

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

November 21, 1995
Vol. 169, No. 46

FOR THE RECORD

KBC coverage

Most of this week's Recorder is dedicated to coverage of the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. See the box at the bottom of this page for an overview.

N.C. surprise

Moderates lost their grip on the North Carolina Baptist Convention last week as a conservative presidential candidate was elected by a narrow margin. See page 2.

Editorial

Is Cedarmore saved? It depends on how you vote with your attendance. See page 5.

Pastors' Conference

Speakers at this year's Pastors' Conference called ministers to live pure and holy lives. See page 10.

Amendment introduced

A Religious Equality Amendment to the United States Constitution has been introduced in Congress. See page 13.



CELEBRATION Bobby Bragg, minister of education at First Baptist Church of Paducah, hands out balloons to Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers as part of the KBC church growth and administration division's report. The report, which featured a multimedia presentation, encouraged churches to become champions through vision, training and perseverance.

Assemblies given new status by KBC action

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

OWENSBORO—Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assemblies will leave the direct management of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board to become separate entities with their own boards of trustees.

Messengers to the KBC annual meeting in Owensboro voted 739-249 to make the change, in response to a motion originating on the floor of the convention Nov. 14.

Steve Stewart, youth minister at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, made the motion, which called for the KBC to "maintain ownership of Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, but that they become separate entities with their own boards."

Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek are the two assemblies operated by the KBC Executive Board. Cedarmore is located in North Central Kentucky, near Shelbyville. Jonathan Creek is located in Western Kentucky, in the Land Between the Lakes region.

In recent years, several studies have been done on the feasibility and financial implications of maintaining Cedarmore, which is the oldest of the two campgrounds. The most recent study estimated a cost of about \$5 million to make the repairs necessary for continued operation of Cedarmore. The study also cited changing demographic patterns and declining use of the facility by churches.

Last December, the KBC Executive Board appointed a "transition" committee to help the KBC move away from ownership of Cedarmore. This action prompted protests from

Bill Tichenor elected to KBC presidency

By Marv Knox
Editor

OWENSBORO—Bill Tichenor topped a three-candidate field to be elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 14.

Tichenor, pastor of First Baptist Church of Princeton, won the presidency over Tyre Denney, pastor of Alton Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg, and Bill Patterson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Henderson.

On the first ballot, Tichenor received 608 votes, to 510 for Patterson and 209 for Denney. In a run-off with Patterson, Tichenor won with 56 percent of the votes, 700 to 540.

The KBC president presides at the

convention's annual meetings, chairs its Executive Board and appoints members to key committees.

Contrasting with recent history, this year's presidential election had a non-partisan tone. In interviews prior to the election, all three candidates disavowed political intentions behind their candidacies.

Tichenor has been a "pastor, servant-leader and participant in Kentucky Baptist life for almost 40 years," said his nominator, Floyd Price, pastor of Scottsville Baptist Church in Scottsville.

"His warm spirit has left a wake of people who say, 'Bill Tichenor—I love him,'" Price added.

Tichenor has had a distinguished

ministry in Kentucky Baptist churches, Price said. The Princeton congregation is among the top supporters of the convention's Cooperative Program unified budget and also is a leader in support for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Patterson is a competent, compassionate, cooperative and courageous pastor, said Don Embry, pastor of Airline Baptist Church in Henderson, who nominated him.

Patterson has been pastor of the Henderson church for the past five years. Previously, he was a Southern Baptist missionary in South Korea, and before that a pastor in Kentucky.

Denney is "a role model of faith-

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE KBC

■ **Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek** assemblies were given new roles as freestanding institutions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, each to have its own board of directors. See page 1.

■ **Bill Tichenor**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Princeton, was elected KBC president, to serve alongside First Vice President Ralph McConnell, Second Vice President Ronnie Sivells, Secretary Wilma Simmons and Assistant Secretary Joe Priest Williams. See page 1.

■ **A motion to defund** the Western Recorder until its editorial policy is changed to require more favorable coverage of the Southern Baptist

Convention was defeated. See page 3.

■ **A motion was defeated** that would have required the Executive Board's business and finance committee to compare a shortfall in contributions to last year's state Cooperative Program budget with the amount of money being channeled by some churches to alternative ventures such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. See page 7.

■ **Seven resolutions** were passed, including resolutions stating support for Woman's Missionary Union, the Cooperative Program, Western Recorder Editor Marv

Knox, retiring KBC missions leader Bob Jones and the host city, as well as one stating opposition to casino gambling

and another noting the roots of both Arminianism and Calvinism in Baptist heritage. See page 7.

■ **A slate of trustees** for the KBC's agencies and institutions was approved, as well as nominations to

various KBC committees.

■ **Clear Creek Baptist Bible College** was authorized to conduct a fundraising campaign across the state.

■ **A 1996-97 Cooperative Program** operating budget goal of \$18.75 million was adopted, with plans to send 37 percent of undesignated receipts to the Southern Baptist Convention and retain 63 percent for use in Kentucky.

■ **A total of 1,587 messengers** registered during the two-day convention, with an additional 274 registered guests, bringing total attendance to 1,861.

KBC
Annual Meeting

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Gene Wilson**, executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Convention, appears to be awakening from a coma of more than two months. Wilson, 52, has been in a coma since suffering a massive brain hemorrhage Aug. 30. Despite encouraging signs, doctors warn that Wilson's condition remains delicate and serious. Illinois Baptists have launched massive prayer efforts on Wilson's behalf.

■ **Andy Stanley**, the son of Atlanta pastor Charles Stanley who resigned as pastor of a satellite congregation of First Baptist Church in a disagreement with his father, plans to start a new church in the city's northern suburbs. The younger Stanley told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution the new church will be geared to people who feel disenfranchised by traditional churches and probably won't start until late 1996.

■ **Matthew Allen**, grandson of former Southern Baptist Convention leader Jimmy Allen, died Nov. 10 after a lifelong battle with AIDS. The 13-year-old's plight is described in Jimmy Allen's new book, "Burden of a Secret," which tells of his family's multiple encounters with death due to AIDS.

■ **Correction:** The Western Recorder's Oct. 31 issue incorrectly listed the Internet address for Woman's Missionary Union. The correct address is <http://www.wmu.com/wmu>.

Moderates lose grip on North Carolina

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (ABP)—Moderate Baptists, who have controlled the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in recent years, suffered a stunning defeat Nov. 14 as conservatives narrowly elected a president of the 1.2 million-member convention.

Conservative candidate Greg Mathis, 40, pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hendersonville, N.C., edged moderate Dewey Hobbs by 96 votes in one of the state convention's largest meetings in recent memory.

Hobbs, 70, is a longtime leader in the state convention and former head of chaplains at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

Total attendance for the Nov. 13-15 convention reached 5,100—double the size of normal crowds in recent years. More than 2,000 messengers registered on the second day of the convention in Winston-Salem, the day for officer elections, prompting charges that conservatives mounted a get-out-the-vote campaign.

But Mathis said the election simply shows the state's moderate leaders do not represent all North Carolina Baptists.

"North Carolina has long been known as a stronghold for moderates," Mathis said. "My election should send a message that there are just as many conservatives in North Carolina as moderates."

However, moderate leader Alfred Ayscue, outgoing president for the state convention, said the vote was not so much a rejection of current leaders but the result of a get-out-the-vote drive by conservatives.

Moderates took control of the state convention for granted and opposition from conservatives too lightly, Ayscue said. "Apathy finally caught up with us—the one thing that I had always been fearful of," he said.

Mathis garnered 2,488 votes, 50.94 percent of ballots cast in the

presidential election. Hobbs got 2,392. The convention's vice presidential votes were even closer.

The first vice presidency went to the moderate candidate, Ann Smith of Greensboro, N.C., who beat conservative Gene Ridley of Wilmington, N.C., by 10 votes. Conservatives captured the post of second vice president, electing Kenneth Ridings of Asheville, N.C., over Ray Howell of Lexington, N.C., by 42 votes.

Ayscue said moderates believe conservatives bused messengers in for one day to focus their strength on electing a president. "The report that came to me on Tuesday morning is there were quite a number of church vans that were emptying messengers just prior to the election," Ayscue said.

Conservatives reportedly used that tactic to help capture a string of Southern Baptist Convention presidencies and use the office's appointive powers to systematically remove moderates from leadership in the national convention.

Moderates also alleged the North Carolina registration was inflated by larger-than-usual attendance by students of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. The seminary's president, Paige Patterson, was an architect in the movement that engineered a conservative takeover of the SBC during the 1980s.

Students at the seminary were excused from classes for the convention meeting, according to a Nov. 11 story in the state Baptist newspaper, the Biblical Recorder.

Patterson said in an interview that he does not know if more students attended the meeting this year or not but that he doubts there was a "recognizable difference in the number." Patterson said it is up to individual professors to decide whether to excuse students from classes to attend the state convention. He said he has encouraged professors to do so, because attending the meeting is an ed-

ucational experience for ministerial students.

Another get-out-the-vote effort by conservatives apparently also influenced the election, Ayscue said. Prior to the convention, a prominent conservative sent a letter around the state warning that moderates intended to move the state convention further away from the SBC. Leaders of the state convention condemned the letter as false.

Conservative leader Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., warned fellow pastors that moderates had boasted if they won the presidential election by a landslide, they would move to reduce the amount of money North Carolina sends to the SBC by \$2 million.

Jack Causey, president of the state convention's general board, said cutting funds to the SBC was never considered by the budget group.

Ayscue said Corts' charges "have no foundation in fact." He accused Corts of trying to mislead and inflame North Carolina Baptists on the eve of the convention.

Ayscue said he has warned moderates against becoming lax in their efforts to oppose conservatives in the state convention. "I have always taken seriously the statement of Paige Patterson that they intended to capture control of this convention," Ayscue said.

Ayscue accused Patterson of using Southeastern Seminary "as an instrument in the takeover attempt in the state."

Patterson defended his right to participate in North Carolina Baptist life but minimized his influence there. "My influence—if I have any in this, and I'm not sure I do—would be a matter of what I stand for, and I'm not going to change that. If I'm not allowed to have a theological opinion and be allowed to preach that, quite frankly they've interfered with my priesthood of the believer and my autonomy," he said.

Texas Baptists approve budget change

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (ABP)—Texas Baptists adopted a \$42.7 million budget Nov. 13 that will send less money to the national Southern Baptist Convention and keep more for starting churches and training ministers in Texas.

It is the second year in a row that Texas Baptists—going against the wishes of national Southern Baptist Convention leaders—have changed their budget to give the conservative-dominated SBC less control over Texas Baptist contributions.

Also during the Nov. 13-14 meeting, the 6,700 convention messengers elected a slate of moderate officers led by President Charles Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas. The convention also voiced opposition to a "Religious Equality Amendment" proposed for the U.S. Constitution, and delayed action on a motion to disfellowship churches that condone homosexuality.

Last year the Baptist General

Convention of Texas gave its 5,500 churches more freedom to decide which worldwide mission causes to support, including ministries not run by the SBC.

This year messengers to the annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, voted by an estimated two-to-one margin to increase the portion of Cooperative Program contributions that stays in Texas by 2.5 percent—from 64.5 percent to 67 percent. That is expected to reduce by about \$1.5 million the Texas money available for the SBC's national and international mission work.

But Texas Baptist leaders say the money is more urgently needed in the Lone Star state, which once was a bastion of Baptist strength but is rapidly becoming a mission field in itself because of population changes.

Edward Schmeltekopf, chairman of the study committee that proposed the change, told messengers that half of Texas' 18 million people are unchurched. Texas now has more non-

Christians than 42 other states and more than 94 nations, he said.

The budget also includes new funds to promote theological education in Texas Baptist universities. Although Texas is home to the Southern Baptist Convention's largest seminary, Southwestern in Fort Worth, more options are needed, said Abilene pastor George Gaston, chairman of the study group that brought the proposal.

In the presidential election, Wade defeated conservative candidate Gary Miller, pastor of Sagamore Hill Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas, 61 percent to 39 percent.

Wade was nominated by Russell Dilday, interim dean of Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University, who said Wade is a "biblical conservative without being cranky about it."

Also elected were moderate candidates Ophelia Humphrey as first vice president and Noah Rodriguez as second vice president.

Conservatives win Louisiana presidency

LAKE CHARLES, La. (ABP)—Louisiana Baptists elected a president committed to conservative reforms but narrowly defeated a constitutional amendment that would install biblical inerrancy as the official stance of the state convention.

Michael Claunch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Slidell, La., was elected president with 52 percent of the vote (1,256 to 1,136) over Eddie Simmons, pastor of Sale Street Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La. It was the fourth time in five open elections that a president won by a margin of fewer than 100 votes.

Claunch, endorsed by the state's conservative group, campaigned on the need "to settle some things" in the state convention—most notably the convention's position on biblical inspiration.

But the constitutional amendment endorsing inerrancy—although submitted by the convention's Executive Board—fell seven votes short of the two-thirds majority required for passage.

The amendment would have added to the constitution's four-part purpose statement a section stating: "The convention shall do its work in accordance with the principle that the Bible is the word of God and is truth without any mixture of error in every area of which it speaks."

The Executive Board said that position has been the convention's "unwritten policy" since its beginning.

Opponents offered a substitute motion to identify the 1963 "Baptist Faith and Message" statement as the convention's official statement of faith. That document also uses the "truth-without-mixture-of-error" language but is considered a less restrictive statement.

