



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Organists and pianists called to hands-on ministry

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—They may not preach from behind the pulpit or keep regular office hours, but pianists and organists hold keys to effective worship and minister much like the pastor and other leaders, keyboardists were told recently.

About 90 full-time, part-time and volunteer pianists and organists from Ashland to Paducah attended the statewide Kentucky Baptist Keyboard Ministers' Retreat at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville Sept. 22-23.

The event included a roundtable discussion, topical mini-sessions,

keyboard instructional sessions, worship, music reading sessions and a recital.

"Many times we as church pianists and organists are made to feel that our role is that of a background musician, support staff or 'just the accompanist,'" KBC keyboard consultant Nina Belle Durr explained.

"Maybe it is time for each of us to examine our own perceptions of our

positions. Do we minister, or are we just providing a bit of 'mood music?'"

Durr, pianist at Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, organized the keyboard conference and moderated at a roundtable discussion led by a panel of music ministry teams from four Kentucky Baptist churches. Panelists agreed keyboardists' church work is ministry.

"The organist is a worship leader, and I take that role very seriously," said Jenny Lamb, organist at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville. "Worship is a balance between music and the word."

Lamb emphasized the centrality of music in worship, noting that beginning and ending a service with music creates a circular feeling. "The organist is the person who moves worship along," she said.

"There are points in the service when I'm playing alone that I'm offering worship to God on behalf of the people," Lamb continued. "That's my ministry."

Dan Tilford, organist at Immanuel
□ See Church organists ..., page 6



Mississippi money
Leaders of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are proposing to take complete responsibility for home missions efforts in their state and retain from Cooperative Program funds the amount they normally receive back from the Home Mission Board.
See page 2.

Youth agenda
Youth ministers from across the state met recently in Elizabethtown and agreed to revitalize their cooperative efforts.
See page 3.

Family Forum
Tips for grandparenting at a distance.
See page 4.

Editorial
Every night, 12 million American children go to bed hungry. In a land of plenty, where development of pricey restaurants is a growth industry, 12 million children cannot get enough food to eat.
See page 5.

Gambling gamut
Two Southern Baptist leaders have called on Congress to establish a national commission to study the effects of gambling on society.
See page 8.

Ballard County farmer discovers 'gift of tongues'

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

BALLARD COUNTY—Lynn Gordon didn't need Spanish 101 nor a Berlitz language course to learn Spanish.

He just needed "a vision," a Spanish-English Bible and a few Mexican migrant workers who needed to know about God's love.

Even though the 39-year-old Ballard County farmer never has had a

formal Spanish lesson nor even taken a correspondence course, he converses easily and effectively in Spanish. His wife says he even dreams in Spanish.

And the only explanation he can give is that "God gave me the ability."

The story began five years ago when Gordon first employed Mexican migrant workers on his 580-acre farm. He knew the wages he paid for the few weeks they worked for him

would help them and their families "live pretty well" by Mexican standards for the remainder of the year.

But as he got to know the men, he became concerned about their spiritual conditions too.

"I wanted to help with more than money," he said. "I wanted to give them something lasting."

And so, after what he described as an apostle-Paul-like vision, Gordon started taking some of the workers to Oscar Baptist Church.

At first, "we didn't know what we were doing," he acknowledged.

But with the help of Pastor Marty Brown, West Union Baptist Association Director of Missions Wayne Newby and Tony Hough of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the church soon had a ministry off the ground.

During the first three years, Juan Cavallini from Peru preached and taught Sunday school in Spanish "off and on," with Gordon serving as co-
□ See Farmer discovers ..., page 7



HELPING HANDS Southern Baptist missionary Carolyn Brown (center) queries dozens of Liberians who visit the Southern Baptist-owned compound where she and only eight missionaries remain, due to civil war. Seeking aid, these Liberian mothers, brought their children in wheelbarrows. Since the 1989 outbreak of war, missionaries have distributed about \$1 million in food and medical aid to needy Liberians. More than 150,000 people have died, and half of Liberia's 2.8 million population is displaced. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Two new volumes emphasize women's perspectives on Bible

By Adelle Banks
Religion New Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—One hundred years after suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton came out with her version of the Bible, a host of new Bible commentaries for women is entering the marketplace.

They range from a "The Woman's Study Bible" edited by Dorothy Patterson, whose husband, Paige Patterson, is a prominent conservative in the Southern Baptist Convention, to "The Women's Bible Commentary," published in paperback this spring and representing the perspective of more liberal Christians.

Male writers long have dominated Bible commentaries, but growth in the number of female scholars has led to new commentaries that focus on women's ideas and concerns. These new commentaries represent a spectrum of viewpoints—those of conservatives and liberals, feminists and traditionalists, evangelicals and mainline Protestants, Catholics and Jews. People from various ethnic, academic and geographical backgrounds are commentators.

"Women had not been given a voice in study Bibles, so we wanted to give it to them," said Dorothy Patterson, adjunct lecturer at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and

general editor of "The Woman's Study Bible." This new edition, scheduled to reach stores in October, includes the text of the New King James Version along with annotations, profiles of women in the Bible and notes on topics such as women's ministries, rape, menopause, careers and family.

In a note on the book of Genesis—referring to the description of Eve as Adam's "helper"—Patterson's volume explains that God identified himself as a helper to Israel in other books of the Bible and "no one loses value in humbly assuming the role of helper."

Carol Newsom, associate professor of Old Testament at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, departed from her usual area of technical scholarship on the Dead Sea Scrolls to co-edit the more liberal-minded "The Women's Bible Commentary." Her volume contains explanatory notes on each book of the Bible but no complete Bible text.

Explaining how her commentary differs from traditional ones, Newsom cited Nahum, a book in the Hebrew Bible by an obscure prophet about God's judgment on the ancient Assyrian city of Nineveh. Her volume includes three pages of comments on the verse that reads, "I will lift up your skirts over your face ... and make you a
□ See New volumes on ..., page 9

BAPTISTS

Mississippi to relieve HMB of funding

JACKSON, Miss. (ABP)—The Mississippi Baptist Convention will reallocate about \$250,000 in funding for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for in-state use, if a 1996 budget proposed by the state convention's board is approved.

That is about how much of the proposed \$23.2 million Cooperative Program budget that would normally filter back to Mississippi through joint projects with the Home Mission Board. Those projects are funded 60 percent by the state convention and 40 percent by the HMB.

Next year, Mississippi Baptists will assume full responsibility for missions in their state, said Mississippi Baptist Executive Director Bill Causey. Causey said the change will show a truer accounting of money

contributed and used within the state.

Missions money is currently sent from Mississippi to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville, where it is disbursed to agencies including the Atlanta-based Home Mission Board, which in turn sends a small percentage back to Mississippi.

Robert Upchurch, chairman of the budget committee, noted that the SBC has asked old-line states to fund more of their own ministries in order to allow the national convention to focus missions efforts in areas where Baptists are few.

The reallocation "does not mean any pulling away or any expression of being uncooperative," Upchurch said.

The proposed budget calls for 37

percent of the state's Cooperative Program receipts—\$8.6 million—to be sent to the SBC. Of that, the HMB would receive about \$1.7 million for church-starting and missions efforts in the United States.

The Mississippi convention will retain \$249,530 of the SBC's portion for missions work in the state, Causey said, the approximate amount the HMB presently returns for joint-funding of projects in Mississippi.

"Mississippi is going to take care of Mississippi and will contribute to the HMB for other areas," Causey told the Mississippi board.

The executive board adopted the 1996 budget unanimously Aug. 29. It will be considered again at the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in November.

Atlanta church votes to keep Stanley as pastor

ATLANTA (ABP)—Members of First Baptist Church of Atlanta voted Oct. 1 to retain Charles Stanley as pastor despite the preacher's pending divorce.

In a members-only meeting behind the locked doors of the church's sanctuary, Stanley told about 5,000 people it is not God's will for him to leave.

Stanley said God told him, "You keep doing what I called you to do, where I called you to do it, until I tell you to do something else."

"If God wants to move me, he can move me instantly," he said. "If you want to move me out, you live by it."

Criticism of Stanley has grown recently as efforts to reconcile his 40-year marriage have failed. Stanley and other conservatives believe a divorced man is disqualified from serving as a pastor, and Stanley himself told the congregation Aug. 13 he will step aside if the divorce becomes final. The divorce trial starts Nov. 27.

Stanley, and his wife, Anna, have been separated since 1992, and Anna

Stanley, who filed for divorce, says there is no chance of reconciliation.

Many church members say separation is the same as divorce in God's eyes. The church is seeking to resolve that question, naming a committee to draft a policy on divorce and the torate.

During the Aug. 13 meeting, Stanley agreed to a deacon-approved plan to relinquish administrative duties for an unspecified time. He also took a one-month leave from preaching duties during September.

Sunday School Board earnings projected up

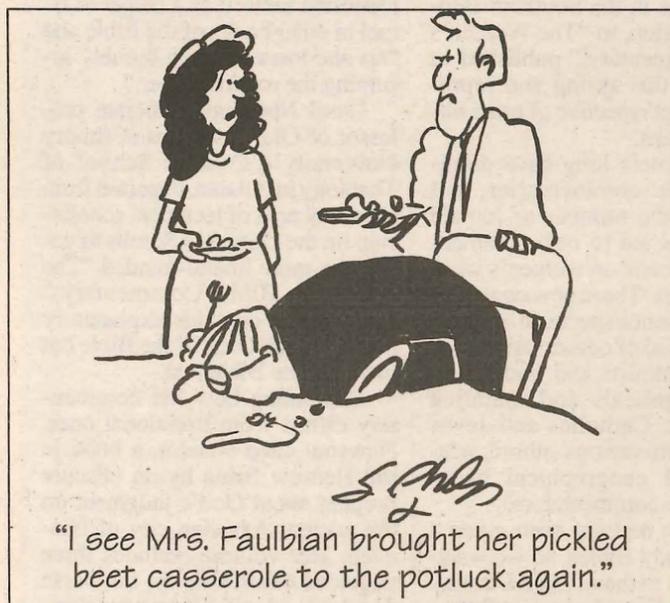
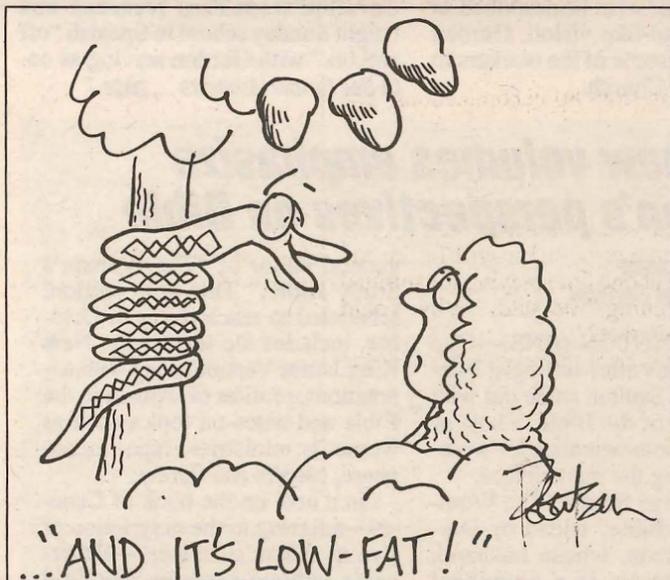
RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Early projections suggest the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board took in \$1 million more than it spent in the last fiscal year, a dramatic improvement over the previous year's \$8.2 million loss.

