


**PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**WESTERN RECORDER**

February 20, 1996  
Vol. 170, No. 8

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Missionaries needed**  
The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has posted urgent needs for missionaries in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union. See page 2.

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Kentucky's churches need sanctuary from House Bill 40. See page 5.

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Should the Kentucky General Assembly pass House Bill 10, a school prayer bill? See page 6.

**Reaching youth**  
Relationships are a key to reaching today's youth for Christ, a speaker told a national gathering of youth ministers. See page 7.



**"THRU THE ROOF"** Celebrating Feb. 11 at the base of a 27-story column of sexual abstinence pledge cards at the Georgia Dome are youth from First Baptist Church of Conyers, Ga., and Art Heron, student ministry consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

**Youth raise the roof with abstinence pledges**

By Terri Lackey  
SBC Sunday School Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Minutes after 18,000 teenagers and youth ministers watched 350,000 "True Love Waits" cards reach the roof of the Georgia Dome, Southern Baptists announced a new campaign to send the abstinence movement to schools.

To the beat of the Christian rock group Newsboys, the commitment cards were hoisted to the roof of the 27-story Georgia Dome as young people lifted their friends above the crowd in a fad known as surfing. Later, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist-sponsored abstinence campaign announced a new goal and

theme—"True Love Waits Goes Campus." ered from all 50 states and from 76 countries—with the foreign countries accounting for about half the commitments by young people.

"On Valentine's Day 1997, our goal is to display 'True Love Waits' cards on every school campus in America—all 56,000 schools in the U.S.," Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, told those attending the "True Love Waits—Thru the Roof" celebration at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta Feb. 11.

The 350,000 cards pulled to the roof of the Georgia Dome were gath-

ered from all 50 states and from 76 countries—with the foreign countries accounting for about half the commitments by young people. More than 100 youths from First Baptist Church of Conyers, Ga., and Tulip Grove Baptist Church of Hermitage, Tenn., worked for hours the night before the event stringing the cards onto a 200-foot steel cable which was lifted to the roof of the dome by a giant wench and pulley mechanism. An overflow of cards, including some



See Youth raise pledge ..., page 7

**Revival still bearing fruit at Oneida**

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

ONEIDA—Six students from Oneida Baptist Institute will make history this weekend when they travel to Louisville for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's annual missions conference.

The trip may sound ordinary, but Oneida chaplain Michael Spencer—the group's supervisor—said unprecedented spiritual renewal among the 475 students is what fanned excitement over missions.

"I wouldn't go before because we didn't have kids interested in it," said Spencer, who came to the southeastern Kentucky boarding school four years ago.

"This has been a great encouragement to the staff. Most of us have never been in anything you could call revival. I call it awakening because people have awakened to God's Spirit."

The wave of renewal touched this small mountain community last fall, with an estimated 100 students making decisions to follow Jesus Christ. Forty of those students were baptized at Oneida Baptist Church.

Though the intensity of the revival has subsided, the evidence of its impact continues:

■ The number of students in the core group of BSU leaders at Oneida has doubled.

■ After climbing to a peak of 335 in the fall, attendance at Friday night BSU chapel services remains between 150 and 200. The school's first-ever, student-led prayer service on Wednesdays draws between 75 and 100.

■ Half a dozen student and teacher prayer groups are meeting weekly.

■ A spirit of peace has lessened conflict around campus.

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**Busters interested in you, but are you interested in them?**

By Lacy Thompson  
Louisiana Baptist Message

PINEVILLE, La. (BP)—Dieter Zander recalls a conversation he had with one of the baby buster generation.

Zander asked the young person if he were interested in spiritual things. "Totally," the youth replied in typical buster fashion.

However, when Zander then asked if the young man was interested in church, he replied, "Not really."

Zander asked why that was so. "Because I don't think they're much interested in me," the young man answered.

"And my question to you is, are you?" Zander asked as he related the story at the Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference. "How interested are you? How interested is your church in the next generation? Be-

cause you need to know they are very interested in spiritual things."

That is not immediately obvious—after all, baby busters are different, really different—from previous generations.

And that means it is going to take something different to reach them for Christ, insisted Zander, a minister to baby busters at Willow Creek Community Church in suburban Chicago.

Zander said churches must learn to understand, accept and value busters.

Understanding means to realize what has shaped the generation, Zander noted. This can be seen in examining the differences between American generations.

Builders represent the older generation of Americans, 55 million strong, born from 1925-45. Their formative influences were the Great Depression, the rural lifestyle, two world wars, Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima, no televi-

sion, big band music, family, school and church. They are loyal, hard-working, patriotic, frugal, cautious.

Boomers represent the largest generation of Americans, 76 million strong, born from 1946-64. Their key influences include the Cold War, technological and educational advances, economic growth, the space race, the murders of John Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, television, rock and roll, Vietnam, Kent State, Watergate and the civil rights movement. They are independent, activist, cause-oriented and opportunistic.

And then there are the busters, about 42 million strong, born from 1965-80. They are marked by the Roe vs. Wade decision on abortion, divorce, blended families, the information explosion, the Challenger tragedy, video games, cable TV, fall of the Berlin Wall, the Persian Gulf War,

terrorism and AIDS. They tend to feel alone, unconnected and tentative because the world is not a sure place. They place high value on community and peers but are very cynical nonetheless.

"They just don't believe all that easily," Zander said. "A lot of the things that the builders and the boomers could still believe in, busters just don't, whether that's the political system, government, the church. They're basically saying, 'The only thing I can really believe in is who I am, what I'm about and what my friends are about.' That's about the extent of it."

While it may be tempting, Christians cannot ignore busters or the challenge of reaching them with the gospel, Zander said.

"Christianity is one generation away from extinction. Always has

See Busters interested in ..., page 8

Moving? See page 4 (0220)

# BAPTISTS

## Editors' group changes name

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP)—State Baptist paper editors, meeting in annual session, approved a name change, voted associate membership for two news services and "strongly" encouraged a committee working on the Southern Baptist Convention restructuring to provide more information on its work. Called the Southern Baptist Press Association for many years, the group approved a recommendation from a study group to become the Association of State Baptist Papers. Also approved was a membership change which provides a new "associate" class of membership for two news services: Baptist Press, the news service of the SBC, and Associated Baptist Press, an autonomous news service in Jacksonville, Fla.

## Missionary personnel needed in Russia

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—One of the most dramatic church growth spurts in modern times is developing across Russia's eight time zones, yet 29 requests for Foreign Mission Board missionaries—especially church planters and seminary extension teachers—have proved surprisingly hard to fill.

The FMB has 28 foreign missionaries assigned to the Commonwealth of Independent States, the loose alliance among Russia and other autonomous nations that once were Soviet republics. John Floyd, FMB area director for Europe, would like to see more than 100 workers there within the next two years.

Southern Baptist missionaries are sprinkled across the region from Kiev—adjacent to Poland—to Khabarovsk—a city just across the water

from Japan.

Since communism fell, the FMB has been pushing to get personnel into Eastern Europe. That has been easier in some areas than in others.

In Romania, churches have grown dramatically, partly fueled by Southern Baptist financial support, Floyd said. Working with a private foundation, Southern Baptists through the FMB gave \$700,000 for Baptist ministry in Romania. Among nine missionaries sought for Romania, three would serve as directors of missions.

Baptists in Ukraine have urged the FMB to send missionaries to each of 28 states within their country. Response to the gospel is high, crusades still result in many decisions for Christ and churches are springing up rapidly.

To the south, FMB personnel

work on both Croat and Serbian sides of the borders in former Yugoslavia. New requests include a general evangelist and a church planter in Serbia and a church planter and church developer for Bosnia.

In Eastern Europe, time is a factor, according to FMB administrator Dan Panter. Recent parliamentary election wins by conservative politicians in Russia could point to hard times ahead, he suggested.

There, and in other parts of the region, communists have joined forces with nationalists and the Russian Orthodox Church to get rid of all outside missionaries.

"A Russian leader said we must work while we have day, because night is coming. We have to do the best we can now," Panter said, emphasizing the "now."

## 'Elvis is dead,' Self tells Florida moderates

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—The greatest threat facing the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is it will become a one-generation movement, Georgia pastor Bill Self told a Florida Fellowship gathering Feb. 10.

Speaking at an evangelism conference held prior to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida's annual winter meeting, Self warned moderate Baptists to get over losing control of the Southern Baptist Convention to conservatives and to focus instead on strengthening churches.

"The war is over," said Self, pastor of John's Creek Baptist Church in Alpharetta, Ga., referring to the decade-long struggle between moderates and conservatives for control of

the 15 million-member SBC.

Self charged the Fellowship, a 5-year-old coalition, is more intent on building a denominational structure reminiscent of the SBC than resourcing churches.

"Why do we look like a dead institution?" he asked. "I think we think it's coming back. If you listen closely, ... down underneath is a desire for it to come back like it used to be."