The substitute failed. But after the amendment also was defeated, its supporters proposed another approach—combining the original proposal and the substitute into a new amendment to be considered at next year's convention. Constitutional amendments that don't originate in the Executive Board must be offered a year in advance.

Although conservatives won the hotly contested presidency, Louisiana moderates won both vice presidencies. Waylon Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church in Covington, La., was elected first vice president by eight votes. Nelda Seal of Alexandria, La., retired director of the state Woman's Missionary Union, was elected second vice president.

Messengers reject bid to defund Western Recorder

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

OWENSBORO—A motion to defund the Western Recorder was soundly defeated by messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Owensboro Nov. 14. Ray Werline, pastor of Cuba Baptist Church in Mayfield, made the motion, which ultimately was defeated on a show-of-hands vote by an estimated 4-1 margin.

The Western Recorder, a KBC agency, receives about \$300,000 annually from the KBC. That contribution represents 31.3 percent of the paper's annual budget.

Werline claimed the Recorder "generally" editorializes and reports on the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in a "positive manner" while "generally" editorializing and reporting on Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions in a "negative manner."

Werline said the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship are splinter groups that attempt to detract from the SBC and therefore should not be the subject of articles or editorials in the Recorder. "One purpose of the Recorder should be to further the interests of the Southern Baptist Convention, its agencies and institutions," he said.

Werline further charged that editorials in the Recorder have "personally attacked some of our good and godly men" who lead these SBC agencies.

Although not mentioning him by name, Werline referred to Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Werline asked messengers to help

him "get the attention of the Western Recorder trustees, who think they've done a good job" but really have done a "one-sided job."

His motion called for the KBC to withdraw immediately all Cooperative Program funds from the Recorder and escrow those funds until the Recorder's trustees change the paper's editorial policy.

That policy, referenced earlier in the day by Bill Thurman, chairman of the Recorder board, charges the Recorder editor and staff with "responsible freedom" to report on a wide range of topics without prior censorship.

Just as pastors should have complete freedom to preach on the topics of their convictions, so the editor should have freedom to write editorials, Thurman said.

Lynn Traylor, minister of youth at First Baptist Church of Sonora, spoke against Werline's motion.

"There are times when we read things in our paper that make us upset," Traylor admitted. But the Recorder provides a forum for all Kentucky Baptists to express their opinions, he added.

"Those of us who fill the pulpit realize we would not like to have our hands tied," he continued.

Traylor further compared the Recorder's content to a buffet. "Simply because we don't like everything served on the plate" is no reason to defund the entire paper, he said.

Greg Brooks, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort, offered a motion to refer Werline's motion to the KBC Executive Board's business

and finance committee.

Werline said he already had attempted to get this action taken in the business and finance committee, of which he is a member, but had not been successful.

Messengers rejected Brooks' motion to refer the matter back to the business and finance committee, and then voted not to defund the Recorder.

Thurman, the Recorder board chairman who is an attorney in Lexington and a member of Calvary Baptist Church there, called Werline's motion an attempt at "economic censorship."

"The board of directors of the Western Recorder feels strongly that the editorial and news policy in place, which calls for the exercise of 'responsible freedom' by the editor and staff in choosing topics and articles for inclusion in the Western Recorder, is the best way to ensure that information relevant to all Kentucky Baptists is part of the paper," he said. "I was pleased that the convention also seemed to agree with that policy."

Recorder Editor Marv Knox expressed appreciation for the convention's affirmative vote. "The vast majority of messengers indicated they did not want to punish their Recorder for keeping them abreast of issues which shape our common life together," he said.

Knox also disputed Werline's characterization of the newspaper's content. "As any responsible, observant reader knows, the vast majority of our space is dedicated to providing

practical resources for Christian living," he said. "Most of our effort is channeled toward helping our readers become stronger Christians, better Baptists and more effective church members."

"And while we do indeed cover the Fellowship, the SBC and convention controversy, that coverage represents a very limited amount of our copy. We include it because we believe we have a moral imperative to do so. We would be negligent if we failed to report actions and events that impact Kentucky Baptists, their churches and their state convention."

The claim that the Recorder's news coverage "generally" supports the Fellowship and criticizes the SBC "simply does not enjoy the support of fact," Knox said. "News reports neither criticize nor support. They tell the facts and leave value judgments to readers. Despite all the controversy of the past five years, our news coverage has not been criticized for factual inaccuracies or misrepresenting the truth."

Acknowledging that some of his editorials have been critical of specific SBC actions, Knox stressed both the Baptist heritage of dissent and the Recorder's attempt at balance.

"Yes, I have stated disagreement with several trends in the SBC, particularly the new management of Southern Seminary," he said. "This is a perspective that represents a significant number of Southern Baptists—people whose voices have been silenced elsewhere in Baptist life."

"Being a faithful Baptist doesn't mean walking in lockstep with partisan authority figures. Being a faithful Baptist means honestly expressing beliefs and opinions, and allowing others to do the same."



Compton calls on churches to release God's power

By Marv Knox
Editor

OWENSBORO—Today's world desperately needs for God's power to be "released" through the church, Kentucky Baptist Convention President Billy Compton told messengers to the KBC annual meeting last week.

Compton addressed the theme of the KBC's 158th annual meeting, "Releasing the Power of the Church Today: Experiencing God, Reaching People, Touching Lives."

Compton compared God's power and the church to the power of a NASA rocket and the space shuttle Atlantis. At lift-off, the rocket actually controls a powerful explosion, which continues as it carries the shuttle through 70 miles of Earth's atmosphere before leveling off into orbit, he explained.

Similarly, God's Holy Spirit empowers the church, he added, noting the Greek word for the Holy Spirit is most closely translated "dynamite."

Just as the rocket explosion frees the shuttle from Earth's gravity, God's power frees or releases people and the church from the spiritual gravity that weighs them down, Compton said. "We're living in a world that desperately needs to expe-

rience the power of God," he noted.

However, if Christians intend to "release" that power into the world, they first must experience it themselves, he said. "We must come to the point where our hearts are set on experiencing the power of God."

Part of that experience is learning "to place our hope not in chariots, not in the Democratic or Republican party, but in God alone," Compton said.

To experience that power, Christians must shift their attention from their lives to an exclusive focus on God, he said.

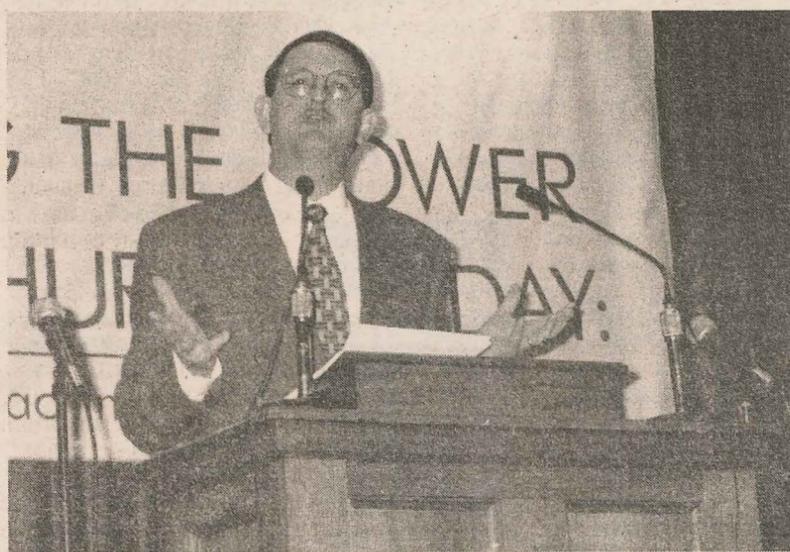
Of course, that action is risky, he admitted, but it's not as risky as failing to focus on and trust God.

"It is risky business for a plane to take off, but it's more dangerous for that plane to sit in a hanger and collect rust," he said. "It is dangerous to abandon your heart to God, but it's more dangerous to keep your heart from God."

The church can release the power of God into the world when it dares to care for the world, Compton said.

"We must care enough and share enough to reach people with the gospel," he said, admonishing Christians to do so "with gentleness, respect and honor."

The church also can release the



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS Delivering the annual president's address, Billy Compton calls for Kentucky Baptist churches to release God's power in the world.

power of God into the world when Christians care enough to touch lives of people in their communities, he added.

"Jesus authorized, empowered and enabled Christians to act on his behalf," Compton reminded. And God will give Christians supernatural power when they seek to do God's healing work in the world, he said.

Ultimately, he added, Christians must provide the world with hope in God. He quoted French theologian Teilhard de Chardin, who said, "The world tomorrow will belong to those who brought it the greatest hope."

"Christians are the bearers of the hope of God, powered by the Holy Spirit," Compton stressed. "Pray for the Holy Spirit to release the power."

"One purpose of the Recorder should be to further the interests of the Southern Baptist Convention, its agencies and institutions."

Ray Werline, speaking for his motion to defund the Western Recorder

"It is dangerous to abandon your heart to God, but it's more dangerous to keep your heart from God."

Billy Compton

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Send e-mail to CompuServe 102667,1300. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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An 'interim' solution

Baptist churches constantly experience pastoral change. Pastors move, retire and die. Each occurrence creates a temporary void in church leadership.

And since the average pastorate lasts less than five years, churches should give thought for how they will respond when the pastor leaves.

The best plan is to call an interim pastor, and it offers many advantages.

Most particularly, an interim pastor can provide continuity of leadership. He can prevent the church from "dangling" and at the same time allow the pastor-search committee a maximum amount of freedom. And with the advent of better retirement programs, trained and experienced ministers are abundantly available.

The role of an interim pastor should be defined, just as the office of the permanent pastor is defined. The church should prepare a job description, allowing the interim pastor to perform the pastoral function as much as possible. Many interim pastors can stay on the church field, living in the parsonage or other housing provided by the congregation. Some interims live close enough to commute to the church.

Beyond housing, the church should make adequate provisions for its interim pastor. The church should not count on using the interim period to "get ahead" financially. In an effort to save money, some churches pay the "pulpit supply" a fraction of the amount they normally would pay their pastor. However, the interim pastor should receive proportionately from the church budget the amount of money provided for the regular pastor.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department can help structure a church's support package

so that it will minimize Social Security penalties for an interim pastor who is retired.

The role of the interim pastor is delightful.

Both he and the church know he has no "ax to grind," and his tenure is relatively short. Consequently, the interim pastor is free to see things and to speak to issues that a permanent pastor might have difficulty addressing successfully.

The experience of the interim pastor qualifies him to fill the role of a consultant to the church. As a consultant, he may be able to identify areas of particular need that an incoming pastor could not afford to tackle in the early days of his ministry.

The interim pastor is just as much the "man of God" as he ever was. He must not yield to the temptation to slide along, maintaining the status quo until the new pastor arrives. Perhaps the church will call a pastor soon, but the interim period could be long.

The Scripture recounts times when the Holy Spirit delayed a particular action so that certain things could take place. This particularly could be true in a congregation that needs healing within its fellowship. The interim pastor should not pressure the pastor-search committee to hasten its decision, risking a decision that is not in the best interest of the church.

The interim pastor's purpose is to provide leadership until the right pastor is found, thus freeing the pastor-search committee to take all the time it needs.

However, the interim pastor should not establish permanent precedents that could provide difficulty for the new pastor. For example, such changes as the creation of a new constitution and bylaws or resolution of staff problems should be left to the prerogative of the new pastor.

Also, the interim pastor must be cautious that he does not become a candidate for the permanent pastoral role.

In a long-term interim, many church members will fall in love with the interim pastor, and many will want him to become their pastor. However, many churches stipulate that the interim pastor will not be considered for the pastorate. This decision provides the interim pastor with the freedom he needs to be the helper he must be during a time of change and transition. While some exceptions may apply, the best policy is for the interim pastor never to be a candidate for the permanent position.

Another pitfall to avoid is the temptation for the interim pastor to place "his man" in the permanent position. He can give counsel to the pastor-search committee only so long as he is not promoting the candidacy of someone who is close to him.

The interim pastor must provide leadership during a pastorless period, freeing the church to focus considerable energy into the search for the right person to become its pastor. When that new pastor arrives, the interim pastor can help plan for his arrival, giving leadership to the reception and installation of the new pastor.

Some churches may want to employ the interim pastor for a short time after the new pastor arrives. This would allow the interim pastor to acquaint the new pastor with the community and church life. This should be done only with the new pastor's consent.

Since Jesus came, churches have struggled with the problem of the interim between pastorates. An intentional, supportive interim pastor can help a church share the gospel in its community, even in the meantime.

*Wallace Morris, interim pastor
Hawesville Baptist Church
Hawesville*

Dear Marv

On Thanksgiving Day, you'll board the plane at Standiford airport and head off for Dallas; not for a meeting; not for a brief Thanksgiving vacation with family, and not for an interview with the search committee. No, Marv, you'll be headed home!

I know something of the feelings you have had these past few weeks; the bitter-sweet of saying goodbye to friends you love; a church you care deeply for; a job you weren't anxious to leave.

It was this time of year in 1982 that the search committee here had decided to recommend me to the Executive Board as executive secretary. Though it wasn't a "done deal" until the board voted, I had already crossed the bridge in my heart and had begun to "disconnect" emotionally.

