us who are interested in what you have to say, and not fearful of hearing the truth.

*Donald Chatham  
Shelbyville*

## Buenos Aires to Chile, Part II

The 700-mile flight from Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Santiago, Chile, avoids a treacherous road journey through the Andes this time of year. Record snowfalls were leaving motorists stranded for days at a time.

Skiers from Europe and the United States were evident at the Santiago airport, from which to the east and south lay luxurious ski resorts, playgrounds of wealthy internationals.

Chile is a land of 12 million people, stretching further north to south than the continental United States is wide. Some South American "watchers" consider Chile the strongest economy in the hemisphere with a near-future potential as a major world-player.

As is true for most of South America, Catholicism "got there first" and is the dominant religious and political force. Not until 1888 was Baptist work established through Scottish minister William MacDonald. Southern Baptists first sent missionaries in 1917 and in 1920 "adopted" MacDonald as their own.

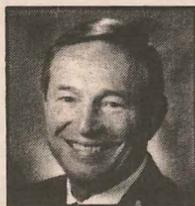
The best-known and, according to some, the most effective Baptist missionary effort in Chile is the Baptist Academy situated in the southern city of Temuco. It will celebrate its 75th

anniversary in 1997. Kentucky-raised Southern Baptist missionary Grundy Janes will soon complete his 30th year as headmaster of this strategic mission institution. His wife, Jean Bell Graves, an Owensboro girl, has taught for the same number of years.

It was with them that we spent nearly two weeks, traveling as far north as LaSerena and as far south as Pucon. The seven snow-covered vol-

canoes we saw were representative of more than 1,000 active volcanoes which stretch along the Andes range. Broad streams of pristine water from melting snow gave rise to thoughts of what the early world must have been like before man despoiled so much of it.

### ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

Because Baptists are still a tiny minority in Chile, the ministry of the Baptist Academy (grades K-12) is crucial. Their religious emphasis is effective; much of Baptist leadership in south Chile flows from this Baptist "spring." Its reputation as an exceptional academic institution is widely known. Alice and I were continually surprised by the frequency of Chileans, not only in Temuco but in Santiago and elsewhere, who recognized and initiated conversation with Grundy and Jean. Few Southern Bap-

tist missionaries across the world could be as well-known to the national constituency as they are. Their 30 years of committed ministry through one institution have been rewarded by much fruit in the vineyard of the Lord.

They introduced us to a new table game called Rummicub which we played—boys against girls—late into several evenings. The "boys" have asked for a rematch when the Janeses furlough next year!

I had opportunity to hear the academy's musical group of 26 faculty members and receive an offer from them to come to Kentucky in 1997 on tour. Gratefully receiving their generous offer, I am confident Kentucky Baptists will "roll out the carpet" to experience the joyful music of this exciting group of Chilean Baptists!

The Baptist Academy in Temuco, Chile, is the best argument I know for institutional mission ministry. This school has reached and will continue to reach and nurture children who will penetrate all professions in Chilean life. Many will do so as non-Baptists; more will be the backbone of the future of Baptist work in Chile.

As our plane ascended into the clouds, with the snow-capped Andes visible to us from where we were seated, I thanked God for Kentucky missionaries like Grundy and Jean Janes.

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



## FAMILY FORUM

### Help your teenager cope with lost friend

By Wade Rowatt

**Q** How can I help my 13-year-old daughter get over her hurt feelings? Her best friend moved to another state, and Kristen just pouts, sulks and mopes around.

**A** Your daughter has a right to hurt feelings. What you have described sounds like grief, which is not limited to death. Kristen's feelings should be taken seriously and addressed directly.

First, help her understand her reactions are a natural response. Explore her thoughts and emotions about the move. She may dump anger. It would not be unusual for her to think she now will have no friends.

As you listen, be alert for depression. She may even imagine something drastic will bring back her buddy. Help her stay clear in her thinking. Let her talk about whatever she is feeling. Hear her out. Be patient. Over a few weeks of such talking, she should feel better.

Second, aid her in staying in touch with her friend. Perhaps she could call once a month or so. If you cannot afford this, help her to write. Of course, a visit would be super.

Third, help her cultivate new friends. With school starting, new pals will be easier to meet. Involvement in extra activities can be a natural road to building relationships. Sports clubs, music groups, crafts and church activities furnish time for peers to share together and grow closer.

Your time and energy to support those times of sharing will pay off in the long run. A lonely and bored youth is more likely to do poorly in school and to get into trouble.

As she meets new friends, improve their chance of developing a companionship by arranging for extra time together. As time passes, she will develop new bonds of friendship if she stays involved.

However, if she stays by herself too much, that lost friend will grow to new levels of power in her memory. A lost friend can become a type of "ghost" idol that is larger than real life. Keep the memories in perspective.

Finally, maintain your own friendship with your daughter. Kristen needs you as a mother and a friend. Enrich your relationship by sharing time together. Over the years, you may be her best friend for life!

*Wade Rowatt is director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville.*

## Advance the purest aims of women's conference

Too bad winter hasn't settled over the northern hemisphere. The United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, which ends this week in Beijing, China, has generated enough heat to keep us toasty.

Controversy plagued the conference from conception.

To begin with, the location is lousy. Holding a human rights conference in China is an overwhelming oxymoron. China is controlled by one of the world's most repressive regimes. Chinese women, who have been subjected to forced abortion and sterilization, suffer tremendously. The majority of the aborted fetuses are females, whose parents don't want to "waste" their only childbirth on a girl.

In addition, China is a mean place for dissent. The Chinese arrest of U.S. citizen Harry Wu earlier this year caused a huge diplomatic dilemma for the United States. And even though the Chinese let Wu go, the putrid odor of persecution persists. The Chinese government has attempted to intimidate conference delegates into silence, an awkward posture at a meeting to promote freedom.

Furthermore, the conference's program instigated vehement protest from conservative people of faith. At root is the program's liberal perspective on sexuality. It consistently refers to various genders (of which advocates count, in combinations, up to eight) instead of sexes (of which God created two). Conservatives fear the real agenda is to undermine the family. Arguments from both sides have been punitive, partisan and political.

Unfortunately, the heat generated by all these arguments has distorted most of the light that could emanate from this conference. Located in a more hospitable country and following a consensus program, this meeting

should have focused exclusively on securing health, safety, livelihood and liberty for all women.

By the end of the week, the Beijing conference will be history. Nevertheless, Kentucky Baptists can advance the purest aims of the meeting and even go further. We can:

■ Advocate religious freedom for all people. We must urge our government to use its policies to promote religious freedom in every nation.

■ Deliver true religious freedom to every person. Through our mission action and support, we can help introduce people to the only complete Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

■ Demonstrate wholesome models of family and of relationships between the sexes. Many critics of family and gender roles base their views on abusive stereotypes. We can show the world how families can be nurturing and how relationships between both sexes can be positive.

■ Support equal opportunity for women. U.S. Christians live in a democracy built upon the notion that all people are created equal. We preach a gospel that proclaims "there is neither ... male nor female." We can practice what the Bible preaches and the Constitution mandates.

■ Fight illiteracy, malnutrition and unemployment. A disproportionate share of the world's—and this country's, and this state's—poorest people are women and children. We must help them out of the pit of poverty.

Affirming human rights for all people is more than just the right thing to do. It provides an opportunity to present a winsome gospel to a world looking for authentic faith and values.

Marv Knox

**Although Kentucky Baptists can't do anything about the specific outcomes of the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, we can do much to improve the health, security and spiritual condition of women.**

## Ripken provided 2,131 reasons why we need a new kind of hero

Willie Nelson's heroes may always have been cowboys, but for many of us, our heroes have always been baseball players. As hard as it is to admit, most of our heroes have not been lifestyle heroes. We cheered for Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays and Duke Snider. We celebrated with Hank Aaron when he surpassed Babe Ruth. We pulled for Pete Rose to surpass Ty Cobb.

Four decades ago, our heroes' personal lives were virtually unknown to us. Our heroes were numbers on uniforms who performed on the field. We collected their cards from bubble gum packages and cereal boxes. This was as close as we were allowed to get.

But this was typical of our society at large. Fifty years ago, millions of Americans hoped that Mr. Roosevelt would save us all. Yet less than 50 percent of the American population even knew the president was paralyzed. He was never pictured that

way. We loved Mickey, but we didn't realize he had a drinking problem. We loved Pete, but we had no way to know he was an addicted gambler.

As teams have moved from city to city in search of bigger markets, and as players have moved from team to team in search of bigger bank accounts, something has been lost. The days when Carl Yastrzemski belonged to Boston, Brooks Robinson to Baltimore and Willie Stargell to Pittsburgh seem to have vanished. When questions about loyalty and character have been asked, the response of players has been, "We aren't paid to be role models." That's probably true, but the reality is this: For many a young person in this country, these players are role models.

The changes in baseball over the past four decades are indicative of the changes in our country and culture at large. Changes motivated by materialism, individualism and privatiza-

tion. Changes that resulted in the Dodgers moving west, World Series night games, free agency, elongated contract disputes and striking players.

The future of baseball in the summer of 1995 has looked bleak—as bleak as other cultural and moral indicators around us. Yet last week all of that seemed to stop.

Cal Ripken Jr. equalled and surpassed the longstanding record of consecutive games played, held by the great Lou Gehrig—a record that seemingly was insurmountable. Ripken played in 2,130 straight games to tie the record, and then 2,131 to break it. And he did it by dramatically hitting homeruns in both games. More amazingly, he has played all of these games with the Baltimore Orioles, each day in pursuit of excellence with determined effort.

When the record was broken, the fans in Baltimore applauded spontaneously for 23 minutes. Baseball fans around the globe celebrated. Baseball players around the country, past and

present, were visibly moved. Then came words of appreciation by our new hero. Surprisingly, they were words that praised his parents and teammates. There was little "I" and much "we." Special words of appreciation were offered for Eddie Murray, an African-American and a star in his own right. Then the touching tribute to his wife and children.

Before our very eyes from those whom we've come to expect grand self-promotion came clear testimonies to virtue, humility, loyalty, teamwork and community, family, racial harmony and dedicated hard work. What better example of the preacher's words about faithful work: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Congratulations to Cal Ripken Jr. Let's hope we have seen the beginning of a new kind of hero. It would be good for all of us.

David S. Dockery, vice president  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Louisville

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## How my finger got cut is beside the point; Sarah wanted to know if I cried

"Did you cry?" Sarah asked.

Leave it to a little kid to ask the really important question. Sarah's query was not the first put to me in the days since I took the hedge trimmer and clipped the ring finger on my left hand.

Most people asked the obvious: "How'd it happen?" I'm not sure how to answer that question. I recall bending over to pull away some of the just-clipped trimmings, and the next thing I remember is hopping around the yard, squeezing my finger as pain shot up my arm.

Fortunately, most of my friends have exhibited the end result of generations of Southern breeding. They're too polite to ask the burning question: "How could you be so stupid?"

The doctor who sewed me up came close to crossing that line.

"This isn't the stupidest injury I've seen," he volunteered. "My cousin used his hand to measure how close a pickup bumper could come to a brick wall. Smashed it to bits."

Joanna, Lindsay and Molly asked questions about the wound—what it looked like, how much it bled, where the doctor put the stitches. Only they never got the answers, because when I started to tell them, they told me to be quiet.

"Honey, talking about that is just like scratching your fingernails on the chalkboard," my wife told me. Lucky for her I didn't cut the whole finger off.

Adults asked sedate questions, like where I went for emergency care and when the stitches came out. But Sarah asked me if I cried.

Crying's a big deal if you're the age of a Mission Friend. A child can prove she's getting "big" by not crying when she cuts her finger.

I didn't think about crying until Sarah asked her question. Sinus headaches hurt

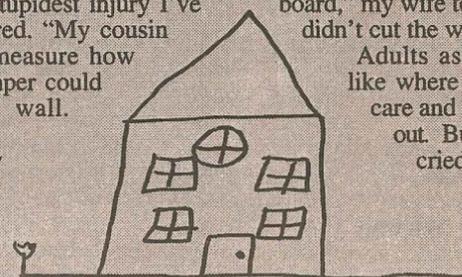
worse than that cut. Maybe my finger went into shock.

Still, Sarah's question caused me to think about crying. Of course, we don't want kids to snivel over the proverbial spilled milk. But most of us would be better off if we had learned as children that it's OK to cry now and then.

Call me a wimp, but I'm not afraid of tears. Hymns probably make me cry more than anything else. Next come the pain and suffering of friends, sad books, my daughters' tears and the occasional mushy movie. Really funny stories make me laugh until I cry. Usually, I feel better afterward.

So, come to think of it, maybe I should've cried when I cut my finger.

Marv Knox



down home

# PARTNERSHIP UPDATE!

## Russia partnership a success, but needs still vast

All stories and photographs in this section by Staff Writer Melanie Childers

Continued from page 1

ships," explained Calvin Wilkins, Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions director. "It's overwhelming, the number of people in Kentucky who wanted to be in on it—especially the first part of it."

Wilkins compared the partnership to a new engine: "We're still in the process of being tuned. As we gain more experience with each project, we learn more about how to do things, and we learn from our mistakes."

On the local church level, Kentucky Baptists have helped set work forward by months and years with evangelism, building positive community relationships, medical assistance and other ministries, Wilkins said.

The partnership began with an emphasis in four key areas: construction, medicine, education and evangelism/discipleship.

By the end of the second year, 850 Kentucky volunteers will have participated in 96 projects, including nine medical teams, 24 pastors' schools, 25 construction teams and 13 evangelism teams.

Despite the enormous work Kentucky already has done, "we've just begun to scratch the surface a little bit" compared to the amount of work left to be accomplished, Wilkins said.

Focal points for the next phase of the project will lean more heavily on construction and call for less involvement in pastors' schools. New

opportunities include summer camps for children and prison ministries.

In a recent meeting with Pyotr Konovalchik, president of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in Russia, partnership leaders discussed the possibility of other state Baptist conventions joining Kentucky by establishing separate partnership agreements with Russian Baptists in the east.

"There's no way one state could meet all the needs," Wilkins said.

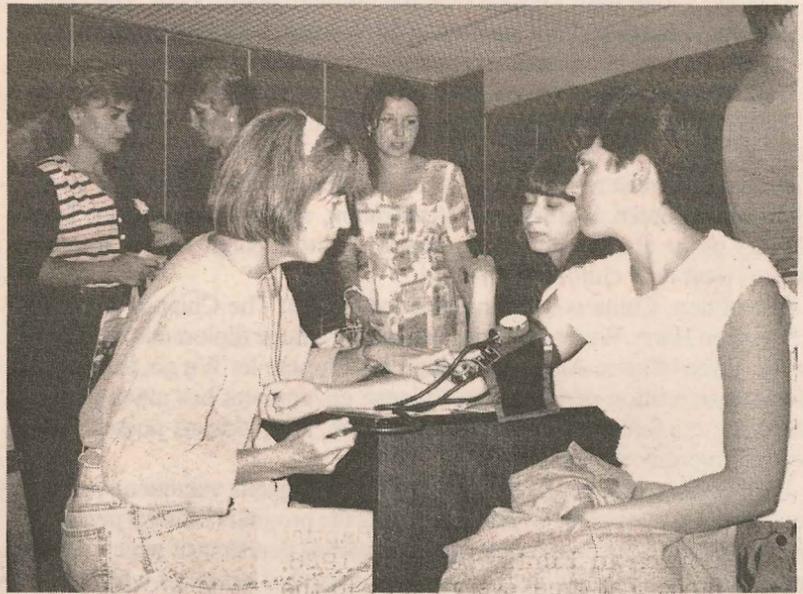
However, Kentucky would continue ministering to all areas west of the Ural Mountains—still the most overwhelming and populous region in the country.

Konovalchik said the Russian Baptist union currently benefits from a positive relationship with Russia's government. Baptist churches in Russia constitute the largest affiliation of churches next to the Russian Orthodox Church, he said.

However, the positive relationship doesn't necessarily filter down to city and regional governments, and even on the national level is subject to change at any time, given the political and economic upheaval. That's why the work remains an urgent need, leaders from both Russia and Kentucky said.

Other evangelical groups also have worked in Russia, with varying degrees of success. But Baptists are discovering persistence pays off.