"We need to understand the old days are not coming back," Self said. "Elvis is dead and is not coming back. The point is that's gone. You may like that music and you may like that style, but it's gone."

Self, pastor of a rapidly growing

congregation in an affluent Atlanta suburb, also issued a sharp critique of fellow moderates for what he called a subtle anti-church-growth mentality.

"I think down inside of us is a death wish for the church," Self said. "I'm sorry, but I've been to my last enrollment campaign for a church. I think we're afraid to let God loose and do something in the church."

"I've been in churches that grow and I've been in churches that do not grow, and growing is best," Self said. "Those who run numbers down don't ever run them up. Those of you all bent out of shape about numbers don't understand how the game is played."

## Massive aid effort launched for North Korea

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist aid agency Cooperative Services International has launched an effort to collect and ship food to relieve hunger in North Korea caused by a flood-induced famine.

In cooperation with CSI, Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission will coordinate collection of foodstuffs provided by Southern Baptist churches. CSI has offered to arrange for overseas shipping to North Korea from the U.S. West Coast.

State Brotherhood and WMU leaders are developing specific plans to carry out the project in each of their state Baptist conventions.

General guidelines call for collecting 50,000 boxes of food during the next several months, officials said. Each box will contain dried beans, powdered milk, corn meal, flour, spaghetti and rice.

Financial contributions to the North Korea relief project may be sent to CSI, P.O. Box 6841, Richmond, Va. 23230; to the WMU Vision Fund, 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, Ala. 35242-4352; or to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104.

For more information, call WMU at (800) 295-6536, or Brotherhood at (800) 280-1891.

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **Francis leaving Nashville church.** Dan Francis, former pastor of Central Baptist Church in Winchester, is leaving the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Nashville to launch a new "seeker-targeted" church in nearby Brentwood, Tenn.

■ **FMB wants bigger percentage.** Trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board this week are asking the SBC Executive Committee for a larger slice of the Cooperative Program pie. The FMB currently receives 50 percent of all Cooperative Program receipts—\$68.3 million this year—but that is not enough to meet the pressing needs of global evangelization, FMB President Jerry Rankin said. "Without a dramatic increase in funding, we are looking at having to cut back when we need to be increasing our efforts," he explained.

■ **HMB volunteerism up again.** The number of Southern Baptists serving through Home Mission Board volunteer opportunities continues to rise annually. An estimated 81,300 volunteers served in Christian ministries through the agency last year, up 1.8 percent from 1994. Youth volunteers comprised the largest single category, with 39,931 individuals. More than 24,500 adults

also served last year in short-term volunteer projects.

■ **Saddleback baptizes 1,365.** Saddleback Valley Community Church, a Southern Baptist congregation near Los Angeles that has gained national attention as a model of a contemporary baby boomer church, baptized 1,365 new converts in 1995. "We are reaping the results of our purpose-driven strategy, which focuses on church health, rather than church growth," said founding pastor Rick Warren. Saddleback, which has started 27 missions, does not include its mission baptisms in its count. If the missions were included, the baptism total would top 2,000 for 1995.

■ **WMU plans children's conference.** Woman's Missionary Union plans a national conference on children and the church April 24-26 in Birmingham, Ala. Among the conference's keynote speakers are Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund; Diana Garland, Greens professor of Christian family ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; and Richard Land, president of the Southern Christian Life Commission. For information, call (800) 968-7301.

■ **Missionary and son in coma.** Foreign Mission Board officials are asking Southern Baptists to pray for members of a missionary family critically injured in an automobile accident in Peru Feb. 1. Missionaries Wade and Nancy Watts of Memphis, Tenn., and their two sons, Marcus and Joshua, were on a mountain road outside of Huancayo, south of the capital, Lima, when the accident occurred. Watts, 40, and Marcus, 9, have been in comas since the accident and were listed in grave condition Feb. 9.

■ **"Crossover" volunteers sought.** Volunteers for the June 8 witnessing blitz before this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting should sign up by May 1, according to "Crossover New Orleans" organizers. People who do not meet the May 1 deadline may participate, but early registration gives leaders time to match volunteers' interests with local church needs, said Don Smith of the Home Mission Board evangelism staff. Most "Crossover" events will take place Saturday, June 8, with volunteer training on Friday, June 7. To register, write the Louisiana Baptist Convention evangelism office, P.O. Box 311, Alexandria, La. 71309-0311.



"I found a volunteer for the nursery."

## Revival still bearing fruit at Oneida Baptist Institute

Continued from page 1

President Bud Underwood said the man who tunes pianos at the school twice a year was so impressed with the change he asked a teacher, "What's happened with your students? I haven't seen a fight yet."

"I'm beginning my 13th year, and

in the years I've been here I've never seen anything like it," said Underwood, himself an Oneida graduate. During his student days in the 1960s, BSU only drew six to eight regulars from an enrollment of 125.

"Traditionally Christians haven't been a dominant force here," he said.

### Liberian students spread revival

ONEIDA—With its eclectic mix from more than 20 states and 11 foreign countries, Oneida Baptist Institute's student body represents a true melting pot.

But when God brings people together, he crosses ethnic, racial and denominational barriers, school officials said. For example, two Liberian students have played a key role in bringing spiritual awakening to the Kentucky Baptist school.

Seniors Briggs Roberts and Ricky Erskine fled civil unrest in their homeland to enroll at Oneida last August. But chaplain Mike Spencer said the two didn't leave behind their zeal for God.

"Their influence has helped a lot," said Spencer, noting that Roberts leads the Wednesday night BSU prayer meetings on campus. "They came to our campus on fire. They're a little older than most other students, and they've been a

great encouragement."

Two Kentuckians who are BSU small group leaders use phrases like "just awesome" and "overwhelmingly powerful" in describing what happened at their school.

Chris Whitaker of Greenville said the spiritual awakening that has swept Oneida gave him a more positive attitude toward living in his dormitory and helped him decide to go into missions.

David Barrett, a senior from Hopkinsville, said the awakening drew him closer to God and his family.

"There was less fighting among students and a peace with everyone," he said of the evidence that God was at work.

"I remember the night a praise band came to lead worship. There were a lot of people who don't normally go forward going forward, repenting and seeing their bad ways."

"None of us was prepared for revival. It's tapered off, but we're still seeing benefits from it. I pick up on a lot of little good things and if you put the pieces together, it makes quite a picture."

Underwood realized the change was real during a revival meeting at Oneida Baptist Church. Henderson pastor Dan Garland, who had preached at Oneida in 1993, admitted he wasn't too eager to return last September.

But after 40 people professed faith in Christ or rededicated their lives the first day, Garland asked Underwood, "Is this a different group of kids than you had two years ago? They weren't talking during the services, passing notes or giggling. Two years ago they were indifferent to what was being said. Not now."

Spencer and other staff members had observed a difference before that. When students returned from summer break, many who had been uninterested in the gospel in the past told of encounters with God.

Many were high school boys, the chaplain said. That's unusual because normally middle-school students show more interest in spiritual matters, he explained.

The normal 50 or so who attended BSU meetings last school year ballooned to a crowd of 100 for the first meeting of 1995-96. Their responsiveness and hunger to worship was so noticeable, Spencer said, that staff

members knew something unusual had occurred.

The change could be seen at Friday night services too. When crowds kept overflowing the new campus center's fellowship hall—which holds about 130—leaders moved the service back to the chapel.

Several times services turned into multi-hour testimony sessions, with students sharing about conversions, ministering to classmates and healing of emotional or physical problems.

"These meetings were almost all characterized by a rather abrupt arrival of God's Spirit in worship time, with lots of quiet and prayer," Spencer said. "We never had a night where I was nervous about students giving testimonies. That was unheard of in the past."

Although the unusual atmosphere seemed to dim after the Thanksgiving break, the chaplain said the continuing unity, prayer, worship and spiritual growth among students show the reality of what happened.

Last weekend Oneida held an on-campus revival preached by Ben Williams, pastor of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Louisville. Spencer hopes God's Spirit continues to move in unusual ways.

"There's a little bit of a sad, nostalgic feeling among those of us who were in the middle of it," he said of the awakening. "But the wind blows where it will. We didn't plan to start it and we didn't plan for it to end."

**"I'm beginning my 13th year, and in the years I've been here I've never seen anything like it."**

*President Bud Underwood*

### BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Guidebook sent to legislators.** The Kentucky Baptist Convention's public affairs committee is sending a non-partisan guidebook called "A Parent's Guide to Religion in the Public Schools" to every Kentucky legislator. In their Feb. 15 meeting, the committee agreed to provide copies of the small booklet, produced by the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University. Free copies of the booklet are available by calling (615) 321-9588.

■ **Williams to Dixon Shelter.** Owensboro native Kenny Williams has been named director of the Dixon Temporary Shelter, a component of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Williams has a background in youth social services and also has been music director at Crabtree Avenue Baptist Church in Owensboro.

■ **Civil War internship established.** Campbellsville College has joined with the Perryville Enhancement Project to create a student internship program that will enhance research at the Perryville Battlefield. This is the first leg in the establishment of the college's proposed American Civil War Institute.