I can remember the Saturday I got into my 1980 GMC diesel pick-up and headed for our little farm in the Blue Ridge foothills. Somewhere between Charlottesville and Route 151, I pushed in a Roger Whittaker tape. On that particular tape is the number

"I Can Hear Kentucky Calling Me." I had listened to it many times before since Whittaker is one of my favorite artists, but on that day the song pulled from me a deep anguish of soul—the excitement and joy of "going home" versus the pain of saying goodbye to a job I liked, a church we loved, and some of the dearest friends we shall ever be privileged to have.

I played that number over and over that day and when I pulled away from the farm late that afternoon, I think I knew I was saying goodbye to it as well.

But, Marv, as the weeks grew into months and months into years, whatever tears I shed and pain I experienced have since been overshadowed by the growing affirmation that "coming home" was the right thing for us.

Even so, when, over lunch some weeks ago, you told me you were "leaning" in that direction, I experienced that "kicked-in-the-stomach" pain that comes to all of us a number of times in life ... when what you hear or learn hurts so terribly.

That pain has largely been displaced now and I am concentrating on

your joy in the journey; the unparalleled opportunity of being part of the Baptist publication with the largest circulation among us; to be near your and Joanna's parents.

I try to think of the influence you will have as your young years ripen further and your unusual blend of "writer-poet-administrator" blossoms into the fruit of informed, Baptist constituency.

I have come to know your courage, Marv, even when some of what you have written and reported did not enjoy the free-from-criticism pleasure of your delightful "Down Home" column. Don't leave that courage in your desk drawer here, Marv. Take it with you, because that is who you are. Let no one person or group intimidate you out of speaking the truth as you see it. You have demonstrated you can take your lumps; the Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting in Owensboro made it overwhelmingly clear they affirm you and they affirm a free Baptist press.

God go with you, my young brother. And as you are enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with all your family, remember fondly your "cousins" in Kentucky.

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



FAMILY FORUM

Learning to love with the lights on

By Diana Garland

God created sex as a good and powerful means of communion between partners. Nevertheless, research with church families suggests 20 percent of married adults have sexual difficulties.

Illness or other physical processes cause a small minority of difficulties. Most result from problems of passion, however. Sexual passion is a giving oneself shamelessly to a beloved.

The crux of the problem is the word "shamelessly." The adage is true, "You are not ready for sex if you aren't eager to do it with the lights on."

This does not mean only being unashamed of one's physically naked body. It means risking all of who one is to be seen and known, and wanting to see and know the other—becoming one flesh, one body together.

Physical stimulation obviously is important to sexuality, but its importance has been inflated. What is more important is a willingness of both partners to share their thoughts and feelings.

It is hard to admit to one's self—and then put into words with a trusted partner—one's heartfelt longings, hurts and hopes. It is hard to discipline one's self to seek and nurture such sharing from a partner. We must take and hold what our partners share with the tenderness that we would use to cradle a baby bird fallen from a nest.

In sexual intimacy, this kind of communication means baring one's preferences, irritations and desires. And it means hearing these and expressing a willingness to be taught.

As Christians, we aim at not only leaving the lights on, but also keeping our eyes open—not only to see one another physically but also spiritually.

How do we develop such a "lights on" relationship? Recognize that our sexual relationship is a part of everything we do together as a couple. Foreplay does not just involve hugs and kisses; it involves taking the risk to share our potentially embarrassing thoughts and feelings throughout our lives. It involves creating a "safe place" with one another, being the kind of partner that listens with the heart, tenderly cradling the gift of a partner's self-revelation. It even involves conflict that can be passionately angry because we know we are safe with one another, that we will go on caring and loving.

Diana Garland is director of the Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry at Southern Baptist Seminary.

Is Cedarmore saved? Depends on how you 'vote'

Kentucky Baptists have spoken, and they want to keep their campgrounds.

Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting soundly rebuffed a long-time-coming proposal to terminate the KBC's ownership and operation of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly in North Central Kentucky, near Shelbyville. Instead, they voted to create two institutions—complete with their own trustee boards—to own and operate both of the convention's camps, including Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly in Western Kentucky, near Hardin.

Cedarmore has been the focal point of passion for thousands of Kentucky Baptists during the past year. Last December, the KBC Executive Board voted to develop a plan for finding another owner of Cedarmore and for conducting its camping program at other sites. The Executive Board reached that decision after two special study committees documented the declining use and financial viability of Cedarmore. The board determined it should seek other options for its camps. But Kentucky Baptists had other ideas. Churches and associations across the state protested, adopting resolutions calling for the KBC to keep Cedarmore.

That's why no one was surprised when Cedarmore became a focal topic during the KBC annual meeting last week. The campground's advocates succeeded in convincing many Kentucky Baptists to come to the convention to "save Cedarmore." Small wonder. Cedarmore sits on holy ground for many Kentucky Baptists. Countless people have committed their lives to Christ, felt God calling them into ministry and heard a word from the Lord in that place. So, no one should be surprised that they would resist letting it go.

In rational terms, the Cedarmore debate never was about doing away with the KBC's camping program. The people who supported giving up Cedarmore consistently cited the need to provide camping experiences that would attract even more Baptists from across the state in a more cost-effective manner.

But this was a debate of the heart, not the head. And by a 3-1 margin, KBC messengers said they want to hold on to Cedarmore.

Ironically, the vote only settled one part of the issue. It clearly instructed the Executive Board to institutionalize Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. They will have their own trustees who will be responsible for the upkeep, promotion, management and ongoing operation of the camps.

Next, the real vote to "save" Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek will be cast as Kentucky Baptists decide to send their children to camp at the assemblies. It will be cast when deacon boards and Sunday school classes hold their retreats in those places. It will be cast when individuals from across the state register for conferences and seminars at the campgrounds. It will be cast when individuals and churches provide significant amounts of money to make much-needed repairs and construct facilities that will enable the camps to compete for the attention of quality-conscious Kentuckians who have been spending their camping and conference money in other places.

Now that Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek will have their own trustee boards, their future will be in their own hands. The KBC provides partial funding for all its agencies and institutions. But it does not provide near enough money to keep any of them afloat. All nine agencies that have preceded Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek have had to work diligently and have invested mightily to raise money and provide services that make them attractive to Kentucky Baptist constituents. This hard work and these good relationships have made the other agencies and institutions viable.

From now on, Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek will swim in those same waters. If the camps, under their own management, can raise new money and attract campers in historic proportions, they will succeed.

If three-fourths of Kentucky Baptists—the proportion who voted for the proposal—send their children and adults to the camps, they truly will save Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. But if they do not put their money and their campers where their votes were, they only will have succeeded in postponing the inevitable demise of the campgrounds. On holy ground or not.

Marv Knox

The real vote to "save" Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assemblies will be cast as Kentucky Baptists decide whether they will support the camps with their own money and attendance.

Thanks for protecting your right to a free flow of information

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for standing up for your right to receive the full spectrum of news that impacts our common life.

During the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week, you voted down a proposal that would have deprived you of your right to receive news regarding some of the most significant activity to unfold in our denomination in this century. By a 4-1 margin, KBC messengers defeated a motion designed to prevent the Western Recorder from reporting on the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Whether you like or dislike the Fellowship is beside the point. The moderate organization has attracted thousands of Southern Baptists and is controlling millions of Baptists' missions dollars. The issues raised by

its existence are being debated in hundreds of churches. Whether you like the Fellowship or not, you need and deserve to know what it's up to. If the Recorder failed to report on the Fellowship, even anti-Fellowship conservatives could rightly criticize the newspaper for "covering up" an important development in the denomination.

Coverage of the Fellowship was the focus of the motion, but the motion illustrates a deeper issue. Some people want to control Baptists' right to knowledge. They think they alone should determine what others know. That's tyrannical thinking, and it's not Baptist. Thank God, most Kentucky Baptists know better.

Marv Knox

If my phone could microwave dinner, I'd have a real 'bachelor' pad

What are you grateful for this Thanksgiving?

I'm glad I'm not a turkey, but that's a fact for which I am grateful along about this time every November.

This year, I'm especially thankful Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone and that somebody invented the microwave oven shortly after somebody else invented frozen dinners.

The phone has been my buddy for most of the past month, since Joanna, Lindsay and Molly high-tailed it to our new home near Dallas. And the microwave and Lean Cuisine have kept me alive until I can join them.

When I was elected associate editor of the Baptist Standard, the Texas newspaper,

we counted on a period of family separation, but not this way.

The way these things usually work, the husband/daddy winds up moving ahead to the new job. Meanwhile, the mom and kids stay behind to await the sale of their home and/or the end of school.

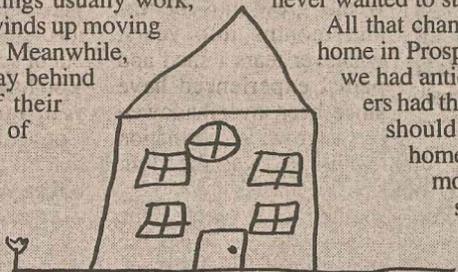
That's happened to us before, and Jo wasn't a particularly happy camper. This time, we dreaded the possibility of me

heading off to Texas while the girls stayed behind. Especially since that would mean I

would land in the waiting arms of our family while the girls stayed behind. The girls never wanted to stay behind.

All that changed when we sold our home in Prospect much quicker than we had anticipated. The new owners had the audacity to think they should move into their new home. So, the Knox women moved on ahead, while I stayed behind. (That's what some people call "poetic justice,"

because they're usually way ahead of me—literally, figuratively and just about any other way you can imagine.) They even took Betsy, our dog.



down home

Consequently, I've been "batching it." I've been blessed to housesit in the wonderful home of our friends, Luwilda and Bill. But no matter how great the house, it sure seems empty without the sound of familiar voices and the smell of familiar food.

That's why I'm so glad for the telephone. Every night, at just about Molly and Lindsay's bedtime, I've been treated to the most beautiful music on earth. That's the sound of three voices, whose tones lift my spirits, no matter what words they happen to say.

Now, if I can just figure out how to make microwave food taste like Jo's chicken piccata, I think I'll survive for a few more days.

Marv Knox

Experiencing God more than a slogan, Tichenor says

"The church needs to be possessed of a power before we can release it. God must do something to us before he does something through us."
New KBC President Bill Tichenor

By Marv Knox
Editor

OWENSBORO—Bill Tichenor wants Kentucky Baptists to experience God's power, so they can share it across the commonwealth.

Tichenor, pastor of First Baptist Church of Princeton, was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention during the KBC's 158th annual meeting last week in Owensboro.

The theme of the meeting, "Releasing the Power of the Church Today," needs to become a reality for Kentucky Baptists, Tichenor believes.

"I'm concerned that we carry out the message of this theme," he said. "But it seems to me the church needs to be possessed of a power before we can release it. God must do something to us before he does something through us."

Consequently, Kentucky Baptists must seek spiritual renewal in themselves and their churches before they can expect to impart that power upon others, he added.

"We all recognize that power is of God—that it's available to us and adequate for our needs," Tichenor explained. "But it's been my experience that the power must be in the process of having an impact on me in order for me to have an impact on others."

And Tichenor hopes to help Kentucky Baptists take hold of that power, not just talk about it.

"It has to be experienced," he said. "It's not just a slogan."

Tichenor, who has been pastor in several sections of the state and drew support from across the theological/political spectrum, said he wants to be "a leader of all Kentucky Baptists."

"I'd like to help foster a spirit of cooperation, genuine love and respect," he stressed. "Respect is something we need today among our churches and their leaders."

The new president feels Kentucky Baptists share plenty of common ground upon which to construct that respect.

"I'll be building upon the positive results we have experienced," he said.

For example, Kentucky Baptists have benefited greatly from the mission partnerships they share with Baptists in other parts of the country and around the world, he said.

"One of the great benefits of partnership missions is that it gives our people hands-on experience," Tichenor noted. "That experience changes their understanding of the total mission program. It puts a 'face' on the Cooperative Program," the convention's unified budget.

In addition to missions, Kentucky Baptists have experienced common ground through "positive results" from their colleges and schools and the programs supported by the KBC Executive Board, he stressed.

"I have confidence in our leadership," he said. "I don't come in with an agenda. It seems to me the program leadership is doing a good job. I want to be an encourager of those charged with carrying out these programs."

Tichenor would like to sharpen Kentucky Baptists' focus on their common ministry.

He quoted a former seminary professor who was fond of saying, "We don't need to be talking about the

moral implications of the gospel, but the moral imperatives."

"The world needs to see the church addressing the moral issues of the day from that perspective," he said.

As an illustration, he cited the AIDS crisis. "It would be pretty easy for a lot of church people to equate this disease with leprosy in New Testament times," he said. "But we're moving beyond that to see it's a great imperative for ministry."

He praised Woman's Missionary Union for planning a year-long focus on AIDS ministry.

He also affirmed Baptists' renewed emphasis on spiritual development, particularly through use of the "Experiencing God" materials produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"People have responded and been blessed," he said.

Tichenor is proud of being a Baptist, and notes he came to be a Baptist differently than the path taken by most Kentucky Baptists.

"I'm a Baptist by choice, not by birth," he explained. "I was saved in the Methodist church as a young adolescent, and I have fond feelings and respect for Methodists. I knew God was calling me to preach as a 17-year-old."

However, during his junior year at Western Kentucky University, he felt God leading him to become a Baptist, and he joined First Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Decades later, he's glad he made that choice.

"One of the most distinctive contributions Baptists have made to

Christian doctrine is the idea of soul competency," he said. "As I look back on my experiences, I very much appreciate our church polity, which grows from the twin beliefs in soul competency and the autonomy of the local church."