President Jimmy Draper told trustees during their Sept. 25-27 meeting that the board had an estimated \$244.5 million in income last year, more than \$1 million over budget and almost \$20 million ahead of last year's income.

"As of Sept. 30, our capital debt will be down to \$8.4 million," Draper said.

Final year-end totals will be available in early November.

"The most important reason for these improved results is that our employees have made a supreme effort, not only in cutting costs and living within the budget but also in improving productivity, listening to the wants and needs of churches and individuals that buy our materials and services, improving existing products, developing creative new resources and solving problems," Draper said. "It has been a team effort all across the board."



BAPTIST BITS

■ **Board gives to Draper chair.** Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board authorized a gift of \$200,000 to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for the James T. Draper Jr. Chair of Pastoral Ministries. Established in 1994, the Draper chair will be activated when designated endowment funds reach \$1 million. Draper currently is president of the Sunday School Board and previously served as trustee chairman at Southwestern.

■ **Literature prices to increase.** Due to rising paper costs that have outpaced inflation, the price of dated literature produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board will increase an average of 7 percent beginning with the April-May-June 1996 issues, according to Gene Mims, vice president of the board's church growth group. Mims noted paper pulp prices have increased 66.9 percent from June 1994 to June 1995.

■ **Moody resigns.** Jess Moody resigned as pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch, Calif., Sept. 15. Moody, 70, had been pastor of the congregation, formerly known as First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, for 19 years. Moody was president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in the mid-1960s, was the first president of Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla., and was a nominee for Southern Baptist Convention president in 1991.

■ **Chaplains needed.** The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's chaplaincy division reports that the Federal Bureau of Prisons has a large number of openings for chaplains. Basic qualifications include a bachelor's degree from an accredited college, a master of divinity degree from an accredited theological seminary, four units of CPE and two years of ministry experience. Candidates under age 37 are preferred. For information, contact Albert Holmes or Huey Perry at the HMB, 4200 North Point Pkwy., Alpharetta, Ga. 30202-4174, (770) 410-6489.

■ **Missionary dies in crash.** Glenda Middleton, 56, a Southern Baptist missionary to Lesotho, died in a Sept. 22 automobile accident in South Africa. Middleton was driving alone, following her husband to a prayer retreat when she lost control of her four-wheel-drive vehicle.

■ **World Changers expanding.** The popular World Changers youth missions experience will expand next summer to include a "world tour." The new track will expose youth in grades seven through 12 to urban ministry.

■ **CLC to honor Kirk.** Trustees of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission voted to give the agency's 1996 Distinguished Service Award to Jerry Kirk, founder and president of the National Coalition Against Pornography.

■ **Faculty speaks on Carver move.** The faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a statement Sept. 27 commending the administration and trustees in their actions to resolve the future of the Carver School of Church Social Work, but also lamenting the loss of the school. Seminary trustees will vote in October on a proposal to transfer the Carver School to Samford University. The amendment passed after a proposed amendment to delete references to all parties involved and merely commend the Carver School to Samford failed by a narrow margin.

■ **David Mein dies.** David Mein, who grew up in Brazil and served 40 years as a Southern Baptist missionary there, died after a long illness Sept. 18 in Valdosta, Ga. He was 75. Mein was a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. One of his daughters, Margaret Graves, lives in Louisville.

■ **Sloan affirms Baptist roots.** New President Robert Sloan was inaugurated at Baylor University Sept. 15, with an emphasis on the school's Christian and Baptist roots. Despite several years of tension between the school and the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Sloan and Texas Baptist officials affirmed each other. "We will be the finest Christian institution of higher education on this planet," Sloan told the 4,000 people in attendance.

Youth ministry does make a difference, Ross says

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

ELIZABETHTOWN—Teenagers living in a dying culture do not have a chance of survival without godly, caring, sacrificing adults to stand with them, Richard Ross told a recent gathering of 70 Kentucky Baptist youth workers.

Ross, youth specialist for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, is best known for creating the highly successful "True Love Waits" program for promoting sexual abstinence among teenagers. He met with youth leaders from across the state Sept. 21 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Ross assured the full-time, part-time and volunteer Kentucky youth workers their long hours and sometimes thankless work matters for eternity.

"When you are volunteer and you come to those moments that are extremely difficult in youth ministry, ... it really does make you re-examine, 'Do I really want to do this anymore?'" Ross said.

"Some days you come to an end of a Sunday, and while you're locking up the building after everyone else goes home, you start thinking, 'No one really cares what happens to the youth in this church.' You feel like you're the only one carrying the burden for the youth."

Ross's experience as a volunteer youth minister at Tulip Grove Baptist Church near Nashville gives him an insider's perspective.

"I've been volunteer youth minister at my church for 11 years now," he said. "It is a constant source of joy to me most of the time. I continue to feel I would dry up and blow away without it."

Still, even colleagues at the Sunday School Board make jokes about youth work, Ross said. "They'll say 'How are your new punch recipes going, Ross?' But that doesn't bother me, because I know that what I'm doing and what you're doing matters."

"Youth ministry matters," Ross insisted. "The method, the vehicles seem a little frivolous sometimes, because we do squirt a lot of shaving cream and serve a lot of punch. But because of you, some of those youth will choose different mates than they otherwise would have. Some will become church leaders. ... I say it's worth it."

"You may be working more sacrificially, and for longer hours and in poorer working conditions—but with much greater satisfaction," he said.

"We're going to die real well as far as peace of mind goes," he said.

One important reason to remain committed to youth ministry is that Christians are living during a crucial, pivotal time in North American history, Ross said.

"There are two possible futures for us," he said. "Either we will continue this trend toward cultural chaos and anarchy, or there will be a sweeping revival and awakening that would change the structures of our culture forever."

Numerous events give Ross hope that God will send a spiritual awakening, he said:

■ **Pole day.** About 3 million students prayed around their school flag poles from Kentucky to Moscow's Red Square during the most recent "See You at the Pole" emphasis. Students met to pray for their schools, publicly identifying with their faith.

■ **Promise Keepers.** The Promise Keepers men's movement offers a hint of revival, Ross said.

■ **"True Love Waits."** Ross said he used to view "True Love Waits" as an end in itself—that God would be pleased, and teenagers would live safe, morally upright lives. But now, he said, he believes God is preparing young people to be at the forefront of revivals and spiritual awakening.

"In the past, young people of college age have been at the forefront of revivals," he said. "I think God's calling out several hundred thousand young people, cleaning them up morally, getting them prepared" to lead the spiritual awakening.

Ross called on youth ministers to

Kentucky youth ministers organizing

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

ELIZABETHTOWN—A new support group shaping up for Kentucky youth leaders may help them avoid burnout, replenish a shortage of ideas and overcome isolation in their work.

Nearly 70 youth leaders met at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown Sept. 21 to hear Southern Baptist youth specialist Richard Ross and discuss restarting a statewide ministry group, which has been dormant for about three years.

Several youth ministers across the state voiced a need to "formalize, organize and rejuvenate" the support group, explained Steve Branch, minister to students at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

"You need that to be fed and to be all you can be for the young people," he said.

Monty Carter, Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism associate and organizer of the September conference, said he has sensed a yearning among youth leaders to get together for sharing concerns, trading ideas and developing camaraderie.

The group would function much like the Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association and the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference— independent organizations which elect their own officers, charge annual fees and hold special-interest conferences and workshops.

But the group is not intended to cater only to

professional, paid ministers, Carter emphasized.

"I was real encouraged that they broadened the tent to include anyone involved in youth ministry," he said. "Their desire is not as much to be a professional group as to be a resource and networking group."

Branch led in appointing a study group to meet prior to the KBC annual meeting and deal with preliminary issues. It will address:

■ Creating a charter, constitution and bylaws.
■ Nominating a slate of officers.
■ Planning, organizing and publicizing the program for Nov. 13.

■ Deciding which department the group will work through for Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The study group will report to the first official gathering of the new fellowship on Monday, Nov. 13, from 1-5 p.m., in the Ohio Room at the Executive Inn in Owensboro. Anyone in Kentucky Baptist churches who works with youth is invited to join.

Once organized, the group would serve several purposes:

■ Provide opportunities for networking and fellowship.
■ Provide opportunities for professional development—addressing current issues, looking ahead in ministry.

■ Facilitate idea-sharing and mutual assistance among youth ministries.

■ Create supportive youth programming in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

consider the possibility that teens under their care could be called out by God to initiate spiritual awakening.

■ **Campus club movement.** Christian clubs on high school campuses are one of the finest expressions of missionary zeal, Ross said.

■ **Prayer and confession.** Confession—especially the recent tide brought in by Henry Blackaby and others—is a strong sign of revival, Ross insisted.

■ **Atlanta 96.** A national, interdenominational conference of youth leaders slated for 1996 promises to bring together about 15,000 youth

leaders from 80 denominations. The focus during Atlanta 96 will be on prayer and spiritual awakening, Ross said.

"Fifteen thousand or more evangelical youth ministers, and a great percentage of them will be in one room at one time praying for spiritual awakening," he said. "Why would God do that?"

Ross said he believes the answer is that God is working to bring about a revival and spiritual awakening.

"You can be there when the fire falls, or you can read about it in the papers," he said.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Volunteers needed.** Kentucky Brotherhood is putting together a 12-member team of construction volunteers to do repair work on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten Nov. 11-25. Cost for the trip is about \$1,000, including roundtrip airfare. For details, call the Brotherhood office at (502) 245-4101.

■ **Barry lectures set.** Clear Creek Baptist Bible College will offer its third annual Barry Lectures Oct. 2-5, with James Barry and Michael Dudit as speakers. Barry is an author and retired pastor of churches in Kentucky and West Virginia. Dudit directs the National Conference on Preaching and is editor of Preaching magazine.

■ **Campbellville homecoming.** "Our Special Place—Campbellville College" is the theme for Campbellville College's

homecoming Oct. 13-14. Guest speaker for the annual alumni banquet will be Kentucky humorist Carl Hurley. For information on homecoming week activities, call (502) 789-5216.

■ **Colleges honored.** All three liberal arts colleges affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention have been named to the 1995 Templeton Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges. Campbellville College, Cumberland College and Georgetown College are among 124 institutions nationwide selected for the honor. Other Kentucky colleges selected include Centre and Transylvania.