■ **Crouch honored.** William Crouch, president of Georgetown College, has been named 1996 Scott County Good Citizen of the Year by the Sons of the American Revolution. The organization cited Crouch's leadership of the college and his involvement in community affairs.

■ **Counseling center in Harlan.** Cornerstone Counseling, a ministry of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, has opened an office in Harlan in a partnership with Harlan Baptist Church. Jacelon Bunger will provide services for individuals, couples and families. For information, call (606) 574-9182.

■ **Byrd named dean emeritus.** David Byrd has been named dean emeritus of Boyce Bible School. Byrd was the school's dean from 1978 until his retirement in 1989.

■ **Georgetown staff promoted.** Four staff members at Georgetown College have been promoted, President William Crouch announced. Jo Griffith has been named development production manager and also will retain her title as assistant to the president. Scott Fitzpatrick has been named assistant to the president for alumni affairs. Warren Nash III has been named assistant to the president for the Pawling Heritage Society. Jerre Treece has been named assistant to the president for President's Club.

■ **De Croix to First Step.** Krista De Croix has joined the staff of the First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption program of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. She has been a counselor to chemically dependent adolescents at Lighthouse Chemical Dependency Center in Bloomington, Ill. She is a graduate of Illinois State University with a master's degree in counselor education.

■ **First Step crosses the river.** The First Step pregnancy counseling ministry of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has opened an office in Jeffersonville, Ind. The office at Walnut Ridge Baptist Church offers counseling regarding pre-natal care and adoption, as well as long-term support services for birth parents.

■ **Choir tours in Kentucky.** The Seminary Choir of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will begin and end its winter tour with performances in Kentucky. Concerts are slated at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green Feb. 25 at 7 p.m., Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington March 3 at 7 p.m. and on the seminary campus March 5 at 8 p.m.

■ **Rankin to speak.** Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin will speak at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. as part of the school's annual global missions week. Other missions week speakers include Lewis Meyers of the FMB staff; John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston; and Thurmon Bryant of the FMB staff.

■ **Music competition coming.** Campbellsville College has scheduled its 12th annual music scholarship competition for Saturday, March 23. Three scholarships of \$1,600 are awarded each year, one each in the areas of voice, piano and instrumental. For information on the scholarship competition, call (502) 789-5342.

■ **Estate seminar planned.** North Fork Baptist Church in Switzer will present a family estate protection seminar Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. The seminar is open to the public and will cover topics such as wills, charitable giving, how to save on estate taxes and how to produce additional income. Speakers will be Richard Carlton of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and Warren Nash of Georgetown College.

■ **Wise investment made.** Campbellsville College has received a gift to its endowment fund in honor of Mary and Helen Wise. Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Farmer of Lexington made the gift in honor of his sisters, who died in 1995.

■ **Healthcare System names trustees.** Four men have been named to the board of Baptist Healthcare System: Kerry Harvey, a partner in the Benton law firm of Owen, Harvey & Carter; Ned Buchanan, a retired banking executive from Paducah; Ray Schnur, a retired Ford Motor Co. executive from Louisville; and Sidney Hopkins, a Lexington surgeon.

■ **Tamme named BHS vice president.** Bernard Tamme has been named vice president of managed care for Baptist Healthcare System. He previously was president of Preferred Health Plan Inc. in Louisville and has held management positions with Baptist Healthcare System in the past. His wife, Susan Stout Tamme, is president of Baptist Hospital East in Louisville.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## What a fellowship

I am moved to express my appreciation for your interesting, uplifting and informative publication. After having left fellowship for nearly two decades because of the "round peg in a square hole" syndrome, I am thankful to have found a church that accepts and acknowledges individuality while embracing strong, biblically based doctrine.

Mark Wingfield's editorial on this subject especially inspired me to share with others not only the message of Jesus Christ, but as well how

## Amos' Top Ten list

David Letterman has his "Top Ten List" and so does Amos. The topics and items on those lists are radically different though.

Amos was a Jewish prophet who lived 750 years before Christ. He was God's spokesman during Israel's golden era. It was a time of unparalleled peace, prosperity and pride. The military and economy were strong. Religion was popular. It was the best of times, and the people knew it.

Amos' message was one of indictment and warning. God was not pleased, and judgment was coming (Amos 5:21-24).

Why was God so upset? All the religious practices of the people were making no difference in the way they were living. Their daily worship was having no impact on the way they were arranging their values and priorities, relating to others, running their

## Unplugged

My predecessor, Dr. Franklin Owen, was not only a strong and effective leader, he was and is a great teller of stories. His volume titled "Slightly Soiled Saints" is a collection of some of those stories he has told or written in his column.

But there were many others which didn't make it into that publication. In the waning days of my apprenticeship with him, I recall one which I have found myself nearly repeating of late.

It seems "Dr. Frank" was busily engaged at his desk, trying to do several things simultaneously and asked his secretary to place a call for him to a certain pastor.

Waiting for the call, he signed letters and became engrossed in one of them. When the secretary had made the call and transferred it to him, there was a long delay before the pastor answered.

"Dr. Frank," having been preoccupied with other matters while waiting had "lost it," so to speak, and after a

much the fellowship of a brotherhood of believers can mean in one's life. It made me pause and thank God for First Baptist of Middlesboro.

*Teresa Rasmussen  
Middlesboro*

## A woman's identity

A man's identity is defined usually by what he does for a living. A woman is not complete if she is successful at her job. What about the other aspects of her life? Is her family happy? Is she a good wife and mother? Is she married to a successful person? Does she go about doing good deeds, and does she always look good?

How can a woman be an individual? How can she be truly herself? The responsibility of nurturing the other family members can be shared with others, although the woman usually

businesses, handling their problems or treating their enemies. God's people were living like heathens.

A study of Amos' three sermons (Amos 3, 4, 5) reveals 10 sins the people were committing. These sins were:

1. Selfishness and greed. Money was their god.
2. Dishonesty. Their scales were corrupt.
3. Exploitation of the poor and powerless. They raised the prices on the necessities of life, food, clothing and shelter.
4. Unmerciful activities. They were selling kin folks into slavery over miniscule debts.
5. Immoral behavior. Men and boys were using and abusing women and girls.
6. No respect for holy things. They were getting drunk on temple wine and encouraging the priests to join them.
7. Unwillingness to carry through

few moments of silence said, "Who is this?" Following the pastor's answer of his name, "Dr. Frank" paused again and then said, "Did I call you or did you call me?"

I tell the story on him because something of a similar nature happened to me.

Having called for a meeting with the administrative secretary and department directors of the business division, we were seated waiting for the fourth director to arrive.

I asked if there were concerns for which we should pray and asked Cathi Roy-Sanders to express our prayer following the sharing time.

Since our other member had not yet arrived, I asked Cathi to go ahead and lead the prayer, which she did.

A few minutes later our last member arrived and took his seat at the table. At that moment I was engaged in a side conversation with one of the others.

Seeing him seated, I said, "Well, we're all here now, so Cathi, go ahead and lead us in prayer."

The size of Cathi's eyes told me

assumes this role.

Examine your life for the things you consider most important. Do what brings you happiness. You don't always have to keep the peace. Speak up for what you feel is right.

Do you feel you have no power? Don't sell yourself short; look at your knowledge and abilities and use them.

You will feel more confident if you feel good about the way you look. Assess your diet and exercise program. Pick something you enjoy doing and make time for it.

Find something you are good at and invest effort in it. Know you are good and be proud of it. Love and appreciate yourself; give yourself permission to be you.

Remember that God made only one like you in all the world. You are a beautiful instrument.

*Sharla Thompson  
West Paducah*

with commitments. They were breaking treaties made with other countries and attacking them.

8. Violent behavior. They became terrorists, plundering and killing their own people.

9. Idolatry. After leaving the synagogues, they were going to pagan temples to worship other gods.

10. Unforgiving spirit. They were holding grudges and seeking revenge against their enemies.

Amos warns the people of impending judgment and pleads with them to confess their sins and repent. They did not. Twenty-five years later, they were destroyed by Assyria. Sin weakened and led to the destruction of the proud people and nation.

I once read some sound advice: "Any man can learn from his own mistakes. Wise is the person who can learn from the mistakes of others."

America, the church, Christians, how wise are you?

*Robert Browning, Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Somerset*

something was wrong, I blanched. "Cathi," I asked, "have you already prayed?" Reluctantly, for my sake, I suppose, she painfully whispered "yes." I thought to myself, "Am I getting Alzheimer's?"

No way, I said.

But I did ask myself if this is what happens to executive secretaries after we've been in the saddle a long time. Do we just sort of become "unplugged"?

On the Tuesday prior, our entire staff had been entertained by Liz Curtis Higgs and I cannot ever recall having laughed so hard for so long. I left that luncheon feeling what I suppose it feels like to have a "body realignment." Whatever tension I went in there with, I left at the table.