Moscow and St. Petersburg tend to receive a lot of attention from all



**LOW PRESSURE** Volunteer Myra Melson of Murray takes a patient's blood pressure at the Tambov clinic, seemingly unbothered by the obvious commotion going on around her.

varieties of religious groups, but few are persistent enough to expand into other areas, Wilkins explained. Kentucky Baptists now are beginning that type of expansion.

"Word is getting around among the Russian Baptists that these volunteers are willing to roll up their sleeves and get in there and work with them and mix with them," he explained. "This sends a strong message to Russian people: We're not standoffish."

Kentuckians have established stronger relationships and stronger bonds as a result of that attitude, Wilkins maintained.

"My idea all along was we're willing to come work alongside you and work with you, but not do the work for you," Wilkins said.

Rather than just sending funds, Kentucky Baptists give of themselves personally and empower Russian Baptists to develop new strength, he explained. "We have proven to them we're not just all words, but we're people of action. If we make a commitment, we will follow through on that to the best of our abilities."

Russian Baptists have responded with appreciation and more requests for help.

"We have a wonderful work," stated President Konovalchik of the partnership agreement. "We have been looking forward to such kind of help as we now have. Because of the partnership, Russian Baptists have plans for the future."

"We are praying God will bless us and our contacts in the next three years, because we have a lot of work to do," Konovalchik continued.

That work never could be accomplished without the untiring service of two couples who moved to Russia to serve as field coordinators for partnership efforts, Wilkins said. "They are the crucial link. If it breaks, we're in trouble."

Larry and Joy Lindsey have lived in Moscow for 18 months. Prior to beginning their service as Moscow-area field coordinators, Lindsey

served as pastor at Plum Creek Baptist Church in Taylorsville.

Lee and Sarah Bivins, former missionaries to Israel, have served as partnership field coordinators in St. Petersburg since March 1994. Before coming to Russia, the couple served at CleftRock Christian Ministries in London.

Both couples are appointed International Service Corps missionaries through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, with Kentucky Baptists contributing part of their financial support.

The Bivinses noted they were concerned about the crime in Russia and about leaving family in the United States—especially a 90-year-old mother and young grandchildren.

"We were determined that we would trust God as our shield and defender, and he has been faithful in delivering us from evil and danger," they wrote in a recent letter.

Both couples live in modest apartments and use public transportation for routine trips to work, the market and church. Ford transit vans are assigned to them for transporting groups of volunteers and visiting prospective project sites.

The field coordinators work with local Baptists to arrange project sites and prepare for volunteers.

"Amazing numbers of Kentucky Baptists have felt the call to come to Russia," Lindsey said. "It's awesome to realize this country has been closed for a long time, and now God is using Kentucky" as an agent of the gospel there.

Kentucky Baptists have been a continuing positive force, Lindsey said. "The support keeps getting stronger and stronger."

"The number of projects and the tasks accomplished have exceeded all our expectations," he added. "But what we're looking forward to is to fulfill these urgent needs" that continue to pour in.

"Everywhere we go, we hear the same plea," he said. "We've heard you've helped others. Please come help us."

### Two-year partnership summary

	1992-93	1994	1995	Total
Pastors' schools:	11/23	13/16	24/39	24/39
Medical teams:	1/20	3/29	5/47	9/96
Construction teams:	11/124	14/221	25/345	25/345
Sunday school Assist teams:		1/4	1/4	1/4
Evangelism teams:	7/51	6/67	13/118	13/118
Vacation Bible schools:		1/7	1/7	1/7
Camp leadership training:		1/5	1/5	1/5
Interpreters' workshop:	3/8	1/2	4/10	4/10
BSU summer mission team:	1/9	1/9	2/18	2/18
Kentucky Chorale:		1/65	1/65	1/65
Women's work team:	1/6	1/6	2/12	2/12
Deaf evangelism:	1/5	1/5	2/10	2/10
Children's gift evangelism:	1/10	1/12	1/10	3/32
Georgetown College Choir:	1/30		1/30	1/30
Seminary vocal ensemble:	1/25		1/25	1/25
Discipleship:	2/14		2/14	2/14
Administrative teams:	4/20		4/20	4/20

**TOTALS** ..... 6/50 ..... 43/336 ..... 47/464 ..... 96/850

Volunteers	50	336	464	850
Projects	6	43	47	96
Bibles distributed	16,025	61,388	77,412	77,412
Russian home missionaries supported			72	72
Churches assisted			26	26

\* Where statistics are grouped with a slash (1/10), the first number indicates the number of groups sent and the second the number of participants.

# PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

**"We cannot say enough in praise of the Russian believers," noted Lee and Sarah Bivins, St. Petersburg field coordinators for the Kentucky-Russia Baptist partnership. "They have paid a high price for their faithfulness, and it shows in their devotion to the Lord."**

**Here are some of the hardships and difficulties encountered by Russian Baptist churches and individuals.**

■ **Persecution.** First Baptist Church in Klinty began in 1926. Since that time, every family in the church has been the recipient of some type of persecution, Pastor Eugeny Voronin said.

For example, one of the church's former pastors was forced to join the army and then openly hated by his fellow soldiers and commanders because he was a believer. One of his commanders ordered a grave dug and shot him in the head.

The pastor regained consciousness after nearly suffocating from being covered with loose dirt. He managed to dig himself free of the grave and drag himself to a hospital for treatment.

Pyotr Yefremenko, 73, resumed his preaching in the Bryansk region for many years, and continues today as an encourager to young pastors.

■ **Orthodox, governmental oppression.** Although no longer the official state church, the Russian Orthodox Church continues to exercise considerable clout and influence, both on the local and national scale. For example, Orthodox leaders have been known to influence governments against authorizing land grants or building permits for Baptists, or to persuade them to set building code standards so high that Baptists could not possibly meet them. Hence the urgency for building churches quickly whenever possible.

Central Baptist Church in Bryansk, more than 100 years old, faced many such problems. In 1977, they tried to build a new building to accommodate their growing membership, but "the leaders of our city didn't like the testimony of our buildings," explained Pastor Alexandr Shestakov. Often, members would build during the night, since their property was under police surveillance during the day.

Finally in August 1977, police came to the church to repossess the property. However, the 60 members there working on the building refused to leave. On the third day of the standoff, 100 more policemen surrounded the building, then forced the church members out with dogs and fire hoses. Many were jailed; the building was leveled by a bulldozer.

But Central Baptist Church never quit; today they are rebuilding a large, beautiful sanctuary on the very plot where their earlier house-church had been destroyed.

■ **Poor economy.** The economic condition constantly threatens to choke Baptist churches' progress. A wide gap separates the wealthy from the poor. Many Baptist churches struggle to pay basic bills, while building new facilities often becomes an insurmountable task.

For example, Klinty Baptist Church could buy 10 bricks for \$1 in 1993, but today that dollar would purchase only three bricks.

■ **Lies about Baptists.** Baptists do not enjoy overwhelming popularity or credibility in Russia, leaders acknowledge. Although the attitude seems to be improving somewhat, many continue to battle charges that Baptists are a subversive cult whose members eat children and engage in other reprehensible acts.

■ **Hesitancy to profess Christ publicly.** "One of the surprises we found was in the results of evangelism," said Calvin Wilkins, Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions director.

"People are reluctant to make public decisions (of faith in Christ) because of communism," Wilkins said, noting many people fear a return to the atheistic culture and suspect they would be the first to be punished if they had made a public decision for Christ. As a result, some Russian pastors declined to give invitations at the conclusion of services.

Kentucky Baptists have had to modify some evangelism techniques, Wilkins said, and understand how much change the Russian people have seen in only a few years.

"Our work has been more of a behind-the-scenes type of evangelism," Wilkins explained, including establishing good relationships through medical clinics and construction teams, and initiating evangelistic work with children and others wherever possible.

Although he warned Kentucky Baptists not to expect reports of "thousands of conversions" as in the Kentucky-Kenya partnership, he added: "I think we're going to see more and more fruits of our labor."



# PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

## Medical team prescribes hope & compassion

### Tambov team trivia

- Patients seen: 625
- Prescriptions filled: 500
- Bibles distributed: 600
- Scripture portions distributed: 400
- Russian-language tracts distributed: 800
- "Salvation bracelets" distributed: 1,000
- Professions of faith recorded: 33

TAMBOV, Russia—Bill Adkins didn't have to know a lot of Russian to volunteer his dentistry skills for a two-week partnership mission trip last month. But he did add one crucial imperative to his vocabulary: "Splun"—Russian for "spit."

Adkins, a member of First Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, joined a team of physicians, nurses and other volunteers for his second medical/evangelism trip to Tambov Aug. 2-17.

Tambov's Truth Baptist Church—a 16-year-old congregation of about 250 people, hosted the Kentucky group and helped coordinate patient schedules, housing arrangements and church services.

Volunteers to Tambov included Adkins, two doctors, two nurses, a pharmacist and six others who worked in evangelism and assisted in the clinic. Another team of five evangelism volunteers traveled with them but continued on to a smaller town, Pervomaiski, to start a church there.

Also with the group was Calvin Wilkins, Kentucky Baptist Convention director of partnership missions, who led a survey team to identify project sites for 1996.

When plans failed to set up the medical clinic in a Russian Orthodox hospital in Tambov, arrangements were made to use several rooms in a local privately owned clinic.

"It's unusual to see Americans in

our hospital," said clinic administrator Lev Grebenkov. They agreed to share their facilities with the Kentucky team because "it's good publicity, and it's interesting to compare our work with theirs," he added.

The facility, built in 1989 to accommodate 25,000 patients a year, already was in need of repair and maintenance.

"One of the biggest things we were able to help with was giving the Baptist church there credibility," Adkins said. "The patients were so grateful and thankful for any little thing we could do for them." Adkins saw about 125 people needing dental care.

Russian dentists often extract teeth and perform other procedures without the use of numbing medications.

"It was like a fairy tale for them to be treated quickly, cleanly and without pain," Adkins said.

Patients leaving the clinic often commented about how gentle and kind the American doctors were, how the patients were "well-treated" and not left in pain.

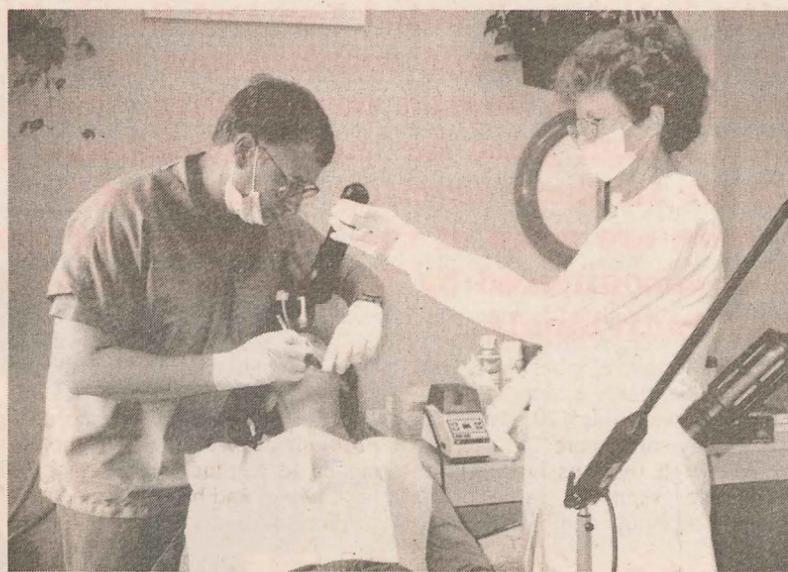
Galina Mukina, a relative of leaders in the local Baptist church but herself not yet a believer, brought her mother and her daughter with her to see the American doctors.

"In Russia, doctors are in a hurry," she explained through an interpreter. "They don't take much time with us. They're not attentive and are sometimes rude."

By contrast, Mukina added, both her mother and her daughter liked the American doctor Russ Hibbs and his assistant, Tina Weitkamp. "They were wonderful," she said.

Ivan Dubovizky had a similar experience with another doctor, Orson Arvin.

"It was very nice," Dubovizky said. "The doctor was very calm, attentive and kind-hearted. I liked this doctor."



**CLINIC GLIMPSES** Volunteers helped doctors see 625 patients at the medical/dental clinic set up in Tambov, Russia, Aug. 5-12. ■ Top: Bill Adkins of Hopkinsville completes a dental procedure while Shirley Jones of Paducah assists. ■ Left: Russ Hibbs communicates with a smile while an interpreter explains a prescription to a patient. ■ Right: A Russian mother and daughter relax after receiving care from physicians and other volunteers.

According to volunteers' calculations, Arvin and Hibbs saw more than 500 patients. George Cornwell, a pharmacist from Corbin, filled more than 500 prescriptions.

Charles Stewart, pastor emeritus at Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, shared the message of Christ with about 155 people while they waited to see doctors or for prescriptions to be filled. Thirty-three professed faith in Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

The medical ministry strengthened the already strong ties Truth Baptist Church has to its city. The church and its leader, Pastor Genady Mukin, have an unusually good relationship with the city's government.

"We are very grateful that Pastor Genady and his congregation contribute to the spiritual well-being of citizens in our city," the vice mayor said during an interview. "We are very grateful to the local Baptist community that in spite of difficult times, they help people find their spiritual roots."

Tambov is not without problems, however.

"Poverty is overwhelming here," said Connie Cartwright, an International Service Corps volunteer from Arkansas. "Ninety percent of the children carry some disease from malnutrition."

Cartwright and her husband, Clay, have lived in Tambov for a

year. He teaches English from the Gospel of Mark at a local institute; she leads Bible studies and teaches their two children, Grace and Adam, at home. In addition, they support the ministry of Truth Baptist Church.

The Kentucky team extended its witness beyond Tambov, with five volunteers traveling to Pervomaiski, a small town of 22,000 with no church facilities at all.

Doug Bunch, pastor of Bloomfield Baptist Church and leader of the five-member team, accompanied Southern Baptist evangelists to Pervomaiski last summer. As a result of their work, a Bible study had been meeting throughout the year.

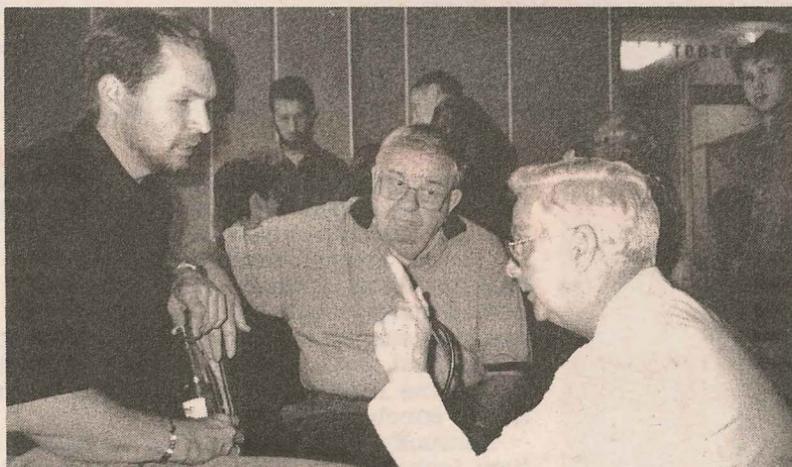
This summer, the work was designated as a partnership missions project. The group conducted evangelistic services and Bible studies and helped the believers there learn to lead vacation Bible school.

"We had three people come to the Lord because of our evangelism, and many others counseled," Bunch said. "On our last Sunday morning there, we began a new church."

Bunch noted the joy he experienced in preaching and sharing the dedication prayer as the church met in the town's cultural center for its first worship service.

A Pervomaiski newspaper article published that week about the new church featured the headline "New life has come to Pervomaiski."

**What happens when a group of Kentucky Baptist volunteers descends upon a Russian city? Here's a firsthand look at a recent project in Tambov, Russia.**



**TAMBOV TEAMWORK** Even the best-laid plans often go awry in Russia, requiring Kentucky Baptist volunteers to work closely with local Russian Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries. ■ Above: Orson Arvin (right), a physician from Mount Vernon, makes arrangements with fellow volunteer Chuck Stewart (center) of Catlettsburg and Clay Cartwright, Southern Baptist missionary in Tambov. ■ Right: Although some distance from downtown Tambov, Truth Baptist Church gradually is gaining credibility and acceptance as a congregation of good Christian people.



# PARTNERSHIP UPDATE!

## Baseball brings gospel home in Tambov

TAMBOV, Russia—America's favorite pastime may have a great future in Russia.