■ **Right to Life convention.** Kentucky Right to Life will hold its annual convention Nov. 11 at the Galt House East in Louisville. Keynote speakers will be Olivia

Gans, director of American Victims of Abortion; Carl Long, director of the National Right to Life Political Action Committee; Rita Marker, executive director of the International Anti-euthanasia Task Force; and Randall O'Bannon, director of research and education on the RU-486 pill for the National Right to Life Committee. For information, call (502) 895-5959.

■ **Sanders named coach of year.** Campbellville College baseball coach Beauford Sanders has been named ABCA/Diamond Sports Co. NAIA Mid-South Region Coach of the Year. Sanders will receive the award in early January 1996.

■ **Georgetown poet gets fellowship.** Matt Collinsworth, a 1993 graduate of Georgetown College, has won the 1995 Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship and a cash

award of \$15,000 with writings reflecting life in his native Eastern Kentucky.

■ **Lepper certified.** John Lepper, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department, has been granted member associate status in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

■ **Healthcare Foundation names members.** Five new members have been named to the board of Baptist Healthcare Foundation. They are Pat Geveden of Wickliffe, Barbara Kingsley of Lexington, Tom Dowling of Corbin, George Pierce of Lexington and Steve Hadden of Crestwood. The Foundation's board also recently elected officers: Doyle Baker of Lexington, chairman; Jan Shockley of Louisville, vice chair; and Bill Thurman of Lexington, treasurer.

OPINION

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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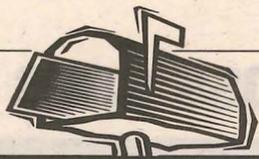
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BAPTIST FORUM

Letter lacked love

I sadly noted the letter from Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin to pastors and Woman's Missionary Union directors (WR, Sept. 5) lacked love and grace.

It is ironic that the goals of the FMB and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship are so closely related and we still cannot work together. For a long time, I wanted to close my eyes to what was happening in the Southern Baptist Convention, but in recent years I could not.

I agree with a friend who said the Fellowship to preserve her sanity! The Fellowship has not siphoned any of my gifts that would have gone to the Lottie Moon or An-

nie Armstrong offerings. With God's help, I can make up my own mind as to where my mission offerings should go.

I'm afraid Dr. Rankin's letter had some inaccuracies, and that bothers me. His statement that over 4,000 missionaries are confused about the "WMU's unqualified support" is a slight exaggeration, to say the least. I have noted the "new" SBC leaders are given to inaccuracies regarding the goals of the Fellowship and other things.

The Fellowship's smallness does not bother me a bit. As foreign missionaries, we were never discouraged when we were just a speck in the middle of Buddhism, Catholicism and all the other "isms." We tried to witness one-by-one to those who would listen and were thankful for small successes.

WMU is dear to my heart, and they should minister to all who will "listen."

*Florence Alice Baird Young
Williamsburg*

Learn from others

"Anyone can learn from his own mistakes; wise is the person who can learn from the mistakes of others."

I have asked several people in marriage counseling to complete this sentence: "If I were doing it over, I would not ..." Here are the top answers.

■ **Marry too young.** Marriage is

for the mature. Many have told me they were too immature to enter a relationship as demanding as marriage.

■ **Marry a stranger.** "I was in love with love," is what many tell me. "I thought I knew my prospective mate, but I was only fooling myself."

■ **Be promiscuous before marriage.** Many have told me they carried a lot of guilt, confusion, shame, bitterness and disillusionment, as well as a low self-image, into marriage. Because of their promiscuous behavior before marriage, they struggle with trusting

their mate and being trustworthy. It is reported that those who engage in premarital sexual relations increase their odds for divorce by 71 percent. True love waits.

■ **Marry an unbeliever.** Many have told me they did not think this was so important, but they since have changed their minds. The older they get, the more responsibilities they

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

have, the more problems and challenges they face, the more they need faith and a loving church. Worshiping, praying and ministering alone are not as enjoyable and fulfilling as they could and should be. As a matter of fact, differences in spiritual matters become a major source of conflict.

Do you need to learn from others' mistakes? Remember, this is true wisdom.

*Bob Browning, pastor
First Baptist Church
Somerset*

What's a contact?

The question was asked during our Sunday school workers' meeting this past Sunday, "What is a contact?"

Someone said, "Something you wear in your eye to make you see better." We all laughed. But later I realized a contact does help you see better; it helps you see people we want to reach in Sunday school and church.

Our Sunday school workers' meeting emphasized making contacts—inviting people to a class—for the purpose of increasing attendance. We don't just want bigger numbers, but we want more people in heaven waiting in line with us to thank God for forgiveness. One of the best ways to do that is Sunday school.

One other point that came out of our meeting was that Sunday school should be the primary tool of ministry for the church. How true that is. So let's make a commitment to Sunday school. Be there next week.

*Kevin A. Purcell
Falmouth*

Motel lesson

A recent motel stay reminded me of the ways we sometimes treat God. Most motel rooms have doorhangers with "Do Not Disturb" on one side and "Maid Service Needed" on the other. When placed on the doorknob, we expect the appropriate response. Here is my thought:

When things are going well, we do not sense our need for God.

We may not hang out the sign requesting that God not disturb us, but we do not invite his presence or seek his guidance.

On the other hand, when the need arises, we want God's service readily available to clean up the mess we've made of our lives.

And if God should delay, as maids sometimes do, then we become distressed or even angry.

What do you think?

*Greg Earwood, pastor
Faith Baptist Church
Georgetown*

A pastor's joy

Blessed are those within a congregation who recognize how a kind word of encouragement can "make the day" of a pastor. Blessed are they in any group who administer the balm of encouragement.

In the life and ministry of a pastor, there are also events which bring joy to a pastor's heart. Foremost among such events are (1) playing a part in leading a person to faith in Christ and (2) performing the service of baptism.

There is another event which, on occasion, not only brings joy to the pastor but the entire participating congregation. Such an event is when a "revival meeting" turns into a spiritual movement of God.

These "events" happen more often than I hear about, but I want to share one such recent event.

Felix Snipes, a widely known Christian magician, was invited by Valley Station Baptist Church to give leadership in a revival meeting.

Snipes is an ordained minister from Atlanta whose giftedness was affirmed by being elected president of Christian Magicians International.

I called Don Zuberer, pastor of Valley Station and friend from Georgetown College days, to ask him about what I had heard.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

Don confirmed that a powerful movement of God's spirit took place during that week. Notable among the visible results:

■ 30 professions of faith.

■ Over 40 rededications.

■ 130-plus persons made a commitment to bear their witness to a specific person they were

asked to bring to mind. A special mailout to every person in the church's ZIP code area resulted in over 100 visitors to the church. A significant number of those visitors have continued to attend one or both of the Sunday services.

Snipes' messages were built around his magical feats; his "sermons" were brief and targeted prima-



FAMILY FORUM

Grandparenting from a distance

By John Lepper

At a recent grandparenting workshop, one grandparent voiced the feelings of many grandparents as he shared his frustrations about living a great distance from his grandchildren. What's a grandparent to do in such circumstances? How can grandparents fulfill their role in families if their grandchildren live at great distances?

The answer to these questions deserves our best creativity and effort. Bonding with grandchildren takes time and attention. When possible, emotional bonds need to be nurtured from infancy. Time spent at an early age will mean much as the child grows.

Our children's maternal grandmother, now deceased, was a master at developing emotional bonds with our children. Mama J, as she was affectionately called by her grandchildren, spent countless hours involving them in what seemed like trivial games, crafts, activities or projects. Because the child's interest and readiness matched the specially planned activity, the time was far from trivial. These were profoundly meaningful times as she modeled Christian character. She became a primary role model for her grandchildren, even though she lived two states away.

Mama J did all the usual things to compensate for the distance.

She bridged the gap of distance through letters, by remembering the children on special occasions and by telephone calls.

A special time of year was the month she visited during what we came to call "the season of recitals." This was an annual tradition and came about quite by chance. Toward the end of the school year, it seemed both children were involved in several performances (like choir programs) and recitals. Mama J would visit during this month and share in the joys of each child's performance. That month-long visit provided time to create a sense of closeness which carried over into the remainder of the year when distance separated us.

Even though she is not alive today in a physical sense, her love continues to live in the lives of her grandchildren because she dared to face the challenge of loving them at a distance.

John Lepper is director of the Kentucky Baptist ministry department.

EDITORIALS

Gifts to hunger relief decline despite crying need

Every night, 12 million American children go to bed hungry. They don't dream of another bowl of ice cream. They drift to sleep feeling pangs that tell them their bodies have not received enough nutrients to keep them healthy, much less strong. In a land of plenty, where development of pricey restaurants is a growth industry, 12 million children cannot get enough food to eat.

Their plight mirrors the dire conditions of people around the globe: War victims in Somalia. Refugees in the region once known as Yugoslavia. Famine victims in Ethiopia and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Homeless children in the cities of South America. Rural villagers in the Far East.

Despite the pressing needs, Southern Baptists' giving to hunger relief declined by almost \$1 million last year—from \$7.93 million in 1993 to \$6.96 million in 1994. Kentucky Baptists' contributions to the cause also declined last year. Our hunger gifts totaled \$366,062, a 13.63 percent drop from the previous year. Kentucky ranked ninth in total giving to hunger relief among state conventions affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Our per capita giving—47 cents per member—ranked 14th.

Southern Baptists' response to hunger needs has declined significantly since 1985, when we gave almost \$12 million to alleviate starvation. At least four reasons account for the decline.

First is donor fatigue. Compassionate people are asked to give to one worthy cause after another, and the requests for hunger donations have been persistent for more than a decade. Psychologists say people get burned out from doing good, especially when their prime motivator is guilt.

Second is media neglect. The whole world saw starvation in 1985, when nightly telecasts brought starving Ethiopian children into our living rooms. Lately, the cameras have turned elsewhere, and the need has not been presented consistently and effectively.

Third, and closely related to the second, is distraction. During the past couple of years, our media-directed attention has focused on such issues

as crime in the streets, political battles in Washington and war in Bosnia. We haven't paid close attention to the needs of hungry people across our nation and around the world.

Fourth is self-awareness. Our culture, from the ads on television to the rhetoric of politicians to the messages of movies, has focused almost entirely on personal desires and individual concerns. We live in a society that gives little care for the poor and needy. And whether we like to admit it or not, Christian people feel the influence of those social values. Especially when it comes to parting with money.

In an ideal world, Christians wouldn't get tired of doing good deeds, require the media to tell them which issues are important, allow events to distract them from important issues or care more for their desires than others' needs. But in an ideal world, children wouldn't go hungry. So, we've got to continue to remind ourselves that we have a responsibility to give so others might live.