Those concepts have given Baptists the freedom to choose to cooperate, which has enabled them to cooperate more than if they were linked more formally and forced to work together, he claimed.

"In freedom, we cooperate and share together and do together what we could never do alone," he said. "And no episcopacy is telling us what we're supposed to do. The results of our cooperation come from the power we experience in our freedom."

Tichenor has been pastor of First Baptist Church in Princeton since 1977.

During that ministry, the church has conducted three major building renovation projects and developed several new ministries.

Prior to the Princeton pastorate, he was pastor of Red Hill Baptist Church in Utica, Greenwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Calhoun Baptist Church in Calhoun and Scottsville Baptist Church in Scottsville.

Tichenor has been a trustee of the Sunday School Board, member of the KBC Executive Board, trustee of Campbellsville and Cumberland colleges, president of the KBC Pastors' Conference and moderator of the associations where he has been pastor.

In addition to a degree from Western Kentucky University, he has earned master's and doctor's degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Glenda, are the parents of two adult sons.



McConnell, Sivells, Simmons and Williams also elected



KBC OFFICERS Newly elected officers of the Kentucky Baptist Convention are Joe Priest Williams, assistant secretary; Wilma Simmons, secretary; Ralph McConnell, first vice president; Ronnie Sivells, second vice president; and Bill Tichenor, president.

Continued from page 1

fulness and compassion to others," reported his nominator, Mark Hopper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Frankfort.

Denney entered the ministry at age 30 after a business career, Hopper noted. He became pastor at Alton Baptist—his first and only pastorate—more than 28 years ago.

In other officer elections:

■ Ralph McConnell, a retired associational director of missions and now pastor of Fruit Hill Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, won a run-off election for first vice president. He received 426 votes, compared to 178 votes for Rodney Burnette, pastor of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville. On a previous ballot, they were challenged by Jackie Perkins, a layman and member of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Bremen.

■ Ronnie Sivells, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton, was elected second vice president. He received 506 votes, compared to 394 for Dwight Moody, pastor of Third Baptist Church of Owensboro.

■ Wilma Simmons, the convention's secretary and a layperson from Ekron, was elected by acclamation, as was Joe Priest Williams, assistant secretary and a retired pastor from Louisville.

Resolutions address gambling, theology and WMU

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

OWENSBORO—Messengers to this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting registered their opposition to casino gambling but affirmed and celebrated various Baptist individuals and groups in seven resolutions.

The resolution against casino gambling, presented by Terrell Bradley, pastor of South Elkhorn Baptist Church in Lexington, calls gambling a violation of "God's perfect will for humanity by diminishing reliance upon the sovereignty of God in favor of dependence upon chance and luck."

Gambling discredits the ideal of support for others in favor of a "something-for-nothing" attitude and disdains stewardship of resources in favor of reckless abandon, the resolu-

tion states.

The resolution further blames casino gambling for "increased involvement in organized crime, government and corporate corruption, prostitution and street crime" and of "crippling countless numbers of locally-owned businesses."

By unanimously passing the resolution, messengers committed to urge churches and lawmakers to oppose the legalization of casino gambling and to support the work of the Temperance League of Kentucky and others who oppose such legalization.

Other resolutions took a positive stance of appreciation and celebration:

- Affirmation of diverse theolog-

ical backgrounds. Messengers affirmed the roots of both Arminianism and Calvinism in their Baptist heritage, pledging to refrain from dogma that would hinder a strong missions focus and choosing to "stress the inclusive nature of God's grace which calls all people to repentance and fulfills our divine imperative to carry the gospel to all the earth."

- Commendation to Marv Knox. Messen-

gers expressed appreciation to Marv Knox for service to Kentucky Baptists as editor of the Western Recorder, extending "best wishes for good fortune and God's blessings" to the Knox family as they move to Texas, where he will become associate editor of the Baptist Standard.

- Support for WMU. Messengers praised Woman's Missionary Union for "visionary courage in developing a bold, innovative approach for organizing missions education, support and action." The resolution also commended Dee Gilliland, retiring executive director of Kentucky WMU, and her successor, Kay Trisler.

- Commendation for Bob Jones. Messengers expressed appreciation for Bob Jones, retiring after 27 years with the KBC direct missions department.

- Celebration of the Cooperative Program. Messengers noted with appreciation and celebration the 150th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention, the 70th anniversary of the Cooperative Program and the 80th anniversary of the state's unified budget plan.

- Appreciation to hosts in Owensboro.



Messengers reject motion for study of KBC giving

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

OWENSBORO—A motion to study a specific giving pattern by Kentucky Baptist churches was defeated overwhelmingly by messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Owensboro Nov. 15.

Rick Reeder, associate pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Mayfield, made the motion, which called for the KBC Executive Board's business and finance committee to study whether a shortfall in receipts to the KBC's Cooperative Program budget is due to churches channeling money through alternative means such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

In a statement to messengers appealing for passage of his motion, Reeder said the KBC fell \$1.3 million short of its budget goal in the last fiscal year.

Failing to pass his motion could indicate messengers don't want to know what the causes of this shortfall are, he added.

"Truly committed" churches are

having to make up the shortfall being created by churches diverting funds to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, Reeder charged.

Tim Frank, minister of education and music at Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort, called for a point of order to note that the \$1.3 million Reeder referred to was the difference between actual receipts and the challenge goal of the KBC budget.

"The operating budget was right on track," Frank said. "The \$1.3 million is of the bold mission challenge goal ... That is a challenge goal, not an operating goal."

Allen West, retired director of missions for Long Run Baptist Association, asked that Reeder's motion be ruled out of order. "We do not have any right to go into what a church gives or to whom a church gives," he declared.

KBC President Billy Compton did not rule the motion out of order, however.

With no further debate, messengers defeated the motion on a show-of-hands vote with only a scattering of dissent.

In a statement after the convention, Greg Brooks, moderator of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, said the motion represented a misunderstanding about churches that support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

"I really don't think it's accurate to say we're in competition with the Kentucky Baptist Convention," said Brooks, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort. "We're strong supporters of the KBC, and that's evidenced by our strong financial commitment."

Most Kentucky churches that give to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or Kentucky Baptist Fellowship have reduced giving to the SBC, but not to the KBC, past analyses have shown.

Brooks said the Kentucky churches which financially support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Kentucky Baptist Fellowship represent only 3.6 percent of all Kentucky Baptist churches but give 14 percent of all gifts to the Kentucky Cooperative Program.

Messengers taken ill improving

Victims of three public illnesses during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting were improving as of late last week.

- Jim McKinley, a retired missionary to Bangladesh and member of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, was scheduled to present the foreign mission report during the opening session of the meeting Tuesday morning in Owensboro. However, he suffered a heart attack in Alabama on his way to a speaking engagement the previous weekend, and he was unable to attend the KBC meeting.

KBC messengers learned of McKinley's heart attack during prayer time as the annual meeting began. Later, they learned he suffered a second heart attack.

Fortunately, he responded well to an angioplasty procedure at a hospital in Huntsville, Ala., and doctors were able to remove most of the blockage, according to a spokesperson at Westport Road Church. McKinley was expected to return to his home in Louisville late last week.

- Bill Whittaker, president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, suffered chest pains Wednesday and was taken to an Owensboro hospital.

Doctors initially diagnosed his condition as pleurisy, an inflammation of the chest lining, reported Shelby Castlen, Whittaker's secretary. Whittaker took a series of tests in Pineville late last week. Results of those tests should enable doctors to diagnose his condition more accurately.

- Evans Fowler, a layperson and messenger from Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville, became ill during one of the sessions and was treated by doctors attending the meeting.

"He's doing fine," Fowler's pastor, Jim Holladay, reported last Friday.

Messengers give Cedarmore & Jonathan Creek new status

Continued from page 1

churches and associations across the state who stated their opposition to "selling" Cedarmore.

This transition committee was to have reported to the Executive Board at its December meeting. Just the day before the Nov. 14 vote, transition committee chairman Bob Browning gave a preliminary report to the Executive Board.

Although making plans for moving Executive Board programs and camps to other locations, "our goal is to keep Cedarmore in-house, within the family of Kentucky Baptists," Browning told the board.

Adoption of Stewart's motion by the KBC, however, makes the work of the transition committee moot.

Convention messengers charged the Executive Board with finding a way to implement the new directive. Presumably, that work will begin at the Executive Board's December meeting.

"Kentucky Baptists have two real good camps," Stewart said in making his motion. He cited research on camps operated by other state conventions, which have maintained their financial viability.

Giving Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek their own boards of trustees would provide "adequate leadership" to help the Kentucky Baptist camps achieve their full potential, Stewart suggested.

No one spoke in opposition to Stewart's motion.

The motion set no timetable for implementing the new arrangement. Also, what financial impact the new arrangement will have on the Executive Board and on the KBC's Cooperative Program budget is not clear.

Stewart's motion carried no mandate for funding the two camps, but implied that each camp would be able to appeal to the Executive Board for Cooperative Program funds just like the KBC's nine other agencies and institutions.

The KBC's other agencies and institutions each receive a portion of their budgets from Kentucky Cooperative Program receipts but are responsible for raising the majority of their funds from other sources.

In the current fiscal year, Cedar-

more operates on a \$700,000 budget, of which \$475,000 is projected to come from revenues generated at the camp.

Cedarmore receives about \$225,000 in Cooperative Program funds as a department of the Executive Board's business division.

Jonathan Creek's budget this year is \$360,000, of which \$265,000 is to be generated by camp revenues and \$95,000 is to come from Cooperative Program funds.

Another motion regarding Cedarmore was withdrawn after Stewart's motion passed. The second motion, made by Lynn Bertram of Harrison County, asked that "any sale or transfer of Cedarmore be brought to the state convention."

KBC won't admit new association; study underway

Central Point Baptist Association was created by three churches in the Danville area who left their former association, South District, in a 1993 dispute over the ordination of women.

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

OWENSBORO—The Kentucky Baptist Convention welcomed 11 new churches into its fellowship last week but declined to recognize a three-church association born out of adversity two years ago.

Stephen Thompson, chairman of the committee on credentials, reported to the KBC annual meeting Nov. 14 that 11 churches had met the qualifications for fellowship with the KBC: Community Baptist Church in Henderson; Living Hope Baptist Church in Louisville; Symsonia Baptist Church in Symsonia; Trinity Baptist Church in Franklin; Turkey Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson; Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington; New Light Baptist Church in Cadiz; Second Baptist Church in Taylorsville; Mount Herman Baptist Church in Louisville; the Church at Andover in Lexington; and New Victory Baptist Church in Columbia.

However, Thompson also reported that Central Point Baptist Association in the Danville area would not be formally affiliated with the KBC.

"We feel we have weighed the matter carefully and prayerfully," Thompson said.

Central Point Baptist Association was created by three churches in the Danville area who left their former association, South District, in a 1993 dispute over the ordination of women.

In their annual meeting two years ago, messengers to South District Baptist Association narrowly defeat-

ed a motion to withdraw fellowship from Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, which had ordained a woman as a deacon and another woman as a minister.

In protest, Mount Freeman Baptist Church in Junction City, Forks of Dix River Baptist Church in Lancaster and Gethsemane Baptist Church in Danville all withdrew themselves from South District Association. As many as eight others threatened to leave as well.

Subsequently, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church voluntarily removed itself from the association. However, the other churches chose not to return, saying South District Association had demonstrated a lack of doctrinal integrity.

Instead, those churches voted to form Central Point Baptist Association Sept. 7, 1994. Their request to join the KBC last year was delayed by the credentials committee until further study could be completed.

In a prepared statement, Thompson and this year's credentials committee addressed the rationale for their decision.

"This has been a very challenging decision because it has implications for all associations and all Kentucky Baptists," Thompson noted. "We have taken great pains to understand all the issues involved and how all groups would be affected by this decision."

The committee's recommendation

was based on size, a historic pattern of creating associations because of growth and representation on the Executive Board, Thompson noted.

"To affirm three churches forming a separate association within existing associational districts is to encourage fragmentation where cooperation is the goal," Thompson wrote.

He also noted that recognizing this small association would create a new seat on the KBC Executive Board, representing just three churches. On the other hand, not recognizing the association does not prevent those three churches from having access to the Executive Board, he noted, because the convention elects at-large members to the board.

Mark Payton, pastor of Gethsemane Baptist, said in a later interview that the committee's decision was unfair and unsatisfactory.

According to Payton, the KBC already has set precedents for forming associations like theirs.

"Already, there's one association in the KBC that has only three churches," Payton said, while another association—Goshen, is located geographically inside Grayson Association. The other association with three churches is Middle Fork, located in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.

Thompson emphasized in an interview that the decision regarding Central Point Association does not affect

the three churches' relationship to the KBC.

"We believe the action of this committee ... in no way decreases our appreciation of these churches as valued partners in cooperative missions and evangelism and as participating churches in Kentucky Baptist life," he concluded.

"It's amazing that they don't want to accept the association, but they still want our money," Payton responded, adding that Gethsemane Baptist Church will seriously reconsider the amount of Cooperative Program money it sends to the KBC.

"I'll do all I can to see that Kentucky Baptists continue to get some, but it won't be near the \$30,000 they're getting now," he said. KBC records show that in that last fiscal year, Gethsemane Baptist Church contributed \$30,000 in undesignated gifts to the Kentucky Cooperative Program, while Forks of Dix River Baptist Church contributed \$17,715 and Mount Freeman Baptist Church contributed \$1,152.

Messengers accepted the committee's decision and full report without dissension.