International Service Corps Missionary Clay Cartwright discovered softball not only scored big among children in his neighborhood, but it also provided an opportunity to share the love of Christ.

"My son, Adam, wanted to play catch," Cartwright explained. "I took him to the dilapidated-looking playground outside our Russian apartment with a glove, a bat and a softball. By the time we came inside an hour later, we had left 20 boys wanting to play some more."

Although the Russian children had never seen the game or its strange-looking equipment, they

were fascinated and eager to learn.

Within a few days, and with the help of an interpreter, Cartwright had organized the neighborhood children into two teams. In a makeshift baseball diamond on the playground, they commenced a regular season, reserving time between two innings in every game for a brief devotional.

In one of the first games, when each boy had to be taught how to bat, the score after five innings was 38-40, Cartwright said. But the children enjoyed it immensely.

Lack of equipment posed a big problem until the Cartwrights appealed to Kentuckians to send old bats, gloves and balls with a team of medical and evangelism volunteers.

"When the team arrived in August, they brought three suitcases filled with 20 baseball gloves, 40 softballs, over 20 bats, 50 baseball caps and even face masks and catcher's padding," Cartwright noted.

Charles Stewart, pastor emeritus at Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland and a volunteer with the Tambov team, joined the Cartwrights one evening for baseball.

Halfway through the game, players took a break to hear Stewart's sermon comparing first, second and third base and home plate with various stages in the Christian walk.

Several of the boys are considering making decisions for Christ, Cartwright reported.

### Russian lay leader profile

TAMBOV, Russia—Tonya Nogotkova, a longtime member and leader at Truth Baptist Church in Tambov, appreciates the freedom her congregation now enjoys, but she remembers the persecution of the past.

"My grandfather was a pastor in an old Russian city," she said. "In 1938, he was arrested for his faith. He died in prison."

Nogotkova was ridiculed for her faith, even as a young person. "The kids laughed at me at school," she said. "You get accustomed to being laughed at; 'Baptist' was like a nickname."

Nogotkova usually was able to think of her grandfather's example and tried not to let her schoolmates' taunts bother her. "But my younger sister used to come home with tears sometimes," she added.

Nogotkova said she sees great potential in the Tambov congregation, especially in the growing number of

young believers who attend.

Nogotkova said she depends totally on the Lord and on the church. "My faith is everything to me," she said. "It's my past, my present and my future."

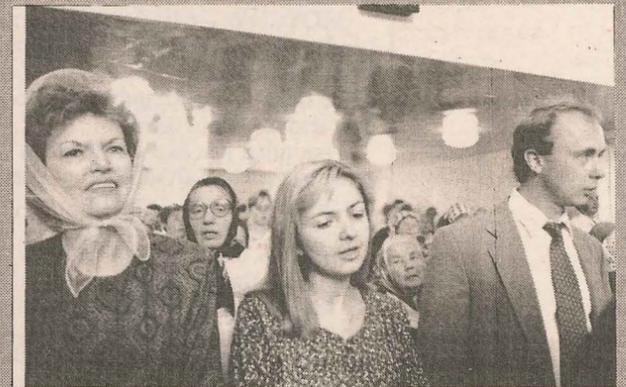
Nogotkova expressed gratitude for the positive impact Kentucky Baptists have made in Tambov. "For a long time,

Russian people heard a lot of speeches, but they saw few actions to support the promises," she said. "But when the doctors from America first came to Tambov, they showed their faith and testimony about Jesus Christ through their work. ... I want you to come again."



**DEVOTED LEADER** Tonya Nogotkova (center), lay leader and longtime member at Truth Baptist Church in Tambov, organizes appointment schedules for the Kentucky Baptist medical clinic Aug. 5-12. In an interview, she explained that she realizes she is a model for many young Christians she's glad to see attending church.

### Volunteer profiles



■ **Shirley Jones** (left)

Age: 54

Hometown: Paducah

Church: Spring Bayou Baptist Church, Kevil

Occupation: High school business teacher

Previous partnership missions experience: Evangelism team to Brazil, 1993

Function in Russia: Dental assistant

"I just thank God for the opportunity to come to Russia," Jones said. Noting she has little biological family, she thanked several team members who became her extended family during partnership missions trips.

"After my husband died, I made a commitment to do whatever I could in missions," she said. "I feel strongly we're to share the word wherever we go. There are many ways of witnessing—like by our life example."

"You know, I'm not a musician, and I don't have skills like some of these other people, but I felt like surely there was something I could do to help."

■ **Orson Arvin**

Age: 68

Hometown: Mount Vernon

Church: Mount Vernon Baptist Church

Occupation: Family practice physician

Previous partnership missions experience: Three

previous trips to Russia; Brazil.

Function in Russia: physician



"The medicine itself is not earth-shaking," Arvin said. "The main thing we bring is the love of Christ."

The Russian people "have been freed. We need to continue that freedom in Christ."

"It's so very important that we help the Russian people right now," he said. "We may only have a few years. We may only have a year. ... We need as many churches built, as many clinics established as we can while we can."

■ **Josh Bunch**

Age: 18

Hometown: Bloomfield

Church: Bloomfield Baptist Church

Occupation: Student

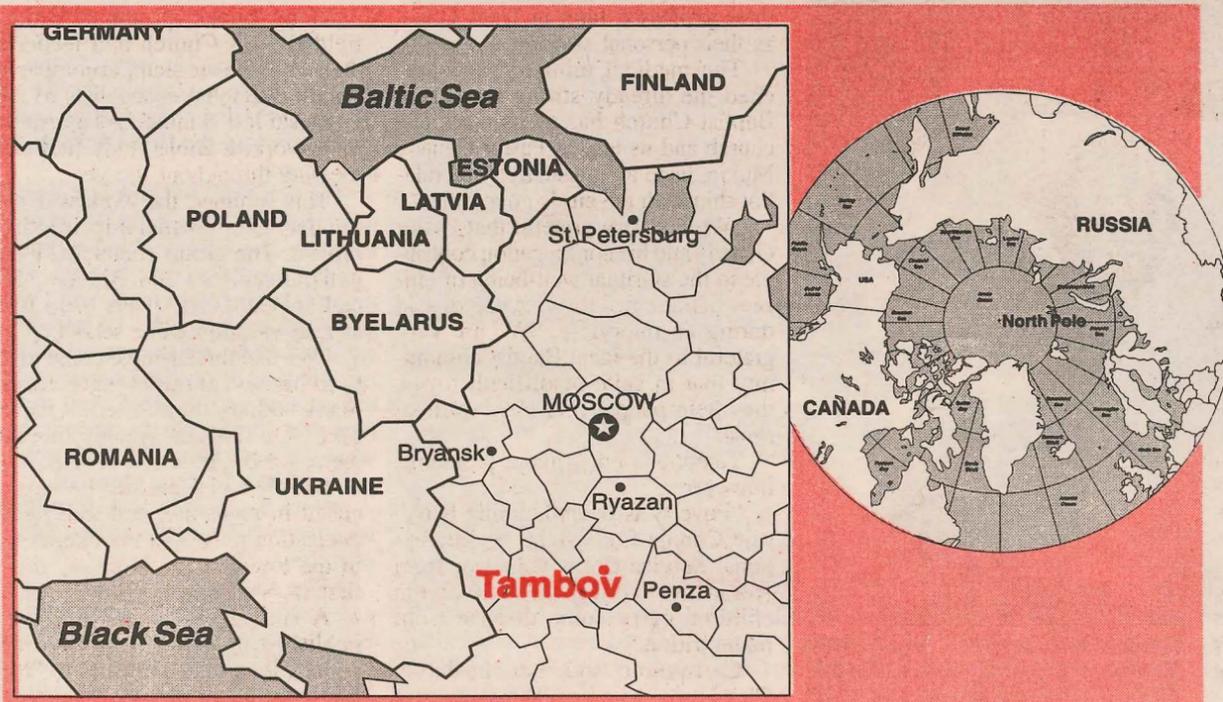
Previous partnership missions experience: None

Function in Russia: Personal evangelism, vacation Bible school leader, musician in Pervo-

maiski



"I saw my dad's excitement last year after he came back, and I knew then if there was any way, I wanted to come this year," he said. "Whenever people are willing to let God use them, good things happen."



# PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

## Field coordinators keep partnership on track

MOSCOW—Missionary Larry Lindsey jokes that his best friend bought him and his wife a one-way plane ticket from Kentucky to Moscow and left them there.

"Isn't that just like a best friend?" Lindsey said of Calvin Wilkins, partnership missions director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Wilkins replies good-naturedly, when he's around to defend himself. He knows it takes flexibility and a sense of humor like the Lindseys' to survive as field coordinators in the Kentucky-Russia Baptist missions partnership.

Larry Lindsey and his wife, Joy, have lived in Moscow for 18 months, specifically to facilitate teams of Kentucky volunteers who come to share the gospel in Russia.

Like all 10 million Muscovites, the Lindseys live in an apartment building. Theirs is on the lowest level of a 20-floor building on the south side of Moscow. Public transportation from their flat to their office at the Russian Baptist Union includes a series of buses and metro stations.

"It takes at least an hour to go just

about anywhere in Moscow," Mrs. Lindsey explained.

In addition to paperwork and preparation for each volunteer team that arrives in Moscow, the Lindseys visit as many churches as possible and preach at every opportunity, they said. They are responsible for all the "legwork" involved in visiting potential work sites, deciding where Kentucky teams will minister and making all necessary arrangements.

"The field coordinators are the key" to partnership missions, Wilkins affirmed. "They make the difference between a project being a success or a failure. ... They are the crucial link. If it breaks, we're in trouble."

Wilkins described the Lindseys as good students who possess a great love for people and a spiritual commitment to missions.

"They've adapted very well to the culture" of Russia, he added. "They both seem to blend into the culture—both physically and emotionally."

"They're definitely doing the work of many people," he noted. "We're praying for God to provide another couple" to help them.

The Lindseys' interest in missions grew from their own involvement in partnership missions projects to Kenya in 1986 and 1988. In 1992, Lindsey was convinced God was calling him to Russia.

"I felt like God was telling me I was going to spend a lot of time in Russia," he said, especially after an 18-day volunteer experience there. "I was struck by the many villages and towns with no church."

Without any definitive plans for their future, the Lindseys enrolled in a Russian language class at the University of Louisville.

Not too much later, Wilkins asked them to consider serving as field coordinators for the Kentucky-Russia Baptist partnership.

### A behind-the-scenes itinerary

Preparing for a team of volunteers to minister for two weeks in Russia is no easy task, according to Larry and Joy Lindsey.

They described preparations for a typical team:

■ **Prayer.** "First of all, it takes a lot of prayer"—from Russia as well as Kentucky, Larry Lindsey said.

■ **Requests.** The Lindseys receive requests from the Russian Baptist union or from individual pastors in Russia who need help in some particular area. These requests are confirmed through the Russian Baptist union and forwarded to Kentucky.

■ **Advance arrangements.** While volunteers are saving money, attending orientation and learning Russian phrases, the Lindseys arrange interpreters, hotel accommodations and transportation; process invitation letters for

visa applications; and communicate with the host church about accommodations on the work site.

■ **Finances.** All Kentucky Baptist money for partnership purposes is routed through the Lindseys' office and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board personnel who work at the Russian Baptist Union.

■ **Equipment.** Much of the day that teams arrive is consumed packing a van and trailer with Russian language Bibles for the team to distribute and bottled water for each team member to drink. In addition, the Lindseys transport footlockers of tools, as well as medicines and portable equipment. If they're unable to store the equipment at the hotel overnight, the Lindseys' driver sleeps in the van to ensure its safety.

**What does it take behind the scenes to make a partnership missions trip work as smoothly as possible? More than most volunteers realize. Kentucky coordinators Larry and Joy Lindsey and Lee and Sarah Bivins are the backbone (and the arms and legs) of Kentucky's Russian partnership.**

"Without many days or weeks or months of prayer, I said yes," Lindsey said.

The couple applied to serve as Foreign Mission Board International Service Corps missionaries. Plum Creek Baptist Church in Taylorsville, where Lindsey was serving as pastor, presented them with a check for the exact amount of money they needed to pay outstanding debts.

After that, Wilkins "dropped us off" in Moscow, Lindsey concluded. And they've been helping volunteers ever since.

Despite a definite sense of God's call and providence, life in Russia

has been difficult, the Lindseys acknowledged.

"The power of prayer is the only thing that keeps us going sometimes," Lindsey said. "Letters telling us people are praying really strengthen us."

Mrs. Lindsey remembered one letter in particular they received from a church in Mississippi stating the church had prayed for them on a particular day. Checking her calendar, she realized that on that day, a medical team had arrived late and at a different airport than was expected; many of the medicines were confiscated at customs; and arrangements for bus transportation to the hotel suddenly went awry.

"We had to make many on-the-spot decisions that day," Mrs. Lindsey said. "We arrived back at our apartment at 2 a.m."

Still, they know this is where God wants them to be. Lindsey referred to a recent outdoor worship service in Bryansk where a congregation ceremoniously laid the first bricks of its new church.

The spirit of God was active in a powerful way among the 300 people attending that service, Lindsey said.

"My heart was swelling up, and my eyes were full of tears, and I was going to have to speak," he said. "As we stood there, and the sun was shining, I looked beyond the crowd to the bus passing on the street. And every face was looking at us, wondering what we were doing. That church is going to be a 24-hour preacher."

"Not a day goes by that something isn't overwhelming," Lindsey added pensively.

"The fact is, God called us to come work with this partnership. It is difficult. We have many problems. But with God, all things are possible."



"WELCOME TO RUSSIA" Larry Lindsey, Moscow-area field coordinator for the Kentucky-Russia Baptist partnership, offers initial greetings and advice during the bus ride from the Moscow airport with a team from Oldham County (Sulfur Fork Baptist Association) preparing to build a church in Udomlya.

# PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

## Interpreter puts words to Kentuckians' message

MOSCOW—Interpreter Irena Davydova seldom is at a loss for words.

An English major at her local university, Davydova, 20, puts her linguistic skills to work for Baptists and other evangelical Christian groups who come to Russia. She recently completed her second assignment interpreting for Kentucky Baptist volunteer mission teams.

Dressed in stylish clothes and carrying a backpack with a Russian-English dictionary, Davydova is ready in an instant to interpret a sermon, help straighten out a transportation problem, explain to a patient how to use prescribed medications or assist volunteers in the market.

Davydova takes her job as an interpreter seriously.

"When I'm interpreting, I share my testimony," she said. "It's a wonderful opportunity to tell people about Jesus. When I interpret, I feel everything. It's not just words; they're my words ... I feel God's presence every minute while I'm interpreting."

That's why there's such a big difference between interpreters who are believers and those who are not believers, she said.

"When a preacher has a non-believer as an interpreter, ... (some of the blessing is lost.)"

Davydova said she came to Christ about four years ago through the influence of her mother, who first attended a Baptist church at the urging of a friend.

"Although she had not ever known anything about Jesus Christ

or read the Bible, the Holy Spirit led her to accept Christ," Davydova explained. "My older sister did the same the next day."

But things were different for Davydova. She struggled for a year before she was sure that coming to Jesus was the right thing to do.

"It was difficult for me to go forward, but I did," she said. She and her sister and mother were baptized at the same time. Now she is a member of First Baptist Church of Veronezh.

Davydova credits Kentucky Baptists with introducing her to the occupation of interpreting.

"When I graduated from high school, my parents and I wanted me to be an economist," she said. "But that year, I was invited to attend a conference for Christian interpreters here in Moscow."

That conference, sponsored by Kentucky Baptists and led by Ken and Robbie Murphy of Finchville Baptist Church, gave Davydova a confidence and energy she had not experienced before.

"After that, I decided to become a Christian interpreter," she said.

"Irena was very effective with us," KBC partnership director Calvin Wilkins said of Davydova. "Our personalities were such that we bonded very well. ... She enjoyed interpreting for preachers because she's helping spread the gospel, which she sees as a part of her calling."

Davydova's personality is one of her major strengths, Wilkins added. She conducts herself with both confidence and humility, regardless of



**SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT** Irena Davydova (right) interprets for field coordinator Joy Lindsey as she speaks to the congregation in Dyatchkovo, near Bryansk, Russia.

whether she interpreted for a city mayor, the president of the Russian Baptist Union or a volunteer trying to communicate with a child, he said.