Throughout the Old Testament, the stories highlight the importance of care for unfortunate, hurting, hungry people. In the New Testament, Jesus specifically said that how people treat the hungry reflects how they treat him. Jesus spent his time healing and feeding the poor and the distressed. His command is to go and do likewise.

Fortunately, Southern Baptists have two excellent channels through which we may provide funds for hunger relief. Both the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board administer hunger-relief ministries. In fact, every cent of every dollar given to either ministry goes directly to provide food for the hungry. All overhead costs are borne by the boards' operating budgets. These are the most cost-efficient, delivery-effective options for feeding hungry people. Our money will make a difference in lives.

This Sunday, Oct. 8, is World Hunger Day. It will be an excellent day to commit ourselves to follow Jesus' example and care for the poor and the hungry. It will be an excellent day to commit ourselves to give offerings to SBC hunger-relief ministries.

Marv Knox

Hunger is a domestic crisis, as well as a global calamity. "Within Your Reach—Hunger in the Homeland," a new video produced by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, is an excellent resource for examining hunger in America and exploring ways churches and their members can feed the hungry among us. It is available for \$19.95 by calling the commission at (615) 244-2495.

When you get behind the wheel, practice what Jesus preached

It is easy to keep the Scriptures in their historical setting and never make a personal application to our lives.

For example, when Jesus gave his great teachings and the apostles wrote their letters to the churches, the automobile was 2,000 years away from even being a thought. But I wish to challenge you to practice what Jesus preached when you "get behind the wheel."

Jesus commanded us to love one another. He also challenged us to do

good to those who offer us evil. Surely we have many opportunities for this in rush-hour traffic. Yet many believers who would never treat another person harshly face-to-face often act terrible when in a vehicle.

Perhaps it is because we lose the humanness of relationships when we are clothed in plastic and steel. Does "turn the other cheek" lose its meaning when we strap on our seat belts?

The Scriptures also call for parents to care for their children. No parent

would intentionally allow their child to get into real danger. But we have all seen small children standing up and running around in a vehicle while their parent is driving. Without that car seat, that little one would be thrown through the windshield or crushed by their parent's weight against the dash.

The Lord called us to be kind to each other. The next time you see someone who has been waiting in a car line for some time, have a little mercy and let them out. Smile and wave to them as a witness of the love

God has placed in your heart.

Practice love, forgiveness and even respect for the authorities God has allowed to be over us. I doubt a sticker that reads, "Meet me in church on Sunday" will mean much if the owner is pulled over for reckless endangerment.

Above all, remember the Golden Rule, to treat others in the same way you yourself would like to be treated.

Happy driving!

Greg Burton, pastor
South Jefferson Baptist Church
Louisville

GUEST EDITORIAL

On the bright side, a trip to the locks or behind locks is a golden opportunity

Life in middle school demands resilience and flexibility.

Like last Friday, when the Teddy Bear Team at Lindsay's school took a field trip. Make that field trips.

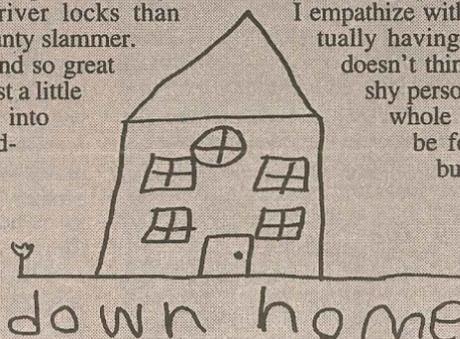
Most of the sixth graders went to the county courthouse and jail. Lockups are terrific places for teaching object lessons. You know, about honesty, punctuality and avoiding people who wear tattoos of the devil on their foreheads.

Problem was, the county clink could only handle field trips of 80 students, and Kammerer Middle School is home to significantly more Teddy Bears than that.

So, Mrs. Eiden's homeroom went to the McAlpin Locks to learn how barges negotiate around the Falls of the Ohio. That

sounded great to me. If I were a middle school kid, I'd rather spend a sunny fall day down at the river locks than locked up in the county slammer.

But it didn't sound so great to Lindsay. She's just a little more than a month into her first year in middle school, and all her Dunn Elementary buddies are in other homerooms. All things being equal, she'd rather spend a sunny fall day in the pokey with her friends than down by the river with kids she barely knows.



I understand how she feels. I'm pretty shy (well, not pretty, but shy) myself, and I empathize with her anxiety about actually having to talk to people she doesn't think she knows. A really shy person would rather spend a whole night behind bars than be forced to climb onto a bus and ask, "Is this seat taken?" to someone who's sat across the homeroom aisle for only five weeks.

"Well, look at the bright side," I told Lindsay after breakfast, as we prepared to head out for school.

That was my job as Lindsay's daddy, to point out the bright side of a hopelessly bleak situation. Parents have been pointing out the bright sides of desperate situations to children for generations, and generations of children have thought they'd rather spend a month in Alcatraz than hear mom or dad point out one more bright side to their miserable existences.

"The bright side is this," I told Lindsay. "You have a golden opportunity to meet some new kids."

"What golden opportunity?" Molly yelled from the den. "I want a golden opportunity." Younger siblings always are jealous of what the older ones get, even if it's misery or a trip "up the river."

Marv Knox

Churches pulling out all stops to recruit organists

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

"The only solution is to specifically recruit and train organists during their high school years."

Don Hustad

A nationwide shortage of church organists has caused some congregations to pull out all the stops in their search to fill the position.

The competition for organists has gotten so stiff that Cicero United Methodist Church in Syracuse, N.Y., resorted to sending 240 letters to other churches looking for names of organists who might be interested.

Baptists in Kentucky and across the Southern Baptist Convention are not exempt from this shortage, according to authorities in the field.

"My sense is just from calls we get at our office that there is definitely a shortage of organists" in the state, said Jim Cordell, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention church music department.

Six years ago, 469 students in music colleges were majoring in organ, according to the National Association of Music Schools. By last year, the number had fallen to 293. Some years, there are no organ majors at Syracuse University, which once had one of the premiere programs in the country, said Kathleen Pardee, a member of the organ faculty and organist at Hendricks Chapel.

Similar trends have been recorded at Baptist colleges and universities, said Clinton Flowers of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department. Baylor University in Waco, Texas, for example, consistently enrolled about 40 organ majors a year for many years. This year the number has dwindled to eight or 10, said Flowers, a graduate of the school.

The scarcity of church organists stems from a combination of factors, Pardee said. For example, church

music demands a high level of skill on the part of the organist, while many churches are unable to pay high salaries. Small churches often can't afford to pay at all.

"It's going on across the country," Pardee said. "It's a big topic of discussion in the field."

Another issue is that many churches are changing their approach to music and turning away from traditional hymns to folk music and even rock bands with guitars, drums and synthesizers. Some churches have replaced live music with pre-recorded music.

Even more popular in evangelical circles is the use of computerized keyboards for traditional or contemporary Christian music in worship, said Don Hustad, senior professor of music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"They are part of the fad of our current generation," Hustad said. "We have a fascination with anything electronic. We are losing a sense of what we call acoustic or natural sounds."

Flowers, children's music materials design editor at the Sunday School Board in Nashville and organist at First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn., said substituting an orchestra for the organ is another trend in many larger Baptist churches.

"It's kind of like handbells was in the mid-60s," he said. "Orchestra is a brand-new attraction. I see that trend continuing for quite some time."

In the past, church organists often were women with children who did

not work outside the home and could make time to practice and attend evening choir rehearsals and church services every Sunday morning. Many volunteered their time to the church or were paid minimal salaries.

"Those women are back to work now," Pardee said. They don't have the time to tie up every weekend playing at church.

"The people who are in it now are there for the love of it," she added.

They're probably not in it for the money, however. Pardee

said it's rare to find a job with a church that pays more than \$10,000 a year, and those positions are generally for a combination organist and choir director.

As churches face the dearth of organists, they are searching for creative ways to cope.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse has a program to train organists, said Sister Laura Bufano, director of the Office of Liturgy.

Begun in 1971 after the Second Vatican Council, the program has hired four organ teachers. People who have keyboard skills are invited to apply for the program, which costs \$300 for 14 weekly half-hour lessons.

"We have a couple of high school students learning the organ and they're doing very well," Bufano said. "It's not a solution necessarily, but it's a step."

Hustad, formerly a full-time organist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, said one way Baptists cope with the shortage of or-

ganists is to convert longterm pianists. But, he added, the key is to train students from a young age.

"The only solution is to specifically recruit and train organists during their high school years," Hustad said, noting college students taking organ for the first time often decide the switch from piano is too difficult by that time.

"Our only salvation is for capable organists who can teach to go out of their ways to solicit and recruit high school students, teach and train them and give them opportunities to play in worship," Hustad said.

Pardee said the American Guild of Organists is promoting workshops to introduce children to organ music. And for the first time this fall, Pardee is offering a course on church music skills to train pianists on the organ.

"I'm hoping to send some of them to some smaller church positions," she said.

Despite the shortage, Hustad believes organs and organists will persevere in Baptist worship.

"The organ has been a symbol of the church for 1,000 years," he said. "It won't be voted out overnight."

"I've ... never been in a church with a good organ that didn't find somebody to play it," he said. But he acknowledged many have to beat the bushes and agree to pay adequately for skilled, educated musicians.

Eventually, Baptists will rediscover and learn to treasure the organ in worship again, both Flowers and Hustad agreed.

"I'm sure we will go back to the organ," Hustad said. "It has been the symbol of the worship of God. We won't lose it long term."

By Staff Writer Melanie Childers, with additional reporting by Gloria Wright of Religion News Service



Church organists and pianists called to become ministers

Tips for accompanists

Most keyboardists spend far more time accompanying than they do playing solo selections, Don Phillips claims. Phillips led a session on the fine art of accompanying during the Kentucky Baptist Keyboard Ministers' Retreat Sept. 22-23. Here are some of his suggestions for making accompanying an art and a worship tool:

■ Accompanying the congregation.

■ Practice the hymns to be sung in worship. Look for fresh interpretations, being sensitive to the text and mood of the hymns.

■ Look for introductions and accompaniment/variation ideas for the hymns.

■ Temper playing styles to reflect the size of the congregation, strength of the choir, familiarity of the hymns and use of additional instruments.

■ Be sensitive to the phrasing of the text and tune. "Breathe" with the congregation.

■ Be aware of the overall tone color of the instruments.

■ Consider letting the organ or piano be silent for a stanza.

■ Give lots of support to congregational singing, but don't overpower it to the point that the total musical ensemble cannot be heard.

■ Accompanying choirs.

■ Secure music before rehearsals when possible, to allow time to become familiar with the parts and accompaniment.

■ Decide appropriate instrumentation with the director and other keyboardists.

■ Be attentive throughout choir rehearsals.

■ Play voice parts musically.

■ Have someone else listen for balance between instruments and choir during a service, and ask for their honest impressions. Be open to their feedback.

■ Accompanying soloists.