So I have decided not to be embarrassed about things like the "prayer time" and will probably tell the story as often as I am in a group who might enjoy it. For I have found that I laugh harder when it's something I tell on myself.

And like "Dr. Frank" before me, there are more such stories to tell than will ever be written in a book.

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



## Lessons from long-term marriages

By John Lepper

Contrary to predictions and fears a few decades ago, marriage continues to be a vital institution. Studies show that marriages that work well have benefits for adults of all ages.

Marriage is conducive to physical and emotional well-being. Nevertheless, trends in marriage, divorce and remarriage mean that increasing numbers of people, particularly older people, will live alone.

Those who have been married for a long time have a lot to teach us. By looking at their success, we can determine what holds people together in a marriage.

A study was done recently of couples who have been married from 45 to 64 years. Young and old alike can learn from the results of this study, which isolates the kinds of things that underlie a stable and satisfying marriage.

Factors in long-term, satisfying marriages include the following:

■ Involvement in an intimate relationship with someone you like and enjoy being with rated as the most important reason for success of long-term marriages. The glue that provides these older couples with a satisfying marital relationship is their attitude about each other and their sense of friendship and sharing in various activities.

■ Commitment rates high as a reason for satisfaction. These elderly couples who reported being in happy marriages are committed to the partner as well as to the institution of marriage.

■ Humor also is regarded as important to the marriage. Many of these couples report deliberately looking for things to laugh about together. Laughter enhances the well-being of their relationship.

■ General agreement about a wide variety of issues is important to the couples. Harmony adds to their sense of satisfaction about the marriage.

Maybe these long-term marriages have something to teach us. Couples who pay attention to these issues can secure the benefits of a lasting and satisfying marriage.

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

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

## HE SAID/SHE SAID

### Laughter is the best medicine for the trials of family life

#### SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

My family has given me an incredible legacy: the gift of laughter.

We may not have much money, but we sure do know how to laugh and giggle and tease with each other.

My dad is the king (as he continually reminds us) when it comes to looking at the humorous side of situations. Even in the most difficult of times, he helps us release tension through humor.

When my mother was in the hospital for tests after discovering her cancer had returned with a vengeance, he gave her a hard time about the brain scan—what was there to scan? And when the results came back “normal” we all gave her a hard time because she just had a “normal” brain. We’ll have to remind her of that when she wins at Scrabble or Trivial Pursuit.

And when my extended family gets together, things can get silly in a hurry. Following one of my cousin’s weddings, I remember closing down a restaurant with two of my aunts, my mother and another cousin. We laughed so hard my sides hurt the next day. And there was no alcohol involved. We just love to laugh.

My maternal grandfather and grandmother also are key elements in this laughter legacy. My grandfather died several years ago, but I have wonderful memories of his teasing my grandmother. His eyes would twinkle and he would often give me a wink as he feigned ignorance about something my grandmother had said.

Laughter doesn’t solve all the woes in the world. It can’t change circumstances. But it can change your outlook on those circumstances and give perspective on the woes.

Thank you, God, for such a fun gift called laughter.

#### HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

Due largely to Alison’s influence, we love to laugh at our house. It’s a good thing, too, because when you’re raising twin boys, you’ve got to laugh.

In fact, laughter may be the best family therapy available. Unfortunately, too many people either don’t know how to laugh, have forgotten how to laugh or are afraid to laugh.

I’m not sure how a person learns to laugh. It’s not something a school teacher or even a \$100-an-hour counselor can instill. Maybe it’s something you learn by example, or by experiencing an inner filling of God’s joy.

Some of us are born hams, whether we’ll own up to it or not. My parents frequently remind me of the lengthy cassette tape I made as an elementary-age child to send to relatives who were living overseas. The entire recording starred me, with Oklahoma drawl in full force, reading knock-knock jokes from a book and laughing so hard at myself you couldn’t hear all the punchlines.

Maybe laughter is a genetic thing. Our 3-year-old son Garrett has discovered the joy of knock-knock jokes this year, and he just howls at his own humor.

One of the reasons we’re writing this weekly column is to help others see the humor in all families and in all relationships. If you can laugh at our travails, maybe it will help you know you’re not alone in the journey and you can learn to laugh at yourself as well. That is a practical resource for Christian living.

Besides, many Scriptures encourage us to laugh. One of my favorites is Proverbs 15:15b: “The merry heart has a continual feast.”

Bring laughter to your family dinner table tonight, and you may find it more filling than the mystery casserole plopped on your plate.

Mark Wingfield is interim editor of the Western Recorder. Alison Wingfield is a freelance writer.

## Churches need sanctuary from HB 40

Kentucky legislators are about to go off half-cocked and pass a sloppy piece of legislation that will further erode the moral condition of our state.

The whole idea behind House Bill 40, commonly known as the concealed weapons bill, is questionable, but that’s not the target of this editorial. Suffice it to say the argument pushed by the National Rifle Association that “an armed society is a more polite society” just doesn’t ring true.

The Kentucky House already has passed the concealed weapons bill, and it appears the bill is headed for passage in the Senate—even though a recent poll found a majority of Kentuckians oppose the bill.

Given the fact that only a miracle might derail this legislation from being passed now, it’s time for Kentucky’s churches to fight for sanctuary.

Legislators have discussed exceptions to the concealed weapons provision that would keep certain properties gun-free. Courthouses, health care facilities, airport terminals, bars, liquor stores and elementary and secondary schools are exempt properties under the version of the bill passed by the House.

No mention has been made of churches, however.

As the legislation is currently worded, anyone with

a permit to carry a concealed weapon—including individuals who have been convicted of terroristic threatening as recently as three years before—could carry a gun into your Sunday morning worship service. Into your church nursery. Into your church youth meeting. Into your church office.

Oh, yes, the bill would allow private property owners—a category in which most churches presumably would fall—to deny access to the property by anyone carrying a concealed weapon. So make some extra room on your church sign: “Visitors welcome. Check all guns at the door.”

The church is an institution of peace, not of violence. Churches should be a refuge from the troubles of the world, not a place of fear. Churchgoers should leave worship armed with hope, not handguns.

If the General Assembly is determined to pass House Bill 40 despite the wishes of a majority of Kentucky voters, the bill ought to be amended to declare churches gun-free zones. Kentucky’s churches need sanctuary from this bad piece of legislation.

Make your voice heard today. Call your legislator at (800) 372-7181.

— Mark Wingfield

## EDITORIALS

### Don’t check your brains at the church door

Why do so many Christians check their brains at the church door? If you’ve been around a Baptist church for long, you’ve seen evidence of this:

■ The successful businessman who takes great risks professionally but doesn’t want the church to step out on faith to build a building, call a pastor or start a new ministry.

■ The parent who works diligently to teach her or his children right from wrong but fails to speak out against wrongs committed at the church or by the church.

■ The woman who runs her household and provides strategic leadership for her company but willingly accepts the assertion that she can’t be a leader in

her church or association because of her gender.

■ The intelligent, educated person who blindly follows an unscrupulous minister who misuses and abuses the Bible.

People want to think the best of others when they come to church. And, indeed, the church should be a harbor of forgiveness for all.

But God wants our minds as well as our hearts. Jesus warned his disciples as they went out to be “as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”

Being godly doesn’t require being gullible. Give your whole self to God and his church: Don’t check your brain at the door.

— Mark Wingfield

### Thanks, Kentucky Baptists, for our new home

Kentucky Baptists have given three members of their family a gift that should keep going much longer than the Energizer Bunny.

The Western Recorder, Kentucky Woman’s Missionary Union and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation last week moved into a new building provided by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board. The building is beautiful, efficient and sensible.

The leadership and staffs of all three entities join me in expressing deep gratitude to Kentucky Baptists for making such a far-sighted provision.

Only a small portion of the money handled by the KBC Executive Board goes to bricks-and-mortar projects like this, since the overwhelming percentage of offerings are devoted to ministry personnel and programs. In fact, this project was made possible by long-term planning implemented years ago.

We are now reaping the benefits. And we believe it is an investment that will pay dividends for years to come as the ministries of the Western Recorder, Ken-

tucky Baptist Foundation and Kentucky Woman’s Missionary Union are strengthened.

Many individuals share credit in the years of planning that led to this new building. However, no one person is more responsible than Bill Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer. We are the beneficiaries of his vision.

KBC staff member B.J. Watts and former Executive Board member Jerry Dooley are the two individuals who did the legwork to make the vision a reality. Both are to be commended for their steadfast commitment and good stewardship.

Most of all, thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for this outstanding gift. Because of you, our three ministries have been greatly empowered for the future.

When you’re in Louisville, please stop by to see us. We’re planning an open house and dedication ceremony for May, but we’ll receive important visitors like you any time.

— Mark Wingfield

## Should the General Assembly pass House Bill 10?

**"Not allowing students to have voluntary prayer deprives them of the quest for freedom that brought the Pilgrims to America."**

**YES**

By Bill Bartleman  
Deacon Chairman  
Reidland Baptist Church  
Paducah

What could be wrong with allowing public school students to pray at events such as graduation, football games, a play or any other extracurricular activity?