One of Davydova's biggest challenges is learning Kentucky Baptists' unique pronunciations of the English language, she said. In the university, she studies British English.

"The first time someone said 'y'all,' was when I was interpreting for a sermon," she said, and she had to ask the pastor to explain what he meant.

Davydova also finds mealtimes to be a challenge—especially when she is the single person who can ensure meaningful conversation at a table

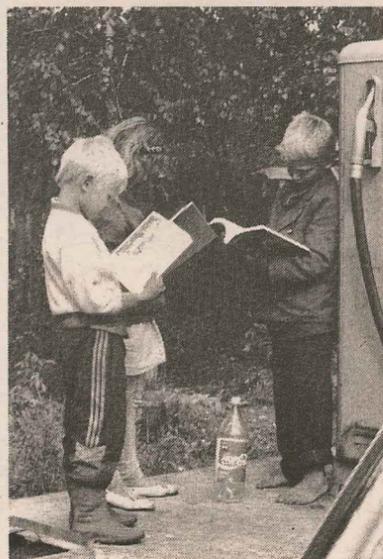
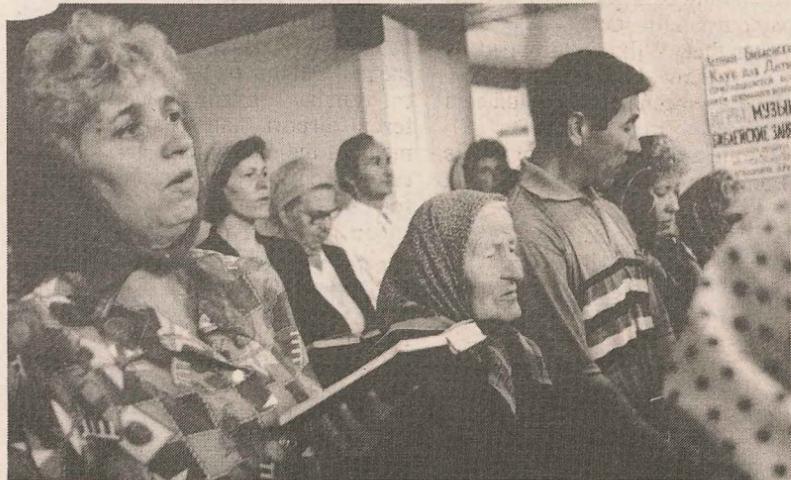
full of Russians and Kentuckians. On more than one occasion, the meal has been completed before she finished eating.

As for her future plans, "Everything depends on God," Davydova said.

Through contacts made with Kentucky Baptists, she hopes to continue her education by enrolling at Cumberland College in Williamsburg in January 1996.

In the meantime, she will continue her studies in Veronezh and her ministry as an interpreter.

"God uses me, and I thank Kentucky Baptists that they invite me to work with them," she said.



**PERSPECTIVES** ■ Above left: Members of Truth Baptist Church in Tambov sing together during Sunday morning worship. ■ Above: A mother and her children wait patiently outside a church building. ■ Far left: A young Russian girl helps her mother clear after Russian Baptists and Kentucky Baptists share a meal. ■ Left: Youngsters fascinated by Kentucky Baptists' gifts of Russian children's Bibles momentarily forget their job of helping customers pump gas for a few Russian rubles.

The needs are overwhelming as Kentucky Baptists enter the third year of their Russian partnership. If you're wondering how you or your church can get involved with the partnership, take a few moments to read the examples of current needs listed on the following pages.

This section highlights representative needs and is in no way comprehensive. For every need listed here, dozens of similar needs can be found.

For more information about specific opportunities, or to volunteer to help meet one of the needs listed here, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions office at (502) 244-6462.

## Klintsy: Women keep building despite obstacles

KLINTSY, Russia—Hang up your hard hats and put away your steel-toed shoes. Construction workers at First Baptist Church in Klintsy wear scarves, dresses and overcoats.

Since more than 90 percent of the church's 150 members are women—including many who are aging—the church could post a construction sign at its partially completed facility that says "women at work."

These women give as much as 50 percent of their scant monthly pensions to purchase construction materials, explained the congregation's young, energetic pastor, Eugeny Voronin. But there are no funds to hire workers.

So the women do the work themselves.

Some spend more than 300 days a year on the church site—even some Sundays—feverishly hauling bricks and raising the structure as quickly as possible.

"It's very difficult to build a church with women, but we're building," Voronin said. "We try to do the work ourselves. We don't hire help."

Voronin noted the church's immediate need for \$4,500 to purchase materials required to finish the roof. With the roof in place before the first snow, work could continue through

the Russian winter; otherwise, all construction will come to a complete halt.

Located 550 kilometers southeast of Moscow, Klintsy is home to 100,000 residents—a mere town by Russian standards.

Church members expect the completed facility to impact the 40,000 people in surrounding apartments for Christ.

"Many have had a negative attitude toward Baptists," Voronin

explained. "They thought Baptists were cruel. So people are afraid to come to worship in small houses. But when they see this big church, they won't be afraid of coming. That's why we're praying for God to help us."

Despite the congregation's determined efforts and unfailing enthusiasm, inflation and poor economic conditions threaten to block further progress. In 1993, for example, \$1 would purchase 10 bricks; today \$1 will buy only three.

Voronin is a pastor with whom Joy Lindsey has spoken numerous times at her Moscow office for the Kentucky-Russia missions partnership field coordinators.

"We realize the urgency of their requests," she said. "They speak with tears in their eyes. But it's frustrating when we can't convey that sense of urgency to church members in Kentucky."

### Needs

- ✓ \$4,500 needed immediately to finish the roof and enable church members to continue working inside the building during the winter.

- ✓ A team of volunteers to assist with construction and evangelism efforts in the spring of 1996.



**PASTOR & FAMILY** Eugeny Voronin, pastor of Klintsy Baptist Church, stands outside his home with his wife, Lydia, and son, Eugeny. Voronin serves as a Russian home missionary supported by First Baptist Church in Stearns, Ky.

## Seltzo: Hot air isn't preacher's

SELTZO, Russia—Fiery sermons or not, Seltzo Baptist Church's small, rented worship hall is usually so hot that most members have to leave during the service to get cool air.

Vladimir Vosnatin, bivocational pastor of Seltzo Baptist Church, said his congregation is looking forward to the time they can begin worshipping in the nearly completed basement of their new building.

Seltzo, a city of 26,000 people, was closed to religion for many years. But with perestroika, the Baptist church began worshipping publicly.

"The church is growing every year now," one deacon said. "We have more than 100 members," including many young people.

Pastor Vosnatin described the Seltzo church as an energetic congregation full of members eager to help with construction. Despite their enthusiasm, however, the building is only 50 percent finished. And funds are almost impossible to collect.

Members give everything they possibly can for construction, but it isn't enough. Some construction work has been completed on borrowed money.

### Need:

- ✓ A team of volunteers to complete a construction and evangelism project in Seltzo in June 1996.

## Bryansk: Standing on promises of a firm foundation

BRYANSK, Russia—Members of Transfiguration Baptist Church are thankful for the firm foundation Kentucky Baptists helped them build, and they're standing on the promises that Kentucky will not forget them.

Despite multiple difficulties, the 250 members at Transfiguration Baptist Church have struggled to keep alive their vision for building a new church.

After meeting for more than a year in a rented house, members had managed to acquire a plot of land. But to keep it, the city government required them to begin building within a certain amount of time.

The congregation had no money to begin building. A six-month extension passed, and the government still could see no signs of construction, meaning the church would lose the property within a month.

In a desperate attempt to find assistance, Pastor Pyotr Kravchuk traveled to Moscow and appealed to Joy and Larry Lindsey, field coordinators for the Kentucky-Russia Baptist partnership. They needed \$1,000 to dig a foundation and begin building.

"When they say they have a desperate need, they mean it," Joy Lindsey said.

The Lindseys immediately forwarded the request to the KBC partnership missions office. That very day, the office had received an undesignated gift of \$1,000 from a church in Kentucky to assist in Russia.

With that money, Transfiguration members bought materials and began the building's foundation last year—and kept the property.

A Kentucky Baptist partnership survey team visited the church last month. Although little more than a rough foundation has been constructed, leaders of the church stood on it proudly and expressed their appreciation freely. One deacon could not hold back his tears.

"It's just a start, but the work has begun," the pastor announced. Just beginning the work seemed enough to keep the church's vision alive.

Yet it hasn't become an idol for

them. "We don't want just structures," Kravchuk said. "We want a church of people."

"Please don't forget about us," the pastor continued. "We love you very much. We are very appreciative of the work Kentucky has enabled us to do."

### Needs:

- ✓ Funds to support the church's construction project, which currently sits idle at the foundations.

- ✓ Volunteers to serve on a construction/evangelism team during the summer of 1996.



**GROUNDWORK** Russian church leaders point out the firm foundation and outline of Transfiguration Baptist Church's new facility to visiting Kentuckians. While thanking Kentucky for help already given, Pastor Pyotr Kravchuk also expressed hope that Kentucky will not forget them.

# PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

## Bryansk: The church even communism couldn't put out of business

**BRYANSK, Russia**—Central Baptist Church in First Bryansk won't take "no" for an answer from the government.

They purchased their worship building in 1967. To resolve overcrowding problems over a course of 11 years, members added to and renovated the building twice—both times against government orders.

Government leaders angrily retaliated by imposing enormous taxes, and once even took the building away for a time. The church met outside in a field that November.

Now they have the building again, but it is in terrible condition, leaders explained. The government sent a tractor to level part of it once, but the demolition equipment would not work.

"Our greatest problem is that we have no place for Sunday school in our current house of worship," one member said.

That's why nearly 300 people were so excited Aug. 13 about gathering outside on the newly completed foundation to worship and ceremoniously lay the first

bricks for their new facilities.

Members have paid for all materials and have done all the work so far, they said. The foundation was begun last year. This year, they hope to build the first floor.

"We need more bricks," one of the leaders said. "If we don't buy immediately, the price will soar out of reach."

In fact, the church searched for two months to find a factory that would sell red bricks to them. Then when they found one, they couldn't collect enough money to buy them. Yet they remain confident that God will supply their needs.

"Every time we face a financial problem, God helps us," Pastor Mikhail Lepsky said.

The pastor shared his appreciation for everything Baptist churches in Kentucky might be able to do in the future. He suggested a sister church in Kentucky might adopt them.

"I want American believers to understand the Russian people must build right now," he said. "At any time, the political situation in Russia could change."



### Needs:

4 Funds for materials to enable the church to continue building.

4 A team of volunteers to complete a construction and evangelism project with the church in July 1996.

**PRAYER OF THANKS** Prominent pastors from Bryansk pray during an outdoor worship service before ceremoniously laying the first bricks to the foundation of Central Baptist Church in First Bryansk. They were joined by nearly 300 parishioners and a brass band.

## Dyatchkovo: A matter of time

**DYATCHKOVO, Russia**—Russians know Dyatchkovo as "Crystal City" because of its famous crystal factory and museum. But members of the Baptist church there sparkle most when they talk about the prospects of worshipping in an actual church building.

"This is not a real church," members explained, gesturing to a simple facility where the church currently worships. "This building will not be used as a church after the new church is completed."

A team of Kentucky Baptists visited the congregation recently while making plans for 1996 Kentucky-Russia partnership projects.

Dyatchkovo is the first Baptist congregation since 1927 to hold worship services in the city of 70,000, Pastor Eliya Lesetsin noted.

The 150-member church includes 18 new members baptized this summer. Begun by a nearby church two years ago, Dyatchkovo already has become the mother church for another congregation.

"Last year we were granted permission to build," the pastor said. "Some material has been purchased already. They told us to begin the foundation immediate-

ly, or lose the land."

Unfortunately, building requires finances, which are in short supply. The church is strong on prayer but weak on funds, members indicated. "We trust God to provide for our needs."

The crucial need right now is to dig a foundation.

Currently the church maintains a positive relationship with Orthodox and government leaders in this small town. But members know either could change the church's plans in a moment's notice.

"If we don't hurry with the foundation, our land will be revoked," the pastor emphasized again.

"Don't forget us," another member said. "Without our friends from America in this difficult economic period, maybe we wouldn't live. We've seen your help. Praise the Lord we are brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ."

### Needs:

✓ Funds to enable the congregation to begin the foundation of its new church.

✓ Volunteers to work in a construction/evangelism project in August 1996.

## Khimki: Persecuted by fire

**KHIMKI, Russia**—An arsonist's fire at the partially completed Khimki Baptist Church building this summer was no smoke screen: Members know all too well that many in their community do not want to see their church building completed.

The fire, set in the roof and some building material inside the church, occurred in the early morning hours of a June Sunday.

"One sister woke up about 1:30 in the morning and saw the building in flames," Pastor Valentin Mohov said of a church member who called the fire department.

"After the fire, a lot of the women cried," he added.

"It was a difficult time, especially for me," Mohov said, explaining that he had to preach the next day, after everyone had heard the news.

However, they all breathed a collective sigh of relief when they surveyed the damage and realized it was minimal.

"It didn't disturb the work, because the roof was OK," Mohov explained. "We only lost some materials."

Although members have blamed no one for the fire earlier in the summer, Mohov said many suspect the Russian Orthodox Church.

"They are angry about our building," the pastor explained of the Orthodox believers in the city. "Sometimes they come to see the building, and they quarrel with us."

Started in 1990, the Khimki congregation of 160 members currently meets in a rented facility. Barring any more trouble, they hope to use part of the new building for worship services soon.

Although not yet heated or fur-



nished, and still needing electric wiring, the building itself is enclosed with thick insulated walls and a roof that already has proven itself durable.

Mohov, 59, has done much of the work himself, including the hallways and windows, he said.

Located inconspicuously behind a grove of trees far off the main road, the church recently received the further protection of a fence around the property.

Despite the fire, the threats and disappointing setbacks, church members hold on to hope for the future. Signs of their hope lie in the small but thriving garden plots members nurture on unused portions of the church's land.

"I told God I don't want to have anything," Pastor Valentin said. "Just let me build this church."

### Needs:

✓ Funds for a heating system for the church's new building, to permit work to continue through the winter months.

✓ A team of volunteers to assist with construction and evangelism efforts in May, or spring 1996.

### AGAINST ALL ODDS

Partnership field coordinator Larry Lindsey enters the church yard of Khimki Baptist Church, where a fire this summer threatened to destroy one congregation's dreams to worship in a sanctuary.

**To volunteer for the Russia partnership, call the KBC partnership missions office at (502) 244-6462**

## Construction projects carry unusual urgency in Russia

MOSCOW—Why are Russian Baptists in such a hurry to build churches?

Russian pastors repeatedly give the same answers to that question, emphasizing the fragile freedom they currently experience:

■ **Political instability.** No one knows where the teetering political situation will settle or when, and what impact that will have on religious groups in Russia. With elections planned for later in the year, Baptists know they may not have much time to build.

■ **Acquisition of land.** Securing property on which to build a Baptist church often poses many problems in Russia. Baptists must find inroads to government leaders and influential Russian Orthodox bishops in their cities in order to gain permission to purchase. And more than one church has lost its land after purchasing it.

■ **Building restrictions.** Many city governments tell Baptists when and how to build, setting deadlines for beginning a project and establishing elaborate building codes that must be met in order to maintain consistency of architecture. Naturally, some building codes far outstretch Baptists' financial resources.

■ **Superstitions.** For years, rumors widely circulated that Baptists ate children and engaged in other horrendous activities. As a result, many Russians fear attending Baptist worship in homes—the type of church where most congregations begin. So many Baptists are convinced that once people see beautiful public sanctuaries, their fears will subside and they will attend worship.

■ **Economy.** While prices for bricks and other building materials continue to increase, wages are falling and unemployment runs rampant. Some church members have been known to donate entire monthly paychecks or retirement pensions—beyond the American understanding of sacrificial giving—in order to help purchase materials while they are still within reach. Nevertheless, sometimes construction ceases prematurely when the structures become too expensive to continue building.



**PROGRESS** Kentucky Baptist partnership coordinator Calvin Wilkins (left) and field coordinator Joy Lindsey inspect the progress of construction at Dmitrov Baptist Church near Moscow.

## Dzerzhinski: Unfinished building draws taunts

DZERZHINSKI, Russia—Pastor Aleksander Brightzev has heard the taunting of his community long enough.

