



WESTERN RECORDER

February 27, 1996
Vol. 170, No. 9

FOR THE RECORD

Annie Armstrong

This week's Recorder features information about the Season of Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. See pages 1 & 8.

Racial reconciliation

Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry last week announced the formation of a task force to put feet to the words of the resolution on racial reconciliation adopted by the SBC last summer. See page 2.

WMU funding

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union has reached the first-level goal for its Heritage Fund, meaning grants will be awarded this spring for the first time. See page 3.

Editorials

Kentuckians can be proud of Jim Henry; States don't have to get budget OK from Nashville. See page 5.

Point-Counterpoint

Should Kentucky's health-care reform be repealed? See page 6.

Legal liability

Churches face increasing threats of legal action, an authority on the subject said during a statewide series of conferences last week. See page 9.

Moving? See page 4 (0227)

Fifth- and sixth-graders reach out by telephone

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

GLASGOW—The fifth and sixth grade boys at Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow have Brandon Harlow's number—and they dial it every Sunday so he can join them for Sunday school.

Harlow and his family participated actively in Sunday school, worship and other activities at Calvary until last July, when he was diagnosed with leukemia.

But thanks to a speaker phone and a class of 11- and 12-year-olds who learned early about how the body of Christ should care for its members, Harlow joins his class for Sunday school almost every week from an easy chair in his living room at home.

"Once we get our records done, we just dial his number," explained co-teacher Jimmy Manion. "Everybody

says hello to him," and then the lesson begins. Harlow takes his turn reading Scripture and joins in the discussion, Manion said.

A few times, Harlow has been too sick to receive the Sunday morning call. Once, on his birthday last December, he was well enough to meet his class at church.

But for the most part, the telephone provides a regular, ringing reminder from the boys to Harlow that they consider him an important part of their group.

"We had prayer for him every day,

... and were thinking of taking the class to him, but that wasn't really possible," Manion said. It was Angie Raines, Manion's co-teacher, who suggested purchasing a speaker phone.

The telephone was secured and placed in Associate Pastor Ronnie Raines' office, where the class has been meeting since last November.

Rather than feeling inhibited by the speaker phone in the center of the room, the boys seem to enjoy the unusual circumstances, Manion said. "It doesn't have any effect on the class

except positive."

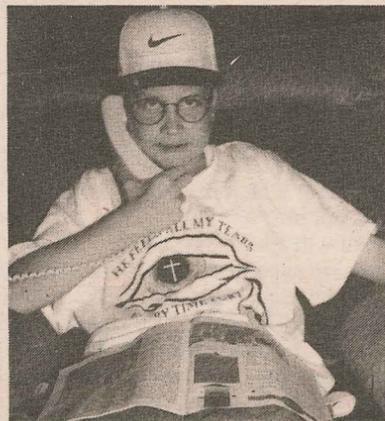
Tim Best, minister of music and education at Calvary, said the experience has taught the boys about being the body of Christ—"weeping when one weeps, rejoicing when one rejoices. ... They have a sense of what that means," he explained.

Despite their strong Christian faith, Harlow's parents acknowledge the experience has been stressful.

"Everything revolves around the disease now," Mrs. Harlow said, noting they currently are in the "very

□ See Class reaches out ..., page 14

EXTENSION CLASS Brandon Harlow (left) participates in his Sunday school class from home by telephone while other members of the class (right) gather around a speaker phone in the associate pastor's office.



America heads for anarchy or revival, Barna warns

By Mark Wingfield
Interim Editor

NASHVILLE—Evangelical Christian researcher George Barna believes America faces one of two outcomes in the next five to 10 years: moral anarchy or spiritual revival.

And despite talk of revival in some evangelical circles, Barna isn't optimistic.

"If I were a betting person, I would bet on the fact we are going to see massive moral anarchy take over our country," he said in a daylong seminar on "What Effective Churches Have Discovered" Feb. 19 in Nashville.

It's not that Barna prefers the moral anarchy option, but that he sees a number of social and moral trends pointing that direction.

Current talk about revival sweeping America has no statistical basis, he added.

True revival would result in significantly more people professing faith in Jesus Christ, Barna said. But that is not happening.

Despite the growth of some churches, there has been no overall increase in the number of people becoming Christians, he explained. Barna's research shows that 70 percent to 80 percent of church growth in America is

□ See America headed ..., page 10

Home missions builds language ministries

BOSTON—Willie Marquez is up early Sunday morning. Traffic moves quickly on the Boston freeway, and that's good news for Marquez. He has a busy schedule today.

He'll visit the Seaman's Center, check on a Haitian pastor hosting a revival, preach at a Filipino church and visit a Chinese congregation in search of a pastor. All of this before 2 p.m. Later that night he'll join the Haitians for several hours while they worship.

Marquez's multicultural, fast-paced lifestyle is due to his work with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as a catalytic language missionary for Greater Boston Baptist Association.

A native of the Philippines, Marquez moved to Massachusetts in 1988, accepting his current position in 1991.

While Marquez acknowledges his schedule is busy, his prayer is that it will become even busier.

"Less than 1 percent of the people in downtown Boston go to church on Sunday," he explained. "If we had more church planters, we could reach a larger percentage of them."

Marquez has responsibility for 34 language churches representing 11 language groups. The Boston area has a population of about 4 million people, and many of them are ethnic.

For that reason, Marquez believes Baptists must reach out to these communities with a church in their own language. He has targeted six language groups with the highest need for churches.

"We need people, funding and

sponsoring churches to reach these goals," he said.

Securing new church planter pastors is the first key. But because most new congregations can offer only about \$500 per month for a pastor, most church planter pastors begin as bivocational ministers.

Marquez understands the unique needs of being bivocational. Leaving the Philippines in 1988, he and his wife, Juliet, began looking in the classified ads to find jobs to support their fledgling ministry in Boston.

Now he attempts to use what he has learned to help others.

"We try to get the planter acclimated and settled, then he can look for a job," he explained. "Even his wife and children can help support."

"It goes deeper than the money ... it goes to a calling. If he looks at it as a job, then he'll fail. But if it's a calling from God, then God can put it all together."

The second key is funding. Marquez marvels at how the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program can help churches in the South fund the fledgling church starts in Boston.

The third key is the sponsoring church, and that may be the most underrated, he said. Marquez already has church planters lined up, needing only to find the financial support and a sponsoring church.

So Marquez prays this Sunday as he drives toward the harbor. He asks God to bring the people, finances and support to reach the lost of Boston.



PEOPLE COUNT

This is the annual Season of Home Missions, a period from mid-February through Easter that includes the home missions study, week of prayer for home missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

The week of prayer for home missions is next week.

The theme of this year's emphasis is "People Count," a phrase taken from a desk plaque used by former Home Mission Board President Arthur Rutledge.

The national goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$42 million.

This issue of the Western Recorder features profiles of several home missionaries, in conjunction with the annual home missions study. See page 8 for more missionary profiles.

BAPTISTS

Consultants will help with restructuring

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee initiated necessary legal steps and voted to spend up to \$495,000 on a consulting firm to begin implementation of a massive denominational restructuring approved last summer.

The 79-member committee which runs the SBC between annual conventions closed its Feb. 19-21 meeting in Nashville with four and a half hours of "prayer and fasting" for implementation of the restructuring

plan, called "Covenant for a New Century."

The Executive Committee approved charter amendments to be recommended to messengers at this summer's SBC annual meeting in New Orleans that would legally dissolve five convention agencies and merge the current Home Mission Board, Radio & Television Commission and Brotherhood Commission into a new agency called the North American Mission Board.

Agencies to be eliminated in the downsizing are the Historical Commission, Education Commission, Stewardship Commission, the Southern Baptist Foundation and the Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary, an African-American seminary in Nashville.

The restructuring is slated to take effect in June 1997.

Spending \$495,000 to hire a management consulting company to assist in merging the three agencies will save money in the long run, predicted Ted Warren, a member of an implementation task force which recommended the expenditure.

The consultant will advise the task force on "change management, business analysis and human resources," Warren explained.

Consulting costs will be recovered in less than a year under the new streamlined structure, Warren predicted, while "the cost in efficiency and effectiveness of a restructuring poorly done can be millions of dollars that we have to live with year after year for many years."

Warren, a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board executive, declined to announce the name of the firm being considered, saying it would be inappropriate to do so until a contract letter is signed. But he said the firm comes with "excellent" references.

The Executive Committee saw the four recommendations from the implementation task force only minutes before voting their approval.

Blaine Barber of Petoskey, Mich., made a motion to delay the vote overnight on the articles of incorporation for the North American Mission Board. "I would like to have time to read these articles of incorporation," he said. However, Michael Trammell of Mt. Airy, Md., said didn't think he

would understand the legal documents even if he took the time to read them.

The committee overwhelmingly rejected Barber's motion. Instead, Chairman Ronnie Floyd of Arkansas gave members three minutes to skim over the eight-page document and footnotes, after which members voted unanimously to approve it.

SBC leaders say the downsizing, approved by the convention last summer after a two-year study, will save money and make the convention more responsive to ministry needs in the 21st century. Leaders of some of the agencies targeted for dissolution or merger, however, have worried publicly that some key programs will lose priority when they are transferred to new agencies.

Such massive changes inevitably produce ambiguity and frustration, said Bob Reccord of Norfolk, Va., chairman of the implementation task force. That's one reason for the all-day prayer session, he said. "I can't be on my knees with someone and be frustrated with them."

In other business:

After meeting several hours behind closed doors in executive sessions during both committee and plenary sessions, the Executive Committee also approved a request by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board to restructure its investment program into registered mutual funds.

To make the change, the Annuity Board is required by the Securities and Exchange Commission to create two subsidiary corporations with trustees elected by the Annuity Board. An SBC bylaw allows agencies to create subsidiaries only with permission of the convention or its Executive Committee.

Reportedly among concerns addressed in the executive sessions was that allowing the Annuity Board to elect the trustees might remove the agency from the authority of the SBC. A statement issued after the meeting said, "It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that there should be no possibility the Annuity Board would be separated from its constituency."

The recommendation approved in executive session stated that the SBC
□ See Executive Committee ..., page 7

Henry moves to bolster acts on race issue

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Southern Baptist Convention leaders have created a watchdog group to put teeth into the convention's historic statement of repentance for racism.

An SBC task force on racial reconciliation will be comprised of representatives of all the convention's agencies and institutions, SBC President Jim Henry announced Feb. 19.

The race task force—created by the council of SBC agency heads at Henry's request—was unveiled during the winter meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville.

Racial reconciliation has been a big topic within the SBC since last summer, when the convention celebrated its 150th anniversary by repenting of the racism that marked its birth.

The convention was founded in 1845, after Baptists in the North refused to appoint Southern slave-owners as missionaries. In the ensuing years, the SBC adopted statements condemning racism, but it waited until its 150th birthday to apologize for the racism that played a major role in its formation.

But that resolution of repentance initiated controversy of its own. Some critics blasted the SBC for waiting so long to say it was sorry. Others, particularly African-American religious leaders, claimed the resolution was part of a scheme to lure more African-American churches into the SBC fold.

However, most of the response Henry received regarding the resolution has been positive, he reported. "People are stunned, curious and interested," he said.

And Southern Baptists were sincere when they drafted and approved the resolution, he added, noting, "We do mean it."

As evidence, he announced the formation of the race task force. It was approved unanimously by the SBC Inter-Agency Council, comprised of the convention's agency heads.

The council's statement asks the SBC nominating committee to "set a priority to nominate persons representative of all ethnic groups to our boards of trustees."

Henry emphasized that point, noting he had asked his appointees to the SBC committee on committees, which will recommend the membership of the next nominating committee, "to be sensitive to and representative of minorities and women."

Severance battle brewing

NASHVILLE—A small tug-of-war has begun between Southern Baptist Convention agencies to be eliminated in a denominational restructuring and the task force assigned general oversight of the restructuring.

The implementation task force, chaired by Bob Reccord of Norfolk, Va., issued a memo to all the affected agencies Feb. 7 urging them to get task force OK for any severance packages they adopt for employees. And the task force cautioned agencies not to promise severance or retention packages to employees if the agencies don't already have the funds to pay them.

In January, trustees of the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn., agreed to pay employees a bonus if they continued to work until July 1997, when the agency will be merged with two others and moved to Atlanta.

The implementation task force said such agreements should be coordinated with the task force for the sake of "uniformity."