Absolutely nothing.

The Kentucky General Assembly is considering a bill that would allow students to pray at "non-instructional times." House Bill 10 has passed the House (88-4) and is awaiting action in the Senate. It deserves to be approved, and senators may need a little prodding to get it into the law books.

Supporters of the bill say it meets constitutional muster because the prayer would be voluntary and could only be requested by students. Teachers, superintendents and school board members could not demand or dictate that prayer be offered.

They also could not stop prayer from being part of a program whether requested by one student or a group of students.

Some who have doubts about the bill say passage could lead to satanic prayers, or praying to the likes of Bart Simpson or some other secular character. That could happen. However, if it does it would probably be the exception and not the rule. The fear of one "bad prayer" is not worth forbidding petitioning God's guidance at other events.

Putting all of the legal arguments and emotional concerns aside, it is important to remember why we pray. We pray to thank God for the blessings he gives us, and to seek God's guidance, God's protection and God's will in our lives.

One of the biggest changes in a young person's life comes with the fear and challenge of what lies ahead after high school graduation.

What a better way to begin that new mission in life than by taking time at the graduation to thank him for the help he has given in getting us to that point, and asking for his continued guidance and direction in future endeavors.

The potential of injury exists each time athletes take to the court or the field. What a better time than at the start of one of those events than to ask God for protection.

Students face temptation and evil daily. They need and deserve to be reminded at every opportunity that God is available to help them in their lives. A fellow student volunteering to pray at a school event serves as that reminder.

Prayer never has hurt anyone, but the lack of prayer can cause a great deal of pain in a person's life.

God provides direction and instruction regarding the need to pray.

In I Thessalonians 5:17-18

God instructs us: "Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." In I Timothy 2:8, he says, "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

The United States was founded on religious freedom. People came here to get away from government-imposed religion. It wasn't their intent to form a government that prohibited practicing religious beliefs. Our founding fathers wanted the freedom to worship as they saw fit. Not allowing students to have voluntary prayer deprives them of the quest for freedom that brought the Pilgrims to America.

Allowing voluntary prayer at a school event is not forcing religion. For the true religions and true believers, prayer is nondenominational.

Let's hope we don't have to board a ship and become Pilgrims seeking a new foreign land to exercise our religious freedom and our right to pray.

**"The admonition to pray at all times does not carry with it the demand or expectation that non-Christians be brought into our prayer times."**

**NO**

By Jim Holladay  
Pastor  
Clifton Baptist Church  
Louisville

Why would anyone, not to mention the pastor of a Baptist church, oppose legislation making it illegal for a public school employee to prohibit or limit "voluntary and student-initiated" prayer during non-instructional school events?

More specifically, what is wrong with the Kentucky House Bill 10 that Kentucky Baptists should encourage the Senate to defeat it or the governor to veto it? Given the current state of moral decline, should we not encourage this act of religious devotion?

In order to understand the reason why people of faith should oppose this ill-advised legislation, we need to examine the language of House Bill 10 in light of Baptist and constitutional principles.

The language of House Bill 10 is vague, imprecise and misleading. The first faulty assumption behind the bill is that students cannot pray in school during instructional or non-instructional times. This is patently untrue. Students are free to pray alone or in groups so long as the activity does not infringe on another's right not to participate, nor may it disrupt the scheduled school event. Courts have consistently up-

held this right.

The only type of prayer that has been

ruled unconstitutional is state-sponsored, state-organized prayer in public schools. So, on one level House Bill 10 proposes to address a crisis that does not exist.

On another level, House Bill 10 moves into murkier waters. It proposes that school officials cannot prohibit "student-initiated" and "voluntary" prayer from being offered at "baccalaureate services, athletic events and extracurricular activities." The language begs several questions.

What type of prayer? Presumably a school official could not legally determine the legitimacy of any type or form of prayer. If House Bill 10 becomes law, students could initiate prayer to Allah, Buddha, Satan or Sophia at non-instructional school events. Is this what we want? Will this really achieve the ends desired by those who drafted the legislation?

Perhaps more troubling is what is meant by "voluntary and student-initiated."

How many students does it take to meet the requirement of "student-initiated" prayer? Could a group of four or five students initiate a request for prayer at a school-sponsored athletic event? Would school officials be required to respond positively to their initiative, even if the form or type of prayer would be offensive to a majority of those in attendance? Would such a request meet the test of "voluntary" prayer? What if a minority of students disagreed with the exercise of prayer at the event? Would they be coerced to passively participate in this so-called "student-initiated, voluntary" prayer exercise?

The courts have been divided on all these questions. While the authors of House Bill 10 desire to



make a statement about what they believe should be

permissible, the language of the bill does little to settle the difficult questions.

Should children pray in school? Absolutely! The Apostle Paul admonishes all Christians to "pray without ceasing." (I Thessalonians 5:17). But the admonition to pray at all times (Ephesians 6:18) does not carry with it the demand or expectation that non-Christians be brought into our prayer times. Nor does Paul suggest that we impose prayer on non-believers (or on each other for that matter).

That a group, even a large majority of students who may be Christians, want to put prayer on the agenda of a secular program does not make it appropriate to do so.

Prayer is first and foremost an act of faith and devotion. It is not directed at the audience, but to God. Its intent is not to preach or teach.

Prayer is the Christian's means of communicating with our Heavenly Father. Prayer is the vehicle by which we speak our praise, thanksgiving, petitions, confessions and intercessions to the God who loves us. Prayer is the means by which the Spirit intercedes when words fail us. Prayer is an avenue by which God speaks to his people. Its proper exercise is in the life of each and every believer and in the sphere of God's people gathered, wherever that may be. Prayer is our most basic and intimate act of worship.

To impose an act of worship on any person is contrary to the heritage of Baptists. As a people, we have defended not only the freedom and right of believers to gather for worship and witness, but we have supported the freedom and right of non-believers not to be subjected to any coercion of conscience. We have recognized that if any majority

can use the law or any instrument of government to subject its religious practices on any minority, then all of our religious liberties are at risk. We have fought for the constitutional right to exercise our religious beliefs without imposing them on others or having others impose their beliefs on us.

Both the U.S. and Kentucky Constitutions have religious liberty clauses. Both have been supported by Baptists. Both are designed to protect those who do not want their consciences imposed on.

Section 5 of the Kentucky Constitution closes with these words: "No human authority shall, in any case, whatever, control or interfere with the right of conscience." Many non-Christians, be they Jew, Muslims or atheists, see House Bill 10 as a potential threat to their "right of conscience."

Gov. Patton has stated his support for House Bill 10, because he believes the government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky needs to acknowledge the existence of God. We do not need House Bill 10 to accomplish that. The Preamble of the Kentucky Constitution reads: "We the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberties we enjoy and invoking the continuance of their blessings ..."

While acknowledging gratitude to God, that same document then goes on to affirm the rights of our citizens to define what they will believe about God, if anything, as well as their freedom to exercise or not exercise their faith. House Bill 10 would violate the spirit of that affirmation.

As Baptists, we should encourage our legislators to defeat House Bill 10 on the grounds that it violates our understanding of prayer and our understanding of religious liberty.

### The language of House Bill 10

House Bill 10 would create a new section of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, Chapter 158, to read as follows: "No school board, administrator or teacher shall prohibit students from praying during noninstructional times, including, but not limited to baccalaureate services, athletic events and extracurricular activities, when the prayer is voluntary and student-initiated."

# YOUTH

## Youth raise pledge cards 'thru the roof'

Continued from page 1 that were delivered the day of the celebration by attending teens, was added to a second cable.

"True Love Waits," an international campaign to challenge teens and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage, was launched by the Sunday School Board in April 1993. The first national "True Love Waits" rally was held in Washington, D.C. in July 1994.

For more than a year, organizers have been planning a second national celebration to honor young people who have made commitments to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. The "Thru the Roof" rally coincided with Atlanta '96, a conference for youth leaders representing 125 denominations and Christian youth organizations.

With the new campaign, "True Love Waits Goes Campus," young people are being asked to take the abstinence message to high school and college campuses, said Paul Turner, international spokesperson for the abstinence campaign.

"I believe with 'True Love Waits Goes Campus,' we are embarking on the most exciting phase of our abstinence campaign," Turner said. "It will empower students to take the message of Christ and abstinence to their peers at school."

## Relationships a key to reaching youth

ATLANTA (BP)—Getting 1990s youth interested in church requires more than a 1970s approach of building campfires and singing songs, a youth minister told his peers during Youth Ministry National Conference 5 in Atlanta.

"If you want to go where they are, if you want them to come where you are, you have to build relationships," said Juan Sanchez Jr., minister of youth at First Baptist Church of Eastman, Ga.

Southern Baptist youth ministry, Sanchez maintained, has been aimed at the middle and upper economic classes. "After all," he illustrated, "who else can afford to go to a summer camp that costs \$200?"