"The community members walk by and shake their heads," he said. "You Baptists always start buildings, but you never finish one," they say. But now, they will look and say "Ah, the Baptists are working."

Brightzev's newfound hope for completing Dzerzhinski's Baptist church building is based on a Kentucky Baptist survey team that visited recently and agreed to place the church on the 1996 list of projects for the Kentucky-Russia Baptist partnership.

Dzerzhinski, a new city near Moscow with a population of 200,000, has few churches. The Baptist congregation was started four years ago with four people. Now 90 people worship together regularly. Brightzev, 70, has been a pastor for 14 years.

"We are in our third year of construction," he said. Kentucky Baptists have sent one team of volunteers to help build the church, but much work remains unfinished.

The congregation has bought material for a roof, but no money is available to continue the construction.

Until the new facility is completed, the church will continue to worship in a converted house, where a small room with red plank flooring serves as the sanctuary. White curtains partially cover five small windows; a floral print wallpaper hangs loosely on the wall. A converted desk covered by a floral tablecloth forms the communion table.

The Kentucky team was invited to attend worship at Dzerzhinski while visiting the area. The lack of electricity didn't stop members from creating a warm

and informal—but genuine—atmosphere as they prayed fervently and sang hymns to the accompaniment of an old pump organ.

Several musicians sang a verse of "The Old Rugged Cross" in English. During one of the sermons, a cat roaming the pulpit area was sent outside through a window.

"We thank God for our Kentucky Baptist brothers and sisters," Brightzev said, referring to the construction team that already had come and the hope for more assistance. "Through their work they showed their faith. Even unbelievers saw the testimony of their faith. ... Praise God that he keeps his promises. Jesus said he would never leave us."

### Needs:

- ✓ Volunteers to serve on a construction team in the spring of 1996.
- ✓ Funds to enable the church to complete its project.



**HOLY GROUND** Pastor Aleksander Brightzev (left) of Dzerzhinski Baptist Church near Moscow gives a tour of the church's new facilities to Larry Lindsey, partnership project field coordinator. Kentucky volunteers have helped build this facility.

## Dmitrov: 'It's kind of like a depression in the worst of a depression'

DMITROV, Russia—A bivocational pastor and plumber in Dmitrov has high hopes his church's dreams for a new building won't go down the drain.

Dmitrov Baptist Church is the first Baptist church in well over 100 years to survive in the strongly Orthodox city near Moscow. Until a permanent facility is finished, members will continue to worship in a small historic home they own.

Larry and Joy Lindsey, field coordinators for the Kentucky-Russia Baptist partnership, met Pastor Pyotr Buzinkov when he came to fix their plumbing problems. When he discovered they coordinated vol-

unteer teams to assist Russian Baptist churches, he appealed to them to help Dmitrov Baptist.

"Some of our material was given by Kentucky Baptists, and we thank you for this," the pastor said during a recent visit from a Kentucky partnership survey team. "But now we have a problem. There is not enough money to build the roof."

Construction on the new facility has progressed through donations and assistance from various American groups.

After two years of working and waiting, many walls and rooms still are incomplete. But the church

is nearly ready to begin roof beams, if financial support can be found.

The church is struggling to build during incredibly difficult economic times, Lindsey explained.

The average monthly salary in Moscow equals about \$91, and "it's probably half that in Dmitrov," he added. Meanwhile, inflation continues to soar. "It's kind of like a depression during the worst of a depression," Lindsey said.

Buzinkov noted the church's positive relationship with city administrators.

"We've had lots of meetings with the mayor's office," he said. In the city of three large and influential Russian Orthodox churches, the mayor feared the Baptists at first. But the church's positive work in the city helped him realize Baptists are good people.

"We do a lot in the city," the pastor said. "We visit in the hospital, help orphans and visit summer camps for kids."

### Needs:

- ✓ Money to build the roof.
- ✓ A team of construction volunteers to work at the church for two weeks in May 1996.

# PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

## Needs extend beyond just construction

There's good news for Kentuckians who aren't into home improvement: Russian Baptists' needs extend beyond construction projects.

Although construction projects top the list for 1996 projects in the Kentucky-Russia Baptist partnership, "the needs are so monumental that it's unexplainable," noted Larry Lindsey, Moscow-area field coordinator.

Here are some additional ways Kentuckians can help:

■ **Children's Christmas gift bags.** Russians responded well to the gift bags that were sent from Kentucky churches last Christmas. More than 15,000 were sent, filled with basic toiletry items, pens and pencils and simple toys. Pyotr Konov-alchic, president of the Russian Baptist Union, emphasized the importance of this ministry to underprivileged Russian children and expressed his desire that they be sent again in 1996.

■ **Prison ministry.** In the Veronezh region, home missionaries have had success working with inmates at nine of 12 prisons. Evangelistic work has resulted in baptisms there. "They're now extending help to released prisoners through a halfway house," Lindsey explained. A team of volunteers is needed to help with prison evangelism next year.

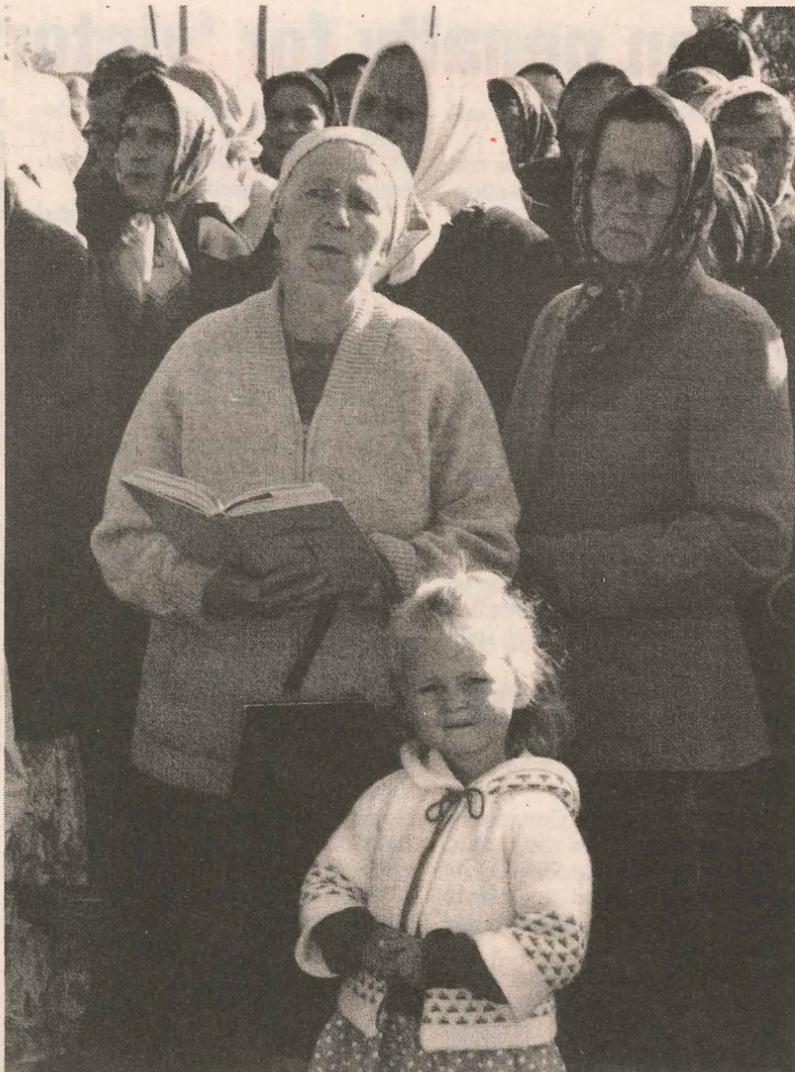
■ **Discipleship.** Teams will be needed to teach discipleship studies such as MasterLife, Survival Kit and Experiencing God, all of which are being translated into Russian.

■ **Summer camp.** Baptists in the Moscow area hope to be able to lead a Christian camp for children in the summer of 1996. Kentuckians can help by financially sponsoring children for the weeklong camp for \$70 per child. A team of volunteers also will be needed to lead the camp next summer.

■ **Medical/dental teams.** In addition to providing much-needed treatment and bringing medicines in short supply, medical teams build good relationships with hospitals, the community, governments and patients.

"People here have absolutely no money. We need to evangelize millions of people, and we're not sure of the best way, but the door is open," Lindsey concluded. "I ask you there in Kentucky to open your hearts to God to come and help."

To volunteer for any of these projects, or to request more information, contact the Kentucky Baptist partnership missions office at (502) 245-4101.



**RUSSIAN SCENES**  
■ Far left: Old and young worship together during an outdoor service at Central Baptist Church in First Bryansk. ■ Left: Central Baptist Church of Bryansk—one of the largest churches thriving in the area today—still does its own construction work from beginning to end. ■ Below: Standing in front of Klinty Baptist Church's new facilities, Pastor Eugeny Voronin (second from right) speaks with field coordinator Larry Lindsey and KBC partnership director Calvin Wilkins, with the help of interpreter Irena Davydova.



■ Far left: Leonid Kotelnikov unloads Bibles and drinking water for a team of volunteers. Working for field coordinators Larry and Joy Lindsey as their driver and assistant, Kotelnikov has driven more than 63,000 kilometers in the van Kentucky Baptists purchased about two years ago for the Lindseys' use. "They are wonderful people," he said of the Lindseys. "They are like relatives." ■ Left: The Russian Orthodox Church remains an integral part of Russian culture and heritage as well as religion. These ancient icons are displayed by a street vendor.

## Another option: Sponsor a Russian missionary

Alexander Chekanov is grateful for the 70 regular attenders at Doctor's Fork Baptist Church in Gravel Switch, Ky. For nine months now, the small church has been supporting Chekanov as a Russian home missionary.

"Just to come up with \$200 a month is really the only requirement," explained bivocational pastor John Lane. "It's going to cost us \$4,800 to be in partnership with them for two years. We thought that was very little for the good it was doing."

And fortunately, the ability to pronounce Russian names is not a prerequisite, he added.

"It's kind of a joke at church, because every time we get ready to pray for him, I have a hard time with his name. ... We just call him Brother Alexander."

Lane said the church is anticipating a letter from Chekanov describ-

ing his family, his location, his ministry and specific prayer needs.

Doctor's Fork members—many of whom are participating in the discipleship study Experiencing God—decided to support the Russian missionary after hearing the Good News Choir, a group of Russian Baptist musicians who sang at the 1994 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"It doesn't matter what size you are," Lane said. "The Lord will enable you to do what you need to do."

So far, Kentucky Baptists support 72 missionaries.

Eugeny Voronin, a missionary-pastor serving in Klinty supported by First Baptist Church in Stearns, conducts evangelism, organizes and directs the church's construction efforts. He also offers assistance to those who suf-

fer from radioactive contamination as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

In addition, the pastor has begun seven small missions in nearby villages.

Other Russian home missionaries teach, preach and show the "Jesus" film—some even 11 time zones away from Moscow, in the far reaches of eastern Russia.

"I only wish I could convey to Kentucky the elation and gratitude of these people when they find out where their support is coming from," field coordinator Joy Lindsey commented. "In our office, we've seen them laughing and crying."

### Need:

✓ More Kentucky Baptist churches and individuals to offer support for Russian home missionaries.

## NCAA backs off on penalty for 'victory' prayers

### Evangelicals call for 'third way' politically

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A panel of evangelical leaders and authors called on evangelical Christians Sept. 6 to forge a political "third way" between the "politically correct" left and the Religious Right. "Americans are fed up with the culture wars," said Tom Sine, a well-known evangelical author and adjunct professor at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. "They want to try to solve America's problems." Sine, joined by James Skillen of the Center for Public Justice, an evangelical think tank in Washington, D.C., and Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners* magazine, spoke at a news conference at which they said other evangelical voices besides the conservative Christian Coalition need to be heard in the political arena. The third way they called for would emphasize both the personal moral responsibility advocated by the Religious Right and governmental actions, such as health care and environmental reforms, called for by the left.

SHAWNEE MISSION, Kan. (ABP)—The NCAA now says it is OK for college football players to kneel in prayer after a play, apparently averting a legal showdown with Jerry Falwell's Liberty University.

Liberty and four of its players filed suit against the National Collegiate Athletic Association Aug. 31, saying the NCAA's plan to restrict on-field prayer is a violation of religious liberty and civil rights.

The NCAA, which governs college athletics from its base in Shawnee Mission, Kan., issued a statement one day later saying it did not intend to prohibit prayer and will permit players "to kneel momentarily at the conclusion of a play, if in the judgment of the official the act is spontaneous and not in the nature of a pose."

Liberty officials said they are satisfied.

"This is all we have ever done and all we are asking the NCAA to allow us to continue to do," said Sam Rutigliano, head football coach at the conservative Christian school in Lynchburg, Va.

Falwell, chancellor of Liberty, commended the turnaround by the NCAA's rules committee. "These are decent men, many of whom I know to be evangelical Christians, and they were honorable enough to correct an unfair rule," Falwell said in a statement.

The conflict arose over the NCAA's attempt to strengthen enforcement of a three-year-old ban on "excessive celebration" in football—taunting, showboating, dancing, spik-

ing the football and any other "delayed, excessive or prolonged act by which a player attempts to focus attention upon himself."

An NCAA videotape distributed to explain the crackdown depicts several behaviors that would warrant the 15-yard penalty, including a player kneeling in prayer in the end-zone. A spokesman said the kneeling—not the praying—would single the player out for attention and therefore attract a penalty flag.

But the clarification, issued by rules chairman Vince Dooley, athletic director at the University of Georgia, said limited kneeling will be allowed. So will brief on-field prayer by a group of players.

"We have said all along that the rule allows for religious expression,"

Dooley said in a statement. "Once people understand what the rule is about, they realize it is about drawing attention to yourself to the exclusion of your teammates."

Dooley said the rules committee, which includes three coaches affiliated with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, initially considered creating an exception to the celebration rule that would allow prayer, but the committee decided it would be impossible for on-field officials to distinguish real prayer from showboating.

"Such an exclusion would open a window for a variety of attention-drawing displays under the guise of prayer," Dooley said. "Thus the committee has taken a position against any action—regardless of intent—that detracts from the team spirit of football."

## Specter says he's 'shut out' by Coalition

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, a contender for the GOP presidential nomination, accused the Christian Coalition Sept. 6 of shutting him out of an upcoming political conference because he opposes the Republican Party's adamant stand against abortion.

In a blistering "open letter" to Pat Robertson, the Christian Coalition's founder, and Ralph Reed, its executive director, Specter accused the Coalition of closing him out of the group's Sept. 8-9 "Road to Victory" conference in Washington. The event was scheduled to feature all announced GOP presidential contenders except Specter and California Gov. Pete Wilson, who also backs abortion rights.

"Who are you to impose a litmus test and exclude someone because he is the only pro-choice candidate challenging the Republican platform, which denies women their constitutional right to choose?" Specter

wrote, not mentioning Wilson's position.

"Even in repressive Communist China, dissenting views are permitted at the World Conference on Women," Specter added, referring to a U.N.-sponsored meeting in Beijing the same week.

"But you (Robertson and Reed) deny the most basic American rights—the right to speak out and be heard—as you seek to dominate the political process and dictate the Republican nominee for president in 1996."

Reed and Coalition spokesman Mike Russell were unavailable for comment.

Gene Kapp, a Robertson spokesman, said Robertson had not seen the letter but that any comment would come from Reed or Russell.

The Coalition conference was scheduled to bring together hundreds of conservative activists for workshops and speeches.

The only Democrats listed as

speakers in a conference program were former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey and Rep. Charles Stenholm, D-Texas, both opponents of abortion.

Specter wrote that in the past he has avoided criticizing the Christian Coalition, despite his differences with the group over abortion.

"I have been careful never to criticize the Christian Coalition, the Religious Right, or the Christian Right because I believe that it is very important to have people in public life with deep religious and moral convictions; and I am one of them," wrote Specter, who is Jewish.

But Specter said the GOP "must not be diverted" from what he called its core values: "smaller government, reduced expenditures, lower taxes, strong national defense and effective crime control."

"If we get sidetracked on divisive social issues, we will not finish implementing our core goals," he wrote.

## Sandi Patty remarries, confesses adultery

ANDERSON, Ind.—Christian singer Sandi Patty married one of her former backup singers Aug. 6 and admitted she had an adulterous relationship with the same man while both were married to others.