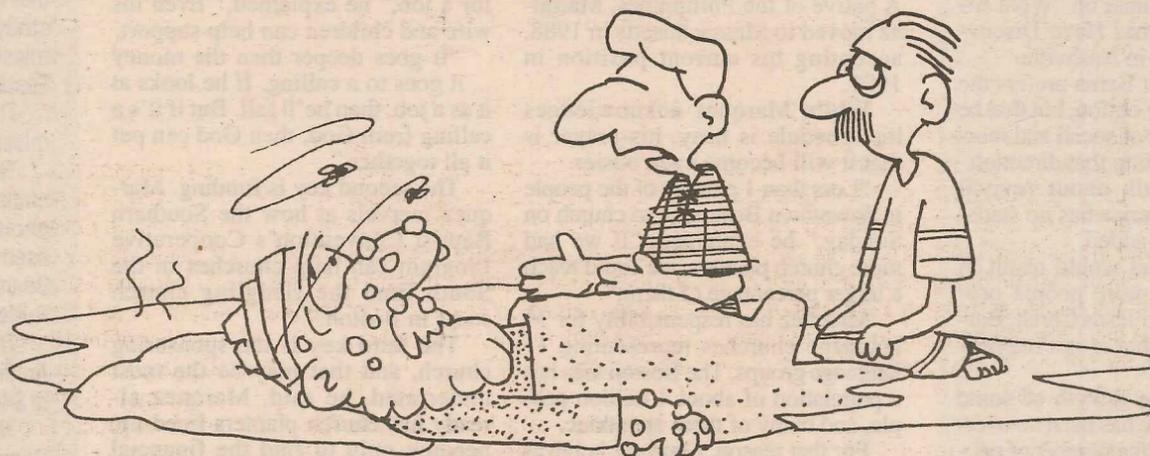
The memo also asked the agencies not to spend any reserve funds without notifying the Executive Committee. "It is our concern and desire, as we are sure is yours, that none of these assets be lost through liquidation, grants or other actions in the process of the ... implementation," the memo said.

David Hankins, the Executive Committee official directing the implementation, said in an interview that severance pay should be handled by the SBC, not the agencies. The implementation task force "will take a comprehensive look" at severance issues, he said.

James Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission, said the memo angered him because it interferes with the SBC-assigned duties of Brotherhood trustees and implies the SBC doesn't trust those trustees.

"Our trustees will continue to manage the assets of the Brotherhood Commission until June 1997," he said.

Based on an Associated Baptist Press report



"Job, look on the bright side. You'll be able to write that country song now."

KENTUCKY

WMU board acts on finances and staff restructuring

By Mark Wingfield
Interim Editor

The executive board of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union heard both good news and bad news in financial reports during their February meeting in Louisville.

The good news is that the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund has reached the \$50,000 mark, the point at which grants can begin to be made, said Kay Trisler, WMU executive director.

The bad news is that the 1995 Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions apparently will fall as much as \$100,000 short of its \$800,000 goal, she also reported.

"The offering is up a bit from last year, but our ambitious goal will not be met," Trisler said. As a result, allocation from Kentucky WMU to state missions projects will be reduced this year.

The Eliza Broadus Offering funds a variety of ministries, including many managed through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department. The offering also provides a major source of operating funds for Kentucky WMU.

The executive board adopted a 1996-97 budget for Kentucky WMU of \$1.16 million and retained the goal of \$800,000 for the 1996 Eliza Broadus Offering.

Trisler reported that applications now are open for the first grants from the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund. The initial grants will be for \$1,000, and recipients will be announced at Kentucky WMU's April executive board meeting.

Also during their February meeting, the WMU executive board gave final approval to a staff restructuring study that has been in process for about two years.

Several positions have been eliminated, added or redefined. In the process, two staff members have accepted new responsibilities with other employers. Linda Hayden, administrative assistant to former WMU Executive Director Dolores Gilliland, has begun working in the Kentucky Brotherhood office. Melba Harris, a secretary who has had responsibility for data entry and desktop publishing, has accepted a position with a Louisville company.

The major change in Kentucky WMU's staff structure is the addition

of a full-time financial coordinator. This was necessary due to WMU assuming more direct responsibility for managing its financial affairs as part of an agreement developed with the KBC Executive Board last year, Trisler said.

A new position of camp specialist also has been added. This is a year-round position that is part time September through May and full time May through August.

Secretary/receptionist Doris Riddle has assumed a new role as administrative coordinator. Two part-time receptionists will be hired.

Trisler said applications currently are being accepted for the financial coordinator position, the receptionist positions, the camp specialist position and for a data specialist/secretary position.

Kentucky WMU's four age-level consultants will retain their primary responsibilities in the new structure, Trisler said. However, Carol Noffsinger will become Kentucky WMU's liaison for partnership missions projects and Anna Mary Byrdwell will assume leadership of WMU work with language and ethic missions.

In her first report to the WMU executive board as executive director, Trisler said Kentucky WMU has experienced significant transition in recent months. The new financial agreement with the KBC, Gilliland's retirement as executive director and Trisler's arrival as the new executive director Jan. 1, learning a new computer system and then moving into a new office space all have contributed to the major dose of change, she explained.

"My greatest joys in this past month as the new executive director have been in seeing our staff working together for the cause of missions," Trisler said.

And although change has been the order of the day, it is important to remember that God does not change, she said. "He has been here in this work in very real ways in this past month, and how grateful I am for that never-changing love.

"We are doing things in new ways, and we continue to look at ways to be more efficient. We may not do things the way we always have, but are looking to do missions in a way that more and more people will get involved," she concluded.

"We may not do things the way we always have, but are looking to do missions in a way that more and more people will get involved."

Kay Trisler, Kentucky WMU executive director

Winter weather challenges church budgets & attendance

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

CORBIN—After one of the worst winters on record, spring can't come quickly enough for churches across Kentucky.

With many of the storms coming on the weekend, churches have seen drops in attendance and finances, but most of the churches are bouncing back, according to church newsletter reports across the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Eastern Kentucky has been especially hard hit by winter's onslaught.

At First Baptist Church in Corbin, winter has been a "baptism by snow and cold" for new pastor Barry Howard.

"We had snow six of my first 12 Sundays here," the Alabama native said. "The only thing the pastor search committee didn't tell the truth about

was Kentucky's weather," he said jokingly. "They said winters are mild."

While the church has not dismissed any services this winter, attendance has dropped.

"Many of our people are senior citizens and cannot get out even on the 'better' winter days," Howard said. "And when they miss church, they really miss church."

But in the midst of the snow and cold there have been unique opportunities to minister, Howard said.

When a Greyhound bus was stranded in the season's first snow storm, First Baptist members who could make it to the church went into action to help the 36 passengers. The church, which is a designated Red Cross shelter, provided food and beds for the passengers on Saturday night. On Sunday morning, the travelers joined First Baptist members for wor-

ship and a meal before they continued their journey.

Since First Baptist's services are broadcast live each Sunday morning, Howard still has the opportunity to preach to his congregation. And since most of the other churches in town dismissed services, First Baptist ministered via television to many of their members as well, he said.

While Howard said the church is in process of recuperating financially, First Baptist is "not as far behind" in meeting their budget as some other area churches. "I have been encouraged by the faithfulness of our people to drop their tithes and offerings off at the church during the week when they have missed Sunday services," he said.

Now, "our folks are eager to get back to regular church activities," Howard said. In fact, on Feb. 11, the church had the highest attendance

since he has been in Corbin, he said.

Lynn Camp Baptist Church in Corbin has felt the effects of the bad winter too. But in spite of dismissing Sunday services three times since the first of January and a drop in attendance from 125 to 70 on other cold Sundays, finances and morale "have held up fine," according to church treasurer Lela Brooks. "Our people make up their offerings real well," she said.

At Harlan Baptist Church in Harlan, the story is much the same. While the church has dismissed Sunday services two weeks this winter and attendance has been low on several other Sundays, the church has kept up financially, according to financial secretary Debbie Vanover.

When members could not attend because of the weather, they "doubled their offerings the next week," she said.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Mentoring program established.** Campbellsville College has established a mentoring program for gifted students at Taylor County High School and Campbellsville High School. Seed money for the fine arts partnership has been provided by Access Resources in the Community, a state program.

■ **Meredith scholarship named.** Georgetown College has established a scholarship fund in memory of Ronald Meredith, an alumnus and former trustee who was a U.S. district judge before his death due to cancer in 1994. The Ronald E. Meredith Leadership Scholarship will be awarded to students who have completed their freshman year with good academic performance and demonstrated leadership

potential. Nearly \$25,000 has been raised for the scholarship fund already, and additional gifts are sought.

■ **Marion Countians aided.** Farmers National Bank of Lebanon has given Campbellsville College scholarship funds to be used by students from Marion County. Gene Spragens Jr., president of the bank, said the funds will memorialize his son, Thomas Eugene Spragens III, who died in an automobile accident in 1990. Marion County ranks second only to Taylor County in the number of students who attend Campbellsville College.

■ **Hall of Famers named.** Three Campbellsville College alumni have been inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of

Fame: Philip Corbin of Campbellsville, Richard Sanders of Campbellsville and Ralph Gardner of Jamestown.

■ **Two named top educators.** Two faculty members at Campbellsville College have been named top educators in their fields. Gordon Weddle, biology professor, has been named college teacher of the year by the Kentucky Academy of Sciences. David McCullough, associate professor of music, has been named college teacher of the year by the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

■ **"Interview with Jesus" slated.** The Maskrafters of Georgetown College will present an original play titled "An Interview with Jesus" March 7-12 on campus. The

play was co-written by Jim Birge and David Carpenter of Georgetown College's staff. The setting for the play is a fictional television talk show where Jesus appears as a guest. For ticket information, call (502) 863-8190.

■ **Speakers slated.** Two speakers on international issues have been slated at Georgetown College. Kenneth Blackwell, treasurer for the state of Ohio, will speak on "The United Nations and Human Rights" March 11 at 7 p.m. Blackwell is a former member of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Ricardo Semler, president of Semco S/A, a Brazilian marine and food-processing machinery manufacturer, will speak March 27 at 10 a.m. His topic will be "Rethinking the Possible."

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

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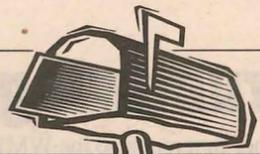
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BAPTIST FORUM

Sick of liberals

Well, it has finally been published: the Clinton White House has called into service their "buddy" Campolo and Wallis to help them fight the "Christian Right."

I am sick and tired of hearing these folks speak about their fear of the Religious Right doing something to take away their freedoms. I believe their freedom to support the liberal Democratic Party is as valid and God-given as mine to support the conservative Republicans.

But be careful in your attempt to label us as subversive, lest you label yourselves as doing the same. When I hear about the "mean-spirited Republicans" doing away with health care for the aged and starving our children, as well as destroying the environment, I can see why folks would be scared enough to vote your guy back into office. The only trouble with all this stuff is it is a lie.

The failed policies of the liberals need to be changed! Why are you afraid of telling the truth? I believe it is because you want to hide your agenda! Wallis and Campolo are liberals. They are trying to keep their president in the White House; I and others like me are double-bent to get him out! Call it like it is!

Stan Cole
Florence

Thanks for Recorder

This writer is 76 years old and courting again, having lost my wife a year and a half ago to colon cancer.

I have been a grateful reader of the

Western Recorder, which I consider one of the very best of our Baptist state papers. I especially want to thank in this note Mark and Alison Wingfield for their highly readable his/her point of view on marriage and family relationships. With a splendid sense of humor and appreciable depth of Christian psychology, these paragraphs are eminently attractive, worthwhile and inspirational in character. May it ever be so!

Don Meloon
Smithfield

Praise for Underwood

Not long ago we wanted Kentucky and Southern Baptists to know what a great work Bud Underwood is doing at Oneida Baptist Institute. Now, we are not so sure we want this news widely disseminated. We fear he may be called to another position of greater responsibility.

Underwood has assumed the reigns of an institution and replaced a leader (Barkley Moore) who was almost irreplaceable. He has displayed ability as a leader and administrator.

Moore accomplished the mission he was sent to do. He planted, and now Bud Underwood is watering and cultivating.

Underwood has marshalled his forces, motivated his workers, organized his physical assets, established goals and objectives and spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Beginning with his wife, Kay, and his family, he is blessed with the most dedicated group of workers anywhere. They work long hours with a minimum amount of remuneration.

Underwood doesn't expect any honor or recognition. He is so modest he would be embarrassed by these words of commendation. However, I feel compelled to relay them and they do not convey the whole story. The whole story is being written daily in the lives of boys and girls.

Oneida is a gem in the crown of Kentucky Baptists. It deserves our complete support for many reasons, one being its very uniqueness.

Oscar Davidson
Somerset

Labeling schools

I was interested in an article in the Fellowship News by Cecil Sherman titled "How Should Baptists Do Theological Education."

Sherman says before 1970 a church in search of a pastor could choose a man that lined up with the theological position of that church by going to the seminary representing their theological persuasion. He says, "If your church is very conservative, you might look to New Orleans Seminary. If it is a little conservative, you look to Southwestern. If your church is a little left of Southern Baptists, you turn to Southern. If it is a little further left, try Southeastern. The other two schools—Midwestern and Golden Gate—are influenced by place."

Today, according to Sherman, this is impossible. He says, "Instead of several seminaries offering a range of theological opinion and emphasis in ministry, there is one 'approved' opinion in Southern Baptist life." He says, "The president of Southeastern is a graduate of New Orleans and came to the post from Criswell College, a maverick school outside Baptist funding."

Then Sherman says, "Small Baptist seminaries and Baptist houses of study are springing up. Pray for them. Support them. Go to them for help. The Baptists you meet in these places are caretakers of the Baptist way."

Why are the conservative schools that have sprung up classified mavericks while the moderate schools are caretakers of the Baptist way? Is there a little inconsistency here?