Youth ministers must evaluate

their ministries and ask themselves if they are going where God is working or if they are providing an "entertainment service" for the middle-class families of their churches.

Apologetics, a defense of the faith, is as important as relationships in reaching today's youth, Sanchez said, explaining that a balance of good theology, good biblical teaching and positive relationships is essential for youth ministers.

"You can't do just one thing to reach everyone," he observed.

Sanchez said today's youth fall into three categories as they relate to church:

■ "Lookers" are youth who have little interest in church or the things of God, Sanchez said. They come to

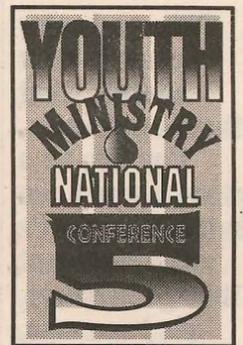
look around during the fun activities, but leave if they are not constantly entertained.

■ "Learners" have an interest in the things of God and the church. They have a genuine desire to learn and consequently ask many questions.

■ "Leaders" not only have an interest in God and the church, but also an interest in letting others know about God.

Many youth ministers have directed their program to lookers, while others have a tendency to work only with the youth who are already in church, he noted.

The challenge, Sanchez said, is "how to bring in lookers, get them to become learners and develop them into leaders."



## Bilingual, multicultural ministry essential

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptists can no longer act as if Caucasians are the nation's dominant race if they want to reach all Americans for Christ, a former missionary said.

"The U.S. is the third-largest unsaved nation behind India and China, and if you want to reach people for Christ in this country now, you had better be bilingual and multicultural," Thomas Wright told youth ministers attending Youth Ministry National Conference 5 at the Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta Feb. 9-13.

Wright, who works with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board evangelism section, previously was a missions worker in Thailand and later a home missionary.

"We are persons of predominantly white outreach methods, but the United States is composed of more than 600 ethnic groups," Wright said.

"And if you are going to survive in youth ministry, you need to have a plan for reaching those groups."

The mission of youth ministers who live in areas of ethnic diversity is to reach the young people at their cultural level and bring them into the church, Wright said.

Evangelism, Wright said, is "presenting the uncompromised gospel of Jesus Christ in the socio-cultural, ethnic and linguistic background of the person so they can respond and be disciplined into a local church."

Wright gave youth ministers a strategy for reaching people of diversified cultural groups who live within their church's outreach area:

■ Develop a purpose statement. "It can't be too broad; it must maintain focus."

■ Learn about the language, culture and people of those ethnic groups. "It's a big mistake to pick up what

you tried to do as youth minister at your last church and bring it into your new area of work," he said. "You have to find out what the people are before you stroll in and use everything you used in your last congregation."

■ Identify who is going to help you. "You can probably count on 10 percent of your group to help you. If you have 60 youth, then you have six you can count on. That means you have got to modify your strategy based on how many people you have to work with," he said.

■ Determine how you are going to reach people of different cultural groups. "You have to go get your hands on every resource you can get your hands on, and you have to develop a yearly calendar. You need to determine what you want to do each month and include training events," he suggested.

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## Helping teens with family trouble

ATLANTA (BP)—How can a youth leader help a teenager facing problems at home?

Allen Jackson, assistant professor of youth education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, offered these tips to youth ministers attending Youth Ministry National Conference 5:

■ Attempt to make contact with each parent, individually and then together.

■ Think multigenerational. "If your first line of defense doesn't work, and a troubled family is totally out of hand, maybe the extended family could help," he said.

■ Honesty should be a priority. "Let's help our parents tell it like it is," Jackson urged. "If moms and dads are having problems, let's not make the teen suspect it by listening to their fights at the top of the stairs."

■ Resist making promises you can't keep as a minister. "Don't say, 'If you don't get this worked out, you can come live with us.'"

■ Encourage and assist young people to continue to grow as individuals.

■ Help kids stay kids. "Some kids have had to grow up too early because of their home lives," he noted. "Our role is to prod them into having fun."

■ Be prepared to give advice for custody situations.

■ Help everyone focus on the primacy of the marriage. "The relationship between the husband and wife is the primary one, not the relationship between children and parents."

■ Know when to hand off the problem. "Realize when the problem is too big for you to handle," Jackson said.

## Busters interested in spiritual issues

**"When a buster comes to your church, what they're asking is, 'Can this be a place where I can belong? ... That's more important than good music, good sermons, good coffee.'"**

*Continued from page 1*

been. Always will be. ... And if we do not effectively and passionately share the gospel of Christ with this next generation and help them share the gospel with the generation to follow and so on, it will just stop."

Ensuring that it does not just stop with the buster generation, however, begins with understanding they are different, Zander said.

They process truth differently, he noted. They are children of the postmodern world and cannot be understood without understanding that major shift.

The Enlightenment Age—with its emphasis on human reasoning and logic—is ending, Zander said. Now, in the postmodern world, busters decide what is right and wrong by getting together with friends and talking.

In like fashion, busters are different in what they look for from church. Previous generations came looking for direction and truth. Busters come

looking for a place to belong, for community, Zander said. "When a buster comes to your church, what they're asking is, 'Can this be a place where I can belong?' ... That's more important than good music, good sermons, good coffee."

And that means acceptance is a key to reaching busters, Zander explained. Acceptance does not mean one has to like how a buster lives and thinks, he said, but it does mean following the biblical example of accepting them where they are. "After all, where would we be with Christ if God had said, 'OK, before I accept you, you need to become like this or this?' That's the whole idea of grace—we were once lost but now we're found because of grace.

"That's the same thing we need to extend to busters. We have to say to them, 'I accept you where you are, with all your questions, with all your confusion, with your anger.'"

Having accepted them, Christians

then must show the love of Christ to busters, demonstrating that Christ is real in their own lives and sharing the stories of how Christ impacts their lives, Zander explained.

Incarnation is key to reaching busters. "It's not what you say but how you live, he added. "That's always been true. But it is essential now. ... Incarnation. Being Christlike. Letting Christ show in your life. It's as simple as that. It's not easy. But it's essential."

Accepting also means embracing new ways for communicating to busters. They value interaction. So sitting and listening to a typical sermon does not connect with them.

Responding to that difference shows busters they are valuable, Zander said. He urged churches seeking to reach busters to include them in services, to give them outlets for ministry and expression, to involve them in church life.

In the past, people made a decision for Christ, then became involved in church life. For busters, the opposite is the key—they need to experience church life first, which will help move them toward a decision for Christ, Zander said.

He noted busters do not feel good about themselves, which makes the task of communicating love to them more difficult.

"They're going to have a hard time receiving love. They're going to have a hard time believing they are the beloved of God. But keep giving them that message. Because when that finally breaks through, it will transform their hearts just like it transformed yours and mine."

## Self-esteem not always problem, new study finds

CLEVELAND (RNS)—Enhancing self-esteem as an antidote to violent behavior is not only fruitless, it may even lead to aggression, a Case Western Reserve University psychology professor says.

In an article that contradicts some widely held ideas about bad behavior, Roy Baumeister and two graduate students reviewed nearly 200 studies of assault and murder, rape, domestic violence, youth gangs and juvenile delinquency as well as terrorism, oppression and genocide.

They conclude that people who engage in those behaviors rarely suffer from low self-esteem. In fact, people with poor self-images are less violent and less aggressive than people with inflated egos.

In study after study—including many in which the original researchers asserted that low esteem was to blame—Baumeister found instead that many of the most hostile people have high opinions of themselves and act out when that positive self-appraisal is challenged.

Baumeister began studying violent behavior and its roots during research for a new book, "Why Is There Evil?" due out later this year. He concludes that a little more modesty and humility would do more for society than boosting self-image.



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## Building a brighter future

In the face of every child is the future. It's cliché but true that the children of today are the adults of tomorrow. They will be the pastors, teachers, leaders, politicians and laborers of the 21st century.

What kind of people will they be? Will they have compassion for the elderly? (Guess who the elderly will be.) Will they have the ability and the commitment to produce in a complicated world? Will they be tremendous technicians, but have little appreciation for the meaning and purpose of life?

At Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, we are about the business of creating brighter futures for children who without help will have dismal futures or no futures at all. It is not an easy job because even though the birth rate here in Kentucky is declining, there are more children than ever who need our help. We are seeing child abuse numbers that stagger the imagination. To be completely honest, the needs are so great that I am literally frightened at times.

I know, however, that our God is an awesome God and whenever I get low he turns the fright into a

determination to find a way to reach out to these children and their hurting families.

With this determination in our hearts, our Board and staff have begun the preliminary work of raising funds to construct two new facilities and lay the groundwork for

a major expansion of other ministries in the southern part of our state. The first facility will replace the terribly outdated crisis shelter we took over two years ago. The second will house the new wilderness camping program that is now just opening in temporary quarters in Somerset. We also want to raise funds to expand our family preservation work, foster

care and Cornerstone Counseling ministries.