In an interview with *Christianity Today* published Sept. 11, Patty, 39, said she had a relationship with Don Pelsis, 34, beginning in 1991.

Pelsis is a divorced fitness instructor who was formerly a member of the music group One, which toured with Patty as her backup group. Patty divorced her first husband, John Helvering, in 1993.

Patty said her marriage to Helvering was "painful and difficult," and described herself at the time of the affair as "extremely depressed, very beaten down as a woman, very beaten down as an artist, very beaten down as a mother, very beaten down as a person."

Patty also said she was involved in a physical relationship with a man other than Pelsis that did not include sexual intercourse. In addition, she repeated a claim first publicized in

1993 that she was sexually abused as a child by a female member of her father's choir.

Late last year, Patty acknowledged having made "wrong and sinful choices" in her adult life, but the *Christianity Today* interview is her first admission of extramarital relationships.

"I had sexual relations with somebody outside of marriage," she said in the interview. "The other mistake, the other sin that I committed, was not being honest about it in the beginning."

In light of Patty's interview, Helvering spoke publicly for the first time about their failed marriage.

"We did struggle with common marital problems, and each of us experienced some pain within the marriage," he said. "However I still feel—and it has been confirmed to me many times by well-respected professionals that I've counseled with—that our marriage problems were not what made our marriage end in divorce."

Helvering said the Christianity

Today story didn't give him an opportunity to present his side of the story.

"It seems as though now she's not wanting to take full responsibility for her actions with her infidelity and the pattern of infidelity that was present in our marriage," he said.

Helvering said he attempted to bring about reconciliation in the marriage but it "became apparent that Sandi had no intention of ever attempting a reconciliation."

Patty began her recording career in 1979 and rapidly became a dominant figure in the Christian music industry.

For 11 consecutive years, from 1982 to 1992, she was voted "Female Vocalist of the Year" by the Gospel Music Association.

Patty said she doesn't know if she will tour or record again. A Christmas album slated for release this month will be postponed, said Roland Lundy of Word Records.

Compiled from *Evangelical Press Service* and *Religion News Service* reports

## Giving stagnant; more staying at local church

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (RNS)—Giving by church members remains stagnant, and less of what is given is leaving local congregations for activities at the regional, national or world level, according to a study by Empty Tomb Inc., a Champaign, Ill.-based religious research organization.

According to the study, of the \$367.39 donated per capita by full or confirmed church members in 1993, \$304.84 stayed in local congregations and was used to pay the pastor's salary, to maintain buildings or to pay for other internal expenses. Only \$62.55 went to support church work at the regional, national and international level.

The study, "The State of Church Giving through 1993," will not be released until October but researchers John and Sylvia Ronsvalle have been presenting preliminary findings at a series of research conferences sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The study examines the finances of 29 Protestant denominations with 30 million members between 1968 and 1993, the most recent year for which full figures are available for all of the denominations. The study is based on percentages of disposable, or after-tax, income and is adjusted for inflation.

According to the researchers, church members gave 2.52 percent of their disposable income—\$367.39 per capita—to churches in 1993, about the same as in 1992. Per capita disposable income in 1993 was \$14,569.

That compares with 3.14 percent of disposable income, which members gave in 1968, the first year of Empty Tomb's look at stewardship. In that year, per capita giving by members was \$308.57 and per capita disposable income was \$9,831.



## FINANCIAL FORUM

### Money & marriage

By Doug Strader

Many couples get married without seriously talking about money, yet most marriages do not need the extra stress caused by money, and how it is used.

Most marriage counselors agree that money matters are one of the leading causes of marital conflict. When couples get married, they bring into the marriage the values, ideas, philosophies, attitudes and practices they learned from their parents. Did both sets of parents teach the same money values? Did both sets of parents agree on how money is to be earned? Accumulated? Saved? Spent?

In most instances, the answer to these questions is no. If that is true in your marriage, what should you do?

First, sit down as a family and openly discuss your core beliefs about money and what is of value to each person. When you have determined your values, write out some goals, both long-range and immediate. Do not make the goals too legalistic or unrealistic. Make them flexible so they can be adjusted.

Make sure you discuss how each person feels about buying on credit and accumulating debt. For most people, some debt is to be expected in relation to your housing needs. But how do you feel about the use of credit cards? The abuse of credit card buying is one of the leading causes of debt and family stress. If you use a credit card, it is wise to pay off the total balance monthly.

Once you have made goals based on your core beliefs, sit down as a family and plan a budget for the next year. If a year is too long, make a budget for the next month, and make adjustments as needed for each month.

From past experience, determine your expenses for the next month. Calculate your income for the next month, then subtract your expenses from your income. If you have a negative balance, you must then cut back in some area of your expected expenses.

When your family can agree on some goals, set some priorities, plan a budget and put the plan in operation. Then you can begin to master your money instead of letting your money master you.

I challenge you to give it your best effort and see how it will work for you.

Strader is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department

## Helms escorts Dalai Lama to Wingate

By Dwayne Hastings  
Southeastern Seminary

WINGATE, N.C. (BP)—In his first stop on a 10-day tour of five U.S. cities, the exiled leader of the country of Tibet began his trek in the heart of the Carolinas, speaking at Wingate University Sept. 5.

The Dalai Lama, who is revered as God-king by more than 6 million Tibetan Buddhists, was accompanied to Wingate, a university affiliated with the North Carolina Baptist Convention, by U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms.

The 60-year-old Dalai Lama, who was granted temporal powers over Tibet at age 16, is visiting the United States to gain support for the Tibetan people and their right to political self-determination. The country has been occupied by the People's Republic of China since 1959, when communist troops moved into the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, to quash a pro-independence movement there.

The recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, the Dalai Lama told the Wingate, N.C., audience the Tibetan issue has "truth" on its side, yet he warned, "Time is running out."

For nearly 40 years, he said, he has been seeking the "middle way," a negotiated settlement with the Chinese,

but to no avail.

With diplomatic savvy, the Dalai Lama said while Tibet is a "small country far from the United States and ... has no oil money," it still deserves the support of the United States. China is the larger country, he said, but noted it is only the "animal way" that favors the stronger over the weaker.

Drawing from his Buddhist faith, the Dalai Lama stressed: "It is my fundamental belief that basic human nature is gentleness and compassion. Every human being has the potential to create happiness. It is wrong to believe our nature is negative and that the future is without much hope."

Helms, a member of Hayes-Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., introduced the Dalai Lama, who claims to be the reincarnation of each of the previous 13 Dalai Lamas of Tibet. Helms said of the Dalai Lama, "As long as there is a breath in me, and certainly as long as I am a member of the United States Senate, I am going to defend the principles of this fine and wonderful man and his country."

The visit of the Buddhist leader, considered by many to be a living Buddha, the earthly manifestation of a Tibetan deity, prompted some letters of concern to Jerry McGee, president of Wingate University, a school

where 45 percent of the student body identifies itself as Baptist.

Yet McGee said his confidence in Helms' judgment convinced him to allow the Dalai Lama to speak on the school's campus: "As long as it was not going to be a Buddhist religious service or be so political that it would be a problem for some of our folks, we thought it would be a nice thing to do."

One strong opponent of the Dalai Lama's visit to the Baptist campus was Phil Roberts, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department. Prior to the event, Roberts wrote both McGee and Helms, asking they disinvite the Dalai Lama.

"My concern is that we are not just having a religious leader as such, but a man who claims the incarnation of deity and who as well claims reincarnation of previous Dalai Lamas," Roberts said.

"To have him on the campus of a Christian institution implies a certain sense of endorsement ... They would not have a member of the Ku Klux Klan on the campus because they know there is a measure in which when you have somebody on campus, you do endorse them," Roberts said.

## Poll questions Christian Coalition's support

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Christian Coalition's "Contract with the American Family" is out of step with mainstream American values, according to a nationwide poll commissioned by a liberal advocacy group.

The Christian Coalition, a conservative lobby founded by televangelist Pat Robertson, has claimed that 60 percent to 90 percent of Americans support the contract's social agenda.

But that claim isn't true, according to the poll, conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates on behalf of People for the American Way.

The poll found Americans oppose six of the contract's 10 measures. Four of the contract's measures do have narrow public support, but none by the overwhelming majority claimed by the Christian Coalition, according to poll results.

"The Christian Coalition is out of the mainstream of American public opinion, both in its priorities and its policy proposals," said Geoffrey Garin of the research firm.

A Christian Coalition spokesman

was unavailable for comment. But a press release from the organization pointed to legislative successes as evidence of grassroots support for the coalition.

However, former Congressman Tom Andrews, newly elected president of People for the American Way, said that "the notion that the contract is mainstream is simply and demonstrably false."

Among findings in the poll:

■ 58 percent of Americans oppose the contract's call for a "religious equality" amendment to the Constitution, while 34 percent favor the amendment.

■ 60 percent reject the school voucher proposal that would give parents tax money to send their children to the private and/or religious schools of their choice.

■ 57 percent oppose the contract's proposal to reduce the federal government's role in education, while only 36 percent favor it.

■ 54 percent reject abortion restrictions and ending public funding of family planning organizations, while 40 percent support the provi-

sion.

■ 59 percent oppose replacing public assistance with private charity, while 32 percent support the proposal.

■ 55 percent oppose a plan to end federal support for the arts and public broadcasting, while 41 percent support a ban on funding.

The poll found a majority of Americans agreeing with the Christian Coalition on four points of the contract: that pornographic material should be restricted on the Internet; that restitution should be given to crime victims; that American families are in crisis; and that affordable child care, enforcement of child-support laws, costs of college education, responsible sex education for young people and expanding job opportunities are urgent issues.

About one in five respondents said the Christian Coalition "speaks for me." Other statistics showed that more respondents have negative, rather than positive, views about the Christian Coalition (46 percent to 33 percent) and its founder Pat Robertson (34 percent to 25 percent).

## Peacemakers offer help for the homefront

Continued from page 1

"Learning the Skills of Peacemaking, an Activity Guide for Elementary-Age Children on Communicating, Cooperating, Resolving Conflict."

Parents should use the guidelines themselves in dealing with their spouses and other adults, she said. "The bottom line in conflict resolution is the willingness to resolve the conflict."

Drew advises cooling off, confronting the issue without putting the other person down. "Attack the prob-

lem, not the person," she said.

She gives this example: You walk into your child's bedroom and it looks like a tornado has stormed through. The inclination is to say something like, "You are the worst slob in the entire world."

Instead, she suggests, tell your child how you feel about the situation: "I am really aggravated and so annoyed that your room is a mess." From there, discuss what is going to be done to get the room cleaned.

"You don't want to attack the oth-

er person," Drew emphasized.

It's not that anger is all bad. "I'm not telling people to abolish anger," she continued. "But once you are angry you have a choice to make. You can attack the other person, put them down, or you can cool off and try to resolve the issue."

One way to facilitate better relationships is for parents to spend more time with their children, Drew added. Parents also should set firm and fair standards for their children and expect the standards to be followed, she said.

**"As long as there is a breath in me, and certainly as long as I am a member of the United States Senate, I am going to defend the principles of this fine and wonderful man and his country."**

Sen. Jesse Helms, speaking of the Dalai Lama

**The poll found 58 percent of Americans oppose the call for a "religious equality" amendment to the Constitution, while 34 percent favor the amendment.**

## More attempts to ban books successful last year

### The 10 most-challenged books

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Here is a list of the 10 most frequently challenged books in public school libraries and classrooms as compiled by People For the American Way in its report, "Attacks on the Freedom to Learn."

- 1. "More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark," by Alvin Schwartz. A collection of short stories, generally read for entertainment by students in the upper grades of elementary school. Objectors said the stories contain inappropriate horror and violence.
- 2. "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark," by Alvin Schwartz.
- 3. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," by Maya Angelou. A coming-of-age story by the African-American poet who read from her work at President Clinton's inauguration. Critics objected to some scenes involving sex.
- 4. "The Giver," by Lois Lowry. A Newberry Award-winning science fiction work in which a young boy challenges the standards of his society. Critics objected to the book's treatment of the death of the elderly and the boy's questioning of parental authority.
- 5. "Halloween ABC," by Eve Merriam. A rhyming book that goes through the alphabet using ghosts and goblins and other supernatural or scary figures. Critics objected to its use of witches and other Halloween figures.
- 6. "Scary Stories 3: More Tales to Chill Your Bones," by Alvin Schwartz.
- 7. "Bridge to Terabithia," by Katherine Paterson. A novel about a 10-year-old boy in rural Virginia whose friend meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia. Objectors opposed the use of profanity in the book.
- 8. "The Chocolate War," by Robert Cormier. A coming-of-age novel. Critics objected to scenes in which masturbation and other elements of sexuality are discussed.
- 9. "Of Mice and Men," by John Steinbeck. The story of a friendship between two men, one mentally retarded. Critics objected to the novel's language, especially cursing, and the book's portrayal of moral values and social themes.
- 10. "My Brother Sam is Dead," a novel about the tragedy of the Meeker family during the Revolutionary War era in which a young boy joins the rebels while his family tries to remain neutral in a Tory town. Critics objected to the boy's challenge of parental authority.

By David Anderson  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—More books and other educational material were removed from schools during 1994-95 because of parental and community objections than ever before, according to People For the American Way, a liberal First Amendment advocacy group.

The group said it confirmed 338 incidents of attempted "censorship" of books, films and other educational material during the 1994-95 school year, down from a record 375 in the previous year. But 50 percent, or a record 169, of the challenges were successful, up from 157 or 42 percent the year before.

The Washington-based group's 13th annual "Attacks on the Freedom to Learn" survey said the success rate reflected, at least in part, "the increasingly conservative political climate that owes much to the electoral successes scored by right-wing candidates in school board races."

The group said there was an increase, from 87 to 120, in what it called "broad-based" challenges to public education by political and religious conservatives. Those challenges, it said, ranged from efforts to reinstate school prayer and institute teaching of creationism to attempts to use public money for private schools, including church-run schools.

"Although we classify these broad-based challenges differently from the strictly censorship incidents in this report ... the distinction is not always so clear on the ground," said Matthew Freeman, the group's director of research.

"What began as a challenge to a library book can evolve into a broader attack on the curriculum," he said. "A failed censorship complaint might lead a disgruntled objector to run for the school board."

Gary Bauer, president of the

Washington-based Family Research Council, a conservative lobbying group, criticized the report as misleading and said the number of incidents involving books, films and other materials—458 in 80,000 public schools—were not indicative of censorship.

He charged that People For the American Way does not understand censorship and the group was blaming parents for guarding their children's welfare.

"When a government restricts what its citizens can read—that's censorship," he said. "But when parents have input on what local officials do in the schools—that's democracy."

Colleen Pinyan, a spokeswoman for The Rutherford Institute, a conservative legal advocacy group, called the report a "thinly veiled attack on parents' rights."

The Rutherford Institute aided a number of parents in lodging complaints cited in the People For the American Way report.

Elliot Minberg, executive vice president and legal director of People For the American Way, said the group counted only incidents when parents or interest groups tried to restrict or remove books and materials from all

students, not just their own children.

"What we mean by censorship is when anyone—be it a parent, a school board member, or a political group—tries to ban or limit access to materials by every student for ideological or religious reasons," he said.

According to the report, challenged material ranged from classics such as "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck and J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye" to the rock magazine "Rolling Stone" and a CD-ROM that included, in addition to historical information, references to homosexuality and the story of a woman recounting her abortion experience.

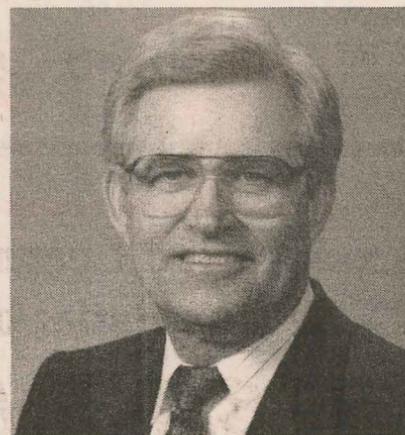
In one incident, in Sawyers Bar, Calif., a parent objected to the use of the television program "Sesame Street" in a kindergarten class because two of the puppet characters, Bert and Ernie, "live together" on the program, the report said. The teacher agreed to tape each episode and monitor it before classroom viewing.