Mike Morrow
Paducah

A deeper look

Since the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board (of missions) is almost entirely dependent upon the gifts of Kentucky Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program, it should not be surprising that concerns arise when that source shows signs of decline.

In terms of actual dollars, Kentucky Baptists never have been among the "biggies" such as Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and others. Where Kentucky Baptists have been a "biggie" is in the area of proportion. In that category, Kentucky has for years been in the top five of the old-line states, exceeded last year only by Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

In 1994, Kentucky Baptist churches gave 9.97 percent of their undesignated offerings to missions through the Cooperative Program. However in 1987, our 150th anniversary, Kentucky churches shared for Cooperative Program 11.88 percent of their undesignated gifts. The slide has since been gradual but significant. For example, had Kentucky Baptists given

through the Cooperative Program 11.88 percent of their undesignated offerings last year, receipts here would have been \$20,720,000 instead of \$17,858,000.

All of which is to say that Kentucky Baptists are still "big of heart" when it comes to mission giving through the Cooperative Program as compared with other state conventions. The average across the Southern Baptist convention in 1994 was 8.25 percent. This slippage is of concern to those of us who keep an eye on such things.

It can't be blamed solely on the convention controversy, while that is certainly a factor, else SBC and other leaders would pay little attention to the 27 percent growth in receipts this past year by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. There are probably a dozen or more factors.

However, I suggest that the chief reason is that local churches are becoming more specifically engaged in their own mission—be it buildings, staff, programs or mission projects—and are using more of their offerings for "missioning" at home.

Though denominationally blas-

phemous to say so, I do not believe that is all bad. In fact, it may prove to be the ultimate restoration of a lethargic church. More and more Baptists want to have a close-up, hands-on determination of their mission and where their "church money" goes.

So, in one sense, I'm not surprised that denominational missions support has slowed.

If it is true that most of the tithers are people over 55, and that the newer generations do not, as a whole, practice tithing, it is little wonder that church futurists are concerned about the financial viability of denominational enterprises and, for that matter, the ministry of the local church.

Perhaps we are finally discovering that the bottom line in missions is not just the local church, but the Baptists who people those churches. If they are not motivated to be generous stewards of their finances, the range of the church's mission will be limited at best.

It is not only the "denominationalist" who should be concerned about the future of mission giving in the local church. The local church needs to take a deeper look as well, before the spring dries up.

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM

Help on kids and 'cussing'

By Jewell Nelson

Q My 5-year-old used a cuss word and I washed his mouth out with soap. Should I have done that?

A School hallways, playgrounds, neighbors' yards and homes are just a few places where a child may be exposed to "cuss" words.

Television and movies are replete with cuss words. Words that once were spoken only on the fringe are now a somewhat "normal" part of much of today's society.

To punish a child for repeating words he may hear too frequently seems harsh.

Consider three ways to look at this dilemma of words you do not want your child to use:

■ "God" is spoken almost as slang nowadays. But taking God's name in slang or vain should definitely be a no-no for Christians.

Responding calmly, and with explanation, to any unacceptable words helps take the power out of the words. When an adult angrily tells a child not to use a word, it becomes a challenge to use the word, especially to upset the parent. And of course, the child can still say the word to himself.

If your child uses God's name unacceptably, talk about it calmly. You might say, "We use the word 'God' when we pray. It is not a word to use when you are angry. You would not want your name used by someone who is angry. I love God and I want our family to use his name in a loving way."

■ If your child uses a four-letter word that does not meet your approval, respond calmly: "That is a four-letter word that we do not use in our family. 'Ain't' is another four letter word we do not use." Say, "Let's make a list of good four-letter words we can use such as: play, sing, help and love."

■ Ultimately your child needs to learn that good grammar and intelligent talk will help eliminate words that might offend.

Refrain from lecturing on the use of good and bad words. Occasionally comment on acceptable four-letter words your child uses.

Jewell Nelson is associate director of the KBC's Sunday school 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

Is anybody out there listening, or is your family like ours?

HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

Don't you just hate to get caught not listening?

Few of us actually will admit we weren't listening to that significant someone's words of wisdom or recitation of the day's events. But sometimes we get caught in the act, and it sure is embarrassing.

This usually happens when you're pretending to listen to a monologue and then break in with a reasonable question which unfortunately was answered minutes before. It's hard to feign forgetfulness on such a short turnaround.

Despite my own failures to listen at certain times, I am smart enough to realize one scientific law that often gets overlooked at our house. We'll call this Mark's First Law of Utility Room Utterances.

It goes something like this: Regardless how important your words, I cannot hear them—or even know I'm missing them—if you're in one room and I'm in another and the TV is blaring and the washing machine is spinning and the heater is blowing and children are screaming.

Isn't it amazing that in this age of computers, faxes and cell phones, the basics of communication remain pretty much the same. Although the means of transmission are many, conversation still takes someone talking and someone listening—and a clear path in between.

When will they invent a machine that cues us when it's important to pay attention?

SHESAID



Alison Wingfield

Listening is an important skill we all could exercise more often in our relationships.

There is a real danger that seems to creep into long-term relationships—we assume we know what someone is going to say when they begin speaking, and then we automatically tune out the rest of the sentence.

I confess I am guilty of not only assuming, but also of filling in the blank out loud. I sometimes get

impatient with the speaker and try to help him or her along.

Mark is not an innocent bystander when it comes to poor listening skills. You would think a journalist who is known for his accuracy in getting the whole story would be able to tune in long enough to hear a whole sentence from his wife.

We have had numerous scenarios in our house where at some critical moment I say, "But I TOLD you that ..." and he replies, "Oh, I didn't hear that part."

Of course, children often are the worst offenders when it comes to listening. One of the most frequently used phrases at our house is "Listen to my words."

Sometimes I feel like I'm living out a Bill Cosby monologue on children. The words "Come here" seem to have no meaning to our children, even when you string them together in a series: "Come here, come here, come here, COME HERE!"

Then there's one of my major listening faults. I will defend myself ahead of time. I am a bookaholic. And when reading, I tune out anything and everything around me, including my husband's conversations. It's an unusual talent. Why is he talking to me anyway, when I'm trying to read?

We all could use practice on our listening skills. Maybe a good place to start is our time with God. "Be still and know that I am God." That requires a closed mouth and open ears.

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

Kentuckians can be proud of Jim Henry

Kentucky Baptists have reason to be proud of one of their most prominent exports: Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry.

Henry, a Georgetown College graduate, has proved to be the best president the SBC has known in nearly two decades.

Last week, he made his final major presentation to the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, and the finer qualities of his presidency were displayed once again.

Henry will conclude his term as president at the SBC's annual meeting in New Orleans in June.

Here's why Kentucky's almost-native son has made a good president:

■ *He has practiced what he preached.* Henry has not just talked about Cooperative Program support; his church has led the way, with a \$1 million gift last year.

■ *His message has been more inclusive than exclusive.* Although by no means a moderate, Henry has not attempted to further divide an already fragmented convention. To the greatest extent seen in years, he has avoided the temptation to cast as the enemy anyone out of lock-step with the new Nashville hierarchy.

■ *He has been genuinely gracious.* In speaking engagements across the nation—of which he may have made the most of any recent president—and in pre-

siding at official events, Henry has demonstrated a gentle spirit and graciousness that has been refreshing.

■ *He has demonstrated common sense.* In his speech to the Executive Committee last week, Henry appealed strongly for those who appoint trustees to SBC agencies and institutions to seek "the most capable leaders" available. Henry apparently realizes that 16 years of stacking trustee boards with ideologues who often have no expertise for the given assignment has taken a serious toll.

■ *He has championed the cause of women and racial minorities more than any other president.* Clearly, Henry stands in no danger of being labeled a feminist. But he has dared to suggest that many more women, African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians ought to be appointed to positions of leadership in the SBC. Last week he said, "The more involvement we have with the talent-rich and spiritually gifted men and women in our denomination, the more likely we are to succeed, and the closer we are to the biblical pattern."

Surely some of Henry's gentle spirit and peacemaking perspectives were shaped by his sojourn in Kentucky—or at least by marrying a Kentuckian. We have reason to be proud.

—Mark Wingfield

EDITORIALS

States don't need budget OK from Nashville

Do state or regional Baptist conventions have the right to determine how they spend their own money?

Apparently not, if you listen to the president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

In an exchange reported on page 7 of this week's Western Recorder, Morris Chapman, Executive Committee president, scolds the Northwest Baptist Convention over just such an issue.

The Northwest Convention—a group not known as liberals by any stretch of the imagination—drew Chapman's censure because of a unanimous vote taken at their fall convention. They decided to take \$50,000 off the top of their national Cooperative Program contribution to support Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. The California-based seminary operates a regional campus in the heart of the Northwest Convention, a strategic decision for which it is penalized by the SBC's seminary funding formula.

Chapman asserts the Northwest Convention has no right to give a direct contribution to Golden Gate without harming the integrity of the Cooperative Program. The seminary will get what the SBC Executive Committee decides it should get, Chapman implies.

"It is not the prerogative of the Northwest Baptist Convention to spend \$50,000 of the money allocated to the Southern Baptist Convention, not even if the state convention messengers vote unanimously," Chapman wrote in a letter to the Northwest Convention's leadership.

He then concludes: "I encourage you to discuss with me in the future any such actions under consideration that may significantly harm the Cooperative Program ..."

Contrary to what some SBC leaders would have us believe, state and regional Baptist conventions are not farm teams for the SBC. They never have been and

never should be. Money is "allocated" to the SBC only by directive of the state and regional conventions.

Neither the SBC nor its Executive Committee have any right to tell a state or regional convention how much money it must send to Nashville or what schools or agencies it may or may not support.

Chapman has it backward. The Northwest Convention has every prerogative to spend \$50,000 of the money it otherwise would have sent to the SBC on Golden Gate, even without a unanimous vote.

In Baptist polity, decisions about Cooperative Program gifts flow from the bottom up, not from the top down. Churches determine how much money to send to state conventions, and state conventions in turn determine how much of that money to send to the national convention.

Both churches and state conventions are free to spend their money however they wish.

Following Chapman's logic, the Kentucky Baptist Convention would have the right to tell your church not to send funds directly to Campbellsville College, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children or Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

But your church doesn't have to call Middletown for permission to determine your own budget; and neither the Northwest Baptist Convention nor the Kentucky Baptist Convention has to obtain permission from Nashville to set their budgets.

The irony is that several state conventions—older, stronger, more affluent conventions in the South—already have changed the way they support the Cooperative Program due to political differences. Just because the Northwest Convention doesn't carry the financial weight of those conventions doesn't mean it can't make a budget change for philosophical reasons.

—Mark Wingfield

Should Kentucky's health-care reform be repealed?

YES

By Rachel McCubbin
Health Care Policy
Analyst
The Family Foundation

"Any time the government starts to run something, whether it's the auto industry or the health care industry, the consequences are severe—and expensive."

We live in a world where transportation is an absolute necessity. Without a car, you wouldn't be able to do much of anything anymore.

And that's where the problem comes in. In fact, many people don't realize it, but we're in the middle of an automobile crisis.

For one thing, cars are expensive. In fact, some people can't afford one at all. Another thing is that it's hard for most people to make the proper decision about which car to buy.

Cars, you see, are complicated pieces of machinery. Do you know how a car works? Can you look under the hood of one and tell that it is better made than another sitting next to it? How in the world can you be trusted to make the right decision about which one to buy?

Let's face it: you don't and you can't.

As a state, we need to ensure that everyone in Kentucky has a car. We also need to make it easier for people to know which car is the right car for them. We need to establish a level playing field so that all manufacturers can compete.

Now there are people who have thought a lot about this problem. They're not mechanics themselves nor have very many of them even

worked for a car company, but that doesn't mean they're not experts in how to buy a car.

Anyway, they've come up with a solution to this automobile crisis that will solve many of these problems.

Here's how we do it.

First, we set up a government committee to oversee the auto industry. One of the chief functions will be to make sure auto companies don't charge too much. And in order to help pay for cars for the poor, there would be a 2 percent "dealer tax" on auto dealers.

Second, this committee, which would be called the "Auto Policy Board," would set up a car purchasing alliance. That would allow the state to pool together everyone who wants to buy a car so that everyone gets fleet pricing.

Third, the Auto Policy Board would come up with four model cars. Auto companies selling cars in Kentucky would only be allowed to sell one of these four kinds of cars—with certain limited options that the Auto Policy Board would specify.

With only four kinds of cars to choose from, the job of the consumer would be greatly simplified. There would be no more "playing games" with the consumer as to the exact kind of car he's being sold. For the first time, Kentucky-

ans would be able to comparison shop, apples with apples, for the models offered by each manufacturer.

Now some people will say there would be problems if this plan were implemented.

For one thing, the critics will say, many car companies would stop selling cars altogether, since they won't be able to make a profit and many car dealerships will be forced out of business or out of the state because of the new dealer tax.

Not only that, the critics would argue, but those who stay will jack up their prices.

Another problem, the naysayers would charge, is that we won't have as many choices. Now you can go out and buy any car you want and have the options you choose. The new plan would mean fewer choices.

And then there's the argument that the Auto Purchasing Alliance wouldn't be voluntary at all; that people would be forced into it because everything else would be unaffordable.