I'll be sharing more about all of these programs with you. For now, please make sure we are on your prayer list. These programs are vital if we are to meet the needs of children in our state.

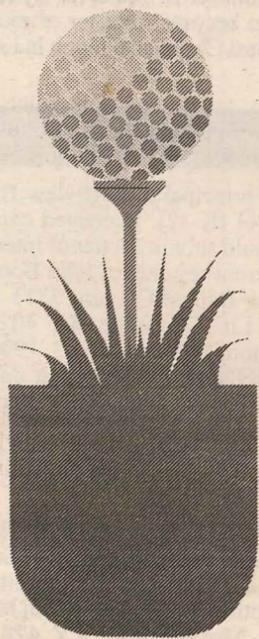
Curtis Mooney is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Middletown, Ky. 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. WWW address: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

## Ministers Invited to the Fore!-Front



The annual Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Golf Tournament will tee off at Lincoln Trail Country Club in Vine Grove, Ky, August 12-13. All Kentucky Baptist clergy are invited to participate. Laity are welcome to play, but only ministers will compete for prizes. Information on tee times will be sent to each participant after registration is received.

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

**To register:** contact  
Rick Howerton  
1805 Westen Ave.  
Bowling Green, Ky. 42104  
**(502) 843-9462.**

### NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Networks will air Dove Awards.** The 27th Annual Dove Awards will be telecast live April 25 from 9-11 p.m. Eastern by FamilyNet, the broadcast television service of the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission and on the Faith & Values Channel as a presentation of the ACTS Network. ACTS and FamilyNet also have scheduled a pre-show special to feature backstage interviews and music video clips from many of the artists nominated for Dove Awards.

■ **Colorado won't pay for chaplains.** The Colorado House's State Affairs Committee has voted to kill a bill providing \$300,000 to pay for chaplains at the state's prisons. The chaplaincy program was discontinued in 1993 because lawmakers objected to the cost. Most states, including Kentucky, pay for chaplains in prisons.

■ **Anti-Semitic acts decline.** Last year saw the largest one-year decrease in reported acts of anti-Semitism that the nation has witnessed in a decade, a Jewish defense organization reported. A total of 1,843 acts of violence, threats, harassment or vandalism directed against Jews or Jewish institutions were reported during 1995, according to the Anti-Defamation League's

annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States. The total represents an 11 percent drop in such acts compared to 1994.

■ **Church fires investigated.** Attorney General Janet Reno said Feb. 8 the Justice Department is investigating a series of fires at predominantly black or integrated churches in Southern states for possible violations of civil rights laws. But she said the Justice Department's civil rights division, which is working with the FBI on the probe, has not developed any theories about the arsons at eight churches in Alabama and Tennessee.

■ **Methodists asked to seek forgiveness.** The United Methodist Church is being asked to seek forgiveness and reconciliation for an 1864 massacre of a Cheyenne Indian village in which 200 Native Americans, mostly women and children, were killed. On Nov. 29, 1864, the 1st Colorado Cavalry, a unit of volunteers under the command of John Chivington, a Methodist lay preacher, conducted a pre-dawn raid on the Indians, headed by Chief Black Kettle, according to a resolution to be presented at the Methodist denomination's General Conference in April.

## Leadership Through the Culture Wars

A Citizenship Conference

March 11-12, 1996

Nashville, Tenn.  
Immanuel Baptist Church

### Conference Leaders



**Tom Sine**, Christian futurist and author, *Cease Fire: Searching for Sanity in America's Culture Wars*



**Dellanna O'Brien**, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union



U.S. Senator **Bill Frist**, (R.-Tenn.)

### Also Featured

**Marv Knox**, associate editor, *The Baptist Standard*

**Oliver Thomas**, attorney and co-author, *Finding Common Ground: A First Amendment Guide to Religion and Public Education*

**Registration Fees:** Individual \$95; Couple \$160; Church group rate (3 or more registering) \$75 each; Senior \$60. Registration fees include the cost of the conference plus two meals. Please send your registration by March 1, 1996.

**For Registration Information, Call  
1-800-469-4BCE**

## 1996 Pastor/Staff and Family Conference Cumberland College Williamsburg, Kentucky July 15-17, 1996

- Preaching
- Bible study
- Seminars
- Music
- Worship
- Entertainment
- Relaxation/Fellowship



Featuring Conference Personalities:

**Dr. Willis Henson**, Paducah, KY; Pastor, Lone Oak First Baptist Church; Conference preacher/inspirational speaker

**Mrs. Donna Colegrove**, Cumberland College, Associate Professor of Music; Conference music coordinator/performer

**Dr. Bob Dunston**, Cumberland College, Chair, Department of Religion and Philosophy; Conference Bible teacher, using Ephesians, subject of the 1997 Winter Bible Study

**Mr. Joe Mason**, Decatur, GA; Minister of Senior Adults, First Baptist Church, Decatur; Conference seminar and fellowship leader

For further information and registration form for the 1996 Pastor/Staff Conference contact:

Dr. Wayne Moore, Office of Church Relations  
7934 College Station Drive  
Williamsburg, KY 40769  
(606) 539-4154



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

- Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Russia, Boston, and Utah-Idaho:
  - A training center needed to prepare Russian home missionaries to reach their people with the gospel.
  - A medical team from Highview Baptist Church in Louisville that will be in Moscow March 20-April 2.
  - The presidential election set for June in Russia.
  - Sponsors needed for a Vietnamese work in Boston.
  - Kentucky pastors who will make a trip to Boston this spring to plan for the partnership.
  - Lavoird Robertson as he coordinates the Kentucky/Utah-Idaho partnership and serves as pastor of First Baptist Church in Kearns, Utah.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- **ABERDEEN**—Aberdeen Missionary Church will hold a retirement reception in honor of Pastor **Bill Cook** Feb. 25 from 2-4 p.m. He has served churches in Kentucky for 38 years.
- **BREMEN**—New Harmony Church called **Scott Bennett** as pas-

- tor. Bennett previously was pastor at Providence Church in Fordsville.
- **BURLINGTON**—Woodhaven Church celebrated its 10th anniversary Feb. 11.
- **EASTWOOD**—**Dan Birchfield** resigned as pastor of First Church to become pastor at East Bristol Church

in Bristol, Va.

- **GILBERTSVILLE**—Bethel Church ordained **Ralph Rose** and **Ronnie King** as deacons Jan. 14.
- **LEXINGTON**—Parkway Church called **Leon Greer** as interim pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Gethsemane Church will present an evening of contemporary Christian music with **David Pitt** and **Jennifer Lauletta** Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. **David Livingston** is pastor.

ate Pastor **Robert Blackburn** as interim pastor.

Immanuel Church called **Thomas Dale** as interim pastor for three months, then he will become pastor.

Van Buren Church called **Robert Davis** as pastor. He began his new ministry Jan. 21.

**Kevin Landgrave** resigned as associate minister of music at Lyndon Church to become minister of music at Northeast Christian Church in Louisville.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** A diverse suburban congregation (750 resident members) seeks dynamic senior pastor. Seminary degree required. Minimum of 6 years experience. Must be effective communicator with strong preaching skills. Submit resumé and videotape to: Pastor Search Committee, Lyndon Baptist Church, 8025 New LaGrange Rd., Louisville, KY 40222. No telephone inquiries, please.

**SEEKING:** Downtown church in Newport, Ky., with diverse membership seeks full-time pastor with excellent pulpit and pastoral skills. Seminary training required. Send resumé to: Jim Ogden, chairperson, 123 Highview Dr., Fort Thomas, KY 41075.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational youth pastor. Please send inquiries or recommendations to: Anchor Church, Attn.: Search Committee, P.O. Box 18195, Erlanger, KY 41018, or call (606) 727-6400 or (606) 356-9259 and ask for Mike.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music and youth. Send resumé to: New Salem Baptist Church, Box 1120, Nortonville, KY 42442. Attn: Search Committee.

**TOUR:** 10 days Russia, visiting Moscow and St. Petersburg, Oct. 7, 1996. \$1,799 from New York; air, land, 3 meals a day, Red Arrow Overnight train ride, circus and ballet. Call (502) 247-8331 for brochure. Travel from our area for just a little more.

**SEEKING:** Part-time receptionist/secretary. Serve as receptionist and perform routine clerical duties. Flexible hours, pleasant working environment. Send resumé to: Resumé: Kay Trisler, Executive Director/Treasurer, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

**SEEKING:** Camp specialist. Organize, coordinate, administer and evaluate the camp program of Kentucky WMU. Minimal duties September-May. Full-time June-August. Per-

fect for a teacher. Send resumé to: Resumé: Kay Trisler, Executive Director/Treasurer, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

**SEEKING:** Financial coordinator. Organize, coordinate, administer and evaluate the business and financial affairs of Kentucky WMU. Pleasant working environment, excellent benefits. Send resumé to: Resumé: Kay Trisler, Executive Director/Treasurer, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

**SEEKING:** Secretary/data specialist. Routine office procedures and secretarial work. Desktop publishing helpful; good computer skills a must. Excellent benefits. Send resumé to: Resumé: Kay Trisler, Executive Director/Treasurer, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

**SEEKING:** Highview Baptist Church is currently receiving applica-

tions for principal of Highview Baptist School (K-12). Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and a current resumé to: John Boone, Highview Baptist Church, 7711 Fegenbush Ln., Louisville, KY 40228. Application deadline: May 3, 1996.