■ Rehearse with the soloist to find out how much support they need. Adapt accompaniment to fit the musical abilities of the soloist. For example, keep accompaniment simple for the less experienced singer.

■ Support, but do not drown out the soloist. Complement rather than compete.

■ Don't play every melody note with the soloist, even if the accompaniment is written that way.

■ Practice in the room in which the solo is to be performed—with the sound system on. Have a third party listen for balance.

Continued from page 1

Baptist Church in Lexington, agreed.

"'Keyboard minister' is a new concept for me, but I like it," Tilford said. "The organist does have the first and last word in the service," he said.

He also noted the seriousness of the keyboardists' responsibility to set a worshipful mood.

Responding to another question, panelists agreed that mutual respect and communication is a key to effective relationships between church music leaders.

"It's important to have a regular time to sit down and talk," said Dot Wright, pianist at Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville. "You have to speak the truth in love. Develop good communications."

"Dan Tilford and I are closer in many ways than I am to my own brother," said Bill Williams, minister of music at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Tilford and Williams have worked together as a team for 22 years. Williams said he believes Tilford reads his mind in choir rehearsals and knows exactly what Williams will do next.

Don Phillips, minister of music at

First Baptist Church in Franklin and a clinician for the keyboard retreat, offered a poignant description of music as ministry. His story was published in "The Expressive Keyboardist," a Kentucky Baptist church music department resource booklet.

While giving a piano program for senior adults many years ago, Phillips said he suggested a request time. One woman in the front immediately asked to hear "Amazing Grace."

"I sat down at the keyboard and played a rather elaborate, bombastic arrangement of that familiar hymn," Phillips said. "When I had finished playing, I asked if there were other requests. The same woman replied, 'I'm still waiting to hear Amazing Grace.'"

Humbled, Phillips said, he sat back down and played a "quieter, simpler arrangement."

"Though I still tried to make it artistic, my goal was to be sure my friend heard 'Amazing Grace,'" he said. "When I stood back up and looked out, the woman who had made the request had tears in her eyes."

"The first time I had performed. The second time I had ministered," he concluded.

MISSIONS

'Are you a missionary or mission field?'

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP)—More Christians will be ministers in their marketplace when they see their jobs as more than a means to putting food on the table, said two Christian authors and business people.

"The church is for celebration. The marketplace is for ministry," said Sheila West, CEO of Archery Center International Inc. "My vision is that God's people would be God's people in the marketplace."

West and sports television producer Bob Briner advocated Christian ministry and evangelism in the marketplace during a conference celebrating Southern Baptist volunteer work Sept. 15-19 in Arlington, Texas.

West, who has developed one of America's fastest-growing small companies, said too few Christians have the vision and passion for sharing Christ with their co-workers. "You talk to a lot of Christians and they feel alone at work," she said.

Many Christians misinterpret God's call to be separated from the world as a negative difference, she said.

Instead, "it's being a glow that attracts people to him rather than a glare that sends them away."

Briner said more Christians should take the attitude of Frank Reich, quarterback of the Carolina Panthers. Briner quoted Reich describing football as a vehicle to get where he needs to be in order to share Jesus with others.

Briner is president of ProServe Television, and he is outspoken about what he calls Christians' failure to be a positive influence in the media. "In television, there is very little salt of the gospel, and it's our fault," he said. "We haven't been willing to be in there and see TV as a way to spread the gospel."

West added many Christians still need discipling to be effective witnesses. Some show no evidence in their lives that being a Christian makes any difference, she said.

"God's people have got to become different so that the world wants what we have, or we are the mission field. Someone still needs to come and disciple us," she said.

"You're either a missionary or a mission field—there are no in-betweens," she said. "And there are more mission fields than missionaries in our churches."

Speaker calls change 'God's opportunity'

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Shock waves of change will confront Christians in the future, whether they stay in the United States or go to the foreign mission field, according to Ignatius Meimaris, director of missions for Greater Boston Baptist Association.

But uncertainty created by change should not cloud the Christian's outlook with doom and gloom, Meimaris said during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's language leadership conference Sept. 22.

"Change is difficult to understand," he said. "Society likes to have quiet solitude. But as Christians, we have to say this is God's opportunity. We have to learn more about him. From that perspective, it's very healthy and I think that's the perspective we should have."

The KBC conference drew participants from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including Chinese, Romanian, Korean, Hispanic, Haitian and Anglo. Speakers addressed the shifting tides across the world and America, which was 80 percent white in 1980 but looks to become increasingly Asian and Hispanic in the future.

Hispanics are projected to overtake African-Americans as the largest minority group in the United States by the year 2000, according to David D'Amico, professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Envisioning the future for world evangelism is an art and not a science," D'Amico said, quoting a researcher in the field. "It may be dangerous, but it must be attempted and defined."

Among the coming changes

D'Amico reviewed are a continuing flow of immigrants to the U.S., a need to minister to lower socio-economic classes in urban centers and a scarcity of trained ministers for these people groups.

In trying to reach Hispanics, Haitians and some Indochinese, churches and denominational agencies will have to "conceptualize" ministry forms, he said.

This may mean such unique outreaches as migrant-worker churches that only meet for six months a year, short-term missions that only last until an ethnic enclave leaves an area, and increasing numbers of bivocational pastors.

While such rapid change can bring conflict between various racial and ethnic groups, Meimaris said Christians should lead the way in bridging these cross-cultural gaps.

Successful churches in the future will be those willing to work with newcomers and remain open to the Holy Spirit's leadership, he said.

"In some areas where there are a lot of Southern Baptist churches, some congregations wouldn't let others come in, even though they were dying," he commented. "If we're in the Christian family, we better be accommodating to other believers."

In Boston, a pioneering area for the Southern Baptist Convention, more than 80 percent of Southern Baptist churches don't have their own buildings, he pointed out. So, they meet in American Baptist, Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist churches and Grange halls, he said. A few gather upstairs above bars.

Other denominations have even rented their buildings to small ethnic or Anglo SBC churches for payments of \$1 per year, he said. South-

ern Baptist churches ought to extend the same kind of help to other evangelical missions, he suggested.

Tony Hough, associate in the KBC direct missions department, also touched on the need for Southern Baptists to avoid fear when considering the future.

He compared the situation facing Americans with early Jewish Christians. First century believers could either suffer persecution from the Romans if they stayed committed to Christ or retreat into the ease of old Jewish traditions, he explained.

"We face the same kind of (crisis)," Hough said. "In order to minister with ethnic and language groups, we are faced with challenges of huge proportions."

In the first 25 years of the next century, he said, the number of immigrants in some ethnic groups will double or even triple. Correspondingly, whites may expect to see their cultural dominance erode significantly.

Coupled with daily reporting of global terrorism and tragedy, such changes leave many U.S. citizens feeling powerless and overwhelmed, he added.

He used the current book "Alien Nation" as an example of the current tidal wave of revulsion to immigration. The book argues that Americans will become increasingly alien to each other, requiring an increasingly strained government to arbitrate between them. But Hough disagreed with that outlook.

"What (the author) does not factor in ... is the Christ who tears down walls, the Christ who heals pathological, social, psychological and spiritual mutation; the Christ who gives a harmonious song of amazing grace for every race."

"In order to minister with ethnic and language groups, we are faced with challenges of huge proportions."

Tony Hough, KBC direct missions department

Farmer discovers 'gift of tongues' to teach

Continued from page 1
ordinator of the ministry.

But this year, after Cavallini completed his studies at Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield and enrolled at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina, Gordon has been "totally in charge," Brown said.

On any given Sunday at 10 a.m., Gordon stands before as many as 29 migrant workers and teaches the Bible—in Spanish.

"It's amazing," Newby said, after sitting in on a class. "Lynn opened up his Spanish Bible and started conversing with the men. He asked and answered questions. He was very relaxed, no stumbling, no stuttering. He was so natural, as though he had been doing it all his life."

The migrants worship in the 11 a.m. service with the English congregation until time for the sermon. Gordon then takes them aside for more teaching.

Over the four years, 25 migrant workers have made professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Last year, one of the workers was called to preach. This year, Oscar Baptist members are helping him learn how to witness, how to preach

and leading him through the "Survival Kit for New Christians."

As a bonus of sorts, the Oscar church and West Union Baptist Association have gotten wrapped up in the ministry as well.

Fifteen churches participate in providing meals on Sunday. West Union Association has placed \$2,000 in the budget to provide Spanish Bibles, hymnals and literature for the ministry. And associational Woman's Missionary Union Director Carlann Harris has gotten the women involved.

"Out in the middle of Bullard County, God has let us personally fulfill the Great Commission," Pastor Brown said.

Gordon, too, stands in awe of what God has done.

Learning Spanish has been very easy for him, he said. He has had little problem adjusting to varying dialects. It's like someone who can "sit down to a piano and just start playing," he explained.

Gordon's only study tools have been a Spanish-English parallel Bible and a general language reference book. And, with working 12-hour days on the farm, about all the study he has had time for is "doing my dai-

ly Bible readings in Spanish rather than English." He said some of his best thinking is done out on the farm.

Not only has Gordon mastered the language, but he also has researched the cultural and religious backgrounds of the men. "No one knows how to make a perfect connection with a person from another country," he said. "But gradually, we learn."

And, two years ago, he and Cavallini made a "personal mission trip" to Mexico to the hometown of some of the men. "We wanted to see what their greatest needs are and encourage them in their faith," he said.

They stayed in the home of Herberto, a 40-year old worker who had accepted Christ while in Kentucky. They led Herberto's wife to Christ.

They found the greatest need in the Mexican town to be for the Bible. In a town of 8,000 people, very few families had Bibles. So the Kentuckians left 1,000 Bibles in Mexico.

As he reflected on all that has happened in the past four years, Gordon admitted that "sometimes it's scary."

He believes God would not have given him "the gift of tongues" if God didn't expect him to use it. "You never know what God has in store down the road," he said.

It's like someone who can "sit down to a piano and just start playing," Gordon said of his ability to understand and speak Spanish.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Marijuana use** by teenagers in the United States has nearly doubled since 1992, according to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, released Sept. 12. The survey found marijuana use among U.S. teens rose to 7.3 percent in 1994, up from 4 percent in 1992.

■ **An evangelical group** advocating "biblical teachings on male headship in marriage" has issued a statement that such teachings "do not authorize a man's domination or abuse of his wife." The 10-point statement by the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, based in Wheaton, Ill., defines abuse as "the cruel use of power or authority to harm another person emotionally, physically or sexually."

■ **Three women** were ordained at a prominent Seventh-day Adventist church Sept. 23, defying a ruling against women's ordination by the Seventh-day Adventist Church's General Conference Session. Kendra Haloviak, Norma Osborn and Penny Shell were ordained by the 3,200-member Sligo Adventist Church in Tacoma Park, Md.