In a related matter, Thompson's committee asked the committee on constitution and bylaws to provide more definitive guidelines for recognizing new associations in the KBC.

Wyman Copass, chairman of the committee on constitution and bylaws, reported that a study committee has been appointed to address the question and should make a report to the constitution and bylaws committee in early 1996.



Compton makes appointments

OWENSBORO—Four individuals were appointed to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's committee on committees by KBC President Billy Compton Nov. 14.

C.C. Brasher, pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton, was named to fill the unexpired term of former Louisville pastor Bill Hancock.

Three others were named to fill three-year terms: Ginny Sisk, a layperson and retired minister's wife from Lexington; Terry Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church in Burlington; and Rusty Ellison, pastor of Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Lou-

isville.

Other members continuing service on the committee on committees due to appointment in previous years include Ross Bauscher, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro; Walter Davis of Glasgow; Dee Spears, a layperson from Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah; Andy Reese of Barbourville; and Gayle Tool, pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville.

The committee nominates members of all permanent committees of the convention as well as individuals to give special reports.

Tichenor names 8 chairmen

OWENSBORO—Eight men have been appointed to chair committees of the Kentucky Baptist Convention by new KBC President Bill Tichenor.

Tichenor, pastor of First Baptist Church of Princeton, announced the appointments during the closing session of the KBC annual meeting Nov. 15. They are:

■ Terry Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church in Burlington, to chair the committee on committees.

■ Dan Garland, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Henderson, to chair the committee on order of business.

■ Tommy Tucker, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Paducah, to chair the credentials committee.

■ Jim Spaulding, director of missions for Daviess-Mclean Baptist Association, to chair the committee on arrangements.

■ Scott Kilgore, associate pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, to chair the resolutions committee.

■ Terry Freeman, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Lexington, to chair the public affairs committee.

■ Charles Queen, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenup, to chair the constitution and bylaws committee.

■ Willis Henson, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, to chair the committee on nominations.

Marshall: Executive Board not wasteful

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

OWENSBORO—The Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board is not a "wasteful bureaucracy," Bill Marshall said in his annual report to the KBC annual meeting.

Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer, admitted the name "Executive Board" sounds bureaucratic and "lends itself to bashing." But the Executive Board's work really is about missions, he explained.

Marshall cited three reasons he believes the Executive Board is not a wasteful bureaucracy:

■ Governance by a 180-member board, one of the largest and most-representative boards of any state Baptist convention.

■ Individual staff members. Marshall listed the names of all the Executive Board's professional staff members as a way of putting a face on the board's work.

■ The way money from the churches is spent. Marshall noted the Executive Board allocates funds from the churches as directed by messengers to the annual meetings. "You have to make a decision about whether we're a wasteful bureaucracy," he said.

Marshall explained that undes-

ignated gifts sent through the Kentucky Cooperative Program are divided, with 37 percent forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention and 63 retained for use in Kentucky. But when designated gifts such as special missions offerings are included, 47 percent of contributions through the KBC are forwarded to SBC causes, he added.

Of the money retained for use in Kentucky, a little less than half is given to the KBC's nine agencies and institutions, Marshall said. He cited other expenditures through the Executive Board, such as \$1.4 million to missionary assistance, \$1.2 million to campus ministry and \$1.4 million allocated from reserves for partnership missions.

At the conclusion of Marshall's report, Gary King of Fairview Baptist Church in Waynesburg asked Marshall to state his understanding of the relationship between the KBC and SBC.

"We are partners with the Southern Baptist Convention on a voluntary, loving basis, just as the churches are partners with the Kentucky Baptist Convention," Marshall said. "We need to try to keep our relationships alive as partners if we're serious about winning the world to Christ."

Mohler lists eight traits of the 'church released'

By Marv Knox
Editor

OWENSBORO—When God releases power through the church, it is revealed in a variety of qualities, Al Mohler told messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting last week.

Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, closed the KBC meeting by addressing its theme, "Releasing the Power of the Church Today."

"It is not our power to release," he said. "It's Christ's church and his power to release. Pray that God will release the power of the church."

Mohler identified "eight understandings of the church and what it means for the church to be released." The "church released" would be released in:

■ **Truth.** The ultimate "truth claim" is the Apostle Peter's assertion that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the living God," he said. And that claim is the point upon which the church is established.

"It is a revealed knowledge that is the church's claim" to truth, he said, noting such knowledge must be han-

dled in "humble submission."

■ **Power.** "The New Testament church is imbued with power from above," he said. "There is nothing sadder or more pathetic than a church that appears timid and weak."

The power of the church is not generated by the strength of the church, but comes from God, he added.

"Power is promised to the church," he said. "It will be found victorious in the consummation of all things."

■ **Authority.**

Baptists typically avoid claims to authority because a similar claim is made by the pope, Mohler said.

However, Scripture clearly says the church has "authority to discern truth from error, ... what is the gospel and not the gospel," he added.

"Where there is no authority, there is no church. We have to sound a certain sound."

■ **Ministry.** "The church is best defined (and) understood as ministry," he claimed, stressing the church exists to serve "those who don't even

know they need to be served."

"We must have the mind of Christ, who emptied himself" for the sake of others, he said.

■ **Mission.** "The company of the redeemed is the congregation eager to share the gospel," Mohler charged. "Bear witness that this is the only gospel."

Southern Baptists "at every level and every place" should be judged by how they do what is needful to reach out to people and lead them to faith in Jesus Christ, he said.

■ **Society.** "We live in a time of cultural crisis," he said, calling on the church to be

what the Bible calls "light and salt" in society.

Christian "light" is not the thinking of Christians but "the illumination of the wisdom of God," he reported. In addition, Christian "salt" is preserving, antiseptic and pervasive; it affects and changes those who come in contact with it.

"Society cannot keep on and long survive," he predicted, calling on the

church to proclaim that message in order to change and preserve the world.

■ **Purity.** "The church is called to be pure," Mohler insisted. "Moral purity is one part of being Baptist."

Unfortunately, Baptists have been embarrassed by their own "spots and blemishes," or impurity within their ranks.

■ **Unity.** "The true unity of the church is spiritual—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one head, one faith," he said.

Referring to the unity expressed by the Apostle Paul's metaphor of the church as the body of Christ, he added, "One organ cannot think itself higher than another" and expect the entire body to operate in unity.

Complete unity will be demonstrated "when the Lord calls his own," he said. "In the meantime, we strive (for unity) because the Lord calls us to strive."

While the church awaits the full release of God's power, it must contend with evil forces in the world, Mohler claimed.

"Until we are the church triumphant," he said, "we will be the church militant."

"Until we are the church triumphant, we will be the church militant."
Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



Colvin: God's grace is free but carries expectations

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

OWENSBORO—God's grace is offered freely but comes with expectations, A.B. Colvin told Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers.

Colvin, a longtime Kentucky Baptist missions leader, delivered the KBC's annual sermon Nov. 15, speaking on the gospel of the grace of God. Preaching from Titus 2, Colvin explained that the Apostle Paul named the description, demands and decisions related to the grace of God.

God's grace brings salvation to all people, Colvin said. He highlighted key elements of this truth:

■ God's grace is his unmerited, unearned favor toward humanity, present from the beginning of time.

■ The content of the gospel of God's grace is Jesus Christ.

■ Jesus gave himself. "Only Jesus Christ gave himself, for me and you, to redeem, to pay the price, to buy back," Colvin said. Christ also purified those for whom he died, to make them "peculiar" and "pure."

"But there are consequences to this transaction," Colvin warned, noting that God places demands on people:

■ Christians must be students always learning the gospel of the grace of God.

■ Christians must be stewards, al-

ways living for the Lord Jesus Christ.

■ Christians are to live sober, righteous and godly lives.

As for decisions that should be made, Colvin said, Paul told Titus to keep "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

"The way to tell if we're anxious about Christ's coming is to look at what we're doing," Colvin said. He explained that when Christians work diligently to accomplish God's purposes, they are eager for Christ's return; otherwise, they will be ashamed.

Furthermore, Christians should follow Jesus' advice and glorify God

by bearing much fruit, Colvin said.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," Colvin said, quoting Mark 16:15.

He also alluded to the question of whether all people can be saved.

"It may be that God can't save you," Colvin said. "I've never met anybody God couldn't save. We should leave it to God to tell people if he can't save them."

The Christian's job is to share the gospel, he repeated.

"We don't need to worry about the power of God being released in our churches" if Christians first of all have chosen to accept God's grace and live a Christ-like life, he said.

FACE TO FACE Henry Blackaby (left) signs autographs after speaking at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Remember the power of God, Blackaby admonishes

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

OWENSBORO—Churches need to be reminded of the tremendous power God has extended to local congregations, Henry Blackaby told the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 14.

Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and author of the highly successful "Experiencing God" discipleship study, was guest preacher during the Tuesday evening session at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center.

Blackaby commended Kentucky Baptists for choosing as their convention theme "Releasing the Power of the Church Today: Experiencing God, Reaching People, Touching Lives."

"It's an appropriate theme," he said. "But it's not something we do, it's something God does."

Preaching from Ephesians, Blackaby emphasized the importance of re-

ceiving the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God, and of encountering God in "real, experiential" ways.

The promise of eternal life is a byproduct—not the foremost purpose—of responding to God's calling, Blackaby asserted.

Rather, "God has called you to experience him in such a way—with other people of God—that the enormous presence and power of God would be released in you," he said.

The power available to God's people today is exactly the same as that expressed when God released his might and delivered Christ from death, Blackaby said.

"Nothing in heaven or hell can stop the work of God in people who simply believe in him," he said.

Christ Jesus himself is the chief cornerstone of the church, which is being built together as the dwelling place for God's spirit, Blackaby noted. "How much power must the church have, if God takes up residence there?"

However, Blackaby questioned whether people generally are aware of the potential power God could release in their congregations. "Do your people feel the power of God in their lives?" he asked.

Yet churches have the enormous responsibility to serve as God's agents in the world.

"I don't know how in the world God ever entrusted such an assignment to the churches," Blackaby said. Yet, lives have been changed and nations have been shaken after some congregations allowed God to release his power in their midst, he said.

Blackaby emphasized that God empowers congregations others regard as "least likely to succeed" to carry out his purposes.

"The weak, the despised, the nobodies—they're the ones where God can display his greatness," he said. "God took the nobodies and put his Spirit in people—and you cannot explain what happened next except to call it the manifold wisdom of God."



KENTUCKY

Pastors called to live in 'unquestionable' manner

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

OWENSBORO—Pastors must live pure and holy lives, participants in the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference were told Nov. 13. Five speakers addressed the con-



DRAMATIC POINT Matt and Darlene Tullos, dramatists with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, perform a skit about marriage during the Pastors' Conference.

ference theme, "The Man of God," and various musicians rounded out the program, held at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Owensboro.

Some things in life, including the character of a minister, "ought not to be in question," said Ben Gill, president of Resource Services Inc., a church fund-raising firm.

Among the things people shouldn't question, Gill said, are the power of an omnipotent God, the presence of the Holy Spirit, the truth of the Bible and the steadfastness of the church. Likewise, pastors should live their lives in such a way that they will not be questioned, Gill said.

The minister's stewardship should be measured against Proverbs 11:1, which says God hates cheating and loves honesty, Gill said.

Christians have stewardship responsibilities for their lives and how they live them, their possessions and how they use them and for the gospel, he explained. "The greatest trust ever given by God to man was the gospel of Jesus Christ and how we share it."

Ministers have a Savior in God, said Ronnie Owens, a vocational evangelist from Clinton, Tenn.

Owens recounted how God saved and strengthened the Hebrew leader Samson when he was attacked by a lion.

Like Samson, Christians are most vulnerable to the attacks of Satan when they are alone, he insisted, adding, "But when God shows up, Satan

flees."

Conflict binds Christians together, calls them to prayer, shapes them to be what God wants them to be and teaches them to define and refine their purposes, he said.

Despite the struggle, conflict produces "confection," or blessings, for Christians, Owens promised.

In Samson's case, bees made honey in the carcass of the lion that attacked him, he said. In the case of Christians today, God still provides the promise of heaven, he added.

The minister also must keep his thoughts pure, said Tommy Lea, dean of the theology school at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Speaking from Colossians 3:1-5, Lea urged pastors to "seek the things above."

This means giving attention to "what we watch, what we think about, read and see," he said. "What we think about we ultimately will do."

Scripture calls on Christians to "put to death" or "root out" habits that would lead to sin, Lea said. "What that requires varies, depending on the person. I cannot prescribe that."

The Christian should be motivated to clean up his life because of the knowledge of eventually living with Christ, Lea said. "The recognition that Christ will return and we will live with him in glory ought to give us incentive to live our lives purely."

Bobby Moore, pastor of Broad-

way Baptist Church in Olive Branch, Miss., called ministers "back to the basics."

"Our churches need to go back to the basics, and we ministers need to go back to the basics, where we can win in the eyes of God," he said.

The basic work of the pastor is to be a servant of God, a faithful servant to the people of God, to feed the flock, to gather the people, to carry the people and to lead the people, Moore said.

The pastor also must worship God if he hopes to lead others to worship God, said Jack Johnson, president of the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission. "Your people will not rise above the level of your worship."

This year's Pastors' Conference was planned by officers Rodney Burnette, pastor of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville; Gary Frizzell, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland; and Stan Cole, pastor of Kento-Boo Baptist Church in Florence.