The most challenged book this year was "More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark," by Alvin Schwartz, a collection of short stories often carried in elementary school libraries. Critics objected to portrayals of violence and horror in the stories.

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### POSITION OPENING



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

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Charles D. Barnes, Chairman  
Kentucky Baptist Foundation  
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## Religion books now line shelves of secular stores

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Religious books aren't just for religious book stores anymore.

Look on the shelves of Barnes & Noble bookshops, Wal-Mart and the public libraries, and you'll see topics ranging from angels to evangelical Christian fiction to "alternative spirituality."

Secular publishers are featuring religious imprints, and Christian publishers are coming out with book lines aimed squarely at the general market.

The American Booksellers Association, at this year's convention, featured a religion section for the first time. It proved so popular it will be expanded next year.

It all adds up to a boom in religious publishing.

"My personal theory is (that) because society is getting a little more high-tech and a little scary, people are looking back to fundamentals," said Larry Carpenter, senior vice president for marketing at Ingram Book Co.

One of the largest book distributors in the country, Ingram's religious-book sales to the general and Christian markets soared 62 percent last year.

Christian book publishing and

sales is a multibillion-dollar industry, with Christian fiction especially popular. And while that industry's books are finding more shelf space in the trade market, so are many other varieties of religious literature.

"What we're now seeing is that we have a burgeoning category, not just evangelical (but) Roman Catholic, Islamic, Buddhist," said Phyllis Tickle, religion editor for Publishers Weekly, a book industry trade publication. "Religion publishing is burgeoning."

A key indicator of interest in this fast-growing genre is the expanding availability of religious books in places not traditionally known for religion or literature.

At about 120 Wal-Mart stores in the Bible Belt, revolving racks of "Inspirational best-seller" books greet shoppers not far from shelves of disposable plates and powdered lemonade. The books include family-oriented material, children's Bibles and Christian romance, said Stacey Webb, spokeswoman for the chain of 2,170 discount stores in the United States.

Tom Densmore, a sales manager at Cook Distribution Co., said his Christian company uses the word "inspirational" on the displays to let passing customers know the book offerings are wholesome—but not necessarily preachy.

"It's not that all of our books are Bible supplements," he said. "We have books about finance, even some cookbooks."

Secular companies also have discovered that the religious publishing niche is fruitful.

Random House began Moorings, a Christian imprint, about a year ago and has exceeded its sales expectations. The imprint's offerings include books geared to an adult audience, such as the Christian Coalition's "Contract with the American Family," and children's books and videos. The children's books have reached the aisles of Target and Toys R Us stores.

The American Booksellers Association convention in June was a three-day testimony to the upsurge in religious publications.

In addition to the new "religious-spiritual-inspirational" section, there were religion books in a number of other places on the convention floor—sectors on children's books, multi-media and new publishers.

"The response was tremendous," said Sales Manager Barri Pavlik. "I know from speaking to our religious publishers that more orders were written at this show than ever before."

Some Christian book store owners aren't especially pleased with the

trend. Bill Anderson, president of the Christian Booksellers Association, said some in his organization consider a Christian book purchased in a general-market store to be a "lost sale."

Still, for the most part, he thinks his industry remains unthreatened by the appearance of religious books on secular shelves. Christian book stores will continue to have a "breadth and depth" of Christian products that others will not, Anderson said.

"They know their product very well," he said of Christian book store owners. "They believe what they're selling. That always gives them the advantage."

Religious publishing also is reaching the non-buying customer. More people are borrowing religious books from public libraries. Trade magazines in the library industry recently have started columns or increased the number of reviews of religious material.

George Needham, executive director of the Public Library Association in Chicago, said the greatest demands have been for evangelical Christian literature. In the last few years, many libraries have found that evangelical clients have complained that "there's nothing for us" in fiction collections.

**Tom Densmore, a sales manager at Cook Distribution Co., said his Christian company uses the word "inspirational" on the displays to let passing customers know the book offerings are wholesome—but not necessarily preachy.**

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For More Info. Contact Carl Powell (606) 623-2710

## New Brotherhood program picks up on Promise Keepers

**"I think the Heavenly Father has impressed on men a wake-up call and made them aware of their responsibility in reaching the lost for Christ. It is up to laymen as they express the gifts that God has given them."**

*Bob Simpkins, Kentucky Brotherhood director*

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—A new men's ministries program to be launched in October by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission picks up where the popular Promise Keepers movement leaves off.

Promise Keepers is a national movement of men's rallies, emphasizing Christian leadership in the home and godly living. Hundreds of thousands of men have packed football stadiums in recent years for Promise Keepers rallies and have pledged to keep the seven "promises" of a Promise Keeper.

"The seventh promise of a Promise Keeper is to fulfill the Great Commission," noted Jim Williams, Brotherhood Commission president. "We see our new program as a way of helping the mobilization of men into missions."

The new men's ministries thrust doesn't scrap the traditional Brotherhood mainstays of volunteer building and disaster relief. But it has more flexible approaches for involving men in outreach through the local church, according to Jim Burton, men's ministries director.

"We've never hesitated to challenge men," Burton said. "In the past, we put a hammer in a man's hand and

said, 'Why don't you go build a church?' Now we're walking up, putting our arm around him and saying: 'What's going on in your life? What issues are you dealing with?'"

This approach is reflected in the seven ongoing, church-based options outlined in the new materials, Burton said. They include forming men's teams for teaching, prayer, mission action, evangelism, encouragement (accountability groups), career support or recovery ministries.

Resource materials are available for each option, as well as a 98-page manual, "Leading Men's Ministries."

Burton said the materials were designed as a result of focus groups held last year in seven states.

"I feel we've done a good job of responding to grassroots concerns, not telling them what they should be doing," Burton said.

Following the model of "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God" by Henry Blackaby—seeing where God is at work and joining him—Burton advises churches to use a search-and-discovery process. After surveying community needs and praying, a church can fit its men's ministry to God's direction, he said.

Even a small congregation can

start men's ministries with a two-man prayer team, he added. A church should not feel pressured to set up seven different teams. It is unlikely most will establish more than one or two.

Williams acknowledged the new materials and the philosophy behind it are an admission "we have missed a whole generation in missions education because of our limited approaches to curriculum and methods. We were assuming a high degree of motivation on the part of the learner. We're not compromising, but we're recognizing there are other ways, developmentally, of helping people come to this level of commitment."

State Brotherhood directors around the nation support the new direction.

In Kentucky, veteran Brotherhood leader Bob Simpkins said he senses God at work in men's hearts. All kinds of men's ministries are seeing growth spurts, he said, which is strong evidence God is moving.

"I think the Heavenly Father has impressed on men a wake-up call and made them aware of their responsibility in reaching the lost for Christ," he said. "It is up to laymen as they express the gifts that God has given

them."

Another aspect of the new men's ministries program is called "Legacy Builders."

This is a weekend retreat program to be offered in conjunction with state Baptist conventions.

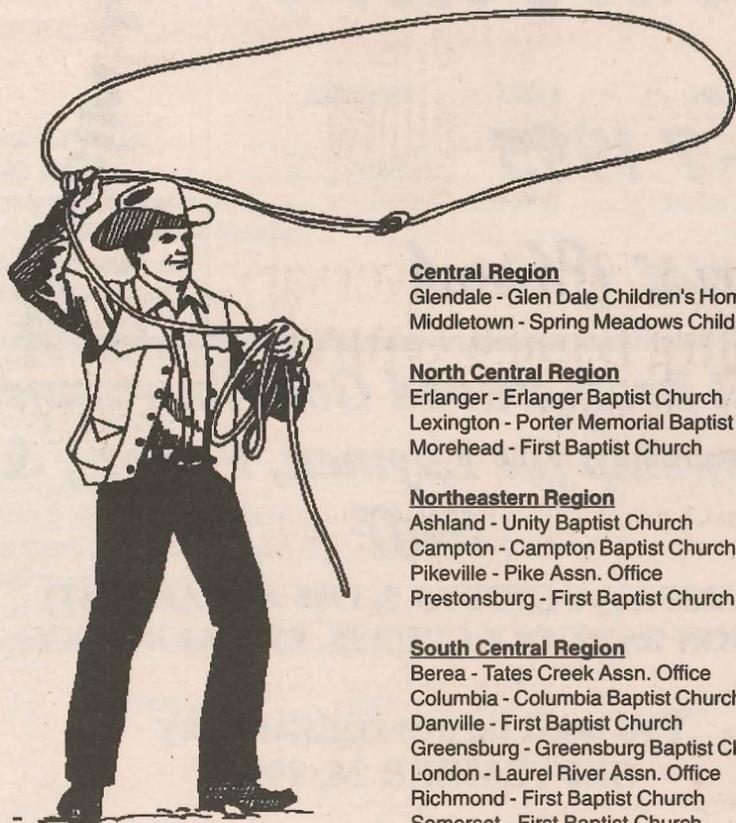
Burton and his staff will lead statewide Legacy Builders retreats this fall in Alabama, Minnesota, California, North Carolina, Illinois and Maryland.

The Friday-night, Saturday-morning sessions teach the biblical basis of manhood and apply the principles of being God's man in the home, church and marketplace. The retreats also include small-group discussions and exercises.

The biblically based material causes a man to take account of his life, explained Burton, who said he believes males too often walk through life as victims of circumstance, lacking purpose and direction.

"One thing we have learned is that men struggle with feelings of significance. Men are asking if they really matter," he said. "Too many are floating through life with a dust-to-dust mentality, failing to appreciate the impact they have on their family and the world."

# IT'S ROUND-UP TIME!



All donated food items for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Food Round-Up must be delivered to pick-up points no later than October 1. Thanks from all of the children for your help this year!

#### Central Region

Glendale - Glen Dale Children's Home  
Middletown - Spring Meadows Children's Home

#### North Central Region

Erlanger - Erlanger Baptist Church  
Lexington - Porter Memorial Baptist Church  
Morehead - First Baptist Church

#### Northeastern Region

Ashland - Unity Baptist Church  
Campton - Campton Baptist Church  
Pikeville - Pike Assn. Office  
Prestonsburg - First Baptist Church

#### South Central Region

Berea - Bates Creek Assn. Office  
Columbia - Columbia Baptist Church  
Danville - First Baptist Church  
Greensburg - Greensburg Baptist Church  
London - Laurel River Assn. Office  
Richmond - First Baptist Church  
Somerset - First Baptist Church

#### Southeastern Region

Hazard - First Baptist Church  
Manchester - Island Creek Baptist Church  
Pineville - First Baptist Church  
Williamsburg - Main Street Baptist Church

#### Southern Region

Bowling Green - Eastwood Baptist Church  
Burkesville - Burkesville Baptist Church  
Glasgow - Calvary Baptist Church  
Morgantown - Gasper River Assn. Office  
Russellville - Bethel/Logan Assn. Office

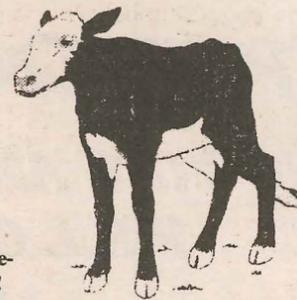
#### Southwestern Region

Cadiz - Little River Assn. Office  
Hopkinsville - Christian County Assn. Office  
Mayfield - First Baptist Church  
Murray - First Baptist Church  
Paducah - West Union Assn. Office  
Princeton - Caldwell/Lyon Assn. Office

NOTE: Due to health regulations, we cannot accept home-canned food or dented cans. Please pack in sturdy boxes!

#### Western Region

Central City - First Baptist Church  
Hartford - Ohio County Assn. Office  
Hawesville - Hawesville Baptist Church  
Henderson - Green Valley Assn. Office  
Lewisport - Lewisport Baptist Church  
Madisonville - Little Bethel Assn. Office  
Owensboro - Daviess-McClearn Assn. Office  
Sturgis - Ohio Valley Assn. Office



For more information call: **1-800-456-1386**

**Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children**



## Jerusalem celebrates 3,000 years, but with conflict

JERUSALEM (RNS)—It began Sept. 4 with a bang of fireworks and political controversy and will end Jan. 7, 1997, with a joint concert by the Jerusalem and the Bavarian Radio Symphony orchestras.

It is the Israeli-sponsored "Jerusalem 3000" celebration of three millennia since the ancient biblical King David made the hilltop fortress his capital city.

During more than a year of music and theater performances, art shows, parades, fireworks and culinary exhibitions, Jerusalem will celebrate its ancient past. For posterity's sake, hundreds of acres of long-neglected archaeological ruins in and around the site of the original Davidic-era city, which sits just outside of the medieval Old City walls, are being elegantly restored and landscaped.

On a more mundane level, the city can expect a deluge of Jerusalem 3000 souvenir paraphernalia from T-shirts to postcards. Tourists and residents can also look forward to a modern-day plague of perpetual traffic jams, as thousands of guests pour into the city.

Still, the expansive program, which is hoped to draw tens of thousands of tourists and Christian pil-

grims from around the world, is being boycotted by Palestinians, the broader Islamic world and the European Community, who regard the government-sponsored anniversary celebrations as an attempt to bolster present-day Israeli political claims to exclusive sovereignty in the city.

Although Jerusalem's right-wing Mayor Ehud Olmert has officially denied that the event has any political connotations, his repeated assertions that Israel has exclusive rights to Jerusalem have nonetheless cast a nationalistic tint on the festivities.

"These celebrations were not intended as an historical festival. They were intended as a national demonstration. The moral: Jerusalem is ours. Only ours," observed political critic Tom Segev in the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz just after the European Community announced its boycott in August.

Palestinian political and Islamic leaders, likewise, have tended to claim Jerusalem's history almost exclusively for themselves.

"Jerusalem is an Arab city," stated PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser on religious affairs, Abdel Salah Abu Shakhaiden, at a first-ever Jewish-Muslim-Christian dialogue in late

August.

Jerusalem 3000's international coordinator, Zvi Raviv, meanwhile, said the organizing committee tried to attract Islamic artists to participate in the program, but the artists refused.

"Nobody is going to deny the existence of Islam in Jerusalem in the past 1,300 years," Raviv said. "But we cannot erase the Judaism out of 3,000 years of history. The Christians also were here for 2,000 years. The claim of Muslims, who have been here for 1,300 years, to a monopoly on the city is something I don't believe we can accept."

Christian tradition in the city is well represented, however—much to the consternation of ultra-orthodox Jewish groups. The opening week of activities featured international performances of Beethoven's opera "Fidelio" and his oratorio "Christ on the Mount of Olives" by the Berlin National Opera.

Perhaps the most enduring mark to be left by the Jerusalem 3000 celebration will not be the cultural events but the archaeological restorations.

A new archaeological park being developed by a team of Israeli architects will attract tourists to the long-neglected ruins of the ancient city of

David, where the biblical king first built his city, which sits just below the Herodian and Ottoman-era walls of the present-day Old City.

New walking paths will be created in the garbage-strewn Kidron Valley, along the route Jesus is believed to have traveled after his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane prior to his crucifixion. The clean-up and restoration project will extend southward below the Old City walls to the Hinnom Valley (the ancient Gehennom, where idol-worshippers supposedly practiced child sacrifice) and Gihon Spring and Siloam Pool, the water sources beneath the biblical Temple Mount.

Still, even the archaeological restorations are wrought with a nationalistic controversy. Despite the rich Islamic ruins that are also to be incorporated in the tourist project, Palestinians tend to see the park as a predominantly Jewish restoration of history.

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### Religious leaders speak on Jerusalem

AMMAN, Jordan (ABP)—Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders gathered recently to issue statements on the importance of Jerusalem to their religious groups, urging adherents to move beyond "exclusivist" claims to the city claimed as holy by the world's three monotheistic faiths.

The statements from religious leaders who live in the Middle East were released by Jordan's Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies.

Rabbi David Rosen, the Jerusalem director of interfaith relations for the Anti-Defamation League, said the site of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem was "the only real holy site for Judaism." Pious Jews around the world face Jerusalem three times a day when they pray.

Muslims believe the Day of Judgment will occur in Jerusalem, which they call "Al Quds," literally "the Holiness." For the Prophet Mohammed, Jerusalem was the first "Qiblah," or direction for prayer, before Mecca became the center of Islamic faith.

Jerusalem is of vital importance to Christians as the scene of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus and the site of the birth of the church.