OK. Maybe some of this will happen. The greedy car companies and other special interests will want to reverse the gains we try to make in providing transportation for everybody.

They'll start gouging customers and leaving the state—just because they don't like

the regulation and fairness that would be fostered under the new system.

And, yes, people would be forced into the alliance. But if we continued to say that is was voluntary, people wouldn't feel like they were being forced into it.

This law wouldn't be perfect. And it could only happen through the cooperation of all parties involved, including the auto manufacturers. It would need to be given time to work.

I know what you're saying: "This must be some kind of joke."

OK OK. It's a crazy idea. Nobody would even consider it if someone proposed it. Anyone who suggested it would be laughed out of the state.

But what would you say if you found out that such a scheme had been proposed—and enacted by policy makers? Not having to do with cars—but with health care?

In 1994, we were told we had a "health care crisis" on our hands and so we enacted the Health Care Reform Act of 1994 (HB 250). It has brought us purchasing alliances, policy boards made up of government bureaucrats and provider taxes—all of which has resulted in increased premiums for health insurance, particularly for families, and fewer insurance choices.

The same arguments I just used for a government takeover of the auto industry have been used to justify the state's health care reform. In fact, See *Point-Counterpoint* ..., page 7

NO

By Greg Brooks
Pastor
Immanuel Baptist
Church
Frankfort

"Food, clothing, shelter, health care—these are the basic conditions of well-being. To love our neighbor means we will be concerned about his or her need for these basic necessities of life."

Two years ago, Kentucky's General Assembly passed House Bill 250 to bring about comprehensive health care reform in Kentucky. Since that time, health insurance companies have waged a campaign to convince legislators that House Bill 250 should be repealed or drastically altered.

Although there have been problems associated with the implementation of the bill—primarily in the area of insurance rates—the legislation is much too crucial to repeal or severely modify at this early date. We should give health care reform a chance to work.

House Bill 250 deserves a full opportunity to demonstrate its effectiveness. To repeal the legislation at this time would be to act prematurely. The bill has only been in effect for approximately seven months. We do not have enough valid information to know where any problems are or where any revisions should be made. A special session of the General Assembly can be called next year to address any problems which might persist over the course of this year.

House Bill 250 has not solved all the problems which existed in the insurance and health-delivery systems in Kentucky, but it has taken tremendous first steps toward these solutions.

For example, this legislation assures all Kentuckians access to high-quality health care. House Bill 250

guarantees the issue, renewability and portability of insurance policies. This means that all Kentuckians can purchase health insurance regardless of their past, present or future health conditions. Insurance companies are prevented from "cherry picking" only the healthiest of Kentuckians to insure.

It also means Kentuckians can take their insurance with them if they change jobs. The use of standardized insurance plans with standardized language also enables Kentuckians to compare insurance policies "apples to apples" and pick insurance coverage in a truly competitive market. Standard language ensures that Kentuckians can become informed consumers, understanding the actual coverage and benefits offered in a particular policy.

We must not back off our commitment to health care reform. Repealing House Bill 250 might solve some problems, but it would leave other problems unresolved.

The reality is that, before the implementation of House Bill 250, many Kentuckians did not share equitably in the health care benefits. Many Kentuckians were seriously medically disadvantaged, needing care but unable to obtain it because they had no health insurance. The Health Purchasing Alliance created by House Bill 250 reports that approximately 10,000 individual Kentuckians and 350 employee groups have purchased insurance coverage through the Alliance; 23 percent of those were unable to purchase health



insurance prior to House Bill 250. These Kentuckians will become medically disadvantaged once again if House Bill 250 is repealed.

Our moral and biblical traditions insist that no one should be left out in the cold when it comes to the basics in life. Scriptural notions of love and justice obligate those who are advantaged to assist all who are disadvantaged, helping them to come to the point where they have the capacity to participate in the full life of the community (Leviticus 25:35-36; Deuteronomy 10:12-22, 15-4, 7-11; Isaiah 58:6-11).

Food, clothing, shelter, health care—these are the basic conditions of well-being. To love our neighbor means we will be concerned about his or her need for these basic necessities of life. Commitments to equality, fairness and community place moral claims upon us to assist and protect the most vulnerable among us—those who have been left out in the cold and without health care coverage.

These Kentuckians deserve to be protected from the fear of losing their health care coverage because they change or lose their jobs. These Kentuckians deserve to be protected from discrimination in their ability to obtain health care coverage because they have pre-existing physical or mental conditions.

If House Bill 250 is repealed, these moral issues related to health care reform still must be addressed.

Calls to repeal House Bill 250 are primarily related to rising insurance rates some Kentuckians have experi-

enced. We must remind ourselves, however, that insurance rates were rising at significant levels each year prior to the implementation of House Bill 250. There is no evidence to suggest that rates would drop with the repeal of this measure.

To ease concerns, however, slight modification of House Bill 250 in areas possibly impacting insurance rates could be considered. For example, pre-existing condition limitations could be expanded to a single 12-month period. Allowance could be made to increase the agent commission rate in the Health Purchasing Alliance to encourage a greater number of referrals to the Alliance by agents. And exemptions could be made for already-existing associations to maintain their current benefit plan, provided all members of the association are guaranteed issue of health care coverage. These modifications do not represent an abandonment of our commitment to health care reform.

When people are excluded from health care because they are uninsured or underinsured, their suffering is threefold—the distress of illness, the discouragement of knowing little or no treatment will be available and the desperation of feeling they do not really belong to the community.

When people lack health care, the promise of our common life together also is diminished. By ensuring the health of others, we enable them to contribute more fully to our community. We thereby enhance the flourishing of our common life.

All of us are only one diagnosis away from being placed in jeopardy. See *Point-Counterpoint* ..., page 7

BAPTISTS

Baptist schools' enrollment up

NASHVILLE (BP)—Enrollment at the 50 Southern Baptist Convention-related colleges and universities showed an overall increase for the fall semester for the 14th consecutive year, according to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission.

The five colleges and universities recognized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention posted a mixed report for fall enrollment.

Campbellsville College reported 1,357 students, up 8.5 percent. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College enrolled 121, down 5.5 percent; Cumberland College reported 1,505 students, down 2.9 percent; Georgetown College enrolled 1,461, up 3.9 percent; Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College reported 112, down 7.4 percent.

Nationwide, 108,146 students enrolled in the 50 Southern Baptist colleges and universities for the fall, a less than 1 percent increase over the 1994 total of 107,263.

California Baptist College in Riverside, Calif., showed both the largest numerical and the largest percentage increase from fall 1994 to fall 1995. The university, led by former Campbellsville College vice president Ron Ellis, enrolled 418 additional students, a 51.7 percent increase.

Baylor University in Waco, Texas, remains the largest Southern Baptist-related university in the nation with 12,202 students.

Point-Counterpoint

YES

Continued from page 6
some of the arguments were taken verbatim from the defenders of HB 250.

The defenders of HB 250 are urging legislators to ignore the avalanche of complaints they are receiving from their constituents. But the folks back home understand that any time the government starts to run something, whether it's the auto industry or the health care industry, the consequences are severe—and expensive.

NO

Continued from page 6
Until late last year, my mother had always experienced good health. On Nov. 10, however,

she was diagnosed as having cancer. Her medical bills are rapidly mounting. She's fortunate, though, because she has insurance. But that may change at some future date because of this diagnosis.

It would be tragic if my mother were denied access to health care because she was unable to purchase coverage. All of us deserve to be protected from the fear of losing our health-care coverage because we get sick.

Small convention rebuffed for CP change

By Mark Wingfield
Interim Editor

NASHVILLE—The Northwest Baptist Convention, one of the smaller regional conventions that supports the Southern Baptist Convention, has been reprimanded by the president of the SBC Executive Committee for posing potential "harm" to the Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program is the SBC's unified budget that supports missions, theological education and other causes. Funds originate in local churches, which pass a percentage on to state conventions, which in turn pass a percentage on to the SBC.

During the fall 1995 annual meeting of the Northwest Baptist Convention—encompassing Washington, Oregon and part of Idaho—messengers approved a budget that changed the amount of money passed from the regional convention to the SBC. Messengers voted unanimously to take \$50,000 off the top of their national Cooperative Program contribution as a gift to Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Golden Gate Seminary, based in Mill Valley, Calif., operates a regional campus in Portland, Ore., in cooperation with the Northwest Baptist Convention.

"This action is a response to the reduction Golden Gate received in its Cooperative Program budget allocation adopted at the Southern Baptist Convention in 1995," Northwest Baptist Convention Executive Director Jeff Iorg wrote in a Dec. 19 letter to Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

"We understand the current seminary funding formula penalizes any seminary with a commitment to regional campuses," Iorg said. "Since the Northwest Baptist Convention cooperates with Golden Gate to operate a regional campus as a significant part of our strategy to reach the Northwest for Christ, we can no longer ignore the reality that being our partner is costing the seminary financially."

Executive Committee meets

Continued from page 2

will recommend at least 14 people who are qualified to serve as trustees of two subsidiary investment companies to be created by the Annuity Board. Annuity Board trustees will choose actual board members from that pool.

According to background materials, the change will not affect earnings of retirement programs but will add security by adopting rules and regulations practiced by the mutual fund industry.

Executive Committee President Morris Chapman told Associated Baptist Press the discussion was held in executive session because of "wide-ranging legal considerations."

The Executive Committee declined to recommend that money formerly sent by the SBC to the American Baptist Theological Seminary be set aside for scholarships for African-American students at SBC seminaries. The motion to set up scholarships was made at the convention last June

The seminary funding formula, an agreement between presidents of the six SBC seminaries and the SBC Executive Committee, distributes Cooperative Program funding to the seminaries based on a rolling average of full-time student enrollments. However, students who attend classes at off-campus centers do not count as much in the funding formula as students who attend classes on a main campus.

Each of the six seminaries operates some type of off-campus center, but Golden Gate—the only SBC seminary in the West—has developed regional campuses as a primary strategy for making theological education more accessible.

In his letter to Chapman, Iorg said the Northwest Convention's finance committee, Executive Board and convention "believe in the Cooperative Program and have supported it exclusively and enthusiastically as our only channel of missions support."

"We want to return to this pattern, without designations, and will do so when the funding formula is changed to recognize the validity of regional campuses as a strategically effective method of delivering theological education."

Chapman responded to Iorg in a letter dated Jan. 8.

The Northwest Convention's action "is in violation of a principle that has been affirmed and reaffirmed by the SBC since the inception of the Cooperative Program in 1925," Chapman said. That principle is that state conventions will not attempt to fund national entities directly, but only through the national Cooperative Program budget as determined by the Executive Committee, he said.

"It is not the prerogative of the Northwest Baptist Convention to spend \$50,000 of the money allocated to the Southern Baptist Convention, not even if the state convention messengers vote unanimously," Chapman wrote Iorg.

"I encourage you to discuss with me in the future any such actions un-

der consideration that may significantly harm the Cooperative Program, a God-given plan that has served Southern Baptists and the kingdom of God so well since 1925," Chapman concluded.

The issue of direct funding for Golden Gate Seminary was discussed in the Feb. 20 meeting of the SBC Executive Committee's seminaries workgroup, which develops the funding formula.

The workgroup had received for consideration a motion made at the 1995 SBC annual meeting which sought to find alternate means of funding Golden Gate Seminary "to meet the missions challenge of the West." The seminaries workgroup recommended, and the full Executive Committee approved, a response saying the Executive Committee will continue to study the issue of funding for Golden Gate Seminary.

In comments to the seminaries workgroup, Golden Gate President Bill Crews said he had backed off on the seminary's longtime appeal to change the seminary funding formula because he realized most of the other seminary presidents opposed any change.

Realizing additional funding would not come from the Cooperative Program, and being strongly committed to the regional campus model, "we had to find other ways to fund what we're trying to do," he said.

One source of new funds has been the state conventions that benefit from Golden Gate's regional campuses, he said.

Some old-line state conventions have changed the way they pass money onto the SBC in recent years due to political turmoil in the convention. However, the Northwest Baptist Convention's action was based on philosophical differences with the SBC Executive Committee, not on political differences.

"This was not an act of protest," Iorg told the seminaries workgroup. "This was not a slap at the Cooperative Program."

"It is not the prerogative of the Northwest Baptist Convention to spend \$50,000 of the money allocated to the Southern Baptist Convention, not even if the state convention messengers vote unanimously."

*Morris Chapman,
president of the SBC
Executive Committee*

FMB lists 645 personnel needs

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has selected 645 new career missionary jobs to fill in 1996, with 50 designated priority requests.

The 50 priorities reflect a global emphasis by FMB area directors. Half of these are for missionaries to work in virtually unevangelized parts of the world. The rest are to further evangelize areas already highly responsive to the gospel or to accomplish other strategic goals.

While sharing the gospel falls under every missionary's portfolio, the majority of personnel requests specify evangelism and church planting as an actual assignment. A sampling of those priority requests include:

- Church starter in the historic area of Novgorod, Russia, or the Andean town of Cajamarca, Peru, and other locations.
- Evangelist/health worker in Kanuri, Nigeria.
- Student worker in South Korea.

Other assignments focus on specialized needs, such as teaching hearing-impaired students at a school in Gaza, or teaching soil conservation and crop management among the Afar people in Ethiopia.