SBC leaders call on Congress to study effects of gambling

WASHINGTON (BP)—Two Southern Baptist Convention leaders have called on Congress to establish a federal commission to examine the impact of gambling on the nation.

SBC President Jim Henry and Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard Land made the request in a letter to the 35 members of the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.

Legislation authorizing such a commission already has been proposed, and committee hearings on the proposal were to have begun Sept. 29.

Henry Hyde, R-Ill., is chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and Frank Wolf, R-Va., is the bill's sponsor.

Wolf introduced the bill to form the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission for the purpose of compiling information on gambling's effect on economics, crime, families and individuals. The nine-member panel Wolf proposes would have three members appointed by the president, three by the Senate majority leader and three by the speaker of the House of Representatives. One of the appointees would be a governor from a state which has legalized gambling, he said.

Wolf said the commission should review the cost and effectiveness of federal and state regulations, gambling's impact on other businesses, the influence of gambling promoters on the development of policies regu-

lating gaming, the relationship between gambling and crime, teenage gambling and the effect of pathological gambling on individuals, families and social institutions.

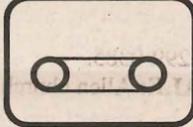
The commission also should propose whether gaming operations on Indian lands should be regulated by the states, not just the federal government, he said.

"A congressional commission has the potential of alerting Americans to the dangers of gambling in the same way that the Commission on Pornography formed in 1985 by then-Attorney General Edwin Meese warned of the danger inherent in allowing unbridled proliferation of pornographic material," said Lamar Cooper of the CLC.

"The gambling industry has convinced large numbers of the public and state legislators that gambling revenue is a 'free lunch' to state budget needs, but there still 'ain't no free lunch,'" Cooper said.



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Give us a chance to come to your church and share what God is doing through the ministry of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. We have staff located all over Kentucky who would love to share with your church family. Many of these individuals work every day with the young people and can share first hand the impact that is being made.

To schedule a speaker all you have to do is call (800) 456-1386.

Our staff will work with you to schedule the person you want or to suggest a speaker for you.

There is no cost to have a speaker. We will cover their expenses.

In November, you will be taking the Thanksgiving Offering. Our theme this year is "All God's Children."

Our goal is \$950,000 and it is very important that we meet this goal. We served more than 2,200 children and families in the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31, 1995. But we had 3,200 requests for help.

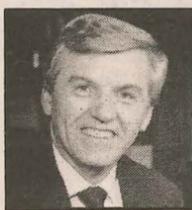
Pastors and church members, look at your fall schedule. Is there some time on a Sunday morning, Sunday night, or Wednesday night

that you could have a speaker? Just a few minutes to share about the children will let your church family know the impact they are having right here in Kentucky.

We have an exciting story to tell. We are looking forward to your call.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

POSITION OPENING

WESTERN RECORDER

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**Executive Editor
Western Recorder**

The Executive Editor Search Committee of the Western Recorder is seeking applications from interested persons. Anyone interested in this position should send a current resume to one of the committee members no later than November 1, 1995.

*Frank Hatfield, chairman, 248 Lees Lane, Shepherdsville, KY 40165
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The benefits of giving

By James T. Pollard
*Pastoral Care Director
Central Baptist Hospital*

Years ago I was reflecting on Grady Nutt's life and found that he would give to people who would least expect it. People from all walks of life felt he had given to them in a special way. My daughters were graced by his presence in their lives.

Following Grady's untimely death, I decided out of my own grief to give as he had given. Life has been so rich since that decision.

I have just returned from having spent ten weeks in Hong Kong

teaching ministers pastoral care in Hong Kong Baptist Hospital. Through their Clinical Pastoral Education program that is now five years old, I was able to invest in people who will be a part of the work of Christ that will influence China in the years to come. Such a short investment in time, yet so rich in spiritual reward.

So when you think about Baptist Healthcare Foundation, remember to give not just in standard ways through your church. Find ways to give over and above so that you give to people who least expect it. Life can be so much richer than it is now if we choose to give.

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If you would like to receive information about the benefits of giving, please complete the following form and return it to: Baptist Healthcare Foundation, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, KY 40207. Thank you.

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Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Healthcare System or Baptist Healthcare Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., president of Baptist Healthcare Foundation, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207 (502) 896-5003.



FINANCIAL FORUM

Seven truths about investing

By Don Spencer

An investment is when you get your money to work for you.

There is more risk associated with investing money than accumulating it in a savings account, but there is generally a greater reward. You need both—investments and savings.

Here are seven basic truths about investing:

■ **Most investments fluctuate in value.** Invest for the long term. Don't be overly concerned about short term "ups and downs."

■ **Use time, not timing.** Few people effectively time the market, even experts. It happens repeatedly: just as experts agree on the direction of the market, the opposite occurs. Market timers often do the wrong thing at the wrong time. On the other hand, those who keep time on their side by investing for the long term generally profit.

■ **Bank CDs and savings accounts may not make you rich.** Many people consider these to be "risk-free investments." This is not true. Using these investments only changes the kind of risk one assumes. Although CDs and savings accounts are less risky, taxes and inflation often exceed the earnings, thereby significantly reducing a person's real earnings and buying power.

■ **Your mix of investments (portfolio) is a better indicator of investment success than any single investment.** While no one can expect every investment to grow dramatically, you should expect your total mix of investments to grow.

■ **Financial markets usually react to many factors.** Be calm. Focus on the long term. Do not overreact.

■ **It pays to diversify.** Utilize investments with differing levels of risk and stability. This reduces the volatility of one's total portfolio.

■ **Christians should invest their money.** Many of Jesus' parables deal with stewardship. Appropriate investing is a part of a Christian's total stewardship. (Matt. 25:14-30)

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department

New volumes feature women's perspectives

Continued from page 1
spectacle."

"You can read a lot of commentaries on the book of Nahum," said Newsum, whose book was published in hardback in 1992. "Most people ... never notice it's full of rape imagery. ... It's not that a male author necessarily is suppressing that. Male authors don't necessarily notice that."

Some of the new women's commentaries are timed to coincide with the centennial of Stanton's "The Woman's Bible." Stanton and other suffragist leaders focused on portions of the Bible they felt were relevant to women because they thought males were biased in their biblical interpretation. A new edition of "The Woman's Bible" is available from Northeastern University Press for \$14.95.

The various commentaries are popular with women in Bible study groups and college faculty.

For Flora Keshgegian at Brown

University in Providence, R.I., "The Women's Bible Commentary" has saved her the effort of gathering material from numerous sources for her students.

The market potential of women's Bible products became apparent when Zondervan Publishing House published the "Women's Devotional Bible" in 1990. Zondervan said it has sold 1.2 million copies, and the Bible edition has remained a top-10 best-seller in the evangelical Christian market. The volume features a Bible text and inspirational thoughts on topics ranging from prayer to parenting.

While Zondervan's offering is an inspirational work, many of the new Bible commentaries take a more scholarly approach.

Baker-Book House is publishing a New Testament commentary in collaboration with Harper Collins Religious of London. Expected to hit the U.S. market in early 1996, the volume

will feature commentaries on each of the New Testament books, plus notes on topics such as depression, slavery, birthing and food.

The Women of Reform Judaism is underwriting what is being called "The New Torah Commentary," which will focus on the first five books of the Bible.

"We will engage scholars who are both male and female to write ... an interpretation that speaks to us and particularly speaks to women, since women were either not spoken to, disregarded or not mentioned by name in the Torah," said Ellen Rosenberg, the group's executive director.

A female cantor from Ohio challenged the group to consider such a volume. The cantor suggested that if God had asked Sarah rather than Abraham to sacrifice their son Isaac, Sarah would have concluded that "a God that required this sacrifice could not be her God."

The market potential of women's Bible products became apparent when Zondervan published the "Women's Devotional Bible" in 1990, selling 1.2 million copies.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time pastor (bivocational considered). Send resumé to: New Columbus Baptist Church, c/o Eddie Dempsey, 17655 New Columbus Rd., Corinth, KY 41010

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Brandenburg seeking full-time pastor. Send resumé to: Debbie Hesler, 99 Kelly Lane, Brandenburg, KY 40108.

AVAILABLE: Pastor with 40-years experience seeking bivocational ministry. Greater Louisville. References upon request. Rev. Thomas Burke (812) 285-9330.

NEEDED: Church pews and a 15-passenger van or midsize bus for a church just starting—we need these very badly. Phone: (502) 932-4032.

MISSIONS: Youth groups needed in New Orleans, Branson, Atlanta, Orlando, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Buffalo for 1996 summer mission projects. We provide meals lodging, assignment. For information, costs, call Dr. Harry Fowler, Youth on Mission, (800) 299-0385.

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NEEDED: Vehicle for mission group. Phone (606) 325-1426, ask for Mike.

FOR SALE: Choir robes: 49 cotton, 14 acetate; gold color. \$25 each or make offer on lot. (502) 244-8307.

WANTED: 15-passenger van in good condition to buy for church. (502) 477-2047.

SEEKING: Part-time youth and children's minister. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Ballardsville Baptist Church, 4912 Hwy. 53, Crestwood, KY 40014.

CARE: Kinnett Care. Services include live-in and hourly care, personal care, meals, housekeeping, companionship. Free in-home assessment; insured and bonded. Call 24 hours, (502) 499-7777.

SEEKING: Minister to children at Broadway Baptist Church. Part-time position. Please send resumé to: Children's Minister Search Committee, Broadway Baptist Church, 4000 Brownsboro Rd., Louisville, KY 40207.

WANTED: Blood River Baptist Association is searching for a director of missions. Please send resumé to: Blood River Association, P.O. Box 18, Hardin, KY 42048, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time music/youth director (will consider someone interested in just the music position). Send resumé to First Baptist Church, P.O. 577, Lebanon Junction, KY 40150; phone (502) 833-4954.

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.

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.

Free Seminar

The Role of Charitable Giving

Thursday, Oct. 12, 1995, noon - 1:30 p.m. (lunch provided)
Walnut Street Baptist Church, 220 W. St. Catherine Street, Louisville

Sponsored by Georgetown College and
Walnut Street Baptist Church Foundation Inc.

This free seminar will provide vital information about tax and estate planning techniques which will benefit donors and the nonprofit organizations they support. The presenter, James E. Hargrove, is both a certified public accountant and a tax attorney concentrating his practice in estate planning and charitable giving.

The deadline for registration is Monday, Oct. 9, 1995.
You may register by calling 502-589-5290.

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PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- The Kentucky women's work team going to Novosibirsk, Russia, Sept. 26-Oct. 11.
- The Clay Cartwright family, International Service Corps volunteers in Tambov, Russia.
- Boston Baptists who will receive training in October in how to teach English to non-English-speaking people.
- Campus ministers who have come to work on Boston campuses this fall: Michelle Griffen, University of Massachusetts in Lowell; Kelly Marchant, working with internationals at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Peggy Peak at Boston University; and Karen Price at Babson College.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Grant's Lick Church called **Paul Broyles** as pastor. Broyles is a graduate of Southern Seminary and previously served at Emmanuel Church in West Chester, Pa.