New officers elected to plan next year's conference are Frizzell, president; Ross Bauscher, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro, vice president; and James Shutt, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Central City, secretary. Frizzell was elected over Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green. Frizzell received 137 votes to Ayers' 113.

Additional reporting by Editor Marv Knox

Get 'kingdom mentality,' Jones tells directors of missions in Owensboro

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

OWENSBORO—Associational leaders in Kentucky must learn to think globally and develop a "kingdom mentality," Bob Jones told directors of missions Nov. 13.

Jones, Kentucky Baptist Convention employee since 1968 and direct missions department director since 1975, will retire this December. He was the featured speaker during the Directors of Missions Fellowship annual banquet and business session held at Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro in conjunction with the KBC annual meeting.

Controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention has pushed the focus of ministry more toward the local level, Jones said, which has created a critical situation for asso-

ciations: greater danger and greater opportunity.

"Change brings tension, but it's not all bad," he said. Jones addressed numerous changes he said are or should be on the horizon for associational ministry:

- Orientation for new directors of missions.

- Local planning strategy. "With changes, we have the responsibility and the opportunity to develop creative, customized planning" to meet needs in each association, he said.

- Less dependence on the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

- Mentoring for pastors.

- Enhanced cooperation with sister Baptist institutions. "We're in this thing together," Jones said. "It's not just our little patch. We have to find creative ways to support one another's work."

- Improved relations with African-American congregations.

- Continuing growth of partnership missions. "I believe with all my heart that partnership missions is the thing that has kept Kentucky Baptists from flying apart," Jones said. "When we work together, ... we forget our individual problems."

- Increased use of volunteers.

- Associations networking with each other and with the KBC through computers.

"Kentucky Baptists are in good hands with our directors of missions," Jones concluded. "I am thankful to have been one of you."

David Aker, director of missions for Pulaski Baptist Association, will serve as the organization's president for the coming year. Other officers elected during this year's business session include Richard Robbins of Blackford and Breckinridge associ-

ations, president-elect; Bob Morrison of Little Bethel Association, secretary-treasurer; and Harold Greenfield of Caldwell-Lyon Association, newsletter editor.

In other business, the fellowship:

- Welcomed new directors Larry Orange of Gasper River Association, who began last January, and Nasby Mills of Lynn Camp and North Concord associations.

- Honored retiring directors L.M. Huff and Terry Sills. Huff retired after serving as director of missions in Green Valley Baptist Association for 12 years. Sills, director of missions in Blood River Baptist Association for almost 16 years, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31.

- Awarded the Director of Missions of the Year award to L.M. Huff of Green Valley Baptist Association.

Kentucky Baptist Youth workers reorganize support group

OWENSBORO—The Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministry Association was formally organized Nov. 13 in a meeting attended by 25 youth leaders.

The group previously was known as Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministers Association.

The name change reflects the group's desire to become accessible to anyone working with youth in Kentucky, said Monty Carter, Kentucky

Baptist Convention evangelism associate.

The group adopted a constitution and bylaws and elected officers.

The constitution defines the association's purpose as providing professional identity for leaders in youth ministry, providing continuing education and spiritual support, cooperating with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and promoting youth ministry in

local churches, associations and the state convention.

Officers include President Steve Branch of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville; Vice President John Rice of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; Editor Dawn Palmer of Bardstown Baptist Church in Bardstown; and Secretary-Treasurer Joe Ball of Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville.

Annual dues for the new association are \$15 for students, part-time youth ministers and volunteer youth leaders or \$20 for full-time youth ministers.

For information on joining the association, contact any of the officers listed above or Monty Carter at the KBC, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

KENTUCKY

Fellowship's new moderator speaks to laity

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

OWENSBORO—Baptists responding to denominational controversy may choose from diverse biblical models, Pat Anderson told a group of Kentucky laity Nov. 15.

Anderson, a professor at Florida Southern College in Lakeland and current moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, addressed about 70 people attending the Laity Luncheon during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. The annual luncheon is sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

Anderson's Scripture text from Matthew 26 focused on Jesus and his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane.

"I see the garden experience as a metaphor for where you and I are, not only in our Christian lives, but also denominationally," he said.

"I see Jesus with his closest associates—all laymen—gathered in a peaceful setting," yet being surrounded outside the garden by hostile people, Anderson said. While Jesus and the disciples felt safe together, among people they knew and loved, the story deals with how they would leave the garden and learn to live in sometimes hostile environments.

The various characters in the drama left the garden by one of five gates, Anderson explained. These are the same gates Christians today choose:

■ The gate of the cynic. Judas' cynical response represents a temptation many Baptists struggle with now, Anderson said.

"In an age like this, who can believe anything anymore?" he asked. "We need to resist the temptation to become cynical."

■ The gate of the sleeping. While Jesus was in turmoil, his closest friends were too tired to keep their eyes open.

Likewise, many Baptists "find much security in closing their eyes and sleeping through the entire transition," he added.

■ The gate of conflict. Simon Peter pulled out his sword in the garden. "Now there's a temptation for us as Baptists," Anderson said. "Don't we love a good fight?"

But Jesus offered a haunting rebuttal to Peter's violence.

■ The gate of flight. Eventually, all the disciples ran away from the situation in the garden.

■ The gate of sacrificial service. "Only Jesus opted for the cross," he said, adding that "many wonderful Baptist forbears have taken that path of sacrifice. ... It's the path of Christ; it is the path of the most joy."

Music Conference creates new awards

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

OWENSBORO—Members of the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference voted to initiate three annual awards as a means of honoring outstanding Kentucky Baptist musicians and others who make significant contributions to sacred music ministry.

Music Conference members met Nov. 13 for a day of worship, business, music reading sessions, concerts and conferences.

The three awards will be given annually through nominations made by conference members to an awards committee:

■ The Eugene Quinn award will be presented at the annual meeting to an outstanding musician—teacher, com-

poser, artist, minister of music, denominational leader or pastor—whose achievements have significantly contributed to Kentucky Baptist church music.

■ The Musician of Note award will be given to a member of the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference for distinguished service and outstanding achievement in church music in the state.

■ Honorary life memberships will be awarded to music conference members upon their retirement from active service in a Kentucky Baptist church.

Officers for the 1995-1996 year include Ken Goforth, minister of music at Scottsville Baptist Church, president; Marvin Reynolds, minister of music at Beacon Hill Baptist Church

in Somerset, vice president; and Jack Gordon, minister of music at Second Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, secretary-treasurer.

In his message during worship, Bill Tiemann, minister of music at Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro and 1994-1995 president of the conference, compared the ministry of music to farming.

"First of all, you have to find a climate suitable for growth," Tiemann said, noting the importance of finding the right place to minister.

Other comparisons include availing oneself of education and training, cultivating an appreciation for diversity, developing an attitude of constant care and nurture and leaving a legacy for those who follow, Tiemann said.

Drama called powerful tool for ministry

OWENSBORO—The experiential and visual nature of drama makes it a potentially powerful and beautiful tool for ministry, Michelle Sauer Togami told musicians interested in drama Nov. 13.

Togami, a member at Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville, led a conference during the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference on preparing and selecting drama for worship.

"The beauty of good drama is that it reveals much to us about the human condition through action instead of through exposition," she said. "We as the audience have the ability to discern without being told—to pull the truth out of situations shown to us."

While most people will remember only 5 percent of what they hear after 24 hours, they are likely to remember 57 percent of what they see, she noted.

Drama also is powerful because it is

surprising, she said. "When a drama unfolds bit by bit, the viewer's curiosity is engaged, and the viewer is captured."

For those reasons, both serious and humorous drama can become powerful tools in ministry, said Togami. However, drama doesn't have to be multi-act plays performed on lighted stages, Togami noted. Churches of various sizes and traditions may find appropriate ways to introduce drama as an effective worship tool, she said.

As an example, Togami suggested several ways churches can introduce simple drama through enhanced Scripture readings:

■ Prepared readers. Those who read Scripture in worship should rehearse the passage before Sunday, Togami said.

"Encourage the readers to imagine telling it personally" through the eyes of the writer, and to find natural pauses and points of emphasis.

■ Multiple readers. Try dividing a passage of Scripture and assigning two or three readers to stand in different areas of the sanctuary to provide an antiphonal effect.

■ Adaptations of Scripture. Contemporary phrasing inserted into a passage often grabs the listeners' attention and reminds them Scripture is relevant today, Togami suggested. "It's not heresy to add this way."

■ Combinations of Scripture. Develop a reading that combines two or more related passages of Scripture, perhaps melded together by a repeated phrase.

■ Mime, sign language, creative movement and banners. These visual elements also can make Scripture come alive when used in conjunction with appropriate passages.

■ Congregational involvement. "Give your congregation a lot of credit for what they can imagine and discern," Togami said.

Educators asked to empower laypeople

By Marv Knox
Editor

OWENSBORO—A new approach to leadership can empower laypeople to do the work of the church and free ministers to minister, members of the Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association were told Nov. 13.

Ministers of education from across the state participated in the association's annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Owensboro immediately prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

They spent six hours studying "lead teams," a new method for accomplishing specific church tasks. The concept was developed by Richard Ross, a leadership consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"Lead teams are groups of Christians assembled because of their complementary gifts and their shared passion for a specific ministry, event, project or campaign," Ross said.

For example, a lead team could be assembled to help a church develop and implement an ongoing Bible study in an apartment complex, he said. Another lead team could be put

together to plan a churchwide revival, start a ministry to homeless people, reach out to people with AIDS or head up a program to assimilate new members into the life of the church, he added.

"Lead teams are assembled to accomplish a particular task or mission and exist only long enough to fulfill that objective," Ross explained.

He described how he has worked with lead teams to conduct the youth ministry at Tulip Grove Baptist Church in suburban Nashville, where he is the part-time youth minister.

He works with about 100 leaders—youth workers, parents and mature youth—who staff about 13 lead teams at any one time.

Each lead team takes complete responsibility for its assignment, including planning, promotion, staffing and all other details, he said.

At Tulip Grove, lead teams have led such projects as the annual out-of-state mission trip, the church's participation in Centrifuge youth camp, youth vacation Bible school, youth week in the church, an annual youth discipleship weekend, and an annual retreat in Panama City, Fla.

"Each of these major events involves over 100 teenagers, complicat-

ed logistics and significant spiritual needs and opportunities," Ross said. And yet every project implemented by a lead team during the past two years has set an all-time record for participation.

The projects work because the lead teams are comprised of people who have the skills needed to do the work and who are committed to achieving the ministries, he reported.

"Adults continually report that they are more fulfilled in their team roles than in any involvement they have had in youth ministry in any church," Ross noted.

Lead teams work so well because they draw upon the strengths and commitments of many members rather than relying upon the stamina and ability of the hired clergy, stressed Tim Holcomb, who has been a manager in the Sunday School Board's general leadership department.

During the meeting, the association elected new officers. They are Terri Springer, minister of education and youth at First Baptist Church of Fort Thomas, president; Tom Pelphrey of Owensboro, president-elect; and Sam Newman, minister of education and music at Burlington Baptist Church in Burlington, secretary-treasurer.

BAPTISTS

Annie Armstrong Offering tops record before year-end

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptists have contributed a record \$38 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, and officials said that figure will rise before year's end.

The total apparently will fall short of the offering's \$50 million goal, however.

Home Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union leaders hailed the announcement as an indication of Southern Baptists' continuing dedication to evangelism, church starting

and ministry in America.

On Nov. 8, the offering had reached \$38.1 million. The final total will not be known until the end of the year. The present total is 4.6 percent more than 1994's year-to-date total, said Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president for planning and finance. In 1992 Southern Baptists gave the previous record offering of \$37.6 million.

Final figures could be \$1 million more than the offering amount budgeted for 1995, Kelley said. Woman's

Missionary Union set an ambitious 1995 goal of \$50 million to coincide with the agency's 150th anniversary. Board planners, however, budget the offering based on the previous year's totals, Kelley said.

All offering dollars go to support home missionaries and projects on the field, he noted. "Not one pencil will be bought out of it for here," Kelley said from the HMB national office.

HMB President Larry Lewis said he was surprised the record was broken so early.

"It indicates to me that Southern Baptists still see missions as a priority and give it a loyal and generous support," he said. "In spite of controversy in the convention and financial recession in many areas, support through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has remained strong, and we're grateful."

Kelley agreed. "We really praise the Lord for the faithfulness of God's

people.

"We don't get our money in millions of dollars. We get our dollars in little gifts, and they're consecrated gifts and much of the time it's sacrificial gifts," he added. "We need to express our appreciation for that generosity and that consecration to missions."

WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said she was thrilled by the news of a record offering. "When others in the United States are focused on lack of jobs, homelessness and political elections, Southern Baptists have a larger, more encompassing concern—winning our nation to Christ."




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Thanksgiving in service

As we turn our eyes toward hearth and home this week, I am grateful for the opportunities Kentucky Baptists have given me and the other staff to serve children and families in Christ's name.

The past year has been challenging and even difficult at times but it has also been tremendously rewarding.

It has been rewarding because in the last year you have enabled us to reach out to more children and families than ever before.

Because you cared enough to prayerfully and financially support this ministry of hope and healing, more than 2,200 children and families felt the compassionate touch of our Lord.

The past year has seen the opening of new Cornerstone Counseling offices that are having a tremendous impact upon the lives of hurting individuals, couples and families. It has seen the opening of a wonderful new facility for Family Foster Care, First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption, and Cornerstone Counseling in eastern Kentucky—a new area for us.