MISSIONS



**PEOPLE
COUNT**

"Baptist work in Montana is slow. Relationship is very important to the people, therefore, one-on-one ministry is absolutely necessary. "That is what 'People Count' means to me—ministering one on one."

Home missionary Joe Boney

"Our goal is to evangelize America."
Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis

"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."

Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president for planning and finance

"I can't start enough churches for enough people, so I'm really focusing on reproducing myself in other church planters and other pastors who are starting churches. In an area this large, we can't afford just to start one or two churches a year. We have to start church-planting churches."

Home missionary Jonathan Campbell, who works in Southern California

"Camp is cool. Miss Gracie makes it fun 'cause she's a funny lady. She makes everyone laugh. Oregon Hill—it's a tough neighborhood, you know."

13-year-old Casey, speaking of home missionary Grace Kirkpatrick in Richmond, Va.



Yolanda Barraza in the church-based clinic

Texas: Healing for the whole person

EL PASO, Texas—People don't usually go to church when they're feeling their worst, but in El Paso that's exactly what draws them to Del Centro Baptist Church.

In one small room, a young girl complains about pain in her lower abdomen, while in another a child is immunized against hepatitis. Across the hall, a member of the church's Woman's Missionary Union sterilizes medical instruments. And in another, a doctor dispenses medicine for a woman with migraine headaches.

It's Saturday morning at the inner-city church, and its medical clinic is going full steam. A hundred ailing individuals fidget in metal chairs in the crowded Fellowship Hall, waiting to be assigned a physician. Home missionary Yolanda Barraza serves as mediator between the two worlds—that of the sick on one side of the wall and the medical volunteers of the El Paso Medical Clinic on the other.

"The people do not come for the Christian witness, they come for the pills," acknowledged Barraza, associate director of the clinic. "But in the scheme of things, they receive that witness and stumble onto the gospel in the process."

Seventy volunteers, from physicians to kitchen workers, give their time at the clinic each month. Without their help, Barraza says, the clinic could not bring better health care to an area of El Paso ravaged by economic stagnation.

"Our postal ZIP code—79901—is recognized as the fifth-poorest ZIP code area in the nation," Barraza said. "Many of these families have only two rooms and sleep on the floor."

Though the clinic is technically free, it does charge a dollar to help patients maintain their self esteem. But if a dollar is too much, the patient is not turned away.

Helping patients find spiritual healing is the ultimate goal of the clinic, Barraza explained. "Many times I have an opportunity to witness to someone while they're waiting in the examination room."

"We must not forget that every person is valuable in God's sight, and they may not come through our doors but once. If we didn't include an evangelistic witness, we wouldn't be doing anything different from a government health clinic."

"We want people to know that we're here because of the Lord—not just to give pills away."

Tennessee: New start brings growth

JACKSON, Tenn.—When home missionaries Richard and Lucille Lee began forming a new Southern Baptist congregation in a low-income neighborhood of Jackson, Tenn., it came as no surprise that residents chose the name Greater Hope Baptist Church.

"Everyone has abandoned East Jackson," Lee said. "We're trying to give them hope through Christ. We don't plan on leaving."

Starting new churches such as this one is the only way Southern

Baptists will reach the masses of unchurched people in the United States, Lee explained. In Madison-

Chester Baptist Association, which encompasses the Jackson area, almost all the additions to local churches last year were by transfer of letter from other churches.

But that's not the case when new churches are started, and it's certainly not the case at

Greater Hope.

"In our church, almost all our members are new converts," Lee said.



Montana: Pastors for young churches

Joe and Cindy Boney, Texas natives, are now in their fourth assignment as Southern Baptist home missionaries in Montana. They live near the Montana border of Yellowstone National Park, where he serves as pastor of Gardiner Baptist Mission.

South Dakota: This Pope still remembers what it's like to be a sinner

SIoux FALLS, S.D.—Despite his name, Ed Pope lived much of his life as a sinner.

Pope, who now works as a Southern Baptist home missionary in the Dakotas, remembers vividly what it's like to be separated from a relationship with Jesus Christ. That's the very life he lived for too long, he said.

Perhaps that's why the evangelism director has little patience with people who aren't concerned about telling everyone about Jesus.

At one church he previously served as pastor, a church member tried to dissuade him from visiting a woman with a reputation for living a sinful lifestyle, saying "we don't want her kind."

Pope's response: "Well if you knew what my life was like before

God, you probably wouldn't want me in your church."

Pope didn't turn to Christ until he was 32. Both he and his wife, Marilyn, invested their lives in worldly gain and partying. Eventu-

ally, they became so miserable that she contemplated divorce and he contemplated suicide.

"Both of us had done things that neither one of us could forget or forgive," he explained.

But a persistent pastor helped them find new life in Christ.

The pastor made an appointment to come see them, but Pope managed to slip out beforehand for a night on the town. When he arrived back home at 10:30 p.m., the pastor's car still was there, waiting to tell him about Jesus.

"That night, Marilyn and I both prayed (to trust Christ) at the same time," he said.

Now the Popes seek to exercise the same persistence in one of the toughest areas for Baptist missionaries in the United States. Southern Baptists represent less than one-half of 1 percent of the population in the Dakotas, and evangelical Christian churches of all kinds are not predominant.



The Popes, preparing evangelism training materials

ISSUES

Legal issues cited as growing concern for churches

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Despite horror stories about churches paying million-dollar judgments, a congregation's chances of being sued are only 1 in 100, according to John Dudley.

The bad news is those odds could mushroom in the next decade, said the vice president of property and casualty for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

"Attorneys are being trained by the American Bar Association to sue churches," he commented, "and they're finding out churches are the worst-run businesses around. They make easy targets. Many are staffed by volunteers, and management is very loose."

Dudley was the keynote speaker for "Financial Issues for Ministers and Churches," a series of seminars held statewide last week by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department.

Don Spencer, annuity department director, said about 400 people attended the meetings in Paducah, Madisonville, Louisville, London and

Lexington.

Dudley opened his presentation with a cartoon that showed a woman telling a clergyman: "After three weeks of enjoying ... services, prayer, fellowship and counseling, I still feel a deep spiritual yearning. So I'm going to sue your socks off."

"It used to be that people would never sue a church," Dudley said. "But that mindset is changing. There are a lot of frivolous claims that divert church funds and mission money to legal costs."

Some steps may be too complex or time-consuming for smaller churches, he said, yet those congregations need to be aware of the need for public safety on their property.

Dudley outlined five ways for churches to reduce risks:

■ Incorporate and maintain corporate status. Advantages include removing liability from individuals, allowing the church to buy and sell property and making it easier to obtain loans.

■ Adopt risk management strategies. Many don't cost a lot, Dudley said; they involve identifying risks like potholes in the parking lot or ex-

posed inside wiring.

Other examples include a church with a bus ministry carrying proper insurance and screening the driving records of all vehicle operators. Or, to reduce the possibility of child molestation, screening staff members and volunteers. "I highly recommend doing reference and criminal background checks," Dudley said.

■ Carry adequate insurance. This varies by property and equipment owned, but policies should be the "all risk" type. A "named peril" policy will only cover risks specifically named, he explained.

"We find all the time that churches are underinsured," Dudley said. "They're doing it because the premiums are lower. But then the church has to pick up the debt if the building needs replaced."

Because of this habit, he said if a church insures 80 percent of a building's replacement value, many companies will agree to cover 100 percent of a loss.

In addition, other coverage needed is a minimum \$1 million liability policy, workers' compensation insurance and professional malpractice in-

urance.

■ Develop operating policies and procedures. Most smaller churches are unlikely to change informal operating methods, he acknowledged. And, he cautioned that if a church develops written procedures, it must follow them or it can be charged with discrimination.

■ Respond publicly when something bad happens.

Dudley reviewed the case of a Baptist church in Miami whose youth pastor was convicted of sexually molesting 12 boys. Although he later went to prison for 15 years, members rallied around the youth pastor and shunned the victims. Enraged, their parents sued and won a \$4.2 million judgment, quadruple the insurance coverage.

This case shows the need to minister to all parties if a problem arises in the church, Dudley said.

He also pointed out it is better for a church to initiate the release of bad news to the community, since it is going to come out anyway. However, he cautioned a church must protect the privacy of those involved by not divulging personal information.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department held its annual series of statewide seminars on tax and financial issues for ministers last week. The three stories on this page highlight some of the major topics covered in those sessions.

Be 'squeaky clean' with finances, pastors admonished

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—The Internal Revenue Service has a rather schizophrenic viewpoint of ministers: it sees them as church employees for income-tax purposes, but expects them to pay self-employment Social Security taxes.

This view "doesn't make sense," said Don Spencer, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department. "We're talking about the government. But I keep running into tax preparers who are (telling pastors), 'We'll just call you self-employed.'"

In the tax update he gave during last week's church financial issues seminar, Spencer encouraged pastors and churches to be "squeaky clean" in reporting income and expense re-

imbursements.

Ministerial audits have been a hot topic in the state the past three years, he added, and churches can expect tighter government scrutiny in the future.

Though he expressed frustration about the complexities of the IRS code—written at a level that requires a post-graduate reading comprehension—Spencer said the agency now offers two publications tailored to clergy:

■ "The Tax Guide for Churches and Other Religious Organizations" was published in 1994. It reviews existing provisions of tax laws affecting churches and clergy.

■ "Audit Technique Guide for Ministers."

In determining whether a pastor is a church employee, the issue of employer control of the employee is the

basic test, Spencer said. Even if that control is not tightly exercised, but the right exists, then the church has control, he said.

When it comes to Southern Baptist churches, most pastors are considered employees because congregations control who fills the pulpit, he said.

Spencer reminded the audience that special-occasion gifts, such as fees for weddings and funerals, are taxable income; so is a Christmas "love offering."

One primary area of concern for both pastors and churches is accountable plans for expense reimbursements, Spencer noted.

To qualify as legally-deductible expenses, the items must have a connection to church business, be substantiated in a reasonable amount of time (60 days), and excess amounts

must be returned within 120 days, he said.

This means if a pastor receives \$500 to attend the SBC annual meeting, but can only document spending \$480, the \$20 difference must be returned or it will be considered income.

"If you have any questions about reimbursing expenses, ask yourself how XYZ business down the street would do it, and that will answer your questions. A business would never let an employee keep expense money he couldn't account for."

Nor are salary reductions which are designed as partial expense reimbursements allowed. Spencer explained a church can't pay a pastor \$500 a week, but one week call \$110 of that "expenses" and the rest "salary," then change the figures the next week.

Think you don't need a will? Think again, attorney says

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—While many people avoid estate planning because they don't want to face their own mortality, Laurie Valentine calls it an essential element of Christian stewardship.

"Probably half the people in the room today don't have wills," said the trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation after her seminar on Christian estate planning.

"But the Bible instructs us to take care of our families and provide for their (future) support. I think that includes the charitable causes you support during your lifetime."

One of the primary reasons for a will is that without one the state determines how your assets are distributed, she said—and that may not co-

incide with your wishes.

For example, the state has no provision for estate gifts to churches or other charitable causes and allows money to pass to minor children who may not be mature enough to spend it wisely.

"I think a lot of people, especially husbands and wives who own everything jointly, think they don't need a will," said the University of Florida law school graduate. "But if they both die in an accident and don't have any children, then half goes to his family and half to hers."

Wills allow individuals to make specific bequests and provide for special needs, she said. They enable parents to establish a trust fund for their children and name someone to govern the fund until the parents feel the children will be old enough to manage it properly.

Wills also let an individual or couple choose who distributes the estate's assets instead of a court, and they can minimize death taxes, Valentine said.

If someone draws up a will in another state before moving to Kentucky, it is still valid, she said. However, she advised reviewing the document every three to five years because circumstances change.

Proper estate planning is more than a will, she pointed out. It also involves planning for management and distribution of a person's assets while he or she is alive. This can include such instruments as:

■ Durable power of attorney. This is different from a general power-of-attorney and can be changed at any time, she said. It allows individuals to appoint someone to manage financial and other matters if they become temporarily incapacitated by an accident

or illness. When the individual recovers, he or she reassumes control.

■ Living wills. These documents designate the means a person chooses to prolong life in case of an accident or health crisis, such as feeding tubes, medication or various forms of life support. "The last thing your family wants (during a crisis) is to guess what you want," Valentine said. "I encourage you to make it and discuss it with your family."

■ Trusts. There are various kinds of trusts that can be established to oversee assets while a person is alive, or after death, she said. Living trusts can manage assets in the event of incapacity, provide privacy and avoid probate court after death.

"All these incapacity documents are like fire insurance," the attorney said. "You pay the premium but hope you never have to use the policy."

BARNA BITS

■ The American culture "re-invents" itself every 3-5 years, but the American church changes on a 40-50 year cycle.

■ Multi-ethnic congregations may be an ideal, but they seldom work, except near military bases.

■ The functional illiteracy of Americans should be taken into account when choosing a pew Bible or a Bible to read from in worship. "Three out of four American adults today do not have the literacy skills to penetrate the King James Version."

■ "When people come to church, it's not because they don't have anything else to do. They come expecting some kind of transaction."