■ **BARLOW**—First Church called **John Burnett** as minister of youth.

■ **HAZARD**—Second Creek Church celebrated homecoming Sept. 3.

■ **LANCASTER**—Lancaster Church called **Philip Drake** of Shepherdsville as full-time minister of youth and education.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Alton Church celebrated its 50th anniversary homecoming Sept. 29-Oct. 1.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Highview Church called **Thom Rainer**, dean of the Billy Graham School at Southern Seminary, as interim pastor.

Valley Station Church celebrated its 40th anniversary Sept. 17.

Cecil Mullins is serving as pastor at Minors Lane Church.

Joe Diggs resigned as pastor at Van Buren Church.

Eastern Parkway Church called **Paul Lee** as interim pastor.

Van McQueen is serving as interim pastor at Immanuel Church.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church ordained **Denzel Dukés** and **Keith Montgomery** as deacons Sept. 24.

Immanuel Church called **Tony Whitfield** of Georgetown as minister of music.

■ **WEST PADUCAH**—Mount Zion Church will ordain **Bill Ramsey** to the gospel ministry Oct. 15.

■ **WHITESVILLE**—**Mary Miller**, 87, longtime member and Sunday school teacher of Macedonia Church in Owensboro, died Sept. 17. Her husband, the late J. Thomas Miller, served as a pastor in Kentucky.

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HELP THE CHILDREN

Ninth & O seeks assistance in 'Shoobox Blessings' project

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Thousands of children in Bosnia will discover good things come in small packages this Christmas, thanks to Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville.

Ninth & O members plan to ship 8,000 "Shoobox Blessings" to children in the battle-decimated country, reported Ninth & O Pastor Rodney Burnette.

"These Bosnian refugee children have lost everything—their homes, their possessions, their peaceful country," Burnette reported. "They just don't have anything."

"We're trying to gather as many shoeboxes filled with toys as possible, so that these children can know someone cares for them this Christmas."

Burnette is working with Bill Steele, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrator in Eastern Europe, to collect the shoeboxes filled with presents.

The shoeboxes will be shipped to the region in a container capable of holding about 8,000 of the boxes, Burnette said. They will be distributed through FMB-operated feeding stations in Baptist churches.

Because of the immensity of the project, Burnette has appealed to other Baptists to help provide the "Shoobox Blessings" for the Bosnian chil-

dren.

Boxes are being collected for both girls and boys, he said. They should be marked accordingly, and they should indicate whether they are appropriate for children in one of four age categories—0-3 years, 4-6 years, 7-10 years and 11-13 years.

The boxes should contain age-appropriate toys for youngsters who have lost their own toys, Burnette said. "But we don't want any guns, knives or war-related items," he added. "These children have seen enough of the real thing."

Boxes also may contain Bible-story picture books, school supplies, wrapped and sealed hard candy, stuffed animals, dolls, balls, flashlights with extra batteries, underwear and hygienic items.

Boxes also may contain personal notes written to the children who will receive them.

Each box should be accompanied by cash or a check for \$5 to cover shipping costs, Burnette said. Boxes should not be sealed with tape, he added.

The boxes must be received at the church by Sunday, Oct. 29, so they can be shipped the following day.

For more information, contact Burnette at Ninth & O Baptist Church, 2921 Taylor Blvd., Louisville, Ky. 40208, phone (502) 636-5576.

"I never thought I would really say this ..."

How many times have we found ourselves saying something like this? We can be so confident that we would never change our minds on something, only to find out later that we were not right after all.

As students have come back to visit over the years, I've often heard them say, "I never thought I would miss Oneida, but I really do." Sometimes they add "I never thought I would appreciate the work program, but now I can see how much having a job at Oneida helped me get and keep my job."

We know many young people will leave Oneida and look back months or years later to realize that many things they took for granted have become very precious to them. I do usually smile a little as they confess their feelings.

I received two letters recently from students who graduated in May. Each of these young men entered the Marine Corps and has just finished boot-camp. The first letter came from Kris. Kris came to Oneida as a 6th-grader in 1988. He came from a broken home and was being cared for by his great aunt. Kris had the usual list of needs, including some school problems. He had been failing nearly everything. Kris was a little guy when he came to us: 4' 8" and weighing only 80 pounds. I must confess there were many very difficult days with Kris. Finally after many months we had to send Kris home. Many times we do this because we feel it is the best way to get the attention of the young person. After a student has been away for a few weeks we normally start getting letters from him, asking to return. Students do not know it, but normally we have been hoping to get such a letter. I wish I could say that all who return become mod-

el students, but that is not the case. However, we normally see a much better attitude from a person who has returned.

When Kris came back there was an improvement in his attitude, though he was still a challenge. At graduation I remarked that we had truly forgiven Kris "seventy times seven."

One of the things many students complain about is having to go to chapel every day and to Sunday school and church. Many of the kids who come to us have never attended church and Sunday school regularly, if ever. They do not see the need of drawing aside daily and spending time in worship. It was so wonderful to read in Kris's letter "We get an hour of free time every night, and I'll tell you that hour flies! Oh, Sunday we get 4 hours of free time in which you can go to church services. I never thought I would really say this, but I think having chapel every day is what I miss most about OBI."

The second letter came from Jerry. Jerry came to us in the eighth grade and was failing most of his classes. Jerry was not getting along well in the home and was wanting a change. He came to Oneida and became an honor roll student. He loved sports and was a loved and respected student. In his letter he said this; "I'm writing for a few reasons. First for allowing me to stay at OBI when I messed up. And for the motivating and eye-opening talk that made me realize that staying at OBI was the best thing for me. I didn't realize how much I appreciated the rules and strictness. It has really helped me in boot-camp."

Thanks, Kris and Jerry, for saying what you never thought you'd say.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Pastor-teacher Ben Baird, 1927-1995

"He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding. ... He has put in his heart the ability to teach." Senior Charles Keller chose those words from Exodus 35 to describe former professor Ben Baird. In a chapel memorial service, students and faculty shared testimonies of Baird's life and influence.

A few months after his retirement from Hazard First Baptist, Baird came to Clear Creek as distinguished professor of pastoral ministries. We looked forward to many years of his grand spirit and influence. He understood the unique stresses of our older students. He and Velma remembered seminary days with five children, commuting to a church and limited finances.

But he always had God's people and God's will on his mind, and God blessed 45 years of ministry.

Introduction to Ministry was an appropriate class for Baird. He was pastor of nine churches in three states. "His unassuming manner was first taken as fear of us. We thought we manipulated him but he actually served us and met our needs," Keller remembered. "We learned to love him. We could have thrown away the textbook and gone by his life experiences. He taught

us how to be pastors and we are the better for it."

Freshman Woody Wooden often saw the Bairds at lunch in Kelly Hall. "He made me feel like I belonged here. In his first class I wondered about his voice. Then I realized his courage in fighting cancer. He kept going and encouraged others to go on also."

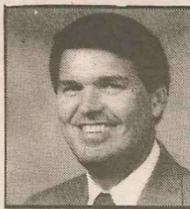
New Testament professor Earl Clark attended seminary with Baird and they both were pastor of Corinth church in London. "Ben was at the church 11 years and averaged 55 additions a year. Whenever he considered a change, he would first call me and talk. He didn't want anything to hurt our friendship. I never knew a more Christlike spirit," Clark said.

Baird was willing to sacrifice popularity for biblical convictions. "But he was teachable, adaptable. This is essential for ministry. We need to learn to adapt," Clark encouraged. "A teacher affects eternity. He can never tell where his influence stops."

The influence of Ben Baird continues through the God-called leaders he taught at Clear Creek.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Liberians feel cautious hope after years of turmoil

WASHINGTON (BP)—Recent peace celebrations in Liberia have left Baptist leaders hopeful, but cautious and eager to see roads opened again so they can visit Baptists all across that country.

"We feel a sense of relief, but we're cautious," reported Emile Sam Peale, executive secretary of the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Education Convention Inc.

A mid-August peace accord, brokered by the Economic Community of West African States, established a transitional government and set elections for next year. Twenty-five cease-fires and peace agreements have failed, so hopes are running high that the six-year civil war may be over. But conditions still are bad.

Since a 1980 military coup—that ultimately ignited the 1989 outbreak of Liberia's brutal civil war—150,000 Liberians have died, including two murdered presidents.

Almost half the country's 2.8 million people are refugees, hiding in Liberia's bush country, living in the capital city of Monrovia or seeking shelter in nearby Sierra Leone or Ivory Coast.

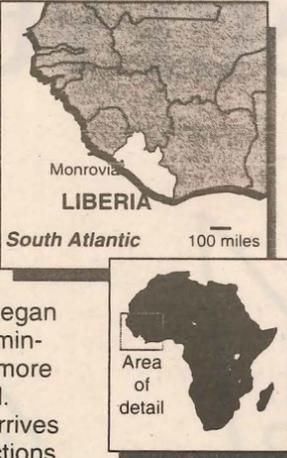
Liberia's conflict, which involves at least eight factions and sub-factions and largely split along tribal lines, also has confined the once-nationwide work of Southern Baptist Foreign Missionaries to Monrovia.

But on Sept. 1, Liberians celebrated the return to peace, after a cease-fire was signed the week before by Liberia's leaders and rebel leader Charles Taylor.

"Now that the main players are directly involved, especially Charles

Embattled Liberia (selected dates)

1846: Southern Baptist presence in area established.
1847: Liberia founded.
1980: Samuel Doe overthrows existing government initiating 15 years of intertribal tensions.
1989: Charles Taylor begins seven-year insurrection.
1990: By August Southern Baptist missionaries (one time numbering more than 50) had left due to fighting.
1991: Southern Baptist missionaries began returning by October to operate relief ministries. To date they have contributed more than \$1 million in food and medical aid.
1996: New hope for enduring peace arrives with signing of pact among warring factions.



(BP) GRAPHIC by David Williard

Taylor, I feel more hopeful," Sam Peale said.

For Sam Peale, the key to lasting peace is to disarm more than 60,000 people who still have arms, and he's concerned that peacekeeping forces in Liberia have only 8,000 soldiers to attempt this. "Disarmament is the key for us to have genuine peace, free elections and a constitutional government," he said.

He is eager to assess the state of the Baptist convention, where he reports more than 100 Baptist churches have been closed. In 1989, 253 churches affiliated with the convention. But in 1994, only 54 churches were represented at its annual meeting.

Missionaries and others say 39 churches meet regularly in areas once controlled by Taylor. "We want to see the state of our churches, schools and properties, and also our refugees who need help," Sam Peale said.

Drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and AIDS all have escalated, Sam Peale said, and the war was largely fought by young people unskilled to do anything else.