The year has seen the beginning of a new Family Preservation ministry to help desperately struggling families and the expansion of the Family Foster Care program into Southern Kentucky.

It also has been gratifying to see the new work at Genesis Home mature into a truly dynamic ministry of healing and to watch as staff at each of our other residential facilities have helped young people find new hope in life. We have rejoiced with the angels this year as some 90 young people made public decisions for Christ.

The work is by no means completed, however.

As you ask for the Lord's guidance in planning your year-end gifts, please consider this ministry. Please continue to partner with us in reaching out in our Lord's name.

If you have a question about our programs or about specific giving opportunities, please call us at (800) 456-1386.

I can think of no greater way of expressing thanksgiving than by serving others!

Won't you join us?

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



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FINANCIAL FORUM

Year-end is good time for gifts to charity

By Laurie Valentine

The last months of each year are the ideal time to review tax planning actions already taken and to determine if other actions should be considered before year-end to further reduce income taxes.

Charitable giving is both a way to share your financial resources with ministries you wish to support and a tax-planning strategy that can help reduce income taxes.

In order for your charitable gifts to provide tax savings in 1995, they must be completed by Dec. 31.

A contribution by check is completed by Dec. 31 if it is dated Dec. 31 or earlier and is unconditionally delivered or mailed by that date. Gifts of securities are completed when the donor has delivered properly endorsed stock certificates to the organization or title to the security has been transferred on the books of the issuing company. A real estate gift is completed when a properly executed deed is delivered to the charity.

Giving appreciated capital assets such as stock or real estate that you have owned for at least one year and one day provides double benefits—a charitable income tax deduction and, generally, avoidance of the capital gains tax payable if you sold that asset.

Income tax deductions for charitable gifts can be taken only by those who itemize their deductions. If you will not have enough deductible items to exceed the standard deduction in 1995, consider accelerating payment of items that you might normally pay in early 1996 so they can be paid before Dec. 31, thereby increasing total deductible items.

To make sure you receive full tax benefits for your charitable gifts of \$250 or more, you must have acknowledgement letters or other receipts before you file your income tax return. Keep these with your tax records.

Make time for year-end planning. It can pay off for you and the ministries you wish to support.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel and interim chief operating officer for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Religious Equality Amendment introduced

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A proposed constitutional amendment allowing for greater religious expression in public places was introduced Nov. 15 on the House floor, backed by Christian conservatives who believe the First Amendment of the Constitution does not go far enough in guaranteeing religious liberty.

The "Religious Equality Amendment" was introduced by Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill.

Supporters say the measure would protect religious expression in public schools and other venues from government interference. Opponents say it would produce coercive religious activities in schools and narrow the historic separation between church and state.

According to the Christian Legal Society, a proponent of the measure, the specific language reads:

"Neither the United States nor any state shall deny benefits to or otherwise discriminate against any private person or group on account of religious expression, belief or identity; nor shall the prohibition on laws respecting an establishment of religion

be construed to require such discrimination."

The preamble, which the society said is not part of the formal amendment, states: "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States in order to secure the unalienable right of the people to acknowledge, worship and serve their Creator, according to the dictates of conscience."

Supporters praised Hyde's proposal.

"I'm very pleased with the language," said Greg Baylor, assistant director of the Christian Legal Society's Center for Law and Religious Freedom, based in Annandale, Va. "I think it reflects many months of hard work and careful consideration. This is a project that was not undertaken lightly, nor was it executed lightly."

Opponents, however, said the amendment would lead to religious discrimination and abuse of citizens' protection under the First Amendment.

"The Hyde proposal is not a 'religious equality amendment,' it's a religious tyranny amendment," said

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a Washington-based group.

"This radical rewrite of the Constitution's religious liberty protections would hurt, not help, religious freedom."

Lynn noted that a range of religious and advocacy organizations have supported maintaining the current religious liberty language in the First Amendment, which reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. ..."

The proposed amendment would not replace the language of the First Amendment but would be a means of ensuring it is interpreted correctly, advocates of the amendment have said.

Baylor said the Hyde proposal will be assigned to a committee, most likely the House Judiciary Committee that Hyde chairs, for hearings. If the committee votes to approve the measure, it would be introduced to the House for a vote.

Restrictions on non-profits' lobbying dropped

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. House of Representatives dropped a provision in a temporary spending measure Nov. 10 that would have restricted lobbying by non-profit groups.

The provision, sponsored by Rep. Ernest Istook, R-Okla., would have denied federal funds to organizations with revenues larger than \$3 million that are engaged in lobbying or political advocacy.

The House dropped the provision after the Senate, through amendments

offered by Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., and Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, watered down the language and sent it back to the House.

The provision was attached to a temporary spending measure proposed to fund the federal government after Nov. 14. President Clinton vetoed the spending resolution, leaving the administration and lawmakers scrambling to avert a government shutdown.

However, opponents fear the House proposal will resurface during

the appropriations process. They said the definition of "political advocacy" in the measure is too broad and could include actions such as writing letters to the editor in a newspaper.

Members of Congress and leaders of organizations including the YMCA, American Lung Association and Mothers Against Drunk Driving held a news conference Nov. 7 calling the measure unnecessary and burdensome. They said it would "silence America" and would hurt the most vulnerable citizens.

Court will review law on indecency

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court will review a 1992 federal law restricting "indecent" programming on cable television, which opponents contend violates the First Amendment.

The high court announced Nov. 13 it will review a federal appeals court ruling upholding the statute. The law authorizes cable operators to reject indecent programming on leased access channels as well as on channels set aside for public, educational and governmental use.

It also requires cable operators who elect to carry indecent programming to do so on segregated channels that can be unblocked only at the written request of a subscriber. Critics say that requirement violates free speech protections in the First Amendment.

In upholding the statute, however, a divided U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia said the law is constitutional. The 7-4 appeals court decision reversed an earlier ruling by a three-judge panel of that court.

The law defines as "indecent" programming that "describes or depicts sexual or excretory activities or organs in a patently offensive manner as measured by contemporary community standards."

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Permanent/part-time minister of music; predominately Southern Gospel music. Send resumé to: Cloverleaf Baptist Church, 4401 Manslick Rd., Louisville, KY 40216. Telephone: (502) 367-0218.

SEEKING: Dynamic pastor desired in an evangelical, seeker-friendly, SBC church. Spiritual gifts should include: Biblical application preaching, teaching, nurturing believers. Must also be a personable, youth-oriented team player. Seminary training required. Send resumé to: Centerfield Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1026, Crestwood, KY 40014, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

FOR SALE: Cozy Louisville home—remodeled, with basement, old Baptist hospital area. Eligible low-interest financing with \$1,800 down. Call Chuck, (502) 421-8987.

SEEKING: Full-time youth and education minister, Buena Vista Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky. Send resumé to: Search Committee, c/o Byron Rice, 2924 Plymouth Place, Owensboro, KY 42303.

SEEKING: Part-time youth and music director for moderate Baptist church; housing optional. Send resumé to: Rock Haven Community Baptist Church, 4444 Old Mill Rd., Brandenburg, KY 40108.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister. Providence Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky. Send resumé to: Penny Slattery, 1007 Tierra Linda Dr., Frankfort, KY 40601.

NEEDED: Loving, Christian teachers needed for Mothers' Day Out on Thursdays, 9:45-2:15, at Hurstbourne Baptist Church. Call Linda at (502) 254-2741 for details.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Contact: Pulpit Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 616, Salyersville, KY 41465.

NEEDED: Organist. Send resumé to: Russell Cave Road Baptist Church, 3179 Russell Cave Rd., Lexington, KY 40511 or call (606) 299-4611.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth and children. Please send resumé to: Ashby Lane Baptist Church, Youth-Children Search Committee, 6617 Ashby Lane, Louisville, KY 40272.

SEEKING: Bivocational call to evangelistic-minded church with a strong desire to grow. Located between Somerset and Russell Springs. SBTS, Campbellsville graduate. HMB-endorsed Army Reserve chaplain. Chaplain Wade, 676 Pinetop Rd., Russell Springs, KY 42642. (502) 866-6881.

CARE: Care for the elderly in my home. State approved, references at interview. (502) 361-4083.

URGENT: Teachers for two-year-olds for a two-days-a-week mothers' day out program. Call for information: Rockford Lane Baptist Church, (502) 447-2591 or 448-4817.

TOUR: 10-day Holy Land pilgrimage; includes Athens and Corinth, Greece. March 11-20, 1996. Only \$1,795 from New York. Call Pastor Jack R. Studie for a color brochure and more information, (502) 247-8331. Experience you can trust!

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. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752.

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.

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

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Irene, secretary to Kentucky-Russia partnership missionaries Larry and Joy Lindsey, who is very ill.
- Funds for printing "Experiencing God" materials which now are available in Russian.
- Russian students who attend a Friday night Bible study near Moscow.
- Russians Elia and Vladic, who made professions of faith in Christ recently.
- Russians Ola, Natasha, Anna and Tanya who attend a Bible study for children.
- Discernment for leaders involved in the planning stage of the Kentucky-Boston partnership.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BANDANA**—Larry Purcell resigned as pastor at Bandana Church effective Dec. 1 to join a counseling agency in Fulton. He will continue to live in Ballard County.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Chris Kurtz resigned as family minister at First Church to serve in a staff position at Red House Church in Richmond, Ky.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Jim McKenzie celebrated eight years as pastor at First Church Nov. 1.

■ **KEVIL**—First Church celebrated its 90th anniversary Sept. 24. Terry

Mitcheson is pastor.

Providence Church called Bruce Watts as pastor. He previously has been serving as a pastor in Indiana.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Evangelist David Ring will speak at Ninth & O Church Dec. 4 at 7 p.m., sponsored by churches of Long Run Association. Call (502) 367-0218 for information.

Valley Station Church called Mark Railey as minister of youth. He began his new ministry Nov. 12.

Danny Quirin resigned as minister of youth at Lakewood Church to

become minister of youth at Bonsack Church in Roanoke, Va.

■ **PADUCAH**—Bellview Church ordained Jim Bagby as deacon Oct. 22. Also, Greg O'Guin resigned as minister of music and youth. He will assume a similar position in Monroe, Mich. Lee James is pastor.

Schneidman Road Church called Mike Moynahan as pastor.

Temple Church called Wayne Carter as pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church called Doug Adkins as minister to youth/college students and director of the Christian Life Center. Adkins currently is minister of youth at Ferry Farm Church in Fredericksburg, Va.

Marjorie Taylor dies in Louisville

LOUISVILLE—Marjorie Kerrick Taylor, 74, died Oct. 25 at Suburban Medical Center in Louisville.

Her husband, Eldred, is a longtime Kentucky pastor, former president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and former superintendent of missions for Kentucky Baptists.

Mrs. Taylor was a Daviess County native. She held a bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University and a master's degree in religious education from the Woman's Missionary Union Training School.

The Taylors served 23 years at First Baptist Church of Somerset, where he was pastor from 1958 to 1981. They served Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children for seven years, from 1981 to 1988.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Taylor is survived by two daughters, Jeannie and Jacqueline Taylor; a sister, Nina Vanover; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Oct. 28 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, with burial at Cave Hill Cemetery.



SINGING SENIORS Phil Mitchell (left) directs the State Senior Adult Choir, which sang during the Wednesday afternoon session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

'I had to see for myself'

Nearly every weekend we have students on our campus who have graduated in recent years. Last weekend Chris was here to visit.

Chris came to Oneida in the summer of 1991 from Albany, Ky. Chris's two older brothers had also attended Oneida. Chris was an eighth-grader. Though he was an honor roll student, he wanted to attend summer school. There was one problem; we did not at that time offer summer school for middle school students.

After much pleading, Chris was put in a freshman biology class. We did not know how this eighth-grader would handle a ninth grade class, but we were going to find out. At the end of the summer session he had a 3.5 grade point average. Chris was promoted to the ninth grade in the fall.

Chris was a model student. He loved being at Oneida, and it showed. He became very active in the many opportunities available to him. During his four years at Oneida he was involved in band, BETA, drama, academic team, chess, BSU, wrestling, baseball, cross country and yearbook staff. He took piano, and was a tutor in Special Help.

Chris received the Outstanding Pianist award in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades. He received the Freshman Progress Award and the Most Outstanding Sophomore award. He had leading roles in "The Phantom of the Opera" and "The Wizard of Oz," and earned the Best Actor award in 1995. He also received the Best Soloist and Espirit De Corps awards for band. Chris received an Outstanding Worker award, and was one of five students in his class to earn a Commonwealth Diploma. It was with great pleasure and pride that I gave him the President's Award at graduation.

Chris graduated third in his class of 85 students.

Chris received a full scholarship for college. This fall he and several of his classmates had been hearing about some of the many wonderful things happening on our campus. He had learned of the student-led Bible study and prayer meetings, and the unbelievable growth of our BSU. Chris wanted to see for himself if these things were true.

I saw Chris Saturday morning in the Campus Ministry Center. He told me that he had been hearing many wonderful things. I asked him what he thought about BSU the evening before.

When Chris was here, our BSU was much smaller than it is now. He said he was surprised to see the nearly 200 students in attendance. With a big smile on his face, he said he wished it could have been that way when he was here. Chris had been talking to our students over the weekend. Many of his friends gave testimonies of dynamic spiritual growth.