■ In a high-tech world, what technologies do churches most often own? 88 percent have electric typewriters; 83 percent have flannel boards; 78 percent have VCRs; 67 percent have film-strip projectors; 64 percent have personal computers and 20 percent have mimeograph machines. "When you walk into a church, you're walking into ancient history."

■ 26 percent of Christians believe Protestant churches are "very sensitive" to the needs of non-Christians, but only 9 percent of non-Christians believe the same. "Let's not take for granted that because we love each other anyone else can break into our little love circle."

■ 82 percent of American adults incorrectly believe "God helps those who help themselves" is taken directly from the Bible.

■ 63 percent of American adults cannot name the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

■ 52 percent of American adults do not realize the story of Jonah is from the Bible.

■ 54 percent of the people who attend churches do not profess personal relationships with Jesus Christ, even though the average non-Christian who attends church has been attending the same church for 10 years. "We're innoculating against the Christian faith."

■ "If we were to take all the non-Christian people in America and put them in a country of their own, it would be the fifth-largest nation in the world." America is home to an estimated 187 million people who are not Christians, compared to 75 million who are.

■ The average Protestant pastor spends less than two hours per week in any activity related to evangelism.

■ About 10 percent of American adults tithe 10 percent of their income to the church.

■ Between now and 2025, an estimated \$10 trillion to \$13 trillion will change hands through inheritances, bequests and other results of the older generation dying.

■ Churches that conduct the most successful stewardship campaigns are those where the pastor preaches two or more sermons on stewardship annually, where pastors have access to financial records and where the annual stewardship campaign is led by a lay committee rather than the pastor but with the pastor's endorsement.

■ Charitable giving as a percentage of income is lower among those with incomes of \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Source: All statistics and quotes from Christian researcher George Barna in a daylong seminar on "What Effective Churches Have Discovered" Feb. 19 in Nashville.

Barna: Old is new in good evangelism

By Mark Wingfield
Interim Editor

NASHVILLE—Noted Christian researcher George Barna set out to write a book on new methods of evangelism a few years ago but found none.

The best methods of evangelism already are known and have been used in various forms throughout the history of the Christian church, he said during a seminar on "What Effective Churches Have Learned" Feb. 19 in Nashville.

"What we need is not new models," he explained. "What we need is new hearts."

He quoted the writer of Ecclesiastes to say there is nothing new under the sun. "The seeker service is nothing more than Jesus sitting on a hillside with 3,000 of his closest friends," preaching in a style they could understand, Barna said.

While there are many obstacles to evangelism, the greatest problem of

the modern church may be the separation of evangelism from discipleship, he suggested.

"Most Protestant churches are focused on getting decisions. But that's just one step in the process," he said.

His company, Barna Research Group, has discovered that a majority of people who make decisions to become Christians have dropped out of church participation within six to eight weeks.

This is a travesty for which leaders of the modern church will face God's judgment, Barna said. "We lose them not temporarily but eternally. They think they got it already. We've given them the false impression that they've got it together spiritually."

True commitment to Christ will result in conversions, not just decisions, Barna said. And that requires a process most churches don't follow through with.

In the Nashville seminar, Barna outlined 12 things he has discovered

effective evangelistic churches do:

■ They have an evangelistic culture driven by the pastor. "You will not have a church with an evangelistic culture if you just hope it will happen."

■ Their philosophy of ministry has evangelism at its core. "Everything they do has an evangelistic flavor to it." Yet he noted these churches are not driven by numbers. They see success as being faithful to share the gospel, not in the number of decisions recorded.

■ Both their mission and vision of ministry emphasize evangelism.

■ Their weekend services are highly evangelistic.

■ They use evangelistic events frequently and strategically. Effective churches plan several evangelistic events each year and use a variety of events, he said. Moreover, they develop evangelistic events based on the needs of their communities and target each event to a specific audience.

■ They steal their best ideas from other churches. Effective churches take ideas used successfully in other churches and adapt those ideas to their own context.

■ They spend money on outreach. Most churches spend most of their money on buildings and programs for adults, Barna noted. Yet effective evangelism focuses on relationships, events, children and youth.

■ They are innovative, risk-taking, aggressive and restless.

■ They provide good evangelism training. Effective churches offer evangelism training throughout the year and teach courses at different levels, he said.

■ Their congregations are networked with non-Christians. Most Christians don't have relationships with non-Christians, which leads to "hit-and-run" evangelism, Barna said. Yet effective churches encourage their members to develop relationships with non-Christians.

■ They set significant evangelism goals and are held accountable to them.

■ They cooperate with other churches for God's purposes.

Watch your language

NASHVILLE—If you want to talk to non-Christians about finding new life in Jesus Christ, don't tell them they need to have a broken heart, George Barna suggests.

"Most people today go to great lengths to avoid having their hearts broken," Barna said, emphasizing the trauma of modern relationships.

Although the broken heart language may have meaning to some Christians, it only confuses non-Christians, Barna said during a Feb. 19 seminar on "What Effective Churches Have Discovered."

Talk about broken hearts is only one example of bad language Christians use that thwarts evangelism and confuses non-Christians, Barna said. Other examples of confusing language include:

- "Covered by the blood of the Lamb."
- "Slain in the Spirit."
- "Christian walk."

- "I've been convicted."
- "Sweet fellowship."
- "Get into the word."
- "God is moving."
- "Prayer warrior."
- "The lost."

Words and phrases such as these communicate, but they communicate the wrong message, Barna said. "They say you don't know the lingo, you don't know the holy handshake."



America headed toward anarchy or revival

Continued from page 1

"transfer" growth, meaning the movement of Christians from one church to another.

The Christian church in America has been unable to stop a massive moral and ethical decline, Barna said. As evidence, he cited statistics such as:

■ A majority of people who marry this year will have cohabited with someone before getting married, even though individuals who cohabitate are significantly more likely to end marriages in divorce than individuals who never live with a mate without benefit of marriage.

■ One-third of Americans believe it is acceptable for two married people to have an affair, as long as both of them want the affair to happen.

■ 50 percent of people getting married this year believe their marriage will end in divorce at some future

point.

■ 71 percent of American adults believe there is no such thing as absolute truth, a view also held by 64 percent of born-again Christians and 40 percent of evangelical Christians.

■ 96 percent of American adults believe in God, but 45 percent believe Jesus committed sins while on earth.

■ A majority of Americans believe salvation may be found in either of two ways: through a relationship with Jesus Christ or through good works.

■ Americans aren't keeping the 10 Commandments because they don't know them; 58 percent of American adults cannot name half the commandments.

The future of the American church is bleak unless three "big issues" can be addressed, Barna said.

First, the church must help laity

embrace a biblical worldview that impacts their daily living, he said. "Christians don't understand the fundamentals of the faith. Christianity is so shallow there's not depth to build on."

Second, the church needs true leaders, Barna said. Most pastors are not gifted with the leadership skills necessary for directing the work of a local congregation, he said. "We do not have people with strong, visionary leadership."

One solution is to help more pastors develop leadership skills, but another is to rethink the way church leadership is structured, he said.

Third, Christians must be willing to embrace new models for the local church, Barna suggested. "We are following a model developed 500 years ago in an agrarian, rural culture. ... This model was great for that context, but not for today."

MINISTRY

Barna: Church's priority should be reaching youth

By Mark Wingfield
Interim Editor

NASHVILLE—Effective youth ministry is essential for the future of the church, and the single greatest thing churches can do to help youth is ensure that their parents don't get divorced, according to researcher George Barna.

While many churches place only secondary emphasis on youth ministry, it should be one of the top priorities of every church, Barna said in a seminar on "What Effective Churches Have Discovered" Feb. 19 in Nashville.

A holistic approach to youth ministry will provide resources for strengthening the marriages of parents of teenagers, Barna said. Like it or not, divorce takes a long-term toll on teenagers emotionally, socially and spiritually, he said, citing a long list of research findings.

"Do whatever you can to solidify the marriages of parents," he pleaded with pastors and youth ministers attending the conference.

In the most impassioned presentation of his daylong seminar, Barna urged pastors to become the champions for youth ministry in their church-

es. Today's youth are the future of the nation and church, he noted. Thus, they have the potential to redefine culture more than any other group.

Additionally, the 22 million teenagers in America today are more responsive to the Christian gospel than any other segment of the population, Barna said. They also make the best evangelists to bring their parents to faith in Christ, he added.

Yet today's youth live in a difficult world that causes them to feel stressed-out, skeptical and self-reliant, Barna reported.

Because of cultural shifts, the current crop of teenagers is the first group of American teens not using Christianity as the starting point in their religious deliberations, he said.

The top six issues on the minds of today's teens are academics, relationships, emotional pressures, physical security, family finances and substance abuse, Barna said.

A recent Barna survey of what teenagers desire for the future found good health at the top of the list, followed by good friends, a comfortable lifestyle and a clear life purpose.

Most surprising, though, 80 percent of teens surveyed said finding

one's spouse for life is something they "must have" for the future. This is the first time this item has appeared on a list of teenagers' must-have issues, Barna said. He suggested it is a backlash from teenagers who have experienced the trauma of broken homes.

Today's teenagers are looking for emotional ties and bonds to their parents, Barna said. Yet the best most parents offer is limited periods of close physical proximity—watching TV together, eating dinner together, going to a movie together—that does not create a bond, he added.

While teens view the church as being good at issues such as helping people become more caring or teaching right from wrong, they view churches as being worst at helping them relate to their parents, Barna said.

He outlined a number of character traits of modern youth and concluded that what many teens need is not what the church is offering. Effective churches offer practical applications of the spiritual truths they teach.

"The church pushes reflection more than application," he said. "But teens want application more than reflection."

Traits of successful youth ministers

NASHVILLE—Who makes a successful youth minister? The person who pays careful attention to both preparation and performance, according to George Barna, president of the Barna Research Group.

During a seminar on "What Successful Churches Have Discovered," Barna outlined these findings about common traits in successful youth workers:

- They stay abreast of trends and conditions impacting today's teens.
- Before entering youth ministry, they have worked out their own philosophy of life and philosophy of ministry.
- They engage in constant prayer, praying specifically for individuals.
- They leverage the limited resources they have.
- They remain accessible and transparent to youth.
- They model lessons rather than just teaching them.
- They emphasize interactive learning.
- They live through crisis points with the youth.
- They offer no apologies that the ultimate goal of all they do is spiritual growth.

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PEOPLE

Dixon named to new position with children's homes

LOUISVILLE—Michael Dixon, director of Spring Meadows Children's Home, has been named the first director of religious life for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

In his new role, Dixon will coordinate religious education and activities for clients at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children facilities statewide.

"We have traditionally worked to meet the spiritual needs of the children in our care by having chaplains on our larger campuses and by working with local churches for our smaller programs," explained Curtis Mooney, president of the Baptist

childcare agency. "This will continue, but the agency has now grown to the point where greater coordination is needed. Mike will be able to take us to a new level."

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children serves more than 2,200 children and families per year, with special emphasis on children who have been abused, neglected or whose families are in crisis.

Meeting the spiritual needs of these children requires tremendous

understanding, said Audrey Puryear, vice president for program services.

"It's not easy helping children understand the love of God the Father when the only father they've ever known is abusive," she explained. "Mike has the training and experience to really help our staff grow in their ability to reach out to these young people."

Dixon has headed the Spring Meadows children's home since 1990. He has held a variety of other positions with Ken-

tucky Baptist Homes for Children and has served as a church planter with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Kentucky, a master's degree in social work and a doctorate in missions from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He is a Boyd County native. He and his wife, Carla, have two daughters. The family is active in Lakewood Baptist Church in Louisville, where Dixon serves as a deacon and discipleship training leader.

Radio listener drove to Baptist church to respond to altar call

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

OWENSBORO—The walk to the church altar may look long to the average person sitting in a pew, but an Owensboro man recently made one of the longest journeys imaginable.

A few weeks ago, George Phillips had just finished preaching an introductory message on the book of Amos in the morning worship service at Walnut Memorial Baptist Church in Owensboro. He and Pastor Odell Beauchamp were headed to the foyer to greet worshippers when a young man walked through the front door.

"We both could tell he was deeply burdened," Beauchamp said.

Thinking the man needed gas money or groceries or some other kind of physical help, Beauchamp of-

ferred to help.

But the man asked to speak to Phillips. The two preachers quickly led him to the altar just as the congregation was singing the benediction song.

Later that week, Beauchamp learned the whole story when he talked with the man's wife, Jerri.

"Come to find out," Beauchamp said, "David and Jerri had been active in another church, but had not attended for several months because of friction in that church." During those months, they listened to Walnut Memorial's Sunday morning service, which is broadcast live on a local radio station.

On that particular Sunday morning, the two tuned in to hear the message titled "Are You Listening?" Phillips, a United Methodist evangelist, talked about how many times people

hear God speak, but don't heed the message, Beauchamp said.

Suddenly, David got up and left the house. Jerri had no idea where he went. "The Lord led him to drive to our church and to get things right, not only with his soul, but in his life," Beauchamp explained.

Stories like that of David and Jerri are not unusual at Walnut Memorial Baptist Church, Beauchamp said. "We never know what God is going to do next."