1845  
A Time to Remember  
1995  
Southern Baptists

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presents the

### Heritage Day Choir Festival

featuring Choirs from

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First Baptist Church, Richmond KY  
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Campbellsville Baptist Church  
Tuesday, September 19, 1995  
7:30 p.m.  
(502) 789-5216



### Celebrating 175th Anniversary Greensburg Baptist Church

1820-1995  
Greensburg, Kentucky

Greensburg Baptist Church extends a special invitation to all Southern Baptists across Kentucky to celebrate 175 years of ministry.

Celebrate with a fellowship on Saturday night, September 30, at 6:30 P.M. and Sunday, October 1, at the 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. C.S.T. services.

Five former pastors and family members will attend this special occasion.

Greensburg Baptist Church is noted across the state of Kentucky for its great mission emphasis as it has sponsored two missions in Russell Creek Association and been a founder of foreign mission work since 1813.

In 1813 its first pastor, Rev. Isaac Hodgen, collected a foreign missions offering for the Baptist Triennial Convention which Rev. Luther Rice received while speaking to the Russell Creek Association in September 1815 at Sand Lick Baptist Church.

A special program and history of the church is being compiled for those who attend this very special event.

Pastor Rev. Ty Clenny, staff and membership invite you to celebrate.

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist Convention partnerships with Baptists in Russia, Utah/Idaho and Boston:

■ The Kentucky construction team in Vyborg, Russia, through Sept. 20.

■ The Kentucky women's work team going to Novosibirsk, Russia, Sept. 26-Oct. 11.

■ The Christmas gift project for Russian children.

■ Churches and individuals planning projects for the 1996 Boston partnership.

■ The staff and members of the Greater Boston Baptist Association as they plan their upcoming October annual meeting.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BEDFORD**—Poplar Ridge Church called **Tonya Vickery** as minister of education and outreach.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church called **Ray England**, former missionary to the Philippines, as minister of education.

Meadowview Church ordained **Billy Reese, David Cable** and **Harold Mills** as deacons Aug. 8.

■ **CLAY CITY**—Clay City Church will ordain **Cecil Davis** and **John Mink** as deacons Sept. 17.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will ordain **Tim Chilton** and **Amy Maddox** as deacons Sept. 17.

■ **DEMOSSVILLE**—Unity Church called **Mitchell Ash** as pastor Aug.

20. He previously served on the staff at Greenview Church in Florence.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—Mount Zion Church celebrated homecoming Aug. 27.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—**Robert L. Gray III** resigned as pastor at Cardinal Creek Church Aug. 29.

■ **IRVINE**—Beech Grove Church ordained **Lloyd Shephard** as deacon. **Charles Babb** was installed as deacon.

■ **LONDON**—Lick Fork Missionary Church celebrated homecoming Sept. 10.

**Dennis Borden** resigned as pastor of Pine Grove Church.

Robinson Creek Church celebrat-

## Pachecos appointed home missionaries

**ATLANTA**—Jesus and Marcela Pacheco have been appointed missionary associates by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Pacheco, 39, serves as an associate catalytic missionary and church starter among Hispanic people. He has been a mission pastor in Shelbyville since last year, and will continue that work, while expanding it in Shelby County, Henry County and surrounding counties.

Mrs. Pacheco will serve in family and church ministries.



Jesus and Marcela Pacheco

The Pachecos, both of Caracas, Venezuela, have four children: Johana, 16; Arelis, 13; Jose, 9; and Alex, 3.

## Just wanted to say "Thank you"

It was indeed a pleasant surprise Friday after school, when one of my senior boys walked into my office. Tim (not his real name) said he wanted to thank me for "being allowed to attend Oneida." He said he has had a "complete change in his attitude about life."

Tim came to us in March. He is from Kentucky and had been having a difficult time at home. Tim did not have a history of problems, but was experiencing real emotional problems over the divorce of his parents.

While divorce is common in our society today, I hope we never think that children accept it as common. For most young people, seeing their parents divorce and go their separate ways is still a very traumatic situation. Even though Tim was a junior in high school, his parents' separating was a very emotional experience.

From elementary to middle school and then into high school, Tim had struggled academically. Prior to coming to Oneida in March, his high school report card showed a total of 23 F's and 13 D's.

Tim did not waste any time. His fourth quarter grades here show one A, two B's and three C's—just making the honor roll. His summer school grade was a high B average.

For varying reasons, before coming to Oneida Tim had not been able to focus on schoolwork. Because he wants to go to college, Tim is working to keep up his grades. His grade-point average will not be very high with all of the D's and F's he had before he came to Oneida.

Tim said he also appreciates the many opportunities he has to be involved here. He is an avid baseball player and also likes basketball. He is on the yearbook staff and is enjoying his journalism

class. He stated that this was the busiest year he could ever remember, and he was having a hard time getting everything into his schedule. Historically, the young people who are the happiest and most successful at Oneida are those with hectic schedules. A common problem with many of our students is trying to fit all of their activities into a 24-hour day.

There are many reasons I could give for Tim's turn-around. We have always felt that the structure and discipline we provide is a great asset to all of our young people. Some see the discipline as a threat while others appreciate having well-defined guidelines. Having an established bedtime, daily chores, required evening study hall and finding out that "no" means "no" is what many young people need.

While many Christian schools have a policy of not accepting students who are not Christians, that has never been part of our admissions policy. Tim is a good example of why we do not have such a policy. Tim had been here for barely a month when he accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. What a thrill it was to see him baptized May 3, with 40 other students.

Tim stated that he was experiencing a wonderful relationship with Christ. Knowing how God was working in his life was gratifying. He does not know what is in store, but has a real peace about it, knowing God will direct.

Normally when someone comes into my office after school it is about a complaint or problem. Thanks, Tim, for making my day! Thank you Kentucky Baptists for helping us share Christ with Tim and over 500 other students.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

ed homecoming Sept. 10.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—South Jefferson Church celebrated its 73rd anniversary Sept. 10. **Jim Mousie**, associate pastor of Highlawn Church in Huntington, W.Va. was guest speaker. **Tim Galyon**, former minister of music, led the music. Greg Burton is pastor.

■ **MILTON**—Milton Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary Oct. 22 in recently remodeled facilities.

■ **PADUCAH**—Tony Whitfield has been called as minister of music at Immanuel Church, not First Church, as previously reported.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Little

Flock Church will offer its third annual "Shepherding Seminars" Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event features a variety of training sessions for starting and maintaining ministry programs such as Mother's Day Out, drama, praise bands and worship teams. Keynote speaker is **Thom Rainer** of Southern Seminary.

■ **WESTPORT**—Westport Church ordained Minister of Music **John Robert Orr** to the gospel ministry.

■ **WHITESBURG**—Colson Mission celebrated homecoming Sept. 10.

First Church called **Tony Brown** as pastor. Brown will begin his new ministry Sept. 3.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** 3.5-ton G.E. heat pump, A/C works only—no heat. Approximately 10 years old. Also, 3 brand-new urinals. Call Danny Perkins, Calvary Christian Center (502) 538-6994, P.O. Box 416, Mt. Washington, KY 40047.

**WANTED:** 1975-edition Baptist hymnals. First Baptist Church, Irvine, KY. Call Bro. Sherl Thomas, (606) 723-4573 or 723-2658.

**SEEKING:** Cardinal Creek Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister. Interested applicants should send resumés to: 618 Westport Rd., Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Interested applicants may call (502) 737-4182 for more information.

**WANTED:** Part-time youth pastor. If interested, send resumé to: Anchor Church, SBC, 3126 Riggs Ave., Erlanger, KY 41018 Attn: Pastor.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for exciting, fast-growing, mid-sized church. Resumés or calls should be addressed to: FBC, P.O. Box 339, Belfry, KY 41514; (606) 353-4645.

**SEEKING:** Part-time song leader; Sunday services and adult choir. Contact Irvington Baptist Church, Box 371, Irvington, KY 40146; phone (502) 547-4705.

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

**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.

## The Rev. "Doctor" Trout

Donald Trout and his friends prayed he would be there when his wife, Penny, gave birth to their third child. "Lo and behold, God answered—with style," Trout said.

With Penny, 23, due to give birth any day, the light contractions in the wee hours of Saturday morning weren't completely unexpected. She kept herself busy while her family slept, doing some laundry and preparing to teach Sunday school the next day.

Donald, 23, a machinist at McKee Tool, and their two sons, Seth and Xavier, were soon up and about. Penny decided to lie down on the couch and get some rest. At 7:45 a.m. a contraction hit. With Penny yelling, 4-year-old Seth woke up Donald, who had fallen asleep in front

of the television. Donald scurried about to get the boys ready to leave at his parents' house enroute to the hospital.

Meanwhile, Donald also had called 911. He was trying to talk to the dispatcher while Penny was telling him the baby's coming—and she meant the baby is coming. Once he realized what he was going to have to do, he told Seth to get a clean towel. He returned with a small wash cloth.

Seth stood at the end of the

couch and Xavier beside his mom. Penny said she was worried the boys might be upset by the delivery, but she and Donald were unable to get them to leave the room.

Putting to use what he learned on the television show "Rescue 911," Donald, prepared to deliver their baby. "It wasn't like a delivery. It was more like a catch," Donald said.

The birth went off without a hitch. With the infant in his hands, Donald looked at his wife and said, "We have a girl."

Penny and Paige Constance were taken to the hospital, examined, and released Saturday afternoon—both in fine condition. The experience apparently didn't bother Seth either. Coming back from church

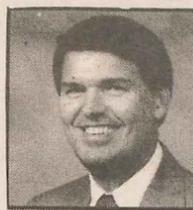
Sunday, he told his dad he thinks they should have another baby.

At church, they were calling Donald "doctor." Not too far in the future, you can call him "pastor." Chances are he will have a little something extra to share in a service about the miracle of birth.

(Thanks to staff writer Dwight Crum, Wilmington, Ohio, News-Journal.)

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# PEOPLE

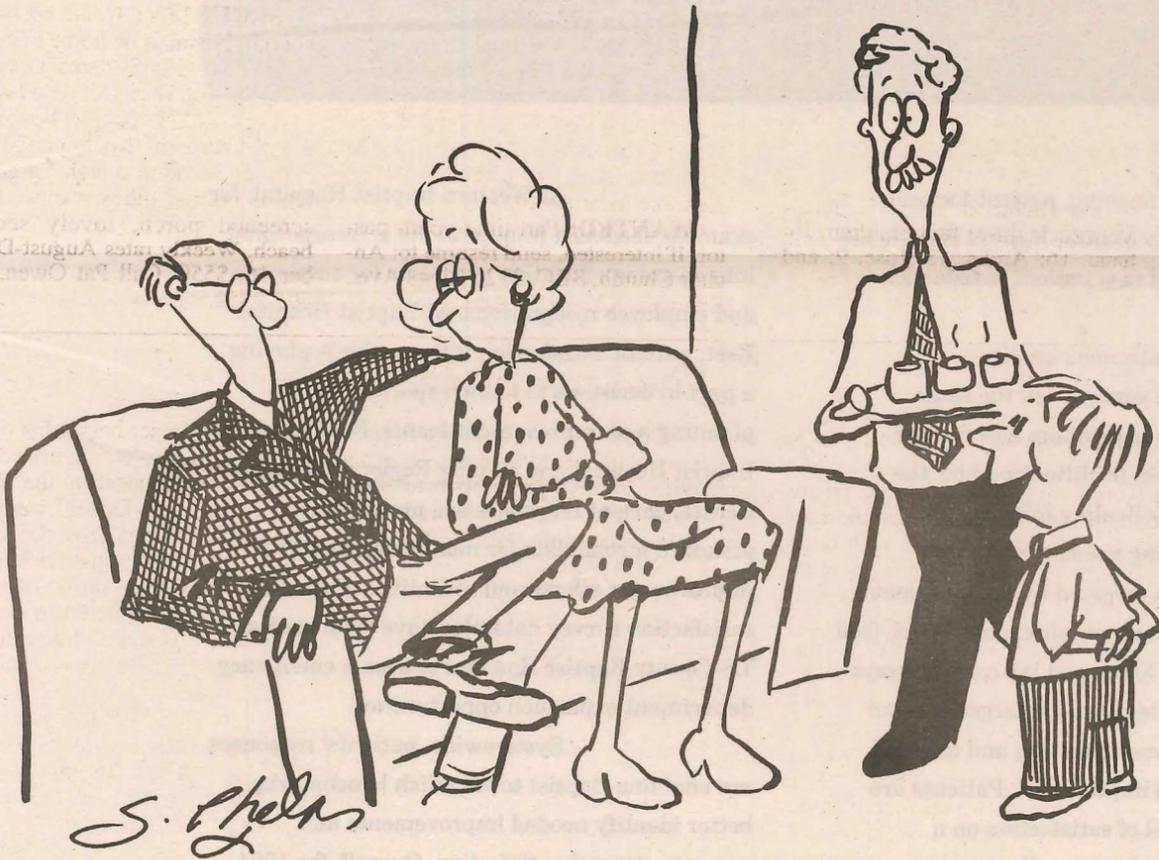
## The pastor's life



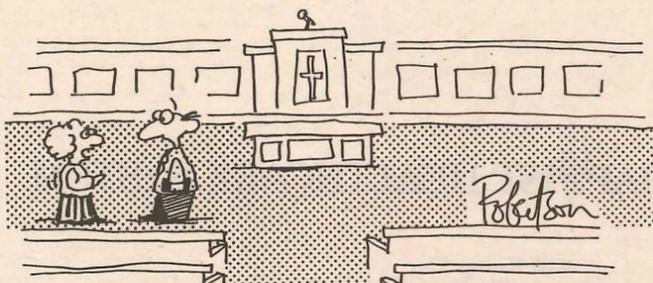
"SO PASTOR PHELPS, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCING BURNOUT?"



"PASTOR TIM, OUR SON IS SNORTING COKE, LIVING WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND, RUNNING WITH A MOTORCYCLE GANG & PRACTICING WITCHCRAFT. WE'D LIKE YOU TO APPROACH HIM, BUT PLEASE DON'T MENTION THAT WE TALKED."



"Daddy said at least this Sunday you won't be having 'Roast Preacher' for dinner."



"REV. WELLS, REMEMBER NEXT WEEK IS OUR PASTOR APPRECIATION DINNER. TELL YOUR WIFE WE HAVE HER DOWN FOR A MEAT, A DESSERT, A GALLON OF TEA AND A BAG OF ROLLS."



"WELL HONEY, AT LEAST I GOT FIVE SHUT-INS VISITED WHILE PROCRASTINATING ON MY SERMON."

## *Improving quality and continuity of care from the patient's perspective*



In an ongoing, patient-focused effort to improve quality of care, Baptist Healthcare implemented a series of new patient satisfaction surveys.

As continuous quality improvement tools, the surveys ask the same series of core questions to examine how former patients perceive Baptist facilities and how the hospitals, through their healing ministry, can better serve the changing needs of patients.

Areas targeted by the inpatient surveys include admitting, nursing, physicians, food service, housekeeping, X-ray and lab care. Surveys directed toward outpatients and emergency room patients focus on treatment, testing and hospital staff, as well as overall impressions. Patients are asked to rate their level of satisfaction on a five-point scale ranging from excellent to poor.

Weekly mailings of approximately 3,000 surveys are producing department-specific information regarding patient satisfaction — offering managers and front-line caregivers at each Baptist hospital a comprehensive look at continuity of care issues. In addition, information can be isolated to determine the major issues affecting overall patient satisfaction at each facility. And across the system, the information regarding patients' perceptions is being shared with employees and put to work to further enhance the delivery of quality patient care.

At Western Baptist Hospital, for example, feedback from patients is incorporated into on-going education programs for employees and employee recognitions. At Baptist Hospital East, patient satisfaction information is playing a part in decisions to launch specific quality planning and improvement teams. For Central Baptist Hospital and Baptist Regional Medical Center, patient responses are providing a standard mechanism for monitoring quality improvement efforts and initiatives. Patient satisfaction survey data also have been used at Tri-County Baptist Hospital to assess emergency department expansion opportunities.

Systemwide, patients' responses are enabling Baptist to establish benchmarks, better identify needed improvements and measure general satisfaction. Overall, for 1994, the five Baptist hospitals achieved an 83 percent patient satisfaction rate. Such data will be invaluable as Baptist continues to work to meet and exceed patient expectations.

**BAPTIST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

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