**SEEKING:** Interim youth director. Please send inquiries or recommendations to: Lewis Lane Baptist Church, 2600 Lewis Lane, Owensboro, KY 42301, or call (502) 684-4266.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for First Baptist Church, Morganfield, Ky. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 200 North Morgan St., Morganfield, KY 42437-1412.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music director for Sunday services and adult choir. Warm, music-loving church, N. Kentucky Association. Send resumé to: Crescent Springs Baptist Church, 627 Buttermilk Pike, Crescent Springs, KY 41017.

## Why do students come to Oneida? Part I

(Fifth in a series)

I have shared in previous articles that there are many misconceptions about Oneida students. While it is true that Oneida has traditionally taken students who have had some problems, not all of our students are problem children.

Is a child who has come from a broken home a problem child? Is a student who is not doing well academically a problem child? Is a student who does not have proper supervision and spends too much time with the wrong friends a problem child?

At the beginning of every school year we have two in-service days. The first day is devoted to worship, prayer, praise, singing hymns and fellowship. The next day we prepare for the academic year ahead.

This past August in our pre-school meeting I had several of our staff children share in a skit depicting the needs of some of our boarding students. I confess that I had tears in my eyes when I heard some of the stories. I wanted to emphasize to all our faculty and staff, new and veterans, the need to be sensitive to the needs of our young people.

The theme I chose was "Broken." I asked Denise Spencer, publications director, to write several skits depicting some of the special needs of students. The staff children shared with the adults the hurt that accompanies brokenness in one's life. One of the children talked about broken dreams, depicting the feelings of a young person who dreams of seeing a "real father" or a "real mother" who never sends a Christmas card or birthday card, never writes a letter, never calls or visits.

Another shared the hurt that comes from broken emotions. Many young people today are hurt-

ing emotionally. There is so much uncertainty and little family support for many youth who still need much nurturing. Working with "broken emotions" is one of our biggest challenges.

Broken families, is another serious problem many youth face. Over 50 percent of today's families, nationwide, have experienced divorce. At Oneida that percentage is nearly 85 percent. For many young people, broken families are sources of real pain and anger.

Another hurt is from broken promises. No one likes to be lied to or misled. Many parents or other adults make promises to young people that are never kept. Most adults I know become somewhat angry when they are lied to. Young people are more sensitive to broken promises than many adults realize.

Most of us know the sorrow that comes from broken trust. Children are especially sensitive in this area. Nearly all our relationships are based on trust. When that trust has been broken, in addition to the sorrow, it takes a long time to have our confidence restored in a person who has not been trustworthy.

Has your spirit ever been broken? Has someone put you down time after time? Many of the young people to whom we minister have broken spirits. Years of being told "you are worthless," "stupid," "not wanted," "you were an accident," "you have messed up my life," "why don't you go live with your father?" can totally break the spirit of any child. Restoring his spirit so he can succeed, feel wanted and have self-worth and confidence can be a long, painful process.

(To be continued)

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Learning patience in the dairy barn

Two days a week, Patrick Blevins does the milking at his parents' dairy.

"I'm thankful God gave me this job; he uses the cows to teach me patience," he said.

Some of his California friends can't imagine Patrick milking 30 cows on a farm near Mount Vernon. Back in 1984 Patrick strongly stated he would never live in Kentucky. His family operated a very successful business in California.

"The wealth and material things became central to our lives," he explained. The LA riots made him think about influences on his young son Jonathan. His family moved to Rockcastle County when his parents bought three farms.

"We packed everything in a 28-ft. truck and moved to a mobile home. God used the death of the former farm owner to get us in church. A godly aunt had often invited us, but at the funeral God told me 'I want you here.' I joined the next Sunday; my wife Alycia was converted the following year."

At Freedom Baptist, Patrick works with Pastor Shawn Madon, a 1991 graduate. The church soon involved him as RA leader

and Sunday school director.

After God called Patrick into the ministry, he had opportunities to supply preach.

A three-month interim at Sand Hill church was a special encouragement. Attendance went from seven to a high of 44 for a Christmas program.

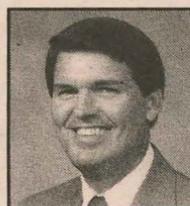
Patrick and his mother (her story next week!) commute to classes two days a week.

"At Clear Creek, a student isn't known by a number. I can go talk with professors. I've spent a lot of prayer time with Bro. Rice. God has laid his hand on this school, and I'm so glad to be a part of it. I can't wait to send those whom God calls into the ministry from the churches where I will serve."

If you stop by the dairy barn on Friday and Saturday, you'll probably hear Patrick singing praise songs to the cows. Some dairy farmers believe music helps milk production. Patrick isn't sure about that, but the Holy Spirit has certainly produced more patience in his life.

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

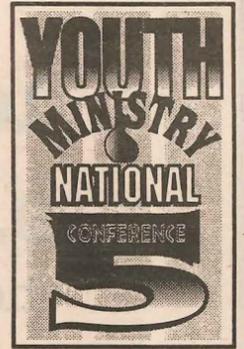
### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



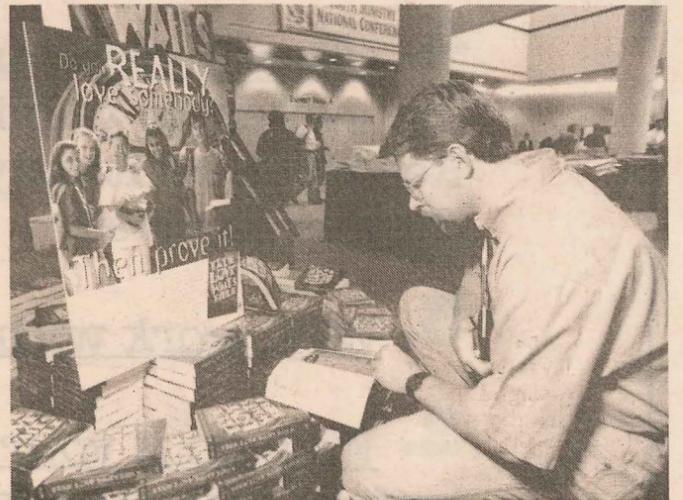
Bill Whittaker

# PEOPLE

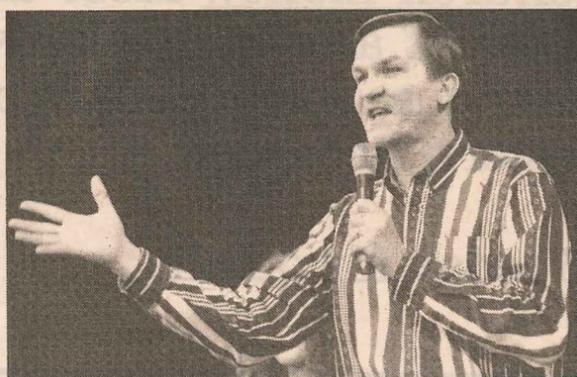
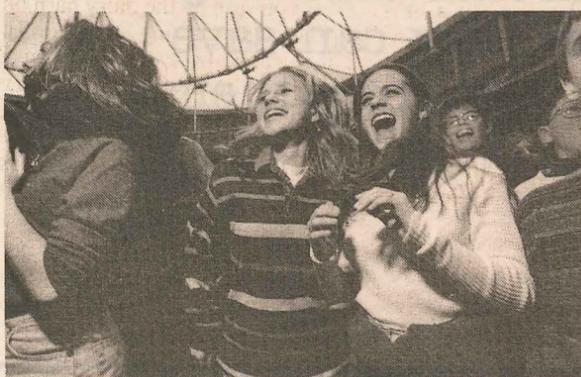
## Scenes from 'True Love Waits: Thru the Roof'



**SURFING** Two exuberant teenagers (left) "surf" past each other with the help of other teens during a performance by the News Boys at the "True Love Waits: Thru the Roof" celebration in Atlanta. Below, Tony Rodgers, minister of youth and education at Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, examines the new "True Love Waits" Bible, published by Broadman & Holman. (BP photos by Jim Veneman)



**PLEDGING** Andrea Bennett (center in photo at middle left) signs a "True Love Waits" pledge card to add to those of her friends from Shiloh Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta. At left, participants in the "True Love Waits: Thru the Roof" celebration show their excitement during a concert by contemporary Christian artists DC Talk. At near left, Richard Ross, a spokesman for the "True Love Waits" campaign, challenges youth to take the sexual abstinence challenge to their schools. (BP photos by Jim Veneman)



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