That's quite a change for the church—formerly named Walnut Street Baptist—at which attendance had dwindled to 70 in Sunday worship in 1992. That March, a fire destroyed their downtown Owensboro sanctuary, forcing the congregation to make some difficult decisions.

When Beauchamp came as pastor

in June 1992, the church was divided "right down the middle" on whether to rebuild or relocate, he said. That autumn, Beauchamp led 28 members of the church in the 13-week "Experiencing God" study.

After much prayer, Walnut Street voted to relocate and also to change their name.

By the time Walnut Memorial moved in March 1992, membership had climbed to 200 people. Today, the church averages more than 400 in Sunday worship.

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Musens appointed missionaries

RICHMOND, Va.—Steven and Denise Musen of Somerset have been appointed to missionary service by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The Musens will live in the Philippines, where they will work in agricultural development and outreach. They were among 29 missionaries appointed by the FMB Feb. 13 in Knoxville, Tenn.

Musen is a Bowling Green native who most recently has been a county extension agent in Somerset. He is the son of James and Jenny Musen, missionaries in Kenya.

He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky and currently is studying at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Musen is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Bishop of Lexington. Her father is pastor of Crosswoods Baptist Church in Nicholasville.

She is a graduate of Lexington Community College and has worked as a nurse at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital in Somerset, as well as for a group of doctors at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington. The Musens are members of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Somerset.

They have two children: Addison Leigh, born in 1991, and Alayna Christian, born in 1994.



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There has always been a special love between Kentucky Baptists and children. We started the first Southern Baptist children's home in the nation here, and Kentucky Baptists have always felt close to this ministry.

One practice that fostered this bond in the past was the annual "staff vacation" during which arrangements were made for the children in residential care to stay in the homes of Kentucky Baptists. This worked well because it gave the staff a much-needed break, offered the children a chance to see great Baptist homes in action, and provided Kentucky Baptists with a first-hand opportunity to be involved with their children's ministry.

Although we no longer have the annual staff vacation (staff take vacations on a staggered basis now), this practice lives on in the form of what we call "visiting family resources." These families are willing to have more than a one-time visit with a child and commit to building an ongoing relationship.

Going a step beyond even this, however, we are also working very hard to find individu-

als who are willing to care for children in their homes full time by serving as foster parents.

I'll be the first to admit that foster parenting is not for everyone. This kind of ministry requires a special love, a tremendous amount of patience and special training in how to help children who have known great heartache. We partner with foster parents by covering expenses, by providing training and ongoing professional support, and by helping them establish fellowship with others who are also ministering in this way.

Today we have 51 families caring for 67 children all across Kentucky. And this number is growing as more families go through training.

But so many more are still needed. If you or someone you know might be interested in caring for children, please call us for more information. We'd love to share with you!

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



FINANCIAL FORUM

Six reasons ministers ought to use the Annuity Board

By Don Spencer

Question: I have an IRA at my bank. A friend suggested that since I am a minister, I should be in the retirement plan my denomination has. Is there any reason I should change? It seems my bank could do a better job for me.

Answer: Here are six reasons Southern Baptists ministers should participate in the Church Annuity Plan through the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board:

- No commissions are paid to any Annuity Board employees.

- Tax advantages on your retirement savings are better. You pay Social Security self-employment tax on IRA contributions. Dollars you contribute to your Church Annuity Plan account save you more tax money by eliminating this tax.

- Tax advantages in retirement are greater. Your denominational pension plan is able to designate a part of your retirement benefit as minister's tax free housing allowance. Your bank will not be able to provide this benefit.

- In the Church Annuity Plan, you can have up to \$67,500 in survivor benefits and up to \$300 per month in disability coverage. This provides valuable protection for you and your family should you die or become disabled prior to retirement. These added benefits come at no cost to you. All money from you and/or your church goes into your retirement account.

- Eligible participants receive as much as \$17.50 per month in matching dollars contributed on their behalf in the Church Annuity Plan.

- Earnings in the Church Annuity Plan will be competitive with comparable investments through secular sources. You have a choice in the types of investments for your money.

A team of qualified professionals manages all aspects of Annuity Board retirement plans. They seek to provide the best plan and give the best service possible to Southern Baptists.

The Annuity Board offers you advantages not available elsewhere. I recommend you consider your friend's suggestion.

Don Spencer is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department

Small mission gives \$612 to Lottie Moon

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

SHELBYVILLE—When members of the Hispanic Alpha and Omega Mission first heard about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, they had lots of questions; but once they understood what the offering is about, they raised \$612.42.

It was their first offering for foreign missions and a milestone for the congregation, which began as a ministry to migrants in 1992.

About 20 Hispanic families who have become permanent U.S. residents make up the core of the church, which meets on Friday and Sunday nights at Brooks Branch Baptist Church in Shelbyville.

During the peak of the farming season each year, more than 125 people attend the mission.

Catalytic missionary Jesus Pacheco is pastor. Monthly offerings average \$800.

Most of the people come from

Mexico and Guatemala, with a smattering from other Latin American countries.

Some come from evangelical Christian backgrounds, some from Roman Catholic backgrounds and some from no religious backgrounds at all, according to member Ruth Frost.

Thus, it was entirely appropriate that Lottie Moon and a foreign mission offering were unknowns, according to Frost. She had learned about foreign missions when she was a member of a Southern Baptist church in California.

When the mission began a Woman's Missionary Union organization last May, they selected Ecuador-native Angela Leon as director. She had worked with Southern Baptist missionaries in her native country.

Together, Frost and Leon began the process of introducing foreign missions and the offering.

Last summer, women who helped in vacation Bible school learned a bit about Southern Baptists, foreign mis-

sions and the Lottie Moon Offering, Frost said. Then, in September, Leon and Frost began explaining the offering more fully.

At first, mission members had lots of questions, Frost said.

In order to help the women understand the scope of the offering, Leon and Frost suggested they send Christmas cards to Southern Baptist missionaries who serve in Spanish-speaking countries. "That gave them the idea that missionaries are real people," Frost said.

The children were encouraged to fill money banks for the offering. "The kids led the way," Frost said. And when the congregation was asked to set a goal for the offering, they set \$500, "a real surprise," she said.

For Pastor Pacheco, the way his members rallied around the offering to raise more than \$600 shows they have come to see themselves as "part of mission work" and to believe "what has happened among us can happen to others."

With monthly offerings averaging \$800, the members of Alpha and Omega Mission set a goal of \$500 for the Lottie Moon Offering and actually gave \$612.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time associate minister of family activities. A moderate Southern Baptist church with an average Sunday school attendance of 275. Located 4 miles from Chattanooga, Tenn. Please send replies to: Personnel Committee, Signal Mountain Baptist Church, 939 Ridgeway Ave., Signal Mountain, TN 37377.

WANTED: We are looking for puppets in good condition. If you have some you wish to sell or donate, please contact Chris at (502) 866-2580.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to youth and children. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Scottsville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 392, Scottsville, KY 42164.

WANTED: Church wanting to buy pews. (502) 586-4603 or 586-8796.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for average-size rural church with growth potential. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, Clover Bottom Baptist Church, 1214 Mundys Landing Road, Versailles, KY 40383.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church of Amelia. Send resumé to: FBC of Amelia, P.O. Box 161, Amelia, OH 45102.

SEEKING: Minister of education/youth/activities. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 106 East Walnut St., Leitchfield, KY 42754, or call (502) 259-4076.

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

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.

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. Perfect 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 applications 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.

FOR SALE: 1990 Dodge Ram 350 12-passenger van; automatic transmission, power brakes and steering, AC/heat. \$7,500 OBO. (502) 462-2992. Paducah area.

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.

FOR SALE: Baldwin DVP50 digital vertical piano. Like new (3 years old). Excellent for church or home. Call (502) 786-3576 after 5 p.m.

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.

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

POSITION: Director of missions. The West Virginia Tri-County Baptist Association, located in the eastern panhandle of the state, is accepting resumé for the position of director of missions. Please send resumé to: Chairman, DOM Search Committee, c/o South Berkeley Baptist Church, P.O. Box 291, Inwood, WV 25428.

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.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Russia and Boston:

- Russian Baptist churches as they seek funds to complete building projects currently under way.
- Alexey, as he assists Southern Baptist representatives Lee and Sarah Bivins in enlisting interpreters for 1996 partnership projects in St. Petersburg.
- Misha, the Bivinses' driver, as he plans Moscow transportation for 1996 Kentucky volunteers.
- Vicky Parrott, as she works in Boston to coordinate Kentucky-Boston partnership projects.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **CARROLLTON**—First Church called **Jay Montgomery** as youth director Feb. 4.

■ **DUNNVILLE**—**Gary Morris** resigned as pastor at Windsor Church, effective Feb. 29, to become pastor at Liberty Church in Pulaski County.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Georgetown College has promoted two staff members and appointed two others: **Jack Donovan** has become director of human resources in the office of student life; **Roy Barlow** is security supervisor in campus safety; **Mindy Cawley** is publications editor; and **Alison Beckham** is assistant sports information director.

■ **GREENSBURG**—New Hope

Church called **Cary Dunbar** as pastor. He was ordained to the gospel ministry at Fry Church Feb. 18.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church ordained **James Basham** and **Billy Bell** as deacons Feb. 4.

Beechmont Church ordained **Paul Smith** to the gospel ministry. Smith and his wife, **Diana**, serve in the church's Vietnamese Mission.

Highland Church called **Jim England** as interim pastor.

Valley Station Church ordained Minister of Education **William "Happy" Chandler** to the gospel ministry Feb. 11.

■ **RICHMOND**—**Curtis Warf** has retired as pastor of First Church in

Richmond after more than 12 years at the church and more than 45 years of ministry in Kentucky Baptist churches. The Richmond congregation held a day of recognition for Warf and his wife, Jean, Jan. 14. Warf previously served as pastor of First Church in Pikeville, First Church in Sturgis, Utica Church in Utica and Bethel Church in Gilbertsville. He was president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 1982-83 and has served on numerous KBC committees and boards. The Warfs plan to remain in Richmond. The church's pastor search committee is receiving resumes.

■ **WAYNESBURG**—Double Springs Church called **Gary Daugherty** as pastor.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Bethlehem Church called **William Releford** as pastor. He was ordained to the gospel ministry Feb. 4.

Disaster teams praised for help

Kentucky Baptists' disaster relief volunteers have been praised by Jere Phillips, executive director-treasurer of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.

In a Feb. 10 statement, Phillips applauded Kentucky volunteers, coordinated by Kentucky Brotherhood, who served in clean-up efforts in West Virginia after a recent round of flooding.

"When flood waters inundated 26 counties across our state, the disaster relief volunteers of your state Brotherhood responded promptly and effectively," Phillips said. "Units from Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina served more than 50,000 meals to people who had lost nearly everything.

"One lady standing in line at a feeding unit related how the flood had damaged all her belongings," Phillips continued. "Single, living in a rental apartment, she had few earthly goods left. Cold, without electricity for heat or cooking, she had heard about volunteers who were giving away hot meals.

"There, she found more than food; she found loving friends who moments before had been strangers. The love of Jesus was demonstrated day after day to folks just like her."

Class reaches out and touches by telephone

Continued from page 1

hard phase" of chemotherapy treatments.

"I've tried to keep a journal through all of this," she said. "I used to think we were just a normal family; now I guess we're a normal family dealing with cancer. ... Still, physically and financially, it's very draining."

The spiritual drain also becomes difficult at times.

"I miss not being able to worship with the others at church," she said. "But we feel their support. Their prayers are getting us through."

Brandon Harlow's response to his illness—even after seven months of

chemotherapy treatments, blood work and multiple trips each week to Louisville's Kosair Hospital—has astounded even his parents.

"It's just outstanding," Mrs. Harlow said. "This kid has so much faith. He prays about it every night, and he says he knows the Lord has got what it takes to cure him."

Although Harlow's leukemia is in remission, close monitoring and chemotherapy treatments will continue for at least three years, Mrs. Harlow explained.

The classmates' compassion and concern for their friend is indicative of a church that emphasizes missions

and ministry, Best noted.

"Our church is unique in that we try to look at not so much bringing the church inside the walls, but trying to reach outside," Best said. "We're trying to find ways to meet people where they are rather than saying 'This is the systematic way it's done—you adjust your schedule.'"

The Sunday school class is joining the church in sponsoring a benefit for the Harlow family, Best said. Proceeds from a gospel music fest and cake walk at 6:30 p.m. March 16 at Hiseville Elementary School will help offset the financial strain on the family.

Why do students come to Oneida? Part II

(Sixth in a series)

While a large part of our ministry is to young people with a lot of "brokenness," many students come to Oneida for other reasons.

Our Special Help program is a great boost to students who are not doing well academically. Some young people are poor students because of a learning disability. I am not going to pretend to be learned in this area. But I have worked with young people for many years who are having great problems in the classroom. They find it very difficult to concentrate. They do not retain things as well as other children. Doing homework can be an almost insurmountable challenge. Nearly everyone has heard of ADD, ADHD, LD and so on. Unless you have tried to work with children who have such problems, you cannot understand the difficulties they face, or the struggles facing their teachers.

Some schools have quality programs to meet the needs of these young people, while other schools are less equipped.