This weekend two of Chris's former classmates are coming to spend the weekend. These two students are also two of our outstanding graduates. Mike was featured on the front page of the Western Recorder insert for the Barkley Moore Offering. Sara was the salutatorian of the 1995 class. All three of these students were on full, or nearly full, scholarships while here at Oneida. They were a great blessing to us, and hopefully will be an even greater blessing as they continue their education.

During this Thanksgiving season, we want to thank all who pray and support this ministry. I hope the ministry we provide is a blessing to you, as you are a blessing to us.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Service with all his heart

Only 20 percent of his heart functions, but Phillip Rosenbaum still serves the Lord with all his heart.

Severe heart muscle weakness brought his retirement as director of missions after nearly 12 years in four associations: Freedom, Russell, Wayne County and Three Forks.

A native of Bristol, Va., Rosenbaum accepted the call to ministry in 1965 and graduated from Clear Creek in 1969. His daughter, Vickie, was nine when their family moved to campus. "I never thought I would be back with a son," she said during a recent visit with her parents, husband, Roger George, and 19-year-old son, Brian Phillip.

"Brian feels led to youth work and I'm trying hard not to say too much about Clear Creek," Granddad Rosenbaum said. "He'll have a good library to start with."

Calvary Church in London with alumnus pastor, Harlan Avera, honored Rosenbaum on the 30th anniversary of his ministry. Plaques and letters of appreciation came from churches and associations in which he served. Sunday school members gave him a generous love offering.

Rosenbaum has been pastor of New Home in Manchester; East Pittsburg in London; Lee's Lane in Louisville; Parkview in Lewisburg, Tenn., and Southside in Shelbyville, Tenn. The Lewisburg church named its fellowship hall in his honor.

One of Rosenbaum's favorite Scripture passages is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Joy, thankfulness and faith have characterized his life and work.

Rosenbaum volunteered to help in our "Beyond 2001" campaign. While at Three Forks, he guided the association to grant student scholarships.

"Reba and I love our school and we are thankful God led us there to begin our theological training," Rosenbaum explained.

This Virginian came to Kentucky and you invested in his training. He found a home among us. His 30 years of active ministry and those to come are the return on the Kentucky Baptist investment.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MINISTRY

'The kissing church' welcomes everyone in Miami

By Phyllis Thompson
SBC Home Mission Board

MIAMI (BP)—During Friday night Bible study, two children badly misbehave. Some adults want to permanently expel the children from the group. Pastor Jorge Comesanas has another idea.

"Let's visit their home," he suggests. "Something's going on."

Downstairs, the apartment door opens to reveal three men huddled around a tiny, newborn baby. After a few minutes, the young mother comes from a bedroom. Comesanas greets her, explains who he is and offers to say a prayer. She looks nervously at the men and then says OK. The prayer is short, and Comesanas says goodbye. He has only gone a few feet from the apartment door when a voice stops him.

"Padre, padre," the young woman speaks softly. "I want to thank you. My own father is a pastor. I know that God sent you tonight to give my baby a special blessing."

She hugs him and hurries back to her apartment.

"It's always so exciting," Comesanas says, "to watch the Lord open doors."

They call themselves "the kissing church." It doesn't take long to see why. Everywhere you look, somebody is greeting somebody with a hug and a kiss. It doesn't matter whether it's men, women, youth or children, that's the custom at Primera Iglesia Bautista de Coral Park in Miami.

It's also the custom to share your faith with everyone you meet. There's something going on here every night and nearly all day on Sunday. Many church members attend five or six times a week.

Why? Simple, says Comesanas. "We're meeting needs."

The way the congregation sees it, the greatest need is Jesus Christ. "Our first priority is the lost person," Comesanas says. "They are welcome

here."

When Comesanas became pastor in 1982, church attendance hovered around 200. But within a few years, the congregation had outgrown its building. They bought a Jewish temple a couple of blocks away.

Now, the church is once again out of space, with an average combined attendance of 1,500 in three Sunday schools. Among Hispanic Southern Baptist churches, this kind of attendance is unparalleled. All worship services are in Spanish, with people from more than 20 nationalities singing praises together. Youth activities are in English.

Comesanas' philosophy of outreach began in Cuba. His parents were Catholic but didn't attend church. When a neighbor asked if Comesanas could attend church with her, he hid under the bed; she pulled him out to go to the service. What he heard during that simple Baptist worship was so riveting that he cannot speak of it without emotion, even now, more than 45 years later.

"The idea that Jesus Christ died for me—I'd never heard anything like that. I just couldn't believe it. I am so grateful to that neighbor woman who cared enough to take me to church."

Because of those memories, Comesanas isn't hesitant to share the gospel with anyone.

The church has 38 Bible study groups—called Love in Action groups—meeting regularly. Each group has its own lay minister; if a group becomes too large, another one is formed.

Passing love and faith on to others is as natural as breathing here. "You don't mind telling all your friends about something that's really good," says Lucy Hernandez.

Like so many here, Hernandez visited at a friend's invitation and kept coming back because of the acceptance and love she found.

"I grew up in a really dysfunctional family," she says, her face sober-

ing. "I thought that only I could feel the hurt and anger and pain that it brought. But here I found others like myself, beautiful girls who you would never have guessed have been through so much."

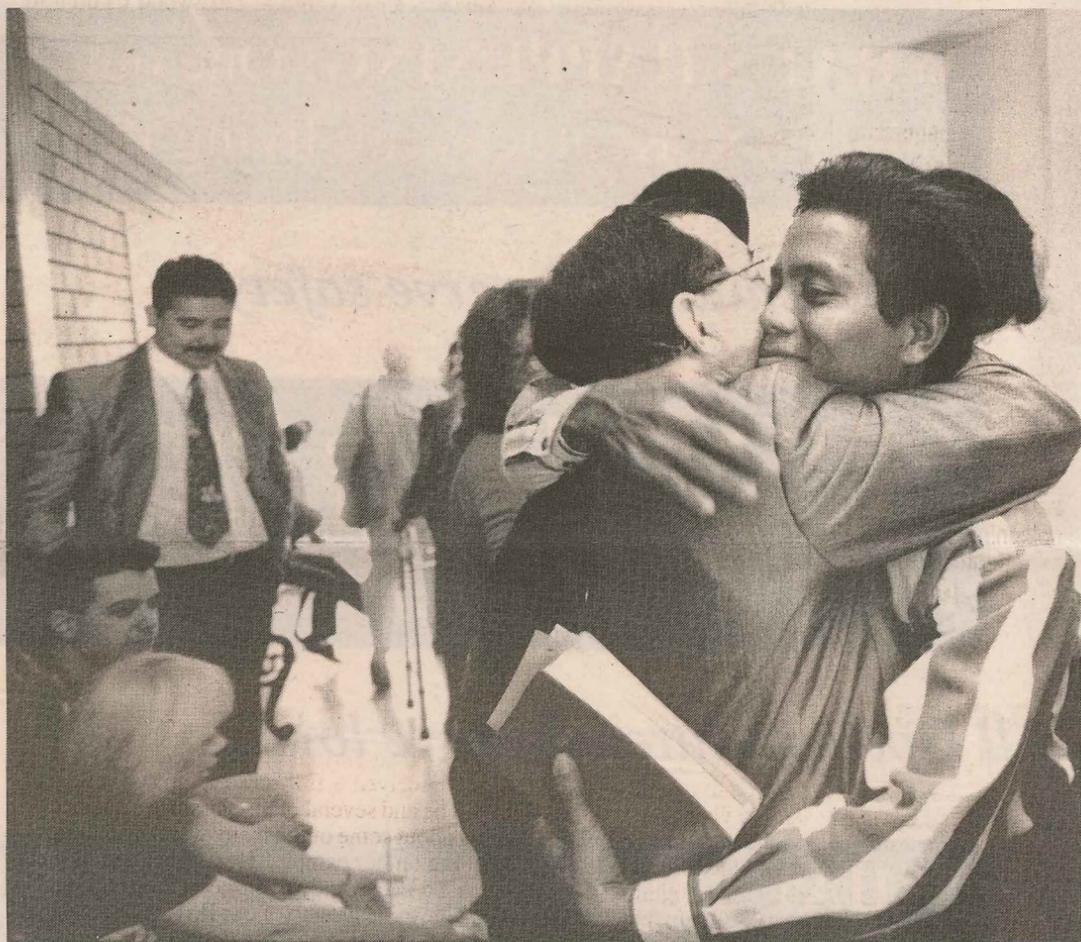
Now, Hernandez mentors a class of girls.

"The church's role is to heal the hurts of a hurting community," says church member Cristina Gallo. "And you can't do that unless you're open to sinners, to lost people. If you require that people be perfect before they join your programs, then you're missing the very people Christ came

to save."

Many are surprised to learn that church membership isn't a requirement for belonging to the church choir. "But they are required to attend all rehearsals and to sing at Sunday worship," says Gallo, whose husband, Luis, is minister of music. "And they can't help but hear the gospel. I can't tell you how many people have been saved as a result of belonging to the choir."

Comesanas smiles radiantly: "I just can't fathom why a child of God wouldn't be out telling everybody what the Lord has done for them."



This Nash is no Rambler; he's still going strong at 90

By Connie Davis
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—There's no comparison between Oscar Nash and the Nash Rambler he used to own. He's still going.

Nash, 90, is pastor of First Baptist Church of Harpeth, Tenn., which is 104 miles from his home in Cookeville. He's served the church for five years.

The vibrant senior doesn't see his efforts as unusual. "When you have a love for the Lord and for the people, it's hard to give up," he explained.

And the commute to the church is relaxing, he added.

Since 1935, Nash has been pastor of 42 churches or missions, at times leading seven services a day. He also served as a missionary for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Jackson County beginning in 1949 and later in Clay and Williamson counties. Throughout his career, much of Nash's work has been starting churches, which he said is one of his

callings.

He recounted how he got into the official work of a special missionary.

During a service Nash was leading, he referred to the fact that he had resigned as pastor.

Charles Pope, then-executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, was in the service and later asked why he had resigned. Nash explained he didn't resign to assume another ministry, but because God had led him to make the decision. Then Pope asked him to work as a convention missionary.

The salary was \$100 a month. "Back then that was good money," Nash said.

He fit the role because of another of his priorities—evangelism. One year he baptized 76 people, he said. He would organize revival meetings, which often would be held in public school buildings. And then he organized congregations.

One thing he has learned, Nash said, is that a person can't criticize people and expect to influence them

to become Christians. "You've got to love people and people of other churches, too. You've got to love them to help them. You've got to spend a lot of time with people."

Ministry is hard work, Nash said. So his main advice for Christians is to work hard for God.

Of course, most of today's Christians can't relate to Nash's version of labor. He worked for a sawmill and made 20 cents for a 10-hour day while he was serving a church as a pastor. Nash also has been a mechanic, builder and potter.

During the time he was selling pottery door-to-door in east Tennessee, he had an experience which led him to make his spiritual commitment. After being refused lodging at a large house, the resident referred Nash to another house down the road. Nash had decided to spend the night outside, but he and his partner approached the cottage and were welcomed by the family. Even though the family had little space, they made a place for Nash and his friend.

Before bedtime, the family knelt by their chairs and prayed. The experience made him think. It was after he visited the family on another selling trip that he decided to commit his life to God.

Nash admitted he has had an easier ministry in some ways because society has changed. In years past, people who attended church or special services often did so because they didn't have cars and their options for getting out of the house were few.

Today he sees people confusing conviction with salvation, which doesn't lead people to give up their sin. The most pernicious problem is greed, Nash added. "I've seen so many people dedicate their lives to the Lord and then fall away because they begin to make money."

Nash said he does plan to retire some time. His wife, Lillie, became ill recently and he has had to miss some services to care for her. But, he added, "They just love me. That means a lot to an old man like I am, you know."

GREETINGS Pastor Jorge Comesanas (left) greets Rogelio Alvarez, a Guatemalan native who attends Primera Iglesia Bautista in Coral Park, Fla. More than 20 nationalities worship together at this Southern Baptist church, dubbed "the kissing church" because of the warm greetings believers share. (BP photo by Paul Obregon)

All God's Children...

A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children: she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are not.

Jeremiah 31:15

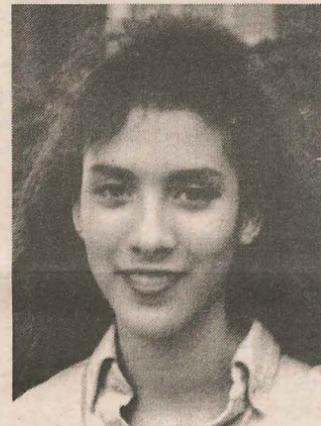
All God's children deserve a chance to be healthy...

WHAT'S HAPPENING: One out of every five children in Kentucky are living in poverty.



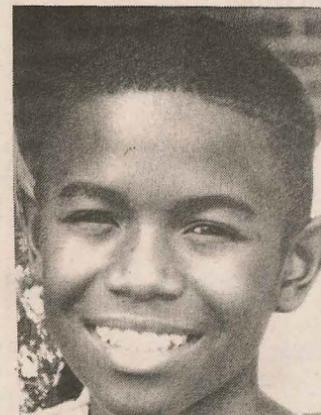
All God's children deserve safety...

WHAT'S HAPPENING: There were more than 65,000 incidents of child abuse and neglect reported in Kentucky in 1993.



All God's children deserve love...

WHAT'S HAPPENING: Experts believe that one in four girls will be the victim of sexual abuse before they are 18.



You can make a difference!

1995 Thanksgiving Offering
Statewide Goal: \$950,000

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

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