"We have a long way to go," he said, "and the church has a vital role in all of this."

Liberian Baptists can play a key role in reshaping their country's future, leaders have stressed.

"Baptists must evaluate the past to look to the future," explained Emmett

Dunn, a Liberian who directs the Baptist World Alliance's youth department.

The major players in Liberia's recent political history all have been Baptist, and this has hurt Baptist work there, Dunn said.

Rebel leader Charles Taylor, a Baptist, was educated at the Riggs Institute, described by Dunn as "the finest Baptist school in Liberia." Taylor's forces later destroyed that building, and Taylor has claimed the war he led was of God.

Taylor fought against Sgt. Samuel Doe who attended a Baptist church, and it was Doe who, in 1980, overthrew and assassinated William Tolbert, leader of Liberia and Liberian Baptists then. Tolbert served as Baptist World Alliance president from 1965 to 1970.

"The Baptist church in Liberia needs to be neutral and stand its ground in the lordship of Jesus Christ," Dunn said. "It needs to continue to preach peace based on God's Word and embrace each other, regardless of race or tribe."

"National reconciliation is needed for lasting peace. How do you reconcile with people who have participated in terrible human rights?"

As part of an extensive conference in Liberia next April, hosted by BWA's evangelism and education division, the BWA youth department will hold a reconciliation-training meeting in Monrovia.

Baptist World Aid, BWA's relief and development arm, has a 1995-96 funding goal of \$50,000 for reconstruction of churches and help for Liberian Baptists.

Relief fund aids refugees

GUIGLO, Ivory Coast (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries continue to minister to 30,000 Liberian and Ivorian refugees who fled the latest round of fighting in Liberia's civil war this summer.

Missionaries utilized the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's hunger relief fund to buy medicine, rice and other food staples, reported Ted York, missionary to the Ivory Coast.

While the latest cease-fire offers hope for the refugees, missionaries in the region remain vigilant in their aid.

Christians in Liberia, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone have been among the worst persecuted.

Exiled Liberian pastor longs to return home

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Despite threats on his life, Andrew Diggs yearns to return and minister to his bleeding homeland, Liberia, rather than stay in Virginia.

Liberia's troubles began in 1979, and the nation has suffered more than 15 years of military coups and merciless killing of Liberians from rival tribes.

But a mid-August peace accord installing transitional government and calling for free elections in a year has bolstered hopes for peace.

"I'm trying to prepare for the war after the war," Diggs said, explaining that a ministry of forgiveness and conflict resolution is pivotal to a lasting peace in Liberia.

Diggs, who fled for his life in 1993, wants to return, leaving Richmond, Va., where he works at temporary jobs and preaches sporadically.

Racism fostered the war, said Diggs. "It's really nothing more than tribalism." He wants to implement a ministry of forgiveness to help Liberians be one people again.

Diggs earned a master of divinity degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville in 1987 and returned to

Liberia's capital city, Monrovia, where he taught college and seminary courses and was associate pastor of Providence Baptist Church before becoming its pastor in 1990.

In December 1989 the Liberian government declared war on rebel forces—then moving toward Monrovia—by initiating nighttime raids on rural villages suspected of lending aid to the rebels. Thousands of people of the same tribes as the rebels were murdered as they slept.

Providence began preparing hot meals for refugees living in a United Nation's compound in Monrovia. Soon, other Liberian Christians started bringing food and clothes to refugees at the compound. When Liberian soldiers took men from the compound, who never returned, the refugees were moved to St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

In July 1990, when Diggs was returning to Providence with food for refugees, a Liberian soldier briefly detained him.

"I know you, Rev. Diggs, and I feel close to you," he said. "But I must warn you, if we see you back here, you'll be killed."

Arriving at the church, he learned he was marked for assassination. Diggs went into hiding.

On a hot July night in 1990, sanctuary turned to slaughter. Liberian government troops stormed St. Pe-

ter's, killing more than 600 refugees.

"Bodies hung from the balcony, draped across the communion table," Diggs recalled in hushed tones. "Dead people lay everywhere, even in the church yard."

The massacre forced Diggs from hiding and back into service. He opened Providence to refugees. Starting with only two families, and continuing for three years, the ministry grew to more than 400 people.

As fighting and ruthless mutilations and killings continued between three rival factions in Monrovia, and the city's buildings were bombed, Diggs moved to the church. His children, U.S. citizens, were evacuated with their mother, Ottalee, by U.S. Marines following the St. Peter's massacre.

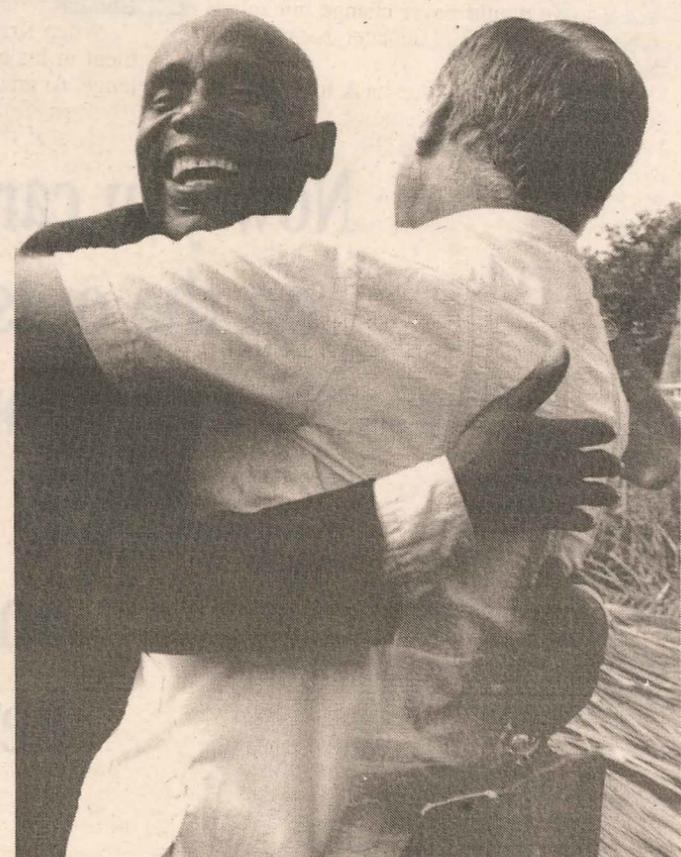
"While I stayed at the church, God was telling me to leave Liberia," he said. He arrived in the United States in October 1993. Now he longs to go home.

"There's a picture in my mind I can't forget," he said, describing a stained-glass window in Providence Baptist Church—a depiction of Jesus with outstretched arms.

"The nail prints weren't the only holes I saw." Several bullets had sped through the glass, piercing Jesus' body. "This window reminds me that the Lord suffers with his people, and I long to go back and suffer with them."

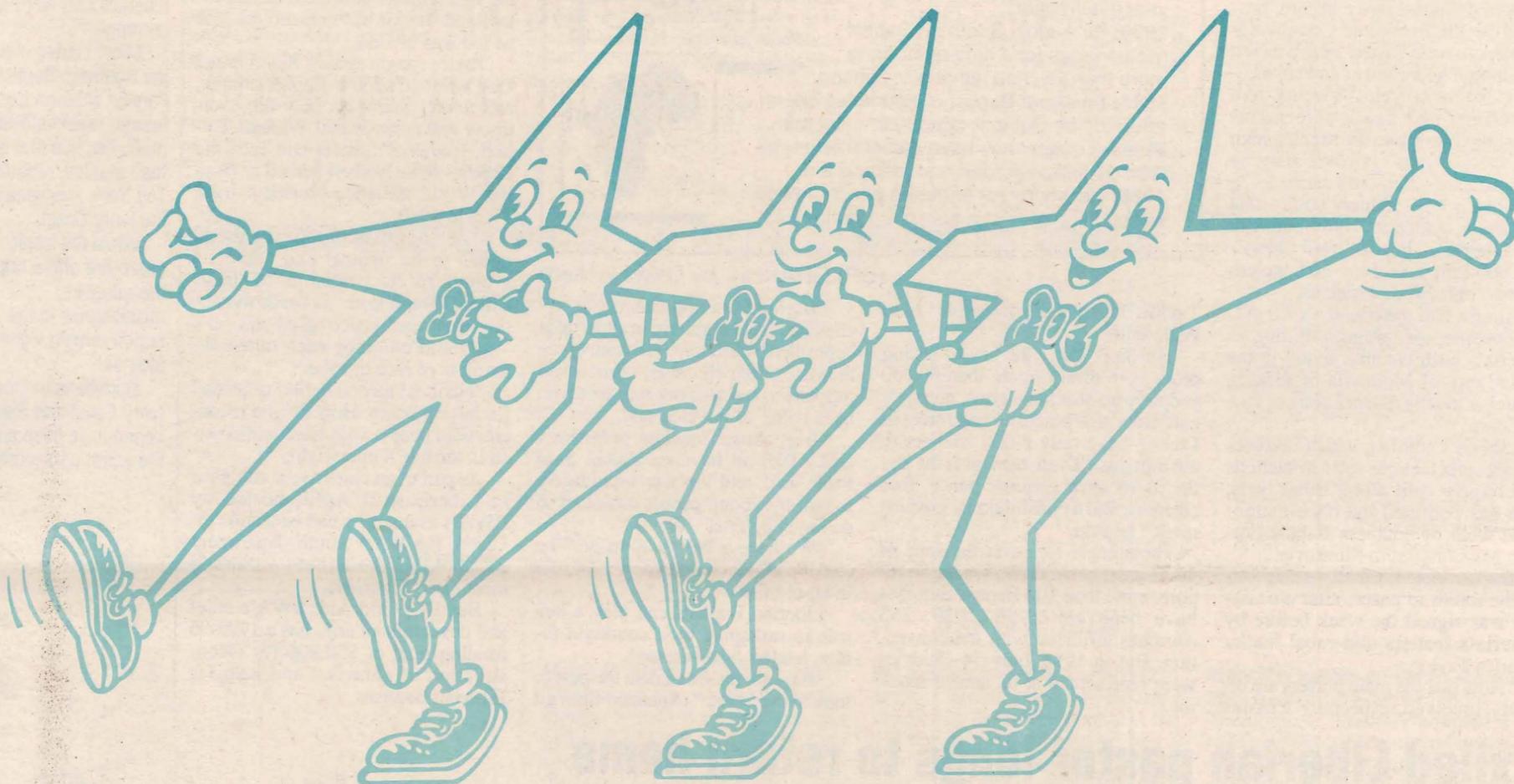


Diggs



JOY AFTER SORROW Reunions among Christians are joyous following Liberia's civil war. Robert Horton, left, a graduate of Liberian Baptist Theological Seminary, hugs Southern Baptist missionary Jim Park outside Monrovia where the seminary now meets. The campus was vacated in 1990 when peacekeeping forces seized it.

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