In our Special Help program, one teacher typically works with one or two students at a time. This means that each child can get individual help as he progresses. The student is watched every step of way. The teacher or teacher's aid is there to encourage, tutor, discipline and praise a child who would otherwise be left on his own.

We know most of these students are not college-bound, but we also know they need the best education possible. We know of the frustrations and expense of working with these students, but it is a ministry we must provide.

Other students who may be weak academically, but who do not need to be in Special Help,

may benefit by being in a classroom with a student-teacher ratio of 15-1. By having smaller classes, the teacher can give more individualized attention. A weak student is less likely to act up in a smaller class. Discipline can be handled in a more appropriate and timely manner. The teacher and student have a better understanding of each other in a smaller class.

The last group of students who normally comes to Oneida are those who just want an opportunity to go to a Christian school and begin to prepare for college. These young people have no problems, may be Christians, come from a family that is not affected by divorce.

One final word about academics; we pride ourselves in honoring those who make the academic honor roll. Their names are called during chapel and the students come to the platform. When school was out last May several students were on the honor roll, but were not recognized until school resumed in August. Of those students who were on the honor roll when school began, eight did not make hon-

or roll the second quarter. But the exciting thing is that 47 students who were not on honor roll in August were on it when the second quarter ended in December. Many were new students who had never made the honor roll before.

So they come to us from all kinds of backgrounds and with differing needs. We do our best to love them as Jesus does. We do our best to meet their needs and to share the love of God with them. We are honest with you when we say "we are not successful with every student, but we do our best."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Taking the word to those who won't come

Kentucky Baptists are in an emphasis on multi-housing outreach. Mike Blevins is very concerned for the people in a housing project who won't come to church. "I don't think that's a coincidence. God wants me at Clear Creek so I can take God's word to the people in the project."

Born in Kentucky, Mildred married and moved to California at age 17. They became successful with a computer cabinet business. "We had it all—a growing business, money, position, home, cars and clothes. But we also were away from God. My husband became ill and we decided to sell the business and move to North Carolina.

En route to North Carolina, the Blevins stopped to visit relatives at Brodhead in Rockcastle County. They decided to stay and purchased three farms. With the help of two sons they operate a dairy operation with 30 cows and grow their own hay and silage.

"We got back into church and I rededicated my life to Christ. I felt bad about the wasted years and thought I had to make up for them. Then I realized God loves me for who I am and not for what I do," Mildred said with thanksgiving.

She teaches an adult women dis-

cipleship group and also leads First Place weight control group for Freedom Baptist Church.

"When Patrick was called into ministry and started commuting to Clear Creek, he asked me to come along and sit in on the Old Testament class. I got hooked! I love Clear Creek! You can feel God's presence here. I want to teach the Bible, and I'm here because I need to know the Bible more."

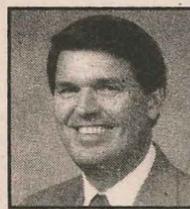
She and Patrick really enjoyed T.W. Hunt's campus visit. "We drove 1,400 miles that week, commuting to the services. It was wonderful. I recently heard from a California friend. All she talked about was the business, and the new things they had. For a minute I looked back and then

the Lord said, 'Is this what you're missing?' Things don't make me happy. I love the Lord; all I want to do is serve him."

Fifty children and their families in the Brodhead housing complex won't come to church. Through Mildred Blevins, Kentucky Baptists will now take God's word to them.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MISSIONS

Resort ministers explain life is rough ... really

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

GRAND MESA, Colo. (BP)—Some people call it "suffering for Jesus."

Spoken with a mixture of sarcasm and envy, this comment is endured by many resort ministers, who contend few Christians understand the unique challenges of their work.

"When you're living in an area year-round and you're involved in things that people can only do one or two weeks at a time, it sets you up for that attitude," said Charlie Ellisor, pastor of Anchor Way Baptist Church in Steamboat Springs, Colo. "People really don't realize that it is tough there."

Ellisor, who also directs Alpine Resort Ministries of Steamboat Springs, said critics focus on the fun promoted by the region and ignore residents' problems. "They overlook the fact that in the trenches there are people who are hurting."

Also overlooked, say resort-area ministers, are the high cost of living, the harsh weather conditions and the transitory nature of such settings.

"I know there are some people who think we're up here playing at church," said home missionary Steve Hoekstra of Estes Park, Colo. "I used to laugh about it, get mad about it. Anymore, I think it's ignorance of ministry that makes people say that."

Hoekstra founded Alpine Resort Ministries which has grown to become the banner title representing 20 Christian recreation ministries throughout the West.

Resort settings attract people look-

ing to find themselves or escape to beautiful surroundings from their troubles, Ellisor said. "They just bring the problems with them, and they're compounded with the high cost of living and the distractions, the lack of good-paying jobs and the lack of stability."

Veryl Henderson, a former missionary in Hawaii, can empathize. "It was very difficult to sell missions in Hawaii," he said.

"The lives of people in resort (areas) are very abnormal in terms of stability," said Henderson, who is now director of missions for Colorado Baptists. "You're dealing with broken people in most resort settings, and that doesn't make the chamber of commerce brochure."

Resort-area ministers must go where the people are, be it a ski slope or other setting, said Pat O'Connell, associate minister of Fraser Valley Baptist Church in Winter Park, Colo. "These people don't seek out a church. We take the church to them."

That willingness to be with non-Christians on their turf, however, is often misinterpreted, he added. "To a Christian on the outside, it looks like cowardice or compromise."

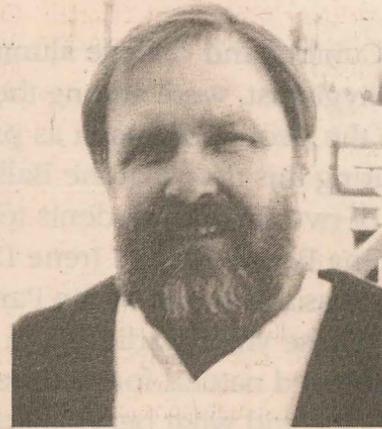
Even after someone becomes a Christian, the economic pressures of the area impact churches trying to retain members, Ellisor said. "Either they couldn't afford it or they've been transferred, so it's really hard to have any stability."

Six years ago, resort ministers founded the Association of Resort and Leisure Ministers. The group, which has grown to more than 100 members, provides education and fel-

lowship for ministers serving in resort settings.

That group's next meeting will be in Gatlinburg, Tenn., April 18-20, before the National Resort Ministries Conference.

RESORT MINISTERS Home missionary Steve Hoekstra (top photo) founded Alpine Resort Ministries during the Alpine Ski Championships in Vail, Colo. He has discovered that backpacks, fishing poles and chain saws are effective tools for ministry. Pat O'Connell (at right in bottom photo), associate minister of Fraser Valley Baptist Church in Winter Park, Colo., has been dubbed the "Pope on the Slope." (BP photos)



Check into hotel ministry

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

GRAND MESA, Colo. (BP)—Non-Christians who might never darken a church door could be less intimidated by a hotel worship service while vacationing, according to a veteran of Hawaii hotel ministries.

"They're not searching for God and they're not searching to avoid God," said Veryl Henderson, director of missions for the Colorado Baptist Convention. While Henderson was director of resort missions for the Hawaii Baptist Convention, 32 hotel ministries in that state reached about 12,000 guests and employees each week.

"People on vacation are looking for experiences to enhance their lives, and that's an excellent time to share God's love, Henderson said. While the majority of those attending a hotel service will be committed Christians, non-Christians also will attend, he said.

"They're there out of courtesy to a relative or a friend, and God has a moment to speak," he said. "You get one shot. What are you going to do with it?"

Henderson recommended a

style of worship and a message that will let non-Christians see God in a new way. A seed planted at a hotel service might later be pursued when the guest returns home, he said. "The goal is that people will experience God in some way."

Hotels may be receptive to allowing a worship service if it is seen as a benefit to their guests, Henderson said. "Remember, their business is open to make money. Anything we do that will enhance their purpose will be well received."

Hotel ministries may involve more than just worship services, he added. Ministries may include workshops for employees and special assistance for guests in crisis, he said. "Sell the services that will benefit the hotel."

Hotel worship services often are a new experience, even for dedicated Christians. Henderson recommended introducing unique styles of worship that impact how they view ministry and worship.

"This is one time when anything goes," he said, suggesting meeting outdoors or using illustrations from the local setting. "Take advantage of the openness."

Service leads to witness

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

ESTES PARK, Colo. (BP)—Unchurched residents rarely come to a worship service in Estes Park, Colo., and they won't let you on their home turf. So pastor Tim Wilbanks' solution is to meet them through a ministry on common ground.

Wilbanks and other members of Estes Park Baptist Church have cleaned up after horses at a rodeo, parked cars and handed out thousands of cups of coffee and hot chocolate. All this, he said, brings his church in contact with local residents and presents a positive example of Christianity.

"In many cases, traditional visitation practices are not as fruitful as they are in the South," said Wilbanks, a native of Canton, Ga.

"They're not going to come to where we are, and they don't want to be bothered with us until we prove that there's something worth having," he said. "That's what makes ministry such a great approach to church growth and evangelism in the West."

Every year the church recruits student summer missionaries and Home Mission Board Innovators to lead ministries in the community.

"We've used everywhere from four up to 18 (summer workers), but housing's the key issue every year that determines that," Wilbanks said. The church is currently building housing for summer workers.

Wilbanks said the church was filled with many longtime Southern Baptists when he arrived. Recent converts, however, have added a nontraditional flavor to the congregation.

Longtime Southern Baptists celebrate the church's use of HMB summer workers and support for the Cooperative Program. The church is among the state's top five for percent of budget going to the Cooperative Program. Newer members, meanwhile, are attracted to the innovative ministry style, Wilbanks said.

Summer workers minister in a variety of settings, including retirement homes and campgrounds. "Some of our summer missionaries and Innovators will preach as many as five times (per week) at different campgrounds," he explained.

One campground worship service helped save a life as well as a soul, he said.

Student ministry teams circulate through campgrounds on Saturday evenings to invite campers to the Sunday worship services. At one service, a woman came and became a Christian. As she talked with the worship leaders, she admitted she had come to the mountains to kill herself because of a failed marriage, Wilbanks said.

The visit by the worship team convinced her to see if they had anything to offer, he said. "What would have happened if we had not had missionaries in that campground?"

To Russia...With Genuine Christian Love

Cumberland College Alumni help Russian college students fulfill a lifelong dream

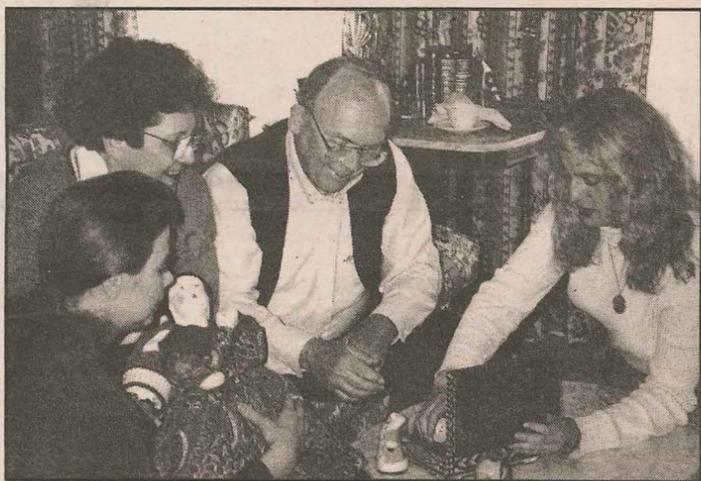
Cumberland College alumnus, Dr. Sam Ballou, a Corbin dentist, along with his wife, Peggy, a dental hygienist, were among the 25 Kentucky Baptists who served as missionaries providing medical care to the people of Russia as part of the Kentucky Baptist Medical Partnership Team last summer. It was during this time that the Ballous and a Lexington registered nurse, Carol Mayer, learned of the desire of two Russian students to attend college in the United States.

Ena Borokova and Irene Davydova were interpreters for the medical and evangelistic teams that visited Russia as a part of the Partnership in 1995.

"These young ladies were our lifeline," stated Peggy Ballou. "We became one big happy family. It just seemed natural for us to return the favor in some way. Both of the girls had a dream of studying in America, and what better place than Cumberland College. It's just something we wanted to do," added Mrs. Ballou.

Dr. and Mrs. Ballou along with Dr. and Mrs. Mayer of Lexington have opened their hearts as well as their homes to the girls. Ena and Irene visit with both families often and even have rooms in their homes.

According to Dr. Sam Ballou, "These girls lift our spirits and bless our lives, we feel thankful to be a little part of allowing them to study at Cumberland College."



Dr. and Mrs. Sam Ballou enjoy reminiscing with Irene and Ena while looking at souvenirs collected during their visit to Russia.



Members of Central Baptist Church, Corbin, Dr. and Mrs. Sam Ballou enjoy the company of their Russian "daughters."



Irene Davydova explains the significance of the largest piece of a china tea service sent to Sam and Peggy Ballou by Irene's mother. "Dad Sam, this piece is you, the next size, Mother Peggy, and the tiny one, your Russian daughter."


Cumberland College
More Than You Imagine

Williamsburg, Kentucky 40769
(606) 549-4200